



Chemical Profiling and Antiasthmatic Activity of *Euphorbia mauritanica*: In vivo Study

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Abstract

The prevalence of asthma has dramatically increased in the last decades. Egyptian children aged 3 - 15 years was estimated to be 8.2%. Of major concern is a 10% annual increase in mortality. And probably, it is the most common cause of hospital admission for a respiratory complaint in adults. The aim of the present study is designed to find out safe and effective remedy to prevent asthma attack in susceptible patients from natural source. The total ethanol 70% extract of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. was defatted using n-hexane. The non-polar fraction was analyzed by GC/MS technique. Metabolomics was performed using LC/HRMS analysis to identify the chemical components of this species. Antiasthma activity was studied in vivo on the extract. Asthma was induced by ovalbumin (OVA) sensitization followed by intraperitoneal injection followed by intranasal challenge at day 20. Four groups of rats were used: 1st & 2nd groups for negative and positive control; 3rd & 4th groups were treated with the extract at 200 and 400 mg/kg orally concurrent with OVA sensitization and challenge. Measurement of Tidal Volume (TV) and Peak Expiratory Flow (PEF), MDA, GSH, IgE, IL-5, TNF- α and histopathology study were performed. Results of GC/MS analysis showed the presence of seven of the identified compounds are sesquiterpenes, one diterpene and one fatty acid ethyl ester. β -Vetivone is the major identified compound. LC/HRMS analysis identified 16 compounds including quercetin glycoside, oleanane terpenoids, phorbol acetate derivative and chlorogenic acid among the components. Results of antiasthma assay proved that *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. extract improved TV, PEF, GSH, reduced MDA, IgE, IL-5, TNF- α and alleviated histopathology changes produced by OVA. It is concluded that the identified components in *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. ethanol 70% extract are correlated with the interesting findings of results suggesting its role as antiasthma natural source.

Keywords: *Euphorbia mauritanica* L., GC/MS, LC/HRMS, antiasthma, in vivo study, histopathology

1. Introduction

Asthma is a lower airway inflammation and reversible airway obstruction. It promotes a decrease in the airflow¹. According to World Health Organization (WHO), about 262 million people have suffered from asthma in 2019 and 461000 died². The combination of inhaled corticosteroids and long-acting β 2 agonist (LABA) are asthma preferred treatment in clinics³ even though the side effects of both⁴. Other options such as leukotriene receptor antagonists, or anti-immunoglobulin E monoclonal antibodies are used in patients whose asthma is not well controlled⁵. Some environmental allergies can induce asthma as dust, food and pollen which can release cytokines as tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α), interleukins as IL-5, histamine and leukotriene⁶. The respiratory epithelium basal membrane thickening and sputum exist in severe asthma⁷ and

exacerbations control cannot be achieved by treatment with standard therapy or if the treatment is reduced, symptoms flare up⁸. In asthma progression, mucosal innate immune system activation, antigen-presenting cells activation and T helper2 (Th2)/mast cell/eosinophil activation are mediating inflammatory pathways, thus, suppression of type 2 cytokines, such IL-5 leads to immune response of Th2-mediated eosinophilic reorganization⁹. In addition, antigen-presenting cells release proinflammatory mediator; TNF- α ¹⁰ which, in turn produce tissue remodeling that are associated with asthma late stages¹¹.

The prevalence of asthma and allergies is increasing in both western and developing countries. Among Egyptian children aged 3 - 15 years, the prevalence of asthma was estimated to be 8.2%¹², with the major concern is a 10% annual increase in mortality¹³.

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The conventional treatment of asthma has side effects, are highly coasted and not compatible with some patients. Then the herbal remedy and the use of natural source is the choice for these people, especially in the third world countries as a complementary or alternative treatment for asthma ¹⁴. The genus *Euphorbia* is one of the most diverse genera in the Euphorbiaceae family and exceeding 2000 reported species ¹⁵. They are widely distributed in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions. *Euphorbia* species showed biological activities as, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimicrobial and cytotoxic activity ¹⁶. This genus produce, pathologically, a milky exudate, latex, ¹⁷. Traditionally, the latex and leaves of this genus are used for bronchitis ¹⁵. They contain, chemically, polyphenols ¹⁸, steroids, terpenoids as major constituents ¹⁹.

Euphorbia mauritanica L., with few reports in literature, includes several varieties and synonyms; it is commonly known as yellow milk bush, golden spurge ²⁰. The antiproliferative activity of this species in lung cancer showed an efficient role in inducing the death of these cells ²¹. Mauritanicin, a serine protease, was isolated from the latex of this species and showed high antiinflammatory activity ²². The proteolytic active proteins, isolated from latices of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. stimulate the production of interleukine-6 and interleukine-8 in keratinocytic HaCaT cells (human adult calcium low high temperature keratinocytes) ²³

Euphorbia mauritanica L. are reported to have antiviral and immunogenic properties against pathogens affecting the respiratory tract ²⁴.

The aim of this study is testing the antiasthmatic activity of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. *in vivo* as a natural source for the first time

2. Materials and methods

Phytochemical study:

Plant material

The botanical specimen was collected from Cactus farm in El Mansouria, Giza, Egypt. It was authenticated by the senior botanist; Trease Labib at El Orman Garden. A voucher specimen no. FUPD60 was kept at Pharmacognosy Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, Fayoum University.

Preparation of samples

The aerial parts of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. (790 g) were into small pieces, extracted with 70% ethanol (3L.) by maceration. The solvent was distilled off using a rotatory evaporator under reduced pressure at a temperature not exceeding 50°C. A portion of the dried crude extract was stored in a dark glass container in a - 20°C refrigerator for biological study. The other portion of the crude total ethanol extract (70%) was defatted using *n*-hexane. The *n*-hexane fraction (nonpolar part) was analyzed by GC/MS. The

defatted ethanol 70% (polar part) was kept for phytochemical investigation.

