Evaluation Of MT-Liver Protective And Antioxidant Effects Of Red Algae

V C Uvaraja¹, Sandeep V. Binorkar², Gajanan R. Parlikar³, Runjhun Pallavi⁴, Renuka Jyothi S.⁵, Raj K. Keservani⁶, Kale Ramdas N.⁷, Haleshappa R.^{8*}

Professor, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Bannari Amman Institute of Technology, Erode, Tamil Nadu, 638401

²Associate Department of Agadatantra, Government Ayurveda College, Vazirabad, Nanded-431601, Maharashtra

³District Ayush Officer, Zilla Parishad, Dharashiv - 413501, Maharashtra, India ⁴Associate Professor, SGT College of Pharmacy, SGT University, Gurugram, Haryana, 122006, India

⁵Department of Genetics and Biotechnology, School of Sciences, Jain (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru-560002, Karnataka, India

⁶Faculty of B. Pharmacy, CSM Group Of Institutions, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, 212111, India

⁷Department of Pharmacognosy, SVPM's College of Pharmacy, Malegaon (Bk), Baramati, Pune- 413115, Maharashtra, India

⁸Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Government Science College (Autonomous), Nrupathunga University, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka, India *Corresponding author: Haleshappa R., Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Government Science College (Autonomous), Nrupathunga University, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka, India

Background: Antioxidants include minerals, anthocyanins, flavonoids, and phenolics. They can help prevent and treat diseases associated with oxidative stress and reactive oxygen species. **Objective:** This study aims to investigate the potential of the red sea macroalga Falkenbergia rufolanosa to shield animal models against MT-induced liver injury.

Methods: Studies done in the past have shown that the dose and length of MT treatment were bad, but they did not cause death. Studies in the past have shown that giving a certain amount of methanolic fluid from algae can have positive effects with no negative effects.

Results: This research showed that the animal model with liver damage had stronger antioxidant defences against free radicals. This work reports the first results about how the algae can protect mammalian models from the harmful effects of MT on their blood, DNA, and cells. Oxidative stress markers were found in the supernatants after the samples were mixed and washed. Extra liver tissues were sealed in paraffin so that they could be studied histologically.

Conclusion: The study mentioned above shows that Falkenbergia rufolanosa protects against MT-induced hepatotoxicity in rats. Our work shows this for the first time. This effect is because of the algae's antioxidant properties and the variety of antioxidant parts it has, like polyphenols.

Keywords: Hepatoprotective, anti-oxidative, preclinical research, liver disease.

INTRODUCTION:

Scientists think that high amounts of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in cells are linked to a number of diseases in humans, including diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and getting older. High levels of oxidative stress eventually cause apoptosis, which damages DNA, oxidizes proteins, and kills parts inside cells [1-3]. So, using possible antioxidants is good for people's health. Antioxidants can stop and treat oxidative stress and lower the damage that oxidation does to cells. Trichloromethyl free radicals are made when a chemical that can cause cancer, like CCl4, breaks down. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels rise because of these radicals, which hurt hepatocytes. An increase in reactive oxygen species (ROS) causes hepatocyte necrosis and apoptosis after an acute liver injury. This causes a lot of cell damage to the liver [2-4].

CCl4 can cause immediate liver damage that needs to be stopped or treated by lowering the levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and stopping the oxidative chain reaction that CCl4 starts [4-6]. Compounds that work as antioxidants and lower the amount of ROS inside cells could be used as medicines to stop and treat oxidative damage. Methylthiophanate (MT) is a benzimidazole fungicide that is often used to protect crops from a number of serious fungal diseases. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are molecules that contain oxygen. They play a part in many biological processes, like how the immune system works and how cells talk to each other normally [5-7].

