

A Systematic short review on *Clitoria ternatea*: Pharmacological activities and Phytochemicals

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ABSTRACT

Clitoria ternatea is perennial herbaceous plant from family Fabaceae. It has potential applications in modern medicine as well as agriculture. It is also used as natural food colorants and antioxidant. The present review contains the information related to *Clitoria ternatea* phytochemicals and its pharmacological activity. This paper reviews plant distribution, phytoconstituents like - flavonoids-kaempferol, kaempferol 3-glucoside, kaempferol 3-robinobioside-7-rhamnoside, Quercetin, anthocyanins, etc. It also includes the different pharmacological activities were shown by *Clitoria ternatea* like anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, cathartics, insecticides etc.

Keywords: *Clitoria ternatea*, pharmacological activity, phytoconstituents, antidiabetic, antioxidant

INTRODUCTION

Plant and herbs have play important role in human life for thousands of years. Most of them are well known medicinal herbs [1]. Butterfly pea or blue pea (*Clitoria ternatea*) is from family fabaceae and sub-family papilionaceae [2]. It is perennial herbaceous plant, which originated from tropical region of India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Burma, and Philippine islands [3,4]. *Clitoria ternatea* flower are commercially known as Bungatelang by the locals and are widely used as the food dyes in Nasikerabu (It is an the local dish in Kelantan, Malaysia) and a Baba and Nyonya kueh known as kuehtekan [1]. The newly obtained *C. ternatea* anthocyanins termed "ternatins" which render *C. ternatea* flowers with their vivid blue color, were first isolated in 1985 [8,17]. Study of flowers suggested that it having health beneficial properties, such as tranquilizing effect, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic activities [7,15]. The different parts extract of *Clitoria ternatea* had different efficacy against the tested microorganisms. These obtained differences

could be due to the nature and level of the antimicrobial agents present in the extracts and their mode of action on the different test microorganisms [1,16]. This plant have been used in Sri Lankan traditional system of medicine and in folklore to treat variety of disorders such as anasarca, ascites, liver problems, hemicrania, irritation of urethra and bladder, and enlargement of abdominal viscera [9]. *Clitoria ternatea* flower is a source of natural blue food and beverage colorant worldwide [10]. Butterfly pea is one of the major sources of natural color used in food and cosmetics. Anthocyanins are present in its petals which is main coloring constituent and could be extracted easily with water. We found that the pH of medium, temperature, and light affect stability of the color aqueous extract from butterfly pea petals [13]. Due to their high reactivity, non-hazardous and better efficiency are reason behind their wider applications than the human-made compounds, the natural compounds have many interdisciplinary applications also [3]. Evaluation of chemical diversity among genotype of medicinal plants plays a crucial role in improvement and large-scale cultivation. Chemical variability of bioactive principles viz. taraxerol and beta-sitosterol are analyzed in 11 populations of *Clitoria ternatea* L., it is an important memory enhancer used in Ayurveda [14].

COMMON NAME

Bengali: Aparajita,
 English: Butterfly pea, blue pea vine, mussel-shell climber, pigeon wings, Sanskrit: Sankhapushpi, aparajita, saukarnika, adrakarni, girikarnikasupuspi, mohansini, vishadoshaghani, shwetanama, vishnukranta, Kannada ashwakhura,
 Hindi: Koyala,
 Telugu: Dintena,
 Malayalam: sangupushpam: Nagar hedi,
 Mrathi: Gokarna,
 Portuguese: Fulacriqua,

Synonyms

Clitoria biflora Mattei
Clitoria bracteata Poir.
Clitoria coelestris Sieber and Voss
Clitoria parviflora Raf.
Clitoria philippensis Per.
Clitoria pilosula Benth.
Clitoria ternatensis Crantz
Ternatea vulgaris Kunth
Ternatea vulgaris Kuntze

PHYTOCHEMICALS

A. Flavonols

Clitoria ternatea seeds contain flavonol glycosides as well as phenolic aglycones, cinnamic acid, and a range of other compounds. There are different flavonols present in *C. ternatea* flavonols, namely kaempferol, kaempferol 3-glucoside, kaempferol 3-robinobioside-7-rhamnoside, quercetin, and quercetin 3-glucoside. Subsequent studies reported the isolation of flavonol glycoside from *C. ternatea* leaves and flowers [15-17].

