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Volume 8, Issue 9, 1 September 2020, Pages 5114-5127

Antioxidant and hepatorenal protective effects of bee pollen fractions against propionic acid - induced autistic feature in rats (Article) [\(Open Access\)](#)

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Abstract

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In the brain, propionic acid (PA) can cross cell membranes and accumulate within cells, leading to intracellular acidification, which may alter neurotransmitter release (NT), communication between neurons, and behavior. Such elevation in levels of PA constitutes a neurodevelopmental metabolic disorder called propionic acidemia, which could clinically manifest as autism. The purpose of this study was to investigate the protective effects of different fractions of bee pollen (BP) on PA-induced autism in rats, and to evaluate their effects on the expression of liver and renal biomarkers. Groups of rats received treatments of different fractions of BP at a dose of 250 mg/kg of body weight/day for a period of 1 month. Normal control group I and group II were orally administered with phosphate-buffered saline and propionic acid, respectively, for 3 days. BP contains various health-promoting phenolic components. Different fractions of BP administered pre- and post-treatment with PA showed significant reduction in the levels of liver and renal biomarkers ($p < .05$). Also, a significant enhancement in the levels of glutathione S-transferase (GST), catalase (CAT), and ascorbic acid (VIT C) was observed. Supplementation with BP significantly reduced biochemical changes in the liver, kidneys, and brain of rats with PA-induced toxicity. It exhibited protective effects against oxidative damage and reactive oxygen species produced by PA-induced adverse reactions in rats. Taken together, our study shows that BP possesses protective effects in PA-induced liver and kidney damage. © 2020 The Authors. Food Science & Nutrition published by Wiley Periodicals LLC.

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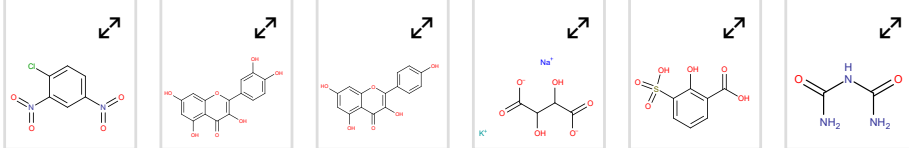
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Funding details

Funding sponsor	Funding number	Acronym
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Funding text

This research project was supported by a grant from the "Research Center of the Center for Female Scientific and Medical Colleges", Deanship of Scientific Research, King Saud University".

ISSN: 20487177

Source Type: Journal

Original language: English

DOI: 10.1002/fsn3.1813

Document Type: Article

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell

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