

Anticonvulsant and anxiolytic evaluation of leaf extracts of *Ocimum gratissimum*, a culinary herb

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ABSTRACT

Anticonvulsant and anxiolytic activities of leaf extracts and fraction of *Ocimum gratissimum* L. (Lamiaceae) were studied using seizures induced by pentylenetetrazol and open-field tests in mice. The results showed that the extracts and fraction increased the latency of tonic and tonic-clonic seizures and death and elicited 50% protection against mortality. In the open-field test, the extracts and fraction decreased the frequency of line crossing, center square entries, rearing against a wall and grooming, whereas grooming duration and freezing frequency and duration were increased. Acute toxicity test in mice gave an oral LD₅₀ greater than 5000 mg/kg for the methanol extract. These findings suggest that extracts of this plant possess anticonvulsant and anxiolytic-like properties.

KEYWORDS

Anticonvulsant . anxiolytic . *Ocimum gratissimum* . open field

REFERENCES

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