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Kishor K

Department of Veterinary
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
College of Veterinary Science and
A.H., N.D.V.S.U., Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh, India

Sahni YP

Department of Veterinary
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
College of Veterinary Science and
A.H., N.D.V.S.U., Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh, India

Sharma RK

Department of Veterinary
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
College of Veterinary Science and
A.H., N.D.V.S.U., Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh, India

Shrman K

Department of Veterinary
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
College of Veterinary Science and
A.H., N.D.V.S.U., Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh, India

Singh RP

Department of Veterinary
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
College of Veterinary Science and
A.H., N.D.V.S.U., Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh, India

Dinodia N

Department of Veterinary
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
College of Veterinary Science and
A.H., N.D.V.S.U., Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh, India

Singh P

Department of Veterinary
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
College of Veterinary Science and
A.H., N.D.V.S.U., Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh, India

Correspondence**Kishor K**

Department of Veterinary
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
College of Veterinary Science and
A.H., N.D.V.S.U., Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh, India

Characterization of Shatavarin-IV in root extracts of *Asparagus racemosus* by UHPLC

Kishor K, Sahni YP, Sharma RK, Shrman K, Singh RP, Dinodia N and Singh P

Abstract

The herb *Asparagus racemosus* is known as “Shatavari” or “Queen of herbs”. In this study, methanolic extracts from roots of *Asparagus racemosus* were analyzed by Ultra High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (UHPLC) with photodiode array (PDA) detector on C₁₈ column utilizing methanol and HPLC water (80:20 v/v) as mobile phase under isocratic elution at 205 nm. *Asparagus racemosus* depicted the presence of Shatavarin-IV at retention time of 3.7 minutes with concentration of 0.08 mg/g.

Keywords: UHPLC, *Asparagus racemosus*, Shatavarin-IV, queen of herbs

Introduction

Asparagus racemosus belongs to the family Aspragaceae traditionally used as anthelmintic, antiseptic, antidiarrheal, antidysenteric, antioxidant (Velavan *et al.*, 2007; Kamat *et al.*, 2000)^[14, 5], immunostimulant, antihepatotoxic (Muruganandan *et al.*, 2001)^[9], antibacterial (Mandal *et al.*, 2000)^[8], antioxytocic (Sekine *et al.*, 1997)^[12] and reproductive agent (Arora *et al.*, 2005)^[1] mainly due to the presence of steroidal saponins and sapogenins. This plant is recommended in Ayurveda for prevention and treatment of gastric ulcers, dyspepsia and as a galactagogue. *Asparagus racemosus* has been successfully employed by some ayurvedic practitioners for inflammation, nervous disorder, liver diseases and certain infectious diseases (Sinha and Biswas 2011)^[13]. It is conceivable that herbal agents could serve as safer alternatives as growth promoters due to their suitability and preference, lower cost of production and reduced toxicity (Mahmood *et al.*, 2009)^[7].

Material and Methods**Plant material**

Roots of *Asparagus racemosus* were procured from the Department of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Agriculture College, JNKVV, Jabalpur. Roots of *Asparagus racemosus* were shed dried, crushed and used for experimental purpose.

Standard and Chemicals

In this research work, standards of *Asparagus racemosus*-Shatavarin-IV (Sigma Aldrich 30151- 10mg) were procured Sigma Aldrich.

Other essential chemicals like HPLC water, Methanol and Ethanol were purchased from Hi Media laboratory Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai. All the chemicals used in this study were of UHPLC grade.

UHPLC assay procedure

The concentration of Shatavarin-IV was measured by Ultra High Performance Liquid chromatography system with Photo Diode Array Detector (PDA).

Apparatus

In this study, Ultra High Performance Liquid Chromatography (UHPLC) apparatus of Shimadzu Corporation, Japan was used. UHPLC assembly was equipped with binary gradient solvent delivery pump (SIL-30AC) with PDA detector (SPD-M20A). Chromatographic separation was performed using C₁₈ reverse phase column (Supelco Discovery Column 25cm x 4.6mm, particle size 5 μ).

Extraction of Shatavarin-IV from *Asparagus racemosus* root powder

The root of *Asparagus racemosus* herbs were nicely cleaned and air dried. The dried samples were then powdered with the help of grinder. The powdered samples were kept in an air tight

container away from sun light until use. Extraction of *Asparagus racemosus* root powder was performed by Soxhlet extraction method with the help of methanol as solvent. The ratio of root powder and solvent was 1:10 g/ml. Continuous hot solvent extraction was done for 6 h at 40 °C (Kausar *et al.*, 2017)^[6].

Sample preparation for Shatavarin-IV extract

Different concentrations of Shatavarin extract were prepared by diluting with methanol and run under above chromatographic condition. All prepared samples were purified using nylon syringe filter having pore size of 0.22 µm.

