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## Pharmacological potential of wood inhabiting fungi of genus *Phellinus* Quél.: An overview

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### Abstract

Mushrooms have been in use as human diet and folk medicine against several diseases since antiquity. These properties are credited to the diverse bioactive compounds present in these mushrooms. *Phellinus* Quél. (*Hymenochaetaceae*) is amongst the medicinally important mushrooms and is cosmopolitan in distribution. Species under this genus are wood inhabiting causing white rot in various angiosperms and gymnosperms. However, hymenophores and/or mycelial biomass of many *Phellinus* species are of therapeutic significance. These are used as folk medicine for the management of different disorders since ages and need scientific evaluation. The information regarding the bioactivities and mycochemical components has been collected from Medline, PubMed, Science Direct and Scopus. The present review accentuates the pharmacological potential of *Phellinus* that is attributed to an array of bioactive constituents reported from different species this genus. The information provided in this review may prove beneficial to evaluate *Phellinus* species scientifically and extend their folk medicinal use to drug preparation for clinical use in future.

**Keywords:** Bioactive constituents, Bioactivities, *Phellinus*

### Introduction

Synthetic drugs are costly and various side effects and are not safe for use during gestation period. As an alternative to synthetic drugs, medicines prepared from natural sources are in great demand these days. Medicines procured from mushrooms are widely used against several disorders throughout the world. Of these medicinal mushrooms, *Phellinus* species are an incredible drug source. Species belonging to this genus are wood inhabitants and cause white rot in a wide variety of angiosperms as well as gymnosperms responsible for great economic losses to forest flora<sup>[1-4]</sup>. However, several species of *Phellinus* are used traditionally for the treatment of different diseases across the world. These health boosting properties are due to various bioactivities of these species such as antioxidant, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antiallergic, hepatoprotective etc. The pharmacological significance is credited to bioactive constituents like polysaccharides, phenols, flavonoids etc. Based on current knowledge, the present review highlights the pharmacological significance of medicinally important *Phellinus* species and will prove a useful guide for future research on these mushrooms.

### Methodology

Literature pertaining to the bioactivities and bioactive constituents of *Phellinus* was assessed by searching the electronic databases like Google Scholar PubMed, Science Direct and Scopus. All English-language articles published regarding *Phellinus* species up to 2018. The subject related references given in the relevant articles were also considered to include all reports and reviews.

### Taxonomy

*Phellinus* Quél. (Family: *Hymenochaetaceae*) is characterized by resupinate to pileate, annual to perennial, single or imbricate hymenophores with a wide color range from yellowish to rusty brown to grey to black. Abhymenium may be tomentose to glabrous to scurpouse to crustose to rimose. Hymenium is brown with round to angular to daedaloid pores (Fig. 1). Microscopically, it is identified by dimitic hyphal system with simple septate, branched, thin-to thick-walled, subhyaline to pale yellow generative hyphae and aseptate, thick-walled, occasionally branched, golden yellow to golden brown skeletal hyphae. Setae/setal hyphae may be present or absent. Basidia are four spored and spores are broadly ellipsoid to subglobose to globose with smooth, thin-to-thick-wall, hyaline to golden yellow to golden brown, dextrinoid to inamyloid, weakly cyanophilous to acyanophilous basidiospores (Fig. 2).

