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A Review Article on Latex Producing Plants with Medicinal Properties

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Plant latex is a milky-like fluid (sap) that is stored in plant specialized cells –laticifers. It contains a mixture of phytochemicals, proteins and enzymes, such as alkaloids, phenolics, terpenoids, defense proteins, proteases and chitinases. Most of these latex ingredients possess pharmacologic activity. Due to its curing effects, latex has been used in traditional folk medicine to treat skin warts and tubercles. Nowadays, natural plant latex derived molecules and their synthetic analogs are used in medicine as antimicrobial agents, analgesics, ant proliferative and anticancer drugs. Moreover, it has been reported that alkaloids and phenolics from the plant latex exhibit potential therapeutic effects against neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Most of natural plant latex derived products are present in low amounts, difficult to isolate, possess poor bioavailability and stability. Recent advancements in nanotechnology offer advanced nanomaterials as nanocarriers of pharmacologically active latex natural agents. Conjugation of small natural latex compounds with nanoparticles, liposome's, micelles, nanodiamonds and carbon nanotubes allows improving bioavailability and stability of these natural pharmacologically active latex compounds. Furthermore, nanoscience approach provides time-controlled and site-specific delivery of potential therapeutics from latex, what gives new promising perspectives for their future use in medicine.

Keywords: alkaloids, phenolics, terpenoids, defense proteins, liposome's, micelles, nanodiamonds

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1. Introduction

As we can see easily that there are number of path breaking innovation already done in pharmaceutical science in the form of medicines for saving mankind but there are number of diseases still remain incurable and at the same time generation of new diseases challenging to total human being and their survival. Though the number of synthetic and natural molecules still now available. But there is

always combat between life and death.in that case though number secondary metabolites derived from natural sources or manufacturing in pharmaceutical industries but always demand for investigations, innovations, discoveries of new molecules so that useful in treatment of incurable diseases, ailments, infections. So here we introduce a secondary metabolite (LATEX) and its derivatives which is little Beat unaware to common people and patients by

collecting some important plants which are easily available in nature and can be useful in the form of medicines.

2. Latex and Its Derivatives

Liquidambar orientalis

Common names: Oriental sweet gum or Turkish sweet gum

Biological source: It consist of entire plant of

Liquidambar orientalis

Genus: *Liquidambar*

Family: Hemamilediaceae



Fig.1 Foliage of *Liquidambar orientalis*

Chemicals: oils, balsam storax, hydrocarbon styrene, polystyrene plastics, Styrofoam.

- Uses: Latex used as a medicine since the Hippocratic period.
- The ancient Egyptians also used the oil during embalming.
- The extraction of its sap latex and the production of a balsam for production of benzoin, benzoic acid all other derivatives.
- The latex and its extract use for production of sweet gums.
- Latex byproduct in the form of oils used in Greek culture production of aromatic oils and perfumes and its part of their trade economic system in past.



Fig.2 *Achyranthes aspera*

Common names: chaff-flower, prickly chaff flower, devil's horsewhip, apāmārga

Biological source: It consist of entire plant of *Achyranthes aspera*

Family: - *Amaranthaceae*.

Chemical constituents

It contains Triterpenoids, Saponins which possess oleanolic acid as the aglycone. Ecdysterone, an insect moulting hormone, and long chain alcohols

Uses: - In treatment of dropsy, piles, boils, for colic pain children. As a cure for cough.

- Dara (antibodies in cancer growth) have been used in folk medicine in countries including Australia.

- The seeds are given in hydrophobia, and in cases of snake-bites, as well as in ophthalmic and cutaneous diseases.
- The flowering spikes, rubbed with a little sugar, are made into pills, and given internally to people bitten by mad dogs.
- The leaves, taken fresh and reduced to a pulp, are considered a good remedy when applied externally to the bites of scorpions. .
- The flowering spikes are old safeguard against scorpions, which it is believed to cure paralysis.



