

Phytochemical screening antioxidant and antimicrobial activity of *Aeschynomene aspera* Linn root extract

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Abstract

Medicinal plant are the nature's of gift to human being to make disease free healthy life. It play a vital role to preserve our health. In india different part have been used for curing various diseases from ancient life. In this present study focus on the analysis of priliminary phytochemical in ethanol extract of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn* root. Among this extract presence of therapeutically important and valuable secondary metabolites flavonoids, alkaloids, trephenoids, steriods and phenol. The antioxidant activity of root sample was evaluvated by using DPPH, ABTS and Nitric oxide reducing activity. The present study showed that good free radical scavenging properties and a clear correlation exist between the antioxidant activity. The ethanolic extract of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn* root sample was tested for its antibacterial activity against two human bacterial pathogens (*E.coli* and *S.pneumoniae*) and using three different concentration by disc diffusion method. The maximum inhibition of antibacterial activity was observed in *E.coli*. The study concluded that the ethanolic extract of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn* root has potential antioxidant and antimicrobial action which is responsible for the biological activities that is used for natural health.

Keywords: *Aeschynomene aspera* Linn, DPPH, ABTS, Nitric Oxide,

Introduction

Free radicals are naturally produced in the body through normal metabolism of biomolecules like carbohydrates, amino acids and fats. Over production of free radicals cause oxidation of these biomolecules which can lead to a variety of diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, cataracts, diabetes, and inflammatory diseases along with induces deterioration of food, resulting in rancidity, changes in color, and declines in nutritional quality, flavor, texture and safety. Antioxidants are chemical compounds that can bind to free oxygen radicals and preventing these radicals from damaging healthy cells and it can be added to food products especially lipid containing food to increase the shelf life of foods. Commonly used synthetic antioxidants like butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) are suspected to cause some safety concerns because their consumption may cause cancer and liver damage. Therefore, the search for alternative sources of natural antioxidant is becoming increasingly important (Mohammad Mohiseni *et al.*, 2017).

Phytochemicals are non-nutritive plant chemicals that have protective or disease preventive properties. They are non-essential nutrients, meaning that they are not required by the human body for sustaining life. It is well-known that plants produce these chemicals to protect themselves but recent research demonstrates that they can also protect against diseases. There are more than thousand known phytochemicals. Some of the well-known phytochemicals are lycopene in tomatoes, Isoflavones in soy and flavonoids in fruits. Phytochemicals are naturally present in many foods but it is expected that through bioengineering new plants will be developed, which will contain higher levels of phytochemicals. This would make it easier to incorporate enough phytochemicals with our food (Mercy Gospel Ajuru *et al.*, 2017)

Microorganism are evolved with numerous defences against commercially available powered the antimicrobial research toward the screening of natural products to fight against the dreadful microorganism (Silver L and Bostian K). In recent years, secondary metabolites (phytochemicals), previously with unknown pharmacological activities, have been extensively investigated as a source of medicinal agents (Krishnaraju *et al.*, 2005) thus, it is anticipated that phytochemicals with adequate antibacterial efficacy will be used for the treatment of antibacterial infection (Balandrin *et al.*, 1985). Antibacterial activity is a method to destroy or suppressing the growth or reproduction of bacteria. The term antibacterial derives from the Greek word —antil that means against. The compound which destroys or suppresses the growth or reproduction of bacteria, and that type of compound or agent having such properties is called antibacterial agent or antibacterial compounds. These are either drugs or any plant material that destroy or inhibit the growth of bacteria, chemotherapeutic agents also having ability to prevent or treat bacterial infections. Hence the present study was designed to analyze the Anti microbial & antioxidant capacity of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn* with different invitro models

Materials and Methods

Collection of Plant

The fresh root samples of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn* were collected from Thiruvarur district, Tamil Nadu, India. The root was first washed well and dust removed from the plant and were dried at room temperature. The dried material was then powdered with a mixer grinder and stored in an airtight container for further use.

Preparation of Ethanolic Extracts

The powdered root samples *Asechynomene Aspera Linn* (50%) were weighed and mixed with (50%) of methanol. Then it is kept in an orbital shaker at 190-220 rpm for 48 hours. The supernatant was collected, filtered through Whatman No.1 filter paper and then concentrated by evaporating to dryness which gave a solid amorphous residue and it was dried thoroughly to remove the solvent used. The obtained dried extract was then accurately weighed, stored in a small vials and used for the subsequent experiments.

