



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695

ISSN (P): 2349-8242

NAAS Rating: 5.03

TPI 2020; 9(3): 618-621

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Received: 28-01-2020

Accepted: 29-02-2020

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## Determination of anti-proliferative effect of methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf on cultured HeLa cells

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### Abstract

Traditional medicinal plants have been used in the treatment of various diseases for centuries. A number of plant-derived compounds have been proposed as anticancer agents and are currently undergoing medical development. *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz of *Begoniaceae* family is wild, vulnerable, endemic species found in Kerala. Therefore, in this study, Methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* (MEBT) was investigated for the apoptotic effect on human cervical cancer cells (HeLa). The *In vitro* anti-proliferative effect of MEBT on cultured HeLa cells was performed by colorimetric MTT assay. It was assessed that MEBT has anti proliferative effect on cultured HeLa cells and the IC<sub>50</sub> value was found 24.05µg/ml. Anti-proliferative effect of methanol extract exhibited 84.06% inhibition at 100µg/ml concentration, whereas fraction BGTMI from methanol extract of *Begoina trchocarpa* Dalz showed its anti-proliferative effect 56.65 % at 100µg/ml concentrations on cultured HeLa cells.

**Key word:** *Begonia trichocarpa*, anti-proliferative, HeLa cells.

### Introduction

In recent years there has been a renewed interest in herbal medicines and the use of herbal medicine as Nutraceuticals. The importance of Nutraceuticals has been increasing daily due to its preventive nature; it may be due to its anti-oxidant property of medicinal plants. Use of nutraceuticals as a preventive increased especially in the case like diabetics, cancer, etc. Cancer is the common term used for all malignant tumors. Hippocrates (460-377 BC) used term *karkinos* for breast cancer means crab, reflecting the character of crab on the nature of disease. Neo-plasis and Malignant are the other terms used for cancer, but there is a difference between malignant and neoplasia. Neoplasia “benign” are slow growing and localized without creating more difficulties to the host, but malignant are proliferating rapidly, causing difficulties by spreading all over the body and finally causing death of the host. The basic flat form of cancer is parenchyma and supportive stroma of fibrous connective tissue and blood vessels where parenchyma cells grow. The cause of this shift may be related to multiple factors including sex, age, race and exposure to environmental carcinogenic agents, of these factors last is the most important. Daily numerous carcinogenic factors encroach in our body and generate free radicals to stimulate carcinoma, but the defense mechanism of the body fight with the carcinogenic agents and reverse the boy mechanism to normal. Certain herpes and papilloma group DNA virus and certain type RNA virus have also been implicated as causative agents in an animal (Harsh Mohan 2010, Causes of cancer Wikipedia).

Many of the known anti- cancer agents used today in cancer therapy are secondary plant products or its derivatives. The use of herbs as medicines had been increased after the discovery of anticancer agent vinca alkaloids vinblastin and vincristine from *vinca rosea* in 1950s. Methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* and its isolated compound showed anti-proliferative effect.

### Material and methods

#### Determination of anti-proliferative effect of methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf on cultured HeLa cells

*In vitro* anti-proliferative effect of methanol extracts of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf on cultured HeLa cells was determined by the percentage difference in viability by standard MTT assay method after 24 hours of incubation [22].

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### Preparation of cultured HeLa cells

The HeLa cervical cell line was purchased from NCCS Pune were maintained in Dulbecco's modified eagles media (HIMEDIA) supplemented with 10% FBS (Invitrogen) and grown to confluence at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> in a humidified atmosphere in a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator (NBS, EPPENDORF, GERMANY) [23].

### Estimation of in-vitro anti proliferative effect of methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf

The methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf selected for *in-vitro* study, the selection was done on the basis of Preliminary phytochemical evaluation, TLC analysis and estimation of flavonoid content.

### Cytotoxicity evaluation

The cell line was cultured in 25cm<sup>2</sup> tissue culture flask with DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS, L-glutamine, sodium bicarbonate and antibiotic solution containing: Penicillin (100IU/ml), Streptomycin (100µg/ml), and Amphotericin B (2.5µg/ml). Cultured cell lines were kept at 37 °C in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator (NBS Eppendorf, Germany). The viability of cells was evaluated by direct observation of cells by inverted phase contrast microscope and followed by the MTT assay method.

