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Phytochemical Analysis of *Leucas aspera*(Willd.)Link. from Dibrugarh

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Abstract: The main aim of the study was to determine the phytoconstituents present in different aerial parts of Leucas aspera (Willd.)Link and their antioxidant and antimicrobial activity collected from Dibrugarh, Assam. Acetone extract of young leaves recorded higher (6.00±0.12mgCE/g extract and 3.05±0.04mgQE/g extract respectively) phenol and flavonoid content. Methanol extract of young leaves recorded highest (83.84±0.68% and 88.09±0.04% respectively) antioxidant activity against DPPH and ABTS at 500µl of sample at 1mg/ml of concentration. Acetone extracts recorded higher antimicrobial activity than other extracts of the plant. The different solvent extract recorded antibacterial and antifungal activity. Using GC-MS analysis, hexane broad fraction of inflorescence was analysed for the phytoconstituent present in it. GC-MS analysis was done in Bombay, IIT, SAIF and the analysis revealed the presence of phytoconstituents like-7,9-Ditert-butyl-1-oxaspiro(4,5)deca-6,9-diene-2,8-dione (90.0%), Phenol,2,4-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-(53.6%), 1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, bis(2-methylpropyl)ester (23.4%), Stigmasta-5,22-dien-3ol,acetate,(3β)-(23.2%), Spirost-8-en-11-one.3-hvdroxv- $(3\beta,5\alpha,14\beta,20\beta,22\beta,25R)-(22.7\%),$ Neocurdione (17.6%), Isolongifolan-7-ol (15.7%).

Index Terms: antimicrobial, antioxidant, GC-MS, inflorescence, phytoconstituents.

I. INTRODUCTION

Leucas aspera (Willd.)Link. is common is Assam and known as Durun bon and distributed all over India (Nadkarni, 1976). It is a perennial herb with woody root stock with hairs, erect and spreading. The young shoots are used as vegetables. The tender fried leaves are said to be good for cough. The plant has tremendous medicinal value as- analgesic, antipyretic, antirheumatic, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, psoriasis, chronic skin eruptions, chronic rheumatism, skin inflammation, painful swellings, stimulant, expectorant, aperients, diaphoretic, insecticide (Anonymous, 1962; Kirtikar et al., 1991; Reddy et al., 1993; Anonymous, 1994; Chopra et al., 1996; Gani, 1998; Srinivas et al., 2000; Srinivasan et al., 2001; Chopra et al., 2002; Gani, 2003; Goudgaon et al., 2003; Sadhi et al., 2003; Mangathayaru et al., 2005; Kirtikar and Basu, 2005; Sadhu et al., 2006; Rahman et al., 2007; Ilango et al., 2008; Unni et al., 2009; Prajapati et al., 2010; Morshed et al., 2011; Shiney Ramya et al., 2012). During snake bites, tooth infection, wound and as insect and mosquito repellent, the leaves are used (Shirazi, 1947; Reddy et al., 1993a; Reddy et al., 1993b; Reddy et al., 1993; Anonymous, 2001; Rai et al., 2005; Mangathayaru et al., 2006; Mangathayaru et al., 2006; Maheswaran et al., 2008; Rahmatullah et al., 2009; Unni et al., 2009). Different phyto-chemicals have been isolated from the plant by various workers (Mangathayaru et al., 2006; Rahman et al., 2007; Ilango et al., 2008; Prajapati et al., 2010; Srinivasan et al., 2011; Morshed et al., 2011; Shiney Ramya et al., 2012). Some other experiments on the plant were carried out by, Prasad and Kumar (2012); Unni et al., (2009); Mominul-Islam and Keto-Noguchi, (2012); Mohana et al., (2008).