Fig.3 Mango

Synonyms: Aam, aamba, mamidi,mampalam, maambhazam, badam aam

Biological source: - consist of large fruiting tree of *Magnifera indica*

Family: *Anacardiaceae*.

Chemical constituents:

Latex contained moderate amounts of carbohydrates and reducing sugars which are disaccharides. Starch, proteins, monoterpenes, phenolics, alkaloids, cardenolide, enzymes were present

Uses

- In dressings for cracked feet and scabies. It is also considered anti-syphilitic, antifungal agent
- Food preservative, flavoring agent, antibacterial properties.
- Skin care: Mango sap can be used for skin whitening and other skin care treatments.
- Honey bee sting treatment: Mango sap can be used to treat honey bee stings.
- Enzymes: Mango sap contains enzymes that are beneficial to the body.
- Commercial applications: Mango sap is a rich source of enzymes that have several commercial applications.
- Aromatic agent: The non-aqueous phase of mango sap contains terpenoids that give raw mango its aroma.



Fig.4 *Pisticia atlantica*

Common name: Mt. Atlas mastic tree and as the Persian turpentine tree.

Biological source: It consist of entire plant and various parts of plant pisticia atlantica. Desf

Family: anacardeace

Uses: Flavoring agent:

The sap is dried and used as incense, and its smoke releases a pleasant smell to the local environment for celebrations and religious ceremonies, as "incense".



Fig.5 Semecarpus Anacardium

Synonyms: Marking Nut Tree, Marsh Nut, Oriental Cashew Nut, Bhela, Bhelwa, and Bhilawa. Malacca bean tree, marany nut, dhobi nut tree and varnish tree

Biological source: IT consist of dried fruits of Semecarpus anacardium linn

Family: Anacardiaceae

Phytoconstituents: sterols, 1, 2, dihydroxy-3 (pentadecadienyl), benzene and, hydroxyl, pentadecadienyl, benzene, Flavonoids, polysaccharides, gums, amino acids, terpenoids, phenolics, Saponins

Uses: To aid in memory retention, antioxidant, antimicrobial, anticancer, in ulcers, treatment of gastritis, anti-vomiting, antihypertensive, in treatment of diarrhoea, anti-arthritis.



Fig.6 Allamanda cathartica

Synonym: golden trumpet, common trumpet vine yellow Allamanda.

It consist of fresh flowering tops of Allamanda cathartica

Family: Apocynaceae.

Phytochemicals: β -sitosterol.lignoceric acid, d-glucoside, stigmata 9-en-3, 6, 7triol, 3-hydroxy-22-epoxystigmastane, ergosterol triterpene, lupeol, β -pinene, caryophylline, hulene, ondene,cadinene

Uses: In treatment of liver tumors, jaundice, Antimalarial, Splenomegaly, Purgative o induce vomiting in low dosages.

Anti-inflammatory Anti-microbial, Wound healing, Antibacterial, Anticancer, to treat diabetes, anti-hypertensive



Fig.7 Poinsettia

Synonyms: lalapatti, lobster flower, Easter flower, Christmas flower, painted flowers

Family: It consist of flowering tops of Euphorbia Pulcherrima

Family: Euphorbiace

Chemical composition

Alkaloids, flavonoids, Pulcherrol, Saponins, glycosides, reducing sugars, proteins, amino acids, pulcherryl acetate are among the components of its latex. Triterpenes, steroids are found in aerial parts of the plant, including its latex and leaves.

Uses: Anti-Alzheimer's disease bioactivity, analgesic



Fig.8 Jackfruit latex

Synonyms: kathal, lagnka, jack, fanas

Biological source:- latex obtained from the plant of Atrocarpus Hetrophyllus

Family: Moraceae

Phytochemicals:-It contains lipids, rubbers, resins, sugars, enzymes, and proteins, including cis-1,4 polyisoprene and trans-1, 4 polyisoprene, vitamins, minerals, fibers and fats.

