**Original Research Article**

**THE PHYTOCHEMICAL PROFILE OF SANSEVIERIA ROXBURGHIANA: A KEY TO UNLOCKING ITS THERAPEUTIC APPLICATIONS**

**Abstract:**

**Aim:** This study aims to examine the potential of plant analgesics as an analgesic measure concerning their safety, efficacy and affordability over conventional synthetic analgesics.

**Study design:** This is a review article addressing the classification of pain, analgesic mechanism action and usage of medicinal plants in pain relief.

**Place and duration of study:** This study was conducted over an interval to be ascertained in a study population, possibly involving the collection of data from pharmacological studies and clinical trials.

**Methodology:**

Classification of pain into acute and chronic pain based on onset and duration of time. Investigating the neurological process of pain perception, both central and peripheral nervous system. Research into plant-derived analgesics which have been traditionally employed with minimal side effects. Isolation of bioactive phytoconstituents of plant species implicated in analgesic activity. Discussion of the potential to develop cost-effective plant-based medicines that are effective. The Phyto chemical studies have been performed by using the tests to determine the alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, and carbohydrates.

**Results:**

Pain relief is contingent on several factors including the cause and nature of pain. Medicinal plants are the source of bioactive compounds that have shown the presence of alkaloids, saponins, Tannins and steroids. They may be used as alternatives to synthetic analgesics. Long-term usage of plant analgesics causes fewer side effects than man-made drugs. There is vast potential for low-cost drug development through medicinal plants.

**Conclusion:**

There is a need to research and discover new plant-based analgesics to provide more effective and safer pain relief. Studies would include isolating, testing and determining plant components for analgesic activity. Affordable and eco-friendly production of medicines from plants can transform pain management in the healthcare region.

**Keywords:** Analgesics, Peripheral, Acute Pain, Chronic Pain, Phytoconstituents.

**Introduction:**

The International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) defines pain as “an uncomfortable emotional and sensation linked to current or impending tissue injury”. Aspirin, as well as morphine, have been popular pain relievers in recent decades. Typically, opioids and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs) can only alleviate 50 percent of pain in around 30 percent of individuals. In addition, several of these medications have substantial negative effects. Research indicates opiates can lead to physical dependence, tolerance, and addiction.**[1]**. Analgesics are medications used to treat pain, which is a well-known indicator of illness. The primary issue with these medications is still their adverse effects. Natural herbs and safer substitutes **[2]**. Each of these medications has the potential to be harmful. According to one study, acute usage of NSAIDs, such as regular-dose ketorolac, and naproxen, was substantially linked to an increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding. The most often prescribed medications for treating postoperative pain are opioids **[3].** The hunt for a novel, safe analgesia and anti-inflammatory therapy is continuous due to the prevalence of pharmaceuticals used in contemporary medicine to decrease discomfort and swelling, which include corticosteroid drugs. Just offer temporary relief from symptoms, and prolonged usage of these drugs is associated with serious negative side effects **[4].** About 8 percent of people worldwide suffer from chronic pain, which is a serious health issue. Those who suffer from this illness have worse physical and mental health, which lowers their quality of life. Moderate to severe acute and chronic pain cannot be effectively managed with current pharmaceutical therapies. Some of the main medications prescribed for pain management are opioids, paracetamol, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, muscle relaxants, anticonvulsants, COX2 inhibitors Unwanted side effects include constipation, and drowsiness, renal toxicity and exhaustion **[5].** Since tissue damage produces several chemical mediators, including prostaglandins, bradykinins and substance P, which work on the nociceptors to produce this feeling, it is the direct source of pain. Small myelinated thin C-fibres carry the nociceptive stimulus to the central nervous system. It is frequently divided into acute and chronic categories. Acute pain can be defined as having a rapid onset and a brief duration, sometimes lasting hours. Conversely, chronic pain is frequently linked to ongoing discomfort over an extended length of time **[6].** Numerous contemporary pharmaceutical drugs have been identified through their natural origins. For thousands of years, nature has been the source of the concept for a new medicinal substance of natural origins, some of which are used in traditional medicines currently in use and have their origins in plants that are utilized by indigenous people. Approximately 60 percent of the population still believes in ancient treatment and uses medicinal plants in their treatment  **[7].** The medical community still requires strong, safe analgesic medications to address a variety of painful illnesses, particularly chronic pain, even with the recent advancements in pain therapy. According to studies, NSAIDs often result in gastrointestinal problems, whereas drugs create tolerance, addiction, and physical reliance. Finding different ways to relieve pain is essential for that. Herbal therapy may be a viable therapeutic option for drug withdrawal and dependency **[8].**

