CHAPTER-II

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

It is known that poor rural people and tribal often use this indigenous plant is used to treat cuts, injuries and swellings (Lans, 2007). Plant is also used as anthelmintics (Al-Qura’n, 2008; Lans et al., 2007), diuretic (Al-Qura’n, 2008) and used to expel tapeworms from intestine (Lans et al., 2006). Fruits of Cucurbita pepo Linn. are used as vegetable (Sunilson et al., 2009; Linskens and Jorde, 1997) and fruit’s pulp of Cucurbita pepo Linn. (C. pepo) is used for the treatment of digestive system such as dyspepsia and enteritis or intestinal inflammation (Orlandelli, 1951), intestinal diseases (Francois et al., 2006). It has been reported that pumpkin is consumed as a diet to increase the pH of fasting gastric sample (Sammon et al., 2003) and the dietetic management of patients undergoing gastric operations is also carried out by supplementation of pumpkin (Loranskaia et al., 1986). Cytotoxic activity against the human epithelial carcinoma cell line (Wang et al, 2008) has been found and fruits are used to treat liver disorder (Sezik et al., 2004). However no sufficient scientific documentation is available in this direction.

Furthermore, the fruit of Cucurbita pepo Linn. (C. pepo) is easily available in our country and being cheap can be widely used by the poor rural people and tribal. Considering the easy availability reduced cost and minimal side effects and information from the literature of discrete applications in digestive tract of the fruits of the plant, the study has the following aims and objectives.

So, the aim of our study is to elucidate the gastro-protective role of aqueous extract of ripe fruit’s pulp of Cucurbita pepo Linn. (C. pepo) keeping several objectives for the prevention of different experimental peptic ulcer (drug such as- aspirin induced; alcohol such as- ethanol induced; stress such as- immobilized and cold induced; surgery such as- cerebellar nodular lesion induced; CNL) in rat model.

1. Aspirin induced ulcerated rat model.
2. Ethanol (Eth-OH) induced ulcerated rat model.
3. Immobilized-cold stress induced ulcerated rat model.
4. Cerebellar nodular lesion induced ulcerated rat model.

The protective effects of ripe fruit’s pulp of Cucurbita pepo Linn. extract using those ulcer models.