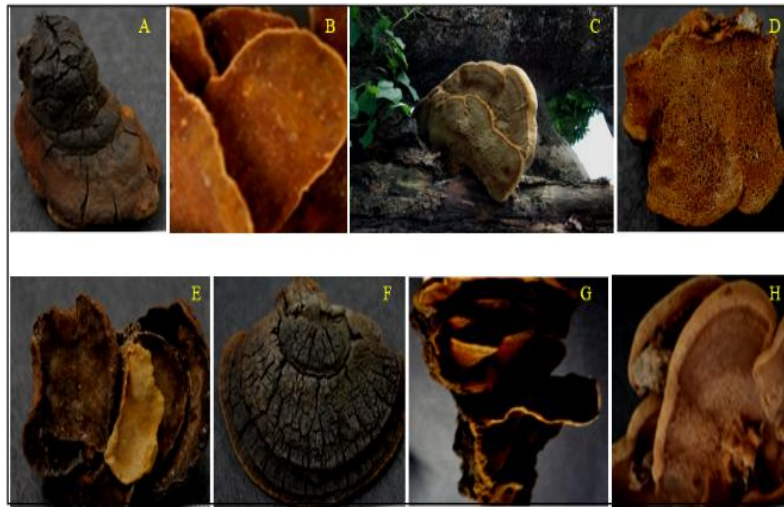
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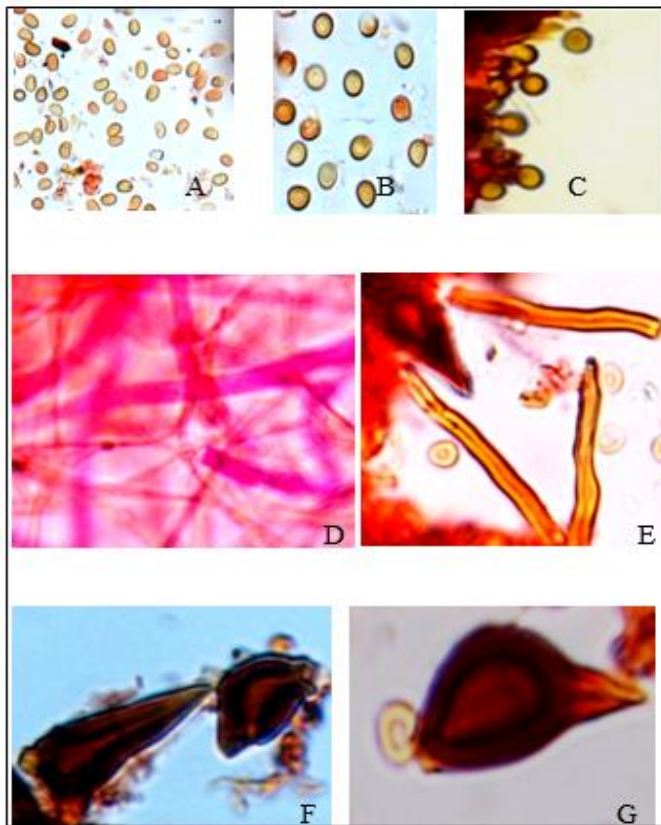
### Distribution

There are 180 taxa listed under genus *Phellinus* all over the world [5]. Mycobank data numbered 361 taxa of this genus strewn to different ecogeographic zones [6]. Indian

mycologists reported 97 *Phellinus* species scattered to a wide range of altitudes and latitudes [7-9]. This genus has been mainly described from Himalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Bhutan, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra.



**Fig 1:** Hymenophores of some *Phellinus* species: A. *P. badius*; B. *P. gilvus*; C. *P. pachyphloeus*; D. *P. pini*; E. *P. pullus*; F. *P. rimosus*; G. *P. sanfordii*; H. *P. torulosus*



**Fig 2:** Microscopic structures of *Phellinus* species: A–C (type of spores); D–E (type of hyphae); F–G (Setae)

### Traditional uses

Ancient medicinal literature documented the use of *Phellinus* species as folk medicine against various ailments [10]. In Chinese medical books, viz. the world's earliest pharmacopoeia issued by the Tang government “New Compendium of Materia Medica” [11], and “Chinese Compendium of Materia Medica” of Shi-Zhen Li in the Ming Dynasty [12]. Literature reports mentioned traditional medicinal uses of many *Phellinus* species such as *P. rimosus*, *P. conchatus*, *P. baumii*, *P. igniarius*, *P. nigricans* and *P.*

*senex* [13-15]. In India, *Phellinus rimosus* has been used against mumps in Kerala [16].

### Pharmacological activities

An array of bioactivities has been credited to *Phellinus* species [17-18]. Scientific examinations have shown that *Phellinus* species demonstrate pharmacological activities such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, anticancer etc. in various *in-vitro* and *in vivo* experimental models [19]. Their health benefits are due to various bioactivities such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, anticancer etc.

