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Review Article

PHYTOCONSTITUENTS AND HEALTH PERSPECTIVE OF MEDICINAL PLANT ARAGVADHA

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India is known as “Botanical garden of world”, because all over the world 3000 species of medicinal plants are officially recognize. Family Fabaceae is the third largest family of Angiosperms after Orchideaceae, Asteraceae with 730 and 19,400 species. Subfamily- Caesalpiaceae has 160 genera and 2000 species. *Cassia fistula* Linn. (Caesalpiaceae) known as Pudding Pipe Tree. It is also known as “Golden Shower” because of bunches of yellow flowers. Cassia other name in Sanskrit is “Aragvadha” which means “diseases slayer” and it is commended for all age groups and pregnant women also. In Charaka Samhita it is known as Virechanopaga, Kusthaghna (curative of skin problems), Kandughna (curative of pruritus). Number of drugs had been isolated from plants and still investigations of medicinal properties of plants are an issue of national public health concern. Plants are rich and natural source of phenolic compounds and flavonoids, which play a key role in human health. Many of secondary metabolites already discovered in various plant species and still a deep investigation is needed to identify the various components activity particularly.

Key Words: Cassia Fistula Linn, phytoconstituents, Kusthaghna , phenolic compounds and flavonoids.

INTRODUCTION

Plants are treasure of the earth as they regulate ecological function and provide us so many products directly or indirectly. Before the inventions of modern medicaments plant parts like bark, stem, flowers, root, seeds were used in form of powder, lotion, syrup, extract, quath, bhasma, churna, rasayana was preferred by the people as a remedy in various disease according to “Rigveda”. Uses of plants in the treatment of various diseases during 300 B.C. were documented in Egypt, China, India and Middle East. Before the 700 B.C. Saraka Samritham wrote by Saraka, *Materia medica* written by Dioscoretes, they described 350,600 medicinal plant species respectively. WHO listed 21,000 plants around the world but the

estimate indicate that there number will be 35,000-70,000 worldwide. About 43,000 plant species are said to be exist in India of which 7500 plant species find mention in the recorded folklore of India. Among these 1773 have been documented in Ayurveda, 4,720 in traditional medicines, 1122 in Siddha, 751 in Unani and 105 in Allopathy [1-3].

HABITAT

It is deciduous mixed monsoon forests throughout greater parts of India, ascending to 1300 m in outer Himalaya. It is distributed in Asian countries such as India, China, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong as well as Amazon, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Africa, East Africa and West Indies.



VERNACULAR NAMES		English	Indian Laburnum, Cassia fistula,
Hindi	Sonali, Amulthus, Bandarlauri, Hamaltas, Khyar, Sundarraaj		Golden shower, Drum stick, Pudding pipe, Pudding stick,
Sanskrit	Nripadruma, Aragvadhya, Arevata, Arogyashimbi, Chakraparivyadha, Mahakarnika	German Greek	Purging fistula Cassienroehrlein, Rohrkassie Glykokalamon, Kasias Syrian, Kassia meliana

Table 1: Review of Literature

Plant part	Name of scientist	Activity
ANTI OXIDANT ACTIVITY		
Cassia fistula fruit	Kalantari H, Jalal, Saini et.al (2011)[4]	Antioxidant activity of bromobenzene induced liver injury in mice
Cassia fistula flower aqueous extract	Manonmania (2005)[5], Luxmon et al(2004)[6], Mo. shahid et al (2009)[7],	Antioxidant activity of alloxan induced diabetes in rats
fruit pulp of Cassia fistula	Bhatnagar et al (2010)[8]	in vitro and in vivo antioxidant activity
ANTI-DIABETIC ACTIVITY		
Seeds of Cassia fistula	Nayan Bhalodia (2011)[9], Siddhuraju P. et al (2002)[10],	Hydroalcoholic seed extract of Cassia fistula
Cassia fistula bark and leaves	Malpani et al(2010)[11], Silawat et al (2009)[12], M. Ali et al(2012)[13], Bhatka etal (1997)[14], John et al (2006)[15]	Hypoglycemic activity of hydroalcoholic, alcoholic and methanolic extract reaction of Cassia fistula bark and leaves on alloxan induced diabetic rats
	Aviello, Rowland et al(2010)[16]	Cytotoxicity on human colon adenocarcinoma.
	Shankar et al (2012)[17],	Antitumor activity of methanolic extract of Cassia fistula in skin tumor promotion model
Cassia fistula seed	Gupta et al (2000)[18]	Methanolic extract activity of Cassia fistula seeds on EAC
ANTI-INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY		
Cassia fistula barks	Raju Ilavarsana (2005)[20],	Aqueous and methanol extract of Cassia fistula bark in wistar albino rats
Cassia fistula bark and leaves	Gobind et al (2010)[21], Rajeshwari etal (2006)[22], Bhatnagar etal (2010)[8], Somnath(2009)[23], Dinanath et al(2012)[24],	Ethanol extract activity of Cassia fistula in hind paw odema and cotton pellet granulose wistar albino rats



