



E-ISSN: 2278-4136

P-ISSN: 2349-8234

[www.phytojournal.com](http://www.phytojournal.com)

JPP 2022; 11(3): 245-257

Received: 04-05-2022

Accepted: 03-06-2022

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## Review: (*Allium cepa*) to study phytochemistry and health benefit

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**Abstract**

The herbal plants are used as a traditional medicine in Ayurveda. According to Ayurveda system plant contains many chemical constituents that can be used as a treatment for many diseases. In the present scenario, herbal medications have increased worldwide importance with both therapeutic and practical ramifications. It is the most cultivated herb over all the world. *Allium cepa* (onion) bulb is widely used as an edible and it is easily available in our kitchen and also used as a drug for health benefits. Traditionally it is used for the treatment of cold, cough, metabolic disorder, skin disease, insect bite, pneumonia, urinary system disorder, ear disorders, sexual disability, and also as a wound healer from ancient times. Nowadays, it is used as medicine. Onion has been containing many chemical constituents such as flavonoids, alkaloids, saponins, organosulfur compounds, glycosides as well as vitamin-C & B6, minerals, fiber, fat, Carbohydrate, and Potassium is also found. Major flavonoids present in *Allium cepa* are Quercetin, quercetin glucosides, quercetin -3, 4-di glucosides, and quercetin - 4- glucosides responsible for many of its medicinal properties. The pharmacological activities of *Allium cepa* have been determined by research as include antioxidants, antifertility, anticarcinogenic, analgesic, antiplatelet, anti-inflammatory, anti-hypertensive, diuretic, fibrinolytic, antihelminthic, hypolipidemic properties, anti-diabetic, immunoprotective effect, and cardiovascular disease. It containing several biological potencies such as antibiotic effect. Nowadays various formulation of *allium cepa* is available in the market as a polyherbal formulation and single herbal formulation in Ayurveda. The main focus of this review is to extend an overview of the studies regarding the phytochemistry, Pharmacological activities, and health benefits of *Allium cepa*.

**Keywords:** *Allium cepa*, phytochemistry, pharmacological properties

**Introduction**

*Allium cepa* is one of the most common bulb of the Alliaceae family usually known as onion which is extensively cultivated vegetable in the world [1]. The origin of the onion is from central Asia (present-day Iran-Pakistan region). Since ancient times as mentioned in Ayurveda about its use, it was considered to be the most admired vegetable. This was first identified and cultivated in 1629 at that instant its distribution was only in the temperate region but now it has extended to other parts of the world especially to South America, Asia, and Africa [2]. It is a perennial herb. Onion produces a pungent flavor and aromaticity due to the presence of sulfur compound present in this and constituting different colors that are red, white, yellow. *Allium cepa* is commonly known by several alternative names such as Rasona, piyas, piyaz, Kanda, Maharu, durgandha in various parts of our country [3,4]. All parts of this plant-like bulb, leaves, flower, and its volatile oil are used for various purposes. It is single of the ancient cultivated vegetables widely grown in the world. Besides its use in vegetable form, it is also used as a primary source as a flavor agent, condiment as well as medicine in the various industry and provides the nutritive value of several compounds like carbohydrate, protein, fat, vitamins, minerals, sugars, fibers, etc. *Allium cepa* contains several other secondary chemical constituents like quercetin, di, tri – sulfides folic acid, glycoside, alkaloid, saponin, tannin, etc [4, 5, 6]. Traditionally, it is used for the treatment of disability of our body or disease like cold cough diuretic, metabolic disorder, skin disease, insect bite, pneumonia, urinary system disorder, ear disorders, sexual disability, and also as a wound healer [7]. The pharmacological activities of *Allium cepa* include antioxidants, antifertility, analgesic, anticarcinogenic, antiplatelet, antihelminthic, antibiotic anti-inflammatory, anti-hypertensive hypolipidemic, antimicrobial, anti-diabetic. Apart from this, it acts as immunoprotective and also provides a cure for various cardiovascular-related diseases [7, 8, 9]. *Allium cepa* has been deeply investigated on basis of its Phytochemical constituent and along with its biological properties. The main focal point of this review is to show, present, and comprehensive overview of the latest studies related to *allium cepa* against its use for different health benefits.

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**Taxonomical classification:****Kingdom:** Plantae Plant**Phylum:** Magnoliophyta**Class:** Liliopsida**Order:** Asparagales**Family:** Alliaceae**Genus:** Allium**Species:** *Allium cepa***Morphology****Appearance:** Solid bulb shape**Odour:** Distinctive**Colour:** Red, White, Purple**Taste:** Pungent**Phytoconstituents**

Phytoconstituents of *Allium cepa* contain sugar, water, Protein, Carbohydrate, Minerals, Fiber, Vitamins, Fat, and they also contain various secondary metabolites like Flavonoids (Quercetin, Kaempferol, Anthocyanins)

