



## EVALUATION OF *IN VIVO* ANTIPYRETIC, HEPATOPROTECTIVE AND MOLECULAR DOCKING STUDIES OF *Rhynchosia cana* (Wild.) DC

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*To assess the antipyretic and hepatoprotective effects of Rhynchosia cana (Wild.) DC (R. cana) methanol extract in In-silico trials and laboratory animal models. R. cana methanol extract (MERC) was evaluated for antipyretic activity in yeast-induced Pyrexia. R. cana's hepatoprotective ability was evaluated for hepatotoxicity-induced paracetamol albino rats. The GC-MS eluted compound on the protein TGF- $\beta$ , and PPAR $\alpha$  was conducted in silico docking experiments. At doses of 200 and 400 mg/kg, p.o, a single administration of MERC demonstrated strong antipyretic efficacy in albino rats. When the MERC (400 mg/kg) was given preventively for seven days, highly significant hepatoprotective behaviour was also observed. The docking findings of the TGF- $\beta$  ligand molecule show that the binding affinity of vitexin is -10.3 Kcal/mol, and Silymarin is -10.6 Kcal/mol. Vitexin displayed a binding affinity of -8.8 Kcal/mol for the PPAR alpha protein, and Silymarin showed an affinity of -8.2 kcal/mol. The present research indicates that MERC has substantial antipyretic and hepatoprotective effects, as confirmed in the In Silico and In Vivo tests.*

### INTRODUCTION

Plants represent a large pool of phytochemicals, some of which can treat different disorders as natural medicinal agents. Secondary plant metabolites are bioactive phytoconstituents and show different pharmacological responses<sup>1</sup>. Plants are used in traditional medicine schemes for several causes, including hepatoprotective and antipyretic activities<sup>2-5</sup>.

Pyrexia is a specific clinical manifestation characterized by an elevation in body temperature above the normal range. The body provides a favourable atmosphere for natural protection mechanisms through this mechanism to promote damaged tissue repair or make infectious agents unviable. Different inflammatory mediators, i.e., cytokines, are released by damaged or injured tissues, increasing PGE<sub>2</sub> synthesis in the hypothalamus, which causes body temperature to rise<sup>6</sup>. Nearly all new antipyretic medications obstruct PGE<sub>2</sub> synthesis through inhibition of the COX-2

enzyme. Most of these chemotherapeutic drugs bind with the COX-2 enzyme irreversibly. These synthetic agents are harmful to the brain, heart, liver, and kidneys. In comparison, standard COX-2 antagonists have been found to have significantly less harmful effects<sup>7&8</sup>.

Worldwide, liver disorders account for nearly millions of death each year<sup>9</sup>. Despite drug-induced hepato-injury is uncommon, it remains a substantial clinical issue due to its unexpected nature and possibly lethal route. In adolescents, drug-induced hepatic disease accounts for up to 20 per cent of acute liver failure. It is impossible to track the actual occurrence, although approximately 40,000 to 45,000 persons per year may suffer a drug-induced liver injury<sup>10</sup>. Paracetamol is one scientifically appropriate medication that has been correlated with liver damage. It is the most widely used analgesic and antipyretic drug; despite being the most frequent source of acute liver failure in Western cultures, it may be obtained without medication in most nations<sup>11</sup>. An excess of Paracetamol in humans

and animals can cause severe liver injury, liver necrosis<sup>12</sup>, and kidney damage<sup>13</sup>. Necessary attempts have been made to clarify the causes of its toxic impact, considering the public interest generated by Paracetamol (PCM) hepatotoxicity. Several reports suggest that oxidative stress is implicated in multiple toxicities associated with PCM, including PCM-induced liver disease.

In the twenty-first century, a paradigm change in the application of medicinal ingredients for therapeutic purposes in liver disease models was demonstrated by deliberately integrating the capabilities of traditional medicine with the new definition of evidence-based therapeutic screening, authentication, and placebo-managed randomized controlled trials to enhance clinical efficacy. No significant and stable hepatoprotective medication is available, considering the enormous advances achieved. The manufacture of hepatoprotective medicines, primarily plant-based, effective against various liver disorders, has been given high global consideration.

*Rhynchosia cana*, a Leguminosae member, is an example of a herb used in herbal medicine to cure deadly illnesses. There are approximately 300 *Rhynchosia* species distributed all over the world. It is a shrub; branchlets glandular, pubescent. Terminal leaflets to 5×2.5 cm, laterals 3×1.5 cm, ovate, acute, inequilateral, pubescent; stipule 2 mm, lanceolate. Flowers axillary, in pairs, yellow; pedicels 5 mm, deflexed; bracts 1.5 mm; calyx tube 2 mm, lobes 3 and 1 mm, lanceolate, pubescent; corolla 8 mm long; staminal tube 5 mm; anthers uniform; ovary pubescent, stigma capitate. Pod 1.5×0.7 cm, oblong, puberulous to glabrous; seeds 1 or 2. This plant finds use in conventional medicine viz., the bark decoction for dysentery<sup>14</sup>-leaves used for wounds, cuts, boils, and rheumatic pains. The phytochemicals of *R. cana* explored were vitexin, Vicenin-2, Orientin, Isoorientin<sup>15</sup>. The flowers of *R. cana* demonstrate anti-inflammatory and antipyretic activity<sup>16</sup>. Recent studies also confirmed the genus' pharmacological and biological activities, such as anti-oxidant, antimicrobial, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anti-angiogenic, and antityrosinase antiproliferative and allelopathic activities<sup>17</sup>.

Thus, to rationalize MERC's indigenous usage as a febrifuge, we attempted to test its antipyretic efficacy and the influence of MERC on hepatoprotective activity using a paracetamol-induced hepatotoxicity model and *In-silico* study.

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

### *Collection of Plant Material*

*Rhynchosia cana* whole plant was collected from Tirumala hills, district Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, India, in November 2016. It was authenticated by Dr. K. Madhava Chetty, Department of Botany, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, and the specimen was deposited with a voucher specimen sample No. 0887. The portions of the plant gathered were washed with water and dried at room temperature in the shade. The dried parts were ground to a coarse powder for the analysis, the powdered material was held in an airtight and light-resistant jar.

### *Preparation of Samples*

The entire plant that was gathered was cleaned, chopped into small pieces, dried in the shade, and eventually ground into a coarse powder. In a clear, flat-bottomed glass, powdered plant material (about 400 g) was taken and immersed in 2000 ml of methanol; along with constant shaking, the glass jar with the contents was kept for 14 days.

