HEPATOPROTECTIVE ACTIVITY OF *ANDROGRAPHIS PANICULATA* (NEES) LEAVES ON PARACETAMOL INDUCED HEPATIC DAMAGE IN RATS

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(Accepted 26 February 2009)

ABSTRACT – Effect of shade dried *A. paniculata* (Family : Acanthaceae, common name, Kalmegh/Kirayat), leaf powder on serum enzyme levels Glutamate Oxaloacetate Transaminase (SGOT), Glutamate Pyruvate Transaminase (SGPT), Acid Phosphatase (ACP) and Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP) elevated by Paracetamol in rats was studied with view to observe possible hepatoprotective effect of this plant. It was interesting to observe that serum enzymes level were much elevated in paracetamol induced animals than in those receiving a combination of paracetamol and leaf powder of *A. paniculata*. It is stipulated that the leaf powder treated group was protected from hepatic cell damage caused by paracetamol induction. The findings were further confirmed by histopathological study of liver.

Key words : Andrographis paniculata, SGOT, SGPT, ACP, ALP, Hepatoprotective.