The main aim of the study was to determine the phytochemicals present in different aerial parts of the plant and their antioxidant and antimicrobial activity.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Samples were collected from Dibrugarh district of Assam. Different aerial parts of flowering twig were separated and cleaned properly and washed under water. The materials were air dried at room temperature. Materials were grounded to fine powder using mortar and pestle and then in electric grinder. Extracts were prepared in five solvents viz- water, methanol, ethanol, acetone and petroleum ether by cold maceration methods. Hot petroleum ether extract was prepared using soxhlet extractor.

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The dried extracts were dissolved in DMSO (Dimethyl Sulfoxide) to obtain sample solution at 1mg/ml of concentration. Aqueous extracts were dissolved in distilled water at 1mg/ml of concentration.

A. Qualitative phytochemical analysis

Qualitative analysis for detection of various phytochemical constituents were performed using standard methods.

B. Quantitative phytochemical analysis:

Total phenol content (TPC) of the sample extract was estimated following the method described by Malik and Singh, (1980). The Aluminium chloride method was used for determination of total flavonoid content of the sample extracts as described by Mervat and Hanan, (2009).

C. Antioxidant activity study:

DPPH radical scavenging activity was determined by the method described by Anti-Stanojevic *et al.*, (2009). The ABTS assay was carried out following the method of Re *et al.*, (1999). Ascorbic acid was used as standard for antioxidant activity assay.

D. Antimicrobial activity study:

Antimicrobial activity of the bacterial strains was carried out by agar well diffusion method as described by Nair *et al.* (2005) using 6mm borer.

Gram positive and gram negative bacterial strains and fungal strains are used in this experiment to know the antimicrobial activity of the sample extracts.

a) Gram positive bacterial strains- *Bacillus subtilis* (MTCC 441), *Bacillus cereus* (MTCC 8750), *Staphylococcus aureus* (MTCC 3160), *Staphylococcus epidermis* (MTCC 3615) and *Proteus vulgaris* (MTCC 744).

b) Gram negative bacterial strains- *Escherichia coli* (MTCC 443), *Enterococcus faecalis* (MTCC 439).

c) Fungal strains- *Candida albicans* (MTCC 3017) and *Penicillium chrysogenum* (MTCC 947).

Strains were obtained from the Microbial Type Culture Collection (MTCC), Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh, India. The reference of bacterial strains were maintained on nutrient agar slants and fungal strains on PDA slants and stored in freeze. Strains were regularly sub-cultured using nutrient broth for bacterial strains and Potato Dextrose Broth for fungal strains.

E. GC-MS analysis:

50 gm of methanol extract was taken in a conical flask and broad fractionation was done using magnetic stir with the simultaneous use of solvents- hexane, chloroform, acetone, ethyl acetate and methanol. These fractions were kept separately for further work.

The hexane broad fraction showing clear bands in TLC is selected for characterization by GC-MS analysis. The analysis

was done in Bombay, IIT, SAIF. A Shimadzu 17A gas chromatograph coupled with a Shimadzu QP-5000 quadrupole mass spectrophotometer and Varian 3800 gas chromatograph coupled with detector was used. Compounds were recognised using comparison of their mass spectra with the Wiley GC-MS library and Adams Library (65, 66). Using Fisons GC 8000 series chromatograph with flame ionization detector equipped with non-polar ZB-5 column (30m×0.25mm×0.25µm).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 presents the results of qualitative phytochemical test of different parts of *L. aspera*. Tannins, flavonoids, glycosides, cardiac glycosides, saponins, alkaloids, reducing sugar, phenols are recorded in different parts of the plant while terpenoids are not recorded in flower. In some earlier studies, Ilango *et al.*, (2008); Morshed *et al.*, (2011); Shiney ramya *et al.*, (2012); Rahman and Islam, (2013); Latha *et al.*, (2013); Saravanasingh *et al.*, (2016) recorded the presence of these phytochemicals in the plant. Those studies were conducted from different places of our country like-Kattankulathur, Kerala, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The variation in presence and absence of these phytochemicals might be due to the climatic and soil condition of the study area.

