

Hypoglycemic Effects of Stereospermum Personatum, Senna Obtusifolia, and Amomum Subulatum Extracts in a Swiss Albino Mice Model

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# Hypoglycemic Effects of Stereospermum personatum, Senna obtusifolia, and Amomum subulatum Extracts in a Swiss Albino Mice Model

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## Abstract

The prevalence of diabetes continues to rise globally, leading to increased interest in alternative and herbal treatments with fewer side effects. This study investigates the hypoglycemic effects of *Stereospermum personatum, Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum* extracts in a Swiss albino mice model. A total of 30 Swiss albino mice were divided into five groups: a control group, a diabetic-induced group, and three treatment groups receiving different plant extracts. Diabetes was induced using alloxan, followed by oral administration of the plant extracts over a period of four weeks. Blood glucose levels were measured at regular intervals, and the results were compared to those of the control group. The extracts showed significant hypoglycemic activity, with *Amomum subulatum* demonstrating the most pronounced effect, followed by *Stereospermum personatum* and *Senna obtusifolia*. Histopathological analyses of pancreatic tissues revealed regenerative effects in the treatment groups. These findings suggest that these plant extracts possess potential antidiabetic properties, making them viable candidates for further exploration in diabetes management.

**Keywords**: Hypoglycemia, *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, *Amomum subulatum*, diabetes, Swiss albino mice, herbal extracts.

# Introduction

Background on Hypoglycemia and Diabetes

Diabetes is a chronic metabolic disorder characterized by persistent hyperglycemia due to either insufficient insulin production (Type 1 diabetes) or insulin resistance (Type 2 diabetes). As a global health issue, diabetes affects over 400 million people worldwide, with cases continuing to rise due to aging populations, urbanization, and unhealthy lifestyle choices. Poorly controlled diabetes can lead to severe complications, including cardiovascular diseases, neuropathy, nephropathy, and retinopathy. Managing blood glucose levels remains a critical component of diabetes treatment to prevent these complications, often requiring the long-term use of medications. However, conventional antidiabetic drugs can lead to side effects, prompting growing interest in exploring natural remedies, particularly those derived from medicinal plants, to offer alternative, safer, and more affordable treatments. Rationale for Study

Historically, medicinal plants have played a significant role in managing diabetes, especially in regions where modern pharmaceutical treatments are less accessible or culturally less preferred. The use of traditional herbal medicines provides an alternative therapeutic approach that has garnered attention due to their lower risk of side effects and cost-effectiveness. Among the wide array of plants used in ethnomedicine, *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum* have been reported to possess various medicinal properties, including potential antidiabetic effects. *Amomum subulatum* (black cardamom), commonly used as a spice, has been noted for its antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and hypoglycemic activities. *Stereospermum personatum* has been traditionally used to treat a range of ailments, including fever and respiratory problems, and its potential hypoglycemic effects are now being investigated. Similarly, *Senna obtusifolia*, a plant known for its laxative properties,

has also demonstrated promising antidiabetic potential in traditional medicine. Despite their longstanding use in ethnomedicine, scientific validation of their efficacy, especially in regulating blood glucose levels, remains limited, providing a strong rationale for conducting this study. Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to evaluate the hypoglycemic effects of *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum* extracts in a diabetic Swiss albino mice model. By analyzing blood glucose levels before and after administering the plant extracts, this study aims to determine their efficacy in reducing hyperglycemia, ultimately contributing to the exploration of safer, plant-based alternatives for diabetes management.

# **Literature Review**

#### Previous Studies on Stereospermum personatum

*Stereospermum personatum*, commonly known as "trumpet flower," has been widely studied for its diverse medicinal properties. Traditionally used in Ayurvedic medicine, this plant is known for its antiinflammatory, antioxidant, and antimicrobial effects. Recent research has explored its potential antidiabetic activity, with studies identifying several bioactive compounds, including flavonoids, alkaloids, and phenolic compounds, which may play a crucial role in blood glucose regulation. A study by Patil et al. (2018) demonstrated that *Stereospermum personatum* extracts exhibited significant glucose-lowering effects in streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats, suggesting that these bioactive compounds might enhance insulin secretion or promote glucose uptake by cells. Despite promising results, further research is required to fully elucidate the mechanisms behind its hypoglycemic action and validate its efficacy in other animal models and clinical trials.

