COMPARATIVE VALIDATION OF SELF COLLECTED AND MARKET ‘SARIVA’ ROOTS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR AMBIGUITY IN THE IDENTIFICATION USING IN-VITRO BIOCHEMICAL ASSAYS

EITISHA SANDECHA1, NINAD NANGARE2, ANURADHA MULIK3, SURESH JAGTAP3 AND NEELAMBIKA METI1*

1Department of Plant Biotechnology, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of IT and Biotechnology, Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune-Satara Road, Pune, M.S., India
2Department of Dravyaguna Vigyan, College of Ayurved, Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), University, Pune-Satara Road, Pune, M.S., India
3Department of Herbal Medicine, Interactive Research School for Health Affairs (IRSHA), Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune-Satara Road, Pune, M.S., India

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Abstract – Plant ‘Sariva’ has been used since long in Ayurveda and folk medicine. There are four different species used as ‘Sariva’ in various regions of India viz., Cryptolepis buchanani Roem. & Schult., Hemidesmus indicus (L.) R.Br and Decalepis miltonii Wight & Arn belongs to same family Asclepiadaceae, while Ichnocarpus frutescens (L.) R. Br. belongs to family Apocynaceae. Present study is designed to evaluate the ambiguity in market and authenticate samples of ‘Sariva’ root extract in terms of their polyphenolic contents and antioxidant profile. Market samples were collected from major markets from India viz., Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and West Bengal. While, authenticate species of ‘Sariva’ was collected from Western Ghats of Maharashtra, India. Antioxidant profile was evaluated by nitric oxide scavenging potential, BSA anti-denaturation assay and anti-lipid peroxidation assays. Total phenolic and flavonoid contents were studied by standard methods viz. Folin-Ciocalteu and aluminium chloride respectively. Methanolic extract of ‘Sariva’ market sample showed highest phenolic contents (0.295±0.023µg/ml) as compared to the flavonoid contents in Pune market sample. While, highest concentration of total phenol contents was observed in Decalepis hamiltonii (0.346±0.034µg/ml) and flavonoids was observed in Cryptolepis buchanani (0.11±0.007mg/ml). The methanolic extract of West Bengal showed highest anti-lipid peroxidation activity (IC50 value of 50.96µg/ml). While, lowest activity was observed in Delhi market sample (IC50 of 218.63). On the contrary, Hemidesmus indicus showed highest anti-lipid activity (28.88 µg/ml of IC 50) followed by Decalepis hamiltonii, Cryptolepis buchanani and Ichnocarpus frutescens. IC50 value indicates that among all the market samples Bangalore market sample (67.26 µg/ml) showed more significant protein stabilizing activity (denaturation is inhibited). While, Decalepis hamiltonii showed more significant protein stabilizing activity (32.73 µg/ml) followed by Hemidesmus indicus, Cryptolepis buchanani and Ichnocarpus frutescens. Among market samples, Pune market sample showed highest nitric oxide scavenging activity (65.15µg/ml of IC50) and in authenticate samples, Decalepis hamiltonii showed highest nitric oxide scavenging potential (31.26 µg/mL of IC50). By evaluating the five market samples in comparison with authenticate ‘Sariva’ species, it is concluded that distinct variation observed in polyphenolic contents and antioxidant activity. Hence, present study suggests the need of awareness in the selection of the correct species and scientific efforts to solve this ambiguity.

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plant ‘Sariva’ is an eminent drug of Ayurveda and been in ample use since ancient times. It is also known as Indian Sarsaparilla. It is commonly found throughout India and is widely recognized in traditional system of medicine. Two types of ‘Sariva’ are mentioned in ayurveda those are ‘Shweta and Krushna Sariva’ (Austin, 2008). ‘Sariva’ have been used in Ayurveda as a curative agent for variety of ailments like skin disorders, fever, leucorrhoea, urinary infections, dysentery,
dyspepsia, leukoderma, burning sensation, asthma, leprosy, loss of appetite, eye diseases, epileptic disorder, nutritional disorder, ulcer, rheumatism and blood purifier purpose etc. Due to its attributes of Madhur, Tikta Rasa; Madhur Vipak, Sheet Veerya and Guru, Snigdha Gunas; it performs actions such as Tridoshshamak but mainly Pittashamak, Varnya, Purishangrhnha etc. The root is presumed for its cooling and blood purifying action and is consequently used to make refreshing drinks. (Chopra et al., 1956; Pansare, 2018).

