

Studying the efficacy of the plant extract of *Tetracera scandens* as an antidiabetic treatment

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□ ABSTRACT □

In Southeast Asia, a metabolic disease with a high prevalence was known as diabetes mellitus. Diabetes mellitus was treated with traditional medicinal plants. *Tetracera scandens* (L.) Merr is one of them. The purpose of this study was to assess the homeostatic model of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) and blood glucose levels in alloxan-induced rats in order to determine the ethanol extract of *T. scandens* strains' anti-diabetic activity. There were five groups of animals: normal group, a negative control, and extract dosages of 180, 355, and 710 mg/kg body weight, respectively. The animals were given 180 mg/kg body weight of alloxan to induce their behavior. The extract was taken orally for 21 days. Ethanol extract from *T. scandens* strains was found to significantly lower blood glucose levels, increase insulin levels, and reduce insulin resistance when administered ($p < 0.05$). As a result, it is possible to draw the conclusion that the ethanol extract of *T. scandens* could be used to treat diabetes mellitus.

Keywords: *Tetracera scandens*, Ethanol extraction, alloxan, diabetes mellitus, blood glucose, insulin, insulin resistance.

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دراسة فعالية مستخلص نبات الملاح التائه (*Tetracera scandens*) كعلاج مضاد لمرض السكر

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□ ملخّص □

في جنوب شرق اسيا، كان يُعرف أحد الأمراض الأيضية ذات الانتشار الواسع بمرض السكري، وقد تم علاج داء السكري بالنباتات الطبية التقليدية، وتعد تتراسيرا سكاندينس (*Tetracera scandens* L) او الملاح التائه أحد هذه العلاجات، وكان الغرض من هذه الدراسة هو تقييم نموذج الأنسولين المتماثل. المقاومة (HOMA-IR) ومستويات الجلوكوز في الدم في الفئران التي يسببها الألوكسان من أجل تحديد نشاط مستخلص الإيثانول لسلاسل *T. scandens* كمضاد لمرض السكري. تم إعطاء الفئران 180 و 355 و 710 ملغ / كغ من وزن الجسم على التوالي، وتم إعطاء الحيوانات 180 ملغ / كغ من وزن الجسم من الألوكسان لتحفيز سلوكها ، وتم تناول المستخلص عن طريق الفم لمدة 21 يومًا ، وتم العثور على مستخلص الإيثانول من سلاسل *T.scandens* لخفض مستويات الجلوكوز في الدم بشكل ملحوظ ، وزيادة مستويات الأنسولين ، وتقليل مقاومة الأنسولين عند تناوله ($p < 0.05$). ونتيجة لذلك، يمكن استنتاج أن مستخلص الإيثانول من *T. scandens* يمكن استخدامه لعلاج مرض السكري.

الكلمات المفتاحية : تتراسيرا سكاندينس ، استخلاص الإيثانول ، ألوكسان ، داء السكري ، جلوكوز الدم ، الأنسولين ، مقاومة الأنسولين.

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Introduction

All parts of the world are affected by the disease, but the percentage of diabetics in the general population is particularly high in the countries of the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (9%), North America (8%), and Europe (7%). The World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) anticipates a 2.5% annual increase in the number of diabetics to approximately 380 million by 2025 [1]. As a result, newer drug therapies must be developed to reduce the burden of disease-related complications. As a source of therapeutic agents, natural products and their derivatives have historically been valuable. Traditional medicines have always been proven to be a fruitful source of future drugs to combat any disease, including insulin resistance, consistent with a resurgence of interest in drug discovery from natural products [2-4]. The scientific community is now more interested in evaluating crude and isolated natural products in experimental studies. The picked plant given underneath could be an expected contender for this point.

A metabolic disorder known as diabetes mellitus is characterized by hyperglycemia as a result of impaired insulin secretion, insulin action, and progressive changes in the structure of the pancreas [5]. In Southeast Asia, diabetes mellitus is prevalent. However, the prevalence varies based on ethnicity and province [6]. Metformin, sodium glucose transport protein-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1RA), dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors, thiazolidinediones, and sulfonylureas are among the numerous synthetic drugs used to treat diabetes [7]. However, many people treat diabetes with herbal medicine because it is safer, more effective, and less expensive [8]. This is because some drugs have side effects.

