

Evaluation of bioactive compound and free radicals scavenging activity of Strychnos Potatorum Linn.

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ABSTRACT

The plants that possess therapeutic properties are exerting beneficial pharmacological effects on the animal body are generally designated as medicinal plants. The plant derived products such as flavonoids, terpenoids and steroids have received considerable attention in recent years due to their diverse pharmacological properties. Recently, medicinal plants constitute an important "National Resource" throughout the world. India is one of the richest plant based ethno medical traditions in the world. Most of the plants are known to possess some principles in their extracts, which have an inhibitory action towards pathogens and to treat many degenerative diseases. Numerous plant constituents have proven to show free radical scavenging or antioxidant activity. In the present study *Strychnos potatorum* Linn. It is a member of Loganiaceae (*Strychnaceae*) is a herbal medicinal plant, popularly known as Nirmali, is known to act as antiarthritis, antidiabetes, and antihypercholesterolemic activity, hepatoprotective and antiulcer etc. The studies carried out to understand the phytochemical constituents and free radical scavenging (antioxidant) properties of *Strychnos potatorum* Linn., which were assessed by the hydroalcoholic extracts of leaf and seed. The preliminary phytochemical investigation carried out on the hydroalcoholic leaf and seed extracts of the plant revealed the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, glycosides, steroids, tannins and saponins and the absence of resins. The antioxidant activity was analyzed by DPPH, LPO, H₂O₂ and nitric oxide radical scavenging assay. It showed that leaf and seed possess bioactive compounds and excellent antioxidant activity.