

Anti-Melanogenesis and Anti-Inflammatory Effects of *Opuntia humifusa*

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Abstract : This study was to confirm the effects of anti-melanogenesis and anti-inflammatory effects from *Opuntia humifusa* fruit and stem extracts. A potent anti-oxidant activity was shown from the leaf extract at IC₅₀ value of 38.33 ± 1.07 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and fruit extract at IC₅₀ value of 40.23 ± 2.21 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ by 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) assay. Also, phenolic contents were confirmed total phenolic assay by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). Fraction of taxifolin from leaf extract was identified using HPLC and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. The extracts of *Opuntia humifusa* fruit and stem were confirmed about toxicity effect in B16 F1 by cell viability. Melanin contents were decreased. *Opuntia humifusa* fruit and stem extracts had a positive effect of melanin synthesis inhibition for skin whitening. In investigating the anti-inflammatory activities of *Opuntia humifusa*, the results of cell viability indicated that taxifolin did not show cytotoxicity on RAW264.7 cells at 500 μM of concentration. The results show that taxifolin inhibited lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced production of Nitrite oxide (NO). In addition, taxifolin indicated the inhibition of lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced tumor necrosis factor (TNF) - α and interleukin (IL) -6 productions by cytokine assay and cyclooxygenase (COX)-2 expression by western blot analysis, meaning that taxifolin had a significant anti-inflammatory effect. Our results suggested that taxifolin from *Opuntia humifusa* has anti-melanogenesis and anti-inflammatory activities.

Keywords : anti-melanogenesis, anti-inflammatory, *Opuntia humifusa*, taxifolin

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