Qualitative Analysis of Phytochemicals

Phytochemical analysis of *Asechynomene Aspera Linn* was done the ethanolic extract was analysed alkaloids, flavonoids, saponin, protein coumarn, phenols, triterpene, steroids, tannins. According to standard methods of harborsn (1973)

In Vitro Antioxidant Assay

DPPH radical scavenging activity

Free radical scavenging activity of extracts of *Asechynomene Aspera Linn* were tested by its ability to bleach the stable 1,1-diphenyl 2-picryl-hydrazyl (DPPH) radical. A stock solution of DPPH 0.3mM in methanol) was prepared such that 1ml of it in 3ml methanol gave an initial absorbance of 0.9. Decrease in absorbance in the presence of Ethanolic extract at different concentration (50-500 mg/ml) were noted after 15 min. scavenging activity was expressed as the % inhibition (Ionita, 2005; Ji-Kai Liu et al., 2004).

$$\text{Radical scavenging activity (\%)} = \frac{\text{OD Control} - \text{OD sample}}{\text{OD control}} \times 100$$

ABTS radical cation decolourisation assay

ABTS (54.8 mg) was dissolved in 50 ml of distilled water to 2 mM concentration and potassium persulphate (17 mM, 0.3 ml) was added. The reaction mixture was left to stand at room temperature overnight in dark before use. To 0.2 ml of various concentrations of the extracts or standards, 1.0 ml of distilled DMSO and 0.16 ml of ABTS solution was added to make a final volume of 1.36 ml. Absorbance was measured spectrophotometrically, after 20 min at 734 nm. The assay was performed in triplicate (Jayaprakash et al., 2004).

Nitric Oxide Scavenging Assay

The method of DC Garrat, 1964 was followed. To 0.5 ml of varying concentration of extract, 2ml of (10 mM) sodium nitropruside, 0.5 ml of phosphate buffer saline (pH-7.4) was added and incubated at 250 C for 2 ½ hours. To 0.5 ml of this reaction mixture 1ml of (0.33%) sulfanilic acid was added and allowed to stand at room temperature for 5 minutes. Then 1 ml of (0.1%) naphthylene diamine chloride was added and incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes. Absorbance was read at 540 nm. % inhibition was calculated as above.

Antibacterial Activity

The antibacterial activity of various solvent extracts like aqueous and ethanol solution were studied systematically against two different strains of bacteria (*Escherichia coli* and *streptococcus pneumoniae*) by cup diffusion method.

Results and Discussion

Plant have provided a sources of inspiration for novel drug compounds as plant derived medicines have made significant contribution towards human health, phytomedicines can be used for the treatment of disease as done in case of Unani and Ayurvedic system of medicines or it can be the base for the development of a medicine, a natural blue print for the development of a drug (Didry et al., 1998). For over thousands of years, natural plants have been used as a valuable source of medicinal agents with proven potential of treating infectious disease and with lesser side effects compared to synthetic drug agents (Iwu et al., 1999).

The freshly prepared extract *Aeschynomene aspaera linn* was subjected to preliminary phytochemical screening test for various constituents. This revealed the presence of phenol, sterol, alkaloids, flavonoids and Terpenoids (Table 2). The results of phytochemical analysis comprehensively validate the presence of therapeutically important and valuable secondary metabolites (alkaloids, flavonoids, phenol and steroids) in the root of plant. They also provide a source of medicine since the earliest time.

Phytochemicals are referred to as phytonutrients. These are compounds present in plant derived-foods that induce biological activities in the body. Balandrin et al., 1985 reported that the phytonutrients promote the function of the immune system, act directly against bacteria and viruses, reduces inflammation and are also associated with the treatment and prevention of cancer, cardiovascular disease.

Table 1: Phytochemical analysis of Ethanolic extracts of *Asechynomene Aspera Linn* Root

Phytochemicals	Observation	Ethanolic <i>Asechynomene Aspera Linn</i> Root extracts
Carbohydrate	Red colour	-
Tannins	Greenish black colour	-
Saponin	Presence of foam	-
Flavonoid	Yellow colour	+
Glycosides	Yellow colour	-
Terpenoids	Red brown colour	+
Phenols	Green Colour	+

Alkaloids	White turbidity	+
Resins	Orange to yellow colour	-
Steroids	violet to blue colour formed	+

+: Present, -: Absent,

DPPH free Radical Scavenging

To determine the efficacy of natural antioxidants either as pure compounds or as plant extract, a great number of in vitro methods have been developed in which antioxidant compounds act by several mechanisms. DPPH scavenging activity was shown in Table 2; Figure 1. In the present study, the percentage of scavenging effect on the DPPH radical was concomitantly increased with the increased concentration of ethanolic extract from 50 to 250 µg/ml. The percentage of inhibition exists from 12 at 50 µg/ml to 60 at 250 µg/ml and values were compared ascorbic acid standard. IC₅₀ values of *Aeschynomene aspaera linn* was compared with ascorbic acid. IC₅₀ value of standard was 250 µg/ml and plant extract was 208 µg/ml.