### *Preliminary phytochemical analysis*

The powdered plant was processed by maceration using methanol. The extract was qualitatively tested using different chemical methods for different classes of phytoconstituents<sup>18-20</sup>.

### *GC-MS Analysis of Methanol extract of Rhynchosia cana*

Using Agilent Technology GC systems with the GC-7890A/MS-5975C model, the GC-MS study of bioactive compounds of methanolic extracts of *R. cana* was carried out. Experimental conditions of the GC-MS system were as follows: TR 5-MS capillary standard non-polar column, dimension: 30 Mts, ID: 0.25 mm, Film thickness: 0.25 µm. The flow rate of the mobile phase (carrier gas: He) was set at 1.0 ml/min. In the gas chromatography part, the

temperature program (oven temperature) was 40°C raised to 250°C at 5°C/min, and the injection volume was 1 µl. The proportional quantities of chemical compounds in the *R. cana* methanolic extract were expressed as a percentage based on the peak area of the chromatogram made. In the Library of NIST, a database was screened to measure significant peaks in mass spectrometry.

#### *Experimental Animals*

Wistar albino rats (160-190 g) were purchased from Mahaveer Enterprises, Hyderabad, Telangana, and acclimatized in the animal house of A U College of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AUCoPS), Visakhapatnam, for seven days under standard husbandry conditions, i.e., room temperature (26 ± 10) °C, relative humidity (45%–55%) and light and dark period 12 hrs:12 hrs.

All the experimental procedures were authorized by the IAEC of AUCoPS and executed according to the CPCSEA guidelines.

#### *Acute toxicity Studies*

In compliance with the OECD standards for testing chemicals, Test No 423, an acute oral toxicity analysis, was conducted. During the first 30 min. after dosing, the individual animals were closely monitored regularly for the first 24 hrs and 3 days afterward to record any delayed toxicity. When administered in doses up to 2000 mg/kg p.o., the MERC was devoid of any toxicity in rats. Therefore, doses of extracts were chosen for further analysis (200-400) mg/kg<sup>21</sup>.

#### *Antipyretic Activity*

The animals were divided into six groups (n= 6). Fever was induced by administration of 15 % w/v Brewer's yeast suspension subcutaneously<sup>22&23</sup>. The rectal temperature was recorded using thermometer immediately before and 18 h after Brewer's yeast injection<sup>24</sup>. After 18 hrs. of yeast injection different groups received vehicle (1% v/v Tween 80 in distilled water), methanol extracts (200 and 400 mg/kg body weight) and reference drug (paracetamol, 150 mg/kg body weight) through oral route.

The rectal temperature was then periodically recorded for an observation period of 4 hrs.

#### *Hepatoprotective Activity*

The *In vivo* hepatoprotective activity of MERC was determined using the PCM-induced hepatotoxicity test in rats. The animals were divided into 5 groups (n= 5) and administered with test solutions as described below.

- i. Group I served as normal control and received distilled water
- ii. Group II served as negative control and received distilled water.
- iii. Group III served as positive control and received 50 mg/kg silymarin.
- iv. Pretreatment groups
  - a. Group IV received 200 mg/kg MERC,

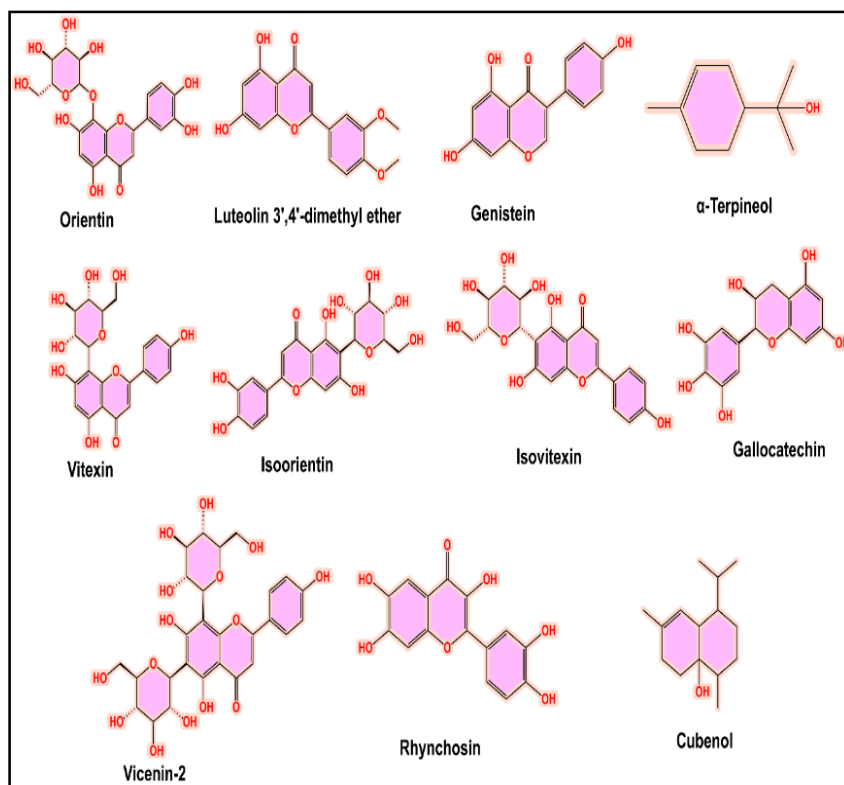
The animals were fasted for 48 hrs. prior to the experiment under standard laboratory conditions. After 48 hrs, each group of rats received the respective dose of test solution orally once daily for 7 consecutive days. The oral administration of PCM was performed 3 hrs after the last extract administration on the 7th day except for group I, which received only distilled water. Forty eight hrs after the hepatic injury induction, the animals were anesthetized using diethyl ether, and the blood was drained for biochemical parameters study. The animals were then sacrificed by cervical dislocation, and the liver was removed for histopathological studies<sup>25-27</sup>.

#### *Analyzing biochemical serum parameters*

Using the standard AMP diagnostic kits, the activities of serum SGPT, SGOT, ALP, and total bilirubin were calculated<sup>28</sup>.

#### *Evaluation of lipid peroxidation (LPO) and superoxide dismutase (SOD)*

The excised livers were infused with chilled normal saline. They were then chopped into smaller fragments and homogenized by inserting them in a 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). In an Eppendorf tube, the homogenate was centrifuged for 30 minutes, and the supernatant was extracted. The supernatant was used as a LOP marker to assess MDA, while SOD was also assessed<sup>29&30</sup>.



