

Attenuation of Biochemical, Haematological and Histological Indices of Alloxan Toxicity in Male Rats by Aqueous Extract of *Fadogia agrestis* (Schweinf. Ex Hiern) Stem

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ABSTRACT

Background: The effects of aqueous extract of *Fadogia agrestis* stem at the doses of 18, 36, and 72 mg/kg body weight on alloxan-induced toxicity was investigated in Wistar rats.

Methods: In total, 35 rats of both sexes (132.80±7.22g) were randomized into five groups (A-E): animals in group A received 0.5 ml of distilled water orally on daily basis for 15 days while the alloxanized rats in groups B, C, D and E also received orally 0.5 ml of distilled water and same volume of the extract corresponding to 18, 36, and 72 mg/kg body weight, respectively after which levels of some biomolecules were determined.

Results: Administration of alloxan significantly ($P<0.05$) increased blood urea nitrogen (BUN)/creatinine ratio, levels of serum total and conjugated bilirubin, uric acid, Na^+ , K^+ , Ca^{2+} and Cl^- as well as activities of alkaline phosphatase (ALP), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) in the serum whereas activities of ALP, AST and ALT in the liver and kidney, erythrocytes and leucocytes indices, total protein, globulin and PO_4^{2-} levels as well as albumin/globulin ratio decreased ($P<0.05$) significantly. Alloxan also caused severe necrosis of the tubular epithelial cells in the nephrons and degeneration of the hepatocytes. Although all doses of the plant extract significantly mitigated these changes; the reversals at 72 mg/kg body weight of the extract compared well ($P>0.05$) with their respective non-alloxanized distilled water treated control animals in 78% of the parameters investigated.

Conclusion: Overall, the aqueous extract of *Fadogia agrestis* stem attenuated the alloxan treatment related biochemical, haematological and histological changes in the rats with the 72 mg/kg body weight achieving total reversal in 18 out of the 23 parameters investigated.

Keywords: Alloxan; Diabetes Mellitus; *Fadogia agrestis*; Mitigation; Reversal.

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INTRODUCTION

Alloxan is a hydrophilic and unstable chemical compound with a shape similar to that of glucose that allows its transportation within the cells of animals. It is a widely used diabetogenic agent in experimental animals like rats, dogs and rabbits to induce Type I diabetes [1, 2]. It is a toxic glucose analogues that preferentially accumulate in pancreatic beta cells via the Glucose Transporter 2. The cytotoxic action of alloxan involves oxidation of essential sulphhydryl (-SH) group, inhibition of glucokinase enzymes, generation of free radicals

and disturbance in intracellular calcium homeostasis [1, 2]. The presence of intracellular thiols, especially glutathione, generates reactive oxygen species (ROS) in a cyclic redox reaction with its reduction product, dialuric acid [3]. Autoxidation of dialuric acid produces superoxide radicals, hydrogen peroxide and, in a final iron-catalysed reaction step, hydroxyl radicals [4]. These free radicals are ultimately responsible for the death of the beta cells, which have a particularly low antioxidant defence capacity, and the ensuing state of insulin-dependent 'alloxan diabetes'. These radicals may

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also adversely affect the normal functioning of the system of experimental animals. Lenzen [5] reported that protection against the cytotoxic action of alloxan and dialuric acid can be provided only by a combination of superoxide dismutase and catalase, which completely prevents redox cycling between alloxan and dialuric acid, and thus the generation of ROS species.

Studies have also been reported in open scientific literature on altered biochemical parameters of the liver and kidney functions, haematological parameters and histoarchitectural changes following the administration of alloxan and or extracts of medicinal plants [6-8]. This has therefore necessitated more researches on the effects of medicinal plants on alloxan-induced toxicity in animals.

