

# Antihelmintic and Hematological Changes of Natural Plant *Carica papaya* Seed Extract against Gastrointestinal Nematode

## *Hymenolepis nana*

Sabaa T. Mohammed<sup>1\*</sup>, Nidaa M. Sulaiman<sup>1</sup>

1. Department of Biology, College of Science, AL-Mustansiriya University, Baghdad, Iraq

\*E-mail corresponding author: Shebajanabi@yahoo.com

### Abstract

The purpose of this experiment was to study the anthelmintic activity of *Carica papaya* seeds against *Hymenolepis nana* in infected mice. In this experiment we use three groups (A, B, and C) of mice, group (A and B) were infected with eggs of *Hymenolepis nana*, PCV, Hb and W.B.C counts respectively. Group A mice were treated with *Carica papaya* seed extract (0.1ml/mouse) blood and fecal samples were collected on day 0, 7 and 14 after administration of treatment to examine change in blood packed cell volume PCV Hb, W.B.C, fecal egg counts (FEC). Group C served as a no infected group (negative control). FEC of group A was lower than the control group, PCV, Hb and W.B.C increased after 7days then return to normal value after 14days. The histopathological study showed papaya repair the tissue of intestine and return the villa to normal value. The results recommended using the *C.papaya* as an aid to control gastrointestinal nematodes infection.

**Keywords:** Anthelmintic activity *Carica papaya*, *Hymenolepis nana*, mice, gastrointestinal nematode.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

*Hymenolepiasis* is a disease caused by *Hymenolepis diminuta* (rat tapeworm) and *Hymenolepis nana* (dwarf tapeworm) (Waugh, *et al.*, 2006). *Hymenolepiasis* has a high prevalence in populations in tropical and subtropical climates characterized by poor hygiene and poverty (Melhorn, , *et al.*, 2008; Roberts, 2008). *Hymenolepis nana*, is a cosmopolitan intestinal cestode helminthes of the warmer climates, whose entire life-cycle is completed in the bowel, so infection can persist for years if left untreated (Hardy, *et al.*, 1941). *Hymenolepis nana* is the most common cause of all cestode infections and is found globally. In temperate zones, its incidence is high in children and institutionalized groups. *H. nana* infections are typically asymptomatic, but heavy infections by *H. nana* can cause headaches, weakness, anorexia, abdominal pain, and diarrhea (Chitchang, *et al.*, 1985). *H. nana* is the only cestode capable of completing its cycle without an intermediate host. Infection is most commonly acquired from eggs in the feces of another infected individual, which are transferred by contamination in food (Smyth, *et al.*, 1989).

Since ancient times, plants and herbal preparations have been used as medicine. Traditional system of medicine and folklore claiming that medicinal plants as a whole or their parts are being used in all types of diseases successfully including antibacterial and anthelmintic, anti-inflammatory etc (Ajaiyeoba, *et al.*, 2001). *Carica papaya*, belongs to the family of Caricaceae, and several species of Caricaceae have been used as remedy against a variety of diseases (Munoz, , *et al.*, 2000; Mello *et al.*, 2008). Originally derived from the southern part of Mexico, *C. papaya* is a perennial plant, and it is presently distributed over the whole tropical area. Many scientific investigations have been conducted to evaluate the biological activities of various parts of *C. papaya*. (Seigler, *et al.*, 2002). Anthelmintic properties have been reported for latex and seeds from *C. papaya* when used in humans and mice (Okeniyi, *et al.*, 2007). The anthelmintic efficacy of Papaya might be due to presence of proteolytic enzyme such as papain, chymopapain and lysozymes in the latex as well as in leaves (Dakpogan, *et al.*, 2005).

In the present study, an attempt has been made to screen and evaluate the anthelmintic activity of *C. papaya* against *H.nana*.

