



## Review Article

# Preliminary phytochemical studies of select members of the family Annonaceae for bioactive constituents

Florence AR<sup>1</sup>, Joselin J<sup>1</sup>, Shynin Brintha TS<sup>1</sup>, Sukumaran S<sup>2</sup> and Jeeva S<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Botany, Scott Christian College (Autonomous), Nagercoil – 629 003, Tamilnadu, India.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Botany, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam – 629 165, Tamilnadu, India.  
solomonjeeva@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to assess the phytochemical constituents present in the leaf extract of some members of the family Annonaceae. Leaf extracts were prepared from the organic solvents extracts and phytochemical screening was performed using the standard method given by Harborne. Phytochemical screening of the plants showed the presence of alkaloids, carbohydrates, coumarins, flavonoids, glycosides, phenolic compounds, phytosterols, proteins, quinones, saponins, steroids and terpenoids. The constituents reported from the present study gives further idea for detailed studies on clinical and therapeutic aspects.

**Key words:** Annonaceae, Leaf extract, Phytochemical constituents, Phytochemical screening.

### INTRODUCTION

Nature has been a source of medical agents for thousands of years and the use of plants for prevention and treatment of various health ailments has been in practice from time immemorial. It is estimated that about 25% of drugs prescribed are derived from plants. In recent years, secondary metabolites previously with unknown pharmacological activities have been extensively investigated as a source of medicinal agents (Devi *et al.*, 2012; Tresina *et al.*, 2012; Vasantha *et al.*, 2012; Lalitharani *et al.*, 2013; Sheela and Uthayakumari, 2013).

Annonaceae, the custard apple family with about 2500 species and more than 130 genera is a family of flowering plants consisting of trees, shrubs or rarely lianas (Slik, 2003; PIER, 2008). Biologically active components of the family showed interesting biological properties like anti-HIV, anti-cancer effects (De Quan, 1999), insecticidal properties (Ashok Kumar *et al.*, 2010) and useful cytotoxic compounds (Kingston, 1992).

*Annona muricata* L. locally called "Seemai Mundhiri" is a small upright evergreen tropical fruit tree. It is commonly called Soursop or Apre. It is grown mainly for fruits. *Annona muricata* leaves contain several groups of substances called annonaceous acetogenins. The leaves of *Annona muricata* have astringent, anti-plasmodic and gastric properties (Khan *et al.*, 1997), parasiticidal, anti-diarrhoeal, rheumatological and anti-neuralgic properties (Glaye *et al.*, 1998). It is also used to treat diabetes (Adewole and Ojewole, 2006), jaundice (Mshana, 2000) and kidney ailments (Duke, 1970). Methanolic extract of *Annona muricata* leaves have antibacterial activity against some strains of *E. coli* (Chukwuka *et al.*, 2011). An important chemical compound annonacin is found in *Annona muricata* seeds (Lannuzel *et al.*, 2003). *Annona reticulata* Linn. a tall deciduous tree, with many branches, bearing nutritious fruits is a highly medicinal plant used for the treatment of epilepsy, constipation, cardiac problems, worm infestation, antibacterial infection, dysentery, fever, dysuria, hemorrhage and ulcer (Nadkarni, 2000).

Ripe fruit is sweet, cooling, good tonic and sedative. It enriches the blood, increases muscular strength, lesions burning sensation, tendency to biliousness and vomiting. Leaf can be used for destroying lice (Morton, 1987). The leaves are used as anthelmintic, styptic and insecticide and the chemical compound acetogenins present in the leaves are responsible for specific cytotoxic to certain human tumors (Xu *et al.*, 1992). The bark is a powerful astringent and is used as antidysentric and vermifuge. Root bark and stem of this plant possess isoquinoline alkaloids (Nadkarni, 2002). Phytochemical constituents from the plant are anonaine, roemerine, norcorydiene, corydine, norisocorydine, carvone, linalool, samoquasine A, squamocin-I, squamocin-B, squamocenin, motrilin, kaurenoic acid, phenolic and nonphenolic alkaloids, two crystalline alkaloids – muricine, muricinine, (2,4-cis and trans)-squamolinone, (2, 4-cis and trans)-9-oxoasimicinone, bullacin Betc.(Li *et al.*, 1990; Chopra *et al.*, 2002).