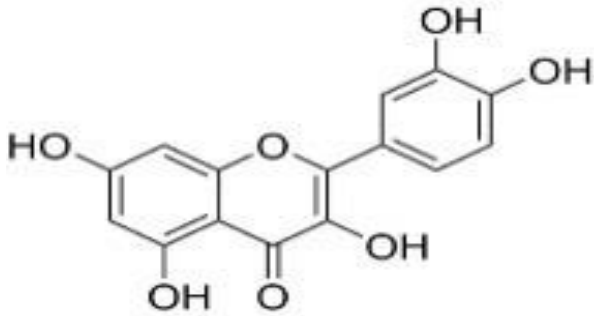
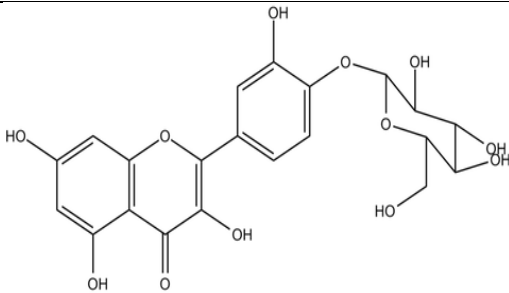
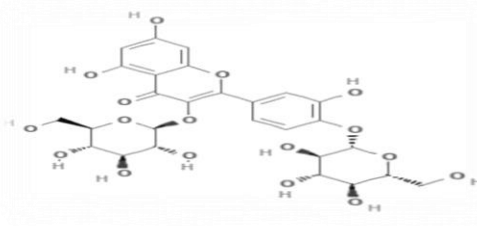
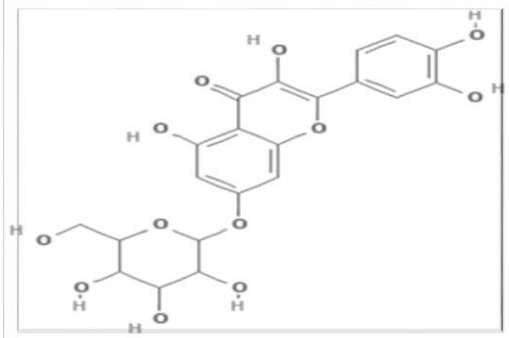
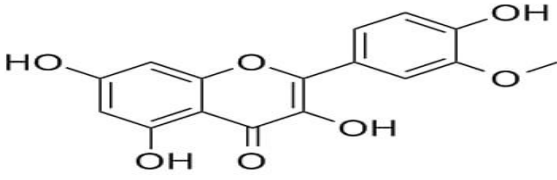
compound, and Volatile and non-volatile organosulfur compound and sterols, Saponins<sup>[1, 8]</sup>.

**1. Based On Its Constituents in *Allium cepa* L.****(A) Flavonoid content of onions (*Allium cepa* L.)**

Several studies on the flavonoid content of onion have shown several flavonoids such as Quercetin, Kaempferol, and Anthocyanin<sup>[10, 11, 12]</sup>.

**(1)Quercetin:** It is the important compound its representative of polyphenols, flavonoids. Quercetin is found in plants in several glycosidic forms. It is normally present in conjugated with sugars such as Rhamnose, Glucose, Galactose<sup>[11, 12]</sup>. These glycosidase present in Abaxis epidermis of scale. Quercetin rich source in onion as well as other vegetables such as Tomatoes, Garlic, Green peppers, Asparagus, etc. Quercetin present in the outer part of the onion. And this quercetin is further categorized into quercetin-4-glucoside, quercetin-3, 4'-diglucoside, quercetin-7, 4'-diglucoside and isorhamnetin glycoside<sup>[13, 14, 15]</sup>.

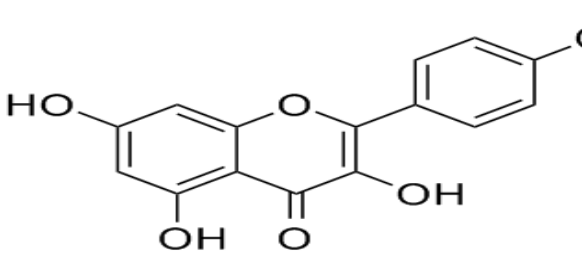
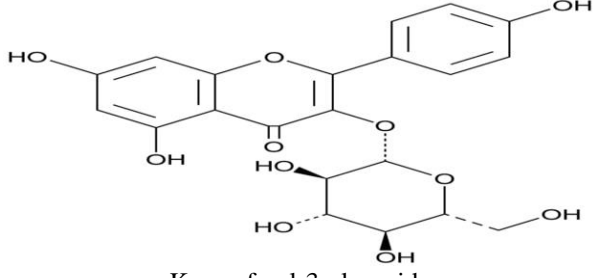
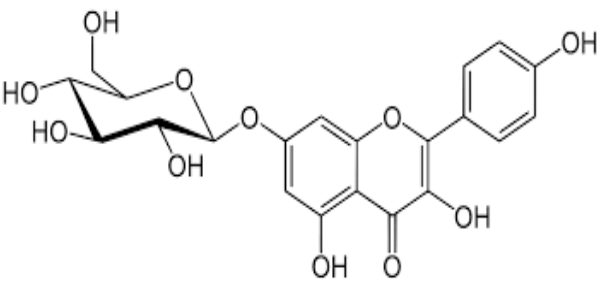
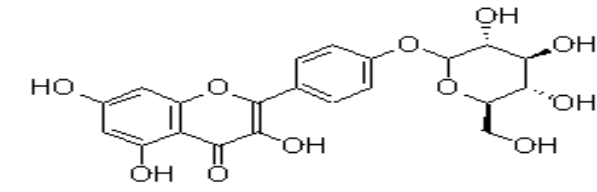
**Table 1:** Chemical structure of Quercetin and its derivative

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quercetin</b></p> <p><b>Pharmacological uses-</b><sup>[16, 17, 18]</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its use as an Antioxidant           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiviral</li> <li>• Anticancer</li> <li>• Antimicrobial</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Anti-inflammatory</li> <li>• Hepatoprotective activity</li> <li>• Cardiovascular protection           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neurological effect</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Antidepressent effect           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiallergic</li> <li>• Antiplatelet</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Quercetin-4-glucoside</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Quercetin-3, 4'-diglucoside</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Quercetin-7, 4'-diglucoside</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Isorhamnetin glycoside</p>
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(2) **Kempferol**, - It found in less quantity than quercetin and anthocyanin. Kempferol is further subdivide into Kaempferol-

4'-glucoside, Kaempferol-7, 0-glucoside, Kaempferol-3-glucoside, Isorhamnetin-4'-glucoside<sup>[11, 13, 15]</sup>.