Tetracera scandens (L.) Linn., *Tetracera scandens* Merr. ((Family: *T. scandens* L.) Dilleniaceae), also known as *Tetracera monocarpa* Blanco, *Tragia scandens* L., *Delima sarmentosa* L., and *Tetracera hebecarpa* (DC.) Boerl. (nearby Malaysian names- *mempelas kasar*, *palas*, *pampan*, and *stone leaf*) is a climbing plant developing from 3 to 5 m or more long and fills broadly in India, southern China, Southeast Asia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia. Various parts (leaves, stems and underlying foundations) of *T. scandens* L. are utilized in society cures by different native individuals in various nations for the treatment of stiffness, bringing down hypertension, bringing down pulse, fiery illnesses, hepatitis, inside torments, urinary issues, looseness of the bowels, labor, sore throat, gout and diabetes ailments. The roots are traditionally used as an astringent in diarrhea and a traditional ingredient in a mixture against burns. Droplets of water/sap from freshly cut stems are used for eye irritation. Juice gathered by smashing the stem is taken to reduce body heat. The roots are ground and the juice of it is applied to mouth ulcers. The leaves of *T. scandens* L. are traditionally applied to boils to ripen them. The juice is typically taken to treat internal pains. A decoction of young shoots that have been finely crushed are used as a poultice to treat snake bites in Southeast Asia. The stem's sap is drunk to treat coughs. In the Philippines, tuberculosis hemoptysis is treated with an infusion of the stem. It is gargled to combat thrush. Because of its high concentration of tannins, the infusion is applied externally to a sore throat. In hepatic and renal oedema, the stem is used in combination with other plants as a diuretic in Cambodia. In Vietnam, hepatitis, gout, and inflammation are treated with root and stem. In India, the juice of the aerial portion is taken orally once per day to alleviate the burning sensation experienced when urinating [9-13].

It has been demonstrated in vitro that the polar extracts of *T. scandens* L. have potential therapeutic Xanthine oxidase (XO) inhibitory activity in a concentration-dependent manner [14]. There are five iso-flavonoids: It has been demonstrated that derrone, alpinum

