

“Screening of Pharmacological Activity of *Polyalthia Longifolia* Leaves On GIT”

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Abstract: The purpose of this research article

Polyalthia longifolia has been traditionally valued for its medicinal properties, especially for gastrointestinal applications. This study evaluates the pharmacological effects of the ethanolic extract of *P. longifolia* leaves on gastrointestinal tract (GIT) function in Wistar albino rats. Specifically, the extract's impact on ileum contractions was assessed and compared to acetylcholine responses, while ciliary motility in the esophagus was evaluated using a poppy seed assay. The bioassay was conducted using a student organ bath assembly. Results indicated a significant, dose-dependent inhibition of ileum contractions and an enhancement in esophageal ciliary motility, highlighting the extract's potential for managing GIT disorders. These findings underscore the therapeutic promise of *P. longifolia* in treating motility-related gastrointestinal issues.

In summary This study explores the effects of *Polyalthia longifolia* leaf extract on gastrointestinal function in rats. Results showed that the extract reduces ileum contractions and enhances esophageal ciliary motility, suggesting its potential for treating gastrointestinal disorders. [7][8]

Keywords: *Polyalthia longifolia*, Phytochemistry, Gastrointestinal disorders, Gastric emptying, Motility, Wistar albino rats.

1. INTRODUCTION

Polyalthia longifolia, commonly known as the Indian mast tree, is a medicinal plant widely distributed in Southeast Asia. It is traditionally used to treat a variety of ailments, including fever, cough, diarrhea, dysentery, and intestinal worms. Previous studies have reported the pharmacological properties of *Polyalthia longifolia*, including antifungal, antibacterial, antioxidant, and anticancer activities. However, the effects of *Polyalthia longifolia* on the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) have not been extensively investigated. The GIT plays a crucial role in the digestion and absorption of nutrients, and any disruption in its function can lead to various disorders. Many drugs used to treat GIT disorders have significant side effects, which has prompted the search for natural alternatives with fewer adverse effects. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in using plant extracts to treat GIT disorders. Therefore, the present study aims to investigate the pharmacological activity of *Polyalthia longifolia* leaves

on the GIT. Specifically, we aim to evaluate the effects of *Polyalthia longifolia* leaves on intestinal motility, gastric emptying, and secretion of gastric acid. The study will also investigate the possible mechanisms of action of the plant extract on GIT function. The findings of this study could have significant implications for the development of new natural products for the treatment of GIT disorders. Furthermore, the study could provide a scientific basis for the traditional use of *Polyalthia longifolia* in treating GIT disorders.

PLANT PROFILE OF THE SELECTED PLANT: [1]

BOTANY [9][10]

Scientific Name : *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) Thwaites (PL).[2]

Common Names : False Ashoka, Buddha Tree, Green champa, Indian mast tree, and Indian Fir tree.[2]

Synonyms : *Uvaria longifolia* Sonn., *Guatteria longifolia* (Sonn.) Wallich, *Unona longifolia* (Sonn.).[3]

[11][12]

Taxonomical classification (According to Bentham & Hooker):-

Kingdom : Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class : Magnolipsida

Sub class: Magnoliidae [13][14][15]

Series : Thalamiflorae

Order : Magnoliids [16][17][18]

Family :Annonaceae

Tribe: Annonaeae

Genus :*Polyalthia*

Species: *longifolia*

VERNACULAR NAME :

Hindi : Ashoka

Marathi : Devdar

Malayalam: Hemapushshpam

Telugu: Naramaamidi

Kannada : Ubbina

Tamil : Nettilingam

Assame: Umboi

Konkani : Asok

Sanskrit: Ulkatah

Botanical Description of *Polyalthia longifolia* (sonn.) :

The genus *Polyalthia* includes about 120 species. These are mainly occurring in Africa, South and South-Eastern Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. India has 14 species of *Polyalthia*. The distribution of major *Polyalthia* species in India are *Polyalthia cerasoides* Bedd. A shrub or small tree, found through out India, *Polyalthia fragrance* Benth a large tree found in Western Ghats and *P.longifolia* found in India and Sri Lanka and it has been introduced as gardens of many tropical countries. Evergreen tall tree can grow up to 15-20 meters tall.

