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A review on *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* leaf extraction, phytochemical screening & thin layer chromatography

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Abstract

The aim of the review is to give an idea about various pharmacological and pharmaceutical applications of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*. This review article covers selected literatures that are based on the studies conducted on *hibiscus rosa-sinensis*. Its flowers and leaves are available all over India and well known for its Anti-diabetic property. In the present investigation aqueous extract and ethanolic extract of the flowers and leaves were made using soxhlet apparatus, water extract and maceration. The qualitative Phytochemical screening procedure was performed on each extract. Phytochemical study reveals that alkaloids, tannins, saponins, triterpenoids, coumarins, steroids, flavonoids were present in the three extracts.

Keywords: *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, Anti-diabetic activity, phytochemical screening

Introduction

China rose or “Queen of tropics” is often a popular name for the gorgeous flowering plant *Hibiscus rosasinensis*, as it is mainly found in south-east China and some islands in the Pacific and Indian Ocean. Dark flowers’ extract is used to make eyeliners, and in shoe-blackening ^[1]. It was believed that the species was given the name “rosasinensis which means “Rose of China” in Latin, by the famous Swedish biologist, Carolus Linnaeus in the early 1750s. Traditionally ^[2, 3] Hibiscus flowers has been reported to possess antitumor properties, as well as have been used as analgesic, antipyretic, anti-asthmatic, and anti-inflammatory agents ^[4, 5]. Several studies have proved the presence of anti-oxidant, anti-fungal, and antimicrobial properties in flowers of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*. Research on extracts of stems, roots, leaves, and flowers from Hibiscus have revealed that its photochemical components contributed to beneficial findings to human’s health such as antioxidant activity ^[6]. The flowers were also used as a contraception agent for males and females, as well as in rural regions of India. Current scientific literature suggests that more than 50% of today’s clinical medications were of natural product origin. Many of them have played a significant role in pharmacological industry and in developing better therapies for various diseases ^[7-10]. This plant is economically very essential owing to the herbal products and medicinal uses.

Taxonomical Classification: Kingdom - Plantae, Order - Malvales, Family - Malvaceae, Genus - Hibiscus, Botanical name - *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, Colour of Flower - Red, White, Yellow, Pink, Orange.

Habitat & Geographical distribution ^[11-13]

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis was first described in 1753 by Carl Linnaeus in Species Plantarum. The specific epithet rosa-sinensis literally means “rose of China”, though it is not closely related to the true roses. The exact origin of *hibiscus rosa-sinensis* is unknown, although it has been cultivated in China, Japan and the Pacific islands for a long time. *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* was first discovered in China or perhaps India. Botanists are not really certain, since no wild stands of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* have been found growing anywhere. Wherever it originated, it was brought back to Europe by explorers in the 1700s.

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Morphology

Botanical description

Macroscopic

The hibiscus is an evergreen shrub, growing to a maximum of 10 m in the wild. Its bark is light-grey.(14)

Leaves: Hibiscus leaves are ovate, simple and 8 to 10.5 cm long. They are spirally arranged around a long stalk & are rich in mucilage.

Flower: The Flowers are bisexual, large and showy, grow up to 25 cm wide, stalked and arising singly from the upper leaf axils. The five free petals joined at the base may be white, yellow or red colour. Sepals are joined in a five-lobed cup with an epical, five to seven lobes. The superior ovary has five stigmas with a long style. The plant flowers perennially. (15-20)

Fruit: The ovoid fruit has up to 20 seeds, is beaked and splits into five parts.

Microscopic

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis is a perennial shrub, evergreen shrub with tap root growing 2.5–5 m (8–16 ft) tall and 1.5–3 m (5–10 ft) wide, with glossy leaves and solitary, brilliant red flowers in summer and autumn. (21-23) The five-petaled flowers are 10 cm (4 in) in diameter, with prominent orange-tipped red anthers. Cultivars and hybrids have flowers in a variety of colours as well as red: white, pink, orange, peach, yellow and purple. Some have double colour flowers.

At the bottom of every *hibiscus* bud is the calyx which is green in colour. The pointed ends of the calyx are the sepals.