Following are some flavones with their structure.

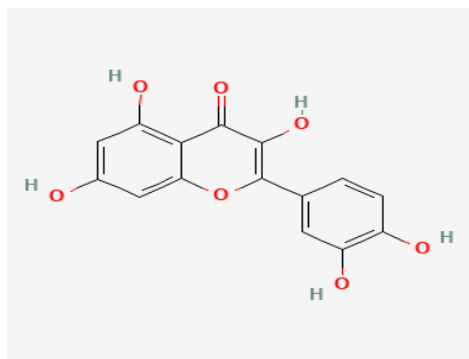


Fig. No. 1: Structure of Quercetin

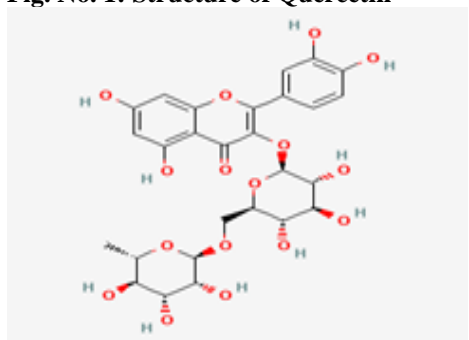


Fig. No. 2: Structure of Quercetin 3-rutinoside

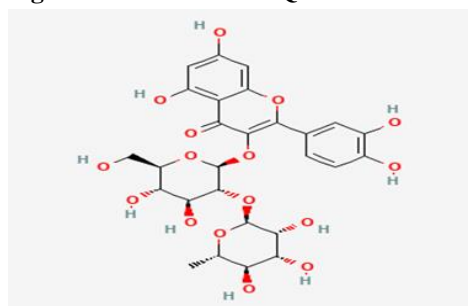


Fig. No. 3: Structure of Quercetin 3-neohesperidoside

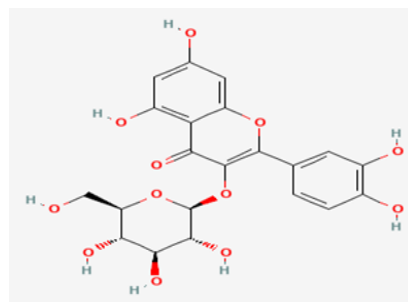


Fig. No. 4: Structure of Quercetin 3-glucoside

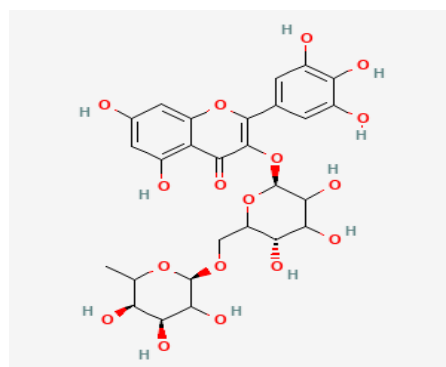


Fig. No. 5: Structure of Myricetin 3-rutinoside

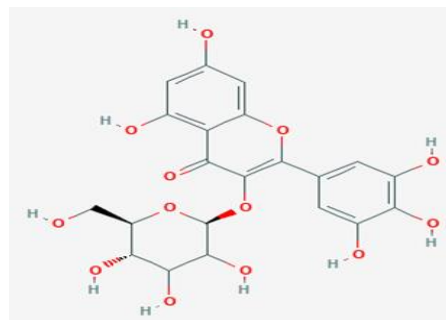


Fig. No. 6: Structure of Myricetin 3-glucoside

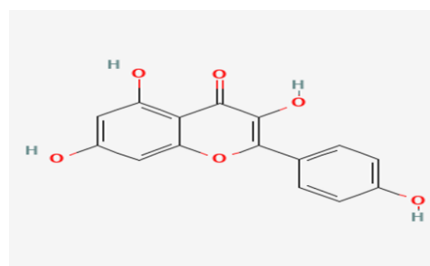


Fig. No. 8: Structure of Kaempferol

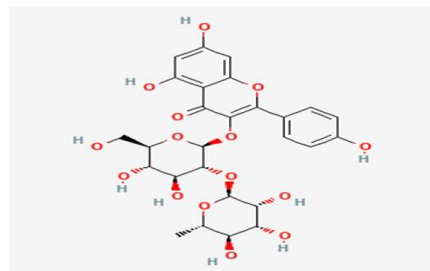


Fig. No. 9: Structure of Kaempferol 3-neohesperidoside

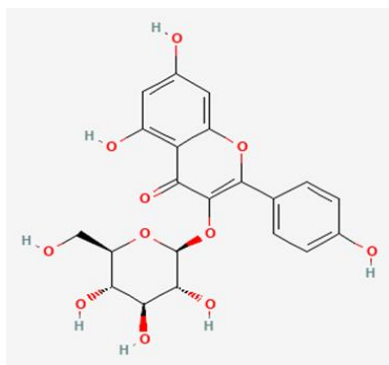


Fig. No. 10: Structure of Kaempferol 3-glucoside

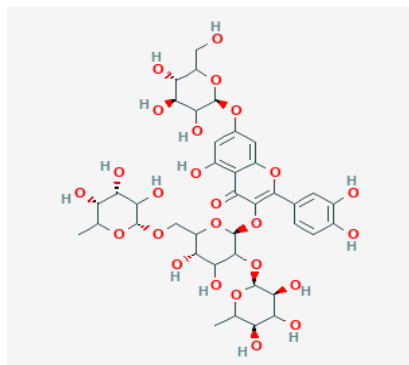