### 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Preparation of the *C.papaya* seeds extract

The seeds were collected freshly from the market of Maskat / Oman, washed with clean water to remove dirt. The seeds were sundried and later grinded into powdery forms. The *C.papaya* seed powders were weighed (75g), and blended into liquefaction in 150ml of distilled water, the mixture was then centrifuged at 1500rpm. The supernatant was filtered through sterile filter papers into conical flask as the study extract. One milliliter of the filtrate is expected to contain 0.5g (500mg/ml).

#### 2.1 Experimental animals

46 adult healthy male Swiss albino mice, about 4-5 weeks old, weighing 20-25g were maintained under GLP conditions. 36mice were orally infected with about 100 viable eggs of *H.nana* per mouse, these infected mice were maintained until the 6<sup>th</sup> day of infection to complete the life cycle of the parasite.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> day, the mice were divided into 2groups (A, B) with 18mice per group. Group A received no medication (normal saline). Group B were administrated orally with the aqueous crude extract of *C.papaya* at

(0.1ml /day). These groups were compared with third group (C) contain 9 noninfected mice which used as control negative.

For all studies, feces and blood were collected on days 0, 7 and 14 after administration of treatment. Blood was collected by the decapitation method(Dieterich, *et al.*, 1972). anti-coagulated with 1.5mg/ml blood of the dipotassium salt of Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), the total and differential leukocyte counts analyzed using an automatic blood analyzer(Lewis, *et al.*, 1991)., and packed cell volume (PCV) was determined by the conventional method. Fecal egg count were performed using a modified *McMaster technique* (Whitlock, *et al.*, 1948). , also on 14<sup>th</sup> day the mice were sacrificed and the intestine removed, put in (10%) formalin for histopathological study.

## 2.2Statistical analysis

Results are expressed as the mean of parameters  $\pm$  standard error of the mean (SEM), differences between mean were evaluated using the Anova tests.

## 3.RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Haematological results showed that the PCV mean values for animals in group A (control group negative) was (52- 51.5%)after 0.7 and 14days respectively, while in control group positive group C the PCV decreased between 0 and 14days (45-42%). After treatment with *C.papaya* seed extract this parameter showed increased slightly (45-52%) between 0 and14days.

In the case of Hb (g /dl) the mean values for in group A 17(g /dl) and decrease in group C between 0 and 14days (14.6-13.6) and Hb return increase during this time in group B (14.6-17).

W.B.C. values increase in group C while after treated with *C.papaya* in group B return to normal value  $5.75 \times 10^3$ . The lymphocyte value exhibited increased in group B, C ( $7 \times 10^3$ ) then decrease during this time period in group B ( $5.75 \times 10^3$ ). Anova tests showed that when PCV, Hb and lymphocyte W.B.C. compared between groups (B, C) and control group (A), the differences were significant at  $p < 0.001$ (Table 1).

Parameter	Group	1 day	7 days	14 days
P.C.V. (%)	A	52 $\pm$ 0.81	52 $\pm$ 0.81	51.5 $\pm$ 1.29
	B	45 $\pm$ 0.95	51 $\pm$ 0.81	52 $\pm$ 0.1
	C	45 $\pm$ 0.95	43 $\pm$ 0.81	42 $\pm$ 0.5
HB(g/d)	A	17 $\pm$ 0.27	17 $\pm$ 0.27	16.8
	B	14.6 $\pm$ 0.95	17 $\pm$ 0.81	17 $\pm$ 0.01
	C	14.6 $\pm$ 0.95	14 $\pm$ 0.81	13.6 $\pm$ 0.5
W.B.C	A	$5 \times 10^3 \pm 0.81$	$5 \times 10^3 \pm 0.81$	$5 \times 10^3 \pm 0.81$
	B	$7 \times 10^3 \pm 0.81$	$5.87 \times 10^3 \pm 0.25$	$5.75 \times 10^3 \pm 0.95$
	C	$7 \times 10^3 \pm 0.81$	$7 \times 10^3 \pm 0.81$	$7 \times 10^3 \pm 0.81$
Lymphocyte	A	61.66 $\pm$ 2.88	61.66 $\pm$ 2.8	61.66 $\pm$ 2.8
	B	68.66 $\pm$ 1.15	63 $\pm$ 1	62 $\pm$ 1.5
	C	68.66 $\pm$ 1.15	69 $\pm$ 0	69 $\pm$ 0

