

## Original Research Article

# Myeloprotective and haematinic influence of *Harungana madagascariensis* in Benzene-initiated onco-hematologic process in Wistar rats.

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** *Harungana madagascariensis* is a medicinal plant that is traditionally utilized for the treatment of anaemia. Benzene constitutes an occupational toxicant due to its adverse effect on hematology of exposed industrial workers leading to onco-hematology. Therefore, the efficacy of *Harungana madagascariensis* against benzene-induced pre-leukaemic condition was investigated in rat model.

**Methodology:** Hematological disturbance leading to pre-leukemic conditions was induced in Wistar rats by intraperitoneal administration of 400mg/kg of benzene in prapan-2-ol:water (1:1 v/v) every other day for 28 days. Following benzene intoxication, 200 mg/ kg HM was administered orally for 14 days. Hematological parameters and blood cell morphology were compared between baseline control and benzene-intoxicated rats with or without HM extract treatment.

**Results:** BZ-induced hematologically disturbed rats exhibited anaemic symptoms marked by reduction in hemoglobin level, red blood cells, and packed cell volume with morphologic blast cell appearance, polychromasia, hypersegmented neutrophil, anisocytosis and poikilocytosis. Moreover, there was an altered redox status depicted by a significant reduction in plasma level of total sulfhydryl content with concomitant increase in advanced oxidation protein products (AOPPs) that were accompanied by increased frequency of micronucleated polychromatic erythrocytes and hypercellularity in the bone marrow of benzene intoxicated rats. However, treatment with *Harungana madagascariensis* restored blood hematology and alleviated the blood cell morphological alteration induced by benzene. It also improve plasma redox status, reduced the frequency of micronucleus and improve the architecture of bone marrow cellularity in treated intoxicated rats.

**Conclusion:** *Harungana madagascariensis* protected against benzene-induced hematological alterations leading to pre-leukemic conditions in Wistar rats.

*Keywords:* [*Harungana madagascariensis*, onco-hematology, benzene, redox status]

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The decadence in health experienced by human beings is more of exposure to toxic chemicals, xenobiotics and pathogens or their toxin in the environment than spontaneous phenomenon of aging. Human exposure to various chemicals and toxins in the environment posed negative implication on their health status [1, 2, 3]. The resultant injuries due to exposure to environmental toxins and chemicals like aflatoxin B1 and arsenic compounds have been reported [4,5,6,7]. Benzene is a primary industrial chemical used for the manufacturing of plastics, resin and dyes. However, it constitutes an environmental hazard to humans when exposed to it through automobile repair, shipping, oil and other

industrial activities like in rubber production [8]. Exposure to relatively low levels of benzene is accompanied by hematotoxicity [9]. Some studies indicated that occupational exposure to benzene through proximity to automobile traffic and factories resulted in hematotoxic effect and increased the risk of acute myeloid leukemia and haematological malignancies [10,11]. There is alarming increase in the mortality of individual due to development of leukaemia in the whole world. Leukemia is the most common malignancy among the people under the age of 20 years with frequency of occurrence greater in males than females [12,13]. Worse still, leukemia and hematological disorder such as myelodysplasia coupled with vital organ toxicities are common observations in cancer treatment when synthetic chemotherapy and radiotherapy are employed [14,15,16]. Hence, there is need for remedies that possess minimal side effects for the treatment of cancer and protection against leukemia induction factors such as benzene.

*Harungana madagascariensis* is a medicinal plant that is native to Madagascar and tropical region and it belongs to *Hypericaceae* family [17]. Previous studies on *Harungana madagascariensis* established its anticancer, antioxidant and antisickling activities [18, 19, 20, 21]. Its traditional utility is employed in the treatment of malaria, bleeding, dysentery and piles [22,23]. It is also used in the treatment of anaemia as it forms part of formulation for restoring hemoglobin level and pack cell volume [24, 19]. Some malaria cases have been reported to complicate hematologic malignancies including leukemia and the major laboratory finding of leukemia is anaemia [25,26]. Therefore, due to traditional importance of this plant in treatment of blood related diseases, this study investigated the effect of *Harungana madagascariensis* on benzene-induced haematotoxicity in wistar rats.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2.1. Preparation of methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis*

*Harungana madagascariensis* stem barks were obtained from botanical garden, University of Ibadan and identified. It was air-dried at room temperature and pulverized into powder using electric blender. 600g of powdered *Harungana madagascariensis* stem bark was extracted by cold maceration using 3200mL of aqueous methanol (80%). The extract was concentrated by rotary evaporator, evaporated to dryness and stored at 4°C in air-tight bottle. The extraction yield was 23.817% (W/W).

### 2.2. Experimental animals

Twenty four male Wistar strain rats of weight range 90-100g were used for this study. The animals were obtained from McTemmy Animal Farm and acclimatized for seven days in the Departmental animal house of Chemical Sciences department, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Nigeria. The designed work was conducted with the approval of the Faculty of Natural Sciences Ethical review of Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo with approval code: Fns/Erc/2019003 and the protocol conformed to the guidelines of the National Research Council for laboratory animal care and use [27].

### 2.3. Animal treatments and groupings

Hematological disturbance was induced in wistar rats by intraperitoneal injection of 400mg/kg body weight (BW) of benzene dissolved in propan-2-ol:water (1:1, v/v) every 2 days for 28 days [28]. After induction hematological disturbance, twenty four Wistar rats comprising twelve baseline normal rats and twelve hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) were divided into four groups of six animals per group. The animals were grouped and treated as follows: Group 1 (Control) served as baseline animals that were administered with water only. Group 2 (HDR) served as positive control animals that comprised untreated hematologically disturbed rats (HDR). Group 3 (HDR + HM) was HDR rats post-treated with 400mg/kg body weight of methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* (HM) every day for 14 days. Group 4 (HM) were normal baseline rats that were given 400mg/kg body weight (BW) methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* (HM) every day for 14 days.

