

A Comprensive Overview: Use and the Role of Herbal Medicine in Treatment and Management of Covid-19.

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ABSTRACT:

A novel coronavirus infection (SARS-CoV-2) is the cause of the present serious respiratory syndrome (COVID-19) outbreak. The World Health Organization (WHO) designated this infectious illness as a pandemic because harms global public health and human life. when there was no vaccine, herbal medicine plays important role in treatment and management of

Covid -19.The goal of this review article is to provide a comprehensive view of the potential herbs and plants that can be used in conjunction with western medicine to treat or prevent COVID-19 in humans. Traditional Chinese, Indian, and Iranian medicine recommends certain herbs for the avoidance, treatment, and recovery from diseases like COVID-19. The positive outcomes of these conventional medicines and their clinical studies, however, are still unknown. Here, we examined the most recent information on conventional medications recommended for the treatment of COVID-19.

Keywords: COVID19, medicinal plants, nature herbal medicine, plants extract, traditional Chinese medicine, treatment methods

I. INTRODUCTION

In late 2019, a pneumonia sickness of an unknown source has started in Wuhan city/ China and spread rapidly to the rest of the world.¹Coronaviruses are enveloped singlestranded RNA positive sense viruses with an average size between 60 nm and 140 nm in diameter with a crown-like shape under electron microscopy.² An unidentified beta coronavirus was found in samples taken from patients in a set of studies done in China. SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that was found, caused an outbreak illness, also known as COVID-19, was deemed a pandemic by the WHOand was described as a human-to-human transmission of infection³ More than 178,700 confirmed cases were reported in more than 140 nations by the middle of March

2020, with the majority occurring in China, the virus's origin country, followed by Spain, Iran, Italy, and South Korea.⁴The diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 was included in the list of epidemic illnesses treated by Traditional Chinese Medicine by the National Health Commission of China. (TCM). The TCM treatment regimen was advocated from many areas based on the sickness variation, even though the disease's manifestations, symptoms, and severity could vary depending on a number of factors, including the environment, the patient's immunity, their bodily health, and the virus itself. The sudden rise in COVID-19 cases stoked the fear of an epidemic and accelerated efforts to find a quick fix. Due to this, it was essential to investigate the effectiveness of Chinese herbal remedies against the coronavirus.

The use of Indian medicinal plants to cure various diseases is a promising area ⁵. The Siddha and Ayurvedic traditions have their roots in India and are still extensively practiced there. Identification of the phyto-components in therapeutic plants may also be useful for reducing infection. As a result, using Indian medicinal herbs could be a novel way to stop the spread of viruses. Natural products and their derivatives have potential activities in the treatment of viral infections.

In the current study, we reviewed and summarized the published data about traditional herbal medicine for possible treatment and management of COVID-19.

General virology and epidemiological characteristics of COVID-19:

Coronaviruses cause a lot of disorders, including respiratory, enteric, hepatic and neurologic disease.⁶ SARS-CoV-2 is an enveloped, single-stranded, positive-sense RNA beta coronavirus. The S protein on the surface of SARS-CoV-2 induces the attachment and invasion of SARS-CoV-2 to the host cells by recognizing the ACE2 receptor.⁷



The invading virus then takes over the host cell's genetic replication machinery to produce new virus RNA with RdRp, synthesises glycoproteins by the host ribosome, which are then cleaved into nonstructural proteins and structural proteins (S proteins) by virus proteinases (3CLpro and PLpro), and assembles new viral particles to be released to infect additional host cells.

Therefore, the ACE2 receptor, RdRp, spike protein, 3CLpro, and PL pro are essential in the invasion and replication of SARS-CoV-2, and could be potential targets for the treatment of COVID-19 by Chinese herbal medicine.

The aetiology of COVID-19 is that SARS-CoV-2 spreads through the respiratory tract, infects the lungs, causes pneumonia, and generates inflammatory factors. The virus also replicates and releases in host cells, circulates in the blood, binds to ACE2 on the surface of numerous body organs, upsets the balance of the RAS signal pathway, and damages numerous organs throughout the body. A body's overactive immune reaction brought on by the virus can also spark an inflammatory storm that worsens the illness. Lung inflammation results in a profusion of secretions that obstruct the airflow and aggravate hypoxia in the body.

