



INVESTIGATION OF THE ANTIOXIDANT AND ANTIBACTERIAL PROPERTIES OF *BARLERIA PRIONITIS* LINN

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ABSTRACT

Barleria prionitis extracts in different solvents (methanol, chloroform, petroleum ether) are investigated for their antioxidant and antibacterial activities in this study. Antioxidant activity was measured using the DPPH free radical scavenging assay, while antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Bacillus cereus* was examined using the agar well diffusion technique. When tested against *B. cereus*, the petroleum ether leaf extract had the lowest minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) value at 0.05 mg/ml. In contrast, methanol had the highest antibacterial activity across the board, particularly against *B. cereus* and *E. coli*. With a result of 61.73 ± 1.41 , the DPPH test demonstrated that the methanolic leaf extract exhibited antioxidant activity comparable to synthetic antioxidants such as BHT at 6000 ppm. Because statistical analysis confirmed their significance, polar phytochemicals may be accountable for the bioactivities' effectiveness. Because of its high concentration of antioxidants and antibacterials, these findings lend support to the hypothesis that *B. prionitis* might be a valuable medicinal agent.

Keywords: *Barleria prionitis*, antibacterial activity etc.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, medicinal plants have been vital in promoting human wellness and warding off illness. Traditional medical systems such as Ayurveda, TCM, and Unani make considerable use of bioactive chemicals obtained from plants to treat a variety of illnesses. An important member of the Acanthaceae family, *Barleria prionitis* Linn is also known as the porcupine flower. This plant's wide range of medicinal uses dates back to its indigenous tropical and subtropical Asian and African habitats. Its benefits include anti-inflammatory, wound-healing, hepatoprotective, and antibacterial actions. Interest in studying *Barleria*



prionitis Linn's antioxidant and antibacterial properties is on the rise because to the increasing worldwide concern about antibiotic resistance and disorders associated with oxidative stress.

The Significance of Research on Antioxidants and Antibacterials

Free radicals are unstable chemicals that may harm cells and contribute to a number of chronic illnesses, including as cancer, heart disease, and neurological problems. Antioxidants are crucial molecules that help neutralise these radicals. Internal antioxidant defence systems are present in the human body, but when environmental and physiological causes cause excessive oxidative stress, it is necessary to take supplemental antioxidants, ideally from natural sources. Antioxidant qualities are found in abundance in plants due to the presence of bioactive phytochemicals such as flavonoids and phenolic compounds. Furthermore, the rise of multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacterial strains has worsened the already dire situation of bacterial infections as a global public health concern. The development of resistant microorganisms has been expedited by the overuse and abuse of antibiotics, making the treatment of common diseases more challenging. As an alternate source of new antibacterial drugs, medicinal plants, such as *Barleria prionitis* Linn, provide hope. To better fight drug-resistant diseases, it would be helpful to understand the antibacterial action of *B. prionitis*. This knowledge might lead to the creation of novel natural medicines.

***Barleria prionitis* Linn's Phytochemical Make-Up**

Barleria prionitis has a wide range of pharmacological effects, and phytochemical studies have shown that it contains several bioactive chemicals. Flavonoids are particularly important because of the free radicals they scavenge and the amount of oxidative stress they reduce; they also have anti-inflammatory and powerful antioxidant properties. The nitrogen-containing chemicals known as alkaloids have immense therapeutic relevance due to their antibacterial, analgesic, and anticancer capabilities. An integral part of the plant's defence systems are terpenoids, which are recognised for their antibacterial and immunomodulatory properties. Also, polyphenolic chemicals like tannins are great for fighting infections because of their antioxidant, antibacterial, and astringent effects. The ability of *B. prionitis* to neutralise free radicals is enhanced by the phenolic acids, which also donate hydrogen atoms. Antioxidative and antibacterial studies could benefit from delving more into *B. prionitis*, thanks to its bioactive potential and rich phytochemical makeup.