### 2.4. Collection of blood and bone marrow

After 24 hours of final treatment blood samples were collected from each animal through retro orbitals plexus into lithium heparinized tubes for biochemical assays and ethylene diaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) bottle for hematological parameters using the automated blood analyzer (SYSMEX KX21) and blood morphology was carried out by manual method using Leishman staining. Thereafter, these animals were sacrificed and femur bones were excised to obtain bone marrow for micronucleus assay and hematoxylin and eosin staining for histopathological examination of the bone marrow cells.

### 2.5. Assay for oxidative stress markers in the plasma

Plasma AOPP was determined by the method described by Witko et al. [29] with slight modification. Briefly, plasma (100µl) was added to 400µl of phosphate buffer saline (PBS) solution and 25µl 1.16M potassium iodide was then added followed 2min later by 50µl of acetic acid. The absorbance of the reaction mixture was immediately read at 340nm against a blank containing 500µl of PBS, 25µl of 1.16M potassium iodide, and 50µl of acetic acid. Plasma total thiol was measured spectrophotometrically using DTNB (2, 2'-dinitro-5, 5'-dithiodibenzoic acid) [30].

## 2.6. Micronucleus assay

Clastogenicity in pre-leukemic rats were evaluated in the bone marrow of the rats employing the micronucleus assay techniques as described by Heddle and Salmone, [31] with modification by Heddle, *et al.* [32]. Briefly, Bone marrow from femurs of rats was used for preparation of slides using standard procedure Matter and Schmid [33].

## 2.7. Statistical analysis

Data are presented as the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) of six replicates. Statistical significance was determined by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan's multiple comparison between control and treated rats in all groups using SigmaPlot® statistical package (Systat Software Inc., San Jose, CA, USA). *P*-values less than 0.05 (*P* < 0.05) were considered statistically significant.

## 3. RESULTS

Table 1: Effect of *Harungana madagascariensis* on hematological parameters of benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats.

GROUPS	White blood cell (10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	Neutrophils (%)	Red blood cell (10 <sup>12</sup> /L)	Haemoglobin (g/L)	Packed cell volume (%)
Control	6.275 $\pm$ 1.892	5.1 $\pm$ 3.125	7.552 $\pm$ 0.446	15.05 $\pm$ 2.275	46.25 $\pm$ 4.588
HDR	8.3 $\pm$ 2.325	2.7 $\pm$ 0.687	5.967 $\pm$ 0.638	10.9 $\pm$ 1.211	43.55 $\pm$ 3.838
HDR +HM	6.75 $\pm$ 1.580	8.05 $\pm$ 3.924	6.542 $\pm$ 0.847	12.525 $\pm$ 1.391	42.55 $\pm$ 3.530
HM	6.15 $\pm$ 0.635	5.575 $\pm$ 4.438	7.79 $\pm$ 1.280	14.975 $\pm$ 2.189	48.427 $\pm$ 4.680

### 3.1. Influence of *Harungana madagascariensis* on hematological parameters of benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats.

Table 1 showed the influence of *Harungana madagascariensis* on hematological parameters of benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats. Hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) showed an increase in white blood cell (WBC) count when compared

with control animal values. The red blood cell (RBC) and hemoglobin (HGB) content in Benzene-induced hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) were found to be decreased, when compared with the control values.

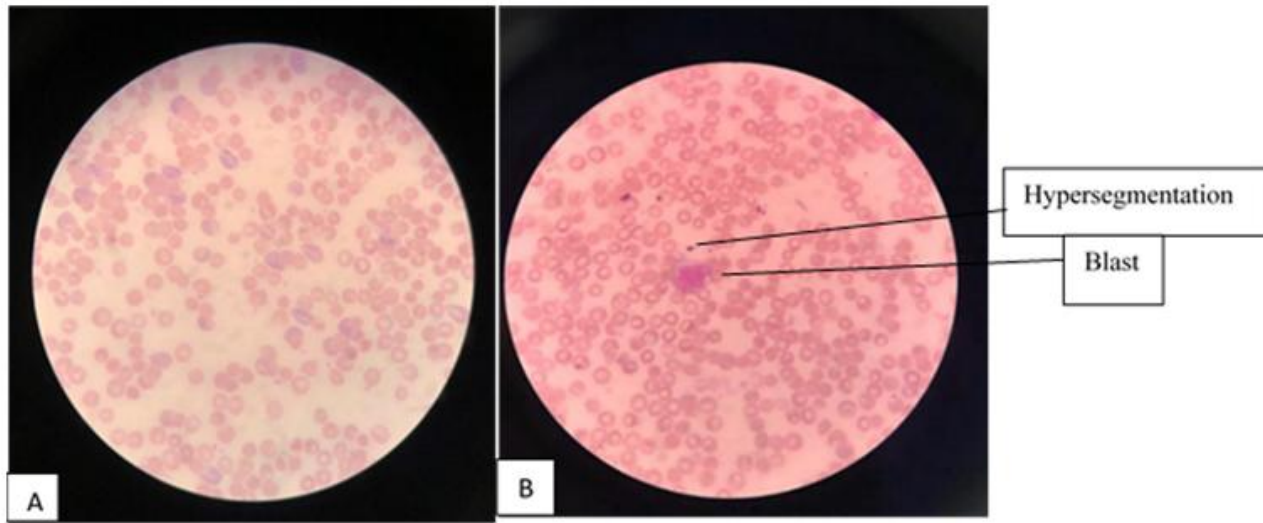


Figure 1: Blood morphology of representative of Control group rat (A) and hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) (B)

### 3.2. Blood morphology of representative of Control group rat (A) and hematologically disturbed rats (B)

Figure 1 showed the blood morphology of representative of Control group rat (A) and hematologically disturbed rats (B). Blood morphology of the control group animals showed the presence of normal blood cells as shown in Figure 1. However, the blood morphology of the hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) showed the presence of hypersegmented neutrophils, blast, anisocytosis and poikilocytosis.