**Fig. 1:** 2D representation of various ligands from *Rhynchosia cana*

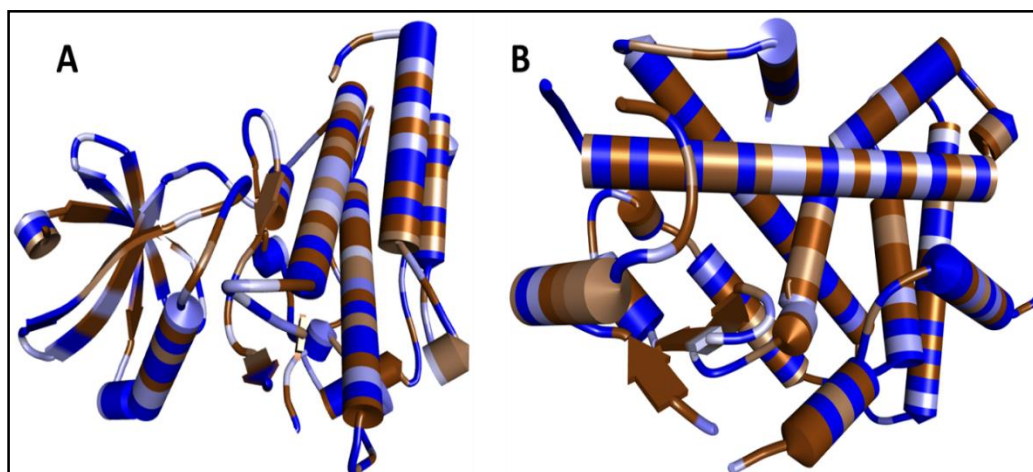
#### Drug-likeness

The phytochemical constituents were retrieved from PubChem, and the compounds were transferred to SDF files and evaluated drug likeliness using DruLiTo tools<sup>31&32</sup>.

#### In-Silico Docking Studies

To determine the relationship between the ligands (Fig. 1) and the target protein, docking

experiments on phytochemicals from *R. cana* were conducted using Autodock 4.0 and Discovery studio Biovia 2020 tools. TGF- $\beta$  (PDB ID: 1VJY) and (PPAR $\alpha$ ) (PDB ID: 5HYK) crystal structures were obtained from the protein data bank (Fig. 2)<sup>33&34</sup>.



**Fig. 2:** 3D Presentation of targeted proteins (A) transforming growth factor- $\beta$  (PDB: 1VJY) (B) peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\alpha$  (PPAR $\alpha$ ) (PDB ID: 5HYK)

### ADMET Analysis

Ligands' ADMET is their pharmacokinetics that needs to be studied to assess their role within the body. The ADMET inheritance of the ligands was examined using admetSAR<sup>35&36</sup>.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

#### Phytochemical Screening

The yield of methanol extract of *H. aspera* was found to be 8.15% w/w. Preliminary phytochemical screening of MERC extract revealed the presence of steroids, volatile oil, saponins, fats and oils, proteins, carbohydrates, and acidic compounds

#### GC-MS Analysis

Eleven peaks were shown in the GC-MS chromatogram analysis of the methanolic

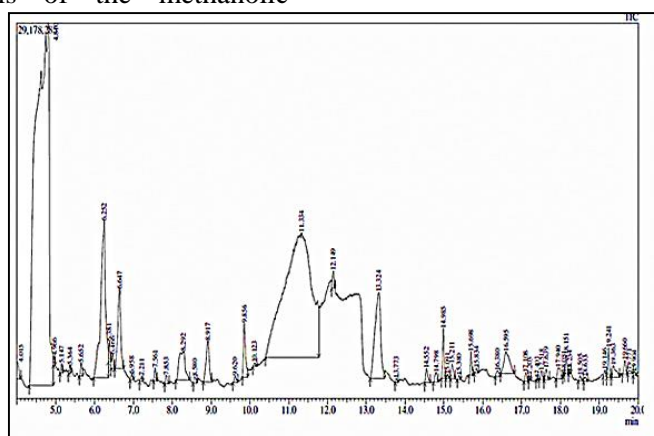
extract of *R. cana* (Fig. 3), indicating the presence of 11 phytochemical constituents. Twelve phytocompounds were characterized and defined about the components' mass spectra and the NIST library (Table 1).

#### Acute toxicity Studies

No mortality up to the dosage amount of 2000 mg/kg was induced by the methanol extract of *R. cana* (MERC). Therefore, for further experiments, 200 and 400 mg/kg doses have been chosen.

#### Antipyretic test

Statistical analyses showed that the MERC exhibited substantial antipyretic behaviour. At 2, 3, and 4 hrs, MERC reported significant implications utilizing 400 mg/kg dosage. The inhibition was based upon the dosage. Table 2 and Fig. 4 presents the influence of the extract on the rectal temperature in rats.



**Fig. 3:** GC-MS Spectral analysis of Methanol Extract of *Rhynchosia cana* (MERC)

**Table 1:** Biological active compounds identified from methanol extract of *R. cana* by GC-MS.

S. No	Retention Time	Compound name	Area (%)	Molecular formula	Molecular weight
1.	6.252	Orientin	8.68	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	448.4
2.	6.647	Luteolin 3',4'-dimethyl ether	1.89	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	490.4
3.	8.292	Genistein	10.98	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	270.24
4.	8.917	alpha-Terpineol	5.53	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O	154.25
5.	11.334	Vitexin	48.23	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>10</sub>	432.4
6.	12.149	Isoorientin	2.85	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	448.4
7.	13.324	Rhynchosin	10.14	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	302.23
8.	15.698	Isovitexin	2.37	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>10</sub>	432.4
9.	16.595	Cubenol	10.32	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>26</sub> O	222.37
10.	17.940	Vicenin-2	6.02	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>15</sub>	594.5
11.	19.241	Gallocatechin	2.32	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	306.27

