Antihypoxic and anti-ischemic properties of the North Caucasus flora plant extracts

[Dmitry I Pozdnyakov, Anastasiya E Pozdnyakova, Similya I Adzhiahmetova, Nadezhda M Chervonnaya, Denis S Zolotych, Nataliya S Lyakhova & Kirill A Miroshnichenko

Pyatigorsk Medical and Pharmaceutical Institute, Pyatigorsk, Russia

Abstract: Nowadays it is established that ischemic brain damage like ischemic stroke is one of the leading cause of death and disability in the population that assumes relevance development of anti-ischemic drugs. The work studied the anti-hypoxic and anti-ischemic effect of 7 plant extracts. Antihypoxic activity was assessed on models of hypobaric, hypercapnic, histotoxic, hematotoxic hypoxia. Anti-ischemic activity of test extracts was studied on the focal cerebral ischemia model. Administration of Tagetes patula, Gaillardia pulchella, Sorbaria sorbifolia, Grossularia reclinata, Ribes nigrum, Rubus caesius and Lysimachia punctata extracts contributed to the necrosis zone reduction by 56.6% (p<0.05); 37.3% (p<0.05); 73.2% (p<0.05); 49.4% (p<0.05); 42.5% (p<0.05); 85.5% (p<0.05); 44.2% (p<0.05) and also restored aerobic metabolism in brain tissue. Test objects increased of the animal lifespan under hypoxia conditions. Based on the data obtained, it is assumed that further studies of North Caucasus flora plant extracts as cerebro-protective agents are promising.

Keywords: Hypoxia; Brain ischemia; Plant extracts; North Caucasus

Resumen: Hoy en día, se ha establecido que el daño cerebral isquémico, como el accidente cerebrovascular isquémico, es una de las principales causas de muerte y discapacidad en la población lo cual hace relevante el desarrollo de fármacos antiisquémicos. En este trabajo se estudió el efecto antihipóxico y antiisquémico de siete extractos de plantas. La actividad antihipóxica se evaluó en modelos de hipoxia hipocrática, hipercápnica, histotóxica y hematotóxica. La actividad antiisquémica de los extractos de prueba se estudió en el modelo de isquemia cerebral focal. La administración de los extractos de Tagetes patula; Gaillardia pulchella; Sorbaria sorbifolia; Grossularia reclinata; Ribes nigrum; Rubus caesius y Lysimachia punctata contribuyeron a la reducción de la zona de necrosis en un 56.6% (p<0.05); 37.3% (p<0.05); 73.2% (p<0.05); 49.4% (p<0.05); 42.5% (p<0.05); 85.5% (p<0.05); 44.2% (p<0.05) y también restituyeron el metabolismo aeróbico en el tejido cerebral. Comparado con el control, se observó un aumento en el tiempo de sobrevida del animal en condiciones de hipoxia. Sobre la base de los interesantes datos obtenidos, se sugiere estudios adicionales de extractos de plantas de la flora del Cáucaso Norte como agentes protectores del cerebro.

Palabras clave: Isquemia cerebral; Extracto de plantas; Cáucaso norte

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INTRODUCTION
Ischemic stroke is a pathological condition that develops as a result of obstruction of cerebral vessels and restriction of the level of cerebral blood flow. In the general structure of cerebral circulatory disorders, the proportion of ischemic stroke accounts for about 87% of cases of cerebrovascular pathology (Roger et al., 2012). Under conditions of limited blood flow in the brain tissue, irreversible processes are observed, leading to a cerebral infarction and the formation of an ischemic necrosis zone, represented by a dead functionally inactive tissue (Jin et al., 2010). The pathogenesis of ischemic stroke is complex and is provided by interrelated pathophysiological processes that form an «ischemic cascade» of brain tissue damage, the main elements of which include: hypoxia, glutamate excitotoxicity, oxidative stress, inflammation, BBB damage and edema, endothelial dysfunction (Luan et al., 2013; Scherbakov et al., 2017). Recently, in the pathogenesis of cerebral ischemia, a relatively new pathogenetic mechanism - mitochondrial dysfunction with limited macroergs synthesis - has been released (Nicholls, 2004). However, in addition to restricting the production of high-energy compounds, mitochondrial dysfunction plays a significant role in the initiation of apoptosis and the generation of reactive oxygen species, which implies a direct relationship between mitochondrial dysfunction and the other elements of the ischemic cascade (Yang et al., 2018).