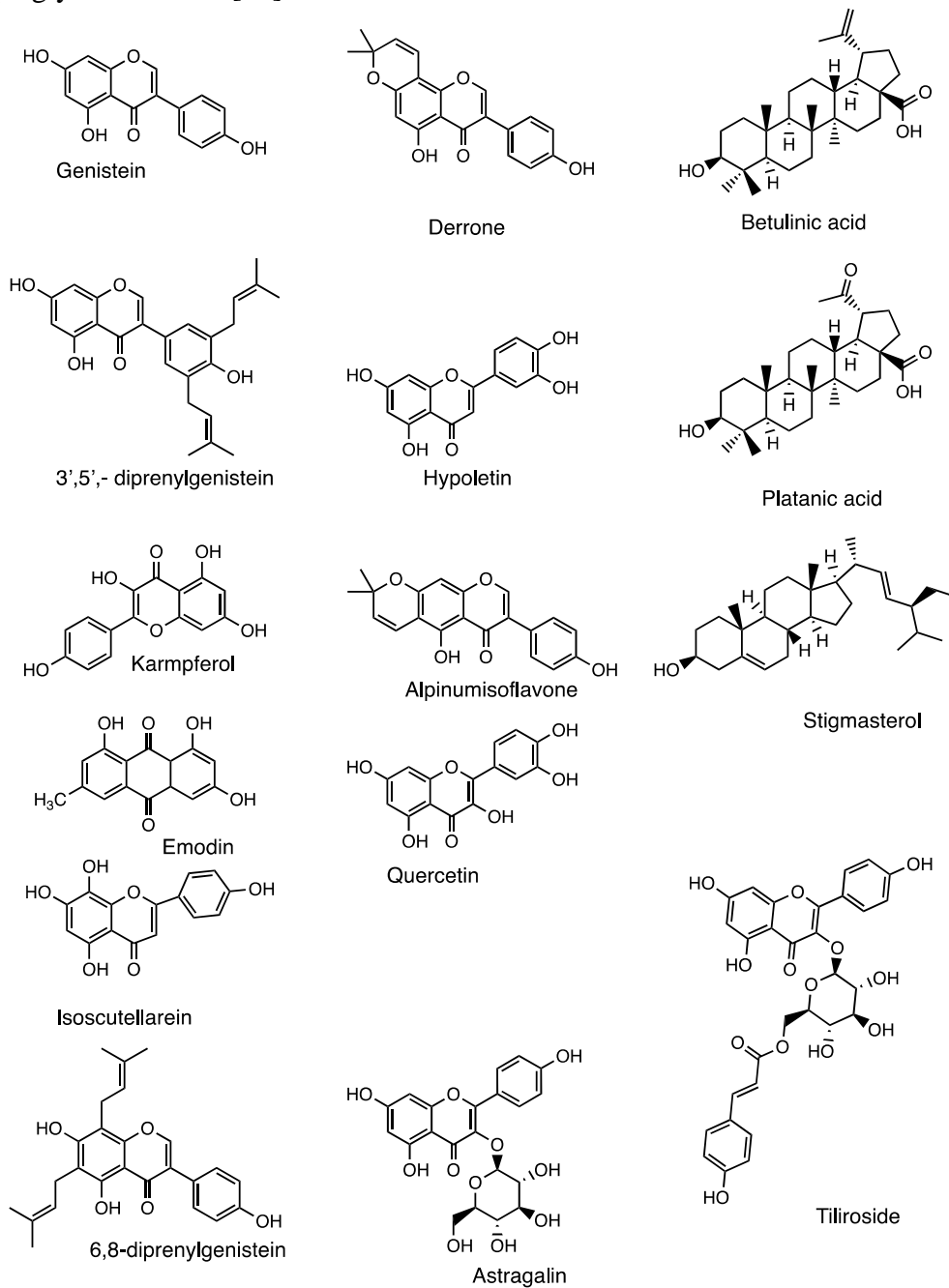
isoflavone, 3,5-diprenylgenistein, 6,8-diprenylgenistein, and genistein, all of which were isolated from the leaves of *T. scandens* L., have a significant effect on glucose uptake in basal and insulin-stimulated L6 Myotubes in vitro, indicating that genistein has great potential for diabetes management [15]. Although the leaves of *T. scandens* L. are utilized in herbal medicine preparations for diabetics, no scientific report of this plant in vivo has ever been recorded or mentioned in the literature to confirm its utility in folkloric medicine by the local herbalists in Malaysia. Our current research interest is in evaluating the efficacy of the leaves of *T. scandens* L. in the management of diabetes mellitus using an animal model to confirm its effectiveness. This is due to the significant glucose uptake activity of the polyphenolic (iso-flavonoids) compounds of *T. scandens* L. in basal and insulin-stimulated L6 Myotubes in vitro and its use by local traditional practitioners in various formulations to treat various ailments, including diabetes-related complications (Figure.1) is one of the traditional medicinal plants that the community uses to treat fever, the flu, tuberculosis, snakebite, hepatitis, rheumatism, gout, inflammation, diarrhea, ulcers, burns, cough, canker sores, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, urinary tract diseases, internal pain, and edema [16]. Other traditional uses include postnatal tonic, snakebite, hepatitis, rThe secretory structures of the strain of *T. scandens* are idioblast cells and unicellular glandular trichomes. The phytochemical reaction revealed that cat sandpaper idioblast cells primarily secrete alkaloids, terpenoids, and phenols in their substances. Only flavonoids are found in trichomes from the *T. scandens* gland [17]. Flavonoids are regarded as an antihyperglycemic agent and are known to regenerate damaged cells [18,19].



Figure 1: *Tetracera scandens* (L.) Merr.

T. scandens' potential as an anti-diabetic traditional medicine has been the subject of numerous studies. Derrone and alpinum isoflavone, as well as genistein and its derivatives 3,5-diprenyl-genistein and 6,8-diprenyl-genistein, were found to be isolated from the leaves of *T. scandens*. Schematic Phytochemicals. L6 myotube glucose uptake, AMPK phosphorylation, GLUT4 and GLUT1 mRNA expression, and PTP1B inhibition are all significantly affected by *T. scandens* [20]. In alloxan-induced diabetic rats without

hypoglycemia, an aqueous and methanolic extract of *T. scandens* leaves had a significant antihyperglycemic effect [21].



Schema1: Phytochemicals isolated from *Tetracera scandens*

Activity Hypoletin, derived from the methanol extract of *T. scandens* leaves, also demonstrated anti-diabetic activity in vitro by, like insulin action, increasing glucose absorption in adipocytes. By reducing adipogenesis and improving blood sugar absorption, the leaves of *T. scandens* were found to have anti-diabetic and anti-obesity properties [22]. The α -glucosidase enzyme can also be inhibited by *T. scandens* leaves [23]. An investigation into the effects of ethanol extract from *T. scandens* stems on glucose, insulin, and insulin resistance in diabetic white rats was carried out in light of this description.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Tetracera scandens (L.) Merr. was used as the materials.(PT.) 90% ethanol Hi-Pro-Vite 511 pellet food (PT.Charoen Indonesia), Na CMC (Sodium Carboxy Methyl Cellulose) (PT.Brataco), sugar (PT.Brataco), Aldrich's alloxan monohydrate, and the reagent for the blood glucose test (PT.Rajawali Nusindo), and the reagent for the insulin ELISA kit (PT.Scientific Gamma).