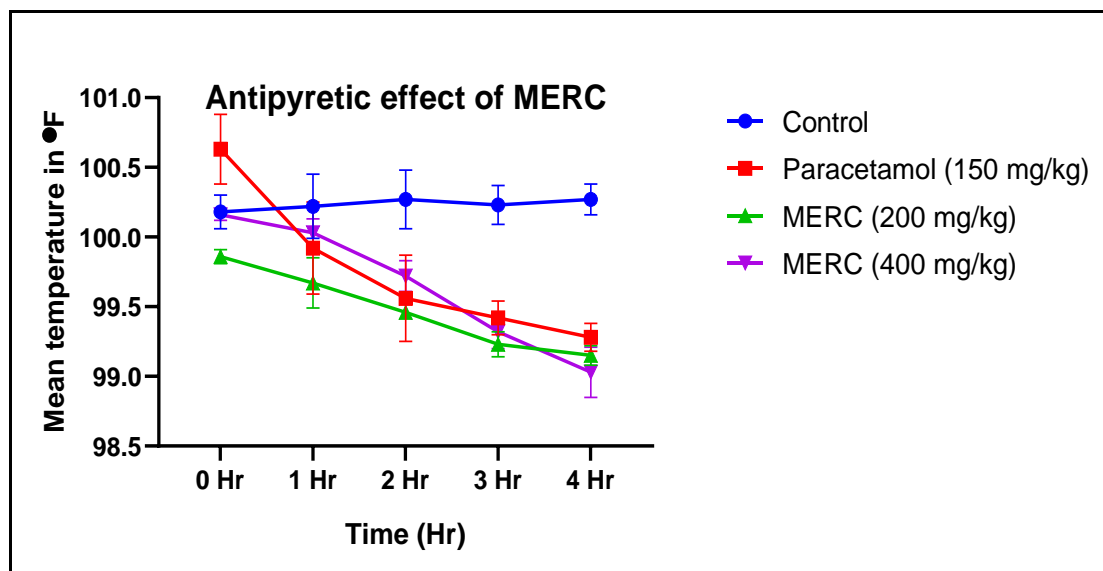


Fig. 4: Antipyretic effect of methanol extract of *R. cana* on albino rats

Table 2: Antipyretic activity of methanol extract of *Rhynchosia cana* by Brewer's yeast-induced pyrexia method

Group	Initial rectal temperature before yeast injection (°F)	The rectal temperature at yeast injection and after the administration of sample (°F)				
		0 Hr	1st Hr	2nd Hr	3rd Hr	4th Hr
Control (Distilled water)	99.22±0.15	100.18±0.12	100.22±0.23	100.27±0.21	100.23±0.14	100.27±0.11
Standard (Paracetamol 150 mg/kg)	99.16±0.13	100.63±0.25	99.92±0.33 <sup>@</sup>	99.56±0.31 <sup>@</sup>	99.42±0.12 <sup>@</sup>	99.28±0.10 <sup>@</sup>
MERC (200 mg/kg)	98.72±0.21	99.86±0.05	99.67±0.18 <sup>#</sup>	99.46±0.03 <sup>@</sup>	99.23±0.09 <sup>#</sup>	99.15±0.07 <sup>*</sup>
MERC (400 mg/kg)	98.93±0.12	100.16±0.04	100.03±0.10 <sup>@</sup>	99.72±0.11 <sup>@</sup>	99.32±0.12 <sup>@</sup>	99.03±0.18 <sup>@</sup>

The values are represented as mean ± SEM or as a percentage (n= 5). ANOVA was used to interpret the results, followed by Dunnett's test. p< 0.05, #, p< 0.01, and <sup>@</sup>, p< 0.001 compared with control.

#### Antipyretic test

Statistical analyses showed that the MERC exhibited substantial antipyretic behaviour. At 2, 3, and 4 hrs, MERC reported significant implications utilizing 400 mg/kg dosage. The inhibition was based upon the dosage. Table 2 and Fig. 4 presents the influence of the extract on the rectal temperature in rats.

#### In-vivo Hepatoprotective activity

The hepatoprotective effects of MERC in paracetamol-intoxicated rats on serum biochemical parameters are presented in Table 3. Compared to control subjects, rats treated with Paracetamol (group II) had a substantial rise in serum SGPT, SGOT, ALP, and overall bilirubin amounts (group I). Pretreatment with MERC at 200 and 400 mg/kg for seven days (groups III and IV) displayed remarkable hepatoprotection relative to the positive control

group (group II) in terms of serum ALP, SGPT, SGOT, and bilirubin levels, with the maximum doses administered achieving a significant reduction similar to that of the standard medication Silymarin (group II). The histopathological examination of rat livers of various groups is shown in Fig. 5.

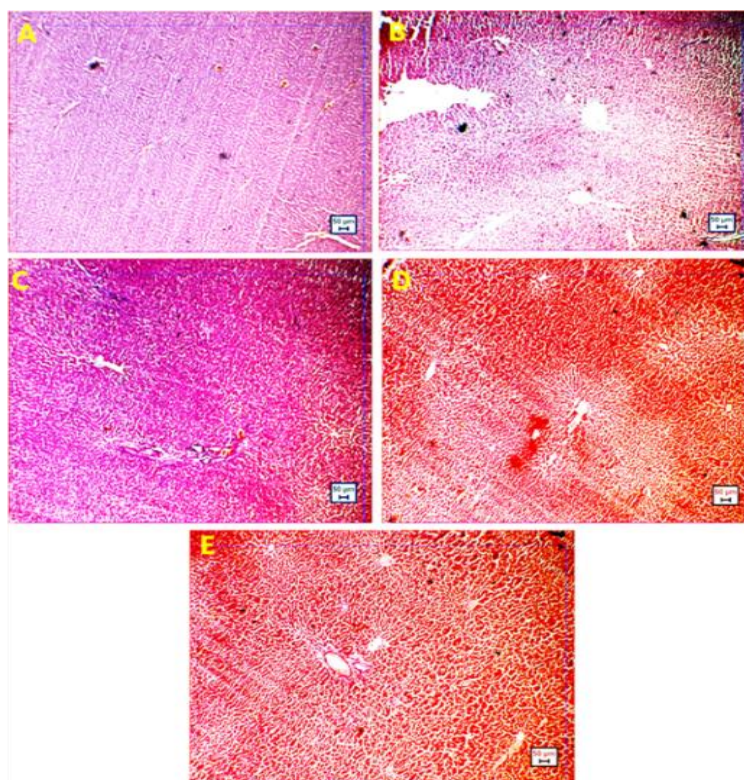
#### *Effect of MERC on MDA and SOD levels*

LPO was raised in group II, which was shown by elevated MDA amounts compared to group-I. Pretreatment with MERC at 200 and 400 mg/kg substantially lowered the level of MDA, which was almost equal to that of rats receiving the silymarin drug, respectively. The amounts of the anti-oxidant enzyme SOD were

