

Chemical Profile and Antioxidant Properties of *Mundulea sericea*

Mahendra Shivshankar Khyade^{*1}, Mohan Baban Waman²

ABSTRACT

Objectives: To evaluate the phytochemical composition and the antioxidant activity of aqueous-methanolic (20:80) leaves extract of *Mundulea sericea* Willd. **Methods:** The extract of leaves was tested for antioxidant activity using various *in vitro* models viz., 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), nitric oxide, ABTS, ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP), total antioxidant activity and reducing power. The phytochemical composition (GC-MS and HPLC) along with total phenolic and flavonoid content of the extract at different concentrations were also determined. **Results:** Total phenolic and flavonoid contents were found to be equivalents to 107.86 ± 0.53 µg of gallic acid and 44.53 ± 0.156 µg of rutin /mg of dried hydro-methanolic methanolic extract, respectively. Among various antioxidant assays performed, maximum inhibition was observed for ABTS (IC₅₀ 13.26 ± 0.396 µg) followed by DPPH (IC₅₀ 79.83 ± 0.306 µg) and NO (IC₅₀ 6.35 ± 0.23 µg/mL) assay. The GC-MS analysis revealed over 38 compounds; the prevailing compounds were Sec- Butyl ethyl sulfoxide and Di-methyl sulfoxonium formyl methylene. The RP-HPLC analysis further confirmed the presence of rutin, cinnamic acid and salicylic acid. **Conclusion:** The results of the present study demonstrated that *Mundulea sericea* leaves possess high phenolic with flavonoid contents and also revealed potential antioxidant activity so these leaves could be used as a viable source of natural antioxidants for industrial and pharmaceutical preparations.

Key words: *Mundulea sericea*, Leaf extract, Antioxidant, GC-MS, RP-HPLC, Phenolics, Flavonoids

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INTRODUCTION

Now a days, antioxidants derived from plants have been gaining more attention due to their therapeutic implications and fewer side effects.¹ Moreover, the published research literature reveals that the large number of plants including aromatic, spicy and medicinal plants contains important secondary metabolites that exhibit antioxidant properties.² In addition, several experimental studies conducted on some of these plants, viz, rosemary, sage, oregano, resulted in the development of natural antioxidant formulations for food, cosmetic and other applications.^{3,4} However, scientific data on antioxidant properties of plants that are less widely used in food and medicine is still rather scarce. Therefore, the screening of plants having such properties remains an interesting and useful task, particularly for finding new sources of natural antioxidants.⁵

Mundulea sericea (Willd.) A.Chev. is a small tree belonging to the family fabaceae, distributed in dry forests and rocky hills of West and South India. The plant is reported to have an insecticidal properties and also reported in stupefying fishes.^{6,7} In Africa, bark, leaves, seeds and roots of this plant have been used as fish poison, insecticide and as an aphrodisiac.^{8,9} There are many reports on bioactivity of *M. sericea*, such as insecticidal,⁹⁻¹¹ anti-mycobacterial,¹² antimicrobial¹³ and analgesic activity⁷ is also reported. However there is little research report on the antioxidant potential and chemical profiling of leaves of this plant. Hence, the present study is aims to quantify the total phenolic and total flavonoid contents of the

aqueous methanolic extract of the *M. sericea* leaves and to investigate the antioxidant capacity using six different methods. Furthermore, the extract was further analyzed by spectroscopic and chromatographic techniques (FTIR, GC-MS and RP-HPLC) for the characterization of chemical composition.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample collection and extraction

The leaves of *M. sericea* were harvested from Baleshwar hills of Sangamner Tehsil located in the north-west region of Ahmednagar district (MS), India. The collected plant specimen was authenticated at the Department of Botany, Sangamner College, Sangamner, by using Floras.^{14,15} The plant material was washed with tap water to remove the dust particles and shade dried at room temperature. It is thereafter ground into fine powder with an electric grinder. The dried powdered material (100 g) was extracted with aqueous-methanol (20:80) by adopting cold the extraction method.^{16,17} The mixture was kept for 48 h with frequent shaking at room temperature. Afterward, the extract was filtered through Whatman No. 41 filter paper and dried by rotavapor at 40°C. The extraction procedure was repeated thrice. The extract thus obtained was preserved in the refrigerator for further use.

Phytochemical analysis

Qualitative phytochemical analysis

The aqueous-methanolic extract of the leaves was subjected to detection of various phytoconstituents

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such as alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, caumarins, flavonoids, phenolic compounds, reducing sugar, saponins, steroids, tannins and terpenoids by reported methods.¹⁶

Quantification of total phenolics

The total phenol (TPC) content of the extract was determined by using described method.¹⁸ Briefly, the extract (0.2 ml of 1 mg/ml) was mixed with 2.5 ml of distilled water. After 0.5 ml of the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent and 1.0 ml of Na₂CO₃ reagent were added to the mixture, and incubated at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance of the mixture was measured spectrophotometrically (Systronic UV-VIS India) at 765 nm. The total phenol content was expressed in microgram gallic acid equivalents per milligram of extract (µg GAE/mg DW) through the calibration curve with gallic acid. Triplicate measurements were taken and data were presented as mean ± standard deviation (Mean±SD).