GC/MS analysis:

GC/MS was done using a Finnigan SSQ 7000 gas chromatograph coupled with a mass spectrometer with the following conditions: Capillary column: DB-5 fused silica (5% phenyl methyl polysiloxane), 30 m length, 0.25 mm id and 0.25 μ m thickness. Carrier gas: Helium at 13 psi. Oven temperature: was programmed at 60°C isothermal for 3 min., then heating to 260°C at a rate of 4°C/min. then isothermal at 260°C for 5 min. Injector temperature: 220°C. Ionization energy: 70 eV. Volume injected: 1 μ l.

Phytochemical investigation of the polar fraction

LC-HR/ ESI-MS analysis

The LC-Q-TOF-MS system, 6530 (Agilent Technologies) equipped with an autosampler (G7129A), a Quat. Pump with an on-line degasser (G7104C), and a thermostatted column compartment (G7116A) were used for chromatographic separation. The injection volume was 2 μ L. The analytes were separated on a Zorbax RP-18 column from Agilent Technologies (dimensions: 150 mm \times 3 mm, dp = 2.7 μ m) in a flow rate of 0.1 mL/min detection was done by a photodiode array detector (DAD), an auto-sampler and an electron spray ionization (ESI) source was interfaced.

The sample (100 μ g/mL) solution was prepared using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analytical grade solvent filtered using a membrane disc filter (0.2 μ m) then subjected to LC-ESI-MS analysis. Samples injection volumes (10 μ L) were injected into the instrument equipped. Mobile phase was filtered using 0.2 μ m membrane filter and degassed by sonication before injection.

The mobile phase consisted of a combination of solvent A (0.1% formic acid) and solvent B (acetonitrile + 0.1% formic acid). The gradient elution was as follows: t = 0 min, 30% B; t = 10 min, 45% B; t = 15 min, 65% B; t = 25 min, 80% B; t = 30 min, 90% B; t = 32 min, 30% B. Mass spectra were simultaneously acquired using ESI in positive ionization mode with a capillary voltage of 4000 V. The mass spectra were recorded in the m/z range of 40 to 1500 m/z. The gas temperature and drying gas flow were 350°C and 10 L/min, respectively. The skimmer and fragmentation voltages were set at 65 and 130 V, respectively and collision energy was 10V. The nebulization pressure was 35 psig. The peaks and spectra were processed using 6200 series TOF/6500 series Q-TOF B.09.00 (B9044.0) software and tentatively identified by comparing its retention time (Rt) and mass spectra with reported data ²⁵, ²⁶, ²⁷, ²⁸, mass spectra databases available online <http://www.massbank.jp/> and the apparatus mass library.

Pharmacological study:**Animals**

Male and female Swiss mice with an average weight of 20–30 g and adult male Wistar Albino rats, weighting (130–170 g), were purchased from the National Research Centre (NRC), Giza, Egypt. Rats were kept under a controlled temperature (22–23°C), on 12-h light/dark cycles with access to standard food and tap water ad libitum in the laboratory animal house of NRC, Cairo, Egypt. The present study was carried out according to the guidelines of the Ethics Committee, NRC, which followed the recommendations of the National Institutes of Health Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory animals.

Drugs, chemicals and reagent kits

Ovalbumin (OVA; grade III) and aluminum hydroxide (Al(OH)₃) were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co. (USA).

Immunoglobulin-E (IgE), interleukin -5 (IL-5), and tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α) ELISA kits were obtained from SunRed Biotechnology, Company.

Malondialdehyde (MDA) and reduced glutathione (GSH) kits were purchased from Bio diagnostic, Egypt. All chemicals, solvents, and reagents used were obtained from certified sources and were of analytical grade.

Experimental design**Acute toxicity study**

Acute toxicity was carried out according to OECD guideline for the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of herbal medicines. Forty Swiss mice were divided into four groups as follows: Groups 1 and 2: Control male and female mice (ten mice each) were administered saline orally. Groups 3 and 4: Male and female mice (ten mice each) were administered single oral dose of *Euphorbia mauritanica* (5g/kg). The animals were observed daily for signs and behavioral changes until two weeks²⁹.

Induction of bronchial asthma

The rats were randomly allocated into 4 groups (n=8). Asthma was induced by OVA sensitization followed by OVA challenge. Animals were sensitized by i.p. injection of 1 mg/kg OVA/100 mg Al(OH)₃ suspended in normal saline at days 1, 2, 3 and 11. At day 20, the animals were subjected to intranasal (i.n) challenge with 1.5 mg of OVA/150 mg Al(OH)₃/kg, for 3 consecutive days^{30; 31}. Induction of asthma was done in all groups except the 1st group where the rats received saline instead of OVA to serve as negative control. 2nd group was left untreated to serve as positive control. 3rd and 4th groups: rats received daily total ethanol 70% extract of *Euphorbia mauritanica* (200 and 400 mg/kg), orally administered for 3 weeks concurrent with OVA sensitization and challenge.

Measurement of Tidal Volume (TV) and Peak Expiratory Flow (PEF)

The rats were placed in a specific body plethysmograph made of plexi glass. Rats head

protruded through a neck collar made of a dental latex dam into a head exposure chamber that ends with a flow head connected to spirometer (ADI Instruments spirometer, ML140) which is a precision differential pressure transducer for measuring respiratory variables, such as Tidal volume (TV): the volume of air moved in and out of the lung during quite breathing (ml) and Peak expiratory flow (PEF): maximum speed achieved during maximum forced expiration (ml/min)³².

