



# Effect of Aqueous Extract on Total Phenolic Content and Antimitotic Activity of Ficus Benghalensis root on Allium Cepa Root Meristamatic cells

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## Abstract

**Objective:** To evaluate aqueous extract of Ficus Benghalensis Linn. root for Total Phenolic Content and Antimitotic Activity on Allium Cepa Root Meristamatic cells.

**Materials and Methods:** The Ficus benghalensis Linn. root was extracted with distilled water solvent by maceration method. The plant extract is subjected to study total Phenolic content method. The extract is also tested for their antimitotic activity in Allium cepa root Meristamatic cells.

**Result and Conclusion:** The preliminary phytochemical screening of aqueous extract of Ficus Benghalensis Linn. root showed presence of high amount of total Phenolic content in 100 µg was found to be 13.72 µg of gallic acid equivalent. In Allium assay, aqueous extract of Ficus Benghalensis Linn. root (10 mg/ml) and methotrexate showed significant concentration dependant inhibitory influence against the dividing cells of Allium roots and decreased root growth and mitotic index as compared to control distilled water. The result indicated that antimitotic activity is due to presence of phenolic, alkaloids and flavonoids compounds in 10 mg/ml concentration of aqueous extract of Ficus Benghalensis root.

**Conclusion:** On the basis of result, we concluded that, 10 mg/ml concentration of Ficus Benghalensis root shows good antimitotic activity on the Allium cepa root tip assay.

**Keywords:** Ficus Benghalensis; Allium cepa; Antimitotic; Maceration; Methotrexate

## Introduction

In today's world, peoples are suffered from lots of dangerous diseases. Cancer is one of that disease and second leading cause of death in the world [1]. Now a day, various new anticancer agents are isolated from the natural sources of drugs. Natural sources of drugs are herbal based drugs consists of about 60-80 % of all other drugs and used as medicine from 1990 [2,3]. The active constituent which is isolated from plants play a vital role in treatment of various

diseases and gives special attention such herbal based plants due to its pharmacological activities [4]. There are certain plants which are used in treatment of diseases like cancer. It is found that most of isolated compounds from plants show good anticancer activity [5,6]. The Ficus Benghalensis Linn. is 'The national tree of India', is native to India and commonly known as Banyan tree of family Moraceae, which is known as Indian Banayan in English. The

plant *Ficus Benghalensis* Linn. shows various pharmacological or medicinal properties like antioxidant, analgesics, anti-asthmatic, anti-inflammatory and anti-diabetic activity [7-9].

The stem barks extract of *Ficus Benghalensis* Linn. shows good antimutagenic and antioxidant activity [10]. Based on review of literature that no work has to be done on antimutagenic activity at concentration of 10 mg/ml of aqueous extracts of *Ficus Benghalensis* Linn. roots. Hence in this study aqueous extract of *Ficus Benghalensis* Linn. roots in 10 mg/ml concentration were assessed by using *Allium cepa* root meristematic cells. The 10 mg/ml concentration of aqueous extract of *Ficus Benghalensis* Linn. roots were taken because to see the effect of *Ficus Benghalensis* Linn. roots at 10 mg/ml concentration.

## Materials and Methods

### Plant material & reagents

*Ficus Benghalensis* roots were collected from Nandurbar (MS) region and authenticated by Professor S. K. Tayade, Botany Department, College of Art's, Commerce and Science, Shahada, Lonkheda -425409, (MS). Chemicals and reagents are taken from Rajesh Chemicals, Mumbai.

### Preparation of roots extract

Collected roots were washed with distilled water, shade dried and pulverized to a rough form and extraction is done by maceration method using water-chloroform solvent. The filtrate was evaporated by using rotary-evaporator which removed water solvent in vacuum at 40°C. Take small amount of water extract of *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. roots and dissolved into small amount of distilled water to produce test solution. This test solution was used to study different chemical tests such as alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, carbohydrates and proteins for detection of different chemical constituents present in the aqueous extract [11].

### Total Phenolic Content [12]

The total phenolic content of *Ficus benghalensis* roots was determined by using the Folin-Ciocalteu assay. A stock solution (1mg/ml) of the extracts was prepared in methanol. From the stock solution, 1ml of the extracts of different concentrations ranging from 20 to 100 µg/ml was taken into a 25 ml volumetric flask and 10 ml of water and 1.5 ml of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent was added to it. The mixture was kept for 5min, and then 4 ml of 20% sodium bicarbonate solution was added and made up to 25ml with double-

distilled water. The absorbance was recorded at 765 nm after 90 min. Percentage of total phenolic was calculated from calibration curve of gallic acid plotted by using the above procedure and expressed µg of gallic acid equivalent.

