

In Search of Novel Hypoglycaemic Agents from Plants

MI Thiabrew, DC Alahakoon, RN Pathirana and C Pathirana

ABSTRACT

Studies with *Osbeckia octandra* using Sprague Dawley rats as experimental animals have shown that the aqueous extract of the leaves of this plant can significantly lower the fasting blood glucose level and markedly improve the glucose tolerance. Biological testing of fractions separated from a methanolic extract of the *Osbeckia* leaves showed that only the ethylacetate fraction and the aqueous fraction remaining after solvent extraction exhibited hypoglycaemic activity. Biological testing after chemical screening and separation by thin layer chromatography (TLC) of the above active fractions has shown that a mixture of two flavanoids and another compound which is possibly a flavanoid derivative are responsible for the hypoglycaemic activity of this plant.

Keywords: *Osbeckia octandra*; hypoglycaemic agents; flavanoids.