**Research Article** 

# Preparation and evaluation of aceclofenac dental pastes using dillenia fruit gum for periodontitis treatment



Md. Saquib Hasnain<sup>1</sup> · Poonam Rishishwar<sup>1</sup> · Sadath Ali<sup>2</sup> · Amit Kumar Nayak<sup>3</sup>

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#### Abstract

The present research deals with preparation and evaluation of aceclofenac dental pastes containing extracted dillenia fruit gum (DG) for periodontitis treatment. Dental pastes containing 1% w/w aceclofeanc were prepared with/without using extracted DG as a mucoadhesive polymer via conventional trituration method. The drug contents, viscosities and pHs of these dental pastes were observed within the permissible ranges. The tube extrudability and tube spreadability of these pastes containing extracted DG were found favorable. The in vitro aceclofenac release from all these dental pastes was found slower sustained over 6 h, which followed zero-order kinetic model ( $R^2$  = 0.9917–0.9988) with super case-II transport mechanism (n = 1.00–1.03). The in vitro aceclofenac release was found decreased with the viscosity increment of these dental pastes. These aceclofenac dental pastes containing extracted DG demonstrated excellent mucoadhesion onto excised porcine buccal mucosal membrane, which can be beneficial to get intimate contact with the action site during and after application to uphold the constant release of drugs over prolonged time. These dental pastes containing 1% w/w aceclofeanc can be applied for effective management of dental pain and inflammation with local delivery in the treatment of periodontitis.

Keywords Dillenia fruit gum · Dental pastes · Drug release · Aceclofenac

# 1 Introduction

Periodontitis is an oral disease [1, 2]. The early phase of periodontitis leads to a painful agony related to inflammation and bleeding of gums [3]. The untreated periodontitis can damage both hard as well as soft tissues of the teeth that eventually may be advanced to the tooth loss [4, 5]. The current treatment of periodontitis includes the systemic deliveries of anti-inflammatory drugs to reduce pain and inflammation along with antibiotics to eradicate the microorganisms from the diseased periodontal site over a prolonged period [5]. The systemic deliveries of anti-inflammatory drugs and antibiotics are often experience systemic side effects of drugs because of the long

term use [6]. The local drug deliveries are recently being researched for the treatment of periodontitis to decrease the side effects of drugs, which are familiar with the treatment by delivering drugs via the systemic route [7, 8]. The current periodontitis research and discoveries have explained that the prostaglandin production inhibitors like non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) may possibly influence the course of hard tissue loss of the teeth in periodontitis [8, 9]. Even several periodontitis research findings already indicated that NSAIDs able to lessen the gingival inflammation and the alveolar bone resorption [10]. The efficacy of medicated dental pastes for topical deliveries of drugs have been established more reasonably priced towards the patient's preference as well as the

Md. Saquib Hasnain, msaquibhasnain@gmail.com; Amit Kumar Nayak, amitkrnayak@yahoo.co.in | <sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmacy, Shri Venkateshwara University, NH-24, Rajabpur, Gajraula, Amroha, UP 244236, India. <sup>2</sup>Department of Pharmacy, Glocal University, Saharanpur, UP 247001, India. <sup>3</sup>Department of Pharmaceutics, Seemanta Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mayurbhanj, Odisha 757086, India.



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industrial point of view than other marketed formulations [6, 10, 11]. Nowadays, due to less toxicity and biodegradability, natural polymers are being extensively used for the formulation of various dosage forms [12–27]. Hence, in the current work, we attempted the preparation and evaluation of dental pastes of 1% w/w aceclofeanc prepared with/without using extracted dillenia fruit gum (DG) as a natural mucoadhesive polymer via the conventional trituration method.

