

Review Article

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A Critical Review on Herbal Extracts as Hepatoprotective Agents

Pavithra J¹, Jiji KN¹, Francis Kevin Raj S¹, Govindhan E¹, Yuvaraj K¹, Muralidharan P¹

1 Department of Pharmacology, C.L. Baid Metha College of Pharmacy, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Jyothi Nagar, Thoraipakkam, Chennai-600097, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

Liver is a vital organ that plays a major role in metabolism and excretion of xenobiotics from the body. Liver dysfunction/ liver Injury is a major health problem that challenges not only health care professionals but also pharmaceutical industry and drug regulatory agencies. Maintenance of a healthy liver is essential for overall well being of an individual. Liver injury is caused by various hepatotoxins. Some of the most common toxicants are Paracetamol, Carbon tetrachloride, Thioacetamide, excessive consumption of Alcohol, anti-tuberculosis drugs such as Rifampicin and Isoniazid, certain antibiotics like Gentamicin, Chemotherapeutic agents and Microbes. Few synthetic drugs that are available in market to treat liver disorders in this condition are expensive and also cause other discomforts to our body. Thus herbal drugs comes into role and its use is also widespread now-a-days. Herbal medicines are used for treatment of liver diseases since long time but they are increasingly popular at recent times. Herbal remedies are focused in pharmaceutical industry to evolve a safe route for liver disorders. A number of herbal preparations are available in market. The present review is aimed at compiling on promising herbs that have been tested in various Hepatotoxic models using modern scientific system.

Keywords: Liver injury, Hepatotoxins, Herbal medicines, Hepatotoxicity.

INTRODUCTION

Liver is a vital and largest internal organ of the human body that perfoms multiple functions like maintanence of glucose homeostasis, metabolism and detoxification of drugs, breakdown of various hormones, secretion of lipoprotein, excretion of bile. It also synthesizes Albumin, Fibrinogen, Prothrombin. Liver serves as storage organ for fat, fat soluble vitamins and glycogen ^[1]. It is a dark reddish brown organ with a median weight of 1800 grams in Men and 1400 grams in Women^[2]. Anatomically liver is located slightly beneath the diaphragm and anterior to stomach. The portal vein nourishes the liver with the blood containing digested nutrients from GIT, Spleen, Pancreas, while the hepatic artery supplies oxygenated blood from the Lungs [3]. Some of the most common liver diseases are Alcoholic Liver Disease (ALD), Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD), Viral Hepatitis, Liver Cirrhosis, Liver Cancer, Biliary Cirrhosis, Sclerosing Cholangitis [4]. Any injury or impairment to liver or its function is termed as Hepatotoxicity that is mainly caused due to exposure to Hepatotoxins like Paracetamol, Isoniazid and Rifampicin, Alcohol, Food additives, Environmental toxicants, Radioactive isotopes, Fungal toxins, Peroxidized fatty acids, Chlorinated solvents and some Medicinal plants too ^[5]. Drug Induced Liver Injury (DILI) is the most common reason to withdraw most of drug candidates in later drug developmental stages and post marketing phase. Occurrence of DILI is attributed to poor predictivity of pre-clinical animal studies. There are several other reasons too including difference in drug metabolism between human and experimental species ^[6]. The Liver damage that is caused due to habitual exposure to alcohol is known as Alcoholic Liver Disease. ALD represents one of the oldest form of liver injury known to mankind. Alcohol remains a major cause for liver disease worldwide. The spectrum of ALD varies from simple steatosis to cirrhosis ^[7]. Liver related diseases due to alcohol consumption includes alcoholic Steatosis and Hepatitis and they increase the risk of developing cirrhosis or Hepatocellular carcinoma. In case of chronic alcoholism, the balance between alcohol induced hepatocyte injury and Liver regeneration determines the severity of ALD. Therefore for finding new approaches for prevention of ALD, there must be a clear understanding on the effects of alcohol on hepatocyte proliferation and differentiation ^[8]. Liver diseases affects people of all ages and walks of life. At present, an estimated 5.5 millions of people have chronic Liver disease. The burden of Liver diseases currently increases drastically and it calls for greater efforts in their prevention and control. Progress in controlling these diseases largely depends on understanding them better through research [9]. Alcohol abuse is one of the major problem in recent times. There is a close relationship between alcohol intake and ALD as 80% of ingested alcohol is metabolized in Liver. Alcohol is widely used in most of the syrups, tinctures and other forms of medicines. In small dose it has