**Table1: Haemogram of experimental group during *Carica papaya* trails**

Fecal egg counts showed that the mice in control group heavily shedding eggs in the feces till 14<sup>th</sup> days ,while in group B after administration of aqueous extracts produced a significant reduction in the fecal egg count after 4days, and the eggs disappear completely after 9days Fig(1).

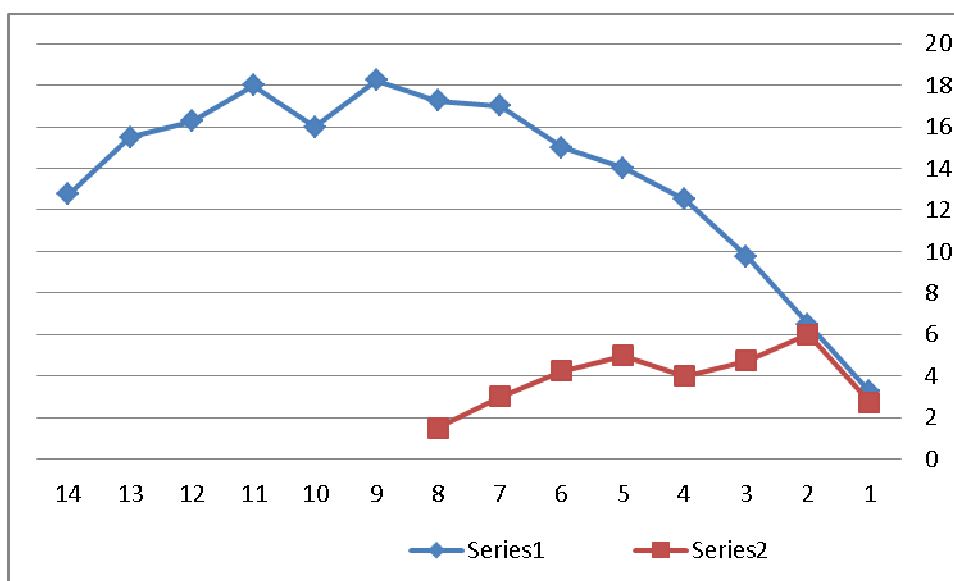


Fig 1:Egg per gram (EPG)level of infestation before and after treatment with papain

### 3.1 Histological study

The histological study showed that *C.papaya* plant was able to re-structure of intestinal tissue (Fig 3) has been able to bring along the length of the villa to normal when compared with control mice (Fig 1), after it suffered from the palace because of parasite and also led to a lack of preparation of goblet cells (Fig 2).

The aqueous extracts administered in this study caused significant reduction in the worm burden of the mice, the reduction of helminthes egg loads observed with aqueous extracts of *C.papaya* maybe attributed to the presence of papain in capable of digesting bacteria and parasitic cells, hence its use an anthelmintic and antibiotics(Fajimi, *et al.*, 2005).Anthelmintic is a substance that expels or destroys gastrointestinal worms, all anthelmintic essentially kill worms by either starving them to death or paralyzing them, because worms have no means of storing energy. The must sat almost continuously to meet their metabolic needs. Parasite will also die if they become paralyzed and temporarily lose their ability to maintain their position in the gut. Adu *et al.* (2009).reported that *C. papaya* has certain chemical components that are of high anthelmintic attributes in poultry with satisfactory efficacy at the dosage of 1200mg/bird.