Nowadays, medicinal plants are widely used in the treatment of a number of diseases, including diabetes mellitus (Kooti et al., 2016), infectious pathology Alamgeer et al., 2018), oncological diseases (Chen et al., 2016), HIV infection Mazzari & Prieto, 2014), nephropathy (Zhang et al., 2013), and dyslipidemia (Fan et al., 2018). An increasing number of people use herbal medicines. This is primarily due to the optimal ratio of efficacy/safety of use, as well as a wide spectrum of pharmacological activity and the presence of pleiotropic effects (Phondani et al., 2010). According to various data, phytotherapy in Asia and Africa for the purpose of primary health care, phytotherapy is preferred by about 80% of the population. In China, phytopreparations account for about 30-50% of cases of using medicines, which in economic terms amounts to about 1.8 billion dollars, and globally the turnover of the market for medicines of plant origin is more than 80 billion dollars (Rastogi et al., 2015). In addition, the World Health Organization (WHO) encourages the combined use of synthetic drugs with herbal medicines (mainly local flora) for the treatment of various diseases (Njume y Goduka, 2012). However, despite the advantages of using herbal remedies, the scientific community and practitioners are skeptical about the use of natural medicines in the treatment of a number of pathologies, including ischemic stroke. First of all, this may be due to the lack of a specific pharmacological target for phytopreparations, which is why it is not always possible to determine the «point of application» for the action of phytopreparations (Solehi et al., 2018). Thus, it seems relevant to search for new pharmacological targets for the action of phytopreparations, with the aim of expanding the range of their possible applications, which include mitochondrial dysfunction. In previous studies, a high level of pharmacological activity of the North Caucasus flora plant extracts was established, which served as a criterion for the selection of test-objects (Voronkov et al., 2017; Pozdnyakov et al., 2018).

Investigate antihypoxic and anti-ischemic properties of the North Caucasus flora plant extracts. The originality of the research lies in the fact that for the first time will be studied antihypoxic properties of plant extracts of the North Caucasus flora, and the impact of these extracts on for necrotic processes in the brain tissue and functional conditions of mitochondria under the focal cerebral ischemia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Test-objects
The choice of the test-objects and their dose was based on the previous study, in which the high pharmacological potential of the studied extracts was established (Voronkov et al., 2017; Pozdnyakov et al., 2018).

The study was carried out as extracts: inflorescense Tagetes patula L. (Asteraceae), Gaillardia pulchella Foug. (Asteraceae), and Sorbaria sorbifolia L. Mill. (Rosaceae); leaves of Grossularia reclinata L. Mill. (Grossulariaceae), Ribes nigrum L. (Grossulariaceae) and Rubus caesius L. (Rosaceae); herb of Lysimachia punctata L. (Primulaceae). The studied samples were collected on the Western slope of Beshtau mountain (44°4’37’’N, 43°0’54’’E) and were confirmed by specialists of the Department of Pharmacognosy and

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Botany with the Course of Phytopreparation Technology of Pyatigorsk Medical and Pharmaceutical Institute (Head of Department Doctor of Science (Pharm.) Konovalov DA).

**Extraction**

1 g (precise weight) of the crushed raw material is placed in a 100 ml round-bottom flask with a thin grind, 30 ml of 40% ethyl alcohol is added, connect with the reflux condenser and heated in a boiling water bath for 1 hour. After cooling, the resulting extract is filtered through a filter paper into a 100 ml volumetric flask. Extraction is repeated twice under the conditions described above. The extract is filtered through the same filter into the same volumetric flask. After cooling, the volume is adjusted with ethyl alcohol 40% to the mark and mix.

**Method of total flavonoids determination (State Pharmacopoeia of the Russian Federation)**

The analytical sample of the raw material is ground to a particle size passing through a sieve with a hole diameter of 1 mm. About 1 g (precise weight) of the crushed raw material is placed in a 100 ml round-bottom flask, added 30 ml of 95% ethyl alcohol containing 2.0 ml of 10% hydrochloric acid. The flask with the contents is attached to a reflux condenser and heated in a boiling water bath for 60 minutes, periodically shaking to wash the particles of the raw material from the walls. After cooling, the resulting extract is filtered through a filter paper into a 100 ml volumetric flask, so that no particles of the raw material get into the filter. Extraction is repeated twice under the conditions described above. The extract is filtered through the same filter into the same volumetric flask. After cooling, the volume is adjusted with 95% ethyl alcohol to the mark and mix (solution A).

2.0 ml of solution A is placed in a volumetric flask with a capacity of 25 ml, added 3 ml of 2% aluminum chloride alcohol solution, with 3 drops of 10% hydrochloric acid solution and adjusted to 25 ml volume by 95% ethyl alcohol (solution B).