Fig. No. 11: Structure of Quercetin 3-(2-g-rhamnosylrutinoside)

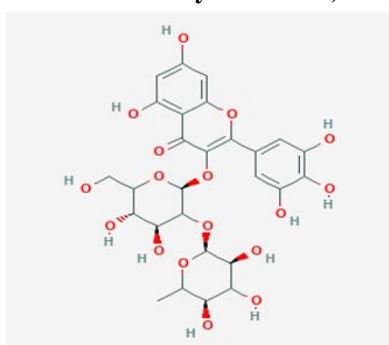


Fig. No. 12: Structure of Myricetin 3-neohesperidoside

ANTHOCYANINS

Six acylated anthocyanins were isolated from blue *C. ternatea* flowers that were all derivatives of delphinidin 3,3',5'-triglucoside. The chemical properties of the acylated *C. ternatea* delphinidins, which were named ternatins, were further elucidated in subsequent studies. The structure of the largest isolated blue anthocyanin, ternatin A1, was determined [18]. The study also showed that not only was ternatin A1 the largest, it was one of the most stable in neutral solution. The structure of ternatins A2-B1 B2 [19] were elucidated shortly after. Subsequent studies isolated and determined the structures of several other novel ternatins isolated

from *C. ternatea*: ternatins A3, B3-B4, C1-C5, D3, and preternatins A3 and C4 [19].

