



REVIEW ARTICLE

A Review on Phytochemical constituents of *Abutilon indicum* (Link) Sweet – An Important Medicinal Plant in Ayurveda

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ABSTRACT

Abutilon indicum (Link) Sweet is a medicinal shrub belonging to the family Malvaceae; It has been extensively used as a traditional medicine to cure different diseases. It is considered invasive on certain tropical islands. The plant is very much used in Ayurveda & Siddha medicines in Tamilnadu. In fact, the bark, root, leaves, flowers and seeds are all used for medicinal purposes. The phytochemical analysis showed the Presence of alkaloid, saponins, amino acid, flavonoids, glycosides and steroids. Some important essential oil constituents like α -pinene, mucilage, tannins, caryophyllene, asparagines, caryophylleneoxide, endesmol, farnesol, borenol, geraniol, geranyl acetate, elemene and α -cineole have been reported from plant. Phytoconstituents like β -Sitosterol, caffeic acid, fumaric acid, vanillin, p-coumaric acid, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, sesquiterpene including lactones, alantolactone and isoalanto-lactone along with this hexoses, n-alkane mixtures (C_{22-34}), alkanol, gallic acid also been reported from different part of the plant. The present paper provides detailed review of literature on the phytochemical properties of *A. indicum* (Link) Sweet, which may be helpful to establish effective and useful natural drugs for further research.

Keywords: Pharmacology, Glycosides, traditional medicine, *Abutilon indicum* (Link) Sweet, phytochemical analysis.

INTRODUCTION

People not only depend on plants for several purposes like for wood, timber, non-timber forest products, food but also plants have been used as medicines for thousands of years (Jain et al. 2005) as natural drugs are effective in action without side effects. Botanically, *Abutilon Indicum* (Link) Sweet (also called Indian mallow in English and *Atibala* in Hindi) is an Indian medicinal plant used in Ayurveda. *A. indicum* (Link) Sweet is a hairy under-shrub with golden yellow flowers, found in the outer Himalayan tracts from Jammu to Bhutan up to an altitude of 1500 m and extending through the whole of northern and central India. It can grow in dry and poor soil and require hot conditions. In India it is very common on roadsides and waste places generally to grow after the rainy season.

The *Abutilon indicum* (Link) Sweet under the family Malvaceae includes 75 genera and 1000 species mostly confined to the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. In India the family is represented by 22 genera and about 110 species occurring mostly in the warmer part (Khanduri et al. 2014). *Abutilon indicum* (Link) Sweet is an important medicinal plant used in our traditional system of medicine to treat various health ailments (Vadnere et al. 2013). The plant is very much used in Siddha medicines. All the parts of plant have medicinal uses (Saraswathi et al. 2011). The bark and the root are used as a diuretic, anthelmintic, pulmonary sedative and in fever (Kashmiri et al. 2009). This plant is very much used in Siddha medicines. In fact, the bark, root, leaves, flowers and seeds are all used for medicinal purposes by Tamils. The leaves are also used to treat for pile complaints. The flowers are traditionally used to increase semen in men. The seeds from this plant are considered to be aphrodisiac and can be used for urinary disorders (Kirtikar et al. 1980), laxative for those having hemorrhoids and in the treatment of coughs, puerperal disease, urinary disorders, chronic dysentery, and fever (Jayaweera et al. 1982 and Thongsiri et al. 2001). Leaves are used as a remedy for piles and as demulcent tonic. A decoction of *A. muticum* used in bronchitis, catarrhal bilious diarrhoea, gonorrhoea, inflammation of the bladder and fever (Ali et al. 2009). The flowers and leaves are used as a local application to boils and ulcers (Mhasker et al. 2000). Seeds are also used as diuretic and demulcent (Vaghasiya et al. 2007). The seeds cakes are used for dairy cattle and fertilizer (Gutkin et al. 1950). This plant shows anti-inflammatory (Rajurkar et al. 2009), Lipid lowering (Giri et al. 2009), analgesic (Goyal et al. 2009), hepato-protective (Porchezian et al. 2005), hypoglycemic (Seetharam et al. 2002), antimycotic (Rajalakshmi et al. 2009), anti-diarrhoeal (Chandrashekhara et al. 2004), anti-convulsing (Golwala et

al. 2010), Larvicidal (Rahuman et al. 2008), Wound healing (Roshan et al. 2008), Anti asthmatic (Paranjape et al. 2006 and Paranjape et al. 2008), Diuretic (Balamurugan et al. 2010), Immune-modulatory (Dashputre et al. 2010), anti-estrogenic (Johri et al. 1991), *In-vitro* anti-arthritis (Deshpande et al. 2009) activities. A large number of plants still remain unexplored with regard to their medicinal properties and they can also be sources of potentially active compounds for the development of new drugs to treat various diseases. Considering the broad pharmacological applications there is a need to review on phytochemical constituents available in literature on *Abutilon indicum* (Link) Sweet to answer the gaps between ethnomedicinal uses and phytochemical studies, so that it would aid future research by phytochemists, pharmacologists, clinicians, researchers, scientists and toxicologists.

