

## LANTANA CAMARA: A REVIEW OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND MEDICINAL POTENTIAL

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Article Received on  
04 June 2024,

Revised on 24 June 2024,  
Accepted on 14 July 2024

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr202414-33200



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### ABSTRACT

Lantana camara flowers were tested for their ability to repel Aedes mosquitoes. In coconut oil, lantana flower extract offered 94.5% protection against Aedes aliopictus and Aedes iegyptt. A protection period of 1.9 hours was averaged. An application of lantana flower extract can offer protection from potential Aedes mosquito bites for up to four hours. Three months following the application, there were no negative impacts on the human subjects. Two insect pests of cowpea, C. maculatus and A. obtectus, and one insect pest of maize, S. zeamais, were used to assess the repellent properties of Lantana camara aqueous extract. The extract had a mean repellency of 39.9% on C. maculatus, indicating a weak repellency, according to the results. Mean repellency

for S. zeamais was 33.3%, while A. obtectus was 24.4%. Given that each of the three test insects had a class repellency of 2, the extract did not exhibit exceptional repellent effects against any of them. Other organic solvents should be used to further investigate the extract on the test insects.

### INTRODUCTION

Before the invention of synthetic chemicals, it was generally recognised that plants had the ability to repel mosquitoes and other pest insects (Curtis et al. 1989). Recently, a review was published on the application of botanical derivatives as a mosquito repellent (Sukumar et al. 1991). In recent years, electronic assemblies, rugs, and incense sticks have all gained a lot of popularity. Still, the majority of vaporising assemblies contain synthetic or natural pyrethroids (Vartak and Sharma 1993). Long-term use of mats and coils treated with insecticides may be hazardous to people's health (Liu et al. 1987). Adult mosquitoes are also

repelled by essential oils and terpenoids (Curtis et al. 1989). Neem oil has been shown by Sharma et al. (1993) to be an efficient and safe substitute for insect repellent.<sup>[1]</sup>

The woody weed plant *Lantana camara* Linn. (family Verbenaceae) comes in a variety of floral colours, including red, white, yellow, pink, and violet. The extremely resilient shrub *Lantana camara* grows luxuriantly in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions of the world, reaching heights of up to 2,000 metres. The plant is widely distributed throughout the northeastern regions of India, the Himachal Pradesh region, the Jammu region, the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, and other areas where it has become a significant pest. Sharma et al. published a review on *Lantana camara* (1988). In this study, we describe how extracting *Lantana camara* (red variation) flowers in coconut oil has an anti-*Aedes* mosquito impact.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Phytochemistry

Because *L. camara* is a medicinal plant, researchers have looked into the chemical composition of every portion of the plant. The majority of chemical elements, including triterpenoids, alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, saponins, and glycosides, were found to be present in the leaf extracts. Phytochemical analyses of the stem and fruit of *L. camara* were also conducted, despite the absence of leaves. From the stem and fruit, they reported terpenoids, flavonoids, saponins, and tannins. The fruit's n-Hexane fraction GC/MS analysis revealed the presence of the following chemicals. It was reported that the plant's root contains the significant bioactive chemical "Oleanolic acid," whose extraction process is protected by a patent. *L. camara*, also marketed as Lantana oils, is a product that is widely recognised for being a rich source of essential oils.<sup>[3]</sup>

Over the past few decades, a great deal of research has been done on the phytochemical content of *L. camara*. Essential oils, phenolic compounds, flavonoids, carbohydrates, proteins, alkaloids, glycosides, iridoid glycosides, phenyl ethanoid, oligosaccharides, quinine, saponins, steroids, triterpens, sesquiterpenoids, and tannin are reported to be the main phytochemical groups found in various parts of *L. camara*.<sup>[4]</sup>



**Fig. no. 1:- Dorsal and ventral surface of leaves.**



**Fig. no. 2:- Flowers.**



**Fig. no. 3: Stem and Root.**

### **Cultivation**

### **Habitat**

The species can be found in a range of settings, such as:

- Agricultural regions
- gaps and edges of forests
- Zones of riparian vegetation
- Grasslands
- Beach fronts and secondary forests

