Anti-Cariogenic Properties of Malvidin-3,5-Diglucoside Isolated from *Alcea longipedicellata* Against Oral Bacteria

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**Abstract:** The aim of this study was to investigate the anti-cariogenic effects of the indigenous Iranian medicinal plant *Alcea longopedicellata* (Malvaceae), to inhibit the growth and acid production of *Streptococcus mutans* and other cariogenic bacteria involved in dental plaque. The growth inhibitory activity of the ethanol and chloroform extracts were tested against *S. mutans*, *S. salivarius*, *S. sobrinus* and *S. sanguis*. From an ethanol extract of *A. longopedicellata* flowers, malvidin-3,5-diglucoside (malvin) was identified as a principal constituents which was responsible for antibacterial activity of extract. The malvin showed bacteriocidal activity, while ethanol and chloroform extracts was bacteriostatic. The MIC value of the malvin was 0.16-0.22 mg mL⁻¹. In vitro studies had shown that 0.1% malvin could inhibit strongly acid-producing ability of *S. mutans* and salivary glycosylation up to 2 h post rinsing and reduced total bacterial counts of saliva up to 40% 3 h post rinsing. 0.1% malvin was about 60% effective in inhibiting bacterial adherence, as shown by the low weight of accumulated *S. mutans* plaque to glass surface. In conclusion, the anti-cariogenic effect of *A. longopedicellata* suggests that this material could be a useful source for the development of promising anti-cariogenic agents and led to use for pharmaceutical preparations such as mouth rinse.

**Key words:** *Alcea longopedicellata*, anti-cariogenic activity, dental plaque, malvidin-3,5-diglucoside, malvin, mouth rinse

**INTRODUCTION**

Dental caries involves demineralization, cavitations and breakdown of calcified dental tissue and is caused by microorganisms that ferment dietary carbohydrates, notably sucrose, to produce acids; these acids initiate dissolution of the tooth enamel. The main bacteria in this group are *Streptococcus mutans*, *S. salivarius*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. sanguis* and *S. mutans* is generally known to be the principle causative of dental caries. These bacteria metabolize carbohydrates and producing an adhesive polysaccharide such as dextran from the glucose moiety and lactic acid from the fructose moiety. The synthesis of sticky, insoluble glucan promotes the firm adherence of the organism to the tooth surface that contributes to the formation of dental plaque. Moreover, research indicates that the coexistence of *S. sobrinus* and *S. mutans* is an important factor in the development of dental caries (So et al., 2007; Yoo et al., 2007).

To achieve sufficiently low levels of plaque to support a healthy tooth several mechanical and chemical oral hygiene aids are necessary in addition to the toothbrush. Mechanical methods usually used in dental care services to remove plaques are time consuming and never completely effective (Gonzalez Begne et al., 2001). Chemical approaches including use of antimicrobials, pH modifiers and many others alone or in combination with toothbrush and dental floss provide the best and reliable method in caries prevention (Xiao et al., 2006). Strongly active substances like chlorhexidine gluconate 0.2% mouth rinse (CHX) are capable of reducing the percentage of cultivable microorganisms in the dental biofilm to 0.002%. But it should not be forgotten that some side-effects are present when CHX is used for extended...
periods of time such as staining of the tongue and of the
dental biofilm, perturbation of the taste, burning
sensations or mucosal erosion (Sweetman, 2005).

A large proportion of the population now prefers
natural products and the use of the products with
ingredients of plant origin is increasingly being offered.
Therefore, a rinsing solution with inhibitory effect on
plaque formation with anti-microbial activity will be very
useful. Different plant-derived phytopharmaceuticals with
antimicrobial activity have been used for oral cavity
hygiene or treating of diseases (Didry et al., 1998). Some
of these phytopharmaceuticals have been shown to be a
good alternative to synthetic chemical substances for
caries prevention.