*Annona squamosa* Linn. is a small semi-deciduous tree, with mainly fruits consuming plant and distributed throughout India. It is known as Custard apple in English and “Sitapazham” in Tamil. The plant is a reservoir of special substances like alkaloids, glycosides, resins, volatile oils, gums and tannins etc. in organs viz., leaves, roots, seeds, bark etc.(Himesh *et al.*, 2011). The plant is traditionally used for the treatment of cardiac diseases, diabetes, hyperthyroidism (Sunanda and Anand, 2003) and cancer (Bhakuni *et al.*, 1969). Every parts of *A. squamosa* have various medicinal property proved by many research works (Hertog *et al.*, 1992). The crushed leaves are used to treat hysteria, gastric hyper acidity, fainting spells, ulcer and wounds. The bark is used as powerful astringent and to stop diarrhea in children and adults. The fruits act as good tonic, expectorant, blood increasing agent, increases muscular strength, sedative to heart, relieves vomiting and also as a hair tonic. The powder of seeds and leaves are used for prevention of lice (Asolkar, 1992; Kiritikar and Basu, 1993). Roots are treated for spinal diseases and also used as drastic purgative (Varadharajan *et al.*, 2012).

*Artabotrys hexapetalus* (Linn.f.) Bhandari is a medium sized woody climber and ornamental lianas, producing extremely fragrant flowers and the flower oil is used in perfumes. This species is native to India. It is used in traditional Chinese

medicine for the treatment of malaria (Li *et al.*, 1997), scrofula (Li and Yu, 1998) and anti-implantation or anti-fertility activity (Johri *et al.*, 2009). The bioactive principles of the plant are steroids, terpenoids, saponins and leucoanthocyanin (Savithramma *et al.*, 2011) bisabolane, guiane sesquiterpenes, steroids, aporphine tetrahydroherberine alkaloids and long chain hydrocarbons (Ho-Fai and Geoffre, 2002).

*Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) Thwaites commonly known as “Ashoka tree” is a tall, handsome, evergreen, pyramid like tree, growing up to 12m height, commonly planted due to its effectiveness in alleviating noise pollution and also for ornamental purposes (Sastri, 1969). The genus *Polyalthia* is considered as medicinal importance because of the presence of clerodane diterpenoids and alkaloids in various parts of the plant (Wu, 1989). This plant is used to treat fever, gonorrhoea, uterus ailment, leucorrhoea and menorrhagia (Raghunathan and Mitra, 1982; Kiritikar and Basu, 1998; Singh and Pandey, 1998) skin diseases, diabetes, hypertension and helminthiasis (Kiritikar and Basu, 1995). Bark decoction is used to cure mouth ulcers (Garg and Jain, 1999) and also proved for its antifungal, anthelmintic (Padmaja *et al.*, 1993), antibacterial and antioxidant properties (Subramanya *et al.*, 2012).

*Uvaria narum* (Dunal) Wall. is a large woody stellately pubescent, straggling shrub and is distributed in foot hills of Western Ghats. Generally the plant contains acetogenins including stereoisomer (Padmaja *et al.*, 2002) and the bark contains squamocin-28-one, panacilin, Uvariamicin-I, II, III (Hishama *et al.*, 1990; Hishama *et al.*, 1991). The presence of phenols and tannins in the plant has been attributed to its various medicinal properties. It is commonly used in ethnomedicine for the treatment of eczema, pityriasis, constipation, low back ache, jaundice and fever (Subramanya *et al.*, 2011). Roots and leaves are used in the treatment of intermittent fever, biliousness jaundice, bowel diseases and rheumatic affections and decoction of roots is given to the women to control the fits at the time of delivery (Khare, 2007).

*Xylopia parvifolia* (A.Rich.) Benth. is a tall tree distributed in East and Central Africa. In South India, the plant is reported only from the Western Ghats of Tamilnadu (Ramamurthy, 1983) and Kerala (Mitra, 1997).

