

# Antioxidative activity and cell protective effect of gastrodia elata blume

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## ABSTRACT

Gastrodin and p-hydroxybenzyl alcohol (4-HBA) are the main active constituents of *Gastrodia elata* of which has numerous physiological functions, and has been used as an anti-convulsant, analgesic and sedative agent for the therapeutics of epilepsy, paralysis, inflammation, aging, and ameliorated memory impairment. The oxidative stress is caused by free radicals that increase the chain reactions of proteins, polysaccharides and lipids. The results are altered cellular oxidation and impaired cellular function in many neurodegenerative diseases including aging, cancer, atherosclerosis, inflammation and immune problems. In this study, extracts of *Tianma* (*G. elata*), extracted with a variety of solvents via different extraction, were applied to the cell viability and the measurement of the yield, total phenol content and the in vitro antioxidant activity, including the free radical scavenging activity of 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) and ABTS cation, reducing power assay, superoxide dismutase activity and the inhibition activity of thiobarbituric reactive substances (TBARS); the PC-12 cell line was established to evaluate the protective function of *G. elata* extracts. As a result, the water extract obtained via hot reflux has the highest yield of 40.9%. For the antioxidant activity evaluation, the methanolic extract of *G. elata* has the highest DPPH scavenging activity (97.3%) at a concentration of 0.4 mg/mL and the ethanolic extract of *G. elata* has the highest inhibition capacity of TBARS (93.4%) at a concentration of 1.0 mg/mL. The result of PC-12 cell viability in hypoxia-reoxygenation model suggested that the ethanolic extract of *G. elata* has the highest protective effect (about 81.3%) at a concentration of 100  $\mu$ g/mL. In the protective activity result of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cell death model, the highest protective activity (about 97.1%) standard 4-HBA had and followed the 70% ethanolic extract of *G. elata* (about 94.3%) at a concentration of 50  $\mu$ g/mL.

Keywords : *Gastrodia elata*, gastrodin, free radical scavenging capacity, TBARS

## Table of Contents

封面內頁 簽名頁 中文摘要.....	iii	英文摘要.....	iii
.....v 致謝.....	vii	目錄.....	viii
目錄.....	xiii	表目錄.....	xiv
1. 緒論.....	1	2.1 天麻簡介.....	2
2. 文獻回顧.....	2	2.2 天麻分類.....	2
2.2.1 天麻特徵.....	2	2.2.2 天麻的營養方式.....	2
2.2.2.1 天麻之藥用.....	2	2.2.2.2 天麻之營養方式.....	2
2.2.2.2 天麻的營養方式.....	2	2.2.3 天麻之藥物使用與安全性.....	3
2.2.3 天麻目前研究.....	3	2.3.1 天麻萃取物抑制多巴胺系統相關疾病機轉.....	7
2.3.1 天麻萃取物抑制多巴胺系統相關疾病機轉.....	7	2.3.2 天麻萃取物抑制GABA系統相關疾病機轉.....	7
2.3.2 天麻萃取物抑制GABA系統相關疾病機轉.....	7	2.3.3 天麻萃取物抑制一氧化氮合成?(NOS)機轉.....	14
2.3.3 天麻萃取物抑制一氧化氮合成?(NOS)機轉.....	14	2.4 自由基.....	15
2.4 自由基.....	15	2.4.1 自由基簡介.....	19
2.4.1 自由基簡介.....	19	2.4.2 自由基之產生.....	19
2.4.2 自由基之產生.....	19	2.5 抗氧化機制.....	19
2.5 抗氧化機制.....	19	2.5.1 抗氧化劑.....	23
2.5.1 抗氧化劑.....	23	2.5.2 抗促氧化反應之原理.....	23
2.5.2 抗促氧化反應之原理.....	23	2.5.3 過氧化氫誘發細胞損傷.....	24
2.5.3 過氧化氫誘發細胞損傷.....	24	2.6 實驗目的.....	25
2.6 實驗目的.....	25	3. 材料與方法.....	26
3. 材料與方法.....	26	3.1 實驗材料.....	27
3.1 實驗材料.....	27	3.1.1 天麻萃取物製備.....	27
3.1.1 天麻萃取物製備.....	27	3.1.2 培養PC-12細胞株.....	27
3.1.2 培養PC-12細胞株.....	27	3.2 試驗材料.....	27
3.2 試驗材料.....	27	3.2.1 試驗溶劑.....	27
3.2.1 試驗溶劑.....	27	3.2.2 試驗藥品.....	28
3.2.2 試驗藥品.....	28	3.2.3 PC-12細胞株之培養基組成.....	29
3.2.3 PC-12細胞株之培養基組成.....	29	3.2.4 PC-12細胞株之培養方法.....	30
3.2.4 PC-12細胞株之培養方法.....	30	3.3 試驗設備.....	30
3.3 試驗設備.....	30	3.4 實驗架構.....	30
3.4 實驗架構.....	30	3.5 天麻之抗氧化試驗.....	31
3.5 天麻之抗氧化試驗.....	31	3.5.1 天麻?元含量分析.....	33
3.5.1 天麻?元含量分析.....	33	3.5.2 抗氧化成分分析.....	33
3.5.2 抗氧化成分分析.....	33	3.5.2.1 總酚化合物含量分析.....	33
3.5.2.1 總酚化合物含量分析.....	33	3.5.2.2 類黃酮含量測定.....	33
3.5.2.2 類黃酮含量測定.....	33	3.5.3 抗氧化活性測試.....	34
3.5.3 抗氧化活性測試.....	34	3.5.3.1 還原力測試.....	36
3.5.3.1 還原力測試.....	36	3.5.3.2 清除超氧陰離子活性試驗.....	36
3.5.3.2 清除超氧陰離子活性試驗.....	36	3.5.3.3 清除 , -Diphenyl- -picrylhydrazyl(DPPH) 自由基之測定.....	37
3.5.3.3 清除 , -Diphenyl- -picrylhydrazyl(DPPH) 自由基之測定.....	37	3.5.3.4 螯合亞鐵離子之測定.....	37
3.5.3.4 螯合亞鐵離子之測定.....	37	3.5.3.5 硫代巴比妥酸鹽反應產物 (TBARS)之測定.....	37
3.5.3.5 硫代巴比妥酸鹽反應產物 (TBARS)之測定.....	37	3.5.3.6 清除ABTS陽離子自由基能力.....	37
3.5.3.6 清除ABTS陽離子自由基能力.....	37	3.5.4 細胞存活度(Cell.....	38

