

1 **Evaluation of Anticancer, Anthelmintic, Anti-nociceptive, Antidiabetic and**  
2 **Toxicological Investigation of *Ludwigiaadscendens***

3

4 **ABSTRACT**

5 The present research investigated *Ludwigiaadscendens* crude methanol extract invitro  
6 anticancer anthelmintic, and invivo anti-nociceptive, antidiabetic and toxicological  
7 properties. The coarsely dried plant powder was extracted using methanol. The  
8 methanolic extract (MELA) was further tested for anticancer, anthelmintic, anti-  
9 nociceptive, antidiabetic and toxicological activities. Cell Viability Assay was used for  
10 anticancer testing, and the earthworm assay was used for anthelmintic testing using  
11 different concentrations. Antinociceptive tests were done on Swiss albino mice at 200  
12 and 400 mg/kg utilizing a hot plate, acetic acid induced writhing & formalin-induced paw  
13 licking tests. Antidiabetic test was done using Blood Glucose Determination test using  
14 the dose of 150 mg/kg and 300 mg/kg. Acute toxicity was tested utilizing cinnamon oil-  
15 induced toxicological tests at 3000, 5000 and 7000 mg/kg. The MELA demonstrated  
16 39.16% inhibition at 1000µg/mL in the Cell Viability Assay. The earthworm died after 6  
17 minutes and 4 seconds in the 100 mg/mL anthelmintic test, whereas Albendazole killed  
18 it in 4 minutes and 20 seconds. Hot plate test results were substantial. The formalin-  
19 induced nociception test demonstrated strong inhibition rates of 79.54% in the early  
20 phase and 74.54% in the late phase at 400 mg/kg, compared to 62.99% and 68.18% for  
21 diclofenac sodium. Acetic acid-induced writhing test showed 77.66% of pain inhibition  
22 where's Diclofenac sodium showed 79.61%. MELA inhibited blood glucose level very  
23 significantly compared to the standard Glibenclamide. In toxicological testing, 7000  
24 mg/kg killed mice 2/5, whereas cinnamon oil killed 5/5 within 24 hours. The study shows  
25 that MELA has moderate anticancer, significant anthelmintic, anti-nociceptive,  
26 antidiabetic and mild toxicological properties. They may support the plant's use in  
27 conventional medicine to relieve pain, minimize drug intoxication, and prevent cancer,  
28 control diabetes and parasitic disorders.

29 Keywords: *Ludwigiaadscendens*, anticancer, antidiabetic, anthelmintic, HeLa cell.

30 **1. INTRODUCTION**

31 The influence of traditional medicine on modern medical practices has been substantial.  
32 Many modern medications, including aspirin and quinine, are derived from plants that  
33 were utilized in ancient medicine [1]. Furthermore, it is worth noting that traditional  
34 medicine serves as a significant asset in the exploration of innovative pharmaceutical  
35 compounds [2]. In addition, traditional medicine plays a significant role in modern  
36 healthcare by providing cost-effective and easily available alternatives to  
37 pharmaceutical medications. The use of medicinal plants has had a substantial impact  
38 on the advancement of therapeutic interventions for many health disorders.  
39 Phytochemicals produced from medicinal plants have shown promise in the field of  
40 cancer treatment, exhibiting potential in both cancer prevention and treatment. An

41 example of an anticancer drug is paclitaxel, which is obtained from the bark of the  
42 Pacific yew tree, *Taxus brevifolia*. This medicine has shown efficacy in the treatment of  
43 cancer [3]. Medicinal herbs have been essential in the treatment of parasitic worm  
44 illnesses via anthelmintic therapy. Numerous conventionally used medicinal herbs, such  
45 as *Carica papaya* and *Azadirachta indica* (neem), have shown encouraging anthelmintic  
46 properties [4]. Medicinal herbs have made a substantial contribution to the creation of  
47 anti-nociceptive medications, which are used to treat pain. One such is the medication  
48 morphine, which has long been a mainstay in pain treatment and is produced from the  
49 opium poppy plant, *Papaver somniferum*[5]. Lastly, the treatment of diabetes, a disease  
50 marked by increased blood glucose levels, has also benefited greatly from using  
51 medicinal herbs. For instance, a traditional medicinal herb called *Gymnema sylvestre*  
52 has been shown to have anti-diabetic effects by boosting insulin production, which helps  
53 to regulate blood sugar levels[6].

54 *Ludwigia adscendens*, also known as floating primrose-willow, is a species of flowering  
55 plant in the family Onagraceae. It's native to the Americas but has spread to other  
56 continents including Africa and Asia, where it is often considered an invasive species  
57 [7]. The plant is notable for its medicinal properties. In traditional medicine,  
58 *Ludwigia adscendens* has been used to treat various ailments, including gastrointestinal  
59 disorders, respiratory illnesses, and skin disease[8]. Recent scientific studies have  
60 validated some of these uses. For instance, a study found that extracts of  
61 *Ludwigia adscendens* demonstrated antimicrobial activity, lending scientific support to its  
62 traditional use in treating skin infections [9]. *Ludwigia adscendens* is also used in  
63 environmental management. Due to its rapid growth and floating nature, it is used in  
64 constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment, where it helps to remove pollutants  
65 such as heavy metals from contaminated water [10]. The purpose of this study is to  
66 screen for phytochemicals and ascertain the anticancer, anthelmintic, anti-nociceptive,  
67 antidiabetic, and toxicological activities of *Ludwigia adscendens* using its methanolic leaf  
68 extract.

## 69 **2. MATERIAL and METHOD**

### 70 **2.1 Plant Material**

71 In October 2022, a sample of *Ludwigia adscendens* was collected from West-Delpara,  
72 Kutubpur, Narayanganj, Dhaka. The plant was successfully identified by the specialists  
73 at the Bangladesh National Herbarium in Mirpur, which is situated in Dhaka (Accession  
74 number: DACB 87895). After plant accession, the whole plant was crushed into a fine  
75 powder and dried for 11 days in the shade in preparation for conducting pharmacological  
76 tests.

### 77 **2.2 Preparation of the Methanolic Plant Extract**

78 After the dirt was removed, the whole fresh *Ludwigia adscendens* plant was retrieved.  
79 Then, to get rid of all the dust, the whole plant was cleaned in room temperature water.  
80 Washing was followed by a 12–15-day air drying period in the shade for

81 *Ludwigiaadscendens*. The plant was broken up into small pieces and mixed by a grinder  
82 machine after it had thoroughly dried. For three days, 66g of powdered  
83 *Ludwigiaadscendens* were steeped in as much as three fingers (750 mL) of methanol  
84 (as methanol absorbs both polar and nonpolar phytoconstituents). Stirring was done  
85 occasionally to aid in the maceration process. The filter paper was used to filter the  
86 extract after three days. After the solvent was allowed to air dry, 6.79g of extract was  
87 produced. The raw extract was stored in a beaker, kept cold and kept out of direct  
88 sunlight. The whole protocol was followed from previous research [10].