After 30 min, the absorbance of the solution B is measured on an «Aquilon» spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 430±2 nm in a cell with a layer thickness of 10 mm. As a reference solution, a solution consisting of 2.0 ml of solution A, 3 drops of 10% hydrochloric acid solution and adjusted to 25 ml volume by 95% ethyl alcohol is used. The content of the sum of flavonoids in absolutely dry raw materials is calculated by the formula:

\[
X_{i} = \frac{A \cdot 25 \cdot 100 \cdot 100}{A_{luc} \cdot a \cdot 2 \cdot (100 - W)}
\]

where:

\( A = \) is the absorbance of the test solution

\( A_{\Delta} = \) specific absorption of the complex of quercetin (rutin, luteolin, patuletin) with aluminum chloride at a wavelength of 430 nm, equal to 764.6 (248; 549.41; 679.9)

\( a = \) weight of raw material, g

\( W = \) is the humidity of the raw material, %

**Biological model**

The study was performed on 120 Balb/c male mice weighing 20-22 grams and 90 Wistar male rats weighing 220-240 grams. Placement, maintenance and all manipulations with animals complied with the requirements of the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for experimental and other national purposes (Strasbourg, 1986). The animals were kept in standard vivarium conditions with a natural change of light and dark regime, an ambient temperature of 22±2°C and a relative humidity of 65±5%. Animals received food and water ad libitum.

**Study design**

The study design is presented in Figure No. 1. The antihypoxic activity of the studied extracts was evaluated after a course of 14 days oral administration of the test objects at a dose of 100 mg/kg, while outbred mice served as a biological model at this stage of the study (n=10 for each experimental groups). At this stage of the study, the following experimental groups of animals were formed: negative control (NC) - without pharmacological support and a group of mice treated with the studied extracts. Anti-ischemic activity of the studied extracts was evaluated on the rat model of focal cerebral ischemia (n=10 for each experimental groups). The extracts were administered per os after the reproduction of cerebral ischemia for 4 days at a
dose of 100 mg/kg. At this stage of the study, the following experimental groups of animals were formed: pseudo-operated rats (PO), negative control (NC) - without pharmacological support and a group of animals treated by the test-extracts. The study was approved by the Local Ethics Committee of Pyatigorsk Medical and Pharmaceutical Institute (Protocol № 29 from 15.10.2018).

**Hypoxia models**
The antihypoxic properties of the test-extracts were evaluated using Balb/c mice as biomodel. Hypobaric hypoxia was reproduced by «raising» experimental animals «to a height of 11000 m» in a pressure chamber at a speed of 25-50 m/s. Hypercapnic hypoxia was modeled by placing the mice in 200 cm$^3$ sealed containers. Hemic and histotoxic hypoxia was reproduced by single intraperitoneal administration to mice of sodium nitrite at a dose of 250 mg/kg and sodium nitroprusside at a dose of 400 mg/kg, respectively. At the same time, in all models of hypoxia, the estimated parameter was the lifespan of experimental animals (in sec).

**Model of focal cerebral ischemia**
Focal cerebral ischemia was modeled by irreversible right-sided thermocoagulation of the middle cerebral artery under chloral hydrate anesthesia (350 mg/kg, intraperitoneal). The area below and to the right of the eye was depilated, an incision was made and the soft tissues were moved apart, exposing the scion of the zygomatic bone, which was removed. After that trepanation gap was drilled and a thermocoagulator burned through the middle cerebral artery under its intersection with the olfactory tract. Later, as far as possible, the topography of soft tissues was restored. The seam is processed by 5% iodine solution. The biomaterial was taken on the 4th day after the reproduction of focal ischemia (Bederson et al., 1986).
**Biomaterial sample preparation**

Rat brain was used as a biomaterial for respirometric analysis. The animals were decapitated under chloral hydrate anesthesia (350 mg/kg), organs were collected, after which the biomaterial was homogenized in a mechanical Potter homogenizer in a selection medium in the ratio 1:5 (1 mmol EDTA, 215 mmol mannitol, 75 mmol sucrose, 0.1% BSA solution, 20 mmol HEPES, with a pH of 7.2). The cell population was obtained by differential centrifugation, for which the obtained biogenic homogenate was centrifuged in the mode of 1.400 g → 3 min. at 4°C, after which the supernatant was transferred to 2 ml tubes. Next, the resulting supernatant was centrifuged at 13.000g → 10 min and the supernatant (culture contains native mitochondria) was removed for analysis (Sullivan et al., 2007). The ELISA study was performed in the supernatant of rat brain tissue obtained by centrifuging the HEPES brain homogenate in the 10,000 g mode for 5 minutes according to the recommendations of the manufacturer of the reagent kit for ELISA analysis. Blood samples were obtained by centrifugation of citrate blood at 3.500 RPM→10 min.