### Antioxidant

Excessive production of ROS distorts cell structure and deteriorates biomolecules [20] leading to degenerative disorders. To prevent this oxidative destruction elimination of ROS is necessary. *Phellinus* mushrooms exhibit significant antioxidant potency and provide protection against ROS damage [21-24]. *Phellinus linteus*, *P. igniarius* and *P. durissimus* showed significant DPPH scavenging, prevent lipid peroxidation, inhibited thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) formation and possessed considerable reducing power [25-28]. This can be attributed to various antioxidant compounds such as caffeic acid, davalliallactone, ellagic acid, hispidin, hypholomine B, inoscavin A, interfungins A, methyldavallialactone, protocatechualdehyde and protocatechuic acid isolated from these mushrooms [29-30].

### Antidiabetic

*Phellinus* mushrooms possess good antidiabetogenic properties. *P. baumii* exopolysaccharides showed antidiabetic effect by decreasing glucose, triglyceride level and enhancing glucose disposal, food efficiency, insulin sensitivity as well as activating the peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR- $\gamma$ ) [31]. The compounds such as hispidin, phelligridimer A, davallialactone, methyldavallialactone, hypholomine B, interfungins A, inoscavin A along with protocatechuic acid, protocatechualdehyde, caffeic acid and ellagic acid extracted from *P. linteus* showed antidiabetic potential by inhibiting aldose reductase activity [32]. *P.*

*merrillii* extract inhibited  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and aldose reductase activities contributed by hispidin, hispolon and inotilone [33]. *P. badius* extract lowered glucose, triglycerides, cholesterol, activity of aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) along with the increase in food intake, body weight in alloxan induced diabetic rats [34].

### Hepatoprotective

Several investigations proved *Phellinus* species as hepatoprotective and antihepatotoxic agents [35–38]. Serum alanine aminotransferase (s-GOT) and serum aspartate aminotransferase (s-GPT) levels, ballooning degeneration, necrosis and portal triaditis [39] were lowered with pretreatment of *P. merrillii* (0.5, 1 and 2 g/kg b.wt.) extract. *P. gilvus* extract healed CCl<sub>4</sub>-induced liver injury in rats by declining the levels of alanine aminotransferase, aspartate aminotransferase, alkaline phosphatase, malondialdehyde and enhancing antioxidants (superoxide dismutase, catalase, and glutathione peroxidase) in serum. Pretreatment of *P. gilvus* resulted in the loss of hepatocytes, fatty changes, swelling and extensive necrosis of hepatocytes in centrilobular regions of the CCl<sub>4</sub>-treated rats [40]. The compound, Phellinulin A isolated from *P. linteus* significantly inhibited hepatic fibrosis in rat hepatic stellate cells [41].

### Anticancer

As per literature reports, *Phellinus* mushrooms possess antitumor potential [42–45]. Phelligridins C–F extracted from *P. igniarius* prevented cytotoxicity [46]. Polysaccharides of *P. gilvus* provide protection against the neoplastic effects of benzo (a) pyrene (BaP) by rapid down-regulation of mutant *p53* mRNA expression [47]. *P. linteus* and anticancer drug doxorubicin (0.5 mg/mL + 1.0  $\mu$ g/mL) showed synergistic impact to induce apoptosis [48]. *Phellinus linteus* extract exerted antitumor effect against MFC7, NCI-H187 cancer cells [49] and K562 leukemia cells [50].

