

**Effect of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* extract on hematological parameters and cardio enzymes in rats**

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**ABSTRACT**

The present study aims to investigate the impact of the sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the extract of sea cucumber *Holothuria atra* from Red sea on the white and red blood cells and platelet count, hemoglobin percent and cardio enzymes (CK & CKmb) of rats after their injection (i.p.) for ½, 1, 6, 12 and 24 hours. The white blood cell count was significantly affected in rats injected, while platelet decreased through the first hour then reaching normal level after 24 hours, while Red blood cells count and hemoglobin weren't significantly affected. On the other hand, injection of extract of sea cucumber significantly increased serum CK and CK-MB compared to normal controls.

In conclusion, the extract toxin of sea cucumber *Holothuria atra* has direct effect on white blood cells count, platelet and cardio disease tests with no other effect on red blood cell count or hemoglobin.

**Key words:** Sea cucumber; *Holothuria atra*, Hematological; Cardio enzymes.

**INTRODUCTION**

Sea cucumbers have high commercial value and used for food and folk medicine in the communities of Asia and Middle East. Therapeutic properties and medicinal benefits of sea cucumbers can be linked to the presence of a wide array of bioactives especially triterpene glycosides (saponins), chondroitin sulfates, glycosaminoglycan (GAGs), sulfated polysaccharides, sterols (glycosides and sulfates), phenolics, cerberosides, lectins, peptides, glycoprotein, glycosphingolipids and essential fatty acids. This work is mainly designed to cover the high-value components and bioactives as well as the multiple biological and therapeutic properties of sea cucumbers with regard to exploring their potential uses for functional foods and nutraceuticals. polysaccharides (e.g., chondroitin sulfate and saponin glycosides (Sara *et al.*, 2011).

Most of the previous studies on the sea cucumbers were are mainly on their taxonomy, ecology and biology (Clark, 1967, Hasan, 2001, 2003 and 2004). The effect of Toxen extraxcts from the Red Sea cucumbers species have received little attention. In spite of the increasing interest in pharmacology of holothurians all over the world nowadays, there is rare work done on the hematolygical & Cardio effect of the Red Sea holothurians (*Holothuria atra*) on rats.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Sea Cucumber Samples**

Twenty specimens of the sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* (150-200 g each) were collected from Hurghada Red Sea.

**Preparation of Sea cucumber Extracts (Hot water Extraction)**

Preparation of extract from specimens of *H. atra* was done according to Fredalina *et al.* (1999). Specimens were cut, ground in a blender, poured in petri dishes and dried in oven at 70°C (18-20 h) until no change in weight was observed. The dried samples were further blended until a fine powder was produced. 12g of this powder were mixed with 100 mL dist. Water and shaken, then centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 20 minutes and the supernatant was separated and preserved at 4°C. The residue was further extracted (x2) using 40 and 20 mL of PBS, respectively. The supernatants were combined in a round-bottom flask, then freeze-dried at -50°C to produce a powder-like extract. Preparation was taken place at the Chemistry Laboratory, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF), Suez and Aqaba Gulfs branch).

**Experimental Animals:****Swiss albino Rats**

Adult female Swiss albino rats weighing 150-200 g were housed in steel mesh cages (5 rats/ cage) in the animal house of NIOF, Suez and Aqaba Gulfs branch and feed a commercial pellet diet and drank tap water for week before starting the experiment. The animals were divided into two groups:

**Group I: Normal Control (NC):** Eight normal healthy rats, each received a single i.p injection of 0.25 mL saline and remained intact serving as normal control.

**Group II: (LD<sub>25</sub>):** This group contained 50 normal healthy rats, each received a single i.p LD<sub>25</sub> (1.55 mg/ Kg body weight) of the crude toxin dissolved in 0.25 mL saline. This dose was previously estimated by Hamed *et al.* (2017) for *Holothria atra*.

Treated rats were divided into sacrificed by decapitation after ½, 1, 6, 12 and 24 hours of the injection.