**ELISA study**

In this study, the concentration ATP was determined by ELISA in a rat brain supernatant. We used standard kits for ELISA analysis produced by Cloud Clone corp (USA). The course of the analysis corresponded to the instructions attached to each kit.

**Determining the size of the necrosis zone**

The size of the necrosis zone was determined by the triphenyltetrazolium method. The brain was removed, cut off the cerebellum, divided the hemispheres. Both hemispheres were weighed, then separately homogenized and placed in cups with 10 ml of a 1% solution of triphenyltetrazolium chloride in phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). Sample bottles were placed in a water bath for 20 minutes at 37°C. Next, the brain tissue was precipitated by centrifugation at 5000 RPM/10 min. The supernatant was removed and 3 ml of cooled chloroform were added to the precipitate. Shake for 2 minutes. Chloroform formazan extract was obtained for 15 min at 4°C, shaking the mixture every 5 min for 30 s. Centrifuged and measured optical density (492 nm) against pure chloroform. The calculation of the necrosis zone was expressed as a percentage of the total mass of the hemispheres:

\[ x = 100 - \frac{\varepsilon_1 M_1 + \varepsilon_2 M_2}{\varepsilon (M_1 + M_2)} \times 100 \]

Where:

- \( x \) = the size of the zone of necrosis as a percentage of the total mass of the hemispheres;
- \( \varepsilon_1 \) = is the optical density of the brain;
- \( \varepsilon_2 \) = is the optical density of the sample with an intact hemisphere;
- \( M_1 \) = is the mass of the intact hemisphere;
- \( M_2 \) = is the mass of the damaged hemisphere.

**Respirometric analysis**

Analysis of the state of the respiratory function of mitochondria was carried out by the method of respirometry using the AKPM-01L laboratory respirometer system (Alfa Bassens, Russia). The mitochondrial respiratory function was assessed by the change in oxygen consumption in the medium against the introduction of mitochondrial respiratory uncouplers. The last in the work were: oligomycin 1 µg/ml; 4 - (trifluoromethoxy) phenyl) hydrazono) malononitrile (FCCP-1 µM); rotenone - 1 µM; sodium azide - 20 mmol. The oxidation substrates were: glucose - 15 mmol. The overall assessment of mitochondrial function was determined by the level of oxygen consumption in the medium after sequential addition of oligomycin, FCCP and rotenone to the medium, and the ATP-generating ability was determined (by the difference in oxygen consumption after the addition of FCCP and oligomycin); the maximum level of respiration (according to the difference in oxygen consumption after the addition of FCCP and rotenone) and the respiratory capacity (according to the difference in oxygen consumption after the addition of FCCP and the basal level of oxygen consumption). The activity of glycolysis processes was evaluated when glucose was used as an oxidation substrate during the registration of oxygen consumption under the conditions of sequential addition of glucose, oligomycin and sodium azide to the medium. The intensity of glycolysis was determined (according to the difference in oxygen consumption after adding glucose and the basal level of oxygen consumption), glycolytic capacity (according to the difference in oxygen consumption after adding oligomycin and sodium azide and the basal level of oxygen consumption).
glucose) and glycolytic reserve (according to the difference in oxygen consumption after adding glucose and sodium azide). During the analysis, the biosample volume was 275 μl, and 25 μl of injected analyzers. Oxygen consumption was determined in ppm (Sauerbeck et al., 2011).

**Determination lactic acid concentration**

The concentration of lactate in blood serum was determined in the enzymatic reaction with the formation of quininomine, the concentration of which is proportional to the content of lactic acid in the sample. Incubation medium: phosphate buffer (pH 6.8), Pipes 50 mmol/L, 4-chlorophenol 6 mmol/L, 4-AAP 0.4 mmol/l, 2000 U/L lactoxygenase, U/L peroxidase. The volume of the test sample is 10 μl. Sampling was carried out at 500 nm. Calculation of lactic acid was carried out according to the formula:

\[
C = \frac{Ex}{E0} * 3.34 \mu \text{mol} / \text{L}
\]

where

Ex - absorbance of the test sample;
E0 - absorbance calibration sample.