High amounts of reactive oxygen species (ROS) may be a major factor in the development of solid tumors, hematological diseases, and cancer. Because of this, reactive oxygen species (ROS) are created when there is a mismatch between oxidants and cell antioxidants because of oxidative stress [6-8]. This causes biomolecular oxidation, which includes DNA damage, lipid peroxidation, and protein oxidation. The ongoing study showed that bone and red blood cells exposed to MT had higher amounts of MDA, AOPP, and LDH activities. Over time, free radicals have been shown to damage proteins and lipids through oxidation damage [7-9]. A lot of the time, high amounts of MDA, increased osmotic fragility, and higher LDH activity were signs of intravascular hemolysis. Erythrocytes are especially susceptible to oxidative damage because they have a lot of oxidative metabolic activity. This can make them better at dealing with oxidative stress or put their lives at risk [8-10]. The study also looked at whether the level of antioxidants in both organs made the ways that MT is harmful easier. Falkenbergia rufolanosa, a type of red algae, has been shown to protect against liver damage caused by methyl thiophanate in rat models by reducing free radicals and protecting the liver.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Materials:

For the study, the air-dried powdered leaf had to be collected and extracted. At first, 300 ml of methanol solvent was added to 20 g of dried algae powder crude extracts. Following that, the mixture was stirred and left to sit at room temperature for 18 hours. The solution was evaporated, and then a Whatman filter paper was used to separate it. As the last step, the waste that had been dried out was kept at a temperature of 4 °C. This was used in the studies that

followed.

Experimental Design:

Previous research has shown that the amount of MT used and the length of time it was used were harmful but not deadly. Studies in the past have shown that giving a certain amount of algae methanolic extract can have positive benefits with no negative effects. The wistar rats were put to sleep after the dose was given, and blood samples were taken using heparin tubes to look at molecular markers. The livers were quickly taken out, cleaned, and weighed. This was found in the supernatants after they had been homogenized and rinsed: signs of oxidative stress. To do histology studies, extra liver samples were put in a 10% formalin solution and then covered in paraffin to keep them safe [10-12].

Plasma biomarkers levels:

Spectrophotometry was used to measure the amount of thiobarbituric acid reactive chemicals in the liver homogenate. The results were then shown as the amount of malondialdehyde present, which shows how much lipid peroxidation there was. A wavelength of 532 nanometers was used to measure the absorption and nanomoles of malondialdehyde (MDA) were used to measure the amounts of MDA per milligram of protein. The method involved using spectrophotometry at a wavelength of 340 nm to find out the amounts of advanced oxidation protein product. The amount of AOPP was found and given as µmoles/mg protein using the extinction coefficient of 261 cm-1 mM1 [11-13].

The Antioxidant Activity:

The deep violet DPPH radical is a stable free radical. An antioxidant lowers the radical's strength by giving DPPH an electron, which changes its color from violet to yellow. The amount of staining shows how well the antioxidant works. It is mixed with a DPPH solution that is either ethanol or methanol-based. A spectrophotometer is used to measure the absorbance at a certain frequency of 517 nm after a set amount of time has passed. The drop in absorption shows that the antioxidants are working [12-14].

Histopathological and hematological Analysis:

Histopathological analysis is a key technique used in pathology to examine tissues and cells under a microscope to identify abnormalities and diagnose diseases. Here's a detailed overview of the methods involved in histopathological analysis. When rats were given MT, their white blood cell counts were higher than those in the control group, but their red blood cell, hemoglobin, and platelet amounts were lower. In rats that were given MT, the mean corpuscular volume, mean corpuscular hemoglobin, and mean corpuscular hemoglobin content did not change. When MT was given along with algae extract, it significantly fixed the changes that happened compared to the control group [13-15].

Results:

Morphological Study:

In this study, the rats in any of the treated groups did not change their behavior in a noticeable way, either right after treatment or later on. This includes not being in pain, having trouble

breathing, moving or shaking, or having catalepsy. Additionally, no deaths were reported until the experiment was over. Also, both the absolute and relative liver weights dropped a lot when MT was added to the group that was not treated. According to these results, the rats that were given MT drank and ate a lot less. The groups of rats that were given alga extract along with MT had much better body weight gains than the groups that were only given MT (Table 1). [14-16]

Oxidative stress marker:

The study we did showed that MT treatment made lipid peroxidation levels rise significantly in the livers of rats. In the experimental rats that were given MT, the liver tissue homogenate had a lot more MDA levels than the control group. This is because of lipid peroxidation. Also, the amounts of AOPP and PCO in the liver homogenates of rats that were given MT were slightly higher than those in the control group (5% and 10%, respectively). Adding algae extract to the diet of animals lowered the amounts of PCO and AOPP, which in turn lowered the damage to liver tissue proteins. Following the administration of algal treatment, there was no discernible change in the levels of these two liver markers, as shown in Table 1 [15-17].