### Antimicrobial

A number of mushrooms inclusive of *Phellinus* are known to have antimicrobial activity [51]. *Phellinus rimosus* and *P. linteus* showed antimicrobial activity against an array of pathogenic bacterial strains [52–53]. *P. torulosus* inhibited proliferation of gram (+) and gram (-) bacteria, yeasts, filamentous fungi and actinomycetes [54]. The aqueous extract of *P. gilvus* inhibited growth of *Lactobacillus plantarum* ACC 14917, *Escherichia coli* ATCC25922 and *Klebsiella pneumonia* ATCC10031 [55]. A similar negative impact of *P. igniarius* extract was observed against gram (+) and gram (-) bacteria [56]. The solvent cocktail *P. hartigii* showed antibacterial activity against *Shigella flexneri* [57]. The aqueous, ethyl acetate and methanol extracts of *P. swieteniae* and *P. merrillii* inhibited proliferation of *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus mutans* and growth of five fungal strains *Penicillium* sp., *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *A. niger*, *A. flavus* and *Mucor indicus* [58–59]. Sesquiterpenes of *Phellinus* sp. viz. *P. fastuosus*, *P. merrillii*, *P. aureobruneus*, *P. crocatus*, *P. lloydii* and *P. sublindeus* showed inhibitory effect against twelve virulent strains of bacteria and fungi [60]. The inhibitory action on the growth of *Aleternaria alternate* was noticed with *P. gilvus*, *P. rimosus* and *P. badius* extracts [61]. *Phellinus swieteniae* showed antibacterial activity against sixteen strains of *Acinetobacter baumannii* and human pathogenic *Acinetobacter* [62]. Proliferation of oral bacteria *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Actinomyces viscosus*, *Streptococcus*

*salivarius*, *S. mutans* and *S. sanguis* grown in brain heart infusion (BHI) broth was inhibited with the application of *P. linteus* extract with minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) 1250–5000  $\mu$ g/mL and minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) 2500–5000  $\mu$ g/mL [63]. Antibacterial and antifungal effects of *P. igniarius* were also observed [64]. In addition to antimicrobial activity, antiviral activity was observed with methanol and chloroform extract of *P. linteus* against *Plasmodium falciparum* with IC<sub>50</sub> 3.15 and 3.08 g/mL respectively [49].

### Antiinflammatory Activity

*Phellinus linteus* exhibited a dose dependent inhibition of croton oil-induced mouse ear inflammation (edema) [65]. *P. linteus* extract in lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced RAW264.7 macrophages, lowered iNOS promoter activity and nitric oxide production [66]. *Phellinus baumii* polysaccharides evoked murine splenocyte proliferation and prevented nitric oxide production in RAW264.7 murine macrophages [67]. Antiinflammatory action of *P. linteus* extract in RAW264.7 macrophages inhibited inflammation markers by prohibiting inflammatory cytokines, chemokines mediators and also by elevating antioxidant activity [68].

### Immunomodulation

*Phellinus* mushrooms strengthened the immune system and this property can be attributed to their biochemical composition. *P. linteus* polysaccharides induced  $\beta$ -lymphocytes, elicited the number of plaque-forming cells, provoked the expression of splenocyte colony factor, Interleukin-3, granulocyte macrophage stimulating factor, thrombopoietin genes leading to the growth and proliferation of splenocytes and bone marrow cells [69–72]. *P. linteus* extract declined IgE generation that may be due to elevation in IFN- $\gamma$  production [73]. The proteoglycans of *P. nigricans* showed antitumor and immunomodulatory activities [74]. *P. linteus* extract inhibited ear swelling in BALB/c mice by enhancing the generation of interleukin-4 and IFN- $\gamma$  from anti-CD3-stimulated mouse splenocytes [75]. Enhancement of the production of Th1- and Th2- type cytokines in mice was seen with oral administration of *P. linteus* extract [76].

### Other Activities

*Phellinus linteus* proteoglycans proved beneficial in the treatment of collagen induced arthritis [77]. The compounds *Phellinus* furans A and B eluted from of *P. linteus* showed anticomplement capacity with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 33.6 and 33.7  $\mu$ M respectively in preventing the hemolytic activity of human serum against erythrocytes [78]. The compounds [2-Isobutyl-3-methyl furan-8.96-9.48; 2-Tert-butyl-4 (2,4,4-trimethyl pentan-2-yl) phenol-16.32-18.21; 3-Methyl-2-(2-methylallyl) furan-12.73-17.11; Tetradecan-1-ol-9.73-16.15; Bicycle[3.1.1]hept-2-ene-ecarbaldehyde-6.22-9.52; 3-Methyl-2-(2-methylbut-2-enyl) furan-18.68-8.67; 4-Methyl benzyl azide-24.07-30.97; 2,3-Epoxy-5,8-hexa decadien-1-ol-14.43-26.17 and 3-Methyl-2-(2-oxopropyl)] extracted from methanol extract of *P. adamantinus* exhibited various bioactivities such as antiviral, antibacterial, antineoplastic, antidiabetic and antiinflammatory [79]. At a dose of 200 mg/Kg b.wt. aqueous extract of *P. linteus* significantly decreased the synthesis of serotonin in brain and enhanced expression of monocarboxylate transporters (MCTs)1 and (MCTs)4 that in turn increased exercise endurance performance [80]. The benzofuran derivatives (ribisin A–D) extracted from the methanol extract of *P. ribis* at

