

A Short Review on Pharmacological and Therapeutic Activity of Clitoria Ternatea

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ABSTRACT:

The plant *Clitoria ternatea* is regularly used for food coloring, stress, infertility and gonorrhea. The *Clitoria ternatea* plant showed many pharmacological effects including antioxidant, hypolipidemic, anticancer, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antipyretic, antidiabetic, CNS, antimicrobial, gastrointestinal antiparasitic, insecticidal and many other pharmacological effects. It is a twining herbaceous medicinal plant mostly found in Asia. Various constituents are found in different parts of the plant. This review will highlight the chemical constituents and pharmacological effects of *Clitoria ternatea*.

KEYWORDS: *Clitoria ternatea*, Antipyretic, Butterfly-pea, Fabaceae.

I. INTRODUCTION:

A large and increasing number of patients in the world use medicinal plants and herbs for health purposes. Therefore, scientific study of their therapeutic potential, biological properties, and safety will be useful in making wise decisions about their use.^[1,2]

There are hundreds of significant drugs and biologically active compounds developed from the conventional medicinal plants. Plants showed a wide range of pharmacological activities including antimicrobial, antioxidant, anticancer, hypolipidemic, cardiovascular, central nervous, respiratory, immunological, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antipyretic and many other pharmacological effects.^[3]

The introductory phytochemical showed that *Clitoria ternatea* contained tannins, phlobatannin, carbohydrates, saponins, triterpenoids, phenols, flavanoids, flavonol glycosides, proteins, alkaloids, anthraquinone, anthocyanins, cardiac glycosides, Stigmast-4-ene-3,6-dione, volatile oils and steroids. The plant showed many pharmacological effects including antioxidant, hypolipidemic, anticancer, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antipyretic, antidiabetic, CNS, antimicrobial, gastro-

intestinal antiparasitic, insecticidal and many other pharmacological effects. This review will highlight the chemical constituents and pharmacological effects of *Clitoria ternatea*.

PLANT PROFILE:

Aparajita's botanical name is *Clitoria ternatea* and belongs to Fabaceae (Papilionaceae) family.

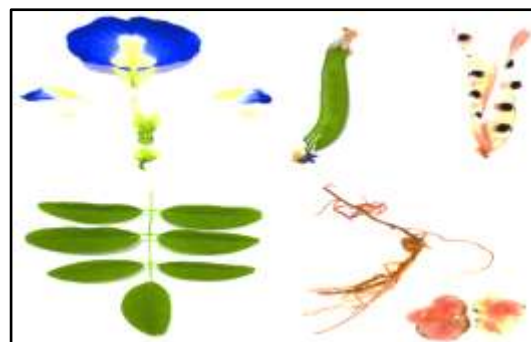


Fig.- *Clitoria ternatea*

Synonyms:

Clitoria bracteata Poir., *Clitoria mearnsii* De Wild., *Clitoria albiflora* Mattei, *Clitoria tanganicensis* Micheli, *Clitoria zanzibarensis* Vatke.^[4]

Common names:

English : blue-pea, bluebellvine, butterfly-pea, cordofan-pea, Darwin-pea

Hindi: Aparajita

Marathi: Gokurna, Shankha Pushpa

Sanskrit: Girikarnika, Vishnukranta.^[4,5]

Taxonomic classification:

Kingdom : Plantae

Subkingdom : Viridiplantae

Infrakingdom : Streptophyta

Division : Tracheophyta

Subdivision : Spermatophytina

Infra division : Angiospermae

Class : Magnoliopsida

Superorder : Rosanae

Order :Fabales
Family :Fabaceae
Genus:ClitoriaL.
Species :Clitoria ternatea.^[5,6]

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION:

Perennial climbing or trailing herb, growing from a woody rootstock. Leaves imparipinnate with 2-4 pairs of leaflets and a terminal leaflet. Leaflets ovate to elliptic-oblong, up to 6.5 × 4cm, mostly hairless above, pubescent below. Flowers axillary, solitary or 2 together, resupinate, large and showy, bright blue. Pod linear oblong, 6-13cm long, flattened, mucronate at the apex, hairless or finely pubescent.^[7]

CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS:

