

## Screening of a Natural Feed Additive Having Anti-viral Activity against Influenza A/H5N1

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### 안전한 닭고기 생산을 위한 고병원성 조류인플루엔자 A/H5N1에 항바이러스 효과를 가진 천연 사료첨가제의 탐색

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#### Abstract

To search for anti-H5N1 influenza virus agent, the anti-viral activity of methanol and aqueous extracts from thirty medicinal plants were examined in this study. The plant material (30 g) was extracted with methanol (300 mL) for 24 hr at room temperature. Methanol extracts were filtered and evaporated, then freeze-dried. Aqueous extracts were prepared with dried plant material (30 g) and hot distilled water (300 mL). After 3 hr, the aqueous extracts were filtered and evaporated, then lyophilized. Extracts prepared from different plants were tested the antiviral activity against influenza viruses [A/Vietnam/1194/04 (H5N1)-NIBRG-14] using the hemagglutination (HA) assay. Among the test plants, *Asarum sieboldii* was found to be a potent inhibitor of H5N1 influenza virus in MDCK cell culture. Virus titers were 7 log, whereas with methanol extract of *Asarum sieboldii* for 48 hr titers were 3 log, indicating that methanol extract of *Asarum sieboldii* inhibited the H5N1 influenza viruses from the infected cells.

**Key words :** influenza A/H5N1, highly pathogenic avian influenza, feed additive, anti-viral activity, *Asarum sieboldii*

#### Introduction

Avian influenza A subtype H5N1 virus, with their ability to cause fatal infections and pathogenesis in humans has recently appeared in Asian countries (De Jong and Hien, 2006). The subsequent re-emergence of human H5N1 disease with high fatality rates has been reported in southern China (Shortridge *et al.*, 1998; Yan *et al.*, 2007), Thailand (Amonsin *et al.*, 2006), Indonesia, and Vietnam (Smith *et al.*, 2006). Currently, some drugs are available with anti-viral activity against influenza viruses: amantadine, remantadine, zanamivir, and oseltamivir (De Jong and Hien, 2006).

But these synthetic drugs have side effects and limitations. Also, it has been reported that drug-resistant H5N1 influenza virus was isolated from Vietnam, and China (Le *et al.*, 2005; He *et al.*, 2008). The influenza virus (A/Hanoi/30408/2005 (H5N1)) isolated from a Vietnamese girl in 2005 was an oseltamivir-resistant virus (Le *et al.*, 2005), and 83.3% of influenza viruses isolated from chicken in Hebei Province of Northern China from 2001 to 2005 were resistant to amantadine (He *et al.*, 2008). Therefore, much attention has been placed into searching for natural substances having anti-influenza effects (Mukhtar *et al.*, 2008).

The efforts to search for influenza virus natural inhibitors are very ancient. In particular herbal drugs as anti-influenza agents have been mainly used in East Asia, China, Korea, and Japan (Wang *et al.*, 2006). The recent studies suggest that several natural substances isolated from several plants have anti-influenza activity both *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

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Polyphenolic compound catechins ((-)-epigallocatechin gallate, (-)-epicatechin gallate and (-)-epigallocatechin) from *Camellia sinensis* (green tea) inhibit influenza virus replication in MDCK cell culture and potentially direct virucidal effect (Song *et al.*, 2005). Methanol extracts from Korean medicinal plants, *Ephedra sinica* (Eupedraceae), *Areca catechu* (Palmae), *Paeonia lactiflora* (Ranunculaceae), and *Magnolia obovata* (Magnoliaceae), have inhibitory activity against the influenza virus (A/Taiwan/1/86 (H1N1)) (Park, 2003). A polyphenol rich extract from *Cistus incanus* PAN-DALIS has anti-influenza virus activity against the human influenza isolate (A/Thailand/1(KAN-1)/2004 (H5N1)) (Ehrhardt *et al.*, 2007). It also has reported that the extract of *Cochinchina momordica* seed as an adjuvant has potential to improve the efficacy of influenza vaccination (H5N1) in chickens (Rajput *et al.*, 2007).

In this study, we aimed to test thirty oriental medicinal plants with putative anti-viral activity against influenza A virus subtype H5N1 in MDCK cell cultures.

## Materials and Methods

### Viruses and cells

H5N1 (A/Vietnam/1194/04 (H5N1)-NIBRG-14) influenza viruses were propagated in the allantoic cavities of 11-d-old embryonated chicken eggs in approved biosafety level-3 (BL-3) containment facility. MDCK (Madin-Darby canine kidney) cells were cultivated in MEM supplemented with 10% FBS. The procedures for cell culture and virus titration were performed as described elsewhere (Seo *et al.*, 2004).

