



Comprehensive Phytopharmaceutical overview of *Solanum Xanthocarpum*

Pradeep Kumar Choudhary*1 & Vishal Khandelwal

Department of Biotechnology, GLA University, Mathura. 281406

Corresponding Author's Email: Pradeep.choudhary@gla.ac.in

ABSTRACT

Solanum is one of the largest and best-known genera of flowering plants is, about 1,500-2,000 species are present in this genera. *Solanum* have the colourfull flowers and shiny fruits and grow in the form of herbs, shrubs, and small trees. *Cyphomandra* and *Lycopersicon* (tomatoes) are isolated subgenera of *Solanum*. The generic name *solanum* given by the Pliny the Elder. *Solanum xanthocarpum* is a perennial herb, 2-3m height and found in xerophytic condition in bare lands. *S. xanthocarpum* widely distributed in Srilanka, Asia, Malaya, Polynessia and also found in Southeast Asia, Malaya and tropical Australia. The role of *Solanum xanthocarpum* known for its medicinal potential from ancient time in regulating or modulating the cytokines or other biomolecules for the betterment of immune system and for other defence mechanisms of the body is yet to establish emphatically so that this plant could be used scientifically for treating immunity related disorders. Water extract of *Solanum xanthocarpum* exhibits double edged mechanism on one side it down regulate the pro inflammatory cytokines and on other hand it caused over expression of anti inflammatory and immunoregulating cytokine ie., IL-10. *Solanum xanthocarpum* may have promising anti inflammatory action which may provide hope of cure the inflammatory diseases such as respiratory diseases, antioxidant stress, malignancy etc. The expression of TH1 and TH2 cytokines by HAESX may help to discuss their basic biology and clinical applications. Furthermore this study provides molecular based scientific evidence to support Indian system of medicine for the use of *Solanum* plant species as potential medicinal value in treating chronic inflammatory diseases that include respiratory disease (Asthma, Hay fever, Rhinitis, pulmonary edema), and many other degenerative immunological ailments.

Key Words: *Solanum xanthocarpum*, immunomodulatory, Anti asthmatic, Hot Aqueous Extract (HAESX).

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INTRODUCTION

Solanum xanthocarpum Schrad. & Wendl. (Family: Solanaceae) described in the ancient Indian medicine system Ayurveda and in the "Charak samhita" commonly known as the Indian night shade or Yellow berried night shade [1]. It is one of the component of "Dasmula" and "Kantkari Ghrita" Dasmula provide the relief in gastric problem and Kantkari ghrita is given in the shore throat problem. The name "kantkari" and Jahar Kateeli is given to *S. xanthocarpum* because in some tribal region its root and fruit extract is given against the snake bite that is to cut the poison of snake (Jahar kateeli).

Plant name in different languages

Latin Names	<i>Solanum xanthocarpum</i>
English Name	Yellow Berried, Nightshade
Sanskrit Names	Kantakari, Nidigadhika
Hindi Name	Kateli Katai and Ringani
Bengali Name	Kantakari
Marwai Name	Bhuiringani
Gujarati Name	Bhojaringani
Tamil:	Kantankattiri
Malayalam:	Kantkariccunta, Kantakarivalutana
Telugu:	Callamulaga, Pinnamulaka, Nelamulaka,
Kannad:	Nelagulle

Taxonomy

It is medicinal herb with spiny leaf and shoot having the woody base that is present all over the India specially in north east and east part of India [2,3]. *Solanum xanthocarpum* (SX) is a perennial herb, 2-3m height and found in xerophytic condition in bare lands. *S. xanthocarpum* widely distributed in Srilanka, Asia, Malaya, Polynesia [4] and also found in Southeast Asia, Malaya and tropical Australia

Leaf: Leaves are 4-10.5 cm long and 2.5-5 cm wide, exstipulate, petiolate, ovate or elliptical, wavy margin, subacute hairy, green, clear midrib, having the spines, smell and taste are not defined.