Quantification of total flavonoids

The total flavonoid (TFC) content of the extract was determined by using described methods.^{19,20} In brief; 0.1 ml of sample solution (1mg/ml) was mixed with 2ml of distilled water and subsequently with 0.15 ml of NaNO₂ (5%) After 6 min of incubation, 0.15 ml of 10% AlCl₃ solution was added and allowed to stand for 6 min, it was followed by addition of 2 ml of Noah (4%) to the mixture. The final volume was adjusted to 5 ml with distilled water and thoroughly mixed. The absorbance of the mixture was determined at 510 nm. Total flavonoid content was expressed as µg rutin/mg dry weight, through the calibration curve of rutin (10-100 µg/ml). All samples were analyzed in triplicates and data were presented as mean ± standard deviation (Mean ± SD).

Antioxidant activity assays

DPPH radical scavenging assay

The DPPH (2,2 diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) free radical scavenging capacity of extract was measured by using standard protocol²¹ with slight modifications. Briefly, the reaction mixture contained 300 µl of extract of varying concentrations (10-300 µg/ml) and 2 ml of DPPH solution. After 10 min, the change in absorbance was recorded at 517 nm in a spectrophotometer against a blank. L-ascorbic acid was used as a positive control. The DPPH radical scavenging capacities were expressed as L-ascorbic acid equivalent antioxidant capacity in mmol g⁻¹ of extract. The % DPPH scavenging activity was calculated by the equation:

$$\% \text{ DPPH scavenging activity} = \frac{A_{\text{control}} - A_{\text{sample}}}{A_{\text{control}}} \times 100$$

Where A_{control} is the absorbance of the control (DPPH + methanol) and A_{sample} is the absorbance of the sample (DPPH + methanol + sample). The extract concentration providing 50% inhibition (IC₅₀) was calculated from the graph of scavenging effect percentage against extract concentration in the solution.

2, 2-Azino-bis (3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) radical-scavenging assay (ABTS)

ABTS radical scavenging activity was determined by using standard described method.²² The ABTS radical cations are produced when ABTS (7 mM) reacts with potassium persulfate (2.45 mM) when incubated at room temperature in the dark for 16 hrs. The solution thus obtained was further diluted with phosphate buffer saline (PBS) to give an absorbance of 1.000. Different concentrations of the test samples in 50 µl were added to 950 µl of ABTS working solution to give a final volume of 1 ml. The absorbance was recorded immediately at 734 nm. Ascorbic acid was used as a reference standard and inhibiting concentrations of extracts were tested at 10, 20,40,60,80 and 100 µg/ml. All determinations were performed in triplicate. Reference standard (Ascorbic acid) was also tested with similar concentrations and percent inhibition was calculated by following equation:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = \frac{(A_{\text{blank}} - A_{\text{sample}})}{A_{\text{blank}}} \times 100.$$

Where A_{blank} is the absorbance of ABTS radical + methanol used as control; A_{sample} is the absorbance of ABTS radical + sample extract/standard. Also the results were given as the IC₅₀, which was calculated from the graph of the ABTS^{•+} scavenging effect percentage against the sample concentration

Nitric oxide radical scavenging assay

The nitric oxide scavenging activity of extracts on nitric oxide radical was measured according to the method.²³ Sodium nitroprusside (1 ml, 5 mM) in PBS (0.1 M, 7.4 pH) was mixed with 3 ml of different concentration of the extract and incubated at 25°C for 150 min. Afterward, 0.5 ml of the this sample was mixed with 0.5 ml of Griess reagent (1% sulphanilamide, 2% H₃PO₄ and 0.1% naphthyl ethylene diamine dihydrochloride) and absorbance was measured at 546 nm. Reference standard (L-ascorbic acid) was also tested with similar concentrations and percent inhibition was calculated by following equation:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = \frac{(A_{\text{blank}} - A_{\text{sample}})}{A_{\text{blank}}} \times 100.$$

The IC₅₀ values was calculated from the graph of scavenging effect percentage against extract concentration in the solution.

Reducing power assay

The reducing power of extracts was evaluated according to the method described by²¹ with slight modification. Briefly, different amounts of extracts (100 –700 µg/ml) were incubated with 2.5 ml of PBS (0.2 M, pH 6.6) and 2.5 ml of 1% potassium ferricyanide at 50°C for 20 min. The reaction was terminated by adding 2.5 ml of 10% TCA solution and the mixture was centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min. The supernatant (1.0 ml) was mixed with 2.5 ml of distilled water and 1.0 ml of 0.1% ferric chloride (FeCl₃) solution and absorbance was measured at 700 nm after incubation at room temperature for 10 min. Quercetin and butylated hydroxy toluene (5-50 µg/ml) were used as positive control and experiment was performed in triplicate.