ABTS Radical Scavenging Activity

This study reports that whole plant have radical scavenging activity. The percentage of inhibition was existing from 18 to 72 at the concentration of 50 µg/ml to 250 µg/ml for whole plant extract. From the result showed ABTS radical scavenging activity and compared with ascorbic acid as standard. IC₅₀ values plant extract and ascorbic acid were 150 µg/ml and 141 µg/ml respectively Table 3; Fig 2). Based on the above results indicated, the whole plant was found to most effective in exhibiting in vitro antioxidant activity in this method. ABTS was generated by incubating ABTS chromophore through the reaction (Wolfenden *et al.*, 1981). The presence of specific chemical compound in the extract may inhibit the potassium persulfate activity and hence reduced the production of ABTS.

Table 2: DPPH radical scavenging activity of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn*

S. No	Concentration (mg/ml)	% of Scavenging activity
1	50	5
2	100	20
3	150	35
4	200	40
5	250	55

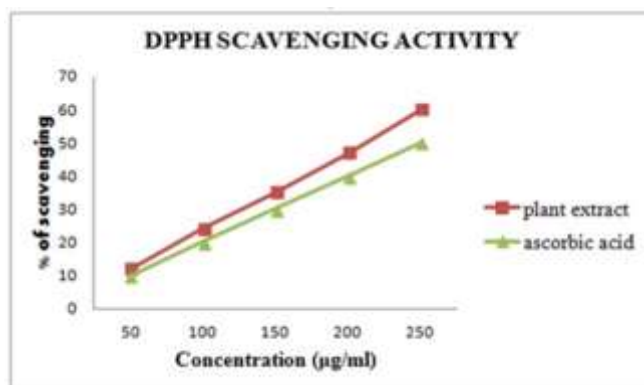


Fig 1: DPPH radical scavenging activity of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn*

Nitric Oxide Scavenging Activity

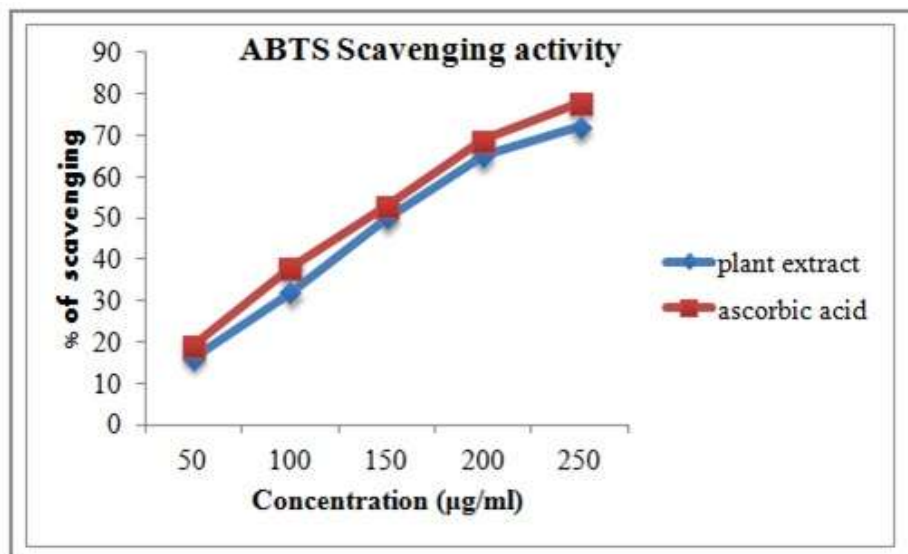
Nitric oxide is a very unstable species and reacting with oxygen molecule produce stable nitrate and nitrite which can be estimated by using Griess reagent. In the presence of a scavenging test compound, the amount of nitrous acid will decrease which can be measured at 546 nm. Extract of *Aeschynomene aspaera linn* has potent nitric oxide scavenging activity (IC₅₀ value 200 µg/ml). The scavenging of NO by the extracts was increased in dose dependent manner. Table 4; Fig. 3 illustrates a significant decrease in the NO radical due to the scavenging ability of extracts and ascorbic acid. The ethanolic extract showed maximum activity of 65% at 250 µg/ml, where as ascorbic acid at the same concentration exhibited 55% inhibition.

