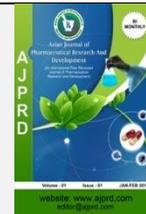


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Research Article

Anti-Stress Activity (*in-vivo*) of Multi Herbal Capsule-Trasina® in Experimental Murine Model

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ABSTRACT

Background: In this modern era, stress has become a developing devil of human life. To maintain the healthy lifestyle measures adopted for smooth livelihood, stress should be kept under control.

Objective: The main aim and objective of the study was to find out the antistress activity of a multi herbal capsule Trasina® against anoxia stress tolerance, chemical induced stress, swimming endurance stress and immobilisation stress models in swiss albino mice.

Methods: Trasina® was screened for its antistress activity at 50 mg/kg, 100 mg/kg, 200 mg/kg, p.o. doses and diazepam was applied as reference standard drug at 2 mg/kg i.p. dose. Anoxia stress tolerance time, number of writhes, immobility time, organs weight of animals and estimating biochemical parameters such as glucose, cholesterol, blood urea nitrogen (BUN) along with triglyceride were measured to evaluate antistress activity of the formulation.

Results: Administration of Trasina® showed significant increases in anoxia stress tolerance time and significant decreases in number of writhes and immobility time in mice as compared with control untreated animals. In immobilisation stress model we observed that treatment with Trasina® significantly reduced glucose, cholesterol and blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and triglyceride levels. Moreover in stressful condition liver and adrenal gland weight were significantly increased whereas spleen weight was significantly decreased. Treatment with Trasina® maintained the normal organs weight as compared with stressful group.

Conclusion: In conclusion it clearly showed that Trasina® possessed significant antistress activity and maintain normal homeostasis.

Keywords: Poly herbal formulation, Antistress activity, Anoxia stress tolerance, chemical induced stress, Swimming Endurance Stress, Immobilisation Stress, Animal model

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INTRODUCTION

In the modern lifestyle stress has become an integral part of human life¹. Excessive stress disrupts the normal functioning of the body's homeostasis. Extreme stress not only suppress homeostatic mechanisms of the organism but also create question for survival of the

organism^{2,3}. Severity of the various diseases like headache, diabetes, immunosuppression, hypertension, reproductive dysfunctions and behavioural disorders are also alarming in stressful situation and are prone to central nervous system (CNS), endocrine system, and metabolic system which suppress smooth body's functions^{4,6}. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

declared stress a hazard of the workplace and decreased the work potentiality of the individuals⁷.

Various allopathic antistress drugs are available in the market but produce severe adverse reaction for chronic consumption. Drugs like benzodiazepines, certain CNS stimulants such as amphetamines and caffeine as well as some anabolic steroids are routinely used by people to combat stress^{8,9}. Preclinical study clearly showed that intake of these drugs produce severe toxicity and produce organ damage¹⁰. So, medication through modern medicines to overcome the stress became very serious matter.

Last few decades Herbal formulations containing natural ingredients have been extensively used in both developed and under developed countries for their potential therapeutic effect in various diseases^{11,12}. Scientist revealed that medical plants present in the herbal medicines possess several phytochemical active compounds those produce medicinal effects. Recently herbal formulations have growing demand in the world market. The concept of polyherbal formulation (PHF) is well documented in the ancient literature¹³. Compared to the single herb, the multiherbal formulation has better and extended therapeutic potential. The herbal formulations claimed to enhance physical endurance; mental functions and non-specific resistance of the body have been termed as adaptogens¹⁴⁻¹⁶. Scientific research claimed that herbal medicine is cheap, easily available, fewer side effects, non-toxic and produce better synergistic action in comparison to synthetic modern medicines¹⁷.

Trasina is marketed multi herbal capsule containing some Indian medicinal plants classified in Ayurveda, the classic Indian system of medicine, as Medhyarasayanas or drugs reputed to improve memory and intellect. Trasina is a combination of *Shilajit*, *Withaniasomnifera*, *Tinosporacordifolia*, *Ecliptaalba*, *Ocimum sanctum* and *Picrorrhizakurroa*. Bhattacharya et al in 1997 reported that the formulation has a memory-facilitating action. Research stated that after sub chronic administration of Trasina for 21 days on two rodent models had simulate some biochemical features known to be associated with Alzheimer's disease (AD)^{18,19}. Our recent study confirmed that Trasina® have no toxic effects of animals and safe for therapeutic medication²⁰.