**Hematological assays**

Hematological investigation included white blood cells count (WBCs) , Red blood cells count (RBCs) , Haemoglobin content (Hb) and Blood platlets count (PLT). These were measured automatically by cell counter (ADIVA 60-ct-system, a fully automated hematology analyzer, Bayer Health Care, Germany).

**Cardio enzymes tests:**

The level of serum Creatine kinase (CK) & CKmb concentration were determinate by Automated Systems by (Bio systems analyzer A25) method of IFCC (using commercial available specific kits (Spain; Biosystems S.A.).

**Statistical analysis:**

The mean ± S.E and student t-test were analysed by using statistic a ver.12 and p< 0.050 was accepted as a significant probability level.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The blood of rat consists of a liquid phase containing a great variety of substances and cellular elements of three main varieties: leukocytes (WBCs), erythrocytes (RBCs), and platelets

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(Cecil, 1997). Injection of rats with LD<sub>25</sub> of the sea cucumber extract caused significant increase in WBC count after 30 minute and persisted up to 24 hours as show in Table (1) and Figure (1). Leukocytosis resulted from this injection was in agreement with those reported by El-Naggar *et al.* (1996), Haggag *et al.* (1999) and Mohamed (2005). Leukocytosis may be due to the increase of the absolute lymphocyte and monocyte count, as well as spleen enlargement of the injected rats which may indicate an immune modulator activity of extract (Aminin *et al.*, 2009), or due to the inflammatory and allergic effect resulting from toxin injection. In addition, the leukocytosis may indicate an alteration in defense mechanism against the action of crude toxin of sea cucumber as reported by Abu-Amra *et al.* (2002a), who used tetrodotoxin. Another possible explanation for this increase of WBCs as reported by Hogan and Adams (1979) that the crude toxin may traumatize receptive tissues then causing release of leukocytosis-inducing factors which would in turn elevate the peripheral leucocytic count.

The present study revealed that the injection with LD<sub>25</sub> of sea cucumber extract induced insignificant effect on RBCs count and hemoglobin content as show in Tables (2 & 3) and Figures (2 & 3). These were not in agreement with the results of Mansour *et al.* (1980) and Abu-Amra *et al.* (2002b) who reported a sever decrease in Hb content and RBCs count after injection with ifferent toxins other than sea cucumber toxin such as tetrodotoxin.

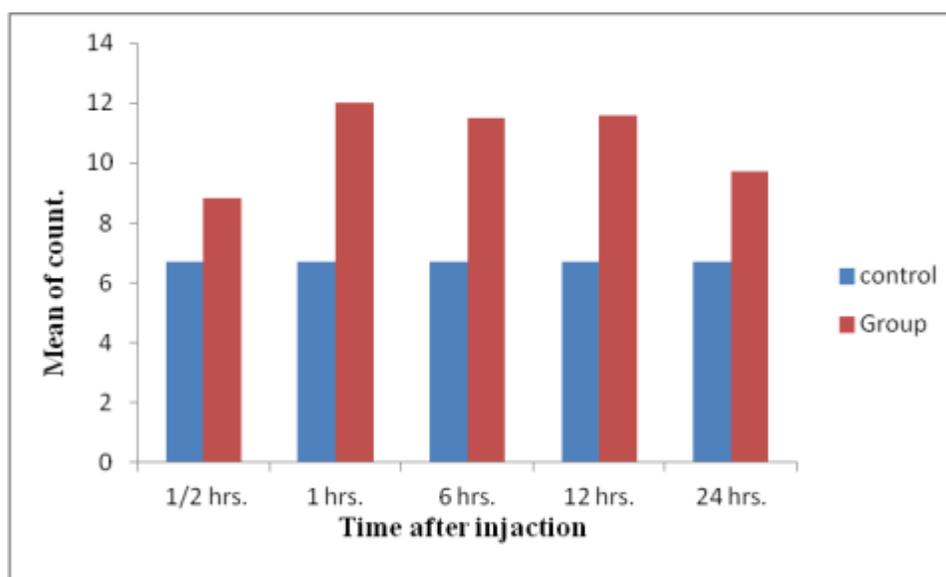
Thrombocytopeni was occurred in rats after injected them with LD<sub>25</sub> of the sea cucumber extract after 30 minutes and persisted up to 24 hours. A decrease in the blood platelets count was significant as shown in Table 4) and Figure (4). This can be due to decrease of platelets production in the bone marrow, breakdown of platelets in the blood stream or breakdown of platelets in the (liver or spleen) (Abrams, 2016). The present result was in agreement with those reported by Abu-Amra *et al.* (2002b) who reported a sever decrease in platelets content on injection with tetrodotoxin and snake venoms.

