



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***EFFICACY OF CHANNA STRIATUS BLOCH AQUEOUS EXTRACT AND
ZERUMBONE IN ALLEVIATING INDUCED KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS IN
RATS***

FAYAK JABBAR TAQI AL-SAFFAR

FPV 2011 10

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ZERUMBONE IN ALLEVIATING INDUCED KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS IN
RATS**

By

FAYAK JABBAR TAQI AL-SAFFAR

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

May 2011

DEDICATION

Dedicated with love and gratitude to:

My beloved parents

&

My wife

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

EFFICACY OF *CHANNA STRIATUS* BLOCH AQUEOUS EXTRACT AND ZERUMBONE IN ALLEVIATING INDUCED KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS IN RATS

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May 2011

Chairman: Associate Professor Shanthi Ganabadi, PhD

Faculty: Veterinary Medicine

The aim of this study was to evaluate the chondroprotective effects of two natural remedies, aqueous extract of *Channa striatus* (CS) and crystalline zerumbone purified from the rhizomes of *Zingiber Zerumbet* Smith, on experimentally induced knee osteoarthritis (OA) in Sprague-Dawley rats. Preliminary study was implemented to determine the effective method for the induction of OA in the knee joints of rats prior to the treatment. Accordingly, monosodium iodoacetate (MIA) was selected to achieve the experimental knee osteoarthritis in rats.

Evaluation of OA changes following 4 weeks of treatment was done through macroscopic and microscopic examinations supported with radiography to the knee joints. The immunoreactivity in the synovial membranes was evaluated with the aid of immunohistochemistry (IHC) study using the immunofluorescence technique. The study showed improved density of the following neuropeptide nerve fibers: protein

gene product (PGP) 9.5, calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) and neuropeptide Y (NPY). Anti-inflammatory property of CS extract and zerumbone was assayed through estimation of serum prostaglandins E_2 (PGE_2) and $F_{2\alpha}$ ($PGF_{2\alpha}$) concentrations using the enzyme immunoassay kits, to ascertain their positive effect on the OA joints. The concentrations of the prostaglandins were determined during three periods that is before and during OA periods and after 4 weeks of the treatment. For the zerumbone treatment group, some phase I and phase II hepatic metabolizing enzymes (cytochrome P450, glutathione *S*-transferase) and oxidative stress biomarkers (malondialdehyde, glutathione) were determined to explore hepatic status after treatment.

Following 4 weeks of the treatment with 10 ml/kg of the aqueous CS extract and 2ml/kg of zerumbone, histopathological changes of joints articular cartilages decreased and the immunoreactivity in the synovial membranes improved. The OA changes decreased significantly in zerumbone-treated rats. This difference may be due to the dual anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties of zerumbone, while the CS extract only has the anti-inflammatory property. Assay of hormones in serum of rats revealed an important role of PGE_2 but not $PGF_{2\alpha}$ during OA induction and following the treatment with both natural remedies. In conclusion, both CS extract and zerumbone have obvious improved effect against experimentally induced knee OA in rats, but with zerumbone producing markedly different effect. The safety profile of zerumbone shown by the absence of oxidative stress suggests an opportunity to study the possibility of using this compound at higher dosage regimen and/or longer duration of for the treatment of OA or other disease.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia Sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Doktor Falsafah

**EFIKASI EKSTRAK AKEOUS CHANNA STRIATUS BLOCH DAN
ZERUMBON BAGI MENGURANGKAN OSTEOARTRITIS LUTUT YANG
DIANH PADA TIKUS**

Oleh

FAYAK JABBAR TAQI AL-SAFFAR

May 2011

Pengerusi: Profesor madya Shanthi Ganabadi, PhD

Fakulti: Perubatan Veterinar

Tujuan penyelidikan ini adalah untuk menilai kesan kondroperlindung dua remedi semula jadi, iaitu ekstrak akueus *Channa striatus* (CS) dan zerumbon hablur yang dituliskan daripada rizom *Zingiber zerumbet* Smith, terhadap osteoarthritis (OA) lutut teraruh ujikaji tikus Sprague-Dawley. Kajian awal dijalankan untuk menentukan kaedah berkesan untuk pengurangan OA dalam sendi lutut tikus sebelum rawatan. Dengan demikian, mononatrium iodoasetat (MIA) telah dipilih untuk tujuan menyatakan OA ujikaji pada tikus.

