

CHAPTER 8: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FROM THESIS

9. List of publications from thesis:

- Kiran A, Kumar PSE, Mandal T, Shenoy KG, Pai VR, Sharma S, Amuthan A. Acute Toxicity Study of the Crude Aqueous Extract of *Tribulus terrestris* Dried Fruit with Potential Diuretic Effect. Pharmacogn J. 2025;17(5): 566-576.

Pharmacogn J. 2025; 17(5): 566-576
A Multifaceted Journal in the field of Natural Products and Pharmacognosy
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Original Article

Acute Toxicity Study of the Crude Aqueous Extract of *Tribulus terrestris* Dried Fruit with Potential Diuretic Effect

Amruth Kiran¹, Praveen Kumar S E², Tatiyana Mandal¹, K Ganesh Shenoy¹, Vasudev R Pai³, Swati Sharma⁴, Arul Amuthan^{1,5,*}

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History

- Submission Date: 29-08-2025;
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ABSTRACT

Introduction: *Tribulus terrestris* is an important medicinal plant used in Indian traditional medicine, the crude aqueous extract of the plant is primarily used to induce diuresis for treating cardiovascular diseases and managing renal stones, etc... The safe dose and adverse effect profile of the extract was not explored adequately in preclinical studies. Hence, the present study was undertaken. **Methods:** The acute toxicity was assessed based on the OECD guideline number 425: Acute Oral Toxicity – Up-and-Down-Procedure. A total of 11 animals were used in the study. Initially, one animal was administered with a dosage of 2000 mg/kg; and as the animal survived, four more animals were dosed and were observed for survival and other possible adverse drug reactions. The animals' body weight was measured before experimenting and at the end of the study. Biochemical and haematological examinations were done on normal control and test groups. Animals from the test group were sacrificed, and histopathological examinations of the vital organs were carried out. **Results:** No signs of toxicity or changes in the behaviour were observed in the treatment group. As all the animals survived, it was decided that the LD₅₀ was greater than 2000 mg/kg. However, the changes observed with platelets, total cholesterol and LDL were within the normal limits. Histological examination of the vital organs did not reveal any changes in the architecture of the organs. **Conclusion:** Our study demonstrated that the crude aqueous extract of *Tribulus terrestris* dried fruit does not cause toxicity under the 2000 mg/kg dose limit.

KEYWORDS: *Tribulus terrestris*, crude aqueous extract, acute toxicity study, Wistar rats, Indian traditional medicine, Siddha system of medicine

INTRODUCTION

In traditional and folklore medicine, various medicinal plants have been used for centuries, which are known to have diuretic property. Mono and poly-herbal drugs are used extensively in traditional Indian medicines such as Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani for diuretic purpose. There are several mono and poly-herbal medicines in the form of pills, tinctures, decoctions, and capsules that are currently in therapeutic use¹.

Diuretic substances that increase water excretion may be helpful in a variety of illnesses, including oedema, cardiovascular diseases, nephritis, toxemia during pregnancy, premenstrual tension and pulmonary congestion. Plants with medicinal properties have been used in traditional medicine for centuries to cure numerous diseases and disorders. The multiple therapeutic actions and uses of these medicinal plants are described in classical literature on Indigenous medicines and Pharmacopoeias¹.

Herbal medications are widely used in certain regions due to their local availability, affordability, and the common perception that they are safer than Western medicine. Medicinal plants association with other plants in their habitat can affect their therapeutic benefits. Researchers and healthcare practitioners are increasingly focused on this field as they acknowledge the genuine health advantages of these therapies. Several studies have reported plants having strong diuretic efficacy and their uses in various cardiovascular diseases, especially hypertension².

The crude aqueous extract (CAE) of *Tribulus terrestris* (TT) is a renowned Siddha and Ayurvedic herbal medicine widely used in the Indian subcontinent of Asia. In Siddha, it is popularly known as Nerunjil; in Ayurveda, it is popular by Gokshura. Its therapeutic potentials are well described in Brahatri and Ayurvedic Nighantus. TT has been reported to possess antimicrobial, antihypertensive, diuretic, anti-lithotrophic^{3,4}, and antidiabetic⁵⁻⁷ properties. It is also known to stimulate spermatogenesis⁸, treat erectile dysfunction¹ and show antitumour activity⁸. The diuretic efficacy of TT is well documented in the literature. However, there is a lack of conclusive reports regarding its adverse effects, as represented in Table 1.

METHODS

Aim: The study aimed to assess the acute toxicity of CAE of TT dried fruit in Wistar rats as per Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guideline number 425¹⁴.