### Determination of mitotic index [13,14]

Red qualities of onions (*Allium cepa*) are purchased from near market area and are stored for further study. The red onion bulbs are place in tap water at room temperature for 48 hours. On the other hand, prepared different solutions at concentration of aqueous extract of *Ficus Benghalensis* roots at of 10 mg/ml, standard drug methotrexate (Zydus Cadila, Ahmedabad) at 0.1mg/ml and distilled water which served as control respectively. The developed roots then dipped in-to solutions of aqueous, methotrexate and distilled water for two hours. Then removed the roots then cut to separate tip part of roots and placed in to fixing solution consists of acetic acid 45%v/v and ethanol 95%v/v in ratio of 1:3v/v for near about 10-15hours. Then roots are reacted with 1N HCL and place into oven for 15 min at 50°C for warm of roots. Removed it then washed with distilled water and stain with staining agent like carmine. The roots are then placed on the slides and crushed it and observed under microscope. Count the number of cells present in each stages of mitosis and calculate mitotic index which is as

$$\text{Mitotic Index} = (P+M+A+T / \text{Total number of cells}) \times 100$$

Where P is Prophase, M is Metaphase, A is Anaphase and T is Telophase.

### Statistical analysis [15]

The experiments were carried out in triplicates and the data were expressed as mean±SEM. The significance of difference among the various treated cells and control cells were analyzed by means of one-way ANOVA.

## Result

### Total Phenolic Content

The preliminary phytochemical screening of *Ficus benghalensis* roots showed the presence of high amount of total phenolic and tannins along with flavonoids as shown in Table 1. The amount of total phenolic content in 100µg of aqueous extract of *Ficus benghalensis* roots containing 13.72 µg of gallic acid equivalent by calibration curve line on measuring absorbance (Table 1) (Figure 1,2).

**Table 1:** Preliminary Phytochemical screening of 10 mg/ml aqueous extracts of *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. Root.

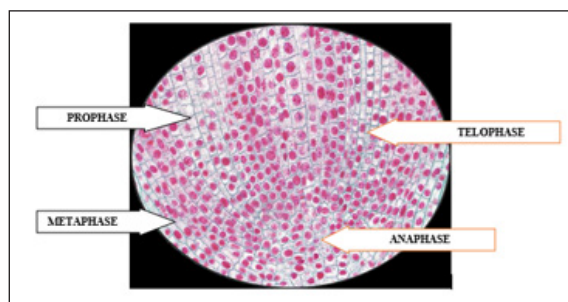
Sr. No.	Phytochemical Test	Test	Inference
1.	Test for carbohydrate	Molish test	+
		Fehling's test	+
2.	Test for proteins	Biuret test	-
3.	Test for flavonoids	Lead acetate test	+
		Shinoda test	-

4.	Test for alkaloids	Dragondroff's test	+
		Wagner's test	+
5.	Test for tannins and phenolic compounds	Lead Acetate test	+
		Ferric chloride test	+

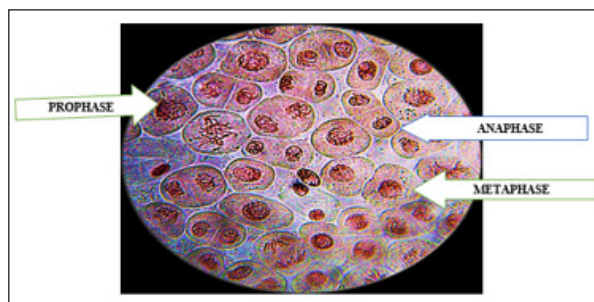
**Table 2:** Antimitotic activity after treatment of *Allium cepa* roots with 10 mg/ml aqueous extracts of *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. root, methotrexate and control water.

Sr. No.	Different Solutions used for treatment	Total No. of cells	No. of Dividing cells				No. of Non-dividing cells	Mitotic Index
			P	M	A	T		
1.	Water (Control)	100	30	1	1	4	64	36±1.25
2.	Methotrexate (0.1mg/ml Positive Control)	100	26	3	1	0	70	30±1.35*
3.	Aqueous Extracts (10 mg/ml)	100	18	2	1	1	78	22±1.15*

