WORLD JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH
SJIF Impact Factor 8.453
Volume 13, Issue 15, 772-782. Research Article ISSN 2277–7105

EXPLORING NYCTANTHES ARBOR-TRISTIS BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS AS NATURAL INHIBITORS OF ALPHA-AMYLASE AND ALPHA-GLUCOSIDASE: IMPLICATIONS FOR TYPE 2 DIABETES MANAGEMENT

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Article Received on
07 June 2024,

Revised on 27 June 2024,
Accepted on 17 July 2024

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr202415-33336

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ABSTRACT

Background: Nyctanthes arbor-tristis, known for its pharmacological diversity, is increasingly studied for its potential therapeutic benefits, including in type 2 diabetes management. Type 2 diabetes mellitus, characterized by insulin resistance and dysregulated glucose metabolism, necessitates effective treatment options to mitigate its health impacts. Natural products, like those from Nyctanthes arbor-tristis, present promising avenues due to their bioactive compounds potentially acting as enzyme inhibitors. **Methodology:** This study employed molecular docking to screen 30 biomolecules derived from Nyctanthes arbor-tristis against alpha-amylase and alpha-glucosidase, key enzymes in glucose metabolism. Molecular docking simulations were conducted to predict ligand binding affinities and interactions with enzyme active sites. The computational approach facilitated the assessment of these compounds' potential to modulate enzyme activity, crucial for managing type 2 diabetes. **Results:** Six bioactive compounds Lupeol, Beta-Sitosterol, Oleanolic Acid, Nicotiflorin,

iridoid, Astragalin, demonstrated significant binding affinities and interactions with alpha-amylase and alpha-glucosidase. Notably, interactions such as hydrogen bonding and hydrophobic interactions were observed, indicative of effective enzyme inhibition mechanisms. These findings underscore the potential of Nyctanthes arbor-tristis compounds as inhibitors of carbohydrate-digesting enzymes, suggesting their utility in regulating blood glucose levels. **Conclusion:** This research highlights Nyctanthes arbor-tristis as a promising source of natural inhibitors for alpha-amylase and alpha-glucosidase, pivotal in glucose metabolism regulation. The identified bioactive compounds show potential for developing novel therapeutic agents for type 2 diabetes. Further studies are essential to validate these findings experimentally and explore their clinical applications. This study contributes valuable insights into utilizing natural products in drug discovery, emphasizing the need for continued investigation into botanical sources for innovative diabetes treatments.

KEYWORDS: Diabetes mellitus, Nyctanthes arbor-tristis, alpha-Amylase, Molecular docking.

1. INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a widespread and multifactorial disease of increasing global concern, reaching epidemic proportions with significant implications for public health. According to the International Diabetes Federation (2011), approximately 366 million individuals worldwide were affected by diabetes, a number projected to escalate to 552 million by 2030. Notably, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) has shown a substantial rise in prevalence, affecting approximately 415 million adults globally by 2015 compared to 171 million in 2000. This surge highlights an urgent need for effective therapeutic strategies to manage and mitigate the complications associated with this chronic condition.[1]

The management of DM often involves controlling postprandial hyperglycemia, which plays a crucial role in disease progression. α-Amylase and α-glucosidase are pivotal enzymes involved in carbohydrate digestion, and inhibitors targeting these enzymes can effectively modulate postprandial blood glucose levels. This approach not only aids in glycaemic control but also reduces the risk of complications such as renal impairment, cognitive dysfunction, and heightened susceptibility to infections.[2]

Natural products, particularly medicinal plants, have long been investigated for their therapeutic potential in managing diabetes and its associated complications. Among these,

Nyctanthes arbor-tristis Linn., commonly known as Parijat or Night-flowering Jasmine, has garnered scientific interest due to its rich array of bioactive compounds. Belonging to the Oleaceae family, Nyctanthes arbor-tristis is native to the Indian subcontinent and has been traditionally utilized in various medicinal practices for its pharmacological properties.[3]

This study focuses on the isolation, structural elucidation, and functional characterization of bioactive constituents from Nyctanthes arbor-tristis, particularly its inhibitory potential against α-glucosidase. The plant is known to contain diverse compounds such as astragaline, oleanolic acid, tannic acid, and various glycosides, which have demonstrated antibacterial, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory activities in addition to their potential antidiabetic effects.[4]

The aim of this research is to explore the pharmacological properties of Nyctanthes arbor-tristis as a natural source of α-glucosidase inhibitors, contributing to the development of novel therapeutic agents for managing postprandial hyperglycemia in diabetes. By elucidating its biochemical mechanisms and therapeutic potential, this study seeks to pave the way for future clinical applications of Nyctanthes arbor-tristis in diabetes management and related metabolic disorders.[5]

In conclusion, the investigation into Nyctanthes arbor-tristis represents a promising avenue in natural product research, offering potential solutions for combating the global burden of diabetes and improving public health outcomes worldwide.