### Preparation of plant extracts

Medicinal plants were selected from Korean medicine book describing traditional medicines. The scientific names of plants are shown in Table 1.

Extract of medicinal plants was prepared according to the standard methods with minor modification as previously reported (Kim *et al.*, 2007; Shin *et al.*, 2008). Briefly, the air-dried and finely ground samples were extracted by using the method as described below. Plants (30 g) were extracted

**Table 1. Medicinal plant extracts used in this study**

Botanical name (family)	Part used
<i>Petasites japonicus</i> (Asteraceae)	Flower
<i>Trichosanthes kirilowii</i> Maxim. (Cucurbitaceae)	Fruit
<i>Platycodon grandiflorum</i> (Campanulaceae)	Root
<i>Ephedra sinica</i> (Ephedraceae)	Aerial
<i>Liriope platyphylla</i> (Liliaceae)	Root
<i>Brassica juncea</i> Czern. et Coss (Cruciferae)	Seed
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> L. (Ginkgoaceae)	Fruit
<i>Stemona japonica</i> Miq. (Stemonaceae)	Root
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> (Thumb.) Lindl. (Rosaceae)	Leaf
<i>Adenophora triphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> Hara (Campanulaceae)	Root
<i>Morus alba</i> L. (Moraceae)	Bark
<i>Asarum sieboldii</i> Miq. (Aristolchiaceae)	Root
<i>Perilla frutescens</i> var. <i>acuta</i> Kubo (Labiatae)	Leaf
<i>Schizandra chinensis</i> Baill. (Magnoliaceae)	Fruit
<i>Polygala japonica</i> Houtt. (Polygalaceae)	Root
<i>Aster tataricus</i> L. f. (Compositae)	Root
<i>Peucedanum decursivum</i> Maxim. (Umbelliferae)	Root
<i>Fraxinus rhynchophylla</i> Hance (Oleaceae)	Bark
<i>Fritillaria thunbergii</i> Miq. (Liliaceae)	Stem
<i>Prunus armeniaca</i> var. <i>ansu</i> Maxim. (Rosaceae)	Seed
<i>Codonopsis pilosula</i> (Franch) Nannf. (Campanulaceae)	Root
<i>Polygonum multiflorum</i> Thumb. ex Murray (Polygonaceae)	Root
<i>Atractylodes macrocephala</i> Koidzumi (Compositae)	Root
<i>Astragalus complanatus</i> R. Br. (Leguminosae)	Seed
<i>Cornus officinalis</i> Siebold & Zucc. (Cornaceae)	Fruit
<i>Dioscorea japonica</i> Thumb. (Dioscoreaceae)	Root
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gaertn. (Nymphaeaceae)	Seed
<i>Acanthopanax sessiliflorus</i> var. <i>parviceps</i> Rehder (Araliaceae)	Bark
<i>Achyranthes japonica</i> Nakai (Amaranthaceae)	Root
<i>Cistanche deserticola</i> Y. C. Ma (Orobanchaceae)	Root

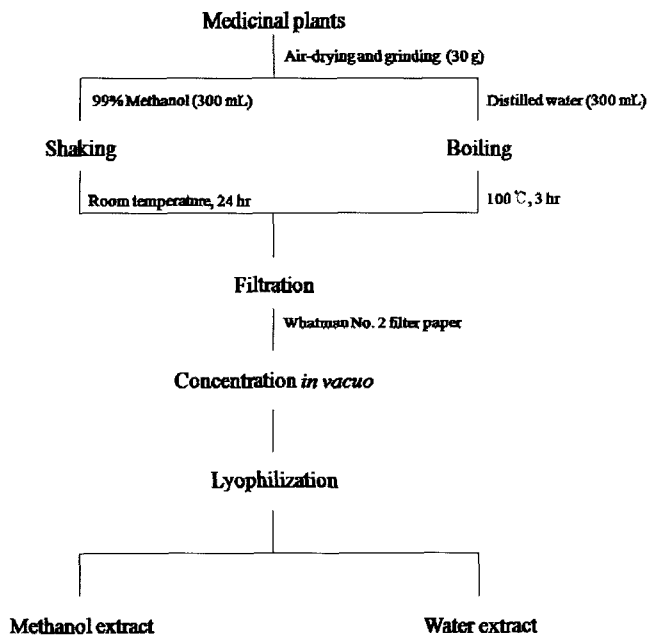


Fig. 1. Procedure to prepare extracts from medicinal plants in this study.

with 300 mL of methanol (99%) for 24 hr at room temperature on a rotating shaker (180 rpm). Crude aqueous extracts were also prepared with 30 g of powdered plant material. Each sample was added to 300 mL of distilled water in a glass flask, boiled for 3 hr. After filtration through Whatman No. 2 filter paper, the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and lyophilized, then stored at 4°C (Fig. 1).