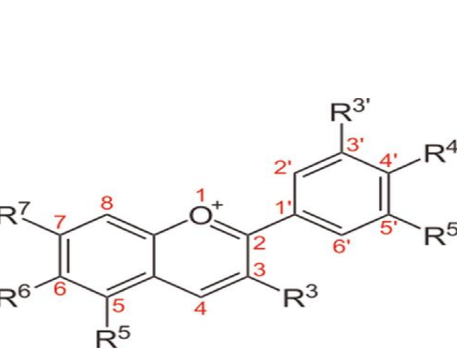
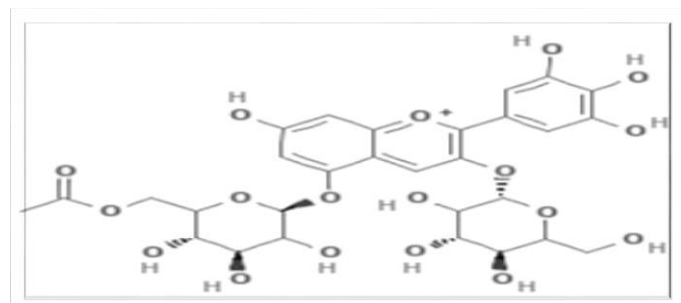
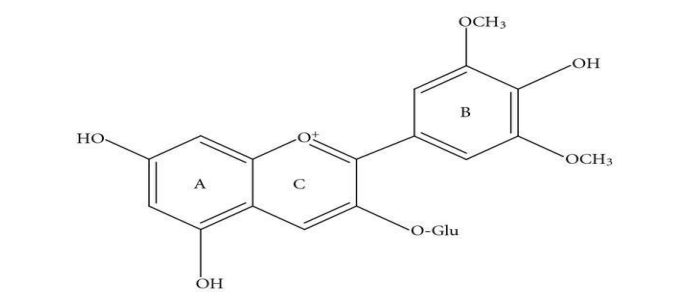
**Table 2:** Chemical structure of Kaempferol and its derivative

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kaempferol</b></p> <p><b>Pharmacological uses-</b><sup>[19]</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticancer</li> <li>• Anti-inflammatory</li> <li>• Hepatoprotective               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diabetes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cardiac vascular system</li> </ul>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Kaempferol-3-glucoside</p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Kaempferol-7, 0-glucoside</p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Kaempferol-4'-glucoside</p>

(3) **Anthocyanins** – It is the minor constituent of red onion but it also presents in yellow and white onion. They have a three aromatic ring molecules region attached with one or

more sugar molecules. Anthocyanin is further divided into Peandin-3'-glucoside, Petanidin-3'-glucoside acetate, Delphinidin-3'-glucoside, Malvidin-3'-glucoside<sup>[13, 21]</sup>.

**Table 3:** Chemical structure of Anthocyanins and it's derivative

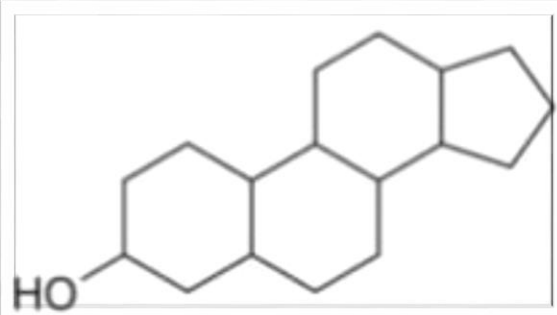
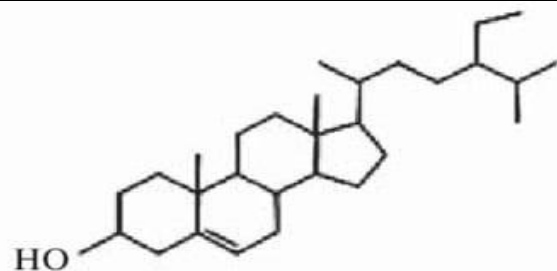
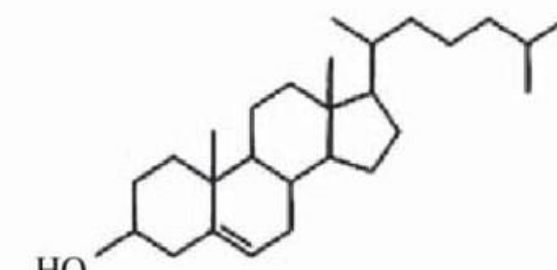
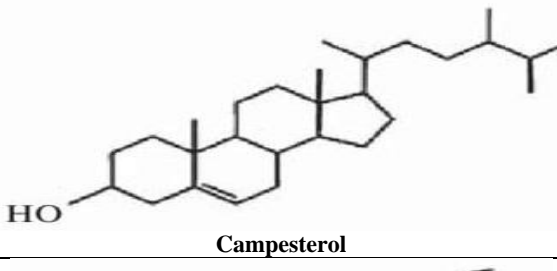
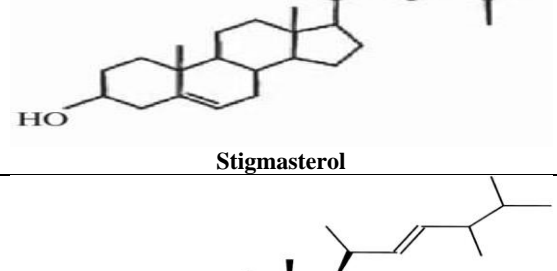
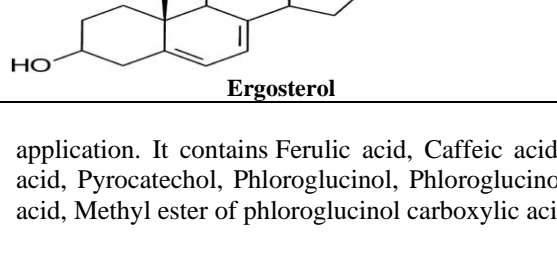
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Anthocyanin</b></p> <p><b>Pharmacological uses-</b><sup>[22, 23]</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses as an antioxidant</li> <li>• Anti-inflammatory</li> <li>• CNS activity</li> </ul>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Delphinidin-3'-glucoside</p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Malvidin-3'-glucoside</p>

### (B) Sterols content of onions

The content of sterols and their glucosides has been determined in leaves and bulbs of *Allium cepa*. In bulbs, the amount of these sterol derivatives was lower compared with leaves.

The main sterols are – cholesterol, stigmasterol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, cycloartenol, campesterol, 24-Methylenecycloartenol, 31-Norcycloartenol, 28-Isofucosterol, Cholest-7-enol, Lophenol, & 8-7-Stigmasterol, 8-5-Avenasterol, Brassicasterol [24, 25].

