

Evaluation of Anthelmintic Activity of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* Leaf Extract by In-Silico and In-Vitro Studies

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Abstract: The Greek term for "helminthes" means "worm." Human-infecting parasites fall into one of two categories: keepsakes or heirlooms. Heirlooms are parasites that have been passed down from African ancestors, while souvenirs are parasites that humans have picked up from animals through migration, evolution, and agricultural activities. These helminthic infections are the most prevalent human infectious agents in poor nations. The helminthic parasite affects around 2 billion people worldwide, or more than 25% of the total population. It is a big problem in developing nations, particularly for young people. Therefore, the goal of the current study was to extract the plant's active ingredients and test the crude extract's anti-helminthic properties. In this study, we worked on the *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* plant with a focus on natural remedies for the treatment of helminthiasis. The chief scientist of Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticulture University, Floriculture Research Station, Rajndranagar, authenticated the true nature of the plant. Water and ethanol were utilized in the extraction procedure. To find out what chemicals are in the alcoholic extract, a screening test is performed on it. The flavonoid test on the extract came out positive. Using Albendazole as the prescribed medication, the anthelmintic action was carried out on Indian earthworms. In Indian earth worms, we found that alcoholic extract exhibits good anthelmintic action. By In silico studies we found the interaction of flavanoids with antihelminthic proteins.

Key Word: Helminthes, *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*, flavonoids, extraction, in silico study.

1. Introduction

Plant profile: *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima*

Classification:

Kingdom: Plantae Order: Fabales Family: Fabaceae

Subfamily: Caesalpinioideae Genus: *Caesalpinia*

Species: *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima*

It is a shrub growing to 3 m tall. In climates with few to no frosts, this plant will grow larger and is semievergreen. In Hawaii this plant is evergreen and grows over 5 m tall. Grown in climates with light to moderate freezing, plant will die back to the ground depending on cold, but will rebound in mid- to late spring. This species is more sensitive to cold than others. The leaves are bipinnate, 20–40 cm long, bearing three to 10 pairs of pinnae, each with six to 10 pairs of leaflets 15–25 mm long and 10–15 mm broad. The flowers are borne in racemes up to 20 cm long, each flower with five yellow, orange, or red petals. The fruit is a pod 6–12 cm long.^[18]

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The Pride of Barbados is an evergreen shrub or small tree that is a member of the Fabaceae or legume family. It is originally from Mexico and the Caribbean and has beautiful showy orange-red flowers, fern-like leaves, and prickles on its stems and branches. It is the national flower of Barbados^[19]

Chemical constituents:

Various Phytoconstituents have been isolated from the various parts of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* Linn. *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* is rich source of polyphenols, Flavonoids^[20]




Pharmacological actions: Antioxidant Activity, Anticancer Activity, Immunosuppressive Activity, Antidiabetic Activity, Anti-Inflammatory Activity, Anti-Microbial Activity, Vaso relaxing Effect, Abortifacient, Cathartic^[20]

2. Materials and Methods

Materials: Plant material, Grinder, beakers, Soxhlet apparatus, Whatman Filter paper, funnel, rotary evaporator, china dish, desiccators, Petridishes, Indian Earthworms.

Plant material:

The leaves of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* were collected from local areas of Ranga Reddy, Hyderabad, India. The plant material was collected during morning hours. They were authenticated, by Dr. P. Prasanth, Principal scientist (Horticulture and Head) Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University, Floricultural Research Station, ARI, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad-500030, India.



Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University
FLORICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, ARI,
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-30.

From
Dr. P. Prasanth
Principal Scientist (Hort. & Head)

To
Miss Y. Saadhana
Student B Pharm.
JBRPC, Moinabad - 500075

Lr. No. /PS (H) & Head/FLRS/2023-24, dt: 5.6.2023

Madam,

Sub: - FLRS-Rajendranagar - Identification of Ornamental Plant species - Reg.

Ref: - 1. Request letter of Miss Y Saadhana, dated: 05.06.2023
2. Request letter of I Mamatha, guide of the student, Dt: 05.06.2023

With reference to the subject cited above, the plant sample brought by Miss Y. Saadhana, B Pharm, final year student is identified as *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* L. belongs to the family Fabaceae.

P. Prasanth
05/06/2023

PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST (H) & HEAD

Dr. P. PRASANTH
Principal Scientist (Hort.) & Head
Floricultural Research Station
SKLTSU, ARI Rajendranagar,
Hyderabad-500 030.