Uses: Its decoction and latex are used in the treatment of asthma, prevent ringworm infection, and heal cracking of the feet, in the treatment of diabetes, gall stones and relieve asthma, mouth ulcer, in glandular swelling.



Fig.9 Thevetia

Synonyms: Pili Karen's, Yellow Oleander, Kaner, lucky nut, yellow oleander, milk bush

Biological source: It is well developed ornamental shrub of thevetia purpurea

Family: Apocynaceae

Phytochemicals: latex contains compounds that may have medicinal properties

Flavonoids: Rutin, quercetin, naringin, and hesperidins

Phenolic acids: Chlorogenic, syringic, and ferulic acids

Uses: as an anticancer, anticoagulant, antioxidant, antimicrobial agent, as a cardiac glycoside



Fig.10 Papaya

Synonyms: papita, omkari, papai

Biological Source

Papain is the dried and purified latex of the green fruits and leaves of *Carica papaya* L

Family: - Caricaceae

Chemical Constituents

- In papaya latex consist of cystine endow peptidases: Glycyl endopeptidase, chymopapain, and caricain
- Bioactive compounds: 2-Hydroxy-gamma-butyrolactone, 1, 3-propanediamine, hexadecanoic acid, and octadecanoic acid are some of the bioactive compounds found in papaya latex.
- Papain contains several enzymes such as proteolytic enzymes, peptidase I capable of converting proteins into dipeptides and polypeptides, rennin-like enzyme, clotting enzyme similar to pectase and an enzyme having a feeble activity on fats
- The enzymes Papain, papayaproteinase, and chymopapain, have been isolated in crystalline form from the latex.
- The fruits yield lauric, myristoleic, palmitoleic and arachidic acids, malonated benzyl-p-o-glucosides, 2-phenyl ethyl glucoside, and 4-hydroxy-phenyl-2-ethyl glucoside. Alkaloids, alcohols, terpenoids, lipids.

Uses:

Pharmaceutical industry:

- Papain is used to prevent adhesions; in infected wounds; internally as protein digestant as anathematic (nematode), to relieve the symptoms of episiotomy (incision of vulva)
- For treatment of dyspepsia, intestinal and gastric disorders, and diphtheria

- For dissolving diphtheria membrane, in surgery to reduce incidence of blood clots where thromboplasma is undesirable and for local treatment of buccal, pharyngeal, and laryngeal disorders.
- It is used in digestive mixtures, liver tonics, for reducing enlarged tonsils, in prevention of postoperative adhesions, curb uncles, and eschar burns
- It is used in the manufacture of proteolytic preparations of meat, lever, and casein, with dilute alcohol.
- Antiseptic, antimicrobial, antiparasitic, antiseptic, Ant fertility, antioxidant Anti-inflammatory, Antihypertensive, Diuretic, Antidiabetic
- Anthelmintic. Anti-tumor. Wound healing, antipyretic, Swellings, Jaundice, Gonorrhoea, Bilious fever, Itches, Eczema, Rheumatism cold, Headache, and Whooping cough.



Fig.11 Opium

Synonyms: ganja, afeem, drugs, kani.

Biological source: Opium (poppy tears) is dried latex obtained from the seed capsules of the opium poppy *Papaver somniferum*.

Opium is a highly addictive narcotic drug obtained from the juice (latex) of the unripe seedpod of the poppy plant (*Papaver somniferum*).

Family: papavaraceae

Phytochemicals:

Morphine, heroine, codeine, Noscapine. Hydromorphone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, papavarine.

Uses:

Medications for the treatment of acute and chronic pain. Opium and its alkaloid-derivatives can also be used as tranquilizers, antitussives and in the treatment of diarrhoea.

Pain management: Morphine is commonly used to treat moderate to severe pain, and is often the first choice for palliative care.

Cancer treatment: Morphine can be used to treat pain during active cancer treatment.

Sickle cell crisis: Morphine can be used to treat vaso-occlusive pain during sickle cell crisis.

