



African Journal of Biological Sciences



Preliminary Phytochemical Investigation and comparative Quantitative Assessment of different extracts of *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo*.

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Abstract

Aim: Preliminary Phytochemical Investigation and comparative Quantitative Assessment of different extracts of *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo*.

Material and Methods: Plant material collected from the local region of Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. Extraction of plant material is done with the help of hot percolation with solvents of different polarity index. Percentage yield and phytochemical investigation of herbs were determined in different solvents. The total phenolic content and flavonoid content were determined by the Folin calcateaeu method and Aluminium chloride method respectively.

Results: The percentage yield was more in hydroalcoholic solvent as compared to petroleum ether, chloroform and aqueous extracts of plant material. The phytochemical investigation reveals the presence of alkaloids, glycosides, phenols, flavonoids, tannins, carbohydrates in the extracts. The TPC and TFC of each extract when compared, it was found that hydroalcoholic extract of each plant have more content as compared to petroleum ether, chloroform and water extracts of the plants.

Conclusion: The study concluded that the hydroalcoholic extracts of plants *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* have majority of phytochemicals. The total phenolic and flavonoid content was more in hydroalcoholic extract of each plant as compared to petroleum ether, chloroform and water extract of the plants.

Keywords: Phytochemical screening, Total Phenolic content, Total Flavonoid content, *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii*, *Vitex negundo*

Article History

Volume 6, Issue 11, 2024

Received: 02 Jun 2024

Accepted: 15 Jun 2024

doi: 10.48047/AFJBS.6.11.2024.236-248

Introduction:

Various disorders or ailments results due to tissue injury due to the release of various inflammatory mediators and lysosomal enzymes [1,2]. Inflammatory mediators and Reactive oxygen species are the major cause of inflammation from the activated neutrophils and macrophages [3]. Inflammation for a longer period leads to the development of various disorders like rheumatoid arthritis and various autoimmune disorder. Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease that results in joint pain and other skeletal disorders. According to WHO reports about 1 % of the world's population is suffering from arthritis. [4]. About 70 % of the people living with rheumatoid arthritis are women and 55 % are older than 55 years. Rheumatoid arthritis is the most predominant disorder leading to numerous disabilities in human being, which limits the day-to-day activities [5,6]. The treatment of arthritis involves use of various NSAIDs and disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARD's). These synthetic drugs used for the treatment of arthritis have been associated with various side effects and adverse effects. Although these drugs are also not cost effective.[7] Most of the medicines and food used in the modern era are based on the knowledge of traditional plants. In this modern society, plant-based food and medicines are used as a prime tool for sustaining the health and abetting in the retrieval of disease [8]. Arthritis can be treated with these traditional herbs from ancient times by our ancestors which did not show any noticeable side effects. Traditional herbs are rich source of phenolic and flavonoid compounds which are major phytochemicals used in the treatment of various ailments and disorders. The herbs used in management of rheumatoid arthritis and can minimise the inflammatory disorders. Traditional herbs namely, *Vitex negundo* found in tropical and temperate climates including Asia, China, Indonesia, India. This shrub generally available in Himachal Pradesh and possess various pharmacological activities viz; anti-inflammatory, anti-leprotic, anti-arthritic, and many other properties [9,10]. The second plant, *Cuscuta reflexa* is a parasitic perennial herb that belongs to family Convolvulaceae. This plant found in South Asian countries like Pakistan, Nepal, India, Bagladesh. The plant is known to possess various pharmacological activities like anti-inflammatory, anticholinergic, anti-histaminic, anti-hypertensive activity [11]. The genus *Murraya* is rich in alkaloids, approximately 14 species of *Murraya* are available across the globe. Only two species of *Murraya* are available in India, out of which *Murraya koenigii* belonging to family Rutaceae has been used in this study. Leaves of *Murraya koenigii* are known to possess activities like antioxidant, hepatoprotective, anti-microbial, anti-fungal, anti-inflammatory and

nephroprotective. Traditionally the leaves of the plant have been used from ancient times as analgesics, digestives, appetizers as a home remedy. [12].

This present investigation involves the study of preliminary screening of these herbs in different solvents and estimation of total phenolic content and total flavonoid content of these herbs in solvents of different polarity index.

