

A Review on Pharmacological Activity of Ficus Racemosa

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ABSTRACT

In India, *Ficus racemosa* Linn. (Family: Moraceae), also referred to as *Gularis*, is a popular medicinal herb that has long been used in diabetes, liver issues, diarrhea, inflammatory diseases, hemorrhoids, and abnormalities of the respiratory and urinary systems. Every ancient Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani, and homeopathic text mentions this herb. Astringent, carminative, vermifuge, and anti-dysentery properties are found in a variety of plant parts, including bark, roots, leaves, fruits, and latex. It is a useful treatment for overindulgence in food. Menorrhagia, diabetes, leucoderma, refrigerant, antiasthmatic, hepatoprotective, antioxidant, and antiulcer are all treated with fruit extract. It is applied locally to reduce inflammation in sprains, fibrositis, lymphadenitis, and skin wounds. The review that is currently being conducted is therefore an effort to offer a thorough analysis of pharmacological, phytochemical, and pharmacognostical features. Glucan acetate, beta-sitosterol, and leucocynedin are the main chemical constituents, while beta-amyrin, beta-sitosterol, and tannin are found in leaves. Lupeol-OAc, glucose, sterol, and glucan-OAc are chemically present in fruit.

KEYWORD: hemorrhoids, cluster fig, hepatoprotective, leucoderma, anti-dysentery properties, vermifuge, Menorrhagia, diabetes.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ficus is a significant group of trees with a variety of chemical ingredients that show promise as medicines. For Buddhists and Hindus alike, it is a sacred tree. Four species of this genus make up group known as "Nalpamaram."^[1] *F. Glomerata* is another name for *Ficus racemosa*. *Gular*, *Yajnayoga*, *Yajnyasara*, *Udumbara* are some of the aliases for *Ficus racemosa*, which is revered by the god Dattaguru. Ritual sacrifice has been performed using it. Upon cutting or plucking the leaves, this type of *ksirivriksha* latex is released. Among the plants in a collective known as *pancavalkala*, which refers to the five herbs' thick bark skins: *parisa*, *plaksa*, *vata*, *asvattha*, and *udumbara* is this one. According to Raja Nighantu,

Decoction of *pancavalkalais* administered either directly or as an enema to stop rectum and vaginal bleeding. *Udumbara* is classified as an anti-diuretic herb by Maharishi Charka as *mutrasangrahaniya*. According to *Susruta*, the herb has astringent qualities, aids in the healing of calluses in fractures (*bhagnasandhaniya*), reduces *Rakta pitta*, burns, and makes people feel less fat, and is beneficial for vaginal problems.



HABIT AND HABITAT

In India, the plant thrives in a variety of hills and woods. It is often found near water streams and is grown as well. With a height of 10–16 meters, it is a medium-height tree. The foliage's deep green color offers nice shade. The bark is commonly broken and reddish-gray in color.^[2]

PHARMACOGNOSTICAL CHARACTERISTICS

➤ MACROSCOPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

In various woodlands and hilly locations, *Ficus racemosa* first appeared. For shade and edible fruits, in remote villages, this plant can be purposefully planted, although it also grows in forests naturally and on hillsides near an excellent source of water, like a river or pond. Green, elliptic or oval, and expanding from the primary trunk in large clusters, the leaves are 7.5–10 cm long. As they ripen, the green fruits may become dark crimson, dull reddish, or orange. Seeds, which number 23, are comparatively grain-like, tiny, and

plentiful. The roots are long and have a shade of brown. It has a powerful scent and a slightly bitter taste.^[3]

➤ MICROSCOPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Cork: It consists among cells that are rectangular or polygonal in shape. Both Cork is composed of rectangular and polygonal cells. Thin-walled cells arranged in one or two layers make up the phellogen.

Phelloderm: Additionally, it is lignified with simple pits and contains thick parenchyma cell tissue or tiny sclereid clusters. One red calcium oxalate prism among many parenchymatous cells.

Cortex: It consists of several rectangular, isodiametric, pitted sclereids with very thick walls,

and a resinous substance is present in the cortical cell inside of it. Prismatic crystals of this calcium oxalate are seen within cells. The components of phloem include sclereids, medullary rays, phloem fibers, sieve tubes, phloem parenchyma, and companion cells.^[4]

Leaf: It has Palisade cells with a single layer in the uppermost layer of the epidermis and dorso-ventral features. There were many, occasionally The upper epidermal cells have trichomes that are enclosing, uniseriate, unicellular.

