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The Phytochemistry and Pharmacology of Medicinal Plants

Hemlata Srivastava[1]*,Tanu Dixit[2], Kausani Basu[3], Raveesha Peeriga[4], Selvan Ravindran[5], Othman Mahjoob Khalaf[6]

[1]Assistant Professor, School of Biosciences,Institute of Management Studies Ghaziabad (University Courses Campus), Affiliated with CCS University (CCSU), Ghaziabad, 201015, Uttar Pradesh, India. Email- srivastava.hemlata@gmail.com
[2]Junior Research Fellow, Symbiosis School of Biological Sciences, Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, Maharashtra India. Email: tanu_dixit@hotmail.com
[3]M.Sc (Biotechnology, IInd year student), Symbiosis School of Biological Sciences, Symbiosis International (Deemed), Maharashtra, India.
[4]Professor, Department of Pharmacognosy, V. V. Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Gudlavalleru, Email Id: drprsha@gmail.com
[5]Associate Professor, Symbiosis School of Biological Sciences, Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, Maharashtra, India. Email: selvan_ravindran@yahoo.com
[6]College of Education, Al-Farahidi University, Baghdad, Iraq. Email Id: othmanothman@uoalfarahidi.edu.iq

Corresponding Author (*):srivastava.hemlata@gmail.com

Abstract

Due to its incidence through diverse mechanisms and forms, cancer ranks as the top illness that causes mortality globally. Filtration and separation of phytochemicals for the behavior and obstacle of cancer have been widely employed in conjunction with medicinal plants. In order to chronicle the conventional uses of through districts, anticancer herbs and its phytochemical compose, this research was created. Semi-structured conversations with the sources, primarily ancient herbalists, were undertaken in 25 districts. Utilizing a variety of reliable search engines, the findings were compared to published data. Among the 175 anti-cancer plants identified, Lamiaceae, Asteraceae, and Solanaceae emerged as the most popular families. The common ingredients used in the region's ethnomedical recipes are leaves and entire plants, which are then made into decoction and powder, respectively, by the locals. The most popular living form is still the herb, followed by the shrub. Similarly, the most prevalent disease types were lung cancer and breast cancer. In rural areas, there has an extremely tough conventional awareness of the plants that may treat many illnesses, including cancer. Pharmacological and phytochemical studies on the therapeutic plants for important ranking disorders may be conducted to show their efficacy. However, to enhance the suitable application of medicinal plants, appropriate administration techniques, such as reforestation, restricted grazing, adequate authorization from the concerned division, and rangeland ways in specific, may be considered. Additionally, the indigenous flora, particularly the therapeutic plants, is vulnerable to excessive grazing, harvesting, and improper collecting techniques.

Keywords: Medicine flora, Cancer society (CS), HIV/AIDS, Pharmacology, Phytochemistry

1. Introduction

Cancer constitutes one of the most mysterious illnesses that change with age, kinds of tissue, and gender at the structural and intracellular stage in the human body (Filograna*et al., 2021*). Environmental factors such as air contamination, coverage to various radon, and radiations, as well as lifestyle factors such as smoking, alcohol consumption, and eating unhealthily, all increase the risk of developing various cancers. With 9.8 million fatalities in 2018 and 2 deaths per every 6 deaths, it is an example of the life-threatening conditions that are surfacing the quickest conditions and is ranked among the top 10 worldwide

causes of mortality. Due to a need for resources, funding, and awareness, the frequency of occurrence is increasing, which poses a significant dispute in the continents (Leal Filho *et al.,* 2019). Despite significant progress in the study of cancer, secondary chemicals from natural resources have the potential to be used as cancer treatments. Many natural product-based medications are utilized in the treatment of cancer, including "emodin, coumarins, allicin, kaempferol, colchicine, furanocoumarins, lupeol, palmitoylethanolamide, rutin, betulinic acid, and quercetin". One of the most common cancers in the world, breast cancer is characterized by unfavorable side effects, medication resistance, and recurrence Chadar and Kesharwani (2021). Breast cancer can be treated with several phytochemicals, including Benzoate chemical, phenethylisothiocyanate, hot sauce, oleanolic acidic solutions, a compound known as gallate, and the acid ursolic are a few instances of antioxidants. Continents establishing with infectious illnesses like vascular illness, tuberculosis, kidney problems, HIV, and AIDS, as well as the need for current information and machinery for screening, the risk of verification, postponed therapy, costly therapy that is typically out of reach for the deprived, and the implementation of preventative strategies in rural areas (Li *et al.,* 2021). While the use of herbal treatments to cure illnesses like malaria, diarrhea, hepatitis, and others has been captured elsewhere on the continent, certain infectious illnesses such as leprosy, tuberculosis, pneumonia, whooping cold, and cystitis in the bladder have not. Contrarily, due to what appears to be concentrations on tropical and infectious disorders like malaria, diabetes, polio meningitis, HIV/AIDS, etc., over time, the use of herbal remedies for cancer therapy has gotten less focus and emphasis. The majority of medicinal plants in the continent have not been evaluated scientifically for their potential to treat cancer disorders, according to the literature (Khan *et al.,* 2021).

