

Review On Pharmacognostical Characteristics And Pharmacological Activity Of Hygrophilaauriculata

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ABSTRACT

Hygrophilaauriculata, a common found plant in marshy and wet places, is a member of the Acanthaceae family. It is also known as Asteracanthalongifoliaand is also referred to as "Neermulli, Talmakhana, Kokilaksha&Iksura." The herb is used to treat blood diseases and is bitter, aphrodisiac, tonic, and sedative. The plant has been shown to have hepatoprotective, hemopoietic, hypoglycemic, aphrodisiac, antibacterial, antimicrobial, anticancer, free radical scavenging, and lipid peroxidation properties. Alkaloids, fatty acids, butelin, stigmasterol and lupeola remain secondary metabolites present in the plant. In India it is commonly used traditional folk remedy that is used as diuretic, to treat hepatic blockage, gout, and urinary infections. The purpose of this review article is to explore different pharmacological uses of the weed plant "Hygrophilaauriculata".

KEYWORDS:

Hygrophilaauriculata, Aphrodisiac, Antibacterial, Free radical scavenger, Hepatoprotective, Antitumor, Secondary metabolites

I. INTRODUCTION:

In traditional medicinal systems, Hygrophilaauriculata (Schumach.) Heine (Acanthaceae), also known as Kulekhara, is a well-known plant with several synonyms, such as Asteracanthalongifolia (L.) Nees and Hygrophila spinosa T. In India H. auriculata is widely known for curing

anemia and several pathological illnesses, including fever, hepatic disorders, gonorrhoea, spermatorrhea, rheumatism, jaundice, and kidney stones (Kshirsagar et al. 2010; Das et al. 2021). Ethnomedicinally the plant is used to treat diarrhea, asthma, and cancer. The roots and seeds are used as atonic. Different parts of this plant like leaf, root, and seed have long been used to treat oedema, jaundice, hepatic blockage, inflammation, and urinary infections. It is used to cure many ailments such as diarrhea and diabetes and is categorized as Seethaveryam, Mathuravipaka in the Ayurvedic medical system. The plants are found in large quantities in Nepal, Malaysia, Burma, Sri Lanka, and India. Different secondary metabolites were found to be present in the plant are flavonoids, triterpenoids, alkaloids, tannins, and saponins. Literature review showed that Hygrophilaauriculata found to be shown versatile pharmacological effects including anti-nociceptive, antitumor,

antioxidant, hepatoprotective, hypoglycemic, antelmintic, diuretic, free radical scavenging, haematinic, and antimitotic properties. In addition to phytochemical and pharmacological data on Hygrophilaauriculata (K. Schum) Heine, this review will highlight the plant's many traditional and ethanobotanical applications. The current study is to explore pharmacognostical and pharmacological investigations done on the Hygrophilaauriculata [2,3,4].

TOXONOMY:

Table no:1 Taxonomy of Hygrophilaauriculata

Kingdom	Plantae – plantes, Planta, Vegetal, plants
Subkingdom	Viridiplantae
Infra kingdom	Streptophyta – land plants
Superdivision	Embryophyta

Division	<u>Tracheophyta</u> –vascularplants,tracheophytes
Subdivision	<u>Spermatophytina</u> ,spermatophytes,seed plants,phanérogames
Class	<u>Magnoliopsida</u>
Superorder	<u>Asteranae</u>
Order	<u>Lamiales</u>
Family	<u>Acanthaceae</u> –acanthacées
Genus	<u>Hygrophila</u> R.Br.–swampweed
Species	Auriculata

VERNACULARNAMES:

Tableno:2VernacularnamesofHygrophilaauriculata

English	HygrophilaMarshBarbel
Hindi	Talimkhana
Sanskrit	Kokilaksha,Ikoura
Gujarati	Ekhro
Marathi	Talimkhana,Vikhra,Kolsunda
Bengali	Shulamardan
Kannada	Kalavankabija
Tamil	Nirumuli
Malayalam	Voyal-chullai
Telugu	Kokilakshi



Figno:1Aerial partofHygrophilaauriculata

PLANT DESCRIPTION:

Herbs, 40–100 cm tall, with

subquadrangular, unbranched stems with many fasciculate, enlarged nodes, hispid, and long hair.