Mesophyll: middle of bottom, upper layers of leaf's epidermis lies a layer of sclerenchymatous cells that envelop the vascular bundle.^[5,6]

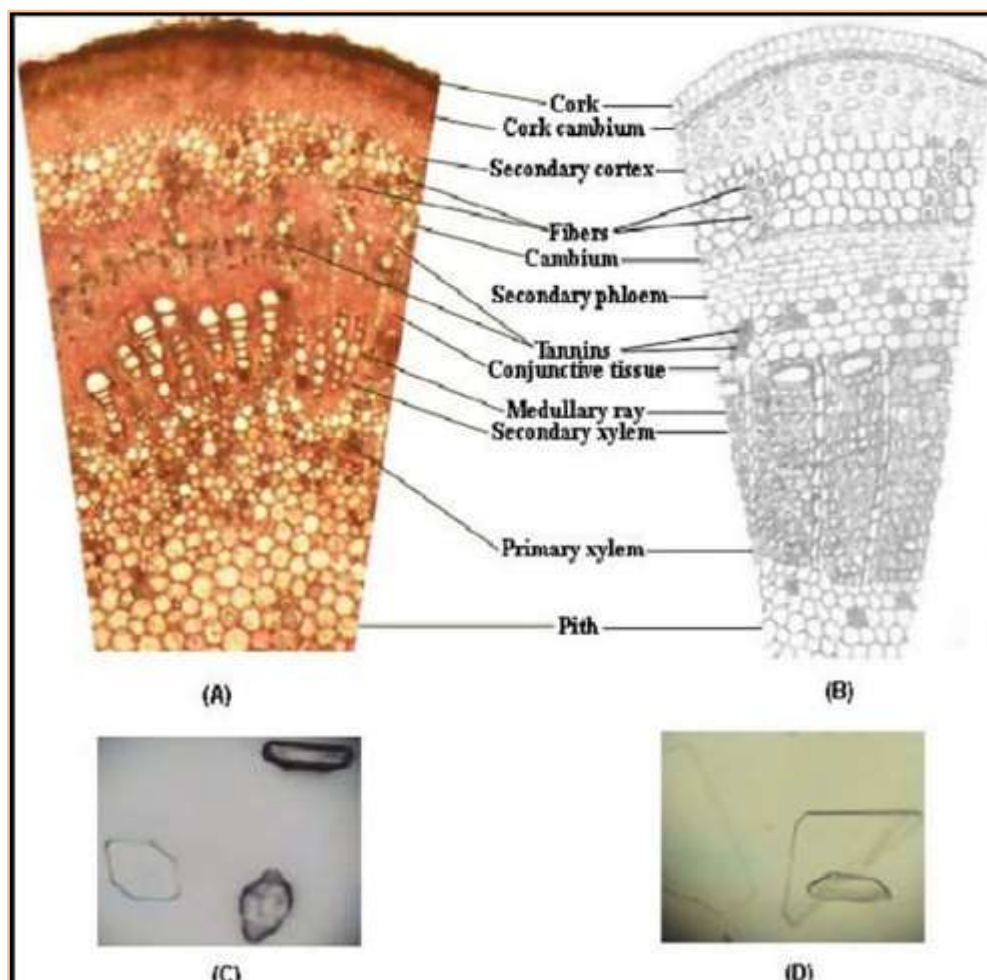
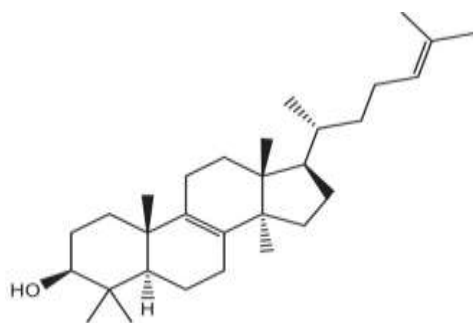


Fig 2: (A)- T.S. of the young stem containing the bark, (B)- Schematic diagram of the T.S., (C)- Rhomboidal crystals, (D)- Prismatic crystals.^[7]