*L. camara* cannot withstand shade, it is rarely found in natural or semi-natural forest regions where it cannot compete with higher trees. Rather, it grows near the border of the forest. *L. camara* is able to withstand a broad variety of environmental factors, such as heat, humidity, salt, drought, and many types of soil. Additionally, it can swiftly establish itself in freshly burned forest regions and is fairly fire resistant.<sup>[5,6]</sup>

### **As an invasive species**

The IUCN's "List of the world's 100 worst invasive species" includes *L. camara*. In many of the Paleotropic regions where *L. camara* has taken root, it is regarded as a weed. It has the potential to replace other native species and decrease biodiversity in secondary forests or agricultural areas by becoming the dominating understorey shrub.<sup>[7]</sup>

Because *L. camara* dense thickets inhibit the growth of new trees, they can considerably slow down the regeneration of forests. In tropical US states like Florida and Hawaii, *L. camara* is regarded as an invasive species. Although *L. camara* is itself quite resistant to fire, it can change fire patterns in a forest ecosystem by altering the fuel load, causing a buildup of forest fuel, which itself increases the risk of fires spreading to the canopy.<sup>[8]</sup>

This can be particularly destructive in dry, arid areas where fire can spread quickly and lead to the loss of large areas of natural ecosystem. *L. camara* reduces the productivity in pasture through the formation of dense thickets, which reduce growth of crops as well as make harvesting more difficult. There are also secondary impacts, including the finding that in Africa, mosquitos which transmit malaria and tsetse flies shelter within the bushes of *L. camara*.<sup>[9,10]</sup>

Despite being regarded as an invasive species in the Western Ghats, *L. camara* appears to have little effect on biodiversity in the area; instead, it primarily coexists with other species in the same damp areas.

Although there are other explanations for *L. camara*'s success as an invasive species, the following are the main ones that have helped it to spread

- 1) Large distribution range enabled by drupe-eating Birds and Other animals
- 2) Less likely than not to be poisonous to animals
- 3) Tolerance to a broad spectrum of environmental factors

- 4) Growing logging and habitat change have helped *L. camara*, which favours disturbed ecosystems.
- 5) Creation of harmful substances to prevent rival plant species
- 6) Incredibly high seed yield—12,000 seeds year from each plant

### Management and Control

Long-term control of the invasive *L. camara* plant will necessitate a decrease in actions that harm ecosystems. Preventing invasive species from establishing themselves and outcompeting native fauna and flora requires maintaining functioning (healthy) ecosystems.<sup>[11]</sup>

### Biological

Attempts to manage *L. camara* have been made with variable degrees of success using insects and other biocontrol agents. It was the first weed ever to be biologically controlled, yet despite the deployment of 36 control agents spread across 33 locations, not a single programme has been successful.<sup>[12,13]</sup>

The numerous hybrid forms and high genetic variety of *L. camara*, which make it challenging for the control agents to efficiently target every plant, are probably the main reasons why biological control has not worked successfully in this situation. Tingid bugs are being used in a recent study conducted in India to control this plant biologically.<sup>[14]</sup>

### Mechanical

Physical removal of the plants is required for mechanical control of *L. camara*. Physical removal is typically only appropriate in small areas or in the early stages of an infestation because it can be labor-intensive, costly, and effective. Replanting with natural plants after a fire treatment is another mechanical control technique.<sup>[15]</sup>

### Chemical

Herbicide management of *L. camara* is very effective yet costly, making it unfeasible in many developing nations where *L. camara* is well-established. The best method for chemically treating plant species is to mow the area first, then apply a weed-killer spray; nevertheless, this may have detrimental effects on the ecosystem.<sup>[16,17]</sup>

**Tradition use**

Although lantana camara stalks have historically been employed primarily for medicinal and decorative purposes, they have also been utilised in the manufacture of furniture, including tables and chairs.<sup>[18]</sup>

**Medicinal value**

Lantana leaves have been shown to exhibit antibacterial, fungicidal, and insecticidal qualities in Indian studies. *L. camara* has also been utilised in traditional herbal remedies to cure a range of illnesses, such as ulcers, measles, cancer, skin rashes, chicken pox, leprosy, and asthma.<sup>[19]</sup>