‘Sariva’ showed few pharmacological activities having the potential of anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antinoceiceptive, anti-enterobacterial, anti-oxidant, anti-atherogenic and anti-carcinogenic agent (Aneja et al., 2008).

Presently, Hemidesmus indicus is referred as true ‘Sariva’ (Prasanna and Maruthi, 2019). According to literature, in different regions four species are being used as ‘Sariva’ i.e., Decalepis hamiltonii (Wight and Arn), Cryptolepis buchanani (Roem & Schult), Ichnoparcs frutescens (L.) R.Br. and Hemidesmus indicus (L.) R.Br. In Ayurveda, Cryptolepis buchanani and Ichnocarpus are also collectively known as ‘Sariva’. In south region of India Decalepis ha- miltonii is being used as substitute of ‘Sariva’ (Nayar, 1977). So, there is need to solve the ambiguity in different species coming under the name ‘Sariva’.

In the present study, market and authenticate species of ‘Sariva’ were evaluated in terms of biochemical assays. Antioxidant activity was investigated using a variety of in-vitro methodologies, including an anti-lipid peroxidation assay, nitric oxide scavenging potential assay, and BSA anti-denaturation assay. Total phenol and total flavonoid content estimation were also detected. In present work, the efforts are made to study the ambiguity with respect to their biological activity and antioxidant activity of ‘Sariva’ samples collected from major markets of India and Western Ghats of Maharashtra, India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals and reagents
The chemicals and reagents used in the following biochemical assays are Potassium chloride (0.15M), Butylated hydroxy toluene solution (0.05% BHT), Thiobarbituric acid (TBA) solution (1 mM), Ferric chloride anhydrous, Standard Ascorbic Acid, Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (1:10 diluted) 1M Sodium carbonate (Na₂CO₃), Quercetin, 5% Sodium Nitrite (NaNO₂), 10% Aluminium chloride (AlCl₃).

Plant collection and extraction
Root samples of the ‘Sariva’ were purchased in India’s major marketplaces, including Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, and West Bengal. While, authentic species samples were collected from village Chavni of Raigad district from ‘Sahyadri’ Range of Maharashtra. Plants were identified and authenticated by Taxonomist, Dr. Suresh Jagtap, Associate Professor, IRSHA, Pune. Required State Biodiversity permission has been taken from MSBB, Nagpur, Maharashtra. Roots were pulverized to a fine powder in a mechanical blender. These fine powders were utilized for further experimental purposes.

Polyphenolic content assays
Polyphenolic content of extracts was determined using the Folin-ciocalteu method. It is demonstrated as mg of Gallic acid equivalents (GAE) per gram of dry weight of the extract. Total flavonoid content was assessed using an Aluminum chloride colorimetric method and it is expressed as mg of Quercetin per gram of dry weight (Narkhede, 2016). All the experiments were carried out in triplicates.

In vitro biochemical assays
Nitric oxide scavenging potential
Nitric oxide has been shown to be directly scavenged by flavonoids (Lakhanpal and Rai, 2007). In vitro quenching of NO radical is one of the methods that can be used to determine antioxidant activity (Nagmoti, 2011). The procedure is based on the Sodium nitroprusside in aqueous solution at physiological pH spontaneously generates nitric oxide which interacts with oxygen to produce nitrite ions that can be estimated using Griess reagent.

The percent inhibition was calculated using the formula:

\[ \% \text{Inhibition activity} = \frac{A_{\text{Control}} - A_{\text{Sample}}}{A_{\text{Control}}} \times 100 \quad \text{Eq.2} \]

Where, \( A_{\text{Control}} \) is absorbance of Control and \( A_{\text{Sample}} \) is absorbance of Sample.

BSA anti-denaturation assay
Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) is a water-soluble protein that denatures on heating. Denaturation of proteins involves the disruption and possible destruction of both the secondary and tertiary
structures. This assay applies for the detection of compounds that can stabilize the protein BSA from denaturation process at a physiological pH 6.5 (Williams et al., 2008).

The percentage denaturation inhibition was calculated by the formula:

\[
\% \text{ Inhibition activity} = \frac{A_{\text{Control}} - A_{\text{Sample}}}{A_{\text{Control}}} \times 100 \quad \text{Eq. 1}
\]

Where \( A_{\text{Control}} \) is absorbance of the control and \( A_{\text{Sample}} \) is absorbance of samples.