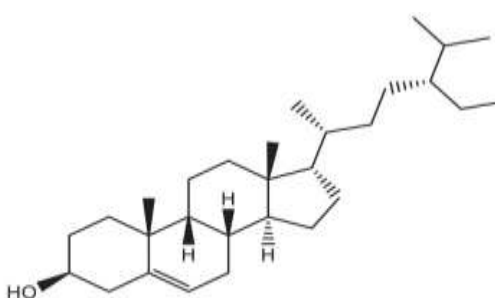
➤ **Phytochemical Constituents**

Leaf		Alkaloids, triterpenoids (lanosterol), flavonoids, tannins, and steroids. The leaves were used to isolate glauanol acetate, a novel tetracyclic triterpene with the following characteristics: 13 α , 14 β , 17 β H, 20 α H. ^[8]
Bark		Tannin, wax, saponin, glauanol acetate, beta-sitosterol, leucol, cerylbehenate, lupeolacetate, α -amyrin acetate, leucoanthocyanidin. ^[9]
Trunk		Stigmasterol, beta-sitosterol, upenol ^[10]
Fruit		Beta-sitosterol, glauanolacetate, hatriacontane, tiglic acid, glucose, glauanol, glauanol acetate, and other phytosterols. ^[11]
Root		Tinyatoxin, bark euphorbol and its hexacosanoate, cycloartenal, euphorbi. ^[12]
Latex		Trimethylellagic acid, palmitic acid, taraxeros, tinyatoxin, tirucallol, euphol, euphorbinol, isoeuphorbol, 4-deoxyphorbol and its esters, α -amyrin, beta-sitosterol, cycloartenol, cycloartenol, cycloephordenol, and euphol. ^[13]

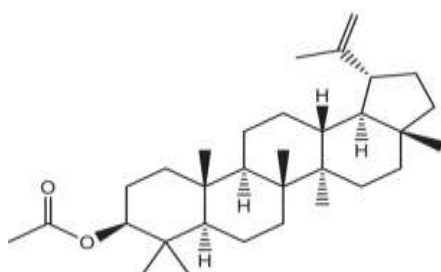
Fig: Phytochemical structures found and extracted from several Ficus racemosa Lin sections^[14]



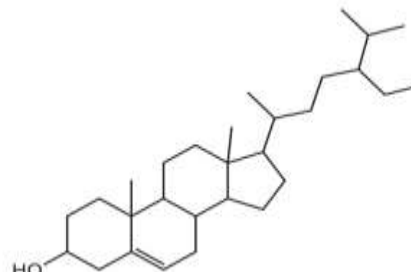
Lanosterol



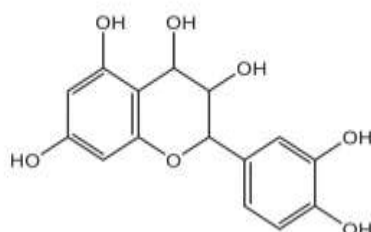
Sitosterol



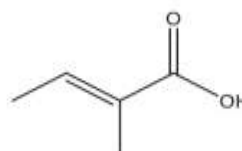
Lupeol acetate



beta-sitosterol



Leucocyanidin



Tiglic acid

➤ Pharmacological Activities

❖ Antidiuretics

The bark decoction of *F. racemosa* has demonstrated an antidiuretic action. It started in less than an hour, peaked 3 hr later and continued for whole five-hour study time. Additionally, rise in urine osmolarity and fall Na^+ level and Na^+/K^+ ratio.^[15]

❖ Antitussive Activity

It is properties of stem bark methanol extract were evaluated in mice model of coughing generated by SO_2 gas. The highest inhibition was 56.9%. 90 minutes following administration.^[16]

❖ Anthelmintic

When bark crude extracts were tested on adult earthworms for anthelmintic action, they showed dose-dependent reduction of spontaneous movement (paralysis) and generated pin-prick responses that were similar to those of three percent piperazine citrate. Given an aq. elucide treatment, however, don't demonstrate a definitive recovery, suggesting the effectiveness of wormicidal treatment.^[17]

❖ Hypoglycemic Activity

Glucose levels decreased in rats when given themethanolic extract at 200 and 400 microgram per kilogram. Additionally, the action was comparable to glibenclamide's (10 mg/kg)

