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Moringa oleifera ameliorates cuprizone-induced cerebellar damage in adult female rats

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Abstract

Objectives: Cuprizone is a neurotoxicant used in modeling demyelinating disorders. This study explored the effects of *Moringa oleifera* (MO) on oxidative, histomorphological and behavioural changes in cuprizone-damaged cerebellum.

Methods: Twenty adult female Wistar rats were grouped into 4, each group having five animals. Group A received 1 ml of normal saline (Control); group B received 0.4% cuprizone; group C received 15.6 mg/kgBW *Moringa oleifera* leaf extract; group D received 0.4% cuprizone and 15.6 mg/kgBW *Moringa oleifera*, orally for 5 weeks. The animals were assessed for exploratory and locomotor activities, while the cerebellum was processed for histology and assayed for nitric oxide (NO), catalase (CAT) and superoxide dismutase (SOD) activities.

Results: Cuprizone treatment caused weight reduction, disruption of Purkinje cell layer, cellular degeneration, reduction in NO, CAT and SOD activities. However, these changes were ameliorated when co-administered with MO.

Conclusion: The anti-oxidative property of *Moringa oleifera* is responsible for its ameliorative effect in cuprizone neurotoxicity.

Keywords: demyelination, cuprizone, cerebellar damage, *Moringa oleifera*, oxidative enzymes

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