Plant sample Preparation

Fresh T. scandens L. leaves weighing 1 kilogram were used in the sample, which was taken in October 2021 from Taman Pertanian, Kuantan, Indera Mahkota, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang Darul Makmur, Malaysia.

Extraction

By macerating the stems of T. scandens in 90 percent ethanol, the ethanol extract was made. At a ratio of 1:10, 1 kilogram of sticks were placed in the macerator; For the first six hours, add 10 liters of submersible solvent and stir occasionally. Allow to stand at room temperature for 18 hours. To separate the macerate, use a flannel to filter it. Using the same solvent type and concentration, repeat the filtration twice. Utilize a rotary evaporator (Heidolph) to collect and concentrate all of the macerates until a thick extract is produced.

Secondary Metabolite Screening.

The T. scandens extract's secondary metabolite content was determined. Alkaloids, flavonoids, phenolics, terpenoids, and steroids were all tested in the assay [24].

Animals

Twenty white male rats weighing 20-30 grams and aged 2 to 3 months. The rats were fed and watered adequately for seven days prior to the treatment. The rats used are healthy male rats with normal behavior, no noticeable abnormalities, and a weight deviation of no more than 10% from normal during maintenance. The animals were sorted into five groups of four rats at random. The Research Ethics Commission has approved the pharmacological activity assay's ethical review.

Dosage

The dose of T. scandens stem ethanol remove given to exploratory creatures was 180, 355, and 710 mg/kg BW given orally. Alloxan at a dose of 180 mg/kg BW was used to induce hyperglycemia in rats.

Pharmacological Activity Test

Five treatment groups were divided among the rats in this study. Alloxan at a dose of 180 mg/kg BW was administered subcutaneously to four groups (the negative control group, extract doses of 180, 355, and 710 mg/kg BW), and 10% glucose was administered for two days. Na CMC was only given to the normal group. For 21 days, the extracts were administered. The animal's blood was taken from it after 21 days. Before receiving the blood, the animal fasted for eight hours. Rats's sinus orbital blood was taken in one milliliter, placed in a vacuum tube, and centrifuged for twenty minutes at 3000 RPM. The serum was isolated. A blood glucose test reagent (PT) was used to measure the patient's glucose levels. Rajawali Nusindo), and the clinical photometer 5010 v5+ (Riele) was used to measure it. Insulin level was broke down with an insulin ELISA unit reagent (PT. Gamma Scientific) and measured at 450 nm with an ELISA reader from RayBio.

Calculation of HOMA-IR Value

Insulin obstruction was evaluated in view of the homeostasis model appraisal of insulin opposition (HOMA-IR). The following formula is used in this method to determine insulin resistance in animals and humans: HOMA-IR is equal to $405 \times \frac{\text{fasting insulin} \times \text{fasting blood glucose}}{100}$ [25,70-74]: fasting insulin x fasting blood glucose.

Statistical Analysis

Using parametric (ANOVA 1-way) and non-parametric (Kruskal-Wallis) statistical tests, the data were analyzed in SPSS 24.

RESULTS

Tetracera scandens (L.) Merr was identified as the plant used in the experiment and the Dilleniaceae family.

The maceration method was used to extract stems from *T. scandens*. Because it does not require any special equipment or heating, this method can prevent compounds from decomposing or evaporating due to heating. Since ethanol is a universal solvent that dissolves polar, semi-polar, and non-polar compounds, it was utilized.

About 1 kg is macerated by *T. Scandens*. Three times, the sample was immersed for 24 hours with occasional stirring for the first six hours. It aims to attract the effective active ingredients it contains. Additionally, a rotary evaporator was used to concentrate the collected macerate, evaporating the remaining solvent and water to produce a 77.4856-gram thick extract. The extract was characterized to determine its quality after obtaining a thick extract. The organoleptic analysis revealed that the extract was tasteless, odorless, thick, and reddish-black in color. One of the five senses' specific parameters is this organoleptic determination, which aims for a straightforward and subjective initial recognition. In addition, the components of the compounds in the extract were identified through a phytochemical search test. Alkaloids, phenols, terpenoids, and flavonoids were found in the *T. scandens* strain ethanol extract during the phytochemical screening test.

