

The effect of saffron, *Crocus sativus* stigma, extract and its constituents, safranal and crocin on sexual behaviors in normal male rats

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Abstract

In this study, the aphrodisiac activities of *Crocus sativus* stigma aqueous extract and its constituents, safranal and crocin, were evaluated in male rats. The aqueous extract (10, 160 and 320 mg/kg body wt.), crocin (100, 200 and 400 mg/kg body wt.), safranal (0.1, 0.2 and 0.4 ml/kg), sildenafil (10 mg/kg body wt., as a positive control) and saline were administered intraperitoneally to male rats. Mounting frequency (MF), intromission frequency (IF), erection frequency (EF), mount latency (ML), intromission latency (IL) and ejaculation latency (EL) were the factors evaluated during the sexual behavior study. Crocin, at all doses, and the extract, especially at doses 160 and 320 mg/kg body wt., increased MF, IF and EF behaviors and reduced EL, IL and ML parameters. Safranal did not show aphrodisiac effects. The present study reveals an aphrodisiac activity of saffron aqueous extract and its constituent crocin. © 2007 Elsevier GmbH. All rights reserved.

Reaxys Database Information

Author keywords

Aphrodisiac activity; Crocin; *Crocus sativus*; Saffron; Safranal; Sexual activity; Sildenafil

Indexed Keywords

EMTREE drug terms: crocin; *Crocus sativus* extract; safranal; sildenafil

EMTREE medical terms: animal behavior; animal experiment; article; controlled study; ejaculation; latent period; male; mating; nonhuman; penis erection; priority journal; rat; sexual behavior

MeSH: Animals; Aphrodisiacs; Carotenoids; *Crocus*; Cyclohexenes; Female; Male; Phytotherapy; Plant Extracts; Rats; Rats, Wistar; Sexual Behavior, Animal; Sexual Dysfunction, Physiological; Sexual Dysfunctions, Psychological; Terpenes

Medline is the source for the MeSH terms of this document.

Species Index: *Crocus sativus*; *Rattus*

Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers: crocin, 39460-00-4, 42003-70-1; sildenafil, 139700-83-2; Aphrodisiacs; Carotenoids, 36-88-4; crocin, 42003-70-1; Cyclohexenes; Plant Extracts; safranal, 116-26-7; Terpenes

Manufacturers:Drug manufacturer: poursina, Iran;Fluka.

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