The introductory phytochemical screenings showed that the plant contained tannins, phlobatannin, carbohydrates, saponins, triterpenoids, phenols, flavanoids, flavonol glycosides, proteins, alkaloids, anthraquinone, anthocyanins, cardiac glycosides, Stigmast-4-ene-3,6-dione, volatile oils and steroids.^[8-10] The fatty acid content of Clitoria ternatea seeds comprise palmitic, stearic, oleic, linoleic, and linolenic acids. Seeds also contained cinnamic acid, anthoxanthin glucoside, a highly basic small protein named finotin, water soluble mucilage, delphinidin 3,3',5'-triglucoside and beta-sitosterol.^[11-15] The aqueous extract of Clitoria ternatea flower (CTE) was explored to determine the total phenolic compounds, flavonoid, and anthocyanin by Folin Ciocalteu assay, AlCl₃ colorimetric method, and pH differential method, respectively. The results signify that the content of total phenolics, flavonoids and total anthocyanins in CTE was 53 ± 0.34 mg gallic acid equivalents/g dried extract, 11.2 ± 0.33 mg catechinequivalents/g dried extract, and 1.46 ± 0.04 mg cyanidin-3-glucoside equivalents/g dried extract, respectively.^[16] However, others found that the amount of total phenolics and flavonoids in Clitoria ternatea leaf extract were 358.99 ± 6.21 mg/g gallic acid equivalent and 123.75 ± 2.84 mg/g catechinequivalent, respectively.^[17] The flowers contained flavonol glycosides. 3-O-(2"-O-alpha-rhamnosyl-6"-O-malonyl)-beta-glucoside, 3-O-(6"-O-alpha-rhamnosyl-6"-O-malonyl)-beta-glucoside and 3-O-(2",6"-di-O-alpha-rhamnosyl)-beta-glucoside of kaempferol, quercetin and myricetin were isolated from the petals. Delphinidin glycosides, 3-O-beta-glucoside, 3-O-(2"-O-alpha-rhamnosyl)-beta-glucoside,

3-O-(2"-O-alpha-rhamnosyl-6"-O-malonyl)-beta-glucoside of delphinidin, and eight anthocyanins (ternatins C1, C2, C3, C4, C5 and D3, and preternatins A3 and C4) were also isolated from the flowers.^[18-20] Three flavonol glycosides, kaempferol 3-O-(2"-O-alpha-rhamnosyl-6"-O-malonyl)-beta-glucoside, quercetin 3-O-(2"-O-alpha-rhamnosyl-6"-O-malonyl)-beta-glucoside, and myricetin 3-O-(2",6"-di-O-alpha-rhamnosyl)-beta-glucoside were isolated from the petals of Clitoria ternatea cv. Double Blue, together with eleven known flavonol glycosides. They were characterized as quercetin 3-(2(G)-rhamnosylrutinoside)s, kaempferol, quercetin, myricetin 3-neohesperidosides, 3-rutinosides, and 3-glucosides. In addition, the presence of myricetin 3-O-(2"-O-alpha-rhamnosyl-6"-O-malonyl)-beta-glucoside was inferred from LC/MS/MS data for crude petal extracts.^[21]

PHARMACOLOGICAL AND THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS:

Blue tea:

What is Blue Tea? Blue tea, or butterfly pea flower tea, is a caffeine-free herbal concoction, made by steeping dried or fresh leaves of the Clitoria ternatea plant. The best thing about the blue tea is that it is absolutely caffeine-free, and it is packed with antioxidants.

Health Benefits of Blue Tea-

It seems that blue tea is just waiting to take the health world by storm. Here's the quick list of benefits

- Weight Loss
- All Natural Paracetamol
- Beneficial for Eye Health
- Combats the effects of Diabetes
- Zero Caffeine
- Good for Heart Health
- Packed full of Antioxidants
- Anti Aging Properties
- Combats premature hair loss/Male Pattern baldness
- Effective against Stress, Anxiety, and Depression
- Overall Brain Health
- Anti Inflammatory Properties.^[22]

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 important dose dependent cell

ytotoxic 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.^[23] The anticancer activity of *Clitoria ternatea* was evaluated in Dalton's lymphoma (DLA) bearing mice. Tumour was induced in mice by the intraperitoneal injection of DLA cells. After 24 hours of tumour inoculation, methanol extract of *Clitoria ternatea* (MECT) was administered at doses of 100 and 200 mg/kg body weight for 14 consecutive days. The effect of MECT was assessed using in vitro cytotoxicity, survival time, peritoneal cell count, hematological studies and antioxidant parameters. Treatment with MECT decreased tumour volume, packed cell volume and viable count. It also increased the non-viable cell count and mean survival time, thereby increasing the life span of EAC bearing mice. Hematological profile reverted to more or less normal levels in the treated group.^[24]