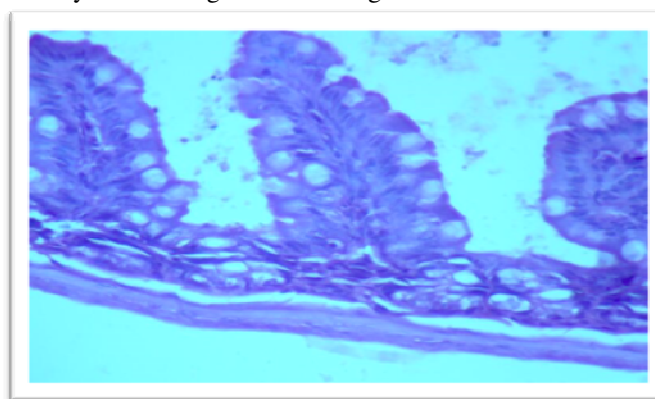


Figure 1. Cross- section of a healthy mice intestine high, narrow intestinal villi with a small number of goblet cells and oligocellular mesenchymal stroma.x400.

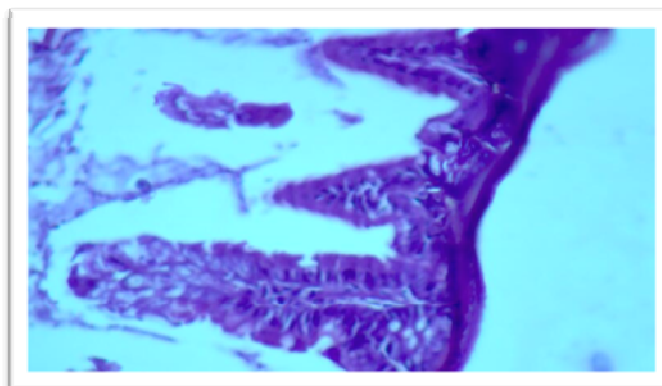


Figure 2. Cross- section of infected mouse's intestine shows shortening of intestinal villi with atrophy of the villi and depletion of goblet cells.x400.

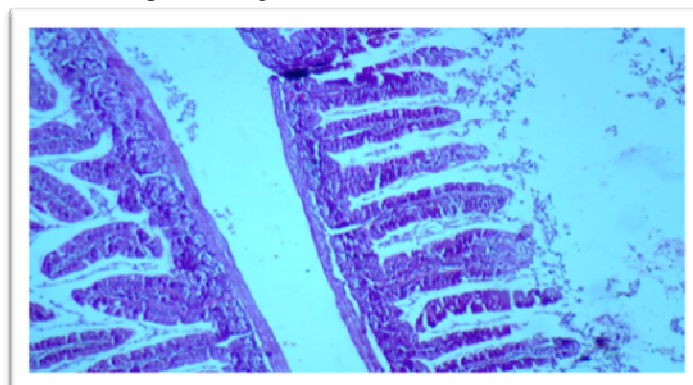


Figure 3. Section of treated mouse's intestine showing normal like appearance of height of villi and presence of goblet cells few in number.x250

The mechanism of action of the efficacious plant cysteine proteinases (papaya) is similar, and probably identical involving digesting and removal of the cuticle. Our results support previous studies (Mursof, *et al.*, 1991). suggesting that papaya may have potential as an anthelmintic against nematode parasites and too define the mechanisms of its antiparasitic action.

Worm counts of *Hymenolepis nana* in mice decreased in response to 1-2g/kg papaya seeds for three consecutive days (Lamtiur, *et al.*, 1945)., also showed the reduction percentage esin (EPG\_egg per gram) for papaya seeds treatment *Hymenolepis deminuta* in rats, were very high which is 96.8% for 0.6g. kg dose level and 96.2% for 1.2g kg. Dose level (Sapaat *et al.*, 2012).

Fetterer *et al.*(1978) found an increase in the immunity to *Hymenolepis nana* infection by transfer from spleen cells, lymphocytes are essential for the repair mechanism, while Burke *et al.*(2009) reported there was no indication that administration of papaya seed led to a reduction in gastrointestinal in lambs.