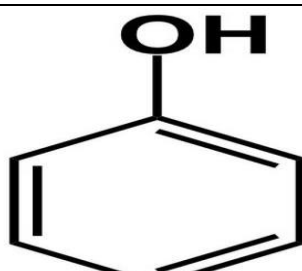
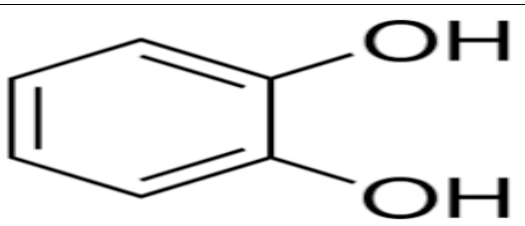
**Table 4:** Chemical structure of Sterols and its derivative

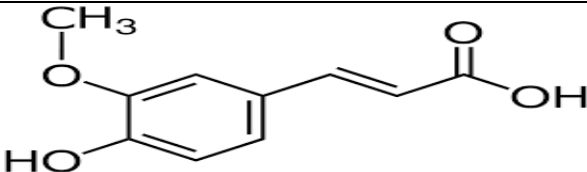
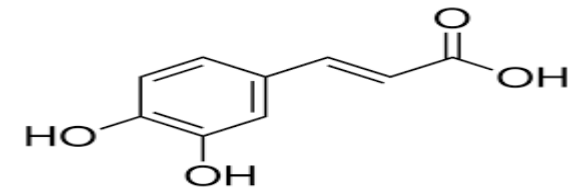
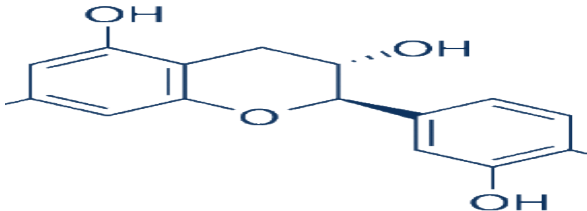
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sterols</b></p> <p><b>Pharmacological uses-</b> [26, 27]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is used as an Anti-tumour           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypoglycemic</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Anti-hypercholesterolemic activity           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cytotoxic</li> <li>• Antimicrobial</li> <li>• Antioxidant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b><math>\beta</math>- sitosterol</b></p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cholesterol</b></p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Campesterol</b></p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stigmasterol</b></p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ergosterol</b></p>

**(C) Phenolic compound:** It also is known as a secondary metabolite more than 800 phenolic compounds are naturally occur and a recent study concerning phenolic compounds as the potential source of pharmaceutical and medical

application. It contains Ferulic acid, Caffeic acid, Catechuic acid, Pyrocatechol, Phloroglucinol, Phloroglucino carboxylic acid, Methyl ester of phloroglucinol carboxylic acid. [13, 16].

**Table 5:** Chemical structure of Phenolic and its derivative

	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pyrocatechol</b></p>
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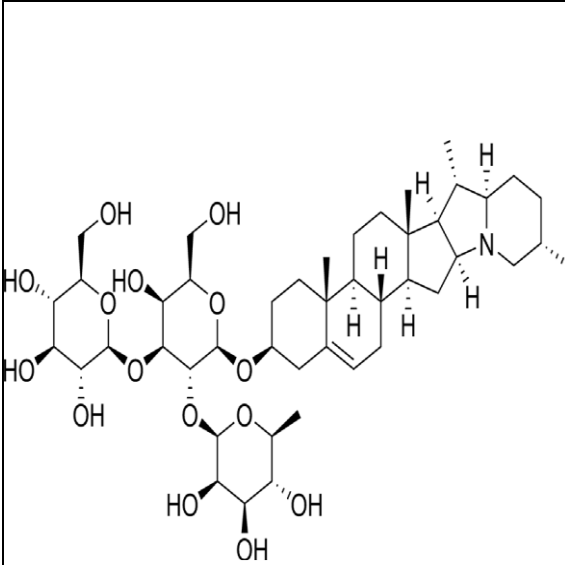
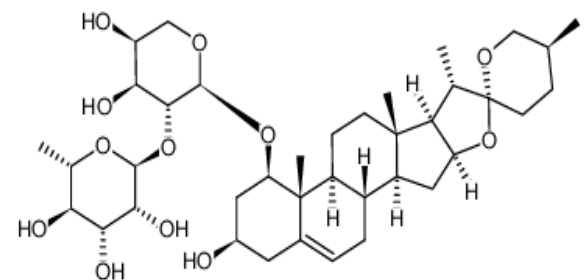
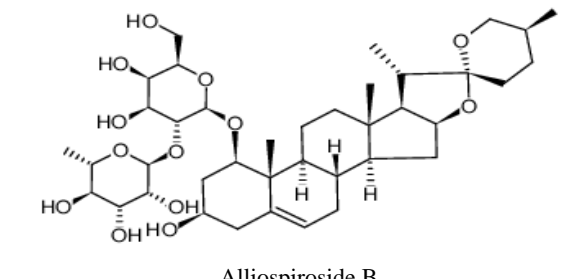
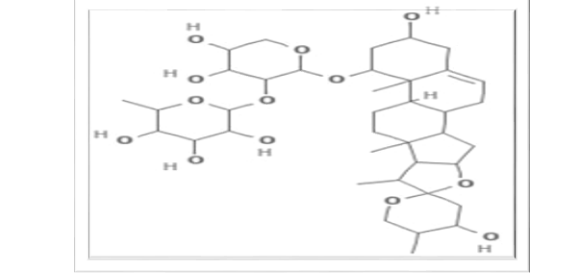
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Phenol</b></p> <p><b>Pharmacological uses-</b> <sup>[26]</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antioxidant effect</li> <li>• Anticancer effect</li> <li>• Antibacterial effect</li> <li>• Cardioprotective effect</li> <li>• Anti-inflammatory effect</li> <li>• Skin protective effect</li> </ul>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Ferulic acid</p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Caffeic acid</p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Catechuic acid</p>

**(D) Saponins** it is the most common compound in the Liliaceae family. It is mainly found in red onion. It is the amphipathic glycoside with foaming nature in this lipophilic triterpene derivative with one or more hydrophilic glycoside moieties <sup>[27, 28]</sup>.