Preparation of lung homogenates

At the end of the experiment, the animals were sacrificed by decapitation and the two lungs were dissected and weighted separately. One lung was used for histopathological study and the other lung was homogenized in ice-cold phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) to prepare 20% w/v homogenate using a homogenizer (Heidolph, DIAX 900, Germany)³³. Lung homogenates were centrifuged at 2000 xg for 20 min at 4°C then stored at -80°C for analysis of MDA, GSH, IgE, IL-5 and TNF- α

Biochemical measurements

The lung contents used for the assessment of lipid peroxidation (LPO) as MDA and GSH according to the methods described by³⁴. Another part of the lung contents used for estimation of IgE, IL-5 and TNF- α by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit. We followed the manufacturer's instructions of SunRed Biotechnology Company for calculating the results. Standards and samples were pipetted into wells with immobilized antibodies specific for each parameter and then horseradish peroxidase-conjugated streptavidin was pipetted into the wells and incubated 60 min at 37°C, which were aspirated and washed 5 times with kit washing solution. chromogen A and B solutions were added to the wells and incubated 15 min at 37°C; color developed proportionally to the amount of IgE, IL-5 and TNF- α bound. Color development was discontinued (Stop Solution) and after 10 min color intensity was measured at 450 nm³⁵. Using Multiscan FC ELISA reader, Model 1545, Thermo Scientific, China.

Statistical analysis

Data are expressed as mean \pm S.E. Data analysis was done using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukeys (HSD) test for multiple comparisons. Difference was considered significant when *p* is less than 0.05. SPSS (version 11) program was used to carry out these statistical tests.

3. Results**Phytochemical study**

An aliquot of n- hexane (non-polar) fraction was analyzed by GC/MS which proved the presence of nine major peaks starting from the min 27.69 and ending at the min 56.79 (Figure 1). Names of the identified compounds, their retention times, relative retention times, molecular weights, area under curve

(concentration) and formulas are illustrated in Table 1. Seven of the identified compounds are sesquiterpenes, one diterpene and one fatty acid ethyl

ester. β -Vetivone is the major identified compound detected at 53.66 min.

Table 1: Identified compounds in *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. non-polar fraction, their retention times, relative retention times, molecular weights and formulas:

No. of peak	Name of compound	Rt (min.)	RRT	Relative AUC	Molecular weight	Molecular formula
1	Oxidohima-chalene	27.693	0.5	4.26	218	C15H22O2
2	Nootkatin	28.363	0.52	4.55	232	C15H20O2
3	Cedryl methyl ketone	29.163	0.54	6.99	246	C17H26O
4	Nuciferol acetate	31.356	0.58	11.43	260	C17H24O2
5	Ethyl hexadecanoate	35.026	0.65	12.01	282	C18H36O2
6	α -Vetivone	41.744	0.77	48.18	218	C15H22O
7	Zizanal	43.786	0.81	41.72	218	C15H22O
8	β -Vetivone	53.666	1	100	218	C15H22O
9	Laurenene	56.796	1.05	46.13	272	C20H32

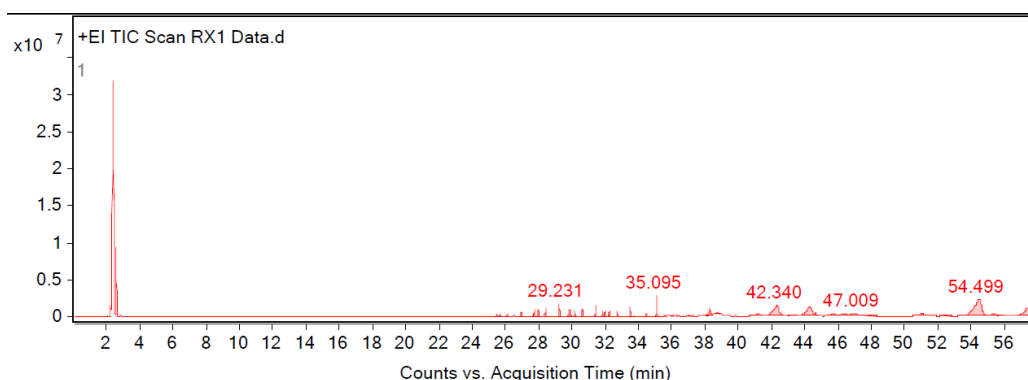


Figure 1: Total ion chromatogram of GC/MS analysis of the non-polar fraction of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L.

Metabolomics was used to identify the different chemical components of the species in order to correlate the biological activity with the chemical content of the tested extract. An aliquot of total ethanol 70% extract (polar fraction) was analyzed using LC-HR/ESI-MS technique resulted in the separation and

identification of 16 compounds (Figures 2 and 3 & Table2).

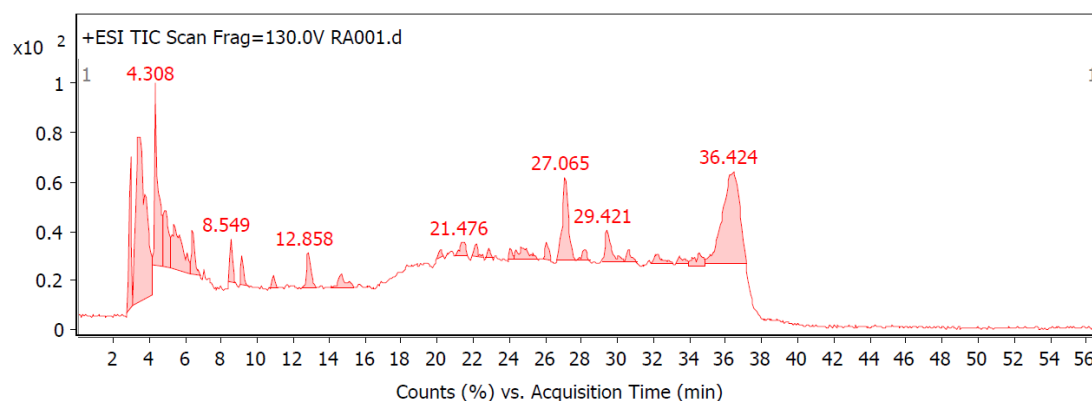


Figure 2: Total ion chromatogram of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. polar fraction

