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Anti-inflammatory effects of Kochia *scoparia* fruit on contact dermatitis in mice

Hyungwoo Kim, Suzy Jo and **Junghyun Ryu**
Pusan National University, South Korea

The mature fruit of Kochia *scoparia* (L) Schrad is widely administered in China and Korea as a medicinal herb for treatment of skin diseases, diabetes mellitus and rheumatoid arthritis. The present study investigated the effects of methanol extracts of K. *scoparia* dried fruit (MEKS) on ear swelling, histopathological changes (such as epidermal acanthosis, spongiosis and immune cell infiltration) and cytokine production in 1 fluoro 2,4-dinitrofluorobenzene (DNFB) induced contact dermatitis mice. Topical application of MEKS inhibited DNFB induced ear thickness and weight increases as well as DNFB induced epidermal acanthosis, spongiosis and immune cell infiltration. In addition, treatment with MEKS significantly decreased the levels of tumor necrosis factor α, interferon γ and monocyte chemotactic protein 1 in inflamed tissues. These data indicate that the mature fruit of K. *scoparia* has the potential to be administered for the treatment of inflammatory skin diseases and that the anti inflammatory action of K. *scoparia* is involved in the inhibition of type 1 T helper cell skewing reactions.

Biography

Hyungwoo Kim is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, School of Korean Medicine of Pusan National University, South Korea. His research interest includes contact dermatitis, atopic dermatitis and treatment with herbal medicines.

kronos7@pusan.ac.kr

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