Table 1: Treatment effects on plasma biochemical markers in treated groups

Parameters	Alga	MT	MT+ alga	Control
HDL	0.25 ± 0.08	0.42 ± 0.14	0.39±0.50	0.12±0.65
LDL	1.30 ± 0.02	1.49±0.13	1.52±0.40	1.13±0.14
CT	2.22±0.41	2.60±0.54	2.40±0.74	2.47±0.65
AST/ALT	2.90±2.13	2.45±1.36	5.10±0.50	4.20±0.70
Bilirubin	1.17±1.33	2.13±0.48	2.20±0.78	1.45±0.38
AST	120.34±24.89	140.78±15.29	122.44±15.12	118.78±12.59
ALT	42.4±12.65	54.15±2.44	41.47±17,25	28.35±2.60
GGT	2.8±0.50	3.58±1.41	3,40±2,53	2.70±1.57
TG	1.51±0.12	1.70±0.34	1,61±0,05	1.50±0.10

Plasma biomarkers levels:

The amounts of AST, ALT, GGT, and bilirubin in the plasma of people who had been exposed to MT were significantly higher than those in the control group (Table 2). The levels of AST were 50% higher, ALT levels were 20% higher, GGT levels were 45% higher, and bilirubin levels were 28% higher. Still, giving algae methanolic extract at the same time changed the amounts of plasma enzymes in a big way. The problems were much better in the group that was supplemented with the alga methanolic extract than in the group that was treated with MT. The rates of improvement reached the same level as in the control group [16-18].

Table 2: Treatment effects on enzymatic antioxidant activity in several treated

Parameters	Alga	MT	MT + alga	Control
Catalase	9.14 ± 0.70	8.71±0.55	8.13±0.69	9.40±0.49
GSH	51.24±0.81	49.45±0.81	52.79±0.81	60.69±0.89
SOD	15.82±1.34	24.22±1.40	19.14±1.16	16.51±1.59
GPx	8.16±0.31	12.14±0.51	10.55±0.26	9.40±0.21

Histopathological and hematological Analysis:

When the slides from the group that was given MT were looked at under a light microscope, they showed a lot of very bad problems. The liver control pictures showed a central vein, sinusoidal gaps, and clear hepatic cells, all of which pointed to a normal cell structure. The livers of rats that were given MT, on the other hand, showed a lot of degenerative changes, including apoptosis, hepatic steatosis, hepatocyte vacuolization with increased sinusoidal gaps, and an infiltration of inflammatory leucocytes around the central vein. But giving the algae methanolic extract at the same time made the histology much better, as seen by the smaller amount of dead areas and the lack of vacuolization and steatosis. Figure 1 shows that the structure of the liver was very similar to the normal structure of the liver [17-19].

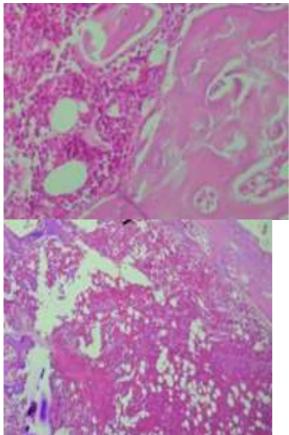


Figure 1: Alterations in the histology of the liver

Discussion:

Natural antioxidants are becoming more and more popular as a way to treat liver failure caused by high levels of reactive stress. When there is an imbalance between antioxidants, reactive oxygen species are made. These can cause a number of illnesses. The production of more free radicals can also cause protein structures to oxidize and crosslinks to form between proteins, which could break proteins into smaller pieces and lower the number of sulphhydryl groups

in amino acid chains [18-20]. In our work, we found that MT therapy caused reactive oxygen species to be released in the liver tissue, which damaged proteins through oxidative damage. In turn, this caused the amounts of protein carbonyl groups and advanced oxidation protein products to rise. These are well-known signs of protein oxidative damage. On the other hand, adding algal methanolic extract stopped liver damage caused by MT and stopped lipid peroxidation and protein oxidation in rats. This finding proved that adding algae did stop the oxidative chain reaction or get rid of the free radicals that were made in the liver [19-21].

