INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

Chronic arthritis is one of those crippling diseases which shows no mercy to age and may creep into life of an individual at any time from childhood to old age. Although, rheumatism is one of the oldest known disease and affects a large percentage of population of the world, yet a satisfactory treatment is not available. Various pharmacological agents have been advocated for its treatment. Salicylates, indomethacin, ibuprofen, phenylbutazone, naproxen and glucocorticoids are very commonly used for the treatment of arthritis. Gold salts, Dpenicillamine (Jaffe, 1965) and immunpromoters like B.C.G. vaccine (Rewald, 1974), levamisole (Huskisson et al., 1978) and tolmetin (Carson et al., 1971), are the recent additions to the pharmacological armamentarium against rheumatoid arthritis. During past quarter century, significant advances have been made in our understanding and management of the rheumatic group of the diseases.

Despite intensive research we still do not know the cause nor do we have a cure for one of the most serious problems - Rheumatoid arthritis "The enemy one knows is less dangerous than the enemy one does not" applied well to this great crippler.

Inspite of availability of a large number of drugs, the disease remains incurable. This failure can be attributed to the ignorance of the etiology of disease and a relative ineffectiveness and troublesome side effects of
drugs on prolonged use. Search is going on to explore new and novel chemical compounds, safer and better tolerated, than existing therapeutic agents.

Based on the concept of structure activity relationship, a number of new organic molecules were synthesized at Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad. These were subjected to pharmacological screening. Several of these compounds possessed interesting anti-inflammatory activity.

One of these compounds - tromaril (N-E-Phenyl-ethyl anthranilic acid) was studied for its pharmacological and toxicological profile. It has anti-inflammatory analgesic and antipyretic properties in various animal experimental models (Sisodia et al., 1980). Tromaril has shown a good degree of safety in animal toxicity experiments (Sisodia et al., 1980) including teratogenic (Sisodia et al., 1980) and mutagenic studies (Polasa and Shobha, 1980). In rats, the drug has very little ulcerogenic activity when compared with phenylbutazone (Sisodia et al., 1980). These observations have been corroborated in clinical situations (Rao et al., 1980; Swamy et al., 1980; Mathur et al., 1980).

This study was undertaken with following aims in view:

2. Comparative study of tromaril with aspirin in diagnosed cases of different types of arthritis.
3. Comparative toxicity studies of tromaril with aspirin, brufen, tolmetin and indomethacin.