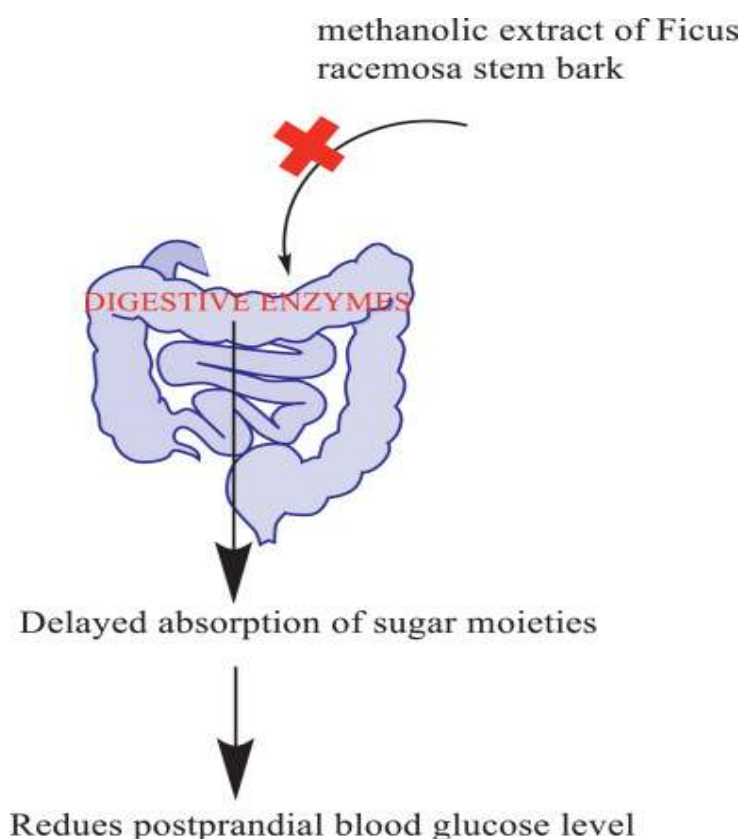
impact, a common antidiabetic medication, proving its traditional claim to be an antidiabetic.^[18,19]

The correlation between the hypoglycemia tests in *F. racemosa* and the post-absorptive condition demonstrated that improved hypoglycemic activity results from medication absorption.^[20] In 14 days, decreased blood glucose levels in the alloxan-diabetic albino rats, demonstrating its hypoglycemic action. Comparing the separated chemicals from the stem bark, it was

discovered that β -sitosterol (1) had strong hypoglycemic action.^[21]

In rabbits with normal blood sugar levels and those with alloxan-induced diabetes, extract of fruit powder at one to four gram per kilogram dosages decreased it.^[22] The sucrose-challenged streptozotocin-reduced diabetes.^[23]

The stem bark of *Ficusracemosa* reduced blood sugar. activity similar to common antidiabetic drug, demonstrating its traditionally used antidiabetic properties.^[24,25,26]



❖ Antibacterial Activity

Actinomyces viscosus was shown to be effectively inhibited by The leaves' hydroalcoholic extract. A minimal inhibitory concentration of 0.08 mg/ml was discovered.^[27]

❖ Antipyretic Activity

200, 300, and 100 mg/kg body weight p.o., Normal body temperature in albino rats and pyrexia caused by yeast were significantly reduced in a dose-dependent way for five hours following medication administration, according to Stem bark methanol extract. Its antipyretic properties were similar to those of paracetamol.^[28]

❖ Anticholinesterase

In this work, anticholinesterase activity at hot, cold aqueous extracts was evaluated against acetylcholinesterase in vitro in rat brain. In this, acetylcholinesterase was inhibitory in both hot aqueous extract (FRH) and the cold aqueous extract (FRC). In contrast to FRC, FRH exhibited considerably stronger Cholinesterase inhibitory action ($P \leq 0.001$); nonetheless, at the studied dosages (200–1000 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$), Neither extract showed 50% AChE inhibition. Drug action study for FRC and FRH, and they were 1813 and 1331 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$, respectively. It was determined what There was an anticholinesterase activity %. The extracts (FRH and FRC) both showed dose-

dependent inhibition of acetylcholinesterase in the rat brain. They did not, however, exhibit the same level of inhibitory activity as the common acetylcholinesterase inhibitor neostigmine bromide ($P < 0.001$). At the studied doses (200–1000 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$), neither extract showed 50% inhibition of AChE; hence, Boltzmann's dose response analysis was used to extrapolate IC₅₀ values. Cholinesterase inhibitory activity against FRC was substantially stronger ($P < 0.001$) in FRH than in FRC.^[29]

❖ Memory Enhancing Property

Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors are one of the most crucial therapy strategies for Dementia is a advancing neurological illness known as Alzheimer's disease (AD). AD is treated increasing amount acetylcholine (ACh) in the brain.