Penilaian perubahan OA 4 minggu selepas rawatan dilakukan secara pemeriksaan makroskopi dan mikroskopi dan disokong dengan radiografi sendi lutut. Keimunreaktifan pada membran sinovium dinilai dengan bantuan kajian immunohistokimia (IHC) mengguna teknik immunopendarfluoran. Kajian ini menunjukkan peningkatan ketumpatan gentian saraf neuropeptida berikut: produk

gen protein (PGP) 9.5, peptida terkait gen kalsitonin (CGRP) dan neuropeptida Y (NPY). Sifat antikeradangan ekstrak CS dan zerumbon telah diassaikan melalui sukatan prostaglandin E_2 dan $F_2\alpha$ serum kit mengguna kit imunoassai enzim untuk memastikan kesan positif pada sendi OA. Kepekatan prostaglandin tersebut ditentukan dalam tiga tempoh, iaitu sebelum, semasa OA dan 4 minggu selepas rawatan. Untuk kumpulan rawatan zerumbon, beberapa enzim metabolisme hepar fasa I dan II (sitokrom P450, glutathion *S*-transferase) dan penanda tekanan oksidatif (melondialdehid, glutathion) telah ditentukan untuk meninjau status hepar selepas rawatan.

Selepas 4 minggu rawatan dengan 10 ml/kg ekstrak CS akueus dan 2 ml/kg zerumbon, perubahan histopatologi menjadi bertambah kurang dan keimunoreaktifan membran sinovium beransur pulih. Perubahan OA berkurangan secara tererti ($P < 0.05$) pada tikus yang dirawat dengan zerumbon. Perbezaan tersebut mungkin disebabkan oleh sifat berkembar antikeradangan dan antipengoksidaan zerumbon, manakala, ekstrak CS hanya mempunyai sifat antikeradangan. Assai hormon pada serum tikus telah mendedahkan peranan penting PGE_2 tetapi bukan $PGF_2\alpha$ semasa pengaruahan OA dan berikutan kedua-dua remedi semula jadi ini. Kesimpulannya kedua-dua ekstrak CS dan zerumbon mempunyai kesan penambahbaikan nyata terhadap OA lutut teraruh ujikaji pada tikus, tetapi dengan zerumbon memberi kesan yang berbeza ketara. Profil keselamatan zerumbon yang ternyata daripada ketiadaan tekanan oksida ini, membuka peluang untuk mengkaji kemungkinan menggunakan sebatian ini pada dos lebih tinggi dan/atau dalam tempoh lebih lama dalam rawatan OA atau penyakit lain.

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Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my greatest parents and wife for their endless encouragement, love and emotional support, which had helped me in all undertakings and the completion of this project.

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 19 May 2011 to conduct the final examination of FAYAK JABBAR TAQI AL-SAFFAR on his thesis entitled “Efficacy of *Channa striatus* Bloch aqueous extract and zerumbone in alleviating induced knee osteoarthritis in rats” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

Members of the Thesis Examination Committee were as follows:

MOHAMED ALI RAGION, PhD

Professor

Veterinary Medicine

Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Chairman)

DATO’ TENGKU AZMI IBRAHIM, PhD

Professor

Veterinary Medicine

Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Internal Examiner)

SABRINA SUKARDI, PhD

Associate Professor

Medicine and Health Sciences

Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Internal Examiner)

CAMILLE VAILLANT, PhD

Programme Director for the BSc in Bioveterinary Science

Veterinary Science

University of Liverpool

(External Examiner)

NORITAH OMAR, PhD

Associate Professor and Deputy Dean

School of Graduate Studies

Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

This thesis was submitted to the senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Shanthi Ganabadi, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Sharida Fakurazi, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Halimatun Yaakub, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Agriculture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

HASANAH MOHD GHAZALI, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotation and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for my other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.



