

# Antioxidant Capacity of Alcoholic Viscum Album Extract Compared to Vitamin C Antioxidant Capacity

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**Abstract:** *Milestone (Viscum album) is a medicinal plant used to treat various diseases. The present study was carried out to determine the antioxidant capacity of different concentrations of ethanol Viscum album leaf extract compared to vitamin C capacity. In this experimental laboratory study, the leaves were collected from Rudsar-Guilan province. The samples were dried in shadow, and were ground. The obtained powder was extracted using soxhlet method. Ethanol extracts were prepared. Antioxidant capacity was measured using DPPH method. Data were analyzed using ANOVA. The findings demonstrated that ethanol extract of Viscum album has higher antioxidant capacity than vitamin C in lower concentrations; However, antioxidant capacity of the extract decreases when the concentration increases. Conclusively, despite higher concentrations, lower concentration of Viscum album ethanol leaf extract has higher antioxidant capacity compared to vitamin C capacity.*

**Keywords:** *Viscum album, Ethanol extract, Antioxidant capacity*

## 1. Introduction

Viscum album, a semi-parasitic plant, has been used both in traditional and supplementary medicine in the treatment of many diseases. Viscum album extract (European mistletoe), contains immuno-active compounds with dose-dependent cytotoxic activity that has been used as an adjuvant cancer treatment in Europe[1], [2]. The mistletoe extract has also been shown to be an effective complementary drug in the treatment of cancer patients after surgical removal of the primary tumor[3]. The studies suggest that Viscum album extract has sedative, antiepileptic and antipsychotic activity in mice and rats[4]. The research have shown that Viscum album extract seem to be beneficial for the majority of cancer patients [5]. This may result from antioxidant capacity of the plant extract. However, animal experiments have shown that

Viscum album extract may induce cardiotoxicity, urotoxicity and genotoxicity in mice [6]. This study was exerted to determine the antioxidant capacity of different concentrations of Viscum album compared to vitamin C antioxidant capacity.

## 2. Material and Methods

In this experimental laboratory study, the leaves were collected from Rudsar-Guilan province. The samples were dried in shadow, and were ground. The obtained powder was extracted using soxhlet method. Ethanol extracts were prepared. Antioxidant capacity was measured using DPPH method. Data were analyzed using ANOVA.

### 3. Results

The findings demonstrated that ethanol extract of *Viscum album* has higher antioxidant capacity than vitamin C in lower concentrations; However, antioxidant capacity of the extract decreases when the concentration increases (figure I).

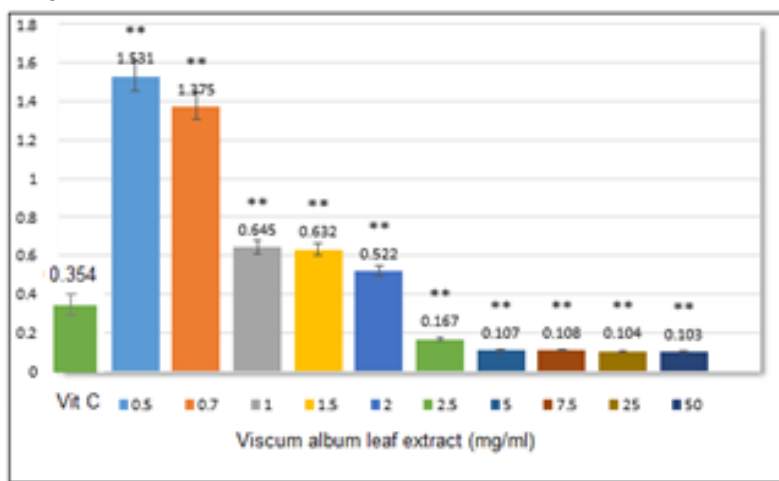


Fig. 1: Antioxidant capacity of different concentrations of *Viscum album* leaf extract compared to vitamin C (Vit C) antioxidant capacity. \*\* represents significant difference at  $P < 0.05$  compared to Vit C antioxidant capacity.

### 4. Discussion

Our findings show that ethanol *Viscum album* leaf extract has significant antioxidant capacity in lower doses. *V. album* contains phenolic acids, phenylpropanoids and flavonoids with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities. Extracts from the plant, especially aqueous, are applied in traditional and official medicine, among others in treating hypertension or arthritis [7]. Previous studies also show that species of *Viscum* may serve as sources of antioxidants [8]. The studies have shown that *Viscum album* has potent antihyperglycaemic and antioxidant activity depending on host plant [9]. The research have also shown that methanolic extract of *Viscum album* has antioxidant capacity [10]. In addition, Vitamin C is a highly effective antioxidant [11], [12]. Vitamin C administration can reduce the oxidative stress [13]-[15]. As we have shown, antioxidant capacity of *Viscum album* leaf extract is significantly higher than vitamin C antioxidant capacity, indicating that *Viscum album* leaf extract can reduce the oxidative stress as well.

### 5. Conclusion

The findings demonstrated that lower concentrations of ethanol *Viscum album* leaf extract has higher antioxidant capacity than vitamin C antioxidant capacity; However, higher concentrations of *Viscum album* leaf extract have lower antioxidant capacity.

### 6. Acknowledgment

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### 7. References

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