Some of the common compound in Alliaceae family which categories as

- **Spirostanol type** (Alliospiroside A, Alliospiroside B, Alliospiroside C)
- **Furostanol type** (Tseposides E, F, Alliofuroside A)

**Table 6:** chemical structure of Saponins and it's derivative

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saponin</b></p> <p><b>Pharmacological uses-</b> <sup>[29, 30]</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses as an anti-inflammatory,</li> <li>• Ion channel blocking,</li> <li>• Immune stimulating, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antifungal,</li> <li>• Antithrombotic,</li> <li>• Antispasmodic</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Alliospiroside A</p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Alliospiroside B</p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Alliospiroside C</p>

**(E) Organosulfur compound**

It's mainly present in Allium vegetables which are either lipid or water-soluble are considered responsible for the beneficial effect of these herbs. Its especially characterized by a high content of both volatile and non-volatile organosulfur compounds [8, 13, 30, 31].

This containing volatile and Non-volatile compound which is -

- Volatile sulfur-containing compounds are Thiosulfinate, Cepaenes, (Z)Propanthial-S-oxide, Thiosulfonates, Disulfides, Monosulfide, Trisulfide, Zwiebelanes.

- Non-Volatile sulfur-containing a compound of the unsubstituted S-containing amino acid –L- cysteine, L- cysteine, and L-methionine.