Maroyi and Semenya (2019) The most common conditions for which it was used as a herbal remedy include diarrhea, menorrhagia, stomachaches, infections, inflammations, and rashes. The species' reported phytochemical constituents include tannin, triterpenes, proanthocyanidins, phenols, and flavonoids. Bisht *et al., 2021* assessed the traditional, contemporary, biological, and pharmacological uses of Artemisia nilagirica, and other related varieties of Artemisia's fragrance oils and extracts of herbs. It also discusses herbal circulatory and chemical elements such as flavonoids, glycosides, terpenoids, carbohydrates, and carotene. Torbati *et al.,* 2021 focused on phytochemical components, and the pharmacological effects of CentellaAsiatica (CA) were discussed about experimental and clinical tests. Additionally, a botanical distribution, uses, interactions, and safety concerns are done. Akaberi *et al.,* 2019 provided a compiled and comprehensive summary of the known conventional usage, pharmacological effects, and notably bioactive components of Helichrysum types. Toklo *et al.,* 2020 offered an overview of prior biological and chemical research on this plant. It contains antiviral, antibacterial, and antiparasitic effects, according to the extracts. These recognized biological functions are undoubtedly brought on by the separated chemicals. Shen *et al.,* 2021 intended to present up-to-date upon indigenous cultures, a ten-year inquiry into the advance biochemistry and pharmacy, and clinical studies of Scutellaria, in addition to look at the plant's possible medicinal benefits and future study prospects. Latif *et al.,* 2019 presented the most recent data that are supported by evidence about the pharmacological, phytochemical, and pharmacognostic characteristics of the medicine flora. To guarantee reliability, only indexed research and review publications were employed for the present study's gathering of data, which was based on previously published work. *Gerometta et al., 2020* explained the phylogeny, customary applications, phytochemistry, pharmacology, and toxicology of the species Indigo fern, and also to highlight any deficiencies and provide an overview . The purpose of *Kaur et al., 2019* was to examine the therapeutic potential of the C. papaya

plant by providing specific and current data on its botanical features, ethnomedicinal applications, phytochemistry, and pharmacological effects. Nortjie *et al.,* 2022 analyzed several elements of creating antimicrobial finishing, microorganisms, their method of adhering to artificial and natural fiber, the consequence of microbe growth, and the concept and technology of fermentation by bacteria of plants for medicine. Ramadhani *et al.,* 2020 provided readers a foundational understanding of the healing plant chickpeas (Phaseolus vulgaris). Chickpeas were thought of as a plant that can treat type 2 diabetes. However, due to their unique physiological and therapeutic capabilities, organic substances are preferred supplementary and alternative treatments for the treatment of diabetes mellitus. Taib *et al.,* 2020 presented data on the pharmacology, phytochemicals, and medical applications of plants from the genus Quercus. Before examining their possible use as additives in nutritional foods and organic pharmaceutics, more research is required to completely elucidate their reactive elements' method of activity and to assess in vivo chronic toxicity. Moshiashvili *et al.,* 2020 possessed a wide range antimicrobial, antifungal, anti-oxidants, an pain reliever, cytotoxic, it antibacterial, futile, and haemostatic activities. Zhou *et al* (2021) established a theoretical framework for further research on Lilliam species and their applications in nutrition, medicine, and agriculture and other sectors by summarizing their traditional usage, phytochemistry, pharmacology, and toxicity. Koul *et al.,* 2020 covered the pharmacological relevance, phytochemistry, and traditional usage of the genus Bergenia. The relevant available information was methodically gathered from a variety of databases, websites, blogs, publications, and theses to choose 175 sources for in-depth research.The purpose of this research is to offer all of the herbal remedies used by locals for treating cancer.

