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EVALUATION OF *IN VIVO* ANTHELMINTIC EFFICACY OF *SWERTIA CHIRATA* (*CHIRAYATA*) AGAINST GASTROINTESTINAL NEMATODIASIS IN GOATS

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Investigations were conducted to evaluate in vivo anthelmintic efficacy of aqueous extract of seeds of Swertia chirata (Chirayata) against some of the most common pathogenic gastrointestinal nematodes such as Haemonchus, Bunostomum and Oesophagostomum spp. in naturally infected goats. The aqueous extract was administered at the dose of 550 mg/kg body weight,orally for 10 consecutive days in adult Goats naturally infected with gastrointestinal nematodes. The anthelmintic activity of S. chirata was compared with Albendazole (5 mg/kg, oral), a standard anthelmintic drug used in clinical practice. The anthelmintic efficacy of aqueous extract was assessed by determining the mean EPG count on day 0, day 3, day 6, day 9 and day 12, respectively. Examination of the fecal samples revealed significant and progressive reduction in the number of eggs in feces (EPG) from second post treatment day onwards and till day 12. The anthelmintic efficacy based on fecal scores in Goats treated with S. chirata and albendazole on day 12 of the experiment was found to be 62.50 and 100 percent. The findings indicated that S. chirata exhibited significant in vivo anthelmintic efficacy against gastrointestinal nematodes in Goats.

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