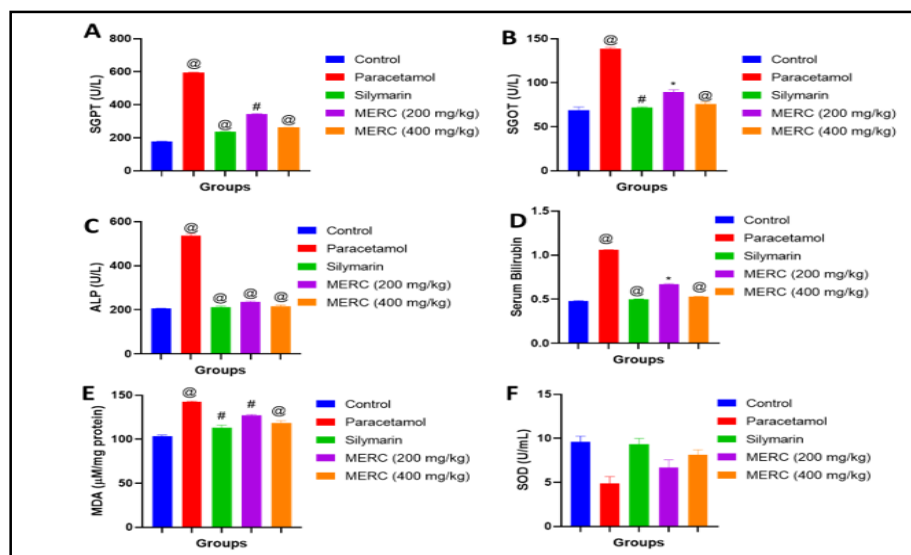
substantially improved in the groups treated with MERC. The extract has shown optimum hepatoprotection at a 400 mg/kg dosage, as seen in Table 4 and Fig. 6.

#### *Drug likeliness*

In order to analyze the physicochemical properties of selected 12 active compounds, DruLito software was used. Except for five compounds, all the remaining compounds complied with the Lipinski law. (Table 4, respectively). The fundamental physicochemical properties of TPSA and AMR primarily provide the roles of medication ingestion, delivery, and penetration.



**Fig. 5 :** Histopathology of the liver of rats from different groups. A: Liver of normal rat showing normal hepatic architecture. B: Liver of rat administered paracetamol showing severe degeneration, nuclear pyknosis, necrotic cells, congestion, and infiltration throughout the liver, C: Silymarin-treated rat liver showing normal hepatocytes with mild infiltration and very mild congestion in portal areas. D: MERC (200mg/kg) treated rat liver showing mild regions in congestion with normal hepatocytes and intact hepatic cords. E: MERC (400mg/kg) treated rat liver leading to mild infiltration and congestion without any degeneration.



**Fig. 6:** Graph represents the effect of Methanol extract of *R. cana* on level of SGPT (B) enzymes level in Paracetamol-treated Wistar rats (A) Represent the levels of SGPT (B) Represent the levels of SGOT (C) Represent the levels of ALP (D) Represent the levels of Serum Bilirubin (E) Represent the levels of MDA (F) Represent the levels of SOD. Values are expressed as Mean  $\pm$  SE at level of significance, \*,  $p < 0.05$ , #,  $p < 0.01$  and @,  $p < 0.001$  in comparison with normal control

#### Molecular Docking Studies

Using the PyRx program, we used molecular docking to assess the binding interactions of phytochemical constituents of *R. cana* extract with TGF- (PDB: IVJY) and PPAR (PDB ID: 5HYK). Both selected targets were concerned with positive hepatotoxicity.

To assess the comparative binding interactions of selected phytochemical constituents and the standard, Silymarin with both targets. From the results, binding affinity was significant for Vitexin, Orientin and Luteolin-3',4'-dimethyl ether for both the targets (Table 5-7 & Fig. 7&8).

**Table 3:** Effects of MERC on serum biochemical parameters in Paracetamol-intoxicated rats

Group	SGPT (U/L)	SGOT (U/L)	ALP (U/L)	Serum Bilirubin	MDA	SOD
Control	178.22 $\pm$ 1.23	68.85 $\pm$ 3.63	205.31 $\pm$ 1.98	0.48 $\pm$ 0.005	103.45 $\pm$ 1.36	9.58 $\pm$ 0.66
Paracetamol	594.23 $\pm$ 2.75@	138.52 $\pm$ 1.85@	536.46 $\pm$ 7.85@	1.06 $\pm$ 0.002@	142.55 $\pm$ 0.78@	4.86 $\pm$ 0.78@
Silymarin (100 mg/kg)	235.12 $\pm$ 3.52@	71.86 $\pm$ 0.68#	211.67 $\pm$ 5.15@	0.5 $\pm$ 0.003@	112.8 $\pm$ 3.22#	9.33 $\pm$ 0.65@
MERC (200 mg/kg)	343.56 $\pm$ 3.65#	89.23 $\pm$ 2.65*	236.87 $\pm$ 2.45@	0.67 $\pm$ 0.008*	126.85 $\pm$ 1.22#	6.67 $\pm$ 0.89*
MERC (400 mg/kg)	261.45 $\pm$ 1.35@	75.66 $\pm$ 2.31@	216.8 $\pm$ 4.58@	0.53 $\pm$ 0.002@	118.69 $\pm$ 2.51@	8.15 $\pm$ 0.55@

Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM or percentage (n= 5). The data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test. \* $p < 0.05$ , #,  $p < .01$  and @,  $p < 0.001$  compared with control.



**Table 4:** Physicochemical properties of active compounds and accordance with the rule of Drug-likeness

Ligand	MW	Logp	Alogp	HBA	HBD	TPSA	AMR	nRB	No. of Violations
Orientin	427.9	-0.36	-3.22	11	0	35.53	114.1	3	1
Luteolin 3',4'-dimethyl ether	467.9	0.55	-2.65	12	0	80.29	124.4	6	1
Genistein	260	1.043	-0.39	5	0	26.3	78.92	1	0
alpha-Terpineol	136	2.369	1.122	1	0	0	47.92	1	0
Vitexin	412	-0.71	-2.66	10	0	35.53	112.5	3	0
Isoorientin	427.9	-0.36	-3.22	11	0	35.53	114.1	3	1
Rhynchosin	292	2.263	-1.24	7	0	26.3	83.44	1	0
Isovitexin	412	-0.71	-2.66	10	0	35.53	112.5	3	1
Cubenol	196	4.054	1.364	1	0	0	66.87	1	0
Vicenin-2	563.9	-2.55	-5.09	15	0	44.76	144.9	5	2
Gallocatechin	292	1.2	-1.5	7	0	9.23	82.67	1	0
Silymarin	482.12	0.855	-1.848	10	5	155.14	132.21	4	1