Alkaloids were isolated from chloroform and methanol extracts of the stem bark of *Xylopi* *parvifolia* (Puvanendran *et al.*, 2010). The genus *Xylopi* have yielded products such as alkaloids, flavonoids, lignoids, terpenoids, acetogenins and amides (Moreria *et al.*, 2005). Phenolic compounds present in the plant have high levels of antioxidant activities (Rice-Evens *et al.*, 1996).

Root decoction was taken by the coastal people for the treatment of stomach disorders and root pieces are inserted into nostrils to get relief from headache and the bark is used for analgesic and antispasmodic purposes (Nishiyama *et al.*, 2006).

Keeping the therapeutic uses of these plants in view, the present study was aimed to determine the secondary metabolites present in the select members of the family Annonaceae.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### EXTRACTION OF PLANT MATERIAL

Healthy, fresh and disease free leaves were collected from Scott Christian College Campus, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu, India. The plants were identified by using the campus flora (Brintha, 2012) and counterchecked with the specimens available in the college herbarium. The leaves were shade dried and powdered using mixer grinder. 10 gm of dried powder was macerated with 100 ml of aqueous, petroleum ether, chloroform, ethanol and acetone in a conical flask and shaken at room temperature for 24 hours and filtered through Whatman No.1 filter paper. The concentrated crude extracts were taken and subjected to qualitative photochemical analysis by using the standard methods given by Harborne (1998).

## RESULTS

All the leaf extracts were subjected to phytochemical screening and the results were tabulated in table 1. Qualitative analysis of the leaf extracts of *Annona squamosa*, *A. reticulata*, *A. muricata*, *Polyalthia longifolia*, *Uvaria narum* and *Xylopi parvifolia* showed the presence of various phytochemicals. Aqueous extract of *Annona muricata*, showed the presence of phytosterols, coumarins, carbohydrates, glycosides, steroids and terpenoids. Carbohydrates, glycosides, phytosterols and proteins were reported in petroleum ether extract. Chloroform extract

showed the availability of coumarins, glycosides, phytosterols and steroids. Ethanol extracts showed the presence of glycosides, phytosterols and steroids. Flavonoids, coumarins, phytosterols and steroids were found in acetone extracts whereas alkaloids, phenols, quinones and saponins were absent in all extracts.

Aqueous extract of *Annona reticulata* showed the presence of alkaloids, phenols, phytosterols, carbohydrates, glycosides and proteins. Phytosterols, alkaloids and glycosides were found in petroleum ether extract. Chloroform extract revealed the presence of carbohydrates, phytosterols, glycosides and proteins. Ethanol extract showed the presence of phytosterols, phenols, proteins, steroids and saponins whereas acetone extract showed the presence of alkaloids, coumarins, phytosterols, phenols, saponins and steroids. Flavonoids, terpenoids and quinones were absent in all the extracts.

*Annona squamosa* contained a variety of constituents such as alkaloids, carbohydrates, flavonoids, glycosides, phytosterols, proteins, saponins, steroids and terpenoids. Aqueous extract of the leaves showed secondary metabolites like alkaloids, proteins, flavonoids, glycosides, steroids and terpenoids. Chloroform extract showed the presence of carbohydrates, phytosterols and glycosides. Ethanol extract revealed the presence of phytosterols, carbohydrates and saponins. Acetone extract showed the presence of phytosterols and carbohydrates. Proteins are found only in petroleum ether extract. Quinones were found to be absent in all the extracts.

Aqueous extract of *Artabotrys hexapetalus* revealed the presence of alkaloids, carbohydrates, flavonoids, glycosides, phenols, phytosterols, proteins, quinones, steroids and terpenoids. Flavonoids, phenols, phytosterols, steroids and terpenoids were noticed in petroleum ether extract. Chloroform extract showed the presence of alkaloids, carbohydrates, coumarins, glycosides and phenols. Ethanol extract showed the availability of carbohydrates, coumarins, phenols and quinones. Acetone extracts showed the presence of alkaloids, coumarins, phenols and steroids whereas saponins are absent in all extracts.