FAYAK JABBAR TAQI AL-SAFFAR

Date: 19 May 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
APPROVAL	viii
DECLARATION	x
LIST OF TABLES	xv
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xix
CHAPTER	
1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Definition of osteoarthritis	1
1.2 Classification of osteoarthritis	2
1.3 Etiology of osteoarthritis	3
1.4 Symptoms and diagnosis of osteoarthritis	3
1.5 Pathogenesis of osteoarthritis	4
1.6 Incidence of osteoarthritis	5
1.7 Current regulation of osteoarthritis	6
1.8 Hypothesis	7
1.9 Objectives of the study	7
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	9
2.1 Normal structure of the knee joint	9
2.1.1 Anatomy of the rat knee joint	9
2.1.2 Articular cartilage	11
2.1.3 Subchondral bone	14
2.1.4 Synovial membrane	17
2.2 Osteoarthritis and its causes	18
2.3 Neuropeptides role in osteoarthritis development	21
2.4 Incidence and current treatments of osteoarthritis	27
2.5 Prevalence of knee osteoarthritis in malaysian population	28
2.6 Stem cell therapy in osteoarthritis	29
2.7 Natural remedies and alternative therapies	31
2.8 <i>Channa striatus</i> extract	33
2.9 Zerumbone	37
2.10 Toxicity of natural products	40
2.10.1 Metabolizing enzymes	41
2.10.2 Oxidative stress biomarkers	45
3 GENERAL MATERIALS AND METHODS	51
3.1 Preparation of the animals	51
3.2 First experiment: experimental induction of osteoarthritis	51

3.2.1	Experimental design	52
3.2.2	Radiography	53
3.2.3	Histological preparation of the knee joints	53
3.2.4	Histological grading	54
3.2.5	Statistical analysis	55
3.3	Second Experiment: orally administrated <i>Channa striatus</i> extract against monosodium iodoacetate induced osteoarthritis	55
3.3.1	Experimental design	55
3.3.2	Protocol of treatment	56
3.3.3	Radiography	56
3.3.4	Body weight and gross evaluation of the knee joints	57
3.3.5	Histological preparation of the knee joints	57
3.3.6	Histological grading	58
3.3.7	Histologic preparation of the synovial membranes	58
3.3.8	Preparation of <i>Channa striatus</i> extract	60
3.3.9	Assay of prostaglandins	60
3.3.10	Statistical analysis	61
3.4	Third Experiment: orally administrated zerumbone against monosodium iodoacetate induced knee osteoarthritis	61
3.4.1	Experimental design	62
3.4.2	Radiography	62
3.4.3	Body weight and gross evaluation of the knee joints	63
3.4.4	Histological preparation of the knee joints, synovial membranes and histological grading	63
3.4.5	Preparation of zerumbone	63
3.4.6	Protocol of treatment	64
3.4.7	Evaluation of CYP450, GST and oxidative stress biomarkers	64
4	COLLAGENASE AND SODIUM IODOACTATE - INDUCED EXPERIMENTAL OSTEOARTHRITIS MODEL IN SPRAGUE DAWLEY RATS	70
4.1	Introduction	70
4.2	Materials and methods	72
4.3	Results	73
4.3.1	Clinical and gross observations	73
4.3.2	Radiography	74
4.3.3	Histopathology	76
4.4	Discussion	82
4.5	Conclusions	85
4.6	Summary	85
5	CHONDROPROTECTIVE EFFECT OF ZERUMBONE ON MONOSODIUM IODOACETATE INDUCED OSTEOARTHRITIS IN RATS	87
5.1	Introduction	87
5.2	Materials and methods	90
5.3	Results	90
5.3.1	Gross changes	90
5.3.2	Radiography	93

5.3.3	Microscopic observations	93
5.3.4	Statistical results	103
5.4	Discussion	103
5.5	Conclusions	107
5.6	Summary	107
6	RESPONSE OF <i>CHANNA STRIATUS</i> EXTRACT AGAINST MONOSODIUM IODOACETATE INDUCED OSTEOARTHRITIS IN RATS	109
6.1	Introduction	109
6.2	Materials and methods	111
6.3	Results	111
6.3.1	Gross observations	111
6.3.2	Radiography	113
6.3.3	microscopic observations	113
6.3.4	Results of immunohistochemistry study	119
6.3.5	Results of prostaglandins assay	121
6.4	Discussion	122
6.5	Conclusions	125
6.6	Summary	126
7	ZERUMBONE IMPROVE IMMUNOREACTIVITY OF NEUROPEPTIDES IN MONOSODIUM IODOACETATE INDUCED KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS IN RAT	127
7.1	Introduction	127
7.2	Materials and methods	129
7.3	Results	130
7.3.1	Histological examination of the synovial membranes	130
7.3.2	Immunohistochemical results	133
7.3.3	Hormone assay	137
7.4	Discussion	137
7.5	Conclusions	139
7.6	Summary	140
8	ZERUMBONE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED IMMUNOREACTIVITY IN THE SYNOVIUM COMPARED TO <i>CHANNA STRIATUS</i> EXTRACT IN MONOSODIUM IODOACETATE (MIA)-INDUCED KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS IN RAT	141
8.1	Introduction	141
8.2	Materials and methods	144
8.3	Results	144
8.3.1	Histological examination of the synovial membranes	144
8.3.2	Immunohistochemical results	147
8.3.3	Results of prostaglandins assay	151
8.4	Discussion	152
8.5	Conclusions	156
8.6	Summary	156

