

Review Article

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Anticancer properties of *Murraya koenigii* L. in biological systems

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ABSTRACT

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Murraya koenigii L. the plant being widely used in herbal medicine for the treatment for various health disorders. The plant contains useful phytoconstituents like bismahanine, murrayacine, murrayafoline-A, murrayanine bismurrayaquinone, murrayazolidine, mukoenine-A, mukoenine-B, bi-koeniquinone-A, mukoenine-C, murrastifoline, Murrayazolinol, girinimbine, murrayazoline, mahanimbine, Quinone A and koenigine-Quinone B koenioline, xynthyletin, koenigine, present in MK which attracted many researchers to work on various therapeutic uses. The plant exhibits anticancer properties due the presence of bioactive chemicals.

Introduction

Presently, many cancer cases are reporting in India. However, due to high risk treatments with chemotherapy and radiation, many side effects are noticed among the people and because of this the people look for alternate tradition medicine which is cost-effective with no side effects. In this context, herbal medicine will serve these purpose. Majority of the population (90%) in Germany depends upon herbal medicine for the cure (Joos *et al.* 2012). It is a well-known fact that herbal medicine is predominantly used both in developed and developing nations. Hence, researchers

should develop a strong base by conducting clinical trials for herbal medicine.

Bioactive compounds- Anti cancer properties in *Murraya koenigii* (MK)

There are various phytoconstituents like bismahanine, murrayacine, murrayafoline-A, murrayanine bismurrayquinone, murrayazolidine, mukoenine-A, mukoenine-B, bi-koeniquinone-A, mukoenine-C, murrastifoline, Murrayazolinol, girinimbine, murrayazoline, mahanimbine, Quinone A and koenigine-Quinone B koenioline, xynthyletin, koenigine, present in MK which attracted many researchers to work on

various therapeutic uses (Anwar *et al.*, 1973; Priyanka *et al.*, 2012 and Raghunathan and Mitra, 1985).

The major phytoconstituents in MK are carbazole alkaloids, flavonoids and coumarins (Nayak *et al.*, 2012). Carbazole alkaloids and methanolic extracts exhibited anti-oxidative anti-diarrheal and anti-trichomonal activities (Lawal *et al.*, 2008; Gupta and Prakash, 2009) Mahanine, a carbazole alkaloid purified from *M. koenigii* leaves exhibited anticancer properties (Ito *et al.*, 2006).

Nearly, eighty carbazole alkaloids were identified from the MK plant besides, phenols, proteins, terpenoids, carbohydrates, essential oils, carotene, fibre, minerals, vitamin C, nicotinic acid, resin, oxalic acid and crystalline glycosides. However, some of the terpenoids and carbazole alkaloids exhibited anti-proliferative activity against cancers. The excessive reactive oxygen species (ROS) drives DNA destruction (mutation) and cause the initiation of cancer accompanied by the addition of new mutations in cell guides to cancer promotion, further modification in different growth signaling pathways (cell proliferation, apoptosis, angiogenesis, metastasis) leads to cancer progression and metastasis (Waris and Ahsan, 2005). Various phytochemicals dysregulate the carcinogenic pathways by acting at different stages.

Ali Ghasemzadeh *et al.*, (2014) reported that myricetin was the most abundant flavonoid in curry leaf and a high myricetin concentration was detected in the samples from Kelantan (0.703 ± 0.063 mg/g DW) followed by those from Selangor (0.600 ± 0.078 mg/g DW) and Johor (0.502 ± 0.040 mg/g DW). Myricetin is a flavonoid found in many herbs, fruits, and vegetables as well

as other plants (Mieanand Mohamed, 2001). Myricetin exerts powerful biological effects including anticancer and antioxidant activities (Sun *et al.*, 2012 and Takasawa *et al.*, 2011). Noolu *et al.*, 2013 reported that polyphenol-rich hydro-methanolic extract of MK leaves mediated the inhibition of 26S proteasome proteolytic activity and induced apoptosis of the MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7 breast cancer cells by decreased cell viability, growth kinetics and S phase cell cycle arrest thus suggesting that MK leaves are a potent source for the treatment of different types of cancers. Total alkaloid extract and mahanine exhibited the anticancer activity through inhibition of trypsin-like 26S proteasome activity, and induced apoptosis (reduced cell viability, altered growth kinetics, and arrested the MDA-MB-231 (breast cancer cells) at S-phase) (Ismail *et al.*, 2016). Amita *et al.*, 2013 reported the antitumor activity of MK. Nagappan *et al.*, 2011 reported that Mahanimbine, Girinimbine, Mahanine, Murrayafoline in MK possessed the anti-cancer effects.

Future prospects

Majority of the studies were carried out on curry leaf but not on bark, seeds, etc. which also have active phytoconstituents. However, limited clinical studies were conducted on cancer research using herbal medicines. Hence this area has future scope and pharmacokinetic profiles and nano-formulation need to be explored for further strengthening of cancer research.

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