*Alcea longipedicellata* is a member of the Malvaceae
family. *Alcea longipedicellata* used as traditional
medicine for various diseases such as antiviral
(Asres et al., 2001), anti-inflammatory, astringent,
demulcent, diuretic, emollient, febrifuge, blood circulation,
for the treatment of constipation, dysmenorrhea, haemorrhage
(Tene et al., 2007). In Iran, the role of
*Alcea longipedicellata* in treatment of dyspepsia has
been known for many years. *Alcea* species has attracted
the attention of researchers because of their antimicrobial
potential besides antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and
cytotoxic activities, particularly due to flavonoids and
other phenolic constituents. The blossom’s liquid extract
also exhibited anti-inflammatory activity and contains
high concentrations of colorful flavonoids called
anthocyanins (Farina et al., 1995). Antibacterial effects
of flavonoids have been observed previously against
*B. cereus, B. subtilis, B. mycoides and S. aureus
(Marone et al., 2001; Yari Kamrani et al., 2007). It was
therefore of interest, to examine the *A. longipedicellata*
extract against dental plaque-forming bacteria.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Plant material:** Flowers of *A. longipedicellata* were
collected on August, 2006 from Ghotour valley, west
Azarbaijan province, northern-west part of Iran, in an
altitude of 1700 m. The plant was authenticated by
Herbarium, Forests and Rangeland research institute of
Iran and field identity was confirmed by Prof. V.
Mozafterarian. Flowers were washed with distilled water and
dried at room temperature to constant weight. The ethanol
and chloroform extracts of *A. longipedicellata* flowers
(85 g) were obtained by solvent-distillation method using
a soxhlet apparatus for 3 h. The solvent was evaporated
at reduced pressure to constant weight and the yields of
the oily residue were 6.3 and 5.9 g, respectively.

**Bacteria:** The purely-isolated compound, chloroform and
ethanol extracts were tested against 4 strains of bacteria
(*S. mutans* ATCC 35668, *S. salivarius* 1448, *S. sobrinus*
1601 and *S. sanguis* 1449), which has been prepared from
(PTCC or ATCC strains) and cultured in standard
condition. These microorganisms were provided by
Microbiology Laboratory, Razi Vaccine and Serum
Institute, Tehran, Iran.

**Antimicrobial assay by agar diffusion method:**
Antimicrobial activities of the ethanol (10%) and
chloroform (10%) extracts of *A. longipedicellata*
were determined using the agar diffusion method
(Hirasawa et al., 1999). Antibacterial activity was assayed
by measuring the diameter of zone of inhibition against
*Streptococcus* sp. seeded in inoculated *Mitis salivarius
(MS, Difeo) agar plates. Non-alcoholic chlorhexidine
glucinate 0.2% mouth rinse (CHX, Belvazan Co., Iran)
was purchased from local market and used as a positive
control.

**Flash column separation of ethanol extract:** The ethanol
extract was deemed suitable for fractionation to recover
the principal active constituent and was subjected to
separation by normal phase flash column
chromatography. The stationary phase consisted of
approximately 200 mL of silica gel (40-63 μm, 230-400 mesh).
The ethanol extract (2 g) was loaded on the column and
eluted using a continuous gradient of ethyl acetate to
afford 44 fractions collected in 10-50 mL increments.
Solvent was removed from each fraction by evaporation
under reduced pressure. Column fractions were subjected to
TLC separation and bioautography studies by spraying
methyl thiazolyl tetrazolium chloride (MTT) reagent to
monitor elution and relative purification of active
constituents using standard method (Rohalison et al.,

**FT-IR and NMR spectroscopy:** The FT-IR spectrum was
performed on a Nicolet 170SX spectrometer with a
scanning range from 4000 to 400 cm⁻¹. Proton and
Carbon-13 NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX
500 spectrometer in D₂O.

**Determination of MIC values:** MIC values for chloroform,
ethanol extracts and the isolated active compound
(Malvin) from *A. longipedicellata* ethanol extract tested
against *S. mutans, S. salivarius, S. sobrinus, S. sanguis
*were measured by the liquid serial dilution method using
10 mL of sterile 5% Sucrose-Trypticase Soy Broth (TSB).
The chloroform extract was diluted with chloroform and
mixed to medium with aid of sonication (50 w, 10 s). The ethanol extract was diluted with distilled water. Bacteria (1×10^6 cfu mL^-1) were added to each culture tube containing serially diluted test extract or control and incubated for 24 h at 37°C under anaerobic condition. The lowest concentration of the extracts that inhibited growth was noted.

**Determination of bactericidal or bacteriostatic activity:**
To estimate whether inhibition of growth was bactericidal or bacteriostatic, 10 times MIC of the A. longipedicellata extracts were used in the experiment. Samples were collected over an extended period. The stocks concentration used were 1 mg mL^-1 malvin and 100 mg mL^-1 of ethanol extract for Streptococcus species. These samples were diluted and inoculated on to a plate at each appropriate time. After incubation, the number of colonies was counted. Further, to investigate the effect of the extracts and malvin on non-multiplying bacterial cells, resting bacterial cells were prepared. The growing cells were harvested, washed three times with 50 mM tris-HCL buffer (pH 7.3) and used for determination (Nguefack et al., 2004).