Aceclofenac is a NSAID of acetic acid derivative category [28, 29]. Chemically, it is 2-[(2', 6'-dichlorophenyl) amino] phenylacetoxyacetic acid [30]. It is widely used in the management of pain and inflammation [31, 32]. Aceclofenac is also reported to reduce the dental pain and inflammation [33]. DG is a plant derived polysaccharide extracted from mature and ripe dellinia (Dillenia indica L., family: Dilleniaceae) fruits [34]. It is a biocompatible and nontoxic in nature [35]. It is also soluble in cold water and hot water. DG is also reported as gelling material and mucoadhesive in various applications [33, 36]. During past few years, DG is being utilized as a potential pharmaceutical excipient material in different drug delivery systems like nasal mucoadhesive gels, sustained releasing tablets and microbeads [33–38]. The objective of the current work was to prepare dental pastes of 1% w/w aceclofeanc with/ without using extracted dillenia fruit gum (DG) as a natural mucoadhesive polymer via the conventional trituration method. These dental pastes were evaluated for drug content uniformity, pH, viscosity, tube spreadability, tube extrudability, in vitro drug releasing and ex vivo biomucoadhesion onto the excised porcine buccal mucosal membrane.

# 2 Materials and methods

# 2.1 Materials

Aceclofeanc (B. S. Traders Pvt. Ltd., India), calcium carbonate (precipitated chalk, LobaChemie Pvt. Ltd., India), sodium lauryl sulfate (SD Fine Chemicals, India), potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate (SD Fine Chemicals, India), glycerine (Loba Chemie Pvt. Ltd., India), methyl paraben (SD Fine Chemicals, India), camphor (Qualigens Fine Chemicals, India), sodium hydroxide (SD Fine Chemicals, India), dialysis membrane (molecular cut off 10 K Da; *Thermo Fisher Scientific India* Pvt. Ltd., India) and empty aluminium collapsible tubes (Digvijay Containers & Closures, India) were used. DG was extracted from mature and ripe dellinia fruits purchased from Baripada market (District: Mayurbhanj, Odisha) in the month of September, 2015. All other reagents and chemicals were of commercially available and analytical grade.

## 2.2 Extraction of DG

DG was extracted mature and ripe dillenia fruits as earlier reported methodology by Kuotsu and Bandyopadhyay (2007) with minute adjustments. Dillenia fruits were thoroughly cleaned using water and cut into small pieces by using a knife [33]. Pieces of dillenia fruits (1 kg) were soaked by the demineralized water and subsequently, these were boiled using an electric water bath at  $45 \pm 1$  °C under occasional stirring until thick slurry was appeared. The formed thick slurry was cooled and after that, it was kept in a laboratory refrigerator for a period of 1 day. The clear solution at the upper portion was shifted and afterward, centrifuged at the speed of 500 rpm for a period of 20 min. The clear supernatant was collected and concentrated using an electric water bath at  $50 \pm 2$  °C until the volume decrease to 1/4 th of the starting volume. The concentrated solution was cooled down to the room temperature and then, poured into 1/3 th volume of acetone with constant stirring using a magnetic stirrer (Remi Motors, India). The formed precipitate was washed repetitively with acetone and subsequently with demineralised water. The washed precipitate was separated and then, dried in an oven at 45 ± 1 °C for 12 h. The dried DG was crushed to fine powder using a pestle and mortar, passed through the 80 mesh screen and finally, stored in air tight desiccators.

# 2.3 Preparation of dental pastes

Conventional trituration method was employed for the preparation of 1% w/w aceclofenac dental pastes. In brief, extracted DG, methyl paraben and glycerine were blended together using clean mortar and pestle with half-quantity of water. Then, in remaining half quantity of water, 1% w/w of aceclofenac was dissolved and this mixture was added to the above mixture with continuous trituration for half an hour. Calcium carbonate was sieved by passing 75 sieve and added to the above mixture gradually. Then, camphor was mixed with this by means of continued mixing until the formation of smooth paste. The formulas of various 1% w/w aceclofenac dental pastes prepared with/without using extracted DG were given in Table 1.

# 2.4 Determination of drug content uniformity

The prepared aceclofenac dental pastes (5 mg) were taken and then, dissolved in 100 ml of demineralized water by magnetic stirrer-set (Remi Motors, India) for 30 min at 400 rpm in room temperature. Then, mixture solution was filtered through Whitman<sup>\*</sup> filter paper. At the 274.5 nm wavelength ( $\lambda_{max}$ ) against the appropriate

Table 1 Formula of various 1% w/w aceclofenac dental pastes containing extracted DG  $\,$ 

Codes	AD1	AD2	AD3	AD
Calcium carbonate (g)	42.50	42.00	41.50	44.00
Glycerine (g)	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00
Isolated DG (g)	1.50	2.00	2.50	-
Methyl paraben (g)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Camphor (g)	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Sodium lauryl sulfate (g)	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Aceclofenac (% w/w)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Water qs to 100 g	qs	qs	qs	qs

blank, the absorbances of filtrate samples were measured spectrophotometrically by means of UV–Vis Spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan) to calculate the drug content uniformity.