### 89 2.3 Phytochemical Screening Test

90 The medicinal properties of plants are derived from their chemical components. The  
91 freshly generated MELA was qualitatively evaluated using different reagents for the  
92 presence of phytochemicals such as alkaloids, carbohydrates, saponins, glycosides,  
93 reducing sugar, flavonoids, tannins and steroids[11]

### 94 2.4 In-vitro Analysis

#### 95 2.4.1 Anticancer test

##### 96 ➤ Cell viability assay

97 The potential anticancer effect was investigated using HeLa cells. A human cervical  
98 carcinoma cell (HCT-116) was cultured in DMEM (Dulbecco's Modified Eagles' medium)  
99 supplemented with 1% penicillin-streptomycin (1:1), 0.2% gentamycin, and 10% fetal  
100 bovine serum (FBS). HeLa cells were seeded onto a 96-well plate and incubated at  
101 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, just like a pharmacologist would do. The following day, a 25 µL  
102 filtrated sample (MELA) was added carefully to each. The cell viability was assessed  
103 after 48hours of incubation using the CellTiter 96 Non-Radioactive Cell Proliferation  
104 Assay kit from Promega, USA. Each sample was tested using duplicate wells[12].

##### 105 ➤ Morphology study

106 Cells were plated in 24-well plates and subjected to treatment with either DMSO or  
107 extract at the IC<sub>50</sub> concentration for 24 hours. Following the treatment, the image was  
108 captured using phase contrast microscopy [12].

#### 109 2.4.2 Anthelmintic test

110 The worm motility inhibition test was used to assess MELA's anthelmintic activity in vitro  
111 against adult *H. contortus*. Before being delivered to the lab, the worms were washed  
112 and then put in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). MELA was assessed at a 25 mg/ml  
113 concentration after being dissolved in 0.5% dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO). As the  
114 positive control, 0.55 mg/ml of the well-known anthelmintic albendazole was dissolved  
115 in DMSO (0.5%). DMSO at a 0.5% concentration served as the negative control. Each  
116 treatment was applied to twenty worms at a controlled temperature of 35±1°C. There  
117 were three copies of every therapy. The anthelmintic therapy was beneficial because it  
118 decreased worm movement. There were intervals of 0, 1, 2 and 4 hours in which the

119 times for paralysis, complete inactivity, and death were recorded. To evaluate the  
120 recovery of worm motility, the extracts and albendazole were withdrawn after 4 hours,  
121 and the parasites were resuspended in lukewarm PBS for 30 minutes[13].

## 122 **2.5 In-vivo Experiments**

### 123 **2.5.1 Experimental animals**

124 For this whole research, young, healthy *Swiss albinomice* weighing between 22-25g  
125 were used. These mice were collected from Jahangirnagar University in Dhaka,  
126 Bangladesh, at their Saver facility. A temperature of 77°F, a relative humidity of 55 to  
127 65%, and a 24-hour cycle of light and dark are examples of typical atmospheric  
128 fluctuations. After collection, circumstances remain unchanged for eight days. To help  
129 mice recover from the water and food shortage they encountered during transit and  
130 adjust to the lab setting, a diet consisting of sufficient food and hygienic water was  
131 provided, following the guidelines provided by Jahangirnagar University. The mice  
132 recovered for ten days before the experiment was conducted.

### 133 **2.5.2 Antinociceptive test**

#### 134 ➤ **Hot plate test**

135 The hot-plate test (Eddy's hot plate) was used to assess the analgesic activity, as stated  
136 by previous research [14], [15]. The thermostat was programmed to maintain a  
137 temperature of  $51 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ . Male and female mice were divided into four groups, each  
138 containing five mice. To evaluate each group's mice's response to an electrical heat-  
139 induced pain stimulus, they were placed in a beaker on a hot plate. Licking of the paws  
140 was noted as one of the animal's reactions to the excruciating heat. By timing how long  
141 it took each mouse to lick its paws or climb out of the beaker, their reaction times (in  
142 seconds) were calculated. Before any kind of treatment was administered, the response  
143 time was assessed once. The mean of this decision was used to determine each mouse  
144 group's initial reaction time before treatment. After that, oral doses of distilled water  
145 (DW), Diclofenac sodium (10mg/kg BW), and MELA (250 and 500 mg/kg BW,  
146 respectively) were given to each test mouse. In each mouse group, reaction times were  
147 tested five times at one-hour intervals starting thirty minutes after treatment was  
148 administered. The formula for the analgesic effectiveness of treatment was as follows:

$$149 \text{ Percent Analgesic Score} = \frac{T_a - T_b}{T_a} \times 100.$$

150 Time (in seconds) to react (before medication administration):  $T_b$ ; Time (in seconds) to  
151 react (after drug administration):  $T_a$ .

152

#### 153 ➤ **Formalin Induced paw licking test**

154 The formalin test produces two distinct stages of increased licking activity that are  
155 attributed to distinct nociceptive pathways, making it a valid and trustworthy model of

156 nociception. After the formalin injection, there are two phases of licking: the early phase  
157 lasts for the first five minutes, and the late phase occurs 15 to 45 minutes later. As  
158 mentioned before, the right hind paw's dorsal surface received a subcutaneous injection  
159 of formalin (20µL of a 2.5% solution). After that, the animals were placed on a glass  
160 surface under a glass funnel, and a 45-degree-angled mirror was used [16]. The pain  
161 response time (licking time) was measured in two phases: the first phase, which lasted  
162 0 to 5 minutes and was brought on by the nociceptors directly, and the second phase,  
163 which lasted 15 to 45 minutes and was triggered by the release of inflammatory  
164 mediators and resulted in inflammatory pain [21]. Five groups (n = 5) of animals were  
165 randomly assigned to them. The negative control group's animals were given 0.5 mL of  
166 regular saline. Animals in the positive control group were treated with morphine (10  
167 mg/kg, Temad Co., Iran). MELA was administered at varying levels (250 and 500 mg/kg)  
168 to the other groups. All injections were administered intraperitoneally 30 minutes before  
169 the test[17].

