

LIST OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I INTRODUCTION.....	1
Rational and significant of the study.....	1
Purposes of the study	3
Scope of the study	3
Hypotheses	4
Keywords	4
The anticipated outcomes of the study.....	4
II LITERATURE REVIEW.....	5
Menopause	5
Cognition	6
Amnesia.....	7
Hippocampus and medial prefrontal cortex associated with cognition	7
Estrogen and Cognition.....	10
Estrogen receptors.....	11
Brain-derived neurotrophic factor.....	13
Phytoestrogens	15
<i>Asparagus recemosus</i> Willd.....	16

LIST OF CONTENTS (CONT.)

Chapter	Page
III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	21
Instruments and materials	21
Plant material and preparation of crude extract	23
Animals	23
Methods.....	23
IV RESULTS.....	32
Effect of AR root extract on NOR test.....	32
Effect of AR root extract on serum estradiol	32
Effect of the AR root extract on ERs and BDNF protein expression...	35
Effect of the AR root extract on histological changes	45
V DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION.....	52
Summary and conclusions.....	58
REFERENCES	60
APPENDIX	79
BIOGRAPHY	83

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Effects of the AR root extract on ER α protein expression.....	37
2	Effects of the AR root extract on ER β protein expression.....	37
3	Effects of the AR root extract on BDNF protein expression	42
4	Effects of the AR root extract on intact neuronal densities	51

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Conceptual research framework.....	4
2	Connection and component of hippocampal formation.....	9
3	Association between the hippocampus and prefrontal cortex.....	9
4	The characteristic of <i>Asparagus racemosus</i> (AR) Willd	18
5	Active principles of AR (I) Shatavarin, (II) Sarsasapogenin, (III) Racemosol and (IV) Asparagamine.....	19
6	Chemical structure of estrogens.....	20
7	Experimental schedule	24
8	Illustration of novel object recognition (NOR) test	26
9	Illustration of ERs protein bands by using western blotting. Uterus tissue was used to indicate actually protein band for ER subtypes expression.....	28
10	Schematic representations of coronal sections illustrating the regions selected for quantification of neuronal viability in the CA1, CA3 and dentate gyrus area of hippocampus (A) and mPFC (B)	30
11	Effects of the AR root extract and EE on recognition memory of OVX rats were assessed by NOR test after 90 days of administrations. The data are expressed as percentage of preference index (A) and recognition index (B). Each histogram bar is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. *** $P < 0.001$ compared to sham group, # $P < 0.05$ and ### $P < 0.001$ compared to OVX (one-way ANOVA with LSD post-hoc test)	33
12	Effect of the AR root extract and EE on serum estradiol concentrations were assessed by ECLIA system after 90 days of administrations. Each histogram bar is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. * $P < 0.05$ compared to sham (one-way ANOVA with LSD post-hoc test).....	34

LIST OF FIGURES (CONT.)

Figure		Page
13	Effect of the AR root extract on ER α protein levels in the hippocampus were evaluated by western blot analysis. The data were represented as percentage value taking the sham control group as 100%. Each histogram bar is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. * p < 0.05 compared to sham, # p < 0.05 and ## p < 0.01 compared to OVX (one-way ANOVA with LSD post-hoc test)	38
14	Effect of the AR root extract on ER α protein levels in the frontal cortex were evaluated by western blot analysis. The data were represented as percentage value taking the sham control group as 100%. Each histogram bar is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. ** p < 0.01 compared to sham, ## p < 0.01 compared to OVX (one-way ANOVA with LSD post-hoc test)	39
15	Effect of the AR root extract on ER β protein levels in the hippocampus were evaluated by western blot analysis. The data were represented as percentage value taking the sham control group as 100%. Each histogram bar is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. ** p < 0.01 compared to sham, # p < 0.05 and ## p < 0.01 compared to OVX (one-way ANOVA with LSD post-hoc test)	40
16	Effect of the AR root extract on ER β protein levels in the frontal cortex were evaluated by western blot analysis. The data were represented as percentage value taking the sham control group as 100%. Each histogram bar is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. * p < 0.05 compared to sham, # p < 0.05 compared to OVX (one-way ANOVA with LSD post-hoc test)	41

LIST OF FIGURES (CONT.)

Figure	Page
17 Effect of the AR root extract on BDNF protein levels in the hippocampus were evaluated by western blot analysis. The data were represented as percentage value taking the sham control group as 100%. Each histogram bar is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. ** $p < 0.01$ compared to sham, # $p < 0.05$ and ## $p < 0.01$ compared to OVX (one-way ANOVA with LSD post-hoc test)	43
18 Effect of the AR root extract on BDNF protein levels in the frontal cortex were evaluated by western blot analysis. The data were represented as percentage value taking the sham control group as 100%. Each histogram bar is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. ** $p < 0.01$ compared to sham, ## $p < 0.01$ compared to OVX (one-way ANOVA with LSD post-hoc test).....	44
19 Microscopic photographs of neuronal densities in the hippocampal CA1sub-region (40X).....	47
20 Microscopic photographs of neuronal densities in the hippocampal CA3sub-region (40X).....	48
21 Microscopic photographs of neuronal densities in the dentate gyrus sub-region of hippocampus (40X)	49
22 Microscopic photographs of neuronal densities in the mPFC area (20X)	50
23 The mechanism of OVX on learning and memory (A) and the protective effect of ethanol AR root extract against learning and memory impairment (B)	59

ABBREVIATIONS

°C	=	Degree Celsius
ACh	=	Acetylcholine
AD	=	Alzheimer's disease
ANOVA	=	Analysis of variance
AR	=	<i>Aspapragus racemosus</i>
A.M.	=	Ante meridiem
BCA	=	Bicinchoninic acid
BDNF	=	Brain-derived neurotrophic factor
CA	=	Cornu Ammonis
CRE	=	cAMP response element
CREB	=	cAMP response element-binding protein
DAB	=	Diaminobenzidine
DMBA	=	7, 12 dimethylbenzoanthracene
DNA	=	Deoxyribonucleic acid
KA	=	Kainic acid
kg	=	Kilogram
ECLIA	=	Electrochemiluminescence immunoassay
EE	=	Ethinylestradiol
ER	=	Estrogen receptor
EREs	=	Estrogen response element
ERT	=	Estrogen replacement therapy
ERs	=	Estrogen receptor subtypes
E2	=	Estradiol
GPx	=	Glutathione peroxidase
GSH	=	Glutathione
HRP	=	Horseradish peroxidase
HRT	=	Hormone replacement therapy
h	=	Hour
IgG	=	Immunoglobulin

ABBREVIATIONS (CONT.)

LTP	=	Long-term potentiation
MAR	=	Methanolic extract of AR roots
mg	=	Milligram
min	=	Minute
mm	=	Millimeter
mPFC	=	Medial prefrontal cortex
mRNAs	=	Messenger ribonucleic acid
MWM	=	Morris water maze
NaCl	=	Sodium chloride
NGF	=	Nerve growth factor
NOR	=	Novel object recognition
NT-3	=	Neurotrophin-3
NT-4/5	=	Neurotrophin-4/5
OVX	=	Ovariectomized
PG	=	Propylene glycol
PVDF	=	Polyvinylidene difluoride
rpm	=	Revolutions per minute
SDS	=	Sodium dodecyl sulfate
S.E.M.	=	Standard errors of mean
TBS-T	=	Tween-20 Tris-buffered saline
TrkB	=	Tyrosine kinase receptor B
V	=	Volt
µg	=	Microgram