#### 2.5 pH measurement

In a 250 ml clean beaker, 1 gm of prepared aceclofenac dental pastes were taken and after that, 100 ml of demineralised water was added each beaker containing pastes, separately at the room temperature. These mixture solutions were well stirred by magnetic stirrer-set (Remi Motors, India) for 30 min at 400 rpm to make thorough suspensions for each tested dental pastes. With the help of digital pH meter (Systronics Instruments, India), pHs of the suspensions were measured within 5 min by introducing the glass electrode completely into these suspensions.

#### 2.6 Viscosity measurement

With the help of a Brookfield viscometer (Brookfield DV III ultra V6.0 RV, MA), viscosities of these prepared aceclofenac dental pastes were measured at  $25 \pm 0.3$  °C. Calculations of viscosities were done by employing Rheocalc V2.6 software.

#### 2.7 Tube spreadability measurement

Prepared aceclofenac dental pastes of 1 gm were weighed at the centre of the glass-plate ( $10 \text{ cm} \times 10 \text{ cm}$ ) and carefully positioned a new glass-plate over it. For each formulation of aceclofenac dental pastes, a weight of 2 kg was placed at the centre of the glass-plate (to avoid sliding of the glass-plate) and then, the diameters for each tested dental pastes were measured after 30 min.

#### 2.8 Tube extrudability measurement

To measure the tube extrudabilities, the prepared aceclofenac dental pastes were filled in clean lacquered aluminium collapsible tubes with a nasal tip (having 5 mm opening). Pressure was applied on these collapsible tubes containing dental pastes by pressing finger-tip. The tube extrudabilities were measured by assessing the percentage extruded amount of pastes through the tip as soon as the pressure was applied by pressing finger-tip on the collapsible tubes.

#### 2.9 In vitro drug release studies

With the help of a permeation cell (a glass cylinder of 10 cm in height, 3.7 cm in the outer diameter and 3.1 cm in the inner diameter with both the ends open), release study of prepared aceclofenac dental pastes was done. A dialysis membrane (molecular cut off 10 K Da) was taken and was soaked distilled water for 24 h before use. The water-soaked dialysis membrane was then, attached to the last part of the cylinder with the help of a strong glue. Prepared dental paste of 1 g was placed in the permeation cell. A beaker containing phosphate buffer (pH 6.4) of 100 ml was employed as the receptor compartment. Dental paste was dipped to a depth of below the surface of the receptor compartment medium. The receptor compartment medium was agitated by a magnetic stirrer (Remi Motors, India) maintained at temperature of  $37 \pm 0.5$  °C. 5 ml of samples were withdrawn at regular time interval and then, the withdrawn samples were filtered through Whitman<sup>®</sup> filter papers. Aceclofenac released from the dental pastes were assayed spectrophotometrically using UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan) at 274.5 nm wavelength ( $\lambda_{max}$ ) against the appropriate blank.

# 2.10 Analysis of in vitro drug release kinetics and mechanism

In vitro drug releasing from the dental pastes was analyzed by fitting with various kinetic models [39–41]:

Zero order model :  $Q = k_0 t + Q_0$ First order model :  $Q = Q_0 e^{k_1 t}$ Higuchi model :  $Q = k_H t^{1/2}$ Korsmeyer – Peppas model :  $Q = k_{KP} t^n$ 

Q and Q<sub>0</sub> symbolize the amount of aceclofenac released at time, t and 0, respectively; k<sub>0</sub>, k<sub>1</sub>, k<sub>H</sub> and k<sub>KP</sub> designate aceclofenac releasing rate constants. In addition, n represents the release exponent implying drug releasing mechanism

[42, 43]. When n is  $\leq$  0.5, the Fickian diffusion (non-steady) mechanism controls. When *n* is  $\geq$  1, the case-II transport (zero order) mechanism controls the drug release. When n is in-between 0.5 to 1; this refers to non-Fickian (anomalous) diffusion mechanism [39, 44–46].