In *Polyalthia longifolia*, aqueous extract showed the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, phytosterols, steroids and terpenoids. Petroleum ether extract showed the presence of carbohydrates, coumarins, glycosides, phytosterols, steroids and terpenoids. Chloroform extracts showed the presence of carbohydrates, glycosides, phenols, phytosterols and steroids. Alkaloids, glycosides, phenols, phytosterols, proteins, steroids and terpenoids were noticed in ethanol extracts. Acetone extract showed the presence of alkaloids, carbohydrates, phenols, proteins and steroids whereas quinones and saponins were absent in all the extracts.

*Uvaria narum* depicted the presence of flavonoids, phenols, phytosterols, alkaloids, carbohydrates, coumarins, quinones, steroids and terpenoids in aqueous extracts. Coumarins, flavonoids, phytosterols, proteins, quinones, steroids and terpenoids were reported in petroleum ether extracts. Chloroform extracts showed the presence of carbohydrates, coumarins, phenols, phytosterols, proteins, steroids and terpenoids. Ethanol extract showed the presence of alkaloids, carbohydrates, glycosides, phytosterols, steroids and terpenoids whereas acetone extract showed the presence of carbohydrates, phenols, phytosterols, glycosides, terpenoids and alkaloids. Coumarins were found to be absent in all the extracts.

The aqueous extract of *Xylopia parvifolia* showed the presence of flavonoids, coumarins, phytosterols, proteins, quinones, steroids and terpenoids. Petroleum ether extract showed the presence of phytosterols, alkaloids, glycosides, phenols, proteins, saponins, steroids and terpenoids. Chloroform extract showed the presence of carbohydrates, glycosides, phenols, phytosterols and terpenoids. Ethanol extracts showed the presence of alkaloids, glycosides, phenols, phytosterols and terpenoids whereas acetone extract showed the presence of alkaloids, phenols, proteins, terpenoids and phytosterols.

## DISCUSSION

Plants used in traditional medicine contain a wide range of bioactive substances that can be used to treat infectious diseases (Balakumar *et al.*, 2011; Florence *et al.*, 2012; Joselin *et al.*, 2012, 2013; Rajan *et al.*, 2011). The most important of these biologically active ingredients are alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids, glycosides, terpenoids, etc. (Mithraja *et al.*, 2012a; Mithraja *et al.*, 2012b;

Mithraja *et al.*, 2012c; Kiruba *et al.*, 2012; Sukumaran *et al.*, 2012). Plants belonging to the family Annonaceae are a rich source of bioactive substances. Most of the studies demonstrate the importance of secondary metabolites in drug discovery. The use of phytoconstituents as drug therapy to treat major ailments has proved clinically effective and less toxic than the existing drugs. *Annona muricata* contained the bioactive principles like carbohydrates, coumarins, glycosides, phytosterols, proteins, saponins, steroids and flavonoids. Pathak *et al.* (2010) reported secondary metabolites like carbohydrates, cardiac glycosides, steroids and tannins from the aqueous and methanol leaf extracts. *Annona muricata* plant seeds contained the important compound annonacin which is a neurotoxin and seems to be the cause of neurodegenerative diseases. Consumption of this plant cured upto 70% parkinsonian conditions of Guadeloupe people due to the presence of compound annonacin (Lannuzel *et al.*, 2006; Lefebvre and Elbaz, 1999). Plant based antimicrobials have enormous therapeutic potential as they can serve the purpose with lesser side effects that are often associated with synthetic antimicrobials (Iwu *et al.*, 1999). Aqueous and methanol extracts of *A. muricata* leaves showed antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *Bacillus subtilis*. The plant is used as traditional food and "Natural Medicines" and the plant leaves are used in the treatment of various bacterial infectious diseases like pneumonia, diarrhea, urinary infection and some skin diseases (Rojas *et al.*, 2003). The aqueous extract of the leaves contained saponins, condensed tannins, glycosides and trace amounts of flavonoids contribute immensely to the bioactivity of *A. muricata* included antioxidant activity (Adewole and Ojewole, 2009), hepatoprotective effect (Arthur *et al.*, 2011) and antibacterial agent (Chukwuka *et al.*, 2011).