concentrations 1–30  $\mu\text{M}$  resulted in neurite outgrowth in NGF-mediated PC12 cells [81]. The skin whitening effect of *P. baumii* was observed in B16/F10 melanoma cells due to the

Inhibition of tyrosinase [82]. Various reports regarding the pharmacological effects of different species of *Phellinus* are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Bioactivities reported for different species of *Phellinus*

<i>Phellinus</i> species	Part used	Extract/Fraction/ Compound	Bioactivity	Reference
<i>P. aureobrunneus</i>	Hymenophore	Sesquiterpenes	Antibacterial and antifungal	[60]
		Methanol extract	Antibacterial	[79]
<i>P. badius</i>	Hymenophore	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant	[102]
		Methanol extract	Antifungal and antioxidant	[61]
		Methanol extract	Antioxidant	[113]
	Hymenophore and mycelial biomass	Aqueous extract	Antidiabetic	[34]
<i>P. baumii</i>	Mycelium	Exopolysaccharides	Antidiabetic	[31]
		Exo- polysaccharides	Antidiabetic	[115]
	Hymenophore	Ethanol petroleum ether, chloroform, ethyl acetate, n-BuOH and ethanol-petroleum extract	Antioxidant	[102]
		Ethyl acetate extract	Antibacterial	[116]
		Aqueous, ethanol (50%, 80%, pure) and ethylacetate extract	Antioxidant	[86]
<i>P. contiguus</i>	Hymenophore	Sesquiterpenes	Antibacterial and antifungal	[60]
		Ethyl-acetate (soluble and insoluble) fractions and Methanol extract	Antioxidant	[26]
<i>P. crocatus</i>	Hymenophore	Sesquiterpenes	Antibacterial and antifungal	[60]
		Methanol extract	Antioxidant	[113]
<i>P. gilvus</i>	Hymenophore	Polysaccharides	Antitumour	[47]
		Aqueous extract	Antibacterial	[55]
		Polysaccharides	Hepatoprotective	[40]
		Aqueous, ethanol (50%, 80%, pure) and ethyl acetate extract	Antioxidant	[86]
		Ethanol extract	Antioxidant	[102]
		Methanol extract	Antioxidant and antifungal	[61]
	Mycelium	Polysaccharides	Antitumour	[103]
<i>P. hartigii</i>	Hymenophore	A solvent cocktail, dH <sub>2</sub> O:ethylalcohol:methyl alcohol: acetone: CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (1:2.5:2.5:2:2)	Antibacterial	[57]
<i>P. hippophaecola</i>	Hymenophore	Aqueous, ethanol (50%, 80%, pure) and ethyl acetate extract	Antioxidant	[86]
<i>P. igniarius</i>	Hymenophore	Aqueous extract	Antibacterial	[56]
	Hymenophore	Phelligrudin A	Antioxidant	[107]
		Phelligrudin G	Antioxidant and cytotoxic	[109]
	Mycelium	Methanol extract and hot water extract	Antioxidant	[27]
	Hymenophore	Phelligrudin H and Phelligrudin I	Antioxidant	[25]
		Phelligrudin J	Cytotoxic	
		Aqueous, ethanol (50%, 80%, pure) and ethyl acetate extract	Antioxidant	[86]
	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant	[102]	
<i>P. linteus</i>	Mycelium	Exopolysaccharides	Antidiabetic	[117]
		Exopolymers		[118]
	Hymenophore	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant and antiangiogenic	[119]
		Methanol extract and its n-butanol fraction	Antibacterial	[53]
		n-butanol subfraction	Antiinflammatory	[65]
	Mycelium	Different solvent fractions	Antitumour	[120]
		Ethanol and Ethylacetate combined extract	Antioxidant	[24]
	Hymenophore	<i>Phellinusfuran</i> A and <i>Phellinusfuran</i> B	Antiinflammatory	[68]
	Mycelium	Chloroform, ethylacetate, methanol, water and boiled water extract	Anticomplement activity	[78]
			Antiallergic	[75]
		Hot water extract	Immunomodulatory activity	[71]
	Mycelium	Hispidin, 3,14'-bihispidinyl, hypholomine B and 1,1-distyrylpyrrolethan	Antioxidant	[110]
	Hymenophore	Phellifuropropanone A	Antiproliferative	[111]
		Ethanol extract	Antiallergic	[73]
		Nine different protein glycation inhibitors from ethylacetate fraction	Antidiabetic	[32]
10 different antioxidant compounds		Antioxidant	[36]	
<i>Phellinusfurans</i> A and B		Anticomplement activity	[78]	
Aqueous extract		Antioxidant	[122]	
Crude methanol, chloroform and ethyl acetate extracts		Antimalarial, antioxidant and cytotoxic	[49]	
Aqueous extract		CNS activity	[80]	
	Methanol and ethyl acetate extract	Antibacterial	[58]	