On the other hand, injection of hot water extract of sea cucumber significantly increased serum CK and CK-MB compared to normal controls as indicated in Tables (5 & 6) and Figures (5 & 6). This result may be due to myocardial infarction (Armstrong *et al.*, 2008), or may be due to the damage of CK-rich tissue especially skeletal muscle (Hekimsoy and Oktem, 2005). The present findings were not agree with those of Jitima Suwanmala *et al.* (2016) who stated that i.p. injection of rats with sea cucumber extract insignificantly increased serum CK & CK-MB. This may be related to the difference in the species of sea cucumber and also to the difference in their habitats.

In conclusion, the extract toxin of sea cucumber of *Holothuria atra* has direct effect on white blood cells count, platelets and Cardio enzymes with no other effect on red blood cell count or hemoglobin.

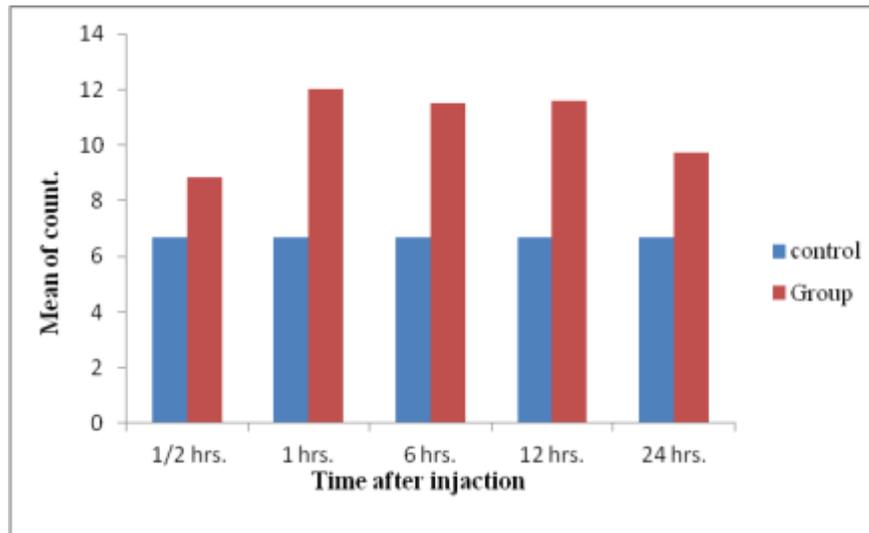
**Table (1): Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on white blood cells count of rats.**

Groups	Number	Mean number of WBC(x10 <sup>3</sup> )± SE	Minimum	Maximum	%Change	P<
Control	10	6.69±0.17	6.2	8.00	—	—
½ hrs	10	8.83±0.15	8.3	10.0	31.9%	0.05
1 hrs	10	12.01±0.87	9.1	16.8	79.5%	0.05
6 hrs	10	11.5±0.64	9.4	16.0	67.9%	0.05
12 hrs	10	11.58±0.66	8.0	14.2	73.0%	0.05
24 hrs	10	9.721±0.49	8.2	13.0	45.3%	0.05