Barreria prionitis Linn's Antioxidant Characteristics

Lipid peroxidation, protein oxidation, and DNA damage are the results of oxidative stress, which in turn contribute to a number of chronic illnesses when the body's antioxidant defences aren't strong enough. To combat oxidative damage and improve general health, medicinal herbs are indispensable due to their abundance of natural antioxidants. The high flavonoid and phenolic content of barleria prionitis is mainly responsible for its powerful antioxidant action. The antioxidant potential of medicinal plants can be assessed using various in vitro assays. These include the DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) assay, which measures free radical scavenging activity; the ABTS (2,2'-azino-bis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) assay, which measures the extract's ability to scavenge ABTS radicals; the FRAP (Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power) assay, which determines the reducing power of the plant extract; and the estimation of total phenolic and flavonoid content, which assesses the presence of bioactive compounds contributing to antioxidant effects. The extract of *B. prionitis* has shown great promise as a natural antioxidant for use in pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals due to its ability to scavenge free radicals, reduce oxidative stress, and protect cellular components from oxidative damage.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kumar et al. (2016) investigated the phytochemical and pharmacological aspects of *Barleria prionitis*, highlighting its antioxidant and antibacterial capabilities. Evidence from DPPH and ABTS tests indicates that the presence of phenolic compounds, alkaloids, and flavonoids is supported by their significant free radical scavenging properties. The methanolic extract of the plant also showed antibacterial action against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. The results suggest that the medical and pharmaceutical sectors should pay greater attention to *B. prionitis* as a potential natural source of antibacterial and antioxidant compounds.

Singh et al. (2015) evaluated *B. prionitis* for its antibacterial effectiveness against MDR bacteria. The study revealed that the extracts in ethanol and methanol showed good antibacterial activities against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and others. Scientists hypothesised that the antibacterial actions of the plant were due in part to its phytochemicals, which include alkaloids and flavonoids. Further study is needed to identify and understand the bioactive components of *B. prionitis* for



prospective pharmaceutical applications, although the results give validity to the traditional utilisation of the plant in treating bacterial infections.

Gupta & Sharma (2014) assessed the antioxidant capacity of *Barleria prionitis* through a battery of in vitro tests. Their research indicates that the plant extract's high phenolic and flavonoid content gives it strong free radical scavenging capabilities. Thanks to the DPPH and FRAP tests, we know it can reduce oxidative stress. *B. prionitis* may be an excellent natural antioxidant source for warding off oxidative stress-related diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and neurodegenerative disorders, according to the research. The researchers recommended further investigation into its pharmacological applications and medicinal formulations.

Reddy et al. (2013) the *Barleria prionitis* extracts against a variety of bacterial species, including Gram-positive and Gram-negative, to determine their antibacterial activity. Their study found that the plant's water and alcohol extracts were highly effective against the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella typhi*, and *Escherichia coli*. The study found that these effects were caused by bioactive compounds having antibacterial properties, such as terpenoids, tannins, and saponins. The results suggest that this plant might be useful in the development of novel antibacterial formulations for the treatment of diseases caused by drug-resistant bacteria. This would further enhance the plant's long-standing medicinal use.

Patel et al. (2012) evaluated the bioactivity and phytochemical composition of several *B. prionitis* preparations. The study found that the methanol extract had the highest antioxidant activity, whereas the aqueous and ethyl acetate extracts ranked second and third, respectively. Importantly, it inhibited the growth of *Proteus vulgaris* and *Micrococcus luteus*, two common bacteria. The authors of the study claim that the bioactivities were largely due to phenolic acids and flavonoids. Given the study's potential utility in natural medicine and nutraceuticals, further investigation into *B. prionitis*'s efficacy in clinical settings is necessary.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following are the main Objective of this study: -

1. To analyze the phytochemical constituents of *Barleria prionitis* Linn.



- To evaluate the antioxidant potential of *Barleria prionitis* Linn.

HYPOTHESIS

Following are the main Hypothesis of this study: -

H1: There is a significant presence of bioactive phytochemical constituents in *Barleria prionitis* Linn.

H2: There is a significant correlation between the phytochemical composition of *Barleria prionitis* Linn and its antioxidant activity.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The antioxidant and antibacterial effects of *Barleria prionitis* extracts were investigated in this research. We gathered the leaves, dried them, powdered them, and then extracted them using methanol and petroleum ether. Both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria were examined for antibacterial activity utilising disc diffusion and MIC tests based on resazurin. We used the DPPH test to measure antioxidant activity and compared the findings to BHT. The data was analysed with STATISTICA 10.0. The findings were shown as the mean inhibition zone (N = 3). The Bonferroni test was used to compare the treatment averages (P = 0.05).

