

Original Research Article

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Comparative Evaluation of Phytochemicals in Methanolic and Ethanolic Leaf Extracts of Anticancer Paradise Tree *Simarouba glauca* DC

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ABSTRACT

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Various medicinal plants have been used for years in daily life against diseases, whole over the world. Presently herbs are used as important materials in the health care system, create an herbal regeneration, spread with a superior speed throughout the world. In Our current research work the Methanolic and Ethanolic extracts of the leaves of *Simarouba glauca* were prepared with the help of simple extraction and by soxhlet extraction. The extracts were used to detect the presence of different phytochemicals like alkaloids, phenols, flavonoids, tannin, lignin, steroids, glycosides, saponins, terpenoides and anthraquinone with their biochemical tests and their conformation was done with the help of Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC). It was seen that the methanolic extracts yielded higher amount of phytochemicals in comparison to ethanolic extracts of *S. glauca*.

Introduction

Use of plant as a source of medicine has been an ancient practice and is important component of the health system in India. Plants have been studied on the basis of clearly defined biological parameters like taste, metabolic property, quality, biological effect and potency. The corroborative and toxic plants are generally known to prevent aging, increasing longitivity and offer resistance to diseases by augmenting the immune system (Singh *et al.*, 2001). To study phytochemical constituents *Simrouba Glauca*, paradise tree also known as Laxmi taru plant was selected. It belongs to family Simaroubaceae, which is a rainfed waste land evergreen edible oil tree up to 40-50

feet in height and spreads around 25-30 feet (ICRAF Agroforestry Tree Database, 2007 <http://ecocrop.fao.org/ecocrop/srv/en/cropView?id=9785>). It is used in many areas such as :

Source of Biodiesel and Biofuel

Simrouba seeds contain 60-70% oil that can be easily refined, bleached, deodorized and fractionated. Oil is obtained from seeds of *Simrouba* tree (Jena, P. C., *et al.*, 2010). *S. glauca* is considered for biofuel production (Azam, M., *et. al.*, 2005). Joshi and Joshi reviewed the application of *S. glauca* seed oil and pulp. They speculated that filtered

crude oil can be used to blend with diesel at 5-10 % while the surplus oil produced can be subjected to transesterification to manufacture biodiesel, a 100% substitute for diesel (1000-2000kg/ha/yr).

Source of vegetable oil

The oil is extracted from seeds in existing oil mills and processed by adopting conventional methods. Monseur and Motte reported that the seeds of *S. glauca* are rich in edible fat (nearly 60% W/W) that is used for cooking in tropical countries. The solid fraction rich in steric acid and palmitic acids can be used as coco-butter substitutes (CBS) or coco-butter extenders in confectionary and bakery industries (Jeyarani, T., Reddy, S. Y., 2001). Fruit is good source of vegetable oil which is rich source of fat soluble vitamins like A and E (Panhwar *et al.*, 2007).

Timber

The wood is light, attractively grained, moderately strong generally less preferred by wood eating insects hence useful in making yolk for oxen, light furniture, toys, packing material, pulp for paper industry and match boxes. Waste wood is good fuel (Joshi and Joshi; <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/43624/2/Simarouba%20rochure,%20UAS%20Bangalore,%20India.pdf>), (Panhwar, (<http://farzanapanhwar.blogspot.com/2007/08/simarouba-glauca-a-new-forest-plantin.html>).2007).

Phytoremediation

In general, soil adjacent to female *S. amara* trees had higher extractable phosphorus levels than soil adjacent to male trees or the control samples. This indicates that *S. amara* influence soil pH and tree gender has an additional influence (Rhoades, C. C., *et al.*, 1994).

