

A RESEARCH ON PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS IN SOME MEDICINAL PLANTS OF ASTERACEAE FAMILY

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ABSTRACT

The phytochemical analysis of the plants is very important commercially and has great interest in pharmaceutical companies for the production of the new drugs for curing of various diseases. Medicinal plants of Asteraceae family have many bioactive compounds which are used for curing of various human diseases and also play an important role in healing. The present investigation deals with the phytochemical studies of various parts of different medicinal plants like dyssodia greggii and caesulia axillaris of Asteraceae family. The main objective of the research work was to check the presence or absence of the phytochemical constituents in all the selected medicinal plants. Hence methanolic (90%) extracts of flower, root and leaf powders of selceted plants have been screened for qualitative

determination of different secondary metabolites like, glycoside. alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, reducing sugar, saponin and terpenoids etc. The antimicrobial activities of essential oil of caesulia axillaris also observed. It is expected that the important phytochemical properties recognized by our study in the indigenous medicinal plants of Asteraceae will be very useful in the curing of various diseases.

KEYWORDS: Medicinal plants, Methanolic extracts, Phytochemical study, dyssodia greggii, caesulia axillaris.

INTRODUCTION

The Asteraceae or Compositae (commonly referred to as the aster, daisy, composite, or sunflower family) are an exceedingly large and widespread family of flowering plants (Angiospermae).^[1] The group has more than 23,000 currently accepted species, spread across 1,620 genera (list) and 12 subfamilies. In terms of numbers of species, the Asteraceae are rivaled only by the Orchidaceae. (Which of the two families is actually larger is unclear, owing to uncertainty about exactly how many species exist in each family).^[2] The main feature of the family is the composite flower type in the form of capitula surrounded by involucre bracts.^[3] The name “Asteraceae” comes from *Aster*, the most prominent genus in the family,^[4] that derives from the Greek word, meaning star, and is connected with its inflorescence star form. As for the term “Compositae”,^[5] more ancient but still valid, it obviously makes reference to the fact that the family is one of the few angiosperm ones to have composite flowers. This family has a remarkable ecological and economical importance and is present from the polar regions to the tropics, colonizing all available habitats.^[6] The Asteraceae may represent as much as 10% of flora in many regions of the world. Most members of Asteraceae are herbaceous, but a significant number are also shrubs, vines, or trees. The family has a worldwide distribution and is most common in the arid and semiarid regions of subtropical and lower temperate latitudes.

The Asteraceae are an economically important family. Some members provide products, including cooking oils, lettuce, sunflower seeds, artichokes, sweetening agents, coffee substitutes, and herbal teas. Several genera are popular with the horticultural community, including marigold, pot marigold (also known as calendula), cone flowers, various daisies, bright flowers.^[7] Fleabane chrysanthemums, dahlias, zinnias, and heleniums. Asteraceae are important in herbal medicine, including *Grindelia*, *Echinacea*, yarrow, and many others. A number of species have come to be considered invasive, including, most notably in North America, dandelion, which was originally introduced by European settlers who used the young leaves as a salad green. *Dyssodia* is a small genus of flowering plants in the daisy family. Most *dyssodias* are now treated as members of other related genera, including *Thymophylla* or *Adenophyllum*, with *Dyssodia* as genus synonym. *Dyssodia greggii* is usually retained in this genus. Several species of *Dyssodia* (sensu lato) have found their way into the nursery trade and are relatively popular flowering annuals for hot, dry sites.^[8] Generally sold as threadleaf *dyssodia* (*Dyssodia tenuisecta*) and golden *dyssodia* (*Dyssodia* cf. *pentachaeta*). *Caesulia* is a monotypic genus of flowering plants in the aster family,

Asteraceae, containing the single species *Caesulia axillaris*. Its common name is pink node flower. It is native to Bangladesh, Burma, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This plant grows in wet and aquatic habitat, such as marshes, wet meadows, and irrigation ditches. It may grow on wet land or float in water bodies. It grows in rice paddies in some areas, but it is usually not weedy.

Plants are considerably useful and economically important for all mankind. They may be due to their food value or by means of their active constituents that are used in the treatment of many human diseases. Plants contain hundreds or thousands of chemicals and metabolites that make them medicinally important. Medicinal and aromatic plants, a gift of nature, are being used against various infections and diseases in the world since past history.^[9] It represents an extraordinary reservoir of novel molecules. About 43% of total plants from the Indian subcontinent (approximately 7,500 species) are reported to have medicinal value.^[8] In recent years there has been a gradual revival of interest in the use of medicinal plants because herbal medicines have been reported to be safe and without any adverse side effects.^[1] Much work has been done on ethno medicinal plants in India. Interest in a large number of traditional natural products has increased for finding their phytochemical and antimicrobial activity. It has been also suggested that aqueous and ethanol extracts from plants used in allopathic medicines are potential sources of antiviral and antimicrobial agents.^[5] This leads to finding of antimicrobial potential among the local and wild plants.^[10] Herbal raw material is highly susceptible to fungal infection during post harvest processing and storage in tropical and subtropical countries.^[12] Most of these fungi are toxigenic in nature, producing microtoxins, thereby affecting the quality of herbal raw materials as well as the herbal formulation.^[2] This is one of the major reasons for decline of Indian share in the global herbal market^[2,5] which can be controlled even by such plants those having antimicrobial activity which include activity against pathogenic fungi as well as bacteria. The effects of plant extracts on fungi and bacteria have been studied by a very large number of researchers in different parts of the world with positive results. Antibacterial activity was recorded in various plants against *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *B. cereus* etc.^[11] Antioxidants act as a repository of anti-inflammatory, antifungal, antibacterial and anti-carcinogenic.^[10] Various plant materials are believed to have antifungal activity and many essential oils have been reported to have antifungal activities with no side effects on humans and animals.^[11] Current work has been done by considering folk medicinal values of *Caesulia axillaris* Roxb. and *Psoralea corylifolia* L. to find out their antimicrobial activity against pathogen in lab condition.