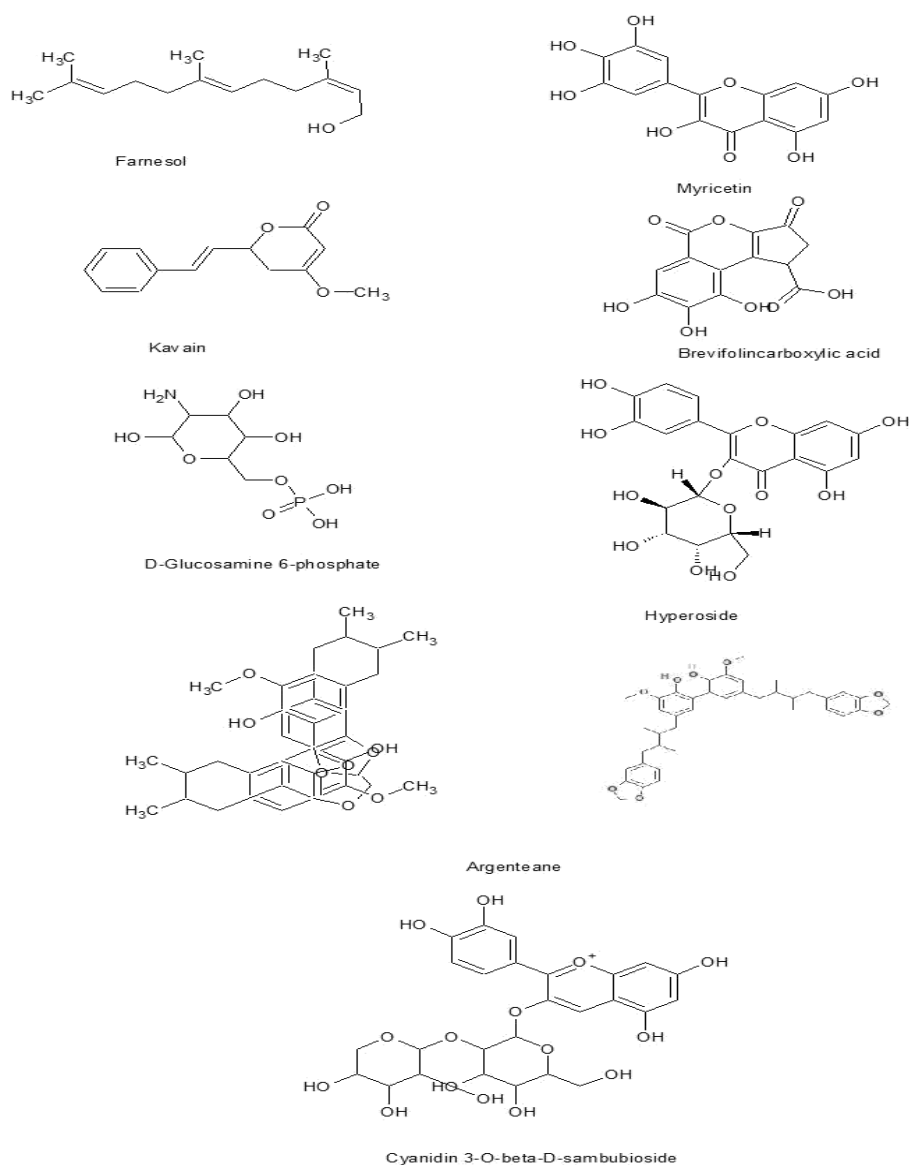


Table 2: Compounds identified by LC-DAD/ESI-MS in the polar fraction of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L., their retention times, major ion peaks, molecular weight and High raise mass:

	Compound	Rt (min)	m/z	Molecular weight
1	Farnesol [M+H] ⁺	2.961	223.9889	222.36634
2	Myricetin[M+H] ⁺	3.432	319.0645	318.2351
3	Kavain [M+H] ⁺	3.769	231.083	230.25916
4	Brevifolincarboxylic acid [M+H] ⁺	4.442	292.0171	292.19782
5	D-Glucosamine 6-phosphate [M+H] ⁺	4.981	259.0199	259.151022
6	Hyperoside (Quercetin 3-galactoside)	5.587	463.0898	464.3763
7	Argenteane (M+2Na)+2[-H ₂ O]	6.462	341.1446	654.78844
8	Sambicyanin (Cyanidin-3-O-(2"-O-beta-xylopyranosyl-beta-glucopyranoside)) [M] ⁺	8.684	581.2286	581.4989114
9	Resiniferatoxin [M] ⁺	12.926	628.7, 515.0385	628.7081
10	Ingenol-3,20-dibenzoate[M] ⁺	14.609	458.1876	556.64544
11	Euphorbia factor L8 [M+1] ⁺	20.265	525.2124	523.61728
12	20-oxo-phorbol-12,13-dibutyrate [M] ⁺	24.910	525.2, 437.1788	504.6124

13	12-deoxyphorbol-13-acetate [2M+H ₂ O] ⁺	(prostratin)	26.190	795.3457, 414.2, 352.3	390.47
14	19,28-Epoxy-3-oleananol		27.065	443.1490	442.7168
15	Chlorogenic acid [M+1] ⁺		28.209	352.3406	354.31
16	Euphorbia factor L1 [M+1] ⁺		29.421	553.2617	552.6552