*Corresponding author: Dr. P.Muralidharan

Department of Pharmacology, C.L. Baid Metha College of Pharmacy, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Jyothi Nagar, Thoraipakkam, Chennai-600097., Tamil Nadu, India

Email: pmuralidaran2020@gmail.com

great medicinal value but at large dose it causes severe Hepatic damage in both Human and experimental animals. Chronic ethanol consumption have a profound effect on metabolism of lipids and lipoproteins. In Liver, ethanol is metabolized into cytotoxic acetaldehyde by acetaldehyde dehydrogenase enzyme and acetaldehyde in turn is oxidized to acetate by aldehyde oxidase enzyme which gives out reactive oxygen species (ROS) like Superoxide, Hydroxyl radical and Hydrogen Peroxide via Cytochrome P450 2E1 (CYP 2E1). This causes oxidative stress to hepatic cell which leads to ALD. When there is any damage to Liver cell membrane, all the cytosolic enzymes like Aspartate transaminase (AST), Alanine transaminase (ALT), Alkaine phospahatase (ALP) are leaked to bloodstream. Thus there is an elevation of cytosolic enzyme levels in bloodstream which serves as quantitative marker of Hepatic damage. ^[10]. ALD is a serious health concern and it is responsible for approximately 4% deaths annualy worldwide. Despite tremendous scientific advances in Hepatology and related areas, Liver problems are still on rise. Yet there are no specific treatment or management strategies available. Most of the treatment options available are accompanied by serious side effects and health complications. Hence developing a safe and effective treatment or management strategy especially based on natural agents has been generating considerable interest of late [11]. Alcohol is the second most pyscho-active substance used after caffeine. Ethanol or its metabolites prompt a sharp increase of free radicals in Hepatic cells by reducing anti-oxidant levels, contributing to variety of chronic diseases. Reactive Oxygen species (ROS) and Reactive Nitrogen Species (RNS) are highly reactive and can damage

DNA, Proteins and Lipids. Alcohol induces Oxidative stress that in turn causes Liver injury. Alcohol consumption causes accumulation of all the ROS in hepatic cells that in turn oxidizes Glutathione that leads to lipid peroxidation of cellular membrane, Oxidation of DNA and protein resulting in Hepatic damage. Prolonged alcohol intake increases Nitric Oxide (NO) levels which forms per-oxy nitrite, a toxic oxidant. Low levels of anti-oxidants leads to damage of Hepatic cells and releases ROS. Treatment options available for liver diseases are inadequate in modern medicine. Conventional drugs used in the treatment of liver disease such as Corticosteroids, anti-viral may lead to serious adverse reactions and they may even cause Hepatic damage on prolonged use. Therefore alternative drugs in the form of herbal medicines are now preferred for treatment of Liver disorders ^[12]. In recent times the use of natural herbal products has enhanced world wide attentions. Herbal supplements have claimed to assist a healthy lifestyle. Medicinally, herbal drugs have also made a significant contribution in treatment of Hepatotoxicity ^[13]. Traditional medicines is mainly of skills, knowledge, practice based on theories that are used to maintain health as well as prevent, diagnose, improve or treat physical and mental illness. Herbal treatments are most popular form of traditional medicine. Herbal medicine include herbs, herbal materials, herbal preparation and finishes herbal products that contains one or more plant extracts as active ingredients [14].