**Table 5:** Molecular Docking of Selected Compounds from *R. cana* with various targets associated with hepatotoxicity.

Ligands	Binding affinities (Kcal/mol)	
	1VJY	5HYK
Gallocatechin	-8.1	-8.4
Rhynchosin	-9.7	-8.5
Genistein	-9.4	-8.1
$\alpha$ -Terpineol	-6.3	-6.4
Cubenol	-7.3	-7.4
Vitexin	-10.3	-8.8
Orientin	-10	-8.7
Isovitexin	-9.1	-7.4
Isoorientin	-9.9	-7.4
Vicenin-2	-8	-1.9
Luteolin-3',4'-dimethylether	-10.1	-8.5
Silymarin	-10.6	-8.2

**Table 6:** Interactions with ligands of *R. cana* with transforming growth factor- $\beta$  (PDB: IVJY)

Ligands	Binding Affinity, $\Delta G$ (Kcal/mol)	Amino acids involved and Distance ( $\text{\AA}^\circ$ )		
		Hydrogen Binding Interactions	Hydrophobic Interactions	Electrostatic Interactions
Vitexin	-10.3	ASP A:351 (5.15), LYS A:337 (6.42)	ALA A:350 (5.77), LEU A:260 (5.73), VAL A:219 (4.81, 5.26), ALA :A230 (5.48), LEU A:340 (5.19, 6.12), GLY A:286 (4.00), ILE A:211 (5.57), GLY A:212 (3.32)	LYS A:232 (5.00)
Luteolin-3',4'-dimethylether	-10.1	LYS A:232 (5.12), ASP A:351 (3.73), SER A:280 (4.32), LEU A:278 (5.01)	PHE A:289 (5.20), LYS A:337 (4.28, 4.44), ALA A:230 (5.87), LEU A:340 (5.29, 6.05)	-
Orientin	-10	HIS A:283 (4.48), LYS A:232 (5.04)	LEU A:340 (5.17), ALA A:230 (6.09), VAL A:219 (5.26), ALA A:350 (6.02), LEU A:260 (6.55), ILE A:211 (4.97, 6.29)	-
Silymarin	-10.6	ASP A:351 (3.84), TYR A:249 (6.43), LYS A:337 (4.41), LEU A:278 (4.48), ASP A:290 (4.18)	ALA A:350 (6.43), LYS A:232 (4.13), ALA A:230 (5.31), LEU A:260 (6.22), LEU A:340 (6.36), VAL A:219 (6.36), LYS A:337 (4.93, 5.60)	-

**Table 7:** Interactions of with ligands of *R. cana* with peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\alpha$  (PPAR $\alpha$ ) (PDB ID: 5HYK)

Ligands	Binding Affinity, $\Delta G$ (Kcal/mol)	Amino acids involved and Distance ( $\text{\AA}^\circ$ )		
		Hydrogen Binding Interactions	Hydrophobic Interactions	Electrostatic Interactions
Vitexin	-8.8	THR A:283 (4.65), ASN A:219 (4.05, 4.39), MET A:220 (4.85)	LEU A:321 (5.42), GLU A:286 (7.34), MET A:220 (4.75), ASN A:221 (3.99), SER A:323 (4.99), MET A:320 (3.23, 4.90),	-
Orientin	-8.7	MET A:220 (4.28), ASN A:219 (3.21), TYR A:334 (3.53)	LEU A:321 (4.63),	GLU A:286 (7.04), MET A:320 (5.06)
Luteolin-3',4'-dimethylether	-8.5	LEU A:331 (5.45)	MET A:330 (6.96), LEU A:321 (5.26, 5.59), PHE A:273 (4.65), TYR A:314 (5.75), HIS A:440 (5.16), VAL A:324 (6.38)	CYS A:276 (4.46, 4.49)
Silymarin	-8.2	GLU A:286 (5.76), CYS A:276 (4.30), HIS A:440 (5.38), TYR A:464 (6.99)	MET A:220 (5.13), LEU A:321 (5.37), MET A:355 (4.72), CYS A:276 (4.51)	MET A:320 (5.84)

#### ADMET Analysis

Ligands have been checked for ADMET attributes using admetSAR. In the research study, ADMET properties for compounds are measured using admetSAR. All the compounds

displayed negative for AMES toxicity. The HIA, BBB, and LD<sub>50</sub> tests for the compounds are mentioned in Table 8.

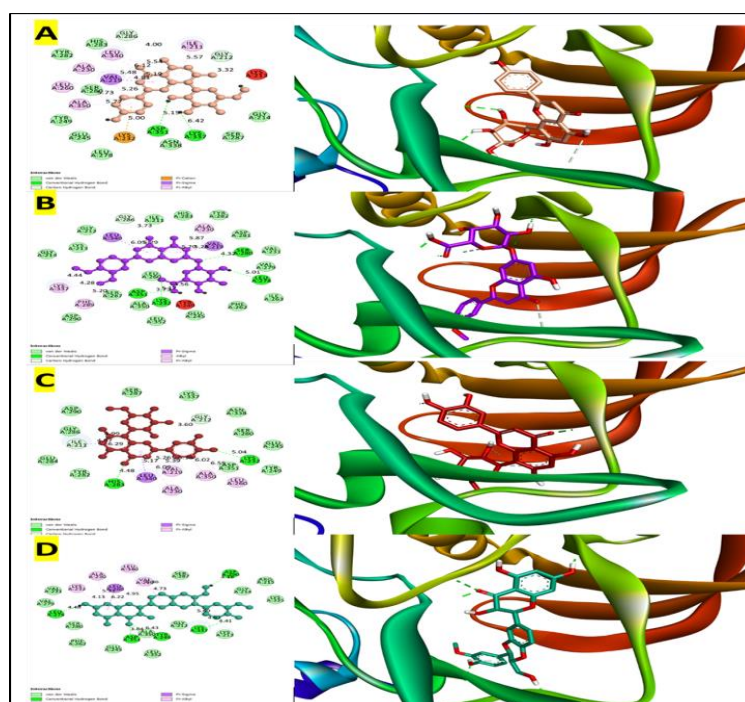
## Discussion

To objectively explain its folkloric applications, the tests were intended to investigate *R. cana's* pharmacological activity. The existence of alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, steroids, volatile oils, saponins, fixed oils, proteins, and amino acids has been demonstrated through phytochemical analyses of MERC.