(24-27) When the hibiscus begins to bloom, the petals begin to grow which contains multiple petals and multiple colours. The ovary and other female parts of the flower lie in the main structure of the *hibiscus*, the pistil, which is long and tubular. The *hibiscus* has both male and female parts on the same flower. The five hairy red spots on the top of the flower is the stigma (female part) of the flower. The stigma is located at the end of the style branch. At the top of the pistil is known as the stigma, where pollen is collected, and in the middle is the style, which is the section that the pollen travels down to the ovary. The ovary lies at the bottom of the blossom and the *hibiscus* has only one ovary which is superior. (28-31)

The male part (stamen) of the flower consists of stem-like filaments and each filament ends with the pollen-producing anther. The anthers, which release the pollen, sits on the filament and these two organs make up the stamen, the male part of the flower. Overall, the *hibiscus* is a dicot, with solitary (axillary), complete, perfect flowers, which have a superior ovary, regular symmetry, and axile placentation. They have five carpels, five locules, five sepals, and the number of stamens may vary. (31-35)

The root is a branched tap root. The stem is aerial, erect, green, cylindrical and branched. The leaf is simple, with alternate phyllotaxy and is petiolate. The leaf shape is ovate, the tip is acute and margin is serrated. Venation is unicostate reticulate. (Venation is branched or divergent.) Free lateral stipules are present. (36-40)

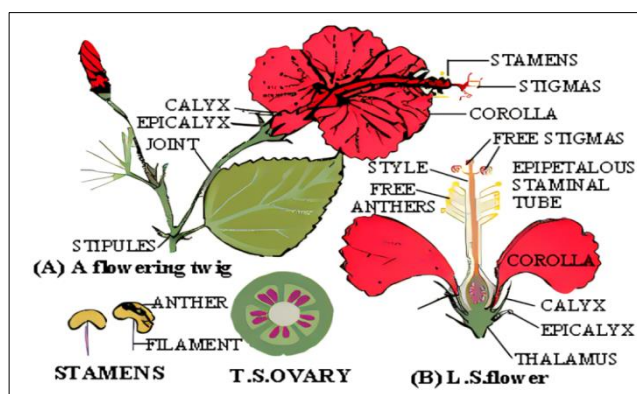


Fig 1: *Hibiscus rosa sinensis*



Fig 2: Flowers of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*

Vernacular names: Hindi - Jasum, Gulhar, Bengali - Jaba, English - Hibiscus, Malayalam - Bunga Raya, Tamil - Sembaruthi, Telugu - Mandara, Tribal Name - Raktajaba (Chakma).

Chemical constituents [41-45]

The phytochemical analysis as shows that for *Hibiscusrosa-sinensis* contain tannins, anthraquinones, phenols, flavanoides, alkaloids, saponins, cardiac glycosides, protein,

free amino acids, carbohydrates, reducing sugars, mucilage, essential oils and steroids.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis contained cyclopropanoids, methyl sterulate, methyl-2-hydroxy sterulate, 2-hydroxysterulate, malvalate and beta-sitosterol. The major anthocyanin in the flower was cyanidin 3-sophoroside. Quantitative phytochemical evaluation of the flowers of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* revealed that the amount of ascorbic acid 0.0339 mg/g, riboflavin 0.087 mg/g, calcium 0.0127%, phosphorus 0.4113% and iron 0.771%.

The flowers contained four types of flavonoids, rutin, quercetin and myricetin. The flowers also contained substantial quantities of proanthocyanidins and anthocyanins. Other compounds were isolated from the flowers included cyclopeptide alkaloids, vitamins, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin and ascorbic acid. Crushed red varieties yield dark-purplish dye, anthocyanin pigment and cyandindigluconide.