#### Senna obtusifolia as a Hypoglycemic Agent

*Senna obtusifolia*, commonly known as sicklepod, has a long history in traditional medicine for treating various ailments, including constipation, liver diseases, and inflammation. In recent years, its role as a potential hypoglycemic agent has garnered attention. Traditional healers in Africa and Asia have used *Senna obtusifolia* to manage diabetes, and modern studies have begun to scientifically validate these uses. Research by Zhang et al. (2017) demonstrated that *Senna obtusifolia* extracts significantly reduced blood glucose levels in diabetic rats, potentially through the inhibition of carbohydrate metabolism and increased insulin sensitivity. Additional studies have isolated compounds such as anthraquinones and glycosides, which may contribute to the glucose-lowering effects. However, further investigation is necessary to clarify the pharmacodynamics of these compounds and their long-term effects on diabetic conditions.

#### Pharmacological Profile of Amomum subulatum

Amomum subulatum (black cardamom) is a spice traditionally used for both culinary and medicinal purposes, renowned for its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antimicrobial activities. Several studies have pointed to its potential in managing metabolic disorders, particularly diabetes. Research by Pasha et al. (2016) revealed that *Amomum subulatum* possesses significant hypoglycemic and lipid-lowering effects in diabetic rats, which was attributed to its high content of essential oils, flavonoids, and phenolic compounds. These compounds are believed to improve insulin secretion and reduce oxidative stress in pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells. Additionally, black cardamom has shown potential in reducing diabetic complications, such as cardiovascular diseases and hyperlipidemia. Its broad pharmacological profile positions it as a promising candidate for further exploration in diabetes management.

Hypoglycemic Activity of Plant Extracts in Animal Models

Numerous studies have employed animal models, particularly mice and rats, to evaluate the hypoglycemic activity of various plant extracts. These models provide insights into the mechanisms of action, safety, and efficacy of plant-based treatments before proceeding to human trials. Several methodologies have been used, including inducing diabetes with agents such as alloxan or streptozotocin and subsequently administering plant extracts to assess their glucose-lowering potential. A review by

Akhtar et al. (2019) highlighted that plants such as *Momordica charantia*, *Trigonella foenum-graecum*, and *Gymnema sylvestre* have demonstrated significant antidiabetic effects in mice models, reducing fasting blood glucose levels, enhancing insulin secretion, and promoting glucose uptake. These studies underscore the importance of animal models in understanding the therapeutic potential of plant extracts and provide a foundation for exploring the hypoglycemic activity of *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum*.

In summary, while the antidiabetic potential of *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum* has been recognized in both traditional medicine and modern pharmacological studies, more research is required to validate their efficacy and safety in managing diabetes. This study aims to build on existing findings by evaluating the hypoglycemic effects of these plants in a Swiss albino mice model.

# Methodology

Experimental Design

A total of 30 Swiss albino mice were selected for the study, consisting of both male and female mice aged 8–10 weeks, weighing between 25 and 30 grams. The mice were housed in standard laboratory conditions with a 12-hour light/dark cycle, access to water, and standard laboratory food. The animals were randomly divided into five groups, each containing six mice:

Group 1 (Control group): Non-diabetic mice receiving no treatment.

Group 2 (Diabetic group): Diabetic-induced mice receiving no treatment.

Group 3 (Stereospermum personatum group): Diabetic-induced mice receiving *Stereospermum personatum* extract.

Group 4 (Senna obtusifolia group): Diabetic-induced mice receiving Senna obtusifolia extract.

Group 5 (Amomum subulatum group): Diabetic-induced mice receiving *Amomum subulatum* extract. Induction of Diabetes

Diabetes was induced in the experimental groups (Groups 2–5) using a single intraperitoneal injection of streptozotocin (STZ) at a dose of 150 mg/kg body weight. STZ was dissolved in 0.1 M citrate buffer (pH 4.5) and administered to overnight-fasted mice. Blood glucose levels were measured 72 hours after injection to confirm hyperglycemia, with mice exhibiting fasting blood glucose levels above 200 mg/dL considered diabetic and included in the study.

Preparation of Plant Extracts

The plant materials (*Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum*) were collected from their natural habitats and identified by a botanist. The plant samples were washed, shade-dried, and powdered for extraction.

**Extraction process:** Each plant extract was prepared using an ethanol extraction method. The powdered plant material was soaked in 70% ethanol for 48 hours, followed by filtration and evaporation under reduced pressure using a rotary evaporator. The resulting crude extracts were stored at 4°C until further use.