Test drug extract preparation: TT dried fruits were procured from a local medicinal plant shop. With deionised water, the fruits were washed thoroughly and dried in a hot air oven at 40°C for five days. The dried sample was partially crushed and soaked in distilled water overnight with a solid-to-solvent ratio of 1:100. The sample was heated for six hours at 40°C with constant stirring (500 rpm). The resultant extract was centrifuged at 2000 g for 5 mins, and the supernatant was concentrated through vacuum evaporation to obtain the final extract of 9.2% concentrated extract.

Cite this article: Kiran A, Kumar PSE, Mandal T, Shenoy KG, Pai VR, Sharma S, Amuthan A. Acute Toxicity Study of the Crude Aqueous Extract of *Tribulus terrestris* Dried Fruit with Potential Diuretic Effect. Pharmacogn J. 2025;17(5): 566-576.

- Arul A, Amruth K, Praveen K S E, Devasrita D, Govindasamy S, Vasudev R P, Shenoy KG. *Tribulus terrestris*: A Revisit to a Promising Herbal Diuretic. Pharmacogn J. 2025;17(5): 653-661.

Pharmacogn J. 2025; 17(5): 653-661
A Multifaceted Journal in the field of Natural Products and Pharmacognosy
www.phcogj.com

Review Article

Tribulus terrestris: A Revisit to a Promising Herbal Diuretic

Amruth Kiran¹, Praveen Kumar S E², Devasrita Dash¹, Govindasamy Suresh¹, Vasudev R Pai³, Arul Amuthan^{1,4*}, K Ganesh Shenoy¹

Amruth Kiran¹, Praveen Kumar S E², Devasrita Dash¹, Govindasamy Suresh¹, Vasudev R Pai³, Arul Amuthan^{1,4*}, K Ganesh Shenoy¹

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History

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ABSTRACT

Background: Standard diuretics are essential for managing fluid as well as electrolyte overload and hypertension but are frequently associated with adverse effects such as electrolyte imbalances, renal dysfunction, and metabolic disturbances. This has prompted increased interest in safer, plant-based alternatives. *Tribulus terrestris*, a medicinal herb used as a diuretic agent in traditional systems, has shown promising diuretic activity in recent experimental studies. **Objective:** To provide an outline and assess the reported diuretic effects of *Tribulus terrestris*, including its phytochemical profile, mechanisms of action, and findings from in vivo, in vitro, and in silico studies. **Methods:** An extensive literature survey was performed on the PubMed, Scopus, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar databases for studies published between 2000 and 2025. The inclusion criterion was original articles evaluating the diuretic activity of *Tribulus terrestris*. Articles without diuretic activity were excluded. Data extraction included the plant part used, extract type, dosage, model used and observed effects. **Results:** This review highlights the diuretic properties and phytoconstituents of *Tribulus terrestris*. Most studies have used aqueous or ethanolic extracts of fruits or whole plants and reported significant increases in urine output and urinary sodium excretion, which are often comparable to those of standard diuretics such as furosemide. **Conclusion:** This review highlights the preclinical diuretic activity of *Tribulus terrestris*. It has shown effective and well-tolerated diuretic potential in preclinical and human subjects. It is a promising, likely herbal-based diuretic, natural alternative or complement, adjunct to conventional diuretics, which warrants further investigation through clinical studies.

Keywords: diuresis, diuretic agent, herbal medicine, Indian traditional medicine, Siddha system of medicine, *Tribulus terrestris*

INTRODUCTION

Diuretics are pharmacologically active substances that promote the excretion of water and electrolytes, primarily sodium and chloride, through the kidneys, increasing urine output¹. They play pivotal roles in modern clinical medicine, serving as first-line therapies for managing various cardiovascular, renal, and hepatic conditions, such as hypertension, congestive heart failure, nephrotic syndrome, chronic kidney disease, and liver cirrhosis, where fluid overload and blood pressure regulation are of paramount importance. Conventional diuretics such as thiazides, loop diuretics, potassium-sparing agents, osmotic diuretics, and carbonic anhydrase inhibitors have proven highly effective in managing such clinical conditions. However, despite their efficacy, these agents are not without limitations, and they exhibit a wide array of adverse effects, including electrolyte imbalances (e.g., hypokalemia, hyponatremia), dehydration, hypotension, metabolic disturbances (e.g., hyperuricemia, hyperglycemia), renal dysfunction, and ototoxicity, which significantly hamper long-term compliance and quality of life in vulnerable (especially elderly) populations²⁻⁴.

