



ISSN: 0976-3031

Available Online at <http://www.recentscientific.com>

CODEN: IJRSFP (USA)

International Journal of Recent Scientific Research
Vol. 9, Issue, 1(F), pp. 23249-23252, January, 2018

**International Journal of
Recent Scientific
Research**

DOI: 10.24327/IJRSR

Research Article

QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE PHYTOCHEMICAL ESTIMATION OF LEAVES EXTRACTS OF PLANT *PLUMBAGO ZEYLANICA*

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijrsr.2018.0901.1429>

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 17th October, 2017
Received in revised form 21st
November, 2017
Accepted 05th December, 2017
Published online 28th January, 2018

Key Words:

Phytochemicals, secondary metabolites,
flavonoids, phenolic, saponin content.

ABSTRACT

Plants are being widely used either as single drug or in combination in health care. The Indian herbs are broadly utilized as source of drugs mentioned in the traditional systems of medicine. *Plumbago zeylanica* Linn. (Plumbaginaceae) is one of the well-known herbal plant. It is commonly known as chitramula and chitrack. This is perennial herb grow in shady places in the garden and found in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and parts India, which include Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Southern India. The objective of the present study is to evaluate scientific data for presence of various phytochemicals in the leaves extract of methanol, aqueous and petroleum benzene. The three different extracts of leaves were found to contain triterpenoids, flavonoids, phenolic tannins, saponins & carbohydrate. The total flavonoid content was 213.3 ± 0.577 and 177.3 ± 0.577 in methanolic and aqueous extract, The total phenolic content in the methanol and aqueous extract was found to be 358.1 ± 1.963 and 174.8 ± 0.2 , saponin content in the methanolic and aqueous extract was found to be 326.5 ± 0.173 and 134.8 ± 0.230 in mg/g. Presence of such secondary metabolites makes this plant useful for mankind. In future we can prepare herbal drug from the leaves of this plant.

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INTRODUCTION

The role of plant is very useful for life of mankind. There is a mutual relation among plants and human beings. Plants have been used as medicine since long time. Plants contain many chemical components which are useful in biological functions. These chemical components work on the human body in exactly the same way as pharmaceutical drugs. Secondary metabolites which are produced by plants play an important role to cure many diseases.

Plumbago zeylanica is from plumbaginaceae family. It is an important herb which is revealed in charak samhita [Vishnukanta Rana AC 2010]. *Plumbago zeylanica* also recognized as white leadwort and its trade name is chitrak. It has been used in Indian and Chinese medicinal system for more than 3000 years also used by African healers. The family plumbaginaceae consist of 10 genera and 280 species. Its genus consists 3 different species, namely *P.indica*, *P.capensis* and *P.zeylanica* which are distributed in several parts of India, as wild or in cultivation due to its more therapeutic uses [Chetty, K. M. 2006]. *Plumbago zeylanica* is well known plant in India. The flowers of this plant reminiscent with jasmine. *Plumbago zeylanica* is semi-climbing, sub-scandant shrub of warm temperature tropical and subtropical region of the world

[Nadkarni KM 1982] and expand in various part of India especially in Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Sri Lanka [Kirtikar KR and Basu BD 2000].

Leaves show anti-inflammatory, antinociceptive [Sheeja E, et.al., 2010], larvicidal activity [Maniafu BM et al., 2009]. Stem show inhibition of immediate allergic reactions [Yue D et al., 2004]. Plumbagin, naphthoquinone which is obtained from *Plumbago zeylanica* root inhibits cell growth and potentiates in human gastric cancer cell [Li J. et al., 2012] inhibits ultraviolet radiation induced development of squamous cell carcinomas [Sand JM et al., 2012] and genotoxic damage induced by potassium canrenoate in culture human peripheral blood lymphocytes [Siddique YH, et al., 2012]. Root also shows anti-fertility activity [Sandeep G et al., 2011]. Neo and 1-epineo-isoshinanolones which is isolated from roots of *Plumbago zeylanica* shows antimicrobial activity [Jetty A et al., 2010]. Based on the above study was design to evaluate the phytochemicals presence in this plant also the quantity of flavonoids, phenolic and saponins present in the plant.