#### Anti-viral activity assay

The anti-viral activity of extracts was determined as described below. Briefly, confluent monolayers of MDCK cells on the 6-well plates were infected with 100 mL of 100 TCID<sub>50</sub>/mL of H5N1 viruses. One hr later, plant extracts in MEM media (3 mL) at a non-toxic concentration were added to MDCK cells in well of 6-well plates, and cells were incubated for 48 hr. After this incubation period, virus titers were determined by hemagglutination (HA) assays. The anti-viral activity was defined as a 4 log reduction.

Table 2. Inhibitory activity of medicinal plants on influenza virus A/H5N1

Botanical name (family)	Methanol extract	Water extract
<i>Petasites japonicus</i> (Asteraceae)	-	-
<i>Trichosanthes kirilowii</i> Maxim. (Cucurbitaceae)	-	-
<i>Platycodon grandiflorum</i> (Campanulaceae)	-	-
<i>Ephedra sinica</i> (Ephedraceae)	-	-
<i>Liriope platyphylla</i> (Liliaceae)	-	-
<i>Brassica juncea</i> Czern. et Coss (Cruciferae)	-	-
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> L. (Ginkgoaceae)	-	-
<i>Stemona japonica</i> Miq. (Stemonaceae)	-	-
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> (Thumb.) Lindl. (Rosaceae)	-	-
<i>Adenophora triphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> Hara (Campanulaceae)	-	-
<i>Morus alba</i> L. (Moraceae)	-	-
<i>Asarum sieboldii</i> Miq. (Aristolchiaceae)	+	-
<i>Perilla frutescens</i> var. <i>acuta</i> Kubo (Labiatae)	-	-
<i>Schizandra chinensis</i> Baill. (Magnoliaceae)	-	-
<i>Polygala japonica</i> Houtt. (Polygalaceae)	-	-
<i>Aster tataricus</i> L. f. (Compositae)	-	-
<i>Peucedanum decursivum</i> Maxim. (Umbelliferae)	-	-
<i>Fraxinus rhynchophylla</i> Hance (Oleaceae)	-	-
<i>Fritillaria thunbergii</i> Miq. (Liliaceae)	-	-
<i>Prunus armeniaca</i> var. <i>ansu</i> Maxim. (Rosaceae)	-	-
<i>Codonopsis pilosula</i> (Franch) Nannf. (Campanulaceae)	-	-
<i>Polygonum multiflorum</i> Thumb. ex Murray (Polygonaceae)	-	-
<i>Atractylodes macrocephala</i> Koidzumi (Compositae)	-	-
<i>Astragalus complanatus</i> R. Br. (Leguminosae)	-	-
<i>Cornus officinalis</i> Siebold & Zucc. (Cornaceae)	-	-
<i>Dioscorea japonica</i> Thumb. (Dioscoreaceae)	-	-
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gaertn. (Nymphaeaceae)	-	-
<i>Acanthopanax sessiliflorus</i> var. <i>parviceps</i> Rehder (Araliaceae)	-	-
<i>Achyranthes japonica</i> Nakai (Amaranthaceae)	-	-
<i>Cistanche deserticola</i> Y. C. Ma (Orobanchaceae)	-	-

+: detected, -: not detected.

## Results and Discussion

The anti-viral activity of oriental medicinal plants against highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1 was examined *in vitro*.

Out of the 30 samples tested, only the methanol extract of *Asarum sieboldii* was shown to inhibit the H5N1 (A/Vietnam/1194/04 (H5N1)-NIBRG-14) influenza virus (Table 2). Virus titers were  $2^7$  HA unit in case of sample-free, whereas with methanol extract of *Asarum sieboldii* virus titer was reduced to 3 log. *Asarum sieboldii* (Fig. 2), a perennial herb in the family Aristolochiaceae, is mainly distributed in Korea and China. It has been traditionally used as a medicine in cold and pains. It has been reported that its water extract have liver-protective effect (Cho and Yoon, 1999) and a propiophenone derivative from its rhizome inhibits harmful microorganisms (Lee *et al.*, 2005; Yu *et al.*, 2006). Kim *et al.* has also reported that *Asarum sieboldii* was shown to have a role of histamine pathways, and it has been used to treat histamine-related diseases traditionally (2003). This is the first report describing the anti-viral activity of *Asarum sieboldii* against high pathogenic avian influenza A H5N1.

Although further studies need to identify the bioactive substance of *Asarum sieboldii*, this early study suggests that an oriental traditional medicinal plant as a natural feed additive have a potential to be used in treatment of poultry diseases caused by high pathogenic avian influenza A H5N1.



Fig. 2. Root of *Asarum sieboldii* Miq. (Aristolochiaceae).

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