Studies on *Azadiracta indica* in malaria

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Primary acute blood-transmitted *P. berghei* malaria was induced in young male albino mice (Tella & Maegraith, 1965) divided into three groups. One group represented the controls in which the infection was not treated. The second group was treated with daily oral doses of the leaf extract of *Azadiracta indica*. The third group received dapsone.

In the first two groups of animals, reticulocytosis did not occur, but the parasite count rose, packed cell volume and erythrocyte counts fell with each day of the infection which ended fatally on the fifth day. The third group recovered completely indicating that the infection, although acute, was still capable of responding favourably to suitable drugs.

The results thus show that *Azadiracta indica* leaf is ineffective in *P. berghei* malaria contrary to the claim that it is of therapeutic value in human malaria.

References

TELLA, A. & MAEGRAITH, B.G. (1965). Physiopathological changes in primary acute blood-transmitted malaria and babesia infections. *Ann. Trop. Med. Parasit.*, **59**, 135–146.