The GSH antioxidant enzymes were much less active in the group that was exposed to MT than in the control group. There may be a link between the drop in GSH activity and more lipid peroxidation and less substrate available. The results show that the studies' conclusions are correct. But the gains seen were much bigger in the rats that were treated with MT along with the control group [20-22]. A drop in lipid peroxidation and a rise in antioxidant state showed this to be true. Studies have shown that the natural antioxidants in red algae can successfully reduce and repair liver damage. These new results back up those earlier studies. Based on our most recent research, we saw that after four weeks of MT treatment, the amounts of CT, LDL, and TG went up while HDL went down significantly [23-25].

Heart disease is greatly sped up by having high cholesterol. This is because it hurts the cells that line blood vessels (endothelial cells) and makes more harmful reactive oxygen species (ROS). This makes the development of atherosclerosis worse and may also hurt the liver (hepatotoxicity) [24-26]. It was shown that the algae extract was helpful because it lowered CT, TG, and LDL cholesterol levels and raised HDL cholesterol levels. MT can lead to a number of pathological problems in the liver, including bleeding, changes that happen over time, the widening of the sinusoids, swollen central veins, and changes in the structure of the tissue. The liver slices from the control animals showed a normal lobular pattern, a central vein that could be seen clearly, and a normal arrangement of hepatocytes with no signs of necrosis. Animals may be less likely to get tissue damage from MT if they are also given algae extract, which is a strong antioxidant. Polyphenols, flavonoids, and anthocyanins were found in large amounts in the algae fluid, according to earlier research [27-34].

CONCLUSION:

Our study showed that bone structure got better, protection against harmful free radicals got better, and bone and blood mineral metabolism got better controlled. This is the first study to look into how the algae can protect bone and blood from the damaging effects of MT, such as hematotoxicity, genotoxicity, and oxidative damage. Finally, because red marine algae has a lot of health benefits and is high in nutrients, there is proof to support using it wisely to treat conditions linked to oxidative stress.

Funding:

None

Conflict of Interest:

None

REFERENCES:

1. Ihegboro GO, Alhassan AJ, Afor E, Ononamadu CJ, Owolarafe TA, Imam AA, Salawu K, Ibrahim

- A, Sule MS. Hepatocurative potentials of methanol extracts/fractions of Tapinanthus bangwensis and Moringa oleifera on carbon tetrachlorideinduced hepatotoxicity in Wistar rats. Ife Journal of Science. 2020 Aug 21;22(2):001-14.
- 2. Elmeleh MI, Attia T, Elgendy H. Protective effect of Chlorella vulgaris and Spirulina platensis against Thioacetamide Induced Hepatorenal toxicity in male rats. Journal of Current Veterinary Research. 2023 Oct 1;5(2):79-92.
- 3. El-Saied YE, Mostafa ME, Refaat M, El-Senduny FF, Alsharif FM, El-Khawaga OY. The hepatoprotective role of Balanites aegyptiaca extract and its nano-formulation against methomylinduced toxicity and oxidative stress in mice via overexpression of Nrf2. Journal of Applied Biotechnology Reports. 2021 Sep 1;8(3):263-74.
- 4. Ahmad, Mohd F., Ahmad, S. M., Keservani, Raj K., Sharma, Anil K. A Study on Anti-Inflammatory Activity of Tuber Extracts of Solanum Tuberosum (Solanaceae) in Male Albino Rats, Nat. Aca. Sci. Lett. India. 2016; 39 (6): 421-425.
- 5. Keservani, Raj K., Sharma, Anil K., Jarouliya, U., Singh, A.K. Ebola Virus Disease and its Complications Universal Journal of Pharmaceutical Research, 2016c; 1 (1): 54-58.
- Keservani, Raj K., Kesharwani, Rajesh K., Sharma, Anil K., Naturally Occurring Toxicants as Etiologic Agents of Food-borne Disease, In: Food Toxicology, Edited by Bagchi, Debasis., Swaroop, Anand, CRC Press, Taylor and Francis. Chapter 12, 2016d; 245-262. ISBN: 9781498708746
- 7. Ahmad, Mohd F., Ahmad, S. M., Keservani, Raj K., Pradhan, A. "Anti-Ulcer Activity of Tuber Extracts of Solanum Tuberosum (Solanaceae) In Rats", Acta Fac. Pharm. Univ. Comen. LXII, 2015a; (2): 32-37.
- 8. Ahmad, Mohd F., Keservani, Raj K., Babu, DJM., Interaction study between Ocimum sanctum and Glimepiride (sulfonylurea derivative) in diabetic rats, J. Chin. Pharm. Sci. 2015b: 24 (3):156–163.
- 9. Singh P, Kesharwani RK, Keservani RK. Antioxidants and vitamins: Roles in cellular function and metabolism. InSustained energy for enhanced human functions and activity 2017 Jan 1 (pp. 385-407). Academic Press.
- 10. Johnson DB, Charles NP, Mawlieh BH, Passah T, Venkatanarayanan V. Evaluation of anti-oxidant and hepatoprotective activity of Desmostachya bipinnata leaf extracts by various hepatotoxin induced albino rat models. Research Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry. 2016;8(3):109-15.
- 11. Balekundri A, Satya S, Ahire ED, Keservani RK. Plant Metabolites and Vegetables for Kidney Disease Prevention and Treatment. InPlant Metabolites and Vegetables as Nutraceuticals 2025 (pp. 361-380). Apple Academic Press.
- 12. Feki A, Kammoun I, Eleroui M, Kallel R, Megdiche F, Hariz L, Boudawara T, Kallel C, Kallel H, Pujo JM, Ben Amara I. Bioactivity of Falkenbergia rufolanosa Methanolic Extract: Assessment of Its Effect on Methyl-Thiophanate Induced Bone and Blood Disorders. Pharmaceuticals. 2023 Apr 1;16(4):529.
- 13. Alzergy AA, Elgharbawy SM. Hepatoprotective effects of Juniperus phoenicea L. on trichloroacetic acid induced toxicity in mice: Histological, Ultrastructure and Biochemical Studies. J. Am. Sci. 2017, 13 (12), 41. 2017;61.
- 14. Balekundri A, Ahire ED, Keservani RK. Plant Metabolites and Vegetables for Diabetes Prevention and Treatment. InPlant Metabolites and Vegetables as Nutraceuticals 2025 (pp. 333-360). Apple Academic Press.
- 15. Nuevo JJ, Banzon JJ. In vivo hepatoprotective property of Solanum melongena on carbon tetrachloride-induced liver injury in rats. Fatima University Research Journal. 2013;5(1):1-.
- 16. Keservani RK, Tung BT, Kesharwani RK, Ahire ED, editors. Plant Metabolites and Vegetables as Nutraceuticals. CRC Press; 2024 Aug 23.