The hypothesis behind this study was that the extract from *F. racemosa* might exhibit a number of properties that could help treat AD, including neuroprotection, which is linked to antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, and the ability to raise ACh levels, similar to what was previously reported for the extract of *Ficus hispida*. In rats, elucidate chosen for study increased ACh levels and enhanced memory. When used to treat AD, the combined pharmacological effects of *F. racemosa* extract may be advantageous and supportive.^[30]

❖ Anti-inflammatory Activity

Carrageenin, serotonin, histamine, and dextran-induced rat hind paw edema models were used to test the anti-inflammatory properties of *F. racemosa* extract.^[31]

The ethanol extract of leaves was fractionated using bioassay guidance to isolate racemosic acid. It's in vitro IC₅₀ values for COX-1 and 5-LOX were 90 and 18 μM , respectively, indicating strong inhibitory action.^[32]

❖ Antioxidant/ Radio Protective

Techniques used for scavenge radicals in ethanol and water extracts. The micronucleus assay was used to examine the in vitroradioprotective capability of fibroblast cells. A substantial reduction in the proportion of micronucleated cells was observed following a pretreatment with different dosages an hour before to 2 Gy γ -radiation, indicating its function as a radioprotector.^[33] Comparing elucidate from bark to that roots, the former has demonstrated strong action. Using thevarious test, fruit ethanol extract give significant antioxidant activity. 3-Caffeoyl

quinate (O-(E)-) exhibited strong antioxidant properties.^[34]

❖ Renal Anticarcinogenic

The extract from At 200 and 400 mg/kg body weight, *F. racemosa* dramatically reduced hydrogen peroxideLipid peroxidation, DNA synthesis, and kidney glutathione level all showed considerable recovery; however, renal ornithine decarboxylase activity declined.^[35] Using As a kidney carcinogen, ferric nitrilotriacetate (Fe-NTA) produced similar outcomes.^[36]

❖ Antifilaria

Both aqueous and alcoholic extracts inhibited the whole worm's spontaneous movement, while Setariacervi nerve muscle preparation showed an increase in contraction amplitude and tone. In vitro, microfilariae were killed by both extracts. An alcoholic extract's LC₅₀ and LC₉₀ were 21 and 35 ng/ml, respectively, but an aqueous extract's were 27 and 42 ng/ml.^[37]

❖ Antidiarrhoeal

Rats with various experimental types of diarrhea were helpsantidiarrheal qualities from elucidate. Rats' enteropooling caused by PGE₂ and diarrhea caused by castor oil were both significantly inhibited by it. Additionally, these extracts significantly decreased the rats' gastrointestinal motility when they were fed charcoal. The outcomes demonstrated that it was an effective anti-diarrheal medication.^[38]

❖ Analgesic Activity

A dose-dependent analgesic action was demonstrated by the bark and leaf ethanol extract when tested for analgesic efficacy at 100, 300, and 500 mg/kg using an analgesiometer.^[39]

❖ Hepatoprotective Activity

Rats used Anethanolic leaf extract to induce chronic liver injury by subcutaneously injecting Carbon tetrachloride at 50% v/v. This demonstrated hepatoprotective effect. Serum bilirubin, SGOT, SGPT, and alkaline phosphates were calculated as biochemical measures to evaluate liver function.^[40]

❖ Antifungal Activity

The plant exhibited strong inhibitory effect against six fungal species, including *Torulopsis glabrata*, *Candida albicans*, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*,

Trichophyton rubrum,
Trichophyton soudanense.^[41,42]

❖ Hypolipidemic Activity

Rats given dietary fiber-rich fruits had a markedly hypocholesterolemic impact because it increased the excretion of bile acids and cholesterol in their feces.^[43]

The ethanolic bark extract's hypolipidemic effects were investigated in rats with alloxan-induced diabetes. Research revealed that, in analysis to common Glibenclamide, the reference drug, the extract had strong antidiabetic and hypolipidemic benefits.^[44]

❖ Larvicidal

Activity was examined against *Culex quinquefasciatus* (Diptera: Culicidae) larvae in their early fourth instar. The death of the larvae was noted during a one day. The largest larvae seen in the acetone extract of bark, while all extracts exhibited modest larvicidal effects. The discovery and separation of a derivative of tetracyclic triterpene was achieved through the fractionation of acetone extract guided by bioassay. A novel mosquito larvicidal chemical gluanol acetate was separated and identified.