TABLE 2: Influence of *Harungana madagascariensis* on blood cell morphology of benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats.

Groups	Anisocytosis	Poikilocytosis	Microcyte	Macrocyte	Polychromasia	Hypersegmented neutrophils	Blast(%)	Nucleated red cell
Control	-	-	-	::	::	-	-	-
HDR	+++	+++	+++	++	+	+	10%	++
HDR+HM	+	+	++	-	-	-	2%	-
HM	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	-

#### INDICATIONS

(-): absent

+ = occasional cells in every field

++ = few cells in each field

+++ = cells in 25% of each field

#### 3.3. Influence of *Harungana madagascariensis* on blood cell morphology of benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats.

Table 2 showed the influence of *Harungana madagascariensis* on blood cell morphology of benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats. Hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) depicted the morphological derangement in blood cells as it showed the presence of irregular sized and shaped red blood cells (anisocytosis and poikilocytosis respectively), microcytes, macrocytes, immature red blood cells (polychromasia), hypersegmented neutrophils, blasts and nucleated red blood cells when compared to the control group in Table 2. Post-treatment with methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* attenuated the effect of benzene toxicity by reducing the frequency of irregular sized and shaped red blood cells, microcytes, macrocytes, immature red blood cells (polychromasia), hypersegmented neutrophils, blasts and nucleated red blood cells when compared with the benzene-induced hematologically disturbed rats (HDR group).

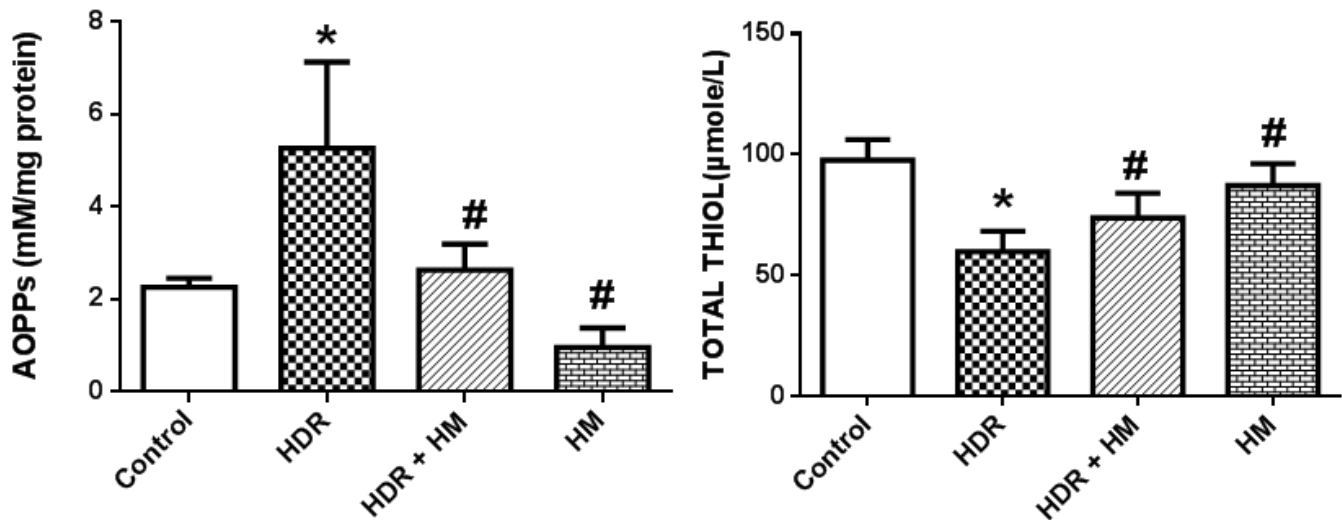


Figure 2: Effect of methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* on plasma concentration of advanced oxidation protein products (AOPPs) and total thiol level on Benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats.

Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D for six rats in each group

\* represent value significantly different from the control  $p < 0.05$

# represent value significantly different from hematologically disturbed rats (HDR)

#### 3.4. Effect of methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* on plasma concentration of advanced oxidation protein products (AOPPs) and total thiol level on Benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats

Figure 2 showed the effect of methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* on plasma concentration of advanced oxidation protein products (AOPPs) and total thiol level on Benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats. Administration of benzene showed a significant elevation in the plasma concentration of advanced oxidation protein products (AOPP) in HDR group by 133.21% when compared to the control group. Post-treatment with methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* significantly attenuated the effect of benzene toxicity by reducing the concentration of plasma AOPP in treated animals by 50.01% when compared with the Benzene-induced hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) group that were treated with the extract.

Also, Benzene-exposed rats showed a significant decrease in the plasma concentration of total thiol by 38.81% when compared to the control group. Post-treatment with methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* significantly increased the concentration of total thiol by 23.35% in the plasma when compared with the Benzene-induced hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) group.