Materials and Methods:

Collection of Plant Material: The plant material, whole plant of *Cuscuta reflexa*, leaves of *Murraya koenigii* and leaves of *Vitex negundo* were collected from the local region of Kangra, Himachal Pradesh in the month of September. The collected plant material was authenticated by botanist Dr. Madhava Chetty, Department of Botany, Shri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India. The collected plant material washed in running water and then with distilled water to remove the dirt particles. Washed plant material then subjected to drying under shade for 90 hours. Dried plant materials were powdered into coarse powder with the help of an electric blender. The powdered plant material is then passed through sieve number 40 and kept in airtight containers for further use.[13]

Drugs and Chemicals: All reagents or chemicals used were of analytical grade. Folin-Ciocalteu (FC) Reagent, Aluminium chloride (AlCl_3), Sodium nitrite (NaNO_2), Sodium hydroxide (NaOH), anhydrous Sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3), Sulphuric acid (H_2SO_4) and reference standards Gallic acid, Quercetin were purchased from Merck and Sigma Aldrich. All the solvents, Petroleum ether, Chloroform, Acetone and ethanol used were of analytical grade. Rotary vacuum evaporator (Buchi Switzerland) was used for recovery of solvents under reduced pressure. UV/Vis Spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, India) was used for taking absorbance of test samples.

Extraction of Plant Material: The dried powdered plant material i. e. whole plant of *Cuscuta reflexa*, leaves of *Murraya koenigii* & *Vitex negundo* were extracted with different solvents. About 100 g of powdered material is subjected to Soxhlation with various organic solvents viz. Petroleum ether, chloroform, water, hydroalcoholic for the extraction of polar and non-polar organic compounds. The powdered material was first extracted with petroleum ether using Soxhlet apparatus (Borosil) for 72 hours at room temperature and then successively with chloroform, water and hydroethanolic solvent. Each solvent is subjected for extraction for 72 hours. After siphoning each extract is subjected to concentrate on a water bath and dried by using vacuum rotary evaporator. Then percentage yield of each concentrated extract was

calculated and stored in air tight containers in dessicator for further experimental evaluation. [14].

Preliminary Phytochemical Screening of Plant extracts: [13, 15]

The extracts were subjected to qualitative analysis for the presence of phytochemicals viz., carbohydrates, proteins, amino acids, steroids, glycosides, saponins, alkaloids, glycosides, tannins and flavonoids.

1) Test for Carbohydrates:

- **Fehling's Test:** 1 ml Fehling's A and 1 ml of Fehling's B solutions were mixed, boil for one minute in test tube. Then equal volume of test solution added into it and heat in boiling water bath for 5-10 minutes. First yellow and then brick red ppt. was observed.
- **Molisch Test:** To 2-3 ml of aqueous extract, few drops of α -naphthol solution in alcohol were added, conc. Sulphuric acid added from the sides of the test tube. Violet ring is formed at the junction of two liquids.

2) Test for Proteins and Amino acids:

- **Millon's Test:** To 3 ml of filtrate, 5 ml of millon's reagent added, white precipitate confirms the presence of proteins.
- **Biuret Test:** To 3ml of test solution, few drops of 4 % sodium hydroxide and 1 % copper sulphate added, reaction mixture gives violet or pink colour.

3) Test For Flavonoids:

- **Shinoda Test:** To dry powder or extract, 5 ml 95% ethanol, few drops of concentrated hydrochloric acid and 0.5 g magnesium turnings added to the mixture in test tube, Orange, pink, red to purple colour appears.

4) Test for Alkaloids:

- **Mayer's Test:** To 2-3 ml of filtrate, few drops of Mayer's reagent added to the reaction mixture and observe the presence of precipitate.
- **Wagner's Test:** To 2-3 ml of filtrate, few drops of wagner's reagent added, gives reddish brown precipitate.

5) Test For Phenols & Tannins:

- **Ferric chloride Test:** T 2-3ml of extract, few drops of 5 % ferric chloride solution added, reaction mixture will give deep blue-black colour.

6) Test For Glycosides:

- **Borntrager's Test:** To 3 ml of extract, dilute sulphuric acid added to the test tube. Boil and filter. To cold filtrate, equal volume benzene or chloroform. added and shake the mixture. Separate the organic solvent, ammonia added to the reaction mixture. Ammonical layer turns pink or red.

7) Test for Terpenoids:

- **Salkowski reaction:** To 2 ml of extract dispersion, chloroform (2 ml) and concentrated sulphuric acid (2 ml) added with continuous shaking. Separation of chloroform layer and greenish yellow fluorescence in acidic layer for positive test of terpenoids.

8) Test for Saponins:

- **Foam Test:** To each extract in a test tube, distilled water added with shaking and observe appearance of foam.