The adverse drug reaction profile of conventional diuretics has prompted a need for safer, equally effective, and more holistic alternatives. The World Health Organization (WHO) has emphasized the integration of traditional medicine into national health systems, recognizing the potential of herbal drugs in preventive and therapeutic healthcare⁵.

Numerous medicinal plants have been studied in this context for their diuretic potential⁶⁻⁸. One plant that has drawn considerable attention is *Tribulus terrestris* (TT), an herbaceous plant widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions across Asia, Africa, Europe, and Australia⁹. It has long held a revered place in various traditional medicine systems, including Ayurveda, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), Siddha and Unani, and its use has been indicated in the treatment of urinary tract infections, edema, sexual dysfunction, kidney stones, and inflammation^{10,11}.

TT contains a rich repertoire of phytochemicals, including saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids, tannins, and glycosides, many of which are biologically active and are associated with diuretic properties. In particular, its fruit and root extracts have demonstrated notable renal and cardiovascular effects in preclinical studies. The therapeutic potential of plants as natural diuretic lies in its efficacy, favorable safety profile, and additional antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and adaptogenic activities. These multifaceted actions may contribute synergistically to its diuretic potential, making it a strong candidate for integration into evidence-based herbal therapeutics¹²⁻¹⁸.

This review aims to systematically explore and synthesize existing scientific literature on the diuretic properties of TT, focusing on its phytochemical composition, mechanisms of action, experimental outcomes, and potential clinical relevance. We hope to contribute to the growing discourse on plant-

Cite this article: Arul A, Amruth K, Praveen K S E, Devasrita D, Govindasamy S, Vasudev R P. *Tribulus terrestris*: A Revisit to a Promising Herbal Diuretic. Pharmacogn J. 2025;17(5): 653-661.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS FROM THESIS

10. Conference presentations:

- Attended the MPSCON2024 International conference jointly organised by the Medical Pharmacologists Society and Department of Pharmacology, Saveetha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, on August 29 and 30, 2024.

Title of oral presentation: Dose-dependent diuretic action of the crude aqueous extract of *Tribulus terrestris* fruit





- Attended IPC-IPSCON 2024 National conference jointly organised by the International Pharmacology Conference, Indian Pharmacology Society, and Department of Pharmacology, AIIMS, New Delhi, India, from 28th to 30th November 2024

Title of the poster presentation: Molecular Docking Studies of Phytoconstituents from *Tribulus terrestris* Against Human NKCC1 state Fu-II (7SFL)



ANNEXURES

11. Annexures:



KASTURBA MEDICAL COLLEGE MANIPAL

(A constituent unit of MAHE, Manipal)

IAEC Registration NO. 94/PO/RReBi/S/99/CPCSEA.

25.08.2023

Certificate

This is to certify that the project proposal no. IAEC/KMC/69/2023 titled **“Evaluation of Diuretic Activity of *Tribulus terrestris* fruit in Wistar Rats - A Bioactivity Guided Approach”** submitted by Mr. Amruth Kiran, Research Associate, Division of Pharmacology, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, MAHE, Manipal, has been approved/recommended by the IAEC of Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, MAHE in its meeting dated 25th August, 2023 and has sanctioned 200-250g, 8 weeks old, female wistar rats, 20nos under this proposal for a duration of next 12 months.

Authorized by	Name	Signature	Date
Chairman:	Dr. Vandana K.E		04/09/2023
Member Secretary:	Dr. Amrita Parida		4.09.2023
Main Nominee of CPCSEA:	Dr. Jayaprakash Shetty K.		8.9.23



1 of 2

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KASTURBA MEDICAL COLLEGE MANIPAL

(A constituent unit of MAHE, Manipal)

IAEC Registration NO. 94/PO/RReBi/S/99/CPCSEA.

17.05.2024

Certificate

This is to certify that the project proposal no. IAEC/KMC/69/2023 titled **"Evaluation of Diuretic Activity of *Tribulus terrestris* fruit in Wistar Rats. A Bioactivity Guided Approach"** submitted by Mr. Amruth Kiran, Research Associate, Division of Pharmacology, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, MAHE, Manipal, has been approved/recommended by the IAEC of Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, MAHE in its meeting dated 17th May, 2024.

Based on the pilot study results from the previously approved 20 rats, IAEC has approved 150g, male Wistar rats, 100nos, under this proposal for a duration of the next 12 months.