**Inhibition of glycolysis:** The effects of the malvin on acid production by S. mutans was studied by a reported method (Corner et al., 1990; Bae et al., 2006) with slight modification. Two milliliter of fresh clarified human saliva, was added 0.1 mL of 5% glucose and 0.1 mL of various concentrations of the ethanol extracts of A. longipedicellata extract (6 and 10%) and 0.1% malvin. Control consisted of the saliva/glucose mixes containing 0.1 mL of PEG 300 (20% v/v). The pH of the samples were recorded immediately after preparation and at 10, 15, 30, 45, 60, 90, 120 min and 24 h.

**Effect on sucrose-dependent adherence to smooth glass surface:** To assess the adherence of growing cells of S. mutans ATCC 35668 to a glass surface, organism was grown at 37°C at an angle of 30°C for 18 h in test tubes. Individual 18-24 h colonies from brain-heart infusion agar plates were suspended in 5.0 mL of sterile 145 mM NaCl and the suspension adjusted to 0.5 on McFarland scale. A portion of the suspension was mixed with TSB (1:100 dilution, v/v) containing 29 mM sucrose and then 2.48 mL were transferred to a test tube. Subsequently, 20 μL of 2 fold dilution series of malvin, ethanol extracts (6 and 10%), CHX (0.2%) and water as a control were inoculated, gently stirred and then incubated. After incubation, the adherence cells were washed and suspended (Bae et al., 2006). The amount of adherent cells was measured at 550 nm by spectroscopy method. Five replicate were made for each concentration of the tested extract.

**Study in vivo:** Three young men, between the ages 22-30 years, with 20 or more natural teeth free of dental caries were recruited for this study. The protocol for study was approved by the local ethical review committee. The procedure, possible discomfort, or risk was fully explained to the volunteers and their written concede obtained. Subjects kept on their usual oral hygiene routines and no attempts were made to change or standardize of eating habits. We preferred to collect salivary rather than plaque samples, because salivary microbial counts are more consistent than plaque counts (Mundorff et al., 1990; Ofek et al., 2003).

Non-stimulated saliva samples (2 mL) were collected prior to study and served as the control and were placed immediately on ice. Mouth rinse was prepared by suspending 1 mg mL^-1 malvin isolated from A. longipedicellata in PEG 300 (20% v/v) and distilled water. The subjects were asked to rinse their mouths with 10 mL of mouth rinse for 1 min and do not rinsed their mouths with water afterwards. Further saliva samples were collected after 10 min, 1 and 3 h post-rinsing. Subjects were not allowed to eat or drink between sample collections. Placebo rinses was prepared using PEG 300 (20% v/v) in distilled water. Each saliva sample was immediately diluted 10^3 times with sterile saline and streaked on BHI Agar plates to determine the total saliva bacteria. Mitis salivarius agar (Difco) supplemented with sucrose (200 g L^-1) and bacitracin (0.2 units mL^-1) for the count of oral Streptococci. The plates were incubated into jars at 37°C for 24 h. After incubation, the colonies were counted using a stereomicroscope. Among colonies grown on mitis salivarius agar supplemented with sucrose, only those with the morphology of mutants Streptococci were considered.

**Statistics analysis:** Data obtained for acid production and inhibition of bacterial growth were analyzed. Data due to the mouth rinse were analyzed, for the inhibition of bacterial growth by comparing the pre-rinsing values with the post-rinsing values using paired t-test. For in vitro glycolysis, the data from the test at various time intervals were compared with those obtained for control at the same times interval using t-paired test. All statistical analysis was done in SPSS version 10.0. All values were considered significant with p<0.05.
RESULTS

Antimicrobial activity assay by agar diffusion method: Antibacterial activity was determined by measuring the diameter zone inhibition. The ethanol extract showed more inhibitory effect than chloroform extract on all test bacteria and used for rest of this study (Table 1). CHX always have highest inhibitory zone.

Flash column chromatography and identification of active compounds: The ethanol extract was selected for separation by flash column chromatography for recovery of a principal active constituent as TLC had shown enrichment of the main compound and was deemed to be relatively free of other compounds which may have impeded recovery. The major compound eluted as an yellow oil with 450-650 mL of 100% ethyl acetate. TLC separation of fractions containing this compound resulted in migration of a compound of Rf 0.63 (Fraction number-12), colored orange against a pink background prior to spraying and producing a purple spot upon derivatization with the MTT reagent. Duplicate bioautography resulted in a large zone of inhibition of the same RF.