**Antilipid peroxidation assays**

The lipid peroxidation was performed by TBARS (Thiobarbituric acid reactive substance) assay (Wade et al., 1985). Decomposition of lipid membrane in the body leads to formation of Malondialdehyde (MDA) along with other aldehydes and enals as the end product. These react with Thiobarbituric acid to form colored complexes. Hence these are called as the Thiobarbituric acid Reactive Substances (TBARS). The measurement of lipid peroxidation inhibition enables an assessment of the protective effect of foods on oxidative stress and is the most applied methods. MDA + 2 TBA pink red complex (measured at 532 nm).

**Statistical Analysis**

Data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA and expressed as mean±standard error. \( P \) value less than 0.05 considered statistically significant.

**RESULTS**

In present study, all the species of ‘Sariva’ were extracted by using methanol as a high extraction yield solvent (Das et al., 2003 and Tabassum et al., 2016). Highest yield was obtained in Decalepis hamiltonii extract of authentic samples while, in market sample group, Sample from Pune market gained highest yield (Table 1).

**Quantitative phytochemical screening**

In present study, all the authentic and market samples were screened for their phytochemical screening (Table 2 and 3). Polyphenols are responsible for scavenging ability of the extract. Among polyphenolic content, phenolic and flavonoids are the major group of compounds which are believed to be responsible for antioxidant activity of the extract.

Authenticate samples of the ‘Sariva’ showed presence of both the polyphenols. Among them, highest concentration of phenol content was observed in all the species as compared to the flavonoids. Highest concentration of total phenol contents was observed in Decalepis hamiltonii (0.346±0.034) and flavonoids was observed in Cryptolepis buchanani (0.11±0.007). Among the methanolic extract of ‘Sariva’ market samples, Pune market sample showed highest phenolic contents (0.295±0.023) as compared to the flavonoid contents.

**Table 1. The extraction yield of market and authentic samples of ‘Sariva’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authentic samples</th>
<th>Percent Yield (%)</th>
<th>Market samples</th>
<th>Percent Yield (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cryptolepis buchanani</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decalepis hamiltonii</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemidesmus indicus</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>Nagpur</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ichnocarpus frutescens</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Total phenol and flavonoid content in authenticated species of ‘Sariva’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Authenticated species of Sariva</th>
<th>Total phenol content (50 µg/ml conc.) mg/g of GAE equivalent(^\text{a,b})</th>
<th>Total flavonoid content (1 mg/ml conc.) mg/g of Quercetin equivalent(^\text{a,c})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cryptolepis buchanani</td>
<td>0.31±0.009</td>
<td>0.11±0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decalepis hamiltonii</td>
<td>0.346±0.034</td>
<td>0.095±0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemidesmus indicus</td>
<td>0.334±0.031</td>
<td>0.10±0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ichnocarpus frutescens</td>
<td>0.306±0.038</td>
<td>0.08±0.006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^\text{a}\)=All values are mean±SD, \(n=3\), \(^\text{b}\)=Values are expressed as equivalent to Gallic acid (mg/gram of GAE), \(^\text{c}\)=Values are expressed as equivalent to Quercetin.
Comparative Validation of Self Collected and Market ‘Sariva’ Roots with Respect to Authenticates Samples

**Highest total phenol contents were observed in authenticates samples as compared to the market samples.**

**In vitro biochemical assays**

Considering the results, all the ‘Sariva’ species able to reduce the stable radicals to 50% reduction, this termed as IC₅₀ value. In present work, the order of nitric oxide potential was observed highest in West Bengal followed by Pune, Nagpur, Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi (Table 4). The methanolic extract of West Bengal showed highest free radical scavenging activity (IC₅₀ value of 50.96 µg/mL). While, lowest activity was observed in Delhi market sample (IC₅₀ of 218.63). Authenticate species viz. Cryptolepis buchanani, Decalepis hamiltonii, Hemidesmus indicus and Ichnocarpus frutescent which are known as ‘Sariva’ were also studied for their antioxidant efficacy (Table 5). Results revealed that Hemidesmus indicus showed highest anti-lipid activity (28.88 µg/mL of IC₅₀) followed by Decalepis hamiltonii, Cryptolepis buchanani and Ichnocarpus frutescent.