Chemicals Used: 99.9% Ethanol was collected from lab needs, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Methods: plant extraction is done by maceration and Soxhletion process. Anthelmintic activity was determined by molecular docking study (Auto dock & discovery studios) to identify compounds having maximum activity against Tubulin Colchicine protein & in vitro studies were carried out on Indian earthworm

Preparation of extract:

The sufficient amount of plant materials was collected and brought to the laboratory and washed thoroughly [3times] with clean tap water. After that, it was air dried completely under shade area. The resulting powder was sieved, weighed and store in clean glass bottles and kept in dry place until the extraction process was started. In plant preparation, extraction is first crucial step. The powdered plant material was prepared and kept in dry place were subjected to 99.9% Ethanol as solvent using cold maceration and soxhlet extraction technique.

Ethanol was the most preferred solvent based on the access to the alcohols and general solvent and most preferred solvent for plant extraction possibly owing to its polar nature that ensure the release of several bioactive compounds from the plants. It has been proven that high polarity solvents should be used to extract different bioactive compounds with high accuracy. Fruitful results of active compound in plant mainly depend up on the solvent used for herbal formulation.

The powdered specimen was then subjected to extraction using 99.9% Ethanol by cold maceration and soxlet extraction technique. A total of 300g of the powdered material was separately soaked and then followed by soxlet extraction where the plant material was properly wrapped within the filter paper [Whatman No.1] with ethanol in R.B flask at 70°C for 72 hrs. Then, the extract was again filtered using filter paper and was extracted using Rotary Evaporator, to evaporate Ethanol at 60°C with 60 RPM and kept in hot air oven to obtain pure crude extract. The extract were taken weighed to know the yield of plant and recorded.



Soxhlet Extraction of C. pulcherrima Leaves by ethanol



Rotary vacuum evaporator



Phytochemical study:

Phytochemical analysis:

Preliminary phytochemical screening of aqueous and ethanolic extracts of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* leaves was performed for the detection of the Constituents that were responsible for the activity.

1 Test for alkaloids:

To the extracts dilute hydrochloric acid was added and filtered. The filtrate was treated with various alkaloid reagents. ^[61]

a) Mayer's test:

When the filtrate was treated with Mayer's reagent, Potassium Mercuric iodine solution, appearance of cream colored precipitate indicated the presence of alkaloid. ^[61]

b) Dragendorff's test:

When the filtrate was treated with Dragendorff's reagent, potassium bismuth iodine solution, appearance of orange brown precipitate indicated the presence of alkaloids. ^[61]

c) Hager's test:

The filtrate when treated with Hager's reagent, picric acid, appearance of yellow color precipitate indicated the presence of alkaloids. ^[61]

2 Test for Carbohydrates:

Small quantities of the extracts were dissolved in 4ml of distilled water filtrated. The filtrate was subjected to following tests.

a) Fehling's test:

The extracts were treated with Fehling solution A and B. The appearance of reddish brown color precipitate indicated the presence of reducing sugars. ^[61]

b) Benedict's test:

The extracts were treated with Benedict's reagent; the appearance of reddish orange color precipitate indicates the presence of reducing sugars. ^[61]

3 Test for Steroids:

a) Liebermann Burchard test:

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The extracts were treated with 3ml of acetic anhydride, few drops of glacial acetic acid followed by a drop of concentrated sulphuric acid. Appearance of bluish green color indicated the presence of steroids. ^[61]

b) Salkowski's test:

The extracts were treated with 3ml of acetic anhydride, concentrated sulphuric acid drops. Appearance of yellow color indicated the presence of steroids. ^[61]

4 TestforTannins:

a) The extracts were treated with 10% lead acetate solution. Appearance of white precipitate indicated the presence of tannins. ^[61]

b) The extracts were treated with aqueous bromine solution. Appearance of white color precipitate indicated the presence of tannins. ^[61]

7.3.5 Test for Phenolic compounds:

a) The extracts were treated with neutral ferric chloride solution. Appearance of violet color indicated the presence of phenolic compounds. ^[61]

b) The extracts were treated with 10% sodium chloride solution. Appearance of cream color indicated the presence of phenolic compounds. ^[61]

5. TestforFlavonoids:

a) Zinc hydrochloride test:

To the test solution, add a mixture of zinc dust and concentrated hydrochloric acid. It gives red color after few minutes. ^[61]

b) Shinoda's test:

The extracts were dissolved in alcohol to which few magnesium turnings were added followed by concentrated HCl drop wise and heated. Appearance of magenta color shows the presence of flavonoids. ^[61]

6 .TestforGlycosides:

When a pinch of the extracts were treated with glacial acetic acid and few drops of ferric chloride solution, followed by the addition of concentrated sulphuric acid, formation of red ring at the junction of two liquids indicates the presence of glycosides. ^[61]

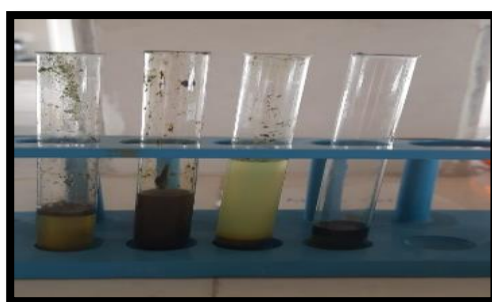
7. TestforSaponins:

Foam test:

About 1ml of the extracts were diluted to 20ml with distilled water and shaken well in a test tube. The formation of foam in the upper part of the test tube indicated the presence of saponins. ^[61]

8.TestforFixedoils:

Mix 1ml of 1% copper sulphate solution and 5 drops of the extract. Then add 5 drops of 10% sodium hydroxide solution. A clear blue colour solution was obtained which indicates the presence of fixed oils. ^[61]



Identification test of flavonoids

Insilicomolecular docking study

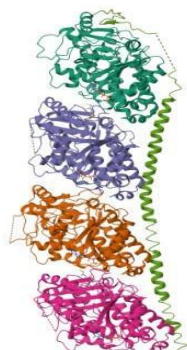
For molecular docking study, Autodock is used to predict the potent active compound of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* against the active site of TUBULIN COLCHICINE enzymes.

Protein and Ligand Preparation:

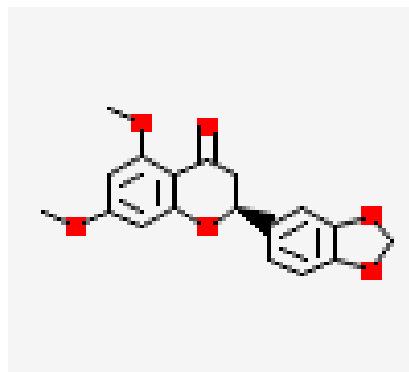
In case of the protein preparation, the 3D structure of TUBULIN-COLCHICINE receptor was obtained from the Protein Data Bank (PDB: 1SAO). Afterward, the structure was prepared and refined using the protein preparation wizard [Discovery studios] [Biovia] where charges and bond orders were assigned, hydrogens were added to the heavy atoms, selenomethionines were converted to methionine, and all waters portion were removed. On the other hand, certain thiol and hydroxyl groups were reoriented, and amide groups of asparagines, glutamine, and imidazole rings of histidines, protonation states of histidines, glutamic acid and aspartic acids were optimized at neutral pH. 5,7-dimethoxy-3',4'-

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methylenedioxy flavanone, was the ligand selected by collected literature review. Molecular Formula: $C_{18}H_{16}O_6$. Molecular weight: 328.3g/mol. Computed by pubchem release 2021.05.07. It is a natural product found in Caesalpinia Pulcherrima^[63]. Ligand optimization or refined using chemdraw3D.



Protein: TUBULIN-COLCHICIN



Ligand

3. Result & Discussion

Preliminary Phytochemical Analysis:

The results of preliminary phytochemical screening are present in Table 3. Qualitative phytochemical studies were performed on the ethanolic extract of Caesalpinia Pulcherrima leaves using suitable chemicals and reagents to confirm the presence of phenolics, steroids, flavonoids, lipids, and tannins.