This review is created after a tedious literature survey, all the herbal extracts have been compiled as a tabular column.

List of Some Herbal Extracts that act as Hepatoprotective Agents

S.	Plants (Scientific &	Part of Plants	Extract	Inducing Agent	Animal Model	Reference
No	Common name)	Used				
1	Abutilon indicum (Thuthi)	Leaves	Aqueous	Carbon tetracholride and	Wistar rats	E. Porchezhian
				Paracetamol		et al., 2004 [15]
2	Allium cepa (Onion)	Bulbs	Methanol	Paracetamol	Wistar rats	Ozougwu J.C <i>et al.,</i> 2014 ^[16]
3	Allium cepa	Bulbs	Aqueous	Ethanol	Wistar rats	K. Eswar Kumar <i>et al</i> .,2013 ^[17]
4	<i>Allium sativum</i> (Garlic)	Bulb	Ethanol	Thioacetamide	Wistar rats	Krishna Mohan Chinnala et al.,2018 ^[18]
5	Amaranthus spinosus (Spiny amaranth)	Whole plant	Ethanol	Carbon tetrachloride	Sprague–dawley rats	Hussain Zeashan et al.,2008 [19]
6	Annona squamosa (Custard apple)	Seeds	Ethanol	Ethanol	Sprague–dawley rats	Mohammad Zahid et al.,2018 ^[20]
7	Annona squamosa	Leaves and Bark	Ethanol	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Neha Sonkar et al.,2016 ^[21]
8	Annona squamosa	Leaves	Ethanol	Diethylnitrosamine	Swiss albino mice	D Sobiya Raj <i>et al.</i> ,2009 ^[22]
9	Saraca ashoka	Bark	Hydroalcoholic and Methanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Bharti Arora et al.,2014 ^[23]
10	Withania somnifera (Ashwagandha)	Root	Aqueous	Paracetamol	Wistar rats	Evan prince sabina et al.,2013 ^[24]
11	Laurus nobilis (Bay leaf)	Leaves	Ethanol	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	H. Vardapetyan et al.,2016 ^[25]
12	Boerhaavia diffusa L., (Punarnava)	Root	Aqueous	Thioacetamide	Wistar rats	A.K.S.Rawat <i>et al.</i> ,1996
13	Elettaria cardmomum (Cardamom)	Seed	Aqueous	Gentamicin	Wistar rats	Mohamed Aboubakr et al.,2016 ^[27]
14	<i>Daucus carota L.</i> (Carrot)	Root	Aqueous	Paracetamol, Isoniazid and Alcohol	Wistar rats	Shoba S et al.,2008 ^[28]
15	Cassia fistula	Leaves	N-Heptane	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	T. Bhakta