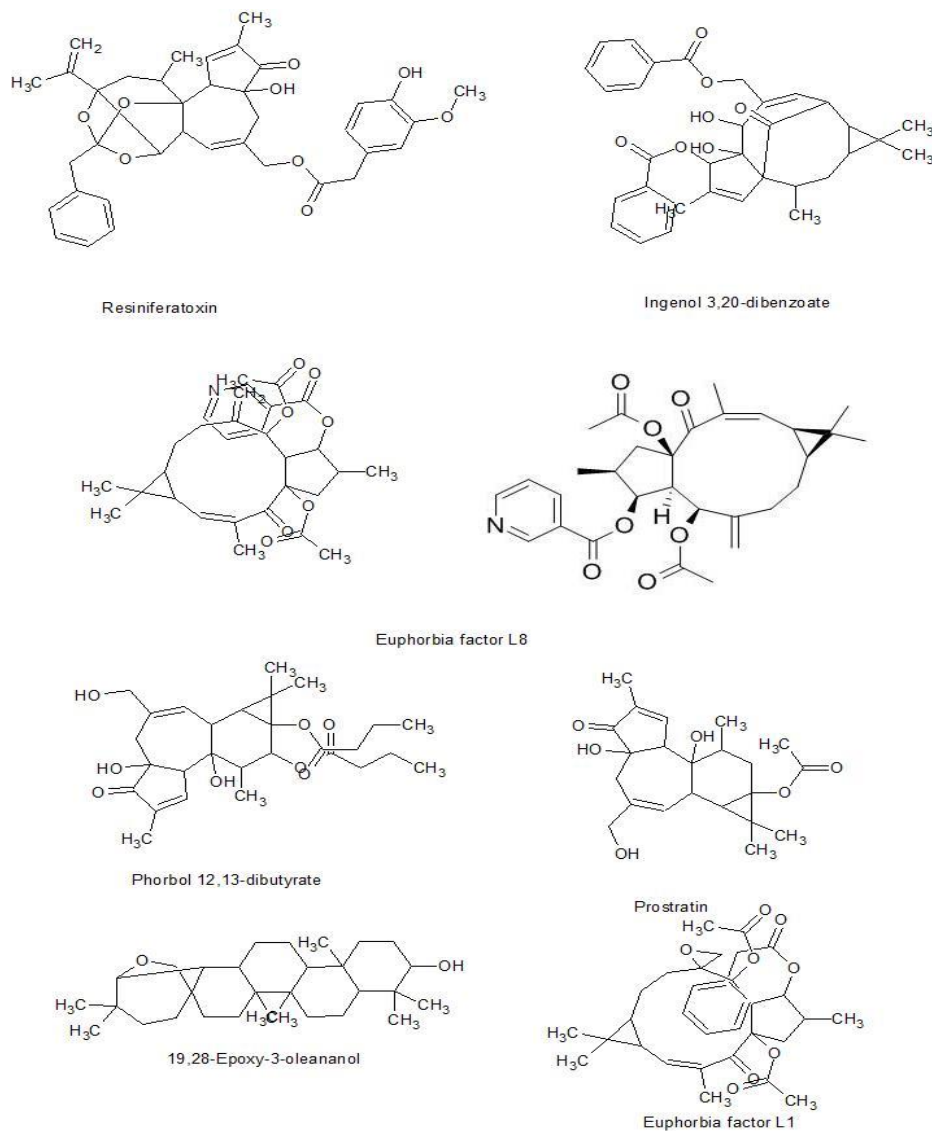


Figure 3: Structures of identified compounds by LC/HRMS of polar fraction of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L.

Acute toxicity study

Treatment of both male and female mice with a single dose of 5 g/kg of total ethanol 70% extract *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. extracts did not show any sign of toxicity in both sex in mice (no mortality, no hair loss, no diarrhea, and no abnormalities on behavior).

Effect of total ethanol 70% extract of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. on lung functions of tidal volume (TV) and peak expiratory flow (PEF) in asthmatic rats

OVA sensitization followed by OVA i.n challenge produced a significant reduction in TV and PEF by 75% and 81%, respectively as compared with the negative control group. Both doses of the extract (200 and 400 mg/kg) increased TV by 104% and 205% as well as PEF by 116% and 269%, respectively as compared with OVA group (Table 3).

Table 3: Effect of *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract on lung functions of TV and PEF in experimentally induced asthmatic in rats

	Negative group	Asthmatic group	Extract (200 mg/kg)	Extract (400 mg/kg)
TV(ml)	0.095±0.001	0.023±0.001a	0.048±0.001 ab	0.072±0.002 ab
PEF(ml/min)	16.72±0.24	3.26±0.22a	7.04±0.26ab	12.04±0.19ab

TV: tidal volume; PEF: peak expiratory flow; Data were expressed as mean ± SE. Statistical analysis was carried out by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey HSD test for multiple comparisons; a Significantly different from negative control at $p < 0.05$; b Significantly different from asthmatic group at $p < 0.05$.

Effect of total ethanol 70% extract of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. on lung contents of MDA and GSH in asthmatic rats.

A significant increase in lung contents of MDA and a decrease in GSH lung contents were observed in OVA group by 123% and 30% respectively, as compared with the negative control group. Two

doses of total ethanol 70% extract of *E. mauritanica* (200 and 400 mg/kg) administration significantly reduced lung contents of MDA by 38% and 46% respectively, and increased GSH by 26% and 35% respectively, as compared with OVA group (Table 4).

Table 4: Effect of *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract lung contents of MDA and GSH in experimentally induced asthma in rats

	Negative group	Asthmatic group	<i>E. mauritanica</i> (200 mg/kg)	<i>E. mauritanica</i> (400 mg/kg)
MDA (nmol/ml)	27.86±0.46	62.20±0.45a	38.59±0.55ab	33.31±0.60ab
GSH (mmol/L)	0.42±0.004	0.29±0.004a	0.37±0.001ab	0.39±0.003ab

MDA:Malondialdehyde; GSH: reduced glutathione; Data were expressed as mean ± SE. Statistical analysis was carried out by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey HSD test for multiple comparisons; a Significantly different from negative control at $p < 0.05$; b Significantly different from asthmatic group at $p < 0.05$.

