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***In vitro* antibacterial effects of the crude extracts of *Sophora alopecuroides* against oral microorganisms**

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Abstract *Sophora alopecuroides* is widely used in Mongolian traditional medicine. The antimicrobial effects of the methanolic and aqueous extracts of its roots against *Streptococcus mutans*, *Streptococcus sobrinus* and *Staphylococcus aureus* were examined *in vitro*. Four fractions were obtained from methanol extract and labeled as Fractions-1, 2, 3, and 4. The MIC's and MBC's of the crude extracts of *Sophora alopecuroides* were determined, and bacterial cell growth curves in the presence of Fractions-1, 3, and 4 were drawn. Among the methanolic extracts, the extracts of Fractions-1, 3, and 4 possessed strong inhibitory effect on the growth of mutans streptococci and *S. aureus*. Fraction-2 and the aqueous extracts of *S. alopecuroides* had weak antibacterial activities. Thus, *S. alopecuroides* would be useful for the suppression of oral pathogens, and has potential for use in the prevention of dental caries and treatment of diseases caused by *S. aureus*.

Key words Growth inhibition, Mutans streptococci, *Sophora alopecuroides*, *Staphylococcus aureus*

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