9	RESPONSE OF HEPATIC METABOLIZING ENZYMES AND OXIDATIVE STRESS IN ORALLY ADMINISTRATED ZERUMBONE AGAINST MIA-INDUCED OSTEOARTHRITIS IN RATS	158
9.1	Introductions	158
9.2	Materials and methods	161
9.3	Results and discussion	162
9.4	Conclusions	168
9.5	Summary	169
10	GENERAL DISCUSSION	170
10.1	Experimental osteoarthritis	170
10.2	<i>Channa striatus</i> aqueous extract	172
10.3	Zerumbone	174
11	SUMMARY, GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS	178
	REFERENCES	183
	APPENDICES	202
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	216
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	217

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
4.1	Different histopathological changes in collagenase and MIA injected joints in time dependent manner (three durations for OA induction)	76
5.1	Histopathology score of articular surfaces and subchondral bones of the rat's right knees in ZI, ZII, CEL and CO groups	101
5.2	Results of Mann-Whitney test analysis between each two groups of the study	103
6.1	Histopathology score of the articular surfaces, subchondral bones and synovial membranes of the rat's right knees in HI, HII, CEL and NS groups	114
6.2	Density means of PGP 9.5, CGRP and NPY immunoreactive nerve Fibers detected at the synovial membranes of the right knees for the treated groups (HI, HII, CEL and NS) and left normal non induced joint	121
6.3	Concentrations of prostaglandins (PGs) in serum of rats at three Different periods and different treated groups: NS (normal saline), CEL (celecoxib), HI and HII (<i>Channa striatus</i> extract)	122
7.1	Histopathology score of synovial membranes of the rat's right knees of the treated groups with 0.2% zerumbone (ZI), 0.4% Zerumbone (ZII), celecoxib (CEL) and corn oil (CO)	131
7.2	Density means of PGP 9.5, CGRP and NPY immunoreactive nerve fibers detected at the synovial membranes of the right knees for the treated groups [0.2% zerumbone (ZI), 0.4% zerumbone (ZII), celecoxib (CEL) and corn oil (CO)] and left normal non induced joints	136
7.3	Concentrations of prostaglandins (PGs) in serum of rats at three different periods and different treated groups: CO (corn oil), CEL (celecoxib), ZI (0.2% zerumbone) and ZII (0.4% zerumbone)	136
8.1	Microscopic evaluation score of the right rat's knees synovial membranes of the treated groups with normal saline (NS), celecoxib (CEL), CS extract (CS) and zerumbone (ZER)	147
8.2	Density means of PGP 9.5, CGRP and NPY immunoreactive nerve fibers detected at the synovial membranes of the right knees for the treated groups [normal saline (NS), Celecoxib (CEL), CS extract (CS), zerumbone (ZER)] and left normal non induced joints	151
8.3	Concentrations of prostaglandins (PGs) in serum of rats at three different periods and different treated groups	152

- 9.1 Hepatic concentrations of proteins, CYP450, GST, GSH and MDA in 162
ZI (treated with 2 ml/kg body weight of 0.2% w/v zerumbone diluted
in corn oil), ZII (treated with 2 ml/kg body weight of 0.4% w/v
zerumbone diluted in corn oil), CEL (treated with 30 mg/kg body
weight diluted in 5% carboxyl methyl cellulose), CO (treated with 2
ml/kg body weight corn oil) and B (left untreated) groups



