

Journal of Medicinal Plant Research

Volume 11 Number 32, 25 August, 2017

ISSN 1996-0875



*Academic
Journals*

ABOUT JMPR

The Journal of Medicinal Plant Research is published weekly (one volume per year) by Academic Journals.

The Journal of Medicinal Plants Research (JMPR) is an open access journal that provides rapid publication (weekly) of articles in all areas of Medicinal Plants research, Ethnopharmacology, Fitoterapia, Phytomedicine etc. The Journal welcomes the submission of manuscripts that meet the general criteria of significance and scientific excellence. Papers will be published shortly after acceptance. All articles published in JMPR are peer reviewed. Electronic submission of manuscripts is strongly encouraged, provided that the text, tables, and figures are included in a single Microsoft Word file (preferably in Arial font).

Contact Us

Editorial Office: jmpr@academicjournals.org

Help Desk: helpdesk@academicjournals.org

Website: <http://www.academicjournals.org/journal/JMPR>

Submit manuscript online <http://ms.academicjournals.me/>

Editors

Prof. Akah Peter Achunike

*Editor-in-chief
Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
Nigeria*

Associate Editors

Dr. Ugur Cakilcioglu

*Elazig Directorate of National Education
Turkey.*

Dr. Jianxin Chen

*Information Center,
Beijing University of Chinese Medicine,
Beijing, China
100029,
China.*

Dr. Hassan Sher

*Department of Botany and Microbiology,
College of Science,
King Saud University, Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.*

Dr. Jin Tao

*Professor and Dong-Wu Scholar,
Department of Neurobiology,
Medical College of Soochow University,
199 Ren-Ai Road, Dushu Lake Campus,
Suzhou Industrial Park,
Suzhou 215123,
P.R.China.*

Dr. Pongsak Rattanachaikunsopon

*Department of Biological Science,
Faculty of Science,
Ubon Ratchathani University,
Ubon Ratchathani 34190,
Thailand.*

Prof. Parveen Bansal

*Department of Biochemistry
Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and
Research
Chandigarh
India.*

Dr. Ravichandran Veerasamy

*AIMST University
Faculty of Pharmacy, AIMST University, Semeling -
08100,
Kedah, Malaysia.*

Dr. Sayeed Ahmad

*Herbal Medicine Laboratory, Department of
Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry,
Faculty of Pharmacy, Jamia Hamdard (Hamdard
University), Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi, 110062,
India.*

Dr. Cheng Tan

*Department of Dermatology, first Affiliated Hospital
of Nanjing University of
Traditional Chinese Medicine.
155 Hanzhong Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province,
China. 210029*

Dr. Naseem Ahmad

*Young Scientist (DST, FAST TRACK Scheme)
Plant Biotechnology Laboratory
Department of Botany
Aligarh Muslim University
Aligarh- 202 002,(UP)
India.*

Dr. Isiaka A. Ogunwande

*Dept. Of Chemistry,
Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos,
Nigeria.*

Editorial Board

Prof Hatil Hashim EL-Kamali

*Omdurman Islamic University, Botany Department,
Sudan.*

Prof. Dr. Muradiye Nacak

*Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine,
Gaziantep University,
Turkey.*

Dr. Sadiq Azam

*Department of Biotechnology,
Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan,
Pakistan.*

Kongyun Wu

*Department of Biology and Environment Engineering,
Guiyang College,
China.*

Prof Swati Sen Mandi

*Division of plant Biology,
Bose Institute
India.*

Dr. Ujjwal Kumar De

*Indian Veterinary Research Institute,
Izatnagar, Bareilly, UP-243122
Veterinary Medicine,
India.*

Dr. Arash Kheradmand

*Lorestan University,
Iran.*

Prof Dr Cemşit Karakurt

*Pediatrics and Pediatric Cardiology
Inonu University Faculty of Medicine,
Turkey.*

Samuel Adelani Babarinde

*Department of Crop and Environmental Protection,
Ladoke Akintola University of Technology,
Ogbomoso
Nigeria.*

Dr.Wafaa Ibrahim Rasheed

*Professor of Medical Biochemistry National Research Center
Cairo
Egypt.*

ARTICLES

- In vitro* anti-infective and antioxidant activities of *Garcinia cola* Heckel and *Morinda lucida* Benth** 507
John Antwi Apenteng, David Ntinagyei Mintah, Michael Worlako Klu,
Anna Kwarley Quartey, Akosua Bemah Oppong, Elizabeth Harrison
and Millicent Awurama Antwi
- Chemical composition of the essential oil of *Viola serpens* from Bageshwar (Shama), Uttarakhad, India** 513
Deepak Chandra, Gunjan Kohli, Kundan Prasad, G. Bisht, Vinay Deep Punetha and
H. K. Pandey

Full Length Research Paper

***In vitro* anti-infective and antioxidant activities of *Garcinia cola* Heckel and *Morinda lucida* Benth**

John Antwi Apenteng^{1*}, David Ntinagyei Mintah², Michael Worlako Klu², Anna Kwarley Quartey², Akosua Bemah Opong², Elizabeth Harrison¹ and Millicent Awurama Antwi¹

¹Department of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, Central University, Accra, Ghana.

²Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, School of Pharmacy, Central University, Accra, Ghana.

Received 4 May, 2017; Accepted 8 August, 2017

Garcinia cola also known as “bitter cola” (Guttiferae) is a plant with a wide usage of its parts for various medicinal purposes. The seeds are chewed as aphrodisiac and for the treatment of coughs, dysentery and liver inflammation. *Morinda lucida* (Rubiaceae) commonly called “great morinda” has been shown to have antimalarial and anti-pyretic activities. This study aimed at evaluating the anti-infective and antioxidant properties of *G. cola* and *M. lucida* and to justify their folkloric uses. Ethanol extracts of the stem barks of *G. cola* (GCB) and *M. lucida* (MLB) were evaluated for their antimicrobial, anthelmintic and antioxidant activities. Antimicrobial activity was evaluated by determining the minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) using the micro broth dilution method against strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Candida albicans*. Anthelmintic activity was evaluated by determining the effects of the extracts on the paralytic and death times of *Pheretima posthuma* at concentrations of 50, 20 and 10 mg/mL using piperazine citrate (PZN) (15 mg/mL) and albendazole (ABZ) (20 mg/mL) as references. Antioxidant activity was determined by 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) free radical scavenging activity using ascorbic acid (ASA) as reference standard. The results reveal that the extracts from both plants demonstrated antimicrobial activity with MIC values ranging from 50 to 80 mg/mL and 10 to 30 mg/mL for GCB and MLB, respectively. Both extracts also demonstrated a concentration dependent anthelmintic activity with decrease in paralytic and death times upon an increase in extract concentrations. GCB and MLB extract showed antioxidant activities with IC₅₀ values, 6.830 and 342.1 µg/mL, respectively. Phytochemical screening of both extracts revealed the presence of tannins, glycosides, alkaloids and flavonoids. These findings may justify the folkloric uses of these plants.