**Determination pyruvic acid concentration**

The content of pyruvic acid in blood serum was determined by the decrease in NADH in the lactate dehydrogenase reaction. Incubation medium: Good's buffer 1000 μL, NADH 200 μL, LDH (2000 U/L) 20 μl. The volume of the sample was 600 μl. Samples were extruded at 340 nm. Calculation of the content of pyruvic acid was carried out according to the formula:

\[
C = \frac{Ex}{E0} * 1.25 \mu \text{mol} / \text{L}
\]

where

Ex - absorbance of the test sample;
E0 - absorbance calibration sample.

**Statistical analysis methods**

Statistical processing of the obtained results was performed using the stat-analysis package STATISTICA 6.0. Data are presented as M±SEM. Comparison of medium groups was performed using the ANOVA method with the post-test of Newman-Keuls at p<0.05.

**RESULTS**

The data obtained in assessing the total content of flavonoids in the test-extracts are presented in Table No. 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Raw material</th>
<th>Standart sample</th>
<th>Extrait</th>
<th>Total flavonoids, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>inflorescense Tagetes patula L</td>
<td>Patuletin</td>
<td>Ethanol 40%</td>
<td>2.98±0.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>inflorescense Gaillardia pulchella Foug</td>
<td>Luteolin</td>
<td>Ethanol 40%</td>
<td>0.32±0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Inflorescense Sorbaria sorbifolia (L.)</td>
<td>Quercetin</td>
<td>Ethanol 40%</td>
<td>0.822±0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>leaves of Grossularia reclinata L. Mill</td>
<td>Quercetin</td>
<td>Ethanol 40%</td>
<td>0.51±0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>leaves of Ribes nigrum L.</td>
<td>Rutin</td>
<td>Ethanol 40%</td>
<td>0.68±0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>leaves of Rubus caesius L.</td>
<td>Rutin</td>
<td>Ethanol 40%</td>
<td>0.94±0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>herb of Lysimachia punctata L.</td>
<td>Quercetin</td>
<td>Ethanol 40%</td>
<td>0.59±0.01%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, the largest number of flavonoids contained in inflorescense Tagetes patula L - 2.98±0.06%

Evaluating the antihypoxic activity of the studied extracts (Figure No. 2), it was found that under conditions of hypobaric hypoxia, the use of extracts of Sorbaria sorbifolia and Rubus caesius contributes to an increase in the lifespan of mice compared to the NC group of animals by 110.4% (p<0.05) and 135.9% (p<0.05) respectively. The introduction of the rest of the studied objects had no significant effect on the lifespan of animals under hypobaric hypoxia (Figure No. 2). On the background of hypercapnic hypoxia, the introduction of extracts of Tagetes patula; Gaillardia pulchella;
Sorbaria sorbifolia; Grossularia reclinata; Rubus caesius and Lysimachia punctata contributed to an increase in the lifespan of animals relative to the NC group of mice by 92.6% (p<0.05); 111% (p<0.05); 120.2% (p<0.05); 70.3% (p<0.05); 128.8% (p<0.05) and 45.1% (p<0.05), respectively. In conditions of histotoxic hypoxia, use of extracts of Gaillardia pulchella; Sorbaria sorbifolia; Ribes nigrum and Rubus caesius contributed to an increase in the lifespan of mice in comparison with the NC group of animals by 210.4% (p<0.05); 223.4% (p<0.05); 166.5% (p<0.05) and 245.6% (p<0.05), while administering Tagetes patula extracts to mice; Grossularia reclinata and Lysimachia punctata had no significant effect on the change in the parameter being assessed. In modeling hemic hypoxia, the use of the extract of Tagetes patula contributed to an increase in the life expectancy of animals in relation to the NC group of mice by 43.7% (p<0.05); Gaillardia pulchella - 97.2% (p<0.05); Sorbaria sorbifolia - 104.7% (p<0.05); Rubus caesius - 146.4% (p<0.05); Ribes nigrum - 116.3% (p<0.05) and Lysimachia punctata - 78.5% (p<0.05).

