

**Long term toxicity study of ethyl acetate fraction of  
*Trichosanthes cucumerina*. Linn in rats**

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*Trichosanthes cucumerina* Linn. is one of the medicinal plants that is often used in Sri Lanka as remedy for many diseases including fever, inflammation, diabetes and gastritis. Ethyl acetate fraction of *Trichosanthes cucumerina* hot water extract (EATH) at a dose of 75 mg/kg has been shown a potent gastroprotector and its activity was higher than that of reference drugs, Sucralfate and Cimetidine. The usefulness of any drug depends not only on its therapeutic efficacy but also on its lack of toxicity or adverse side effects. Therefore, an attempt was taken to determine whether EATH (75 mg/kg) has any toxic effects using Wistar rats. Rats were randomly divided into 2 groups. Rats in group 1 (control) and group 2 (test) received 1 ml of distilled water/day and EATH (75 mg/kg/day) for 42 consecutive days. Rats were checked twice daily for overt signs of toxicity and average food and water intake was determined weekly for each group. The consistency of faeces and color of urine were noted daily. Liver functions and renal toxicity were evaluated by serum analysis. Histopathological examination of main organs of the rats was carried out for detection of any toxicity. No toxic effects were observed for EATH treated group in terms of any deaths, overt signs of toxicity, serum parameters, liver and kidney toxicity. EATH at a dose of 75 mg/kg did not produce any serious toxicity in rats.

**Keywords:** *Trichosanthes cucumerina*, Ethyl acetate fraction, Toxicity