Generally, there are three routes for transmission of COVID-19: 1) aerosol transmission, 2) droplets transmission, and 3) contact transmission ⁸. Study of a large number infected patients found out that the main transmission route of SARS-CoV-2 is personperson contact ⁹. Moreover, it appears that the fomites can be as second suspected source of infection ¹⁰ Recently, Chinese researchers reported that COVID-19 can be detected in the patient's feces, showing a possible fecal-oral transmission ¹¹.

Some molecular assays, including Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) and next-generation sequencing, were recommended for individuals with suspected infections for viral detection and characterization. Swabs from the pharynx, lower respiratory tract secretions, and sputum are the three clinical samples most frequently used to test for SARS-CoV-2. Additionally, CT imaging can be helpful for detecting SARS-CoV-2, and studies have shown that it frequently returns good results in those SARS-CoV-2 patients who have coughs, fevers, and fatigue. Bilateral pulmonary parenchymal grounded-glass shadow and nodules are seen in individuals with severe illness.

Prevention and treatment options

Traditional herbal medicine:

For several years, medicinal plants have been used in different indigenous health schemes and traditional medicines for treating diseases.¹² Naturally occurring herbal medicine provides a wide variety of natural products, which can be used as an ancillary guide to unlocking many mysteries behind human illnesses.¹³⁻¹⁴ In developing nations, 80% of people depend on conventional plants for their health needs, according to a WHO report. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Alternative therapies are being re-examined at an increasing rate, especially from herbal sources, as a result of the increased resistance of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, and parasites) to conventional anti-microbial therapy. Understanding the natural products with antiviral properties is crucial for offering an alternative COVID-19 management option as worries about the COVID19 outbreak spread across the globe.

Today, many people turn to natural products and phytomedicine in various national healthcare systems for the treatment of a variety of health issues. The use of these products and phytomedicine is continuing to expand quickly throughout the globe. In cases where they were the only treatments available prior to the introduction of antibiotics, herbal phytoconstituents successfully reduced infectious conditions. The development of novel antivirals is especially well served by the use of herbal medicinal goods. Since the dawn of society, people have used these plants. Traditional Chinese medicine includes treatments of herbal and acupuncture, where those aim to prevent and treat diseases by enhancing the immunity of the body. Chinese medicine needs experience and knowledge; here, no adverse reactions could be identified if Chinese herbs are properly used,15-¹⁶Three of the seven coronaviruses that have been found to have the potential to spread among people are dangerous: SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome, China, 2002), MERS (middle east respiratory syndrome, Saudi Arabia, 2012), and SARS-CoV-2. (COVID-19, 2019). These viruses are part of the coronavirus species' coronaviridae family. SARS-CoV-2 was determined by the genome sequence study to be a member of the beta type genus, which is also home to SARS, MERS, and the Bat SARS-like coronavirus. Additionally, COVID-19 is a betacoronavirus because of similarities in the nucleic acid structure.

. With regard to SARS and Covid-19, this review piece seeks to survey and introduce significant medicinal plants and herbs.



ANDROGRAPHOLIDE:

An extract of the perennial plant Andrographis paniculate (green chiretta) contains the labdane diterpenoid andrographolide. Due to this component's remarkable biological activity, which includes immune system regulation, antihyperglycemia, anti-bacteria, anti-virus, antiparasite, and anti-tumor properties, it has been used in a variety of medicinal applications.

Being a potent immunomodulator, andrographolide can also be tried in combination therapies to treat infectious diseases.

Andrographolide looks to be successful against a variety of viral infections, and in the future, it can be used in drug development, either alone or in combination, for the inhibition of viral infection and treatment of infectious diseases.

Andrographolide is a drug that has antiviral¹⁷, antimicrobial ^{18,19} and anti-parasitic effects ^{20,21}. It is a labdane diterpenoid, that can be purified from the aerial parts of different plants that belong to the genus Andrographis (family Acanthaceae) and that flourish at varying altitudes.