Note: * - statistically significant relative to the NC group of animals

Figure No. 2
Antihypoxic activity of the studied extracts

At the second stage of the study, the evaluation of the anti-ischemic activity of the studied extracts revealed that in the presence of cerebral ischemia, the use of extracts of Tagetes patula; Gaillardia pulchella; Sorbaria sorbifolia; Grossularia reclinata; Ribes nigrum; Rubus caesius and Lysimachia punctata contributed to a decrease in the necrosis zone (Figure No. 3) of the brain tissue in relation to the NC group of rats by 56.6% (p<0.05); 37.3% (p<0.05); 73.2% (p<0.05); 49.4% (p<0.05); 42.5% (p<0.05); 85.5% (p<0.05) and 44.2% (p<0.05). At the same time, the necrotic zone size of the brain against the background of the administration of Sorbaria sorbifolia extract to animals was lower than that when using Gaillardia pulchella; Ribes nigrum and Lysimachia punctata extracts by 26.2% (p<0.05); 21.6% (p<0.05) and 20.2% (p<0.05), respectively. In addition, when the Rubus caesius extract was administered to rats, the degree of necrosis of the brain tissue was lower than that of Gaillardia pulchella; Grossularia reclinata; Ribes nigrum and Lysimachia punctata extracts by 35.1% (p<0.05); 24.1% (p<0.05); 30.2% (p<0.05) and 28.6% (p<0.05), respectively.
The change in the value of the zone of necrosis with the introduction of the studied extracts in conditions of cerebral ischemia

Under conditions of cerebral ischemia in NC group rats with respect to pseudo-operated animals, there was a decrease in ATP concentration (Table No. 1) in the brain and pyruvic acid (Table No. 2) in blood serum by 4.8 ($p<0.05$) and 4.68 ($p<0.05$) times, respectively, followed by an increase in the plasma content of lactic acid (Table No. 2) by 12 ($p<0.05$) times. The use of the \textit{Tagetes patula} extract (Table No. 2) contributed to a decrease in the concentration of lactic acid relative to the NC group of rats 2.8 ($p<0.05$) times and an increase in the content of ATP and pyruvate by 1.67 ($p<0.05$) and 2.04 times respectively. The administration of \textit{Gaillardia pulchella} extract to animals resulted in a decrease in the lactate content, as well as an increase in the concentration of ATP and pyruvate in 3.07 ($p<0.05$); 1.68 ($p<0.05$) and 2.09 ($p<0.05$) times, respectively. Similar changes were characteristic for groups of rats who were administered \textit{Sorbaria sorbifolia} extract: in comparison with the NC group of rats, there was an increase in the content of ATP and pyruvate 2.5 ($p<0.05$) times and 2.76 times ($p<0.05$), respectively, and a decrease in the concentration of lactic acid in 3.53 ($p<0.05$) times. With the introduction of the extract of \textit{Grossularia reclinata} to animals relative to the NC group of animals, the level of ATP and pyruvate increased by 1.34 ($p<0.05$) times and 1.73 ($p<0.05$) times, respectively, while the concentration of lactic acid decreased by 2.9 times ($p<0.05$). Against the background of the use of \textit{Ribes nigrum} extract in rats compared to the NC group of animals, a decrease in the lactate content was observed by 2.9 times ($p<0.05$), followed by an increase in the level of pyruvate and ATP by 1.74 ($p<0.05$) times and 1.33 times ($p<0.05$) respectively. When \textit{Rubus caesius} extract was administered to rats, the content of ATP and pyruvate relative to the NC group of animals increased 2.35 times ($p<0.05$) and 2.79 ($p<0.05$) times, respectively, while the concentration of lactic acid decreased 4.1 times ($p<0.05$). In animals treated with \textit{Lysimachia punctata} extract in relation to the NC group of rats, there was a decrease in the level of lactate by 2.93 times ($p<0.05$), as well as an increase in the level of ATP and pyruvate by 1.34 times ($p<0.05$) and 1.82 times, respectively (Table No. 2).
Table No. 2
Changes in the concentration of ATP, lactic and pyruvic acids in conditions of correction of cerebral ischemia by the introduction of the studied extracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>PO</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>Tagetes patula</th>
<th>Gaillardia pulchella</th>
<th>Sorbaria sorbifolia</th>
<th>Grossularia reclinata</th>
<th>Ribes nigrum</th>
<th>Rubus caesius</th>
<th>Lysimachia punctata</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATP, ng/ml</td>
<td>1237±</td>
<td>275,87±</td>
<td>460,85±</td>
<td>462,74±</td>
<td>680,5±</td>
<td>369,75±</td>
<td>367±</td>
<td>649,5±</td>
<td>370±</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactic acid, mmol/l</td>
<td>10,225</td>
<td>7,596#</td>
<td>9,119*</td>
<td>12,741*</td>
<td>6,117*</td>
<td>14,008*</td>
<td>13,705*</td>
<td>4,805*</td>
<td>11,262*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyruvic acid, µ/l</td>
<td>1,12±</td>
<td>13,46±</td>
<td>4,839±</td>
<td>4,327±</td>
<td>3,805±</td>
<td>4,628±</td>
<td>4,588±</td>
<td>3,28±</td>
<td>4,587±</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * - statistically significant relative to the NC group of animals  
# - statistically significant relative to PO group of animals