Antioxidant effects:

The separate solvent extracts of *Clitoria ternatea* leaf were assessed for their in vitro free radical scavenging potential by 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging assay. All extract exhibited potent in vitro free radical scavenging activity that increased with extract concentrations. The methanol extract was found to be most influential, followed by the chloroform and petroleum ether extracts.^[25] Petroleum ether, chloroform and methanol extracts of roots of blue and white flowered varieties of *Clitoria ternatea*. The antioxidant activity and preservative ability of *Clitoria ternatea* flower petal extract (CTE) was investigated. CTE showed antioxidant activity as measured by oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC) method and 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging assay. CTE (400 µg/ml) remarkably protected erythrocytes against AAPH-induced hemolysis at 4 h of incubation. Moreover, CTE (400 µg/ml) reduced membrane lipid peroxidation and protein carbonyl group formation and prevented the reduction of glutathione concentration in AAPH-induced oxidation of erythrocytes. The AAPH-induced morphological alteration of erythrocytes from a smooth discoid to an echinocytic form was effectively protected by CTE.^[26]

Antidiabetic effect:

The hypoglycemic effects of methanol,

water, petroleum ether and chloroform extract of *Clitoria ternatea* leaves were evaluated in Streptozotocin induced diabetic rats for acute and subacute effects. The extract of *Clitoria ternatea* (200 and 400 mg/kg) significantly reduced blood glucose level in Streptozotocin induced diabetic rats. 400 mg/kg possessed significant hypoglycemic effect, 200 mg/kg also decreased glucose level but not as 400 mg/kg. The result of acute effect of the methanol extract, showed that 200 and 400 mg/kg exerted a very similar effect, but at the initial stage at the 30 min, 200 mg/kg showed a defined decrease in blood glucose level. Subacute activity showed that on the long term use of extract the dose 200 mg/kg is much better to control the blood glucose level than the 400 mg/kg dose.^[27]

Central nervous effect:

Seeds and leaves of *Clitoria ternatea* have been widely used as brain tonic and believed to promote memory and intelligence. The activity of *Clitoria ternatea* in Alzheimer's disease was studied to investigate its efficacy and to identify the major bioactive constituents attributing the activity. The result showed that the aqueous extract of *Clitoria ternatea* was beneficial in Alzheimer's disease through many mechanisms. The isolated compounds may act as a lead compounds for identifying new derivatives which could be used for improving memory. Shankhpushpi, a well-known drug in Ayurveda, is extensively used for different central nervous system (CNS) effects especially memory enhancement. Different plants were used under the name shankhpushpi in different regions of India, leading to an uncertainty regarding its true source. Plants commonly used under the name shankhpushpi are: *Convolvulus pluricaulis* Choisy., *Evolvulus alsinoides* Linn., both from *Convolvulaceae*, and *Clitoria ternatea* Linn. (*Leguminosae*). The memory-enhancing activity of these three plants was investigated. Pharmacological importance of *Clitoria ternatea*—
A review⁷⁵ Anxiolytic, antidepressant and CNS-depressant activities of these three plants were also evaluated and compared. The nootropic activity of the aqueous methanol extract of each plant was tested using elevated plus maze (EPM) and step-down models. Anxiolytic, antidepressant and CNS-depressant studies were evaluated using EPM, Porsolt's swim despair and actophotometer models. *Clitoria ternatea* extract (CTE) showed maximum memory-enhancing and anxiolytic activity ($p < 0.005$) at 200 and

100mg/kg, respectively ($p < 0.05$) antidepressant activity. All the three plants showed CNS-depressant action at higher dose levels.^[28]

Gastrointestinal effect:

The antiulcer potential of aqueous and ethanolic extracts of *Clitoria ternatea* was evaluated in indifferent 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.^[29]

Hypolipidemic effect:

The anti-hyperlipidemic effect of *Clitoria ternatea* L. was studied in experimentally induced hyperlipidemia in rats. The poloxamer 407-induced acute hyperlipidemia and diet-induced hyperlipidemia models were used in this investigation. Oral administration of the hydroalcoholic extract of the roots and seeds of *Clitoria ternatea* resulted in a significant ($p < 0.05$) reduction of serum total cholesterol, triglycerides, very low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels. The atherogenic index and the HDL/LDL ratio were also normalized after treatment in diet-induced hyperlipidemic rats. The effects were compared with atorvastatin (50 mg/kg, po) and gemfibrozil (50 mg/kg, po).^[30]

Antihistaminic and antiasthmatic effect:

Ethanol extract of *Clitoria ternatea* root (ECTR) was evaluated for antiasthmatic activity using milk induced leucocytosis and eosinophilia in mice, egg albumin induced mast cell degranulation in rats and passive cutaneous anaphylaxis in rats at doses (100-150 mg/kg ip), followed by the acetone extract which showed maximum zone of inhibition against *S. agalactiae* (19 mm) and *K. pneumoniae* (17 mm).^[31-35]

Ant parasitic and insecticidal effects:

The ethanolic extract of *Clitoria ternatea* (100mg/ml) bring paralysis within 15-20 min

and bring death within 28-30 min to the Indian earthworm *Pheretima posthuma*.^[36] However, the anthelmintic activity of ethanolic extracts of flowers, leaves, stems and roots of *Clitoria ternatea* were also evaluated on adult Indian earthworms *Pheretima posthuma*. Results showed that root of the *Clitoria ternatea* took less time to paralyze and death of the earthworms. Roots were further extracted successively with petroleum ether, chloroform, ethyl acetate and methanol and these extracts were screened for anthelmintic activity. Results showed that methanol extract of *Clitoria ternatea* root is the more potent.^[37]

Anti-

inflammatory antipyretic and analgesic effects:

Ethanol extract of *Clitoria ternatea* root (ECTR) at doses 100, 125 and 150 mg/kg ip were evaluated for antihistaminic activity using clonidine and haloperidol induced catalepsy in mice. Results showed that chlorpheniramine maleate (CPM) and ECTR inhibit clonidine induced catalepsy significantly ($P < 0.001$) when compare to control group, while CPM and ECTR fail to inhibit haloperidol induced catalepsy.^[38]

Immunomodulatory activity:

The immunomodulatory activity of *Clitoria ternatea* seed and root extracts was investigated, the effects on humoral immune response were investigated in SRBCs-sensitized rats, while, the effects on cell mediated immunity were studied by measuring delayed type hypersensitivity (DTH) response in SRBC-sensitized rats. Neutrophil recruiting and phagocytosis were measured by studying neutrophil adhesion and carbon clearance method respectively. Furthermore the effects on hematological parameters were also studied. *Clitoria ternatea* seed and root extracts showed significant immunosuppressive effects as evident from significant decrease in Pharmacological importance of *Clitoria ternatea* – A review 77 primary and secondary antibody titers in SRBCs-sensitized rats, paw thickness in DTH response, and neutrophil adhesion and in vitro phagocytosis. The immunomodulatory effects of *Clitoria ternatea* on humoral, cell mediated and non-specific immune response could be attributed to decreased immune cell sensitization, immune cell presentation and phagocytosis. The authors concluded that the anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties of plant might be playing major role in immunomodulatory activity.^[39]

Diuretic and anti urolithiasis effect:

Clitoria ternatea roots or their extract in 95% alcohol showed no significant diuretic or natriuretic effect in dogs when administered orally in non-toxic dose. Intravenous doses of the extract led to a moderate increase in the excretion of sodium and potassium in the urine, but at the same time, it showed signs of kidney damage. The inhibition of in vitro calcium oxalate crystal (a common major component of most urinary stones) formation by various extract of Clitoria ternatea was investigated by titrimetric method. The inhibitory potency of alcoholic extract of Clitoria ternatea was found to be comparable to that of Cystone (a proprietary drug for dissolving kidney stones). Alcoholic extract of leaves of Clitoria ternatea showed higher calcium oxalate crystallization inhibition ($72.99 \pm 1.2\%$) in vitro in comparison with cystone ($90.55 \pm 1.27\%$) in terms of formation of calcium oxalate precipitation.^[40,41]

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.^[42]

II. CONCLUSION:

The paper reviewed Clitoria ternatea as promising medicinal plant with wider range of pharmacological activities which could be utilized in several medical applications because of its effectiveness and safety.

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