Anticancerous

Bioassay of *Simarouba glauca* resulted in the isolation of one new canthine glucopyranoside (1), seven known canthine alkaloids (2-8), two known quassinoids (9-10) and a neo lignin (1). Most of the compounds inhibited the proliferation of an Nf1 and p53 deficient mouse glioma cell line at non cytotoxic concentrations (Devkota KP *et al.*, 2014). The cytotoxic and antileukemic activities of extracts of this plant are due to glaucarubinone (Ghosh PC, *et al.*, 1977). F) Phytoremediation-Removal of toxic Cr(VI) in aqueous medium was investigated using activated carbon adsorbants prepared from the seed shells of *Simarouba glauca*. The removal of Cr(VI) was around 97% whereas other adsorbants showed much lower activities (Neelavathi *et al.*, 2004). Pathology- Generally cattle and goats do not browse on Laxmitaru. It has no major pests and diseases are recorded at present in its native and also under Indian conditions (Armour, R. P., 1959).

Materials and Methods

Preparation of extracts

Leaves of *Simarouba glauca* were collected (during March to June), cleaned, dried and made into powder with the help of blender. Methanolic and ethanolic soxhlet extracts were prepared by dissolving 3 gm, 5.07 gm powder in 250mL methanol and 250mL ethanol respectively, followed by heating at 60°C for 12hrs.

Simple methanolic and ethanolic extracts were prepared with the help of dissolving 1.80gm, 3.82 gm powder in 40mL methanol and 100mL ethanol respectively, followed by heating at 60°C for 9hrs.

Primary Screening of Secondary Metabolites

Shade dried leaves were powdered using mixer grinder and subjected to soxhlet extraction with petroleum ether, chloroform, 95% ethanol and distilled water for 18 hrs in the order of increasing polarity. Extracts were used to detect the presence of secondary metabolites like alkaloids by mixing 2mL of extract with 1% HCl, followed by boiling and treatment with 6 drops of Mayer's reagent (Chhetri, 2008 ; Parekh, 2007; Evans, 1989), presence of phenol was detected by phenol and ellagic acid test (Mallikharjuna, 2007, Dey & Harbour, 1987, Evans, 1989), flavonoids by Alkaline reagent test (Mallikharjuna, 2007, Dey & Harbour, 1987, Evans, 1989) and flavonoid test (Mallikharjuna, 2007, Dey & Harbour, 1987, Evans, 1989), tannin by mixing crude extract with 2mL of 2% FeCl₃ solution (Mallikharjuna, 2007, Chhetri, 2008, Doss, 2009), lignin by treating crude extract with 2mL of furfuraldehyde (Mallikharjuna, 2007, Dey & Harbour, 1987, Evans, 1989), steroids by Salkowski's test (Mallikharjuna, 2007, Dey & Harbour, 1987, Evans, 1989), glycosides by mixing crude extract with 2mL of glacial acetic acid containing 1-2 drops of 2% sol of FeCl₃ followed by addition of 2mL of H₂SO₄ (Krishnaiah, 2009; Edeoga, 2005; Doss, 2009), saponins by shaking the crude extract with water (Dey & Harbour, 1987; Evans, 1989), tepenoides by Salkowski test (Rajasekariah *et al.*, 1991) and anthraquinone by mixing the crude extract with 2mL of chloroform and conc. H₂SO₄.

Confirmatory test by TLC

Presence of secondary metabolites was confirmed with the help of Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) performed on Merck Silica Gel 60 glass plate using different effluent. The chromatograms were

observed in UV/VIS before and after processing with spraying agent. Six solvent system were applied

- a) Alkaloids-solvent system- Chloroform: Methanol (15:1)
- b) Phenol- solvent system- Chloroform: Methanol (27:3)
- c) Flavonoids- solvent system- Water: EtOAc (10:1)
- d) Steroids- solvent system- Chloroform: Glacial acetic acid: Methanol: Water (64:34:12:8)
- e) Glycosides- solvent system- EtOAc: MeOH: Water (80:10:10)

Results and Discussion

Phytochemicals are secondary metabolites in one or more parts of the medicinal plants. These have the ability to produce a definite physiological action on human body. In the present study, methanolic and ethanolic leaf extracts were isolated from leaf tissue of using simple and soxhlet extraction methods. Extracts were named A, B, C and D according to extraction methods and alcohol used for isolation of extracts.