Stem: Herbaceous, spiny, with defined node and internodes, green when young, branched, numerous hairs are present over the stem, furrow and edge are present, young stems are circular. Mature stem are 8-10 mm thick slightly yellowish green and smooth, woody at the base, hollow pith is present.

Root: Root are tap about 10-45 cm 0.5-2 cm in diameter cylindrical, longitudinal and some transverse wrinkles are present, scars are present on mature root that become woody and have the dark brown fractured bark.

Flower: Bracts are absent, mature pedicel, bisexual, regular complete flower, Valvate aestivation of calyx and corolla gamopetalous and gamosepalous, calyx are green, corolla are violet, tubular in shape, stamens are 5 in number epipetalous basifixed, short filament 1-1.5 mm long yellow coloured, anther are lanceolate 0.5-0.8 cm long, ovary pentamerous, hypogynous, bilocular with axile placentation having infinite ovules.

Fruit: 0.8-1.5 cm diameter globular berry, unripe fruits are covered with white and green stripes while mature fruits show the yellow and white variegation.[5]

PHARMACOLOGY

It is a traditional ayurvedic medicine for treatment of asthma and bronchitis. In Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India it is officially included and is used in various Ayurvedic formulations. Fruit juice of *Solanum Xanthocarpum* are used in treatment of rheumatism and to treat various kind of throat infection. Against the gonorrhoea its decoction is used to relieve the sprain and muscle pain leaf paste is useful. Diuretic properties of roots are used to treat the catarrhal fever. Expectorant properties are present in seeds so used to treat cough. It is used by tribals as folk medicines in treating snake bite, throat infections in children and against other inflammatory problems. The fruits are also used as anthelmintic, antipyretic and laxative.[6]

Arkadhi an ayurvedic preparation of *S.xanthocarpum* is used to increase the blood platelets so beneficial in dengue fever. It is beneficial in fever associated with chest infection [7].

Crushed whole plant mix with coconut oil is given to pregnant cattle during time of calf delivery. To relieve constipation in cattle a mixture of dry roots, powdered fruits with salt is given as a laxative.

Chemical constituents

Solanum xanthocarpum contain major alkaloid α Solamargine in fruit and seed, Steroidal alkaloids solasonine, solasurine, Solanidine, Steroid β Sitosterol, Camasterol, Stigmasterol present in fruits. Phenolic compounds coumarin and caffeic acid [8] present in fruit and leaf. SX also contain saponins, flavonoids and derivative of glycosides fatty acids, and carbohydrates. Several other studies on the genus *Solanum* showed the presence of phenolics, flavonoids, steroidal glycoside and steroidal saponins [9].

Depending upon climatic and soil conditions the solasodine content varies from 1.1% to 4.6% in the berries of *Solanum xanthocarpum*. It has been observed that in autumn season (Aug, September, October) only solasonine and solamargine is present and no solasurine present while in summer season berry solasonine, solamargine and solasurine present. In the unripe berries solasodine content yielded was 1.7% (on dry weight basis) as against 0.75% noted for the ripe berries.

BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICINAL USE

Kantkari (*Solanum xanthocarpum*) found throughout India [10]. The plant commonly known as Choti Kateeli, Jahar kateeli, Bhutkatya or Bhumiringani in Hindi is used in various forms of medicine as in ayurveda, siddha, unani and in tribals in preparation such as decoction, aswa, ghrita, quatha etc. Dasmula Ashva contain the root of SX.

Vasocin (National Institute of Ayurvedic Medicine) contains *Solanum xanthocarpum* [11].