The quantitative analysis was performed for total phenol and flavonoid content of different parts of L. aspera and the results are presented in Table 2. Acetone extract of young leaves (6.00±0.12 mgCE/g extract) recorded highest phenol content than other extracts of the plant at 1mg/ml of concentration. Extracts recorded good amount of phenol content are, water extract of flower (4.28±0.00 mgCE/g extract); methanol extract of young leaves (4.94±0.00 mgCE/g extract) and inflorescence (5.68±0.97 mgCE/g extract); acetone extract of mature leaves (4.08±0.18 mgCE/g extract). Methanol extract of mature leaves (3.32±0.95 mgQE/g extract) and acetone extract of young leaves (3.05±0.04 mgQE/g extract) recorded higher flavonoid content than other extracts of the plant. Ethanol extract of stem showed lowest phenol and flavonoid content (1.03±0.00 mgCE/g extract and 0.70±0.00 mgQE/g extract respectively). Latha et al., (2013) recorded phenolic content of ethanol extract of the plant as 15.36 ±0.512 GAE/g of dry weight. The amount of phenol and flavonoid content present in plant may vary due to the extraction power of the solvent used for the study.

Table 3 presents the antioxidant activity study of sample extracts of *L. aspera*. Methanol extract of mature leaves ($84.30\pm0.24\%$) and young leaves ($88.09\pm0.04\%$) recorded highest inhibition against DPPH and ABTS respectively. The extracts showed antioxidant inhibition at 500µl of sample at 1mg/ml of concentration. Higher inhibition against DPPH was also recorded by water extract of young and mature leaves ($82.00\pm0.00\%$ and $81.12\pm0.12\%$ respectively); methanol extract of young leaves ($83.84\pm0.68\%$). Against ABTS, water extract of young leaves and flower ($87.65\pm0.80\%$ and $83.47\pm0.40\%$ respectively) and ethanol extract of stem ($83.86\pm0.00\%$) recorded higher inhibition than

other extracts of the plant. Latha et al., (2013) recorded antioxidant content of ethanol extract of the plant as 190.00±7.95mg/g of dry weight extract. Chew et al., (2012) from Malaysia showed that methanol extract of all the parts of the plant have antioxidant activity at a concentration of 2mg/ml. Flower, leaf and stem extracts have inhibition like- 26.39±0.07%, 17.04±0.82% and 13.42±0.56% respectively. According to Rahman and Islam (2013), ethanolic extract have a percentage of (86.62±0.49)% as compared to ascorbic acid (97.34±1.22)% at 800µg/ml of concentration and have IC₅₀ of 99.58±1.62 µg/ml and 1.25±0.21 µg/ml respectively. Morshed et al., (2011) showed that flower, leaf and stem extracts exhibited scavenging activity as 26.39±0.07%, 17.04±0.82% and 13.42±0.56% respectively as compared to BHT (65.67±0.58%) and vitamin E (41.67±0.58%). The difference in antioxidant activity against DPPH and ABTS, may be due to the methods and chemicals used for the study.