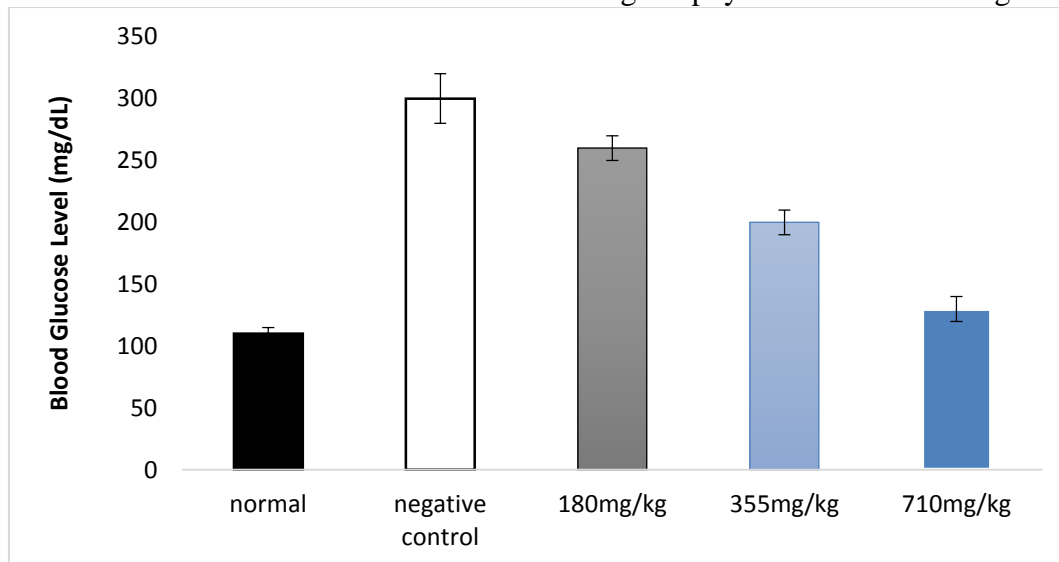


Figure 2. Blood Glucose Level

In addition, experimental animals were used to test the pharmacological activity of the drug against diabetes. According to Figure 2, the study found that the three doses (180, 355, and 710 mg/kg body weight) significantly reduced the alloxan-induced blood glucose

levels in rats ($p < 0.05$), with 710 mg/kg body weight having the greatest impact on this reduction. The extract's administration also significantly raises insulin levels ($p < 0.05$). (Figure. 3).

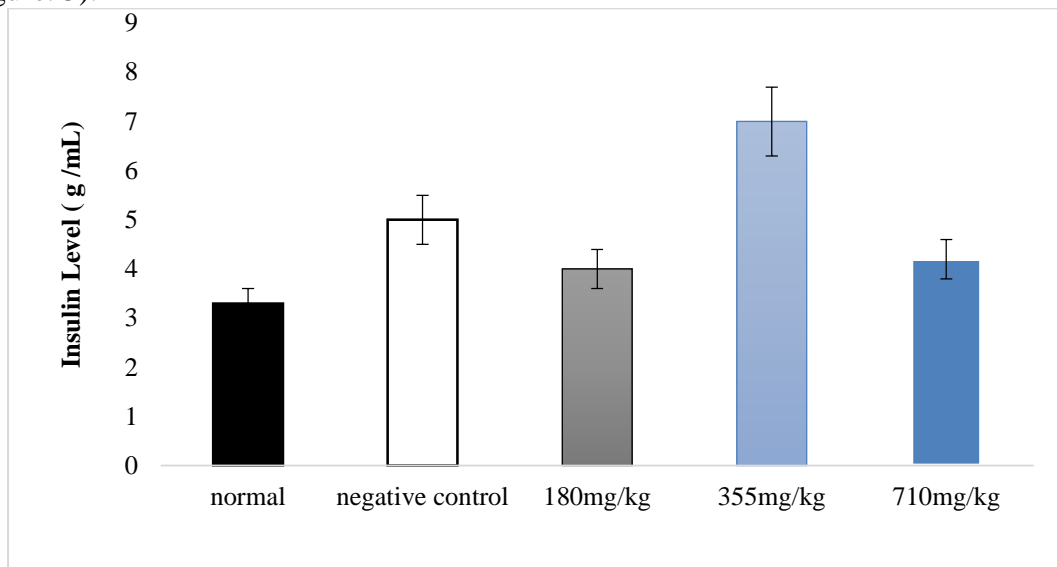


Figure 3. Insulin Level

The HOMA-IR value can be determined after blood glucose and insulin levels have been measured. A method that is both practical and simple to use is the HOMA IR measurement. The extract's administration was found to significantly lower the HOMA-IR value, according to the findings of the study. This indicates that there was an increase in insulin sensitivity or a decrease in insulin resistance following the administration of *T. scandens* strain ethanol extract ($p < 0.05$), with a dose of 710 mg/kg BW having the most significant effect on reducing shown insulin resistance. (Figure 4).

