



Anti-Inflammatory, Analgesic Activities, and Composition of ZCSSWE, an Ethanol Extract Derived from the Anti-Arthritic Chinese Herbal Formula *Zha Chong Shi San Wei* Pill

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SUMMARY. The classical Chinese herbal formula *Zha Chong Shi San Wei* pill (ZCSSW) has been commonly used in traditional Chinese herbal medicine for hundreds of years to alleviate pain and inflammation. The anti-inflammatory effects of the ethanol extract were examined by using albumin egg-induced paw edema in mice assay and xylene-induced ear edema in mice method. Analgesic activity was evaluated by three models of acetic acid-induced writhing, formalin test and hot-plate test in mice. In addition, the total flavonoids (TF), total polysaccharide (TP) and total alkaloids (TA) in ZCSSWE were determined. The result suggested that ZCSSWE possesses excellent anti-inflammatory activity as well as peripheral and central analgesic properties, TF and TA may be the active ingredients. It also showed that ZCSSWE would be a valuable candidate for further investigation as a new anti-arthritic drug.

KEY WORDS: Anti-inflammatory, Analgesic, Alkaloids, Flavonoids, Polysaccharide, *Zha Chong Shi San Wei* pill.

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