

Relationship Between Cadmium Toxicity, Kidney Function Disturbances and Urinary Bladder Inflammation: The Role of *Uvaria chamae* in Mitigating these Effects

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Abstract

This study was aimed at evaluating the ameliorative effects of *Uvaria chamae* against cadmium-induced toxicity on the urinary bladder and kidney function biomarkers of Wistar rats, considering its recognized local health benefits. Twenty-five adult male Wistar rats weighing between 120g and 350g were assigned into five groups (5 per group). The groups were designated as follows: group 1 (control), rats receiving normal feed and distilled water; group 2, rats induced with 3mg/kg of cadmium; group 3, rats induced with 3mg/kg of cadmium and given 500mg/kg of extract; group 4, rats induced with 3mg/kg of cadmium and given 1000mg/kg of extract; group 5, rats induced with 3mg/kg of cadmium and given 1000mg/kg of extract; group 5, rats induced with 3mg/kg of cadmium and 1500mg/kg of extract. Cadmium was administered intraperitoneally once a week for four weeks based on the animals' body weight, while the extract of *Uvaria chamae* was orally administered daily for twenty-eight days. Subsequently, the animals were subjected to an overnight fast, and then sacrificed. Samples (comprising blood and urinary bladder tissues) were obtained for biochemical and histopathological analysis respectively. Kidney function biomarkers including serum urea, serum creatinine, and BUN were determined while thin sections of bladder were processed for histopathological screening. The administration of cadmium resulted in urinary bladder damage, indicated by a significant ($P < 0.05$) increase in the assessed indices (serum urea, serum creatinine, and BUN) in the experimental animals when compared to the control animals. Remarkably, the administration of *Uvaria chamae* effectively restored the aforementioned changes to nearly normal levels in rats exposed to cadmium. Furthermore, this treatment ameliorated the histological derangements, including disorganized epithelium, hemorrhagic cystitis, tissue edema and detrusor muscle hypertrophy, in the bladder of the experimental rats caused by cadmium. Thus, the potential therapeutic and ameliorative effects of *Uvaria chamae* extracts against toxicity induced by cadmium are evident.

Keywords: *uvaria chamae*, urinary bladder damage, cadmium, toxicity, blood urea nitrogen, serum urea, serum creatinine

Background

Cadmium is a chemical element represented with the symbol "Cd" and with the atomic number 48. It was discovered in contaminated zinc compounds sold in pharmacies in Germany by Friedrich Stromeyer and Karl Samuel Leberecht Hermann simultaneously in 1817, as an impurity of zinc carbonate. It belongs to the group 12 element in d-block and period 5 with the electronic configuration [Kr] 4d¹⁰ 5s² [1]. Cadmium is a heavy metal that occurs as a natural constituent in the earth crust along with copper, lead, nickel and zinc. The average concentration of cadmium in the earth crust is between 0.1 and 0.5 parts per million (ppm) and the most common

cadmium mineral is greenockite. It is recovered as a by-product from sulfide deposits, mainly those containing lead, zinc, and copper [2]. Cadmium is considered as a toxic metal and is hazardous to both humans and animals. Humans are commonly exposed to cadmium by inhalation and ingestion. Cadmium enters in air and bind to small particles where it can combine with water or soil causing contamination of fish, plants and animals. The bioaccumulation of cadmium in the human body and in food chain leads to acute and chronic intoxications. Adverse health effects of cadmium includes diarrhea, stomach pains, bone fracture, reproductive failure, infertility,