Fadogia agrestis, locally known in English as black aphrodisiac and by the Hausa tribe of Nigeria as Murshikan Dutse, belong to the Rubiaceae family. It is an erect shrub that is 1-3 feet tall, tomentellous stems with yellow leaves. This plant has been reported to contain saponins, alkaloids, flavonoids, and anthraquinones [9]. The aphrodisiac, antimicrobial and antidiabetic activities of the *F. agrestis* stem have been scientifically evaluated and reported [9,10,11]. Although, the aqueous extract of *F. agrestis* stem have been reportedly evaluated for its anti-diabetic activity at 18, 36 and 72 mg/kg body weight in alloxan-induced diabetic using serum blood glucose, urea, creatinine, lipids and hexokinase activity [11], there is dearth of information on the possibility of protective or restorative (attenuation/amelioration) activities of *Fadogia agrestis* stem on alloxan-induced toxicity using biochemical and histological indices.

Therefore, the present study was undertaken to provide information on the restorative effects of aqueous extract of *F. agrestis* stem on alloxan toxicity in rats using biochemical indices of the liver and kidney functions, haematological parameters, liver and kidney histology. This investigation is a further

study on that previously reported by Yakubu and Ogunro [11].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant Material

The plant sample was bought from the herb sellers at Kulende Market, Ilorin, Nigeria. It was authenticated at the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Technology, Federal School of Forestry, Jos, Nigeria. A voucher specimen (2:108) was deposited at the Departmental Herbarium.

Experimental Animals

Thirty five albino rats of both sexes (132.80±7.22g) obtained from the Animal Breeding Unit of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria, were allowed to acclimatize for 14 days in aluminium cages placed in well-ventilated housing conditions (temperature: 22±3°C; about 12h light-dark cycle; humidity: 45-50%). The animals were maintained under this condition throughout the experimental period. They were also allowed free access to rat pellets (Premier Feed Mill Co. Ltd., Ibadan, Nigeria) and tap water.

Chemicals, Assay Kits and Haematological Analyser

Alloxan monohydrate used was a product of Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, Mo, USA and HOVID Bhd., Ipoh, Malaysia respectively. The assay kits for total protein, albumin, urea, uric acid, creatinine, total and conjugated bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase (ALP), aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) were products of Randox Laboratories Ltd., Co-Antrim, UK, while that of chloride ion was a product of Quimica Clinical Applicada Ltd, Amposta, Spain. The assay kits for sodium, potassium, calcium and phosphate ions were products of Agappe Diagnostics Ltd, Kerala, India. The automated haematological analyzer SYSMEX KX21 was a product of SYSMEX Corporation, Harrier, Japan.

Preparation of the Extract

The aqueous extract of *F. agrestis* stem was prepared as previously described by Yakubu and Ogunro [11].

Animal Grouping and Administration of Alloxan and Extract

A total of 35 rats of both sexes were assigned into five groups, A-E, of seven rats each such that animals in group A received 0.5ml of distilled while those in groups B-E were intraperitoneally injected with 1 ml corresponding to 150mg/kg body weight of alloxan monohydrate in sterile physiological saline. After 48 hours of alloxan injection, the alloxan treated animals in groups B, C, D and E were administered 0.5 ml of distilled water and same volume corresponding to 18, 36 and 72mg/kg body weight of *F. agrestis* stem extract respectively. The distilled water and the extract were administered orally, once daily, for 15 days between 08:00-09:00 hours. The animals were allowed free access to rat pellets (Premier Feed Mill Co. Ltd., Ibadan, Nigeria) and contaminant free tap water. This approval to carry out this study was obtained from the Ethical Committee on the use and care of animals of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. The animals were also handled according to the guidelines of NRC [12].

Preparation of Serum and Tissue Supernatants

Twenty four hours after the last doses of the extract and distilled water, the animals were anaesthetized using diethyl ether. The unconscious rats were quickly removed from the jar after which the neck area was cleared of fur. The jugular veins were cut and an aliquot of the blood was collected into tubes containing heparin for haematological analysis while about 5 ml of the blood collected into plain tubes were left to clot for 30 minutes at room temperature and centrifuged at 1282xg for 5 minutes. The resulting serum was collected into sample bottles

with the aid of Pasteur pipette, stored frozen and used within 24 hours of preparation for the biochemical analyses. The animals were thereafter dissected, the liver and kidney were excised and blotting in blotting paper. The kidneys were also decapsulated after which these organs were separately weighed and homogenized in ice-cold 0.25M sucrose solution (1:5 w/v). The homogenates were centrifuged at 1789xg for 10 minutes to obtain the supernatant, which was then used within 24 hours for the biochemical analyses.