Thus, the present study was designed to assess the antistress ability of multi herbal capsule – Trasina® against anoxia stress tolerance, chemical induced stress, swimming endurance stress and immobilisation stress models in mice.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals

Healthy, Swiss albino mice weighing 25 ± 5 g were used for the study. The mice were housed in polypropylene cages and maintained under standard physiological conditions (12 h light and dark cycles, at 25 ± 2 °C and 50-60% humidity). They were fed with standard pellet diet and water *ad*

libitum. The study was approved by the Institutional Animal Ethical Committee (IAEC) of Dey's Medical Stores (Mfg.) Ltd., 62, Bondel Road, Kolkata-700019 registered under CPCSEA, Govt. of India (Registration No. 50/po/98/CPCSEA).

Evaluation of antistress activity

a. Anoxia stress tolerance test in mice

Swiss albino mice weighing 25 ± 5 g were selected and divided into five groups of six animals each. Group I received only distilled water and served as control, Group II received diazepam at a single dose in each day (2 mg/kg, i.p.), Group III, IV and V received Trasina® at a dose of 50, 100 and 200 mg/kg in each day for four weeks. At the end of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th week i.e. on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th day one hour after the treatment stress was induced by placing each animal individually in the hermetic vessel of 1 liter capacity to record anoxia tolerance time. The movement when the animal showed the first convulsions immediately removed from the vessel and resuscitated if needed. The time duration of entry of the animal into the hermetic vessel and the appearance of the first convulsion was taken as time of anoxia tolerance. Appearance of convulsion was very sharp end point, as delay by minute of removal of the animal from vessel may lead to death of the same²¹.

b. Chemical induced stress in mice

Swiss albino mice were randomly divided into five groups of 6 animals each. Group I received only distilled water and served as control, Group II received diazepam at a single dose in each day (2 mg/kg, i.p.), Group III, IV and V received Trasina® at a dose of 50, 100 and 200 mg/kg in each day. All the treatments were given continuously for 15 days. On day 15, one hour after the drug treatment all the animals received 0.1 mL of 6% (v/v) glacial acetic acid i.p. and number of writhes was observed in all the groups for 20 min²².

c. Swimming endurance test in mice

Swiss albino mice were randomly divided into five groups of 6 animals each. Group I received only distilled water and served as control, Group II received diazepam at a single dose in each day (2 mg/kg, i.p.), Group III, IV and V received Trasina® at a dose of 50, 100 and 200 mg/kg in each day. All the treatments were given continuously for 10 days. On day 10, one hour after the drug treatment all the animals were allowed to swim individually in a glass tank filled with water²³. The immobility time of each mouse was recorded for 30 min²³.

d. Immobilisation stress in mice

Swiss albino mice were selected and divided into six groups of six animals each. Group I Negative control (Unstressed, untreated), Group II Positive control (Stressed, received vehicle), Group III diazepam (2 mg/kg i.p.), Group IV Trasina® (50 mg/kg p.o.), Group V Trasina® (100 mg/kg p.o.), Group VI Trasina® (200 mg/kg p.o.). The treatment was made as stated above for 10 days 1 h before the exposure of stress. Stress was induced by immobilising rats with head down, supine position by fixing the forelimbs and hind limbs to a wooden board inclined at an angle of 60°, daily 2 h for a period of 10 days²⁴.

Determination of Biochemical parameters and Organs weight

At the end of the study the animals were sacrificed and blood was collected by retro-orbital for estimation of biochemical parameters. Blood were taken in a glass centrifuge tube and centrifuge at 6000 rpm. Clear serum were discarded carefully for biochemical parameters. Serum glucose, total cholesterol (TC), blood urea nitrogen (BUN), and triglyceride (TG) were detected by using standard biochemical kits (Accurex Biomedical Pvt. Ltd, Thane, India). The weight of organs, such as liver, spleen and adrenal glands after washing with alcohol was recorded per 100 g body weight of animal²⁵.

Statistical analysis

The data were presented as mean \pm standard error of mean (SEM) and analyzed using one-way analysis of variance

Table: 1 Ameliorative effect of Trasina® on anoxia stress tolerance time in mice

Groups	Duration of anoxia stress tolerance (min.)			
	Day 7	Day 14	Day 21	Day 28
Control	128.44 \pm 1.25	132.14 \pm 1.36	134.25 \pm 1.48	135.67 \pm 1.67
Diazepam 2 mg/kg	169.25 \pm 1.65**	171.95 \pm 0.99**	172.59 \pm 1.26**	174.56 \pm 1.95**
Trasina 50 mg/kg	136.25 \pm 0.95*	138.25 \pm 1.11*	140.54 \pm 1.91*	144.28 \pm 1.44*
Trasina 100 mg/kg	142.94 \pm 1.27*	148.39 \pm 1.15*	155.47 \pm 1.54*	160.27 \pm 1.36**
Trasina 200 mg/kg	155.21 \pm 1.06**	169.84 \pm 0.94**	175.64 \pm 0.96**	180.24 \pm 1.52**

Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM, n=6, *P<0.05, **P<0.001 compared with control (one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test).

