

# Anti-Inflammatory Activity of *Centella Asiatica* Mediated Silver Nanoparticles

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Inflammation is the body's main reaction to an illness or injury, and it is vital to our immunity. Because of the increasing prevalence of pain and pain-related disorders, as well as other health treatment complexities, it is important to be mindful of the anti-inflammatory medications available on the market. Furthermore, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications have been related to side effects including stomach pain, heartburn, and ulcers. So, this study deals with the anti-inflammatory activity of *Centella* mediated silver nanoparticles

**Materials and methods:** Collection of *Centella asiatica* extract then 1 g of *Centella asiatica*, leaf powder was dissolved in distilled water and boiled for 5–10 min at 60–70°C. The solutions were then filtered using Whatman No. 1 filter paper. The filtered extract was collected, synthesis of silver nanoparticles using an herbal formulation, and to finalize the anti-inflammatory activity of silver nanoparticles.

**Result:** Anti-inflammatory activity of silver nanoparticles show an incremental pattern with increase in concentration, where percentage of inhibition is high at 50µl. Its activity increases with increase in dosage.

**Conclusion:** This study thus provides a strong base for understanding the anti-inflammatory activity of silver nanoparticles.

**Key words:** Anti-inflammatory activity, Silver nanoparticles, *Centella asiatica*, Innovative technique, Eco friendly

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## INTRODUCTION

*Centella asiatica*, also known as Gotu Kola, Brahmi, Indian pennywort, and Asiatic pennywort, is a perennial herbaceous plant in the Apiaceae family of flowering plants. It is endemic to Asia's wetlands. It's a culinary vegetable as well as a medicinal plant [1]. *Centella asiatica* is mainly found in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, South Africa and Eastern Europe [2]. The major bioactive constituents are triterpene saponins mainly asiaticoside, sapogenin, asiatic acid, made-cassoside, and madecassic acid [3]. It is believed to have beneficial effects in improving memory and treating mental fatigue, eczema and anxiety. In Ayurveda, *Centella* is effectively used in the treatment of inflammation, blood disorders, anaemia, asthma, bronchitis, fever, urinary discharge, and splenomegaly [4]. *Centella asiatica* compounds have been considered to have a wide range of medicinal properties and therapeutic activity for a long time. The most important are antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and anticarcinogenic activity [5]. *Centella asiatica* (Gotu Kola) is used in Indian systems of medicine for enhancing memory and these Herbal medicines can be used as adaptogens, these plant derived drugs either

reduce stress reactions in the alarm phase and provide a certain degree of safety against long-term stress [6]. In dermatology *Centella asiatica* is used in treatment of small wounds, hypertrophic wounds as well as burns, psoriasis and scleroderma [7]. As for a cosmetic purpose, *Centella asiatica* is used as an active compound in skin care preparations because of its antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-cellulite and antiaging activity [8]. As a result, *Centella asiatica* extract is a valuable raw material for a wide range of cosmetic applications [9].

Nanomaterials represent, materials that are natural, incidental, or manufactured, containing particles in their free state or which exist as aggregates, in which 50% or more of the particles in number, size, distribution, or one or more external dimension is in the size range of 1–100 nm [10]. They offer various physicochemical properties such as ultra-small size, large surface area, etc. These properties make them liable to reach and interact with the cellular, subcellular and even molecular level of the human body and hence it helps to achieve maximum therapeutic efficacy with minimal side effects [11]. The silver nanoparticles are widely used for the detection and treatment of diseases and treatment of diseases, drug delivery, and other purposes because they are eco-friendly [12].

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are the most used drugs to treat pain and inflammatory

conditions [13]. They do, however, have frequent side effects such as ulcers, bleeding, and renal problems. Therefore, medicinal plants are the common source of therapeutically active chemical substances with lesser side effects [14]. Our team has extensive knowledge and research experience that has translate into high quality publications [15-34]. The aim of the study is to evaluate the anti-inflammatory activity of Centella mediated silver nanoparticles

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Preparation of Plant Extract

The *Centella asiatica* fruit is purchased and it is cleaned, dried and powdered into fine granules. 0.5 g of *Centella asiatica* powder are weighed separately and taken. Now 50 ml of distilled water is added to dissolve the weighted extract in conical flasks mixed well. This mixture is boiled at 60 degree Celsius for 7 minutes with the help of a heat mantle. Then the boiled extract is filtered with the help of filter paper. The filtered extract was collected and stored in 4C for further use (Figures 1 and 2).



Figure 1: Crude extract.

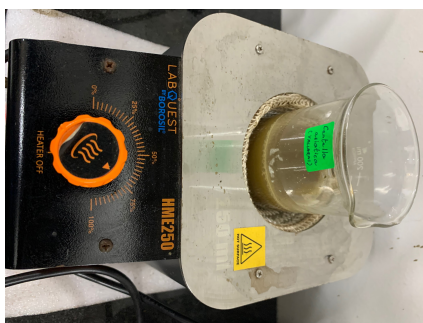


Figure 2: Boiling of extract.

### Synthesis of nanoparticles

This *Centella asiatica* extract is treated with 0.016 g of silver nitrate and 90 ml of distilled water and it is placed in a semi-automatic shaker at 900 rpm. With the help of a double beam U-V spectrophotometer, the synthesis of nanoparticles for every one hour is noted (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Synthesized nanoparticles.

### Characterization of silver nanoparticles

The synthesis of nanoparticles is primarily characterized using UV-vis spectroscopy. 3 ml of the solution is taken in a cuvette and scanned in a UV-vis spectrometer under 350 nm to 550 nm wavelength. The results were recorded for graphical analysis.

