



# FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF HERBAL SUNSCREEN CREAM

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## ABSTRACT

*In recent years, the demand for herbal cosmetics has increased due to growing concerns about the side effects of synthetic products. This project aims to formulate and evaluate a herbal sunscreen using natural, skin-friendly ingredients with photo protective and antioxidant properties. The key herbal and natural ingredients selected for this formulation include Aloe vera (skin soothing and hydrating), Butterfly pea flower extract (rich in antioxidants and anthocyanins), Coconut oil (natural moisturizer and UV barrier), Rose water (cooling and anti-inflammatory), and Vitamin E capsules (powerful antioxidant that protects skin from UV-induced damage).*

*The formulation was prepared in the form of an oil-in-water (O/W) emulsion, ensuring proper blending of the aqueous and oil phases. The prepared herbal sunscreen was evaluated for various parameters including physical appearance, pH, spreadability, washability, and stability at different storage conditions. The Sun Protection Factor (SPF) was assessed using in vitro UV spectro photo metric analysis following the Mansur method. The product also underwent skin irritation testing and microbial load analysis to ensure safety and quality.*

*The results showed that the herbal sunscreen had an aesthetically acceptable appearance, good stability, adequate SPF value, and was safe for topical application. Thus, the study concludes that a combination of herbal and natural ingredients effectively provide sun protection and be a safe alternative to synthetic sunscreens.*

**KEYWORD:** Herbs, Herbal Sunscreen Cream

## INTRODUCTION

Herbal sunscreen also known as herbal sunblock. Herbal sun lotion, spray or other topical product that helps protect the skin from the sun's UV radiation and which reduce sunburn and other skin damage. Sunscreen can be classified into two types: sunscreen. Physical sunscreen: Those that reflect the sunlight.

### 1) Chemical sunscreen

Those that absorb the UV light. Sunscreen agents are for external use only. The use of sunscreen as photoprotective agents for UV protection. The sunscreen formulation is which when applied topically protect the treated area from sunburn. Sunscreen depends on ability to protect against UV-induced sunburn and their chemopreventive activity. Excessive solar ultraviolet radiation is responsible for various skin damage such as sunburn, skin pigmentation, premature aging and photo carcinogenesis. The main mechanism of skin damage by UV radiations is formation of Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) that interact with proteins, lipids and subsequently alter them. UVB and to a lesser extent UVA are responsible for inducing skin damages.

Sunscreen should contain an antioxidant agent in addition to sunblock agent to be effective in prevention of photoaging and skin cancer. Plants due to their antioxidant potential are known as attractive option to be used in sunscreen formulation for prevention of skin damage due to solar radiation. Sunscreen is topical product that protects the skin against harmful effects of the sun.

### Classification of sunscreen and their mechanism of photo protection

Sunscreen are classified as either topical or systemic based on their route of administration. Topical sunscreen are divided into two classes on their mechanism of protection

#### Organic Sunscreen Inorganic Sunscreen

##### Organic Sunscreen

Organic sunscreen works by absorbing into skin and converting UV rays into heat. It is thin and ideal for everyday use. Allow for skincare ingredients to be added easily. Organic sunscreen contains chemical carbon-based compounds. It contains non-mineral active ingredients.

##### Inorganic sunscreen



These are particles that scatter and reflect UV rays back to the environment; they act as a physical barrier to prevent ultraviolet and UV light. They are considered broad spectrum as they cover the entire ultraviolet spectrum. The inorganic sunscreens are also referred to as sunblock.

### **Mechanism of photoprotection**

Sunscreens act by preventing and minimizing the damaging effects of the ultraviolet sun rays following exposure to the sunscreen. It has been demonstrated to increase the tolerance of the skin to UV exposure. They work on two mechanisms: Scattering and reflection of UV energy from the skin surface. Mineral-based inorganic sunscreen works on this mechanism; they provide a coating that blocks sun rays from penetrating through the skin. Absorption of the UV energy by converting it to heat energy thus reducing its harmful effect and reduces the depth which can penetrate the skin. Organic sunscreen works on this mechanism.

### **1: Understanding Herbal Sunscreen**

Sun protection has become a vital part of modern skincare due to the increasing awareness about the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Prolonged exposure to the sun's UV rays can lead to various skin problems such as sunburn, premature aging, hyperpigmentation, and even skin cancer. Sunscreen is a topical product formulated to protect the skin by absorbing or reflecting harmful UV rays. However, most commercially available sunscreens are made using synthetic chemicals that may cause irritation, allergies, or environmental concerns.