Antibacterial activity

Alcoholic and aqueous extracts of SX leaf show the antibacterial activity against gram positive and negative bacterial strains, It was observed that alcoholic extract show the antibacterial activity for both types of bacterial strains [12]. In other studies showed that alcoholic extract of fruit show the antibacterial activity against the gram positive and negative bacteria but aqueous extract not show the antibacterial

activity. The alcoholic extract of leaf of *SX* show the significant zone of inhibition against *E.coli*, *S. aureus*, *A. niger* microorganisms. It was observed that 500µg leaf extract of *Solanum xanthocarpum* show the maximum zone of inhibition against the gram positive and negative bacteria [13].

It was reported that antibacterial activity of *Solanum xanthocarpum* extract could be studied by measuring the zone of inhibition formed around the disc. The extract of *Solanum xanthocarpum* showed moderate sensitivity to *Escherichia coli* [14]. It was observed that depending on the measured values of the complete inhibition diameter of the circle including the disc the millimeter, the antibacterial activity can be classified into highly sensitive (7-12mm), moderately sensitive (9-12mm), less sensitive (6-9 mm) and resistant (<6mm) [15].

It was noticed that several tannins, flavonoids and saponins to have antibacterial properties. So the antibacterial activity shown by the extracts of *Solanum xanthocarpum* might be due to some antimicrobial substances present in them and Ethanol extract of *Solanum xanthocarpum* due to the presence of alkaloids, glycoside, saponins and tannins showed the maximum antibacterial activity which is somewhat comparable to that of standard antibiotics i.e. Ampicilline and Streptomycin [16].

It was reported that antibacterial activity was due to the presence of saponin and *Staphylococcus aureus*, the common wound pathogen sensitive to all the extracts used in the present investigation and it might be due to the total phenolics components present in the plant [17]. It was reported that antibacterial activity of *Solanum* extract due to the presence of cardiac glycosides, phenolic compounds, flavonoids and tannins. It was explored that antibacterial and urease inhibitory effects of silver nanoparticles prepared with berry fruits of *SX* and are effective against both antibiotic susceptible and antibiotic resistance strains of *Helicobacter pylori*. [18].

Antifungal activity

S. xanthocarpum aqueous extracts of various parts showed antifungal activity against *P. aeruginosa* and *A. niger*. Against the fungus *A. niger* most of the extract are much effective. Against the *A. Niger* 17 mm zone of inhibition was reported by the ethanolic leaf and root extracts while the acetone and methanol extract of *S. xanthocarpum*, also show the antifungal against *A. niger* with 22.4 and 27.5 mm zone of inhibition respectively. Steroidal glycosides and carpesterol and steroidal glycosides from the methanol extract of *SX* berry these compound show inhibitory action for the growth of *A. brassicae.*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Trichoderma viride* [19,20]. Methanolic whole plant extract of *Solanum xanthocarpum* show the spore germination inhibition for fungi *A. fumigatus*, *A. flavus* and *A. niger* and having the MICs 1.25-2.50. [21] Aqueous and hexane extract of *SX* against the *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus niger* was observed, aqueous extract was not effective against both the fungi but hexane extract show the antifungal activity against the *Candida albicans* [22].

Ethanolic extract of fruit and root of *Solanum xanthocarpum* 5% and 10% was effective against the ringworm causing fungi *Trichophyton* and other dermatogens *Candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis* and concluded that ethanolic fruit extract are more effective than root extract to combat the dermatogens [23].

Benzene and petroleum ether fruit extract of *SX* show the inhibitory effect against the *Colletotrichum gleosporoides*, *Curvularia lunata*, *Alternaria alternate*, *Macrophomina phaseolus* and *Sclerotium rolfsii* and it was proved that petroleum ether inhibited the growth of *Colletotrichum gleosporoides*, *Curvularia lunata* and *Alternaria alternate* while *Macrophomina phaseolus* and *Sclerotium rolfsii* remain uninhibited [24].