Ferric reducing activity

The FRAP (Ferric reducing antioxidant power) assay was conducted according to standard protocol.²⁴ The method is based on the reduction of a ferric 2, 4, 6-tripyridyl-s-triazine complex (Fe³⁺-TPTZ) by antioxidants to the ferrous form (Fe²⁺-TPTZ). FRAP reagent was prepared freshly by mixing 2.5 mL of TPTZ solution (10 mM in 40 mM HCl) and FeCl₃ (20 mM) in 25 mL of acetate buffer (300 mM and pH 3.6). The light blue Fe³⁺-TPTZ reagent changes to dark blue after contact with an antioxidant, due to the formation of Fe²⁺-TPTZ. Absorbance was monitored at 593 nm for two different concentrations (100 and 200 µg/mL) of extracts in FRAP reagent. All the results were based on three separate experiments and antioxidant capacity was expressed as µM FeSO₄/ mg of dry extract. Quercetin and butylated hydroxy toluene were used as positive control.

Total antioxidant capacity

The aqueous extract (0.4 ml, 1mg/ml) was combined in test tube with 4 ml of the reagent solution (0.6 M sulphuric acid, 28 mM sodium phosphate and 4 mM ammonium molybdate). The tubes were capped and incubated at 95°C for 90 min. After cooling to room temperature, the absorbance was measured at 695 nm against blank. The antioxidant activity was expressed as the number of equivalents of L-ascorbic acid.^{25,26}

FT-IR analysis for phytochemical screening

FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy) analysis of aqueous methanol extract was performed using Chemito 410 Spectrophotometer to confirm class of phytochemicals. The dried extract was ground into a

fine powder using an agate mortar along with a standard KBr tablet (1:8) and examined with scan time (10 min) at a resolution of 4 cm^{-1} ranging from $4000\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$.²⁷ The room was kept at a controlled ambient temperature (25°C) and relative humidity (30%).

GC-MS analysis

The extract, was dissolved in HPLC grade methanol and analyzed by gas chromatography (GC) coupled with a mass spectrometer (MS) using a THERMO GC (TRACE 1300) with a fused silica capillary column, PE-5 ($50\text{ m}\times 0.32\text{ mm}$, film thickness $0.25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) and a triple quadrupole Thermo MS (TSQ 8000) mass spectrometer. A sample of $5.0\text{ }\mu\text{l}$ was injected in the split mode with split ratio 10:1. An electron ionization (EI) system, with electron energy of 70 eV and emission current $200\text{ }\mu\text{A}$ was used for GC-MS detection. Helium was used as a carrier gas at a flow rate of 1 ml/min and ionization temperature was kept at 200°C . The GC-MS was equipped with Dyna Max XR detection system having discrete dynode electron multiplier and electrometer. The mass scanning range was varied over $40\text{--}550\text{ Da}$ and for run time of 40 min . The components of the extract were identified by their retention time and compared with mass spectrum data from the National Institute Standard and Technology (NIST) library available with the GC-MS system.

HPLC analysis

To identify phenolic components, HPLC analysis of the extract was carried out using Younglin's HPLC (Acme-9000) instrument (Kyounggi, Korea) equipped with UV detector. C18 column used was (Cosmosil RP 150 $\text{mm}\times 4.6\text{ mm i.d.}$, $5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ particle size). The injection volume was $20\text{ }\mu\text{l}$. Acetonitrile: water (60: 40) was the mobile phase and detection was carried out at wavelength 230 nm . The isocratic flow was kept constant at 10 ml/min . The phenolic compounds were identified by qualitatively and quantitatively comparing the peak areas on the chromatograms of samples with those of different known standards. Stock solutions of rutin, quercetin, gallic acid, vanillic acid, benzoic acid, cinnamic acid and salicylic acid were prepared in methanol ($1\text{ mg}/10\text{ ml}$). The aqueous-methanolic extract of *M. sericea* were prepared at concentration of $10\text{ mg}/\text{mL}$ in HPLC grade methanol. Both sample and standards were prepared fresh and used for analysis immediately.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The preliminary phytochemical constituents revealed the presence of coumarins, flavonoids, phlobatannins, saponins, steroids, and tannins, while alkaloids, terpenoids and glycosides were not reported in the tests.