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
4.1	Gross observations of the normal left (L) and osteoarthritis induced right knee joints (R)	73
4.2	Radiography of the right and left knee joints	75
4.3	Normal articular cartilage (A) and subchondral bone (S) of the tibial plateau as well as femoral condyle	77
4.4	First duration (post 2nd week of OA induction)	79
4.5	Second duration (post 4th week of OA induction)	79
4.6	Third duration (post 6th week of OA induction)	81
4.7	MIA injected knee joint, post 6th week of OA induction	81
4.8	Differences between collagenase and MIA means (0-2.5) of their histopathological scores for the three consecutive durations of OA induction	82
5.1	Gross changes in the osteoarthritis induced knee joints (on day 43)	91
5.2	Radiographies of the right knee joints showing the radiographic changes in their bones femur (F) and tibia (T)	92
5.3	Normal articular cartilages and subchondral bones of the femoral condyle (F) and tibial plateau (T) of the left knee joint	94
5.4	Right knees from ZI group	96
5.5	Right knees from ZII group	97
5.6	Right knees from celecoxib treated group	99
5.7	Right knees from corn oil treated group	100
6.1	Radiographs showing changes in femoral (F) and tibial (T) parts of the knees	112
6.2	Articular cartilages and synovial membranes from normal saline group stained with H and E and Safranin	116
6.3	Articular cartilages and synovial membranes from CEL group stained with H and E	117

6.4	Joints from HI and HII groups stained with H and E and Safranin	118
6.5	Synovial membranes from normal, HI and HII groups stained with CY3	120
7.1	Synovial membranes (SMs) stained with H and E	132
7.2	Synovial membranes (SMs) from normal, CO and CEL groups stained with CY3	134
7.3	Synovial membranes from ZI and ZII groups stained with CY3	135
8.1	Synovial membranes (SMs) stained with H and E	146
8.2	Synovial membranes from normal, NS and CEL groups stained with Cy3	149
8.3	Synovial membranes from CS and ZER groups stained with Cy3	150
9.1	Gradual gain (gram) in the body weight (#) of all groups throughout the experiment	163

ABBREVIATIONS

ACUC	Animal care and use committee
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase
B	Basal group
BCA	Bicinchoninic acid
BHT	Butylated hydroxytoluene
°C	Degree Celsius
CCL	Cranial cruciate ligament
CDNB	1-chloro-2, 4-dinitrobenzene
CEL	Celecoxib
CGRP	Calcitonin gene related peptide
CO	Corn oil
COL	Collagenase
COX	Cyclooxygenase
CS	<i>Channa striatus</i>
CY	Cytochrome
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
Fig.	Figure
FITC	Fluorescein isothiocyanate
g	Gravity force
GSH	Glutathione
GST	Glutathione <i>S</i> - transferase

Gt XRb IgG Cy3	Goat Anti-rabbit Immunoglobulin G Cyanine 3
H and E	Hematoxylin and Eosin
HI	First Haruan (<i>Channa striatus</i> extract) treated group
HII	Second Haruan (<i>Channa striatus</i> extract) treated group
h	hour
IHC	Immunohistochemistry
IL-1 β	Interleukin-1beta
IL-1Ra	Interleukin-1Receptor antagonist
KCl	Potassium chloride
L	Liter
M	Mole
μ M	Micromole
mg	Milligram
m/sec	Meter/second
μ m	Micrometer
MDA	Malondialdehyde
ml/kg	Milliliter/kilogram
MIA	Monosodium iodoacetate
min	Minute
n	Number
NADP	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate
nm	Nanometer
NO \cdot	Nitric oxide
NP	Neuropeptide
NS	Normal saline

NSAIDs	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
$O_2^{\cdot -}$	Superoxide
OA	Osteoarthritis
$\cdot OH$	Hydroxyl
oMSCs	Ovine Mesenchymal Stromal cells
PBS	Phosphate buffer saline
pg	Picogram
PG	Prostaglandin
PGP	Protein gene product
RDO	Rapid Decalcifiant osseous
RO	Alkoxy
ROO	peroxyl
rpm	Revolute per minute
SCs	Stem Cells
SEM	Standard error of mean
SM	Synovial membrane
SP	Substance P
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
TNF- α	Tumor necrosis factor-alpha
USA	United State of American
WHO	World Health Organization
ZER	Zerumbone
ZI	First zerumbone treated group
ZII	Second zerumbone treated group
w/v	Weight/volume

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Definition of osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis which is also known as degenerative arthritis or degenerative joint disease is derived from the Greek word "*osteo*", meaning "of the bone", "*arthro*", meaning "joint", and "*itis*", meaning inflammation, although many sufferers have little or no inflammation. In fact, "*itis*" in Osteoarthritis is not conspicuous feature of the disease and it is solely to wear and tear mechanism (Gonzales-Penserga, 2009).