damage to the central nervous system and immune system, psychological disorders, etc [3]. Cadmium has been extensively studied for its toxic effects on various organs, including the urinary bladder. Its exposure has been linked to bladder inflammation, fibrosis, and an increased risk of bladder cancer. The urinary bladder is part of the urinary system. It is a hollow, spherical-shaped organ, smooth, collapsible muscular sac located in the pelvis that stores urine temporarily. Three openings are seen in the bladder; the two openings of the ureter and a single opening of the urethra [4]. In males, the prostate gland surrounds the bladder's neck, where it empties into the urethra. The empty bladder is 5-7.5 cm long, while the full bladder is about 12.5cm long and holds about 500ml of urine, but it is capable of holding more than twice that amount (1500ml). It is the reservoir for urine received from the kidneys. Two sphincter muscles (circular muscles) help keep urine from leaking by closing tightly like a rubber band around the bladder's opening. The sensory nerves in the bladder wall relay information about its fullness to the brain, alerting a person when it is time to urinate or empty the bladder and prompting the conscious decision to initiate urination. The complex anatomy and functioning of the urinary bladder are important for maintaining proper urinary function in the human body [5]. From time immemorial, medicinal plants have been deployed to treat, cure and manage several ailments and one of such plants is *Uvaria chamae*. It is commonly known as finger root or bush banana and is a climbing medicinal plant that belongs to the family Annonaceae and genus *chamae*. The plant is commonly found in West Africa [6]. *Uvaria chamae* is used traditionally to treat conditions such as bronchitis, gastroenteritis, amenorrhea, menorrhagia, abdominal pain, and wound healing. The plant contains bioactive compounds such as alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, tannins, and terpenoids and this produce hypoglycemic, anti-inflammatory, antifungal, and antimalarial effects [7]. Kidney function biomarkers are vital for diagnosing and monitoring various kidney conditions, including chronic kidney disease, acute kidney injury, kidney infections, and other renal disorders. The choice of tests may depend on the patient's specific symptoms and medical history and results are interpreted to determine the appropriate treatment and management [8]. Understanding the histopathological changes in the urinary bladder induced by cadmium is essential. This can shed more light on the cellular and tissue-level modifications that occur in response to cadmium exposure, which may help in better understanding of the mechanisms of toxicity. Study on the therapeutic properties of *Uvaria chamae* in the context of cadmium-induced bladder damage and its impact on kidney function biomarkers is limited. Kidney function test can provide useful information about the effect of cadmium exposure and *Uvaria chamae* administration. Research on these aspects can help us to better understand whether *Uvaria chamae* has any therapeutic potential in alleviating the detrimental effects of cadmium on the urinary bladder and the overall kidney function.

Materials and methods

2.1 Materials

The following materials were used; Twenty-five adult male Wistar rats, clean wooden cages, water bowls, standard feed, sawdust, masking tapes, temporary and permanent markers, iodine, electric weighing balance, insulin

syringe, distilled water, cadmium, *Uvaria chamae* extract, big and small size plain sample bottles, and buffered formalin.

2.2 Collection and Extraction of *Uvaria chamae*

The roots of *Uvaria chamae* were collected from a local farm in Ikot Efre Itak in Ikono Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. They were ascertained and processed in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Sciences, University of Uyo, Nigeria. The roots were washed and air dried for some days. The roots were then grinded into fine powder using an electric blender and brewed in about 70% alcohol and then kept for 72 hours, after which they were filtered with the use of a filter paper. The filtrate from the filter paper was kept in a water bathe until evaporation takes place. The dry matter was weighed and preserved in a refrigerator for the experiment.

2.3 Preparation of Cadmium Solution and *Uvaria chamae* Root Extract

Cadmium was dissolved in sterile distilled water to ascertain a required concentration and was administered intraperitoneally. *Uvaria chamae* extract was reconstituted in distilled water to achieve the desired doses for the animal experiment.

2.4 Animals for the Experiment

Twenty-five adult male Wistar rats weighing between 120g and 350g were acquired from the animal house of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Uyo, Uyo. They were divided into 5 groups of 5 rats and maintained under standard environmental condition with free access to water and standard feed. The cage beddings and water bottles were cleaned daily, and the animals were allowed to adapt (acclimatized) for two weeks to the laboratory conditions before the beginning of the experiment. Acclimatization of the animals was done in the animal house of Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Uyo, Uyo. Group two to group five were the experimental groups, while group one served as the control group with the administration of just feed and water.

2.5 Administration of Cadmium and Extract

Cadmium was administered intraperitoneally once a week for four (4) weeks according to the body weight of the animals and the extract of *Uvaria chamae* was administered orally and daily for twenty-eight (28) days. The animals were classified into five groups (5 rats per group) arranged as follows: group 1(control), rats given normal feed and distilled water, group 2, rats induced with 3mg/kg of cadmium; group 3, rats induced with 3 mg/kg of cadmium and given 500mg/kg of *Uvaria chamae* extract; group 4, rats induced with 3mg/kg of cadmium and given 1000mg/kg of *Uvaria chamae* extract; group 5, induced with 3mg/kg of cadmium and given 1500mg/kg of *Uvaria chamae* extract.

2.6 Experimental Design

The rats were allowed to acclimatize for 2 weeks before the commencement of administration. The animals were marked and divided into five groups (1-5) of five (5) rats per group.

