

Phytochemical and pharmacological properties of certain medicinally important species of Cucurbitaceae family – a review

Authors:

Jamuna S,
Karthika K and
Paulsamy S

Institution:

Department of Botany,
Kongunadu Arts and
Science College,
Coimbatore-641029,
Tamil Nadu, India.

Corresponding author:

Paulsamy S

ABSTRACT:

Cucurbits are edible crops, belonging to the family Cucurbitaceae. They are climbers with reserves in roots and are distributed mainly in tropical zones. They are mostly moist vines and are distributed in both the eastern and western hemispheres. The member of this family are excellent fruit crops having most of the essential nutrients, vitamins and minerals required for the good health of humans. All parts of the Cucurbitaceae plants (leaf, stem, root or tuber, fruit and seeds) are used in the traditional system of medicine. Wide research is going on to search a new active compound and to analyze their medicinal properties. The present review of Cucurbitaceae family deals with the very large amount of updated information of scientific research and report in the field of phytochemistry and pharmacology. In this study, we have documented some of the important plants viz., *Mukia maderaspatana*, *Solena amplexicaulis*, *Citrullus colocynthis*, *Citrullus lanatus*, *Coccinia indica*, *Cucumis sativus*, *Cucurbita pepo*, *Lagenaria siceraria*, *Luffa acutangula*, *Trichosanthes cucumerina*, *Corallocarpus epigaeus*, *Luffa cylindrica*, *Momordica charantia*, *Trichosanthes dioica* and *Kedrostis foetidissima*.

Keywords:

Cucurbitaceae, traditional uses, phytochemicals, pharmacological activities.