●Branch

Young plants have straight trunks and weeping pendulous branch. The longest branch is

seen at the base and shorter at the end of the trunk, it gives conical crown appearance.

● **Flowers**

The flowers are small in size and star shaped. They grow from the branches and consist of calyx with 3 ovate-triangular sepals and corolla with 6 petals. The sepals are short, triangular, broad, 2-3 mm long, with flattened and matted external hairs (tomentose), and the tips are reflexed. The stamens are 1 mm long. The gynoecium consists of 20-25 free monovular carpels, which are 1-2 mm long. The flowers remain on the plant for a short period and are not very much noticeable due to its color.

● **Fruits**

The fruits are 1.8-2 cm long and contain pale brown, ovoid seeds, with one seed per fruit. It has a 1.3-cm long, glabrous, and short stalk. The fruits are egg shaped and present in the form of clusters of 10-20 fruits. Initially, they are green and when ripen, become purple or black in color. The ripe fruits attract birds, butterflies, bats, and flying foxes. They feed on it and discard the seeds in the soil.

● **Seeds:**

Seeds are pale brown in color and ovoid in shape.

● **Propagation:** sometimes through soft wood cuttings

● **Leaves:**

The leaves consist of wavy margin, present in dense, cluster form. They are bronze, lime green, or dark green in color according to the age of the plant. Either side of midrib contains approximately 25-30 lateral veins. Leaves dimensions are ranging from 7.5 to 23 cm in length and 1.5 to 3.8 cm in width. It is glabrous on the upper surface, whereas paler glaucous on the lower surface. Its features are mildly aromatic, narrowly lanceolate, glabrous, shining, exstipulate, distichous, and alternate. The mast tree leaves have a short petiolate, which is approximately 6 mm long. Its margin is undulate, leathery, or subcoriaceous and pinnately veined. The leaves have a fine acuminate apex. *P. longifolia* is a larval food plant for tailed jay and kite swallowtail butterflies. Bloom is bisexual and pale green in color. The plant mainly blooms in mid-, late, or early summer (during spring in a period approximately 2-3 weeks).

● **Trunk**

P. longifolia has a trunk covered by gray bark. It consists of a small-diameter trunk, which produces a yellowish to gray white wood. The average weight of the wood is approximately 590 kg per cubic meter (37 lbs per cubic ft). It naturally has a less ability to resist rot and decay and used in the manufacturing of beer. The tree has a straight columnar growth with a huge number of leaves; therefore, it is used as a wind blocker or visual divider in open spaces and as a hedge tree and first choice in landscape designing.

Traditional Uses

1. The tribal of Andhra Pradesh, use the bark of the tree in treatment of fever and to prevent abortion.
2. In Tamil Nadu, it is known as Nettiilingam and the juice extracted from the fresh bark is used to treat indigestion.
3. For gonorrhea, the stem bark is powdered and mixed with butter to apply genital region.
4. In Madhya Pradesh the stem bark is given in malignant treatment.
5. In West Bengal, the bark is used in treatment of diabetes and high blood.

● **Pressure**

1. The leaves, possess antifungal and anti bacterial properties.
2. The decoction of bark is used for curing mouth ulcers.
3. The stem bark along with *Sesamum indium*/Til and *Piper nigrum*/Pippali is used to treat bone fractures.

4. In Uthiramerur, the stem bark extract is given orally for indigestion.

PHYTOCHEMISRY:

The phytochemical analysis of *Polyalthia longifolia* has revealed the presence of several secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, tannins, steroids, and terpenoids. These secondary metabolites have been isolated from different parts of the plant, including the leaves, bark, seeds, and roots.