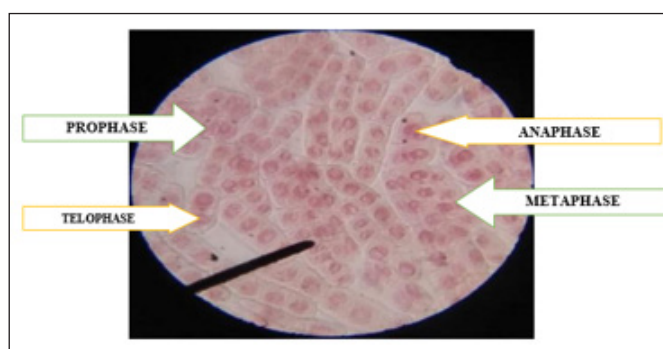
P-Prophase, M-Metaphase, A- Anaphase, T-Telophase



**Figure 1:** Different stage of mitosis of *Allium cepa* roots after treatment with water (Control).



**Figure 2:** Different stage of mitosis of *Allium cepa* roots after treatment with Methotrexate (Standard drug).



**Figure 3:** Different stage of mitosis of *Allium cepa* roots after Treatment with 10 mg/ml concentration of aqueous extract of *Ficus Benghalensis* Linn. Root

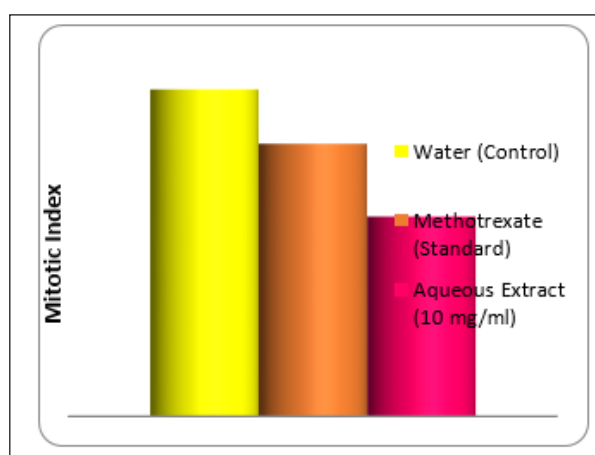
## Antimitotic Activity

Antimitotic agents are the compounds that arrest cells multiplication in mitosis. In the antimitotic assay, aqueous extracts of *Ficus benghalensis* roots showed good inhibition of meristematic cell during different stages of the cell cycle [Figure 3]. The % mitotic index was found to be  $22 \pm 1.15$  for aqueous extracts of *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. roots which was close to standard, methotrexate  $30 \pm 1.35$  was shown in (Table 2) (Figure 3).

## Discussion

The *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. root shows wide spectrum of medicinal activities. The plant contains various phytoconstituents having diverse chemical structure and nature. The main active constituents are found in plants as phenolic, flavonoids and tannins compound. It is widely reported by many researchers that any compound with strong antioxidant property will also have potential anticancer properties because of the role of free radicals in the development of cancer [16]. Phenolic compounds have been reputed for their antioxidant ability [17]. In our study, polyphenolic compounds were mainly found in *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. by using total phenolic content by Folin-Ciocalteu assay. In existing study, *Allium cepa* root meristematic cell model is used to study

antimitotic property of *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. root in 10 mg/ml concentration [18,19]. In this parameters, division of cells is same as that of division of cancerous cells in human being. Therefore, these cells are used to study antimitotic activity in different parts of plants. *Allium cepa* meristematic cells assay is fast, quick to detect toxicity in cells and toxicity in cells genetic material. The inhibition of root growth and antimitotic property gives indication of destruction of cells genetic material. The destruction of cells of genetic material assay action on *Allium cepa* as a plant helpful in studying karyo type of plant and skill to connect with those of mammalian cells in toxic evaluation. The good genotoxic assay performance of *Allium cepa* as a plant system has been attributed to the easily studied karyo type of plant and the ability to correlate outcomes of assays with those of mammalian cells in the course toxic evaluations [20]. In *Allium cepa* assay, aqueous extracts of *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. root (10 mg/ml) was found to inhibit root growth in *Allium cepa* root meristematic cells and decreased mitotic index after treatment. This suggests that the aqueous extract of *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. roots have fair antimitotic potential in concentration of 10mg/ml. In *Allium cepa* assay, MI (mitotic index) is considered as an indication of biomarkers cells proliferation in metaphase cell cycle [21,22] (Graph).



**Graph:** Mitotic index of water (control), methotrexate and 10 mg/ml concentration of aqueous extracts of *Ficus benghalensis* Linn. Root.

## Conclusion

Our finding supports that 10 mg/ml concentration of aqueous extracts of *Ficus Benghalensis* roots inhibits cell division in *Allium cepa* meristematic cells and may helpful in inhibiting abnormal cell growth like cancerous cells. Further experiments are needed, both in vitro and in vivo to obtain detail mechanisms of action. Positive outcomes from study introduce this plant as a new anticancer drug.

## Acknowledgement

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## Conflicting Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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