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Bioactivity of compounds from Diploclisia glaucescens

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Background: Diploclisia glaucescens ("Ata thiththa wel") belongs to the family Menispermaceae, is a creeper which grows in the mid-country regions of South India and Sri Lanka. The leaves have been used in the treatment of biliousness and venereal diseases.

Objectives: To study the chemistry and bioactivity of secondary metabolites isolated from the stem of *D. glaucescens*.

Methods: 50g of Methanol extract of dry mature stem of *D. glaucescens* was chromatographed over silica gel (n-hexane-EtOAc-MeOH) followed by HPLC. All the isolates were screened for antioxidant activity using DPPH, antifungal activity against *Cladosporium cladosporioides*, phytotoxicity (lettuce seed germination assay), brine shrimp toxicity ($Artemia\ salina$) and enzyme inhibitory assays on α -amylase, α -glucosidase, acetylcholinesterase and lipase.

Results: The methanol extract furnished six compounds 3-deoxy-1 β -20-hydroxyecdysone (1), abutasterone (2), 20-hydroxyecdysone (3), makisterone (4), diploclisin (5), 20-hydroxyecdysone 2,3,22-triacetate (6). Compounds 1, 2 and 3 showed moderate brine shrimp lethality at 98.69 ppm, 46.39 ppm and 54.94 ppm, respectively. Strong antioxidant activity was observed for compounds 1 and 6 against DPPH at 30.18 ppm and 0.12 ppm, respectively. Compound 3 showed shoot inhibition of lettuce seedlings at 135.65 ppm while compound 2 showed root inhibition of lettuce seedlings at 330.29 ppm. Moderate α -glucosidase inhibitory activity was observed for compounds 3 at 16.19 ppm and 6 at 9.69 ppm. None of the compounds exhibited α -amylase, lipase and acetylcholinesterase inhibitory activities and antifungal activity against *C. cladosporioedes*.

Conclusion: *Diploclisia glaucescens* can be considered as a potential source for the isolation of new therapeutic agents.

Keywords: Antioxidant, Brine shrimp lethality, Diploclisia glaucescens, Enzyme inhibitory activities