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Fig 1



Fig 2

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of Plant Material & authentication

Leaves of plant collected from the Sanjivani Bhopal. Dr. Zia Ul Hasan Professor, Department of Botany, Safia College of Art & Science, Bhopal, identified and authenticated this plant.

Preparation of Plant Extracts

The leaves of *plumbago zeylanica* was collected and air dried at room temperature. The leaves were crushed to make fine powdered. This powder of leaves was subjected to successive extraction by maceration process and different extracts from non-polar to polar solvents such as petroleum benzene, methanol and water used. Each filtrate was concentrated and dried at 40°C. These crude extracts then weighed and kept in refrigerator for further phytochemical investigation.

Phytochemical analysis of different Crude extracts

Qualitative analysis

Extracts were tested to identify presence or absence of phytochemicals such as Triterpenoids, Steroids, Saponins, Alkaloids, Flavonoids, Tannins, Proteins, glycosides and Carbohydrates by using the standard procedures [Kokate C.K. *et al.*, 2006].

Quantitative analysis

Estimation of Flavonoids

Total flavonoids were measured by a colorimetric assay. An aliquot of diluted sample was added to a 75 µl of 5% NaNO₂ solution, and mixed for 6 min, before adding 0.15 mL 10 % AlCl₃ (100 g/L). After 5 min, 0.5 mL of 4% NaOH was added. The final volume was adjusted to 2.5 ml with distilled water

and thoroughly mixed. Absorbance of the mixture was taken at 510 nm against the same mixture, without the sample, as a blank. Total flavonoid content was expressed as mg rutin/g dry weight (mg rutin/g DW), through the calibration curve of Rutin. All samples were analysed in three replications [Zou Y.P. *et al.*, 2004], [Zengin H.W. *et al.*, 2011].

Estimation of phenolic compound

The amount of total phenolic in extracts was determined with the Folin Ciocalteu reagent. Gallic acid was used as a standard and the total phenolic were expressed as mg/g gallic acid equivalent (GAE). Concentration of 0.1 and 1 mg/ml of plant extract were also prepared in methanol and 0.5 ml of each sample were introduced in to test and mixed with 2.5 ml of a 10 fold dilute folin Ciocalteu reagent and 2 ml of 7.5% sodium carbonate and allowed to stand for 30 minutes at room temperature before the absorbance was taken at 760 nm spectrometrically. All determination was performed in triplicate. The folin-Ciocalteu reagent is sensitive to reducing compounds including polyphenols. It produce a blue colour upon reaction. This blue colour was measured spectrophotometrically [Maurya S. and Singh D. 2010].

Estimation of saponin

Standard saponin solution prepared by dissolving 10 mg of diosgenin add (16 mL) methanol and distilled water (4 mL). To the aliquots for each tube, vanillin reagent (8%, 0.25 mL) was added and sulphuric acid (72% v/v, 2.5 mL) added slowly on the inner side of the wall. The solutions were mixed well and the tubes were transferred to a 60 °C water bath. After 10 mins incubation, the tubes were cool in ice cold water bath for 3 – 4 mins. The absorbance was measured at 544 nm against the reagent blank. 0.1 g of freeze dried sample was dissolved in aqueous methanol (80%, 0.1 mL). 0.25 mL of aliquot was taken for spectrophotometric determination for total saponins at 544 nm [Sim E.E. W.E.I. 2011].