### Preparation of silver nanoparticle powder

The Ag-NP solution was centrifuged using lark refrigerated centrifuges. The centrifugation was done at 8000 rpm for 10 min, and the pellet was collected and washed with distilled water twice. The final purified pellet is collected and dried at 60 C. Finally, the nanoparticles powder was collected and stored in an airtight Eppendorf tube.

### Evaluation of anti-inflammatory activity using albumin denaturation assay:

2ml of 1% Bovine albumin fraction was mixed with 400µL of *Centella asiatica* mediated silver nanoparticles in different concentrations (10-50 µg/ml) and the PH of reaction mixture was adjusted to 6.8 using 1N HCL. The reaction mixture was incubated at room temperature for 20 minutes in a water bath. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the absorbance value was recorded at 660nm. An equal amount of plant extract was replaced with DMSO for control. Diclofenac sodium in different concentrations was used as standard. The experiment was performed in triplicate (Figures 4 and 5).

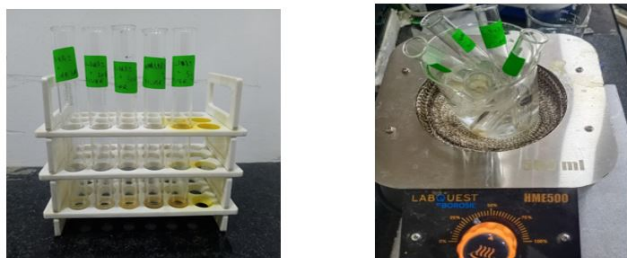
% Inhibition was calculated using the following formula

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = \frac{\text{Control O.D} - \text{Sample O.D}}{\text{Control O.D}}$$

Were,

Control O.D=Optical density of control

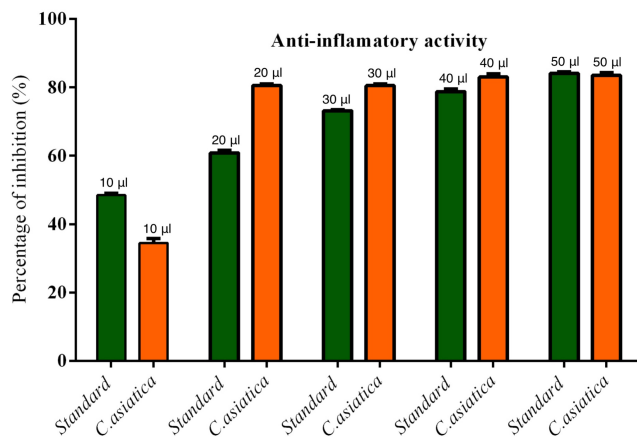
Sample O.D=Optical density of test sample.



**Figure 4: Anti-inflammatory activity of *Centella asiatica*.**

## RESULTS

Figure 5 shows anti-inflammatory activity of silver nanoparticles showing an incremental pattern with increase in concentration, where the percentage of inhibition is high at 50 $\mu$ l. Its activity increases with increase in dosage.



**Figure 5: Anti-inflammatory activity of silver nanoparticles showing an incremental pattern with increase in concentration, where the percentage of inhibition is high at 50 $\mu$ l. Its activity increases with increase in dosage.**

## DISCUSSION

A study showed that antiallergic activities have been obtained with all the extracts of *C. asiatica* comparable with that of standard drug ketotifen viz., 75% for sheep serum model and 69% for the compound 48/80 model. Glycosides which are normally present in the polar fraction have been reported to possess antiallergic potential [15]. Saha et al in their study showed Methanol extract of *C. asiatica* had significant anti-inflammatory effect against carrageenan-induced paw edema model, whereas chloroform extract had no such effect on rats. Carrageenan induced inflammation is a well-established method to detect orally active anti-inflammatory agents which shows biphasic response [35]. Bylka et al in their study showed that promoting fibroblast proliferation and increasing the synthesis of collagen as well as acidic mucopolysaccharides, increasing intra-cellular fibronectin content and mitotic activity in the germ layer, significantly improving the tensile strength of newly formed skin as well as by inhibiting the inflammatory

phase of hypertrophic scars and keloids. His studies also suggest that the use of *C. asiatica* or its components may be useful in the treatment of psoriasis and scleroderma [9]. Hussin et al studies show the effect of *C. asiatica* juice on human HepG2 cell line using MTT assay, and it showed cytotoxic effects on tumor cells in a dose-dependent manner. At a concentration above 0.1% of juice, a higher amount of DNA damage and apoptotic cell death was observed on human HepG2 cell lines [36]. Oyedeji OA et al in their study he observed that essential oil extract showed antibacterial properties against Gram-positive (*Bacillus subtilis* and *S. aureus*) and Gram-negative (*Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Shigella sonnei*) with MIC values ranging from 1.25 to 0.039 mg/ml [37]. Silver nanoparticles have an antibacterial effect due to its activity of forming pits in the cell wall of the bacteria. There is an evident increase in the cell permeability that will result in cell death [38]. Due to their potential applications in the medical sector, especially in the development of biodegradable surgical sutures, silver nanoparticles (Ag NPs) have a lot of attention [39]. Silver particles have various reactions with a bacterial cell, that are interaction with cell walls causing lysis, preventing DNA replication and also disrupts bacterial protein synthesis [40].

## CONCLUSION

This research provokes the inflammatory action of silver nanoparticles produced from the plant extracts *Centella*. It is shown that it has a significant inhibitory activity with the least side effects. However, still, further research is required in knowing the benefits of these plants and also the mechanism behind their action in further studies. As a result, this analysis provides a strong basis for understanding silver nanoparticles' anti-inflammatory properties.

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