

**EVALUATION OF ANTI-INFLAMMATORY POTENTIAL OF THE FRACTIONS  
OF *Archidium ohioense* (SCHIMP. EX MULL) EXTRACT**

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## APPROVAL

This research project was supervised by us and approved in accordance with the partial fulfilment for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biochemistry of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile- Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.

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## DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to God Almighty.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Content	Page
Title	i
Approval	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Figures	x
List of Plates	xi
List of Tables	xii
List of Abbreviations	xiii
Abstract	xiv
<b>Chapter One: Introduction</b>	1
1.1 The Study Plant	3
1.1.1: Plant Description	4
1.1.2: Scientific Classification	5
1.1.3: Common Names	5
1.1.4: Studies on <i>Archidium ohioense</i>	7
1.2: Statement of Research Problem	7
1.3: Objective of the Study	7
1.3.1: The Specific Objectives of the Study	7
1.4: Expected Contribution to Knowledge	8
<b>Chapter Two: Literature Review</b>	9
2.1 Medicinal Plants	9
2.2 Classes of Phytochemicals	13

2.2.1	Alkaloids	13
2.2.2	Glycosides	17
2.2.2.1	Classification of Glycosides	18
2.2.2.2	Methods for Testing Presence of Glycosides	19
2.2.3	Flavonoids	19
2.2.3.1	Extraction of Flavonoids	20
2.2.4	Phenolics, Phenols or Polyphenolics	22
2.2.4.1	Classification	24
2.2.5	Saponins	24
2.2.5.1	Pharmacological Uses of Saponins	26
2.2.6	Tannins	27
2.2.6.1	Types of Tannins	27
2.2.6.2	Pharmacological Uses of Tannins	27
2.2.7	Terpenes	29
2.2.8	Anthraquinones	31
2.2.8.1	Method of Testing for the Presence of Anthraquinones	31
2.2.9	Essential Oils	31
2.2.9.1	Uses of Essential Oils	34
2.2.10	Steroids	36
2.3	<b>Mechanism of Action of Phytochemicals</b>	38
2.3.1	Antioxidants	38
2.3.2	Anticarcinogenesis	41
2.3.3	Antimicrobial Activity	42
2.3.4	Anti-Ulcer Property	43
2.3.5	Anti-Diabetic Property	43

2.3.6	Anti-Inflammatory Property	44
2.3.7	Multifunctional Targets	44
2.4	Overview of Bryophytes	45
2.5	Overview of Inflammation	47
2.5.1	NF-Kappa B, TNF-Alpha, IFN-Gamma	48
2.5.2	Cell Membrane Disturbances and Arachidonate Release	51
2.5.2.1	Synthesis of Eicosanoids	52
2.5.2.2	Products of Cyclooxygenases (Prostaglandin Endoperoxide Syntheses)	52
2.5.2.3	Products of Lipoxygenase	54
2.5.2.4	Epoxygenase Products	55
2.5.2.5	Isoprostanes	55
2.5.3	Symptoms of Inflammation	56
2.5.4	Chemical Mediators	56
2.5.5	Types of Inflammation	57
2.5.5.1	Acute Inflammation	57
2.5.5.1.1	Vascular Changes in Acute Inflammation	58
2.5.5.2	Chronic Inflammation	59
2.5.6	Therapeutic Strategies	61
<b>Chapter Three: Materials and Methods</b>		62
3.1	Materials	62
3.1.1.	Reagents and Chemicals	62
3.1.2	Plant Collection	62
3.2.	Methods	63
3.2.1	Preparation of Crude Extract	63
3.2.2	Solvent Partitioning of Crude Extract	63