**Pharmacological uses** [32, 33]

- Atherosclerosis
- Antiviral
- Hepatoprotective
- Anti-inflammatory
- Diabetes

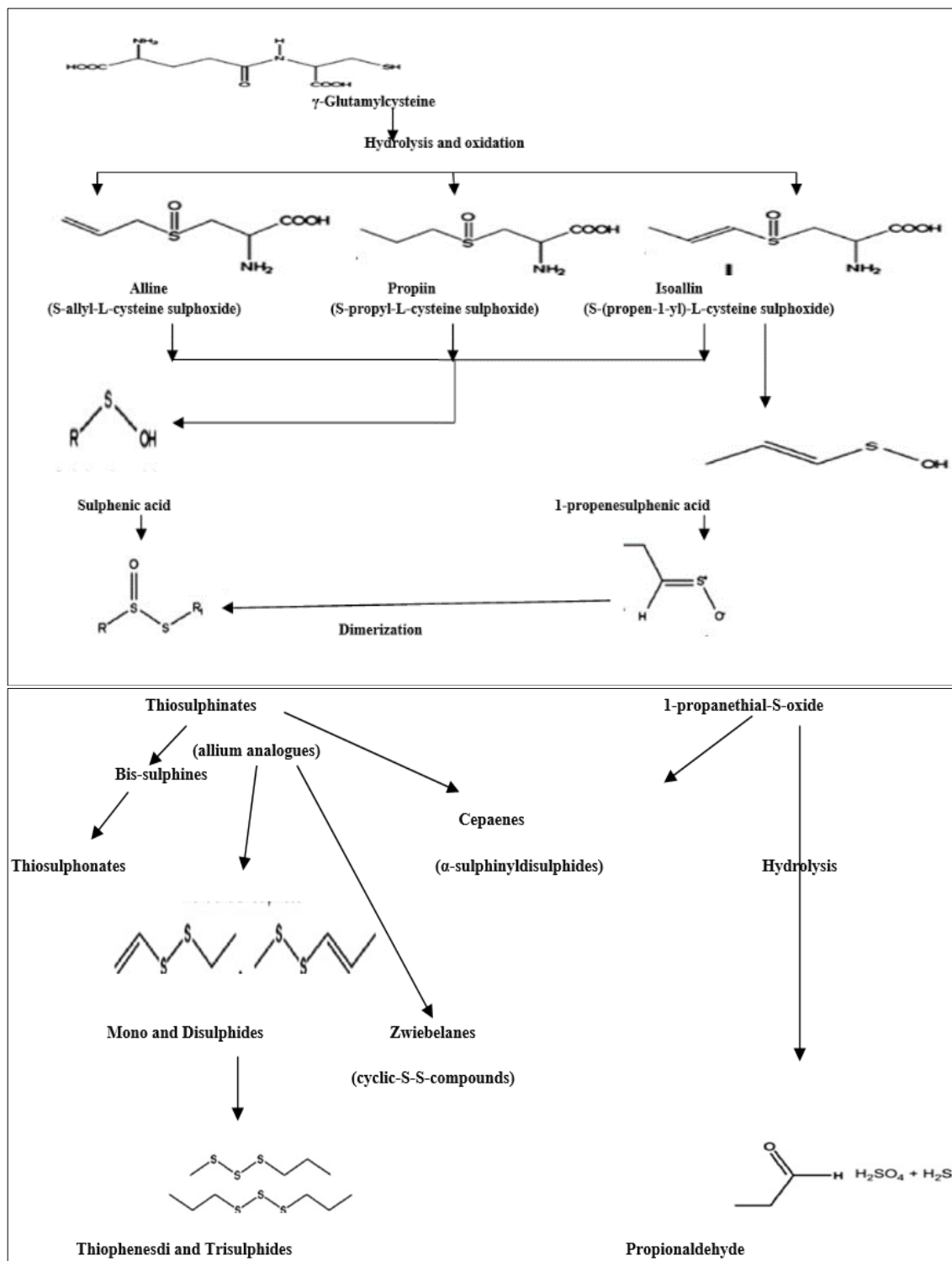


Fig 1: organosulfur compounds throughout the metabolic pathway in process onion

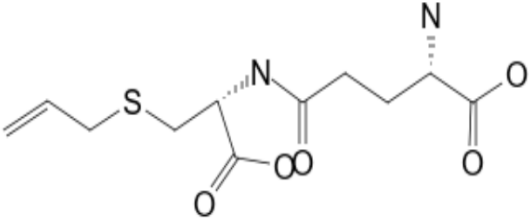
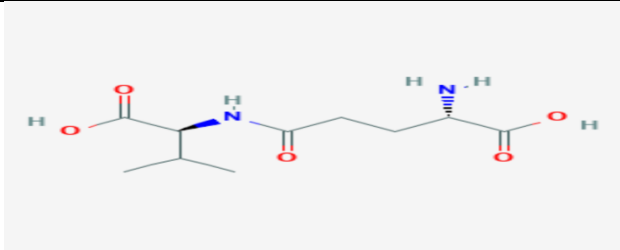
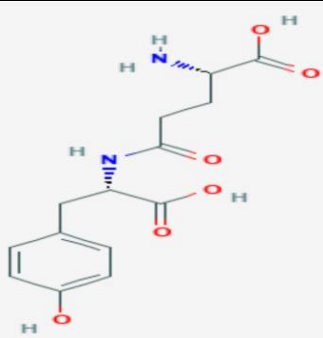
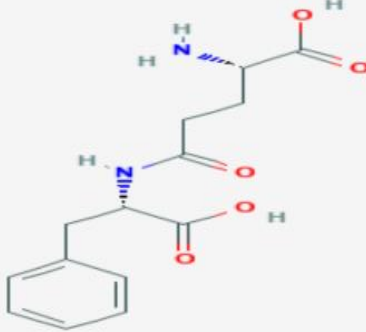
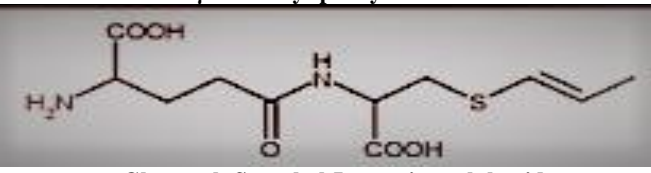
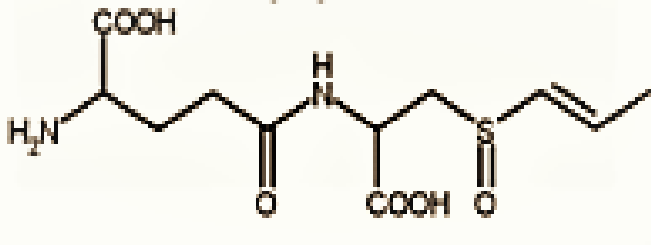
**(F).  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl peptide:** It is a Gamaglutamyl-peptides is a small molecules peptide it has sensory characteristics and their potential functional properties in the CasR activation. Gamma glutamyl-peptides have been detected in numerous foodstuffs that including edible legumes, Alliaceae, and fermented food. 14 types of Gama glutamyl peptides have been identified in onion [8, 34].

**It contains as follows-**

- **$\gamma$ -Glutamyl peptides-**  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-isoleucine,  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-leucine,  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-valine,  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-tyrosine,  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-phenylalanine.

- **Sulphur-containing  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl peptides-**  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-S-methyl-L-cysteine,  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-S-methyl-L-cysteine sulphoxide,  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-methionine,  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-S-trans-(1-propenyl)-L-cysteine-sulphoxide,  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl-S-(2-carboxypropyl)-cysteiny glycine, Glutathione-cysteine-disulphide, Glutathione- $\gamma$ -glutamyl-cysteine-disulphide, S-Sulphoglutathione, Glutathione.

**Table 7:** chemical structure of the  $\gamma$ -Glutamyl peptide and its derivative

 <p><math>\gamma</math>-Glutamyl peptides</p>	 <p><math>\gamma</math>-Glutamyl-valine</p>
<p>Pharmacological uses<sup>[35]</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunomodulator</li> <li>• Anti-tuberculosis therapy</li> <li>• Anti-inflammatory           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-bacterial</li> <li>• Neuroprotective</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Memory enhancer</li> </ul>	 <p><math>\gamma</math>-Glutamyl-tyrosine</p>
	 <p><math>\gamma</math>-Glutamyl-phenylalanine</p>
	 <p><math>\gamma</math>-Glutamyl-S-methyl-L-cysteine sulphoxide</p>
	 <p><math>\gamma</math>-Glutamyl-S-trans-(1-propenyl)-L-cysteine-sulphoxide</p>



**Nutrients present in *Allium cepa* L.****Table 8:** Nutritional value of *allium cepa* per 100g<sup>[1, 7, 36]</sup>

Constituents	Unit	Value
Water	G	89.1
Energy	Kcal	40.0
Proteins	G	1.1
Total Lipid(fat)	G	0.1
Carbohydrate	G	9.3
Fiber	G	1.7
Sugar	G	4.2

**Table 9:** Minerals<sup>[1, 7, 36]</sup>

Constituents	Unit	Value
Calcium (Ca)	Mg	23.0
Phosphorus(P)	Mg	29.0
Potassium(K)	Mg	146.0
Iron (Fe)	Mg	0.2
Sodium(Na)	Mg	4.0
Magnesium(Mg)	Mg	10.0
Zinc (Zn)	Mg	0.2

**Table 10:** Vitamins<sup>[1, 5, 36]</sup>

Constituents	Unit	Value
Total ascorbic acid	Mg	7.4
Thiamin	Mg	0.046
Riboflavin	Mg	0.027
Niacin	Mg	0.116
Vitamin (B6)	Mg	0.120
Folate	µg	19.0
Vitamin (A)	IU	2.0
Vitamin (E)	Mg	0.0
Vitamin (K)	µg	0.4

**Table 11:** Lipid<sup>[1, 36]</sup>

Constituents	Unit	Value
Fatty acid(Total saturated)	G	0.042
Fatty acid(Total monosaturated)	G	0.013

**On basis of phytochemical screening *Allium cepa* L.**

Various phytochemicals identify by qualitative chemical tests. Various phytoconstituents present in the extract of *Allium cepa* L. Phytochemical screening are determined and investigated various phytoconstituent using a different organic solvent such as methanol, ethanol, Aqueous. Phytochemical screening showed that the bulb extract of *allium cepa* contains Flavonoids, Terpenoids, Glycosides, Saponins, Fructan, Alkaloid, Glycoside, Saponin, Tannin, Anthocyanin, Organosulfur compound, etc<sup>[37, 38, 1]</sup>.

