AIM AND OBJECTIVES
All forms of diabetes are due to a decrease in the circulating concentration of insulin (insulin deficiency) and a decrease in the response of peripheral tissues to insulin i.e., insulin resistance. According to the World Health Organization projections, the prevalence of diabetes is likely to increase by 35% by the year 2025 (Boyle et al., 2001). Plants have always been usable sources of drugs, and many currently available drugs are directly or indirectly derived from plants. Many of the oral agents that are presently in use for the treatment of diabetes mellitus suffer from implication in a number of serious and adverse effects (Zhang and Moller, 2000). Therefore, it is important to investigate the biologically active components of plants with hypoglycemic actions which include flavonoids, alkaloids, glycosides, polysaccharides, and peptidoglycans.

The present study was undertaken in order to evaluate the role of quercitrin on:

i) the levels of plasma glucose, insulin and total and glycosylated haemoglobin

ii) the content of glycogen and on the activities of hexokinase, glucose 6-phosphatase and fructose 1,6-bisphosphatase

iii) the levels of glycoproteins

iv) the levels of lipid peroxidative products and nonenzymic antioxidants and on the activities of enzymic antioxidants

v) the levels of lipids and lipoproteins

vi) the histopathology of pancreas