

Hepatoprotective effects on Taiwan Folk Medicine: wedelia chinensis on three hepatotoxin-induced hepatotoxicity

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摘要

Abstract

The crude herb, Hwang-hua-mih-tsay (*W. chinensis*), is used to treat hepatitis, swelling and distended stomach in Taiwan. *W. chinensis* is also used to treat coughs, headaches, skin disease, and baldness in East and Southeast Asia, and as an antitoxic, expectorant and antiinflammatory, and to treat diphtheria, pertussis, diarrhoea and haemorrhoids in Mainland China. The hepatoprotective effects of a crude aqueous extract of *W. chinensis* were investigated against acute hepatitis induced by 3 hepatotoxins: carbon tetrachloride and acetaminophen in mice, and D-(+)-galactosamine in rats. After treatment with *W. chinensis* (300 mg/kg, p.o.) at 2, 6 and 10 h after hepatotoxin administration, a reduction in the elevation of serum glutamate oxaloacetic transaminase (SGOT [aspartate aminotransferase]) and glutamate pyruvic transaminase (SGPT [alanine aminotransferase]) levels was observed at 24 h after hepatotoxin administration. These serological observations were confirmed by histopathological examinations. In order to further confirm the hepatoprotective effect of *W. chinensis*, all pharmacological and histopathological effects were compared with those of a crude extract of *Bupleurum chinense*, a well documented hepatoprotective herb. It was concluded that *W. chinensis* has a definite hepatoprotective effect.