Determination of Biochemical Parameters

Biochemical parameters evaluated in the present study were as described for globulin, calcium, sodium, potassium and uric acid [13], alanine aminotransferase and aspartate aminotransferase [14], Alkaline phosphatase [15], total protein [16], total and conjugated bilirubin [17], chloride ion [18] and phosphate ions [19]. Others include urea [20], creatinine [21] and albumin [22]. The albumin:globulin and blood urea:creatinine were computed from their respective determinations.

Determination of Haematological Parameters

The haematological parameters (red blood cells (RBC), mean corpuscular volume (MCV), mean corpuscular haemoglobin (MCH), mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration (MCHC), white blood cells (WBC), neutrophils, eosinophils, basophils, monocytes, lymphocytes and platelets were determined using automated haematologic analyser.

Histopathological Examination

Histopathological examination of the liver and kidney was done using the procedure described by Drury and Wallington [23] and Krause [24]. The photomicrographs were observed using Olympus microscope connected to a system that used Presto Image folio software and captured at x400.

Statistical Analysis

Data from this study were expressed as qualitative for the histopathological studies and quantitative for the biochemical and haematological studies. The quantitative data were expressed as Mean \pm SEM of seven determinations and statistical analysis was done using Duncan Multiple Range Test at 5% level of confidence ($p < 0.05$). All the analyses were performed using SPSS 20 software (SPSS Inc.; Chicago, IL, USA).

RESULTS

Administration of alloxan significantly ($p < 0.05$) decreased the activities of ALP, AST and ALT in the liver and kidney, levels of total protein, globulin, phosphate ions and computed albumin/globulin ratio in the serum of the animals when compared with the non-alloxanized distilled water treated control animals (Table 1). Furthermore, the same alloxan administration significantly ($p < 0.05$) increased the activities of ALP, AST and ALT in the serum of the animals, serum concentrations of total and conjugated bilirubin, uric acid, sodium, potassium, chloride and calcium ions as well as the computed blood urea nitrogen/creatinine ratio (Table 1). The administration of all the doses of the extract significantly ($p < 0.05$) mitigated and in some cases reversed the trends of these alloxan treatment related changes in the biochemical parameters towards the control values (Table 1). For instance, while all the doses significantly mitigated against the changes in the levels of these parameters by alloxan, the 72mg/kg body weight of the extract completely reversed and restored ($p > 0.05$) the activities of ALP in the liver, kidney and serum, ASP in the liver and kidney, ALT in the liver and kidney, the levels of serum total protein, uric acid, globulin, sodium, potassium, calcium and phosphate ions as well as computed blood urea nitrogen/creatinine and albumin/globulin ratios

corresponding to 78% reversal of the liver and kidney function indices of the rats investigated in the present study (Table 1).

The significantly ($p < 0.05$) reduced levels of red blood cells, mean corpuscular volume, mean corpuscular haemoglobin, mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration, neutrophils, monocytes, lymphocytes, eosinophils, basophils and platelets following the administration of alloxan were dose dependently and significantly ($p < 0.05$) elevated by the extract (Table 2). The elevation produced by the extract on all the haematological parameters except the red blood cells were not significantly ($p > 0.05$) higher than those of the non-alloxanized rats treated with distilled water. Furthermore, the administration of the 72mg/kg body weight of the extract produced levels of lymphocytes, white blood cells, mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration and mean corpuscular haemoglobin that compared favourably ($p > 0.05$) with those of the non-alloxanized distilled water treated rats (Table 2).