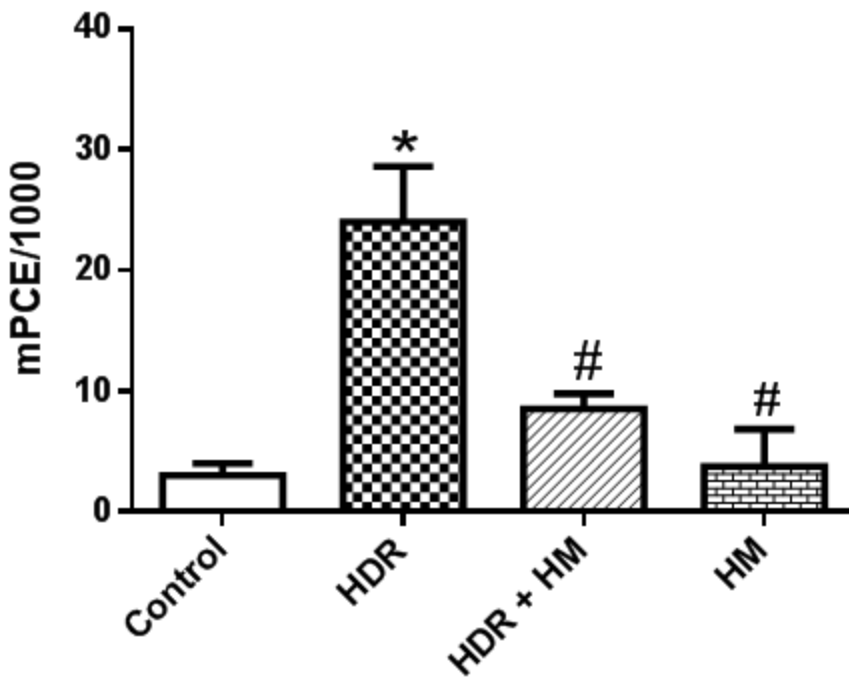


Figure 3: Effect of methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* on bone marrow concentration of micronucleated polychromatic erythrocyte on Benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$ S.D for six rats in each group

\* represent value significantly different from the control  $p < 0.05$ .

# represent value significantly different from hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) group

### 3.5. Effect of methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* on bone marrow concentration of micronucleated polychromatic erythrocyte on Benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats.

Figure 3 depicts the effect of methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* on bone marrow concentration of micronucleated polychromatic erythrocyte on Benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats. Administration of benzene showed a significant elevation in the frequency of micronucleated polychromatic erythrocyte present in the bone marrow by 700% when compared to the control group. Post-treatment with methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* significantly attenuated the effect of benzene toxicity by reducing the bone marrow micronucleated polychromatic erythrocyte concentration by 64.58% in the bone marrow when compared with the Benzene-induced hematologically disturbed rats (HDR) group.