Groups	Dosage	Duration
Group 1(control group)	Feed + Water	
Group 2	3mg/kg of cadmium	Once weekly for 4 weeks
Group 3	3mg/kg of cadmium + 500mg/kg of <i>Uvaria chamae</i>	Once daily for 4 weeks + 28 days respectively
Group 4	3mg/kg of cadmium + 1000mg/kg of <i>Uvaria chamae</i>	Once daily for 4 weeks + 28 days respectively
Group 5	3mg/kg of cadmium + 1500mg/kg of <i>Uvaria chamae</i>	Once daily for 4 weeks + 28 days respectively

Table 1: Grouping and Dosage of Administration.

2.7 Histological Studies

At the end of the experiment, the animals were sacrificed, and vital organs including the urinary bladder were harvested and fixed in 10% buffered formalin. The rats were placed in a jar and induced with chloroform. This resulted in shortness of breath and drowsiness. After this was achieved, an

incision was made on the abdominal region down to the pelvis and various internal structures including the urinary bladder were revealed and harvested. To prevent bacterial decay of the organs, the organs were placed in plain sample bottles and fixed in 10% buffered formalin. The tissues were processed, stained using hematoxylin and eosin. Tissues were viewed under a Primo star microscope (3150012146).

2.8 Determination of Kidney Function Parameters

Blood sample was taken into plain sample bottles and centrifuged at about 15 minutes to obtain the serum. Serum was used for the analysis of the following kidney function biomarkers; serum creatinine, serum urea, and blood urea nitrogen.

2.9 Statistical Analysis

Data obtained was expressed as mean \pm SEM and statistically analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with the help of Graphpad

Prism statistical software (version 8.0.2). $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

Results

3.1 Effects of Uvaria chamae Extract on the levels of kidney Function Biomarkers in Cadmium-Induced Adult Male Wistar Rats.

The administration of cadmium resulted in elevated levels of serum creatinine (SC), serum urea (SU) and blood urea nitrogen (BUN). The results showed that Uvaria chamae extract dose-dependently reduced the serum levels of these parameters as shown in the table below.

Groups	SC (mg/dl)	SU (mg/dl)	BUN (mg/dl)
Control	0.89 ± 0.03	30.05 ± 0.97	14.10 ± 1.47
3mg/kg Cd	$1.79 \pm 0.03^{\#}$	$54.39 \pm 0.70^{\#}$	$24.05 \pm 0.28^{\#}$
500mg/kg UC	1.65 ± 0.00	46.28 ± 0.31	21.71 ± 0.30
1000mg/kg UC	$1.45 \pm 0.02^{**}$	$44.77 \pm 0.23^{**}$	$19.27 \pm 0.15^{**}$
1500mg/kg UC	$1.41 \pm 0.02^{**}$	$39.95 \pm 0.62^{**}$	$16.47 \pm 0.24^{**}$

Values are expressed as mean \pm standard error of mean, Cd- cadmium, UC- Uvaria chamae, SC- serum creatinine, SU- serum urea, BUN-blood urea nitrogen

** indicates significant difference from group 2 and other treated groups @ $p < 0.05$.

#Indicates significant difference from control and other treated groups.

Table 2: Effects of Uvaria chamae Extract on the levels of kidney Function Biomarkers in Cadmium-Induced Adult Male Wistar Rats.

3.2 Hematoxylin and Eosin Method for General Demonstration of the Urinary Bladder

In plate I, the urinary bladder of the control (group 1) animals given feed and water only, showed a well-defined urothelium with transitional epithelium, lamina propria with blood vessels, detrusor muscle layer and normal lumen. The urinary bladder of group 2 animals given 3mg/kg of cadmium only for

4 weeks showed a disorganized epithelium, hemorrhagic cystitis, tissue edema and detrusor muscle hypertrophy (plate II). The urinary bladder of group 2 animals was severely affected due to inflammation. The urinary bladder of group 3 animals given 3mg/kg of cadmium for 4 weeks and 500mg/kg of Uvaria chamae extract for 28 days, showed a well-defined urothelium, reduced tissue edema but with the presence of detrusor hypertrophy in the muscle layer (plate III). This indicated the commencement of the healing process. The urinary bladder of group 4 animals given 3mg/kg of cadmium for 4 weeks and 1000mg/kg of Uvaria chamae extract for 28 days showed a well-defined urothelium, reduced tissue edema and reduced detrusor muscle hypertrophy (plate IV). This indicated the progression of healing process. The urinary bladder of group 5 animals given 3mg/kg of cadmium for 4 weeks and 1500mg/kg of Uvaria chamae extract for 28 days showed a well-defined urothelium, absence of tissue edema in the lamina propria and non-hypertrophied detrusor muscle. Here, the healing process was completed (plate V).