RESULTS

The present study was carried out on the *plumbago zeylanica* revealed that the presence of active phytochemical constituents. The bioactive components of *plumbago zeylanica* were qualitative and quantitatively analysed from different extracts of leaves and the results are mentioned in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

Table 1

Chemical Test	Pet. ether	Aqueous	Methanolic
1. Test for Triterpenoids & Steroids:			
Liebermann Burchard Test	+	–	+
Salkowski test	+	–	+
2. Test for Glycosides			
Keller Killiani Test	–	–	–
Legal test	–	+	+
3. Test for Saponins			
Foam test	–	+	+
4. Test for Alkaloids			
Hager's Test	–	–	+
wagner Test	–	+	+
Mayer Test	–	–	–
5. Test for Flavonoids			
Lead acetate test	+	+	+
Alkaline reagent test		+	+

Shinoda test	—	—	—
6.Test for Tannins and phenolic			
Ferric chloride test	+	+	+
Lead acetate test	—	—	—
Dil. I ₂ test	—	—	—
7.Test for Proteins			
Biuret test	—	—	—
8.Test for Free amino acids			
Ninhydrin Test	—	—	+
9.Test for Carbohydrates			
Molish test	—	+	—
Benedict test	—	+	+
Barfoed	—	+	+

The quantitative estimation of primary metabolites revealed that the various phytochemical constituents present in the plant extract (Table-2).

Table 2

S.No.	Phytochemicals	Methanol extract	Aqueous extract
1	Total Flavonoid content in mg/g equivalent of rutin	213.3±0.577	177.3±0.577
2	Total phenolic content in mg/g equivalent of galic acid	358.1±1.963	174.8±0.2
3	Total saponin content in mg/g equivalent of Diosgenin	326.5±0.173	134.8±0.230