#### 170 ➤ **Acetic acid induced writhing test**

171 With minor adjustments, the acetic acid-induced writhing methodology in mice was used  
172 to test the analgesic activity of the sample. This method is comparable to that used by  
173 previous research work [18]. The experiment's animals are given an intraperitoneal  
174 injection of acetic acid, which causes them to suffer. To investigate the animals, four  
175 groups of five mice each were used. After an overnight fast, animals in Group I received  
176 distilled water, those in Group II received 10 mg/kg of Diclofenac sodium, and those in  
177 Groups III and IV received 250 and 500 mg/kg of MELA, respectively. The test samples  
178 and vehicle were administered orally thirty minutes before the intraperitoneal injection of  
179 a 0.7% v/v acetic acid solution. To enable researchers to examine the animals, each  
180 was kept in a separate transparent glass container. The acetic acid solution was given  
181 intraperitoneally to the mice five minutes later. For the following ten minutes, we  
182 counted the number of times each mouse in each group writhed in its cage. Not every  
183 animal writhed in its entirety; others would just begin. It was found that this kind of  
184 writhing was only partially finished. Thus, one entire writhing was counted as two half-  
185 ones. The number of writhing in each group was compared to a positive control group  
186 that was given a placebo consisting of Diclofenac sodium. The proportion of writhing  
187 restraint was determined by using the following formula:

$$188 \text{ \% Of writhing} = \frac{VC - VT}{VC} \times 100$$

189 VT = number of writhing motions in extract-treated mice. VC = number of writhing  
190 motions in the control group of mice.

#### 191 **2.5.3 Antidiabetic Test**

##### 192 ➤ **Induction of hyperglycemia**

193 186.9 mg/kg of a 10% alloxan monohydrate solution was administered intraperitoneally  
194 to the subjects. The alloxan monohydrate was procured from Sigma in Switzerland.

195 After 48 hours of alloxan administration, blood glucose levels were assessed using a  
196 glucometer. Mice with blood glucose levels over 200mg/mL were classified as diabetic  
197 and included in the research. Before starting the experiment, the animals were fasted  
198 for 8-12 hours but were permitted to drink water during the trial [19], [20].

199

#### 200 ➤ **Experimental design**

201 Eight groups were created, with five mice in each group, to administer medication  
202 intraperitoneally or orally. Group I consisted of regular mice administered 0.1 ml of  
203 physiological saline either through intraperitoneal injection or oral ingestion. Group II  
204 consisted of alloxan-induced diabetic mice that were treated like the first group, using  
205 0.1 ml of physiological saline. Group III consisted of alloxan-induced diabetic mice who  
206 received 0.025 insulin units (1 IU/kg body weight) intraperitoneally in 0.1 ml  
207 physiological saline. Group IV received an oral administration of 0.075 mg  
208 glibenclamide (3mg/kg body weight) in 0.1 ml physiological saline to alloxan-induced  
209 diabetic mice. Groups V, VI, and VII included alloxan-induced diabetic mice that  
210 received different doses based on their body weight. The doses were administered  
211 either intraperitoneally or orally in 0.1 ml physiological saline. Group VIII consisted of  
212 alloxan-induced diabetic mice who were given different treatments: insulin,  
213 glibenclamide, or a plant extract solution. The dosage was 350 mg/kg body weight in 1  
214 ml of physiological saline, administered either intraperitoneally or orally.

#### 215 ➤ **Blood glucose determination**

216 The blood sample included sterilizing the tail with 10% alcohol and then pricking it at the  
217 beginning of the experiment, and repeating this process after 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 24 hours.  
218 Enhanced bleeding by slowly expressing blood from the tail towards the tip. Following  
219 the surgery, the tail tips were sterilized by swabbing them with 70% ethanol. The blood  
220 glucose levels were measured using a glucose analyzer model (Hypoguard,  
221 Woodbridge, England).

#### 222 **2.5.6 Acute toxicological test**

223 Each group had five mice that received oral dosages of MELA and cinnamon oil at 3000  
224 mg/kg, 5000 mg/kg and 7000 mg/kg; water was used as the control. After a 24-hour  
225 observation period, the death rates for both groups were noted[21].

### 226 **3. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

227 The experimental data was replicated three times, and the mean and standard deviation  
228 were utilized to represent the results. Excel is also used for statistical studies.

## 229 **4. RESULTS**

### 230 **4.1 Phytochemical Identification**

231 MELA was subjected to thorough phytochemical analysis, revealing a diverse range of  
232 phytochemicals including tannin, flavonoids, saponin, reducing sugars, alkaloids, gums,  
233 glycosides, steroids, and phenolics, among others. However, Table 1 did not contain  
234 any carbohydrates.

235 **Table 1. Results of phytochemical screening test of MELA**

Phytoconstituents	MELA
Steroid	+
Alkaloid	+
Saponin	+
Phenolics	+
Carbohydrates	-
Tannin	+
Glycosides	+
Gum	+
Reducing sugar	+
Flavonoid	+

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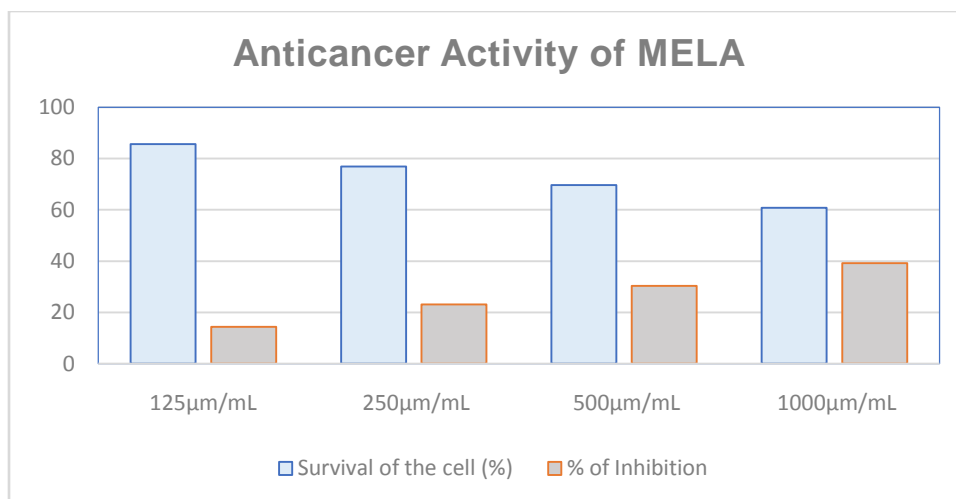
#### 237 **4.2 Anticancer activity**

238 The standardization of plant materials alcoholic extract (MELA) was done in accordance  
239 with accepted practices, and the extract's anticancer potential was tested on HeLa cell  
240 lines. The methanolic extract from the *Ludwigiaadscendens* plant demonstrated this  
241 potential (Table 2).

