

Investigation designed to evaluate the phytochemical and pharmacological activities of ethanolic extract of the whole plant *Acalypha indica* Linn. in experimental animal models

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In the present study, phytochemical analysis of ethanolic extracts of the whole plant *Acalypha indica* L. (*Euphorbiaceae*) has indicated the presence of alkaloids, glycoside, steroid, flavonoids and terpenoid compounds. The use of this plant in traditional medicine, prompted us to check *Acalypha indica* L. for possible analgesic and anti-inflammatory activities. The ethanolic extract of *Acalypha indica* L. showed very good analgesic activity by employing Eddy's hot plate and tail flick methods. A sustained and significant ($P < 0.001$) inhibition of carrageenan-induced inflammation of rat paw observed with 200 and 400 mg/kg body weight. The ethanolic extract of *Acalypha indica* L. also demonstrated anti-inflammatory effect in a dose-dependent manner. Maximum inhibition by the extract was observed at 400 mg/kg body weight after three hours of ingestion, which was comparable to that of the standard drug diclofenac sodium at a dose of 25 mg/kg bodyweight.