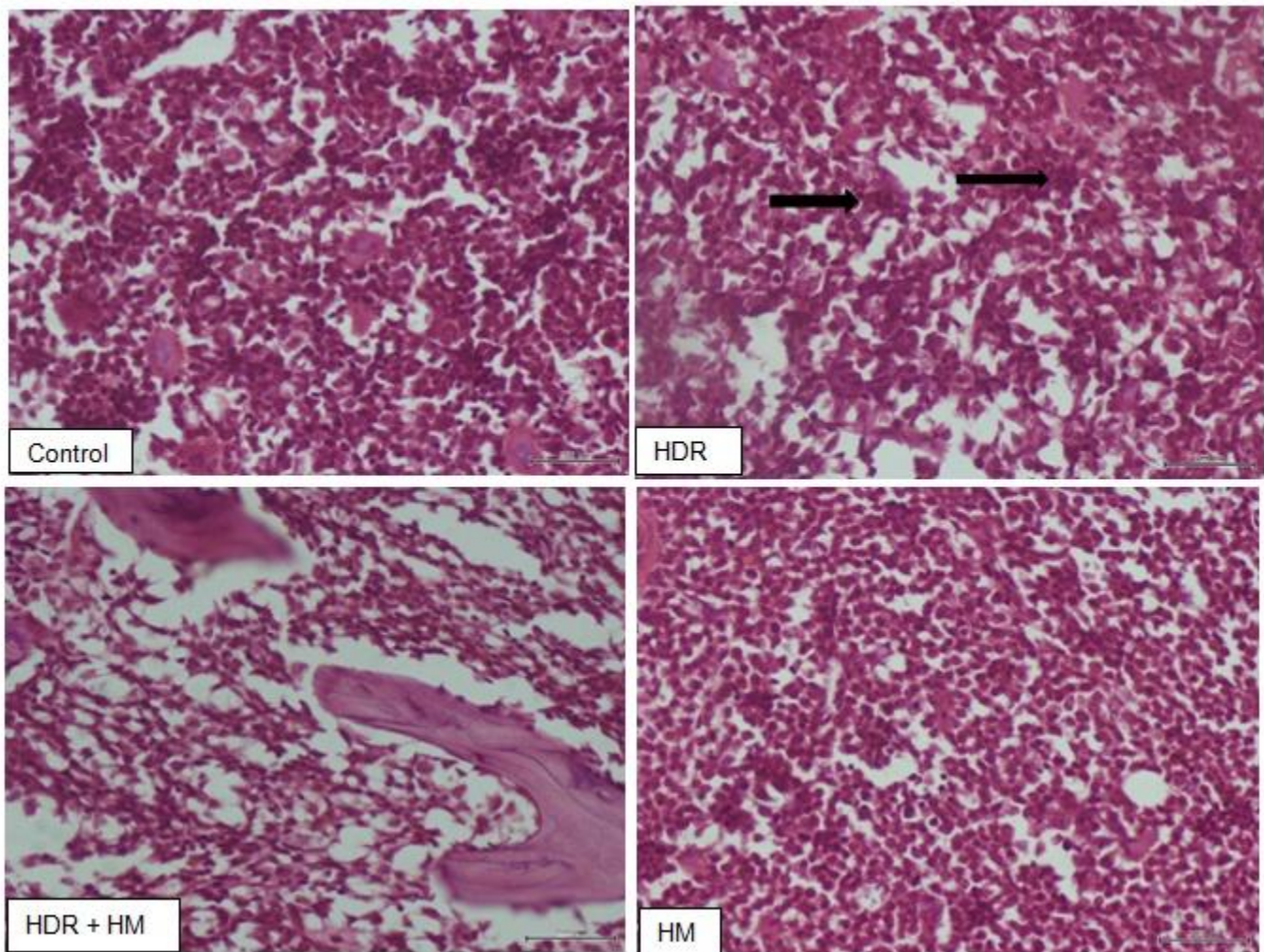


Figure 4: Photomicrograph showing the effect of methanolic extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* on bone marrow architecture of Benzene-initiated pre-leukemic rats with arrows showing dysplastic cells.

Note: the arrows indicate the dysplasia observed in the hypercellularity bone marrow of the untreated hematologically disturbed rats (HDR).

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Leukemia is a type of cancer that is traceable to environmental risk factors such as the exposure to benzene [34, 35, 36]. The resultant toxic effect due to human contact with benzene fumes ranges from early reversible hematotoxicity with characteristic features of anemia, leucopenia and thrombocytopenia to irreversible bone marrow damage leading to leukemia that resulted from prolonged exposure to high benzene doses [37,36]. Some studies have established connection between benzene-induced haematinic derangement and oxidative stress [38]. However, *Harungana madagascariensis* is a medicinal plant with a proven anticancer, antioxidant and anti-sickling activities with some pharmacological studies that supported its usage in treatment of anaemia as it restored hemoglobin level and pack cell volume [24, 19, 17, 20, 21]. This research investigated the anti-leukemic effects of methanol extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* against the toxicological influence of benzene on the hematology of rats through the determination of hematological parameters, blood cell morphology and genomic instability.

This study shows that administration of benzene induced hematological imbalance gearing towards leukemogenesis evidenced by anaemic indices indicated by reduction in hemoglobin (Hb), red blood cells, packed cell volume and increase in white blood cell with concomitant observable cellular deformities such as poikilocytosis and anisocytosis in the blood film of benzene exposed animals when compared to the control animals. The erythrocyte deformability in conjunction with reduction in RBC count, Hb level and percentage PVC are notable indication of anemia in animals [39].

Benzene metabolite specifically hydroquinone was reported to impair granulocyte maturation and induce neutrophilia, a condition that led to increased neutrophils in the peripheral compartment by mechanism that be due to intense mobilization of segmented cells from the bone marrow, [40, 41]. Therefore, benzene bioactivation may be responsible for increase in white blood cell counts was noted in benzene-exposed rats in this study and report from other work [42]. The occurrence of blasts in the peripheral blood film of leukemic rats in the present study is an indication of undifferentiated blood-forming cells in the blood mobilized from the marrow that had been associated with leukemia [43].

The occurrence of hypersegmented neutrophils is mostly linked to megaloblastic anemia that is classically pathognomonic of vitamin B12 and folic acid deficiency [44]. It is also observed in alcohol abuse, iron deficiency anemia, myelodysplastic syndromes under chemotherapy and heatstroke [45, 46]. This morphologic changes is usually a consequent of impaired DNA synthesis stemmed from inadequate substrate or altered replication from toxin or chemotherapy effect. Macrocyte and polychromatophilia are manifestation of new blood formation as polychromasia is a disorder linked to high immature red blood cells in the blood consequent to premature release from bone marrow. Polychromasia in adult human have been suggested to result from disturbance of haematopoiesis in the form of aplastic anaemia, myelophthistic and megaloblastic and was also notable in microangiopathic hemolytic anemia [47,48]. Hypersegmentation, macrocyte and polychromasia were observed in animals intoxicated with alcoholic benzene mixture. These observations were similar to presentations observed in human diagnosed with heatstroke [46]. However, there was an alleviative effect on animal administered with *Harungana madagascariensis*.

The blood morphology result also showed the presence of nucleated red blood cells in peripheral blood of rats exposed to benzene mixture. Nucleated red blood cells (NRBCs) was reported be normal occurrence in the peripheral blood of neonates which however disappear during pregnancy [49,50]. In certain pathological conditions, there tend to be insufficiency in erythrocyte antioxidant system [51]. Nucleated red blood cells (NRBCs) are present in the peripheral blood of a high number of hematological diseases and are related to ineffective erythropoiesis or stress erythropoiesis most especially to severe hypoxic stress and injury to the microenvironment of bone marrow exemplify in myelofibrosis and leukemia [52]. In certain pathological conditions, there tend to be insufficiency in erythrocyte antioxidant system [51]. The appearance of NRBCs has been shown in the blood of patient with severe diseases and a reliable parameter that cumulated into life-threatening hypoxic and inflammatory injuries in some patients [53,54]. Furthermore, the release of NRBC into blood circulation of trauma patients has been associated with failure in bone marrow [55]. However, the administration of extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* offered a mitigative influence on animal intoxicated with benzene mixture.