242 **Table 2. Anticancer Activity of MELA.**

Concentration ( $\mu\text{m}/\text{mL}$ )	Survival of the cell (%)	% of Inhibition
125	85.69	14.31
250	76.94	23.06
500	69.63	30.37
1000	60.84	39.16

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**Figure 1. Graph of anticancer activity of MELA.**

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### 4.3 Anthelmintic activity

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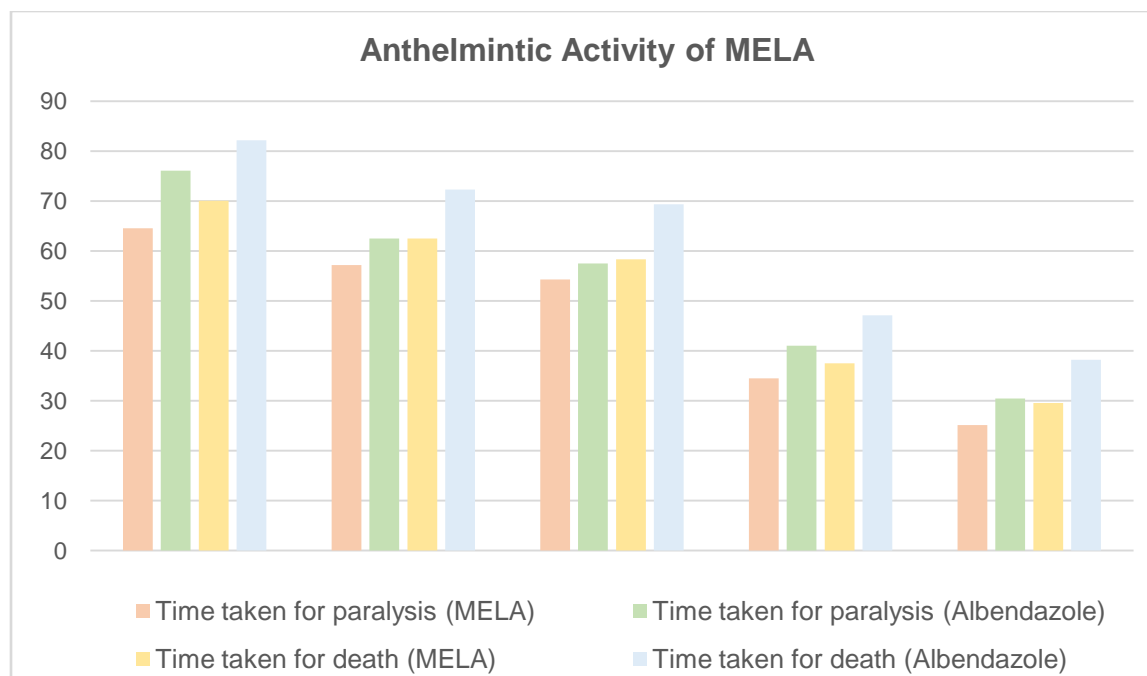
In order to evaluate the anthelmintic effectiveness of fresh leaf juice, earthworms were subjected to several amounts of the liquid (5mg/mL, 10mg/mL, 20mg/mL, 50mg/mL, and 100mg/mL). Comparable to the standard medication albendazole, the leaf extract exhibited strong anthelmintic activity (Table 3).

251

252

**Table 3. Anthelmintic Activity of MELA**

Test samples	Conc. (mg/mL)	Time taken for paralysis	Time taken for death
MELA	5	64 min 52 sec	70 min 09 sec
	10	57 min 20 sec	62 min 53 sec
	20	54 min 28 sec	58 min 33 sec
	50	34 min 51 sec	37 min 47 sec
	100	25 min 11 sec	29 min 54 sec
Albendazole	5	76 min 09 sec	82 min 19 sec
	10	62 min 47 sec	72 min 32 sec
	20	57 min 52 sec	69 min 37 sec
	50	41 min 03 sec	47 min 12 sec
	100	30 min 43 sec	38 min 18 sec



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254

**Figure 2. Graph of anthelmintic activity of MELA**

255

#### 256 **4.4 Antinociceptive activity**

##### 257 **4.4.1 Hot plate experimental activity**

258 The results of the methanol leaf extract of *Ludwigiaadscendenson* mean reaction time in  
 259 the hot plate test can be found in Table 4. The extract at the doses tested; significantly  
 260 increased the latency to response in a dose-dependent manner.

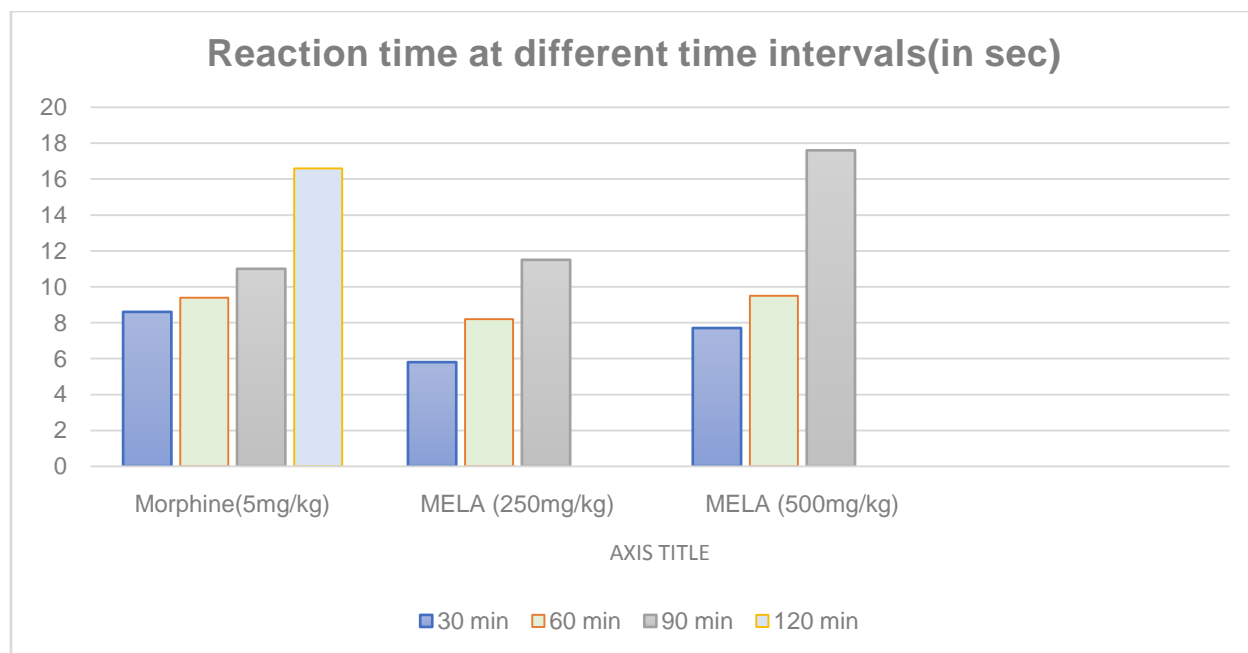
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262 **Table 4 Antinociceptive effect of leaf extract of *Ludwigiaadscendens* on hot plate test**