Effect of total ethanol 70% extract of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. on lung contents of IgE, IL-5, and TNF- α in asthmatic rats

A significant elevation in lung contents of IgE, IL-5, and TNF- α was observed in OVA group by 137%, 114% and 391% respectively, as compared with the

negative control group. Administration of two doses of *E. mauritanica* extract (200 and 400 mg/kg) significantly reduced lung contents of IgE by 39% and 51%, IL-5 by 18% and 35%, TNF- α by 14% and 68% respectively, as compared with OVA group (Figures 4).

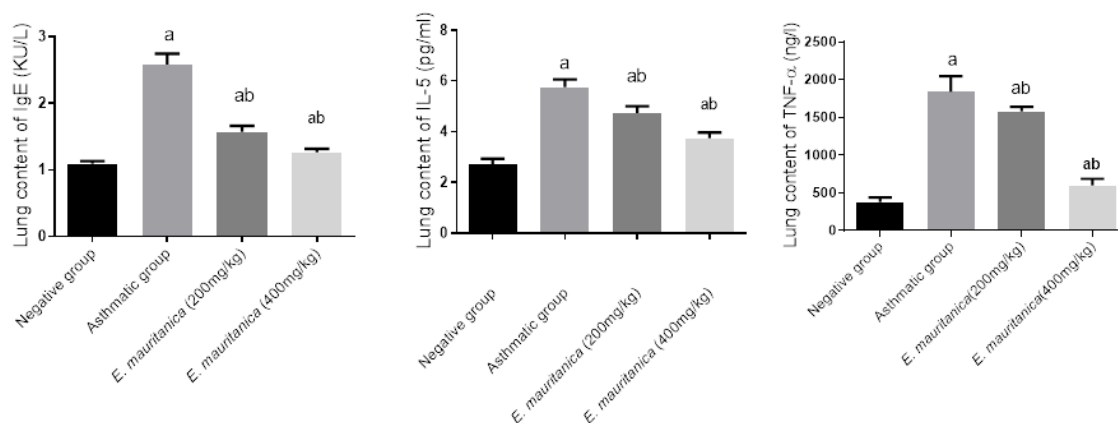


Figure 4: Effect of *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract lung contents of IgE, IL-5 and TNF- α in experimentally induced asthma in rats

Data were expressed as mean ± SE. Statistical analysis was carried out by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey HSD test for multiple comparisons; a Significantly different from negative control at $p < 0.05$; b Significantly different from asthmatic group at $p < 0.05$.

Histopathological study

Control group showed no histopathological alteration in the bronchioles and surrounding air alveoli in the parenchyma, while Group of experimentally induced asthmatic rats showed epithelial bronchiolar thickening with perivascular leucocytes inflammatory association with epithelial bronchiolar thickening and sclerosis in the wall of the blood vessels. In addition, Group of experimentally induced asthmatic rats and

cells infiltration mainly macrophages, lymphocytes and eosinophils were detected. Group of experimentally induced asthmatic rats and treated by 200 mg/kg *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract showed Collapse in the air alveoli in

treated by 400 mg/kg *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract exhibited mild bronchiolar thickening and congestion in the blood vessels (Figures 5).

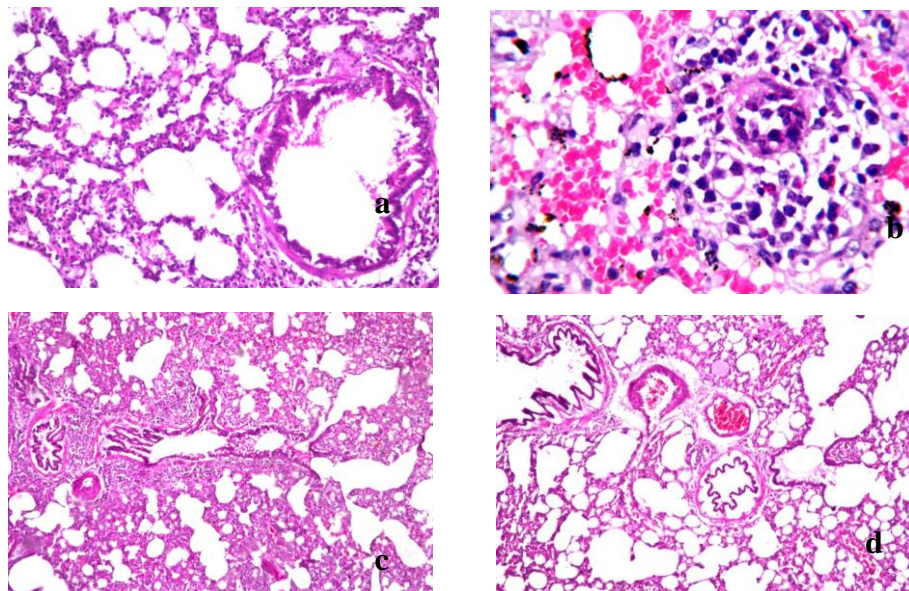


Figure 5a : Group of rats kept as control there was no histopathological alteration in the bronchioles and surrounding air alveoli in the parenchyma.

b : Group of experimentally induced asthmatic rats shows epithelial bronchiolar thickening with perivascular leucocytes inflammatory cells infiltration mainly macrophages, lymphocytes and eosinophils were detected.

c: Group of experimentally induced asthmatic rats and treated by 200 mg/kg *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract on lung. Collapse was detected in the air alveoli in association with epithelial bronchiolar thickening and sclerosis in the wall of the blood vessels.

d: Group of experimentally induced asthmatic rats and treated by 400 mg/kg *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract on lung. There were mild bronchiolar thickening and congestion in the blood vessels.

4. Discussion

The use of natural products, as plants, for treatment of asthma is known for more than 5000 years as traditional medicine. The plants chemical components, as essential oils, are widely known to be used as a complementary medicine due to their bioactive components which are effective as anti-inflammatory by inhibiting COX-2 and COX-5. They also reduce cytokine levels of IL-4, IL-5, IL-13 and regulate NF-kB pathway which cause modulation of the function of the immune cells^(36; 37; 38).