*Annona reticulata* showed the presence of various phytoconstituents like alkaloids, carbohydrates, coumarins, flavonoids, glycosides, phytosterols, proteins, saponins and steroids. Similar studies conducted by Zaman and Pathak (2012) in *Annona reticulata* leaves showed the presence of phytoconstituents such as alkaloids, aminocides, carbohydrates, fats and oil, flavonoids, glycosides, proteins, steroids, saponins and

Table 1. Preliminary phytochemical screening of Annonaceae leaf extracts

	Phytochemical compounds												
	Alkaloids	Carbohydrates	Coumarins	Flavonoids	Glycosides	Phenols	Phytosterols	Proteins	Quinones	Saponins	Sterols	Terpenoids	
<i>Annona muricata</i>													
Aqueous	-	+	++	-	+	-	++	-	-	-	++	+	
P. ether	-	++	-	-	++	--	++	+	-	-	-	-	
Chloroform	-	-	++	-	++	-	+++	-	-	-	+++	-	
Ethanol	-	-	-	-	+++	-	++	-	-	--	++	-	
Acetone	-	-	+	-	-	-	+++	-	-	-	+++	-	
<i>Annona reticulata</i>													
Aqueous	+++	-	-	-	-	+++	++	-	-	-	+	-	
P. ether	++	-	-	-	+	-	+++	-	-	-	-	-	
Chloroform	-	+++	-	-	++	-	+++	+	-	-	-	-	
Ethanol	-	-	-	-	-	++	+++	++	-	+	++	-	
Acetone	+++	-	+++	-	-	+	++	-	-	+	+	-	
<i>Annona squamosa</i>													
Aqueous	+++	-	-	+	-	-	-	+++	-	-	+	+	
P. ether	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	
Chloroform	-	+++	-	-	+	-	+++	-	-	-	-	-	
Ethanol	-	+	-	-	-	-	+++	-	-	+	-	-	
Acetone	-	+	-	-	-	-	+++	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Artabotrys hexapetalus</i>													
Aqueous	+	+	-	+	+	++	++	+	+++	-	+	+	
P. ether	-	-	-	++	-	+	++	-	-	-	+	+	
Chloroform	+	+++	+++	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ethanol	-	+	+	-	-	++	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acetone	++	-	+	-	-	++	-	-	-	-	+	-	
<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i>													
Aqueous	+++	-	-	+++	-	+++	+++	-	-	--	+++	+	
P. ether	-	++	+	-	++	-	++	-	-	-	+++	++	
Chloroform	-	+++	-	+++	++	+++	++	-	-	-	+	-	
Ethanol	+++	-	-	-	+	+++	+	+++	-	-	+++	++	
Acetone	+++	+	-	-	-	++	-	+	-	-	+	-	
<i>Uvaria narum</i>													
Aqueous	+	+	++	+++	-	+++	-	+++	++	-	+	++	
P. ether	-	-	+	++	-	-	++	++	+	-	+	-	
Chloroform	-	++	++	-	-	+++	++	++	-	-	+++	++	
Ethanol	++	++	-	-	+++	-	++	-	-	-	++	+++	
Acetone	+	+++	-	-	++	+++	++	++	-	-	-	++	
<i>Xylopia parvifolia</i>													
aqueous	+	-	+++	+++	-	+	++	++	++	-	+++	+	
P. ether	++	-	-	-	++	++	+++	+	-	+	+++	++	
Chloroform	-	+++	-	-	+	+	++	-	-	-	-	++	
Ethanol	++	-	-	-	++	++	++	++	-	-	+++	++	
Acetone	+	+++	-	-	++	+++	++	++	-	-	-	++	
<i>Abbreviations:</i>													
	+++	-	-	-	-	+++	+	+++	-	-	-	++	

Abbreviations: (-) absent; (+) low; (++) average; (+++) High

terpenoids whereas the stem bark revealed the presence of alkaloids, fats and oil, steroids, lignin, tannins, phenolic compounds and terpenes. Similarly the aqueous extract showed the presence of tannins, carbohydrates, flavonoids and proteins (Clarke, 1975). Suresh *et al.* (2011) reported alkaloids, acetogenins, carbohydrates, proteins and flavonoids from the ethanolic extract of *Annona reticulata* roots. The root possesses a selective antiproliferative effect because it contains acetogenins (Coothankandaswamy *et al.*, 2010; Pardhasarathi *et al.*, 2005) and alkaloids (Chougule *et al.*, 2010) and also used as a chemopreventive agent in cancer therapy (Cassady *et al.*, 2008). Recent reports revealed that acetogenins and alkaloids present in the ethanolic extract of the plant have selective cytotoxicity (Xu *et al.*, 1992).

