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Dionaea muscipula solander ex ellis (Venus Flytrap)

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Abstract

The species of *Dionaea muscipula* solander ex ellis is considered as a carnivorous species and thus the medical aspect of this category of plants is not explored or studied in a detailed manner. However these plants appear to contain a variety of secondary metabolites which are bioactive in nature and the purpose of this review article is to explore the therapeutic potential and the nature of these metabolites and their molecular mechanism.

Keywords: *Dionea muscipula*, cytostatic, anticarcinogenic, apoptosis

Introduction

About Plant

This type of plant has been used by different communities in respect to the traditional medicine system for many years. *Dionaea muscipula* was actively a subject for modern biomedical research and their study stated that the components or the secondary metabolite present in this category contained exceptionally interesting therapeutic properties. Below stated are the different metabolites and their therapeutic properties

Secondary Metabolite (St Class ET) Plumbagin

Naphthoquinones

It has broad-range activity: Phytotoxic, insecticidal and antibacterial. It also possesses cytostatic and anticarcinogenic properties.

Plumbagin

This phytoconstituent of the plant possesses anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antifungal and antibacterial properties. This component is yellow in color. The main mechanism of Plumbagin is that it inhibits the enzyme topoisomerase II which is present in HL 60 cells. It also interacts directly with the tubulin at the colchicine binding site, thus disrupting the micro tubular network. Plumbagin also inhibits the nuclear factor kappa B signaling pathway which is induced by carcinogens. The expression of the anti-apoptotic gene which is mainly Bcl-x1 is blocked. In the condition of melanoma cell cycle arrest is induced in the G2/M phase leading to apoptosis. The activation of JNK and ERK can be seen.

Polyphenolic compound

The polyphenolic compounds are chemical compounds which contain at least one aromatic ring with one or several hydroxyl substitutions. In plants the phenolic compounds are the secondary plant metabolites which are synthesized by phenylpropanoid metabolism.

Ellagic acid

This phytoconstituent possesses chemo preventive property. It reduces proliferation of cells and it binds to DNA transcription factor which results in inhibition of NF-kB. Ellagic acid activate caspase-3 and releases the cytochrome C which result in apoptosis of cancer cell in pancreatic cancer.

Gallic acid

This phytoconstituent possessing anti-cancer properties is secreted by the aerial parts of the plant. The gallic acid is responsible for the arrest of cell cycle (Human leukemia cells) by reducing the E levels and cyclin D. The Gallic acid also results in apoptosis resulting in decrease in the cellular number. Cyclooxygenase 2 which is related directly to progression of the cancer is also inhibited by this constituent.

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Vanillin

The production of vanillin is done by biotechnological or chemical technique which involves utilization of specific bacteria or fungi.

Vanillin is responsible for inhibition in relation to the growth and development of adenocarcinoma cell line (category: Mammary type: 4T1). Vanillin also reduces activity of MMP-9 (matrix metalloproteinase-9) which results in cell invasion and migration reduction thus providing an anticancer property.

Protocatechuic acid

It is a poly phenolic compound that shows therapeutic action against several diseases. Protocatechuic acid impedes the cell proliferation and migration of human gastric adenocarcinoma at atoxic concentration. The modulation of Ras/Akt cascade pathway, RhoB/protein kinase CE and inhibition of NF- κ B pathway and MMP-2 expression results in the demonstration of anticancer property.

Caffeic acid

Caffeic acid enhances ROS level thus inducing oxidation responsible for alteration of DNA and it is responsible for alteration of potential of membrane of mitochondria in case of (HT-1080) fibro sarcoma cells of Homosapiens. Caffeic acid

is responsible for apoptosis of cancer cells. It is responsible for inhibition of methylation of DNA by inhibiting DNA methyltransferase.

Caffeic acid is the most potent anti-proliferation agent on T47D human breast cancer cells.

Chlorogenic acid

Chlorogenic acid reduces the proliferation rate of Human adenocarcinoma Caco-2 cells. It also induces apoptosis in human leukemia cells by generating ROS and decreasing membrane potential of mitochondria. Chlorogenic acid also causes damage to the DNA in A549 lung cancer cells.

Ferulic acid

Ferulic acid causes inhibition of lipid membrane peroxidation and reduces formation of break in DNA strands resulting from free radical thus responsible for the protection of DNA against the gamma-radiation.

Salicylic acid

Salicylic acid under normal oxygen level shows no effect on proliferation of colon carcinoma cells (CaCo-2) but it reduces proliferation of cells under hypoxia. Salicylic acid also results in no changes in phosphorylation of ERK1/2 under normal oxygen level.