Osteoarthritis is defined in many ways and any simple definition is deceptive of its complexity. Osteologists detected characteristic features of osteoarthritis such as bony spicules and erosion on joint surfaces and those skeletal changes may reflect more severe involvement than in the clinical diagnosis (Weiss, 2006). Osteoarthritis can be defined by joint symptoms, by structural pathology or by the combination of the two. Osteoarthritis is an age-related disease and that all tissues of the joint are involved, although the loss of articular cartilage and changes in the adjacent bone remain the most striking features (Arden and Nevitt, 2006). In essence, the protective cushion found in the joints between bones eventually wears down and that the bones rub against other, resulting in inflammation and pain (Arden and Nevitt, 2006).

Osteoarthritis commonly affects the joints that support the weight of the body such as hips, knees, ankles and spine. The real cause of OA is yet unknown but some factors such as aging, obesity, joint injury, joint stress, and heredity seem to play a role in the development and perpetuation (Arden and Nevitt, 2006; Gonzales-Penserga, 2009; Ahmed, 2010). The disease is one of the common disabling chronic joint illness affecting humans and different domestic animals. Osteoarthritis is usually accompanied by subchondral responses (Guzman *et al.*, 2003) and synovitis which contributes to its pathogenesis through formation of different catabolic and pro-inflammatory mediators such as nitric oxide, PGE₂, pro-inflammatory cytokines and several neuropeptides (Sutton *et al.*, 2009).

1.2 Classification of osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis is classified as being primary or secondary. Primary or idiopathic OA is wear and tear condition; age related and is the more commonly diagnosed type. Primary OA may be developed in a single joint (knee, hip, and spine) or generalized (three or more joint groups). Secondary OA has a specific cause so that it may appear after the following conditions: metabolic (e.g. calcium crystal deposition), anatomical (e.g. congenital dislocation of the hip), traumatic (e.g. fracture through a joint) and inflammatory (septic arthritis) (Creamer and Hochberg, 1997; Arden and Nevitt, 2006).

1.3 Etiology of osteoarthritis

Many risk factors such as mechanical injuries, obesity, peripheral neuropathy, genetic factors and increased age have been identified and the interaction of these factors is known to initiate this joint disorder, but still the exact etiology is not known yet (Ahmed, 2010; Lin *et al.*, 2010). Numerous studies showed a strong association between obesity and radiographic knee OA (Grotle *et al.*, 2008). The role of genetic factor was well investigated by several studies. It was postulated that polymorphism or mutations in genes encoding extracellular matrix molecules (type II collagen, aggrecan, bone morphometric protein and vitamin D receptors) can play a role in the establishment of this joint disorder (Spector and MacGregor, 2004; Valdes *et al.*, 2006).

1.4 Symptoms and diagnosis of osteoarthritis

The symptoms of OA are often characterized by significant functional impairment associated with pain as well as inflammation, joint stiffness and deformity and loss of mobility. Pain is increased when the joint is loaded and with the progression of the disease, pain can occur at rest (Fernihough *et al.*, 2004; Goldring and Goldring, 2006). Diagnostic tools and evaluation of OA includes case history, physical test, x-ray examination and in some cases, laboratory testing. Many different joint scoring have been developed which differ from each other in subjective and objective criteria (Rutgers *et al.*, 2010).

1.5 Pathogenesis of osteoarthritis

The pathophysiology of the disease involves not only the breakdown of the articular cartilage but also changes in the subchondral bone and synovium. The cartilage has received the most attention in past decades due to extensive damage evident in histopathological specimens and from imaging studies (Samuels *et al.*, 2008). Chondrocytes in the mature articular cartilage are responsible to produce and maintain the extracellular matrix. Therefore, any reduction in chondrocyte density will contribute to the development of OA (Lee *et al.*, 2005).