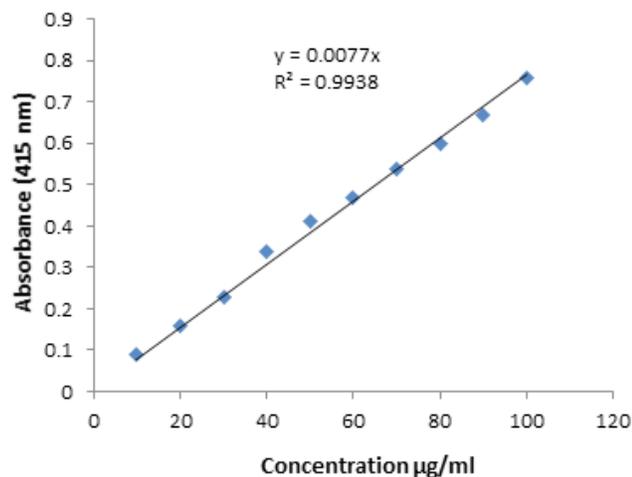


Figure 1: Standard curve of gallic acid for determination of total phenolic contents.

All these constituents are reported to exhibit strong antioxidant scavenging activity for the radicals involved in the lipid peroxidation.^{28,29} In addition, these phytoconstituents play a vital role in the treatment of different diseases such as tannins possess anti-inflammatory and anticancer activity;^{30,31} flavonoids are known to be antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anticancer agents;³² coumarins are also acts as an antioxidant and also reported to maintain blood pressure and inhibit lipid peroxidation³³ and saponin are antimicrobial agent and maintain the blood cholesterol level.³⁴

The phenolics and flavonoids are the widely distributed classes of chemical constituents among the plant kingdom. Both these compounds are reported to be efficient radical scavengers and metal chelator and gained much attention in the scientific world as a source of natural antioxidant. Besides, the published research literature demonstrated that the antioxidant activity of phenolic is mainly due to their redox properties, hydrogen donors and singlet oxygen quenchers and flavonoids with powerful antioxidant properties.^{35,36} TPC was calculated using the standard curve of gallic acid (standard curve equation: $Y=0.021x$, $R^2=0.992$) and TFC was calculated using the standard curve of rutin (standard curve equation: $Y=0.007x$, $R^2=0.993$) as shown in Figure 1 and 2. In our study, the TPC and TFC contents were estimated to be equivalents to $107.86\pm 0.053\text{ }\mu\text{g}$ of gallic acid and $44.53\pm 0.156\text{ }\mu\text{g}$ of rutin/mg of dried aqueous-methanolic extract, respectively. However, like other plants, phenolic and flavonoid contents of the plants are influenced by environmental condition where it is growing.³⁷

The FT-IR spectra of an aqueous-methanolic extract of leaves of *M. sericea* are shown in Figure 3. The FTIR analysis of the extract predominantly revealed the presence of alcohols, phenols, alkanes, alkynes, aldehydes, carboxylic acids, aromatics, nitro compounds unsaturated esters and amines in the extract. The absorption at 2921 cm^{-1} is due to the C-H stretching which means that some alkane compounds are present in the extract. The band at 2360 cm^{-1} showed (C-N) nitrile stretch; band at 1731 cm^{-1} confirms the aldehyde or saturated aliphatic groups (C=O); the peak at 1267 and 1055 cm^{-1} indicated aromatic amine groups respectively (C-N). The strong band was observed at 1100 cm^{-1} was attributed to alcohols, carboxylic acids, esters and ether groups (C-O). The bands at 927 cm^{-1} represent Phenol or tertiary alcohol, OH bend. The present FT-IR spectral analysis showed the presence of phytochemicals carrying hydrogen bonded -OH functional group. It is already reported that hydroxyl functionality is an integral part of most of the phenolics such as flavonoids and tannins.³⁸ Moreover, recent studies also show that sev-

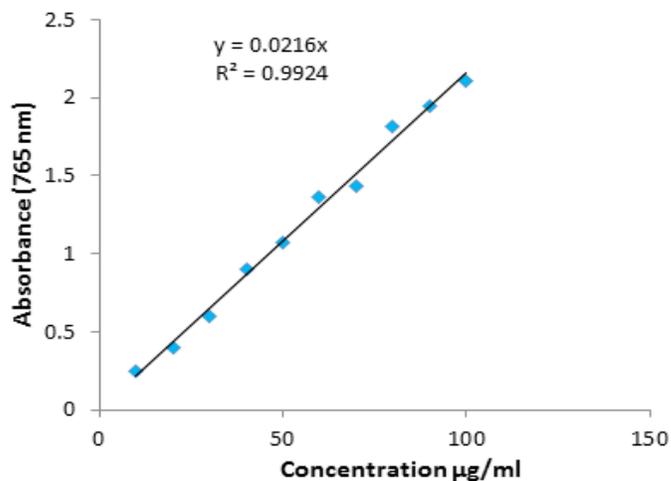


Figure 2: Standard curve of rutin for determination of total flavonoid contents.

eral plant products, including polyphenolic substances (e.g., flavonoids and tannins) and various herbal extracts, show antioxidant³⁹⁻⁴² and anti-inflammatory activities.⁴² Our results revealed that the extract contains various bioactive functional groups, *viz.* alcoholic, ester, aldehydic etc., and hence it can confirm that the plant accumulated with diverse bioactive molecules.