viability)試驗.....	39	4. 結果與討論.....	
..... 41	4.1	天麻萃取率.....	41
量測定.....	41	4.2 天麻?元含量測定.....	41
..... 42	4.3	抗氧化成分含量分析.....	42
..... 42	4.3.1	總酚化合物含量測定.....	42
..... 42	4.3.2	類黃酮含量測定.....	42
..... 45	4.4	抗氧化活性測試.....	45
..... 45	4.4.1	還原力測試.....	45
..... 45	4.4.2	螯合亞鐵離子之測定.....	45
..... 47	4.4.3	清除 , -Diphenyl- -picrylhydrazyl(DPPH) 自由基之測定.....	47
..... 50	4.4.4	清除超氧陰離子活性測試.....	50
..... 52	4.4.5	硫代巴比妥酸鹽反應產物 (TBARS)之測定.....	52
..... 54	4.4.6	清除ABTS陽離子自由基能力.....	54
..... 57	4.5	細胞存活度(Cell viability)試驗.....	57
..... 57	4.5.1	缺氧再灌氧模式.....	57
..... 57	4.5.2	過氧化氫模式.....	57
..... 62	5.	結論.....	62
..... 62	5.1	結論.....	62
..... 62	5.2	展望.....	62
..... 63		參考文獻.....	63
..... 64		附錄.....	64
..... 73		圖目錄 圖2.1 a 天麻植株.....	73
..... 5		圖2.1 b 天麻乾燥塊莖.....	5
..... 12		圖2.2 a 天麻主要活性成分之化學結構式.....	12
..... 12		圖2.2 b GABA與其代謝物之交互作用.....	12
..... 13		圖2.3 動物體內乙二醛類化合物代謝途徑.....	13
..... 18		圖2.4 a 自由基連鎖反應簡式.....	18
..... 21		圖2.4 b 脂肪酸之自由基連鎖反應.....	21
..... 21		圖 3.1 實驗架構.....	21
..... 32		圖 3.2 類黃酮之分類.....	32
..... 35		圖 4.1 天麻萃取物之相對還原力.....	35
..... 46		圖 4.2 天麻萃取物之清除DPPH自由基能力.....	46
..... 49		圖 4.3 天麻萃取物之清除超氧陰離子活性.....	49
..... 51		圖 4.4 天麻萃取物之抑制TBARS活性.....	51
..... 53		圖 4.5 天麻萃取物之清除ABTS活性.....	53
..... 56		圖 4.6 天麻萃取物對細胞生存能力之測定(缺氧再灌氧模式).....	56
..... 59		圖 4.7 天麻萃取物對細胞生存能力之測定(過氧化氫模式).....	59
..... 43		表目錄 表 1. 天麻萃取物之產率、總類黃酮及總酚含量表.....	43
..... 44		表 2. 天麻?元含量.....	44

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