The IR spectrum of isolated flavonoid showed a broad intensive band at 3388 cm⁻¹, which is characteristic of the hydrogen bond, according to its position and structure. A sharp and relatively intensive band at 1640 cm⁻¹ which corresponds to the bending vibrations of the OH group. Data for malvidin-3,5-diglucoside (malvin): ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O, 25°C) Aglycon: 8.70 (br s, H-4), 6.92 (d, 1.8 Hz, H-6), 7.26 (d, 1.8 Hz, H-8, 7.87 (d, 1.8 Hz, H-2, 6), 3.80 (bs, OCH₃), Glucoside A and B: 5.35 (d, 7.8 Hz, H-1), 3.80 (t, 9.6 Hz, H-2), 3.64 (t, 9.6 Hz, H-3), 3.53 (t, 9.6 Hz, H-4), 3.67 (m, H-5, 4.62 (dd, 6.6, 12.2 Hz, H-6), 4.41 (dd, 6.6, 12.2 Hz, H-6), and 13C NMR (500 MHz, D₂O, 25°C) Aglycon 167.1 (C2), 147.5 (C3), 138.9 (C4), 114.6 (C4a), 156.5 (C5), 103.7 (C6), 170.2 (C7), 113.5 (C8), 160.3 (C8a), 119.0 (C1'), 110.5 (C2'), 153.2 (C3'), 114.1 (C4'), 150.9 (C5'), 110.5 (C6'), 56.2 (OCH₃), Glucoside: 103.2 (C1), 74.2 (C2), 77.4 (C3), 70.8 (C4), 78.4 (C5), 62.5 (C6). The structure of malvin is shown in Fig. 1.

Minimum inhibitory concentration: The results show that malvin had the most inhibitory effect rather than chloroform and ethanolic extracts on the tested Streptococcus species (Table 2).

Minimum bactericidal concentration: Table 3 shows the antibacterial effects of A. longipedicellata extracts and isolated flavonoid on growing bacterial cells and resting bacterial cells of S. mutans ATCC 35668. The growth or survival of both the growing and resting cells treated with malvin decreased gradually with the incubation time.

Effect on acid production by salivary bacteria: The result of in vitro salivary glycolytic assay revealed that at concentrations of 6% of the ethanol extract had no significant inhibition on acid production (p>0.05) when compared to vehicle (PEG 200 v/v and water). In glycolytic reaction, the pH values did not changed significantly (p>0.05) at higher concentrations of extract (10%) over a period of 120 min. The isolated flavonoid showed the good inhibitory results on acid production which is comparable to 10% ethanol extract (p<0.05). The significantly lower pH values of all the samples as compared with the control values are due to the low pH of the extract itself (Table 4).

Inhibition of adherence of S. mutans: As seen in Table 5 inhibition of in vitro adherence of S. mutans to glass

![Fig. 1: Malvin (malvidin-3,5-diglucoside)](image-url)

Table 1: Mean area of the zone of microbial growth inhibition provided by ethanol and chloroform extracts of A. longipedicellata and chlorhexidine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Microorganisms</th>
<th>Ethanol extract (10%)</th>
<th>Chloroform extract (10%)</th>
<th>Chlorhexidine (0.2%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. mutans</td>
<td>18±0.3</td>
<td>14±0.7</td>
<td>24±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. salivarius</td>
<td>20±0.4</td>
<td>14±0.7</td>
<td>26±0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. sanguis</td>
<td>18±0.4</td>
<td>14±0.8</td>
<td>26±0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. sanguis</td>
<td>18±0.3</td>
<td>12±0.5</td>
<td>20±0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The antimicrobial test was done using the agar-well diffusion method on BHI agar and incubated for 24 h at 37°C, values are given in mm and expressed as mean±SD (n = 5)