The Andrographis paniculata plant is known as the "King of Bitter" because of its bioactive ingredient's bitter flavour. A. paniculata can be found at altitudes of up to 1000 m in Japan, China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and India²². It is an annual herb that grows between 30 and 110 centi-metres long. The flowers are white with purple spots on the petals. A. paniculata, A. alata, and A. lineate can all be used to separate andrographolide, which is soluble in organic solvents like ethanol, chloroform, ether, acetone, and dimethyl sulfoxide

Previous reports showed that andrographolide could treat multiple viruses such influenza А virus (IAV), human as immunodeficiency virus (HIV),²³Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), ²⁴dengue virus (DENV),^{25,26} and Chikungunya virus (CHIKV)²⁷ due to its wide range of antiviral properties. Recently, Enmozhi et al. found that andrographolide could be a good inhibitor for SARS-CoV-2 through in silico studies by influencing the viral 3-chymotrypsinlike cysteine protease (3CLpro).²⁸

Andrographolide is generally very abundant, inexpensive, and cytotoxic; however, more research is required to fully understand its potent antiviral action against various viruses.

QUERCETIN:

Quercetin is considered to be a strong antioxidant due to its ability to scavenge free radicals and bind transition metal ions ^{29.}

It is a flavonoid substance that is typically present in fruits and veggies. In addition to having nutritional benefits, quercetin also has a variety of biological properties, such as its ability to fight off diseases like cancer, allergies, cancer-causing agents, oxidants, viruses, and inflammation.^{30,31,32} Quercetin has been shown in prior research to have

antiviral activity against a variety of viruses, including IAV,³³

C Virus (HCV),³⁴ Enterovirus 71 (EV-71),³⁵ SARS-CoV, etc.^{36,37}. Regarding the SARS viruses, quercetin showed a relatively high inhibition rate and half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC50) values of 82% and 73 μ M, respectively, against SARS-CoV 3CL^{pro}in Pichia pastoris fungus.^{38.}

BAICALIN:

In East Asia, baicalin has long been used as a conventional medicine. Baicalin has a broad range of pharmacological properties, including effects that are anti-inflammatory, anti-pruritic, and anti-cancer. According to Chen et al., baicalin has been shown to have antiviralaction against SARStype viruses, with an effective concentration of 12.5 g/ml being able to reduce the virus-forming unit by 50% (EC50) within two days.^{39,40}

Baicalin was discovered to be an effective in vitro inhibitor of angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE), with an IC50 value of 2.24 mM, who also used UV spectrophotometry to detect angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibition.

Baicalin's minimal toxicity suggests that using it as a medication or treatment agent against COVID-19 could be successful.

CURCUMIN:

It is a natural antioxidant compound that is non-toxic, extremely promising, and has many biological uses. In the near future, curcumin is expected to potentially be used as a new drug. to regulate the development of different diseases, such as inflammatory conditions, cancer, and oxidative stress-induced pathogenesis.

Through computational methods, two polyphenols with a dual binding affinity, catechin and curcumin, were described in this study. With binding energies of -10.5 Kcal/mol and -8.9 Kcal/mol, respectively, catechin attaches to viral Sprotein and ACE2. It therefore bonds with a stronger affinity than curcumin, which is 7.8



Kcal/mol for ACE2 and 7.9 Kcal/mol for S-protein, respectively. Catechin binds to the area around the viral S-protein's RBD sequence, whereas curcumin binds straight to the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the protein. Curcumin directly binds with as shown by a molecular simulation analysis. In contrast, catechin binds with S-protein near the RBD site and causes fluctuation in amino acid present in the RBD and its proximity. In conclusion, this computational study predicted the possible use of the above two polyphenols for therapeutic/preventive intervention.^{41.}

GLYCYRRHIZIC ACID:

It comes from the licorice shrub, which is used in traditional Chinese medicine. (Chinese name: Gan Cao). Thymol and carvacrol, two active substances discovered in the Chinese liquorice plant Glycyrrhiza uralensis, have been shown to have antiviral and antibacterial effects. the active ingredient in licorice root known as glycyrrhizin, has been used in therapeutic settings to treat ulcers, allergic inflammation, and hyperlipemia. Many studies showed that licorice and its ingredients could prevent lung infections and damage, making it an excellent herbal candidate to treat SARS viruses.⁴²

Cinatl et al. looked into how the antiviral medications ribavirin, mycophenolic acid. glycyrrhizic acid, 6-azouridine, and pyrazofurin affected the SARS-CoV virus. A decrease in viral adsorption and penetration was found to be caused by glycyrrhizic acid, which had the greatest among inhibitory effect the other compounds.43Thereby, it is rational to recommend studying this component against SARS-CoV-2 infection intensely.