Table 1: Quantitative phytochemical analysis of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*

Phytoconstituents	mg/100 g dry weight
Carbohydrates	0.356
Flavonoids	0.171
Phenol	0.092
Protein	0.247
Tannins	0.073

Uses [46-49]

- Flowers and leaves were taken orally for constipation and painful bowel motion.
- The flowers and leaves were churned into a mucilaginous juice with water and filtered. About half a cup of the filtrate was taken by mouth every day before going to bed act as good laxative.
- A decoction of root is used for venereal diseases and fevers.
- Diuretic used for Kidney trouble.
- Buds are used in treatment of vaginal and uterine discharges.
- Leaves and flowers are good for healing ulcers and for promoting growth and colour of hair.
- Hot water extract of flowers is taken orally for menorrhagia, bronchitis, as an emmenagogue for treatment of menarche Flower decoction alone with "jaggery" is drunk, and as a contraceptive in Ayurvedic medicine

Materials & Methods [50-51]

Columns of different types, beakers, test tubes, conical flasks, rotary evaporator, weighing balance, filter paper, Merc Millipore TLC silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ plate, 10% H₂SO₄ in methanol visualizing solution, TLC chamber, Hot plate. All solvents used were analytical grade and are distilled before use.

Instruments Used [52-56]

Table 2: Instruments – Model

Instruments	Make/Model
TLC glass plates silica gel 60 F ₂₅₄	Merck, Germany.
Silica gel (60-120, 100-200 and 230-400) mesh	Qingdao Marine Chemical, China.

Drying

The whole plant material was shade dried to avoid decomposition of bioactive constituents. The dried whole plant was allowed to mechanical grinding.

Extraction [57]

The dried whole plant material of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* was extracted using hexane, chloroform, ethyl acetate, methanol and aqueous solvents by successive solvent extraction. The extracts are filtered and concentrated by using Rotary Vacuum evaporator.

The procedure adopted and amount of the extract obtained was given in figure.

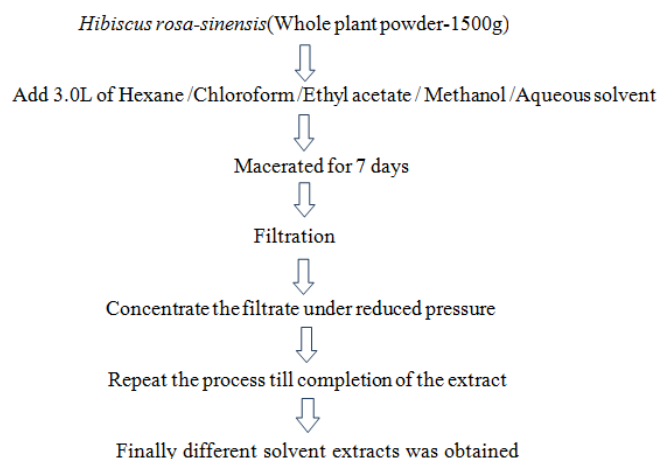


Fig 3: Scheme of solvent extraction of whole plant of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* by different solvent polarity

Qualitative screening of phytochemicals [58-64]

The various solvent extracts of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* were analysed for its Phytoconstituents like alkaloids, phytosterols, triterpenoids, flavonoids, phenolic compounds, tannins, carbohydrates and proteins.

Seperation based on method of TLC chromatography [64-68]

The crude methanolic extract was initially monitored on TLC using different solvent systems with Ethyl acetate-Hexane, Methanol-Ethyl acetate, to check the maximum number of spots appearing and identified.

Discussion

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis belongs to the family Malvaceae, flowers and leaves of this plant traditionally used as anti-diabetic activity and cosmetics. The macro & micro scopical characters along with physicochemical and fluorescence characters of flower and leaf powder and sections of *Hibiscus rosa sinensis* Linn. is used to establish the pharmacognostical standards and qualitative parameters as per pharmacopoeia and WHO guidelines. The in vitro Anti-diabetic screening a-glucoamylase enzyme is dose dependent. Maximum inhibition was observed in flower alcoholic extract prepared by Maceration.

The TLC study of flower extracts confirmed the presence of various phytochemical constituents such as Flavonoids, glycosides, tannin, glycosides. Further the thin layer chromatography profile may serve as characteristic fingerprint for flower extracts of morphotypes it could be concluded that morphotypes of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* Linn.

Contained rich variety of similar type of phytoconstituents which can be used for drug.

Conclusion

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis Linn plant powder was collected. The Phytochemical analysis of various solvent extracts found that it is rich in flavonoids and glycosides.

Future work:

Further purification and characterization & mechanism of action, by in-vivo and in-vitro, acute toxicity studies, In silico studies and finger printing analysis are to be studied in future.

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