The mechanism of benzene-induced hematological toxicity involved irreversible oxidative injury to macromolecules such as lipids, proteins and DNA that may ultimately initiate carcinogenesis [56,57]. The studies had revealed that resultant increased in myeloid cell growth by Benzene metabolite leads to increased formation of reactive oxygen species in vitro and that benzene was implicated in increased levels of oxidized DNA and raised DNA binding capacity potential for activator protein-1 (AP-1) which is known transcription factor target of oxidative stress in benzene exposed mice [58,59,60,61]. The result of our work showed a significant reduction in the level of total thiol with corresponding significant increase in advanced oxidation protein products and frequency of formation of micronucleated polychromatic erythrocytes in rats exposed to benzene mixture. The determination of plasma total thiol and AOPPs levels have been used to assess antioxidant status where AOPPs level correlates negatively to total thiol contents [62,63]. The involvement of oxidative stress by overwhelming benzene or its active metabolite leading to reduction in antioxidant sulphhydryl protein content due to their usage and subsequent oxidative damage on plasma protein evidenced by increased advanced oxidation protein products is established in this study. This agrees with our previous and finding of other researchers [64,38]. However, the administration of extract of *H. madagascariensis* restored the level of plasma total thiol content level to near control level and mediated the reduction in advanced oxidized protein products in benzene-exposed rats.

Also, our result indicated the presence of bone marrow dysplasia and hypercellularity with simultaneous induction of clastogenicity inferred from significant increase in the formation of micronucleated polychromatic erythrocyte in the bone marrow of rats exposed to benzene when compared to the control animals. Morphological influence of benzene leading to pre-leukemic appearance of dysplasia and hypercellularity in myeloid tissue had been reported in both human and murein model [40,38]. Benzene metabolites were shown to promote myeloblast proliferation but inhibited myelocyte maturation whose mutation without subsequent DNA repair could lead to development of leukemia [65,66]. Benzene metabolic intermediates such as benzoquinones was reported to induce genotoxicity and cytotoxicity through oxidative DNA damage and DNA strand breaks in the bone marrow cells among other diverse mechanisms [67,68,69,70]. The result however further indicated that administration of *H. madagascariensis* extract significantly ameliorated the benzene-induced clastogenicity and improve the architecture of bone marrow cell in treated rats which may probably due to antioxidant potential of the plant extract.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The methanolic extract of *Harungana madagascariensis* offered protection against benzene-induced haematinic and myeloid disturbance by stabilizing rat hematology and improve blood morphology. It also mitigated genotoxic influence of

benzene toxicity. These effect may be due antioxidant capacity of phyto-constituents of the plant extract through enhancement of total thiol over albumin of blood system.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

There is no competing interests.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

O.S. Ola designed the study, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. O.S. Ola, F.N.Clement-Iroh and F.D. Fagbohun performed the experiments and managed the analyses of the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Ethical Approval

Animal Ethic committee approval has been taken to carry out this study.

## REFERENCES

1. Cohen M. Environmental toxins and health-The health impact of pesticides. *Aust. Fam. Phys.* **2007**; 36, 1002–1004.
2. Sutris JM, How V, Sumeri SA, et al. Genotoxicity following Organophosphate Pesticides Exposure among Orang Asli Children Living in an Agricultural Island in Kuala Langat, Selangor, Malaysia. *Int J Occup Environ Med.* 2016;7(1):42-51. doi: 10.15171/ijoem.2016.705.
3. Khandaker MU, Chijioke NO, Heffny NAB, et al. Elevated Concentrations of Metal(loids) in Seaweed and the Concomitant Exposure to Humans. *Foods.* 2021;10(2):381. doi: 10.3390/foods10020381.
4. Aleissa MS, Alkahtani S, Abd Eldaim MA, et al. Fucoidan Ameliorates Oxidative Stress, Inflammation, DNA Damage, and Hepatorenal Injuries in Diabetic Rats Intoxicated with Aflatoxin B1. *Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity.* 2020, Article ID 9316751, 10 pages <https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/9316751>
5. Ishida Y, Yamasaki C, Iwanari H, et al. Detection of acute toxicity of aflatoxin B1 to human hepatocytes *in vitro* and *in vivo* using chimeric mice with humanized livers. *PLoS ONE* 2020, 15(9):e0239540.
6. Williams JH, Phillips TD, Jolly PE, et al.. Human aflatoxicosis in developing countries: a review of toxicology, exposure, potential health consequences, and interventions1–3. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2004;80:1106 –22.
7. Abdul KSM, Jayasinghe SS, Chandana EPS, et al. Arsenic and human health effects: A review. *Environmental Toxicology and Pharmacology.* 2015;40 (3): 828-846
8. McHale CM, Zhang L, Smith MT. Current understanding of the mechanism of benzene-induced leukemia in humans: implications for risk assessment. *Carcinogenesis.* 2012;33:240–252