Alkaloids are one of the major classes of secondary metabolites present in *Polyalthia longifolia*. Several alkaloids, such as liriodenine, norstephalagine, stephalagine, and oxoxylophine, have been isolated from the plant. These alkaloids have been reported to possess a wide range of pharmacological properties, such as antimicrobial, antifungal, and antitumor activities.

Flavonoids are another class of secondary metabolites found in *Polyalthia longifolia*. These compounds have been reported to possess antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antitumor activities. Quercetin, kaempferol, and myricetin are some of the flavonoids that have been identified in *Polyalthia longifolia*.

Phenolic compounds such as gallic acid, ellagic acid, and catechin have also been identified in *Polyalthia longifolia*. These compounds have been reported to possess antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antitumor properties.

Tannins, which are water-soluble polyphenols, have also been identified in *Polyalthia longifolia*. These compounds have been reported to possess antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral activities. The presence of tannins in the plant may contribute to its traditional use in the treatment of diarrhea and other gastrointestinal disorders.

Steroids and terpenoids are other classes of secondary metabolites present in *Polyalthia longifolia*. These compounds have been reported to possess various pharmacological properties, such as antitumor, anti-inflammatory, and antiviral activities.

MOVEMENT OF GIT & DISORDERS OF GIT:-

- The gastrointestinal tract is commonly divided into five parts :-
 1. Mouth
 2. Oesophagus
 3. Stomach
 4. Small intestine
 5. Large intestine
- There parts are separated from each other by special muscles called spincters which normally stay tightly closed and which regulates the movement of food and residues from one part to another.
- Each part of the gastrointestinal tract has a unique function to perform in digestion and as a result each part has a distinct type of motility.
- Two types of movement occur in the GI tract:
 1. Propulsive Movement
 2. Mixing Movement.

DISORDERS OF GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT:

➤ Different parts of GI tract are affected by following disorders :-[8]

MOUTH	<p>A. DAMAGE PHYSICAL:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Occurs due to excessively hot as cold abrasive/ corrosive food & other substances. <p>B. THRUSH (ORAL CANDIDIASIS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fungal infection of the epithelium of mouth caused by the yeast <i>Candida albicans</i>. <p>C. GINGIVITIS:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Caused by two commensal organisms <i>Borrelia vincentii</i> & a <i>Fusiform bacillus</i>.
PHARYNX	<p>A. TONSILLITIS:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Viral/bacterial infection. ➤ Tonsils (two masses of tissues) at the back of throat is affected or inflamed (swell). <p>B. DIPHTHERIA :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Infection of the nose and throat caused by the bacterium coryne- bacterium diphtheriae
SALIVARY GLAND	<p>A. MUMPS :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Viral infection. <p>B. CALCULUS FORMATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Calculi (stones) are formed in salivary gland by crystallisation of mineral salts in saliva.
OESOPHAGUS	<p>A. PEPTIC REFLEX OESOPHAGITIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Persistent regurgitation of acid, gastric juice into oesophagus causing irritation & painful ulceration. ➤ Occurs due to- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in intra abdominal pressure. Eg. in pregnancy. • High acid content of gastric juice. <p>B. ACHALARIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rare disorder. ➤ Oesophagus is unable to move food and liquids down in stomach.
STOMACH	<p>A. GASTRITIS :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Occurs when an imbalance between the corrosive action of gastric juice and protective effect of mucus on gastric mucosa develops. <p>B. PEPTIC ULCER:-</p> <p>Sore (open) develop on the inside lining of stomach and upper portion of small intestine.</p>

INTESTINE	<p>A. APPENDICITIS :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appendix becomes inflamed and filled with pus, causing pain <p>B. MICROBIAL DECREASES:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Typhoid fever :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Infection caused by bacteria salmonella typhi. ✓ Spread through food & water. b. Cholera :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bacterial decrease usually spread through contaminated water. c. Dysentery :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Infection that causes severe diarrhoea with blood. <p>C. INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Crohn's diseases :- Autoimmune mediated inflammatory conditions. b. Ulcerative colitis :- Bowel disease in which abdominal reaction of the immune system cause inflammation in ulcers.
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Gastric Emptying & Motility:-