# 2.11 Ex vivo mucoadhesion studies

### 2.11.1 Preparation of porcine buccal mucosal membrane

The porcine buccal mucosa was excised from the cheek pouch of pork (collected from the local slaughtering shop) as said by the earlier research by Ratha Adhikari et al. [47]. The porcine cheek pouch was collected within 1 h of after sacrificing the animal in slaughtering shop and then, brought to the laboratory within the phosphate buffer (pH 6.8), instantly. The mucosal membrane was disconnected from the full thickness of buccal mucosa layer and then, immersed in the phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) for 1 min at  $37\pm0.5$  °C. By using a scalpel, the fat layers present onto the buccal mucosal membrane was then separated. Finally, the collected excised buccal mucosal membrane was rinsed using phosphate buffer (pH 6.8).

### 2.11.2 Ex vivo biomucoadhesion measurement

Ex vivo biomucoadhesion measurement of these formulated aceclofenac dental pastes were performed using excised porcine buccal mucosal membrane by the help of modified physical balance [48]. The excised porcine buccal mucosal membrane was fixed and attached to open mouth of glass vial containing phosphate buffer (pH 6.8). The glass vial was fixed compactly at the centre of a beaker containing phosphate buffer (pH 6.8). Aceclofenac dental pastes of 1 g of each sample were fixed to the lower part of rubber stopper. A preload initial pressure by finger tip was applied to set the tested dental paste sample and the excised porcine buccal mucosal membrane for 5 min. The mass (in g) required to disconnect the lower-side of the rubber stopper from mucosal membrane surface was noted as mucoadhesive strength (shear stress). In addition, force of adhesion and bonding strength of these aceclofenac dental pastes were calculated using the following formula [47, 49]:

Force of adhesion (N) =  $\frac{\text{Mucoadhesive strength} \times 9.81}{1000}$ Bonding strength (N/m<sup>2</sup>) =  $\frac{\text{Force of adhesion}}{\text{Surface area of mucosal surface}}$ .

# 2.12 Statistical analysis

All data was analyzed by the simple statistical analyses. Simple statistical analyses were performed by MedCalc software version 11.6.1.0.

# 3 Results and discussion

# 3.1 Preparation of dental pastes

In the present work, dental pastes of 1% w/w aceclofeanc were prepared for efficient dental pain and gum inflammation management in the treatment of periodontitis. These aceclofenac dental pastes were prepared with/without using extracted DG as a natural mucoadhesive plantderived polysaccharide via the conventional trituration method. In the formulas of aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes containing extracted DG as mucoadhesive polymer (AD1, AD2 and AD3), isolated DG was varied at three different concentrations with calcium carbonate (incorporated as abrasive agent) (Table 1). In all these medicated dental pastes, glycerine (as humectant and co-solvent), sodium lauryl sulphate (as surfactant), methyl paraben (as preservative) and camphor (as flavoring agent) were incorporated. The prepared dental pastes were observed white in colour and sticky in nature.

# 3.2 Drug content

The prepared aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes exhibited the drug contents within the range,  $95.95 \pm 3.28$  $99.03 \pm 4.75\%$  (Table 2). These results also indicated the drug contents within these aceclofenac dental pastes prepared with/without using extracted DG as a natural mucoadhesive plant derived polysaccharide via conventional trituration method were within the acceptable range (> 95%) suggesting uniform mixing and distribution of drug (aceclofenac) with other excipients incorporated in the paste formula.

Table 2 Drug content (%), pH and viscosity (cps) of various acc-clofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes containing extracted DG

Formulation codes	рН	Drug content (%) <sup>a</sup>	Viscosity (cps)
AD1	6.33	98.83±4.23	59832.28
AD2	6.15	$96.38 \pm 3.67$	60274.03
AD3	6.02	$95.95 \pm 3.28$	64353.17
AD	6.72	$99.03 \pm 4.75$	40050.28

<sup>a</sup>Mean  $\pm$ standard error, n = 3

## 3.3 pH

The pHs of prepared aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes were measured within the range, 6.02–6.72 (Table 2). The result of pH indicated that these dental pastes were in proximity to the standard ranges of oral pH, which should not produce any oral mucosal irritation upon application.