Conventional architecture of the liver and kidney at the cellular level was displayed by the non-alloxanized distilled water treated control rats (Figures 1 and 6, respectively). Administration of alloxan produced severe liver architectural distortion with hepatocellular degeneration, periportal necrosis, congestion of central vein with inflammatory cell infiltration (Figure 2) and severe architectural distortion in the kidney (Figure 7). However, treatment of alloxanized animals with various doses of the extract showed moderate hepatocellular (Figures 3-5) and normal kidney histoarchitecture (Figures 8-10).

DISCUSSION

Numerous animal models have been developed for the past few decades for studying diabetes mellitus on which the efficacy of chemical compounds including plant extracts and its products as anti-diabetic agent(s) can be evaluated.

Table 1. Selected liver and kidney function indices of alloxanized rats treated with aqueous extract of *Fadogia agrestis* stem

Parameters	Control	Distilled water	Alloxan + <i>F. agrestis</i> (mg/kg body weight)		
			18	36	72
Liver ALP	140.3±0.3 ^a	86.7±0.7 ^b	165.0±0.6 ^c	160.7±0.3 ^c	141.0±0.6 ^a
Serum ALP	23.0±0.4 ^a	50.5±0.3 ^b	55.5±0.3 ^d	34.3±0.6 ^a	22.0±0.4 ^a
Liver AST	234.0±0.6 ^a	128.7±0.9 ^c	256.0±0.1 ^b	245.7±0.7 ^b	234.3±0.9 ^b
Serum AST	3.8±0.5 ^a	12.5±0.3 ^e	7.3±0.3 ^d	5.9±0.3 ^c	4.5±0.6 ^b
Liver ALT	172.0±1.0 ^a	92.3±0.9 ^e	196.7±0.9 ^d	188.0±0.6 ^c	175.3±0.3 ^b
Serum ALT	1.1±0.7 ^a	15.8±0.3 ^e	7.2±0.5 ^d	5.80±0.3 ^c	2.9±0.9 ^b
Total Protein (g/L)	145.5±0.5 ^a	113.3±0.5 ^e	138.0±0.4 ^d	140.3±0.3 ^c	144.8±0.7 ^a
Globulin (g/L)	107.3±0.5 ^a	93.6±0.5 ^d	105.0±0.4 ^c	106.7±0.5 ^b	110.5±0.7 ^a
Total Bilirubin (μmol/L)	13.8±0.6 ^a	35.3±0.3 ^e	32.0±0.4 ^d	25.7±0.4 ^c	23.0±0.3 ^b
Conjugated Bilirubin (μmol/L)	4.7±0.1 ^a	13.3±0.2 ^e	10.2±0.1 ^d	9.6±0.2 ^c	9.1±0.1 ^b
Albumin: Globulin ratio	1:14	1:8	1:9	1:12	1:14
Kidney ALP	175.3±0.4 ^a	105.5±0.3 ^e	185.5±0.3 ^d	184.3±0.6 ^c	176.0±0.4 ^b
Kidney ALT	104.7±1.2 ^a	299.3±0.3 ^e	201.3±0.3 ^d	190.0±0.1 ^c	106.7±0.9 ^b
Kidney AST	130.3±0.7 ^a	224.0±1.2 ^d	185.3±0.3 ^c	179.0±0.1 ^b	129.0±1.0 ^a
Uric acid (mmol/L)	0.3±0.1 ^a	1.2±0.1 ^e	0.9±0.1 ^d	0.8±0.1 ^c	0.5±0.1 ^b
Serum Na ⁺ (mmol/L)	133.7±0.6 ^a	148.5±0.7 ^d	140.3±0.5 ^c	139.3±0.6 ^c	134.0±0.4 ^b
Serum K ⁺ (mmol/L)	3.2±0.1 ^a	5.0±0.1 ^e	4.6±0.5 ^d	4.10±0.2 ^c	3.2±0.1 ^b
Serum Cl ⁻ (mmol/L)	98.5±0.2 ^a	106.8±0.5 ^b	105.8±0.6 ^b	105.0±0.4 ^b	105.3±1.0 ^b
Serum Ca ²⁺ (mmol/L)	2.6±0.1 ^a	5.1±0.5 ^d	5.0±0.5 ^d	3.5±0.1 ^c	2.4±0.1 ^b
Serum PO ₄ ²⁻ (mmol/L)	1.1±0.1 ^a	0.6±0.4 ^d	0.4±0.1 ^c	0.7±0.1 ^b	1.0±0.1 ^b
Blood urea nitrogen (BUN): creatinine ratio	1:3	1:5	1:4	1:3	1:3

