

Title : Inhibition of herpes simplex virus type 2 by *Carissa carandas* Linn. fruits extracts

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Major : Microbiology

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ABSTRACT

Herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) is a major etiological agent of genital herpes, a sexually transmitted infection with global prevalence. Currently, antiviral drugs such as acyclovir are widely used for treatment of HSV infection. However, using these drugs have several limitations, including the emergence of drug-resistant strains, the high cost of long-term therapy, and the inability to completely eradicate latent viruses. These challenges have led to increase the interest in natural extracts as alternative therapeutic agents for the inhibition of HSV-2. This study aimed to evaluate the anti-HSV-2 activity of extracts derived from the fruits of *Carissa carandas* L. Cytotoxicities of the *C. carandas* fruit extracts were assessed on Vero cells using MTT assay. Among the tested extracts, the 95% ethanolic extract of *C. carandas* unripe fruit exhibited the lowest cytotoxicity, with a 50% cytotoxic concentration (CD_{50}) of 2.00 ± 0.25 mg/mL. Antiviral activity of *C. carandas* fruit extract against HSV-2 was evaluated using a plaque reduction assay on Vero cells. The ethanolic extract of *C. carandas* ripe fruit extract at a concentration of 0.3125 mg/mL demonstrated the highest inhibitory effect after viral attachment to host cells, with a viral inhibition rate of $96.47 \pm 1.97\%$. Total phenolic content (TPC) analysis revealed that the ethanolic extract of *C. carandas* ripe fruit extract contained the highest phenolic level (8.00 ± 0.58 mg GAE/g extract), which was significantly higher than that of the aqueous extracts. In contrast, antioxidant activity assessed by DPPH and ABTS assays showed that the aqueous extract of *C. carandas* ripe fruit extract exhibited the strongest radical scavenging activity, with values of 2.12 ± 0.34 mg GAE/g extract and 29.18 ± 2.21 mg Trolox/g extract, respectively. In conclusion, *C. carandas* fruit extracts, particularly the ethanolic extract of ripe fruit,

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demonstrated potent inhibitory activity against HSV-2 after viral attachment to host cells. The antiviral activity appears to correlate with phenolic content and antioxidant capacity, supporting the potential development of *C. carandas* extracts as natural antiviral agent against HSV-2.

Keywords: Antioxidant activity; Antiviral activity; *Carissa carandas* L.; Herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2); Phenolic content

Title name guide.

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