**Preparation of extract**

*Allium cepa* powder materials were collected and loaded in the extractor (Soxhlet extractor, Maceration) in solvent (ether, chloroform, alcohol, and chloroform water I.P.

**Table 12:** Methods<sup>[38, 39, 40, 41]</sup>

Secondary metabolites	Reagents	Appearance
Sterols	Chloroform Acetic anhydride Concentrated sulfuric acid	Purple ring turning to blue after than green
Phenolic compounds (ferric chloride test)	5% ferric chloride	Dark green color shows phenolic compounds
Flavonoids	Isoamyl alcohol, Hydrochloric acid (HCl), Magnesium shavings	Purplish coloration cherry red
Glycosides	Glacial acetic acid, Ferric chloride, Sulphuric acid	Reddish-brown
Terpenoids	Acetic anhydride, Chloroform Concentrated sulfuric acid	Raddish color shows terpenoids
Saponins (forth test)	Distilled water	Forth formation shows the presence of saponins
Anthraquinones	Sulphuric acid, Chloroform (dil.) Ammonia	Observed for color changes
Tannins	50% ethanol, Ferric chloride 2%	Black blue color

**Health Benefits**

Onion contains a strong chemical compound used for Health benefit, its use as a valuable medicine for treating the disease as well as consuming daily in our life as a dietary consumption. Onion has a different medicinal property for treating different diseases. Now recently we used as a traditionally and pharmacologically<sup>[9]</sup>.

**(A). Traditional usage**

*Allium cepa* has been used from ancient times and the management of various ailments. There used mentioned in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani. It was used as a vegetable or spice and medicine in the 6th century in India<sup>[42]</sup>. It regularly used in the low growing country or developing countries and now it is used as a traditionally used in several disorders<sup>[43, 44]</sup>. It is widely used for the following treatment;

1. Cold and cough
2. Hernia
3. Trauma debility
4. Blood purifier healing
5. Scurvy
6. Metabolic disorders
7. Skin disease
8. Insect bite
9. Pneumonia
10. Urinary system disorder
11. Hey fever
12. Ear disorder
13. Sexual
14. Wound
15. Toothache



**(B). Pharmacological usage:** [8, 45]

1. Antioxidants
2. Antifertility
3. Anticarcinogenic
4. Analgesic effect
5. Antiplatelet disease
6. Anti-inflammatory
7. Anti-hypertensive
8. Diuretic
9. Antihelminthic
10. hypolipidemic
11. Anti-diabetic
12. Immunoprotective
13. Cardiovascular
14. Antibiotic

Pharmacological Effect	MOA	References
Antioxidants	Free radical scavenging, chelation of transition metal ions, and inhibition of oxidases such as lipoxygenase.	[46, 47]
Anticarcinogenic	Inhibition of mutagenesis and modulation of enzyme and cell signaling pathway	[45, 48]
Analgesic	selectively relieve pain by acting in the CNS and peripheral pain mediators	[49]
Antiplatelet	Inhibited thromboxane A2 synthesis activity	[50]
Anti-inflammatory	Inhibition of inflammatory cell influx	[49, 51]
Anti-hypertensive	Prevent from angiotensin-second induced endothelial dysfunction	[52]
Anti-viral	Destroying the synthesis of viral protein and nucleic acid	[53, 54]
Fibrinolytic	Increase fibrinolysis	[55]
Hypolipidemic	Reduction in both serum cholesterol and triglyceride level	[56, 57, 58, 59]
Anti-diabetic	Increase pancreatic $\beta$ cell, Increase insulin secretion	[60, 61]
Hepatoprotective	Decrease the deposition of fats in the liver cell. Heme oxygenase 1 triggers the function of quercetin against induced Hepatotoxicity.	[62, 63]
Immunosuppressant effect	Inhibition Immuneresponse	[64, 65, 66]
Cardiovascular disease	Inhibiting platelet aggregation, Decrease in serum thromboxane (TXB2)	[67, 68]
Antibiotic	Inhibit the protein synthesis of fungi and bacteria	[69, 70]

**Some of *Allium cepa* pharmacological properties as under****1) Antioxidants**

The latest research has shown the potent antioxidant properties of the *allium cepa*. In the research, scientists evaluated the reducing capacity of *allium cepa* and it also showing free-radical scavenging capacity [71]. *Allium cepa* containing phenolic compounds that shown antioxidant and immunostimulating and its demonstrated protection of DNA damage caused by free radicals [72]. Flavonols have the main role in antioxidant quercetin and quercetin glucosides is the main compound show significant antioxidant [73]. The antioxidant activity was analyzed by four method DPPH, ABTS radical scavenging, FRAP reducing power, and (ORAC) oxygen radical absorbance capacity assay [72]. Total phenolic content expresses antioxidant properties. The purpose of this study was to investigate activity the scavenging of hydrogen peroxide and the reducing capacity of fair types of onion extract [70, 74]. *Allium cepa* were allied with antioxidant activity in male Wistar rats against streptozotocin (STZ) [75]. The homogenate fresh onion and hot water extract of fresh aerial parts of *Allium cepa* exhibit significant inhibition of lipid peroxidation [76]. Onion consumption has been associated with a reduced risk of neurodegenerative disorder [77].

**2) Antidiabetic**

*Allium cepa* significantly reduced the peak only. Flavonoid shows antidiabetic property it increases insulin secretion, [78, 79] Quercetin's main role in type 2 diabetes and it accelerated the secretion of insulin and increase the uptake of calcium ions from separated pancreatic cells [80, 81, 82]. It also demonstrated the potent diabetic effect of active compounds (Kaempferol and its various glycoside) of *allium cepa* [83]. A study of the alloxan-induced diabetic animal model has been shown that the antidiabetic effect of sulfur compound (S-methyl cysteine) and flavonoid (Quercetin) compound of *allium cepa* was comparable to the glibenclamide and insulin

[84]. Clinical study has domestred the hyperglycemic effect of *allium cepa* on healthy volunteers [85]. experimental study is carried out the hypoglycemic effect of onion in alloxan-induced diabetic rats, glucose parameters have been estimated at various parameters (Plasma, Glucose, Urea, Creatinine, Total bilirubin) [86]. Diet appears to be an essential part of hyperglycaemic treatment. It does not only control the glucose concentration but also to reduce the several complications of hyperglycemic. *Allium cepa* was demonstrated a beneficial effect in STZ induce Diabetic rats [74].