	Mycelium	Hispidin from mycelial culture	Antidiabetic and antioxidant	[123]
	Hymenophore	Ethanol extract	Anticancer	[50]
		Polysaccharides	Antitumour	[124]
		Polysaccharides	Antioxidant	[18]
	Hymenophore	Aqueous, ethanol (50%, 80%, pure) and ethylacetate extract	Antioxidant	[86]
	Hymenophore	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant	[102]
		Aqueous extract	Antibacterial	[63]
		Hispidin	Antioxidant	[30]
	Mycelium	Ethanol extract and Phellinulin A	Hepatoprotective	[41]
<i>P. lloydii</i>	Hymenophore	Sesquiterpenes	Antibacterial and antifungal	[60]
<i>P. merrillii</i>	Hymenophore	Ethanol extract	Antioxidant and hepatoprotective	[39]
		Methanol and ethyl acetate extract	Antibacterial	[58]
		Ethanol extract and compounds (Hispidin, hispolon and inotilone) isolated from ethylacetate soluble fraction of ethanol extract	Antidiabetic	[16]
		Sesquiterpenes	Antibacterial and antifungal	[60]
		Methanol extract	Antioxidant	[113]
		Ethyl acetate and methanol extract	Antibacterial	[62]
<i>P. pini</i>	Hymenophore	Exopolysaccharides (EP-AV1 and EP-AV2)	Antiviral against herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1)	[33]
		Aqueous, ethanol (50%, 80%, pure) and ethylacetate extract	Antioxidant	[86]
<i>P. rhubarbarinus</i>	Hymenophore	Triterpenoids	Antioxidant and antitumour	[126]
<i>P. ribis</i>	Hymenophore	Polychlorinated compounds (chlorophellins A-C) from methanol extract	Antidiabetic	[121]
		Ribisins A–D	Against alzheimer's disease	[81]
<i>P. rimosus</i>	Hymenophore	Methanol extract	Antioxidant and antiinflammatory	[88]
		Ethyl acetate extract	Antioxidant and hepatoprotective	[35]
		Methanol extract	Antibacterial	[52]
		Methanol extract	Antifungal and antioxidant	[61]
<i>P. sp.</i>		Crude extract	Antimicrobial	[114]
<i>P. sublinteus</i>	Hymenophore	Sesquiterpenes	Antibacterial and antifungal	[60]
		Methanol extract	Antioxidant	[113]
<i>P. swieteniae</i>	Hymenophore	Ethyl acetate and methanol extract	Antibacterial	[58]
		Chloroform, ethyl acetate and methanol extract		[62]
<i>P. torulosus</i>	Hymenophore	Acetone, chloroform, ethanol and ethyl acetate	Antimicrobial	[54]
		Aqueous, ethanol (50%, 80%, pure) and ethylacetate extract	Antioxidant	[86]
<i>P. tremulea</i> <i>P. trivalis</i> and <i>P. tuberosus</i>	Hymenophore	Aqueous, ethanol (50%, 80%, pure) and ethylacetate extract	Antioxidant	[86]