**Fig. (1): Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the crude toxin of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on white blood cells count of rats****Table (2): Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on Red blood cells of rats.**

Groups	Number	Mean Number of RBC (x10 <sup>6</sup> )± SE	Minimum	Maximum	%Change	P<
Control	10	7.475±0.27	6.15	8.8	—	—
½ hrs	10	7.639±0.23	6.15	8.8	2.14%	N.S
1 hrs	10	8.357±0.68	7.44	9.5	11.7%	N.S
6 hrs	10	7.932±0.90	6.59	9.15	6.01%	N.S
12 hrs	10	7.186±0.88	6.25	8.88	-3.9%	N.S
24 hrs	10	6.787±0.58	6.0	7.68	-9.2%	N.S

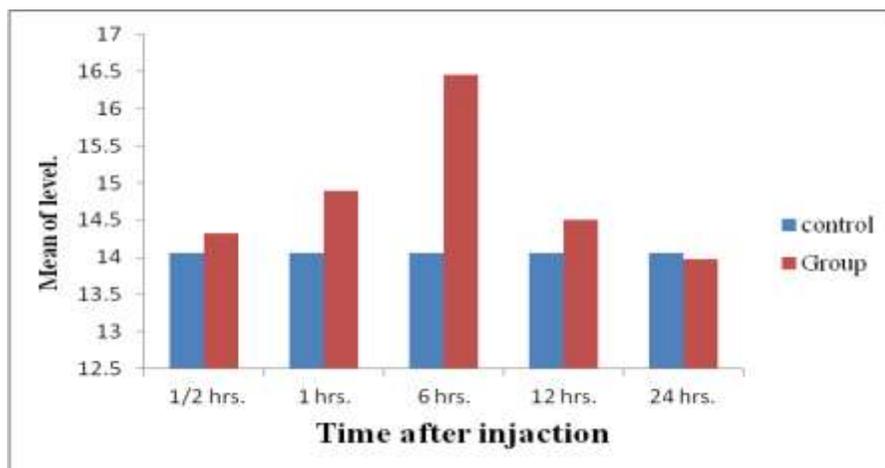
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**Fig. (2):** Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on Red blood cells count of rats

**Table (3):** Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on Hb% of rats

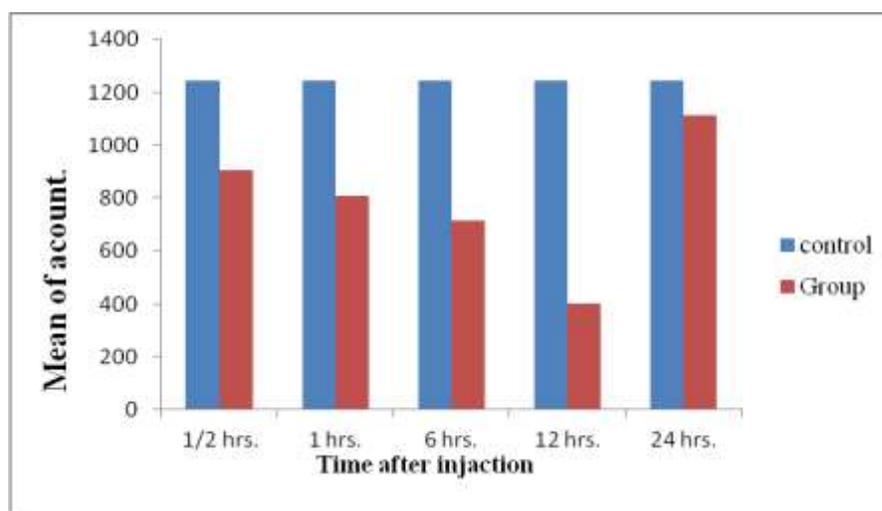
Groups	Number	Mean Hg%+ SE	Minimum	Maximum	%Change	P<
Control	10	7.475±0.27	6.15	8.8	—	—
½ hrs	10	7.639±0.23	6.15	8.8	2.14%	N.s
1 hrs	10	8.357±0.68	7.44	9.5	11.7%	N.S
6 hrs	10	7.932±0.90	6.59	9.15	6.01%	N.S
12 hrs	10	7.186±0.88	6.25	8.88	-3.9%	N.S
24 hrs	10	6.787±0.58	6.0	7.68	-9.2%	N.S