Key words: *Garcinia cola*, antioxidant, *Morinda lucida*, antimicrobial, anthelmintic.

INTRODUCTION

The use of medicinal plants to manage various ailments affecting humans have been in existence since ancient

times. Studies have shown that in Africa, about 80% of the population rely on medicinal plants for the

*Corresponding author. E-mail: j.a.apenteng@gmail.com, japenteng@central.edu.gh. Tel: +233 249449249, +233 547165573.

Author(s) agree that this article remain permanently open access under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

management of various ailments (Agyare et al., 2009). It is therefore important that such plants should be investigated to better understand their properties, safety and efficacy.

Morinda is a genus of flowering plants of the family, Rubiaceae (Umberto, 2000). In Ghana, the plant is used in managing ailments such as diabetes, hypertension, cerebral congestion, dysentery, stomach-ache, leprosy and gonorrhoea. Traditionally, the stems are used to treat piles while the leaves are used to treat fever (CSIR-FORIG, Ghana, 2017). Extracts of the plant have shown anti-inflammatory, febrifuge and pain reducing activity as well as antimalarial activity (Dalziel, 1973; Awe and Makinde, 1998). Methanol and ethanol extracts of the leaves of *Morinda lucida* have also been shown to possess antidiabetic activity (Bailey and Day, 1989). The leaves of the plant have also demonstrated trypanocidal activity (Asuzu and Chineme, 1990).

Garcinia cola (Guttiferae) is a multipurpose tree crop with increased value for the medicinal use of its parts. It is known as a wonder plant since every part of it has a medicinal importance. The seeds are chewed as an aphrodisiac or used to cure cough, dysentery, or chest colds in herbal medicine (Irvine, 1961). The latex or the gum is used internally against gonorrhoea and applied externally on fresh wounds (Iwu, 1989). The sap is used in curing parasitic diseases. The stem is used to produce bitter chewing sticks which is chewed chiefly as a masticatory to set an action of nervous alertness and has also been proven to exhibit pharmacological uses in treating coughs and throat infections (Farombi et al., 2005). *G. cola* serves as a source of raw material in the pharmaceutical industry; the raw stem bark can be used as a purgative, the powdered bark applied on malignant tumours (Iwu, 1989). *G. cola* exhibits purgative, antiparasitic, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and antiviral properties (Ogunmoyole et al., 2012). Biflavonoid isolates, kolaviron, extracted from *G. cola* seeds were tested on streptozotocin (STZ)-diabetic rats. This study confirmed that cardiac, renal and hepatic function indices were significantly elevated during STZ-induced diabetes and that oral administration of kolaviron reduced the levels of some of the indices. Therefore, kolaviron may offer protection for tissues of animals during diabetes (Adaramoye, 2012). *G. cola* seeds have been reported to have an anti-inflammatory activity (Olaleye et al., 2000).

Although a lot of work has been done on the other parts of these plants, very little research has been conducted on the stem bark of these plants. This study therefore aims at evaluating the anti-infective and antioxidant properties of these plants and to justify or otherwise their folkloric uses.

METHODS

Plant collection

The stem bark of *G. cola* was obtained from the Forest Research

Institute in Kumasi, Ghana while that of *M. lucida* was obtained from the physique garden of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. Both samples were authenticated at the Department of Pharmacognosy, KNUST. The samples were sun dried for two weeks, cut into pieces and ground into powder using laboratory milling machine.

Extraction of plant material

A quantity of 200 g of the powder of each sample obtained was weighed and cold macerated using 1.0 L of 70 %v/v for 72 h. The bottles and their contents were placed on a Stuart mini orbital shaker and subjected to vigorous shaking hourly for 3 h. The supernatant solution obtained from each extract after 72 h was decanted into a clean beaker and filtered using a filter paper with the aid of a suction pump. The filtrates were then concentrated using a rotary evaporator (Buchi, Germany) at 40°C to obtain the crude extracts. The extracts obtained were then dried at 40°C in an oven until dry powdered extracts were obtained. The dried extracts were then kept in a desiccator until needed.

Phytochemical analysis

The presence of some secondary plant metabolites such as tannins, alkaloids, glycosides and flavonoids were tested using the dried crude extracts (Trease and Evans, 2002).

DPPH free radical scavenging activity

The free radical scavenging activity of the extracts were determined according to the method described by Agyare et al. (2015) using 1,1-diphenyl-2-picryl-hydrazyl (DPPH). MLB extract solutions of concentration 500, 1000, 1500 and 2500 µg/mL and GCB extract solutions of concentrations 1, 10, 30, 300 and 1000 µg/mL were prepared in test tubes with methanol. Solutions of the reference antioxidant (ascorbic acid) of concentrations 3.125, 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50 and 100 µg/mL were prepared in methanol. DPPH solution of concentration 0.002%w/v was also prepared in methanol in a dark room. Three millilitres of DPPH solution was added to 1.0 mL of each concentration of extract and reference antioxidant. The test tubes were then kept in the dark for 30 min after which the absorbance (A_1) of excess DPPH in both extracts and standard solutions were measured at 517 nm using a UV spectrophotometer (Jenway, USA). The absorbance (A_0) for a blank solution containing equal volumes of methanol and DPPH was also read and served as a control. The percentage of free radicals scavenged was calculated using the equation:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = (A_0 - A_1) / A_0 \times 100$$

Inhibitory concentration (IC_{50}) was determined as the concentration of samples which scavenged 50% of free DPPH radicals.

Evaluation of antimicrobial activity

Test organisms

Clinical strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Candida albicans* were used for the studies. The organisms were obtained from the microbiology Department of Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra, Ghana. The organisms were cultured in nutrient broth at 37°C for 24 h prior to the experiment.

