Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic multi-system disease of unknown cause affecting people predominantly between the ages of 20-50 years with unpredictable course. It affects the people in their prime of life, predominantly between the ages of 20-50 years with unpredictable course. Sudard is used in the ayurvedic system of medicine for the treatment of inflammation and pain associated with rheumatoid arthritis, osteo-arthritis, frozen shoulder, sciatica, ankylosing spondylitis and chronic backache. The formulation was made and marketed by referring ancient ayurvedic literature that mentions that mixture of these herbs is beneficial for treatment of pain and fever. No scientific study has been carried out so far. Hence, the present study was carried out to evaluate analgesic, anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritic activity of sudard using different animal models.

**Materials and Methods**

**Experimental animals** Male albino Wistar rats weighing between 200-250g and male Swiss albino mice weighing between 25-35g were used. Institutional Animal Ethics Committee approved the experimental protocol. Animals were maintained under standard conditions in an animal house approved by Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision on Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA).

**Drug and dosage** The poly-herbal formulation “Sudard” was manufactured and supplied by Anglo French Drugs and Industries Ltd, Bangalore, India. The formulation was administered at doses of 150 mg/kg p.o and 300 mg/kg p.o in the form of suspension prepared in.
Table 1. Anti-inflammatory activity on formalin induced rat paw edema

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>1 hr</th>
<th>2 hr</th>
<th>3 hr</th>
<th>4 hr</th>
<th>5 hr</th>
<th>24 hr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control, Normal saline</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5ml/kg, p.o.</td>
<td>±0.02</td>
<td>±0.02</td>
<td>±0.02</td>
<td>±0.01</td>
<td>±0.02</td>
<td>±0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diclofenac sodium 10mg/kg, p.o</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudard 150mg/kg, p.o</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudard 300mg/kg, p.o</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=6, *p<0.05, **p<0.01 as compared to control group

Table 2. Anti-inflammatory effect on carrageen induced paw edema in rats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>1 day</th>
<th>2 day</th>
<th>3 day</th>
<th>4 day</th>
<th>5 day</th>
<th>6 day</th>
<th>7 day</th>
<th>8 day</th>
<th>9 day</th>
<th>10 day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control, normal saline 5ml/kg, p.o.</td>
<td>0.366</td>
<td>0.457</td>
<td>0.316</td>
<td>0.308</td>
<td>0.258</td>
<td>0.241</td>
<td>0.241</td>
<td>0.225</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diclofenac sodium 10mg/kg, p.o</td>
<td>0.157</td>
<td>0.147</td>
<td>0.070</td>
<td>0.057</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.059</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>0.025</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudard 150mg/kg, p.o</td>
<td>0.164</td>
<td>0.383</td>
<td>0.241</td>
<td>0.150</td>
<td>0.116</td>
<td>0.091</td>
<td>0.083</td>
<td>0.075</td>
<td>0.066</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudard 300mg/kg, p.o</td>
<td>0.157</td>
<td>0.290</td>
<td>0.225</td>
<td>0.141</td>
<td>0.116</td>
<td>0.091</td>
<td>0.083</td>
<td>0.075</td>
<td>0.066</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=6, *p<0.05, **p<0.01 as compared to control group

water. The doses were selected based on the human dose mentioned in the ayurvedic literature. Formalin and carrageen were obtained from SD Fine Chemicals, Mumbai, India and Freund’s adjuvant was procured from Sigma-Aldrich, USA.

**Treatment** Albino Wistar rats/Swiss albino mice were divided into four groups of 6 animals each. Group I served as control (normal saline 5ml/kg body weight orally) Group II was given diclofenac sodium (10mg/kg, p.o) Group III served with test drug (150 mg/kg, p.o) and Group IV served with test drug (300 mg/kg, p.o).

**Experimental Models**

**Formalin (2% v/v) induced acute inflammatory model [12]** The volume of the hind paw of the animals was measured initially using plethysmograph. After taking the initial reading, 0.1 ml of formalin (2% v/v in water) was injected into sub-plantar aponeurosis of the left hind foot. The paw volume was measured at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 24 h after injection. Drugs were given orally 1 hr before formalin injection.

**Carrageen (1% v/v) induced polyarthritis [13, 14]** The rats were injected with 0.1 ml of carrageen (1% w/v in water) into the sub-plantar area of right hind paw. The drugs were given orally one hour prior to carrageen injection and treatment continued for 10 consecutive days. The volume of rat paw was measured daily using plethysmograph during treatment period.

**Adjuvant induced arthritis (Immunological model) [15, 16]** The animals were injected with 0.5 ml of Freund’s adjuvant into the sub-plantar surface of right hind paw. Drugs were administered orally once a day commenced on the day of injection of adjuvant and continued for 28 days. The assessment of the change in the inflammatory reaction was made by measuring the paw volume plethysmographically on 1st, 4th, 8th, 12th, 16th, 20th, 24th, and 28th day after injection of Freund’s adjuvant.

**Anti-inflammatory activity by sponge implantation technique [17]** Polyurethane foam sheets were used as sponges for implantation (thickness 5 mm) in this model. Discs are punched out to a standard size and weight (10.0 ± 0.02 mg) using a 13 mm cork borer. The disc shape sponges were then soaked in 70% v/v ethanol for 30 min and rinsed four times in water and heated at 80 C for 2 hr. The sponges were soaked in the sterile 0.9% v/v saline prior to implantation in the animal.