Phyto chemical constituents	Aqueous extract	Ethanol extract
Carbohydrates	-	+
Phenols	+	-
Glycosides	+	-
Alkaloids	+	-
Flavonoids	+	-
Tannins	+	-
Steroids	-	+

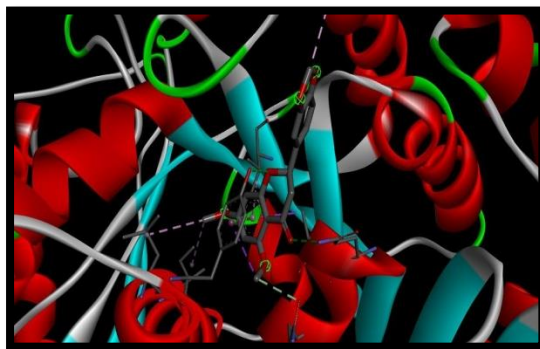
“+” indicates the presence “-” indicates the absence **Table 3**

In silico Studies:

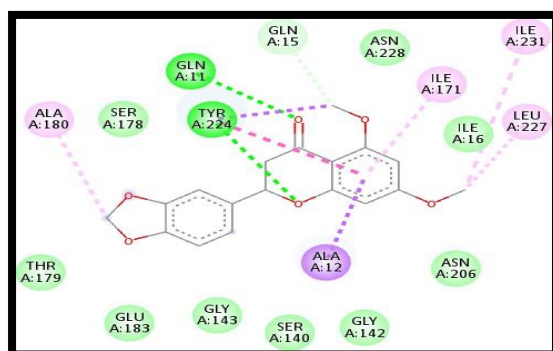
In this study, compounds isolated from Caesalpinia pulcherrima leaves were isolated for molecular docking study and the results shown in the table. Molecular docking showed that has the best docking score against TUBULIN COLCHICINE which is -7.37 kcal/mol. Interactions between ligand and protein have been presented below

Binding Energy	-7.37
Ligand efficiency	-0.31
Inhib constant	3.94
Inhib constant units	uM
Intermolecular energy	-8.27
Vdw_hb_deolv_energy	-8.4
Electrostatic_energy	0.13
Total internal	0.48
Torsional energy	0.89
Unbound energy	0.48
Filename	dock.dlg
clRMS	0.0
refRMS	158.26
rseed1	None
rseed2	None

Table-2: Molecular Docking results of ligand and protein. The binding score was found to be -7.37 kcal/mol



3D Molecular Docking of Protein and Ligand



Docking result of 5,7-dimethoxy-3',4'-methylenedioxyflavanone with TUBULIN-COLCHICINE enzyme [PDB:1SAO] for anthelmintic activity. The colors indicate the residue. Interactions with the protein are marked with lines between ligand and protein residues.

In-vivostudies:

The shade dried leaves of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* were pulverized into coarse particles and extracted with absolute ethanol and distilled water using soxhlet extractor for 72 hrs and extract with absolute ethanol by cold maceration for 72 hrs. Both the aqueous and ethanol extracts were concentrated in rotary evaporator at temperature less than 45°C and preserved in desiccator for further use. The yield of ethanol extract and aqueous extract were 49.6% and 46.08%, respectively. The preliminary phytochemical analysis was carried out to find phytoconstituents present in crude extract. Indian earthworm *Pheretima posthuma* were collected, the average size of earthworm being 6-8 cm. They were washed with tap water to remove adhering dirt and soil particles.

Briefly, 10 ml formulations containing three different concentrations, each of crude alcoholic extract of leaf [5, 10, 15 ml] were prepared and six earthworms were placed in it. Both the test solution and standard drug solution were freshly prepared and time for paralysis was noted when no movement of any sort could be observed except when the worms were vigorously shaken. The time of death of worms was recorded after ascertaining that the worms neither moved when shaken vigorously nor when dipped in warm water at 50°C. A maximum time period of 120 mins was ascertained for the paralyzing as well as death time of *Pheretima posthuma* worms. Albendazole was used as reference standard with distilled water as the vehicle control.