Kingdom	Plantae
Phylum	Angiosperms (Flowering plants)
Class	Eudicots
Subclass	Asterids
Order	Lamiales
Family	Oleaceae (Olive family)
Subfamily	Oleoideae
Tribes	Jasmineae
Subtribes	Jasmineinae

2. MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Target identification

Referring to the numerous articles, publications, and review papers, newly identified powerful antidiabetic targets. Alpha amylase is a potent target to inhibit the growth of activity.[6] Targeting the alpha amylase can management of the growth of diabetes. α-Amylase is an enzyme synthesized by salivary glands and the pancreas that catalyzes the breakdown of starch molecules into simpler sugars such as maltose and glucose. This enzyme acts by cleaving the α-1,4 glycosidic bonds present in amylose and amylopectin, essential components of starch. Salivary α-amylase initiates starch digestion in the mouth, while pancreatic α-amylase continues this process in the small intestine. Optimal α-amylase activity occurs at a slightly alkaline pH, typically around 6.7 to 7.0, which is conducive to its function in the small intestine. Gastric acid found in the stomach can inhibit α-amylase activity due to its acidic nature. The enzyme was named Taka-amylase A after its discoverer, Takamine. Human pancreatic alpha-amylase (PDB ID: 4W93) was selected as the target enzyme due to its crucial role in carbohydrate digestion and its inhibition potential for managing diabetes mellitus.[7]

2.2 Protein Preparation and Quality assessment

The previously reported 3D crystal structure of alpha amylase which is an enzyme with PDB ID- 4W93 having 1.35Å resolution has been obtained from the Protein data bank.[8]

The downloaded protein structure was imported into BIOVIA Discovery Studio for protein preparation. This involved standard procedures such as removing hetero atoms and water

molecules, as well as any previously bound ligand groups. Additionally, polar hydrogens were added to ensure the protein structure was appropriately protonated for further computational and analysis purposes. After preparing the protein, it is converted into the PDB format for later use in docking studies.[9] The PROCHECK server was utilized to evaluate the stereochemical flexibility and quality of protein structure. The Ramachandran plot can determine the quality of protein structure. The torsion angle regions allowed for the backbone dihedral angles ψ relative to φ in amino acid residues are defined in protein structures. Examining the Ramachandran plot provides valuable insights into the stereochemical quality of the protein structure, confirming its fidelity and reliability for subsequent research and investigations. Ultimately, the prepared protein structure underwent rigorous validation via ProSA-Web and SAVESv6.0 web server.[10]

2.3 Ligand designing

The study aimed to identify potential antidiabetic compounds from *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* through in silico screening using molecular docking techniques. Virtual ligand design is an advanced computational method widely used in drug discovery. It encompasses diverse strategies, such as scaffold hopping, aimed at identifying promising lead compounds characterized by enhanced binding affinities and desired pharmacological properties. This approach involves the systematic exploration of novel molecular scaffolds capable of potentially favourable interactions with the target protein.[11]

2.4 Molecular docking

Molecular docking is a leading virtual tool for structure-based drug design, depending on the availability of the 3D structure of the protein target. Its main purpose is to explore potential binding modes and predict binding affinity. A docking study was conducted using the AutoDock Vina module, which is integrated into the PyRx software. Using PyRx 0.8 software, the generated protein structure was transformed into the macromolecule in AutoDock while minimizing energy requirements. The designed ligands structure was introduced to the PyRx 0.8 software using the Open Babel program. After importing the ligand molecules into PyRx software the first step is to minimize their energy and convert all the ligand molecules into the pdbqt format. Following that, the energy-minimized protein and ligands were selected in AutoDock Vina for molecular docking studies. The 30 compounds were docked against the target protein receptor with PyRx 0.8 software. Molecular docking predicts the position, interaction, and shape of ligand molecules within a large

macromolecule. All ligand compounds are downloaded in SDF format from PubChem. The ligands were then used for molecular docking after being converted to PDBQT format with PyRx's open babel plugin. In Vin wizard, choose a macromolecule, select ligand molecules, then click the start button to begin docking ligand-protein interactions. After the molecule interaction is completed, we receive an excel document with the molecular binding affinity information.[12]

2.5 Docking analysis

Docking analysis was conducted using BIOVIA Discovery Studio 4.0 to evaluate ligand interactions based on binding affinities. The analysis includes H-bond, Pi-stacking, Pi cation, and C-H interactions. Separation of the receptor's amino acid residues and acquired ligand functional groups was investigated. Compounds from plants with the greatest negative docking score were chosen for their potential anti-diabetic activity.[13]