Effect of Trasina® on Chemical induced stress in mice

Administration of glacial acetic acid 0.1mL of 6% (v/v) significantly elevated the number of writhes in mice. Pre-treatment with Trasina® at 50 mg/kg (P< 0.05) and 100 mg/kg (P< 0.01) doses were found to be significantly inhibit number of writhes in 20 minutes when compared to

(ANOVA) followed by Dunnett's and P< 0.05 was considered statically significant. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS 20.0) version software was used for statistical analysis.

RESULTS

Effect of Trasina® on Anoxia stress tolerance test in mice

Table 1 shows anoxia stress tolerance of 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th day in mice. The tolerance time was significantly enhanced on 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th day by dose dependent administration of Trasina® at doses 100 mg/kg (P< 0.01) and 200 mg/kg (P< 0.001), p.o. and diazepam at 2 mg/kg (P<0.001) i.p. treated groups. However the effect Trasina® at 50 mg/kg dose on anoxia stress tolerance time in mice was not statically significant at the end of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th week of treatment.

control group. However Trasina® at high dose 200 mg/kg (P< 0.001) and diazepam at 2 mg/kg (P< 0.001) dose were found to be significantly inhibit number of writhes in 20 minutes when compared to control group i.e. effect of Trasina® was dose relative manner (Table 2).

Table: 2 Ameliorative effect of Trasina® on chemical stress tolerance time in mice

Groups	Number of writhes (min.)
Control	48 \pm 1.62
Diazepam 2 mg/kg	11 \pm 0.96***
Trasina 50 mg/kg	29 \pm 1.36*
Trasina 100 mg/kg	21 \pm 1.54**
Trasina 200 mg/kg	12 \pm 1.47***

Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM, n=6, *P<0.01, **P<0.05, ***P<0.001 compared with control (one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test).

Effect of Trasina® on swimming endurance test in mice

Effect of Trasina® on swimming endurance test in mice was shown in table 3. The immobility time was significantly increases in control group of mice; whereas pre-treatment with Trasina® at 50 mg/kg and 100 mg/kg

doses were found to be significantly (P< 0.05) reduced immobility time in 30 minutes. However Trasina® at high dose 200 mg/kg (P< 0.01) and diazepam at 2 mg/kg (P<0.01) dose were found to be significantly reduced immobility time in 30 minutes.

Table: 3 Ameliorative effect of Trasina® on swimming endurance stress tolerance time in mice

Groups	Immobility time (min.)
Control	28.00 \pm 1.34
Diazepam 2 mg/kg	10.78 \pm 1.62***
Trasina 50 mg/kg	14.29 \pm 1.55*
Trasina 100 mg/kg	10.25 \pm 1.07**
Trasina 200 mg/kg	8.15 \pm 1.29***

Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM, n=6, *P<0.01, **P<0.05, ***P<0.001 compared with control (one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test).



Fig. A: Plants used in Trasina® Capsule



Fig. B: Trasina® Capsule



Fig. C: Dry Powder of Trasina

Figure: 1 Main ingredients present in Trasina® (Fig.A);Trasina in solid doses form (Fig.B); Dry powder of multi herbal formulation Trasina® (Fig. C)

Effect of Trasina® on Immobilisation stress in mice
Effect on biochemical parameters

The results of biochemical parameters was showed in figure 2. The immobilisation stress caused marked increase in biochemical parameters like glucose, total cholesterol (TC), blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and triglyceride (TG) in mice.

Pre-treatment with Trasina® at 50 mg/kg, 100 mg/kg p.o. doses were significantly (P < 0.05) reversed elevated levels of such biochemical parameters. However Trasina® at high dose 200 mg/kg were significantly (P < 0.01) reversed elevated levels of such biochemical parameters and showed the optimum protective effects.