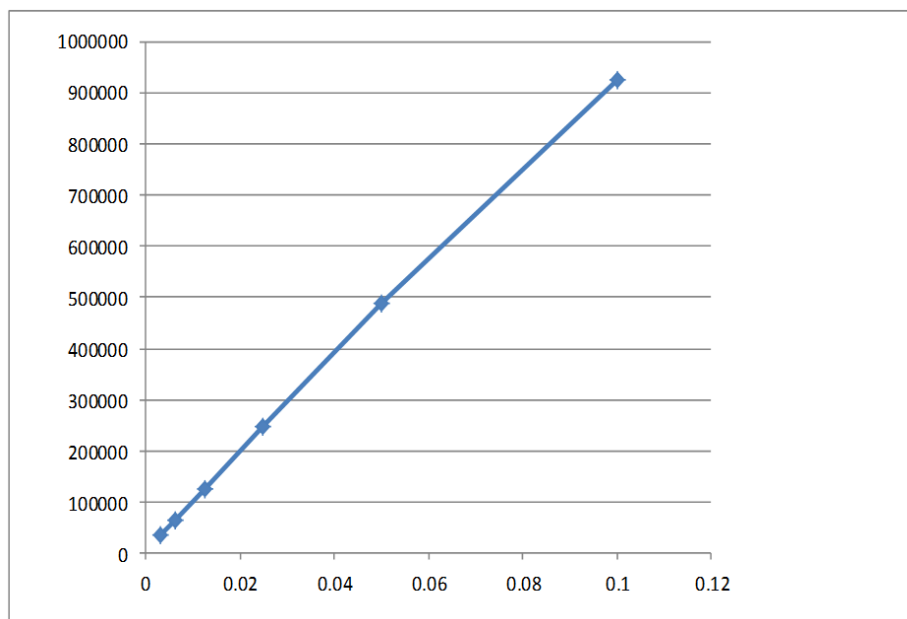
Chromatographic condition for Shatavarin-IV

Methanol: HPLC Water (80:20 V/V) was used as mobile phase for Shatavarin-IV. The mobile phase was filtered by

0.22µ nylon syringe filter before use. Flow rate for the mobile phase was 1ml.min⁻¹ and run time was 10 minutes. The temperature of column was 25±0.5 °C. The effluent was monitored at 205nm wavelength according to Negi *et al.*, 2011^[10].

Table 1: Concentrations of Shatavarin-IV for preparation of standard calibration curve

Concentration (mg. ml ⁻¹)	Peak Area (mAu)
0.1	926472
0.05	489463
0.025	246629
0.0125	125367
0.00625	69647
0.003125	34823