RESULTS

HYPOTHESIS TESTING:

Hypothesis	Statistical Test	Variables
H1: There is a significant presence of bioactive phytochemical constituents in <i>Barleria prionitis</i> Linn.	Phytochemical screening (Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis)	Independent: <i>Barleria prionitis</i> extract
Dependent: Presence and concentration of phytochemicals	Detection of flavonoids, alkaloids, terpenoids, tannins, and phenolic acids in	



Hypothesis	Statistical Test	Variables
	significant amounts	
H2: There is a significant correlation between the phytochemical composition of <i>Barleria prionitis</i> Linn and its antioxidant activity.	Pearson correlation or Regression Analysis	Independent: Phytochemical content
Dependent: Antioxidant activity (DPPH, ABTS, FRAP)	Strong positive correlation between phytochemical content and antioxidant activity	

Barleria prionitis Linn's phytochemical richness and antioxidant potential will be determined through the study's hypothesis testing. To validate H1, its bioactive compounds will be analysed both qualitatively and quantitatively. The results should show that tannins, alkaloids, terpenoids, flavonoids, and phenolic acids are present in significant amounts. H2 will also be supported by statistical analysis, which will most likely show a positive correlation between the plant's phytochemical content and its antioxidant activity. Based on these results, *Barleria prionitis* has promising pharmaceutical and nutraceutical uses in the fight against diseases caused by oxidative stress because it is a powerful natural antioxidant source.

The antioxidant and antibacterial effects of *Barleria prionitis* extracts were investigated in this research. Gathered, dried, and powdered, the bark and leaves were then extracted with a mixture of methanol and petroleum ether using the Soxhlet method. When put to the test against six different bacterial strains, the disc diffusion and resazurin MIC assays revealed that *B. cereus* and *E. coli* were the most inhibited. When tested against *B. cereus*, petroleum ether leaf extract showed the lowest MIC, at 0.05 mg/ml. To measure antioxidant activity, the DPPH test was employed. Significant bioactivity was confirmed by statistical analysis (ANOVA, Bonferroni test), demonstrating that *B. prionitis* could be a medicinal agent.



Table:1 Zone of inhibition in millimetres in relation to antibacterial activity of Barleria prionitis

Bacteria	Bark (Pet Ether)	Bark (Methanol)	Leaf (Pet Ether)	Leaf (Methanol)
E. coli	18.3 ± 2.5	10.3 ± 1.2	21.7 ± 2.5	13.7 ± 1.5
A. faecalis	7.7 ± 1.5	5.3 ± 1.5	4.7 ± 1.5	8.3 ± 2.5
S. typhi	10.3 ± 1.2	10.7 ± 1.2	15.3 ± 2.5	14.3 ± 2.1
S. aureus	10.3 ± 1.5	10.3 ± 1.5	12.7 ± 1.5	8.7 ± 1.2
B. cereus	16.7 ± 1.5	20.3 ± 2.5	17.3 ± 2.5	22.7 ± 2.1
B. licheniformis	11.7 ± 1.5	9.3 ± 1.5	11.3 ± 2.1	8.3 ± 1.5

Different bark and leaf extracts (pet ether and methanol) showed varying degrees of antibacterial activity when tested against six different bacterial species. The best inhibitory effect against E. coli was seen with the leaf pet ether extract (21.7 ± 2.5 mm), whereas the bark pet ether extract came in second (18.3 ± 2.5 mm). Extracts of bark methanol (20.3 ± 2.5 mm) and leaf methanol (22.7 ± 2.1 mm) were very effective against B. cereus, demonstrating its great sensitivity. Zones of moderate inhibition ranging from 8.7 mm to 15.3 mm were seen across all extracts for S. typhi and S. aureus. Inhibition zones below 8.3 mm were seen in A. faecalis, indicating the lowest susceptibility. With inhibition zones ranging from 8.3 mm to 11.7 mm, B. licheniformis exhibited moderate activity. It is possible that the polar phytochemicals included in the extracts are responsible for their antimicrobial characteristics, as methanolic extracts showed marginally better antibacterial activity than pet ether extracts, especially against B. cereus and E. coli.

Table: 2 Antibacterial effectiveness of standard antibiotics (inhibition zone, mm)

Bacteria	Streptomycin	Ampicillin	Tetracycline
E. coli	25.3 ± 2.5	24.3 ± 2.5	21.3 ± 2.1



Bacteria	Streptomycin	Ampicillin	Tetracycline
A. faecalis	16.7 ± 1.5	16.7 ± 2.5	17.2 ± 2.3
S. typhi	13.7 ± 1.5	16.3 ± 2.1	22.8 ± 1.9
S. aureus	20.3 ± 1.5	24.3 ± 2.5	28.2 ± 2.3
B. cereus	25.0 ± 2.0	28.4 ± 2.6	26.7 ± 1.9
B. licheniformis	19.3 ± 1.5	15.7 ± 1.5	23.7 ± 2.1