Table 2: Minimal Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of chloroform, ethanol extracts of A. longipedicellata and malvin against tested microorganisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Microorganisms</th>
<th>Treatments (mg mL⁻¹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chloroform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. mutans</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. salivarius</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. sanguis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. sanguis</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3: Antibacterial effect of *A. longipericellata* chloroform and ethanol extracts and malvin against *S. mutans* ATCC 35668 at growing stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tested materials</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chloroform extract</td>
<td>(1 \times 10^6)</td>
<td>(9.5 \times 10^5)</td>
<td>(9.0 \times 10^6)</td>
<td>(8.3 \times 10^4)</td>
<td>(7.1 \times 10^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethanol extract</td>
<td>(1 \times 10^6)</td>
<td>(9.8 \times 10^5)</td>
<td>(7.8 \times 10^5)</td>
<td>(6.2 \times 10^4)</td>
<td>(5.3 \times 10^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvin</td>
<td>(1 \times 10^6)</td>
<td>(7.0 \times 10^5)</td>
<td>(8.7 \times 10^4)</td>
<td>(3.3 \times 10^3)</td>
<td>(1.5 \times 10^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distilled water</td>
<td>(1 \times 10^6)</td>
<td>(9.0 \times 10^5)</td>
<td>(1.0 \times 10^4)</td>
<td>(5.0 \times 10^3)</td>
<td>(1.0 \times 10^2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: Colony forming units (cfu mL\(^{-1}\))

Table 4: Temporal effectiveness of 6% and 10% ethanol extracts of *A. longipericellata* and 0.1% malvin mouth rinse on *in vitro* salivary glycoside inhibition pH of the before and post-rinsing saliva samples collected at various time intervals (min)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extract concentration</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>90</th>
<th>120</th>
<th>240</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saliva sample + Glucose</td>
<td>(6.24 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(6.21 \times 10^{-1})</td>
<td>(5.76 \times 10^{-1})</td>
<td>(5.49 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.22 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.04 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.03 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.02 \times 10^{-2})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6% ETEX + Glucose</td>
<td>(6.14 \times 10^{-3})</td>
<td>(6.09 \times 10^{-1})</td>
<td>(8.83 \times 10^{-4})</td>
<td>(5.68 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.36 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.20 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.19 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.00 \times 10^{-2})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% ETEX + Glucose</td>
<td>(5.69 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.88 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.59 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.48 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.15 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.01 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.15 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.15 \times 10^{-2})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.1% Malvin + Glucose</td>
<td>(5.74 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.73 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.82 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.88 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.92 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.91 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.91 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.91 \times 10^{-2})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEG + water</td>
<td>(6.25 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(6.20 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.84 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.53 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.43 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.29 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.27 \times 10^{-2})</td>
<td>(5.12 \times 10^{-2})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: Ethanol extract

Table 5: Temporal effectiveness of mouth rinsing with malvin (0.1%) from *A. longipericellata* on total salivary bacterial and oral streptococci counts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (min)</th>
<th>Reduction of total salivary bacterial count after mouth-rinsing (%)*</th>
<th>Reduction of oral Streptococci count after mouth-rinsing (%)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>55.3(+/-1.694)</td>
<td>51.4(+/-1.345)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>42.2(+/-1.770)</td>
<td>42.7(+/-1.665)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>37.1(+/-1.837)</td>
<td>36.1(+/-1.339)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: Mean=SD (n = 5)

Table 6: Effect of various concentrations of ethanol extract (6% and 10%) of *A. longipericellata* and 0.1% malvin on the inhibition of adherence of growing *S. mutans* PTCC-1601 to glass surface

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tested material</th>
<th>Ethanol Ex. (6%)</th>
<th>Ethanol Ex. (10%)</th>
<th>Malvin (0.1%)</th>
<th>CHX (0.2%)</th>
<th>Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inhibition of adherence (%)</td>
<td>39.0 ± 5.7</td>
<td>45.1 ± 5.2</td>
<td>60.0 ± 5.7</td>
<td>94.1 ± 5.2</td>
<td>36.1 ± 1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: Mean=SD (n = 5)

was evident when the cells were grown in BHI broth containing sucrose, 0.1% malvin and various concentrations of the ethanol extract of *A. longipericellata*. At a concentration of 0.1% malvin showed about 55% inhibition of adherence while CHX (0.2%) produced an inhibition greater than 94%.

**Study in vivo efficacy of mouth rinses:** Mouth rinsing with 0.1% malvin isolated from *A. longipericellata* showed a significant reduction in total *Streptococcal* count at 10 min, 1st and 3rd h of post rinsing (p<0.05). Rinsing with the vehicle showed no significant difference in the salivary bacterial count at any time interval (Table 6).

