



Anti-Inflammatory Activity of ZnO NPs Synthesised Using Glycyrrhiza Glabra

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ABSTRACT

Biological methods for nanoparticle synthesis using microorganisms, enzymes, and plants or plant extracts have been suggested as possible eco-friendly alternatives to chemical and physical methods. Bio-mediated synthesis of metal oxide nanoparticles using plant extract is a promising alternative of traditional chemical synthesis. The anti-inflammatory activity of ZnO nanoparticles was done by protein denaturation assay. Finally, the current study has clearly demonstrated that the ZnO NPs are responsible for significant high anti-inflammatory activities. Therefore, the study reveals an efficient, ecofriendly and simple method for the green synthesis of ZnO NPs using green synthetic approach.

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INTRODUCTION

Nanoparticles exhibit atom-like behaviors due to high surface energy resulting from high and large specific surface area, high fraction of surface atoms and wide gap between valence and conduction band when divided to their near atomic size. [1, 2]. Though conventional physical and chemical methods utilise less time for synthesising large quantities of nanoparticles, they require chemicals that are toxic as capping agents to maintain stability, thus leading to toxicity in the environment. Hence, green nanotechnology using plants is emerging as an eco-friendly alternative, as plant extract mediated biosynthesis of nanoparticles is cost-effective [3, 4, 5] which provides natural capping agents in protein forms. Transition metal oxide nano-structures and semiconductors have generated interest in next generation technologies [6]. Zinc oxide (ZnO), a multi-tasking metal oxide, is considered to be one of the best metal oxides that can be used in a nano scale due to its unique optical and electrical properties [7, 8]. Its stability during harsh processing conditions and relatively has low toxicity favoured its applications in agricultural and food industries [9-13]. As per literature, green synthesis of ZnO-NPs employing plants have been carried out using milky latex of *Calotropis procera* and *Aloe Vera* extract [14, 15].

ZnO nanoparticles are one of the most important functional oxides with direct wide band gap (3.37 eV) and has large excitation binding energy (60 meV), exhibiting many interesting electrical and optical properties [14]. It is versatile, smart material that has unique applications in catalysts, sensors, piezoelectric transducers and actuators, photovoltaic, and surface acoustic wave devices [15]. Nanoparticles with various sizes and shapes have garnered great interest in the past decade owing to their excellent electronic and chemical properties, which are not displayed in the bulk state of metal. ZnO NPs are widely used in industrial aspects such as pigments, [16] dye-sensitised solar cells, photo catalysts, and sensors.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preparation of Plant Extract

Glycyrrhiza glabra sticks were collected from Chennai. Then dried it in shade for 7-14 days. The well dried sticks were made into powder by using mortar and pestle. The collected powder was stored in air-tight container. 1 gram of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* powder was dissolved in distilled water and boiled for 5-10 minutes at 60-70°C. The solution was filtered by using Whatmann no.1 filter paper. The filtered extract was collected and stored in 4°C for further use.

Synthesis of Nanoparticles

1 milli molar of silver nitrate, 10, 20, 50 milli molar of copper acetate, 20, 50 milli molar of Zinc sulphate dissolved in 90ml/80ml of double distilled water. The plant extract of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* added with metal solution and was made into 100ml solution. The color change was observed visually and photographs were recorded. The solution is kept in magnetic stirrer/orbital shaker for nanoparticle synthesis.

Characterization of Np's

The synthesized NP's solution is preliminarily characterized by using UV-vis-spectroscopy. 3ml of the solution is taken in Cuvette and scanned in double beam UV-vis-spectrophotometer from 300nm to 700nm wavelength. The results were recorded for the graphical analysis.

Preparation of Np's Powder

The NP's solution is centrifuged using lark refrigerated centrifuge. The solution is centrifuged at 8000 rpm for 10 minutes and the pellet is collected and washed with distilled water twice. The final purified pellet is collected and dried at 100-150°C nanoparticles for 24hrs. Finally, the NP's powder is collected and stored in an air tight eppendorf tube.