Fever is an abrupt process reaction caused by immune system stimulation. According to previous studies, fever is caused by subcutaneous administration of Brewer's yeast, allowing the body to release fever-inducing prostaglandins. The yeast-induced pyrexia process of the Brewer is an optimal way to evaluate synthetic and natural products' effects<sup>37&38</sup>. It is necessary to obtain an antipyretic by impeding the development of prostaglandins, which is likely to be achieved by blocking the enzyme COX-2. Several facilitators, such as TNF, IL-1, IL-6, and interferons, contribute to temperature elevation and can be culpable for the antipyretic findings obtained in countering their activity<sup>39&40</sup>. By inhibiting PGE2 in the hypothalamus, most antipyretic agents suppress fever via the central pathway. Still, stimulated leucocytes and endothelial cells in the peripheral areas can also be a possible drug target. MERC administration culminated in a drop in rectal

temperature. This temperature decline may be attributed to *R. cana* of pharmacologically active constituents that interfere with prostaglandin synthesis. While complex biochemical processes exist during prostaglandin biosynthesis, further study is required to establish the precise location in this complex process in which the extract confers its antipyretic repercussions.

For its function in drug metabolism and detoxification, the liver is a site for toxicity. By attaching covalently to sulfhydryl groups in the liver, Paracetamol overdose may induce liver toxicity, thereby causing lipid peroxidation and cell necrosis<sup>41</sup>. An unusual rise in serum enzymes SGOT, SGPT, ALP indicates hepatic disruption and leakage into the blood<sup>42</sup>. On the other side, bilirubin is generated inside the reticuloendothelial system by the enzymatic cleavage of heme. To determine the liver's working, it is a significant parameter and a marker<sup>43&44</sup>. It has been shown that plant-based secondary metabolites control various health conditions, including liver disorders. It has been argued that flavonoids and phenolic compounds are potentially hepatoprotective agents among different secondary metabolites due to their free-radical scavenging properties<sup>45& 46</sup>.



**Fig. 7:** 2D and 3D interaction poses of various ligands (a) Vitexin, (b) Orientin (c) Luteolin-3',4'-dimethylether, (d) Silymarin, with transforming growth factor- $\beta$  (PDB: IVJY) in molecular docking.

For its function in drug metabolism and detoxification, the liver is a site for toxicity. By attaching covalently to sulfhydryl groups in the liver, Paracetamol overdose may induce liver toxicity, thereby causing lipid peroxidation and cell necrosis<sup>41</sup>. An unusual rise in serum enzymes SGOT, SGPT, ALP indicates hepatic disruption and leakage into the blood<sup>42</sup>. On the other side, bilirubin is generated inside the reticuloendothelial system by the enzymatic cleavage of heme. To determine the liver's working, it is a significant parameter and a marker<sup>43&44</sup>. It has been shown that plant-based secondary metabolites control various health conditions, including liver disorders. It has been argued that flavonoids and phenolic compounds are potentially hepatoprotective agents among different secondary metabolites due to their free-radical scavenging properties<sup>45&46</sup>.

Paracetamol (toxic control) treatment has resulted in serum elevation of SGOT, SGPT, ALP, and bilirubin. MERC significantly decreases the serum amounts of SGPT, SGOT, ALP, and bilirubin in a dose-dependent pattern relative to the normal medication silymarin from the current analysis findings. It reduces the amount of intracellular biomarker enzyme leakage by stabilizing the hepatic cell membrane. The substantial reduction in MDA levels with a rise in MERC dosage implies that a drop in lipid peroxidation could be the primary mechanism for hepatoprotection. Furthermore, the increase in SOD levels often means that MERC is helping to repair antioxidant protection mechanisms. The biochemical study also showed that Silymarin had a more significant hepatoprotective function than MERC<sup>47</sup>. Biochemical findings were confirmed by histopathological examination of rat livers since normal livers were shown in the control group (Fig. 5A).

In contrast, severe degeneration, liver congestion, penetration, and nuclear pycnosis were found in rats in which Paracetamol was administered (Fig. 5B). The rats treated with Silymarin exhibited almost normal biochemical effects with normal liver histology. However, in the livers of MERC-treated rats from groups IV and V, only slight congestion, infiltration, and even mild degeneration have been reported. (Fig. 5 D & E)

Considering Lipinski's five rule, most of the compounds violated these, as they were

natural products<sup>48</sup>. Among the screened phytoconstituents of *R. cana*, Genistein, alpha-Terpineol, Vitexin, Rhynchosin, and Cubenol Gallo catechin, the rest of the phytoconstituents follows Lipinski's rule of five.

Tests against TGF- $\beta$  and PPAR  $\alpha$ , with phytoconstituents derived from *R. cana*, were performed in *In-silico*. It showed that Vitexin, Orientin, Luteolin-3',4'-dimethyl ether had a consistently significant linkage with proteins. TGF- $\beta$  plays a vital part in chronic liver disorders and controls all phases of liver disease<sup>49</sup>. The protein TGF- $\beta$  was inhibited by the three compounds, and their interaction with TGF- $\beta$  was greater than that of Silymarin. Therefore, properly targeting this protein in specific cells facilitates a therapeutic impact on liver disorders. PPAR $\alpha$  in the liver protein tends to cope with different metabolic problems<sup>50</sup>. An advantage in the management of metabolic diseases is the stimulation of PPAR $\alpha$ . These three compounds, compared to Silymarin, proved their efficacy through association with PPAR $\alpha$ .