# 3.4 Viscosity

The viscosities of prepared aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes were evaluated using a Brookfield viscometer at room temperature. The viscosity of aceclofenac dental paste prepared without using extracted DG (AD) was measured as 40,050.28 cps; while viscosities of dental pastes prepared using isolated DG as natural mucoadhesive agent (AD1, AD2 and AD3) were within the range, 59,832.28–64,353.17 cps (Table 2). In these aceclofenac dental pastes, it was observed that the pastes formulated without using extracted DG (AD) was found less viscous; whereas, the pastes formulated with 2.50% of extracted DG (AD3) was found highly viscous (64,353.17 cps) than that of the others.

# 3.5 Tube spreadability

The high-quality pastes should have higher spreadability that these take less time to spread all over the application area. To measure the spreadability of these newly prepared aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes, tube spreadability test was done and it was observed that the tube spreadability of these dental pastes were within the range,  $6.03 \pm 0.27 - 7.97 \pm 0.53$  cm (Table 3). The aceclofenac dental paste prepared without using extracted DG (AD) showed better tube spreadability. As the concentration of extracted DG in the dental paste formula was increased, the tube spreadabilities of these dental pastes (AD1, AD2 and AD3) were found to be reduced. From the results of tube spreadability test, it was noticed that the less viscous

Table 3 Tube spreadability and tube extrudability of various accclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes containing extracted DG

Formulation codes	Tube spreadability (cm) <sup>a</sup>	Tube extrudability (%) <sup>a</sup>
AD1	6.03±0.27	90.38±3.52
AD2	6.11±0.35	88.03±2.73
AD3	6.27±0.33	83.88±3.27
AD	$7.97 \pm 0.53$	97.44±3.19

<sup>a</sup>Mean  $\pm$ standard error, n = 3

pastes extrude from the tube with difficulty, whereas highly viscous pastes flow quickly.

#### 3.6 Tube extrudability

The tube extrudability of these newly prepared aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes were observed within the range of  $83.88 \pm 3.27 - 83.88 \pm 3.27\%$  (Table 3). As the concentration of extracted DG in the dental paste formula increased, tube extrudabilities of these dental pastes were found to be reduced. It was noticed that the pastes of high viscosity exhibited lower tube extrudability. The high-quality pastes should have higher tube extrudability, which is helpful for the easy removal of the pastes from the collapsible tubes at the time of application. Therefore, higher extrudability of paste from collapsible tube is important for the patient compliance.

# 3.7 In vitro drug release

In vitro drug releasing study of prepared aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes prepared with/without using extracted DG as a natural mucoadhesive plant derived polysaccharide was done in phosphate buffer (pH 6.4). The in vitro aceclofenac release from all these dental pastes (AD, AD1, AD2, and AD3) was observed to be slower sustained over 6 h (Fig. 1). As the concentration of extracted DG in the paste formula was increased, in vitro percent of cumulative aceclofenac releases from these prepared dental pastes was found decreased. This occurrence can be due to the augmented viscosities of pastes with increment of the concentration of extracted DG.

In vitro aceclofenac releasing from these prepared dental pastes was analyzed by fitting with various kinetic models. When individual correlation coefficients were evaluated by fitting with kinetic models, it was observed to follow zero-order kinetic model mainly with a correlation coefficient nearer to 1 ( $R^2 = 0.9917 - 0.9988$ ) in case of those dental pastes (AD1, AD2, and AD3) which contained isolated DG in the formula (Table 4). Moreover, Korsmeyer–Peppas model (R<sup>2</sup>=0.9879–0.9937) was also observed to be nearer to the best-fitting zero-order model. Calculated values of release exponent (n) of dental pastes prepared using extracted DG were reported as above 1 (n = 1.00-1.03) (Fig. 2), which suggested that the in vitro releasing of aceclofenac from these dental pastes followed the case-II transport mechanism. On the other hand, dental pastes prepared without extracted DG (AD) was observed to be best-fitting with the first-order kinetic model ( $R^2 = 0.9902$ ) and n value of it was measured as 0.68 indicating the non-Fickian (anomalous) diffusion mechanism of drug releasing (Table 4; Fig. 2).

