



ISOLATION OF OCTADECANEDIOIC ACID FROM *CASSIA FISTULA* LINN AND ITS BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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ABSTRACT

Cassia fistula L., a semi wild Indian Labernum also known as the golden shower tree is an ornamental tree with beautiful bunches of yellow flower. It is highly reputed for its laxative and purgative properties. The extracts of cassia fistula are widely used as traditional antidiabetic medicines. One of the therapeutic approach for preventing diabetes mellitus-2 is to retard the glucose absorption in the blood via inhibition of glucosidase viz glucoamylase and α -amylase. In the present study Octadecanedioic acid was isolated from the bark of *Cassia fistula*. The structure was elucidated on the basis of MS, NMR and IR. Octadecanedioic acid exhibited potent inhibitory activity against glucoamylase and α -amylase with IC_{50} value $56\mu\text{g/mL}$ and $48\mu\text{g/mL}$ respectively. The antioxidant activity was evaluated by DPPH method. The results indicated that Octadecanedioic acid possess considerable antioxidant activity. The highest radical activity was detected at $81\mu\text{g/mL}$. As a result Octadecanedioic acid was isolated from *Cassia fistula* can be used for antioxidant therapy during management of Diabetes Mellitus Type -2.

KEYWORDS: Cassia fistula, Octadecanedioic acid, glucoamylase, α -amylase, antioxidant activity.

1. INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a major health problem all over the world. It is a chronic metabolic disorder which is characterized by abnormal insulin secretion.^[1] Insulin is the major hormone regulating the glucose transport in mammals, it stimulates sugar uptake from the circulation into muscles and adipose tissues. Diabetes often referred to as diabetes mellitus describes a group of metabolic diseases in which the person has high blood glucose (blood sugar) either because insulin production is inadequate or because body's cells do not respond to insulin or both. Patients with high blood sugar typically experience polyuria (frequent urination), increasingly thirsty (polydipsia) and hungry (polyphagia). Diabetes is associated with impaired wound healing, exacerbated granulation tissue formation, delayed cellular infiltration, reduced collagen and ineffective neovascularization.^[2] The overall lowering of glucose is of pivotal importance in treatment of diabetes, with proven beneficial effects on micro and macrovascular outcomes.^[3] Also glucose variability is an independent risk in cardiovascular complications.^[4]

Enzymes are macromolecular biological catalysts. Amylase are second largest group of enzyme used in the world. Amylase catalase the hydrolysis of glucosidic linkage in starch and other related oligo- and polysaccharides. These enzymes are widespread among the higher plants, animals and microorganisms. They

have been widely utilized in various industrial processes because of their efficiency in starch hydrolysis.^[5] One of the most important enzyme is glucoamylase (EC 3.2.1.3 1,4- α -D-glucanglucohydrolase) also known as amyloglucosidase are capable of hydrolyzing glycosidic linkage of α -1,4 type by the successive removal of glucose units from the non-reducing end of the chain, releasing a D-glucose molecule in the β -conformation.^[6] Another enzyme is α -Amylase enzyme which are also capable of hydrolyzing the glycosidic linkage.

One of the therapeutic approaches for treating type 2 diabetes mellitus is to decrease the post prandial glucose levels i.e it retards the absorption of glucose through the inhibition of carbohydrates hydrolyzing enzymes present in the small interstitial brush border (glucoamylase and α -amylase). These enzymes are responsible for the breakdown of oligosaccharides and disaccharides into monosaccharides suitable for absorption. Inhibitors of these enzymes can delay carbohydrate digestion prolonging overall carbohydrate digestion time, reducing the rate of glucose absorption and hence controlling the post prandial glucose rise in the blood. Acarbose and miglitol are excellent examples of inhibitors used in diabetes control.^[7] Acarbose a well known drug used for clinical treatment of diabetes mellitus is a pseudotetrasaccharide produced by *Actinoplanes* sp. Fermentation, consisting of a polyhydroxylated aminocyclohexene derivative (valienamine) linked via its

nitrogen atom to a 6-deoxyglucose, which is itself α -1,4-linked to a maltose moiety. It is a competitive inhibitor of α -amylase and glucoamylase and the mechanism of inhibition seems to be due to the unsaturated cyclohexene ring and the glycosidic nitrogen linkage that mimics the transition state for the cleavage enzymatic of glucosidic linkages.^[8,9] Compounds such as (-)-Epicatechin from *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb., Quercetin from *Bauhinia purpurea* L., β -Sitosterol from *Cassia fistula* L., are excellent inhibitors for glucoamylase and α -amylase which results in control of blood glucose level in the body.^[10]