**Fig. (3):** Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on Hb% of rats

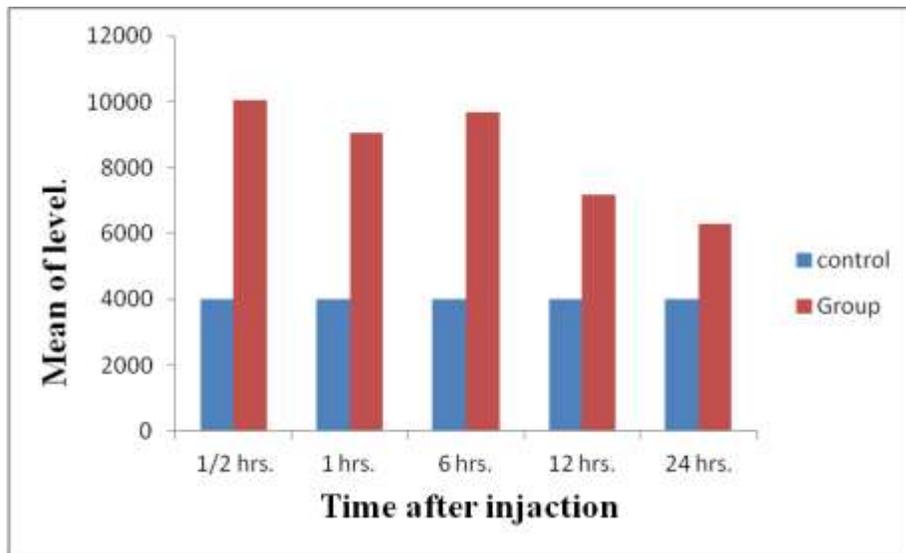
**Table (4): Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on Platlets count of rats**

Groups	Number	MeanPlatlets count $\pm$ SE	Minimum	Maximum	%Change	P<
Control	10	1243.2 $\pm$ 32.9	1133	1425	-	-
½ hrs	10	904.3 $\pm$ 38.4	722	1048	-27.3	0.05
1 hrs	10	806.4 $\pm$ 28.9	675	971	-35.1	0.05
6 hrs	10	716.5 $\pm$ 51.1	528	1067	-42.4	0.05
12 hrs	10	399.7 $\pm$ 29.5	278	588	-67.8	0.05
24 hrs	10	1111.1 $\pm$ 65.8	780	1428	-10.6	N.S

**Fig (4): Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on Platlets count of rats.****Table (6): Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on serum Creatine kinase CK concentration of rats.**

Groups	Number	Mean CK $\pm$ SE	Minimum	Maximum	%Change	P<
Control	10	3986.7 $\pm$ 286.1	2579	5130	-	-
½ hrs	10	10044.3 $\pm$ 430.5	7890	12320	151.9	0.05
1 hrs	10	9062.9 $\pm$ 676.5	6210	11928	127	0.05
6 hrs	10	8689.8 $\pm$ 675.3	5013	11250	117.9	0.05
12 hrs	10	7190.6 $\pm$ 145.0	6230	7980	80	0.05
24 hrs	10	6308.5 $\pm$ 172.3	5463	7290	58	0.05