Table 1. Antimicrobial activity of extracts.

Organisms	Minimum inhibitory concentration			
	Extracts (mg/mL)		Ciprofloxacin ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)	Ketoconazole ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)
	GCB	MLB		
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	80	20	3.125	Na
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	50	20	3.125	Na
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	50	10	3.125	Na
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	50	10	3.125	Na
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	50	10	3.125	Na
<i>Candida albicans</i>	70	10	Na	10

Na, No activity.

The turbidity of the actively growing broth cultures was adjusted with sterile distilled water to obtain a turbidity optically comparable to that of 0.5 McFarland Standard.

Micro-dilution assay

The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was determined by the micro broth dilution method using 96 well microtitre plates (Eloff, 1998). A quantity of 50 μL of the double strength nutrient broth was used to fill each well. A volume of 5 μL of 24 h organism suspension was added as well as calculated volumes of the extracts, standard drugs (Ketoconazole and Ciprofloxacin) and sterile water to give a final well volume of 100 μL with varying extract and standard concentrations per well. The concentrations of extracts prepared ranged from 100 to 20 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. The microtitre plates were covered and incubated at 37°C for 24 h. A volume of 20 μL MTT (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2, 5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) solution was added to the wells. The MIC was determined as the lowest concentration that inhibited the growth of the organisms which was indicated by the absence of purple coloration upon addition of the MTT solution.

Evaluation of anthelmintic activity

Collection of worms

Adult Indian earthworms were collected from the soil in a water logged area in Tema Community 10 and cabbage farms at Miotso near Central University, Ghana. The earthworms of length approximately 7 to 12 cm and width, 0.2 to 0.6 cm were used for the experiment due to their anatomical and physiological resemblance to human intestinal roundworm parasites and also because of easy availability; they are used extensively for the preliminary *in vitro* evaluation of anthelmintic compounds (Tiwari et al., 2011). The earthworms were washed with distilled water to rid them of debris.

Anthelmintic bio-assay

The worms were divided into eight groups each comprising of four earthworms. Ten millilitres of each extract solution of concentrations 10, 20 and 50 mg/mL were prepared for both GCB and MLB using distilled water. Concentrations of 20 mg/mL albendazole and 15 mg/mL piperazine citrate were used as reference standards. All the samples and the standard drugs were freshly prepared before commencement of the experiments. The washed earthworms were placed in Petri dishes containing 10 mL of the respective

formulations and concentrations. Observations were made for the time taken for paralysis and death of individual worms. Paralysis was noted when the worms ceased to move but were revived when shaken or placed in warm water at 50°C. Death was noted when the worms lost motility coupled with a fading away of their body colour. Normal saline was used as a negative control and the respective death and paralysis times were recorded (Bhawar et al., 2009).

Statistical analysis

All results and graphs were plotted and analysed using the Graph Pad Prism 5.0 for windows (Graph Pad software, San Diego, CA, USA).

RESULTS

Phytochemical screening

The phytochemical screening revealed the presence of glycosides, saponins, alkaloids, tannins and flavonoids in the extracts of MLB and GCB.

Antimicrobial activity

GCB and MLB extracts both demonstrated broad spectrum antibacterial and antifungal activity against the selected microorganisms. The antimicrobial activity was more profound in MLB as indicated in Table 1.

Antioxidant activity (free radical scavenging activity)

The antioxidant activity of GCB was highly profound as indicated in the IC_{50} value obtained (Table 2, Figure 1). MLB however showed poor antioxidant activity. The lower the IC_{50} value the more potent the antioxidant activity.

Anthelmintic activity

Both extracts demonstrated a concentration dependent anthelmintic activity as shown in Table 3.

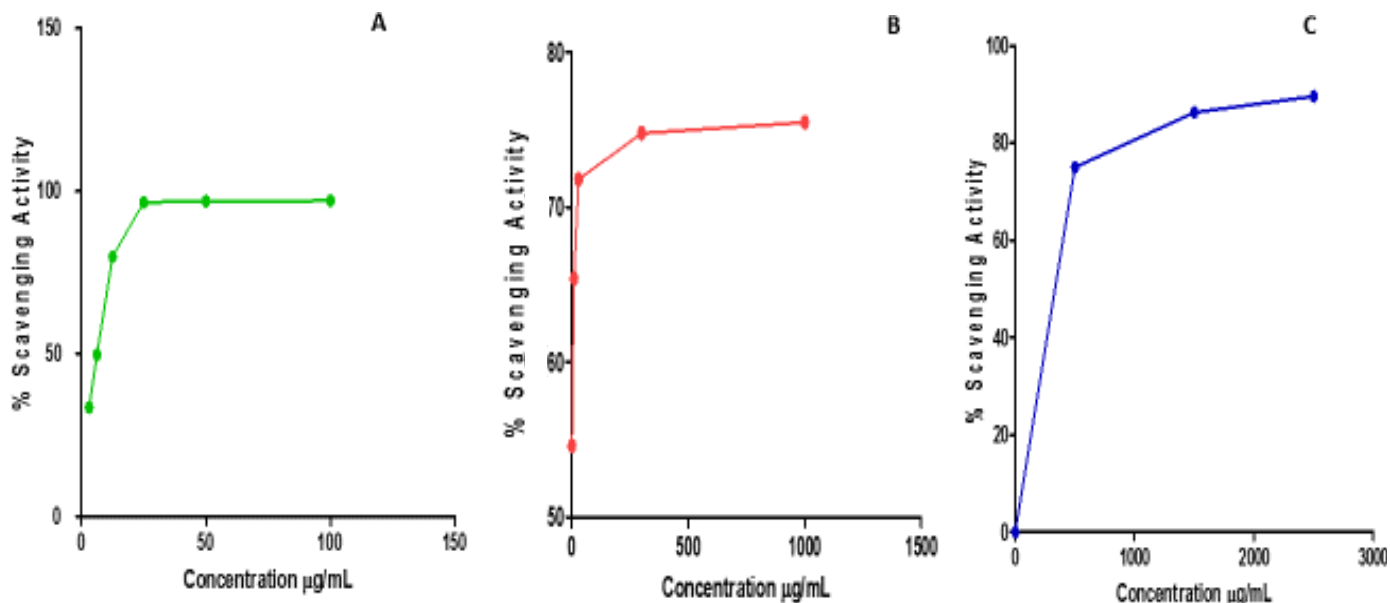
Table 2. Inhibition concentration (IC₅₀) values of extracts and standard.

