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CALLICARPA MACROPHYLLA: A REVIEW UPDATE ON ITS BOTANY, ETHNOBOTANY, PHYTOCHEMISTRY AND PHARMACOLOGY

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ABSTRACT: Callicarpa macrophylla (Verbenaceae) has been commonly used in traditional medicine for a wide range of ailments related to the circulatory, digestive, endocrine, respiratory and skeletal systems as well as to infectious diseases. It provides the up-to-date information that is available on the botany, traditional uses, phytochemistry, pharmacology, and toxicology of Callicarpa macrophylla. Additionally, to highlight the possible uses of this species to treat different diseases and to provide a basis for future research. The information was collected from scientific journals, books, theses, and reports via a library and electronic search (Google Scholar, Web of Science and Science Direct). The phytochemical studies have shown the presence of many secondary metabolites belonging to terpenoids, flavonoids, carbohydrate, lignans, phenols, and sterols. Crude extracts and isolated compounds from Callicarpa macrophylla show a wide spectrum of pharmacological activities, such as anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory, antifungal, antibacterial, antiarthritic, anti-pyretic & analgesic activities, as well as a usefulness help in alleviating pain in rheumatism. Callicarpa macrophylla has been a widely used a source of medicine for years without any adverse effects. Many studies have provided evidence for various traditional uses. However, there is a need for additional studies of the isolated compounds to validate the traditional uses in human models. The present review on the botany, traditional uses, phytochemistry has provided preliminary information for further studies and commercial exploitations of the plant.

INTRODUCTION: Medicinal plants play a key role in human health care. About 80% of the world population relies on the use of traditional medicine which is predominantly based on plant materials ¹.



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As per World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates, almost 80% of the population of developing countries relies on traditional medicines, mostly plant drugs, for their primary health care needs ^{2, 3, 4}.

It is estimated that about 7,500 plants are used in local health traditions in, mostly, rural and tribal villages of India. Out of these, the real medicinal value of over 4,000 plants is either little known or hitherto unknown to the mainstream population. The classical systems of medicine such as

Ayurveda, Siddha, Amchi, Unani and Tibetan use about 1,200 plants ⁵. Priyangu (Callicarpa macrophylla Vahl.) is a shrub. It belongs to family Verbenaceae. It is an important known medicinal plant of the lower warm valleys of the Himalaya. In addition to the Ayurveda system, C. macrophylla is widely used in many traditional medical systems, such as the Sidha, homeopathy, and Unani systems ⁶. The flower buds of *C. macrophylla* used in the ayurvedic formulation such as Priyangwadi tel, Ashwagandharista, Dasamoolarist, Chandana sava, Draksharista, Eladi churn ⁷. According to the review compiles the fragmented present information on the botany, traditional uses, phytochemistry, pharmacology, and toxicology of this plant. We hope that this information will highlight the importance of Callicarpa macrophylla and will provide a new direction for researchers in the future.

Taxonomy and Morphology: Callicarpa macrophylla Vahl (Symb. Bot. 3: 13 (1794) is used as an accepted name, and A.F. Judd first collected it in 1928 with specimen BISH 71847 and deposited in Royal Botanical Garden, Kew. The synonyms of Callicarpa dunniana and Callicarpa incana Roxb. Callicarpa macrophylla is a small tree 3-5 mm high. Stem and branches densely covered with a greyish tomentum of stellate hairs. Leaves: lamina ovate or narrowly elliptic to oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, cuneate, obtuse or rounded at the base, crenate-serrate or crenatedentate, 10-35 cm long, 2-18 cm broad, mature glabrescent and rugose above or with very numerous stubble-like small hairs, densely greyishwhite stellate-tomentose beneath; petiole 1-2 (-2.5) cm long, densely floccose-tomentose.

The inflorescence is densely stellate-hairy; primary peduncles equal to or a little longer than the petioles, 1-2.5 (-3) cm long. Flowers on short, slender pedicels; pedicel gland-dotted, tomentose, ± 1 mm long. Calyx minutely 4-denticulate, 1-1.5 mm long, glandular outside, with coarse stellatehairs at the base, glabrous inside. Corolla violet or lilac, thinly hairy or almost glabrous with yellow glandular dots outside, glabrous inside, 2.5-3.5 mm long; lobes 1-1.5 mm long, obtuse or rounded; tube 2-2.5 mm long. Stamens exserted, inserted near the base of the corolla-tube; filaments 4-6 mm long; anthers oblong, \pm 0.7 mm long, 0.4-0.5 mm broad, glandular along the connective. Ovary globose, glabrous, densely glandular, 0.5-1 mm in diameter; style exserted, glabrous, 5-8 mm long, stigma capitate. Fruit globular, ± 2 mm in diameter, glabrous, glandular, smooth, white 8, 9. C. macrophylla flowers from May to August and fruits from September to February ¹⁰ **Fig. 1**.