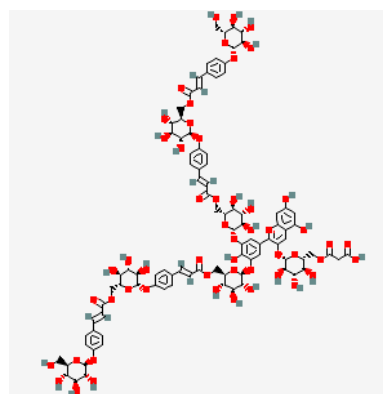


Fig. No. 13: Structure of Ternatin A1

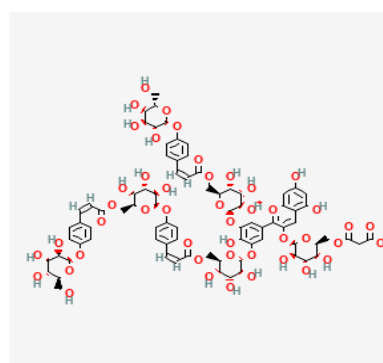


Fig. No. 14: Structure of Ternatin A2

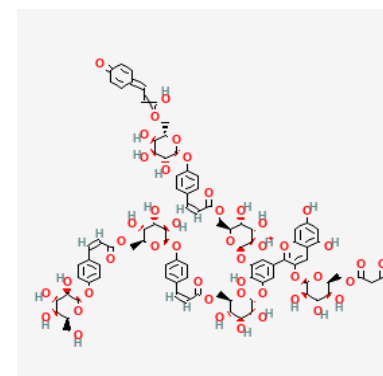


Fig. No. 15: Structure of Ternatin B1

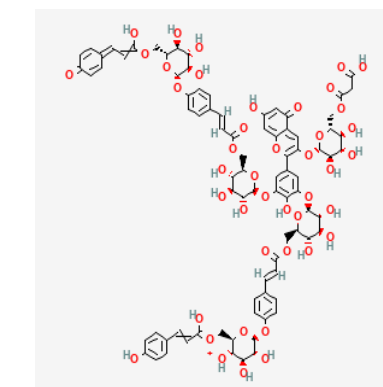


Fig. No. 16: Structure of Ternatin D1

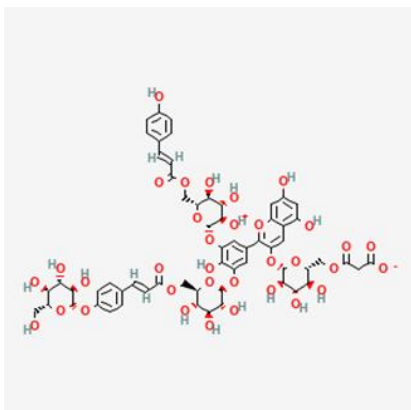


Fig. No. 17: Structure of Ternatin B4

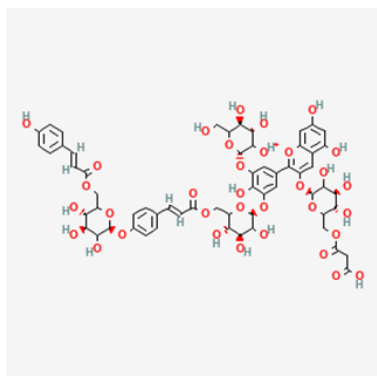


Fig. No. 18: Structure of Ternatin C1

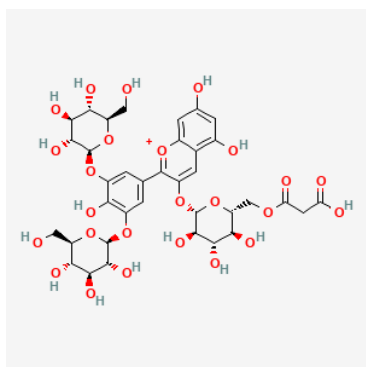


Fig. No. 19: Structure of Ternatin C5

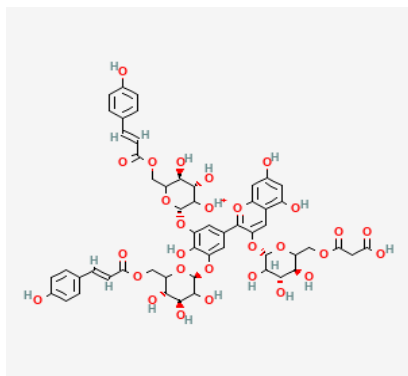


Fig. No. 20: Structure of Ternatin D3

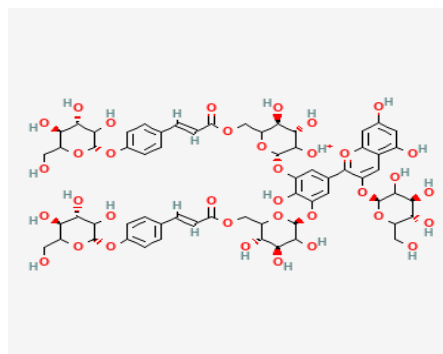


Fig. No. 21: Structure of Preternatin A3

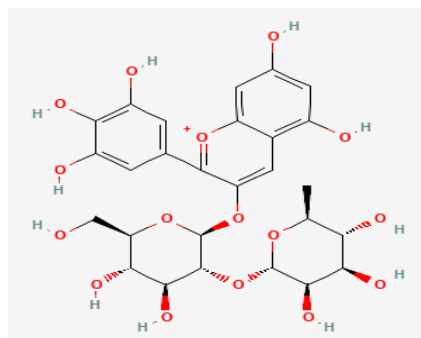


Fig. No. 22: Structure of Delphinidine 3-neohesperidoside

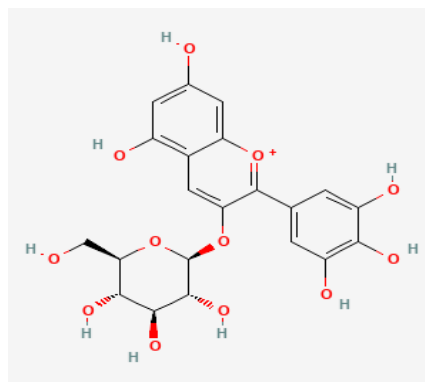


Fig. No. 23: Structure of Delphinidine 3-glucoside

Other Non-proteinaceous Components

The pentacyclic triterpenoids, taraxerol and taraxerone, were isolated from roots of *C. ternatea*. *C. ternatea* as a source of taraxerol. Its roots also contain taraxerol, novel norneolignans, clitorienolactones A-C,. *C. ternatea* floral extracts also contain other types of flavonoids, including rutin (flavone), epicatechin (flavanol) and other polyphenolic acids (gallic acid, protocatechuic acid, and chlorogenic acid) [19, 20]

Table No. I: Table showing different parts of *C. ternatea* plant with its phytochemicals and function

Plant Parts	Phytochemicals	Functions	References
Leaf	Alkaloids, Reducing sugar, Flavonoids, Steroids, Glycosides	1. Prevention of neurodegenerative diseases and diabetes mellitus 2. Effectively controls the excessive sweating	[21]
Flower	Saponin, Tanin, Alkaloids, Glycosides, Phytosterols, Carbohydrates	1. Anti-inflammatory, Analgesic 2. Ethanol extract is used as antidiabetic	[22,23]