Sample	IC ₅₀ (µg/mL)
GCB	6.830
MLB	342.1
Ascorbic acid	2.929

Table 3. Anthelmintic activity of extracts.

Treatment	Concentration (mg/mL)	Groups	Time of paralysis (min) (mean±SEM)	Time of death (min) (mean±SEM)
0.9% Saline		1	Na	Na
ABZ	20	2	Na	1.06±0.14
PZN	15	3	2.10±0.01	Na
MLB	50	4	18.17±0.03	24.34±0.21
	20	5	58.41±0.24	85.42±0.01
	10	6	79.10±0.01	97.19±0.20
GCB	50	7	39.29±0.12	54.29±0.01
	20	8	41.18±0.05	75.15±0.18
	10	9	58.57±0.10	90.32±0.22

Na, No activity; ABZ, Albendazole; PZN, Piperazine citrate; MLB, *Morinda lucida* bark; GCB, *Garcinia cola* bark.

**Figure 1.** Free radical scavenging activity of extracts and standard. A, Ascorbic acid; B, GCB; C, MLB.

DISCUSSION

Phytochemical analysis of the extracts of both plants revealed the presence of tannins, saponin glycosides, anthraquinones, cardiac glycosides, alkaloids and

flavonoids. Natural antioxidants are mainly obtained from plants rich in phenolic compounds such as flavonoids, phenolic acids and tocopherol (Ali et al., 2008). Phenolic compounds possess biological properties such as anti-apoptosis, anti-aging, anti-carcinogen, anti-inflammation,

anti-atherosclerosis, cardiovascular protection and improvement of endothelial function as well as inhibition of angiogenesis and cell proliferation activities (Han et al., 2007). Flavonoids have also been found to have antimicrobial activity against a wide array of microorganisms (Pistelli and Giogi, 2012; Cushnie and Lamb, 2005).

The stem bark extract of *M. lucida* serves as a reservoir of bioactive phytochemical compounds. The results as shown previously confirm other studies conducted on this plant part (Fasola and Ogunyomi, 2005; Adomi and Umukoro, 2010). The *M. lucida* extract showed broad spectrum antibacterial activity as well as antifungal activity against selected microbes. The antimicrobial activity could be attributed to flavonoids and tannins present in the extracts (Gomes de Melo et al., 2010). The antioxidant activity exhibited could be attributed to the phenolic compounds in the plant (Kahkonen et al., 1999).

Various research works have been done on different parts of *G. cola* including the seeds, fruits, roots and leaves. However, very little research has been conducted on the stem bark of the plant. The stem bark extract demonstrated broad spectrum antibacterial activity as well as antifungal activity which could be attributed to the secondary metabolites as stated previously. Studies conducted by Ogunmoyole et al. (2012) on the seeds and fruit extract respectively have shown antioxidant activity. The stem bark extracts as used in this experiment also demonstrated antioxidant activity with IC₅₀ value (6.830 µg/mL) almost comparable to that of ascorbic acid (2.929 µg/mL).

This gives an indication of the possible high level of phenolic compounds present in the stem bark hence the high antioxidant activity. *G. cola* bark extracts also demonstrated a concentration dependent anthelmintic activity with higher concentrations demonstrating better anthelmintic activity. Studies have largely attributed the anthelmintic activities of plants to the presence of tannins. Tannins are believed to interfere with the energy generation of the helminth parasite by uncoupling oxidative phosphorylation or by binding to free proteins in the gastrointestinal tract of the helminth. This eventually results in death of the parasite (Adu et al., 2015; Olusegun-Joseph et al., 2012).

Conclusion

Stem bark ethanol extracts of *M. lucida* and *G. cola* possess broad spectrum antibacterial and antifungal activity. Both extracts also possess antioxidant and concentration dependent anthelmintic activities. This could justify their use in folkloric medicine for the management of various ailments.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors acknowledge the contributions of Mr. Kwame Koomson, Mr. Christopher Kyei-Mensah and Mr. Harry Oblie Laryea who are laboratory technicians at the Central University School of Pharmacy for their technical support.

REFERENCES

- Adaramoye OA (2012). Antidiabetic effect of kolaviron, a biflavonoid complex isolated from *Garcinia kola* seeds, in Wistar rats. *Afr. Health Sci.* 4:498-506.
- Adomi OP, Umukoro EG (2010). Antibacterial activity of aqueous and ethanol crude extracts of the rootbarks of *Alstonia boonei* and preliminary phytochemical test of *Morinda lucida*. *J. Med. Plants Res.* 4(8):644-648.
- Agyare C, Asase A, Lechtenberg M, Niehues M, Deters A, Hensel A (2009). An ethnopharmacological survey and *in vitro* confirmation of ethnopharmacological use of medicinal plants used for wound healing in Bosomtwi-Atwima- Kwanwoma area, Ghana. *J Ethnopharmacol* 125:393-403.
- Adu F, Apenteng JA, Akanwariwak WG, Sam GH, Mintah DN, Bortsie EB (2015). Antioxidant and *in vitro* anthelmintic potentials of methanol extracts of barks and leaves of *Voacanga africana* and *Rauwolfia vomitoria*. *Afr. J. Microbiol. Res.* 9(35):1984-1988.
- Agyare C, Baiden E, Apenteng JA, Boakye YD, Adu-Amoah L (2015). Anti-infective and Anti-inflammatory properties of *Portulaca oleracea* (L). *Donn. J. Med. Plants Res.* 2(1):1-6.
- Ali SS, Kasoju N, Luthra A, Singh A, Sharanabasava H, Sahuand A, Bora U (2008). Indian medicinal herbs as source of antioxidants. *Food Res. Int.* 41:1-15.
- Awe SO, Makinde JM (1998). Evaluation of *Plasmodium falciparum* to *Morinda lucida* leaf extract sample using rabbit *in vitro* micro test techniques. *Indian J. Pharmacol.* 30(1):51-53.
- Asuzu IU, Chineme CN (1990). Effects of *Morinda lucida* leaf extract on *Trypanosoma brucei brucei* infection in mice. *J. Ethnopharmacol.* 30(3):307-313.
- Bailey CJ, Day C (1989). Traditional Plant Medicine as Treatment for Diabetes. *Diabetes Care* 12(8):553-564.
- Bhawar GB, Bhalke RD, Lodha KR, Karmase BC, Londhe CD (2009). Phytochemical investigation and *in vitro* anthelmintic activity of *Bauhinia racemosa* (L) (Leguminosae). *Pharmacology* 1:300-303.
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Forestry Research Institute, Ghana (FORIG) (2017). Indigenous Knowledge on Forest Foods and Medicinal Plants in Ghana. Available at: <http://csir-forig.org.gh/tikfom/>
- Cushnie TP, Lamb AJ (2005). Antimicrobial activity of flavonoids. *Int. J. Antimicrob. Agents* 26(5):343-356.
- Dalziel JM (1973). The useful plants of West Africa. 1st ed. London: Crown Agents. pp. 403-404.
- Gomes de Melo J, de Sousa Araújo TA, Thijian Nobre de Almeida e Castro V, Lyra de Vasconcelos Cabral D, do Desterro Rodrigues M, Carneiro do Nascimento S, Cavalcanti de Amorim EL, de Albuquerque UP (2010). Antiproliferative activity, antioxidant capacity and tannin content in plants of semi-arid north eastern Brazil. *Molecules* 15:8534-8542.
- Eloff JN (1998). A sensitive and quick microplate method to determine the minimal inhibitory concentration of plant extracts for bacteria. *Planta Med.* 64(8):711-713.
- Farombi EO, Adepoju BF, Ola-Davies OE, Emerole GO (2005). Chemoprevention of aflatoxin B1-induced genotoxicity and hepatic oxidative damage in rats by kolaviron, a natural biflavonoid of *Garcinia kola* seeds. *Euro. J. Cancer Prev.* 14(3):207-214.
- Fasola TR, Egunyomi A (2005). Nigerian Usage of Bark in Phytomedicine. *Ethnomed. Bot. Res. Appl.* 3:73-77.
- Han X, Shen T, Lou H (2007). Dietary polyphenols and y their biological significance. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 8:950-88.