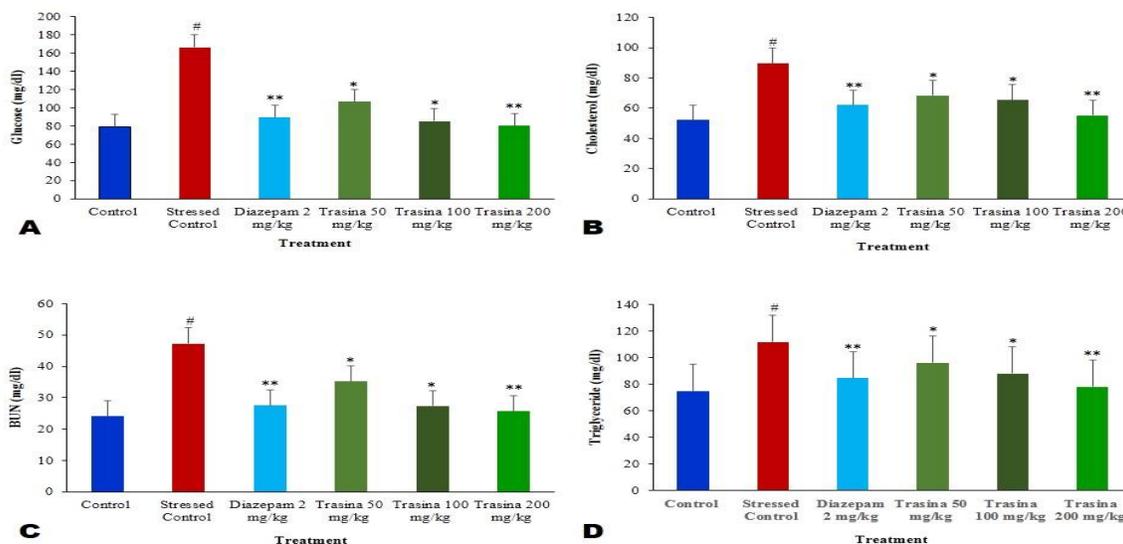


Figure: 2Effect of Trasina® on biochemical parameters in immobilization stress in mice. Values are expressed as mean ± SEM, n=6, #p<0.001 compared with control untreated animals; *p<0.05, **p<0.001 compared with stressed control animals(one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett’s test).

Effect on organs weight

The results of organs weight was showed in figure 3. The immobilisation stress caused marked changes in organs weight i.e. weight of spleen was significantly reduced and weight of liver and adrenal gland was significantly increased in mice. However Trasina® at, 50 mg/kg and 100

mg/kg p.o. doses were significantly (P < 0.05) significantly increased weight of spleen and decreased weight of liver and adrenal gland. Whereas treatment with Trasina® at high dose i.e. 200 mg/kg p.o. were significantly (P < 0.01) increased weight of spleen and decreased weight of liver (P < 0.001) and adrenal gland (P < 0.01).