Sub-sessile, lanceolate, 615×1.5-3 cm, acute, hairy, and arranged in whorls of six at each node, with the two innermost ones being significantly bigger than the four innermost ones. Sharp, 2-3cm long, yellowish-brown thorns growing from the axils of leaves. Flower subaxillary clusters in four pairs of eight at each node. Similar to leaves, bracts are lanceolate, hairy, and ciliate; bracteoles are linear, lanceolate, 1.5–2cm long, with hyaline borders in the bottom portion, hairy, and ciliate with long white hairs. Calyx 4 partite; top sepals unequally larger and longer than the other 3 all linear lanceolate, 1.2-2 cm long; edge hyaline ciliate; hairy on back. Purple-blue, 2-3cm long, bilipped corolla; tube, 11–13mm length, enlarged at the tip; 4 didynamous stamens; glabrous filaments. Ovary: two-celled, four-ovule, linear-oblong capsules, four-seeded, 5-7mm long, pointy seeds. Ovoid, compressed, hairy, hygroscopic, black seeds [2,4,5].

PHYTOCONSTITUENTS:

Flavonoids

Bairaj and Nagarajan (1982) extracted a taxanthin 7-O-glucuronide and trace amounts of a taxanthin 7-O-glucoside from *Asteracanthalongifolia* flowers [6].

Alkaloids

An alkaloidal fraction was separated by Parashar and Harikishan Singh (1964) from the alcoholic extract of *Asteracanthalongifolia*'s aerial parts. From the seeds, two alkaloids were identified: asteracanthine and asteracanthicine [6].

Triterpenes

According to Govindachari et al. (1957), there is henicontane, a hydrocarbon, in the leaves and stems as well as luteolin in the roots, leaves, and stem. From the methanolic extract of *Asteracanthalongifolia*'s aerial parts, betulin was separated. Leaves of the plant were found to contain luteolin and luteolin 7-O-rutinoside, according to Nair et al. (1965) [6].

Aliphatic Esters

Two aliphatic esters, methyl 8-n-hexyl tetracosanoate and 25-oxo-hentriacontyl acetate, were extracted by Misra et al. (2001) from the methanolic extract of the aerial portions of *Asteracanthalongifolia* [6].

Sterols

According to Quasim and Dutta (1967), *Asteracanthalongifolia* roots contain stigmasterol. [6, 5]

Minerals

All of *Hygrophila spinosa*'s organs have significant concentrations of Fe, Cu, and Co, according to Choudhari and Bandyopadhyay (1998) [6].

Saponins and steroids

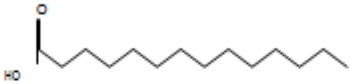



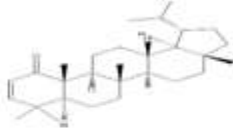

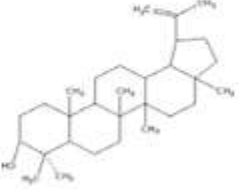
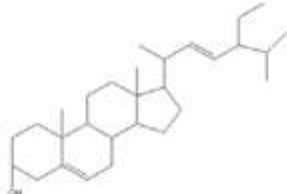
[1] Lupeol, [2] Betulin, [3] 25-Oxo-hentriacontyl acetate, [4] Stigmasterol, [5] Methyl 8-n-hexyl tetracosanoate [6].



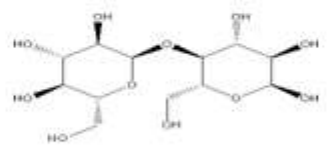


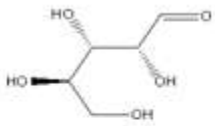
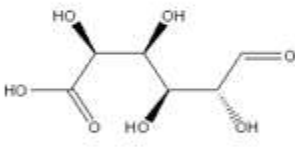
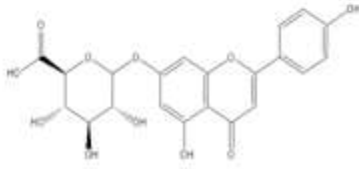
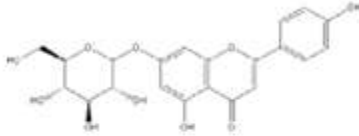

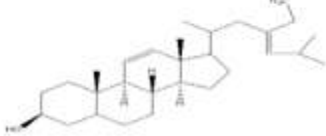
Qualitative phytochemical analysis of methanol and water extract of *H. auriculata* [2]

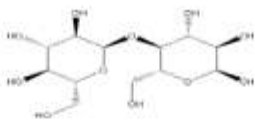
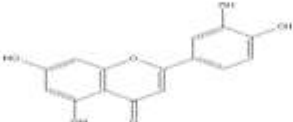
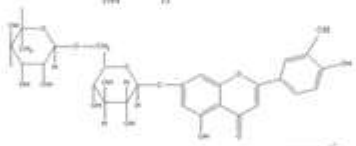