Diabetes management includes controlling hyperglycemia, oxidative stress and hyperlipidemia.^[11] Oxidative stress produced by cellular respiration and environmental factors is the main cause of diabetes mellitus complications. Superoxide anion, hydrogen peroxide and radical hydroxyl are the most dangerous radicals known.^[12] It has been proposed that Chronic and acute overproduction of reactive oxygen species (ROS) under pathophysiologic conditions could contribute to the initiation and development of Cardiovascular diseases.^[13] Therefore increased attention is now being paid on the antioxidant activity of natural products originating from traditionally used medicinal plants or dietary sources.^[14,15]

Anticancer drugs are frequently associated with toxic and other side-effects.^[16-17] Saturated fatty acid is found in high concentration in food items. It has been reported to inhibit human breast cancer cell proliferation *in vitro*^[18-20] and breast tumorigenesis *in vivo*.^[21-22] Fatty acids have also been shown to induce apoptosis of breast cancer cells and to arrest breast cancer cell-cycle.^[23] Dietary fatty acids have been associated with a decrease in incidence of mammary tumor in carcinogenesis models.^[24] *Cassia fistula* L. which is also known as Amaltas is known for its disease killing property. It is a highly valuable medicinal plant in Ayurveda has anti-dysentery, anti-microbial, anti-glycaemic, anti-diarrheal, anti-obesity, anti-pyretic and hepatoprotective properties.^[16] The whole plant is used to treat diarrhoea. The seeds, flowers and fruits are used to treat fever, abdominal pain, skin diseases and leprosy.^[17] The root of the plant is prescribed as a tonic, astringent, febrifuge and strong purgative.^[18,19,20,21,22,23,24] Phytochemical investigation of this plant revealed the presence of long-chain hydrocarbons, triglycerides, sterols, chromones, flavonoid, anthraquinones, sugar, diterpenoid and triterpenoids from its leaves, flowers, seeds, pods and fruit.^[25]

In the present study we have isolated long chain hydrocarbons from the bark of *Cassia fistula*. The isolated compound was further subjected to glucoamylase, α -amylase and antioxidant assay.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant Extraction

The bark of the plant was collected from Campus of University of Mumbai, Kalina, Santacruz, Mumbai-98. The plant material was identified and authenticated at Blatter Herbarium, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai-400001. The voucher specimen No.R4144 was reserved for further reference. It was shade dried for a week at 25°C and was ground to a coarse powder in a grinder. The powdered bark (50g) was extracted in various solvents like dichloromethane, pet-ether, ethyl acetate and butanol. The dichloromethane extract was subjected to isolation of compound.

Isolation of compound

The bark material was sonicated with dichloromethane for 48 hrs. The extract obtained was evaporated to dryness. The extract was kept at 4°C. The extract obtained was subjected to column chromatography in Chloroform: Ethyl acetate system in the ratio of 95:5, 90:10, 85:15 and so on. In Chloroform: Ethyl acetate (50:50) system a Brownish white powdered compound was obtained. The compound obtained was further subjected to column chromatography in Pet Ether: Chloroform system in the ratio of 95:5, 90:10, 85:15 and so on. In 100% Chloroform system white powdered compound was obtained which gave single spot in TLC. This compound was further subjected to spectroscopic analysis.

Glucoamylase assay

0.5 ml of the reaction mixture containing 0.1 ml modulator, 0.3 ml of 100 mM acetate buffer (pH 4.5) and 0.1 ml of glucoamylase were incubated at 37°C for 30 min. Then, add 0.5 ml of starch solution (5mg/ml prepared in 100 mM acetate buffer (pH 4.5) and incubated further at 37°C for 30 min. The reaction was terminated by keeping the test tubes in boiling water bath for 1-2 min, cooled under running tap water; add 2 ml of DNS (3,5-dinitrosalicylic acid) and the test-tubes were kept in boiling water bath for 15 minutes. The test-tubes were cooled and diluted with 7 ml of distilled water.