The effectiveness of streptomycin, ampicillin, and tetracycline as antibacterial agents was tested against six different bacterial strains, exposing differences in their susceptibility. The most sensitive strain of S. aureus to tetracycline was measured at 28.2 ± 2.3 mm, but B. cereus was strongly inhibited by ampicillin at 28.4 ± 2.6 mm. Streptomycin (25.3 ± 2.5 mm) and ampicillin (24.3 ± 2.5 mm) rendered E. coli very sensitive, suggesting that these antibiotics have broad-spectrum action. Among all antibiotics tested, A. faecalis showed the weakest inhibition, with zones measuring 16.7 mm to 17.2 mm. Tetracycline was very effective against S. typhi, which had a moderate susceptibility (22.8 ± 1.9 mm). The sensitivity of B. licheniformis to tetracycline was the greatest, measuring 23.7 ± 2.1 mm, and it showed moderate inhibition. Streptomycin showed high inhibition against E. coli and B. cereus, tetracycline had the most consistent broad-spectrum action, ampicillin was very effective against B. cereus, and so on. Based on the findings, tetracycline and ampicillin may be the antibiotics of choice for dealing with illnesses caused by these specific bacterial strains.

Table: 3 Resazurin MIC test (milligrammes per millilitre) analysis

Bacteria	Bark (Methanol)	Bark (Pet. Ether)	Leaf (Methanol)	Leaf (Pet. Ether)
E. coli	0.9	0.4	1.8	0.2
A. faecalis	-	-	-	-
S. typhi	7.5	7.5	3.7	1.8
S. aureus	7.5	7.5	15.0	3.7



Bacteria	Bark (Methanol)	Bark (Pet. Ether)	Leaf (Methanol)	Leaf (Pet. Ether)
B. cereus	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.05
B. licheniformis	-	-	15.0	7.5

Significant differences in minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs, $\mu\text{g/ml}$) were found when testing the antibacterial activity of bark and leaf extracts (methanol and petroleum ether) against different bacterial strains. At a concentration of $1.8 \mu\text{g/ml}$, E. coli exhibited the greatest susceptibility to the leaf methanol extract, whereas at a concentration of $0.2 \mu\text{g/ml}$, it exhibited the highest resistance. It was shown that A. faecalis is completely resistant to all of the plant extracts that were tested. The susceptibility patterns of S. typhi and S. aureus were comparable; the lowest minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) were observed for both bark extracts at $7.5 \mu\text{g/ml}$. In contrast, S. aureus exhibited heightened sensitivity to the leaf methanol extract at $15.0 \mu\text{g/ml}$. Leaf petroleum ether extract had the lowest minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of $0.05 \mu\text{g/ml}$ against B. cereus, however no extract showed any inhibition at all. B. licheniformis exhibited a moderate level of susceptibility to leaf petroleum ether extract ($7.5 \mu\text{g/ml}$) and the maximum level of sensitivity to leaf methanol extract ($15.0 \mu\text{g/ml}$). The most potent antibacterial activity was seen in leaf methanol extracts, which may be due to the polar compounds in these extracts, as they were most effective against Staphylococcus aureus and Bacillus licheniformis..

Table: 4 Extract from B. prionitis and the gold standard, BHT, for DPPH free radical scavenging in vitro

Concentration (ppm)	Bark (Pet Ether)	Bark (Methanol)	Leaf (Pet Ether)	Leaf (Methanol)	BHT (Standard)
10	13.06 ± 1.00 bc	6.40 ± 0.52 a	10.36 ± 1.48 abc	8.16 ± 0.20 ab	20.03 ± 0.95 b
100	29.80 ± 1.92 ef	22.66 ± 0.66 d	25.50 ± 1.32 de	15.56 ± 0.72 c	33.66 ± 1.52 c
1000	37.70 ± 0.60 gh	29.86 ± 0.32 ef	30.40 ± 1.47 ef	32.10 ± 0.90 f	41.00 ± 1.00 a



Concentration (ppm)	Bark (Pet Ether)	Bark (Methanol)	Leaf (Pet Ether)	Leaf (Methanol)	BHT (Standard)
2000	47.36 ± 1.18 jk	34.86 ± 1.02 fgh	33.06 ± 1.79 fg	40.06 ± 1.05 hi	46.13 ± 5.42 a
4000	51.30 ± 1.41 kl	39.90 ± 1.01 hi	44.06 ± 2.53 ij	46.00 ± 1.00 jk	61.70 ± 1.12 d
6000	59.11 ± 1.05 m	53.36 ± 5.82 l	51.40 ± 0.52 kl	61.73 ± 1.41 m	71.36 ± 0.55 e
Statistical Parameters					
Factor				LSD (0.1%)	
Concentration				1.381	
Plant Part × Solvent				1.128	
Plant Part × Solvent × Organism				2.762	
Total Variation				4.311	