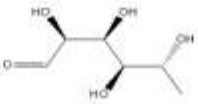
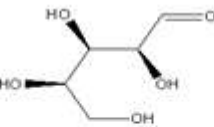
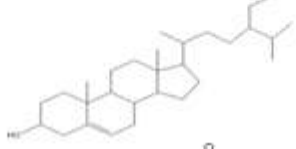
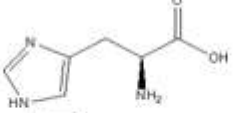
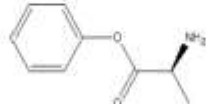
Table no: 3 Phytoconstituent of *Hygrophila auriculata*

S.No.	Phytoconstituents	Methanol	Aqueous
1	Alkaloids	+	-
2	Saponins	-	+
3	Steroids	+	-
4	Phenolic compounds	+	-
5	Tannins	+	+
6	Flavonoids	+	+
7	Terpenoids	-	-
8	Carbohydrate & Glycosides	+	+
9	Protein & Amino acids	+	+
10	Anthraquinones	-	-

Tableno:4Chemicalconstituentsof Hygrophilauriculata

Constituent	Structure	Isolated from Part of Plant
Myristicacid		Seed
Palmiticacid		Seed
Stearicacid		Seed
Linoleicacid		Seed
Lupenone		Root
25-oxo-hentriacontanylacetate		Plant, p Aerial art
Alkaloid(Hygrosterol) Lupeol		Root Aerial part, Root, Leaf, Stem, Whole plant, Seed
Stigmasterol		Aerial part, Whole plant, Leaf

Betulin		Aerial part, Root
β -carotene		Leaf
Phytosterol(Hygosterol) Maltose	--- 	Root Root
Oleicacid		Seed
Hentriacontane		Leaf Stem
Xylose		Seed
Glucuronicacid		Seed
Apigenin-7-O-glucuronide		Flower
Apigenin-7-O-glucoside		Flower
3-methylnonacosane		Aerialpart
23-ethylcholesta- 11(12),23(24)- dien-3 β -ol		Aerialpart

Maltose		Aerial part
Asteracanthine	---	Seed
Asteracanthicine	---	Seed
Luteolin		Leaf
Luteolin-7-rutinoside		Leaf
Methyl-8-n-hexyltetracosanoate		Plant, aerial part
Rhamnose		Seed
Arabinose		Seed
β -sitosterol		Root, leaf, seed
Histidine		Seed
Phenylalanine		Seed

Pharmacological Activities:

1) Antioxidant activity:

According to Sawadogo et al. (2006), the methanolic extract of leaves contains phenolic and flavonoid components that promise antioxidant potential. *A. longifolia* leaves aqueous extract demonstrated high antioxidant activity in a variety of in vitro models [2,4,10].

2) Aphrodisiac activity:

An ethanolic extract from the aerial parts

exhibits androgenic activity in addition to improving rat sexual behavior in a dose-dependent manner. It also enhances the testis' histoarchitecture, raises the amount of sperm in the epididymis, and raises testosterone levels. The impact of *Asteracanth longifolia* aerial parts on male albino rats' sexual behavior for a duration of 28 days, groups of rats were given varying dosages of 100, 150, and 200 mg/kg of the ethanolic extract of *Asteracanth longifolia* aerial portions. The results were compared with those of control rats. Changes

in sexual behavior, body and organ weight, histoarchitecture, and fructose levels in semi-solids were noted. The sexual behavior was evaluated by calculating characteristics like amount and frequency. Significant anabolic effects were seen in treated mice, as shown by weight growth in the body and reproductive organs. In the transverse slice, increased spermatogenesis as a result of extract administration was also seen. The therapy also had a significant impact on the animal's sexual behavior, as seen by the decrease in mount latency, rise in mounting frequency and improved ability to attract females. There was a discernible rise in the number of sperm and fructose levels of seminal vesicles [2,4].