9. Lan Q, Zhang L, Li G, et al. Hematotoxicity in workers exposed to low levels of benzene. *Science*. 2004;306(5702):1774-6.
10. Honoré C, Hémon D, Marquant F, et al. Residential proximity to heavy-traffic roads, benzene exposure, and childhood leukemia—The GEOCAP Study, 2002–2007. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2015; 182: 685–693.
11. Janitz AE, Campbell JE, Magzamen S, et al. Benzene and childhood acute leukemia in Oklahoma. *Environ Res*. 2017;158: 167–173.
12. Bray F, Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, et al. Global cancer statistics 2018: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. *CA Cancer J Clin*. 2018;68: 394–424.
13. Linabery AM, Ross, JA. Trends in childhood cancer incidence in the US (1992–2004). *Cancer*. 2008;112: 416-432
14. Sung H, Hyun N, Leach CR, et al. Association of First Primary Cancer With Risk of Subsequent Primary Cancer Among Survivors of Adult-Onset Cancers in the United States. *JAMA*. 2020;324(24):2521–2535.
15. Ilyas S, Tabasum R, Iftikhar A, et al.. Effect of *Berberis vulgaris* L. root extract on ifosfamide- induced in vivo toxicity and in vitro Cytotoxicity. *Sci Rep*. 2021; 11: 1708.
16. Mirazi N, Baher IS, Izadi Z, et al. The protective effect of *Rubus fruticosus* L. on blood composition in cyclophosphamide treated male rats. *Clinical Phytoscience*. 2021; 7:33.
17. Tankeo, SB, Damen F, Sandjo LP, 2016. Antibacterial activities of the methanol extracts, fractions and compounds from *Harungana madagascariensis* Lam. ex Poir. (Hypericaceae). *J. Ethnopharmacol*.
18. Biapa PCN, Matei H, Bâlici S,. Protective effects of stem bark of *Harungana madagascariensis* on the red blood cell membrane. *BMC Compl. Altern. Med*. 2013;13, 98. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6882-13-98>.
19. Kengni F, Fodouop SPC, Tala DS, et al. Antityphoid properties and toxicity evaluation of *Harungana madagascariensis* Lam (Hypericaceae) aqueous leaf extract. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*. 2016;179:137–45. doi:10.1016/j.jep.2015.12.037.
20. Lemma MT, Ahmed AM, Elhady MT, et al. Medicinal plants for in Vitro antiplasmodial activities: A systematic review of literature. *Parasitology International*. 2017;66(6): 713–720. doi:10.1016/j.parint.2017.09.002.
21. Ochwang'i DO, Kimwele CN, Oduma JA, et al. Cytotoxic activity of medicinal plants of the Kakamega country (Kenya) against drug-sensitive and multidrug-resistant cancer cells. *J. Ethnopharmacol*. 2018;215:233–240.
22. Prajapati ND, Purohit SS, Kumar TA. *Handbook of Medicinal Plants: A Complete Source Book*. 2003; 262. Agrobios, India.
23. Agbor GA, Kuate D, Oben JE. Medicinal plants can be good sources of antioxidants: case study in Cameroon. *Pak. J. Biol. Sci*. 2007;10: 537-544.
24. Iwalewa EO, Adewale IO, Taiwo BJ, et al. Effects of *Harungana madagascariensis* stem bark extract on the antioxidant markers in alloxan induced diabetic and carrageenan induced inflammatory disorders in rats. *Journal of Complementary and Integrative Medicine*. 2008;5(1):1–18. doi:10.2202/1553-3840. 1088.
25. Nirmla, Kumar A, Kapoor AK, Lal B, Dutta GP, Swaroop A. *Plasmodium falciparum*: Drug-resistant malaria complicating leukemias and lymphomas in children. *Exp Parasitol* 1999;93:33-7.
26. Akanni EO, Alli OAT, Oloke JK. Anti-leukemic and immunomodulatory effects of fungal metabolites of *Pleurotus pulmonarius* and *Pleurotus ostreatus* on benzene-induced leukemia in Wister rats. *Korean J Hematol* 2012; 47:67-73.

27. Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals. 8th ed. Washington, DC, USA: National Research; The National Academies Press; 2011, 11-124
28. Adetutu A, Abiodun O, Alabi OO, et al. Ethno Botanical Survey, Anti-leukemia and Anticlastogenic Potential of Medicinal Plants used for Treatment of Leukemia in Oyo State Nigeria. *Journal of Complementary and Alternative Medical Research* 2020;10(3): 31-51
29. Witko-Sarsat V, Friedlander M, Capeillère- Blandin C, et al. Advanced oxidation protein products as a novel marker of oxidative stress in uremia. *Kidney Int.* 1996;49:1304–1313.
30. Motchnik P, Frei B, Ames B. Measurement of antioxidants in human blood plasma. *Methods Enzym.* 1994;234:269–279.
31. Heddle JA, Salmone MF. The micronucleus assay I: *in vivo*. In: Stich HF, San RHC, editors. Topics in environmental physiology and medicine. Short term tests for chemical carcinogens. New York Heidelberg, Berlin: Springer- Verlag; 1981;243–249.
32. Heddle JA, Sudharsan RA, Krepinsky AB. The micronucleus assay II: *in vitro*. In: Stich HF, San RHC, editors. Topics in environmental physiology and medicine. Short term tests for chemical carcinogens. New York, Heidelberg, Berlin: Springer-Verlag; 1981;250–254.
33. Matter B, Schmid W. Bone marrow toxicity. *Mutat Res.* 1971;12:417-425.
34. Savitz DA, Andrews KW, Review of epidemiologic evidence on benzene and lymphatic and hematopoietic cancers. *Am J Ind Med.* 1997;31:287–295.
35. Hayes, RB, Songnian Y, Dosemeci M. Benzene and lymphohematopoietic malignancies in humans. *Am J Ind Med.* 2001;40:117–126.
36. Bloemen LJ, Youk A, Bradley TD, et al. Lymphohaematopoietic cancer risk among chemical workers exposed to benzene. *Occup Environ Med.* 2004;61: 270–274.
37. Snyder R, Kocsis JJ. Current concepts of chronic benzene toxicity. *Crit Rev Toxicol.* 1975;3:265-288.
38. Ola OS, Sofolahan TA, “A monoterpene antioxidant, linalool, mitigates benzene-induced oxidative toxicities on hematology and liver of male rats” *Egyptian Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences* 2021, Vol. 8, No. 1, 39–53
39. Berger J. Review: phenylhydrazine haematotoxicity. *J Appl Biomed.* 2007; 5:125–130.
40. Snyder R. Benzene and leukemia. *Critical review toxicol.* 2002;32(3):155–210.
41. Macedo SMD, Lourenco ELB, Borelli P, et al. Effects of *in vivo* phenol or hydroquinone exposure on events related to neutrophil delivery during an inflammatory response. *Toxicology.* 2006;220:126–135.
42. Akanni EO, Alli OAT, Oloke JK. Anti-leukemic and immunomodulatory effects of fungal metabolites of *Pleurotus pulmonarius* and *Pleurotus ostreatus* on benzene-induced leukemia in Wister rats. *Korean J Hematol.* 2012;47:67–73.

