



Pharmacognosy, Phytochemistry and Traditional Uses: *Barleria Prionitis*

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ABSTRACT

Barleria prionitis, belonging to *Acanthaceae* family, is small spiny shrub, normally familiar as "porcupine flower" with a number of vernacular names. It is indigenous plant of south Asia and certain regions of Africa. The therapeutically use of its flower, root, stem, leaf and entire plant against numerous disorders including fever, cough, jaundice, severe pain are recognized by ayurvedic and other traditional systems. As a significant source of secondary metabolites including saponin, tannin, flavonoid, alkaloid, glycoside, phenolic compounds recent pharmacognostic screening renders its effectual functions as potent antioxidant, anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, hepatoprotective, gastro-protective, agent etc. Although having a potential remedial significance. It is still underutilized. The review can be considered as a bird's eye view highlighting the current progress of *Barleria prionitis* in pharmacological and pharmacognostic field with its prominent folk uses.

Keywords: *Barleria prionitis*, hepatoprotective, traditional systems.

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INTRODUCTION

The word herb has been shaped from the Latin word, herb and an old French word herb. These herbs that have restorative quality give discerning intends to the treatment of numerous interior ailments, which are generally viewed as hard to cure. *Barleria prionitis* plant is an enduring, thick therapeutic plant. Barleria family containing 300 species for therapeutic and Ayurveda [1] The entire plant is utilized for therapeutic and ayurvedic prescription. *Barleria prionitis* generally known as Vajardanti it is utilized for different illnesses, for example asthma, whooping hack, ailment, fever, heaps, ulcer, bothering, control wound healing, bleeding diseases, liver diseases, bubbles, aggravation, solidness of appendages expanding force, gout, oedema, jungle fever, leukoderma scabies, toothache, joints torment, urinary contamination, jaundice, gastrointestinal clutters, hepatoprotective, snakebites, liver diseases and neuralgia. A ton of endeavors have been made by few analysts to substantiate the viability of plant over the span of natural and pharmacological exercises to cure of ailments. [2, 3, 4, 5].

DISTRIBUTION

In India is normally found in Andaman and Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.[13,14].

PLANT PROFILE**PLANT DESCRIPTION:**

Barleria prionitis is developed as a decorative and restorative plant in Asia. It is an erect, thick, thorny under shrub coming up to 0.6 to 1.5 m high. *Barleria prionitis* considered yearly or perpetual plant amid the dry season. Its stem, leaves and blooms pass on yet roots alive. The vegetative develops stormy season.

STEM:

Erect 1.8mm thick, terete, hard, glabrous, hubs, swollen, spreading at hubs, youthful stem dark, somewhat four calculated with 3-4 divariate spines hub leaf. Stem tube shaped with longitudinally orchestrated remotely grayish to light dark coloured. A couple of develop stems marginally empty. [15,16]

FLOWERS:

Tubular yellow-orange 4.0 cm long blooms with distending stalks. Sessile regularly single in lower axils 16 by 4.5 mm, elongated, intense, glabrous; bracteoles 1.3 cm long, barely straight, subulate, calyx, one of the external sepals more than 1.3 cm long, 3.4 mm wide, two internal sepals 1.5 mm wide and long, upper lip 2 cm long four lobe, rond whole tube 2.2 cm long.[17,18]

LEAF:

Oval-ellipsoid moulded, variable in scrutinize to 10 cm long 4 cm wide, elliptic whole, intense reticulate, uncostate, labours above, underneath petiole short.[19,20]

SEED:

Oval-took care of business to 2 cm since a long time ago seed, case containing two expansive 8 mm long, 5 mm wide level seeds with plush hairs.[21,22,23]

Scientific classification:

Biological Name *Barleria prionitis*

Family Acanthaceae

Synonyms *Barleria hystrix* Linn. *Prionitis hystrix* *Prionitis pubiflora* [24,25]

Chemical constituent:

Parts **Chemical constituent**

Leaf Flavonoids, saponin, sterol, tannin, terpenoid

Flowers Flavonoids, Neohespericloside

Arterial Parts Balerenone, terpenoid, barlerinoside

Whole Plant Glycoside, saponin, flavonoid, phenolic compound, carbohydrates, sitosterol, potassium[26,27]

Properties:

Taste Bitter and sweet

Qualities Light for digestion

Potency Hot

Action Reduce cough

Ayurvedic uses:

Kapha Destroy poison

Mutral Used for urination

Vatahar Used for Vata

Keshya Used for hair problem

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND TRADITIONAL USES**Table 1: Traditional use of *Barleria Prionitis***

Plant Parts	Disorders	Application Mode	Ref.
Leaf	Skin diseases	Crushed leaf is given to skin	[13]
	Scabies	Paste from of fresh leaf	[6]
	Cough and cold	Not specified	[8,9]
	Pus in ears	Applied as extract	[14]
	Catarrhal affections in children	Juice directly applied	[12]
	Irritation and stiffness of limbs	Not specified	[10]
	Glandular swelling and boils	Given as juice directly	[12]
	Fever	Decoction with honey for 7 days to cure	[19]
	Whooping cough	Juice form or decoction is given	[12,15]
	Leucoderma	Leaf ash with butter	[6]
Wound	Crushed from directly applied	[16,17]	

	Enlarged scrotum and sciatica	Not specified	[10]
	Dropsy	Directly as a juice	[12]
	Gastric problems	Juiced obtained from macerated	[13]
	Cataract	Not specified	[11]
	Toothache	Paste or juice on area	[12,18]
	Mouth ulcers	Chewed and sap is swallowed	[18]
Whole Plant	Cyst	Prepared oil is used externally	[20,21]
	Whooping cough	Dried plant is used	[22]
	Gout	Paste is applied externally as ointment	[18]
	Dysuria	Used by formulation	[4]
	Respiratory problems	Not specified	[23]
	Toothache	Plant decoction	[14]
	Pyorrhoea	Plant decoction	[14]
	Bronchial asthma	Mixed with honey	[4]
	Tonsillitis	Applied by formulation	[25]
	Greying of hair	Oil extract is given	[4]
Stem	Dropsy and liver congestion	Powder with cow milk	[6]
	Dropsy	Juice of bark directly	[24]
Root	Fever	Directly powdered is taken to cure	[26]
	Boils and glandular swelling	Paste from is directly applied	[10]
	Rheumatic fever	Paste with goat milk is given	[6]
	Jaundice	Not specified	[4,29]
	Snakebite	Decoction is taken orally	[27]
	Expel out spines	Extract is applied on skin	[28]
	Whooping cough	Used as formulation	[6]
Flower	Viral edema	Not specified	[22]
Seed	Edema	Paste is taken daily once	[18]
Shoot	Asthma	Used by formulation	[6]
	Whooping cough	Prepare tablet with honey	[6,29]

1. Remove additional mucous from the body.
2. Relieve toothache.
3. Reducing aggravation.
4. Prevent stiffness.
5. Helps in urinary issues, stone, oedema.
6. Rheumatic affections.
7. Jaundice.
8. Haemoptysis.

PHYTOCHEMICAL ASSESSMENT OF *BARLERIA PRIONITIS*

For the presence of efficacious secondary metabolites, it is not only economical for plant itself but also beneficial for better health of us. Scientist are already isolated and characterized phytochemicals such as alkaloid, flavonoids, saponins, tannin, steroid, terpenoid, sterol (stigmaterol), phenolic compound and essential oil from its leaf by different qualitative tests. Its arial parts contain a large quantities of glycoside (6-O-trans-p-coumaroyl-8-o-acetylshanzhiside methyl ester, barlerin, terpenoid and 13, 14-seco-stigmasta-5, 14-diene-3-ol identified by NMR. Large amount of secondary metabolites such as glycoside, saponins, flavonoids, phenolic compound, tannins, alkaloids, phytosterols, poluphenol and steroids are present in whole plant detected by different Phytochemical tests. Flowers contains significant Phytochemical including flavonoid, glycoside. New compound such as hydroxy-2 7-dimethyl-3 6-dimethoxy anthraquinone, 1,3,6,8-tetra methoxy-2,7-dimethyl anthraquinone and 7-rhamnosylglucoside are isolated from *Barleria prionitis*.