Abutilon indicum (Link) Sweet (MALVACEAE)

(Vernacular Names : Hindi - Kanghi, Kakahi; English - Country mallow, Indian mallow; Bengali - Petari; Malayalam - Dabi, Uram; Gujarati - Khapat, Kansi, Dabli Marathi - Mudra, Petari ; Tamil - Tutti, Paniara, Hutti; Telugu - Tutturubenda)

Plant Morphology

Abutilon indicum (Link) Sweet is herbaceous weed. The stem of the plant is stout, branched. The stem of the plant is yellow and often found tinged with purple colour. The leaves are ovate, acuminate, toothed, rarely sub trilobite. The flowers are yellow in color, peduncle jointed above the middle, they are axillary solitary, jointed very near the top. The fruits are capsule, densely pubescent, with conspicuous and horizontally spreading beaks. The seeds are 3-5 mm in size, reniform, tubercled or minutely stellate-hairy, black or dark brown (Kirtikar et al. 1994, Prajapati et al. 2003, Nadkarni 1995). The root of the plant is with smooth surface, cylindrical, fragrant, salty taste and yellow in color.

Phytochemistry

Abutilon indicum (Link) Sweet has been explored phytochemically by various researchers and found to possess number of chemical constituents.

A) Phyto-constituents from Root: In 2009 Rajurkar et al. have reported the phyto-constituents from root which is non-drying oil which consists different fatty acids like linoleic, oleic, stearic, palmitic, lauric, myristic, caprylic, capric and unusual fatty acid having C17 carbon skeleton from which unsaponifiable matter were yielded. Recently in 2013, Amit et al. has reported beta sitosterol and amyirin from root extracts.

B) Phytoconstituents from Flower: Various Flavonoids have been isolated from extract of flower (Sharma *et al.* 2013 & Padma *et al.* 2009) it includes Quercetin-3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside, Luteolin-7-O- β -glucopyranoside and Quercetin-3-O- α -rhamnopyranosyl (1-6)- β -glucopyranoside (Matlawska *et al.* 2002), Gossypetin-7 and 8-O- β glucoside from flower petals (Subramanian *et al.* 1972) and also found luteolin, Chrysoeriol, Chrysoeriol-7-O- β -glucopyranoside, Apigenin-7-O- β -glucopyranoside, Cyanidin-3-O-rutinoside.

C) Phyto-constituents from Leaves: Padma *et al.* in 2009 founded the various Steroids from the leaf extract of *A. indicum* (Link) Sweet. Macabeo *et al.* (2014) and Rahuman *et al.* (2008) extracted various sterols from leaf they are β Sitostrol, cholesterol and stigmasterols (Rajput *et al.* 2012). Quercetin is important flavanol found in leaf extract (Rajput *et al.* 2012). There are certain flavones observed in this plant they are Luteolin, Luteolin-7-O- β -glucopyranoside, Chrysoeriol, Chrysoeriol-7-O- β -glucopyranoside (Singh *et al.* 2008). Phenolic acid derivatives like Eudesmic acid, Ferulic acid (Rajput *et al.* 2012) and Caffeic acid (Pandey *et al.* 2011) also successfully obtained from methanol extract. β -Amyrin-3-palmitate is the main triterpenes present in leaf extract (Macabeo *et al.* 2014) and also founded squalene is major phytoconstituent from quinones.

D) Phytoconstituents from fruit: Sidharth *et al.* 2016 showed that the compounds 2-Pentanone, 4-hydroxy-4-methyl- seems to be most stable compound. Benzene, 1, 3-dimethyl (m-xylene), p-xylene and o-xylene were identified at retention time 6.44 with highest probability. Three compounds c-sitosterol, a-sitosterol and Cholest-5-en-3-ol, 4, 4-dimethyl- were identified. Three compounds Lupeol, Lup-20(29)-en-3-ol, acetate, and 9,19-Cyclo-9a-lanostane-3a,25-diol were found in good stability and high probability.

E) Phytoconstituents from seed: Padma *et al.* (2009) found cis 12, 13-epoxyoleic (vernolic) acid, 9, 10-methylene octadec-9-enoic (sterculic) acid, as well as 8, 9-methyleneheptadec-8-enoic (malvalic) acid, Stearic acid, palmitic acid, threonine, glycine, serine, glutamine, lysine, methionine, isoleucine, proline, alanine, cysteine, tyrosine, phenylalanine, leucine, asparagine, histidine, valine, arginine in seed extract. Nithyatharani *et al.* (2018) performed qualitative analysis of the seed of *Abutilon indicum* and found positive tests for presence of alkaloids, steroids, terpenoids, flavonoids, saponins, phenols, cardiac glycosides, amino acids, proteins, carbohydrates and reducing sugars from seed extract of various solvents.