Data are mean ± SEM of seven determinations. Test values carrying superscripts different from the control for each parameter are significantly different (P<0.05)

Table 2. Haematological parameters of alloxanized rats administered aqueous extract of *Fadogia agrestis* stem

Parameters	Control	Distilled water	Alloxan + <i>F. agrestis</i> (mg/kg body weight)		
			18	36	72
RBC (×10 ¹² L ⁻¹)	3.0±0.1 ^a	2.3±0.1 ^d	4.6±0.3 ^c	5.9±0.1 ^b	6.0±0.11 ^b
MCV (fL)	64.5±0.8 ^a	41.8±0.6 ^e	52.3±0.3 ^d	55.3±0.5 ^c	59.7±0.4 ^b
MCH (pg)	17.9±0.2 ^a	6.9±0.2 ^d	11.2±0.8 ^c	13.5±0.2 ^b	14.0±0.3 ^b
MCHC (g/dL)	27.7±0.2 ^a	13.2±0.9 ^e	21.1±0.1 ^d	23.1±0.6 ^c	24.9±0.1 ^b
WBC (×10 ³ μL ⁻¹)	17.2±0.7 ^a	6.9±0.2 ^d	9.1±0.6 ^c	14.7±0.3 ^b	15.5±0.3 ^b
Neutrophil (%)	51.6±0.4 ^a	23.1±0.8 ^e	36.9±0.4 ^d	43.8±0.5 ^c	45.9±0.4 ^b
Monocytes (%)	9.2±0.2 ^a	0.4±0.3 ^e	1.0±0.4 ^d	1.9±0.2 ^c	2.2±0.1 ^b
Lymphocytes (%)	49.2±1.4 ^a	34.9±0.3 ^c	45.9±0.9 ^b	47.8±0.4 ^b	48.8±0.2 ^a
Eosinophil (%)	3.9±0.1 ^a	1.1±0.9 ^d	1.1±0.1 ^d	1.2±0.4 ^c	2.0±0.2 ^b
Basophil (%)	1.5±0.1 ^a	0.7±0.1 ^d	0.8±0.1 ^{cd}	0.9±0.1 ^b	0.9±0.02 ^b
Platelets (×10 ³ μL)	836.8±0.3 ^a	567.0±0.3 ^e	799.3±0.2 ^d	800.9±1.4 ^c	803.6±0.2 ^b

Data are mean ± SEM of seven determinations. Test values carrying superscripts different from the control for each parameter are significantly different (P<0.05). **RBC**: Red Blood Cells; **MCV**: Mean Corpuscular Volume; **MCH**: Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin; **MCHC**: Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin Concentration; **WBC**: White Blood Cells

Several procedures that can be used to induce diabetes in animals include chemicals like alloxan and streptozotocin, surgical and genetic manipulations [25]. One of the most potent and readily used diabetogenic agents is alloxan.

Alloxan, a chemical agent that induces Type 1 diabetes in experimental animals, is a urea derivative that causes selective necrosis of the β-cells of the pancreas [26]. Apart from necrotic effect on the pancreas, it also adversely

affect other organs of the experimental animals leading to alterations in the haematological parameters and biochemical parameters of organ function that eventually culminate into hampering the normal function indices of these organs. The histoarchitecture of these organs are also not spared during alloxan toxicity in animals. Therefore, the need to document agents/compounds including medicinal plants that can ameliorate, attenuate or mitigate these alloxan toxicity cannot be overemphasized.