Chondrocytes offer limited assistance to articular cartilage, but are instead essential due to their role in the synthesis and turnover of the extracellular matrix which they accomplish through a constant turnover mechanism (Acosta *et al.*, 2006). In turn, the matrix provides an environment for nutrition diffusion for chondrocytes, as well as providing biomechanical competence to the joint surface. Biomechanical reckoning indicating that damage of the surface zone of articular cartilage leads to increased loading of the cartilage matrix, resulting in higher stress on the underlying cartilage and subsequent subchondral response (Stoop *et al.*, 2001). Radiographic diagnosis can identify the characteristic features of OA such as osteophyte formation, thickening of the subchondral bone, cyst development, reduced joint space and joint misalignment (Guermazi *et al.*, 2003).

The role and relationship of the following NPs: CGRP, substance P (SP), NPY and PGP 9.5 in OA development and progression had been well identified in the knee joints of human and domestic animals (Heppelmann *et al.*, 1997; Tamura *et al.*, 1998; Tahmasebi-Sarvestani *et al.*, 2001; Michelle *et al.*, 2004; Miller *et al.*, 2005). Reduction of these fibers in OA may be due to their depletion or necrosis (Buma *et al.*, 2000) or indirectly due to the production of oxygen free radicals during OA events and subsequently their necrosis (Konttinen *et al.*, 1992).

1.6 Incidence of osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis is well known to cause major health burden in human and veterinary practice. In human, OA affects a large population with considerable morbidity and disability (Dumond *et al.*, 2004). Recent survey of the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed 10% of the world population with the average of age 60 years suffers osteoarthritis pain (McDougall, 2006). In the veterinary field, OA is widely encountered in many animal species. In equine, OA is a naturally occurring degenerative disease which is age related and factors such as stress of racing and training may accelerates its development (Cantley *et al.*, 1999). The disease is considered as the primary cause of equine lameness that leads to economic losses in equine industry (Williams, 2007). In dogs, the disease is considered a progressive degenerative condition affecting about 20% of the adult animals (Macphail, 2000). Previous records indicated that once canine OA becomes clinically apparent, the treatment will be directed only to slow down its progression and improving the general mobility and quality of life of the affected dogs (Doig *et al.*, 2000).

Osteoarthritic pain in feline species is very difficult to detect or diagnose clinically. However, radiographic evidences showed higher percentages of aged cats affected are due to OA (Taylor and Robertson, 2004) and recent researchers found that patellar luxation is an important cause of this condition (Loughin *et al.*, 2006).

1.7 Current regulation of osteoarthritis

Treatment and regulation of osteoarthritis is very complicated due to lack of commercial drugs definitely proven to modify its development and progression. Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are widely prescribed for the treatment of pain due to OA but they are not 100% safe because some complications may occur in their long term use such as suppression of blood platelets, incomplete pain relief and mucosal disruption of gastrointestinal tract (Bove *et al.*, 2003; Fernihough *et al.*, 2004). Current therapeutic interventions are useful for controlling symptoms, specially the pain. Adverse side effects of OA regulations may be ameliorated by the use of botanical or animal extracts alternatives. *Channa striatus* (common name: Haruan) extract and zerumbone are such candidates. To date there was only one preliminary investigation undertaken to study the effect of *Channa* extract on PGP 9.5 immunoreactivity in surgically-induced OA in rabbit. Therefore this study was undertaken to identify the chondroprotective effect of channa extract and zerumbone and to compare their effect on the densities of nerve fibers of some OA related neuropeptides. Prostaglandins in the serum were assayed to explore their role and relationship during OA and following the treatment with both natural remedies.

1.8 Hypothesis

Anti-inflammatory properties of the *Channa striatus* aqueous extract and the anti-inflammatory as well as antioxidant properties of zerumbone could alleviate osteoarthritic changes in the knee joints of the Sprague Dawley rats with experimentally induced osteoarthritis.

1.9 Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study were to

1. explore the effective method for induction of experimental osteoarthritis by intraarticular injection of chemicals.
2. study the chondroprotective effect of *Channa striatus* extract and zerumbone on experimentally induced knee osteoarthritis in rat.
3. examine immunoreactivity improvement effect of *Channa striatus* extract and zerumbone in the synovial membranes in experimentally induced knee osteoarthritis in rat (Immunohistochemical study).
4. study the role of serum PGE₂ and PGF₂α during osteoarthritis and following the treatment with *Channa striatus* extract and zerumbone against experimentally induced knee osteoarthritis in rat (Hormonal assay study).

5. identify some hepatic metabolizing enzymes and oxidative stress biomarkers in rats administrated zerumbone against experimentally induced knee osteoarthritis in rat (Toxicological study).



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