- Irvine FR (1961). Woody plants of Ghana with special reference to their uses. Oxford University Press. pp. 693-695.
- Iwu MM (1989). Food for medicine in dietary plants and masticatory as sources of biologically active substances, University of Ife press. pp. 303-310.
- Kahkonen MP, Hopia AI, Vourela HJ, Rauha J, Pihlaja K, Kujala TH, Heinonen M (1999). Antioxidant activity plant extracts containing phenolic compounds. J. Agric. Food Chem. 47:3954-3952.
- Ogunmoyole T, Olalekan OO, Fatai O, Makun JO, Kade IJ (2012). Antioxidant and phytochemical profile of aqueous and ethanolic extract of *Garcinia kola*. J. Pharmacogn. Phytother. 4(5):66-74.
- Olaleye SB, Farombi EO, Adewoye EA, Owoyele BV, Onasanwo SA, Elegbe RA (2000). Analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects of Kolaviron (A *Garcinia cola* seed extract). Afr. J. Biomed. Res. 3:171-174.
- Olusegun-Joseph TS, Ofodile LN, Oguntoku T (2013). *In-vitro* evaluation of anthelmintic activity of crude extracts of leaves of *Dalbergiella welwitschii*. Int. J. Pharm. Pharm Sci. 5(1):32-33.
- Pistelli L, Giorgi I (2012). Antimicrobial properties of flavonoids. In Dietary Phytochemicals and Microbes, AK Patra (ed.), Springer Netherlands. pp. 33-91.
- Tiwari P, Kumar B, Kumar M, Kaur M, Debnath J, Sharma P (2011). Comparative anthelmintic activity of aqueous and ethanolic stem extract of *Tinospora cordifolia*. Int. J. Drug Dev. Res. 3(1):70-83.
- Trease GE, Evans WC (2002). Pharmacognosy 12th Edition. Bailliere Tindal, London P 622.
- Umberto Q (2000). CRC World Dictionary of Plant Names III: M-Q CRC Press. P 1730.

Full Length Research Paper

Chemical composition of the essential oil of *Viola serpens* from Bageshwar (Shama), Uttarakhad, India

Deepak Chandra^{1*}, Gunjan Kohli², Kundan Prasad², G. Bisht², Vinay Deep Punetha² and H. K. Pandey²

¹Department of Chemistry, D.S.B. Campus Nainital 263002, Uttarakhand India.

²Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER) Pithoragarh, Utrakhand-262501, India.

Received 22 June, 2015; Accepted 27 August, 2015

The families Violaceae (alternatively known as Alsodeiace or Leoniaceae or Retrosepalaceae) comprise twenty genera and about 800 species. *Viola serpens* belongs to family Violaceae and commonly known as “Banafsa”. It is a small glabrous, perennial herb, which is found throughout India in moist woods and hilly districts. The essential oil of aerial parts of *V. serpens*, were extracted by steam distillation. The quantitative and qualitative analysis of volatile essential oil constituents of the plant was done by Gas Chromatography (GC) and GC-Mass Spectrometry. A total of 50 components of the essential oil of *V. serpens* were identified, accounting for 81.38% of the total oil. The main compounds found were Bis (2-ethylhexyl) maleate (15.62%), 2, 4, 4, 6-Tetramethyl-2-heptene (11.52%), Hexen-3-ol (6.56%), and Cis Verbeno (l 4.77%). The chemical constituents in the essential oil from *V. serpens* were identified in the following classes or groups of chemical compounds, such as monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes volatile organic compounds and their oxygenated hydrocarbons. Therefore, the essential constituents could be used as antioxidant, antifungal or antimicrobial agent in new drugs preparation for therapy of infectious diseases.

Key words: *Viola serpens*, essential oil, gas chromatography, mass spectrometry.

INTRODUCTION

Mother earth has gifted the mankind with lots of plants which has the ability for curing the health disorders of human being. These feature has been identified in the pre-historic times (Balakumbahan et al., 2010), and the world wide use of herbal therapies and health care preparations that are prescribed in ancient books like vedas and the bibles pave way for the discovering of natural products with medicinal values (Bhuvaneshwari

and Balasundaram, 2009). 80% of the world's population meets their primary health care through traditional medicines, as estimated by WHO. Medicinal plants possess secondary metabolites which are the main sources of medicinal drugs having curative nature. 7500 species are being used as medicinal plants in India (Balakumbahan et al., 2010). *Viola serpens* Wall belongs to family Violaceae and commonly known as “Banafsha”.