When assessing mitochondrial function, it was found that in rats of the NC group under conditions of cerebral ischemia compared with pseudo-operated animals, there was a decrease in ATP-generating ability by 3.2 times (p<0.05), the maximum level of mitochondrial respiration by 8.3 times (p<0.05), respiratory capacity (Figure No. 4) by 7.3 times (p<0.05), accompanied by an increase in the intensification of glycolysis (Figure No. 5) by 5.5 times (p<0.05), as well as a decrease in glycolytic capacity and glycolytic reserve in 5.68 times (p<0.05) and 8.36 times (p<0.05), respectively. When using the extract of Tagetes patula (Figure No. 4 and Figure No. 5) in comparison with the NC group of rats, there was an increase in ATP-generating ability, maximum respiration rate, respiratory capacity by 1.94 times (p<0.05); 3.78 times (p<0.05) and 2.08 times (p<0.05), respectively, while the glycolysis activity decreased by 77% (p<0.05) and the glycolytic reserve and glycolytic capacity increased by 1.91 times (p<0.05) and 2.29 times respectively. The administration of the Gaillardia pulchella extract to animals showed a decrease in the intensity of the glycolysis process (Figure No. 5) compared to the NC group of rats by 1.87 times (p<0.05) with an increase in glycolytic capacity 2.17 times (p<0.05) and glycolytic reserve 2.32 times (p<0.05), respectively. Also, when using Gaillardia pulchella extract, there was an increase in ATP-generating ability, respiratory capacity and maximum respiration level relative to the NC animals group by 2.1 times (p<0.05); 2.46 times (p<0.05) and 3.92 times (p<0.05), respectively. In terms of administering Sorbaria sorbifolia extract to rats relative to rats lacking pharmacological support, an increase in ATP-generating ability, maximum respiration rate and respiratory capacity by 2.89 times (p<0.05); 5.86 times (p<0.05) and 4.54 times (p<0.05), respectively, the glycolysis intensity decreased by 3.18 times (p<0.05), with an increase in glycolytic capacity and glycolytic reserve by 3.18 times (p<0.05); 4.06 times (p<0.05) and 6.04 times (p<0.05), respectively.
With the administration of the *Grossularia reclinata* extract to animals, an increase in the ATP-generating activity, the maximum level of respiration and respiratory capacity was observed in comparison with the NC group of rats in 1.86 (p<0.05); 3.54 times (p<0.05) and 2.55 times (p<0.05), respectively. Also, in animals with the use of the extract of *Grossularia reclinata*, an increase glycolytic capacity and glycolytic reserve by 2.65 times (p<0.05) and 4.29 times (p<0.05), respectively, the intensity of glycolysis decreased by 1.74 times (p<0.05). The introduction of *Ribes nigrum* extract into animals relative to the NC group of rats showed an increase in the ATP-generating activity, the maximum level of respiration, respiratory capacity, glycolytic capacity and glycolytic reserve by 2 times (p<0.05); 3.62 times (p<0.05); 2.17 times (p<0.05); 2.97 (p<0.05) and 4.51 times, respectively, while the intensity of glycolysis decreased by 69% (p<0.05).
When comparing the group of animals NC and rats treated with the extract of *Rubus caesius*, it was established that the introduction of the *Rubus caesius* extract to animals showed an increase in the ATP-generating ability of 2.55 times \( (p<0.05) \), the maximum level of respiration 5.57 times \( (p<0.05) \) and respiratory capacity by 5.01 times \( (p<0.05) \), as well as a decrease in the intensity of glycolysis by 3.39 times \( (p<0.05) \), followed by an increase in glycolytic capacity and glycolytic reserve by 3.75 times \( (p<0.05) \) and 6.77 times \( (p<0.05) \) respectively. In rats treated with *Lysimachia punctata* extract relative to the NC group of animals, there was an increase in ATP-generating activity by 3.02 times \( (p<0.05) \), a maximum respiratory rate by 3.89 times \( (p<0.05) \) and respiratory capacity by 2.55 times \( (p<0.05) \), while reducing the intensity of glycolysis by 1.88 times \( (p<0.05) \) and increasing the glycolytic capacity and glycolytic reserve by 2.15 times \( (p<0.05) \) and 2.87 times \( (p<0.05) \), respectively.