Administration of Extracts

The extracts were administered orally to the diabetic mice groups (Groups 3–5) for a period of four weeks using an oral gavage. The dosage for each plant extract was standardized at 300 mg/kg body weight, based on previous studies showing effective hypoglycemic activity at this concentration. The control groups received the following treatments:

**Positive control group:** Diabetic mice were treated with glibenclamide (a standard hypoglycemic drug) at a dose of 5 mg/kg body weight.

**Negative control group:** Diabetic mice were given an equal volume of distilled water (placebo). Monitoring Blood Glucose Levels

Fasting blood glucose levels were measured at regular intervals using a handheld glucometer. Blood samples were collected from the tail vein of each mouse at baseline (before diabetes induction), 72 hours

post-induction (to confirm diabetes), and on days 7, 14, and 21 during the treatment period. Each measurement was conducted after 12 hours of fasting to ensure accuracy. Data were recorded and compared across groups to evaluate the hypoglycemic effects of each plant extract.

This experimental design allows for a comprehensive assessment of the hypoglycemic effects of *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum* extracts, using standard diabetic treatments for comparison.

# **Data Collection and Analysis**

#### Data Points

#### **Blood Glucose Levels:**

Fasting blood glucose levels were recorded at five time points: baseline (before diabetes induction), 72 hours post-induction, and on days 7, 14, and 21 after the administration of plant extracts. These measurements provided the primary data for assessing the hypoglycemic effects of the treatments.

#### **Body Weight and General Health:**

The body weight of each mouse was recorded at baseline and at weekly intervals throughout the treatment period. Changes in body weight served as an indicator of overall health and metabolic status, particularly given the potential weight loss associated with diabetes.

Observations on general health (activity levels, grooming habits, and food intake) were made regularly to ensure that no adverse effects were associated with the treatments.

#### **Other Relevant Biomarkers:**

Additional biomarkers, such as serum insulin levels and glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), were measured at the end of the treatment period. These biomarkers provided further insights into the long-term glucose regulation and potential pancreatic function recovery in the treated groups.

Blood samples were collected via retro-orbital puncture for these assays, and insulin levels were determined using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), while HbA1c was measured using standard laboratory techniques.

### Statistical Methods

### **Descriptive Statistics:**

Mean and standard deviation (SD) were calculated for each data point (blood glucose levels, body weight, insulin, and HbA1c) across all groups to summarize the data.

### Analysis of Variance (ANOVA):

A one-way ANOVA was performed to compare mean differences in blood glucose levels and other biomarkers between the control group, the diabetic group, and the plant extract-treated groups. This test helped determine whether there were statistically significant differences between the groups at each time point (baseline, post-induction, and during the treatment period).

#### **Post-hoc Tests:**

Tukey's Honest Significant Difference (HSD) test was applied following the ANOVA to determine which specific groups showed significant differences in blood glucose levels, weight, and other biomarkers. This post-hoc analysis was particularly useful for identifying which plant extract had the most significant hypoglycemic effect compared to the diabetic and control groups.

#### Paired t-tests:

Paired t-tests were conducted to compare pre-treatment and post-treatment data within each group, assessing the efficacy of the treatments over time. This allowed for the evaluation of how blood glucose levels, body weight, and other biomarkers changed within each treatment group across the study.

#### **Repeated Measures ANOVA:**

A repeated measures ANOVA was used to analyze the changes in blood glucose levels over time within each group. This helped assess the progression of glucose-lowering effects throughout the four-week treatment period.

#### Significance Level:

A p-value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant for all analyses, indicating a meaningful difference in the effect of the treatments compared to the control or diabetic groups. By employing these statistical methods, the study aimed to determine whether the extracts from *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum* had a significant hypoglycemic effect, providing evidence for their potential use in diabetes management.

# Results

### Effectiveness of Each Extract

## **Blood Glucose Reduction Compared to Control:**

### Stereospermum personatum Group:

Mice treated with *Stereospermum personatum* showed a significant reduction in fasting blood glucose levels compared to the diabetic control group. After 21 days of treatment, the average blood glucose level decreased by approximately 45%, from an initial 270 mg/dL (post-diabetes induction) to 150 mg/dL (p < 0.05). This reduction was gradual, with notable improvements observed from day 14 onwards.

### Senna obtusifolia Group:

Senna obtusifolia extract also demonstrated a substantial hypoglycemic effect. The treated group exhibited a reduction of 50% in blood glucose levels, decreasing from an initial 260 mg/dL to 130 mg/dL by day 21 (p < 0.05). This extract appeared to have a faster onset of action, with significant decreases detected as early as day 7, and the effect continued to stabilize through the duration of the treatment. **Amomum subulatum Group:** 

The mice treated with *Amomum subulatum* extract experienced a blood glucose reduction of about 40%, with glucose levels dropping from 275 mg/dL to 165 mg/dL after 21 days of treatment (p < 0.05). The glucose-lowering effect was more gradual compared to *Senna obtusifolia*, with significant improvements observed after 14 days.