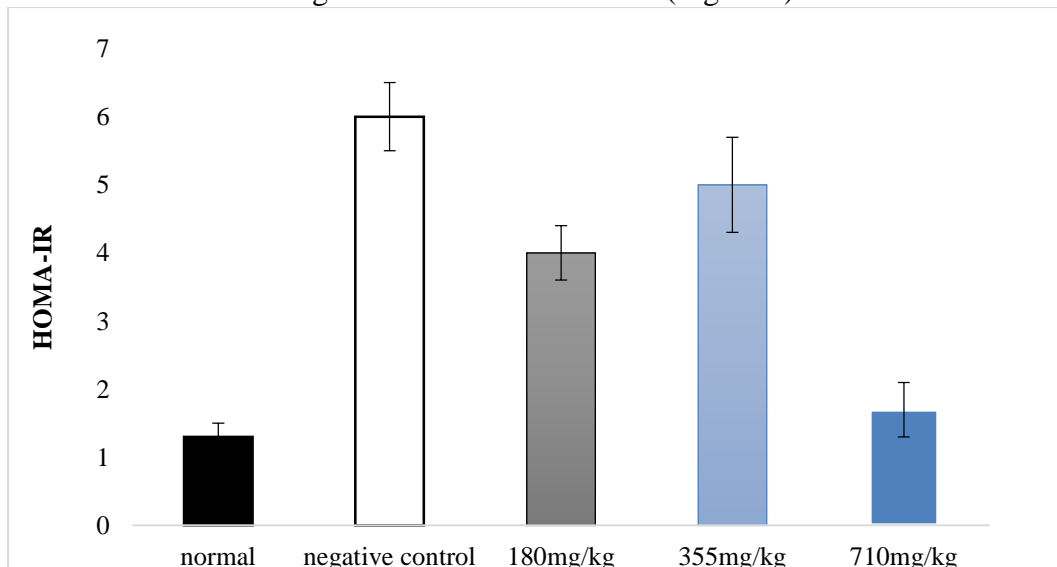


Figure 4. HOMA-IR value

DISCUSSION

Insulin opposition hinders the usage of glucose in fringe tissues by insulin. It may be due to glucose oxidation, which prevents glucose from entering cells, failed phosphorylation of the insulin receptor substrate (IRS) complex, a decrease in GLUT-2 translocation, or both; it causes high blood sugar. The amount of glucose absorbed and utilized by body cells increased with the HOMA-IR value; Sugar levels in the blood rise as a result [26,51-70-75]. The researchers hypothesized that the presence of secondary metabolites like flavonoids, which have been shown to have an anti-hyperglycemic effect, was the cause of the rats' lower blood glucose levels. Due to their ability to repair damaged cells in alloxan-induced diabetes, flavonoids were previously thought to be an effective antihyperglycemic [27-38,71-73]. Flavonoids are anti-inflammatory and have the potential to increase insulin sensitivity in insulin-producing pancreatic cells. Flavonoids can also increase the insulin-secreting capacity of cells. By suppressing NF- κ B signaling, activating the PI3K/Akt pathway, inhibiting nitric oxide generation, and decreasing reactive oxygen species (ROS), flavonoids shield cells from cytokines, glucotoxicity, and lipotoxicity. Through PLC/PKC or cAMP/PKA signaling, increased insulin secretory capability boosts insulin secretion and mitochondrial activity [28, 39-50,74-79].

CONCLUSION

At the moment, various synthetic drugs, such as, In addition to insulin, many people worldwide use biguanides, thiazolidinediones, sulphonylureas, diphenylalanine derivatives, meglitinides, and -glucosidase inhibitors for diabetes management. However, the efficacy of these medications is highly contentious due to undesirable side effects, and there is a strong demand for new, safe medications that effectively treat diabetes. *Tetracera scandens* (L.) Merr ethanol extract was administered to alloxan-induced rats. stems from decreased insulin resistance or increased insulin sensitivity, increased insulin levels, and decreased glucose levels.

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