Determination of Total Phenolic Content:[16]

The total Phenolic Content was determined by the spectrophotometric method with the Folin-Ciocalteu Reagent according to the method explained by Stankovic et. al. (2012) with some modifications. The extracts of weight 50 mg were dissolved in 10ml of ethanol for making a stock solution. Each plant extracts of 0.5 ml were taken and mixed with the 0.5 ml of FC reagent (1:1). The reagent was diluted with the distilled water. The mixtures were incubated for five minutes at 22 °C. After that 2 ml of 20% Sodium Carbonate added to all the above reaction mixture. Then the mixtures were incubated at 22 °C for one and half hour. The absorbance was measured at 650 nm. The samples were prepared in triplicate, and the mean value of absorbance was obtained. The same procedure was repeated for gallic acid as standard, and the calibration line was constructed. A set of gallic acid standard solutions (20, 40, 40, 60, 80 and 100µg/ml) were prepared. The content of total phenolic compound was expressed as mg of GAE/100gm of extract.

Determination of Total Flavonoid Content:[17]

The Total flavonoid content of different extracts determined by Colorimetric method. Each sample 0.5 ml taken in 5 ml of flask and 2 ml of distilled water was added into the flask. Then 0.15 ml of 5% sodium nitrite added into the flask. The mixtures were incubated for 5 minutes at 25 °C. This was followed by addition of 0.3 ml of 10% AlCl₃ immediately. Then add 1 ml of 1 M Sodium hydroxide solution into it and then the mixture is diluted using distilled water upto 5 ml. A set of standard solutions of Quercetin of different concentrations (20,40,60,80 and

100 µg/ml) were prepared as mentioned above. The absorbance for test and standard solution was measured at 510 nm wavelength using UV-Visible spectrophotometer. The total content of flavonoid was denoted as mg of QE/ 100g of extract.

Results and Discussion:

The collected plant material after solvent extraction were dried at room temperature. The obtained extracts after drying in Rotary evaporator and yield of different extracts were obtained. Maximum yield was obtained in the hydroalcoholic extract as compared to other solvents of each plant. The percentage yield of the aerial parts of the plant *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* in different solvents are tabulated in Table no. 1.

Table No. 1: The percentage yield of different extracts viz.; Petroleum ether, chloroform, aqueous and hydroalcoholic extract of whole plant of *Cuscuta reflexa*, leaves of *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo*.

Sr. No.	Name of Plant	Type of Extract	Weight of powdered Plant material (g)	Weight of crude extract (g)	%age yield of extract
1.	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i>	Petroleum ether	100	9.87	9.87
		Chloroform		10.07	10.07
		Aqueous		11.32	11.32
		Hydroalcoholic		19.81	19.91
2.	<i>Murraya koenigii</i>	Petroleum ether	100	10.81	10.81
		Chloroform		7.80	7.80
		Aqueous		9.15	9.15
		Hydroalcoholic		17.81	17.81
3.	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Petroleum ether	100	12.82	12.82
		Chloroform		11.50	11.50
		Aqueous		14.52	14.52
		Hydroalcoholic		22.55	22.55

Qualitative Phytochemical Analysis:

Phytochemical screening of different extracts of four different extracts viz; petroleum ether, chloroform, aqueous and hydroalcoholic extract of whole plant of *Cuscuta reflexa*, leaves of

Murraya koenigii and *Vitex negundo* showed the presence of phytochemicals like carbohydrates, proteins, tannins, flavonoids, phenols, alkaloids and glycosides. The majority phytochemicals are present in hydroalcoholic extract of *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo*. Presence of secondary metabolites in different solvents of aerial parts of the plants of *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* shown in the Table no. 2.

Table 2: Table showing Preliminary Phytochemical Screening of different extracts viz.; Petroleum ether, chloroform, aqueous and hydroalcoholic extract of whole plant of *Cuscuta reflexa*, leaves of *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo*.