The subsequent portions of the work are the following: The suggested methodology is described in further depth in Section 2, and experimental samples and simulation outcomes are provided and analyzed Section 3,and Section 4 concludes our research and makes recommendations for further research.

2. Materials and methods

Description of the location and the local economy

The research was conducted in the province of the continent, with a particular focus on 10 districts: districts 1-25. Malayalam (86% of the population) is the most common language spoken, followed by Tamil (8%), Urdu (6%), Bengali (2%), and Telugu(2%). With the exception of 2% Marathi and 1% Punjabi, the region is primarily populated by Muslims, accounting for 17.8% of total population. 90% of the people of the area, which is mostly made up of ethnic malayali region, is illiterate and primarily consists of farmers and laborers. A minor number of residents also own small businesses. When it comes to medical facilities, emergency-only care is provided by extremely subpar public health clinics, but residents at higher altitudes have very limited access to these facilities. For their basic healthcare, people primarily rely on herbal remedies made at home or by traditional healers.

Stream of Activity

The investigation was finished in three main phases: first stage involved field trips for interviews with locals at community hall or gathering space, shops, and mosques; second stage involved properly documenting the data gathered and plant examples; and the third phase involved comparing the data to previous literature.

Recognition and conservation of plants

The authors gathered information from locals who had a thorough understanding of the usage of therapeutic herbs against cancer disorders. The methodology used to choose the responders was based on how much experience they had with ethno medicines. The data were gathered from the local populace using semi-structured questionnaires in each district's native tongue concurrently transcribed into English. The queries were designed to test a traditional knowledge of the therapeutic properties of plants, including the limited name of the plant, its application, the preparation of the cure, the portion utilized, the kind of cancer, and the delivery technique.

The accuracy of the data statement
To verify the findings, a minimum of three times, each respondent was asked to say via the data collection stage that they planned on seeing the field in person or, at the absolute least, getting in touch with the experts. If any suspicious behavior or nonconformity penalty reported by a limited informant or still by a responder from original data were discovered, they were immediately discounted as errors and utterly disregarded. Only the reliable data posed a threat to the validity of the results.

Structuring of data

The questionnaire was designed to gather important data on medicinal plants, with a particular emphasis on local names, plant parts utilized, administration methods, and remedy manufacture. Using Microsoft Office, the information on the plants that have been historically used to treat various types of cancer disorders was organized. They presented and condensed our data using statistical techniques and graphs to make it more credible and relevant. The 4 collections of plant habits, herbs, shrubs, trees, and climbers were also taken into account.

Statistical analysis

Using Microsoft Excel 2023, the researchers examined the information on the therapeutic plant species they had gathered from the specialists.

3. Results
The current work emphasized the usual application of 155 plants from 68 households that were allegedly used to cure cancer in various districts areas (**Figure 1**). The number of plant species with high concentrations of medicinal plants was found to be highest in district 1 (18.8%), followed by district 2 (14.90%), district 3 (9.73%), district 3 (7.78%), district 4 (6.49%), district 5 and 6 (4.56%), district 7 and 8 (3.88%).
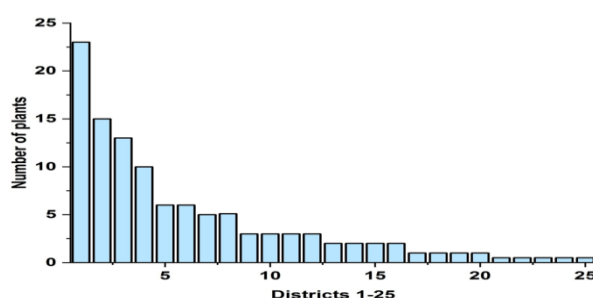

Figure 1: *Classification of plants according to their behaviors*

Additionally district 11,district 10, district 9, and 12 (1.30%), as well as 13, 14, 15, and

16 (2.58%), district 19, district 18, district 17, and and district 21, 22 and 23 (0.64%),district 20 (1.95%), district 2 and 25 respectively. These are the areas where the fewest plants were shown to be effective in treating cancer (**Figue 1**).
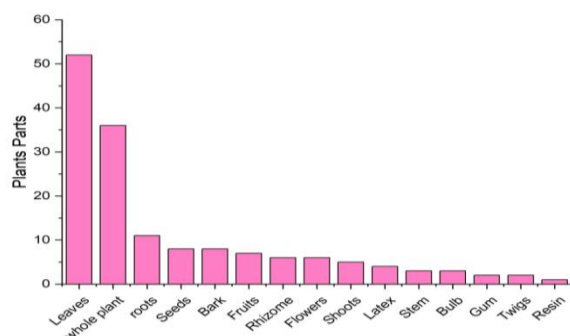