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Preparation of protein Structure and Quality assessment of protein

The protein structure of Human pancreatic alpha-amylase (PDB ID-4W93) was subjected to binding pocket analysis using the CASTp server. PROCHECK serve is used to plot the Ramachandran plot for quality evolution. These prepared protein structures and ligand structures were used for further in-silico screening such as molecular docking. A high-throughput computational screening, the protein structure of alpha amylase retrieved from the RCSB (PDB ID: 4W93) underwent a meticulous preparation and validation process. A pivotal aspect of this preparation was the generation of a Ramachandran plot, a important for in analyzing the quality of protein structures by estimating the percentage of amino acid residues positioned within favored regions. Analyzing the Ramachandran plot, the distribution of amino acid residues across different regions was discerned. Furthermore, the model quality assessment by the ProSA-web server.[14]

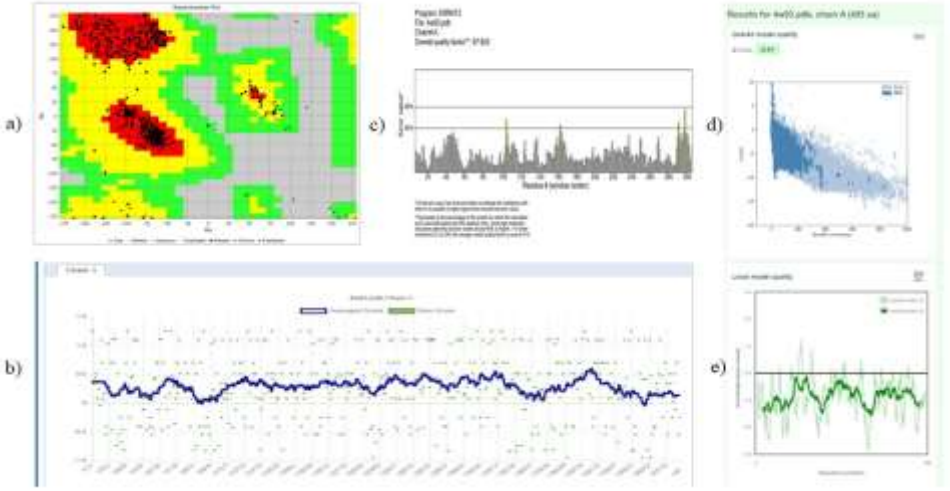

Figure No. 1: Alpha amylase protein structure quality assessment.

3.2 Ligand designing

The strategic process of ligand design in this study was systematically previously reported in the literature. The initial step involved a detailed docking study, a computational method used to determine the possible binding modes and interaction profiles between the designed ligands and their target proteins. This computational approach fits well with modern drug discovery techniques, where incorporating computational methods speeds up the lead optimization process and simplifies the identification of promising drug candidates. The docking study's outcomes will serve as a specific residue involved in interactions, and overall structural dynamics of the ligand-protein complexes. The rational design of ligands that not only exhibit robust binding affinities but also engage in key interactions vital for eliciting desired pharmacological effects. Our ligand design methodology, grounded in insights derived from previous research, aligns with the principle of informed innovation. We increase the efficiency and efficacy of our ligand design efforts, optimizing the probability of identifying potent and selective ligands that hold promise as novel therapeutic agents.[15,16]

3.3 Molecular docking

Molecular docking was executed for the analysis of the binding affinity of all the prepared ligand libraries and the designed ligand molecules. Structures of all designed molecules are obtained from the ChemSketch software by drawing them manually using the software itself. Also, molecular docking was performed for the analysis of the protein cavity in which the ligand binds with the amino acids of protein and to check protein-ligand interactions. All the ligands were docked with the selected targeted protein molecule (PDB-4W93) by using PyRx 0.8 software to perform a molecular docking study and BIOVIA Discovery Studio Visualizer

was used to determine interactions of docked ligand molecules with the protein molecules for the analysis of protein-ligand interactions.

Docking score and interactions of phytochemicals with amino acid residues of 4W93

