

ABSTRACT

The effect of the methanol extract of bark of *S. venenifera* on the immune response was investigated in mice. Keyhole limpet haemocyanin was used as the antigen. ELISA was used to monitor serum antibody levels in mice exposed to *S. venenifera* (0-100 µg/ml). *In vivo*, *S. venenifera* suppressed the immune response compared with control mice. A haemolytic plaque assay was used to monitor the effect of *S. venenifera* on antibody producing B lymphocytes from the peritoneum and from the spleen *in vitro*. In peritoneal B cells, *S. venenifera* (0.1 µg/ml) reduced the number of plaque forming cells. In spleen B cells, the number of plaque forming cells was reduced at higher doses of *S. venenifera* (1-100 µg/ml).