Figure 2: *Percentage of plant materials utilized in conventional pharmaceuticals*

The various plant components were also divided into the following categories: branches, the entire plant, the seeds, roots, bark, fruits, rhizomes blooms, shoots, latex, stem, bulb, cellulose, sticks, and resins. Traditional medications were often prepared as decoctions, powders, pastes, extracts, juices, oils, bandages, baked poultices, and cigarettes (**Figure 2**).
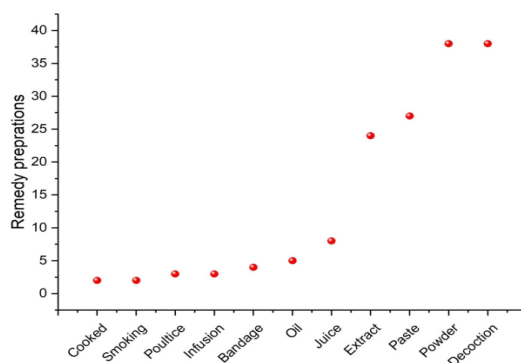

Figure 3: *Preferred method of preparing recipes using plants for the treatment of various cancer forms*

Additionally, the informants throughout the inquiry saw a variety of ways to prepare herbal remedies (**Figure 3**). The ways of production those were the most utilized included decoction and powder in this investigation, contributing 24.67% each. Similar to this, the informants customarily utilized additional modes of preparation such as paste (18.55%), extracted (16.57%), juice (5.17%), oil (4.26%), bandage (2.57%), infusion and poultice (2.95%), and smoking (2.30%).
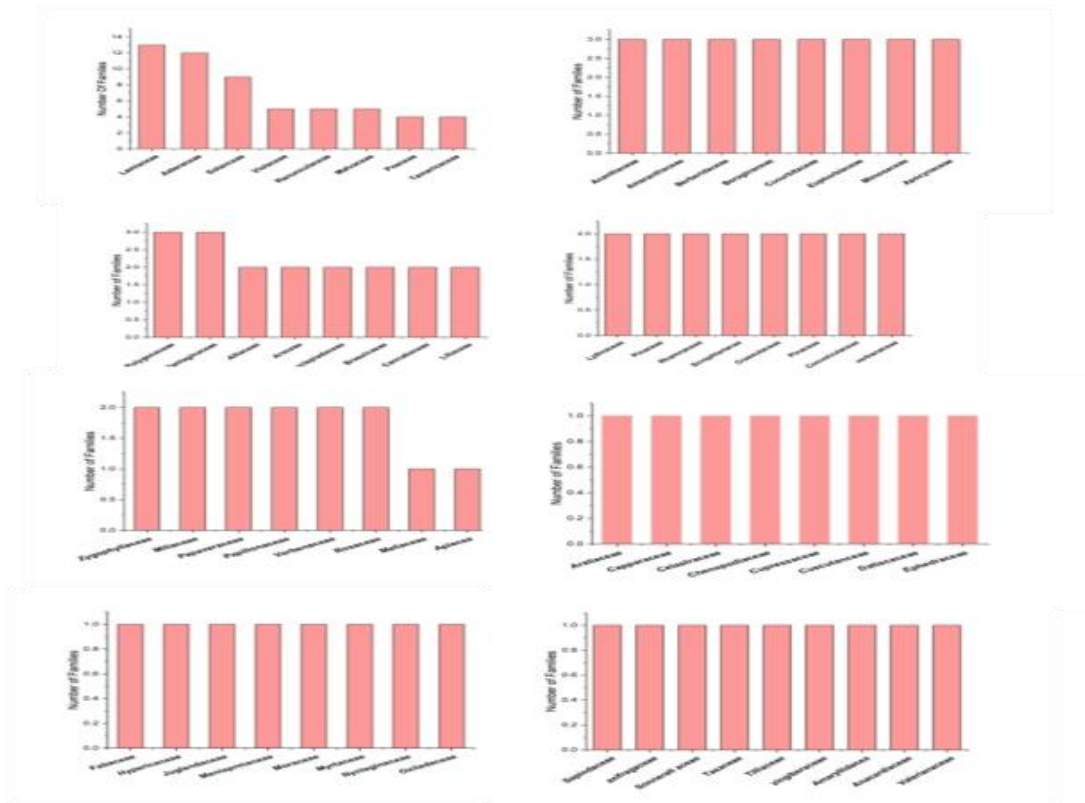
Figure 4: *Number of families of medicine flora*