Inhibition of Protein Denaturation Assay

BSA (Bovine serum albumin) was used as a reagent for the assay. Bovine serum albumin (BSA) makes up approximately 60% of all proteins in animal serum. It is commonly used in cell culture, particularly when protein supplementation is necessary and the other components of serum are unwanted. BSA undergoes denaturation upon heating and starts expressing antigens associated with Type III hypertensive reaction which are related to diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, glomerulonephritis and serum sickness lupus erythematosus.

2mL of 1% Bovine albumin fraction was mixed with 400microlitre of plant crude extract in different concentrations (500-100microgram/milliliter) and the pH of reaction mixture was adjusted to 6.8 using 1N HCl. The reaction mixture was incubated at room temperature for 20minutes and then heated at 55°C for 20min in a water bath. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the absorbance value was recorded at 660nm. An equal amount of plant extract was replaced with DMSO for control. Diclofenac sodium in different concentrations was used as standard. The experiment was performed in triplicate.

% Inhibition was calculated using the following formulae:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = \frac{\text{Control O.D} - \text{sample O.D}}{\text{Control O.D}} \times 100$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Visual Observation

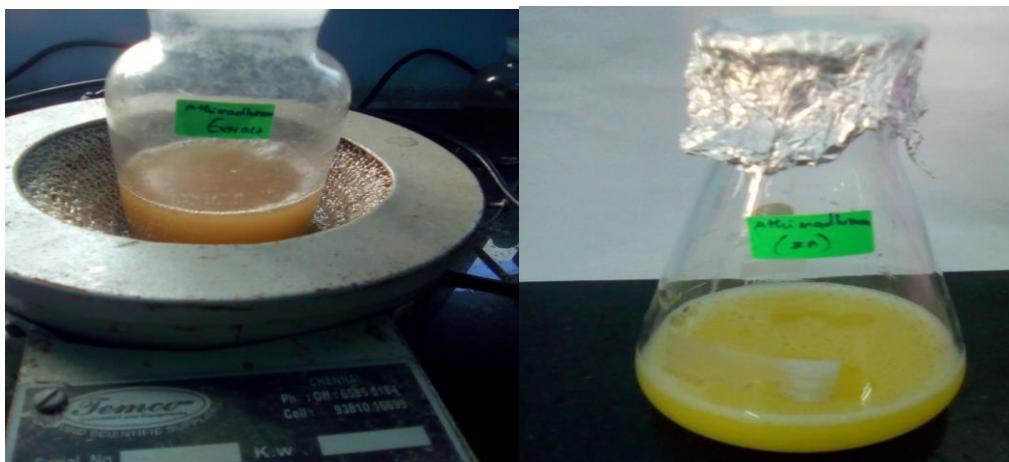


Figure 1: Colour change in nanoparticles synthesis

In (Fig 1(a)), Glycyrrhiza glabra extract is prepared by centrifugation ie) a separation process which uses the action of centrifugal force to promote accelerated settling of particles in a solid-liquid mixture. Separation is achieved by spinning a vessel containing material at high speed; the centrifugal force pushes heavier

materials to the outside of the vessel. The instrument used is called Centrifuge. Then the extract is treated with ZnS which involves a color change to yellow (Fig 1 (b)) indicating the presence of ZnO nanoparticles. ZnS is converted to ZnO by oxidation.

Albumin Denaturation Assay



Figure 2: Albumin denaturation assay

In utilising the anti-denaturation in vitro assay which is being proposed for isolating compounds from plants. Denaturation is a process in which proteins or nucleic acids lose the quaternary structure, tertiary structure, and secondary

structure which is present in their native state, by application of some external stress or compound such as a strong acid or base, a concentrated inorganic salt, an organic solvent like alcohol or chloroform, radiation or heat.