The chemical profiling of the non-polar fraction of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. revealed seven sesquiterpenes, one diterpene and one fatty acid ethyl

ester where β -Vetivone displayed highest prevalence. However, metabolomics identified in the polar fraction constituted 16 compounds belonging to different classes of compounds. Among the polyphenol family; Chlorogenic acid and three flavonoids; myricetin, sambicyanin and hyperoside (quercetin 3-galactoside) flavonoids were identified. Brevifolincarboxylic acid was also identified. It belongs to isocoumarins that can be found in pomegranate. Brevifolincarboxylic acid was isolated along with twenty chebulic acid and brevifolincarboxylic acid derivatives, from an EtOH extract of the aerial parts of *Euphorbia hirta*³⁹. A dibenzylbutane lignan; argenteane was also identified

which was previously detected in some herbs and spices like nutmeg⁴⁰. Kavain is one of the identified compounds in the polar extract of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. Kavain is the main kavalactone found mostly in the roots of the kava plant (*Piper methysticum*) it is thought to be responsible for its anxiolytic effect (Chua et al., 2016).

Terpenoids constitutes a major class of compounds to which belong eight out of the sixteen identified compounds in the polar extract of *Euphorbia mauritanica* L. One acyclic sesquiterpene alcohol; farnesol, three phorbol derivatives, three diterpenoids and one triterpenoid were identified. Phorbol is a member of the tiglane family of diterpenes found in many plants, especially those of the Euphorbiaceae and Thymelaeaceae families⁴². Herein, 20-oxophorbol-12,13-dibutyrate and 12-deoxyphorbol-13-acetate (prostratin) were identified in addition to ingenol; a diterpenoid related to phorbol.

Resiniferatoxin is the irritant principle of the Moroccan cactus-like plant, *Euphorbia resinifera*, and was first isolated and identified in 1975⁴³. It is a diterpenoid of the Rhamnifolane and daphnane classes. Euphorbia factor L8 and euphorbia factor L1, are diterpenoids isolated from *Euphorbia lathyris*⁴⁴. Last, an oxygenated pentacyclic triterpenoid; 19,28-Epoxy-3-oleananol was also identified.

Bronchial asthma (BA) is a chronic inflammation accompanied by allergic (eosinophilic) mechanism, inducing acute bronchoconstriction and TV and PEF reduction⁴⁶. In the present study, the protective effect of total ethanol 70% extract of *E. mauritanica* in two doses (200 and 400mg/kg) was studied, *in vivo*, on experimental OVA-induced bronchial asthma in experimental rats. OVA sensitization followed by OVA i.n challenge was produced with a significant reduction in TV and PEF as compared with the negative control group in the current study. *E. mauritanica* administration for 3 weeks, significantly elevated TV and PEF. The anti-inflammatory activities of oleanane terpenoids⁴⁷ and sesquiterpenoids⁴⁸ to which belong the major constituents of *E. mauritanica* namely; 19,28-Epoxy-3-oleananol and β -Vetivone, respectively. The latex in *E. mauritanica* contains mauritanicain, protease, and phorbol-12-myristate -13-acetate (diterpene) compounds which exert an anti-inflammatory activity response²⁰. Quercitrin bioflavonoid proved to be efficient as anti-inflammatory and antioxidant. It is converted to quercetin which is active as anti-inflammatory and antiasthma⁴⁹. The sterols as β -sitosterol and 24-methylene artemol and triterpenes have been reported also for their anti-inflammatory activity⁵⁰.

Evolution of reactive oxygen species (ROS) is one of the main features of bronchial asthma which involved in the progression of asthma and playing a key role in its pathogenesis (Fujisawa, 2005. Results of the

present investigation showed that in OVA group significant decrease in GSH and increase in MDA as compared to negative control rats, indicating the role of oxidative stress in bronchial asthma, that is similar to what was early described⁵¹. Administration of *E. mauritanica* extract reduced the lung content of MDA and elevated GSH as compared to OVA group. The aqueous extract of genus *Euphorbia* as *E. hirta* reported to have an antioxidant and free radical – scavenging activity⁵². Other *Euphorbia* species reported for their antioxidant activity include *E. heterophylla* L., *E. milii* Des Moul and *E. thymifolia* L.⁵³.

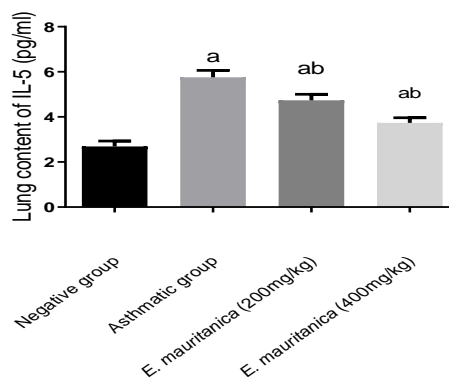


Figure 5: Effect of *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract lung contents of IL-5 in experimentally induced asthmatic in rats

Data were expressed as mean \pm SE. Statistical analysis was carried out by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey HSD test for multiple comparisons; a Significantly different from negative control $p < 0.05$; b Significantly different from asthmatic group at $p < 0.05$.

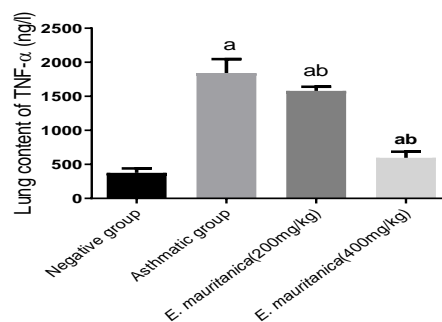


Figure 6: Effect of *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract on lung contents of TNF- α in experimentally induced asthmatic in rats

Data were expressed as mean \pm SE. Statistical analysis was carried out by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey HSD test for multiple comparisons; a Significantly different from negative control $p < 0.05$; b Significantly different from asthmatic group at $p < 0.05$.

