Contents

List of tables I
List of figures III
Abbreviations VI
Abstract VIII

1. Introduction 1
  1.1. Inflammation 3
    1.1.1. The inflammatory pathway 5
    1.1.2. Inducers and sensors of inflammation
      1.1.2.1. Exogenous inducers of inflammation 6
      1.1.2.2. Endogenous inducers of inflammation 8
    1.1.3. Mediators and effectors of inflammation 10
  1.2. Plant profile 14
    1.2.1. Gentiana kurroo Royle 14
    1.2.2. Artemisia amygdalina Decne 15

2. Review of literature 16

3. Material and methods 35
  3.1. Material 35
    3.1.1. Chemicals 35
    3.1.2. Instruments and equipments 36
  3.2. Methods 37
    3.2.1. Collection and identification of plant material 37
    3.2.2. Preparation of extracts 37
    3.2.3. Animals 38
    3.2.4. Preliminary toxicity study 38
    3.2.5. Experimental protocols 38
      3.2.5.1. In vivo assays 38
        3.2.5.1.1. Carrageenin induced paw edema 38
        3.2.5.1.2. Adjuvant induced chronic arthritis 39
        3.2.5.1.3. Humoral antibody response 40
        3.2.5.1.4. Delayed type hypersensitivity 41
        3.2.5.1.5. Ex-vivo TNF-α assay 42
      3.2.5.2. In vitro assays 42
        3.2.5.2.1. Collection of peritoneal macrophages 42
        3.2.5.2.2. Nitrite assay 42
        3.2.5.2.3. IL-6 and TNF-α measurements 43
        3.2.5.2.4. Lymphocyte proliferation studies on mice splenocytes 43
        3.2.5.2.5. Western blot analysis 44
        3.2.5.2.6. Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry
          (LC-ESI-MS/MS) 45
      3.2.5.3. Statistical analysis 46
  4. Results 47
    4.1. Artemisia amygdalina Decne 47
      4.1.1. Carrageenin induced paw edema 47
      4.1.2. Adjuvant induced chronic arthritis 48
      4.1.3. Humoral antibody titre 49
4.1.4. Delayed type hypersensitivity response  
4.1.5. Ex-vivo TNF-α assay  
4.1.6. Effect of methanolic extract on the pro-inflammatory cytokines (TNF-α and IL-6) release in mice peritoneal macrophages stimulated with LPS  
4.1.7. Effect of methanolic extract on NO production in LPS stimulated peritoneal macrophages  
4.1.8. Effect of methanolic extract on splenocyte proliferation assay  
4.1.9. Effect of methanolic extract on NF-κB expression in mice peritoneal macrophages stimulated with LPS  
4.1.10. LC-ESI-MS/MS analysis  
4.2. Gentiana kurroo Royle  
4.2.1. Carrageenin induced paw edema  
4.2.2. Adjuvant induced chronic arthritis  
4.2.3. Haemagglutination antibody titre  
4.2.4. Delayed type hypersensitivity  
4.2.5. Ex-vivo TNF-α assay  
4.2.6. Effect of methanolic extract on the TNF-α and IL-6 release in mice peritoneal macrophages stimulated with LPS  
4.2.7. Effect of methanolic extract on NO production in LPS stimulated peritoneal macrophages  
4.2.8. Effect of methanolic extract on splenocyte proliferation assay  
4.2.9. Effect of methanolic extract on NF-κB expression in mice peritoneal macrophages stimulated with LPS  
4.2.10. LC-ESI-MS/MS analysis  

5. Discussion  
6. Conclusion  
7. References