Pain, developed by the neurological system, is a daily occurrence for people worldwide. Pain can be acute (due to damage) or chronic (e.g., from rheumatoid arthritis, gout, or cancer). Prolonged or excessive consumption of (OTC) medication might result in stomach ulcers and liver impairment **[9].** Over the past 30 years, many pain-relieving drugs have had significant physiological adverse effects. Several plants in traditional medicine have analgesic properties, and researchers have examined crude extracts for these properties **[10].**

**2. MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

**2.1 Study area**

The research was undertaken at the Department of Pharmacology, Pulla Reddy Institute of Pharmacy, Annaram, Hyderabad.

**2.2 Plant material**

Sansevieria roxburghiana belongs to the family Dracaenaceae, commonly referred to as bowstring hemp, piles root, and Jang matai in Tamil (vernacular) **[11].** Sansevieria species are among the most common garden plants; they are also suitable as indoor plants with long rhizomes and fibrous roots that can flourish under low sunlight conditions and require minimal care. Leaves of Sansevieria roxburghiana were collected from the garden of Pulla Reddy Institute of Pharmacy in Annaram, Hyderabad, Telangana.

 **2.3 Preparation of extract**

Collection and extraction of ethanolic, methanolic and water extract from plants.

Leaves of Sansevieria roxburghiana were collected and cut, properly cleaned and desiccated beneath the shade. After drying, the parts of the plant were chopped and then ground to a fine powder. Dry leaf powder (100g) was weighed for the soxhlation method and extracted with methanol, ethanol and distilled water with a weight of 20gm of plant powder was subjected to extraction in a Soxhlet extractor of three with the solvents with measurements of 150ml each of methanol, ethanol and distilled water. The three extracts were concentrated by rotary vacuum evaporator and evaporated to dryness. The crude sample of Sansevieria roxburghiana is subjected to tests of phytochemical analysis.

 **3. PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS**

Phytochemical screening for major bioactive constituents like alkaloids, tannins, flavonoids, carbohydrates, saponins, glycosides, starch, and protein was undertaken using the standard phytochemical methods for the methanolic, ethanolic and distilled water extract of sansevieria roxburghiana

**Test for alkaloids:**

* **Dragendroff’s Test:**

Three millilitres of the sample were taken and combined with a few drops of Dragendroff’s reagent. Test results that are reddish-brown precipitate.

* **Wagner’s Test:**

A crude extract of 2 millilitres was mixed with 2-3 drops of Wagner’s reagent brown colour of the resulting was taken as the evidence of presence of alkaloids.

**Test for Flavonoids:**

* **Ferric chloride Test:**

Plant extract was taken and combined with the ferric chloride solution and results in the green colour will be considered as the presence of flavonoids.

* **Alkaline Reagent Test:**

The crude plant sample was mixed with 2 ml of 2% sodium hydroxide solution. An intense yellow colour was formed which turned colourless with the addition of a few drops of diluted Hydrochloric acid which indicated the presence of flavonoids.

**Test for Carbohydrates:**

* **Molisch’s Test:**

The plant sample was mixed with 2-3 drops of molisch’s reagent which resulted formation of a violet ring or purple colour confirming the carbohydrates.

* **Benedict’s Test:**

The crude extract is combined with 2 drops of Benedict’s reagent by boiling the sample for 2-3mins which shows the orange or red colour precipitate this result is considered for carbohydrates.

**Test for Proteins:**

* **Ninhydrin Test:**

The extract is added to the ninhydrin reagent which results in a purple colour showing the presence of proteins.

* **Biuret Test:**

The crude extract is mixed with a biuret reagent and shows a violet colour for the presence of proteins.