3) Hypoglycemic activity:

When given to rats for three weeks, an ethanolic extract (AlEth) of the aerial portions of *Asteracanthalongifolia* (100 and 250 mg/kg body weight) significantly lowered the rat's blood glucose levels. Hydroperoxide and thiobarbituric acid reactive compounds (TBARS) are similarly decreasing in the kidney and liver. Glutathione (GSH), glutathione peroxidase (GPx), glutathione S-transferase (GST), and catalase (CAT) were all markedly elevated in the drug-treated group following the administration of AlEth, which is similar to the group under control. Additionally, rats given ethanolic extract of *Asteracanthalongifolia* demonstrated reduced lipid peroxidation, which is linked to improved activity of catalase and superoxide dismutase (SOD) (Vijayakumar et al., 2006). Fernando et al. (1991) examined how individuals with maturity-onset diabetes and healthy human volunteer's glucose tolerance was affected by hot water extracts of the whole *Asteracanthalongifolia* plant material. When rats were given an aqueous extract of *Asteracanthalongifolia* before being given glucose, the rat's liver and muscle glycogen contents significantly increased and their adipocyte tissue's triacylglycerol content significantly increased as compared to control rats. This indicated a hypoglycemic effect. Nevertheless, the plant extract had no impact on the kidney's or the intestine's ability to absorb glucose as gluconeogenic [2,4].

4) Haematopoietic activity:

Asteracanthalongifolia root extract in petroleum ether considerably raises WBC count (Mazumdar et al., 1996). In comparison to a

vehicle-treated control rat, ethanolic extract (100 and 200 mg/kg, p.o.) of the aerial portions of *H. spinosa* markedly enhanced the haemoglobin, haematocrit, RBC, and total WBC. The extract markedly raised the haemoglobin, haematocrit, and RBC count in anemic male albino rats (Gomes et al., 2001). The leaf extracts in petroleum ether and chloroform demonstrate hemopoietic activity since they markedly raised the count of leukocytes, erythrocytes, and hemoglobin [2,4]. Blood cell levels indicative of hematopoietic potential were restored by administering a chloroform extract of *Asteracanthalongifolia* leaves (250–500 mg/kg intraperitoneal injections in mice) for 22 days following cyclophosphamide-induced anemia (normalization after 15 days).

Asteracanthalongifolia treatment also restored the suppression in bone marrow cell count, and after 19 days, an ethanolic extract of the aerial parts (100–200 mg/kg) administered intraperitoneally by injection was able to nearly restore blood cell parameters (haematocrit, RBC count, and hemoglobin) in rats that had been made anemic with haloperidol. Administering the supplement does not seem to increase erythropoiesis in rats that are not anemic and are given 200 mg/kg of the ethanolic extract (injections); instead, there is a little (perhaps clinically insignificant) drop in comparison to the untreated control group. [2,4]

5) Anticancer activity:

In rats with hepatic tumors, a methanolic extract of the seeds (200–400 mg/kg) administered every other day for eight weeks appears to be able to reduce the development of subsequent foci by as much as 51% (compared to the control group), along with a milder reduction in the glutathione peroxides and catalase declines caused by the toxin [2].

6) Antidiabetic activity:

Reactions with the Metabolism of Glucose
Absorption: Giving rats large oral dosages of the plant's aqueous extract (leaf and stem, dosed at 5g/kg body weight) hasn't changed how they absorb glucose.

Glycogen: An oral glucose tolerance test revealed that the water extract did not alter gluconeogenesis in the rat liver. Giving rats a water extract (5g/kg body weight) before glucose loading enhanced the amount of glycogen stored in their skeletal muscles (57.2±4.2%) and liver (108.5±9.5%), but it also raised the amount

of triglyceride storage in their adipose tissue (10.2±1.8%).

Diabetes: For three weeks, 100–250 mg/kg of the ethanolic leaf extract is a diabetic-friendly medication that may be used to lower fasting blood sugar levels and normalize lipid peroxidation and antioxidant enzymes (catalase, glutathione-S-transferase, and glutathione peroxidase). Oral administration of a hot water leaf extract (10 ml/kg; one ml is equal to one gram of plant material) in normal humans is able to reduce exposure to glucose following an oral glucose tolerance test by 25%; the drink was slightly more effective in diabetics since it reduced exposure by 36% [1].