The results of antimicrobial activity study of the sample extracts of L. aspera are presented in Table 4. Acetone extract of young leaves against S. aureus (12±2mm), E. coli (14±0mm), E. faecalis (11±3mm), P. vulgaris (14±4mm) have higher inhibition than the other extracts of young leaves. Various extracts of mature leaves, methanol extract against P. chrysogenum (14±2mm), acetone extract against E. coli (12±0mm), E. faecalis (12±0mm), P. vulgaris (14±2mm); petroleum ether extract against S. aureus (16±3mm), E. coli (12±0mm) and hot petroleum ether extract against P. vulgaris (12±1mm) recorded good inhibition than the other extracts of mature leaves. Methanol extract against E. faecalis (15 \pm 3mm) and petroleum ether extract against *B. cereus* (12±2mm), E. coli (12±1mm), E. faecalis (18±4mm) of inflorescence recorded higher inhibition than other extracts of the plant. Water extract of flower against S. epidermis (12±4mm), acetone extract against B. cereus (12±1mm), S. epidermis (14±2mm), E. coli (14±2mm), C. albicans (17±3mm); petroleum ether extract against B. cereus (12±2mm), S. aureus (16±4mm), S. epidermis (18±2mm), E. faecalis (19±1mm) revealed good inhibition. Methanol extract of stem against S. epidermis (16±2mm), E. coli (12±1mm), P. vulgaris (12±2mm), acetone extract against B. subtilis (12±1mm), E. coli (14±0mm), E. faecalis (14±2mm), P. vulgaris (14±2mm) and C. albicans (14±0mm) recorded higher inhibition than other extracts of the plant. Extracts from mature leaves, flower and stem of the plant recorded some good inhibition against fungi. Chew et al., (2012) showed that ethanolic extract of flower, stem and leaves have inhibition like- 7.0±0.7mm, 0.0±0.0 and 0.0±0.0 respectively against E. coli and 7.0±0.6mm, 7.0±0.4mm and 7.0±0.5mm respectively against S. aureus at a concentration of 100mg/ml which was lower than the standard antibiotic tetracycline. Rahman and Islam, (2013) revealed that the extract from the plant have inhibition against B. subtilis (12.00±1.32mm), B. cereus

 $(7.00 \pm 1.01 \text{ mm}),$ S. aureus (8.00±0.50mm), Е. coli (7.00±0.75mm). Methanol and ethanol extract of leaf exhibited antibacterial activity against Shigella sp., Salmonella typhi and Escherichia coli (Shiney ramya et al., 2012). Ethyl acetate extract and methanol extracts recorded antibacterial activity against the selected bacteria at different concentrations (Ilango et al., 2008). Unni et al., (2009) recorded antibacterial activity of water extract as 30mm of zone of inhibition against E. coli. Morshed et al., (2011) recorded that n-hexane, ethyl acetate and ethanol extract did not show any antimicrobial activity against 14 strains of micro-organisms using Disc-diffusion method at 500µg/ml of concentration. Srinivasan et al., (2001) recorded antibacterial activity against S. aureus, E. coli and P. aeruginosa. Babu et al., (2016) carried out antifungal activities of methanol leaf extracts of Leucas aspera and recorded inhibition against Candida albicans and Penicillium spp. along with some other fungal strains. In the present study, flowers of L. aspera recorded antimicrobial activity. Acetone, cold and hot petroleum ether extracts of flowers of the plant recorded higher inhibition than water, methanol and ethanol extracts. Mangathayaru et al., (2005) recorded antibacterial activity of methanol extract of flower of the plant. Sabri and Vimala, (2018) recorded antimicrobial activity of ethyl acetate extract of flowers of L. aspera. The antimicrobial activity of L. aspera flowers is due to the presence of phenolic content like tannins, which have antimicrobial inhibition against pathogens. According to Scalbert, (1991) tannins are responsible for the antimicrobial inhibition.

The antimicrobial activity of cold and hot petroleum ether extract recorded difference in their inhibition against bacterial strains. Sharma et al., (2013) recorded that ethanol extract have more activity than the water extracts, which may be due to the hot extraction of ethanol using soxhlet apparatus. Zalazare et al., (2018) recorded that ethanol and hot water extracts contained higher bioactive substances than cold water extracts of the tested mushrooms. Variable antimicrobial activity was observed in cold and hot water extracts against tested bacterial pathogens (Nwachukwa and Ozoeto, 2010; Khan et al., 2013; Nagananda and Satishchandra, 2013; Samie et al., 2017). According to some other workers, activity of samples also may vary with temperature (Wang, 1985; Su and Qiao, 1989; Zhu 1998; Chan et al., 2008). Traub and Leonhard, (1995) showed that out of 62 types of antimicrobial material, 25 types were found stable after the heat treatment which is very essential for antimicrobial agents of foods. This kind of differences occurs may be due to the age of the plant, the time of harvest of the material, method of extraction or may be the thermo-sensitivity of the active compounds.