Rats with stomach ulcers have demonstrated less development when *L. camara* extract is used.<sup>[20]</sup>

**Ornamental**

The reason lantana camara is grown as an ornamental plant now is because it was introduced to Europe by Dutch explorers in the New World. Its resilience to drought and lack of pests and diseases have made it a popular ornamental plant. It also lasts a fair amount of time without water. *L. camara* is commonly used in butterfly gardens and also attracts birds and butterflies. In colder climes, *L. camara* is commonly grown inside as an ornamental, however it can also flourish in a garden with enough cover.<sup>[21,22]</sup>

**As a host plant**

Several kinds of butterflies consume the nectar of *L. camara*. The largest butterfly in the western hemisphere, *Papilio homerus*, is known to be an opportunistic flower feeder and to consume nectar from flowers. *Evarcha culicivora*, a jumping spider, is related to *L. camara*. They use the nectar as sustenance and these plants as a preferred site for courtship.<sup>[23]</sup>

**Mythology**

The range of *L. camera* is from Cape Melville in north Queensland to Bega Shire in southern New South Wales. It can be found on the Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands. In NSW and QLD, the main infestations are located east of the extensive intermediate range.<sup>[25,26]</sup> The following regions are home to pink-edged red lantana:

1. The North Coast, in the vicinity of Kempsey; The Central Coast, southeast of Dorrigo, Bellingen; and Coffs Harbour and Grafton.

2. Red varieties are found along Kempsey, Bellingen, and Coffs Harbour on the North Coast.
3. It is unlikely that *L. camera* will spread to other parts of NSW. Within its range, it is spreading and becoming more dense.
4. The tropical and subtropical regions of Central and South America are the origin of *L. camera*.

In 1841, it was brought to Australia as an ornamental plant. It was widespread in Brisbane and Sydney by the 1860s.<sup>[27,28]</sup>

### Habit

*L. camera* is a member of the Verbenaceae family. Another name for it is a crimson sage. It can reach a maximum height of 1-3 metres and a maximum width of 3 metres. It's a deciduous shrub with many prickly stems.<sup>[29,30]</sup> There are opposite, simple, scented leaves with long petioles and round, rough, hairy blades at the borders. The green leaves measure 3-8 cm in length and 3-6 cm in width.<sup>[31]</sup> When they are crushed, a strong odour is released. Tiny, stalked flowers come in a variety of hues, including orange, blue, red, yellow, and vivid red.<sup>[32]</sup>

They are grouped densely in a flat-topped cluster, and the corolla has four short, spreading lobes on a narrow tube.<sup>[33]</sup> Weather conditions usually cause colour variations in flowers. Blooming takes place from March to August. The stem has a square shape and is hairy with bristles all over it. Soil is plunged up to 50–100 cm into the roots. They have a robust nature and are yellowish-whitish in colour. Berries are round, fresh, juicy, deadly, with two seeds, and a colour that changes from green to purple to blue-black over time. Because of their attractiveness, berries attract birds and insects. The berries are spherical, 6 to 8 mm in diameter, green while they are young, lustrous, and have one seed per fruit when fully ripe.<sup>[34]</sup>

### Habitat

*L. camera* is a plant native to the tropics. It needs to be dispersed throughout a wide geographic area. Since it is a perennial shrub, its primary growth environments are open, disturbed spaces like canals, railway lines, and wayside.<sup>[35]</sup> It can grow very well under 750–5000 mm of annual rainfall and can establish itself at elevations above sea level as high as 2000 m. It was born in the Caribbean and belongs to Central and Northern South America. It is presently present in sixty nations.<sup>[36]</sup> This plant is found in seven to ten states in India,

including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Goa, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh. They need a lot of sunlight to flourish. Most of the time, they thrive in pH 4-9. sandy or loamy soil.<sup>[35,36]</sup>