Labor analgesia: Morphine can be used for pain relief during labor.

Preoperative analgesia: Morphine can be used for pain relief during surgery, including intra-abdominal, intra-thoracic, and orthopedic surgery of the lower extremities, and Cesarean section



Fig.12 *Ipomoea staphylina*

Synonyms

Pretty Morning Glory, Lesser Glory, Ugniumboo, Onan kodi, Theendra teega, Sunang kodi, Unang kodi, Onaan kodi, and Ugina kodi.

Biological source: It consist of entire climber parts of Ipomea Staphylina

Family: Convolvulaceae

Chemical constituents: Alkaloids, Flavonoids, glycosides, tannins, Saponins, phenols, carbohydrates, protein. Steroids, glycosides and sterols, Hexadecen-1-ol, 9-Octadecen-1-ol, Hydro peroxide, 1-ethylbutyl and 3, 3, 7, 11-Tetramethyltricyclo [5.4.0.0(4, 11)] undecan-1-ol were identified. Sitosteryl-3-O-β-D-glucoside and chiro deoxy inositol.

Medicinal properties

antimicrobial agents, food additive and flavoring agents, antioxidant, Anti-hypercholesterolemia, anticancer properties, anti-inflammatory agents, cytotoxic, cosmetics and perfumeries, hepatoprotective properties, antiviral properties, analgesic, insect pheromones, anesthetic, ant mutagenic, antispasmodic, choleric, dermatitogenic, fungicide, herbicide, laxative, pesticide, lipoxygenase inhibitor, pesticide, tyrosinase inhibitor, vermifuge etc.



Fig.13 *Champa*

Synonyms: Bridal bouquet, White frangipani, Fiddle leaf plumeria Wild plumeria Bonairian oleander, Thai champa Naag (cobra) champa

Botanical Name: it consist of entire p plant of Plumeria pudica Jacq

Family: Apocynaceae

Chemical constituents

The latex t contains a mixture of chitinases, proteinases, and proteinase inhibitors

Amino acids: glycine, systine, serine.

Carbohydrates, steroids, Triterpenoids, polyphones

Uses: The latex of the Plumeria pudica plant has therapeutic potential such as Anti-inflammatory, Antioxidant, Protective against intestinal damage, Ant diarrheal, Protective against ulcerative colitis Treatment of skin diseases, like dartre.

3. Latex Benefits

Plant latex is a rich source of pharmaceuticals, pesticides and immune allergens. It contains phytosterol, Flavonoids, acetogenins, alkaloids and phenols. In general, plant latex contains low-molecular weight compounds (previously referred to as secondary metabolites, such as alkaloids, Flavonoids, terpenoids etc.) and macromolecular complexes, which are proteins. The plant latex compounds are responsible for numerous pharmacological properties of many plants like anti-tumors, anti-antigenic, anti-diabetic, anti-proliferative, anti-arthritis, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antiasthma tic, anti-fertility, analgesic, immunomodulation, wound healing, cytotoxicity, vasodilatory activities. Most of them show diverse biological activities against bacteria, fungi, viruses, protozoans, nematodes, insects, and tumor cells.

4. Conclusion

Latex plants continue to captivate botanists, scientists, and enthusiasts alike with their unique properties and diverse uses. From rubber trees to opium poppies, these plants have shaped industries, provided medicinal solutions, and played important roles in ecosystems. Whether it's exploring their cultivation, utilizing their latex properties, or simply appreciating their beauty, latex plants offer a world of intrigue and possibilities. To ensure a stable supply of natural latex and to decrease our dependence on chemical based development of latex oriented drug molecules and improvement of higher productivity would be necessary. The development of natural latex to secure our access to this essential polymer. Plant sources provide us with powerful tools, like genomics, metabolomics and proteomics, to scrutinize the mechanism of natural latex synthesis, but also provide us new methods for improvement, like marker-assisted breeding.

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