*Corresponding author. E-mail: deepakk006@gmail.com.

It is a small glabrous, perennial herb, which is found throughout India in moist woods and hilly districts. It is also found in China, Java, Ceylon, Philippines, and Thailand up to an altitude of 2000 m in India. It is distributed in the Himalayan region, hills of Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Manipur (Bal, 1932; Dhar and Kachroo, 1983). It is also found in Ganjam Hills of Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Tamilnadu (Chawdhary and Wadhawa, 1984). The whole plant is medicinally useful. It is aperients, antiseptic, antipyretic, cooling, demulcent, diaphoretic, diuretic, emetic, emollient, expectorant, febrifuge, and purgative in action. It is one of the most useful medicinal plants and used as antipyretic, demulcent, diaphoretic and diuretic drug. It is useful in asthma, bleeding piles, cancer of the throat, constipation, cough, fever, skin diseases and headache (Kumar and Digvijay, 2014). Some workers reported glycoside methyl salicylate, quercitrin, alkaloid, voline gum, mucilage, sugar and saponin, saponins, tannins, amino acids, terpenoids, reducing sugars, glycosides, and flavonoids were isolated from whole plants of *V. serpens*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material

The plant *V. serpens* was collected in the month of October, 2013 from Shama (Kapkote) 52 km away from Bageshwar, Uttarakhand, India. The plant was authenticated by Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Dehradun. A voucher specimen (No.114835) was deposited in the Herbarium Section at BSI, Dehradun, India.

Essential oil extraction

The fresh aerial parts of *V. serpens* (5 kg) were chopped and steam-distilled using copper still fitted with spiral glass condensers. The distillate was saturated with NaCl and extracted with n-hexane. Anhydrous Na₂SO₄ was then added to dry the organic phase which was separated using separating funnel and finally the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The percentage content of the oil was calculated on the basis of dry weight of plant material. The oil was then stored in screw-capped vials, under refrigeration until needed.

Gas chromatographic analysis (GC)

The oil was analyzed by using a Shimadzu 2010 (Phenomenex, Inc., Torrance CA, USA) auto system GC. The column temperature was programmed at 80°C (holding time for 2 min) to 210°C (holding time 5 min) at 3°C min⁻¹ and then 210 to 300°C at 20°C min⁻¹ with final hold time of 15 min, using N₂ at 30.0 ml/min column head pressure as carrier gas, the injector temperature was 270°C and detector (FID, Flame ionization detector) temperature 280°C.

GC-MS analysis and identification

The GC-MS used was Autosystem 2010 GC (Rtx- 5, 30 m × 0.25 mm, I.D. FID 0.25 μm) coupled with Shimadzu QP 2010 plus with thermal desorption system TD 20 with (Rtx-5) fused silica capillary

column (30 m × 0.25 mm with film thickness 0.25 μm). The column temperature was 80°C (holding time for 2 min) to 210°C (holding time 5 min) at 3°C min⁻¹ and then 210 to 300°C at 20°C min⁻¹ with final hold time of 21 min, using helium as carrier gas. The injector temperature was 230°C and 0.2 μl in n-hexane, with split ratio of 1:30 MS were taken at 70 eV with a mass range of 40 to 650 amu.

Identification of the compounds

Identification of constituents were done on the basis of Retention Index (RI, determined with reference to homologous series of n-alkanes C₈-C₂₈, under identical experimental condition), MS library search (NIST and WILEY), and by comparison with MS literature data (Adams, 2007). The relative amounts of individual components were calculated based on GC peak area (FID response) without using correction factor. Retention indices (RI) were determined with reference to a homologous series of normal alkanes, by using the following formula (Kovats, 1958).

$$KI = 100 \left[n + (N-n) \times \frac{\log t_R^1 (\text{unknown}) - \log t_R^1 (C_n)}{\log t_R^1 (C_N) - \log t_R^1 (C_n)} \right]$$

where t_R^1 is the net retention time ($t_R - t_0$); t_0 is the retention time of solvent (dead time); t_R is the retention time of the compound; C_N is number of carbons in longer chain of alkane; C_n is number of carbons in shorter chain of alkane; n is the number of carbon atoms in the smaller alkane; N is the number of carbon atoms in the larger alkane.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The GC and GC-MS analysis of leaf oil of *V. serpens* resulted in the identification of 50 constituents in Table 1. The identified constituents of the oil are listed in Table in the order of their elution in Rtx-5 column. The main compounds found were Bis(2-ethylhexyl) maleate 15.62%, 2,4,4,6-Tetramethyl-2-heptene 11.52%, Hexen-3-ol 6.56%, and Cis Verbenol 4.77% (Figure 1). The minor chemical constituents were found to be Phytol acetate 0.08%, Tetracosane 0.16%, Germacrene B 0.21%, Ethyl Lactate 0.22%.

Essential oils are found in various parts of the plants, such as leaf, flower, root and are stored in special oil cells and gates. The essential oils extracted from plants are indispensable materials in the pharmaceutical, food, and cosmetics sectors, because of the increasing concern with harmful synthetic additives (Sacchetti et al., 2005). A great majority of the essential oils are used as fragrance in perfumes and aromas in food industry. The essential oils have a number of biological activities, including antibacterial, antifungal and antioxidant properties (Fatouma et al., 2011 and Jihua et al., 2011).

