Phytochemical Studies on the Leaves of *Pergularia Daemia*
Collected from Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu, India

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Abstract: *Pergularia daemia* is a fetid smelling, perennial twinning herb, widely distributed in the roadsides of tropical and sub tropical areas. It is used as an important medicinal plant since ancient times. The present study deals with the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the leaves of *Pergularia daemia* in different solvents and also this study deals with the separation of compounds present in crude methanolic extract of *Pergularia daemia* leaves by High Performance Liquid Chromatography. The qualitative analysis of the leaves showed the presence of alkaloids, steroids, terpenoids, flavanoids, saponins, phenols, tannins, aminoacids, cardiac glycosides, carbohydrates and proteins. The quantification of the compounds like alkaloids, flavanoids and phenols were done. HPLC shows the presence of two major peaks and exhibited the presence of two major components in the methanolic extract of the leaves. The results suggested that *Pergularia daemia* has significant phytocomponents and can be used as a source for many pharmacological studies and a curative for various ailments.

Keywords: ancient times, HPLC, medicinal plant, *Pergularia daemia*, phytochemical screening.

Date of Submission: 06-01-2018
Date of acceptance: 20-01-2018

I. INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants are a pride to our nature. It is estimated that there are more than 45,000 species of medicinal plants present in our country. They are possessed to have various properties like antioxidant, anti inflammatory, anti cancer etc. Of these only 60% of plants are officially used by practitioners and 40% of plants are used traditionally [1]. One such traditionally used ethnomedicinal plant is *Pergularia daemia* which is used to treat a number of ailments. It is a latex plant, pungent smelling and perennial twinning herb belonging to the family Asclepiadaceae [2]. Seeds of this plant have velvety hairs and are dispersed through wind with cottony appearance. Hence, these plants are found mostly along the roadsides forming hedges of tropical and subtropical regions [3]. It is commonly known as “Veliparuthi” in Tamil and “Hariknot” in English. In Tamil, the term “Veli” denotes “a guardian” or “a protector”. It is interesting to note that the Siddha medicine had named only two medicinal plants which act as a shield for humans. One is Veliparuthi (*Pergularia daemia*) and the other is kodivedi (*Plumbago zeylanica*), as they both have multiple valuable properties. *Pergularia daemia* can be used as an anthelminthic, laxative, antipyretic and anti inflammatory [4]. Aerial parts of this plant have hepatoprotective [5] and anti diabetic properties [6]. The leaf latex is used as pain killer and as a relief for toothache [7]. The dried leaves are used in treating bronchitis, asthma, rheumatic fever, amenorrhea and dysmenorrhea [8]. The present study aims at comparative analysis of qualitative and quantitative phytocomponents present in the leaves of *Pergularia daemia* in different solvents and to separate the bioactive components using high performance liquid chromatography technique.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Collection of plant sample
The fresh leaves were collected from Tirukoilur, Villupuram district, Tamilnadu, India.

2.2 Preparation of the extract
The leaves of *Pergularia daemia* were washed thoroughly in tap water to remove dust particles. The leaves were then dried in shade at room temperature and coarsely powdered by a mechanical grinder. The dried powdered sample was soaked in different solvents like methanol, ethanol, chloroform and petroleum ether for 3 to 5 days. Aqueous extract of the leaves were also prepared by soaking the dried powder in distilled water. After 5 days, the extracts were filtered using No.1 Whatman filter paper and stored in air tight container for further analysis.
2.3 Qualitative analysis of phytochemicals

Preliminary phytochemical screening was carried out [9] and [10].

2.3.1 Test for alkaloids (Mayer’s test)
To 1 ml of extract, 1 ml of Mayer’s reagent (Potassium iodide solution) was added. Formation of whitish yellow or cream coloured precipitate indicates the presence of alkaloids.

2.3.2 Test for steroids (Libermann Burchard test)
To 1 ml of extract, 2 ml of acetic anhydride and 2 ml of concentrated sulphuric acid were added. Formation of violet to blue or green colour indicates the presence of steroids.

2.3.3 Test for terpenoids (Salkowski test)
To 1 ml of extract, 2 ml of chloroform and few drops of sulphuric acid were added. Formation of reddish brown ring indicates the presence of terpenoids.

2.3.4 Test for flavanoids (Alkaline reagent test)
To 1 ml of extract, few drops of dilute ammonium solution and few drops of concentrated hydrochloric acid were added. A yellow colouration indicates the presence of flavanoids.

2.3.5 Test for saponins (Froth test)
To 1 ml of extract, 5 ml of distilled water was added and shaken vigorously. Formation of froth indicates the presence of saponins.

2.3.6 Test for phenols (Lead Acetate test)
To 1 ml of extract, 1 ml of lead acetate solution was added. Formation of precipitate indicates the presence of phenols.

2.3.7 Test for tannins (Ferric chloride test)
To 1 ml of extract, 1 ml of ferric chloride solution was added. Formation of blue, black or brownish green colour indicates the presence of tannins.

2.3.8 Test for cardiac glycosides (Keller Killiani test)
To 1 ml of extract, 5 ml of distilled water was added and evaporated to dryness. Then to the Sample 2 ml of glacial acetic acid containing trace amount of ferric chloride solution was added. Then 1 ml of concentrated sulphuric acid was added along the sides of the tube. Formation of brown ring underlayed with blue colour indicates presence of cardiac glycosides.