3.2.3	Preparation of Bovine Erythrocytes	63
3.2.4	Preparation of 2 % (w/v) Red Blood Cell (RBC)	64
3.3.	Phytochemical Screening of Various Fractions	64
3.3.1	Test for Flavonoids	64
3.3.2	Test for Tannins	64
3.3.3	Test for Alkaloids	65
3.3.4	Test for Saponins (Frothing Test)	65
3.3.5	Test for Steroids	65
3.3.6	Test for Cardiac Glycosides	65
3.3.7	Test for Phlobatannins	66
3.3.8	Test for Triterpenes	66
3.4	GC-MS Analysis of the Hexane Fraction of <i>A. ohioense</i>	66
3.4.1	Compound Identification	67
3.5	Assay of Membrane Stabilizing Potential	67
3.6	Inhibition of Denaturation of Albumin Assay	68
3.7	<i>In vitro</i> Xanthine Oxidase Inhibition Assay	68
3.8	<i>In vitro</i> Lipooxygenase Inhibitory Assay	69
3.9	Isolation and Identification of Compounds from Ethyl Acetate Fraction	70
3.9.1	Fractionation of Ethyl Acetate Fraction	71
3.9.2	Bulking of Test Tube Fractions	71
3.9.3	Fractionation of 6B	78
3.9.4	Bulking of Fractions of 6B	78
3.5	Spectroscopic Analysis of the Isolate	78
<b>Chapter Four: Results</b>		<b>80</b>
4.1	Yield of Methanolic Crude Extract of <i>A. ohioense</i>	80



4.2	Phytochemical Constituents of <i>A. ohioense</i> Fractions	80
4.3	Membrane Stabilizing Activities of Fractions of <i>A. ohioense</i>	89
4.4	Anti-Denaturation Activities of the Fractions of <i>A. Ohioense</i>	91
4.5	Anti-LOX and Anti-XO Activities of Ethyl Acetate(EtOAc) and Dichloromethane (DCM) Fractions	91
4.6:	The Interpretation of Proton ( <sup>1</sup> H) NMR Spectrum	94
4.7:	The Interpretation of <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectrum	94
4.8	The Working Structure	97
<b>Chapter Five: Discussion and Conclusion</b>		<b>99</b>
5.1	Discussion	99
5.2	Conclusion	108
<b>REFERENCES</b>		<b>109</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>		<b>124</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Basic Structures of Some Plant-Derived Alkaloids	15
2. Basic Structures of Some Plant-Derived Flavonoids	23
Basic Structures of Some Plant-Derived Phenolics	254.
Structures of Some Plant-Derived Tannins	285.
Structures of Some Plant-Derived Anthraquinones.	326.
Structures of Some Pharmacologically Important Plant-Derived Essential Oils.	35
7. Basic Structures of Some Pharmacologically Important Plant-Derived Steroids	378.
Inflammatory Pathway and Sites of Drug Action	50
Isolation and Identification Scheme via Chromatographic Techniques	72
GC-MS Chromatogram of the Hexane Fraction of <i>A. ohioense</i>	84
Identification of Compound 1 from n-Hexane Fraction	86
Identification of Compound 2 from n-Hexane Fraction	87
Identification of Compound 3 from n-Hexane Fraction	88
Membrane Stabilization Activities of Fractions of <i>A. ohioense</i> Bovine Erythrocyte	90
Effects of <i>A. ohioense</i> Fractions on Albumin Denaturation	92
( <sup>1</sup> H) NMR Spectrum	95
Spectrum	964.9:
Structure	98

## LIST OF PLATES

Plate	Page
1.1: Photograph of <i>Archidium ohioense</i>	6
3.1. TLC Profile of Some Test Tube Fractions	753.2.
Chromatogram of the Eight Combined Fractions	77 3.3.
Chromatogram of Fractions of 6B	793.4.
Chromatogram of 6B <sub>2</sub> Fraction Showing a Single Spot	79