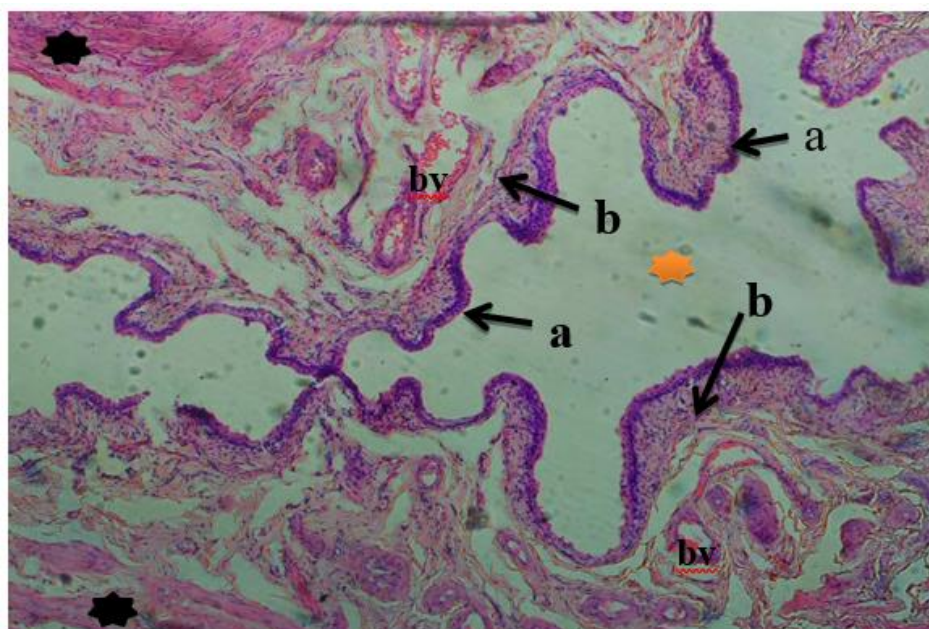


Figure 1: Photomicrograph of urinary bladder of control animals given water and feed alone (H&E) showing, **a-** well defined urothelium with transitional epithelium, **b-** lamina propria with blood blood vessels (**bv**), detrusor muscle layer (**black star**) and the lumen (**yellow star**). x100 magnification. **Inference:** Normal histology.

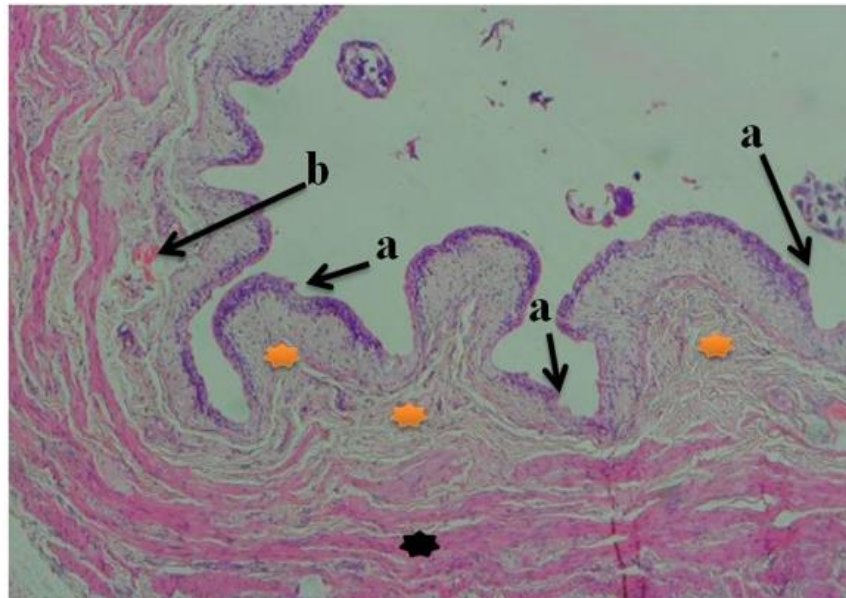


Figure 2: Photomicrograph of urinary bladder of group 2 animals given 3mg/kg of cadmium alone for 4 weeks (H&E) showing, **a-** disorganized epithelium, **b-** hemorrhagic cystitis, tissue edema (**yellow star**) and detrusor muscle hypertrophy (**black star**). x100 magnification. **Inference:** Severely affected due to inflammation.