The regulation of food intake relies on a balance between hunger, satiation (the disappearance of hunger during a meal) and satiety (the sensation of satisfaction after a meal that gradually disappears to make way for hunger). These sensations of appetite are the result of complex interactions between central nervous system circuitries and peripheral sensations, which mainly originate from the gastrointestinal tract, the liver [1] and adipose tissue. As the gut is the first and main organ in which food is processed, it is set to sense meal volume and composition and thus plays a vital role in the regulation of appetite. For the stomach this central role is illustrated by the efficacy of bariatric surgery: resection or bypass of the stomach results in important and sustained weight loss. Appetite regulation by the gastrointestinal tract is mediated through sensation of meal volume and nutrient composition and can be influenced by different factors such as secretion [9] and visceral sensitivity [10] but also by gastrointestinal motility. In this review we focus on the role of motility, and more specific gastric motility in the regulation of (solid) food intake through a literature review using the keywords: satiety, satiation and food intake in combination with specific search terms corresponding to the different subdivisions. Gastric motility is an important determinant of gastric emptying, epigastric symptom generation, and intolerance to food. Motility is classically assessed directly using manometry or an intragastric balloon. These diagnostic methods are perceived as stressful and invasive, which, by itself might influence the readout of these assessments. Our hypothesis was that with repeated exposure. [5]

MATERIAL & METHODS

PLANT MATERIAL:-

The leaves of *polyalthia longifolia* (sonn.) Thwaites was collected in December 2022 from Dhanvantari Botanical Garden in Smt. Sharadchandrika Suresh Patil College Of Pharmacy (Diploma & Degree) College in Chopda, Maharashtra state India.

ANIMAL MODEL :-

A total 12 healthy wistar albino rats of both sex (male & female) weighting between 150-300

g used for this study. Purchased from Trans- Genica Services Pvt. Ltd Nagardeola, Tal- Pachora, Dist- Jalgaon, 424104, India.. They were housed under controlled conditions of temperature (25± 5%) and 12hrs. day & night cycles. The animals were fed with the normal laboratory diet and drinking water as. Libitum. Protocol approved by the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) was taken.

BIOASSAY OF RAT ILEUM:-

Current restrictions in experiments with laboratory animals prompted the search for alternate tissues for biological testing. Tissues from poultry, sheep, goats, cattle, fish, etc., usually consumed for food, were suggested. We investigated ileum from rats sacrificed for food as a possible alternative in 20 experiments. The small intestine in rat is a long and uniform in the diameter. Its circular muscles are 3 times thicker than the longitudinal muscles. From a rat body fresh intestine of rat was collected into a flask containing 500 ml “rat” solution, transported immediately to laboratory and kept aerated. Composition of rat solution :- NaCl : 16 g, KCl : 0.4 g, CaCl₂ :0.4 g , MgCl₂ : 1 g, KH₂PO₄ :0.1 g, NaHCO₃ :2 g, glucose : 2.0 g, and sucrose : 3 g.

In initial experiments with Tyrode (3) or Rat Solution (10) the bath was maintained at 37°C. When the tissue responses to acetylcholine (ACh) were not uniform, taking a long time for relaxation, we changed to rat solution maintained at 42°C in the last 7 experiments.