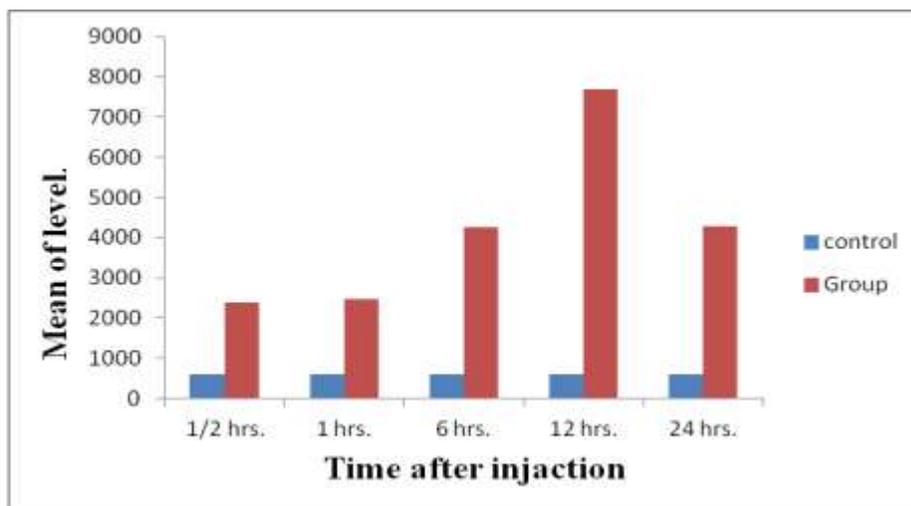
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**Fig. (5): Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on Creatine kinase CK concentration of rats.**

**Table (7): Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on Creatine kinase CKmb concentration of rats.**

Groups	Number	Mean CKm <sub>±</sub> SE	Minimum	Maximum	%Change	P<
Control	10	600.1 <sub>±</sub> 27.47	429	730	-	-
1/2 hrs	10	2399.6 <sub>±</sub> 216.0	1830	3710	299.8	0.05
1 hrs	10	2476 <sub>±</sub> 150.9	1990	3500	312.5	0.05
6 hrs	10	4254.7 <sub>±</sub> 162.5	3541	4990	608.9	0.05
12 hrs	10	7689.8 <sub>±</sub> 3841	2993	42220	111.4	0.05
24 hrs	10	4280.4 <sub>±</sub> 195.6	3090	5100	613	0.05



**Fig. (6): Effect of sublethal dose (LD<sub>25</sub>) of the hot water extract of sea cucumbers *Holothuria atra* on CK mb of rat**

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### تأثير مستخلص خيار البحر علي خواص الدم واينزيمات القلب في الجرزان

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### المستخلص

أجريت هذه الدراسة لمعرفة تأثير جرعة LD<sub>25</sub> من مستخلص خيار البحر *Holothuria atra* من خليج العقبة على عدد كرات الدم الحمراء والبيضاء والصفائح الدموية ونسبة الهيموجلوبين وكذلك تأثيره على انزيمات القلب في الجرزان عند الحقن في فترات مختلفة (نصف ساعة، ساعة واحدة و 6 ساعات 12 ساعة و 24 ساعة). وأظهرت النتائج أن عدد خلايا الدم البيضاء تتأثر بشكل ملحوظ في الفئران المحقونة LD<sub>25</sub> مع الوصول إلى القيمة القصوى بعد 1 ساعة، ثم انخفض خلال فترة التجربة، في حين أن الصفائح الدموية تراجعت مع حقن LD<sub>25</sub> خلال الساعة الأولى ثم الوصول للمستوى الطبيعي بعد 24 ساعة. ووجد بعد حقن LD<sub>25</sub> في الفئران أن عدد خلايا الدم الحمراء والهيموجلوبين لا تتأثر بشكل كبير بينما تأثرت انزيمات القلب بشكل كبير.

وقد أتضح من النتائج ان حقن الجرزان بجرعة LD<sub>25</sub> من مستخلص سم خيار البحر (*Holothuria atra*) كان له تأثير مباشر على عدد خلايا الدم البيضاء والصفائح الدموية و انزيمات القلب مع عدم وجود تأثير على عدد خلايا الدم الحمراء أو نسبة الهيموجلوبين .