**DISCUSSION**

Ischemic stroke is a pathological condition that develops during occlusion of a cerebral vessel, resulting in a cascade of pathophysiological reactions, leading to irreversible damage to neuronal tissue and the formation of a necrotic zone. A functionally active tissue is located around the zone of cerebral necrosis, in which, however, there is a significant limitation of the cerebral blood flow level - a zone of ischemic penumbra (Jiang *et al*., 2016). This area is the main site of action of cerebroprotective agents with anti-ischemic and antihypoxic activity (Huang *et al*., 2015). In the area of the ischemic penumbra, due to a decrease in blood supply and insufficient intake of oxidation substrates, in particular, glucose and oxygen, there is an increase in anaerobic oxidation processes with an increase in lactic acid concentration, as well as a decrease in pyruvate content, which causes a significant decrease in ATP synthesis and, as a result, the development of hypoxia and cell death, which increases the area of necrosis of the brain. Thus, it can be assumed that the use of agents capable of restoring mitochondrial function and the synthesis of ATP can reduce the degree of cerebronecrosis (Deng, 2016).

Currently, more and more attention is paid to herbal remedies, both by scientists and specialists of practical medicine, combining high therapeutic efficiency and low systemic toxicity of use. At the same time, a significant role is played by means of natural origin, derived from plants, of the region in which the use of the drug is planned, i.e. locally growing plants (Grochowski *et al*., 2016). In this regard, a study was conducted to evaluate the antihypoxic and anti-ischemic properties of extracts obtained from plants of the North Caucasus flora. In a series of experiments, it was found that the studied extracts of the inflorescences of *Tagetes patula* L., *Gaillardia pulchella* Foug. and *Sorbaria sorbifolia* L. Mill.; leaves of *Grossularia reclinata* L. Mill., *Ribes nigrum* L. and *Rubus caesius* L.; *Lysimachia punctata* L. herb have antihypoxic activity. At the same time, the most pronounced antihypoxic properties were observed in extracts of *Sorbaria sorbifolia* and *Rubus caesius*, the prophylactic administration of which increased the lifespan of mice under conditions of hypobaric, hypercapnic, histotoxic and hematoxic hypoxia. Further, at the second stage of the study, it was established that the use of the studied extracts contributed to a decrease in the area of necrosis of the brain tissue, accompanied by the restoration of the aerobic metabolism of macroergs, which was confirmed by respiratory analysis, as well as a decrease in the concentration of lactic acid and an increase in the ATP content in the brain supernatant and pyruvate in the blood serum. The high anti-ischemic and antihypoxic activity of the studied extracts may be related to their rich chemical composition. So in extracts from *Tagetes patula* L., patuletin, patuletrin, luteolin, sesquiterpene lactones with an extensive spectrum of pharmacological activity are found includes antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer and cytoprotective properties (Chkhikvishvili *et al*., 2016). In the extract obtained from *Gaillardia pulchella* Foug., the main biologic active substances are represented by vicenin-2, vitexin, luteolin, apigeninone and 6-methoxylyl-tetolin, exhibiting antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and hepatoprotective activity (Moharram *et al*., 2017). Extracts based on *Sorbaria sorbifolia* L. Mill. characterized by the presence of anthocyanins, which have a cytoprotective effect (Sun *et al*., 2018). Extracts obtained from *Grossularia reclinata* L. Mill., *Ribes nigrum* L. and *Rubus caesium* L.; *Lysimachia punctata* L. herb are characterized by the presence of flavonoids and terpenoids, as well as cinnamic acid derivatives, exhibiting anticancer, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory properties (Monteiro *et al*., 2014;
Antolak et al., 2016; Grochowski et al., 2016). In addition, it is described that test-objects can be used for the treatment of ischemic stroke, while the therapeutic effect of the extracts is realized through the normalization of endothelial function and antioxidant properties (Voronkov et al., 2017). Thus, the high therapeutic potential of the studied extracts, aimed at restoring mitochondrial function in the conditions of ischemic brain damage, as well as increasing tissue resistance to hypoxia, makes these plant extracts promising means of correcting ischemic-hypoxic conditions.

CONCLUSION

The study showed the presence of extracts of inflorescences Tagetes patula L., Gaillardia pulchella Foug. and Sorbaria sorbifolia L. Mill.; leaves of Grossularia reclinata L. Mill., Rubus nigrum L. and Rubus caesius L.; Herb of Lysimachia punctata L. Antihypoxic and anti-ischemic properties evaluated under conditions of focal cerebral ischemia. The introduction of the studied extracts contributed to a decrease in the size of the necrosis zone of the brain in rats, and also restored neuronal metabolism, which was confirmed by the data of respiratory and ELISA studies. Based on the obtained results, it is assumed that further study of the studied objects is promising in order to expand the spectrum of cerebrotropic drugs used for the therapy of ischemic stroke.

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