It was clearly seen that the yield of Soxhlet extracts was more than Simple extracts. This conforms that Soxhlet extraction method is better than simple extraction method for isolation of methanolic and ethanolic extracts from *Simarouba glauca* leaf tissue. Leaf extracts obtained by different methods were analyzed for the presence of secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, Steroids, Glycosides, Saponins, Tannin, Steroid, Lignin, Saponin, Anthraquinone, and Terpenoid. For this different tests were performed. Alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, steroids, glycosides, tannin, steroid, lignin and terpenoid were found to be present in all four samples. Saponin and anthraquinone were found to be absent.

Table.1 List of tests used for detection of secondary metabolites

Sr. No	Phytochemical Name	Reagent Used
1.	Alkaloid	Mayer's reagent Hagar's reagent
2.	Phenol	i) 2mL crude extract mixed with 2% solution of FeCl ₃ ii) Crude extract mixed with few drops of 5% mixture of glacial acetic acid and 5% mixture of sodium nitrate solution
3.	Flavonoid	i) 2mL crude extract treated with 2% solution of NaOH ii) 5mL of dilute ammonia solution added to aqueous filtrate of plant extract followed by addition of conc H ₂ SO ₄
4.	Tannin	2mL crude extract with 2% sol of FeCl ₃
5.	Lignin	Extract with 2% furfuraldehyde
6.	Steroid	Crude extract with 2mL chloroform, conc H ₂ SO ₄ , shaken gently
7.	Glycosides	Crude extract+2mL glacial acetic acid + 1-2 drops of 2% solution of FeCl ₃ Poured 2mL of conc H ₂ SO ₄
8.	Saponin	Crude extract+5mL dw, shaken
9.	Anthraquinone	2mL extract+2 mL of 25% ammonia solution, shake well
10.	Terpenoid	Extract+2mL chloroform+1mL conc. H ₂ SO ₄

Table.2 Yield of Methanolic and Ethanolic extracts using simple and soxhlet extraction methods

Name of method	Yield of Methanolic extract	Yield of Ethanolic extract
Simple extraction	0.24 % (A)	0.36 % (C)
Soxhlet extraction	0.79 % (B)	0.69 % (D)

Table.3 Phytochemical constituents of *Simarouba glauca* sample A, B, C, D are as follows

Sr. No	Phytochemical Name	Observations	A	B	C	D
1.	Alkaloid	Creamish precipitate/Brownish red precipitate	++	++	+	+++
2.	Phenol	Blue green or black coloration	++	++	+	+++
		Muddy yellow, olive brown, niger brown or deep chocolate colour	++	++	+	+++
3.	Flavonoid	Intense yellow	++	++	+++	++
		Yellow coloration	++	+++	++	++
4.	Tannin	Blue green or black coloration	++	++	+	++
5.	Lignin	Red colour	++	++	+	+
6.	Steroid	Reddish brown colour	++	+++	+++	+++
7.	Glycosides	Brown ring at interphase	+++	++	++	+++
8.	Saponin	No reaction	-	-	-	-
9.	Anthraquinone	No reaction	-	-	-	-
10.	Terpenoid	Reddish brown colour on interphase	++	++	++	++

(Absent= -), (Present=+), (Medium concentration=++), (High concentration=+++)