In the present study, the leaf of *Annona squamosa* has been reported to contain alkaloids, carbohydrates, phytosterols, proteins, flavonoids, glycosides, steroids and terpenoids. In recent years, organic chemists and biochemists reported bioactive compounds with wide range of bioactivity (Leboeuf *et al.*, 1982). This species has alkaloids such as glaucin, annonaine, aporphine and benzoquinazoline in different parts of the plant (Bhaumik *et al.*, 1979; Morita *et al.*, 2000). These compounds have antitumor, antifeedal, insecticidal and immunosuppressant properties. Ethanolic extract of leaves contain essential oils, terpenes and alkaloids. These bioactive principles have insecticidal activity against *Sitophilus oryzae* (Ashok Kumar *et al.*, 2010) and flavonoids from this plant is responsible for free radical scavenging activity (Kalsi, 2002). Varatharajan *et al.* (2012) proved that terpenoids increase blood flow to the brain, improve memory in people with mild dementia and also used to treat cancer and inflammatory diseases. He also proved that anti cancer activity may be due to the presence of glycosidic compounds. Phenolic compounds which act as antioxidants play an important role in the prevention of cancer, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases (Losso *et al.*, 2007). It also have anti inflammatory effect, anti viral (Li *et al.*, 2004) and antibacterial activity (Akiyama *et al.*, 2001). Chloroform extract of the plant contain an active compound annotemoyin, and also flavonoids isolated from aqueous extract of the plant possess antimicrobial activity (Padhy *et al.*, 2011). Raj

Sobiya *et al.* (2009) denoted that the ethanolic extract of leaves and stem is reported to have anti cancer activity and antiulcer activity (Rajesh *et al.*, 2002). Root and bark contain essential oil and the seeds showed compounds such as Annotemoyin-1, Annotemoyin-2, squamocin, cholesterol and glucopyranoside that are responsible for antimicrobial and cytotoxic activities (Rakesh and Mahendra, 2009).

Aqueous, chloroform, petroleum ether, ethanol and acetone leaf extracts of *Artabotrys hexapetalus* contain alkaloids, carbohydrates, coumarins, flavonoids, glycosides, phenols, phytosterols, quinones, steroids, terpenes and proteins. Similar works on hydroalcoholic extract of *Artabotrys hexapetalus* leaves possess secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, carbohydrates, flavonoids, glycosides, phytosterols, terpenes, proteins, phenols and saponins (Karthik *et al.*, 2012). Due to the presence of these active principles, the plant possess anti-fertility activity. Phenolic constituents are responsible for the scavenging ability due to their hydroxyl group. Aqueous and methanol extracts of the flowers have antioxidant and free radical scavenging property and the aqueous extract have antimicrobial activity against gram negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella typhi*) and also effective against fungi (*Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus niger*) due to the presence of phenolic content (Manjula *et al.*, 2011).

Leaf extracts of *Polyalthia longifolia* contain the phytoconstituents such as steroids, alkaloids, phytosterols, phenols, glycosides, flavonoids and coumarins. Kavitha *et al.* (2011) reported phytochemicals such as alkaloids, steroids, tannins, phenols and flavonoids in all the extracts (hexane, ethyl acetate, acetone, ethyl alcohol and methyl alcohol). Ethyl acetate extract of *Polyalthia longifolia* showed the presence of carbohydrates, glycosides, tannins, flavonoids, oils and fats, aminoacids and steroids (Pradhan *et al.*, 2011). Flavonoids are the group of polyphenolic compounds which influence the radical scavenging inhibition of hydrolytic and oxidative enzymes. The phenols, tannins, flavonoids and alkaloids are complex moieties present in *Polyalthia longifolia* seed extracts, which showed higher potentialities towards antioxidant properties.