Fig. 1 In vitro aceclofeanc release from various aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes (mean  $\pm$  standard error, n = 3)



Table 4Curve-fitting in vitrodrug release data of variousaceclofeanc (1% w/w) dentalpastes containing extractedDG

Formulation code	Correlation coefficient (R <sup>2</sup> )				
	Zero-order model	First-order model	Higuchi model	Korsmeyer– Peppas model	
AD1	0.9957	0.9103	0.3363	0.9903	
AD2	0.9988	0.8732	0.3602	0.9937	
AD3	0.9917	0.8666	0.3237	0.9879	
AD	0.9548	0.9902	0.3773	0.9672	



I

Fig. 2 Release exponent calculated from the data of in vitro aceclofeanc release from various aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes (mean  $\pm$  standard error, n = 3)

#### 3.8 Ex vivo mucoadhesion

Ex vivo mucoadhesive assessment of these newly prepared aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes was

SN Applied Sciences A SPRINGER NATURE journal performed using excised porcine buccal mucosal membrane by modified physical balance. Ex vivo mucoadhesive strengths of these dental pastes were observed within the range,  $32.43 \pm 0.42 - 159.38 \pm 6.16$  g (Table 5). The dental pastes prepared with 2.50% of isolated DG (AD3) showed highest mucoadhesive strength  $(159.38 \pm 6.16 \text{ g})$  and it was also noticed that the dental pastes prepared without extracted DG (AD) demonstrated lowest mucoadhesive strength  $(32.43 \pm 0.42 \text{ g})$ . The force of adhesion values were calculated within the range, 0.32–1.56 N; whereas bonding strength ranged, 4027.07–19,791.36 N/m<sup>2</sup>. Amongst all these newly prepared aceclofenac (1% w/w) dental pastes, dental paste AD3 exhibited highest force of adhesion (1.56 N) and bonding strength (19,791.36 N/m<sup>2</sup>). From the results of ex vivo mucoadhesion onto excised porcine buccal mucosal membrane, it was noticed that the mucoadhesion of the dental pastes were augmented with the increment of extracted DG incorporation as mucoadhesive polymer in the dental paste-formula. As the concentration of extracted DG in the paste formula was increased, the mucoadhesivity of these prepared dental pastes was found increased. This occurrence can be because of the

AD

0.32

4027.07

 $32.43 \pm 0.42$ 

Table 5Ex vivo mucoadhesiveparameters (mucoadhesivestrength, force of adhesion andbonding strength) of variousaceclofeanc (1% w/w) dentalpastes containing extractedDG	Mucoadhesive parameters	Formulation codes	
		AD1	AD2
	Mucoadhesive strength (g) <sup>a</sup> Force of adhesion (N) <sup>a</sup> Bonding strength (N/m <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	148.57±6.77 1.46 18449.01	154.00±8.52 1.51 19123.29

<sup>a</sup>Mean  $\pm$ standard error, n = 3

augmented viscosities of pastes with increment of the concentration of extracted DG. Various ex vivo mucoadhesive parameters of these dental pastes prepared using extracted DG were found satisfactory and hence, can be beneficial to get intimate contact with the action site during and after application. The mucoadhesive nature of these medicated dental pastes can be helpful to uphold the constant release of drugs over prolonged time period at the application site [47].

# 4 Conclusion

Dental pastes of 1% w/w aceclofeanc were prepared with/without using extracted DG as a plant derived natural mucoadhesive polysaccharide via conventional trituration method. The drug contents, viscosities and pHs of these formulated aceclofeanc dental pastes were observed within the permissible ranges. These dental pastes containing extracted DG were observed to have excellent tube extrudability and tube spreadability. The in vitro aceclofenac release from all these dental pastes was found slower sustained over a period of 6 h, which followed zero-order kinetic model with super case-Il transport mechanism. These newly prepared aceclofenac dental pastes containing extracted DG demonstrated excellent adhesion to the excised porcine buccal mucosal membrane, which may be helpful to uphold the constant release of drugs over prolonged time period at the application site. These dental pastes containing 1% w/w aceclofeanc can be applied for effective management of dental pain and inflammation with local delivery in the treatment of periodontitis.

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#### **Compliance with ethical standards**

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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AD3

1.56

19791.36

 $159.38 \pm 6.16$ 

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