Phytochemical	Test Name	Petroleum Ether			Chloroform			Aqueous			Hydroalcoholic		
		<i>C. r.</i>	<i>M. k.</i>	<i>V. n.</i>	<i>C. r.</i>	<i>M. k.</i>	<i>V. n.</i>	<i>C. r.</i>	<i>M. k.</i>	<i>V. n.</i>	<i>C. r.</i>	<i>M. k.</i>	<i>V. n.</i>
Carbohydrates	Fehling's Test	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	+	-	-	+
	Molisch Test	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	+	-	+	+
Proteins	Biuret Test	-	+	-	-	+	-		+	+	-	+	+
	Millon's Test	-	+	-	-	+	-		+	+	+	-	+
Tannins	Lead Acetate Test	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+
	Ferric Chloride Test	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+
Flavonoids	Aluminium Chloride Test	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	++
Alkaloids	Mayer's Test	-	+	-	-	+	++	+	-	-	+	+	++
	Wagner's Test	-	+	-	-	+	++	+	-	-	+	+	++
Phenol	Ferric Chloride Test	-	+	+	+	-	++		-		+	+	++

Glycosides	Borntrager's Test	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+		
Terpenoids	Salkowski Test	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+
Saponins	Foam Test	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-

(+) sign indicates presence of phytochemical, (-) sign indicates absence of phytochemical. (Abbreviations; C.r.: *Cuscuta reflexa*, M.k.: *Murraya koenigii*, V.n.: *Vitex Negundo*)

Estimation of Phytoconstituents:

The total phenolic content and total flavonoid content of aerial parts of the plant *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* of different polarity index shown in Table no. 3 and 4.

Table 3: Total Phenolic Content of different extracts of *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo*

Sr. No.	Plant Name	Total Phenolic Content (mg/100gm of dried extract)			
		Pet. Ether extract	Chloroform extract	Aqueous Extract	Hydroalcoholic Extract
1.	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i>	90.23±0.04	101.25±0.01	124.74±0.07	252.82±0.08
2.	<i>Murraya koenigii</i>	102.42±0.09	95.65±0.08	115.78±0.05	274.75±0.04
3.	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	95.43±0.07	109.4±0.09	131.45±0.02	236.01±0.07

Total Phenolic Content: Results expressed as mg of gallic acid equivalent/ 100 gm of crude extracts; Each value in the table is the mean (±) standard deviation (n=3)

Table 4: Total Flavonoid Content of different extracts of *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo*

Sr. No.	Plant Name	Total Flavonoid Content (mg/100gm of dried extract)			
		Pet. Ether extract	Chloroform extract	Aqueous Extract	Hydroalcoholic Extract
1.	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i>	80.12±0.18	95.78±0.04	116.18±0.01	264.15±0.09

2.	<i>Murraya koenigii</i>	98.21±0.03	100.02±0.06	129.03±0.02	773.05±0.07
3.	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	95.32±0.02	98.56±0.20	139.56±0.06	502.41±0.08

Total Flavonoid Content: Results expressed as mg of quercetin equivalent/ 100 gm of crude extracts; Each value in the table is the mean (\pm) standard deviation (n=3)

The content of total phenols of different extracts of plants *Cucuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* in different polarity index was evaluated by FCR method using gallic acid as standard as shown in Figure no. 1 and absorbance values in Table no. 4. The content of total phenols was found maximum in hydroalcoholic extract of *Murraya koenigii* is 274.75 mg /100 gm. Figure no. 3 shows the comparison of total phenolic content of different extracts.

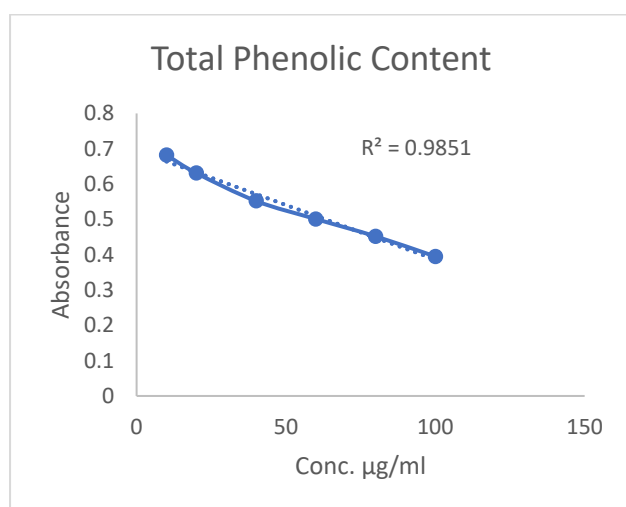


Figure No. 1: Gallic acid Standard curve of absorption against gallic acid concentration; $R^2=0.9851$

Table no. 4: Table showing o.d. values of gallic acid standard at different concentration

S No.	Concentration in mcg	Absorbance
1	10	0.62
2	20	0.631
3	40	0.552
4	60	0.501
5	80	0.452
6.	100	0.395