Fig.1 TLC of Alkaloides

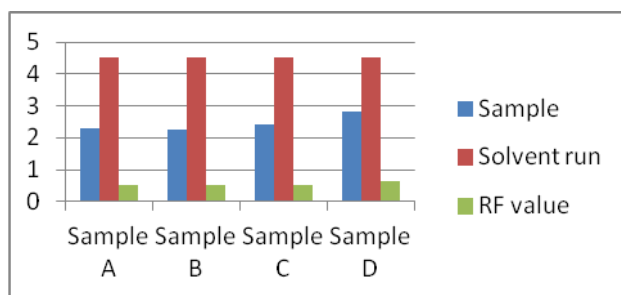


Fig.2 TLC of Phenols

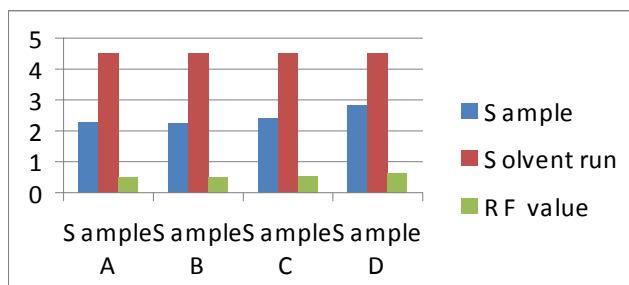


Fig.3 TLC of Flavonoids

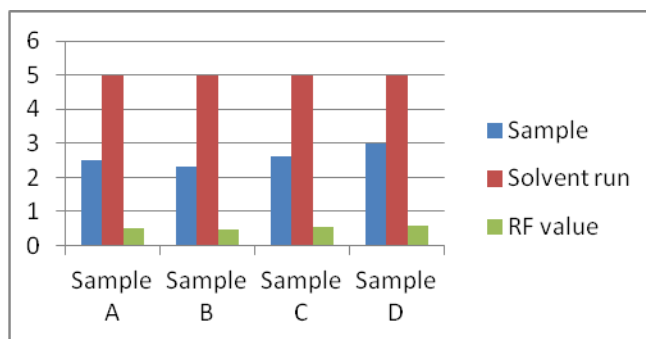


Fig.4 TLC of steroids

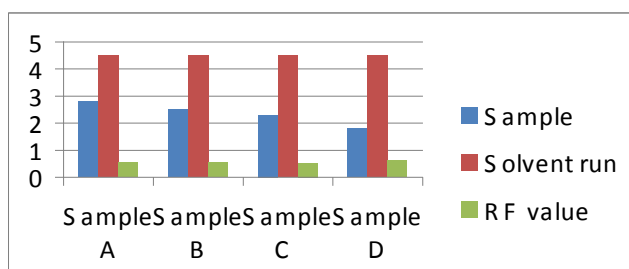
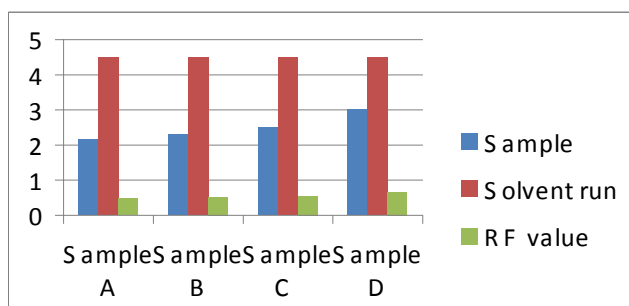


Fig.5 TLC of Glycosides



Alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, steroids, glycosides, tannin, steroid, lignin and terpenoid were separated from *Simarouba glauca* through Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC). From this analysis different RF values of eight different secondary metabolites were obtained. So, the present study shows that the tree has a presence of various phytochemicals and metabolites which has a role in the insectidal, antimicrobial, pharmacological, physiological, clinical, phyto remediation

properties. It could be used for the production of different plant based medicines and could be used in the production of plant based medicines. But also there is ample need to work on to improve the quality and quantity of these value added products for pharmaceutical formulation development. Marker based selection can be done to achieve maximum therapeutic activity of specific plant components. Same type of research and review papers have been published on

Tribulus terrestris (Verma et al., 2009), *Oxalis corniculata* (Verma, 2009), *Solanum nigrum* (Kumar et al., 2012), *Cuscuta reflexa* (Kumar et al., 2012), *Acorus calamus* (Kumar et al., 2014), *Simarouba Glauca* (Kumar et al., 2014), *Murraya koeingii* (Kumar et al., 2015) and *Catharanthus roseus* (Kumar et al., 2015). These became popular articles for further investigations on particular medicinal herbs.

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