Values are expressed by mean±SD of three readings, SD: Standard deviation,

Standard curve of rutin

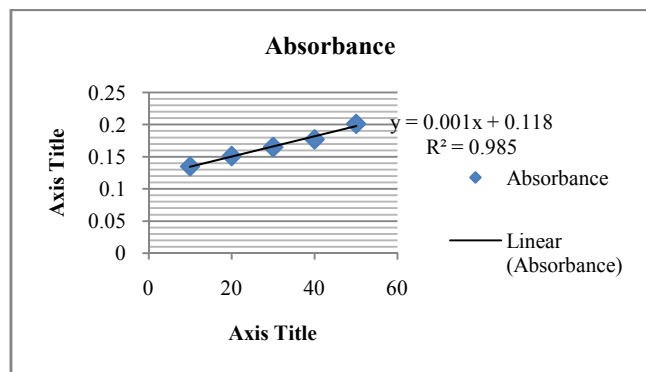


Fig 3

Standard curve of gallic acid

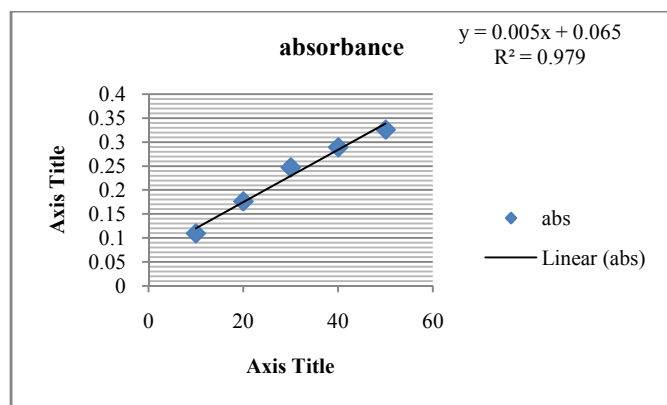


Fig 4

Standard curve of diosgenin

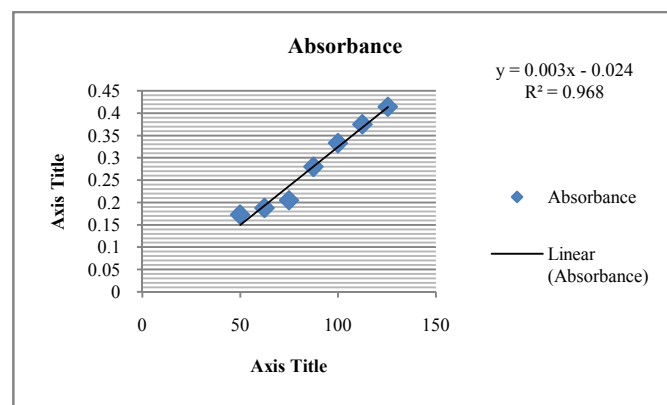


Fig 5

DISCUSSION

Flavonoids have been reported to contains wide range of biological activities. The total flavonoid content was determined using aluminum tri chloride reagent. Rutin used as a standard compound and the total flavonoid content was expressed as mg/g rutin equivalent using the standard curve equation: $y = 0.001x + 0.118$, $R^2 = 0.985$ (Figure 3); where y is absorbance at 510 nm and x is total flavonoid content in the extracts of *Plumbago zeylanica* leaves expressed in mg/g. The total flavonoid content was 213.3±0.577 and 177.3±0.577 in mg/g equivalent of rutin in the methanolic and aqueous extract, respectively (Table 2). The higher amount of phenolic component is important in the regulation of plant growth, development and disease resistance. Consumption of diets rich in plant polyphenols offers protection against the development of many diseases.

Folin-Ciocalteu reagent used for determining total phenolic content. Gallic acid standard curve and equation: $y = 0.005x + 0.065$, $R^2 = 0.979$ (Figure 4); where y is absorbance at 760 nm and x is total phenolic content in the extracts of *plumbago zeylanica* expressed in mg/g equivalent of Gallic acid used for determination. The total phenolic content in the methanol and aqueous extract of *Plumbago zeylanica* leaves was found to be 358.1±1.963 and 174.8±0.2 in mg/g equivalent of Gallic acid (Table 2).

The saponins are used in hypercholestromia, hyperglycemia, antioxidant, anticancer, anti inflammatory activity and weight loss [Manickam M. and Veerabahu R.M. 2014]. The total saponin content was determined using vanillin reagent. Diosgenin was used as a standard compound and the total saponin content were expressed as mg/g diosgenin equivalent using the standard curve equation: $y = 0.003x - 0.024$, $R^2 = 0.968$ (Figure 5); where y is absorbance at 544 nm and x is total saponin content in the extracts of *Plumbago zeylanica* leaves expressed in mg/g. The total saponin content in the methanolic and aqueous extract of *Plumbago zeylanica* leaves was found to be 326.5±0.173 and 134.8±0.230 in mg/g equivalent of diosgenin (Table 2).

Methanolic extract of leaves showed highest amount of total phenolic content (358.1±1.963 mg/g equivalent of Gallic acid) and total flavonoid content (213.3±0.577 mg/g equivalent of rutin) total saponin content (326.5±0.173 mg/g equivalent of diosgenin). The presence of such important secondary

metabolites in *Plumbago zeylanica* leaves indicates its therapeutic importance in men and animals.

CONCLUSION

The presence of phytoconstituents make the plant useful for treating different malady and have a potential of providing useful drugs of human use. In the present study, we have found that methanolic and aqueous extracts of leaves of *Plumbago zeylanica* consist high amount of flavonoid, phenolic and saponins it can be considered beneficial for further investigation. These phytoconstituents can act as a source of useful drugs and also to improve the health status of the consumers as a result of the presence of various compounds that are vital role for good health.

Aknowledment

The authors are grateful to Pinnacle Biomedical Research Institute Bhopal for proceeding this work in their lab.

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How to cite this article:

Anjali Jijhotiya., Madhuri and Sadhna Goyal. 2018, Qualitative And Quantitative Phytochemical Estimation of Leaves Extracts of Plant *Plumbago Zeylanica*. *Int J Recent Sci Res*. 9(1), pp. 23249-23252. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijrsr.2018.0901.1429>