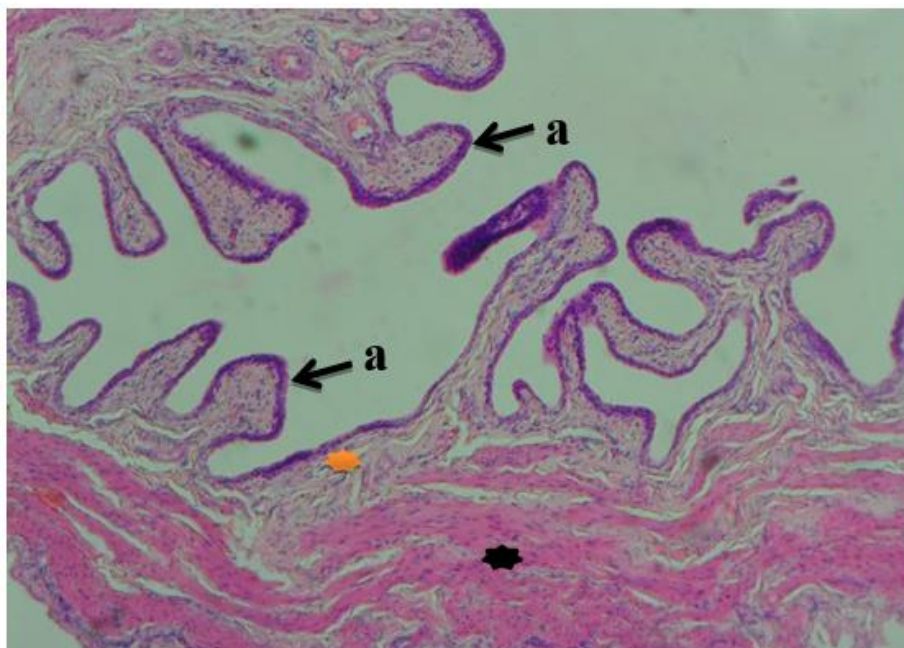


Figure 3: Photomicrograph of urinary bladder of group 3 animals given 3mg/kg of cadmium alone for 4 weeks and 500mg/kg of *Uvaria chamae* for 28 days (H&E) showing, **a-** well defined urothelium, reduced tissue edema (**yellow star**) but with the presence of detrusor hypertrophy in the muscle layer (**black star**). x100 magnification. **Inference:** Initiation of healing process.

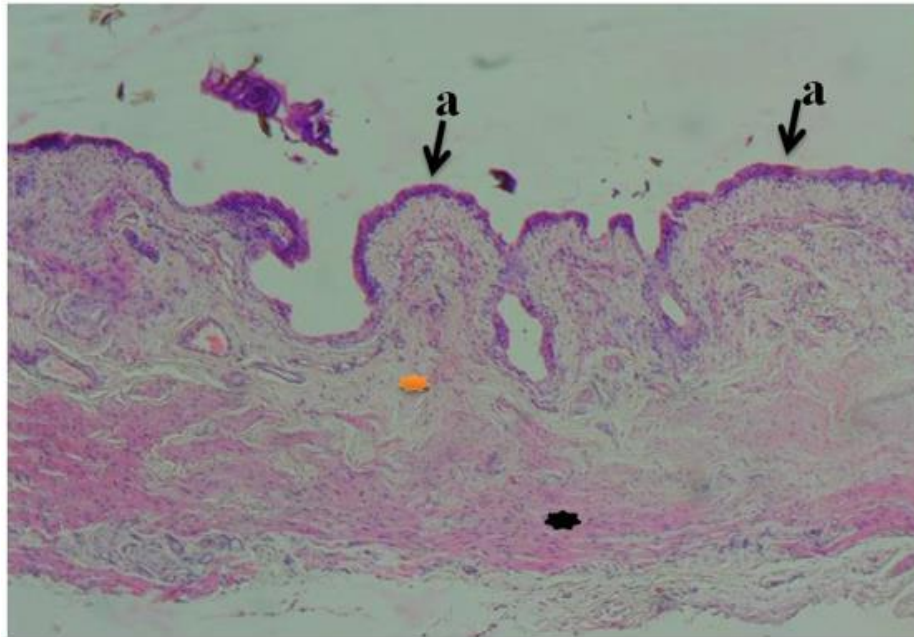


Figure 4: Photomicrograph of urinary bladder of group 4 animals given 3mg/kg of cadmium alone for 4 weeks and 1000mg/kg of *Uvaria chamae* for 28 days (H&E) showing, a- well defined urothelium, reduced tissue edema (**yellow star**) and reduced detrusor muscle hypertrophy (**black star**). x100 magnification. **Inference:** Progression of healing process.