### Scientific claim

#### Antibacterial activity

There have been reports of antibacterial activity in the leaves and flowers of various kinds of *L. camara* plants. Significant antibacterial action was shown against *E. coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *P. aeruginosa* by three separate solvent extracts of the leaves and flowers of four different varieties of *L. camara*; however, antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* was weak.<sup>[37]</sup>

It has been claimed that ethanolic extracts of *L. camara*'s roots and leaves have antibacterial properties. Using the microdilution method, the *in vitro* antibacterial activity was carried out. The antibacterial activity of the extracts was demonstrated against multiple strains of multiresistant *E. coli* and *S. aureus*, as well as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Vibrio cholerae*, and *Escherichia coli*.<sup>[38]</sup>

The antibacterial activity of methanolic extracts from various sections of *L. camara* was tested using the broth microdilution method and the disc diffusion method against 10 bacteria and 5 fungi. The *L. camara* leaf extract had the best efficacy against both Gramme negative *Salmonella typhi* and Gramme positive *Bacillus cereus*.<sup>[39]</sup>

#### Antifungal activity

The ability of *L. camara* to inhibit fungi was tested against *Alternaria* sp., a common cause of various plant diseases, particularly in vegetable plants. Using the food poisoning plate method, the antifungal activity was tested at three distinct extract concentrations: 10 mg/ml, 15 mg/ml, and 20 mg/ml. *L. camara* demonstrated considerable antifungal efficacy against *Alternaria* sp. at a dosage of 20 mg/ml.<sup>[40]</sup>

The antifungal properties of *L. camara*'s ethanol and hot water extract were tested against fungi that cause brown and white rot in wood. The two extracts demonstrated effective antifungal action against fungi that cause brown and white rot, although the ethanol extract showed the greatest promise at a relatively low concentration (0.01%).<sup>[41]</sup>

**Antiulcerogenic activity**

A study on rats with aspirin, ethanol, and cold-resistant stress-induced stomach ulcers found that the methanol extract of *L. camara* leaves had antiulcerogenic action. Rats that were pre-treated with the extract (at 200 and 400 mg/kg body weight) shown a noteworthy protective effect against ulcers in rats that were produced by aspirin, ethanol, and cold restraint stress. In every animal, the extract exhibited dose-dependent antiulcerogenic efficacy.<sup>[42]</sup>

**Hemolytic activity**

Using a modified spectroscopic approach, the hemolytic activity of *L. camara* aqueous extract and its solvent fractions was assessed at four different concentrations (125, 250, 500, and 1000 µg/ml). Regarding human erythrocytes, the aqueous extract and its solvent fractions showed very little hemolytic activity.<sup>[43]</sup>

The following order of the various extracts' hemolytic activity was observed: Chloroform fraction > aqueous extract > ethanol fraction > methanol fraction > hexane and ethyl acetate fraction (50:50).<sup>[44]</sup>

**Antihyperglycemic activity**

In diabetic rats given alloxan, the methanol extract of *L. camara* leaves was shown to have antihyperglycemic effects. In alloxan-induced diabetic rats, oral treatment of the methanol extract of *L. camara* leaves (400 mg/kg body weight) led to a drop in blood glucose level to 121.94 mg/dl.<sup>[45]</sup>

Methanol extract of *L. camara* Linn fruits was tested for hypoglycemic effect in streptozotocin-induced diabetic mice (Wistar albino rats). In streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats, extract therapy at doses of 100 and 200 mg/kg body weight led to a dose-dependent drop in serum glucose levels. Improvements in body weight, HbA1c profile, and liver cell regeneration were also observed after extract administration.<sup>[46]</sup>

**Wound healing activity**

Rats were shown to benefit from the aqueous extract of *L. camara* leaves in terms of wound healing. When applied topically to the wound, the extract (100 mg/kg/day) greatly accelerated wound contraction (98%), sped up collagen synthesis, and shortened the healing period.<sup>[47]</sup>

An ethanol leaf extract from *L. camara* was found to have wound-healing properties in adult male Wister rats. When the extract was applied topically to the wound, it dramatically accelerated the healing process. The function of extract in healing was validated by histological examinations of cured lesions.<sup>[48]</sup>