						et al.,1998 [29]
16	Cinnamomum zeylanicum I	Leaves	Aqueous	Alcohol	Wistar rats	K.Arun et al., 2014 ^[30]
17	Cinnamomum zeylanicum	Bark	Ethanol	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Akram Eidi
18	Cinnamomum zeylanicum	Bark	Aqueous	Paracetamol	Wistar rats	Ashraf Elkomy
19	L Syzygium aromaticum L.	Buds	Hydro-ethanolic	Alcohol	Wistar rats	Svenia P. Jose
20	(Clove)		Hydro-alcobolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	<i>et al.</i> ,2017 ^[33]
20	conunarum sucream	Leaves		carbon tetracmonde		et al.,2008 ^[34]
21	Curcuma longa	Rhizomes	Ethanolic	Thioacetamide	Sprague dawley rats	Suzy M Salama <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> ,2013 ^[35]
22	<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (Curry leaves)	Leaves	Aqueous	Lead acetate	Wistar rats	Debosree ghosh <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> ,2013 ^[36]
23	Cynodon dactylon (Bermuda grass)	Leaves	Aqueous and Ethanolic	Rifampicin	Wistar rats	Akshay Javalgikar et al.,2021 ^[37]
24	Trigonella feouam	Seeds	Hydro-alcoholic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Said. A.M <i>et al.</i> ,2011
	<i>graceum</i> (Fenugreek)					[38]
25	Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel)	Seeds	Essential oil	Carbon tetrachloride	Sprague-dawley rats	H. Ozbek <i>et al.</i> , 2003 ^[39]
26	Kalanchoe pinnata Pers	Leaves	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	N.P. Yadav <i>et al.</i> ,2003
27	Plectranthus amboinicus	Leaves	Aqueous and Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Roshan Patel <i>et al.</i> ,2011
	(Lour) Spreng (Country borage)					[41]
28	Plectranthus amboinicus	Leaves	Ethanolic	Paracetamol	Wistar rats	Smita shenoy <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> ,2012 ^[42]
29	Lavandula officinalis	Aerial parts	Essential oil	Acetaminophen	Balb/c mice	Gabriel Fernando et al.,2021 ^[43]
30	Lavandula officinalis	Aerial parts	Essential oil	Malathion	Swiss albino mice	Slimen Selmi <i>et al.</i> ,2015 ^[44]
31	Cymbopogon citrates Stapf (Lemongrass)	Whole plant	Ethanolic	Paracetamol	Wistar rats	Suphaket Saenthaweesuk <i>et</i>
32	Limonia acidissima Linn	Fruit	Methanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Ilango K <i>et al.</i> ,2009 ^[46]
33	Mentha arvensis	Leaves	Aqueous and Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Kalpana Patil <i>et al.,</i> 2012 ^[47]
34	Mentha longifolia (L.)	Aerial parts	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Swiss Albino mice	Neda Mimica-Dukić et al.,2012 ^[48]
35	Momordica dioica Roxb.	Leaves	Aqueous and Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar albino rats	Avijeet Jain <i>et al.</i> ,2007 [49]
36	<i>Moringa oleifera Lam.</i> (Drumstick)	Leaves	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Dharmendra Singh et al.,2014 ^[50]
37	Moringa oleifera	Leaves	Ethanolic	Isoniazid , Rifampicin and Pyrazinamide	Wistar rats	L. Pari <i>et al.,</i> 2002 ^[51]
38	Moringa oleifera	Leaves	Hydro-alcoholic	Cadmium chloride	Wistar albino rats	Reetu Toppo <i>et al.</i> ,2015 ^[52]
39	Musa paradisiaca	Stem	Alcoholic and Aqueous	Carbon tetrachloride and Paracetamol	Wistar albino rats	Nirmala M <i>et al.</i> ,2012 ^[53]
40	Myristica Fragrans (Nutmeg)	Seed	N-hexane,ethyl acetate and ethanol	Lipopolysaccharide/D- Galactosamine	Wistar rats	Tatsuya morita <i>et</i> <i>al.,</i> 2003 ^[54]
41	Phyllanthus emblica	Fruits	Aqueous	Paracetamol	Wistar albino rats	H.L. Vidhya Malar <i>et</i> al.,2009 ^[55]
42	Portulaca oleracea	Whole plant	Petroleum ether and Methanol	D-Galactosamine	Wistar albino rats	Vunta Prabhakaran <i>et al.</i> ,2010 ^[56]
43	Cucurbita pepo L.	Seeds	Oil	Alcohol	Wistar rats	Howida Sayed Abou Seif et al.,2014 ^[57]
44	Solanum tuberosum L. (Purple potato)	Tubers	Formic acid	D-Galactosamine	F344/DuCrj rats	Kyu Ho Han <i>et al.</i> ,2006 ^[58]
45	Ipomoea batatas L.	Tubers	Hydrochloric acid in	Carbon tetrachloride	KunMing mice	Lin Wang et al.,2016 ^[59]