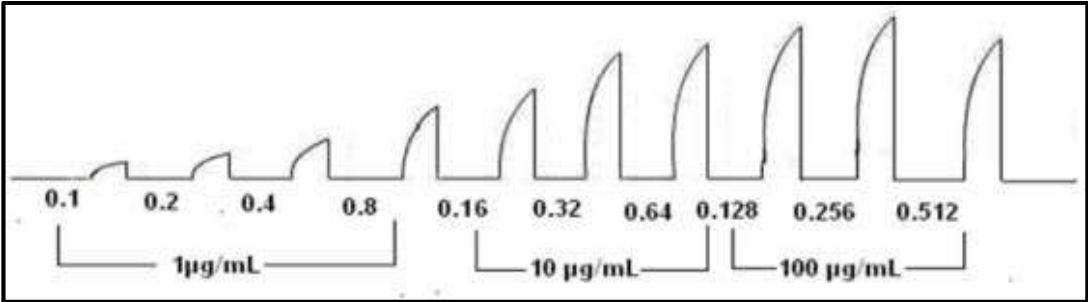
The piece of ileum (approximately 2 cm) with contents washed with rat solution was mounted in 10 ml organ bath kept at 42°C and aerated. It was rested for 1 h under 1 g tension. The isotonic responses of the tissue were recorded on kymograph with frontal ink writing lever at a magnification of seven. ACh, atropine (ATR) and all other chemicals used were of analytical reagent (AR) grade.

At 1 µg doses the preparation responded to ACh, but not histamine and 5 hydroxy tryptamine (5-HT). ACh was used in all experiments applying a cycle of contact to ACh for 30 s at 3 min intervals. Ach (0.5-8µg) produced dose dependent contractions added to 10 ml bath.

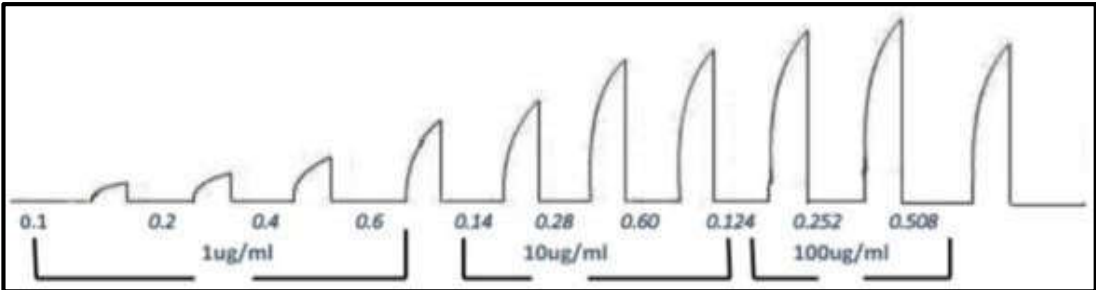
	
Dissection of wistar albino rat	Ileum of wistar albino rat

DRUG RESPONSE CURVE :

Response of ACH On Wistar Albino Rat Ileum :



Response of P. Longfolia Leaves Extract On Wistar Albino Rat:



OBSERVATION TABLE :

Ach Result :

Sr. no.	Drug Name	Conc. of drug	Dose of drug in ml.	Response in mm	% Response
1.	Ach	1 µg/ml	0.1	2	20
2.			0.2	5	25
3.			0.4	7	35
4.			0.8	9	45
5.		10 µg/ml	0.16	12	60
6.			0.32	14	70
7.			0.64	16	80
8.		100 µg/ml	0.128	17	85
9.			0.256	20	100
10.			0.512	12	60

P.longifolia leaves extract result :

Sr. No.	Drug Name	Conc.of drug	Dose of drug in ml.	Response in mm	%Response
1.	P. longifolia leaves extract result	1 μ g/ml	0.1	2	20
2.			0.2	5	25
3.			0.4	7	35
4.			0.6	8	45
5.		10 μ g/ml	0.14	10	60
6.			0.28	12	70
7.			0.60	14	80
8.		100 μ g/ml	0.124	16	85
9.			0.252	18	100
10.			0.508	10	60

CILIARY MOVEMENT IN RAT BUCCAL CAVITY:

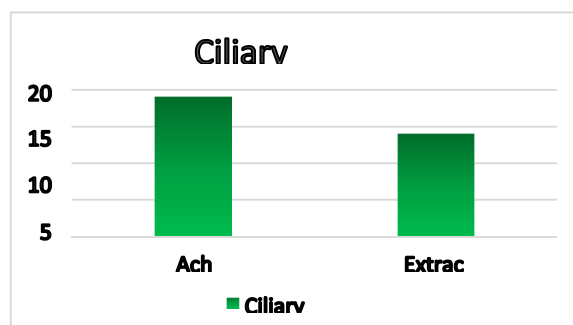
Cilia in the buccal cavity and in the oesophagus helps in the movement of food particles. Similarly, the importance of mucociliary function has been established in respiratory tract and of pulmonary diseases such as chronic bronchitis, asthma and in cystic fibrosis. The integrity of mucociliary function is very important in these air way diseases. Cilia exhibit a great degree of autonomy in that they are capable of functioning in the absence of nervous innervations. It has also been demonstrated that the Ach present in the mucous membrane of trachea and buccal cavity helps in the ciliary movement. Ach serves as a local hormone and the presence of choline acetylase support the fact that Ach is locally synthesised in the mucous membranes.[11]

METHOD (STEP 2:)

- Decapitate the rat and pin the rat to the rat board on its back.
- Pin the lower jaw to the abdomen cutting sufficiently the buccal cavity and exposing the oesophagus wet by irrigating it with normal saline
- To assess the distance travelled by the particles, fix two points. One start from slower jaw to other beginning of oesophagus. Keep this distance constant to measure the time taken by the particle to move from a fixed point in the lower jaw to the beginning of the oesophagus.
- Place a poppy seed at the premarked spot in jaw. Turn on the stop watch and note the time taken by the object to reach the beginning of the oesophagus . repeat this several times.
- Put a few drops of p.longifolia leaves extract on the buccal cavity and after 10 min repeat step 4 note the time.
- Wash the buccal with normal saline. Put a few drops acetylcholine on the buccal cavity. After 10 min repeat the step 4. Note the time.
- Find out the differences in the time taken by the object to move between the premarked distance in the buccal cavity in presence of saline acetylcholine

OBSERVATION TABLE :

Sr. No.	Drug	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3	Mean
1.	Acetylcholine	22 s	18 s	17 s	19 s
2.	p.longifolia leaves extract	16 s	14s	14 s	14 s

EXPERIMENT RESULT :

The most effective drug is p.longifolia leaves extract , because the drug take short time to increase the movement.

RESULT

The study found that the ethanolic extract of *Polyalthia longifolia* leaves significantly affected gastrointestinal activity in Wistar albino rats. For the rat ileum, the extract caused a clear, dose-dependent reduction in contraction strength. At a concentration of 100 mg/mL, it exhibited the highest level of inhibition, demonstrating comparable effects to acetylcholine. Furthermore, an increase in ciliary motility in the esophagus was observed, as indicated by the quicker movement of poppy seeds following the extract's administration. This enhanced ciliary activity was substantial, suggesting a promising potential for the extract in promoting gastrointestinal motility. Overall, these findings support the therapeutic potential of *P. longifolia* leaf extract for managing disorders related to GIT motility.

DISCUSSION

The discussion section of this study will focus on the potential implications of the study's findings, as well as possible limitations and future research directions

The observed effects of *Polyalthia longifolia* extract on the GIT suggest that it may have potential therapeutic applications in the treatment of GIT disorders. The decrease in ileum contraction could be due to the inhibition of acetylcholine release from the parasympathetic nerves or inhibition of the muscarinic receptor response to acetylcholine. The increase in ciliary motility could be due to the stimulation of ciliary muscle contraction or inhibition of the sympathetic nervous system.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study found that the ethanolic extract of *Polyalthia longifolia* leaves exhibited significant pharmacological activity on the rat ileum. The response of the rat ileum to the extract was found to be comparable to the response to acetylcholine. The extract produced a dose-dependent decrease in ileum contraction and an increase in ciliary motility. These findings suggest that *Polyalthia longifolia* leaves may have potential

therapeutic uses in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders. The results of this study contribute to the growing body of research on the pharmacological properties of natural plant compounds and their potential applications in medicine. Further research is needed to explore the mechanisms of action of the active compounds in *Polyalthia longifolia* leaves and their potential use in the development of novel therapies

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