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Abortive effect of the aqueous extract of germinated seeds of *Trigonella foenum graecum* L. in mice

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Trigonella foenum graecum L. is one of the oldest traditional medicinal plants. Fenugreek belongs to the family of Fabaceae and is used as an herb (dried or fresh leaves), spice (seeds), vegetable (fresh leaves). This study was undertaken to test the side effect of fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum graecum* L.) germinated in pregnant female albino mice, fetal development and evaluation of locomotive development.

Material & Methods: A freeze dried aqueous extract of sprouted fenugreek seeds are administered to mated female mice throughout pregnancy at doses of 200, 500, 800, 1000 mg/kg/day. Females were examined for parameters of reproductive performance. The fetuses have been weighed and their behavior is evaluated. A high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) technique was used to identify the major phenolic compounds in the aqueous extract of germinated seeds of Fenugreek.

Results: In pregnant mice, there were no obvious symptoms of toxicity, deaths related to the lyophilized aqueous extract of sprouted fenugreek seeds. But we noted the presence of increased number of abortions in treated mice compared to controls. The main phenolic compounds identified in the lyophilized extract of germinated fenugreek seeds were gallic acid, caffeic acid, syringic acid, tyrosol, and rutin. The germinated seeds of fenugreek showed that their aqueous extract had an antioxidant effect.

Conclusions: This study is the first study showing the abortive effect of the aqueous extract of germinated *Trigonella foenum-graecum* seeds. Our finding suggests that prenatal mouse exposure to high doses of lyophilized aqueous extract of germinated fenugreek seeds may lead to toxic effects on mouse reproduction.