ANTIBACTERIAL AND ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITY		
Leaves, flower and seed of Cassia fistula	Shoeb et al (2005)[25], Singh (2006)[26], Subramanion et al (2011)[27],	Antifungal activity of acetone, diethyl ether and methanol extract of leaves, flower and seed
Leaves	Phongpaichit et al (2004)[[27]	Compared the antifungal activity of Cassia alata, C.tora, C.fistula
Cassia fistula leaves, root bark and bark	Awal et al(2010)[28], Duraipandiyana et al (2007)[30], R.N.yadav (2003)[31], Muthusamy et al(2006)[32]	Antimicrobial activity against different species of bacteria
HEPATOPROTECTIVE ACTIVITY		
Cassia fistula bark, leaves	Bhakta et al,(2001)[34], Vandal et al,(2008)[35]	Leaf and bark extract activity of Cassia fistula against carbon tetra chloride induced hepatotoxicity
Fruit pulp of Cassia fistula	Das et al,(2008)[36]	Activity of fruit pulp aqueous extract Cassia fistula against carbon tetra--chloride induced liver damage in albino rats

Table 2: Phytoconstituents and medicinal use of Plant parts

Name of Plant Part	Phytochemical constituents	Medicinal Uses
Leaves	Anthrquinone, Oxyanthraquinone, rhein, volatile oil, glycosides, sennosides A & B, Hentriacontanoic, triacotanoic, nonacosanoic, heptosanoic acid (cuticular wax)[8, 18, 37, 38].	Laxative, insect bites, swelling, rheumatism, facial paralysis, jaundice, piles, skin eruption, ring worm eczema[17, 20, 34, 37]
Stem Bark	Flavonol, glycosides	Amenorrhoea, Chest pain, swelling
Root Bark	Phlobaphenes, oxyanthraquinone, betulinic acid, β sitosterol, 7-methylphyscion[18, 38]	Strong purgative, chest pain febrifuge, astringent, joint pain, migraine, dysentery, heart disease, biliousness, blackwart fever [18, 20, 38]
Flower	Aurantiamide acetate, β sitosterol, β -D glucosides, ceryl alcohol, kaemferol, fistulin, bianthraquinone glycoside[9]	Inhibit ovarian function, stimulate uterine function



Seeds	Galactomannon, sugar, amino acid, seed oil contain vernolic acid, malvalic acid, sterculic acid[8,9]	Used in constipation, jaundice, biliousness, swollen throat, skin disease and improve appetite [20,37]
Fruit	Anthraquinone glycoside, sennosides A & B, rhein, barbalion, alin, formic acid, butyric acid, oxalic acid and good source of Fe and Mn.	Used in asthma, snake bite, pyrea, chest pain, livernad throat problem, antifertility activity, abortifacient [20,34,37]
Pulp	Sugar, tannins, albuminous starch, calacium oxalate, gum, gluten, astringent matter, sucrose, fructose, glucose, protein -arginine, leucine, lysine, phenyalanine, tryptophan, glutamic and aspartic acid [18,37,38]	Disorder of liver, antipyretic, anti-malarial, anthrax, antidysentric, leprosy [37]

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Review indicate family Fabaceae members are excellence source of minerals, amino acid, flavonoids, isoflavonoids, glucosides, rhein, polyphenol compounds, alkaloids, saponins, tanins etc. Review support their antioxidant activity, which is proportional to the total phenolic content, flavonoids, bio flavonoids and other phytoconstituents present in different plant parts with vary concentrations. Polyphenols, flavones, isoflavone, glycosides protect from cancers and heart diseases by reduce the level of LDL while rhein depreciate the risk of human breast cancer, cervical cancer and liver cancer. Anthraquinone commonly work as laxative and improve digestion. Tannins are astringent in nature and highly used in skin care products. Tannin in *Vaccinium macrocarpon* defensive activity also

proved as they reduce the growth of *E.coli* in women urinary tract.

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