Authorized by	Name	Signature	Date
Chairman:	Dr. Vandana K.E		31/5/24.
Member Secretary:	Dr. Amrita Parida		31/5/24
Main Nominee of CPCSEA:	Dr. Jayaprakash Shetty K.		4/6/24



1 of 2



MAHE/CDS/PHD/2023

Date: 30-09-2023

Mr. Amruth Kiran
Research Associate and PhD Candidate
DBMS, MAHE-Manipal

Through:
The Head, DBMS, MAHE, Manipal

Dear Mr. Amruth,

Arul L Amuthan
HEAD
Department of Basic Medical Sciences
MAHE, Manipal - 576 104

Sub: Transfer of PhD Candidate admitted at KMC, MAHE, Manipal to DBMS, MAHE, Manipal
Ref: Request dated 18-08-2023; sub: request to change the PhD topic

With regard to the above subject, please note the following changes:

Name of Candidate	Mr. Amruth Kiran
New Registration Number	196600001
New Institution	DBMS, MAHE, Manipal
Category	Part time
Date of Registration	24-12-2019
Name of the New Guide	Dr. Arul L Amuthan, Assistant Professor, Division of Pharmacology, DBMS, MAHE, Manipal
Name of the New Co-Guide	Dr. Vasudev R Pai, Assistant Professor – Senior Scale, Department of Pharmacology, MCOPS, MAHE, Manipal
Old Registration Number	190100019
Old Institution	KMC, MAHE, Manipal

- The Doctoral Advisory Committee to be re-constituted and the same to be communicated to the undersigned.
- PhD protocol to be submitted to CDS for university presentation and approval.
- Rest of the terms and conditions mentioned in the registration letter dated 04-01-2020 remains the same.

Regards

Vasudha Devi
Dr. Vasudha Devi
Deputy Director – Centre for Doctoral Studies

Copy to:

- The Registrar, MAHE, Manipal
- The Registrar – Evaluation, MAHE, Manipal
- The Dean, KMC, MAHE, Manipal
- Dr. Arul L Amuthan, Assistant Professor, Division of Pharmacology, DBMS, MAHE, Manipal
- Dr. Vasudev R Pai, Assistant Professor – Senior Scale, Department of Pharmacology, MCOPS, MAHE, Manipal
- PhD Coordinator, KMC, MAHE, Manipal
- PhD Coordinator, DBMS, MAHE, Manipal

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MAHE/CDS/PHD/2023

Date: December 04, 2023

Mr. Amruth Kiran
PhD Scholar
Division of Pharmacology
Department of Basic Medical Sciences (DBMS)
MAHE, Manipal

Research Associate
Division of Pharmacology
Department of Basic Medical Sciences (DBMS)
MAHE, Manipal

Dear Mr. Amruth,

Sub: PhD protocol approval**Refs:**

1. Registration letter dated 04-January-2020
2. Transfer letter dated 16-November-2022
3. Transfer letter dated 30-September-2023

With regard to the above subject, MAHE has approved the new PhD protocol as detailed below.

Name of Candidate	Mr. Amruth Kiran
Admission/Registration Number	196600001
Date of Joining/Registration	24 th December 2019
Name of the Guide	Dr. Arul Amuthan L, Assistant Professor, Division of Pharmacology, Department of Basic Medical sciences, MAHE, Manipal
Name of the Co-Guide	Dr. Vasudev R Pai, Assistant Professor-Senior Scale, Department of Pharmacognosy, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, MAHE, Manipal
New PhD Topic	Evaluation of Diuretic Activity of Tribulus terrestris fruit in Wistar Rats - A Bioactivity Guided Approach
Date of PhD Protocol Approval	27 th October 2023

The guidelines regarding DAC reports and other details are as follows:

- You are required to present your half yearly DAC report at the institution in person and DAC meeting minutes and progress report to be submitted to the undersigned as per timeline.
- The maximum duration of PhD program is 7 years from the date of Registration. The Admission stands cancelled after the completion of maximum duration. Fee is applicable for the extended period.

Failing to fulfil any of the above conditions your registration stands cancelled.

With regards,

Dr. Vasudha Devi
Deputy Director, Centre for Doctoral Studies

Copy to:

- Registrar, MAHE, Manipal
- Registrar-Evaluation, MAHE, Manipal
- The Dean, DBMS, MAHE, Manipal
- Dr. Arul Amuthan L, Assistant Professor, Division of Pharmacology, Department of Basic Medical sciences, MAHE, Manipal
- Dr. Vasudev R Pai, Assistant Professor-Senior Scale, Department of Pharmacognosy, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, MAHE, Manipal
- Dr. Indira Adiga K, Professor and PhD Coordinator, Department of Biochemistry, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, MAHE, Manipal
- Dr. Chandrika Nayak, Professor and PhD Coordinator, Department of Biochemistry, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, MAHE, Manipal
- Sr. Manager, Student Finance, MAHE, Manipal

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(Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University)