Group	Reaction time at different time intervals (in sec)			
	30 min	60 min	90 min	120 min
Control	6.4	7.6	6.0	5.4
Morphine (5mg/kg)	8.6	9.4	11.0	16.6
MELA (250mg/kg)	5.8	8.2	11.5	0
MELA (500mg/kg)	7.7	9.5	17.6	0

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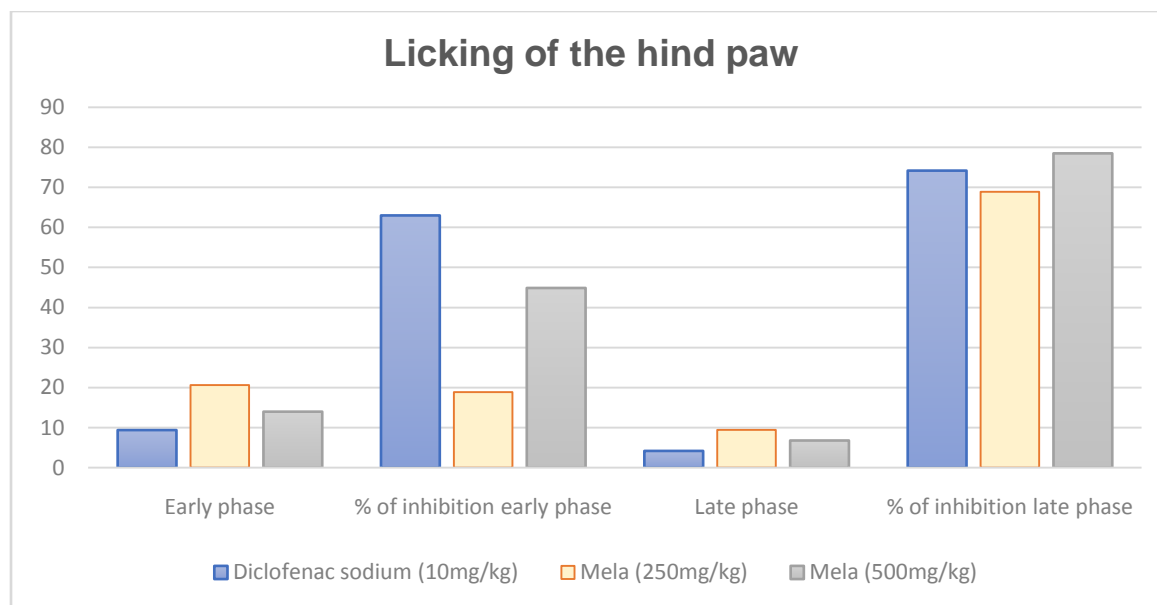
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266 **Figure 3. Graph of antinociceptive effect of MELA using hot plate method.**

267  
268 **4.4.3 Formalin Induced nociceptive activity**

269 Based on the results presented in Table 5, it is evident that during the nociceptive phase  
270 (early phase), the administration of MELA (250 mg/kg) resulted in a significant increase  
271 in nociceptive response compared to the control group. In the late phase (phase II),  
272 MELA at 250 and 500 mg/kg demonstrated a highly notable antinociceptive effect.

273  
274 **Table 5. Antinociceptive effects of MELA in formalin-induced nociception**

Treatment	Dose (mg/kg)	Licking of the hind paw			
		Early phase	% of inhibition early Phase	Late phase	% of inhibition late phase
Control	0.1mL/mice	25.40	0	13.20	0
Diclofenac sodium	10	9.40	62.992	4.20	74.182
MELA	250	20.60	18.898	9.40	68.88
MELA	500	14.00	44.882	6.80	78.485



275  
276 **Figure 4. Graph of antinociceptive effect of MELA using formalin Induced nociception method.**

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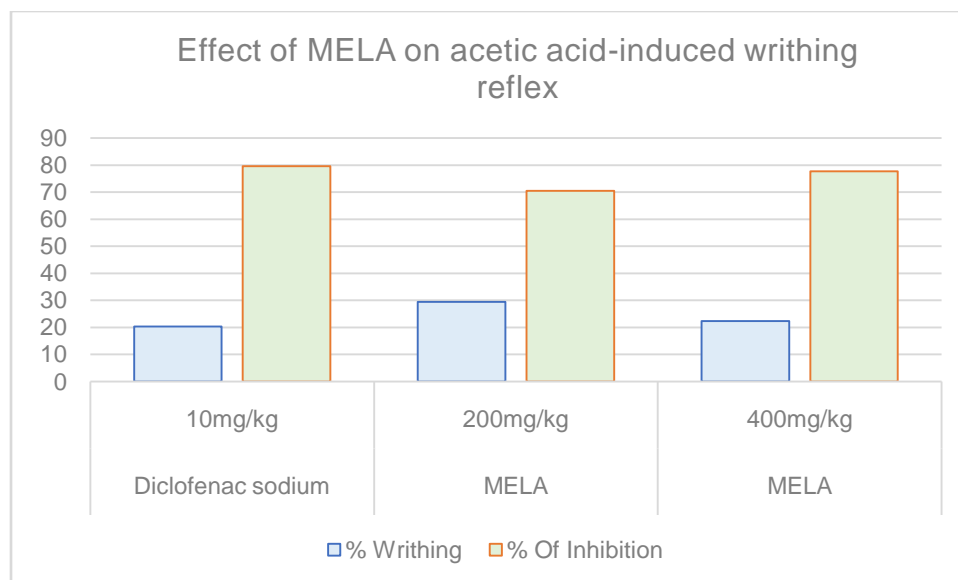
#### 278 4.4.4 Acetic acid induced nociceptive

279 The results from the research on the impact of MELA on the acetic acid-induced  
280 writhing reflex in mice are displayed in Table 6. The extract demonstrated a noteworthy  
281 dose-dependent decrease in the number of writhing reflexes in the treated mice, in  
282 comparison to the negative control group. Using different substances, pain inhibition of  
283 79.61%, 70.52%, and 77.66% was observed in experimental mice.