When papaya latex given in water at dose level of 2, 4, 6and 8g/kg for treated mice infected with 100 *Heligmosomoides polygurus* found after 3days papaya latex an antiparasitic efficacy of 55.5, 60.3, 67.9 and 84.5 respectively(Satrija, *et al.*, 1995). also Ameen *et al.* (2012).showed that the powered and aqueous extract of *C.papaya* after its administration, produced a significant increase in packed cell volume, red blood cells, hemoglobin concentration lymphocyte counts and significant decrease in eosinophil counts. Shaziya and Goyal(2012) found *Carica papaya* extract treated mice clearly demonstrated a reduction of larvae for *Ancylostoma caninum*, also eosinophil levels were markedly reduced in 24hr after treatment.

Keiichi *et al.*( 2008)suggest that the oral administration of the fermented papaya preparation to mice may have a therapeutic potential for the prevention of contact hypersensitive immuno-response, also Melissa *et al.*(2010). found no morphological alteration in the integrity of the intestine mucosa after 3months administrated for Wister rats.

The use of plant material for the management of nematode population is apparently effective and environmentally friendly compared to synthetic nematicides.

#### 4.CONCLUSION

From the result it is conclude that the delicious *Carica papaya* fruit can use it as anthelmintic drug, but we need to conduct research to detect and extract the active substance and use it in treatment.

#### 5.ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors are thankful to Dr.Salim Rasheed AL-ubaidy and Dr.Tubaa Tahier Mohammed for all their help to accomplish this search.