**Test for Saponins:**

* **Foam Test:**

Crude extract was mixed with 5 ml of distilled water in a test tube and it was shaken vigorously. The formation of stable foam was taken as an indication of the presence of saponins **[12].**

**Test for glycosides:**

* **Keller -Kiliani Test:**

The plant extract was mixed with 2-3 ml of glacial acetic acid containing 1-2 drops of Ferric chloride solution. The mixture was then added to another test tube that contained 2 ml of concentrated sulphuric acid. A brown ring indicated the presence of glycosides.

**Test for Tannins:**

* **Lead acetate Test:**

The crude extract was combined with lead acetate solution which resulted in forms a pale yellow ppt showing the existence of tannins.

**Test for starch:**

* **Iodine Test:**

The unprocessed extract was varied with iodine solution then continued to shake vigorously and show blue-black as starch.

**Test for steroids:**

* **Salkowski Test:**

Initial extract was combined with 2 millilitres of chloroform and shaken subsequently add the conc. sulphuric acid from the walls of test tube walls and shows greenish yellow as the appearance of steroids.

* **Wagner’s Test:**

The sample was assorted with 2 -3 drops of the reagent which indicated red-brown as test results in the presence of steroids.

**4.RESULTS:**

The result of the phytochemical screening of the plant showed that the leaves of Sansevieria roxburghiana are rich in various active components as it always helps in the resourcefulness of plant extracts such as methanolic, ethanolic and distilled water by the soxhlation method. It revealed the presence of phytoconstituents that the plant is rich in alkaloids, flavonoids, carbohydrates, saponins and steroids. (Table 1)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **S.no** | **Tests** | **Methanol** | **Ethanol** | **Water** |
| 1 | Alkaloids | + | + | + |
| 2 | Flavonoids | + | + | + |
| 3 | Carbohydrates | + | + | + |
| 4 | Proteins | + | - | + |
| 5 | Saponins | + | + | + |
| 6 | Glycosides | - | - | + |
| 7 | Tannins | + | + | + |
| 8 | Starch | + | + | - |
| 9 | Steroids | + | + | + |

**Table 1:** Results of phytochemical tests of sansevieria roxburghiana extracts of methanol , ethanol and water. Presence is presented as (+) and absence is represented as (-).



Fig 1. Dragendroff’s test result had showed the presence of alkaloids and colour indicated reddish-brown . fist test tube methanol second ethanol and third is distilled water extracts of sansevieria roxburghiana leaves.



Fig 2. Form test result shows the presence of saponins as the three extracts of methanol, ethanol and water extracts of sansevieria roxburghiana leave extracts.

**DISCUSSION:**

This main study is conducted to determine and evaluate the phytoconstituents in the plant of Sansevieria roxburghiana. This relates to the family of Dracaenaceae. It is widely recognized as a snake plant, bowstring hemp. Sansevieria roxburghiana can live at minimal light and is also used for air purification. This plant has been authenticated by the Botanical Survey of India which is located in Koti, Hyderabad -500001. The plant material was collected in November from the garden of Pulla Reddy Institute of Pharmacy located in Annaram Hyderabad. and chopped into tiny and washed carefully with water and kept for shade dry for about 2 weeks. The completely dry plant material will form into a fine powder with the electronic grinder. The fine powder is stored at the room temperature. And the plant material is set to do an extraction process that is soxhlation. Apparatus of soxhlation with loaded plant material and the solvents like methanol, ethanol and water one after other complete 5 cycles of soxhlation as it is used to preserve the plant phytoconstituents in a vial. It would be helpful for an activity which is for the pharmacological activity of the plant. The study is entirely performed from the extracts of methanol, ethanol and water extracts of Sansevieria roxburghiana. The phytoconstituents test was performed as per mentioned above tests. And it relieves the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, carbohydrates, saponins, tannins and steroids.

**CONCLUSION:**

Exploring herbal plants as natural remedies alternative to synthetic drugs to avoid the side effects by concluding had chosen sansevieria roxburghiana. As herbal plants are more safe, effective with fewer side effects compared to synthetic drugs. The soxhlation of the method is employed in the study that found that it is effective in the extraction of bioactive compounds from the Sansevieria roxburghiana. The extract obtained by soxhlation was found to be rich in phytochemicals**.** The evaluation of sansevieria roxburghiana revealed a total existence with various phytochemicals such as alkaloids, saponins, and carbohydrates. Further studies should be conducted on in-vivo studies.

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