Antimicrobial Activity

Medicinal plant could be that alternative because most of them are safe with little side effects if any, cost less and affect a wide range of antibiotic resistance microorganism. The result of this study showed that two plant extracts tested inhibit the growth of various species of gram positive and gram negative bacteria (Al-Habib *et al.*, 2010). The present study *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn* activity were analyzed against *E. Coli* and *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*. the highest antibacterial activities were observed in ethanol extract compared with aqueous extract. The result of the this study, we will further investigate the plant that showed antioxidant and antibacterial activities in vivo studies (Table 5)

Table3: ABTS radical scavenging activity of *Asechnomene Aspera Linn*

S. No	Concentration (mg/ml)	% of scavenging activity
1	50	15
2	100	35
3	150	50
4	200	60
5	250	75

**Fig 2:** ABTS radical scavenging activity of *Asechnomene Aspera Linn***Table 4:** Nitric oxide scavenging activity of *Asechnomene Aspera Linn*

S. No	Concentration (mg/ml)	% of scavenging activity
1	50	10
2	100	25
3	150	35
4	200	40
5	250	55

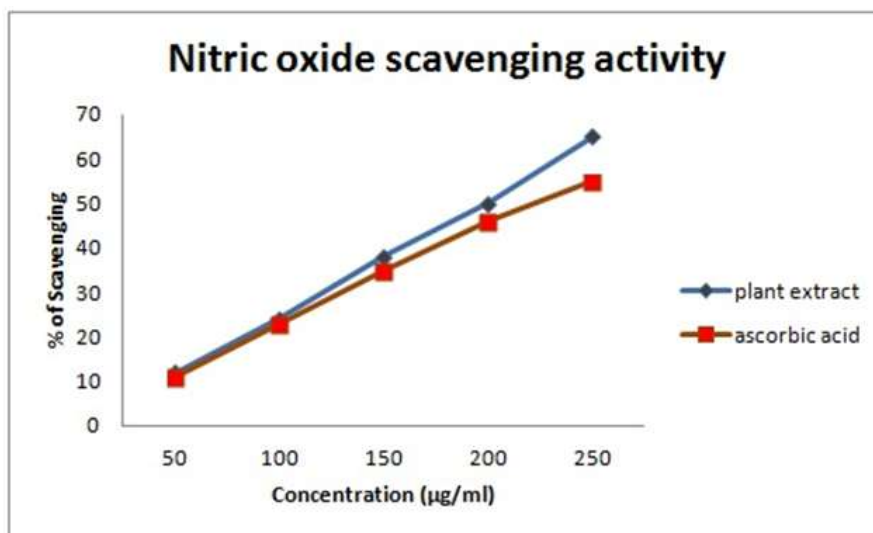
**Fig. 3:** Nitric oxide scavenging activity of *Asechnomene Aspera Linn*

Table 5: Antibacterial activities exhibited by different solvent extracts of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn*

Bacterial pathogens Concentration (ug/ml)	Aeschynomene Aspera Linn Zone of Inhibition(mm)					
	Aqueous			Ethanol		
	50	100	150	50	100	150
<i>E. coli</i>	2	5	7	5	8	1
<i>Streptococcus pneumonia</i>	3	5	8	7	9	13

Conclusion

From the above study, it is concluded that the *Aeschynomene aspera linn* root was rich in phytoconstituents like flavonoids, alkaloids, steroids, terphenoids and phenols. In conclusion, the observed different scavenging activities of *Aeschynomene aspera linn* root extract against various systems may be referred to the different mechanism of the radical antioxidant reactions in the different assays. Phenolic compounds present in the plant kingdom are mainly responsible for the antioxidant potential of plants. Free radical scavenging activity of *Aeschynomene aspera linn* root might be due to the presence of high molecular weight phenolics. The extracts exhibited remarkable radical scavenging capacity rendering their utilization in different ailments associated with oxidative stress. Thus it can be concluded that the whole plant of *Aeschynomene aspera linn* root can be used as an accessible source of natural antioxidants with consequent health benefits. However, the components responsible for the antioxidative activity are currently unclear. Antibacterial activity of different concentration (50,100,150 ug/ml) of ethanol and aqueous extract of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn* was screened against the pathogenic microorganism by disc diffusion method the extent of antimicrobial activity is varied depending upon the solvent that has been used the ethanolic extract of plant showed higher activity against and *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* when compared with aqueous extracts. From the present studies a conclusion can be drawn that consumption of *Aeschynomene Aspera Linn* have good beneficial effect.

Conflict of Interest: None.

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