Name of phytochemical	Binding affinity (kcal/mol)	Interacting residues	Distance	Type of interaction
Lupeol	-10.1	TRP A:59	3.65	Pi Sigma
		TRP A:59	4.86	Pi Alkyl
Beta-Sitosterol	-9.4	TYR A:151	4.38	Pi Alkyl
		ILE A:235	4.08	Pi Alkyl
		TYR A:62	3.69	Pi Alkyl
Oleanolic Acid	-9.3	THR A:163	2.28	Conventional hydrogen bond
		ASP A:197	1.94	Conventional hydrogen bond
		ARGA:195	3.17	Conventional hydrogen bond
Nicotiflorin	-9.1	GLU A:233	2.43	Conventional hydrogen bond
		GLU A:233	2.36	Conventional hydrogen bond
		GLU A:233	2.49	Conventional hydrogen bond
		LYS A:200	2.81	Conventional hydrogen bond
		GLU A:240	2.26	Conventional hydrogen bond
		TYR A:151	3.27	Conventional hydrogen bond
		ILE A:235	3.25	Conventional hydrogen bond
		HIS A:201	3.33	Carbon hydrogen bond
		ILE A:235	4.86	Pi-alkyl
Iridoid	-8.1	ARGA:398	2.81	Conventional hydrogen bond
		SER A:3	2.87	Conventional hydrogen bond
		THR A:6	2.35	Conventional hydrogen bond
		THR A:6	3.16	Conventional hydrogen bond
		GLY A:9	3.22	Conventional hydrogen bond
		ASP A:402	1.97	Conventional hydrogen bond
		ASP A:402	3.98	Conventional hydrogen bond
		THR A:11	3.76	Carbon hydrogen bond
Astragalin	-7.8	ASP A:197	2.33	Conventional hydrogen bond
		ASP A:197	2.76	Conventional hydrogen bond
		GLU A:233	2.90	Conventional hydrogen bond
		GLU A:233	2.25	Conventional hydrogen bond
		ASP A:300	3.03	Conventional hydrogen bond
		ASP A:356	2.67	Conventional hydrogen bond
		HIS A:305	4.32	Pi-Pi Stacked
		HIS A:305	5.51	Pi-Pi Stacked
		ASP A:300	4.81	Pi- Anion

This investigation delved into the designed compounds, aiming to shed light on their binding affinities and the impact of functional group modifications. To assess the effect of functional groups on binding affinity (BA), each compound from the series underwent docking analysis. The binding interactions of the designed compounds were scrutinized to discern the

repercussions of functional group incorporation on their BA. The variations in binding affinities underscore the structural intricacies and their impact on ligand-protein interactions. It is noteworthy that the binding affinity trends within each series could potentially provide insights into the favored binding modes, and further studies could unravel the contributing factors to the observed variations. In the context of drug design and development, binding affinity is a pivotal determinant of a ligand's potential as a therapeutic agent. Compounds with higher binding affinities are more likely to form stable complexes with target proteins, increasing the chances of eliciting a desired biological response. The docking study serves as an initial step in the process of drug discovery, offering valuable insights into the potential of designed compounds for further development. The docking study, an essential tool in ligand-protein interaction analysis, yielded significant insights into the binding potential of the designed compounds. This study contributes to the broader understanding of molecular binding mechanisms and paves the way for informed drug design strategies. Docking studies are crucial in the initial phases of drug discovery. Docking studies provide valuable insights into the potential interactions between ligands and target proteins by predicting their binding modes and affinities. These predictions help identify key residues and binding sites.

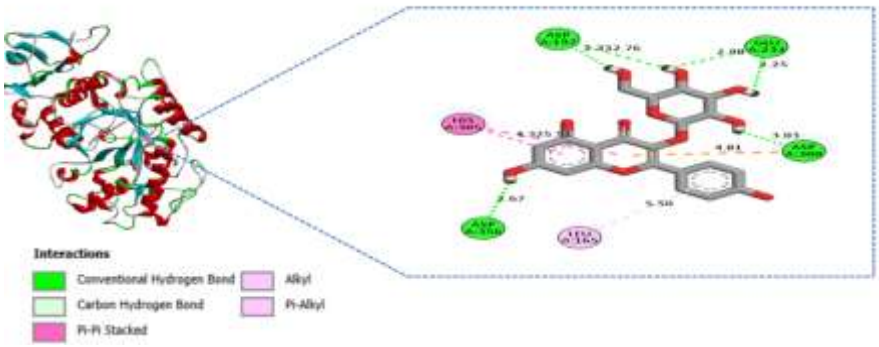

Figure 2: Interactions of phytoconstituents with alpha amylase enzyme (PDB ID-4W93).

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Nyctanthes arbor-tristis emerges as a promising reservoir of natural inhibitors targeting alpha-amylase and alpha-glucosidase, critical enzymes in glucose metabolism regulation. The identified bioactive compounds, including Lupeol, Beta-Sitosterol, Oleanolic Acid, Nicotiflorin, iridoid, and Astragalin, exhibit substantial binding affinities and interactions with these enzymes, suggesting their potential as effective therapeutic agents for managing type 2 diabetes. The study underscores the importance of further experimental validation and clinical exploration to harness these natural products effectively in the development of novel diabetes treatments. This research underscores the role of botanical

sources in drug discovery, advocating for continued investigation into their pharmacological potential.

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