Essential oils constitute a major group of agro-based industrial products and they find applications in various types of industries, such as food products, drinks, perfumes, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics (Anwar et al., 2009a, b; Burt, 2004; Celiktas et al., 2007; Hammer et al., 2008; Hay and Svoboda, 1993; Hussain et al., 2008;

Table 1. Essential oil composition of *Viola serpens*

Compound	Area (%)	Molecular formula	Molecular weight	RI	Mode of identification
Hexen-3-ol	6.56	C ₆ H ₁₂ O	100	778	a,b
Ethyl Lactate	0.22	C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₃	118	814	a,b
3-Methylene-1,7-octadiene	1.4	C ₉ H ₁₄	122	863	a,b
2,4,4,6-Tetramethyl-2-heptene	11.52	C ₁₁ H ₂₂	154	951	a,b
2,5-Heptanedione	0.73	C ₇ H ₁₂ O ₂	128	989	a,b
2-Isopropyl-5-oxohexanal	2.55	C ₉ H ₁₆ O ₂	156	1112	a,b
Cis Verbenol	4.77	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O	152	1141	a,b
2-Hexyltetrahydrofuran	0.89	C ₁₀ H ₂₀ O	156	1147	a,b
Isogeraniol	0.5	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O	152	1179	a,b
2,3-Dimethylundecane	1.8	C ₁₃ H ₂₈	184	1185	a,b
Methyl Salicylate	0.8	C ₈ H ₈ O ₃	152	1192	a,b
Verbenyl acetate	1.42	C ₁₂ H ₁₈ O ₂	194	1282	a,b
Methyl Myrtenate	0.35	C ₁₁ H ₁₆ O ₂	180	1296	a,b
n-Tridecane	1.28	C ₁₃ H ₂₈	184	1313	a,b
0-methoxy 3-Decanone	1.57	C ₁₁ H ₂₂ O ₂	186	1327	a,b
α-Copaene	0.38	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	204	1375	a,b
4,8-Dimethyltridecane	0.47	C ₁₅ H ₃₂	212	1384	a,b
β-Elemene	0.52	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	204	1390	a,b
Caryophyllene	0.42	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	204	1424	a,b
Aromadendrene	1.31	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	204	1438	a,b
β-Farnesene	1.11	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	204	1452	a,b
6-Methyl-2-tridecanone	0.47	C ₁₄ H ₂₈ O	212	1485	a,b
Valencene	0.38	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	204	1492	a,b
Germacrene B	0.21	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	204	1544	a,b
1-Iodo-2-methylundecane	0.32	C ₁₂ H ₂₅ I	296	1564	a,b
Myrcenol	0.88	C ₁₀ H ₁₈ O	154	1586	a,b
Longiborneol	1.41	C ₁₅ H ₂₆ O	222	1601	a,b
(5-Iodopentyl)benzene	0.32	C ₁₁ H ₁₅ I	274	1606	a,b
Cetane	0.27	C ₁₆ H ₃₄	226	1612	a,b
Epicubeno	1.62	C ₁₅ H ₂₆ O	222	1631	a,b
Cadinene	0.44	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	204	1676	a,b
Heptadecane	2.88	C ₁₇ H ₃₆	240	1700	a,b
Pentadecanal	1.21	C ₁₅ H ₃₀ O	226	1701	a,b
(1-Ethylonyl)benzene	0.91	C ₁₇ H ₂₈	232	1724	a,b
Phytone	2.29	C ₁₈ H ₃₆ O	268	1841	a,b
Nonadecane	1.62	C ₁₉ H ₄₀	268	1900	a,b
(1-Ethylundecyl)benzene	0.94	C ₁₉ H ₃₂	260	1922	a,b
Tridecane, 3-phenyl	0.26	C ₁₉ H ₃₂	138	1924	a,b
n-Hexadecanoic acid	1	C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂	256	1968	a,b
Eicosane	0.84	C ₂₀ H ₄₂	282	2009	a,b
Z-2-Octadecen-1-ol	1.13	C ₁₈ H ₃₆ O	268	2061	a,b
n-Heneicosane	0.35	C ₂₁ H ₄₄	296	2109	a,b
6-phenyl Pentadecane	0.77	C ₂₁ H ₃₆	288	2121	a,b
Geranylgeraniol	1.19	C ₂₀ H ₃₄ O	290	2192	a,b
n-Docosane	0.3	C ₂₂ H ₄₆	310	2200	a,b
Phytol acetate	0.08	C ₂₂ H ₄₂ O ₂	338	2212	a,b
Octadecanoic acid, 2-oxo-, methyl ester	1.54	C ₁₉ H ₃₆ O ₃	312	2213	a,b
Bis(2-ethylhexyl) maleate	15.62	C ₂₀ H ₃₆ O ₄	340	2224	a,b
Tetracosane	0.16	C ₂₄ H ₅₀	338	2407	a,b
Oxalic acid, hexyl tetradecyl ester	1.4	C ₂₂ H ₄₂ O ₄	370	2543	a,b
Total Identified	81.38%	-	-	-	-

a=Retention index (RI), b=MS (GC-MS).

