

Pharmacognosy and Medicinal Plants

ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF ANTICANCER BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS FROM LEAVES OF CONYZA SUMATRENSIS, A PLANT REPUTED FOR ANTICANCER ACTIVITIES

PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF EMBELIA RIBES SEEDS FOR ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY

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Many plants contain antioxidant compounds where it protects cells against the damaging effects of reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as singlet oxygen, superoxide, peroxy radicals, hydroxyl radicals and peroxynitrite which results in oxidative stress leading to cellular damage. Cell damage caused by ROS appears to be a major contributor to aging and to degenerative diseases of aging such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, cataracts, immune system decline, and brain dysfunction. The study was carried out to demonstrate the antioxidant property in *Embelia ribes* seeds. *Embelia ribes*, commonly known as *Vayu vilanga*, is a medicinally valuable, woody climber, a well-known drug in *Ayurvedic system*. *E. ribes* is identified and recognized by Medicinal Board, Government of India. *E. ribes* is one of the red list plant mainly found in semi evergreen and deciduous forests at

an altitude of 400 to 1500 m of Northern Western Ghats of India, Sri Lanka, China. The dried powdered seeds were subjected to sequential extraction by solvents like acetone, petroleum ether, water, methanol, and chloroform in increasing order of their polarity. The phytochemical screening of seed extracts revealed that the seeds were rich source of secondary metabolites. The results of DPPH and ABTS assays for antioxidant activity showed great free radical scavenging activity under low concentrations for methanolic extracts. Upon quantification of methanol and acetone extract, they showed the highest amount of flavonoid and phenolic compounds, respectively. The presence of flavonoids and phenolics are responsible for the antioxidant activity as they are free radical scavengers *in vivo*.

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