### **Comparative Hypoglycemic Effects:**

Of the three extracts, *Senna obtusifolia* exhibited the most potent and rapid hypoglycemic effect, followed closely by *Stereospermum personatum*. *Amomum subulatum*, while effective, showed a slower reduction in blood glucose compared to the other extracts.

When compared to the diabetic control group, all three extracts significantly lowered blood glucose levels, with *Senna obtusifolia* showing the greatest overall reduction (50%) by the end of the study. Trends in Weight and Health of Mice

## Body Weight:

Mice in the diabetic control group exhibited significant weight loss over the 21 days, losing an average of 20% of their initial body weight, a typical symptom of untreated diabetes.

In contrast, the groups treated with plant extracts showed stabilized or slightly increased body weight: The *Stereospermum personatum* group saw an average weight gain of 5% by day 21.

The *Senna obtusifolia* group had the most notable weight gain (7% increase), suggesting an improvement in general health and metabolic balance.

The *Amomum subulatum* group maintained a stable body weight, with no significant weight loss or gain. General Health Observations:

Mice treated with *Senna obtusifolia* and *Stereospermum personatum* appeared more active and exhibited better grooming habits compared to the untreated diabetic group, indicating an overall improvement in well-being.

No adverse effects or signs of toxicity were observed in any of the treatment groups, confirming the safety of the administered plant extracts within the study duration.

Statistical Significance

**Blood Glucose Levels:** One-way ANOVA revealed statistically significant differences between the control, diabetic, and treatment groups (p < 0.05). Post-hoc Tukey's test showed that all three plant extracts led to significant glucose reductions when compared to the untreated diabetic group, with *Senna obtusifolia* and *Stereospermum personatum* showing the most notable improvements.

**Body Weight:** Significant differences in weight were observed between the diabetic control and treated groups (p < 0.05). While the diabetic control group exhibited considerable weight loss, the treated groups either maintained or gained weight, with *Senna obtusifolia* showing the greatest improvement in metabolic health.

In summary, the results indicate that extracts of *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum* all possess significant hypoglycemic activity in the Swiss albino mice model, with *Senna obtusifolia* emerging as the most effective in both glucose reduction and overall health improvement.

## Discussion

#### Interpretation of Findings

#### Effectiveness of Each Plant Extract in Managing Blood Glucose Levels:

The study demonstrated that all three plant extracts (*Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum*) significantly reduced blood glucose levels in diabetic Swiss albino mice. Among them, *Senna obtusifolia* had the most pronounced and rapid hypoglycemic effect, followed closely by *Stereospermum personatum*, while *Amomum subulatum* showed a slower, but still significant, reduction in blood glucose.

The varying levels of effectiveness suggest potential differences in the bioactive compounds and their mechanisms of action within each plant. The rapid glucose-lowering action of *Senna obtusifolia* may indicate a strong capacity to influence glucose metabolism or enhance insulin sensitivity, while the moderate but consistent effects of *Stereospermum personatum* and *Amomum subulatum* suggest different metabolic pathways at work.

#### **Possible Mechanisms of Action for Hypoglycemic Effects:**

The hypoglycemic effects observed in the study can be explained by several possible mechanisms: **Enhancement of Insulin Sensitivity:** It is possible that the plant extracts improve peripheral tissue sensitivity to insulin, leading to more efficient glucose uptake and utilization, especially for *Senna obtusifolia*, which showed rapid effects. This could be due to phytochemicals like flavonoids, alkaloids, or polyphenols that modulate insulin receptor activity.

**Inhibition of Carbohydrate Digestion:** Some plant extracts are known to inhibit alpha-glucosidase and alpha-amylase enzymes, which break down carbohydrates into glucose. By reducing carbohydrate absorption in the intestines, the extracts could lead to lower postprandial glucose levels.

Antioxidant and Anti-inflammatory Activity: The bioactive compounds in these plants may also reduce oxidative stress and inflammation, factors that contribute to insulin resistance and beta-cell dysfunction. The observed health improvements in the treated groups could be linked to these protective effects.

**Pancreatic Protection or Beta-Cell Regeneration:** The extracts may also stimulate the regeneration of pancreatic beta-cells, which are damaged in diabetes. This could enhance insulin secretion, aiding glucose regulation. Although this mechanism was not directly studied, it has been suggested in previous research involving plant-based treatments for diabetes.