Two days old confluent monolayer of cells were trypsinized and the cells were suspended in 10% growth medium, 100µl cell suspension (5x10<sup>4</sup> cells/well) was seeded in 96 well tissue culture plate and incubated at 37 °C in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator. 1 mg of plant extract or compound was added to 1ml of DMEM and dissolved completely by cyclomixer. After 24 hours the growth medium w HeLa (cervical cancer) cells were initially procured from National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), Pune, India and maintained Dulbecos modified Eagles medium (Gibco, Invitrogen) as removed, freshly prepared each plant extract in 5% DMEM were five times serially diluted by two fold dilution (100µg, 50µg, 25µg, 12.5µg, 6.25µg in 100µl of 5% MEM) and each concentration of 100µl were added in triplicates to the respective wells and incubated at 37 °C in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator [24].

### Cytotoxicity assay by direct microscopic observation

The entire plate was observed at an interval of each 24 hours; up to 72 hours in an inverted phase contrast tissue culture microscope and microscopic observation were recorded as images. Any detectable changes in the morphology of the cells, such as rounding or shrinking of cells, granulation and vocalization in the cytoplasm of the cells were considered as indicators of cytotoxicity [25].

### Cytotoxicity assay by MTT method and evaluation of IC<sub>50</sub>

About 15mg of MTT (Sigma, M-5655) was reconstituted in 3ml PBS until completely dissolved and sterilized by filter sterilization. After 24 hours of incubation period, the sample content in the wells was removed and 3.0µl of the reconstituted MTT solution was added to all test and cell control wells, the plate was gently shaken well, then incubated at 37 °C in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for 4 hours. After the incubation period, the supernatant was removed and 100µl of MTT solubilization solution (DMSO) was added and the wells were mixed gently by pipetting up and down in order to solubilize the formazan crystals [26, 27]. The absorbance values were measured by using the micro plate reader at a wavelength of 570nm (Laura B. Talarico *et al.* 2004) (ELISASCAN, ERBA).

% viability = (OD of Test/ OD of Control) X 100.

### Result and discussion

#### Determination of *In vitro* anti-proliferative effect of methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf on cultured HeLa cells

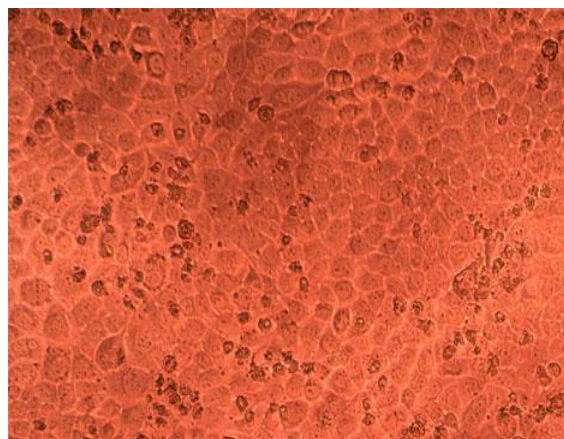
On the basis of above studies methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz exhibited an increased antioxidant activity as compared with EABT. So methanol extract was selected for *In vitro* study of anti-proliferative effect of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz. *In vitro* anti-proliferative effect of methanol extract on cultured HeLa whole cells was performed and the observation was given in the Table. Cytotoxicity assay by direct microscopic observation are given in Fig 1.

**Table 1:** Percentage Viability and percentage inhibition of methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf by MTT assay