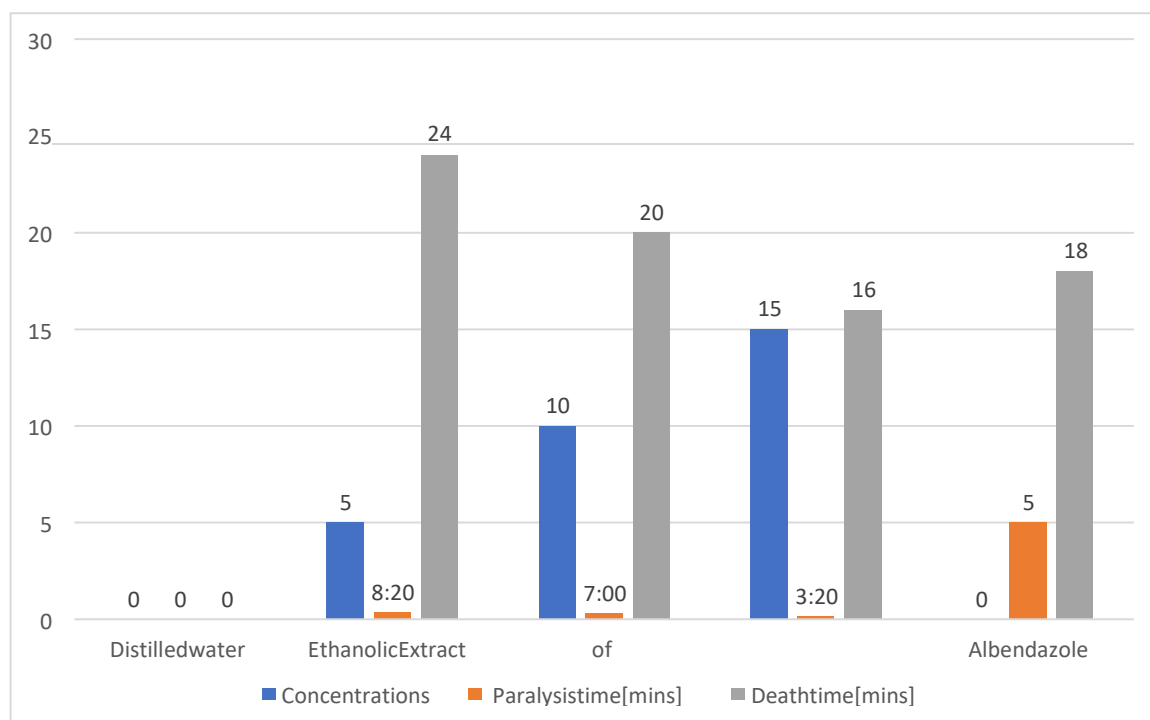
From the observations made, a dose-dependent paralytic effect was observed much earlier and the time of death was observed in Table 5. Although ethanol extract appeared to be more effective for worms. Evaluation of anthelmintic activity was compared with standard Albendazole. The ethanol extract of leaf of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* caused paralysis at 08.20 mins and time of death at 24 mins for *Pheretima posthuma* and standard drug Albendazole showed 25.00 and 40 mins, respectively.

The anthelmintic activity of ethanol extract of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* leaf on Indian Earthworm *Pheretima posthuma* was indicated in Table 5 as follows

Groups	Concentrations [mg/ml]	Pheretima Posthuma	
		Paralyzing time [mins]	Death time [mins]
Distilled Water	NA	NA	NA
Ethanol extract of <i>C. pulcherrima</i> leaf	5	8:20 mins	24 mins
	10	7:00 mins	20 mins
	15	3:20 mins	16 mins
Albendazole	10 mg	5 mins	18 mins

Table 3: Anthelmintic activity of ethanol extract of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* leaf

The anthelmintic Activity of Ethanolic Extract of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* leaf on Indian Earth worm *Pheretima posthumaw* was indicated in graph-1 as follows



Graph:1 Anthelmintic activity of ethanolic extract of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* leaf on Indian Earth worm *Pheretima Posthuma*



Anthelmintic action of drug on different concentrations

Discussion:

The Problem of anthelmintic activity resistance, toxicity and the increasing on cernover the presence of drug residues in animal product has led to are newal of interest in the use of plant based drugs. Plant material sevaluated in the current study has been identified from various sources to serve as an the lmintic agent by traditional healers of. The invivo test using free living stages of parasitic nematodes offer a means of evaluating the anthelmintic activity of new plant compounds [63]. In vitrotechniques are preferred to in vivo methods due to their low cost, simplicity, and rapid turnover [64]. Plant-derived natural products have gained attention as a potential source of new therapeutic agents. The medicinal properties of plant shave been investigated due to their potent pharmacological activities, low toxicity, and economic viability. Moreover, most of the clinical lyactive drugs are from natural products which indicate the importance of drugs having natural sources in drug discovery process. So, it is essential to study the medicinal plants so that the discovery of active natural product singredient can be identified for healing diseases and then the identified active ingredients could besyn the sized in the laboratory [64]. Helminths infection is considered to be a significant problem in human and animals that leads to achronic and devastating disease which ultimately leads to death and also causes drug resistance to other diseases. To prevent infection of helminths, there is a need for studies focusing on natural products such as medicinal plants which give new bioactive compounds having no or fewer side effects, easily available to the peoples of developing countries and more importantly, they have the best compatibility with human physiology than conventional drugs

In the current study, assign if icant association was noted between graded concentrartions of the extract, the exposure test time interval and mortality of the earth worm.