Additionally, this analysis revealed that the most significant families provided 5 plant species each, including Lamiaceae, Asteraceae, Solanaceae, Malvaceae, Violaceae, and Ranecolaceae (**Figure 4**). Trees made up the majority (60%) of the ethnomedicinal plants that were reported in this study, followed by climbers (10%), shrubs (5%), and herbs (25%) (**Figure 5**).
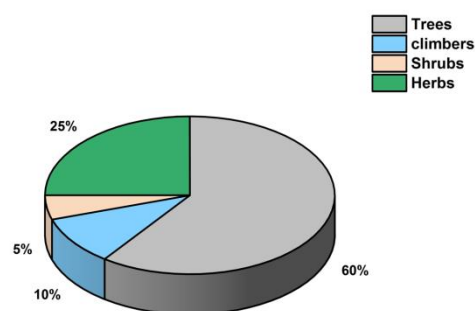

Figure 5: *Percentage of the primary life form in plants used as cancer remedies*

The results revealed the limited population utilizes flora for various types of cancer, with breast cancer being the most prevalent type in the region, followed by lung, colon, liver, prostate, skin and brain cancer, cervical, pancreatic, stomach, blood general esophageal gastric and thyroid cancer (**Figure 6**).
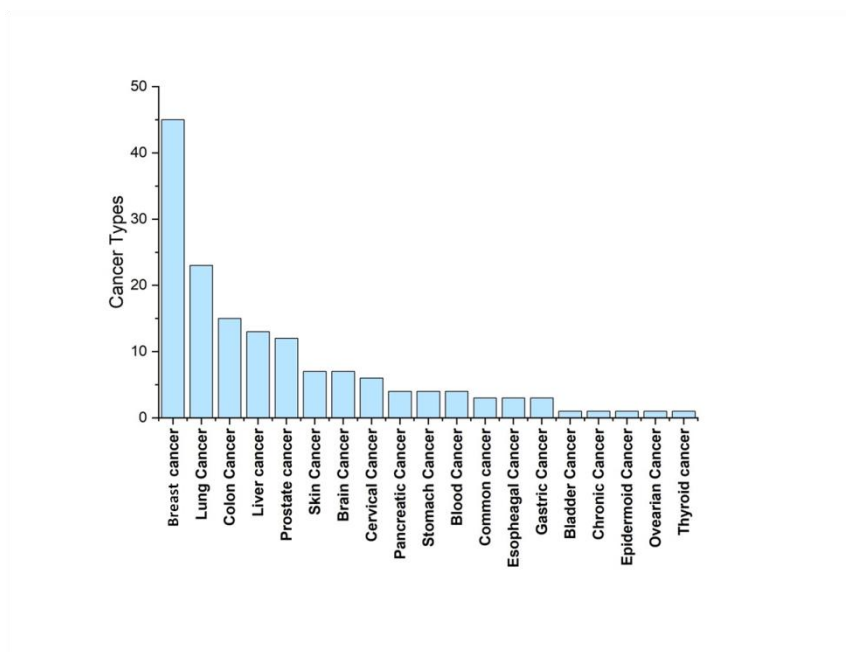
Figure 6: *There are several medicinal plants that are utilized for various types of cancer therapy in people*

4. Conclusion

According to the results of the current study, malayalis locals mostly rely on medicinal plants to treat cancer. The locals have solid traditional knowledge about the correct use of recipe formulations, administration techniques, and plant parts. A review of the literature revealed that a few studied plants had been assessed pharmacologically and that a few active secondary metabolites had been discovered. These compounds were crucial in the growth of several cancer cell lines. Additionally, research must be organized to investigate the mechanistic, efficacy, and secure evaluation of the greatest number of flora that has not been assessed. Therefore, conducting a phytochemical, toxicological, and pharmacological study of anticancer medicine flora is mediatory. Additionally, it is crucial for extract and purifies the new bioactive phytochemicals so they may test therapeutically on cancer patients.

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