Antiasthmatic properties

According to WHO, 7-10% of the world population suffers from bronchial asthma. National Institute of Health defines asthma as a chronic inflammatory disorder of the respiratory tract and several mediator cells like mast cells, T-Lymphocytes, eosinophils, neutrophils and epithelial cells participate that result in bronchio spasm and series of inflammatory reactions started [25]. There are a wide range of allopathic drugs that are used to cure asthma but their effect is temporary and show several side effects so now a days herbal formulation gaining positive approach to treat asthma as they show bronchodilation, stabilization of mast cells, anti-inflammatory and anti-allergic activities. Herbal drugs also inhibit the mediators like leukotrienes, cyclooxygenase, lipoxygenase and cytokines [26].

Solanum xanthocarpum and *Solanum trilobatum* are widely used in Siddha system to cure the respiratory disease [27,28] studied the *S. xanthocarpum* and *S. trilobatum* effect on bronchodilated muscle using the drugs salbutamol and deriphylline. It was also evaluated the effect of ethanolic extract of *SX* as antihistaminic, anti-allergic property [29].

In the pathophysiology of asthma mast cell degranulation, histamines and eosinophils level increased and it was observed that ethanolic extract of *S. xanthocarpum* relax the histamine induced contracted smooth muscle of goat trachea. Ethanolic flower extract of *SX* show that 50 and 100 mg/kg reduce the

eosinophil that was induced by milk and stabilize the mast cell degranulation as compared to control drug disodium chromo glycolate and concluded that SX flower has antihistaminic activity [29].

Ethanol extract of *S. xanthocarpum* used to study the anti asthmatic activity by using the acetylcholine and histamine induced constriction of guinea pig respiratory track and paw oedemas induced by carrageenan, dextran and histamine in rat [30]. Solasodine alkaloids that is isolated from the root of *S. xanthocarpum* have the mast cell stabilizing and antiallergic activity [31].

Hypoglycemic activity

In 1980 WHO suggested the scientific community to evaluate the plant derived products to treat the diabetes and in the Indian system Ayurveda variety of plants mentioned to treat the diabetes [32]. Alcoholic leaf extract of *Solanum surattense* normalized the blood glucose level of rat treated with 100 mg/kg body wt leaf extract [33].

Hypoglycemic activity of the aqueous extract of SX was observed that have the insulin like properties it enhance the peripheral utilization of glucose, glucose level become down in alloxan treated hyperglycemic rat and in glucose feeded rat as compare with the glibenclamide treated rat that was standard control [34]. In Orissa Kondh tribes of Dhenkanal district used the hot aqueous extract of the fruits for the treatment of diabetes mellitus and it was inferred that 100 and 200 mg/kg body wt hot aqueous extract have significant hypoglycemic effect in both normal and streptozotocin and alloxan induced diabetic rats and it is very safe because the LD50 of the extract was found to be very high [35]. Methanolic fruit extract of *Solanum torvum* lower the blood glucose level in streptozotocin induced diabetic in rats and it retain the B cell in pancreas [36].

Cardiovascular effects

It was observed that solasodine that is tertiary amine and trisacride derivative solamagrin has the antiaccelerater properties. Ethanol extract of fruits of *Solanum indicum* show the hypotensive effect when it was given orally to rat that was administered intraperitoneal injection of N6 nitro-L-arginine methylester (L-NAME) that induce the hypertension in rat and herbal formulation containing SX causes increased Ca^{+2} permeability in atrium and down regulate the beta adrenoceptors [37].

Fruit extract of SX has cardiotoxic activity, different dilution of fruit extract restored the cardiac activity of hypodynamic frog heart and it was observed that undiluted fruit extract show better contraction of heart muscle than the diluted extract and its action is rapid compared to digoxin alkaloid [38].

It was observe that rat having the adrenal + deoxycorticosterone acetate regenerated hyper tension when treated with butanolic root extract of *Solanum sisymbriifolium* show the significant reduction of blood pressure [39].

