

Influence of polysaccharide fraction C isolated from *Caltha palustris* L. on T and B lymphocyte subsets in mice.

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Extracts from a diverse range of plants have been shown to possess immunomodulatory properties. *Caltha palustris* L. (Ranunculaceae) is a plant widely known and distributed in Europe, Asia and North America. The extracts from *Caltha palustris* have been used in traditional Canadian and Asian medicine to treat arthritis rheumatism, gonorrhoea and a variety of skin diseases. The effects of polysaccharide fraction C from *Caltha palustris* L. extract (0.1, 1 and 10 mg/kg) on the total number of lymphocytes in the thymus, spleen and mesenteric lymph nodes and the percentage and the absolute number of T cells (CD4⁻CD8⁻, CD4⁺CD8⁺, CD4⁺, CD8⁺) in the thymus and T cells (CD3⁺, CD4⁺, CD8⁺) and B (CD19⁺) lymphocytes in the spleen and mesenteric lymph nodes in mice were studied. The investigated substance was administered intraperitoneally once or five times to mice. The measurements were determined twice: on days 1 and 3 after last administration of fraction C. It was found that five times administration of fraction C from *Caltha palustris* L. extract significantly increased the absolute count and the percentage of CD4⁺ thymic cells irrespective of the dose applied. Moreover, five exposures to fraction C (1 and 0.1 mg/kg) increased percentage of CD4⁺ splenocytes. Multiple administration of examined fraction C increased the B lymphocyte population (CD19⁺ cells) in spleen and mesenteric lymph nodes. The results of the study showed that fraction C from *Caltha palustris* extract is able to change the percentage and absolute number of T and B lymphocytes in lymphatic organs. The effect of the examined substance depends on the number of consecutive doses applied

Słowa kluczowe

polysaccharide, *Caltha palustris* L, extract, B and T lymphocyte subsets, mice

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