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Extraction, fractionation, isolation and characterization of a Carbazole Alkaloid Mukonicine from the leaves of *Murraya koenigii*

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Abstract

The dried powdered leaves of *M. koenigii* was defatted with petroleum ether by continuous hot percolation using Soxhlet apparatus then extracted with ethanol and concentrated. The concentrated extract was digested with hydrochloric acid and filtered. The ensure was washed with water until acid free and dried. The dark green residue was extracted with benzene and the concentrated. About 6g of the residue was obtained as yield was subjected to column chromatography to isolate the active constituents. Column chromatography was prepared by mixing 150g of alumina in to a slurry with petroleum ether and pouring mixture in to the glass column. After the adsorbent has settled, a filter paper disc kept on the top of the column. So that the adsorbent layer is not disturbed during the introduction of the sample or mobile phase. The residue charged on the column and eluted successively by gradient elution technique with petroleum ether, benzene and chloroform. About 5ml of eluate collected in a test tube and subjected to TLC analysis in order to identify the presence of compounds. The eluates which gave the same Rf value were pooled together and it was subjected to TLC analysis for the confirmation of the presence of a single compound.

Keywords: Column size 60cm × 4cm, adsorbent-neutral alumina, TLC, silica gel G (Merck) was used. Jasco FT/IR 410 for IR, Bruker 300MHz spectrometer for NMR

Introduction

Murraya koenigii, commonly known as curry leaf or kari patta in Indian dialects, belonging to Family Rutaceae which represent more than 150 genera and 1600 species *Murraya koenigii* is a highly values plant for its characteristic aroma and medicinal value. It is an important export commodity from India as it fetches good foreign revenue [1-4]. A number of chemical constituents from every part of the plant have been extracted. The most important chemical constituents responsible for its intense characteristic aroma are P-gurjunene, P-caryophyllene, P-elemene and O-phellandrene. The plant is rich source of carbazole alkaloids Bioactive coumarins, acridine alkaloids and carbazole alkaloids from family Rutaceae. *M. koenigii* is widely used in Indian cookery for centuries and have a versatile role to play in traditional medicine. The plant is credited with tonic and stomachic properties. Bark and roots are used as stimulant and externally to cure eruptions and bites of poisonous animals. Green leaves are eaten raw for cure of dysentery, diarrhoea and for checking vomiting. Leaves and roots are also used traditionally as bitter, anthelmintic, analgesic, curing piles, inflammation, itching and are useful in leucoderma and blood disorders Several systematic scientific studies are also being conducted regarding the efficacy of whole plant or its parts in different extract forms for the treatment of different diseases. *M. koenigii* contains a number of chemical constituents that interact in a complex way to elicit their pharmacodynamic response [6-10] A number of active constituents responsible for the medicinal properties have been isolated and characterized. This plant has been reported to have anti-oxidative, cytotoxic, antimicrobial, antibacterial, anti ulcer, positive inotropic and cholesterol reducing activities.

Material and Methods

A.R grade ethanol, benzene, petroleum ether chloroform were used for extraction, column chromatography and TLC. For column chromatography alumina neutral was used, for thin layer chromatography silica gel G was used. Jasco FT/IR 410 for IR spectra and Bruker 300MHz spectrometer for NMR were used. A column size 60cm x 4cm (length and diameter) used for the chromatography. The adsorbent used was neutral alumina for column chromatography.

Column chromatography was prepared by mixing 150gm of alumina in to slurry with petroleum ether and pouring the mixture in to the glass column.

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After the adsorbent has settled, a filter paper disc kept on the top of the column. So that, the adsorbent layer is not disturbed during the introduction of the sample or mobile phase. The residue (5g) charged on the column and eluted successively by gradient elution technique with petroleum ether, benzene and chloroform. About 5ml of eluates collected in the test

tube and subjected to TLC analysis in order to identify the presence of compounds. The eluates which gave the same R_f value were pooled together and it was subjected to TLC analysis for the confirmation of the presence of a single compound. The results were tabulated in the table 1

Table 1: TLC analysis for the confirmation of the presence of a single compound

Fraction number	Eluent	Nature of the residue	Examination on TLC
1-20	Pet.Ether	No residue	No spot
21-40	Pet-ether-benzene (50:50)	No residue	No spot
41-47		No residue	No spot
48-62	Benzene	A pale yellow residue	Single spot
63-70		No residue	No spot
71-90	Benzene-chloroform (50:50)	No residue	No spot
91-110	chloroform	No residue	No spot

Identification of the Isolated Compound

Chemical test: Conc.H₂SO₄-violet color

Solubility: Soluble in ethanol, Benzene and insoluble in water

Melting point: 230 °C

TLC OF The Isolated Compound



Fig 1: Represents a brown spot of a isolated compound

TLC

Adsorbent: Silica gel G

Detecting Reagent: Conc.H₂SO₄

Solvent system: Benzene: Chloroform (1:1)

R_f value: 0.4

The residue was subjected to IR and NMR spectral studies to identify the chemical nature of the compound.