7) Liver protecting activity:

The aqueous extract of the whole *Hygrophila auriculata* possesses hepatoprotective and antioxidative qualities that guard against hepatotoxicities brought on by CCl_4 and paracetamol. At high dosages (40 and 80 mg/kg), the petroleum ether extract of *Hygrophila auriculata* influences the hepatic parameters, renal functions, metabolism, and stellate cells. However, a low dosage (20 mg/kg) did not show any discernible harmful effects. The hepatoprotective effect of methanolic extracts from the aerial portions is demonstrated against paracetamol and thioacetamide poisoning in rats. Nevertheless, research indicates that it has resisted chemically induced hepatic carcinogenesis in Wistar rats. In Wistar rats, a methanol extract of a seed that stimulates putative inhibitors of hepatic carcinogenesis. Examined the hepatoprotective effect in CCl_4 -induced liver toxicity in rats, the protective efficiency against acetaminophen-induced liver damage in rats, and the antioxidant activity in vitro utilizing the root aqueous extract. demonstrated that it possesses the hepatoprotective action of a semi-liquid combination of *Hygrophila auriculata* against hepatotoxicity and liver dysfunction in rats produced by galactosamine and CCL_4 [4].

8) Neuroprotective activity:

When *Hygrophila auriculata* is given orally to rats for seven days, followed by a brief global cerebral ischemia, the terpenoid element in the plant improves cognitive tests and reduces brain lipid peroxidation with potency equivalent to 500 mg/Kg of Vitamin E [4].

9) Antimicrobial efficacy :

The anti-microbial activity of an ethanolic

extract of *Hygrophila auriculata*'s leaves, stem, fruits, and root was investigated by Boily and Vandervelde (1986) against a variety of microorganisms, including *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans*, and *Mycobacterium smegmatis*. Their findings revealed that the leaves demonstrated strong antimicrobial activity against the aforementioned microorganisms.

An ethanolic extract of the leaves, stem, fruits, and root of *Hygrophila auriculata* was tested for its antimicrobial properties against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Candida albicans*, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, and *Mycobacterium canis* by Vlietick et al. (1995). They found that the leaves showed active action and *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, while antibacterial action against *Candida albicans*, *Mycobacterium* and *Staphylococcus aureus* [7,9,10].

10) Anthelmintic activity:

In a bioassay, the anthelmintic activity of petroleum ether, chloroform, alcoholic, and aqueous extract from the leaves of *Hygrophila spinosa* was investigated against the test worm *Pherithima posthuma* at various concentrations (10–100 mg/ml). The time until paralysis and time until worm death were also determined. At the maximum concentration of 100 mg/ml, the alcoholic extract had substantial anthelmintic activity; in contrast, the aqueous and chloroform extracts were only moderately active, and the petroleum ether extract showed the least amount of anthelmintic activity. [6]

11) Central Nervous System Activity

In 1999, Mazumdar et al. conducted a chemical analysis on the petroleum ether extract derived from the root of *Hygrophila spinosa*, revealing the existence of active components such as luteol and lupenone. They also said that the sedative-hypnotic effects of phenobarbitone, diazepam, and chlorpromazine are enhanced in mice when the crude petroleum ether extract is administered intraperitoneally. [6,]

12) Diuretic activity

Using techniques outlined by Lipschitz et al. (1943), the diuretic ability of the aqueous, alcoholic extract and various fractions of the alcoholic extract of the whole plant of *Hygrophila auriculata* (K. Schum) Heine was

assessed. Different groups of Wistar albino rats were given single oral doses of alcoholic extract/fractions (200 mg/kg) to investigate the diuretic impact. In the trial, furosemide (10 mg/kg) was employed as a positive control. Among the various fractions, the butanol fraction (200 mg/kg) significantly raised the amount of urine produced. The diuresis pattern caused by the ethylene-butanol fraction was nearly the same as the furosemide-induced pattern. [6,7]

13) Non-nociceptive activity:

In a mouse model of thermally induced analgesia, Shanmugasundaram et al. (2005) discovered that an aqueous extract of the aerial parts and roots of *Hygrophila auriculata* (K. Schum) Heine, at a dosage of 200 mg/kg (p.o.), demonstrated strong antinociceptive action. The analgesic potential of the leaf extracts from *Hygrophila spinosa* T. Anders (Acanthaceae) in petroleum ether, chloroform, alcoholic, and aqueous formats was tested. The thermal approach employed the hot plate and tail flick test to investigate analgesic efficacy, whereas the chemical method used the acetic acid-induced writhing test. At 200 and 400 mg/kg body weight, the alcoholic, aqueous, and chloroform extracts significantly reduced the constriction of the abdomen caused by acetic acid. They also raised the mice's pain threshold in response to the heat source in a dose-dependent manner similar to that of the conventional medication, aspirin (100 mg/kg body weight) [6,8].