Secondary metabolite screening of plant extracts by gas chromatography and mass spectrometry (GC-MS) renders the more sensitive detection of biological active compounds. Earlier researcher analyzed plant extracts using GC-MS⁴³ were reported for the findings of various biological properties such as antimicrobial,⁴⁴ anticancer, chemopreventive, anthelmintic and antiproliferative properties.⁴⁵ Till date no reports exist on the GC-MS analysis of *M. sericea*. The bioactive compounds present in the aqueous methanolic extract of leaf of *M. sericea* were identified by GC-MS analysis (Figure 4). The identified compounds, their retention indices, percentage composition, chemical structure and activities are given in Table 1, there were 2 major peaks and a total of 38 components were observed. The major phytochemical constituents were Sec- Butyl ethyl sulfoxide (80.57%) and Dimethylsulfoxonium formylmethylide (18.57%). Among the other identified phytochemicals, cinnamic acid, hexadecanoic acid and 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid showed antioxidant, hypocholesterolemic, antiinflammatory, anticancer and hepatoprotective, activities.

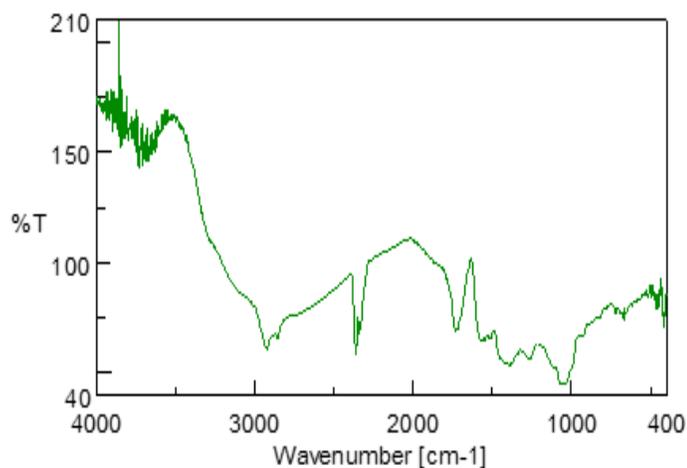


Figure 3: FT-IR spectrum of aqueous-methanolic leaf extract.

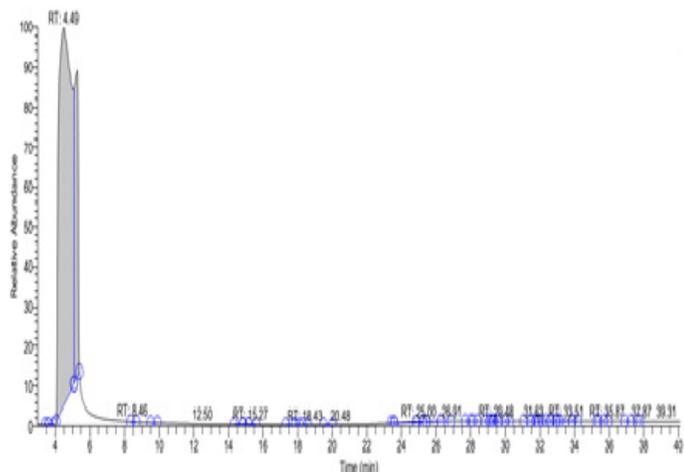


Figure 4: GC-MS Chromatogram of aqueous-methanolic leaf extract.

The HPLC fingerprint of aqueous-methanolic leaves extract of *M. sericea* revealed the 14 major and minor peaks that were detected at 230 nm (Figure 5). The peaks at retention time 2.30, 3.38 and 3.90 were identified as rutin, salicylic acid and benzoic acid respectively. The phenolic compounds were identified from the extract by matching their retention times against those of the standards. Rutin was found to have the highest concentration (4.66 µg/mg), followed by cinnamic acid (0.84 µg/mg) and salicylic acid (2.65 µg/mg). All these phenolics are known to have antioxidant properties. Present findings however, obtained in this work cannot be compared with those reported in earlier research literatures. Since it is first attempt on the preliminary identification and quantification of phenolics compounds in this plant, and secondly the retention times depend on factors such as solvent composition, extract matrix and environment where the plant is growing.

As per the earlier reports there is no single testing method, which is capable of providing a comprehensive picture of the antioxidant profile of a given sample, since plant extract contain different antioxidant components and most of the oxidation-antioxidation processes are complex.³⁷ Accordingly, multiple methods are often collectively used to describe antioxidant activity of plant extracts.⁴⁶ Herein, we have used six different *in-vitro* assay models for evaluation of the antioxidant activity.

