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Antidiabetic and Antihyperlipidaemic Effect of Hydro-alcoholic Extract of *Calendula Officinalis*

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Calendula officinalis, belonging to the family of Asteraceae, commonly known as English Marigold or Pot Marigold is an aromatic herb which is used in Traditional System of Medicine. It is mainly used because of its various biological activities to treat diseases like analgesic, antidiabetic and anti-inflammatory. It is also used for ingastro-intestinal, gynecological, eye disease, skin injuries and in some cases of burn. The plant is rich in many pharmaceutical active ingredients like Carotenoids, flavonoids, glycosides, steroids and sterols. Thus the present study was designed to evaluate the antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic effect of hydroalcoholic extract of calendula officinalis (CRHAt) in alloxan induced diabetic rats. The extract was prepared by soxhlet extraction technique with a ratio of Water : Alcohol (70:30) for 36 hrs which ensured complete extraction of active constituents. Diabetes was induced by single intraperitoneal injection of alloxan (150 mg/kg) of body weight. Oral administration of alcoholic CRHAt to diabetic rats, at a dose of 100 mg/kg body weight, resulted in a significant reduction in blood glucose, urine sugar and serum lipids in alloxan diabetic rats. The extract also increases the total haemoglobin lever. The extract effect was similar to that of insulin. Thus, the investigation clearly shows that alcoholic CRHAt has both antidiabetic and antihyperlipidaemic effects.