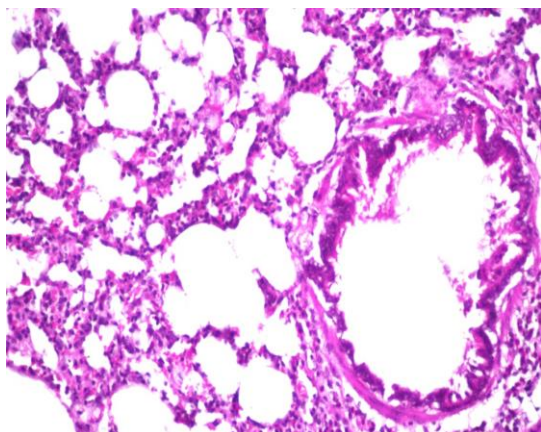


Figure 7 : Group of rats kept as control there was no histopathological alteration in the bronchioles and surrounding air alveoli in the parenchyma .

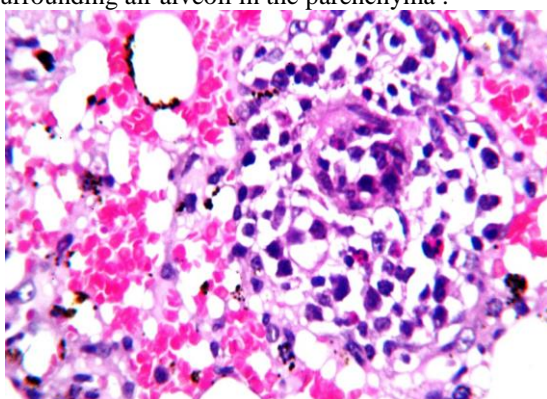


Figure 8 : Group of experimentally induced asthmatic rats shows epithelial bronchiolar thickening with perivascular leucocytes inflammatory cells infiltration mainly macrophages , lymphocytes and eosinophils were detected .

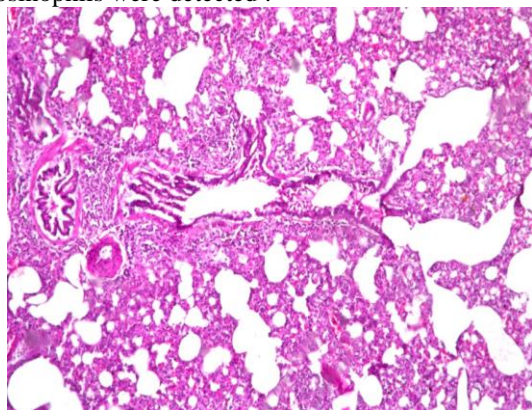


Figure 9: Group of experimentally induced asthmatic rats and treated by 200 mg/kg *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract on lung . Collapse was detected in the air alveoli in association with epithelial bronchiolar thickening and sclerosis in the wall of the blood vessels .

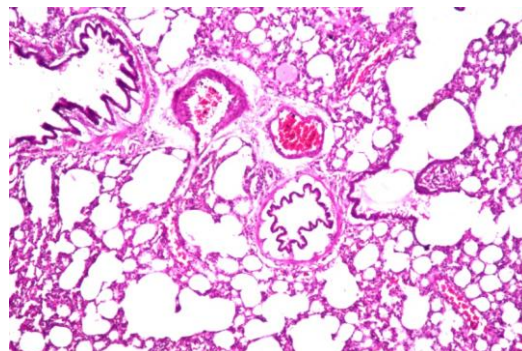


Figure 10: Group of experimentally induced asthmatic rats and treated by 400 mg/kg *E. mauritanica* L. total ethanol 70% extract on lung .There were mild bronchiolar thickening and congestion in the blood vessels .

Chronic airway inflammation is the hallmark features of asthma, through which eosinophils, activated T-helper lymphocytes and mast cells infiltration elevated aggravating the production of various cytokines such as interleukins (ILs) and tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α). These inflammatory cytokines airway induce obstruction, mucus secretion and airway remodeling (airways structural changes)⁵⁴. In previous research, OVA challenge expressed TNF- α in the lung. TNF- α as a strong pro-inflammatory cytokine influence of eosinophils and neutrophils recruitments provoking airway inflammation⁵⁵. At the same time, OVA challenge expressed IL-5 that controls eosinophils functioning, in addition, Th2 cells regulates immunoglobulin E (IgE) which in turn that also mediates recruitment of eosinophils. In addition, IgE has antigen recognition role of the adaptive immune system triggering rapid pathological responses⁵⁶. Most treatment lines of bronchial asthma depend on anti-inflammatory drugs⁵⁷. The current study exhibited that in OVA significantly elevated the lung content of IL-5, IgE and TNF- α as compared to negative control rats, suggesting that bronchial asthma is associated with inflammation that is in a line with previous study⁵⁸. Our results revealed that *E. mauritanica* extract administration down regulated IL-5, IgE and TNF- α in the lung and prevent a series of progressive airways structural changes compared to OVA group. Presence of phenolic compounds, flavonoids, tannins and terpenoids are also correlated as synergistic effect to the antiasthma activity⁵⁹.

Conclusion

The interesting findings in current work were that *E. mauritanica* L. extract significantly inhibited the release of MDA, IgE, IL-5, and TNF- α and elevated TV, PEF and GSH suggesting its role involved to control precipitation of asthma in rats. This species may be used as a good herbal remedy for prevention of asthma.

Declaration of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Author contribution

Mona Hetta: Conceptualization, Resources, Funding acquisition, Review & editing. Abeer Salama: Conceptualization, Methodology, Validation, Formal analysis, Writing - review & editing. Rehab Hussein: Methodology, writing -original draft. Marwa Samy: Methodology, Writing - original draft. Nemat Yassin: Conceptualization, Review & editing.

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