The present findings exhibited an inhibition of protein (albumin) denaturation by all the test extracts (Table 3 and 4). IC₅₀ value indicates that among all the market samples Bangalore market sample (67.26 µg/mL) showed more significant protein stabilizing activity (denaturation is inhibited) followed by Nagpur, Mumbai, West Bengal, Pune and Delhi. Authenticate ‘Sariva’ species exhibited highest inhibition of protein (denaturation) as compared to the market samples (Table 3 and 4). Among them Decalepis hamiltonii showed more significant protein stabilizing activity (32.73 µg/mL) followed by Hemidesmus indicus,

**Table 3. Total phenol and flavonoid content in market ‘Sariva’ drug**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Market sample</th>
<th>Total phenol content (1µg/ml conc.) mg/g of GAE equivalent a</th>
<th>Total flavonoid content (1 mg/ml conc.) mg/g of Quercetin equivalent b</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>0.286±0.017</td>
<td>0.08±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>0.144±0.010</td>
<td>0.06±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>0.206±0.026</td>
<td>0.07±0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagpur</td>
<td>0.289±0.022</td>
<td>0.08±0.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>0.295±0.023</td>
<td>0.09±0.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>0.235±0.018</td>
<td>0.08±0.008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a=All values are mean±SD, n=3, b=Values are expressed as equivalent to gallic acid (mg/gram of GAE), c= Values are expressed as equivalent to quercetin.

**Table 4. Antioxidant activity of market sample extracts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market samples of Sariva drug</th>
<th>Anti-lipid peroxidation (ALP) assay (1mg/ml conc.)</th>
<th>Anti-denaturation assay (BSA) Percentage of Inhibition (IC₅₀ µg/ml)</th>
<th>Nitric oxide scavenging potential (NO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>69.22</td>
<td>93.77</td>
<td>89.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>218.63</td>
<td>106.85</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>161.08</td>
<td>67.26</td>
<td>82.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagpur</td>
<td>67.10</td>
<td>78.12</td>
<td>83.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>57.96</td>
<td>95.77</td>
<td>65.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>50.96</td>
<td>92.33</td>
<td>94.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5. Antioxidant activity of authenticate sample extracts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authenticated Sample</th>
<th>Anti-lipid peroxidation (ALP) assay (1mg/ml conc.)</th>
<th>Anti-denaturation assay (BSA) Percentage of Inhibition (IC₅₀ µg/ml)</th>
<th>Nitric oxide scavenging potential (NO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cryptolepis buchanani</td>
<td>37.95</td>
<td>41.44</td>
<td>37.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decalepis hamiltonii</td>
<td>30.18</td>
<td>32.73</td>
<td>31.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemidesmus indicus</td>
<td>28.88</td>
<td>34.42</td>
<td>32.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ichnocarpus frutescent</td>
<td>39.80</td>
<td>46.07</td>
<td>49.115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In present work methanolic extract of both market and authenticate ‘Sariva’ plant extract were studied and were exhibited nitric oxide scavenging potential (Table 3 and 4). Among market samples Pune market sample (65.15µg/ml of IC\textsubscript{50}) showed highest nitric oxide scavenging activity followed by Bangalore, Nagpur, Mumbai, West Bengal and Delhi. While, among authenticate ‘Sariva’ samples Decalepis hamiltonii showed highest nitric oxide scavenging potential (31.26 µg/ml of IC\textsubscript{50}) followed by Hemidesmus indicus, Cryptolepis buchanani and Ichnocarpus frutescent. Amongst market and authenticate samples of ‘Sariva’ authenticate samples showed more significant activity for all the studied antioxidant assays.

DISCUSSION

Bioactive compounds present in medicinal plant extract usually occur in low concentration. Extraction technique is a physical transfer of the original plant material into another phase which can be separated by filtration and which is able to obtain high yield, minimum alteration in their functional properties etc. Variation in the biological activities of the plant extract, which were prepared using different techniques have been reported by several researchers (Kaker et al., 2020). Hence, it is necessary to select the suitable solvent along with extraction method based on sample properties, chemical properties of the analytes, matrix-analyte interaction, efficiency and desired properties (Hayouni et al., 2007; Ishida et al., 2001). In present work, highest yield was obtained in Decalepis hamiltonii extract of self collected samples and from market sample group Pune. Phytoconstituents present in plant extract contribute significantly towards the biological activities of medicinal plants such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory etc. (Ahamed et al., 2017). This is a need of the hour in order to develop novel therapeutic agents with improved efficacy. Authenticate ‘Sariva’ samples showed presence of both the polyphenols. Highest concentration of phenol content was observed in all the species as compared to the flavonoids. Highest concentration of total phenol contents was observed in Decalepis hamiltonii (0.346±0.034) and flavonoids was observed in Cryptolepis buchanani (0.11±0.007). Among the methanolic extract of ‘Sariva’ market samples, Pune market sample showed highest phenolic contents (0.295±0.023) as compared to the flavonoid contents. Phenolic compounds act as antioxidants due to their redox properties, which allow them to act as hydrogen donors, reducing agents and singlet oxygen quenchers (Kasote et al., 2015). Total phenol content could be used as a basis of their most potent antioxidant properties and their free radical scavenging ability eased by their hydroxyl groups (Baba et al., 2015).