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Methods for Testing Presence of Alkaloids	16
2. Types of Terpenoids According to the Number of Isopropene Units	30
3.1 Elution Profile of Ethyl Acetate Fraction	73
3.2. Development of Fractions on TLC Plates	74
3.3. The Eight Combined Fractions from Ethyl Acetate Fraction	76
4.1. Phytochemical Constituents of Fractions of <i>A. ohioense</i>	81
4.2. Identified Constituents of Hexane Fraction of <i>A. ohioense</i> by GC-MS	82
4.3: LOX and XO Percentage Inhibition Activities of EtOAc and DCM Fractions	93

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

6B	Test Tube Fraction from Ethyl Acetate Fraction of <i>Archidium ohioense</i>
6B <sub>2</sub>	Isolate from 6B
COX	Cyclooxygenase
DCM	Dichloromethane
EtOAc	Ethyl Acetate
LOX	Lipoxygenase
NADPH	Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide Phosphate Reduced
NO	Nitric Oxide
NSAID	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
SAID	Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
XO	Xanthine Oxidase

## ABSTRACT

This study evaluated the anti-inflammatory potential of *Archidium ohioense* (a moss) and elucidated the structure of the compound responsible for this activity. This was with a view to finding the bioactive compound(s) responsible for its anti-inflammatory reactions.

The plant materials were dried and milled into powders. The powdered plant sample (1.5 kg) was extracted with 80% (v/v) methanol for 48 h at room temperature. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield the crude methanol extract. The crude extract was partitioned with n-hexane, dichloromethane, ethylacetate and butanol to afford five different fractions. Each of the fractions obtained was screened for presence of secondary metabolites. Also the membrane stabilization potential, albumin denaturation inhibition, xanthine oxidase and lipooxygenase inhibitory techniques of the fractions were evaluated using standard methods. The structure of the compound responsible for the anti-inflammatory activity from the ethyl acetate fraction (most active) was elucidated via chromatographic and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopic techniques.

All the fractions possessed strong anti-inflammatory properties at various concentrations tested. The ethyl acetate fraction (EtOAc) exerted maximum percentage stability of  $97.39 \pm 0.00$  at 0.15 mg/ml, n-hexane fraction (nHF) exerted  $96.23 \pm 0.00\%$  at 0.25 mg/ml, dichloromethane fraction (DCMF) exerted  $91.85 \pm 0.00\%$  stability at 0.30 mg/ml, butanol fraction exerted  $87.71 \pm 0.00\%$  at 0.30 mg/ml and aqueous fractions (with least) percentage membrane stability of  $23.93 \pm 0.01$  at 0.15 mg/ml. The EtOAc, DCM and nH fractions competed favourably with diclofenac (a standard drug) which exerted  $86.94 \pm 0.00\%$  at 0.30 mg/ml. All the fractions of *A. ohioense* demonstrated anti-denaturation activities on heat-treated bovine serum albumin (BSA)

with the EtOAc fraction having the highest inhibitory activity, followed by DCM. Also, EtOAc fraction demonstrated higher and better percentage inhibitory activities for both lipooxygenase and xanthine oxidase than the DCM fraction at 0.05 mg/ml. The EtOAc fraction had its maximum percentage inhibitions of  $75.00 \pm 1.67$  for lipooxygenase and  $62.50 \pm 8.84$  for xanthine oxidase. The percentage inhibition of lipooxygenase and xanthine oxidase by DCM fraction were  $71.67 \pm 3.54$  and  $50.00 \pm 0.00$  respectively. Ascorbic acid, a well-known inhibitor of lipooxygenase inhibited the enzyme to  $70.00 \pm 2.36\%$  while allopurinol (a standard drug) had  $77.50 \pm 1.76\%$  inhibition against xanthine oxidase.