MYRICETIN:

A common flavonoid produced from plants, myricetin has a variety of nutritional benefits. Additionally, it frequently appears in the ingredients of various meals and drinks.

Previous plants and herbs that contained myricetin exhibit a broad range of potential and functions as anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, antidiabetic, and antioxidant. More than a century has passed since the creation of this component. The first isolation was from Myrica nagi Thumb (Myricaceae) in the late 1800s in India and was finally obtained as pale-colored crystals.⁴⁴Yu. et al. reported that myricetin in vitro inhibited SARS-CoV's helicase protein by influencing the ATPase action, but not the unwinding activity of nonstructural protein 13 (nsP13).

Additionally, it was discovered that myricetin and scutellarein had no cytotoxicity when compared to MCF10A cells with typical breast epithelial cells. It is possible that naturally occurring flavonoids, such as myricetin, could act as a SARS-CoV 2 suppressor.

Sea -buckthorn:

Due to its nutritional and therapeutic benefits, sea buckthorn (Hippophaerhamnoides), also known as sea buckthorn, is an ancient plant with contemporary virtues. It is a deciduous species with a broad geographic distribution, including in India. It includes a variety of vitamins, carotenoids, flavonoids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, free amino acids, and other bioactive nutrients and components.

It has been demonstrated that it has a of medicinal properties, variety including antioxidant, antimicrobial, antifungal, metabolic disorders, immunostimulatory, hepatoprotective, and anticancer action. Several studies reveal the presence of various phytochemical constituents viz., flavonoids (isorhamnetin, quercetin, myricetin, kaempferol and their glycoside compounds), carotenoids (β and δ -carotene, lycopene, Zeaxanthin), few essential amino acids, sitosterol, triterpene, fatty acids, tannin acid, 5hydroxytryptamine, umbelliferone, antioxidant vitamins and minerals in various parts of this plant.

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LUTEOLIN:

Luteolin (3',4',5',7'-tetrahydroxyflavone) is one of the flavonoidgroup, which naturally occurs in a large number of plants. It has a variety of pharmaceutical properties, including antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antiviral,



anti-cancerogenic, antioxidant, and heart protective properties. The herbs used in Chinese medicine, which are inexpensive and widely accessible, are used to make this component. As a result, luteolin is recommended as a possible treatment for COVID-19.⁴⁶

Traditional Chinese medicine for treatment and management of covid -19.

The Chinese herbal remedy is a combination of various herbs that a herbalist creates based on the state and conditions of each patient. Following Chinese diagnostic principles, the diagnosis (palpation, listening, smelling, inspection, and inquiry.

. Antiviral activities were reported for many Chinese herbal prescriptions, such as **YinhuaPinggan granule, San Wu Huangqin Decoction (SWHD), and LianhuaQingwen Capsule**, which might assist in preventing the spread and propagation of the virus. Moreover, they could be able to recover and heal lungs' damage that could occur by coronaviruses.

To stop the resurgence of the deadly illness SARS, it is essential to develop anti-severe acute respiratory syndrome associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV) medications. A cell-based assay that measured the SARS-CoV-induced cytopathogenic effect (CPE) in vitro on Vero E6 cells was used in this research to assess the anti-SARS-CoV activities of more than 200 extracts from Chinese medicinal herbs. Six herbal extracts, one each from Gentianae Radix (the dried rhizome of Gentiana scabra), DioscoreaeRhizoma (the dried tuber of Dioscorea batatas), Cassiae Semen (the dried seed of Cassia tora), and Loranthi Ramus (the dried stem, with leaf, of Taxillus chinensis), were found to be potent inhibitors of SARS-CoV atconcentrations. It was discovered what concentrations of the six extracts were required to block 50% of Vero E6 cell proliferation and 50% of viral replication. The most efficient extracts, CBE, GSH, DBM, CTH, and TCH, had selective index values (SI = CC50/EC50) that were > 59.4, >57.5, > 62.1, > 59.4, and > 92.9, respectively. The SARS-CoV 3CL protease activity was significantly inhibited by the preparations CBM and DBM, with IC50 values of 39 g/ml and 44 g/ml, respectively. Our research indicates that these six herbal extracts might be candidates for the creation of anti-SARS medications in the future.⁴⁷

