Abstract

Ethnomedicinal use of Shedded Snake Skin Extract and its Bioactivity

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Snakes and its body parts have been used in folk and traditional medicine of various cultures since ancient time. Evidences in Chinese and Levantine medicinal system suggested the usage of snake shed skin in treatment of several diseases. In Indian traditional medicinal system, ash of shed snake skin is used for inducing labour in pregnant women which lacks scientific validation. Though used extensively by traditional healers there is no scientific evidence about shed snake skin as a source of bioactive component. This present study was undertaken to explore the bioactivity of shedded snake (*Naja*) skin and the characterization of its bioactive constituents.

The shedded snake (*Naja*) skin collected and extract was prepared. The extract caused temporary cessation of the estrous cycle in albino rats for 10 days and produced histopathological alteration in the uterus and ovary. In the pregnant rat, it altered progesterone, estradiol and C-reactive protein and eventually caused fetal resorption. In the pups, it inhibited the normal process of development. The ethno-ophiologic study on the bio activity of the snake shed skin in experimental animal model shall be discussed in this conference.

Biography

Dr.Subir Chandra Dasgupta, Professor & Head, Department of Zoology, Maulana Azad College, Kolkata in West Bengal, India. His area of research interest includes venom toxinology, pharmacology, and traditional medicine. He has published 53 scientific articles in peer reviewed national & international journals. Prof. Dasgupta has one National & one US patent, guided 8 Ph.D. students. He is a Fellow of Zoological Society Kolkata, India.

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