284 **Table 6: Effect of MELA on acetic acid-induced writhing reflex.**

Administered Substance	Dose	% Writhing	% Of Inhibition
Control	10mL/kg	100	0.00
Diclofenac sodium	10mg/kg	20.40	79.61
MELA	200mg/kg	29.48	70.52
MELA	400mg/kg	22.34	77.66

285



286

287 **Figure 5. Graph of antinociceptive effect of MELA using acetic acid Induced writhing test.**

288

289 **4.5 Antidiabetic activities**

290 The research convincingly shows that MELA, specifically MELA at doses of 150 mg/kg  
 291 and 300 mg/kg, has a notable impact on reducing blood glucose levels in diabetic mice.  
 292 According to Table 7, there is promising evidence that MELA could be used as a  
 293 treatment for managing diabetes. It appears that a higher dosage of MELA has a  
 294 stronger impact on the condition.

295 **Table 7. Effects of intraperitoneally administered MELA on blood glucose levels in alloxan induced**  
 296 **diabetic mice**

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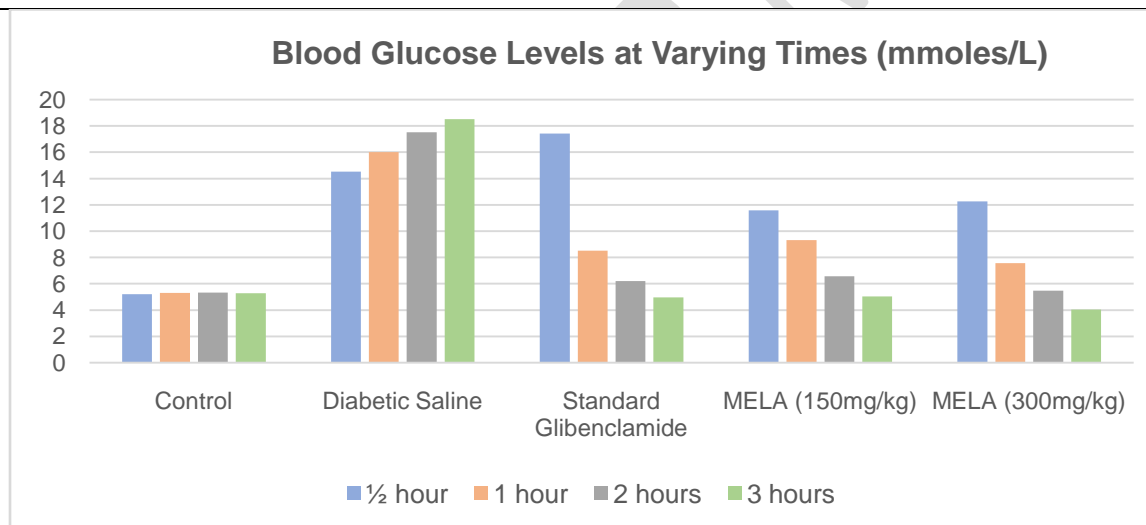
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Test Samples	Blood Glucose Levels at Varying Times (mmoles/L)			
	½ hour	1 hour	2 hours	3 hours
Control	5.21±0.05	5.31±0.11	5.33±0.03	5.28±0.07
Diabetic	14.53±0.11	16.02±0.15	17.51±0.06	18.52±0.03
Saline				
Standard	17.43±1.30	8.51±0.07	6.21±0.42	4.96±0.11
Glibenclamide				
MELA (150 mg/kg)	11.57±0.21	9.31±0.02	6.56±0.33	5.03±1.36
MELA (300mg/kg)	12.26±0.31	7.56±0.15	5.48±1.05	4.03±0.26



309  
310 **Figure 6. Graph of antidiabetic effect of MELA.**

311 **4.6 Toxicological activities**

312 Throughout the observation period, oral administration of MELA at 1000 and 3000  
313 mg/kg doses did not cause any deaths, allergic reactions, excessive drooling, seizures,  
314 tremors, diarrhea, or abnormal behavior. In addition, there were no statistically  
315 significant macroscopic alterations or abnormalities observed in the important organs of  
316 the mice between the control and experimental groups. However, when administering a  
317 dose of 5000 mg/kg of MELA, the experimental mice experienced mortality.

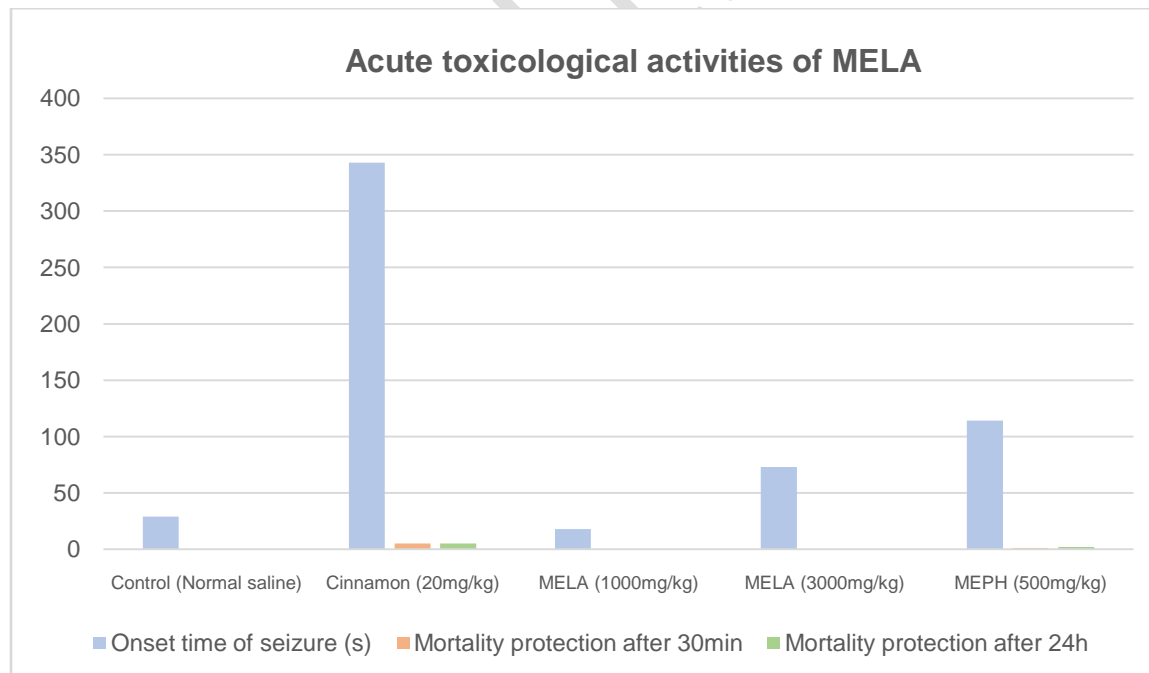
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**Table 8. Results of Acute toxicological activities of MELA**