The absorbance was recorded at 530 nm using spectrophotometer and liberated glucose was estimated. The % inhibition (I) was calculated as,

$$\% I = \left\{ \frac{(Ac - As)}{Ac} \right\} \times 100$$

Where, Ac and As are the absorbance of the control and the sample respectively.

α -Amylase assay

0.5 ml of the reaction mixture containing 0.1 ml modulator, 0.3 ml of 20 mM phosphate buffer (pH 4.5) and 0.1 ml of α -Amylase were incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes. Then added 0.5 ml of starch solution (10 mg/ml prepared in 20 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0) and incubated further at 37°C for 30 minutes. The reaction was then terminated by keeping the test tubes in boiling water bath for 1-2 minutes, cooled under running tap water. 1 ml of DNS (3,5-dinitrosalicylic acid) was added

and the test-tubes were kept in boiling water bath for 15 minutes. The test tubes were cooled and diluted with 7 ml distilled water. The absorbance was recorded at 530 nm using spectrophotometer and liberated glucose was estimated. Acarbose was used as a standard for both the assays. The maximum inhibition was determined from plots of % inhibition versus modulator and calculated as shown

$$\% I = \{(Ac - As)/Ac\} \times 100$$

Where, Ac and As are the absorbance of the control and the sample respectively. IC₅₀ values of Acarbose and Octadecanedioic acid was determined from the plots of percentage inhibition versus concentration ($\mu\text{g/ml}$).

DPPH Radical scavenging assay

1 ml of various concentrations of the extracts in methanol was added to a 1 ml of DPPH radical solution in methanol (final concentration of DPPH was 0.2 mM). The mixture was shaken vigorously and allowed standing for 30 minutes. The absorbance of the resulting solution was measured at 517 nm with a spectrophotometer. Inhibition of free radical DPPH in % inhibition was calculated in the following way:

$$\% I = \{(Ac - As)/Ac\} \times 100$$

Where Ac is the absorbance of the control reaction (containing all reagents except the test compound) and As is the absorbance of the test compound. Ascorbic acid is used as control and methanol as blank.

Results are presented as mean \pm standard error of the mean.

Spectral Characterization

IR, ¹H, ¹³C-NMR and EI-MS were carried out to identify the compound. Infrared was recorded using Perkin Elmer, ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using CDCl₃ as a solvent on broker Avance II 300 MHz NMR spectrometer respectively and EI-Mass spectrum was obtained using High resolution on Perkin Elmer EI-Mass spectrometer, in the Department of Chemistry, University of Mumbai, Kalina, Santacruz (E), Mumbai-400098

Spectral Data

Melting Point: 124-127°C

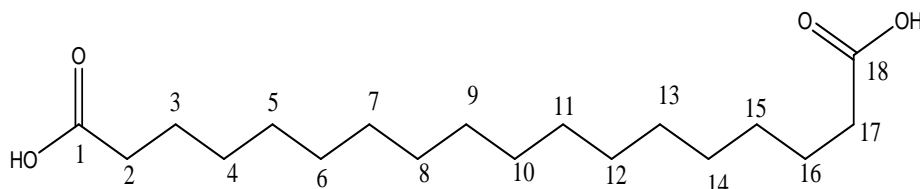
Nature: White amorphous powder.

FT-IR: 3368.90 cm⁻¹, 2915.58 cm⁻¹, 2847.93 cm⁻¹, 1734.73 cm⁻¹, 1471.91 cm⁻¹, 1462.79 cm⁻¹, 1414 cm⁻¹, 1046 cm⁻¹, 1170.87 cm⁻¹, 1101.24 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR: δ 1.257 (s), δ 1.654 (t), δ 2.365 (t), δ 10.935 (s).

¹³C NMR: δ 180.449, δ 34.142, δ 29.734, δ 24.712.