Scientific Classification:

Kingdom : Plantae
Unranked : Angiosperms
Unranked : Eudicots
Unranked : Asterids
Order : Lamiales
Family : Verbenaceae
Genus : Callicarpa

Species:



Priyangu Plant



C. macrophylla

Image of Flower

FIG. 1: CALLICARPA MACROPHYLLA VAHL PLANT

Distribution and Propagation: *C. macrophylla* is globally distributed across India, China, Bhutan, Myanmar, South East Asia, and Nepal. In India, it is distributed in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Andhra Pradesh, up to an altitude of 1800 meters ^{13, 14}. It is cultivated in drained sandy, loamy and clayey soils with acidic and alkaline nature. The hardy zone preferred is majorly cultivated at altitudes of Himalayas. It is also found near swampy areas, waste lands, and roadsides. Plant propagation is by seed on February ¹³.

Vernacular Names and Traditional Uses: *C. macrophylla* is commonly known as "Velvety Beauty Berry." Various vernacular names know it in different geographical regions **Table 1**. Despite their wide use in Chinese medicine ¹⁴. In addition to the traditional and medicinal uses for the treatment of different diseases and disorder such as a tumor, polydipsia, diarrhea, diabetes, dysentery, fever, as a blood purifier, anti-pyretic, analgesic, anti-ulcer, gastric stimulants, etc. The juice made from leaves used in gastric troubles, headache and stop bleeding ^{15, 16}; and rarely used as food vegetable, spices in Western Chitwan, Nepal ¹⁷.

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TABLE 1: VERNACULAR NAMES OF C. MACROPHYLLA VAHL.

Vernacular names	Region/language/system of medicine
Mathara, Barmala, Dhalahuja, Aplotan, Fulujha, Jugga harina.	Bengali
bonmala, tong loti	Assamese
bhirmoli, dahiya, daia, daiya, daya, priyamgu, bastara	Hindi
chimpompil, chinpompil, cimpompil, nalal	Malayalam
mondol-panamana	Manipuri
huahkhar	Mizoram
anganapriya, gandhaphali, kanta, phalin, phalini, priyangu,	Sanskrit
priyanguka, syama, vanita	
Nalalu, kattu-k-kumil	Tamil
ga ndha pri yam ku, gandha pri ya nku (d), gandha priyanku (d), pri	Tibetan
yan, pri-yam-ku, pri-yan-ku	
Gandha-priyangu	Ayurvedic
Dayezizhu	Pinying
Big-leaf Beautyberry, urn fruit, Perfumed cherry	English
da ye zi zhu	Chinese
Guenlo	Nepali
Tichangsa	Chepang
Dahidhula	Darai
Dahigun	Tharu
Habb-ul-Mihlb (Prunus mahaleb)	Unani
dahigun	Tamang
Kanphuli, aesar	Marathi
Ibbani, rushipatri	Kannada
latapriyangu	Gujarati
sungru muuk	Lepcha
ayamsar	Konkani
Darus, denthar, patthar man	Punjabi

Phytochemistry: *C. macrophylla* leaves contains α-amyrenol, α-amyrin, ursolic acid, 2α , 3α , 19α -trihydroxy -12-dien-28- ursolic acid, betulinic acid, β-sitosterol, daucosterol ¹⁸; flavanoids such as luteolin, apigenin, luteolin-7-O-glucuronide, apigenin -7 -O -glucuronide, β –sitosterol –β -D-glucoside, 2α -hydroxy ursolic acid, crategolic acid, docosanoic acid, tricosanoic acid, tetracosanoic acid, ethyl tricosanoate, 3,7,3'-trimethoxy-4',5-dihydroxyflavone ^{19, 20}. The bark contains betulinic

acid 18 . The roots and aerial part contains essential oil, (diterpene) calliterpenone, calliterpenone monoacetate 21 ; & Seeds contains calliterpenone, calliterpenone-17-acetate, oleanolic acid. Several compounds were isolated from diterpenoid- ($^{16\alpha}$, 17-Isopropylideno-3-oxo-phyllocladane $^{23, 24}$; 24 ;

TABLE 2: SOME STRUCTURES ISOLATED FROM C. MACROPHYLLA VAHL.

Chamical names	RUCTURES ISOLATE	D FROM C. MACROPHYLLA VAHL.	Defenences
Chemical names α-amyrenol	Isolated from part Leaves	Structures CH ₃	References 18
a-aniyienoi	Leaves		10
		H ₃ C	
		•	
		CH ₃ H CH ₃	
		H CH₃	
		но	
		H ₃ C CH ₃	
3β, 16α, 17-	Leaves		25, 26
trihydroxy		[
Phyllocladane		H	
		ОН	
		OH ~	
		но	
		NO X	
		CH ₃ CH ₃	
Apigenin	Leaves	О НО	19, 20
		, j	
		OH	
		но	
16α,17-	Leaves		22, 23, 24
Isopropylideo-3-		(
oxo-Phyllocldane		H	
		OCH(CH ₃) ₂	
		OH OH	
		X	
		CH ₃ CH ₃	
Luteolin	Leaves	о но	19, 20
		. [
		OH	
		но	
		ÓН	