It was suggested that **Sang Ju Yin plus Yu Ping Feng San** could regulate T cells for boosting the immune system.

After receiving traditional Chinese plant medicine treatment, many patientdischarged from a hospital in Beijing. After receiving treatment with traditional Chinese herbal medicine, another recovery instance was later reported, illustrating the broad application of traditional Chinese herbal medicine. to administer the COVID-19 for medical care. The People's Republic of China (PRC) National Health Commission and other organisations released "Diagnosis and Treatment of Pneumonia Caused by Novel Coronavirus Infection" on January 27th, 2020.

Dietary therapy and herbal medicine for COVID-19 MANAGEMENT:

Foods and plants may have antiviral properties that are effective against COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2. To avoid infection and boost immunity, foods and herbs may be used as dietary supplements, antiviral agents for masks.

Numerous foods and plants are recognised immunomodulatory for their antiviral and properties. Aloe vera, Angelica gigas (Korean angelica), Astragalus membranaceus (Mongolian milkvetch), Ganoderma lucidum (lingzhi fungus), Panax ginseng, and Scutellariabaicalensis (Chinese skullcap) have all been linked to immunomodulatory effects. Their actions are founded on cytokine stimulation that is targeted, lymphocyte activation, an increase in natural killer cell counts, and improved macrophage activity. Additionally, Lawsonia alba (hina), Echinacea purpurea (eastern purple coneflower), Plumbago zeylanica (Ceylon leadwort), and Cissampelos pareira Linn (velvetleaf) all have phagocytosisstimulating properties and show immunomodulatory effects.

. Eucalyptus essential oil is reported to improve the innate cell-mediated immune response that can be used as an immunoregulatory agent against infectious diseases. ^{48,49}.

Utilizing all of these immunostimulatory foods and plants may strengthen the immune system and shield the body from COVID19. But these findings need to be confirmed by science or medical research.

The bioactive ingredients of foods and herbs have been documented in numerous studies to be effective against the influenza virus and SAR-CoV-1, despite only being tested in vitro, in vivo, and in ovo. Not many research as the majority of clinical studies have been done on food and herb combinations or traditional Chinese formulas, research has been done on the impacts of particular



foods and herbs against the influenza virus and SAR-CoV-1 in Table 1 lists the antiviral effects of

foods and plants against the influenza virus.⁵⁰

Herbs	Bioactive compound and	Experimental model	Mode of action	References
Allium sativum	Garlic aqueous extract (Garlic extract)	H9N2 virus infection in MDCK cells and chicken embryo H1N1 virus infection in MDCK cells	Anti-avian influenza virus H9N2 activity in both chick embryos and cell models. Inhibits H1N1 virus penetration and proliferation in cell culture	Rasool et al. $(2017)^{51}$ et al. $(2017)^{51}$ et al. $(2008)^{52}$ et al. $(2008)^{52}$
Zingiber officinalis (Ginger)	Ginger aqueous extract and Korean red ginseng powder capsule	H9N2 virus infection in MDCK cells and chicken embryo. H1N1 virus- induced respiratory tract infection in mice and MDCK cells	Anti-avian influenza virus H9N2 activity in both chick embryos and cell models Ginseng enhances immunity by increasing the levels of influenza A virus-specific antibodies and their neutralizing activities. It modulates CD69- expressing immune cells and exhibits significant enhancement of influenza virus- specific IgA antibody in mice lungs.	Rasool (2017) ⁵¹ et al. Quan et al. (2006) ⁵³ et al.
Eucalyptus polybractea (Eucalyptus)	Aerosol and vapor of eucalyptus oil	H11N9 virus infection in MDCK cells.	Inhibits avian influenza virus H11N9 in aerosol and vapor form.	Usachev et al. (2013) ⁵⁴
	Eucaryptus on	H11N9 virus infection in MDCK	eucalyptus oil inactivates	Pyankov et al. $(2012)^{55}$