The DPPH assay has been widely used to investigate the radical scavenging activity. DPPH, a radical itself with a purple color, changes into a

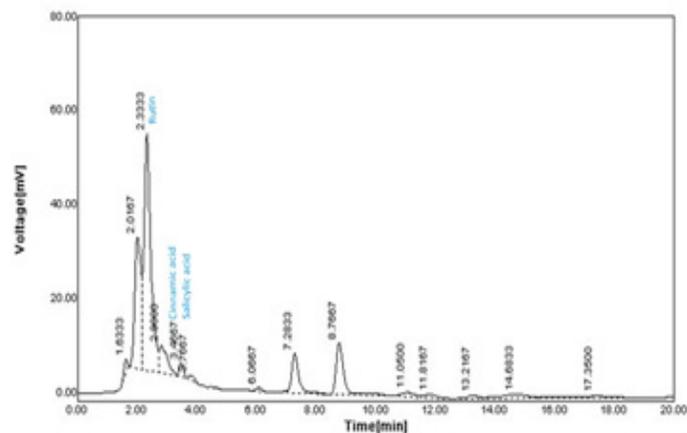


Figure 5: HPLC Chromatographic profile of aqueous-methanolic leaf extract.

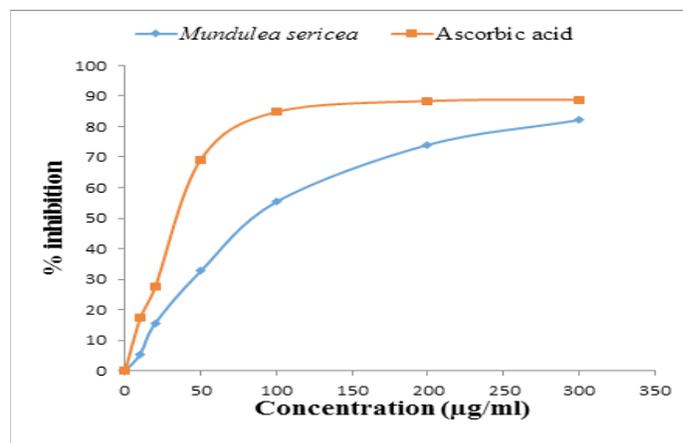


Figure 6: DPPH scavenging activity of aqueous-methanolic leaf extract of *M. sericea*

Table 1: Compounds identified from the aqueous-methanolic leaves extract of *M. sericea* by GC-MS

RT	Name of compound	Molecular Formula	Molecular weight (g/mol)	% peak area
4.49	Sec- Butyl ethyl sulfoxide	C ₆ H ₁₄ S	118.24	80.57
3.48	Ethyl isoallocholate	C ₂₆ H ₄₄ O ₅	436	00
3.48	Pterin-6-carboxylic acid	C ₇ H ₅ N ₅ O ₃	207.15	00
3.48	Cinnamic acid	C ₉ H ₈ O ₂	148.16	00
3.70	10-Heptadecen-8-ynoic acid, methyl ester	C ₁₈ H ₃₀ O ₂	278.42	0.01
3.70	E-Paromomycin	C ₂₃ H ₄₅ N ₅ O ₁₄	615.62	0.01
5.27	Dimethylsulfoxoniumformylmethylide	C ₄ H ₈ O ₂ S	120.17	18.78
8.46	(1-Bromo-ethanesulfinyl)- ethane	C ₄ H ₉ BrOS	185.08	0.01
14.54	Diethyl Phthalate	C ₁₂ H ₁₄ O ₄	222.24	0.01
14.54	Phthalic acid, ethyl isopropyl ester	C ₁₃ H ₁₆ O ₄	236.26	0.01
15.02	8-epi-γ-gama.-eudesmol	C ₁₅ H ₂₆ O	222.37	0.01
15.02	Agarospinol	C ₁₅ H ₂₄ O ₂	236.34	0.01
15.27	2-Naphthalenemethanol	C ₁₁ H ₁₀ O	158.19	0.02
17.48	Phthalic acid, hept-4-yl isobutyl ester	C ₁₉ H ₂₈ O ₄	320.42	0.01
17.48	1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, bis(2-methylpropyl) ester	C ₁₆ H ₂₂ O ₄	278.35	0.01
17.97	Hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester	C ₁₇ H ₃₄ O ₂	270.45	0.00
17.97	Dodecanoic acid, 10-methyl-, methyl ester	C ₁₄ H ₂₈ O ₂	228.37	0.00
18.43	Dibutyl phthalate	C ₁₆ H ₂₂ O ₄	278.34	0.00
18.43	Phthalic acid, butyl hex-3-yl ester	C ₁₉ H ₂₈ O ₄	320.42	0.00
19.69	9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid	C ₁₈ H ₃₀ O ₂	278.43	0.01
19.69	2,4,6,8,10-Tetradecapentaenoic acid	C ₃₆ H ₄₆ O ₈	606.74	0.01
23.47	1-Monolinoleoylglycerol trimethylsilyl ether	C ₂₇ H ₅₄ O ₄ Si ₂	498.88	0.00
23.47	Octasiloxane	C ₁₆ H ₄₈ O ₇ Si ₈	577.23	0.00
26.32	Propanoic acid	C ₂₇ H ₄₂ O ₄	430.62	0.03
26.32	1H2-,8a-Methanocyclopenta [a]cyclopropa[e]cyclodecen-11-one	C ₂₆ H ₃₄ O ₈	474.54	0.03
27.87	Butanoic acid	C ₂₄ H ₃₂ O ₆	416.50	0.03
28.20	Morphinan	C ₂₂ H ₃₃ NO ₃ Si ₂	415.67	0.00
28.20	Milbemycin b	C ₃₃ H ₄₆ C ₁ NO ₇	604.17	0.00
29.17	9-Desoxo-9-x-acetoxy-3,8,12-tri-O-acetylingol	C ₂₈ H ₄₀ O ₁₀	536.61	0.00
29.17	1-HCyclopropa[3,4]benz[1,2-e] azulene5,7b,9,9a-tetrol	C ₂₆ H ₃₆ O ₈	476.55	0.00
29.30	ψ.,ψi.-Carotene	C ₄₂ H ₆₄ O ₂	600.95	0.00
29.30	Lycophyll	C ₄₀ H ₅₆ O ₂	568.87	0.00
29.48	Stigmast-5-en-3-ol,oleate	C ₄₇ H ₈₂ O ₂	679.15	0.01
29.48	Stigmastan-3-ol,5-chloro-,acetate	C ₃₁ H ₅₃ C ₁ O ₂	493.20	0.01
33.10	Methanesulfonic acid	CH ₄ O ₃ S	96.10	0.00
33.92	Ç-Sitosterol	C ₂₉ H ₅₀ O	414.70	0.01
35.87	Demecolcine	C ₂₁ H ₂₅ NO ₅	371.42	0.00
35.87	Oleic acid, 3-(octadecyloxy)propyl ester	C ₃₉ H ₇₆ O ₃	593.01	0.00