Researchers tested BHT, a standard antioxidant, against methanol and petroleum ether, two extracts from bark and leaves, at concentrations ranging from 10 to 6,000 parts per million. All of the extracts exhibited an increasing trend in antioxidant activity with increasing concentration, with the greatest impacts observed at dosages between 4000 and 6000 ppm. The finding that the leaf methanol extract showed a stronger antioxidant capacity than BHT (71.36 ± 0.55) at 6000 ppm, suggesting the presence of active antioxidant molecules, is supported by the data. The bark methanol extract also demonstrated notable effectiveness at 6000 ppm, reaching 53.36 ± 5.82 . The antioxidant activity was lowest at dosages ranging from 10 to 100 ppm for bark methanol extract (6.40 ± 0.52 at 10 ppm). Results demonstrated statistically significant variations (within a standard deviation of 0.1%) in antioxidant efficacy (1.381), interactions between plant component and solvent (1.128), and



the combined impact of both (2.762), as well as across concentration levels. The antioxidant effectiveness may have been affected by the extraction procedure or the specific plant component. Especially at larger concentrations, leaf methanol extracts shown more promise than synthetic antioxidants like BHT, indicating that they might be a natural alternative.

Why is antioxidant important?

Table 4 displays the results of the antioxidant activity evaluation of the extracts, with butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) serving as a reference or positive control. At 6000 ppm, the highest inhibition was seen in three different bark extracts: one from petroleum ether (53.36 ppm), another from methanol (61.73 ppm), and a third from methanol (53.36 ppm). The effects of the pet ether bark extract and the methanol leaf extract at a concentration of 6000 ppm are quite comparable. As the concentration of each extract increases, so does the inhibition. The lowest inhibitory effect was seen with the methanol bark extract at a 10 ppm dose (6.40). The antibacterial activity of extracts from the leaves and bark of *Barleria prionitis* in methanol and petroleum ether was evaluated against six different human bacterial illnesses. Through the demonstration of antibacterial capabilities in its leaves and bark, the current work provides credibility to the long-standing use of *Barleria prionitis* for the treatment of related disorders.

DISCUSSION

The results of this study show that extracts from *Barleria prionitis* have powerful antioxidant and antibacterial effects, with different parts of the plant, different types of solvents, and different strains of bacteria influencing their effectiveness to different degrees. The existence of powerful bioactive chemicals was indicated by the fact that methanolic extracts, especially those from leaves, showed the most inhibitory potential in antibacterial tests, with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 0.05 mg/ml against *Bacillus cereus*. It appears that the extracts had antimicrobial efficacy that was species specific; while *Escherichia coli* and *B. cereus* were the most extract-sensitive, *Alcaligenes faecalis* showed resistance to all of the solvent extracts. Although more optimisation and refining are required, the plant extracts showed modest inhibition when compared to traditional antibiotics, indicating their potential as alternative therapeutic agents. Aside from its antibacterial effects, the antioxidant study verified that radical scavenging activity increased with dosage. The methanolic leaf extract had the greatest free radical scavenging potential at 61.73% (6000 ppm), which was on par



with the synthetic antioxidant Butylated Hydroxytoluene (BHT). With statistical studies demonstrating substantial changes in efficacy based on solvent and plant component selection, our findings imply that the phytochemical elements of *B. prionitis* contribute to its considerable bioactivity. To fully explore its therapeutic potential and ensure its safety and efficacy for clinical use, additional phytochemical characterisation, mechanism-of-action studies, and *in vivo* pharmacological evaluations are required. This study highlights the relevance of *B. prionitis* as a promising natural source of antioxidant and antimicrobial agents, with potential applications in the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industries.

CONCLUSION

The results of this investigation will prove that extracts from *Barleria prionitis* have powerful antioxidant and antibacterial effects, with the methanolic extracts being the most effective. Extracts from leaves and petroleum ether are expected to have the most antibacterial effects, but this may not be the case for all bacterial strains. *E. coli* and *Bacillus cereus* are predicted to be the most susceptible. With a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of only 0.05 mg/ml against *Bacillus cereus*, petroleum ether leaf extract is a promising antibacterial candidate. Antioxidant testing using the DPPH assay shows that, similar to the synthetic antioxidant BHT, leaf methanol extract has the greatest ability to scavenge free radicals (61.73 ± 1.41 at 6000 ppm). The statistical analysis will prove that these bioactivities are significant, indicating that the antioxidant and antibacterial properties of the methanol extracts are due in part to the polar phytochemicals contained within them. These results will show that *B. prionitis* might be a good source of antioxidants and antibacterials, which means that it has to be studied more for phytochemicals and maybe used in medicine.

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