Hepatoprotective activity:

In the hepatic toxicity hepatic cell become less functional and marker enzyme like alanin transaminase (ALT), aspartate amino transferase (AST) and Alkaline phosphatase (ALP) level become high. In the streptozotocin induced diabetic rat significant increase of ALT, AST and ALP takes place but when these rats are fed with the aqueous leaf extract of *Solanum surattense* the level of hepatic marker enzyme markedly decreased [40].

It was investigated that the hepatoprotective and antioxidant activity of herbal formulation Jigrin having the aqueous extract of *Solanum xanthocarpum* that was confirm by the DPPH free radical scavenging method [41]. Ethanol fruit extract of *Solanum xanthocarpum* lower the serum ALT, AST and ALP in the rat have the liver toxicity induced by the antitubercular drugs [42]. 50% ethanol fruit extract of SX exhibit the hepatoprotective activity in carbon tetra chloride induced hepatic toxicity and it also lower down the hepatic markers ALT, AST, ALP and Bilirubin and also restore the antioxidant enzyme GSH, SOD and catalase to normal level [43,44].

Larvicidal effect

It was investigated that carbon tetra chloride extract of *S. Xanthocarpum* show the larvicidal activity against the *Aedes stephensi* and *Culex quinquefasciatus* alone and its efficacy increased in combination with pyrethroid and cypermethrin against the malaria vector and it was inferred that cypermethrin and ether extract of *Solanum Xanthocarpum* in 1:1 ratio was most efficient [45]. Similar effect of *Solanum nigrum* Rawani *et al.*, and *Solanum tribotum* [46] was observed against the *Culex quinquefasciatus* larva when grow along with leaf extracts.) Upon storage SX efficacy decreases against the female anopheles larva to kill them, after six months storage of extract its activity reduced to two to three fold. Essential oil isolated from the leaf of SX by steam distillation method have the filarial vector repellent activity and it was reported that essential oil did not cause irritant activity on human skin [47].

Isolated protein from the *Solanum villosum* leave show the larvicidal activity against third instar larvae of *anopheles stephensi*, *Culex quinquefasciatus* and *Stegomyia aegypti* mosquito and found that proteins from the matured leaf show moderate larvicidal activity. Some worker used the ethanol, hexane and

chloroform extract of leaf and stem of *Solanum nigrum* against the larva of *Culex quinquefasciatus* and found that the leaf extract is more lethal than the stem extract [48].

Antioxidant activity

When the methanol extracts were prepared from the leaves of two varieties of *S. xanthocarpum* that were field grown and in-vitro raised. It was observed that these extracts possess efficient anti hyperglycemic activity at a concentration of 200 mg/kg and have antioxidant activity at this much concentration. The extracts prepared from the leaves of in-vitro raised *S. xanthocarpum* showed higher efficacy in comparison to the leaves that were field grown in all examined concentrations. Similarly when analysis for mineral and proximal composition were carried out, it was found that higher content concentration was present in in-vitro raised *S. xanthocarpum* than those that were field grown [49].

Anti inflammatory Activity:

It was studied that hot aqueous extract of *S. xanthocarpum* show the down regulation of TNF- α and interferon gamma (IFN- γ) of TH1 (pro inflammatory cytokines and CMI inducer) and enhanced expression of IL-10 of TH2 (anti inflammatory in action). These findings clearly indicate that water extract of *Solanum xanthocarpum* exhibits double edged mechanism on one side it down regulate the pro inflammatory cytokines and on other hand it caused over expression of anti inflammatory and immunoregulating cytokine i.e., IL-10. *Solanum xanthocarpum* may have promising anti inflammatory action which may provide hope of cure the inflammatory diseases such as respiratory diseases, antioxidant stress, malignancy etc [50].

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The role of *Solanum xanthocarpum* known for its medicinal potential from ancient time in regulating or modulating the cytokines or other biomolecules for the betterment of immune system and for other defence mechanisms of the body is yet to establish emphatically so that this plant could be used scientifically for treating immunity related disorders.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST :

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest

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