Result and Discussion

Carbazole alkaloid isolated from the ethanolic extract of the leaves of *M. koenigii* by column chromatography [13]. The isolated compound was subjected to TLC (R_f-0.4) and melting point (230°) determination and the compound characterized by IR and H NMR spectral studies. The results for the interpretation of the IR and NMR spectra are as follows.

Mukonicine isolated from the ethanolic extract of the leaves by column chromatography. The isolated compound was identified by TLC and melting point determination and characterized by IR and NMR spectral studies.

Spectral Studies: [14-20]

Infra red spectra

OH and NH stretching vibration at 3427.27cm⁻¹

C-H stretching at 2850.59

C-H bending at 1376.12

C-O stretching at 1111.89

C=C stretching in aromatic nuclei at 1633.59 and 1462.91

Proton NMR spectra

Aromatic proton at 7.263ppm

Olefinic protons (HC=H) group at 5.345ppm

Six protons of two aromatic -OMe group at 3.5ppm

CH₃-C group at 1.55ppm

Three protons of an aromatic C-Me group at 2.3ppm.

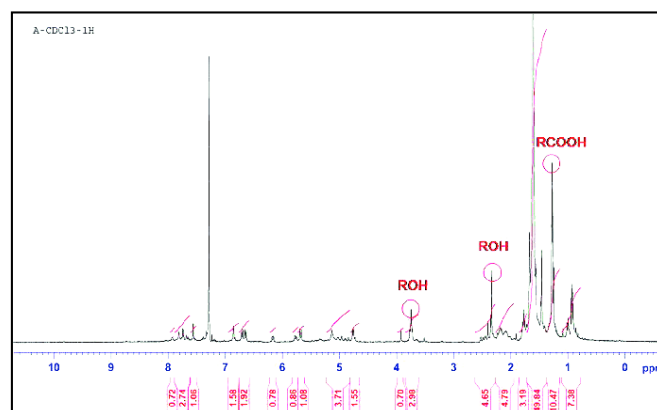


Fig 2: represents the NMR spectra of *M. koenigii*

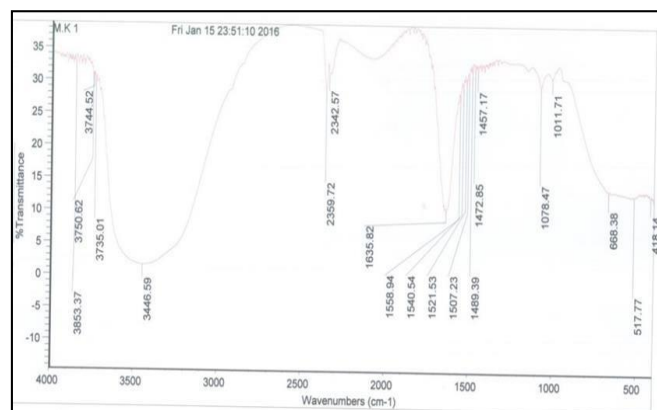
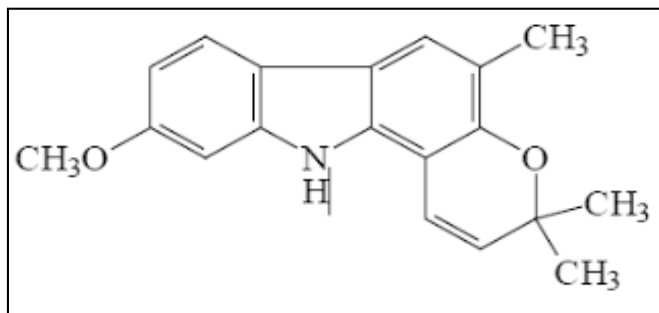


Fig 3: represents the IR spectral studies of *M. koenigii*

Thus, the result obtained from the Melting point, TLC and IR, and ¹H-NMR spectra revealed that the compound isolated may be Mukonicine



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