International Journal of Pharmaceutical research and Applications
Volume 11, Issue 2, Mar-Apr 2026, pp:923-925 www.ijprajournal.com ISSN: 2456-4494

Review On ‘‘A Complete pharmacognostic Study on Curcumma Longa (Turmeric) & It’s Use in Nano-Technology”

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Date of Submission: 04-04-2026 Date of Acceptance: 15-04-2026

Abstract
Curcuma longa (turmeric) is a well-known medicinal plant widely used in traditional systems suchasAyurveda,Siddha, andUnani.Itpossessesdiversepharmacologicalactivitiesmainlydue to curcuminoids, especially curcumin. However, poor solubility and low bioavailability limit its therapeutic applications. Pharmacognostic standardization ensures the identity, purity, and quality of turmeric. Recent advancements in nanotechnology have significantly improved curcumin delivery through enhanced solubility, stability, and targeted action. This review highlights pharmacognostic characteristics, phytochemistry, and nanotechnological approaches for improving therapeutic efficacy of turmeric.

I. Introduction

Curcuma longaLinn.(Family:Zingiberaceae) isaperennialherbwidelycultivated intropical regions. Its rhizome is extensively used as a spice, coloring agent, and medicinal plant.

Turmericcontains:
- Curcuminoids:Curcumin,demethoxycurcumin,bis-demethoxycurcumin
- Volatileoils:Turmerone,zingiberene

Itexhibitsseveralpharmacologicalactivities:
- Anti-inflammatory
- Antioxidant
- Antimicrobial
- Anticancer
- Hepatoprotective
- Woundhealing

Despitethesebenefits,curcuminsuffersfrom:
- Poorwater solubility
- Lowbioavailability
- Rapidmetabolism

Nanotechnologyofferspromisingsolutionstoovercomtheselimitations.

1. PharmacognosticProfileofTurmeric

MacroscopicCharacteristics
- Cylindrical,branchedrhizomes
- Yellowish-brownexterior
- Brightorangeinterior
- Aromaticodorandbittertaste

MicroscopicFeatures
- Cork cells
- Parenchymawithoilcells
- Starchgrains
- Scatteredvascularbundles

PowderCharacteristics
- Yellow-coloredpowder
- Presenceoffibers,vessels,andoilglobules

PhysicochemicalParameters
- Ashvalues
- Extractivevalues
- Moisture content

PhytochemicalConstituents
- Curcuminoids
- Volatileoils
- Starch,proteins,resins

Pharmacognosticevaluationensuresquality,purity,an

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dstandardizationofherbaldrugs.

2. LimitationsofConventionalCurcumin

Althoughcurcuminhasexcellenttherapeuticpotential,it shows:
- Lowaqueous solubility
- Poorabsorption
- Rapidsystemicelimination

Thesedrawbacksreduceitsclinicaleffectiveness.

3. Nanotechnology in Turmeric Research

Nanotechnologyimprovesdrugdeliverybyenhancing:
- Solubility
- Stability
- Bioavailability
- Targetspecificity

Types ofNano-Formulations
- Polymericnanoparticles(PLGA,chitosan)
- Liposomes
- Solidlipidnanoparticles
- Nanoemulsions
- Polymericmicelles
- Goldandsilvernanoparticles

4. NanotechnologicalApproaches

Curcumin-LoadedNanoparticles
- Improvebioavailabilityandsustained release
- Enabletargeted drug delivery

CancerTherapyApplications
- Targettumor cells
- Reduceside effects
- Enhanceanticanceractivity

Nanocarriers
- Micelles,dendrimers,hydrogels
- Providecontrolleddrugrelease

GreenSynthesisofNanoparticles
- Turmericactsasreducingandstabilizingagent
- Eco-friendlysynthesisofAgNPs,AuNPs

AntimicrobialNanoparticles
- Enhancedantibacterialandantifungalactivity.

5. MaterialsandMethods

Materials
- DriedrhizomesofCurcumalonga
- Solvents:Ethanol,methanol,distilledwater

- Chemicals:Reagentsforphytochemicalscreening
- Polymers:PLGA,chitosan
- Surfactantsandstabilizers
- Analyticalinstruments(UV,HPLC,SEM,TEM)

CollectionandAuthentication

Turmericrhizomesarecollectedfromlocalsourcesanda uthenticatedbyaqualified pharmacognosist based on macroscopic and microscopic characteristics.

Pharmacognostic Evaluation Macroscopic Analysis
- Shape, size, color,odor,andtaste

MicroscopicAnalysis
- Transversesectionstudy
- Identificationofstarchgrains, oilcells,vascular bundles

PowderAnalysis
- Detectionoffibers, vessels, starchgrains

PhysicochemicalEvaluation
- Ashvalues(totalash, acidinsolubleash)
- Extractivevalues(alcoholandwatersoluble)
- Moisture content

PhytochemicalScreening Preliminary tests for:
- Alkaloids
- Flavonoids
- Phenolics
- Curcuminoids

ExtractionofCurcumin

- Solventextractionmethod
- Concentrationandpurificationofextract

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PreparationofNanoparticles Methods include:
- Nanoprecipitation
- Solventevaporation
- Ionicgelation

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EvaluationofNanoparticles
- Particlesizeanalysis
- Zetapotentialmeasurement
- Drugloadingandentrapmentefficiency
- Surfacemorphology(SEM/TEM)
- In-vitrodrugrelease

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PharmacologicalEvaluation
- Antioxidantactivity
- Anti-inflammatoryactivity
- Anticancerstudies.

6. PharmacologicalApplicationsofNanocurcumin

Nanocurcuminshows improved:
- Anticanceractivity
- Anti-inflammatoryeffects
- Antioxidantactivity
- Antimicrobialactivity
- Neuroprotectiveeffects

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7. NeedforIntegrated Study
- Ensuresauthenticationofraw turmeric
- Preventsadulteration
- Improvesformulationquality
- Bridgesgap betweenpharmacognosyandnanotechnology

8. Future Prospects
- Developmentoftargeteddrugdeliverysystems
- Clinicalvalidationofnanocurcumin
- Standardizedherbalnanoformulations
- Industrial-scaleproduction

9. Conclusion

PharmacognosticstandardizationofCurcuma longaensuresthequalityandauthenticityofthe rawdrug,while nanotechnologysignificantlyenhancesitstherapeuticpotential.Integrationof both approaches provides a modern and effective strategy for developing advanced herbal formulations with improved bioavailability and clinical efficacy.

Keywords

Curcumalonga,Curcumin,Pharmacognosy,Nanotechnology,Nanoparticles,Bioavailability.