

Thesis Title Effects of *Piper longum* Fruit, *Piper sarmentosum* Root and
Quercus infectoria Nut Gall on Amoebiasis in Mice and on
Small Intestine Motility in Rats and Guinea-pigs
Author Mr. Pathana Poonpanang
Major Program Biological Sciences
Academic Year 2003

Abstract

The pharmacological effects of crude methanol extract of *Piper longum* fruit, *Piper sarmentosum* root and *Quercus infectoria* nut gall against *Entamoeba histolytica* in mice and on small intestine motility in rats and guinea-pigs were studied. The dried and pulverized plants were extracted in the methanol individually and then evaporated. In experimental caecal amoebiasis in mice, the crude extracts of *Q. infectoria*, *P. sarmentosum* and *P. longum* at the dose of 1,000 mg/kg/day had a curative rate of 26%, 40% and 100%, respectively. The average caecal score of contents and walls of *Q. infectoria* were 0.01 and 0.01, *P. sarmentosum* 0.2 and 0.2 and *P. longum* 0 and 0 as compared to 2.55 and 2.40 for sham-treated controls. Metronidazole had a cure rate of 60% at a dose of 62.5 mg/kg/day and cured the infections completely when the dosage was doubled to 125 mg/kg/day. In addition, the effects of three plant extracts on the isolated rats and guinea-pig ileum were also studied *in vitro*. These extracts inhibited contraction of intestinal smooth muscle induced by acetylcholine, histamine and serotonin. The standard drug, loperamide had a similar result to these extracts. IC_{50} of *P. longum*, *P. sarmentosum*, *Q. infectoria* extracts or loperamide on the contraction of ileum induced by acetylcholine 10^{-5} M were 91, 88, 343 and $0.61 \mu\text{g/ml}$; histamine 10^{-6} M were 54, 44, 377 and $0.42 \mu\text{g/ml}$ and serotonin 3×10^{-6} M were 6, 13, 37 and $0.89 \mu\text{g/ml}$, respectively. The crude extract also inhibited small intestine contraction-induced by potassium chloride (30 mM) and

calcium chloride. This was determined by the shift of the cumulative concentration-response curves to the right which show parallel characteristic to the original graph similar to those observed with loperamide. It is suggested therefore that the three plant extracts were effective on the treatment of caecal amoebiasis in mice of which the extract of *P. longum* was relatively the most effective among the three plant extracts. The inhibition of the plants extracts on the motility of intestinal smooth muscle may be due to a decrease in intracellular calcium by a decrease in calcium influx into the muscle cell.