43. Kabeel MM, Ghoneim AM, Mansy SE. Anti-leukemic activity of a four-plant mixture in a leukemic rat model. *J Basic Appl Zool.* 2018;79:7
44. Hattersley PG, Engels JL. Neutrophilic hypersegmentation without macrocytic anemia. *West J Med.* 1974;121:179–184.
45. D. A. Westerman, D. Evans and J. Metz. Neutrophil hypersegmentation in iron deficiency anaemia: a case-control study. *British Journal of Haematology*, 1999; 107: 512-515
46. Im DD, Ho CH, Chan RY. Hypersegmented Neutrophils in an Adolescent Male With Heatstroke *J Pediatr Hematol Oncol.* 2015;37(6):488
47. Davidson E. The Significance of Blue Polychromasia. *clin. Path.* 1959;12, 322.
48. Sang-Yong Shin, M.D.1, Hyosoon Park, M.D.1, Seoung Wan Chae, M.D.2, and Hee-Yeon Woo, M.D.1. Microangiopathic Hemolytic Anemia as the First Manifestation of Metastatic Signet Ring Cell Carcinoma of Unknown Origin: A Case Report and Review of Literature. *Korean J Lab Med* 2011;31:157-161
49. Hermansen MC. Nucleated red blood cells in the fetus and newborn. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed* 2001;84:F211 – 5.
50. Purwosunu Y, Sekizawa A, Farina A, et al. Enrichment of NRBC in maternal blood: a more feasible method for noninvasive prenatal diagnosis. *Prenat Diagn* 2006;26:545 – 7.
51. Nikolić-Kokić, D. Blagojević G, Spasić M, “Complexity of free radical Metabolism in human Erythrocytes,” *Journal of Medical Biochemistry*, 2010;29(3):189–195.
52. D’Onofrio G, Zini G, Tommasi M, Integration of fluorescence and hemocytometry in the CELL-DIN 4000: Research Council N. Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals. 8th ed. Washington, DC, USA: National Research; The National Academies Press; 2011.
53. Stachon A, Bolulu O, Holland-Letz T Association between nucleated red blood cells in blood and the levels of erythropoietin, interleukin 3, interleukin 6, and interleukin 12p70. *SHOCK*, 2005;24(1):34–39.
54. Lehnhardt M, Katzy Y, Langer S, et al. Prognostic significance of erythroblasts in burns. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 2005;115:120–127,.
55. Livingston DH, Anjarina D, Wu J, et al. Bone marrow failure following severe injury in humans. *Ann Surg* 2003;238:748–753.
56. Elsayed ASI. Hematotoxicity and oxidative stress caused by Benzene. *Pyrex J Biomed Res.* 2015;1(6):074–080.
57. Imlay JA. Pathways of oxidative damage, *Annu. Rev. Microbiol.* 2003;57, 395–418.

58. Faiola B, Fuller ES, Wong VA, et al. Gene expression profile in bone marrow and hematopoietic stem cells in mice exposed to inhaled benzene. *Mutation Research*, 2004;549, 195-212.
59. Sul, D, Lee E, Lee MY. DNA damage in lymphocytes of benzene exposed workers correlated with trans,trans-muconic acids and breath benzene levels. *Mutation Research*, 2005; 582: 61-70.
60. Ho TY, Witz G. Increased gene expression in human premyeloid leukemia cells exposed to trans, trans-muconaldehyde, a hematotoxic benzene metabolite, *Carcinogenesis*, 1997;18, 39–744.
61. Wiemels J, Smith MT. Enhancement of myeloid cell growth by benzene metabolites via the production of active oxygen species, *Free Radic. Res.* 1999;30, 93–103.
62. Himmelfarb J, McMonagle E, McMenamin E. Plasma protein thiol oxidation and carbonyl formation in chronic renal failure. *Kidney Int.* 2000;57:2571–2578.
63. Prakash M, Upadhy S, Prabhu R. Protein thiol oxidation and lipid peroxidation in patients with uremia. *Scand J Clin Lab Invest.* 2004;64:599–604.
64. Alderman C, Shah S, Foreman JC. The role of advanced oxidation protein products in regulation of dendritic cell function. *Free Radic Biol Med.* 2002;32:377–385.
65. Hazel BA, Kalf GF. Induction of granulocytic differentiation in myeloblast by hydroquinone, a metabolite of benzene, involves the leukotriene D4 receptor. *Recept Signal Transduct.* 1996;6(1):1–12.
66. Spalding JW, French JE, Tice RR, et al. Development of transgenic mouse model for carcinogenesis bioassays: evaluation of chemistry induced skin tumors in TG.AC mice. *Toxicol Sci.* 1999;49:241–254.
67. Sun R, Zhang J, Yin L, et al. Investigation into variation of endogenous metabolites in bone marrow cells and plasma in C3H/He mice exposed to benzene. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2014;15 (3):4994–5010.
68. French JE, Gatti DM, Morgan DL, et al. Diversity outbred mice identify population-based exposure thresholds and genetic factors that influence benzene-induced genotoxicity. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2015;123(3):237–245.
69. Roma-Torres J, Teixeira JP, Silva S, et al. Evaluation of genotoxicity in a group of workers from a petroleum refinery aromatics plant. *Mutat Res.* 2006;604(1–2):19–27.
70. Zhu J, Wang H, Yang S, et al. Comparison of toxicity of benzene metabolite hydroquinone in hematopoietic stem cells derived from murine embryonic yolk sac and adult bone marrow. *PLoS One.* 2013;8(8):e71153.