Calibration curve of Shatavarin-IV for *Asparagus racemosus*

Results and Discussion

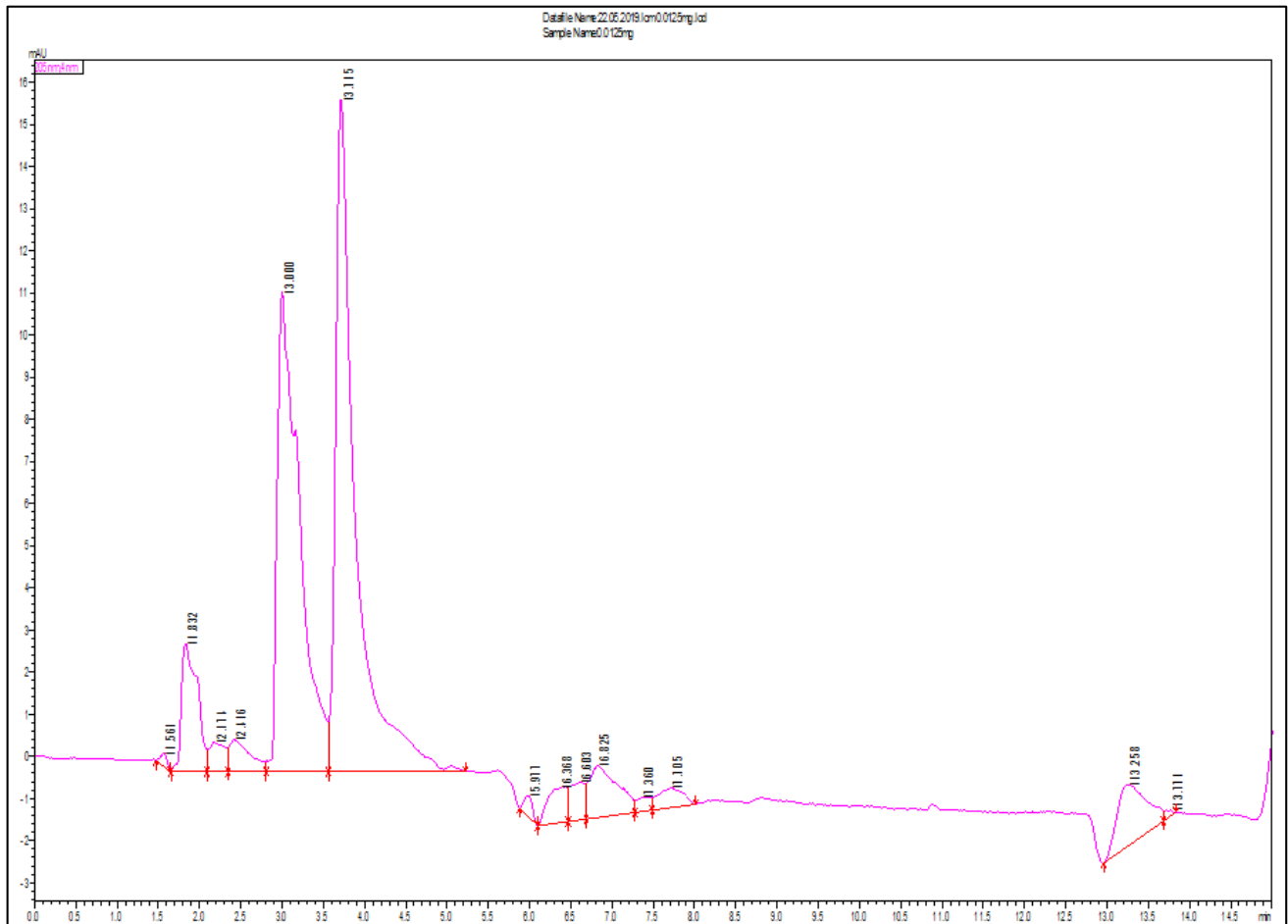
Quantification of the bioactive components in *Asparagus racemosus* using Ultra High Performance Liquid Chromatography (UHPLC).

The bioactive components of *Asparagus racemosus* were analyzed using UHPLC wherein Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for various concentrations corresponding to retention time was developed. Representative chromatogram of standard bioactive components viz Shatavarin-IV was obtained with respect to *Asparagus racemosus*.

The Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) was developed until reproducible and distinguishable peak of standard was observed. Quantification of bioactive components of *Asparagus racemosus* was obtained by drawing a calibration curve between area and various concentration of Shatavarin-IV.

The study was undertaken to determine the concentration of Shatavarin-IV from *Asparagus racemosus* as by using UHPLC which indicated the presence of Shatavarin-IV with concentration of 0.08 mg/g at retention time of 3.7 minutes and wavelength of 205 nm. The chromatogram exhibited a sharp peak with corresponding concentration, suggesting a precise and accurate quantification of Shatavarin-IV. However Gohel *et al.* (2015)^[3] was quantify the Shatavarin-

IV and highest yield of Shatavarin –IV was obtained 1.60 mg/g crude powder with highest purity achieved 66 per cent of lower atmospheric temperature. Castilla *et al.* (2013)^[2] detected the content of saponin in Huétor asparagus ranged from 1.09 to 2.73 mg/100 g fw. The commercial hybrids showed saponin concentrations between 0.03 and 1.22 mg/100 g fw and 90% of the samples have saponin contents lower than 1 mg/100 g fw. Patil *et al.* (2014)^[11] was conducted quantitative determination of Shatavarin-IV from dietary supplements containing *Asparagus racemosus* by HPLC/Tandem mass spectrometric studies on steroidal saponins. The method showed excellent linearity ($r^2 > 0.998$) over the concentration range of 7.5 to 254 ng/mL with LOD of 2.5 ng/mL. Precision (RSD) and accuracy (recovery) were found in the ranges of 2.00 to 5.15 and 102 to 110%, respectively. Haghi *et al.* (2013)^[4] conducted HPLC study to quantify Shatavarin-IV from *Asparagus racemosus*. The above reports of various co-workers clearly validate the Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) used in the present study and further suggest that quantification of Shatavarin-IV is precise, accurate and selective quantification by using UHPLC. The chromatographic findings determined the presence of Shatavarin-IV in the sample and data obtained are in close conformity to earlier reports.



Ultra High Performance Liquid Chromatography (UHPLC) chromatogram of standard Shatavarin- IV of *Asparagus racemosus*

Conclusions

In this study the quantification of Shatavarin-IV was performed by using UHPLC. Shatavarin-IV is responsible for various pharmacological activities attributed to the *Asparagus racemosus*. The mobile phase of chromatogram exhibited good separation of Shatavarin-IV (0.08 mg/g) from its matrix with a mean retention of 3.7 minutes at wavelength of 205 nm.

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