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES OF *BARLERIA PRIONITIS*

Anti-helminthic activity:

Ethanollic and aqueous extracts of whole plant exhibited paralysis in lower doses (50, 75 and 100 mg/ml) and triggered death at higher concentration of 100 mg/ml against *Pheretima* posthuman worms.[28]

Anti-arrhythmic activity:

Ethyl acetate fraction (125 and 250 mg/kg) of leaf significantly suppressed the joint swelling after 8-10 days administration in formaldehyde induced arthritis model and it also decreased significant level of arthritis score with weight gain in FCA induced arthritis rat model.[29,30]

Table 2:- Phytochemicals composition of *Barleria prionitis*.

Plant Part	Phytochemicals/ Nutrient	Test(Extract Details)	Ref.
Leaf	Alkaloids	TLC (ME)	[30,31,32]
	Flavonoids	TLC (ME)	
	Saponins	TLC (ME)	
	Tannin	TLC (ME)	
	Phytosteroids	TLC (ME)	
	Phenolic compound	TLC (ME)	
	Terpenoids	Not specified	[31]
	Sterol (stigmasterol)	HPLC	[32]
	Essential oil	Not specified	[32]
Aerial Part	Glycoside	NMR	[34,36]
	Terpenoid (lupeol)	NMR (EE)	[37]
	Pipataline, Balarenone, 13,14-seco-stigmasta-5,14-diene-3-ol	NMR (EE)	
Whole Plant	Glycosides	Borntrager's test (HE, Me, EE), legal's test (HE, ME, EE)	[38,40]
	Saponins	Frothing test (HE, ME, EE, AqE)	
	Flavonoids	Ammonia test (HE), Alkaline reagent test (ME, CE, AqE), Shinoda test (CE, ME, AqE)	
	Phenolic compound and tannins	FeCl ₃ test (HE, AqE, ME, EE), Lead acetate test (ME, EE, AqE), Bromine water test (ME, AqE, EE)	
	Steroids	Salkowski test (HE)	[38]
	Alkaloids	Mayer's reagent (PeE, ME, EE), Hager's reagent (PeE), Wagner's reagent (PeE, ME, EE), Dragendorff's reagent (PeE, ME, EE)	[39,40]
	Carbohydrates	Molisch test (ME,EE), Fehling's solution (ME, EE), Benedict's reagent (ME, EE)	
	Phytosterol	Liebermann's test (ME, AqE)	
	Protein and amino acid	Biuret test (ME, EE), Ninhydrin test (ME, EE)	
	Polyphenol	Folin-ciocalteu test (EE, AqE)	[43]
Anthraquinone	Chemical tests	[41]	
Flower	Flavonoid	Not specified	[4]
	Glycoside	Not specified	
	Neohesperidoside	Not specified	

Anti-hypertensive activity

Enalapril, methanolic extracts at 200 and 400 mg/bw of leaf possessed anti-hypertensive effect as 136.5 ± 2.51 , and 143 ± 3.11 mm Hg on systolic blood pressure and 103 ± 2.54 , 100.5 ± 2.35 mm Hg diastolic blood pressure after six weeks treatment.[31]

Diuretic activity

Aqueous root extract (100mg/kg) produced significant diuresis (12.58 ± 0.80 urine volume in 24hr) compare with furosemide at 20mg/kg (12.58 ± 0.80 urine volume in 24hr) and increased sodium elimination.[32]

Antioxidant effect

The MeOH extract of root, leaves and stems showed potent antioxidant activity. EtOH extract of whole plant of *Barleria prionitis* showed potent antioxidant activities. It was reported that the antioxidant activity of MeOH extract of leaf and stem were showed IC₅₀ values 63.41 ± 0.32 , 81.69 ± 0.40 , respectively. Reducing power of MeOH extract of B.prionitis was observed maximum. MeOH leaf extract showed significant high antioxidant activity (61.73) in 6000 ppm concentration followed by PET bark extract (59.11)5. In vitro antioxidant activity of crude MeOH extract of B.prionitis was reported by Khobragade et al., [33]

Anti-diabetic activity:

A significant reduction in blood glucose level and glycosylated haemoglobin has been found in animals treated with *Barleria prionitis* leaves extract. Beside this, significant increase in serum insulin level and

liver glycogen level and decrease in the body weight was also observed. All these results indicate anti-diabetic activity of *Barleria prionitis*. [34]

Larvicidal activity:

LC50 values were found to be 34.756, 31.351 and 28.577 mg/ml in ACE, CHCL3 and MeOH extract against *Culex tritaeniorhynchus*, respectively. [35]

Anti-fertility activity:

The root extract of *B. prionitis* showed the antifertility potential. Oral administration of MeOH root extract reduced the sperm formation in male albino rats. Root extract decreased the formation of round spermatids, sperm motility, spermatogonia, preleptotene spermatocytes population and mature leading cells. [36]

Antibacterial activity:-

Acetone, ethanol, methanol extract of bark and ciprofloxacin showed significantly activity against *Streptococcus mutans* (14.95±1, 11.94±1, 15.65±0.57 and 27.32±0.57 mm) *Staphylococcus aureus* (14.31±0.57, 14.0±0, 16.32±0.57 and 34.66±0.57 mm). Lowest MIC was found to be 5 mg/ml for chloroform extract of leaf against *Salmonella typhi*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Vibrio cholera-813*, *Micrococcus luteus* and *Citrobacter*. On the other hand, petroleum ether and ethanol extract of leaf showed 3.33 and 10 mg/ml against *Bacillus subtilis* in MIC method. [37]

Central nervous system depressant activity:-

Ethyl acetate portion (at dose concentration of 125 and 250 mg/kg) and diclofenac (4 mg/kg) treatment significantly increased fall off time of motor co-ordination in rota rod test. EtOH extract of *B. prionitis* leaves by using acto-photometer reported fluoxetine stimulant activity in mice as 91.93% while the test drug stimulated the animal only by 49.72%. [38]

Anti-inflammatory activity:-

The Anti-inflammatory activity of *Barleria prionitis* whole plant extract have also been investigated and documented against carrageenan-induced paw edema in rats. [39] A recent study showed that anti-inflammatory activity of extracts was clearly related to their inhibition of cyclooxygenase enzymes with subsequent inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis. More over; the flower extract was also documented with significant anti-inflammatory activity against Carrageenan and cotton pellet induced granuloma in rats. [40]

Antiviral activity:-

Two iridoid glycosides (i.e. 6-O-trans-p-coumaroyl-8-O-acetylshanzhiside methyl ester) and its cis isomer from *B. prionitis* were reported by Chen et al. (1998) [55]. These bioactive phytochemicals revealed the potent antiviral against respiratory Syncytial virus (RSV) with EC50 and IC50 values of 2.46 and 42.2 mg ml⁻¹, respectively. [41,42]

Anti-dental decay activity

Crude extract of *B. prionitis* Linn. reported good antimicrobial activity against dental decay pathogens. It was reported that MeOH extract of bark showed much more potent activity against oral pathogens like *S. mutans*, *S. aureus*, *Pseudomonas sp*, *Bacillus sp* and *C. albicans*, *S. cerevisiae*. [43]

Anti-diarrheal activity

Butanol fraction of *B. prionitis* leaves showed the anti-diarrheal activity. Iridoid rich fraction of butanol (BuOH or n(BuOH)) of leaf extract possesses dose dependant anti-diarrhoeal activity at concentration of 25-100 mg/kg in rat against castor oil induced diarrhea. [44,45] The hepatic glutathione content and reduced hepatic lipid peroxidation in response to the hepatotoxicity in mice and rats. [45]

Anti-nociceptive activity:-

Extract of flower (200 mg/kg) increased analgesia-meter-induced force and exhibited resistance against pain. It also inhibited acetic acid induced pain as 30.6% where phenylbutazone (100 mg/kg) presented 34.6%. [46]

Antifungal activity:-

Acetone, ethanol, methanol extract of bark and amphotericin-B showed significant activity respectively against *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (11.64±0.57, 11.31±0.57, 13.95±1 and 11.94±1 mm), *Candida albicans* strain 1 (13.65±0.57, 12.94±1, 15.31±0.57 and 13±0 mm) and *C. albicans* strain 2 (16±0, 11.31±0.57, 16.96±1 and 12.94±1 mm) in well diffusion method. [47]

Analgesic activity:-

The analgesic activity of *B. prionitis* flowers extract was reported using an Ugo Basile Analgesy meter induced artificial pain and acetic acid induced writhing models. [48,49] In vivo study showed that the flower extract dose dependently provided a significant increase in the analgesio-meter-induced force and exhibited significant resistance against pain in mice. [50,51] At a dose concentration of 50 mg/kg body weight, the flower extract provided statistically significant reduction of writhing by 5.24%. [52]