14) Hepatoprotective Activity:

At 200 mg/kg/p.o., methanolic extract of *Hygrophila auriculata* seeds demonstrated strong hepatoprotective efficacy against rat's liver injury caused by Paracetamol and Thioacetamide. An aqueous extract of *Hygrophila auriculata* (K. Schum) Heine's roots, administered at a concentration of 150 mg/kg/p.o., shown strong hepatoprotective action against rat's liver damage caused by carbon tetrachloride, according to research by Shanmugasundaram et al. (2005). Hewawasamet al. (2003) investigated the hepatoprotective potential of an aqueous extract of *Asteracanthalongifolia* against acute hepatotoxicity in mice produced by carbon tetrachloride and paracetamol. The plant demonstrated noteworthy hepatoprotective properties by mitigating alterations in liver enzymes caused by carbon tetrachloride and paracetamol. The hepatoprotective effect of the plant extract could be explained by its potential to interfere with free radical production. When

compared to common medications used for this purpose, *Asteracanthalongifolia* had strong hepatoprotective effect against carbon tetrachloride and paracetamol. Rats' liver failure caused by carbon tetrachloride was tested against the *Asteracanthalongifolia* whole plant slurry. The plant demonstrated noteworthy hepatoprotective properties by mitigating alterations in hepatic enzyme activity biochemical parameters caused by carbon tetrachloride. *Asteracanthalongifolia* whole plant slurry shown strong hepatoprotective effectiveness against carbon tetrachloride, with a recognized hepatoprotectant called silymarin. [6]

15) Anti-inflammatory and antipyretic activity:

The anti-inflammatory and antipyretic properties of petroleum ether, chloroform, alcoholic, and aqueous extracts from the leaves of *Hygrophila spinosa* T. Anders were investigated by Patra et al. in 2009. The antipyretic activity of the different extracts was assessed based on their impact on rat's pyrexia caused by Brewer's yeast, whereas the anti-inflammatory activity was investigated based on the effects on carrageenan-induced paw edema in rats. While the petroleum ether and aqueous extracts of *Hygrophila spinosa* leaves did not display any significant anti-inflammatory and antipyretic properties, the chloroform and alcoholic extracts of the leaves did show substantial anti-inflammatory and antipyretic activity in a dose-dependent manner. At a dosage of 400 mg/kg body weight, the alcoholic and chloroform extracts showed the most anti-inflammatory effects. Using Brewer's yeast-induced pyrexia, Patra et al. (2009) revealed the antipyretic effect of the alcohol extract of the leaves and roots of *Hygrophila spinosa* T. Anders. In an animal model, both of the rat extracts showed strong antipyretic action and dramatically decreased the rise in rectal temperature when administered at doses of 200 and 400 mg/kg body weight. [6]

16) Antimotility activity:

The standard comparator drug used in the study of antimotility activity was tropinesulphate, at a dose of 0.1 mg/kg (i.p.). The alcoholic extract of the leaves of *Hygrophila spinosa* T. Anders, at a dose of 400 mg/kg body weight, significantly reduced the distance that the charcoal meal traveled through the gastrointestinal tract, indicating that the extract exhibited antimotility activity. [6]

II. CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, *Hygrophila auriculata*, commonly known as "Kokilaksha," is a significant medicinal plant with a rich history in traditional medicine systems such as Ayurveda and Unani. The pharmacognostical aspects reveal that this plant is characterized by distinct morphological, anatomical, and phytochemical properties that aid in its identification and quality control. Key constituents such as alkaloids, flavonoids, phenolic compounds, steroids, and glycosides contribute to its extensive therapeutic potential. Pharmacological studies have substantiated the traditional uses of *Hygrophila auriculata*, demonstrating a wide array of biological activities including anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, hepatoprotective, nephroprotective, antimicrobial, and antidiabetic effects. These activities are primarily attributed to the plant's bioactive compounds, which have shown promising results in both in vitro and in vivo studies.

Despite its extensive traditional and pharmacological uses, there are still gaps in the comprehensive understanding of its mechanisms of action, bioavailability, and clinical efficacy. Further research, particularly well-designed clinical trials, is essential to validate these therapeutic claims and to explore the full potential of *Hygrophila auriculata* in modern medicine. Additionally, advancements in biotechnology could facilitate the development of standardized extracts and formulations, ensuring consistency and efficacy in therapeutic applications.

Overall, *Hygrophila auriculata* holds great promise as a valuable resource in pharmacognosy and pharmacology. Its integration into contemporary medicinal practices, supported by rigorous scientific validation, could offer new avenues for the treatment and management of various health conditions.

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