Presence of flavonoids and tannins in *Polyalthia longifolia* are responsible for antibacterial activity against the bacterial strains *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Bacillus cereus* (Kokate *et al.*, 2006). Ethanolic extract of the plant produced anti-ulcerogenic effects possessing antisecretory, cytoprotective and proton pump inhibition mechanism due to the presence of alkaloids and terpenoids (Malairajan *et al.*, 2008). This plant mainly contains diterpenoids (Phadnis *et al.*, 1988) alkaloids, tannins and mucilage. Clerodane-type diterpenoids have antifeedant properties (Hara *et al.*, 1995) and diterpene isolated from the hexane extract of the seeds have antibacterial and antifungal properties (Marthanda *et al.*, 2005).

The crude leaf extracts of *Uvaria narum* showed the presence of alkaloids, carbohydrates, coumarins, glycosides, flavonoids, phytosterols, phenols, proteins, quinones, steroids and terpenoids. Similar studies were conducted by Reddy *et al.* (2012) in methanolic leaf extract which contain phenols, saponins, glycosides and steroids. The presence of these phytoconstituents in the plant has been attributed to its various medicinal properties (Cowan, 1999). In the present study steroids are present in all extracts except acetone. Previous research report denoted that steroids are also present in all extracts like methanol, ethyl acetate, chloroform and petroleum ether. In *Uvaria narum*, steroids are known to be important for their cardiogenic activities and also possess insecticidal and antimicrobial properties (Shyamala *et al.*, 2010). Subramanya *et al.* (2012) conducted a study on the root extracts of *Uvaria narum* which could be medicinally employed as free radical scavenger, antibacterial and antioxidant properties and the roots have been proved for its antifungal, antibacterial, antioxidant properties, anthelmintic (Padmaja and Thankamany, 1993) and also possess hepatoprotective potential (Karan *et al.*, 1999).

The plant *Xylopiya parvifolia* possess alkaloids, phenols, phytosterols and terpenoids in all extracts. Other compounds are present in trace amounts. Saponins were completely absent in *Xylopiya parvifolia*. Kuate *et al.* (2011) proved that seed extracts of *Xylopiya parvifolia* have antioxidant activity by ABTS and DPPH scavenging activity, reducing activity, metal chelating activity, nitric oxide and lipid peroxidation activity. Rice-Evans *et al.* (1996) reported that many of the phenolic

compounds contains high level of antioxidant activity. Chromatographic technique yielded six alkaloids from the chloroform and methanolic extracts of stem bark. The chloroform extract yielded Oxopurpurine (Sonnet and Jacobson 1971); O-Methylmoschatoline (Harrigan *et al.*, 1980); Laudanidine (Blanchfield *et al.*, 2003) methanolic extract yielded Discretine (Hocquemillar, 1984); Nordicentrine (Likhitwitayawuid, 1993) and Dehydrocorytenchine (Jossang, 1991). *X. parvifolia* could be a good source of natural antioxidant due to the presence of phenolic compounds (Silva *et al.*, 2007). These natural antioxidants not only protect food lipids from oxidation, but also provide health benefits associated with preventing damages due to biological degeneration (Shahidi and Sundara, 2008; Hu and kits, 2005). Its spices possess several medicinal properties such as anti-diabetic (Srinivasan, 2005) ability to stimulant digestion (Patel and Srinivasan, 2004), antioxidant property and anti-inflammatory potential due to the presence of phenolics, flavonoids and phenyl propanoids (Scalbert and Williamson, 2000).

## CONCLUSION

Secondary metabolites of medicinal plants are widely used in traditional medicines. In the present study, most of the biologically active phytochemicals are present in the aqueous, petroleum ether, chloroform, ethanol and acetone extracts of the leaves. The extracts of leaves were subjected to preliminary phytochemical tests and the results indicated the presence of carbohydrates, alkaloids, glycosides, phenols, steroids, terpenoids, phytosterols, coumarins, quinones, proteins, flavonoids and saponins in various members of the family Annonaceae. Further studies are needed to isolate the active components, which can be used for the welfare of the mankind.

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