Table 1. Phytochemical analysis of Leucas aspera (Willd.)Link.

Sample	Tannins	Phlobatannins	Flavonoids	Terpenoids	Steroids	Glycosides	Cardiac Glycosides	Saponins	Anthraquinones	Free Anthraquinones	Carotenoids	Alkaloids	Reducing Sugar	Phenols
Young Leaf	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
Mature Leaf	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
Inflorescence	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
Flower	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
Stem	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+

Table 2. Quantitative estimation for total phenol and total flavonoid content of sample extracts of different parts of Leucas aspera (Willd.) Link.

Sample	· · · · · ·						Total flavonoid content (mg quercetin equivalent/gm dry extract)						
(mg/ml) ↓	Water Extract	Methanol extract	Ethanol extract	Acetone extract	Petroleum ether extract	Water Extract	Methanol extract	Ethanol extract	A cetone extract	Petroleum ether extract			
Young leaf		4.94 ±0.00	3.76 ±0.00	6.00 ±0.12	2.01 ±0.63		2.44 ±0.00	2.56 ±0.00	3.05 ±0.04	2.31 ±0.99			
Mature leaf		3.54 ±0.06	2.88 ±0.00	4.08 ±0.18	1.34 ±0.00		3.32 ±0.95		2.54 ±0.00	2.36 ±0.00			
Inflorescence		5.68 ±0.97	1.77 ±0.07	2.10 ±0.05	2.17 ±0.00	1.54 ±0.00	1.77 ±0.00	1.19 ±0.00	2.25 ±0.06	1.40 ±0.00			
Flower		2.85 ±0.00	2.10 ±0.00	1.89 ±0.00	1.64 ±0.00		2.08 ±0.00	1.39 ±0.00	1.35 ±0.04	1.68 ±0.00			
Stem		3.87 ±0.00	1.03 ±0.00	1.34 ±0.02	1.86 ±0.00		2.82 ±0.00	0.70 ±0.00	1.23 ±0.02	2.29 ±0.00			

Table 3. Anti-oxidant activity study of sample extracts of different parts of Leucas aspera (Willd.) Link.

	DPPH radical (% inhibition	0.	g activity			ABTS radical scavenging activity (% inhibition in mg/ml)					
Sample (500µl) ↓	Water Extract	Methanol extract	Ethanol extract	Acetone extract	Petroleum ether extract	Water Extract	Methanol extract	Ethanol extract	Acetone extract	Petroleum ether extract	
Young leaf	82.00 ±0.00									68.37 ±0.00	

Mature leaf	81.12 ±0.12				69.42 ±0.00			78.63 ±0.00		63.70 ±1.08	
Inflorescence	60.14 ±0.00				67.14 ±0.00			75.26 ±0.01		58.97 ±1.57	
Flower	40.14 ±0.00				61.13 ±0.00			71.88 ±0.07		57.10 ±0.62	
Stem	36.67 ±0.00					58.11 ±1.10		83.86 ±0.00		51.16 ±2.97	
Ascorbic acid	90.28 ±0.02					89.00 ±0.00					

Table 4 Antimicrobial activity study of the sample extracts of different parts of Leucas aspera (Willd.) Link.