stable compound with a yellow color by reacting with an antioxidant, and the extent of the reaction depends on the hydrogen donating ability of the antioxidant.⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹ The scavenging ability of *M. sericea* on DPPH is shown in Figure 6 and compared with that of ascorbic acid. The scavenging effect of extract and standard on the DPPH radical was expressed as percentage inhibition. Figure 6, shows the results of *M. sericea* at various concentrations in comparison with same doses of ascorbic acid and showed dose-dependent DPPH radicals scavenging activity. The scav-

enging activity of the investigated extract varied widely from 5.53 to 82.15% (observed IC₅₀ value 79.83 µg/ml) and in standard from 17.29 to % 88.82 (IC₅₀ value 36.23 µg/ml).

The ABTS test is also commonly employed to study antioxidant screening in plants based on the potential of the extracts to scavenge the radical cation ABTS^{•+} generated during the application of this method.^{50,51} In ABTS scavenging method, the extract showed dose dependent free

radical scavenging activity as shown in Figure 7. Extract exhibited potent scavenging activity against ABTS with an IC_{50} value of 25.406 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ almost equivalent to that of standard ascorbic acid (IC_{50} value 13.260 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$). The percent inhibition was 90.9% and 87.6% for the leaf extract and ascorbic acid respectively at 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ concentration.

It is well known that nitric oxide is an important chemical mediator generated by endothelial cells, macrophages and neurons. Excess production of nitric oxide may cause several diseases.⁵² Therefore, it is reported that the phytochemicals such as flavonoids and phenolics present in this plant might play an important role in scavenging of nitric oxide radicals generated.⁵³ The present study revealed that the extract showed greater scavenging activity with reference to standard ascorbic acid with IC_{50} values of extract and standard were 6.352 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ and 1.477 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ respectively (Figure 8).

In the reducing power assay, the presence of antioxidants in the samples would result in the reducing of Fe^{3+} to Fe^{2+} by donating an electron. Amount of Fe^{2+} complex can be then be monitored by measuring the formation of Perl's Prussian blue at 700 nm. The extract showed promising reducing power ability, which reflected its antioxidant potential and increased with increase in concentration. Fe (III) reduction is often used as an indicator of electron donating activity, which is an important mechanism of phenolic antioxidant action.⁵⁴ The OD at 700 nm increased in a dose dependent manner from 0.080 at 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ to 0.708 at 750 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$. For this assay also, BHA and quercetin were used as a standard. The OD at 700 nm ranged from 0.100 at 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ to 0.435 at 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ and 0.104 at 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ to 1.618 at 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$. The extract showed stronger reducing power, but not stronger than the reference standard.