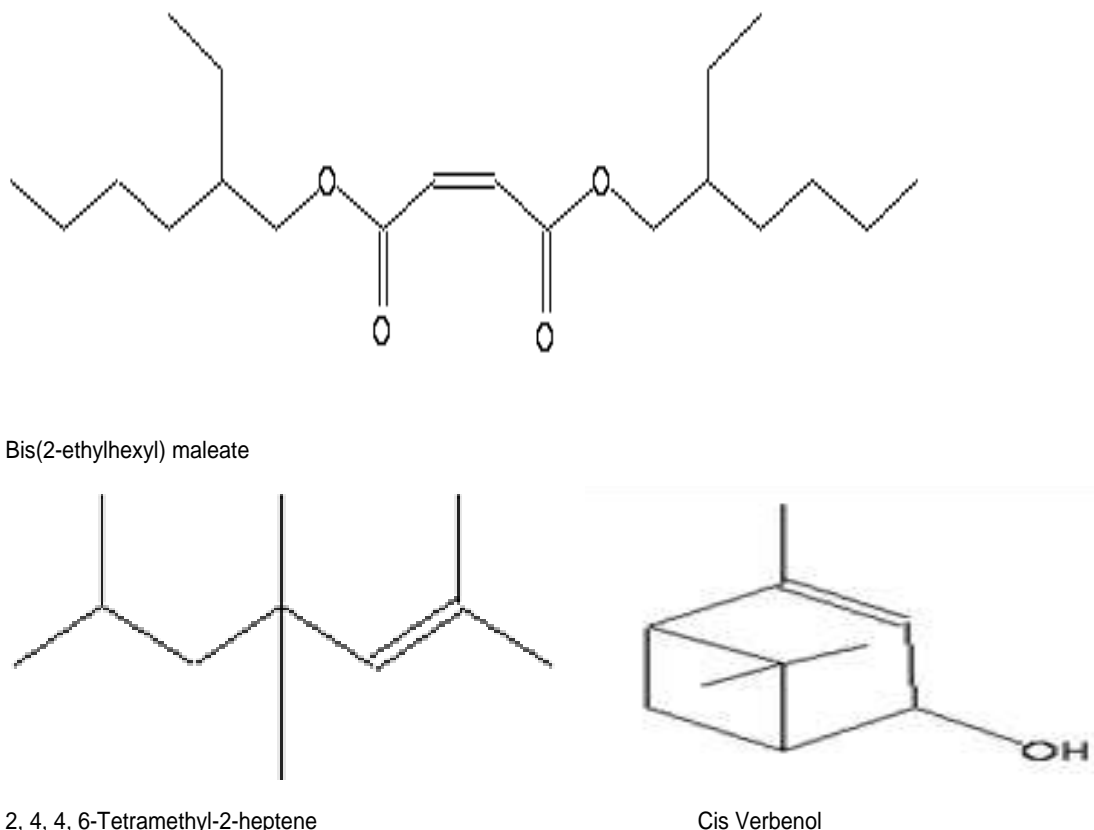


Figure 1. Structure of major isolated compound

Teixeira da Silva, 2004). The compounds from the plant based essential oil are useful as an alternative therapy, either directly or as models for new synthetic products (Houghton, 2000). Aromatherapy is the therapeutic use of fragrances or at least mere volatiles to cure diseases, infections and indispositions by means of inhalation (Buchbauer, 2000; Buchbauer et al., 1993). This has recently attracted the attention of many scientists and encouraged them to screen plants to study the biological activities of their oils from chemical and pharmacological investigations to therapeutic aspects. Hopefully, this will lead to new information on plant applications and new perspective on the potential use of these natural products.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to AIRF, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi for the G.C coupled with Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), and G.C with FID analysis

facilities.

REFERENCES

- Adams RP (2001). Identification of Essential oils by Gas Chromatography Quadruple Mass Spectrometry. Allured Publishing Corporation, Carol Stream, USA.
- Anwar F, Hussain AI, Sherazi STH, Bhanger MI (2009). Changes in composition and antioxidant and antimicrobial activities essential oil of fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* Mill.) fruit at different stages of maturity. J. Herbs Spices Med. Plants 15:1-16.
- Bal SN (1932). The Industrial Section of the Indian Museum. Calcutta: Botanical Survey of India, Govt. of India, Central Publication Branch; Catalogue of Medicinal Plant Exhibits. pp. 118-119.
- Balakumbahan R, Rajamani K, Kumanan K (2010). *Acorus calamus*: An overview. J. Med. Plants Res. 4(25):27-40.
- Bhuvaneswari R, Balasundaram C (2009). Anti-bacterial activity of *Acorus calamus* and some of its derivatives against fish pathogen *Aeromonas hydrophila*. J. Med. Plants Res. 3(7):538-547.
- Buchbauer G (2000). The detailed analysis of essential oils leads to the understanding of their properties. Perfumer Flavorist. 25:64-67.
- Buchbauer G, Jager W, Jirovetz L, Imberger J, Dietrich H (1993). Therapeutic properties of essential oils and fragrances. In ACS symposium series (USA).
- Celiktas OY, Kocabas EEH, Bedir E, Sukan FV, Ozek T, Baser KHC (2007). Antimicrobial activities of methanol extracts and essential oils of *Rosmarinus officinalis*, depending on locate and seasonal variations. Food Chem. 100:553-559.
- Chawdhary HJ, Wadhawa BM (1984). Calcutta: Botanical Survey of India, Dept. of Environment; 1984. Flora of India, Series 2, Flora of

- Himachal Pradesh. P 80.
- Dhar U, Kachroo P (1983). India: Scientific Publishers; Alpine Flora of Kashmir. Himalaya pp. 86-87.
- Fatouma M, Abdoul-Latif, Nabil M, Prosper E, Adwa AA, Samatar OD, Louis-Clément O, Ismael HNB, Mamoudou HD (2011). Antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of essential oil and methanol extract of *Matricaria chamomilla* L. from Djibouti. *J. Med. Plants Res.* 5(9):1512-1517.
- Hammer KA, Carson CF, Dunstan JA, Hale J, Lehmann H, Robinson CJ, Prescott SL, Riley TV (2008). Antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory activity of five *Taxandria fragrans* oils in vitro. *Microbiol. Immunol.* 52:522-530.
- Hay RKM, Svoboda KP (1993). In Volatile oil crops: their biology, biochemistry and production. In Hay RKM, Waterman PG (eds.), Longman Scientific and Technical, Harlow. pp. 5-22.
- Houghton PJ (2000). Use of small scale bioassays in the discovery of novel drugs from natural sources. *Phytother. Res.* 14:419-423.
- Hussain AI, Anwar F, Sherazi STH, Przybylski R (2008). Chemical composition, antioxidant and antimicrobial activities of basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) essential oils depends on seasonal variations. *Food Chem.* 108:986-995.
- Jihua W, Liang X, Ling Y, Zhilong L, Ligang Z (2011). Composition, Antibacterial and Antioxidant Activities of Essential Oils from *Ligusticum sinense* and *L. jeholense* (Umbelliferae) from China. *Rec. Nat. Prod.* 5:314-318.
- Kovats E (1958). Gas-chromatographische Charakterisierung organischer Verbindungen. Teil 1: Retentionsindices aliphatischer Halogenide, Alkohole, Aldehyde und Ketone. *Hel. Chim. Acta* 41(7):1915-32.
- Kumar P, Digvijay (2014). Assessment of Genetic Diversity of *Viola Serpens* Wall. In Himachal Pradesh Using Molecular Markers. *World J. Pharm. Res.* 3(2):2716-2726.
- Sacchetti G, Maietti S, Muzzoli M, Scaglianti M, Manfredini S, Radice M, Bruni R (2005). Comparative evaluation of 11 essential oils of different origin as functional antioxidants, antiradicals and antimicrobials in foods. *Food Chem.* 91:621-632.
- Teixeira da Silva JA (2004). Mining the essential oils of the Anthemideae. *Afr. J. Biotechnol.* 3:706-720.

Journal of Medicinal Plant Research

Related Journals Published by Academic Journals

- *African Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*
- *Journal of Dentistry and Oral Hygiene*
- *International Journal of Nursing and Midwifery*
- *Journal of Parasitology and Vector Biology*
- *Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy*
- *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health Sciences*

academicJournals