Root	1,1-Diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH)	1. Antioxidant 2. diuretic and laxative	[24]
Seed	The seeds contain nucleoprotein with its amino-acid sequence similar to insulin, delphinidin-3,3,5-triglucoside, essential amino acids, anthoxanthin glucosides, 3,5,7,4-tetrahydroxy-flavone-3-rhamnoglycoside, p-hydroxy cinnamic acid polypeptide,	1. cathartic purgative and aperients	[25]

Pharmacological Activities

1. Anxiolytic activities

Oral treatment with alcohol extract of *Clitoria ternatea* at a dose of 460 mg/kg significantly prolonged the time taken to traverse the maze as produced by chlorpromazine in rat demonstrated significant effect on anxiety. The animal treated with *Clitoria ternatea* (100 mg/kg) showed a significant increase in the inflexion ratio and discrimination index which provides evidence for the species nootropic activity [1]

2. Anti-epileptic activity studies

Methanol extract from the aerial parts of *Clitoria ternatea* screened by using pentylenetetrazol (PTZ) and maximum electroshock (MES)- induced seizures in mice at the dose of 100 mg/kg p.o. CT significantly delayed the onset of convulsions and also delayed the duration of tonic hind limb extension in MES- induced convulsions [2]

3. Antimicrobial Activity

Different extracts of *Clitoria ternatea* showed inhibitory effects against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Aeromonas Formicans*, *Aeromonashydrophila* and *Streptococcus agalactiae*. Ethyl acetate extracts of *Clitoria ternatea* showed maximum zone of inhibition against *A. Formicans*, *A. hydrophila*, *B. subtilis* and *P. aeruginosa* next to

that ethanol extract of *Clitoria ternatea* showed maximum zone of inhibition against *A. formicans* and *E. coli* followed by the acetone extract which showed maximum zone of inhibition against *S. agalactiae* and *K. pneumoniae*. [12]