In response to these concerns, the demand for herbal or natural sunscreens has significantly increased. Herbal sunscreens, also known as natural or plant-based sunblocks, are formulated using ingredients derived from plants that possess natural UV protective, antioxidant, and healing properties. These formulations not only provide sun protection but also nourish and improve the overall health of the skin.

Herbal ingredients like Aloe Vera, Butterfly Pea Flower, Coconut Oil, Rose Water, and Vitamin E are commonly used in such products. The natural ingredients have minimal side effects, are biodegradable, and offer therapeutic benefits beyond sun protection. Formulating and evaluating such herbal sunscreens not only promotes natural skincare solutions but also opens doors to eco-friendly and sustainable cosmetic innovations.

### **2: Importance of Herbal Sunscreens**

Herbal sunscreens are typically designed to block or absorb harmful UVA and UVB rays. They also reduce the risk of oxidative stress by offering

#### ***sunscreens, Herbal Sunscreen Shaves several Advantages***

1. **Safety** : Natural ingredients are gentle on the skin and suitable for sensitive skin types.
2. **Minimal Side Effects** : Unlike synthetic ingredients, herbs are less likely to cause irritation, redness, or allergic reactions.
3. **Environmentally Friendly** : Herbal ingredients decompose easily and do not harm marine ecosystems, unlike some synthetic sunscreens.
4. **Additional Skin Benefits** : Many herbal ingredients have anti-aging, moisturizing, anti-inflammatory, and soothing properties.

Each ingredient used in the formulation offers a unique contribution:

- Aloe Vera soothes and moisturizes the skin.
- Butterfly Pea Flower is rich in flavonoids and antioxidants.
- Coconut Oil provides nourishment and hydration.
- Rose Water refreshes and tones the skin.
- Vitamin E helps in healing and offers protection against free radicals.

The increasing shift toward green cosmetics and the rise of Ayurvedic and herbal beauty industries have made such products more acceptable and desirable. By formulating a herbal sunscreen, we combine traditional knowledge with modern scientific methods to create a product that is both effective and eco-conscious.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

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→Shows coconut oil's moisturizing and protective effects on skin.

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5. Aloe Vera (Aloe barbadensis miller)  
 Aloe vera is known for its hydrating, healing, and cooling properties. It contains compounds like aloin and aloes in which exhibit UV- absorbing properties. It also promotes skin repair after sunburn and improves skin texture (Sanchez et al., 2008).
6. Butterfly Pea Flower (Clitoria ternatea)  
 Rich in anthocyanins and flavonoids, Butterfly Pea Flower has strong antioxidant activity, which helps in neutralizing free radicals generated by UV exposure. It also improves skin firmness and reduces inflammation (Ratanavalachai et al., 2009).
7. Coconut Oil (Cocos nucifera)  
 Coconut oil acts as a natural moisturizer and barrier, providing mild UV protection. It also contains lauric acid and capric acid which possess antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties (Fox et al., 2010).
8. Rose Water (Rosadamasцена)  
 Rose water soothes irritated skin and has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant actions. It balances skin pH and provides a refreshing effect in sun care formulations (Mahboubi, 2016).
9. Vitamin E (Tocopherol)  
 Vitamin E is a potent lipid-soluble antioxidant. In the prevention of UV- induced oxidative damage, it improves skin elasticity.

### Aim

To formulate and evaluate a herbal sunscreen using natural ingredients.

### Objectives

1. To collect and authenticate herbal ingredients (Aloe Vera, Butterfly Pea Flower, etc.) used in the sunscreen formulation.
2. To prepare a table herbal sunscreen formulation using natural extracts and oils.
3. To evaluate the physicochemical properties of the prepared formulation (such as pH, consistency, spreadability, etc.).
4. To assess the sun protection factor (SPF) of the herbal sunscreen using appropriate in vitro methods.
5. To compare the effectiveness of the herbal sunscreen with commercial sunscreen formulations.
6. To study the stability of the formulation under different environmental conditions.

### Plan of Work

#### 1. Literature Survey

\*Collect information on herbal ingredients used in sunscreens.

\*Study previous research and standard formulations.