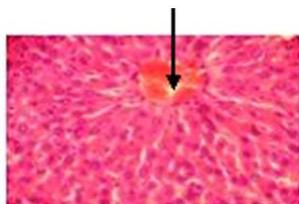


Figure 1. Cross section of the liver of non-alloxanized rat administered distilled water (x400; H&E)

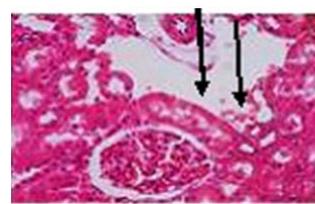


Figure 6. Cross section of the kidney of non-alloxanized rat administered distilled water (x400; H&E).

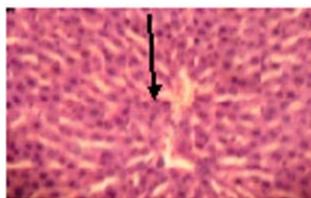


Figure 2. Cross section of the liver of alloxanized rat administered distilled water (x400; H&E).

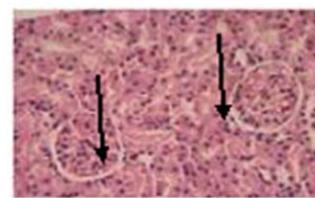


Figure 7. Cross section of the kidney of alloxanized rat administered distilled water (x400; H&E).

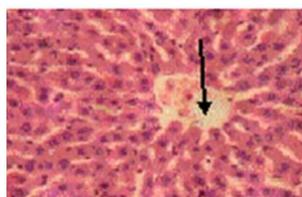


Figure 3. Cross section of the liver of alloxanized rat administered 18mg/kg body weight of extract (x400; H&E).

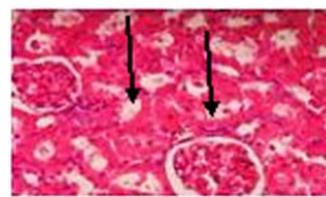


Figure 8. Cross section of the kidney of alloxanized rat administered 18mg/kg body weight of extract (x400; H&E).

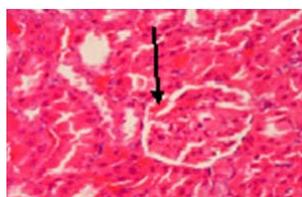


Figure 4. Cross section of the liver of alloxanized rat administered 36mg/kg body weight of extract (x400; H&E).

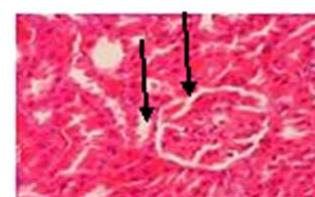


Figure 9. Cross section of the kidney of alloxanized rat administered 36mg/kg body weight of extract (x400; H&E).

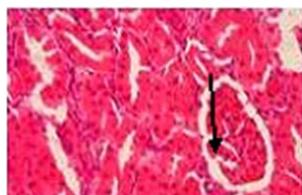


Figure 5. Cross section of the liver of alloxanized rat administered 72mg/kg body weight of extract (x400; H&E).

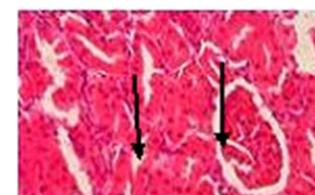


Figure 10. Cross section of the kidney of alloxanized rat administered 72mg/kg body weight of extract (x400; H&E).

The use of plants for various purposes such as providing shelter, as food, source of income, and in folkloric management of diseases dates back to millennia. In addition, plants are now being explored to mitigate/attenuate and/or reverse chemical compound-induced toxicity in animals.

In the present study, *Fadogia agrestis* stem treatment related attenuation of alloxan-induced toxicity was assessed in biological system using indices such as biochemical and haematological as well as histological changes. Therefore, changes in biochemical indices of organ function usually indicate impairment of the normal functioning of such organs [27]. The biochemical indices investigated in the liver, kidney and serum of the animals in the present study is useful 'markers' for assessing the functional capacity of these organs.