## Bioactive Constituents

### Vitamins

Vitamins are the organic compounds essential to an organism and are needed in limited amount. These have antidiabetic effect [83–85], free radical scavenging [86], work against retinopathy [87] and act as antioxidants [88]. *P. linteus* reported to have two isoforms of vitamin E:  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -tocopherol [28].

### Fatty acids

Fatty acids are important structural and functional components inside human body affecting various metabolic pathways. *Phellinus* mushrooms like other mushrooms are low in fat content. This fat mainly comprises of various saturated and unsaturated fatty acids. Fatty acids like palmitoleic acid, linoleic acid, oleic acid, hexadecanoic acid and stearic acid were reported in *Phellinus* species [89]. The fatty acids such as palmitic acid, linoleic acid, oleic acid and stearic acid were found in *P. linteus* [28].

### Some other pertinent metabolites

Phenols, flavonoids, alkaloids, sterols, triterpenes and anthraquinones were found in *Phellinus* mushrooms [90–91]. These mushrooms were found consisting of carbohydrates, proteins, fibers, minerals, vitamins as well as low quantities of

fats [92–93]. Tremulane sesquiterpenes obtained from *P. igniarius* play role in vasoconstriction [94–95]. In *P. noxious*, alkaloids, tannins, flavonoids, phenols, terpenoids and anthocyanins have been reported [96]. *Phellinus* mushrooms are rich in  $\beta$ -glucans [97–98]. However, hot water extract of *P. linteus* contained both  $\alpha$ -glucans and  $\beta$ -glucans [18]. Polysaccharides of *Phellinus* species play various therapeutic roles including alleviation of septic shock [99–100]. Various species of *Phellinus* like *P. badius* were screened for exopolysaccharides [101–102]. Polysaccharides mainly  $\beta$ -glucans and protein bound polysaccharides have been detected from *P. linteus* [103]. Yellow pigment compounds called styrylpyrones and their derivatives have been detected in *Phellinus* mushrooms (Fig. 3) [104–105]. These compounds showed various activities, antiinflammatory, antidiabetic, antiplatelet aggregation and some provided protection from septic shock. Phelligridins C and D were isolated from *P. linteus* and reported as meshimakobnols A and B, respectively [106]. Phelligridimer A and pinillidine were isolated from *P. igniarius* and *P. pini* respectively [107–108]. Two novel furan derivatives (*Phellinus*furans A and B) were isolated from *P. linteus* [77]. Phelligridins A–J were isolated from *P. igniarius* together with inoscavin A, hispolon, and 4-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-but-3-en-2-one [46, 109, 25]. Hispidin and its

dimers, 3, 14'-bihispidinyl, hypholomine B and 1, 1'-distyrylpyrylethan were detected in cultured broths of and *P. linteus* [110]. In addition, the hymenophore of *P. linteus* was also reported to produce phellifuropyranone A [111]. Phellinins

A1 and A2, new styrylpyrones were isolated from the culture broth of *Phellinus* sp. KACC93057P: II [112]. An antioxidant hispidin was extracted from the mycelial culture of *P. linteus* [125].