	(Purple sweet potato)		anhydrous ethanol			
46	Rosmarinus	Aerial parts	Essential oil	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Aleksandar Rašković et
47	officinalis L.	Soods	Hudro alcoholic	Daracatamol	Wistor rate	al.,2014 ^[60]
47	sesumum maicum	Seeus	пушо-аконопс	Paracetamor	VVISIAI TAIS	al.,2011 ^[61]
48	Solanum nigrum	Whole plant	Aqueous and Methanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar albino rats	R. A. M. Elhag et al.,2018 ^[62]
49	Illicium verum (Star anise)	Whole spice	Oil	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Eman Abdallah Ismail <i>et</i> al.,2020 ^[63]
50	Terminalia catappa	Leaves	Aqueous	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar albino rats	Chun-ching lin <i>et</i> al.,1997 ^[64]
51	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> L (Tomato)	Fruits	Pulp	Carbon tetrachloride	Wister albino rats	A. Weremfo <i>et al.</i> ,2011 [65]
52	Watercress	Stem and Leaves	Hydro-alcoholic	Acetaminophen	Wistar rats	Nahid Azarmehr <i>et</i> al.,2019 ^[66]
53	Wedelia calendulacea L.	Leaves	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	P. Murugaian <i>et</i> al.,2008 ^[67]
54	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> Linn.	Shoots	Methanol, Hexane, Chloroform, and Aqueous	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar albino rats	Anand Rajoria et al.,2017 ^[68]
55	Zea mays L.	Husk	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	J. A. Udobang et al.,2019 ^[69]
56	Prunus amygdalus (Almond)	Seed	Oil	Carbon tetrachloride	KunMing rats	Xiao-Yan Jia <i>et al.</i> ,2010 [70]
57	Terminalia arjuna	Bark	Aqueous	Isoniazid	Wistar rats	P.Doorika et al.,2012 [71]
58	Terminalia arjuna	Leaves	Methanolic	Paracetamol	Swiss albino rats	Ataa said et al.,2014 [72]
59	Azadirachta Indica	Leaves	Aqueous	Paracetamol	Wistar rats	Ikechukwu E <i>et al.</i> ,2018 ^[73]
60	Aegle marmelos (L.) Corr.	Leaves	Hydro-alcoholic	Carbon tetrachloride	Swiss albino mice	T. Kalaivani <i>et al.</i> ,2009 ^[74]
61	Anacardium occidentale (Cashew)	Leaves	Methanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Daniel Ikyembe et al.,2014 [75]
62	Cissus quadrangularis	Stem	Methanolic	Isoniazid	Wistar albino rats	A.H.M. Viswanatha Swamy <i>et al.</i> ,2010 ^[76]
63	Amaranthus caudatus	Whole plant	Methanolic	Paracetamol	Wistar rats	Ashok kumar BS <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> ,2011 ^[77]
64	Sesbania grandiflora Linn (Agati)	Flowers	Ethanolic and aqueous	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rat and Swiss albino mice	Ishwer Kale <i>et al.</i> ,2012 ^[78]
65	Amaranthus tricolor L.	Leaves	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar albino rats	Mohammed S. Al-Dosari et al.,2015 ^[79]
66	Capsicum annum L.	Fruit	Aqueous	Ethanol	Wistar rats	Moumita Das <i>et</i> al.,2018 ^[80]
67	Cocos nucifera	Fruit	Oil	Carbon tetrachloride	Albino rabbit	B. Ahmad <i>et al.</i> ,2021 ^[81]
68	Cocos nucifera	Stem bark	Methanolic	Paracetamol	Wistar albino rats	Damilola Alex Omoboyowa <i>et al.</i> ,2015 ^[82]
69	Dichrostachys cinerea	Leaves	Methanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Swiss albino mice and Wistar albino rats	P. Suresh Babu et a;.,2010 ^[83]
70	Ficus carica	Leaves	Petroleum ether	Rifampicin	Wistar rats	N. Y. Gond <i>et al.</i> ,2008 ^[84]
71	Ficus carica Linn.	Leaves	Methanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Krishna Mohan G et al.,2007 ^[85]
72	Ficus carica	Leaves	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Swiss albino mice	Nasrin Aghel <i>et al.</i> ,2011 ^[86]
73	Zingiber officinale (Ginger)	Rhizome	Essential oil	Diethylnitrosamine	Wistar rats	Abdelgawad Fahmi <i>et</i> al.,2019 ^[87]
74	Zingiber officinale	Rhizome	Aqueous	Acetaminophen	Sprague-dawely rats	Amal S Abdel-Azeem et al.,2013 ^[88]
75	Vitis vinifera L	Seeds	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Feroz Ahmad <i>et al.</i> ,2012 ^[89]