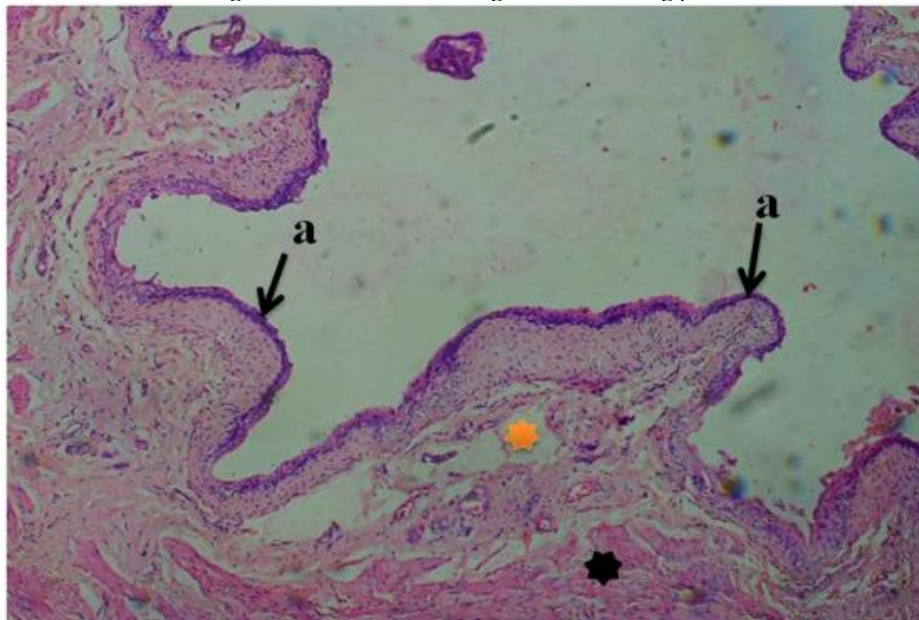


Figure 5: Photomicrograph of urinary bladder of group 5 animals given 3mg/kg of cadmium alone for 4 weeks and 1500mg/kg of *Uvaria chamae* for 28 days (H&E) showing, a- well defined urothelium, absence of tissue edema in the lamina propria (**yellow star**) and non-hypertrophied detrusor muscle (**black star**). x100 magnification. **Inference:** Completion of healing process.

Discussion

This study evaluated the effect of cadmium on the urinary bladder and kidney function parameters of Wistar rats and the role of *Uvaria chamae* in mitigating these effects. Cadmium is a known contaminant that poses risk to human health. Nearly everyone in the general population is exposed to this contaminant through food supply and it accumulates in the body over a lifetime. Ingestion of cadmium poses a major concern as it is a nonessential trace element that does not play a role in the growth of humans or plants, but is toxic to humans [9-12]. Cadmium toxicity is contingent on exposure route, quantity, and rate. In humans, the kidney bears the brunt of toxic effects, particularly the S1 segment of the proximal tubule. This region becomes a major site for cadmium deposition, manifesting clinically as defects in reabsorption of proteins, amino acids, glucose, bicarbonate, and phosphate. This condition is collectively termed Fanconi syndrome. These defects arise

from cadmium-induced oxidative damage to transport proteins and mitochondria, potentially triggering apoptosis of tubular cells [13, 14]. Cadmium could also hinder the metabolism of Vitamin D in the kidney, leading to adverse effects on bone [15]. This, combined with cadmium's direct interference with the absorption of calcium in the gut and disruption of collagen metabolism, may result in osteomalacia and/or osteoporosis [16]. A notable manifestation of this sequence is itai-itai disease in Japan, characterized by intense pain from osteomalacia, osteoporosis, renal tubular dysfunction, anemia, and calcium malabsorption [17]. In contrast, *Uvaria chamae* is a plant with arrays of medicinal and therapeutic properties. It is a plant that has both medicinal and nutritional values. The root barks, stem barks, and leaves are extensively utilized for their medicinal properties. The root bark is employed in treating respiratory catarrh, and in phytomedicine, the root extract proves beneficial for addressing ailments like piles,