#### 2. Procurement and Authentication of Raw Materials:

\*Collect Aloe Vera, Butterfly Pea Flower, Coconut Oil, Rose Water, and Vitamin E.

\*Authenticate the plant materials and ensure purity of oil and extracts.

#### 3. Preparation of Extracts:

\*Prepare or obtain suitable extracts of Aloe Vera and Butterfly

\*Pea Flower using standard methods (e.g., drying, grinding, solvent extraction).

#### 4. Formulation of Herbal Sunscreen:

\*Combine all ingredients in appropriate ratios.

\*Use standard emulsification and mixing technique to prepare the formulation.

#### 5. Evaluation of Formulation: Check pH, spreadability, viscosity, appearance, and homogeneity.

## HERBS PROFILE

Main role of ingredients used in formulation

#### \* Aloe vera

Aloe vera is a good active ingredient to reach in Sunscreen arsenal. It has been proven to both treat and prevent burn on your skin. The leaves of aloe vera and A. Barbadensis are the source of aloe vera gel. Aloe vera gel is used in cosmetics lotion for its moisturizing and revitalization. It blocks UVA and UVB rays and maintains skin's natural moisture balance. It stops the sunburn and stimulates immune system intervention. Aloe vera gel can be used to help with the healing process of sunburn. It helps relieve pain and redness by reducing inflammation. The gel also stimulates the production of collagen which helps the healing process.



***Butterfly Pea Flower***  
**Packed With Antioxidant**

Butterfly pea flower contain many antioxidant such as flavonoids anthocyanin and polyphenols.your skin needantioxidant to improvegeneral health andelasticity.antioxidant help to minimize fine line and improve your skin and appearance.

***Soothes Minor Skin Irritation***

Flower it help edcalmitch ingandgenera lirritation. The flower used for use in rejuvenating



***Reduce Redness***

Because of butterfly pea flowers ability to soothe irritated skin,it also minimize redness caused by acne.dryness,and general irritation. these nourishing properties are further enhanced when combined with other nutrients that benefit skin health.

***Improve Moisture Etention***

This helps increasesturnover to naturally restore itself .moisture retentionhelpsstop dryness andpromote lipid balance.

***Improve the skin barrier***

Because butterfly pea flower containplant based antioxidants and antioxidants vitamin such as vitamins ,it help imroveskinbarrier

***Suitable for all skin type***

Butterfly pea flower is a hidden skinnocarer ockstar.It is gentle enough for use onall skin types, matter what time of year it is.

***Coconut oil***

Coconut oil keeps the skin soft and smooth while preventing premature ageing ofthe skin . coconut oil for skin use as a moisturizer ,remove dead skin cells.coconut oil moisturizing dry skin including in people with condition such as eczema.promoting wound healing it have antibacterial ,antifungal and antiviral properties which prevents free radical sfromcausingdamageto the skin .coconutoil has anti-inflammatory properties which reduce redneesonskin thiscanbe helpful for both dry and oily skin conditions by reducing inflammation of the skin.



### ***Rosewater***

Rosewater contains vitamin B, which is often used in sunscreen and sun products. It helps bolster the effectiveness of SPF. Rose water can be used to lighten skin pigmentation. Rose water can remove oils and dirt from your skin by unclogging your pores. It helps maintain the pH level of your skin. It is a hydrating and nourishing agent for skin and protects skin against harmful environmental aggressors. Gulabjal has antioxidant levels that tackle free radicals and keep skin healthy and glowing.



### ***Vitamin E Capsule***

Vitamin E provides extra protection against acute UVB damage and protects against cell mutation caused by sun and pollution exposure. Vitamin E helps cleanse your skin and remove impurities from it and help improve skin elasticity. Vitamin E combination with lemon juice helps to whiten the skin. It is most commonly known for its benefits of skin health and appearance. It has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.



### **Formulation of sunscreen cream Formulation of butterfly pea flower extract:**

To make an extract of butterfly pea flower for her balsunscreen, steep about a dozen fresh or dried flower leaves in a cup of boiling water. After about 15 minutes, strain the liquid and discard the leaves. The deep blue water is the ready-to-be used in sunscreen cream.