- 17. Nasiri E, Naserirad S, Pasdaran Lashgari A, Gazor R, Mohammad ghasemi F, Atrkar Roushan Z. Hepatoprotective effect of Acantholimon bracteatum (Girard) Boiss. on formaldehyde-induced liver injury in adult male mice. Research Journal of Pharmacognosy. 2016 Jul 1;3(3):55-61.
- 18. Kesharwani RK, Singh P, Keservani RK. Green coffee bean extract and chlorogenic acids: Chemistry and novel antioxidant benefits. Green Coffee Bean Extract in Human Health. 2016;1.
- 19. Mousa, A.A., El-Gansh, H.A.I., Eldaim, M.A.A., Mohamed, M.A.E.G., Morsi, A.H. and El Sabagh, H.S., 2019. Protective effect of Moringa oleifera leaves ethanolic extract against thioacetamide-induced hepatotoxicity in rats via modulation of cellular antioxidant, apoptotic and inflammatory markers. Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 26, pp.32488-32504.
- 20. Vidal Novoa AD, Silva AM, Mancini DA, Díaz Gutiérrez D, Mancini-Filho J. Hepatoprotective properties from the seaweed Bryothamnion triquetrum (SG Gmelin) MA Howe against CCl4-induced oxidative damage in rats. Journal of Pharmacy & Pharmacognosy Research. 2019.
- 21. Usunobun U, Imoru O. Evaluation of hepatoprotective potential of Chromolaena odorata (L.) RM King & H. Rob. against methotrexate-induced hepatic toxicity in rats. Plant Biotechnology Persa. 2022 Dec 10;4(2):12-21.
- 22. Chigor CB, Nwafor FI, Ugwuja E, Obi CS. Antioxidant and Hepatoprotective Potentials of Lasimorpha senegalensis Schott Leaf Extract on Carbon Tetrachloride-induced Liver Damage in Rats. Journal of Pharmaceutical Research International. 2020 Sep 3;32(21):70-8.
- 23. Sable RR, Thite DG, Udavant PB, Ahire ED, Khairnar SJ. Isolation and identification of flavonoids compounds and formulation of tecoma undulata (Sm.) seem. Herbal ointment. Materials Today: Proceedings. 2023 Dec 12.
- 24. Souid A, Giambastiani L, Castagna A, Santin M, Vivarelli F, Canistro D, Morosini C, Paolini M, Franchi P, Lucarini M, Raffaelli A. Assessment of the Antioxidant and Hypolipidemic Properties of Salicornia europaea for the Prevention of TAFLD in Rats. Antioxidants. 2024 May 12;13(5):596.
- 25. Surana KR, Ahire ED, Mahajan SK, Patil DM, Jadhav KR. Antimicrobial And Antiinflammatory Action of Flavonoids. In The Flavonoids 2024 Feb 6 (pp. 263-276). Apple Academic Press.
- 26. Khouzani MR, Shushizadeh MR, Kalantari H, Ghotrami ER. Hepatoprotective effect of aqueous extract of Persian Gulf brown algae Sargassum swartzii against acetaminophen-induced hepatotoxicity in mice. Jundishapur Journal of Natural Pharmaceutical Products. 2019;14(1).
- 27. Jarouliya U, Zacharia A, Keservani RK, Prasad GB. Spirulina maxima and its effect on antioxidant activity in fructose induced oxidative stress with histopathological observations. European Pharmaceutical Journal. 2015;62(2):13-9.
- 28. Elsadek MF, Habib MK. Exploration The Hepatoprotective Activity Of Lemon Balm Leaves (Melissa Officinalis L.) In A Rat Model Of Oxytetracycline-Induced Fatty Liver. Journal of Home Economics. 2018 Dec 4;28.
- 29. Rojin TS, Sherry S, Holla R. Determination of hepato-protective effect of Mussaenda erythrophylla in paraceta-mol induced hepatotoxicity. International Journal of Basic & Clinical Pharmacology. 2015 Nov;4(6):1124-8.
- 30. Ranjbar A, Mehri N, Ghasemi H, Dastan D, Kazemi Najafabadi F, Dehkhodaei N, Kheiripour N. Evaluation of the Protective Effects of Hydroal-coholic Extract of Satureja avromanica Against Malathion-induced Oxidative Stress in the Liver: An Experimental Study. Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Research. 2020; 6 (1): 37-44.
- 31. Tasleem F, Mahmood SB, Azhar I, Gulzar R, Ahmed F, Mahmood ZA. Effect of Adenanthera pavonina leaves extracts and β-sito sterol glucoside in CCl4 induced hepatocellular injury in Wistar rats. Adv. Med. Plant Res. 2017;5:51-62.
- 32. Fanta BS, Hiben MG, Gebremichael LG, Tefera TW, Periyasamy GK, Kakoti BB. Hepatoprotective and antioxidant activity of Termenalia brownii leaf extract against carbon tetrachloride-induced liver injury in rats. International Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences Review

- and Research. 2013 Nov 1;23(1):133-8.
- 33. Shaban NZ, Zaki MM, Koutb F, Abdul-Aziz AA, Elshehawy AA, Mehany H. Protective and therapeutic role of mango pulp and eprosartan drug and their anti-synergistic effects against thioacetamide-induced hepatotoxicity in male rats. Environmental Science and Pollution Research. 2022 Jul;29(34):51427-41.
- 34. Valarmathi R, Rajendran A, Gopal V, Senthamarai R, Akilandeswari S, Srileka B. Protective Effcet of the whole plant of Mollugo pentaphylla Linn. against Carbon Tetrachloride induced Hepatotoxicity in Rats. International Journal of PharmTech Research. 2010 Aug 18;2(3):1658-61.