F) Phytoconstituents from stems: Prabhuji *et al.* (2010) successfully extracted 20, 23-Dimethylcholesta-6, 22-dien-3 β -ol from stems.

G) Phytoconstituents from Aerial parts: Yasmin (2008) have found phenolic acid derivatives like p-Hydroxybenzoic acid; sterols like β -Sitostrol. They found flavonols 4',6-Dimethoxy kaempferol, 3,5,5'-Trihydroxy-4'-methoxy flavone-7-O- β -D glucopyranoside and also confirms presence of triterpenes viz. β -Amyrin and Lupeol. They have also searched Vasicine as an alkaloid and amides along with waxes Methyl triacontanoate. Other phenolic acid like Glucovanilloylglucose (Gand *et al.* 1976), Gallic acid (Amit *et al.* 2013) 4-O- β -Glucosylbenzoic acid, Caffeic acid, Fumaric acid and p-Coumaric acid have been isolated from aerial part of plant.

H) Phytoconstituents from whole plant: Mucilaginous substances, asparagine, saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids have been isolated from whole plant (Sharma *et al.* 2013). Kumar *et al.* (2008) found that there is presence of various sterols β -Sitostrol, β -Sitostrol-3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside along with phenolic acid derivatives Benzoic acid, Hydroxybenzoic acid, Stigmasterol, Benzoic acid, Caffeic acid, 4-Hydroxyacetophenone, 4-Hydroxybenzaldehyde, Vanillin and Syringaldehyde. The phytochemical screening of whole extracts of *Abutilon indicum* showed the presence of β -Sitostrol-3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside as sterols, they have also found phenolic acid derivatives like Methyl-4-hydroxybenzoate and 2,6-Dihydroxy-4-methoxyacetophenone. (24R)-5 α Stigmastane-3,6 dione, and 4-O- β -Glucosyl benzoic acid, Vanillic acid 4-Hydroxyacetophenone, Hydroxybenzaldehyde, Vanillin, Syringaldehyde, Methyl-4-hydroxybenzoate, and Abutilin A. Extract of whole plant have oleanic acid as triterpenes. Various Quinones 2,6-Dimethoxy-1,4 benzoquinone was observed along with Coumarins founded are Scoparone, Scopoletin and 3,7-Dihydroxychromen-2-one. (Liu *et al.* 2009, Kuo *et al.* 2009). Kuo *et al.* (2009) have studied on alkaloids and amides which are Aurantiamide acetate, (R)-N-(1'-Methoxycarbonyl-2'-phenylethyl)-4-hydroxybenzamide, N-Feruloyl tyrosine, 1-Lycoperodine, 1-Methoxycarbonyl- β -carboline, Methyl indole-3-carboxylate found in whole plant extract. Kuo *et al.* (2009) also founded ionones they are 3-Hydroxy- β -damascone, 3-Hydroxy- β -ionol. Lactones studied was Alantolactone and Isoalantolactone; it also contains Vitamins Riboflavin along with nitrogenous bases Adenosine, Adenine and Thymine. Ali *et al.* (2009) extracted Quercetin as flavonols from whole plant. Yasmin (2008) have isolated and studied on phenolic acid derivatives 4-O- β -Glucosyl benzoic acid, 2,6-Dihydroxy-4-methoxyacetophenone and Quercetin as

flavonols. Pandey *et al.* (2011), Gaiind *et al.* (1976) searched phytochemicals; they are phenolic acid derivatives 2,6-Dihydroxy-4-methoxyacetophenone, Caffeic acid, 4-Hydroxy-3-methoxy-*E*-cinnamic acid methyl ester, Methyl 4-hydroxyphenylacetate, Methylcoumarate and various Lactones found are Alantolactone and Isoalantolactone (Sharma *et al.* 1989)

CONCLUSION

The systematic survey literature reviewed that *Abutilon Indicum* (Link) Sweet, is an important medicinal plant with diverse pharmacological spectrum. Lot of phytochemical studies has been carried out with extract of the different parts of the plant. The present review summarizes important phytochemical investigations and isolated principles on *Abutilon Indicum* (Link) Sweet, which can be investigated further to achieve lead molecules in the search of novel herbal drugs. Due to medicinal properties there is enormous scope for future research on *Abutilon Indicum* (Link) Sweet and further clinical and pharmacological investigation should be conducted to investigate unexploited potential of this plant. *Abutilon Indicum* (Link) Sweet has many more pharmacological properties like; the main chemical constituents are carbohydrates, steroids, glycosides, flavonoids, tannins and Phenolic compounds. Hence this review article, effort has been taken to collect and compile the details notes on *Abutilon Indicum* (Link) Sweet which will be useful to the society to venture into a field of alternative systems of medicine.

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