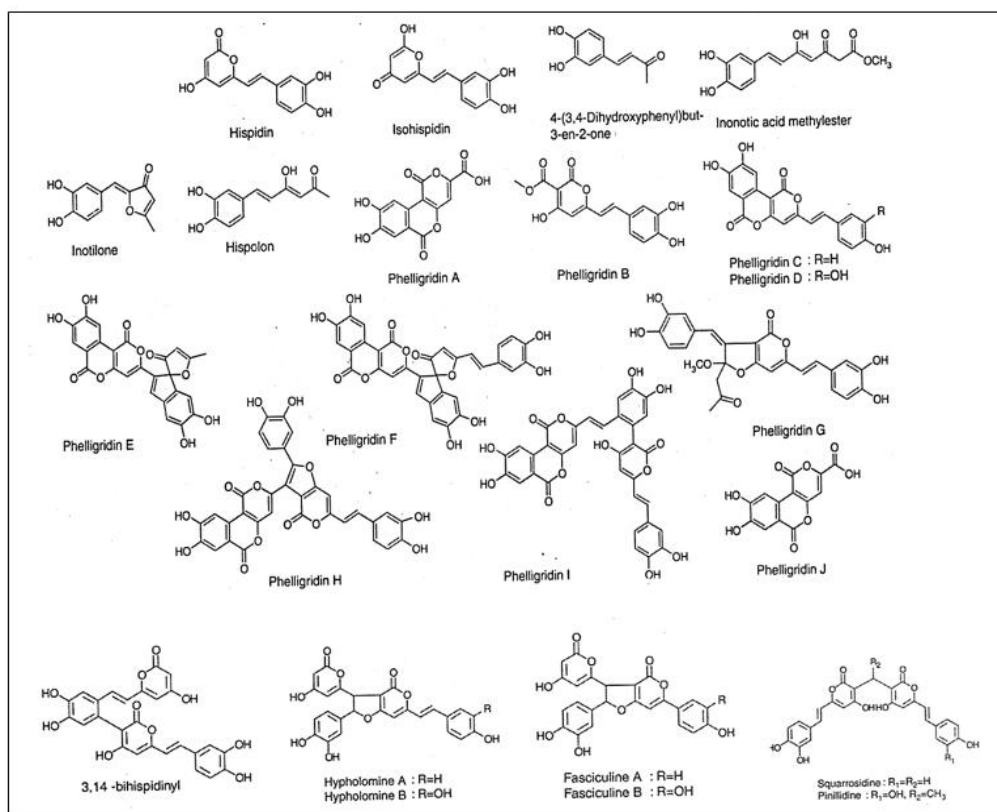


Fig 3: Structure of some important styrylpyrones isolated from *Phellinus* species

## Results and Discussion

This review highlights the great pharmacological potential of genus *Phellinus*. In addition to the antioxidant properties, species of this genus possess anticancer, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antifungal, antiviral and immunostimulatory activities. It is evident from the information assembled from different sources that the species of *Phellinus* possess tremendous pharmacological promise. The elution and characterization of bioactive compounds and systematic evaluation of bioactivities shall open a new door for management of several ailments with the aid of *Phellinus* mushrooms.

## Conclusion

This review summarizes studies reporting various bioactivities of *Phellinus* mushrooms which have been credited to the wide variety of secondary metabolites reported from them. The folk/traditional medicinal uses of *Phellinus* species need to be supported with scientific evidence of their activities as well as the isolation and characterization of constituents responsible for the activities of these mushrooms. This will lead to the discovery of new natural drugs against several human ailments.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflict of interest.

## Abbreviations

ALT–Alanine aminotransferase; AST–Aspartate aminotransferase; BH–Brain heart infusion; b.wt.–Body weight; CNS–Central nervous system; CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–Chloroform; dH<sub>2</sub>O–Distilled water; EP–Exopolysaccharide; HSV-1–Herpes simplex virus; IFN-γ–Interferon gamma; LPS–Lipopolysaccharide; n-BOH; iNOS–inducible nitric oxide synthase; Normal butanol; P–*Phellinus*; PPAR-γ–Peroxisome proliferator activated gamma; ROS–Reactive oxygen species; sGOT–Serum alanine aminotransferase; sGPT–Serum aspartate aminotransferase; sp.–Species written for unidentified taxon; NGF–Neurite growth factor; MBC–Minimum bactericidal concentration; MIC–Minimum inhibitory concentration; Th-1–Type 1 T helper; Th-2–Type 2 T helper.

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