

**ANTIULCER ACTIVITY OF *HIBISCUS VITIFOLIUS* LINN.  
ROOT**

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*Hibiscus vitifolius* (malvaceae) is used in folk medicine for the treatment of stomach ulcers and is very well adapted to the South of India. *Hibiscus rosa sinensis* is the main species of the malvaceae family, and is used in the treatment of gastric ulcers. Therefore, this study was carried out to evaluate the antiulcer property of the ethanol extract of root of *Hibiscus vitifolius*. The antiulcer assays were performed using the following protocols; nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) induced ulcer, ethanol-induced ulcer, and stress-induced ulcer. The effects of the extract on gastric content volume, pH and total acidity, using the pylorus ligated model, were also evaluated. In the ethanol-induced ulcer model, it was observed that the treatment with *Hibiscus vitifolius* extract significantly reduced the lesion index in  $75.7 \pm 6.3$ ,  $85.4 \pm 8.2$ ,  $87.5 \pm 7.3$  and  $76.8 \pm 4.8$  for the groups treated with 50, 250 and 500 mg/kg of *Hibiscus vitifolius* and positive control (omeprazole 30 mg/kg) respectively. Significant inhibition in lesion index in the indomethacin-induced ulcer model, being the decrease of the  $66.8 \pm 6.2$ ,  $67.1 \pm 7.3$ ,  $68.2 \pm 4.2$  and  $96.3 \pm 4.7$  for groups treated with 50, 250 and 500 mg/kg of *Hibiscus vitifolius* and positive control (cimetidine 100 mg/kg) respectively. Results similar were observed in the stress-induced ulcer model, where the inhibition of ulcer lesions were  $70.7 \pm 4.3$ ,  $72.3 \pm 4.6$ ,  $78.4 \pm 8.1$  and  $90.7 \pm 6.3$  for the groups treated with 50, 250 and 500 mg/kg of *Hibiscus vitifolius* and positive control (cimetidine 100 mg/kg) respectively. Regarding the model of gastric secretion, a reduction in the volume of gastric juice volume and total acidity was observed, as well as an increase in gastric pH. The results of the present study showed that *Hibiscus vitifolius* ethanol extract displays antiulcer activity.