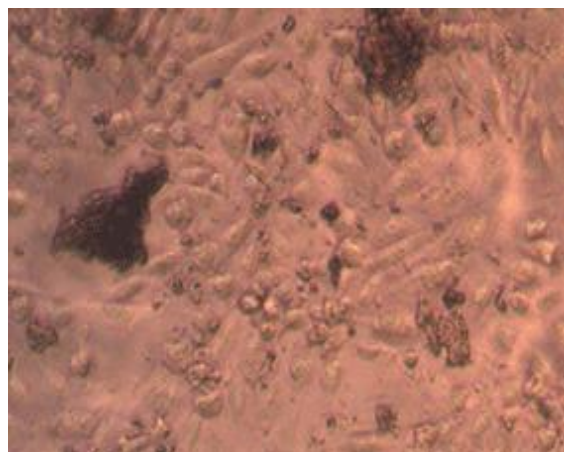
| Sample volume (µg/ml)  | Average Absorbance 540nm | Percentage Viability | % Inhibition |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 6.2                    | 0.3413                   | 66.28                | 33.8         |
| 12.5                   | 0.2978                   | 55.783               | 42.22        |
| 25                     | 0.2189                   | 42.51                | 57.49        |
| 50                     | 0.1572                   | 30.53                | 69.47        |
| 100                    | 0.0821                   | 15.94                | 84.06        |
| IC <sub>50</sub> value |                          |                      | 24.05µg/ml   |

A dose dependent % inhibition of viability of HeLa cell exhibited by methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf was observed. IC<sub>50</sub> value was found to be 24.05µg/ml.

### Cytotoxicity assay by direct microscopic observation

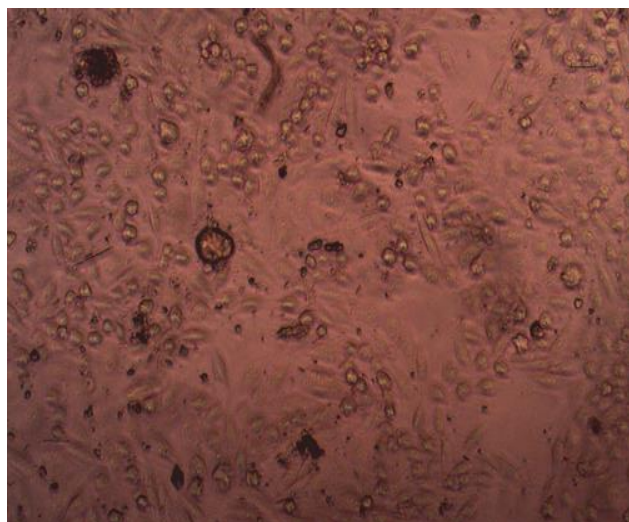


(A)

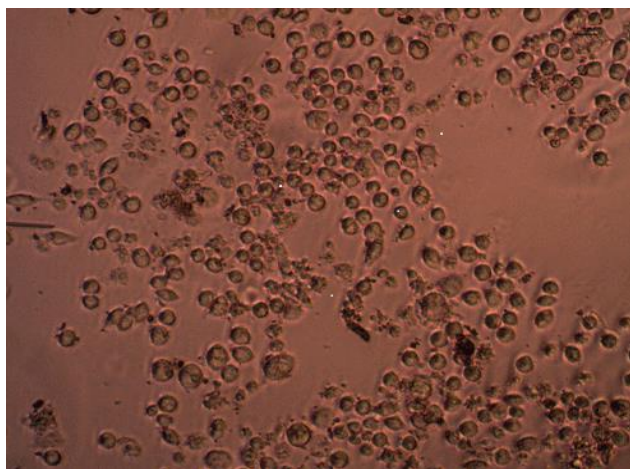


(B)





(C)



(D)

**Fig 1:** Effect of methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf on HeLa cells by direct microscopic observation of cytotoxicity assay. Microscopic observations of (A) control, (B) 6 $\mu$ / ml, (C) 12 $\mu$ / ml, (D) 24 $\mu$ / ml of methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf

Microscopic observation shows rounding, shrinking, granulation in the cytoplasm of the cells were found, that indicate the Cancer cell cytotoxicity was produced by methanol extract of *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz leaf.

### Conclusion

The *In vitro* anti proliferative effect of MEBT on cultured HeLa cells was performed by colorimetric MTT assay, it was assessed that MEBT has anti-proliferative effect on cultured HeLa cells and the IC<sub>50</sub> value was found 24.05 $\mu$ g/ml. *Begonia trichocarpa* Dalz belong to the Begoniaceae family is a venerable plant selected on the basis of its non-popular traditional remedy in the treatment of throat infection was also show to proliferative effect.

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