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*In vitro* neuropharmacological screening of *Ficus carica* Linn fruit for anxiolytic and antidepressant activity

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Rutin and polyphenol which are present in *Ficus carica* Linn. are responsible for antidepressant and anxiolytic effects. We have conducted the study to evaluate the antidepressant and anxiolytic effect of *Ficus carica* Linn. on mice and compare its effect with well-known prescribed antidepressant and anxiolytic drug Alprazolam. Three groups of mice were marked as control, reference and test. Each group comprise of 5 mice (n=5). Control group was on normal diet. Reference group was fed Alprazolam at a dose of 0.5 mg/60 kg while test group were provided two different dilution of *Ficus carica* Linn., one dilution is 250 mg/kg/100 ml of water and second dilution is 500 mg/kg/100 ml of water. Light/dark box method and elevated plus maze method were used to evaluate the anxiolytic effect of *Ficus carica* Linn. To determine the antidepressant effect of *Ficus carica* Linn. Head Dip Method was used. Results were collected and observed readings and data were clearly indicating the great and pronounced antidepressant and anxiolytic effect of *Ficus carica* Linn. at a dose of 500 mg/kg compare with a widely prescribed drug Alprazolam for its antidepressant and anxiolytic effects. *Ficus carica* is well known for its numerous biological activities also found to be one of excellent distressing agent. Stress provoking several disorders could be limit using *Ficus carica* fruit in doses 250 mg/kg and 500 mg/kg. *Ficus carica* Linn. as a natural product may prove better therapeutic agent, if more study will have conducted on it. As this study is confined to the mice, there are many possibilities to have similar effect in humans but require more work on it.

## Recent Publications

1. Zehra Ashraf, Somia Gul and Faazia Qaazi (2017) Development and validation of UV/Vis. Spectrophotometric method for determination of Clarithromycin. Journal of Chemical, Biological and Physical Sciences, Section A: Chemical Sciences; 7(2): 457-465.
2. Maria Ayub, Somia Gul and Humera Khatoon (2017) Evaluation of hypouricemic, hypolipidemic and hepatoprotective potency of *G. glabra* ethanolic extract in atherogenic experimental rats model. Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences; 33(2): S-11.

## Biography

Somia Gul has received her PhD in Pharmaceutical Chemistry as an HEC Indigenous PhD Fellowship Scholar from University of Karachi. Her field of specialization is drug-drug interactions, metal complexes, method development and validation as well as organic synthesis. She has served in pharmaceutical industry to broaden her vision about practical approaches of pharmacy. She has numerous research publications in reputed journals with good impact factor and has various other achievements in the related studies. Also, she is serving as an eminent Editorial Board Member and Reviewer for numerous journals, well-known publishers like Elsevier, Springer's as well for other research and development bodies. Presently, she is serving as an Associate Professor, Chairperson and HEC (Higher Education Commission, Pakistan) approved Supervisor in Faculty of Pharmacy, Jinnah University for Women, Karachi, Pakistan.

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