Sample	Onset time of seizure (s)	Mortality protection after 30min	Mortality protection after 24h
Control (Normal saline)	27±2.91	0/5	0/5
Cinnamon oil (20mg/kg)	342±3.72	5/5	5/5
MELA (1000mg/kg)	18±1.29	0/5	0/5
MELA (3000mg/kg)	73±1.04	0/5	0/5
MELA (5000mg/kg)	114±1.82	1/5	2/5

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**Figure 7. Graph of acute toxicological activities of MELA**

## 326 5. DISCUSSIONS

327 The current research is aimed to assess the effects of MELA on various  
328 pharmacological tests, such as anticancer, anthelmintic, anti-nociceptive, antidiabetic,  
329 and toxicological activities. In addition, the chemical composition of MELA was analyzed  
330 through phytochemical screening. The study's findings, as shown in Table 1, reveal the  
331 presence of various compounds in MELA, such as tannin, flavonoids, saponin, reducing  
332 sugars, alkaloids, gums, glycosides, steroids, and phenolics. Interestingly, MELA did not  
333 contain any carbohydrates. However, these present phytochemicals have a wide range  
334 of pharmacological properties, including analgesic, anti-cancer, antioxidant,  
335 antimicrobial, anticonvulsant, anthelmintic, anti-inflammatory, and cytotoxic effects[22].

336 The occurrence of colon cancer has been steadily rising due to recent lifestyle changes,  
337 such as a diet low in vegetables and fruits, lack of physical activity, excessive alcohol  
338 consumption, and exposure to harmful chemicals [23]. Despite the advancements in  
339 routine check-ups and early detection, colon cancer continues to claim a significant  
340 number of lives worldwide each year. There is a pressing need to discover new  
341 therapeutics or drug candidates that can selectively target cancer cells while leaving  
342 normal cells unaffected[24].

343 Here, this study investigated the potential anticancer effects of the methanol extract  
344 MELA derived from *Ludwigiaadscendens* on human cancer cells. Cancer cells have a  
345 higher basal level of reactive oxygen species (ROS) due to their increased metabolic  
346 rate and other unique functions, which sets them apart from normal cells. An increased  
347 level of reactive oxygen species (ROS) is crucial for the growth, proliferation, and  
348 metastasis of cancer cells. Simultaneously, an excessive amount of ROS beyond what  
349 is necessary can induce oxidative stress in cancer cells, potentially resulting in their  
350 demise. In contrast to normal cells, cancer cells have a limited antioxidant mechanism  
351 to scavenge excess ROS and prevent cellular damage [25]. It is conceivable that the  
352 extract's anticancer activity observed in this study is a result of compounds that have  
353 modified the redox balance, which is crucial for the survival of HCT-116 cells. This  
354 activity may either increase or decrease the level of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in  
355 HCT-116 cells [26]. The minimal toxicity of MELA towards normal cells is likely attributed  
356 to the robust antioxidant and anti-inflammatory mechanisms found in these cells  
357 [25].The findings presented in this study offer reliable evidence that the methanolic  
358 extract of *Ludwigiaadscendens* contains potential anti-colon cancer compounds. These  
359 compounds show promise for further investigation to understand better and explore  
360 their potential for therapeutic development.

361 The discovery of resistant strains, the detection of drug residues in animal products, and  
362 the potential toxicity of synthetic drugs have sparked renewed interest in the utilization  
363 of natural products [27]. The plant materials tested for their in vitro anthelmintic activity  
364 in this study were identified by local livestock raisers. In the present in vitro study, a  
365 concentration of 10 mg/mL of methanol extract from *Ludwigiaadscendens* demonstrated  
366 a statistically significant anthelmintic activity, similar to that of the conventional

367 anthelmintic agent, albendazole. In addition, the genus contains a wide variety of  
368 sesquiterpene lactones and flavonoids that could potentially exhibit anthelmintic  
369 properties while posing minimal risk of toxicity to mammals [28]. The observed  
370 anthelmintic effect of MELA could potentially be ascribed to the presence of secondary  
371 metabolites. Prior research [29] has indicated that tannins might exhibit anthelmintic  
372 activity by inhibiting hatching, impeding development into the infective larval stage, and  
373 reducing adult motility. In addition, studies have demonstrated that tannins can disrupt  
374 the process of oxidative phosphorylation and inhibit ATP synthesis in *H. contortus*.  
375 Another study [30] has further validated the effectiveness of alkaloids derived from  
376 plants as anthelmintics. The release of enzymes by larvae is triggered by environmental  
377 stimuli, resulting in the degradation of the egg membrane [29]. There could be a  
378 connection between the activity of alkaloids in these two plants and the inhibition of  
379 these enzymes.

380 Pain is a physiological response that can be intense and protective. Typically, painful  
381 stimuli elicit strong withdrawal and avoidance responses. Given the intricate nature of  
382 central nociceptive pathways, which undergo sensitization and rearrangement due to  
383 tissue injury and prolonged pain, this experience becomes highly complex [31].  
384 Specialized receptors detect the sensation of pain and are then relayed to the brain via  
385 specific neurons and nerves in the spinal cord. The nerves travel through various  
386 pathways, connecting the spinal cord to the thalamus in different areas of the brain stem,  
387 particularly in the relay nuclei. Third-row neurons transmit sensory pain nerves to  
388 various regions of the brain membrane and limbic system. Individuals who have  
389 endured chronic pain often face detrimental psychological effects, prompting a  
390 relentless pursuit of effective pain management strategies. There have been numerous  
391 endeavors to elucidate the mechanisms of pain and strategies for its control. There are  
392 two main categories of drugs, synthetic and herbal, that are commonly used to alleviate  
393 pain[32]. In this research, it was found that the oral administration of MELA had a  
394 significant impact on reducing the threshold for heat and chemically induced pain.  
395 Moreover, it exhibited dose-dependent antinociceptive effects in various pain models.  
396 Based on our observations in mice, it appears that the doses of MELA used in these  
397 experiments did not cause any negative effects such as mortality, allergic responses,  
398 salivation, convulsions, tremors, diarrhea, behavioral abnormalities, or physical  
399 alterations in important organs. Therefore, it can be concluded that MELA was not found  
400 to be hazardous at the levels that were tested.

