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ABSTRACTS

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Antitussive effect of aerial parts of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* by sulphur dioxide induced cough in rats

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Abstract---For thousands of years natural products are playing an important role for treating human diseases. According to WHO 80% of world's population relies on traditional medicines for curing and preventing ailments.

Numerous plants have been reported to have antitussive activity. The aim of our present study was to evaluate the antitussive effect of aerial parts of ethanolic extract of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* (Caesalpinaceae) at the doses of 200 and 400 mg/kg in healthy albino rats. *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* is an ornamental plant usually 3.7-4.3 m in height, known as Peacock flower and is used traditionally to treat cough, bronchitis and asthma.

Cough significantly affects human health and is the most common reason to visit to physicians. Cough may be produced due to any disease, allergens, pollutants and respiratory infections. Any mechanical change or inflammatory change provoke the afferent or sensory nerves in the larynx and tracheo-bronchial tree which results in cough.

In this study cough was induced by sulphur dioxide induction method. Animals were divided into four groups of 7 animals each and all the drugs were administered orally. Group I served as control group while group II served as standard taking Prospane. At doses of 200 and 400 mg/kg extract showed highly significant results compared to control. So it proves and supports traditional use of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* for relieving cough.