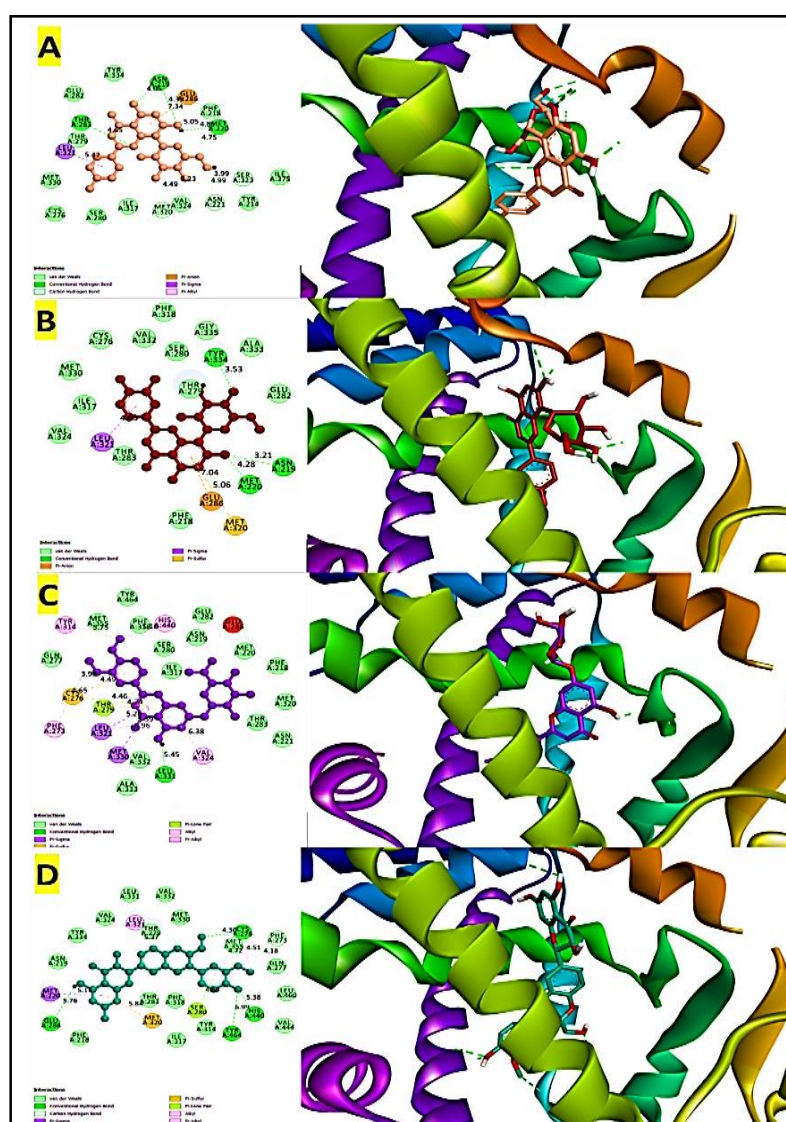
There are more opportunities for successful phytoconstituents from herbs in this postgenomic age, whereas conventional medicine helps find new drugs for dreadful diseases. The performance rate for the production of new synthetic medicines is one out of ten thousand, while it may be as big as one-fourth or even more for the new medicinal phytoconstituent from commonly used plants<sup>51</sup>. In this sense, by utilizing *In vivo* and *In silico* methods to carry out a more reliable hepatoprotection, we have justified the conventional use of *R. cana*.

## Conclusion

MERC has been studied for in vivo antipyretic and hepatoprotective activities, whereas *In silico* has been examined for some identified phytoconstituents. Our study has shown that MERC has had considerable antipyretic and hepatoprotective effects in Wistar rats against Paracetamol-induced toxicity. Besides, it is possible that some of the screened compounds could be responsible for the reported hepatoprotective action from the *In silico* studies. Therefore, *R. cana* is an intriguing paradox that can show hepatoprotective properties and needs more analysis.

**Table 8:** ADME / T Properties of *R. cana* compounds

S.No	Ligand	Absorption					Distribution	Metabolism								Toxicity			
		BBB	HLA	Caco2	P-glyc protein Substrate	Renal Organic Cation Transporter		Subcellular localization	CYP450 2C9 Substrate	CYP450 2D6 Substrate	CYP450 3A4 Substrate	CYP450 1A2 Inhibitor	CYP450 2C9 Inhibitor	CYP450 2D6 Inhibitor	CYP450 2C19 Inhibitor	CYP450 3A4 Inhibitor	AMES Toxicity	Carcino gens	Fish Toxicity (mg/kg)
1	Vitexin	0.6472	0.9442	0.9163	0.5863	0.9214	0.5728	0.8041	0.8767	0.6032	0.8355	0.9071	0.9476	0.9240	0.8310	0.7232	0.9553	0.9771	2.3664
2	Luteolin-3',4'- dimethylether	0.9068	0.6737	0.6036	0.6546	0.9436	0.6622	0.8072	0.9161	0.5871	0.8108	0.8958	0.9307	0.8909	0.7521	0.8536	0.9469	0.7843	2.7471
3	Orientin	0.6472	0.9442	0.9163	0.5863	0.9214	0.5728	0.8041	0.8767	0.6032	0.8355	0.9071	0.9476	0.9240	0.8310	0.7232	0.9553	0.9771	2.3664
4	Silymarin	0.7675	0.9698	0.5808	0.6141	0.8552	0.6746	0.7612	0.8735	0.5502	0.7709	0.6354	0.9231	0.5992	0.5057	0.9133	0.9385	0.6989	2.2206



**Fig. 8:** 2D and 3D interaction poses of various ligands (a) Vitexin, (b) Orientin (c) Luteolin-3',4'-dimethylether, (d) Silymarin with peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\alpha$  (PPAR $\alpha$ ) (PDB ID: 5HYK) in molecular docking.

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## نشرة العلوم الصيدلانية جامعة أسيوط



### دراسات الإرساء الجزيئي و تقييم التأثير الخافض للحرارة والواقى للكبد لنبات رينكوسيا كانا(ويلد.) د س

برافينا يمبادا - آريا لاکشمي ماریسیتی - جانجا راو باتو

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براديش، الهند

تم تقييم التأثيرات الخافضة للحرارة والوقاية الكبدية لمستخلص الميثانول لنبات رينكوسيا كانا (ويلد.) د س باستخدامه في الحيوانات المعملية وكذلك الحاسوب. حيث درس تأثير مستخلص ميثانول نبات رينكوسيا كانا كخافض للحرارة و تم رفع درجة الحرارة باستخدام الخميرة. تم تقييم قدرة رينكوسيا كانا على الوقاية الكبدية على جرذان مصابة بالسمية الكبدية باستخدام الباراسيتامول. تم إجراء تجارب الإرساء الجزيئي باستخدام الحاسوب على المركبات التي تم التعرف عليها باستخدام كروماتوجرافيا الغاز المتصل بمطياف الكتلة على البروتين TGF و  $PPAR\alpha$ . المستخلص بجرعات 200 و 400 مجم / كجم أظهرت فعالية قوية كخافضة للحرارة في الجرذان البيضاء. عندما تم إعطاء المستخلص 400 مجم / كجم بشكل وقائي لمدة سبعة أيام، لوحظ أيضاً وقاية كبدية كبيرة. تظهر نتائج الالتحام لجزيء TGF- أن تقارب الارتباط للفيتيكسين هو -10,3 كيلو كالوري / مول، و السليمارين هو -10,6 كيلو كالوري / مول. أظهر الفيتيكسين تقارب ارتباط قدره -8,8 كيلو كالوري / مول لبروتين  $PPAR\alpha$ ، وأظهر سليمارين تقارباً قدره -8,2 كيلو كالوري / مول. يشير البحث الحالي إلى أن مستخلص الميثانول لنبات رينكوسيا كانا له تأثيرات كبيرة كخافض للحرارة ووقائية للكبد، كما تم تأكيده في اختبارات الحاسوب و داخل الجسم الحيوي.