After isolation, gluanol acetate was discovered to be a novel mosquito larvicidal substance. *Anopheles stephensi* Liston.^[45]

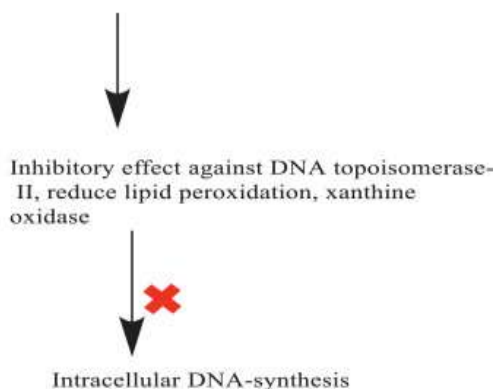
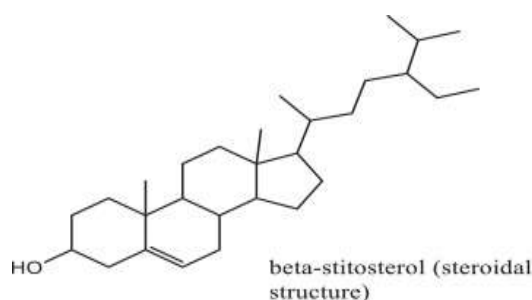
❖ Chemo-preventive Activity

Rats were given the treatment orally using two different methods: ferric nitrilotriacetate (fe-NTA) caused potassium bromate to induce nephrotoxicity in rats, and tumors to induce chemotoxicity. Decreased H₂O₂, lipid peroxidation, gamma-glutamyltranspeptidase, and xanthine oxidase. Additionally, it exhibits recovery in blood urea nitrogen, when all of these indicators evaluate downward, it indicates chemopreventive efficacy.

❖ Anticancer Activity

Two techniques were used to administer the medication orally to the rats: potassium bromate caused nephrotoxicity in the rats and ferric nitrilotriacetate (fe-NTA) caused chemotoxicity. Extract from *Ficus racemosa* (PM Paarakh, 2009) reduces xanthine oxidase. DNA synthesis shows recovery; a decline in any of these markers suggests chemopreventive effect.^[46]

Extract from *Ficus racemosa* (PM Paarakh, 2009) reduces xanthine oxidase. DNA synthesis shows recovery; a decline in any of these markers suggests chemopreventive effect. (Fig) This nephrotoxic chemical induces kidney cancer in rats. It was shown that lupeol's ability to alter signaling pathways in carcinogenesis, such as nuclear factor kappa B (NF- κ B) and the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase [PI3K]/Akt (protein kinase B pathway), was connected to its anti-tumor-promoting qualities.^[47]



❖ Anti-parkinsons activity

Found to have anti-Parkinson's effects in animal models used for experiments caused by 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA) with haloperidol. Rats' neurochemical (MDA, CAT, SOD, and GSH) and behavioral (catalepsy, muscular rigidity, and locomotor activity) responses to characteristics were examined in this study. 6-OHDA markedly exacerbated motor dysfunction, including hypolocomotion and muscular rigidity. Administering 6-OHDA resulted in a marked rise in the degree of lipid peroxidation as well as a decrease in glutathione, superoxide dismutase, and catalase. Both motor function and oxidative damage were dramatically reduced by daily PEFRE (400 mg/kg) treatment. Therefore, the study demonstrated that the therapy with *Ficus religiosa* Both provided oxidative stress protection for the brain and dramatically reduced the motor deficits.^[48]

❖ Antifertility activity

Fertility was 70% decreased by extract. Within sixty days. Abnormal morphology, motility, viability, and cauda epididymis sperm count were all suppressed. Amount of fructose seminal vesicle, amount of acid in the epididymis were all significantly reduced. Bark extract used vaginally demonstrated 80% vaginal contraceptive effectiveness.^[49]