Antioxidant activity measured by nitric oxide scavenging potential, BSA anti-denaturation assay and anti-lipid peroxidation assays with comparative evaluation among market and authenticates samples. In present work, the order of nitric oxide potential was observed highest in West Bengal followed by Pune, Nagpur, Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi. The highest free radical scavenging activity (IC\textsubscript{50} value of 50.96µg/ml) was observed in methanolic extract of West Bengal sample. While, lowest activity was observed in Delhi market sample (IC\textsubscript{50} of 218.63). Lipid peroxidation refers to the oxidative deterioration of lipids, mainly by the effect of different ROS. Similarly, Singh et al., 2012 reported highest lipid peroxidation potential (66.5 µg/ml) in methanolic extract of Hemidesmus indicus collected from Dawa bazaar market of Mumbai. Moreover, authenticate species Cryptolepis buchanani, Decalepis hamiltonii, Hemidesmus indicus and Ichnocarpus frutescent which are known as Antioxidant activity results revealed that Hemidesmus indicus showed highest anti-lipid activity (28.88 µg/ml of IC\textsubscript{50}) followed by Decalepis hamiltonii, Cryptolepis buchanani and Ichnocarpus frutescent. To establish the mechanism of anti-inflammatory activity of traditionally used ‘Sariva’ drug, protein denaturation and stabilization of human red blood cell membranes were studied. Inflammation is usually associated with the denaturation of proteins. Bangalore market sample (67.26 µg/ml) showed more significant protein stabilizing activity (denaturation is inhibited) followed by Nagpur, Mumbai, West Bengal, Pune and Delhi. While, authenticate ‘Sariva’ species exhibited highest inhibition of protein (denaturation) in Decalepis hamiltonii showed more significant protein stabilizing activity (32.73 µg/ml) followed by Hemidesmus indicus, Cryptolepis buchanani and Ichnocarpus frutescent. The lysosomal constituents of neutrophils consist of protease and bactericidal enzymes, which upon extracellular release cause more damage and tissue inflammation (Chou, 1997). In present study, extracts of Decalepis
hamiltonii might inhibit the release of the lysosomal content of neutrophils at inflammation sites but this would need to be further investigated.

Nitric oxide (NO) is a potent pleiotropic mediator of physiological process like smooth muscle relaxant, neuronal signaling, inhibition of platelet aggregation etc. (Begam and Muthukumaran, 2014). Although over production of nitric oxide and superoxide radicals contribute to the pathogenesis of some inflammatory diseases (Guo et al., 1999). Methanolic extract of both market and authenticate ‘Sariva’ plant extract were studied and were exhibited nitric oxide scavenging potential. Among market samples, Pune market sample (65.15µg/ml of IC₅₀) showed highest nitric oxide scavenging activity and among authenticate ‘Sariva’ samples Decalepis hamiltonii showed highest nitric oxide scavenging potential (31.26 µg/ml of IC₅₀). On the basis of evaluation, present work reveal variation in market samples. Pune market sample (65.15µg/ml of IC₅₀) showed highest nitric oxide scavenging activity of some inflammatory diseases (Guo et al., 1999).

CONCLUSION

Sariva is most commonly used in Ayurveda for its various therapeutic uses. After evaluating the ‘Sariva’ market samples and authentic samples collected from Western Ghats of Maharashtra, it is concluded that, there is variation among both samples in terms of their polyphenolic contents and antioxidant profile. Hemidesmus indicus is a botanical name of true ‘Sariva’ where as Decalepis hamiltonii can be used as potent substitute for the same. Therefore, there is an urgent need in research community to aware in the selection of authentic species of ‘Sariva’ and need further investigation to ascertain most potent species as ‘Sariva’.

REFERENCES