Sponges were implanted in female albino rats weighing between 200-250g under ketamine (100 mg/kg, i.m) anesthesia. A 20 mm dorsal incision was made and four sponge pellets were implanted per rat in the dorsal region and was sutured. The sponge implanted rats were treated for 21 days. Sponges were removed from rats by opening the original incision after 21 days of implantation. Each pellet and associated tissue was weighed wet and then dried to a constant weight at 60 °C and reweighed.

**Analgesic activity by Eddy’s hot plate method [18]** Albino Swiss mice were placed on the hot plate and the time until either licking (or) jumping occurs was recorded by a stop-watch. A cutoff period of 15 sec was maintained to avoid damage to the paw. Animals that showed short reaction time were selected for the study.
The development of edema in the paw of the rat after injection of formalin and carrageen is a biphasic event.

The results of the present study show that the polyherbal formulation *Sudard* possesses significant anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritic and analgesic activities in all the tested experimental models indicating inhibition of all phases of inflammation.

The development of edema in the paw of the rat after injection of formalin and carrageen is a biphasic event.
The initial phase of the edema is due to the release of histamine and serotonin and the edema is maintained during the plateau phase by kinin like substance [20] and the second accelerating phase of swelling due to the release of prostaglandin like substances. Inhibition of edema observed in formalin and carrageen models may be due to the ability of the sudard to inhibit these chemical mediators of inflammation.

Insertion of sponge pellet used for granuloma pouch, offer a model for exudation type of inflammation. Sudard showed potential inhibitory action on exudates formation. Kinin is said to be the main mediator of granuloma, as it both vasodilates and increase vascular permeability in the early stages of inflammation [21]. The effect of sudard on subacute inflammation confirmed that it inhibits the chemical mediators of inflammation.

The central analgesic activity of sudard was studied using hot plate method and peripheral activity in acetic acid induced writhing test. Sudard (150, 300 mg/kg) significantly increased the reaction time in hot-plate test and also reduced the writhing response in mice injected with acetic acid. Hence, it is speculated that apart from inhibition of chemical mediators of inflammation, Sudard may also modulate the pain response in the central nervous system.

As mentioned earlier, Sudard contains 11 different constituents and the formulation is described in the ancient ayurvedic literature. A survey on the activities of the constituents revealed that Commiphora mukul, Mineral pitch, Colchicum luteum and Smilax glabra are reported to be effective in experimental arthritis induced by mycobacterial adjuvant [1, 8, 9, 11] Commiphora mukul contains mainly steroids, diterpenoid, carbohydrates and aliphatic esters [22]. The Mineral patch contains albuminoids, fatty acids and minerals [23]. Colchicum luteum contains alkaloids of which colchicine is the main constituent in addition to amino acids while the Smilax glabra has β-sitosterol and stigama sterol as its main constituents [24,25].

The other constituents of sudard; Pluchea lanceolata, Paederia foetida, Vitex negundo, Zingiber officinalis, Styrchnos nuxvomica and Ricinus communis possess analgesic effect and also are effective in both acute and chronic inflammation [2-6,10]. Pluchea lanceolata is rich in volatile oil that contains methyl cinnamate, cineole, camphor and pinene [25]. Paederia foetida contains volatile oils alkaloids that include α-paederine and β-paederine [22]. A number of constituents are known to be present in Vitex negundo which is known to contain alkaloids such as nishidine and hydrocotylylene, glocoronitol hydroxyl isopthalic acid, benzoic acid, tannic acid, aucubin, agesside, casticain, orisoreint and glucoside of tetrahydroxy monomethyl flavone [22]. Zingiber officinalis, commonly known as ginger contains zingeriberol, borneol, linoolo, gerariol, citral, ginerol, shogal, zingerone and resinous matter like starch mucilage [22]. Styrchnos nuxvomica contains strychnine, brucin, stronic acid, vomicine and logoinin [22]. Ricinus communis which is the common castor seeds, contains mainly fixed oils which on hydrolysis yields ricinoleic acid. Other fatty acids present are isoricinoleic acid, stearic acid and iso-stearic acid [25].

The only constituent in Sudard that does not have any reported analgesic, anti-inflammatory or anti-arthritic effect is Lepidium sativum. However, this plant is reported to possess potent anti-oxidant effect [7]. The anti-oxidant action may indirectly help in treatment of inflammation by scavenging free radicals. Lepidium sativum contains volatile oil that has variable proportion of benzyl isothiocyanate and benzyl cyanide. It also has alkaloids — glutotropucolin, sinapin and sinapic acid. Other constituents include protein, fat, carbohydrate and trace elements; iron, nickel, cobalt and iodine [23].

To conclude, the poly-herbal formulation ‘sudard’ possess good analgesic, anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritic effects.

REFERENCES


**CURRENT AUTHOR ADDRESSES**

Mohammed Asad, Krupanidhi Department of Pharmacology,Krupanidhi College of Pharmacy, Bangalore-560 034, India.
Koteshwar Prasad, Department of Pharmacology, Krupanidhi College of Pharmacy, Bangalore-560 034, India.
Licto Thomas, Department of Pharmacology, Krupanidhi College of Pharmacy, Bangalore-560 034, India.
Jagadish V Kanath, Department of Pharmacology, Krupanidhi College of Pharmacy, Bangalore-560 034, India.