❖ Antinociceptive activity

A technique for making mice writhe in response to acetic acid was used to investigate the potential antinociceptive efficacy of an Bark and fruit of *Ficus racemosa* Lin. are extracted in ethanol. Upon administering 500 mg of fruit and bark extracts per kilogram of body weight, the experimental animals exhibited notable antinociceptive action. While the bark extract only demonstrated 42.6% decrease in mice's writhing caused by acetic acid, the fruit extract demonstrated the strongest 61.38% inhibition.^[50]

❖ ACE Inhibitors

Inhibition activity, radical scavenging properties of cold and warm elucidate (FRC and FRH) used in this work. Although hot aqueous extract contained kaempferol, coumarin, and ferulic acid in addition to bergenin, the cold aqueous

extract's HPLC profiles showed that bergenin, an isocoumarin, was present. FRH also shown noticeably more radical scavenging ability than FRC. Pig kidney and rabbit lung ACE were both shown to be dose-dependently inhibited by the extracts. When compared to FRC (128 and 291 With lower IC(50) values for pig kidney ACE and rabbit lung ACE, FRH demonstrated noticeably more activity than FRC. Additionally, there was a noteworthy association found between ACE-inhibitory action and radical scavenging activity.^[51]

❖ Cardioprotective activity

The ability of standardized extract to protect the heart from doxorubicin-induced damage. The extract increased the amount of glutathione in the cardiac tissue and serum, which also markedly reduced the thiobarbituric acid reactive compounds (TBARS).^[52]

❖ Antiplatelet Activity

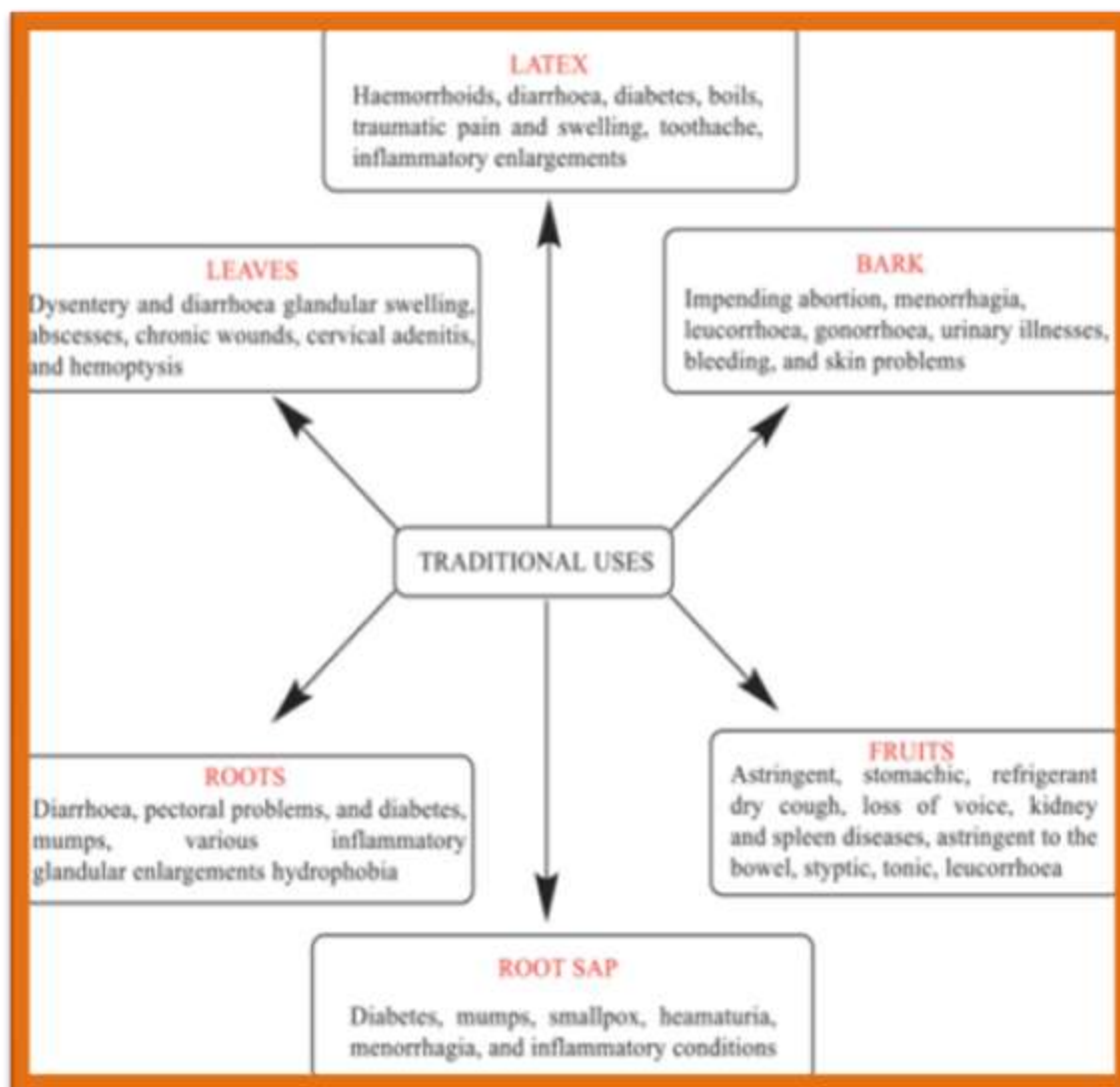
Despite having demonstrated therapeutic promise, The ability of FRB extracts to induce platelet aggregation is thought to be a limiting factor in their application.^[53]

