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ROLE OF BIOENHANCER IN THE TREATMENT OF ASTHMA

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ABSTRACT

The alcoholic extract of *Moringa oleifera* at 200 and 400 mg/kg doses were tested for anti-asthma activity against passive paw anaphylaxis by measuring paw volume using plethysmograph, mast cell stabilization by *ex-vivo* challenge of antigen in sensitized rat intestinal mesenteries and vascular permeability induced by acetic acid in mice. Dexamethasone, Prednisolone and Indomethacin were used as standard reference drugs. *Moringa oleifera* exhibited significant anti-asthmatic activity in all above three models and activity was comparable with standard drug. The findings from various studies reveal that the anti-asthmatic activity of *Moringa oleifera* may be due to the mast cell stabilizing potential, suppression of IgE, and inhibition of release of inflammatory mediators.

Keywords: Moringa oleifera, antiallergic, anaphylaxis, mast cell stabilization, vascular permeability

INTRODUCTION

Asthma remains the most common chronic respiratory disease in India affecting a major portion of the population. Although asthma is often believed to be a disorder localized to the lungs, current evidence indicates that it may represent a component of systemic airway disease involving the entire respiratory tract, and this is supported by the fact that asthma frequently coexists with other atopic disorders, particularly allergic rhinitis [1].

Despite significant improvements in the diagnosis and management of asthma over the past decade, as well as the availability of