menorrhagia, epistaxis, hematuria, and hemolysis [18]. The root extract serves to alleviate abdominal pains, while the juice extracted from roots, stems, or leaves is commonly applied to wounds or sores and this helps in promoting swift and effective healing [19]. Also, in Sierra Leone and Nigeria, the root is renowned for its purgative and febrifugal properties. In traditional medicine, concoctions of roots, barks, and leaves are used to address and treat various ailments such as gastroenteritis, vomiting, diarrhea, dysentery, wounds, sore throats, inflamed gums, etc [20]. Studies on the root extract of *Uvaria chamae* showed the presence of bioactive components comprising flavonoids, alkaloids, tannins, saponins and phenols [21, 22]. Bioactive compounds, particularly flavonoids, form the core of *U. chamae*'s medicinal properties in Nigerian herbal medicine. Their diverse biological functions, encompassing protection against allergies, platelet aggregation, microbes, ulcers, hepatotoxins, viruses, and tumors, underscore the significance of these compounds [23]. By impeding the enzymes involved in estrogen production, flavonoids lower the risk of estrogen-induced cancers. Moreover, specific flavonoids exhibit robust protective properties against inflammatory disorders. They decrease edema formation, suppress the synthesis of prostaglandin E2 and thromboxane B2 [23, 24]. Okwu and Iroabuchi (2009) [21] found that the root extract of *U. chamae* exhibits a higher concentration of flavonoids in comparison to alkaloids, tannins, saponins, and phenols. Alkaloids are nerve stimulants, convulsants and muscle relaxant [25]. The abundant presence of saponins and tannins in *U. chamae* roots may contribute to the plant's hemostatic activity, potentially arresting bleeding from damaged or injured vessels through the precipitation of proteins to form vascular plugs. Indicative of its diverse potential, the plant contains phenols that may serve as anti-clotting agents, antioxidants, immune enhancers, and hormone modulators. Extensive research has focused on phenols as bioactive compounds employed in disease prevention [26]. Phenols exhibit the capability to inhibit specific enzymes associated with inflammatory disorders and modify prostaglandin pathways, safeguarding platelets from clumping [26]. The ethanolic extract from *Uvaria chamae* roots was found to exhibit significant anti-inflammatory properties, possibly attributed to the presence of bioactive compounds like flavonoids, saponins, and phenolic compounds [21]. This current study aimed to evaluate the potency of *Uvaria chamae* extract at different doses against cadmium induced urinary bladder toxicity and disturbances in the kidney function biomarkers. Evaluating kidney function often relies on blood chemistry analyses, specifically measuring concentrations of serum urea, serum creatinine, and blood urea nitrogen (BUN), which are widely employed for this purpose. Serum urea, serum creatinine, and blood urea nitrogen serve as established clinical indicators reflecting the physiological and functional status of the kidneys, each with its defined normal concentration range. Any deviation from these values is considered indicative of kidney morbidity. Our findings, which is consistent with Bekheet et al., 2011 [27], indicate that exposure to cadmium resulted in significant ($p < 0.05$) increases in the concentrations of the mentioned indices (serum urea, serum creatinine, and blood urea nitrogen) when compared to the control group. Wang et al. (2009) [28] supported these findings by documenting that cadmium toxicity induces tubular necrosis, loss of the brush border, and damage in the small tubules of the kidney. Additionally, the increase in serum urea and serum creatinine due to cadmium toxicity may be linked to disturbances in protein catabolism, a consequence of elevated synthesis of the arginase enzyme involved in urea production [29]. In the assessment of kidney function, creatinine, a by-product of creatine phosphate in muscles, assumes a crucial role. Produced consistently by the body, creatinine is predominantly cleared from the bloodstream by the kidneys. As the foremost endogenous marker, creatinine holds significant importance in the evaluation of glomerular function [30]. Estimating the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) stands out as the clinically preferred method for assessing renal function, representing the rate (mm/min) at which substances are filtered or cleared from the blood through the kidney glomerulus. During the study, it was evident that the cadmium-induced rats experienced a substantial elevation in serum creatinine concentration compared to the control group. Remarkably, *Uvaria chamae* treatment appears to boost the kidney's capacity to inhibit creatinine buildup in the bloodstream, suggesting a potential ameliorative role against cadmium-induced damage in rat bladder, thus, affecting the overall kidney function. Serum urea is the final