#### 6.REFERENCES

- Adu OA, Akingboy KA, Akinfemi A. Potency of pawpaw (*Carica papaya*) latex as an anthelmintic in poultry production. *Bot. Res. Int.* 2009; 2:139–142
- Ajaiyeoba EO, Onocha PA, Olarenwaju OT. In vitro anthelmintic properties of *Buchholzia coriaceae* and *Gynandropsis gynandra* extract. *Pharm Biol* 2001; 39: 217-20
- Ameen, S.A.& Adedeji, O.S.& Ojedapo, L.O.& Salihu, T.& Fakorede, O.L., "Anthelmintic efficacy of paw paw (*Carica papaya*) seeds in commercial layers", *Afr. J. Biotechnol.*, vol. 11, 2012, p.126-130.
- Burke, J.M., A. Wells, P. Casey, J.E. Miller. Garlic and papaya lack control over gastrointestinal nematodes in goats and lambs. *Veterinary Parasitology* 2009; 159: 171-174.
- Chitchang S., Piamjinda T., Yodmani B., and Radomyos P., "Relationship between severity of the symptom and the number of *Hymenolepis nana* after treatment," *Journal of the Medical Association of Tailand*, 1985; 68, (8), pp. 423–426,.
- Dakpogan H. B., Free range chick survivability in improved conditions and the effects of three medicinal plants on *Eimeria tenella*. M. Sc. Thesis Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, the Royal Veterinary University, Denmark, (2005).
- Dieterich RA. Haematologic values for five northern microtines. *Lab Anim Sci.* 1972; 22:390–2.
- Fajimi, A. K.; Taiwo, A. A., *Herbal remedies in animal parasitic diseases in Nigeria: a review.* African Journal of Biotechnology. 2005; 4(4): 303-307.
- Fetterer RH, Benett JL. Clonazepam and praziquantel: Mode of antischistosomal action. *Federation Proc Abstract* 2070. 1978; 37:604.
- Hardy J. Haematology of rats and mice. In: Cotchin E, Roe FJ, editors. *Pathology of laboratory rats and mice.* Oxford and Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publication; 1941; p. 501-36.
- Hiramoto, Keiichi; Imao, Mitsuko; Sato, Eisuke F; Inoue, asayasu; Mori, Akitane . Effect of fermented papaya preparation on dermal and intestinal mucosal immunity and allergic inflammations *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture* 2008; 88 (7) 1151 – 1157.
- Lamtiur, L., aktivitas Uji .Anthelmintik infus Biji Pepaya (*Carica papaya* L.) terhadap Mencit putih (*Mus musculus* L.) galur swiss yang terinfeksi cacing *Hymenolepis nana*. Skripsi, Fakultas Farmasi Universitas, Agustus 1945, Jakarta.
- Lewis SM, England JM, Rowan RM. Current concerns in haematology. III. Blood count calibration. *J Clin Pathol* 1991; 144:881-4.
- Melhorn H. Dwarf Tapeworm. In: Melhorn H, editor. *Encyclopedia of Parasitology.* 3rd ed. Berlin: Springer; 2008.
- Melissa P.; Andrew O. W.; Felix O.; Helen N. A.; Nadia P. W.; Paula F. T. Comparative effects of dietary administered transgenic and conventional papaya on selected intestinal parameters in rat models. *Transgenic Res.* 2010; 19(3):511-8.
- Mello VJ, Gomes MT, Lemos FO, Delfino JL, Andrade SP, Lopes MT, et al. The gastric ulcer protective and healing role of cysteine proteinases from *Carica candamarcensis*. *Phytomedicine* 2008; 15: 237-244.
- Munoz V, Sauvain M, Bourdy G, Callapa J, Rojas I, Vargas L, et al. The search for natural bioactive compounds through a multidisciplinary approach in Bolivia Part II. Antimalarial activity of some plants used by Mosekene indians. *J Ethnopharmacol* 2000; 69: 139-155.
- Mursof, E.P. & He, S. A potential role of *Papaya latex* as an anthelmintic against patent *Ascaridia galli* in chicken. *Heamara Zoa*, 1991; 74: 1-5.
- Okeniyi, J.A., Ogunlesi, T.A., Oyelami, O.A., Adeyemi, L.A., Effectiveness of dried *Carica papaya* seeds against human intestinal parasitosis: a pilot study. *J. Med. Food* 2007; 10, 194–196.
- Roberts L, Janovy JJr. Tapeworms. In: Roberts L, Janovy J, editors. *Foundations of Parasitology.* 8th ed. Boston: McGraw Hill; 2009.

- **Sapaat A, Satrija F, Mahsol HH, Ahmad AH. Anthelmintic activity of papaya seeds on *Hymenolepis diminuta* infections in rats. Trop Biomed. 2012 Dec; 29(4):508-12.**
- Satrija, F., Nansen, P., Murtini, S. & HE, S. Anthelmintic activity of papaya latex against patent *Heligmosomoides polygyrus* infections in mice. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 1995; 48, 161–164.
- Seigler DS, Pauli GF, Nahrstedt A, Leen R. Cyanogenic allosides and glucosides from *Passiflora edulis* and *Carica papaya*. *Phytochemistry* 2002; 60: 873-882.
- Shaziya Bi and Goyal P.K., Anthelmintic effect of Natural Plant (*Carica papaya*) extract against the Gastrointestina nematode, *Ancylostoma caninum* in Mice, ISCA. *Journal of Biological Sci.*, 2012; 1(1), 2-6.
- Smyth J. D. and McManus D. P., *The Physiology and Biochemistry of Cestodes*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 1989.
- Waugh C.A., Lindo J.F., Foronda P., Santana M.A., Lorenzo-Mora-les J., Robinson R.D. Population distribution and zoonotic potential of gastrointestinal helminths of wild rats *Rattus rattus* and *Rattus norvegicus* from Jamaica. *J. Parasitol.*, 2006; 92, 1014-1018.
- Whitlock HV: **Some modifications of the McMaster helminth egg-counting technique and apparatus.** *J. Counc. Sci. Ind. Res* 1948; **21**:177-180.