76	Hibiscus	Flowers	Aqueous	Cholesterol and Cholic acid	Wistar albino rats	Anupam Biswas et
	rosa sinensis			with Coconut oil		al.,2014 ^[90]
77	Acalypha indica linn	Aerial parts	Methanolic	Thioacetamide	Wistar albino rats	S V Suresh kumar et
						al.,2013 ^[91]
78	Nelumbo nucifera Gaertn.	Leaves	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Sprague-dawley rats	Bo Huang <i>et al.</i> ,2009 ^[92]
					and Kun Ming Mice	
79	Mangifera-indica	Stem bark	Aqueous and Ethanolic	Paracetamol	Wistar rats	Mutiat Adetayo
						Omotayo <i>et al.</i> ,2015 [93]
80	Mangifera indica L.	Fruits	Aqueous	Cumene Hydroperoxide	Sprague-dawley rats	Jalal Pourahmad et
						al.,2010 ^[94]
81	Ocimum sanctum	Leaves	Ethanolic	Paracetamol	Wistar rats	Kingshuk Lahon et
						al.,2011 ^[95]
82	Carica papaya Linn	Fruits	Aqueous and	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar Rats	Md. Zafor Sadeque et
			Ethanolic			al.,2010 ^[96]
83	Carica papaya Linn	Leaves	Aqueous	Ethanol and Isoniazid,	Wistar rats	Aashish Pandit et
				Rifampicin		al.,2013 ^[97]
84	Carica papaya Linn	Seeds	Aqueous	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Adeneye AA et al.,2009
						[98]
85	Piper nigrum L.	Fruits	Essential oil	Carbon tetrachloride	C57BL/6 mice	Chi Zhang <i>et al.</i> ,2020 ^[99]
86	Phyllanthus acidus	Leaves	Aqueous and Ethanolic	Acetaminophen and	Wistar albino rats	Nilesh Kumar Jain <i>et</i>
	(L.) Skeels			Thioacetamide	and Swiss albino	al.,2011 ^[100]
					mice	
87	Piper betel	Leaves	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Ashish Manigauha et
						al.,2009 [101]
88	Piper longum linn.	Fruits	Ethanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	S.S.Jalalpure <i>et al.</i> ,2003
						[102]
89	Alternanthera sessilis	Whole plant	Methanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	Biman Bhuyan et
						al.,2017 ^[103]
90	Vetiveria Zizanioides	Roots	Methanolic	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar albino rats	Mihir parmar et
						al.,2013 [104]
91	Tinospora cordifolia	Leaves, Stem	Petroleum ether,	Carbon tetrachloride	Wistar rats	B. T. Kavitha <i>et al.</i> ,2011
		and Roots	Ethanol and Aqueous			[105]

CONCLUSION

Due to prevalence of Hhepatotoxicity among wide range of population, it is necessary to develop a safe and an effective treatment. There is a need to develop, protect and promote traditional medicines for the betterment of the health care system. The present review elaborates various therapeutic and innovative approaches to find out the perspective on globalization of safe and cost-effective Herbal treatment for hepatotoxicity.

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Conflict of interest

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