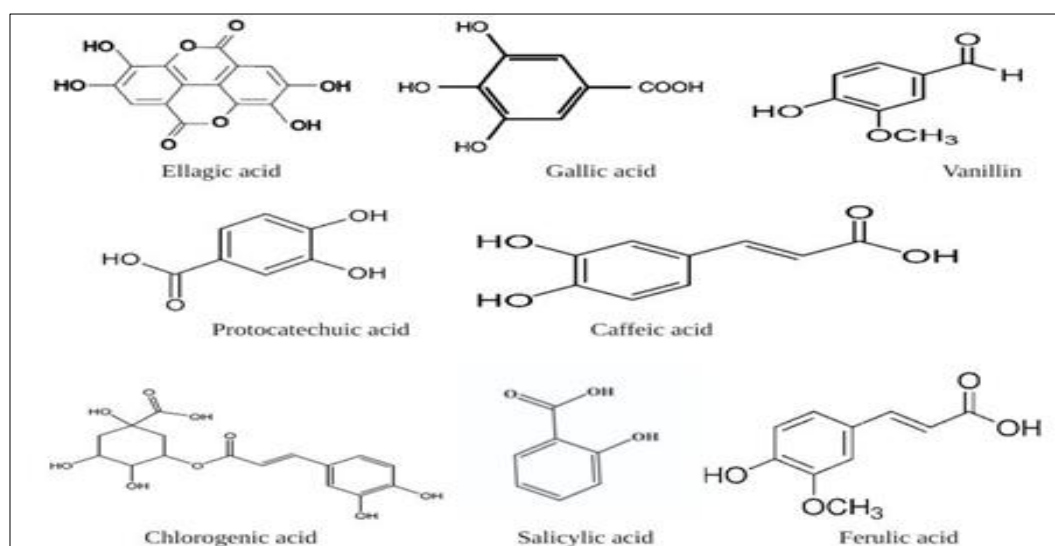


Fig 1: Structure of Phenolic compounds

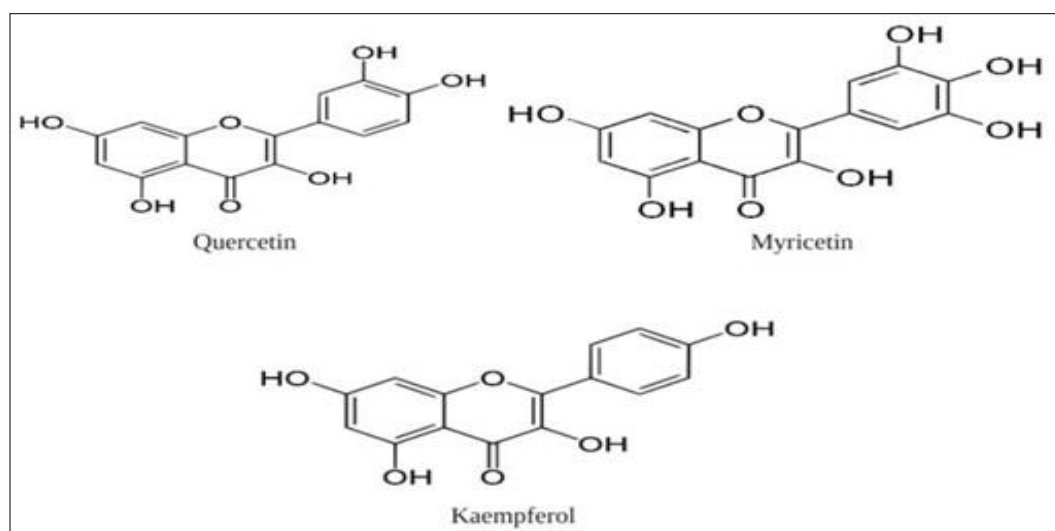


Fig 2: Structure of flavonoids

Flavonoids

Quercetin

Quercetin demonstrates its anti-proliferation property by inhibition of the G2/M phase in cell cycle. Quercetin is responsible for reduction in SW480 colon cancer cells through inhibition of the Wnt pathway transcriptional activity resulting from reduction in the level of beta-catenin pathway which demonstrate its apoptotic property.

Myricetin

Myricetin is responsible for inhibition of mutagenesis which is caused by carcinogenic agent for example benzbenzo (a) pyrene. Myricetin also cause apoptosis through the activation of caspase-3 and caspase-9 which result in cancer cell apoptosis. Myricetin activate the caspase-3 after cleavage of DNA and through cdc2 and cyclin B12 down regulation which result in human bladder carcinoma T4 cell line apoptosis.

Kaempferol

It is responsible for inhibiting the proliferation of cancer oral cells such as SCC-25 and SCC-1483 at 40 microM concentration. Kaempferol also demonstrates inhibition of ovarian cancer and is responsible for apoptosis through cell death.

Experiments

Testing anticancer properties of phytoconstituent

- Plumbagin inhibited mice tumor (wild type) by inhibition of PKC ϵ , Stat3, AKT activation in mice model.
- With the administration of gallic acid in mice reduction in metastasis progression is recorded. Inhibition of growth and progression of prostate cancer is observed when gallic acid is induced in the mouse prostate TRAMP model.
- Decreased in levels of Cdk6, Cdk4, and Cdk2 and decrease in number of cyclin B1 and E recorded during Western-blot test where the specimen was mice prostate U-2OS and MNNG/HOS which are human osteosarcoma cell lines when administered with gallic acid the cell proliferation is inhibited.
- *In vivo* experiments were conducted on rat models which were induced with colon cancer to portray its chemo preventive activity. It was recorded that ellagic acid decreases the level of NF- κ B.
- *In vivo* experiments were conducted where the specimen were BBLB/c treated mice, whose mammary adenocarcinoma cells where injected with vanillin to portray its anticancer effect. It was recorded that vanillin causes reduction in the colonies formed in lung metastasis condition.
- Experiment was conducted using a mice model to portray the anti-metastasis activity of the protocathechuic acid and the experiment successfully determined the anticancer property.
- Experiments determine apoptosis occurring by the Fas/FasL pathway. Inhibition of CYP1A1 which is an aryl hydrocarbon receptor-induced gene expression is recorded.
- Ferulic acid administered through an oral route in Sprague-rat previously treated with 7, 12-dimethylbenz (a) anthracene (DMBA) is responsible for reduction in tumor cell formation.

- Quercetin is responsible for cell death by activating of caspases 3 and caspases 9 which result in hepatocellular carcinoma cell apoptosis.
- Experiments conducted on mice model show that myricetin is responsible for inhibiting the T-24 xenograft growth.

Conclusion

The above paper demonstrates the anticancer properties and activities of the *Dionea muscipula* solander ex ellis (Venus Flytrap). The paper summarizes the action of different phytoconstituents, their nature of action and their anticancer activities.

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