	Diameter of Zone of Inhibition (mm)									
		Bacterial str	Funga strains							
Sample	Extracts (mg/ml)	B. subtilis	B. cereus	S. aureus	S. epidermis	E. coli	E. faecalis	P. vulgaris	C. albicans	P. chrysogenum
	Water Extracts	-	8±0	-	8±2	-	-	-	-	-
	Methanol Extract	-	8±1	-	8±0	-	-	9±1	-	-
Vouna Laguas	Ethanol Extract	-	8±0	8±1	-	-	-	8±2	-	-
Young Leaves	Acetone Extract	10±1	-	12±2	10±2	14±0	11±3	14±4	-	-
	Petroleum Ether Extract	-	8±0	8±1	8±0	-	8±2	8±0	-	-
	Hot Petroleum Ether extract	8±0	10±2	-	8±1	-	8±1	10 ± 2	-	-
	Water Extracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Methanol Extract	-	-	10±2	8±1	-	-	8±0	-	14±2
	Ethanol Extract	-	8±1	-	-	-	-	8±0	-	10±1
Mature Leaves	Acetone Extract	8±0	-	8±0	8±0	12±0	12±0	14±2	8±0	10±1
	Petroleum Ether Extract	-	8±2	16±3	-	12±0	-	-	-	-
	Hot Petroleum Ether Extract	-	8±1	10±2	-	9±1	-	12±1	-	-
	Water Extracts	10±2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Methanol Extract	-	10±2	10±2	10±0	10±2	15±3	8±0	-	-
	Ethanol Extract	-	-	8±1	8±0	-	8±1	10±1	-	-
Inflorescence	Acetone Extract	8±0	8±0	8±0	8±0	-	-	10±2	8±0	-
	Petroleum Ether Extract	-	12±2	9±2	8±0	12±1	18±4	-	-	-
	Hot Petroleum Ether Extract	-	8±0	8±1	10±2	9±1	10±2	8±0	-	-
	Water Extracts	-	8±0	-	12±4	-	-	8±0	-	-
Flower	Methanol Extract	-	8±1	-	10±1	-	-	-	-	-
	Ethanol Extract	-	8±0	-	8±0	-	-	-	-	-
	Acetone Extract	8±1	12±1	8±2	14±2	14±2	-	10±2	17±3	-

	Petroleum Ether Extract	-	12±2	16±4	18±2	10±1	19±1	8±0	-	-
	Hot Petroleum Ether Extract	10±1	8±0	10±2	8±1	-	-	8±0	-	-
	Water Extracts	10±1	8±0	-	-	10±2	-	-	-	-
	Methanol Extract	10±1	10±1	8±0	16±2	12±1	8±1	12±2	-	-
Stem	Ethanol Extract	-	-	8±0	-	-	-	8±1	-	-
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Acetone Extract	12±1	8±0	8±1	10±1	14±0	14±2	14±2	14±0	-
	Petroleum Ether Extract	10±2	8±0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hot Petroleum Ether Extract	8±0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampicillin (Ampicillin (10mcg)		-	-	-	12±2	10±1	10±0	-	46±0

Diameter of the cork borer=6mm, '-' indicates no inhibition

Table 5: Compounds identified in GC-MS analysis

Sl. No.	Name of the compounds	% Propability	Chemical formula
1	7,9-Di-tert-butyl-1-oxaspiro(4,5)deca-6,9-diene-2,8-dione	90.0%	C17H24O
2	Phenol,2,4-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-	53.6%	C14H22O
3	1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, bis(2-methylpropyl)ester	23.4%	C ₁₆ H ₂₂ O ₄
4	Stigmasta-5,22-dien-3-ol,acetate,(3β)-	23.2%	C ₃₁ H ₅₀ O ₂
5	Spirost-8-en-11-one,3-hydroxy-,(3β,5α,14β,20β,22β,25R)-	22.7%	$C_{27}H_{40}O_4$
6	Neocurdione	17.6%	C15H24O2
7	Isolongifolan-7-ol	15.7%	C15H26O
8	3,7,11,15-Tetramethyl-2-hexadecen-1-ol	15.0%	C ₂₀ H ₄₀ O

IV. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

All the experiments were done in triplicate and mean and SD was calculated and are presented in \pm form.

CONCLUSION

The phytochemicals present in the plant are responsible for its antioxidant and antimicrobial activity. Different parts of the plant having antimicrobial activity can be used in medicinal practices instead of using the whole plant at a time.

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