Ursolic acid	Leaves	CH ₃	18
		H ₃ C	
		CH ₃ H OH	
		CH ₃	
		но н н СН;	
		H ₃ C CH ₃	
Crategolic acid	Leaves	H ₃ C CH ₃	19, 20
		ОН	
		CU. H	
		HO O	
		HO CH ₃ CH ₃	
		H ₃ C CH ₃	
Daucosterol	Leaves	H H CH₃	25
		H ₃ C CH ₃	
		CH ₃ H	
		City	
		CH ₃ H	
		H H H	
		но	
Calliterpenone	Seeds & Arial	ОН	21
		CH ₃	
		O _{H₃C} H H	

Pharmacological Activity:

Antibacterial Activity: The *ex-vivo* antibacterial activity studies on ethanolic (SEE) and aqueous (SAE) stem back extracts of *C. macrophylla* against some gram-positive and gram-negative strains was done using Kirby bauer agar disc diffusion assay techniques. SEE, showed moderate growth inhibitory activity against all the bacterial strains, but SAE was exceptionally inactive against all strains except *Salmonella typhimurium*. The

phytoconstituents in SAE might be responsible for the inhibition of *S. typhimurium* growth ^{31.}

Antidiabetic Activity: The study of the antidiabetic activity of the flower extract of *C. macrophylla* was investigated in dexamethasone-induced diabetic rats. Rats were treated with dexamethasone at a dose of 5 mg/kg, S.C., for 10 days to develop insulin resistance. The blood glucose level, body weight, and lipid profile were

estimated. The blood glucose level decreases gradually in the animals treated with C. macrophylla flower extract (100 mg/kg b.w. and 200 mg/kg b.w., orally) and the antidiabetic effect was compared with that of Glibenclamide 1 mg/kg, p.o., to conclude with the results that C. macrophylla shows antidiabetic activity in dexamethasone model 32 .

Analgesic and Antipyretic Activity: Aqueous as well as ethanolic extracts of *C. macrophylla* leaves were evaluated for their analgesic as well as antipyretic effect using Tail Immersion Model and Brewer's Yeast Induced Pyrexia Model respectively. Aqueous extract of leaves induced better analgesia and have anti-pyretic potential than ethanolic extract when compared to standard drugs.

Combination of analgesia, as well as anti-pyretic effect, will ascertain its significant role in infection-induced fever ³³; and aqueous & ethanolic extracts of roots (at two concentrations 200 & 400 mg/kg) was evaluated for its analgesic potentials using tail immersion test in albino rats respectively. Aqueous extract of roots is having better analgesic activity than that of its ethanolic extract. Results are highly promising and ascertain that roots of *C. macrophylla* have analgesic potential, comparable to that of standards ³⁴.

Antifungal Activity: The antifungal activity of ethanolic and aqueous extracts of the stems of C. macrophylla Vahl. Agar disc diffusion method was adopted for the antifungal screening against seven fungal strains. The overall results provide promising baseline information for the potential use of the crude antifungal extracts from C. macrophylla in the treatment of fungal infection. Further isolation of the responsible phytoconstituents may lead this plant to reach the bedside 35 .

Anti-Inflammatory Activity: Aqueous as well as ethanolic extracts of leaves of *C. macrophylla* were evaluated for their anti-inflammatory activity using carrageenan paw edema method using diclofenac sodium as standard. Results showed that ethanolic extract of *C. macrophylla* leaves have better anti-inflammatory profile than the aqueous extract and can be the choice to be used as anti-inflammatory drug ³⁶, and ethanolic root extract have superior

anti-inflammatory spectrum than aqueous one. Results are highly promising and ascertain that roots of *C. macrophylla* have anti-inflammatory potential, comparable to that of standards ³⁴.

Anti-Arthritic Activity: The in-vitro anti-arthritic activity of ethanolic extract of C. macrophylla flower using inhibition of protein denaturation model and human red blood cell Membrane stabilization model. Diclofenac sodium was used as a standard drug. Results revealed that the ethanolic macrophylla extract of *C*. at different concentrations possessed significant anti-arthritic activity as compared to the standard drug used as Diclofenac sodium. The results obtained in the present investigation Indicate that ethanolic extract of C. macrophylla flower showed anti-arthritic activity ³⁷.

Toxicity: There is no any information reported about toxicity on *C. macrophylla* Vahl. plant according to literature survey in data.

conclusion: The available scientific research on *C. macrophylla* has shown that it is an important medicinal plant used in a wide range of medical treatments. The plant has been in use for a long period of time without any documented serious adverse effects. The detailed information presented in this review provides evidence for its phytochemical, pharmacological & traditional uses. The outcomes of such future studies will provide promising sources of phytochemicals that will have huge potential for the pharmaceutical industry.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Nil

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