Annexure 46; Version2; 11 Sept 2023

Centre for Doctoral Studies, MAHE, Manipal
Request for Modification of PhD Thesis Title
(Please type, handwritten applications will not be considered)

Date: 20/08/2025

Name of the PhD scholar	Amruth Kiran	
Registration Number	196600001	
Date of Admission	24/12/2019	Date of protocol approval: 27/10/2023
Category (Please tick relevant)	TMA Pai Scholar/ Self Sponsored/ Project Fellow/National Scholar/ Part Time (MAHE employees) / Part Time (working professionals)/Research Centre scholar (Full time)/ Research Centre scholar (Part time)/Integrated MD-MS PhD/ Any other (Specify).....	
Mode (Please tick relevant)	Part Time / Full Time	
Name of the Institution/ Research Centre	Department of Basic Medical Sciences (DBMS), MAHE, Manipal	
Number of DAC presentations completed till date	08	
Original approved title	Evaluation of Diuretic Activity of Tribulus terrestris fruit in Wistar Rats – A Bioactivity Guided Approach	
New Title	Experimental and Computational Elucidation of the diuretic action of <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> : An integrated in vivo and in silico approach	
To what extent the objectives and methodology that were approved by university have been revised to accommodate the new title (denote in %)	5%	
Objectives as per original protocol	I. To evaluate and compare the diuretic action of various extracts, fractions and subfractions of <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> fruit in rats. II. To evaluate the phytochemistry of highly active diuretic extract / fraction / subfraction of <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> dried fruit via GC-MS method. III. To evaluate the long-term effect of highly active diuretic extract / fraction / subfraction of <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> fruit extract. IV. iv. To evaluate the combined effect of highly active extract / fraction / subfraction of <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> fruit with standard diuretic drugs.	
Revised objectives as per new title (if any)	I. To evaluate and compare the diuretic action of the crude aqueous extract of <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> dried fruit in rats (modified) II. To predict the possible phytochemical targets and pathways for the diuretic action of the phytoconstituents of the crude aqueous extract of <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> dried fruit using network pharmacology (new objective was added)	

Signature of the PhD scholar with date: Amruth Kiran
20/08/2025

Signature of the Guide with date: [Signature]
20/8/2025

Signature of the HOI with date: [Signature]
HEAD
Department of Basic Medical Sciences
MAHE, Manipal - 576 104

Process flow: PhD scholar → submission of request → CDS → Registrar Evaluation, HOI, PhD coordinator, Guide, PhD scholar



MANIPAL
ACADEMY of HIGHER EDUCATION
(Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University)

Annexure 46, Version2; 11 Sept 2023

Note: -

- DAC recommendation is mandatory.
- Title can be revised only once during the entire course duration.
- If there is a major change in the title, objectives and methodology, the revised protocol is to be presented to the DAC for approval. Following this, DAC approval to be submitted to Institution for Institutional Protocol Approval Committee (IPAC) presentation and approval. IPAC meeting minutes to be submitted to CDS for the final confirmation of revised title/protocol.

CDS Office Use: -	
Verification status: <i>verified</i>	Date: <i>22/08/2025</i>
Remarks:	
Approved ☒ / Not Approved ☐	
<i>for Sd/-</i> Deputy Director Centre for Doctoral Studies <i>Dr. SIBASH DUTTA</i>	

To:
To:

PhD scholar

CC:

Deputy Director
Centre for Doctoral Studies
MAHE, Manipal - 576104

e-7/7/21



Ph. D. Course Work Grade Sheet

Name of the Candidate	Amruth Kiran
Registration Number	191300008
Date of Registration	24 December 2019
Title of Thesis	Establishing the cardioprotective activity of rapamycin in angiotensin-II induced maladaptive changes in myocardium and an exploration into its time course of effects in mice
Name of the Supervisor	Dr. Vasudha Devi
Name of Co-Supervisor (if any)	Dr. Dhandapani Kuppuswamy and Dr. Abhinav Kanwal

Sl. No.	Title of Course Work	Credits	Grade Obtained
1.	Systematic review and meta-analysis	4	A
2.	A Primer to Medical Genetics	2	A
3.	Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research methodology	6	D

Grade Values

Grade	A+	A	B	C	D	E	F
Grade Value	10	9	8	7	6	5	0


DEAN
Melaka Manipal Medical College
(Manipal Campus)
Head of the Institution
(Name, Signature with Seal)


Guide
(Name, Signature)
DR. VASUDHA DEVI


Deputy Director - Centre for Doctoral Studies

Deputy Director
Centre for Doctoral Studies
MAHE, Manipal - 576104