401 The nociceptive response to heat stimuli in mice is a well-established model for studying  
402 the effectiveness of different types of analgesic medications that target the spinal  
403 origin[33]. Testing for detection using the hot-plate test using Eddy's hot plate. A pain  
404 stimulus is acetic acid. Through the action of certain enzymes, such as phospholipase  
405 A<sub>2</sub> and acyl hydrolases, the administration of acetic acid intraperitoneally triggers a  
406 specific type of inflammation by liberating arachidonic acid from phospholipids in the  
407 affected tissue. [34]. The production of eicosanoids from arachidonic acid occurs  
408 through three primary pathways. The cyclooxygenase pathway is responsible for the

409 synthesis of all eicosanoids with ring structures, such as prostacyclins, thromboxanes,  
410 and prostaglandins. The lipo-oxygenase pathway is utilized to produce hydroxylated  
411 derivatives of straight-chain fatty acids, namely leucotrienes, HETE (hydroxy  
412 eicosatetraenoic acids), and HPETE (hydroperoxy eicosatetraenoic acids). Reports  
413 indicate that the prostaglandins released, specifically, prostacyclins (PGI<sub>2</sub>) and  
414 prostaglandin-E, can stimulate the A-fibers and result in the perception of pain. When  
415 the A-fibers are active, one may experience a sharp, localized pain [35]. Through the  
416 evaluation of the writhing effect caused by acetic acid injection and the ability of the test  
417 samples to prevent this effect, the analgesic activity was assessed. Any medication that  
418 decreases the number of writhing episodes demonstrates analgesic effects by inhibiting  
419 the production of prostaglandins, which is a mechanism that helps alleviate peripheral  
420 pain. This theory aligns with the hypotheses of certain researchers who suggest that the  
421 acetic acid-induced writhing test can be a useful tool for evaluating analgesics that have  
422 both peripheral and central effects [36]. When administered in higher doses, the MELA  
423 was found to decrease the occurrence of acetic acid-induced writhing in mice. A positive  
424 control was used, employing diclofenac sodium to inhibit the production of  
425 prostaglandins. By inhibiting the production and release of prostaglandins, it reduces  
426 the discomfort associated with arthritis, swelling, and inflammation [37]. The medication  
427 has an impact on the activity of polymorphonuclear leukocytes in vitro. It reduces  
428 chemotaxis, and the production of harmful oxygen-derived free radicals, superoxide  
429 radicals, and neutral proteases [38]. In animal experiment models, studies have  
430 demonstrated that diclofenac can effectively reduce inflammation caused by various  
431 phlogistic agents [35]. Considering the antinociceptive effects observed in the methanol  
432 extract of *Ludwigiaadscendens* during various tests, such as the hot-plate and acetic  
433 acid-induced writhing tests, it is likely that this extract has both central and peripheral  
434 antinociceptive properties. This is supported by the similar responses seen in the  
435 positive control diclofenac. Formalin induces pain in mouse paws through two distinct  
436 pathways. Initially, the immediate effects of formalin injection result in the early phase,  
437 which is marked by neurogenic pain. This pain is triggered by the direct stimulation of  
438 sensory afferent fibers and the activation of C-fibers. During this phase, the induction of  
439 nociception also involves bradykinin and substance P. Second, during the late phase  
440 (15 minutes after formalin injection), various inflammatory mediators such as histamine,  
441 prostaglandins (PGs), bradykinin, serotonin, and others come into play in peripheral  
442 tissues, leading to the sensation of pain caused by inflammation[39]. The functional  
443 changes in the dorsal horn of the spinal cord area are another factor that contributes to  
444 the development of formalin-induced late-phase pain [58]. Based on the results of the  
445 formalin-induced paw-licking test, diclofenac, and MELA effectively reduced both stages  
446 of nociception. The strength of the inhibition intensified during the later phase and was  
447 dependent on the dosage. Peripheral analgesics, such as aspirin and hydrocortisone,  
448 primarily reduce the later phase of formalin-induced paw-licking in mice. On the other  
449 hand, central analgesics like opioids are capable of suppressing both stages [40]. The  
450 results of the hot plate test are backed by the significant reduction in paw lickings during  
451 the formalin test, indicating the potential pain-relieving effects of MELA. In addition, the

452 paw-licking deterrent during the later phase indicates the inhibition of inflammatory  
453 mediators, similar to what was observed in the acetic acid-induced writhing test. The  
454 anti-inflammatory and wound-healing properties of *Ludwigiaadscendens*methanol  
455 extract may be due to the presence of flavonoids or flavonoid glycosides.

456 There was a slight toxicity observed in the toxicological test for MELA. Based on the  
457 phytochemical screening, it was discovered that MELA contained a notable number of  
458 alkaloids. Therefore, the chemical composition and levels of aspidosperma-type  
459 alkaloids may have an impact on the toxicological properties of MELA[41].

460

## 461 **6. CONCLUSION**

462 This research demonstrated that *Ludwigiaadscendens*possessesssignificant  
463 pharmacological effect due to presence of some rich phytoconstituents. In comparison  
464 to diclofenac sodium, the extract demonstrates a powerful antinociceptive effect. The  
465 anticancer effect is also moderate. It possesses a notable antidiabetic effect. Based on  
466 the acute toxicological activity test, it has been demonstrated that this plant can have a  
467 mild toxicological effect on animals when administered in higher doses. Researchers  
468 often employ a range of analytical techniques, such as GC-MS analysis, column  
469 chromatography, NMR, and in-vivo tests, to validate their results

## 470 **7.ETHICAL APPROVAL AND CONSENT**

471 This research adhered to the regulations established by the US Food and Drug  
472 Administration, the Declaration of Helsinki, and the International Conference on  
473 Harmonization. The Faculty of Science at Stamford University Bangladesh carefully  
474 reviewed and approved the research procedure and written consent form (reference  
475 number: **SUB/ERC/202301**). Every participant in the study was required to provide a  
476 documented consent form, and they were granted the freedom to withdraw at any given  
477 time.

478

479

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