Antiviral activity	v of foods and h	arbe against influanza	virus and SAD	COV = 1 (table 1)
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		cells	captured H11N9 virus in fiber material	
Melaleuca alternifolia (Tea tree	Aerosol and vapor of tea tree oil,	H11N9 virus infection in MDCK cells	Inhibits avian influenza virus H11N9 in aerosol and vapor form,	Usachev et al. (2013) ⁵⁴
	Tea tree oil	H11N9 virus infection in MDCK cells	Pre-coated tea tree oil inactivates captured H11N9 fiber material	Pyankov et al. $(2012)^{55}$
Carpesiumabrotan oides L. (Tianmingjing	4a,5a- dihydroxyguaia- 11(13)-en12,8a- lactone.	H11N9 virus infection in MDCK cells,	Inhibits H1N1 virus activity.	He et al. (2020) ⁵⁶
Portulaca oleracea L. (Machixian;	Water extract of P. oleracea L.	H11N9 virus infection in MDCK cell,	Inhibits H1N1 and H3N2 in the early stages of influenza A virus infection, inhibits the binding of virus to cells, and exhibits good virucidal activity	Li et al. (2019) ⁵⁷
Houttuynia cordata (Fish mint).	H. cordata ethanolic extract	H1N1 virus- induced acute lung injury in mice and RAW 264.7 cell model	Alleviates H1N1- induced acute lung injury in mice through antiviral and anti- inflammatory effects. Inhibition of viral neuraminidase activity and toll like receptor signaling.	Ling et al. (2020) ⁵⁸

Antiviral activity of herbs against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). (table2).

Herbs	Bioactive compound and	Experimental	Mode of action	References
	extract	model		
Lianhuaqingwen	Lianhua-Qingwen formula	Vero E6 cells	inactivate SARS-	Li et al.
(Lian huaqıng	(10herbs)	with SARS-CoV-	CoV-2	$(2020)^{59.}$
wen)	• Forsythia	2 infection model	replication, reduce	
	suspensa (Thunb.)		pro-inflammatory	
	• Ephedra		cytokines	
	sinicaStapf (Chinese		production and	
	ephedra;		affect particle	
	• Lonicera japonica		morphology of	
	Thunb		virus cell.	
	Isatisindigotica			
	Fortune (Woad)			
	• Mentha			



haplocalyxBriq. (Mint)	
Dryopteris	
crassirhizomaNakai	
(Thickstemmed wood fern)	
Rheum palmatum	
L. (Chinese rhubarb)	
Pogostemoncablin	
(Blanco) Benth.	
Rhodiola rosea L.	
(Golden root)	
• Gypsum	
Fibrosum (Gypsum;	

II. CONCLUSIONS:

There was a serious threat from COVID-19 to public health and safety globally. The need to collect information, control the pandemic outbreak, and lower the mortality rate as much as possible became critical for governments, hospitals, researchers, businesses, and even individuals. Currently, there are limited number of allopathic medicines considered effective against COVID-19. Current research supports dietary therapy, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine as possible antiviral treatments against SARS-CoV-2 and as COVID-19 prevention measures. In this review article, the most effective herbal medicines from traditional Chinese medicine were used against viruses that were similar to them and exhibited high inhibitory activity. On the basis of in vitro and in vivo studies, it is expected that these plants will act as antiviral medications to treat the current SARS-CoV-2 virus. It was discovered that the medicinal histories of the ingredients in andrographolide, quercetin, baicalin, curcumin, glycyrrhizic acid, emodin, patchouli alcohol, luteolin, and myricetin were favourable. For these monomers to be able to bind to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and host targets and block the virus-host binding sites, computer simulation and molecular docking demonstrated adequate binding ability. The traditional Chinese medicine herbs are abundant, inexpensive, and low in toxicity, which promotes their use as potential COVID-19 drugs. These herbs also contain a variety of helpful ingredients.

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