UV-Vis Spectroscopy

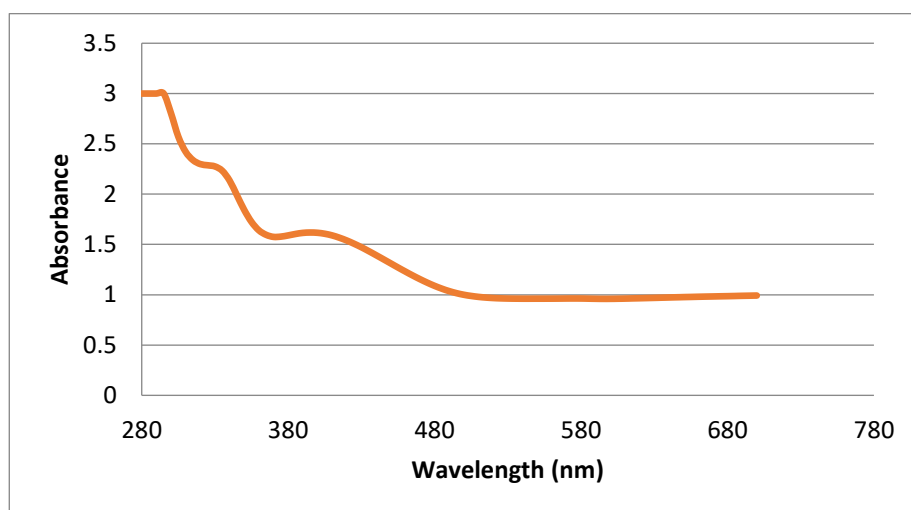


Figure 3: UV-vis spectroscopy

The UV-Vis absorption spectrum of zinc oxide nanoparticles synthesized using ZnS as an oxidizing agent is shown in figure 3. UV-Vis absorption spectrum (Fig. 3) reveals the formation of zinc oxide nanoparticles by showing surface plasmon absorption maxima at 280-290 nm. The position and shape of the plasmon absorption depends on the particles size, shape & the

dielectric constant of the surrounding medium. We can observe that surface plasmon absorption is constant initially from 480-680nm (figure 3) which has lower wavelength when the absorbance is nearly 1.000. The shape of the UV-Vis absorption spectrum is also noticed. The spectrum shows a smooth shoulder near 380 nm.

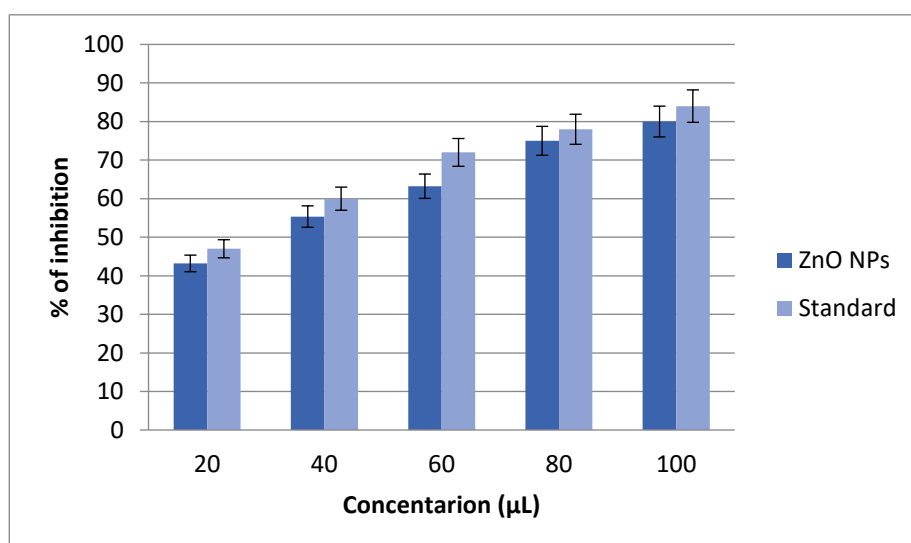


Figure 4: Antioxidant activity

The concentration is marked in micro litres and the % of inhibition of both ZnONPs and standard are noted. ZnONPs and standard on same concentration varies only 5% in their inhibition rate. As the concentration (microlitres) increases, % of inhibition also increase accordingly. When the concentration is 100 micro-litre for both standard and ZnONPs the inhibition rate varies at 80% and 85% respectively.

CONCLUSION

Denaturation of protein is well documented for the cause of infection. Synthesised compounds of ZnONPs using Glycyrrhiza glabra were tested for anti inflammatory activity and proves that as the concentration (in microlitres) increases, the percentage of inhibition also increases. When the concentration is 100micro litre, the percentage of inhibition is also nearly 100%. Hence, it proves that ZnONPs synthesised using Glycyrrhiza

glabra has anti inflammatory activity against enteric pathogenas.

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