C. axillaris Roxb. from family Asteraceae is known to cure baldness and goitre in traditional Indian system of Medicine. The plant is a common weed abundantly growing in paddy fields in India and showed appreciable yield of EO. Its essential oil has been reported against some insects pests causing deterioration of food commodities. *Axillaria* has been tested for its efficacy as aflatoxin B1 suppressor and against fungi deteriorating herbal raw materials.

Besides, the safety profile of the oil has been observed through animal trails so as to find out its efficacy as a preservative of herbal raw materials. However in the present investigation for the first time the chemically characterised oil of *C.* The main objective of the present investigation was screening of fungi responsible for biodeterioration of the stored raw materials of *Andrographis paniculata* Nees, *Terminalia bellirica* Roxb. and *Tinosporacordifolia* (Thunb.).^[9] *P. corylifolia* is a medicinally important plant, belongs to Fabaceae family. It is well recognized in Indian folkloric medicine. Seeds were used for many decades as traditional medicinal system.^[9] The seeds are used in indigenous medicine as laxative, aphrodisiac, and diaphoretic in febrile conditions. And it also specially recommended for treatment of leucoderma leprosy and inflammatory diseases of the skin.^[4]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Leaves Stem and Seeds of both plant has been collected from Sangmner, Manchi hill local forest area of Maharashtra. Plant material further allowed for shed dry and makes fine powder before using it extraction. For anti microbial analysis each plant sample was extracted in Hexane, Chloroform and Methanol with soxhlet extraction. To find out fungal strain Lactophenol and Cotton blue activity were used. For the growth of fungal strain SMKY Medium, Nutrient Agar, CDA and PDA media were used. For growth of fungus 10 gm of each plant material added in 90 ml of sterile distill water with shaking for 15 min and then dilutions were made on Potato Dextrose Agar Plate, which allowed for incubate for 7 days at 37°C growth of fungus were observed°C for 4-5 days on plate and further identified by mold colonies in subculture.



Fig. no. 1: *Caesulia axillaris*.

Table no. 1: *Caesulia axillaris* taxonomic classification.

Caesuliaaxillaris Taxonomic classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Asterids
Order:	Asterales
Family:	Asteraceae
Genus:	<i>Caesulia</i> Roxb.
Species:	<i>C. axillaris</i>

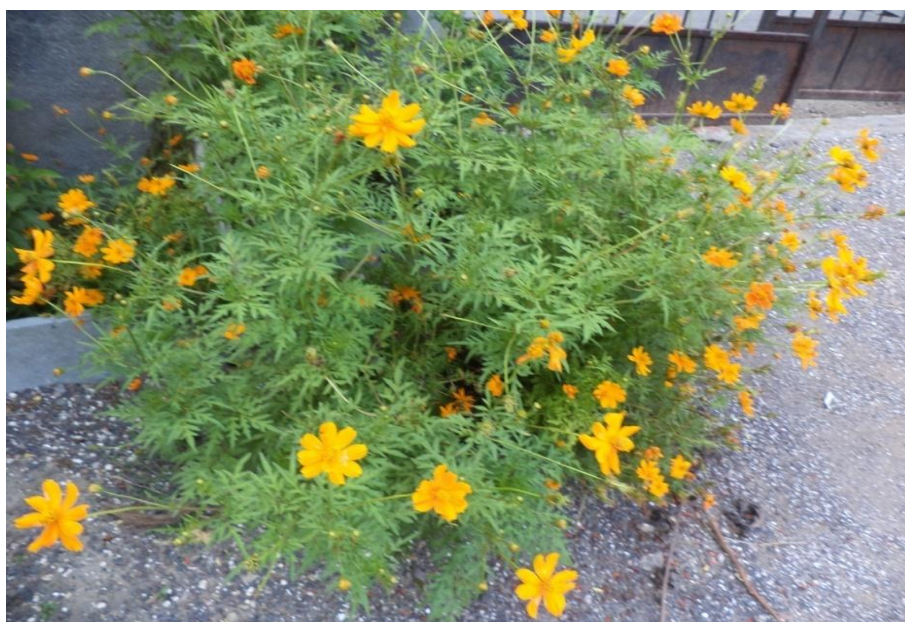


Fig. no. 2: *Dyssodia greggii*.