The FRAP method is often used to ascertain the antioxidant activity of plant materials by measuring the capacity of the extracts to reduce ferric complexes to the ferrous form.⁵⁵ The estimated FRAP value for the leaves extract was 36.75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mg}$ of the extract with equivalent to ascorbic acid ($Y = 0.020x - 0.044 R^2 0.987$)

The total antioxidant capacity using phosphomolybdenum method assay is based on the reduction of Mo (VI) to Mo (V) by the sample analyte and the subsequent formation of green phosphate/Mo (V) complex at acidic pH.⁵⁶ The phosphomolybdenum method is quantitative since the total antioxidant activity is expressed as the number of equivalents of ascorbic acid. Total antioxidant capacity of the extract was 248.26%.

CONCLUSION

In this study, *in-vitro* antioxidant activities and chemical composition (FTIR, GC-MS and HPLC) of aqueous-methanolic extract obtained from the leaves of *M. sericea* was assessed. Moreover, it was reported for the first time, the antioxidant capacity of this plant along with the characterization of the biomolecules of the leaves extract. In all tested methods, the antioxidant activity of aqueous-methanolic leaves extract was compared with that of ascorbic acid, which is a well-known potent antioxidant. The extract showed good antioxidant capacity in almost all the antioxidant assays tested when compared with reference standard. The activity was due to the phenolics present in the extract and are confirmed by the presence of some potent phenolic compounds like rutin, cinnamic acid and salicylic acid through GC-MS and RP-HPLC analysis. Based on this work it can be concluded that this plant can be a good source of natural antioxidant for food, and nutraceutical preparations. Further, *in vivo* study, involving animal models, and more advanced studies should be conducted to isolate the active principles to establish the molecular mechanism of action of the molecule that will provide a better insight into the antioxidative potential of the studied plant species.

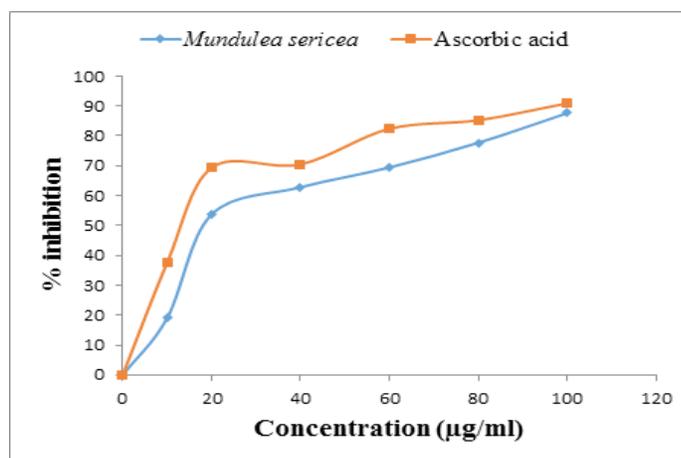


Figure 7: ABTS scavenging activity of aqueous-methanolic leaves extract of *M. sericea*

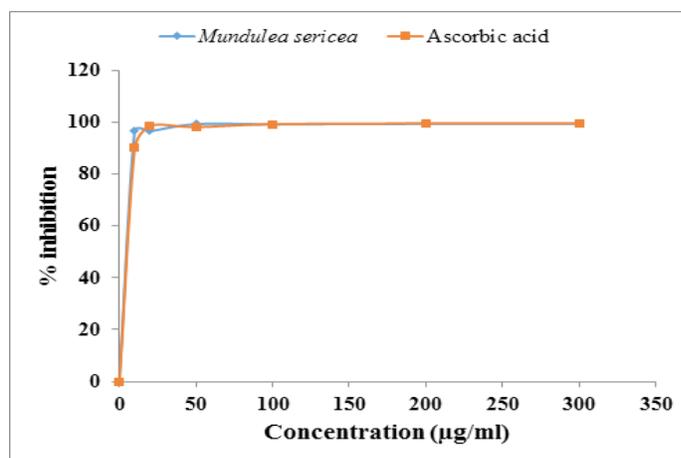


Figure 8: Nitric oxide scavenging activity of aqueous-methanolic leaves extract of *M. sericea*

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

ABBREVIATION USED

DPPH: 2,2 diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl; **ABTS**: 2, 2-Azino-bis (3-ethyl-benzthiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) radical-scavenging assay; **FRAP**: Ferric reducing antioxidant power; **TPC**: Total phenolic content; **TFC**: Total flavonoid content; **PBS**: Phosphate buffer saline; **TCA**: Trichloroacetic acid; **TPTZ**: Tripyridil-s-triazine; **IC_{50}** : Inhibitory concentration 50%; **M**: Molar; **mM**: Millimolar; **ml**: millilitre; **nm**: nanometer; **μg** : microgram; **mg**: milligram; **FT-IR**: Fourier Transform infra red spectrometry; **GC-MS**: Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry; **HPLC**: High performance liquid chromatography.

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