Measurement of the activities of various enzymes in tissues and body fluids play a significant role in the investigation and diagnosis of diseases [28], and to a reasonable extent, the toxicity of chemical compounds including those in plant extracts [29]. Enzymes do not usually originate from serum, but rather are derived from disintegration, metabolism and turnover of tissues and blood cells. Therefore, leakage of enzymes from tissues and organs may become manifested in the serum as increased activity [28]. In this study, 'marker' enzymes were assayed based on their specific locations in cells, since it has been shown that the site of injury to the cell could be correlated and determined by assaying the level of activities of 'marker' enzyme in such cells [29]. Alkaline phosphatase is an ectoenzyme of the plasma membrane and is used to assess the integrity or damage to the plasma membrane [30,31]. The reduced liver and kidney alkaline phosphatase activity by alloxan accompanied by corresponding increase in the serum enzyme suggest permeability changes probably as a result of damage by oxidative products of alloxan. The loss of the aminotransferases (ALT and AST) from the liver and kidney with their corresponding increases in

the serum of alloxan treated rats is quite understandable since the enzymes are cytosolic in origin and any damage to plasma membrane will consequently lead to their leakage to the external milieu, in this case, the serum. The administration of the extract mitigated against these alterations in the liver and kidney enzymes conferring attenuation of alloxan toxicity on the extract.

Albumin, total bilirubin and globulin which constitute protein content of the cell can be used to assess the functional capacity of the liver [32]. The reduction in the levels of total protein, globulin and the computed albumin/globulin ratio by alloxan in the present study may be attributed to diminished synthetic function of the liver probably as a consequence of hepatocellular injury, enhanced catabolism or excessive loss from the body which might be more than the rate of synthesis [33]. The elevated levels of total and conjugated bilirubin may further corroborate the alloxan treatment related toxic changes in the animals. These alloxan toxicities with respect to the total protein component of the serum of the animals were reduced in strength by all the doses of the extract with complete restoration/reversal by the 72mg/kg body weight on total protein, globulin and albumin/globulin ratios.

Creatinine, urea, uric acid, electrolytes are important metabolites/molecules in the serum of animals that can be used to assess the normal functioning of the nephrons at both the globular and tubular levels. Apart from this, computed blood urea nitrogen/creatinine ratio can also give an idea of the organ that is affected since urea is produced by the liver and excreted by the kidney. The elevated levels of uric acid and computed blood urea nitrogen/creatinine ratio by the alloxan suggest glomerular dysfunction by the chemical compound, alloxan, whereas similar elevations in the serum electrolytes (Na^+ , K^+ , Cl^- , Ca^{2+} , as well as reduced levels of phosphate ion by alloxan indicates adverse effects on the tubular reabsorption of the electrolytes. The reabsorption

of these biomolecules and electrolytes were attenuated by all the doses of the extract. It is worthy of note that the highest dose of the extract (72mg/kg body weight) used in the present study exhibited complete reversal of the alloxan treatment related changes on the serum levels of Na^+ , K^+ , Cl^- , Ca^{2+} and PO_4^{2-} .

Alloxan exhibited systemic toxicity on haematological parameters investigated as evidenced by the decrease in red blood cells and factors relating to it (MCV, mean corpuscular hemoglobin and mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration) and decrease in white blood cells and factors relating to it (neutrophils, basophils, eosinophils, lymphocytes, monocytes and platelets). The reductions in the levels of the haematological parameters by alloxan may be due to imbalance or absence of equilibrium in or between the rate of synthesis/production of the haematological parameters and their catabolism/destruction [34], as a consequence of oxidative products or reactive species generated by alloxan. The extract however mitigated/attenuated the toxic effects of alloxan on the blood parameters and this might lead to restoration of the functional capacity of the blood.

Alloxan, a urea derivative causes selective necrosis of organs in rats [25] and its reduction product, dialuric acid establishes a redox cycle with the formation of superoxide radicals [35]. The preservation of structural toxicity caused alloxan was further exhibited by all the doses of the extract on the histoarchitecture of the liver and kidney of rats.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the aqueous extract of *Fadogia agrestis* stems attenuated alloxan-induced functional and structural toxicities in rats. Further studies to isolate the compound that bring about this relief is necessary.

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