metabolite of protein nitrogen balance, the measurements which permits the assessment of the overall metabolism of proteins and amino acids through the exclusive hepatic urea cycle. Once in the bloodstream, urea is predominantly excreted by the kidneys. After undergoing glomerular filtration, a substantial percentage, varying between 40% and 60%, is reabsorbed at the tubular level, establishing it as a marker for renal function. Serum urea concentration increases with reduction in the glomerular filtration rate (GFR), and vice versa. This means that serum urea is increased in conditions where renal clearance is decreased due to renal impairment. In this study, it was observed that cadmium-induced rats showed heightened serum urea levels compared to the control group suggesting potential kidney damage. Similar to serum creatinine and serum urea, BUN significantly increased in rats that were induced with cadmium, indicating renal disturbances. Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) denotes the nitrogen content, primarily in the form of urea, circulating in the bloodstream. In the case of healthy animals, the renal glomerulus filters urea from plasma. Although some urea returns to the blood through renal tubules, the major route of elimination is through urine. If the kidney is not operating effectively, it results in insufficient removal of urea from plasma, causing elevated BUN levels that vary in response to various physiological conditions like increased protein intake, intestinal bleeding, infection, fever, dehydration, medications, burns, and poisoning [31]. This study revealed a significant improvement in kidney function through the administration of ethanolic extract of *Uvaria chamae* at doses of 500, 1000, and 1500 mg/kg respectively. The observed effects included decreased levels of serum urea and serum creatinine, along with a reduction in BUN. Remarkably, *Uvaria chamae* treatment appears to boost the kidney's capacity to inhibit creatinine buildup in the bloodstream, suggesting a potential ameliorative role against cadmium-induced damage in the urinary bladder, thus, affecting the overall renal function. It also indicates that *Uvaria chamae* has the potential to enhance renal function in experimental animals by curbing the increase in serum urea and BUN levels. The ameliorative effect of *Uvaria chamae* extract was related to the antioxidant and biological activities of its bioactive compounds. Our study is in support of the findings of Okwu and Iroabuchi (2009) [21] and Olufunmilayo et al. (2010) [22] who showed the anti-inflammatory effects of *Uvaria chamae* extract was attributed to the presence of bioactive compounds comprising of flavonoids, alkaloids, tannins, saponins and phenols. The histopathological findings in this study aligns with the observations of Romaniuk et al. (2017) [32] which demonstrated significant morphological changes in the tissue wall structures of urinary bladder caused by heavy metal salts. The study reveals a buildup of cadmium in urinary bladder tissue, providing an explanation for the observed histological alterations. According to studies by Feki-Tounsi et al. (2014) [33] and Golabek et al. (2009) [34], bladder cancer tissues exhibited statistically elevated cadmium concentrations compared to those in control animals. Due to the kidneys' function of expelling toxic substances, such as metal salts, through urine, heavy metals can be held in the bladder, leading to their accumulation in its walls and potentially causing impairment of its function, indicating the detrimental effects of excessive heavy metal exposure on the urinary bladder. In relation to the histological modifications observed in the urinary bladder, rats induced with cadmium showed disorganized epithelium, hemorrhagic cystitis, tissue edema and detrusor muscle hypertrophy. Lining the walls of the urinary bladder is a specialized stratified epithelium, called the urothelium. The urothelium appeared rough and scattered due to cadmium induction. There was damage to the inner lining of the bladder and the blood vessels that supplies blood to the bladder. The bladder was shown to be inflamed and blood was seen in the lining of the bladder. The tissue of the bladder appeared swollen due to fluid accumulation caused by leakage of blood vessels in the bladder. The fibres of the detrusor muscle of the bladder was hypertrophic (presenting as prominent trabeculae) in order to compensate for increased workload of the bladder emptying. This is very common in conditions that obstruct the urine outflow such as benign prostatic hyperplasia. The urinary bladder was severely affected due to inflammation caused by cadmium toxicity. The pathogenesis of chemical-induced bladder damage hinges on oxidative damage, where free radicals play a central role in the mechanisms leading to urinary bladder toxicity. The study suggests that cadmium inflicted considerable bladder impairments on experimental rats, while *Uvaria*

chamae alleviated the damage caused by cadmium. The claim is supported by examining photomicrographs from the histopathological analysis of bladder sections taken from both control and experimental animals. Histological examinations revealed enhanced bladder tissues, aligning with improved kidney functional markers. This correlation strongly supports the potential ameliorative effect of *Uvaria chamae* against cadmium-induced bladder toxicity. This study conclusively reveals that the administration of *Uvaria chamae* at 500, 1000, and 1500 mg/kg doses respectively, significantly impedes cadmium-induced toxicity and shields against damage to bladder tissue. This correlation may be closely linked to the antioxidative and chelating properties of bioactive compounds, including flavonoids, alkaloids, tannins, saponins and phenols present in *Uvaria chamae*.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study suggests that *Uvaria chamae* played ameliorative role in shielding experimental rats from cadmium-induced bladder toxicity. This plant-based product, *Uvaria chamae*, may offer a certain degree of therapeutic efficacy against acute or bladder impairments in humans. Thus, the ethanolic extract of *Uvaria chamae* is suggested as a potential remedy for alleviating toxicity induced by cadmium.

Competing Interest

We declare that, no competing interests exist among us.

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