EI-MS: 314(M⁺), 296, 278, 250, 237, 209, 196, 168, 154, 140, 126, 112, 98, 84, 70, 55.



3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The compound was white amorphous in nature with the melting point of 124 to 127 °C. The IR spectra of the compound gave absorption band at 3368.90 cm⁻¹ which is a characteristic of -OH stretching. Absorption at 2915.58 cm⁻¹ and 2847.93 cm⁻¹ is due to aliphatic C-H stretching. Absorption frequency at 1734 cm⁻¹ is due to -CHO stretching.

The ¹H NMR spectrum of the compound revealed that the compound has long aliphatic chain. A singlet at δ 1.257 represents a long aliphatic chain. There are triplets observed in the region of δ 1.654 and δ 2.365 are due to presence of -CH₂ neighboring groups. A peak at δ 10.935 is a singlet due to presence of -COOH group.

The ¹³C spectrum of the compound revealed that the compound has a -COOH group in the region of δ 180.449. The compound showed -CH₂ groups in the region of δ 34.142, δ 29.734 and δ 24.712.

The EI-MS of the compound showed a molecular ion at m/z 314 with weak intensity. The fragments have m/z

(relative intensity) 296 (12), 278 (14), 250 (10), 237 (11), 209 (7), 196 (5), 168 (9), 154 (12), 140 (14), 126 (18), 112 (38), 98 (100) (base peak), 84 (62), 70 (40), 55 (66). These data were compared with the data reported in the literature.

The isolated compound was further studied for its effect on the carbohydrate metabolizing enzymes, α -amylase and glucoamylase in the range of 2-10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. Acarbose is used as reference glucosidase inhibitor.

Table 1: Effect of Octadecanedioic acid on Glucoamylase.

Concentration (µg/ml)	% Inhibition (Octadecanedioic acid)	IC ₅₀ (µg/ml)	Concentration (µg/ml)	%Inhibition (Acarbose)	IC ₅₀ (µg/ml)
20	28	56	20	38	57.5
40	32		40	45	
60	63		60	51	
80	68		80	56	
100	72		100	64	

Table 2: Effect of Octadecanedioic acid on α-Amylase.

Concentration (µg/ml)	% Inhibition (Octadecanedioic acid)	IC ₅₀ (µg/ml)	Concentration (µg/ml)	%Inhibition (Acarbose)	IC ₅₀ (µg/ml)
20	36	48	20	33	50
40	48		40	42	
60	56		60	61	
80	63		80	66	
100	72		100	74	

The percentage inhibition at 20, 40, 60, 80, 100 µg/ml concentrations of Octadecanedioic acid showed concentration dependent increase in percentage inhibition. As the highest concentration of 100 µg/ml showed maximum inhibition of 72% whereas Acarbose showed inhibition of 74% in the maximum concentration of 100 µg/ml. Biological evaluation with glucoamylase showed IC₅₀ values of 56 µg/ml and 57.5 µg/ml for Octadecanedioic acid and Acarbose. α- Amylase showed maximum inhibition of 72% by Octadecanedioic acid at the concentration of 100 µg/ml and Acarbose showed

maximum inhibition of 74% at the concentration of 100 µg/ml. The IC₅₀ values of 48 µg/ml for Octadecanedioic acid and of 50µg/ml for Acarbose showed excellent inhibitory action of isolated compound over standard Acarbose.

Antioxidant activity of Octadecanedioic acid was tested against DPPH radical at varying concentrations of 20,40,60,80,100µg/ml. Results obtained are shown in the Table 3. The activity of the standard (Ascorbic acid) was much higher than Octadecanedioic acid.

Table 3: DPPH Radical scavenging activity of Octadecanedioic acid and Ascorbic acid.

Sample	Radical Scavenging Activity
Octadecanedioic acid	81
Ascorbic acid	5.30

4. CONCLUSION

The aim of the study was to analyse the activities of Octadecanedioic acid with respect to hypoglycemic conditions and anticancer activity. Our present study, confirms antioxidant as well as antidiabetic of Octadecanedioic acid. The above compound isolated from *Cassia fistula* reportedly shows good antimicrobial activity.

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