### ***Butterfly Pea Flower Contain***

Soluble minerals	8.94mg
Ash.	0.9mg
Crude protein.	41.27mg
Soluble carbohydrates.	29.18mg

### ***Formulation of sunscreen cream was prepared by following procedure***

I have taken butterfly pea flower extract. Then I have taken aloe vera gel because it has proven to both treat and prevent sunburn on skin. The





nadded rose water in mixture rose water provide cooling effect. then gradually add coconut oil and vitamin E. all the ingredients were mixed vigorously using spatula for about 20-30 min and placed.

#### List of ingredients used in formulation

Aloe vera.	5 gm
Rose water.	2 ml
Butterfly pea flower Extract.	4 gm
vitamin E.	2 gm
coconut oil.	2 ml

#### Final Product



#### Evaluation of sunscreen cream for sun screening activity Effectiveness of sunscreen:

The effectiveness of sunscreen is usually expressed by sunscreen protection factor (SPF), which is the ratio of UV energy required to produce a minimal erythema dose in protected skin to unprotected skin. A simple, rapid and reliable in vitro method of calculating the SPF is to measure the absorbance of the product between 290-320 nm at every 5 nm intervals. SPF can be calculated by applying the following formula known as Mansur equation.

- **SPFs** spectrophotometric =  $CF \times EE(\text{wavelength}) \times I(\text{wavelength}) \times \text{Abs}(\text{wavelength})$   
Where CF = correction factor (10), EE = erythemogenic effect of radiation with wavelength, Abs = spectrophotometric absorbance values at wavelength. The value of  $EE \times I$  is constant.
- **PH of the cream**  
The pH meter was calibrated using standard buffer solution. About 0.5 g of the cream was weighed and dissolved in 50.0 ml of distilled water and its pH was measured.
- **Homogeneity**  
The formulations were tested for homogeneity by visual appearance and by touch. Appearance: The appearance of cream was judged by its colour, pearl sheen and roughness and graded.
- **Removal**  
The ease of removal of the cream applied was examined by washing the applied part with tap water.
- **Irritancy test:**  
The cream was applied to the specified area and time was noted. Irritancy, erythema, edema, was checked daily for regular intervals up to 24 hours and reported.
- **After feel**  
Emolliency, slipperiness and amount of residue left after the application of fixed amount of cream was checked.
- **Type of smear**  
After application of cream, the type of film or smear formed on the skin was checked.



### Types of skin and SPF

Types.	Description	SPF.	Character
1	Always burn easily. And never tans	More than 8.	Sensitive
2	Always burn and tan. Minimally	6-7.	Sensitive
3	Burn moderator and. Tan gradually	4-5	Normal
4	Burn minimal and. Always tan well	2-3	Normal
5	Barely burn and tan. Profusely	2	Insensitive
6	Never burn and. Become deeply Pigmented	None	Insensitive

### Observations

Sr.No.	Parameters	Observation
1	Colour	Dark white
2	Odour	Characteristics
3	Spreadability	Good and uniform
4	PH	6.5
5	Test for Irritancy	No. irritation reaction

### Benefits of sunscreen

- Reduces risk of skin cancer
- Protects against sunburn
- Avoids inflammation and redness
- Avoids blotchy skin and hyperpigmentation
- Stops DNA damage
- Prevents the early onset of wrinkles and fine lines
- Lowers skin cancer risk
- Shields from harmful UV rays
- Maintains the brightness of your natural complexion
- Maintains the look and texture of your skin
- Delays premature signs of aging
- Reflects UVA and UVB rays
- Works immediately when applied on the skin.

### Advantages

- Easily available
- No side effects
- No special equipment needed for preparation
- They are inexpensive
- Ingredients are easily available
- Renewable resources
- Benign to skin and non-irritant
- Benign to the environment
- Best for heat
- Easy to manufacture

### Disadvantages

- They are difficult to hide taste and odour
- Manufacturing process is time-consuming and complicated
- Herbal drugs have slow effects as compared to allopathic drugs for which long term therapy is required.

### Result

To be effective in preventing sunburn and other skin damage, a sunscreen product should have a wide range of absorbance during the



storage and handling of cosmetic formulation spreadability and viscosity are the prime parameter which affects the formulation acceptability .the formulated cream exhibited no redness, inflammation andirritation.when formulation were kept forlongtime,itfoundthat nochangeincolourofcream.The cream was easily removed by washing withtap water .

## CONCLUSION

The studyattempte dtodevelo pherbalsunscreen creamusingextract ofbutterflypea flower and examined their efficacy for preventing sun burn .

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