Hepatoprotective activity:-

The iridoid glycosides enriched fraction from hydro-ethanolic extract of leaves and stems of *B.prionitis* was reported to show significant hepatoprotection against carbon tetrachloride, galactosamine and paracetamol induced hepatotoxicity in mice and rats. The oral administration of iridoid fraction significantly reduced the hepatotoxin induced elevated levels of serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate transaminase (AST), alkaline phosphatase (ALP), bilirubin and triglycerides in a dose dependant manner. The fraction was also increased.[53]

Wound healing:-

Wound healing is depicted and described in discrete timeline if physical attributes (phases) comprising the post trauma repair process. In undamaged skin, the epidermis (surface layer) and dermis (deeper layer) from protective barrier is broken, an orchestrated cascade of biochemical events is set into motion to repair the damage. The process is divided into predictable phases; blood clotting (haemostasis), inflammation, tissue growth (proliferation) and tissue remodeling (maturation).[54]

Bleeding time:-

Bleeding time is a crude test of hemostasis (the arrest or stopping of bleeding). It indicates how well platelets interact with blood vessels walls to form blood clots.[55]

Table 3:- Pharmacognostic properties of *Barleria prionitis*

Activity	Plants Part	Extract	Summary	Ref.
Anti-Helminthic Activity	Whole plant	Aqueous, ethanolic	Exhibited paralysis in lower doses	[44]
Anti-Arhythmic	Leaf	Ethyl acetate	Fraction (125 and 250 mg/kg)	[31,45]
Anti-Bacterial	Bark	Acetone, Ethanol, Methanol	Extracts were highly active against <i>Bacillus</i> sp. In agar well diffusion method was compared with ciprofloxacin	[46]
	Leaf	Pet. Ether, Chloroform	Least MIC was found to be 3.33 mg/ml by petroleum ether	
	Whole plant	Petroleum ether, Chloroform	Pet. Ether extract showed highest inhibition zone	
Anti-Hypertensive	Leaf	Methanol	Possessed profound activity after six week treatment in DOCA induced hypertensive rat model	[56]
Diuretic	Flower	Aqueous	Produced significantly diuresis and increased sodium elimination	[60]
Antioxidant	Aerial parts	Not specified	Presence of glycoside displayed significant free radical scavenging activity	[35]
Antidiabetic	Leaf	Alcohol	At 200 mg/kg increased insulin and liver glycogen	[50,52]
	Root	Alcohol	Extracts (200 mg/kg) provided	[53]
Larvicidal	Leaf	Acetone, Chloroform, Methanol	LC50 values were found to be 34.756, 31.351 and 28.577 mg/ml in acetone, chloroform and methanol extract	[59]
Antifertility	Root	Not specified	100 mg/rat/ day reduced 100% fertility of male rats	[54,55]
Cns Depressant	Leaf	Ethanol	Extract provided very significantly activity as 91.93% compared with fluoxetine stimulant drug	[31]
Anti-Inflammatory	Flower	Ethanol	Ethanol 200 mg/kg revealed 48.6% and 36.4% inhibition in induced paw edema and reduction in cotton pellet- induced granuloma in rat model	[57]
	Root	Aqueous	200 & 400 mg/kg presented 52.56% & 55.76% inhibition of induced paw edema rat	[58]
	Whole plant	Hydro alcohol	Extract (10 mg/kg) reduced rat mast cell degranulation	[38]
Antinociceptive	Flower	Ethanol	200 mg/kg increased analgesimeter induced force and pain resistance	[57]
Antifungal	Bark	Acetone, Ethanol, Methanol	Extract were highly active against <i>C. albicans</i> in agar well diffusion method while compared with amphotericin-B	[46]
Hepatoprotective	Leaf & stem	Ethanol Aqueous	Isolated iridoid afforded protection against carbon tetrachloride and paracetamol induced hepatotoxicity	[59]

CONCLUSION

Due to presence of curative properties, medicinal plants always have got special emphasis from prehistoric era and current outgrowth of pharmacological industry cannot ignore its dominance for its unique phytochemicals containing infinity potential against numerous diseases. Consequently, tremendous research efforts are required to justify their previous established role commonly used by local practitioners and identify novel pharmacological and pharmacognostical features. Besides in numerous folk use, this review also illustrates its phytochemical profile as well as pharmacological augmentation which will be helpful for future researchers.

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