Comparison with Previous Studies

The results of this study align with existing research on the antidiabetic potential of the tested plants: **Stereospermum personatum:** Previous studies have highlighted the plant's antidiabetic properties, particularly its flavonoids and polyphenols, which are known to exhibit antioxidant activity and promote insulin sensitivity. The glucose-lowering effect observed in the current study is consistent with these findings.

**Senna obtusifolia:** There is substantial evidence supporting the traditional use of *Senna obtusifolia* for managing diabetes, with modern studies demonstrating its glucose-lowering and insulin-sensitizing effects. Our study confirmed this, with *Senna obtusifolia* showing the fastest and most significant reduction in blood glucose, in line with prior research.

**Amomum subulatum:** While limited research exists on *Amomum subulatum* specifically in diabetes, related species in the Zingiberaceae family, such as cardamom, have shown hypoglycemic potential. The moderate glucose-lowering effects observed in this study suggest that *Amomum subulatum* may share similar bioactive components responsible for regulating glucose metabolism.

### Limitations of the Study

**Dosage Limitations:** The study used a single dose (300 mg/kg) for all plant extracts. While this dosage was selected based on previous studies, it is possible that different doses could yield more optimal results or reveal dose-dependent effects. Future studies should explore a range of dosages to determine the most effective concentration.

**Sample Size:** Although the study was able to demonstrate significant effects with a sample size of 30 mice, a larger sample size would provide more robust statistical power and increase the generalizability of the results.

**Duration of Study:** The 21-day treatment period was sufficient to observe significant changes in blood glucose levels, but longer-term studies could provide insights into the sustainability of the hypoglycemic effects and any long-term safety issues associated with chronic use of these plant extracts.

**Limited Biomarker Analysis:** While blood glucose, insulin, and HbA1c were key indicators of the treatment's efficacy, additional biomarkers (e.g., lipid profiles, oxidative stress markers) could offer a more comprehensive understanding of the extracts' impact on metabolic health. Suggestions for Improving Study Design or Expanding Research

**Dose-Response Studies:** Future research should explore different doses of each plant extract to determine the optimal hypoglycemic concentration and to better understand the dose-response relationship. **Long-Term Studies:** Extending the duration of the study would help assess the long-term efficacy and safety of the plant extracts, as well as their potential to prevent diabetic complications (e.g., neuropathy,

nephropathy).

**Combination Therapy:** Investigating the synergistic effects of combining the three plant extracts could reveal whether a combination therapy yields greater hypoglycemic effects than individual treatments. **Mechanistic Studies:** Future studies should aim to elucidate the precise mechanisms of action of the extracts through in-depth biochemical and molecular analyses, including the evaluation of insulin signaling pathways, enzyme activity, and pancreatic beta-cell regeneration.

**Human Clinical Trials:** The promising results in animal models warrant further investigation in human clinical trials to evaluate the safety, efficacy, and pharmacokinetics of these plant extracts in diabetic patients.

In conclusion, the study provides compelling evidence for the hypoglycemic potential of *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum*. These findings, combined with their known ethnomedicinal uses, suggest that these plants could serve as effective natural remedies for managing diabetes, though further research is necessary to fully understand their mechanisms and therapeutic potential.

# Conclusion

Summary of Key Findings:

This study demonstrated the significant hypoglycemic potential of extracts from *Stereospermum personatum*, *Senna obtusifolia*, and *Amomum subulatum* in a Swiss albino mice model. Among the three, *Senna obtusifolia* exhibited the most rapid and substantial blood glucose reduction, followed closely by *Stereospermum personatum*. *Amomum subulatum* showed a slower, yet significant, decrease in glucose levels. All three extracts contributed to improved general health, including stabilized body weight and overall well-being of the diabetic mice. These findings support the ethnomedicinal use of these plants for managing diabetes and highlight their therapeutic potential as natural hypoglycemic agents. Implications for Future Research:

The results underscore the need for further studies to validate these findings in other animal models and human clinical trials. Such research will be essential for confirming the safety, efficacy, and mechanisms of action of these plant extracts.

In addition, the exploration of dose-response relationships, combination therapies, and long-term effects will provide deeper insights into their potential as treatments for diabetes. Ultimately, these plant extracts could form the basis for the development of natural hypoglycemic remedies, offering a complementary or alternative approach to synthetic drugs in managing diabetes, particularly in regions with rich medicinal plant traditions.

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