**DISCUSSION**

Dental caries is still one of the health problem all over the world. The main bacterial species associated with this disease are *S. mutans* and *S. sobrinus*. Since the attachment and proliferation are key steps in successful colonization in the dental plaque biofilm and pathogenesis of these microorganisms, different strategies such as inhibition of bacterial growth and prevention of microbial colonization were developed to protect the dental caries. An ideal antimicrobial agent would inhibit both of these activities. Antimicrobial susceptibility of oral has been tested to a number of plant extracts and natural substances (Xiao et al., 2006; Didry et al., 1998). *Alcea* species have a wide range of uses in herbal medicine in treatment of some diseases such as sore throats, laryngitis and tonsillitis, coughs, dryness of the lungs and digestive upsets (Schmidgall et al., 2000). The blossoms of *Alcea* species contain Mucilage, which on hydrolysis affords arabinose, glucose, rhamnose, galactose and galacturonic acid. The leaves also contain a small amount of tannins and noteworthy flavonoid sulfates (Farina et al., 1995).

In this study, we assessed the antibacterial activity of *A. longipericellata* extract on oral streptococci with the aim of preventing dental caries. Malvin has been demonstrated to manifest good antimicrobial activity, as evidenced by the MICs of obtained against oral *Streptococci*. But no significant difference was seen between the inhibitory growth of *S. mutans, S. sanguis*, *S. sobrinus* and *S. salivarius*. Either the malvin or CHX showed better antibacterial effect on *S. salivarius*, probably due to exhibition of the same antibacterial mechanisms.

Malvin killed more than 40% of both growing and resting cells of *S. mutans* ATCC 35668 within 1 h. With respect to *S. mutans*, the action of malvin was bactericidal.
Our data in agreement with other reports proposing that *A. longipedicellata* have anti-bacterial activity (Asres et al., 2001). Malvin is one of the more stable anthocyanin derivatives. The acyl and glycosidic substituents of malvin, besides stabilizing the molecule, also give it good alcohol solubility.

The inhibition of acid production in the saliva samples after applying 0.1% malvin may be due to the antibacterial effect of malvin on the salivary bacteria *in situ* at that concentration. At concentration of 6% of ethanol extract, the pH values change significantly throughout the glycolytic reaction showing absence of anti glycolytic effect. The mechanism of the observed long term effect upon the acidogenicity of the saliva on mouthwashes with the malvin could therefore be related to the malvin bactericidal or bacteriostatic effect. On the other hands, malvin had an immediate effect on the salivary bacteria and this effect continued up to 2 h. The importance of hydroxylation at the 2 position for antibacterial activity of malvin is supported by earlier work (Sato et al., 1995). Methoxy groups were reported to drastically decrease the antibacterial activity of flavonoids while one or two additional hydroxy groups at the 2 and 3' positions inhibited the growth of *S. mutans*.

In the sucrose-dependent adherence study, glass surface was used to represent the hard surface of the tooth (Fathilah and Rahim, 2003). Bacterial adherence to glass surface is the model system chosen because the adherence is mediated by glucan as well as the *in vivo* situation and the glass adherence assay is still used in some recent studies (Koo et al., 2000; Nostro et al., 2004). The adherence of *S. mutans* to the glass surface was markedly inhibited by sub-MIC concentration of isolated flavonoid from *A. longipedicellata*. Flavonoids are known to have anti-GTase activity (Prabu et al., 2006). This enzyme is responsible for the conversion of sucrose to sticky insoluble glucan, which promotes the firm adherence of *S. mutans* to the surface of the tooth. This inhibition of bacterial attachment prevents adherence of *S. mutans* to glass surface by a mechanism thought to involve dextran formation from sucrose. Thus, the isolated flavonoid could successfully prevent plaque formation on the surface of the tooth, as it inhibited the sucrose-induced adherence, this process that foster the colonization of the organism on the surface of the tooth. At concentrations of 0.1% malvin had an immediate inhibitory effect on the salivary bacteria and this effect was retained for 3 h. The sustained antibacterial and antilglycolytic effect observed in the oral cavity on mouth rinsing with the isolated flavonoid from *A. longipedicellata* suggested that malvin had a good substantively in the oral cavity. Based on results obtained from the present study, it is evident that malvin and other phytoconstituents present in the ethanol extract of *A. longipedicellata* are involved in the bactericidal and bacteriostatic activity against *S. mutans* at different concentrations. Thus, when considering the overall effect of malvin on *S. mutans*, it can be said that the use of malvin as a mouth rinse will have an effect on the growth, adherence and acid-producing ability of *S. mutans*.

We now have a scientific evidence to justify the use of *A. longipedicellata* as a mouth rinse which could maintain the oral hygiene and prevent dental carries.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Authors wish to thank Prof. V. Mozaffarian and Dr. Kamkar Jaimand. This project was supported by a grant from the Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Center of Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

**REFERENCES**