This study concluded that the ethyl acetate fraction of the plant exhibited strong anti-inflammatory activity. Also the compound responsible for this action was elucidated to be 4, 4-dimethyl cyclohexanone.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

Inflammation is a natural process used by the cells to fight any infection and heal injuries, and is often noticed as soreness and swelling (Jaykumar *et al.*, 2012; Centre for inflammation Research, 2014). The aetiology of inflammation is varied and includes infection, noxious chemicals and drugs, stress or physical factors, ultra-violet exposure, hypoxia, nutritional imbalance, allergic irritants, genetic and environmental factors (Iwalewa *et al.*, 2007). Whatever might be the stimuli, it brings about tissue damage. Cells respond against such injurious agents in order to combat further damages to tissues. The purpose of the response is to localize and eliminate the agent as well as to remove the damaged tissue components so that the body can begin to heal (Britannica, 2012). Such responses of the cells against the injurious agents is called inflammatory response.

When tissues are first damaged, the blood vessels in such areas constrict momentarily, a process called vaso-constriction. Following the release of histamine, the blood vessels dilate (vasodilation), thereby increasing the blood flow into the area. Furthermore, the walls of the blood vessels become more permeable. Sequel to that, protein-rich fluid, called exudate, is now able to leak into the tissues. The exudate contains clotting factors and antibodies. The leaking out of exudates and other substances may cause the white blood cells to adhere to the walls of the blood vessels resulting in their accumulation. All of this, is to localize and eliminate the agent as well as to remove the damaged tissue components so that the body can begin to heal (Britannica, 2012).

If the agent causing the tissue damage cannot be eliminated, or if there are some degrees of interferences with the healing process, the originally acute inflammatory response may progress to the chronic stage. The chronic inflammatory response then manifests histologically by the presence of lymphocytes and macrophages, resulting in fibrosis and tissue necrosis. If there is a persistent chronic inflammation, it increases the development of the degenerative diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis, heart disease, Alzheimer, asthma, acquired immunodeficiency disorder (AIDS), cancer, congestive heart failure (CHF), multiple sclerosis (MS), diabetes, infections (bacteria, fungi, parasites), gout, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), aging and other neurodegenerative CNS depression, all of which are associated with immunopathological disorder that appears to play a key role in the onset of the condition (O'Byrne and Dalglish, 2001).

These diseases and disorders have been linked to increased expression of pro-inflammatory mediators which activates inflammatory cells by increasing the expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines, up-regulating genes that produce nuclear factor kappa B (NF- $\kappa$ B), NADPH oxidase, phospholipase A<sub>2</sub>, cyclooxygenases 1 and 2 (COX-1 and COX-2), 5-Lipoxygenase (5-LOX), myeloperoxidase, inducible nitrogen oxide synthase (iNOS), increasing oxygen consumption and producing many oxygen-free radicals that can finally lead to certain degenerative diseases (Charles *et al.*, 1999; Locati and Murphy, 1999).

Nitric oxide (NO) is an example of reactive nitrogen species that participates in normal physiological processes such as vasodilation and neurotransmission; however, overexpression may result in disease as observed in inflammation, asthma, cardiovascular disorders and organ transplant rejection (Coleman, 2002).



Therefore, if inflammation is not controlled correctly by the body, it may cause illnesses such as asthma and arthritis. Long term (or chronic) inflammatory disorders are amongst the major killers in the UK, including heart disease, lung and airway disease (e.g. associated with smoking), chronic liver disease (e.g. associated with viral infection and alcohol) and chronic kidney disease. Uncontrolled inflammation also leads to tissue scarring (fibrosis) which can prevent organs such as the lung, kidney and liver from working properly (Centre for inflammation Research, 2014).

Whilst this range of disorders may appear daunting, the fact that they may have a common cause means that by understanding the biology of inflammation, we will be able to design generic approaches to a range of disorders affecting different organs. Methods are being developed to look at the inflammation and scars within the body to allow scientists to treat the problems more effectively without having to take tissue samples from the organs (Centre for inflammation Research, 2014).

### 1.1: The Study Plant

*Archidium ohioense* is a tropical moss plant belonging to the family of *Archidiaceae* and grows largely on rocky grounds. Its geographical distribution ranges from coastal antarctica to the tundra of the northern hemisphere, and from the

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