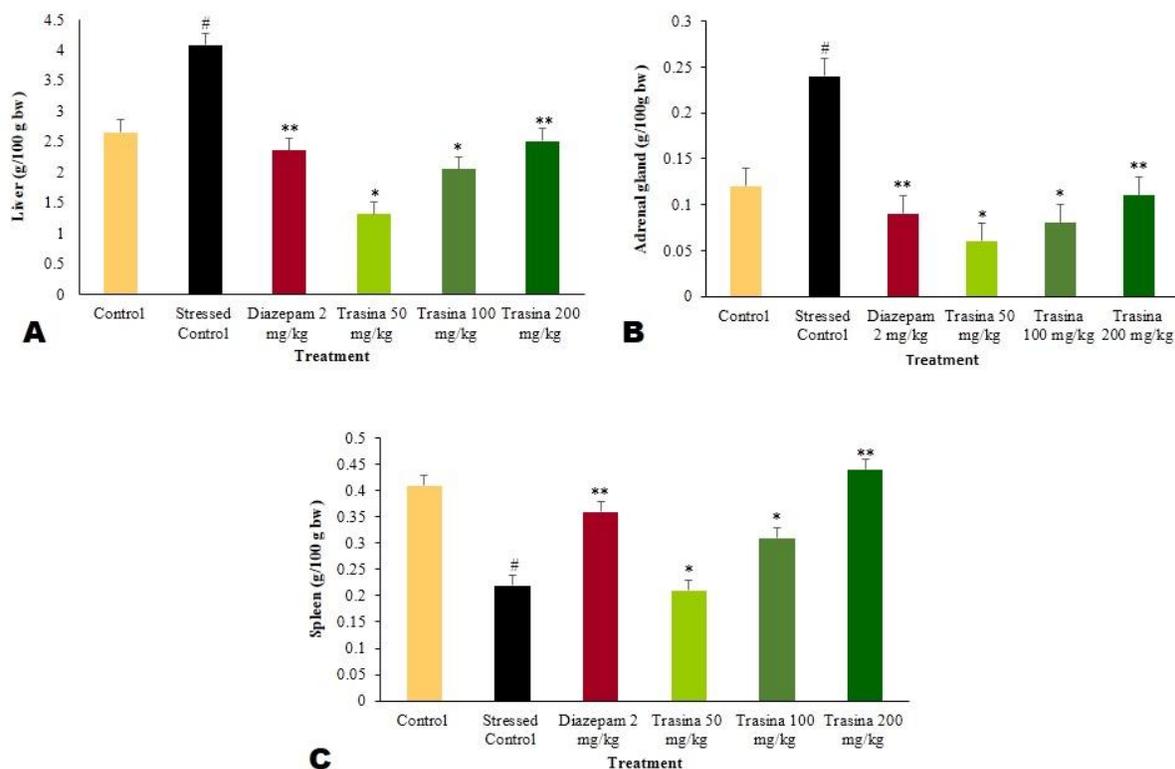


Figure: 3 Effect of Trasina® on organ weights in mice. Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM, n=6, [#]p<0.001 compared with control untreated animals; ^{*}p<0.05, ^{**}p<0.001 compared with stressed control animals (one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test).

DISCUSSION

Present study showed that in anoxia stress tolerance model, depletion of oxygen in hermetic vessel leads to convulsions in animals and pretreatment with Trasina® had increased the duration of stress tolerance indicating their antistress activity. Scientific study revealed that level of succinate dehydrogenase in brain is responsible for utilization and conservation of energy in the cellular system of the organisms, which helps adaptive process during stress²⁶. Treatment with Trasina® may be increased the succinate dehydrogenase level which control the utilization and conservation of energy during stress condition. In swimming endurance test model administration of Trasina® significantly reduced the immobility time in animal clearly exhibited the antistress activity. Previous research study established that swimming endurance test elevate plasma adrenaline and noradrenaline level and decrease monoamine oxidase level decrease in the brain during stress²⁷. The possible mechanism of antistress activity Trasina® against swimming endurance model might be due to the normalization of catecholamines and monoamine oxidase level. In immobilisation stress model significant increase in biochemical parameters such as glucose,

cholesterol, blood urea nitrogen and triglyceride in stress control group when compared to the other groups.

Hyperglycaemia is very common in stressful condition which increase blood pressure and rate. In our result we also observed high sugar level in the blood in the chronic stress condition. Scientific reports stated that during stressful situation adrenal cortex secretes cortisol in man and corticosterone in laboratory animals which helps in maintenance of internal homeostasis through the process of gluconeogenesis and lipogenesis^{28,29}. Application of Trasina® significantly reduced the elevated blood glucose levels clearly indication the suppression of adrenal cortex's hyperactivity and maintained the homeostatic condition.

In stressed condition marked elevation of serum total cholesterol (TC), triglyceride (TG) and blood urea nitrogen (BUN) in experimental animals stated that stimulation hypothalamo-pituitary axis (HPA) and sympathetic system which release catecholamines and glucocorticoids inhibits the immune function at multiple sites like liver and kidney^{30,31}. Administration of Trasina® significantly reduced the serum cholesterol, triglyceride and blood urea nitrogen (BUN) levels which may be happened due to the inhibition of stimulation of sympathetic nervous system.

Gross weight of the liver and adrenal gland were significantly increased in the stress condition and reverse to the normal condition by the treatment of Trasina®. This is happened due to the stress induced adrenomedullary response and decreased production of corticotropic hormone^{32,33}. On the other hand splenic weight reduction in stress condition was observed which may be happen due to recruitment of lymphocytes to blood from spleen which results squeezing of spleen. In the study pre-treatment with Trasina® increase the splenic weight which indicates inhibition of recruitment of lymphocytes to blood from spleen.

However pre-treatment with Trasina® was found to be significantly reduces number of writhes in dose dependent manner. The possible mechanism for reduction in number of writhes by Trasina® might be due to the inhibition of pain and inflammatory processes. All these findings confirmed that antistress activity of Trasina® was significant and dose dependent manner. Our previous study demonstrate that herbs present in the Trasina® enrich with various phyto-constituents like polyphenols, flavonoids, triterpenes, tannins etc. may process variety of pharmacological action including antistress property.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded that administration of Trasina® significantly increases anoxia tolerance time, significantly decreases immobility time and number of writhes in animals and this effect was dose dependent. Immobilisation stress induced changes in biochemical parameters and organs weight were completely revert by Trasina® treated groups. The possible mechanism underlying this effect is mediated through normalization of catecholamines level. The results of present study demonstrated that Trasina® is a potent safe and nontoxic antistress medication and maintain homeostatic condition during stress.

Conflict of Interest

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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Conflict of Interest

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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