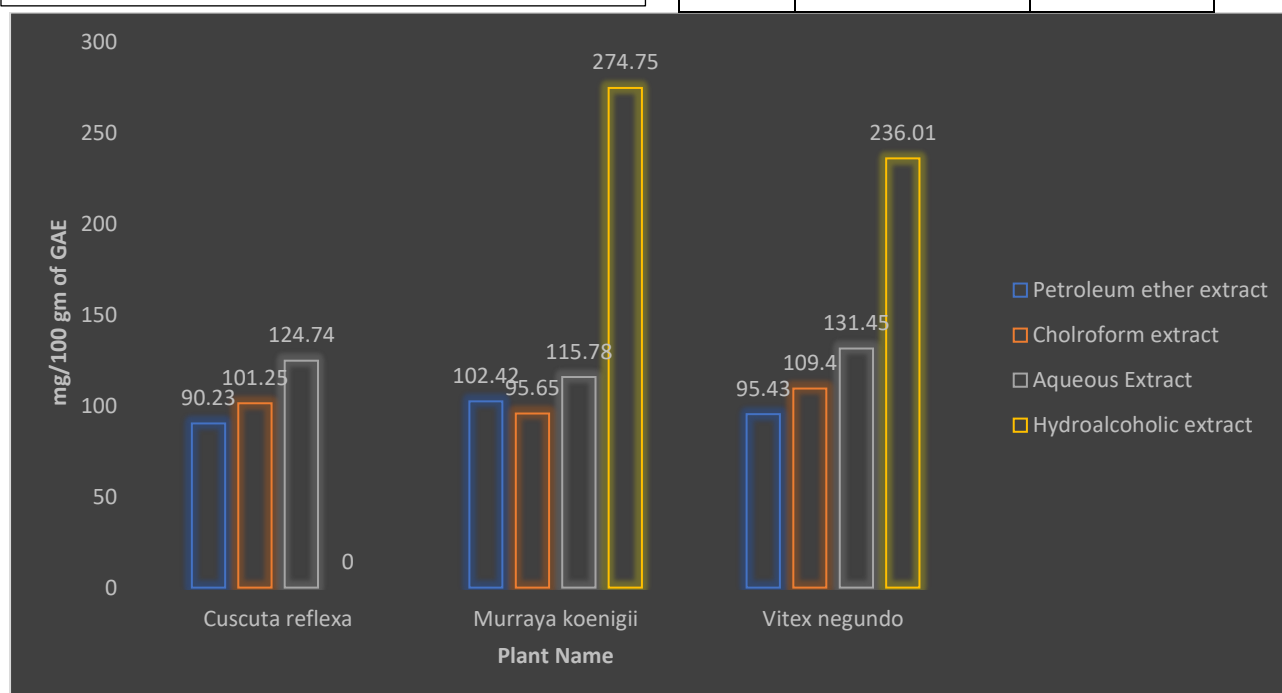


Figure No. 2: Comparison of Total phenolic Content of different extracts of *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* in different solvents

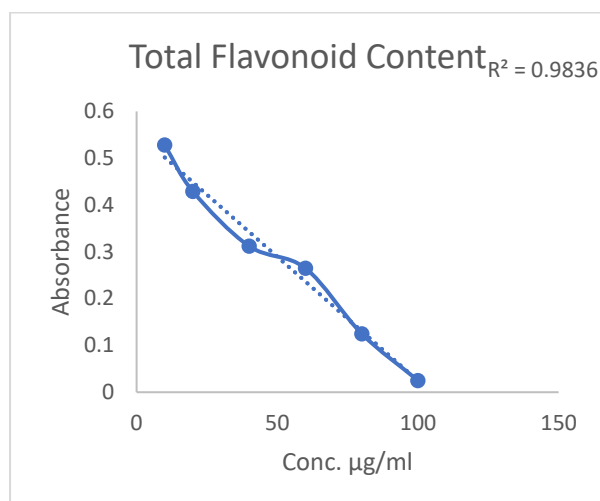


Figure No. 3: Standard curve of absorption against quercetin concentration; $R^2=0.9836$

Table no. 5: Table showing o.d. values of Quercetin standard at different concentration

S. No.	Concentration	Absorbance
1	10	0.528
2	20	0.429
3	40	0.312
4	60	0.265
5	80	0.125
6.	100	0.025

The content of total flavonoid of different extracts of plants *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* in different polarity index was evaluated by Aluminium chloride method using quercetin as standard as shown in standard curve Figure no. 3 and absorbance value in Table no. 5. The content of total flavonoid was found maximum in hydroalcoholic extract of *Murraya koenigii* is 773.05 mg /100 gm. Figure no. 4 shows the comparison of Total flavonoid content of different extracts of plants.