Table no. 2: *Dyssodia greggii* taxonomic classification.

Caesulia axillaris Taxonomic classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Asterids
Order:	Asterales
Family:	Asteraceae
Subfamily:	Asteroideae
Tribe:	Tageteae
Genus:	<i>Dyssodia</i>

Experimental**Plant extraction**

The plant samples were collected locally and processed. The cleaned and shade dried plant material was ground into fine powder using electric blender. Plant extracts in methanol were prepared by soxhlet extraction. The extracts were filtered into pre-weighed beakers. The filtrates were dried in a Digital rotator vacuum evaporator until a constant dry weight of each extract was obtained. The residues were stored aseptically at 5°C for further use.

Phytochemical screening

For preliminary phytochemical analysis the freshly prepared crude methanolic extract of flowers of plant was tested for the presence or absence of reducing sugar, tannins, flavonoids, saponins, steroids and alkaloids etc. by using standard phytochemical procedures which are presented in Table 3.

RESULT**Table 3: Phytochemical screening of *D. greggii* & *C. axillaris*.**

Sr. No.	Chemical constituents	Test	<i>D.greggii</i>	<i>C. axillaris</i>
1	Test for Reducing Sugar	Benedict's Test	+	-
		Fehling's Test	+	-
2	Test for Phenolics	Bromine water	+	+
		Dil. Iodine solution	+	+
3	Test for Alkaloids	Mayer's test	+	+
		Hager's test	+	+
4	Test for Flavonoids	Sulphuric acid test	+	+

		Zinc Hydrochloride test	+	+
5	Test for steriods	Libermann Test	-	+
		Salkowski reaction	-	+
6	Test for Proteins	Biuret test	-	-
		Millions test	-	-
7	Test for Fats & Oils	Solubility test	-	+
8	Test for Amino acid	Ninhydrin test	+	+
		Test for Tryptophan	-	-
9	Test for Cardiac Glycoside	Keller-killiani test	-	-
		Baljet's test	-	-
10	Test for Saponin Glycoside	Foam test	-	+
11	Test for Coumarin Glycoside	Sodium Hydroxide Solution	-	-
12	Test for Hexose sugars	Tollen's phloroglucinol test	+	-
		Selwinoff's test	+	-
13	Test for Nitrophenol & o-nitrophenol	Aromaticity	+	+
14	Test for tannins	Ferric Chloride test	+	+
15	Test for Vitamins (Ascorbic acid)	Sodium nitroprusside	-	+
16	Test for Amino Acid	Diazotisation	-	+
17	Test for Quinones	Methanolic KOH	+	-

Determination of ash values

Ash Value is used to determine quality & purity of crude drug. It contains inorganic radicals like phosphates, carbonates, potassium etc. For determination of ash values crude drug, like dried leaves of plant was used by using standard procedure and results are presented in table 2.

Table 2: Determination of ash values of plant *D. greggii*.

Total Ash value	Water soluble Ash value	Acid insoluble Ash value
30.5%	32%	29%

Saponification test: A saponification test for essential oil of *C. axillaris* is carried out and saponification value is found to be 2.805mg of KOH/gm of oil.

Screening for antimicrobial activity

The major causes of human communicable diseases are the microorganisms and this has worsened dramatically within the last few decades mainly due to developed resistance by pathogens. A growing challenge in antimicrobial therapy is the progressive development of resistance by microorganisms to the activity of antibiotics. This challenge has necessitated the search for new and effective antimicrobial agents to which resistance has not developed. Medicinal plants are known to contain varied phytochemical constituents as potential antimicrobial agents; ethno-medically, bacterial infections have been treated successfully with herbal remedies. In the present study antimicrobial activity of oil of *C. axillaris* has been carried out and data is reported as follows in Table 2. The antimicrobial activity was tested through agar diffusion method. Chloramphenicol (40 µg) was used as positive control.

Table 3: Antimicrobial activity of essential oil of *Caesulia axillaris*.

Microorganisms	Inhibition zone (mm)						Control
	4mg	8 mg	10mg	12 mg	16 mg	20 mg	
<i>S. aureus</i>	-	3	5	8	10	13	17
<i>E. coli</i>	-	5	7	10	12	15	20
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	-	-	4	7	10	14	26
<i>C. albicans</i>	-	-	-	6	9	12	15

Experiments were done in triplicate and results are mean values.

The essential oil evaluated in this study presented a great variety of alkaloids & flavonoids that could be considered as answerable for the antimicrobial activity. Although they usually occur as complex mixtures, their activity may generally account for in terms of their major components.

CONCLUSION

Phytochemical screening of the plant extract and essential oil confirmed the presence of several bioactive compounds like glycosides, terpenoids, alkaloids etc. which could be responsible for the versatile medicinal properties of these plants. In order to study the effects of these compounds on biological system needs more studies as these compounds might be responsible for use of this plant in different diseases.

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