❖ Clinical Evaluation

F. racemosa was one of the ingredients of a composite ointment used in a clinical research involving 15 burn patients. It aided in accelerating epithelialization and demonstrated great effectiveness in managing *Candida albicans* infections. After eight to twenty-six days of treatment, the burns were fully cured. In 28 patients with chronic postprandial hyperglycemia, the effectiveness of a special herbal blend comprising *Ocimum sanctum*, *Momordica charantia*, *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Syzygium cumini*, and *F. racemosa* was evaluated.^[54]

➤ Traditional Uses

Traditional medicine has also made extensive use of *Ficus racemosa* Lin. to cure a range of ailments (Fig. 6). Its latex, seeds, bark, fruits, leaves, and roots are all utilized medicinally in different ways, frequently in combination with other plants.^[55,56,57,58,59,60,61]



For a number of ailments, *Ficus racemosa* Linn has been utilized extensively in conventional medicine. There are several medical uses for its bark, seeds, latex, fruits, leaves, and roots, often in conjunction with other herbs.

- **Bark**

Bark is recommended for diabetes, hiccup, leprosy, dysentery, piles, and urological disorders; it is especially useful in cases of impending abortion.

- **Leaves**

For cuts and ulcers, the leaves are a great wash. They are beneficial for both dysentery and diarrhea. An internal remedy for menorrhagia and dysentery, a mouthwash for spongy gums, and Bark and leaf infusions are a useful treatment for

hemoptysis, cervical adenitis, persistent wounds, and glandular swelling abscess.

- **Fruits**

Leucorrhea, blood issues, burning, fatigue, urine discharge, leprosy, intestinal worms, dry cough, voice loss, kidney and spleen disease, and intestinal astringency are among the conditions that the fruits can help with. They aid with miscarriage, spermatorrhea, menorrhagia, scabies, cancer, and visceral obstruction.

- **Roots**

In cases of dysentery, roots are employed. Diabetes, pectoral problems, mumps, hydrophobia, and other inflammatory glandular enlargement.

Latex

Aphrodisiac latex is used to treat vaginal diseases, toothaches, traumatic swelling, diarrhea, boils, hemorrhoids, and diabetes. Root sap is used to cure diabetes. This plant's sap is a well-liked treatment for mumps and other inflammatory swellings.

Side Effects

- Being a coolant tree, *f. racemosa* is used with caution by kapha-dominant individuals who frequently experience colds, coughs, and allergic rhinitis.
- Avoid using ripe fruit in cooking as it can aggravate or exacerbate intestinal worm infestation.
- During pregnancy, precautions are taken.^[62]

II. CONCLUSION

Using natural resources, tribal and rural societies have found solutions to their problems, wants, and illnesses. The present review discusses the broad and significant pharmacological activity of *Ficus racemosa* Lin. Among its many pharmacological properties are antifertility, anti-ulcer, gastroprotective, anti-tussive, and anti-diuretic qualities. *Ficus racemosa* Linn has been used for ages. The thorough information on the constituents' varied therapeutic activities that is provided in this review is highly likely to offer comprehensive endorsement of this plant's use in a variety of medications. Isolating and characterizing the active ingredients in these *ficus* species should be the focus of future research.

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