

**PHYTOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATION AND
PHARMACOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF VARIOUS
EXTRACTS OF SEEDS OF BRASSICA CAMPESTRIS LINN**

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The objective of the study was to evaluate the anticonvulsant activity of the various extracts of seeds of *Brassica campestris*. The various extracts included Aqueous extract (AQBC), Ethanolic extract (ELBC), Benzene extract (BZBC), Chloroform extract (CLBC), Ethyl acetate extract (EABC), Aqueous ethanolic extract (AEBC) were used. The anticonvulsant activity was assessed using the Pentylene tetrazole (PTZ) induced convulsions model in mice (60 mg/kg i.p). ELBC shows 100% protection of the mice against PTZ induced convulsions. The CLBC and BZBC significantly ($p < 0.005$) reduced the duration of convulsions in mice but prevents mortality in 50% of mice. The AQBC showed no significant activity against PTZ induced convulsions. The EABC and AEBC showed less significant activity. The observations suggest that the ELBC possesses anticonvulsant activity against PTZ induced convulsions.

INTRODUCTION

Epilepsy is a progressive disorder comprising of many seizure types and syndromes. Despite the introduction of newer anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs), a significant percentage of patients with epilepsy continue to experience seizures despite aggressive treatment with one or more AEDs. As a result, there continues to be an unmet clinical need for more effective and less toxic anti-epileptic drugs. (Feldman. *et al*, 1997) Despite immense technological advancement in modern medicine, many people in developing countries still depend on traditional healing practices and medicinal plants for their daily health care needs (Ojewole, 2004). The use of herbal medications by physicians in Europe and Asia is becoming more common and researchers are exploring the traditional remedies to find a suitable cure for these brain affecting diseases (Rabbani *et al.*, 2004).

Brassica campestris belonging to family Brassicaceae A herbaceous plant with a slender, erect, branched stem and a taproot reaching 30-100 cm in height. It has broad-based, stem-clasping leaves and the flowers yellow to cream. It occurs across Europe, Far east and Central Asia.

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