2.3.9 Test for aminoacids (Ninhydrin test)
To the 1 ml of sample, 3 to 4 drops of Ninhydrin solution was added and boiled in water bath for 10 minutes. Formation of purple or blue colour indicates the presence of amino acids.

2.3.10 Test for proteins (Biuret test)
To the 1 ml of extract, 1 ml of 40% sodium hydroxide solution and 2 drops of 1% copper sulphate solution were added. Formation of violet colour indicates the presence of proteins.

2.3.11 Test for carbohydrates (Barfoed test)
To the 2 ml of extract, 1 ml of Barfoed’s reagent was added and boiled in water bath for few minutes. Formation of reddish brown precipitate indicates the presence of carbohydrates.

2.3.12 Test for reducing sugars (Fehling’s test)
To the 1 ml of extract, equal quantities of Fehling solution A and B were added and heated. Formation of brick red precipitate indicates the presence of reducing sugars.

2.4 Quantitative estimation of phytochemicals

2.4.1 Alkaloid determination
5 gm of sample was added to 200 ml of 10% acetic acid in ethanol in a beaker. The beaker was tightly covered and allowed to stand for 4 hours. This was filtered and the extract was concentrated on a water bath to one quarter of the original volume. The entire solution was precipitated by the drop wise addition of concentrated ammonium hydroxide solution. The precipitate was collected and washed with dilute ammonium hydroxide and filtered. The residue is alkaloid, which was dried and weighed [10].

2.4.2 Flavanoid determination
10 gm of sample was added to 100 ml of 80% aqueous methanol in a beaker. The whole solution was filtered through Whatman filter paper No.42 (125mm). The filtrate was then evaporated to dryness and weighed [10].
2.4.3 Determination of total phenols
Few grams of sample were boiled with 50 ml of ether for 15 minutes for the extraction of phenols. To the 5 ml of extract, 10 ml of distilled water, 2 ml of ammonium hydroxide solution and 5 ml of concentrated amyl alcohol were added. The samples were left for 30 minutes. This was measured at 505 nm [10].

2.4.4 High performance liquid chromatography
High performance liquid chromatographic system is equipped with LC10AT pump, spectrasystem UV3000 HR detector in combination with camag software. The detection takes place at 254 nm. The mobile phase components were filtered through 0.2μ membrane filter before use [11].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The qualitative phytochemical analysis of the leaves of *Pergularia daemia* is summarized in the Table 1. The quantification of important phytocompounds of this plant is summarized in Table 2. The methanolic extract of leaves showed the presence of high number of phytocomponents when compared with ethanol, petroleum ether, chloroform and aqueous. The methanolic extracts revealed the presence of alkaloids, steroids, terpenoids, saponins, phenols, tannins, cardiac glycosides, aminoacids, proteins, carbohydrates and reducing sugars. Phytochemicals such as saponins, terpenoids, flavanoids and alkaloids have hypoglycemic activities [12]. Pergularia daemia has high amount of tannins and they play a major role in the treatment of intestinal disorders like diarrhoea and dysentery [13]. The leaves also have flavanoids which play a major role as antioxidant [14]. The result of HPLC shows the presence of two major peaks with two principle components in methanolic extract of leaves Fig 1. The other retention peaks were seems to be ambiguous. It helps to undertake further studies on isolation and identification of specific phytocomponents for pharmacological studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tests</th>
<th>Methanol</th>
<th>Ethanol</th>
<th>Petroleum Ether</th>
<th>Chloroform</th>
<th>Aqueous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alkaloid</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steroids</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flavanoids</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terpenoids</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saponins</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tannins</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac Glycosides</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aminoacids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proteins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carbohydrates</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reducing Sugars</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1:** Qualitative phytochemical analysis of the leaves of *Pergularia daemia*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tests</th>
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<th>Ethanol</th>
<th>Petroleum Ether</th>
<th>Chloroform</th>
<th>Aqueous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alkaloid</td>
<td>8.56 ± 0.08</td>
<td>7.56 ± 1.20</td>
<td>1.25 ± 0.67</td>
<td>1.32 ± 1.0</td>
<td>7.45 ± 1.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flavanoid</td>
<td>2.03 ± 0.02</td>
<td>3.01 ± 1.0</td>
<td>3.85 ± 0.04</td>
<td>0.09 ± 0.01</td>
<td>4.15 ± 0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenols</td>
<td>16.53 ± 0.35</td>
<td>14.25 ± 2.3</td>
<td>5.09 ± 0.09</td>
<td>9.09 ± 2.12</td>
<td>6.72 ± 1.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2:** Quantitative phytochemical analysis of the leaves of *Pergularia daemia*.
Fig 1: Chromatogram and Results

**CONCLUSION**

The qualitative and quantitative analysis shows that the leaves of *Pergularia daemia* contain important phytoconstituents such as alkaloids, steroids, terpenoids, flavonoids, phenols, tannins and proteins. The methanolic extracts are rich in phytoconstituents when compared with other extracts. Thus, the study reveals the presence of various medicinally valued bioactive components of *Pergularia daemia* which has many curing abilities. Further researches are going on to discover its biological activity and enhance the pharmacological activities of it in the area of medicine.

**REFERENCES**