### **Antimotility activity**

It has been observed that *L. camara* leaf methanol extract has antimotility action in mice. The charcoal meal test was used to measure intestinal motility in mice. In normal mice, the extract totally prevented charcoal transit at a dose of 1 g/kg body weight. When mice were given castor oil-induced diarrhoea, the amount of faeces produced was dramatically decreased by the intraperitoneal administration of extracts at doses of 125 and 250 mg/kg body weight.<sup>[49]</sup>

### **Mosquito controlling activity**

*Anopheles culicifacies*, *Aedes aegypti*, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, *Anopheles fluviatilis*, and *Anopheles stephensi* mosquitoes were found to be susceptible to the adulticidal activity of the essential oil derived from *L. camara* leaves. The LD<sub>50</sub> values of the oil against these mosquitoes were 0.06, 0.05, 0.05, 0.05, and 0.06 mg/cm(2), while the LD<sub>90</sub> values were 0.10, 0.10, 0.09, 0.09, and 0.10 mg/cm(2) against *Aedes aegypti*, *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, *An. culicifacies*, *An. fluviatilis*, and *An. stephensi*, respectively.<sup>[50]</sup>

Methanol and ethanol extracts of *L. camara*'s leaves and flowers have been shown to have larvicidal effects on *Ae. aegypti* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* mosquito larvae in their third and fourth instars. Significant larvicidal activity was shown by both extracts against the two species of mosquitoes; however, at low doses (1 mg/ml), the extracts were more effective against *Ae. aegypti* than against *Cx. quinquefasciatus*.<sup>[51]</sup>

### **Antifilarial activity**

The crude extract of the stem of *L. camara* was found to have antifilarial action. In the rodent model of *Mastomys coucha*, the extract and its chloroform fraction killed adult *Brugia malayi* and sterilised the majority of the surviving female worms.<sup>[52]</sup>

### **Antiinflammatory activity**

It was observed that *L. camara*'s aqueous extract has anti-inflammatory effects on albino rats. In rats, the carrageenan-induced paw oedema test showed a substantial reduction in paw volume following extract treatment (500 mg/kg body weight).<sup>[53]</sup>

**Anti fertility activity (Embryo toxicity)**

In female albino Wistar rats, the effects of a hydroalcoholic extract of *L. camara* leaves were investigated with respect to teratology, overall reproductive function, and fertility. The extract affected the number of foetal skeletal abnormalities found in the study.

J. Pharm. and Tech. 5(6): June 2012 714 dams treated with the extract showed no symptoms of maternal toxicity, but instead produced embryotoxicity as evidenced by post-implantation loss.<sup>[54]</sup>

**Antiurolithiatic activity**

In male albino rats, ethylene glycol and ammonium chloride-induced calcium oxalate urolithiasis was shown to be inhibited by an ethanolic extract of *L. camara* leaves. The application of extract treatment markedly decreased calcium and oxalate deposition as well as calcium, oxalate, and creatinine excretion in the urine.<sup>[55]</sup>

**Anticancer and Antiproliferative activity**

The anticancer activity of oleanonic acid extracted from *L. camara* was tested against three human cancer cell lines, namely A375 (malignant skin melanoma), Hep2 (epidermoid laryngeal carcinoma), and U937 (lymphoma), as well as a mouse tumour (Ehrlich ascites carcinoma). Oleanonic acid demonstrated a positive cytotoxic effect on A375 cells.

It has been found that *L. camara* leaves have a cytotoxic impact on the Vero cell line. Using the MTT assay, an in vitro cytotoxicity test was conducted. The concentration of 500 µg/ml of methanol extract inhibited cell growth 2.5 times less than that of Triton 100 × 1%. It has been observed that *L. camara* leaves have antiproliferative action against the cell lines HEp-2 (laryngeal cancer) and NCI-H292 (lung cancer). Using the MTT assay, an in vitro antiproliferative test was conducted. *L. camara* leaf methanol extract demonstrated antiproliferative efficacy against NCI-H292.<sup>[56]</sup>

**Anti mutagenic activity**

Antimutagenic activity was demonstrated by 22β-acetoxylantic acid and 22β-dimethylacryloyloxy lantanolic acid derived from *L. camara*. Swiss mice were used in the micronucleus test for the antimutagenicity. When Mitomycin C was used to induce mutagenesis in mice, both substances showed strong antimutagenic effect.<sup>[57]</sup>

**Antioxidant activity**

Significant antioxidant activity was demonstrated by the ethanolic extract of *L. camara* in in vivo experiments. The amount of lipid peroxidation in the kidneys of urolithic rats was reduced by the extract therapy. The DPPH radical scavenging assay and the Nitric oxide free radical scavenging assay were used in the in vitro investigations.