**3). Anti-hypertensive**

Quercetin and its methylated metabolite isorhamnetin, found in onion can decrease blood pressure and put off angiotensin-II induced endothelial dysfunction by inhibiting the overexpression of p4phox, a narrow subunit of the membrane NADPH oxidase, The subsequent increased superoxide production resulted in a high nitric oxide bioavailability [87]. A study showed the effect of onion on blood pressure (NO Nitro-L-arginine methyl ester) induced hypertensive rats [88].

**4). Anti-allergic**

Quercetin is the great chemical constituent of *allium cepa*. *Allium cepa* extract of Quercetin shown the anti-allergic Immune response characterized by and stimulus of the immune system, anti-viral activity, Inhibition of histamine release, decrease pro-inflammatory cytokines [89, 90], leukotrienes creation and suppresses interleukins IL-4 production and it can progress the contain antigen-specific IgE antibody formation [12].

**5).Anti-inflammatory activities;-**

It is a process of complex biological activity, Several animals model have been studied to the role of flavonoid against inflammation as well as quercetin and kaempferol have an anti-inflammatory property [91]. *Allium cepa* exhibits potent anti-inflammatory effect showing in experiment Sprague –

Dawley rats. Anti-inflammatory activity of *allium cepa* extract was carried out by using the carrageenan-induced rat paw edema method. Its extract using against the diclofenac sodium [49]. Quercetin has an anti-inflammatory effect on prostaglandin leukotrienes, Histamin release activity had been investigated [92]. Thiosulfates and cepaens in onion have been shown to possess anti-inflammatory properties [93]. The action is related to inhibition of inflammatory cell influx by thiosulfates and cepaens. Some studies demonstrated *in vitro* that quercetin has a role in the inhibition of different isotypes of immunoglobulins such as IgM, IgG, and IgA all are mitogen stimulate [94].

### 6). Anticancer activity

Phytochemical of onion role in preventing various carcinogenic activities, many Flavonoid and phenolic compound role to reduce the risk of cancer and it has potential cancer, chemopreventive agents [95, 96]. Onion reduced the different cancer risk in humans, through a different mechanism to prevent cancer, including inhibition of tyrosin kinase, including cell cycle arrest, regulation of P53 protein, Heat shock protein inhibition and blocking the expression of Ras protein [97]. Quercetin is the best compound for treating cancer it shows tyrosine kinase inhibition in the human phase first trial [98]. Kaempferol is also used as an anticancer agent in different cancer and pancreatic, breast, lung, leukemic, ovarian cancer [99]. *Allium cepa* has shown anticancer property through several mechanisms (1) cytotoxic and antiproliferative effects on (MCF-7, MDA-MB231, HC-60, HepF2, HT29, and PC3 cells). (2) Immunomodulation (increase NK activity increase macrophage phagocytosis). (3) anti-inflammatory (decrease COX expression, decrease 25 phosphate). (4) antioxidant (ROS scavenging, Induction of apoptosis, Antigenotoxicity, blocking the signaling pathway, and other antitumor effect show). [48] it has several chemical (polyphenolic and organosulphur compound) demonstrated an anticancer effect on MCF-7 cells [100].

### 7). Antiplatelet

*Allium cepa* peel extract has anti-platelet effects in rat platelets. Its inhibited platelet aggregation via inhibition of aggregation inducing molecule intracellular calcium channel and TXA2 by blocking COX-1 and TXAS activity in dose depending manner [50]. The antiplatelet effect was comparatively studied for all the fractions using rat PRP. It shows a different effect in different concentrations [72]. Flavonols have the main role in antioxidant quercetin and quercetin glucosides is the main compound show significant platelet aggregation [71]. Some study demonstrated the antiplatelet actions shows inhibition thromboxane A2 synthase inhibition and TXA2/PGH2 receptor blockade and shown antiplatelet actions in Sprague-Dawley rats [101, 102]. *Allium cepa* is used as sources of Anti-platelet agents that may contribute to the prevention of CVS disease. Sulfinate and flavonols have the main role in illustrating anti-platelet property [103, 104].

### 8). Hepatoprotective activity

*Allium cpea* has shown Protective from liver damage. Quercetin has shown a protective effect against iron is because hepatic injury in mice liver cell [105]. Anthocyanins also show hepatoprotective because anthocyanin (Cyanidin-3-0-β-glucoside promote Hepatic expression Gclc expression after than increase the level of cAMP level and

phosphorylation of binding for better transcription of Gclc protein [106].

### 9). Antiviral activity

Some study demonstrated the flavonoids have been very effective against the virus, flavonoid shows antiviral activity. Flavonoid inhibiting viral growth lies in blocking and destroying the synthesis of viral protein and nucleic acid [107, 108]. Quercetin as well as kaempferol has shown virucidal activity against different viruses (Herpes simplex type 1 virus, Rabies virus, Poliovirus, Mengovirus, Pseudorabies virus, parainfluenza type 3 virus) Quercetin Flavonol may inhibit the replication of different respiratory, viruses reducing their viral count [109, 110].

### Conclusion

Onion is second worldwide cultivated vegetables all over the world. It uses in our daily life as a vegetable for attractive the essence and taste of various varieties of foods as well as its used a salad form ancient time. Which contains many important phytoconstituent that are useful for our health. Secondary metabolite acquires different biological properties. Which possess pharmacological activities such as include antioxidants, antifertility, anticarcinogenic, analgesic, antiplatelet, anti-inflammatory, anti-hypertensive, diuretic, fibrinolytic, antihelminthic, hypolipidemic properties, anti-diabetic, immunoprotective effect, and cardiovascular disease. It containing several biological potencies such as antibiotic effect. The above review shows that phytoconstituent and pharmacological activities can protect Human beings against various diseases we can add onion in daily lifestyle.

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