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Antidiabetic effect of *Citrullus colocynthis* fruit aqueous extract on plasma glucose levels in diabetic rabbits

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OBJECTIVES: *Citrullus colocynthis* (Handal) is a medical plant have been used for the treatment of diabetes in Iran from a long time ago. **METHODS:** The antidiabetic effect of hydromethanolic (70%) extracts of Handal on the plasma glucose levels were investigated in diabetic rabbits. The rabbits were randomly divided to 3 groups, the first group as a control, the second and the third as a test. 100 mg/kg and 200 mg/kg of extracts were administrated orally to group 2 and group3 for 6 days respectively. **RESULTS:** The first day, oral administration of 100 mg/kg of *C. colocynthis*, produced non significant reduction in plasma glucose levels after 2 and 6h and significant reduction after 12 h in comparison with the first group ($P < 0.05$). Every 3 time, the dose of 200 mg/kg was due to significant blood glucose reduction in comparison with the control group. Mean blood glucose levels decreased in both test groups during the third and the fifth day of study, However, it was significant only in group 2 the fifth day ($P < 0.000$). All the rabbits of group 3 died of diarrhoea in the sixth day of experiment. **CONCLUSION:** The results suggest that although hydromethanolic extract of the pulp of *C. colocynthis* can decrease plasma glucose levels in diabetic rabbits, further studies are necessary for finding the effective and safety dose.

Key words: *Citrullus colocynthis*, Antidiabetic, diabetic rabbits.

mg/kg (P < /) mg/kg (P < /) mg/kg (%)

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 (Trigonella foenum-graecum)
 (Salvia officinalis)
 cc (Saponaria (erythraea Centaurium)
 mg (Phaseolus vulgaris) officinalis)
 : (Juglans regia)
 : (Allium cepa) (Allium sativa) (Polygonumaviculare)
 Liebermann-Burchard () (Urtica dioica) (Arctium lappa)
 .() (Citrullus colocynthis) (Ribes bieberstinii)
 ()
 C. colocynthis
 : () cucurbitaceae
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 (HCl 1%)
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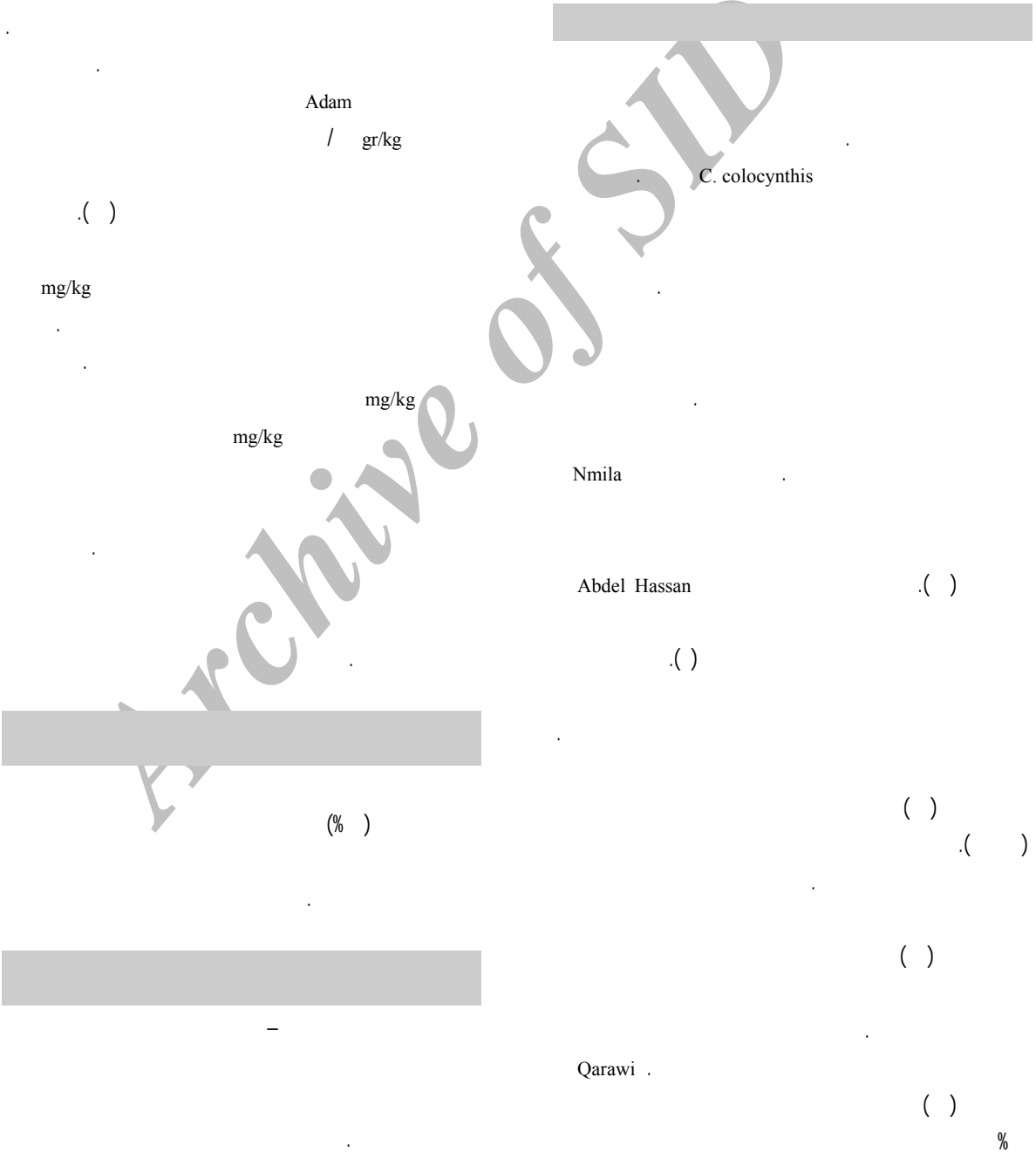
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	mg/dl		S.E.M	
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	*	± /	± /	± / mg/kg Bw)
	± /			(
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P < / : *
 P < / : **
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mg/dl	S.E.M			
± /	± /	± /	(ml)
± /	±	± /	(mg/kg Bw)
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P< / :***



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