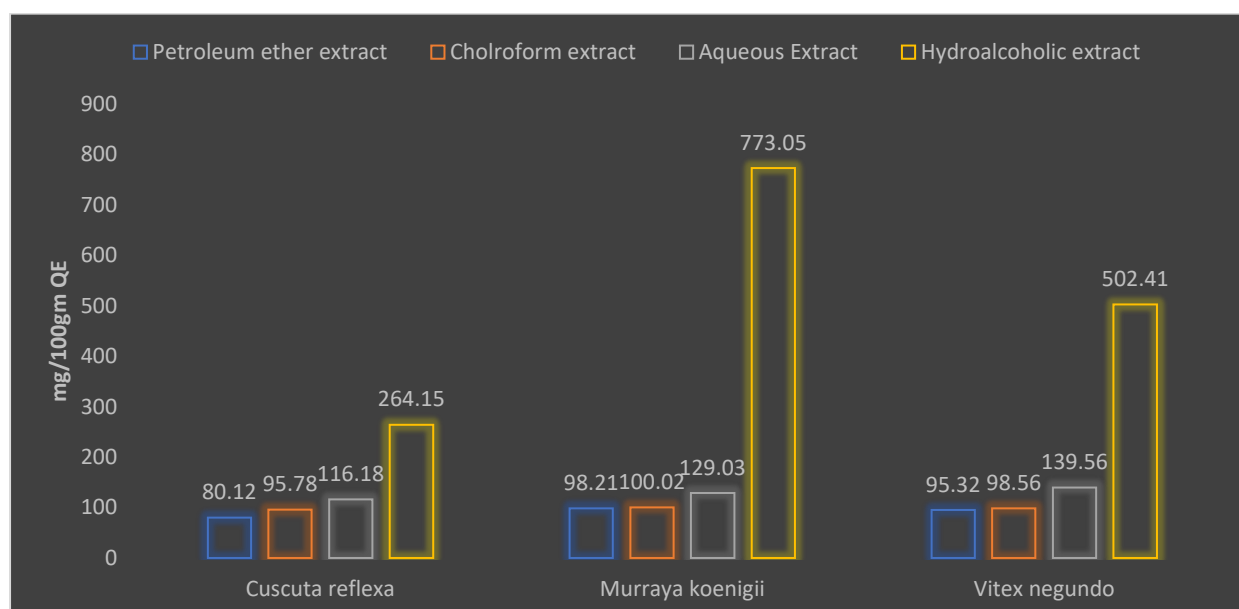


Figure No. 4: Comparison of Total Flavonoid Content of different extracts of *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* in different solvents.

Discussion:

Preliminary phytochemical screening of herbal extracts of different polarities suggests the presence of various phytochemicals like alkaloids, glycosides, tannins, phenols, flavonoids, and saponins. The majority of phytochemicals were detected in the hydroalcoholic extract of different plants. The total phenolic and flavonoid content of different extracts of *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* were different. A gallic acid standard calibration curve was used for the determination of amount of total phenolic content with $R^2=0.9851$ value. The maximum number of total phenols in *Cuscuta reflexa* extract were in the order; Hydroalcoholic extract> aqueous extract> chloroform extract> Petroleum ether extract, in *Murraya koenigii* extract viz; Hydroalcoholic extract> aqueous extract> Petroleum ether extract> chloroform extract and in *Vitex negundo* extract the order of phenolic content; Hydroalcoholic extract> aqueous extract> chloroform extract> Petroleum ether extract. A quercetin standard calibration curve was used for the determination of amount of total flavonoid content with $R^2=0.9836$ value. The maximum number of total flavonoids in plant *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Vitex negundo* were in the order viz; Hydroalcoholic extract> Aqueous extract> Chloroform extract> Petroleum ether extract. This finding suggests that the maximum content of total phenols and flavonoids were maximum in hydroalcoholic extract of each plant as compared to the other solvents.

Conclusion:

This study suggests that three herbs indicate the presence of phytochemicals in different extracts. Quantitative estimation of extracts showed that the hydroalcoholic extract of each plant have more content than another extracts. Phenols and flavonoids are the potential which are used in the treatment of various ailments through different mechanisms. So, hydroalcoholic extract of each plant can be taken as potential in future for the management of inflammation and other inflammatory disorders like rheumatoid arthritis and autoimmune disorders.

Conflict of Interest: No Conflict of interest.

Acknowledgement: No Acknowledgements.

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