Considerable experimental data from earth worm studies have shown that ethanolic extract of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* leaf exposure produces pronounced antihelmintic activity. This experimental model is an suitable one to evaluate the potential of new anthelmintic agents with an anthelmintic effect. Hence the focus of the present work was to evaluate the effect and possible mechanism.

In the present study, showed 100% efficacy of the plant extract of leaves of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* against the earth worms at the concentration of 15mg/ml which was the highest efficacy value and was comparable with the standard antihelmintic, Albendazole. Administration of ethanolic extract of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* had significantly shown its antihelmintic activity in a dose-dependent manner. The whole plant of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* is documented to possess medicinal properties antitumour (Cheetal., 1986, Pateletal., 1997) and antimicrobial properties (Ragasaetal., 2002). Some differences on the percentage yield of these extract materials among the plants might be due to the difference on the nature of plant species, chemical composition differences of the extracts, different environmental conditions which create differences in phytochemical constitution, and harvest time. Further more, the solvents and test protocols used during extraction promote difference in concentrations and classes of secondary bio actives present in extract.

Our current study concludes that EECPL has been found to possess significant anthelmintic potential in a dose-dependent manner. This activity may be due to the presence of bioactive phytoconstituents such as alkaloids, tannins, flavonoids and saponins and also a considerable amount of condensed tannins. Some of these phytoconstituents such as alkaloids, tannins, phenols etc. may be responsible for the significant antihelmintic activity. Here, alkaloid can produce paralysis by acting on the central nervous system (CNS) where as tannins and polyphenols selectively bind to free proteins present in the GI tract (gastrointestinal tract) and eventually cause mortality. On the other hand, the antihelmintic efficacy of saponins is due to its membrane permeabilising property. The anthelmintic activity of the EECPL may be due to a single compound or combined effect of these phyto chemicals.

Administration of 5ml concentration of ethanolic extract of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* leaf had paralysis time of 8:20 mins and death time was 24mins. Administration of 10ml concentrations of ethanolic extract of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* leaf had paralysis time of 7:00mins and death time was 20mins. Administration of 5ml concentration of ethanolic extract of *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* leaf had paralysis time of 3:20mins and death time was 16mins.

All the concentrations are compared with standard Albendazole drug 10mg, where the paralysis time was 5 mins and death time was 18mins.

As far as traditional approach is considered "one drug, one target" theory of drug design is used, in contradictory network pharmacology which aims to explore the correlation of drugs and diseases, based on the multi-targeted therapy. Docking study was carried out to find the affinity as well as orientation of the selected active component by docking the against the selected receptors.

We have also evaluated the molecular docking of some compounds to demonstrate the collaboration between compounds and protein at the molecular level, which enables us to portray the conduct of molecule of those compounds in the coupling site of targeted proteins and to illustrate the biochemical process of the anthelmintic activity. From the result (as shown in Table 4), it is concluded that -7.37 kcal/mol showed the significant docking scores. From the result of docking study, it is clear that these compounds especially *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* leaves extract can be a good candidate for new antihelmintic agent.

4. Conclusion

From the present investigation, the preliminary phytochemical estimation done shown the presence of alkaloids, phenols, Glycosides, Flavonoids, tannins. EECPL exhibited a dose-dependent and statistically significant anthelmintic activity on Indian earthworm. The best concentration of MEPSS for anthelmintic activity compare with reference standard albendazole (10mg/mL). On the other hand, our molecular docking study shows that has the best fitness score of -7.37 kcal/mol with TUBULIN-COLCHICINE enzyme with the chemical constituents in the leaf.

Results of the present study confirmed potential antihelmintic activity of *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* leaf extract and all compounds were found to be effective in computer aided drug design models.

From above discussion we can assume that this plant can play a prominent role for anthelmintic activity. We can suggest *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima* for further research to amend the activity of an antihelmintic for better effect.

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