4. Anticancer effect

The in vitro cytotoxic effect of petroleum ether and ethanolic flower extracts (10, 50, 100, 200, 500 µg/ml) of *Clitoria ternatea* was studied using trypan blue dye exclusion method. Both extracts exhibited significant dose dependent cell cytotoxic activity. For petroleum ether extract the concentration 10 µg/ml showed 8% reduction in cell count, however, 100% reduction was observed at 500 µg/ml. In case of ethanolic extract, 10 µg/ml concentration possessed 1.33% reduction in cell count, while, at 500 µg/ml 80% reduction in cell count was observed. [24]

5. Wound healing effect

The wound healing activity of *Clitoria ternatea* seed and root extracts was investigated using excision, incision and dead-space models in rats. *Clitoria ternatea* seed and root extracts significantly improved wound healing in excision, incision and dead-space models when administered orally by gavage as well as applied topically as ointment. These effects were comparable to that of cotrimoxazole ointment. The finding of the study also showed that *Clitoria ternatea* affected all three

phases: inflammatory, proliferative and remodeling phases of wound healing. [23]

6. Gastrointestinal effect

The antiulcer potential of aqueous and ethanolic extracts of *Clitoria ternatea* was evaluated and differed in different experimentally induced ulcer models in rats. Ethanolic extract (200 and 400 mg/kg) and aqueous extract (200 and 400 mg/kg) of whole plant were examined in pylorus ligation and indomethacin induced gastric ulcer in rats. Various parameters like volume of gastric acid secretion, pH, total acidity, ulcer index and antioxidant parameters were determined and compared between extracts, standard and vehicle control group following ulcer induction. Among different dose of alcoholic extract, high dose showed significant antiulcer activity in pylorus ligation and indomethacin induced ulceration [20].

7. Insecticidal Activity

Proteins and peptides isolated from *C. ternatea* are reported to exhibit insecticidal properties (Kelemu et al., 2004; Poth et al., 2011a) (Table 5). One study reported 100% larval mortality when 1% w/w of the purified *C. ternatea* protein (20 kDa), finotin, was applied to the bruchids *Acanthoscelides obtectus* and *Zabrotes subfasciatus*, respectively (Kelemu et al., 2004). Another study showed that when the lepidopteran species *Helicoverpa armigera*, larval growth retardation was observed in a dose dependent at 1 μmol CterM peptide g-1 diet. [23]

8. Anthelmintic Activity

The methanolic extract of *C. ternatea* was also found to inhibit 93% of *M. incognita* egg from hatching. In another study that utilized the model organism, *Caenorhabditis elegans*, *C. ternatea* extracts were found to effectively kill nematode larvae, with the root extracts showing greater lethality than the leaf extracts [26].

9. Anti-diabetic studies

Oral administration of aqueous extract of CT leaves (400mg/kg body weight) and flowers (400mg/kg body weight) for 84 days showed significantly reduced serum glucose, glycosylated hemoglobin, total cholesterol, triglycerides, urea, creatinine and the activity of gluconeogenic enzyme glucose-6-phosphatase, but increased serum insulin, HDL-cholesterol, protein, liver and skeletal muscle glycogen content and the activity of glycolytic enzyme glucokinase. For all the above biochemical parameters investigated, *Clitoria ternatea* leaves treated rat showed a little better activity than *Clitoria ternatea* flowers treated diabetic rats. [22]

CONCLUSION

Clitoria ternatea is perennial herbaceous plant from family Fabaceae. It has potential applications in modern medicine as well as agriculture. *C. ternatea* is garden plant of India, which has been used in traditional as well as modern medicines nowadays. This review paper includes plant distribution, phytoconstituents like- flavonoids- kaempferol, kaempferol 3-glucoside, kaempferol 3-robinobioside-7-rhamnoside, Quercetin, anthocyanins, etc. It also includes the different pharmacological activities were shown by *Clitoria ternatea* like anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, catheratics, insecticides etc. From this study it conclude that *C. ternatea* is a very effective plant which will be beneficial for future drug development from natural origin.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dr. R. S. Adnaik, Anandi Pharmacy College, Kalambe tarf Kale, Kolhapur for providing the necessary laboratory facilities.

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