The extract demonstrated strong antioxidant qualities in both tests. By using the 1, 1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging assay and reducing power activity, the antioxidant activity of *L. camara*'s leaves was reported. The antioxidant effect of leaf extracts was substantial; however, the antioxidant activity of younger leaves was stronger than that of older or more mature leaves.<sup>[58]</sup>

**Patent****Marketed product**

**Product name:-** ALVIA, Lantana oil (Essential oil)

**Description**

The yellow liquid Lantana Camara Essential Oil has a spicy scent. It possesses a number of antibacterial, antiviral, antispasmodic, and antiseptic qualities. The oil shows promise in the management of tumours, cysts, and other conditions.

**Botanical name:-** Lantana camara

**Origin:-** India

**Mode of extraction:-** Steam Distillation

**Appearance:-** The oil is yellow, with a pungent smell.

**Solubility:-** Insoluble in water, and soluble in alcohol and other organic solvents.

**Blends with:-** Bergamot, Rosemary, clove bud, Eucalyptus Globulus, etc.

**Extraction method:-** It is extracted by steam distillation method.

**Essential oil information:-** Lantana oil is extracted from the steam distillation method of the leaves of *Lantana camara*.

**Constituents:-**  $\alpha$ -humulene,  $\beta$ -caryophyllene, germacrene D, davanone,  $\gamma$ -curcumene, etc.

**Summary**

Uses for lantana essential oil include massage and skincare. It can be used in massage after being diluted with carrier oils. By adding lantana oil to your daily regimen, you may be able to preserve the health and beauty of your skin and hair, keeping them shiny and colourful.

**Precautions:-** This oil is non – toxic and non irritant as well as non- sensitizing. Our Essential/carrier oils are 100% natural and pure (undiluted/uncut) therapeutic grade.

**Uses**

- Anti-inflammation agent
- Have anti-microbial properties
- Fast healing property
- Have amazing respiratory effects
- Calm the patient during excess stress
- Aromatherapy application
- Has antispasmodic property
- Helps in treating chronic bronchitis, and many more

**Benefits**

- Has Antibacterial & Antifungal properties
- Can be used as a mosquito repellent
- Prevents skin itching & acne
- Relieves pain & muscles soreness
- Protects skin against free radicals

**Brand promises**

- 100% pure and natural
- Preservatives free
- No additives
- Eci friendly ingredients
- Steam distillation Extraction
- Responsibly sourced

## Toxicology

Possibly in the top 10 most dangerous plants currently known, *L. camara* is one of them. There have been reports of *L. camara* toxicity from America, Australia, India, New Zealand, and South Africa. However, toxicity only manifests itself when a significant quantity of plant material is consumed. Horses, rats, neonatal calves, and lambs are not vulnerable to lantadene A, while sheep, cattle, and goats are said to be susceptible to lantadenes A, B, D, and icterogenic acid poisoning. The two most common clinical indicators of poisoning are jaundice and photosensitization.

Animals that have been poisoned experience a 24-hour period of decreased hunger as well as loss of appetite. Although most animals that are poisoned die within two days of the poisoning, most animals die one to three weeks later. The gall bladder is noticeably enlarged, the liver is enlarged, and the kidneys are bloated and pale in colour. For sheep, lantadene A has a hazardous oral dose of 60 mg/kg and an intravenous dose of 1-3 mg/kg.<sup>[59]</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Scientific and encyclopaedic accounts of *L. camara*'s therapeutic qualities portray it as a beneficial plant and indicate that it could be a potential target for future drug development.

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