



Exploring the Versatile Potential of Butterfly Pea – An Emerging Plant with Diverse Applications

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ABSTRACT:

Medicinal plants and their parts are important for both individual and community health, with many long known for their anti-diabetic, anti-fertility, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, hepatoprotective, and immune-modulating characteristics. Butterfly Pea (*Clitoria ternatea* L.) is a twining herbal plant from the Fabaceae family. This tropical vine is recognized for its bright blue blossoms and is gaining popularity for its several applications. Traditionally utilized in Ayurvedic and Asian medicine, current scientific study has demonstrated its potential in medications, cosmetics, food, and agriculture. The various extracts of *Clitoria ternatea* flower were analysed for their bioactive compounds such as flavonoids, anthocyanins, phenolic acid, terpenoids, and saponins, which exhibit significant antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and immune modulating properties, highlighting their potential as a therapeutic agent through both qualitative and quantitative analysis. Butterfly pea is a popular natural dye and functional ingredient in the culinary industry due to its bright colour and health advantages. Its colour-changing characteristics when subjected to pH changes have also made it popular in beverages and inventive culinary dishes. Butterfly pea extract is also gaining popularity in the cosmetic sector because to its skin-soothing and anti-aging effects, making it an important ingredient in skincare formulations. Butterfly pea's wide-ranging potential as a sustainable and eco-friendly plant resource is still being investigated, and its applications are spreading across industries as consumer demand for natural, multifunctional ingredients increases. The plant's adaptability makes it an important resource for future advancements in health, food, and environmental sustainability.

Key words: *Clitoria ternatea* L, Flavonoids, Terpenoids, Antioxidant, Anti-inflammatory, Ayurvedic, Traditional medicine

1. INTRODUCTION:

Since ancient times, aromatic and medicinal herbs have been employed for medical, spiritual, cosmetic, dietary, and aesthetic purposes. The perennial leguminous twiner *Clitoria ternatea*, also referred to as butterfly pea, is a member of the Fabaceae and sub-family Papilionaceae. It originated in tropical Asia and later spread widely throughout South and Central America, the East and West Indies, China, and India, where it has since become naturalized.[1] *Clitoria ternatea* is sometimes referred to as blue-pea, Kordofan, or *Clitoria*. Peas (in South Africa), Cunha (in Brazil), and pokindong (in the Philippines) are robust summer legumes with ancient origins. The most identifiable feature of the butterfly pea plant is its vibrantly coloured blossom. The most common variety is the colour blue [2]. Although some of the 60 species that comprise *Clitoria* L. are found in temperate climates, the majority of these species are located in the tropical zone. 23 species of *clitoria* have practical applications as anti-helminthic and diuretic refrigerants. The adaptable Butterfly Pea (*Clitoria ternatea*) grows well in a range of soil conditions, including calcareous soils, with a pH of 5.5 to 8.9.[3] It can withstand protracted droughts as well as significant rainfall, and it demonstrates exceptional recovery following cutting or grazing. features five or seven leaflets on its pinnate leaves. With its vivid white, dark blue, or purple blossoms and oblong, speckled seeds, this multifunctional plant fulfils a variety of purposes. It is used for its nitrogen-fixing properties in animal feed, cover crops, herbal beverages, and traditional medicine [4]. The plant is important for agriculture and overall health because it is used in Ayurveda to cure a variety of maladies, from skin conditions to respiratory problems. Butterfly peas include other potent antioxidants such as flavonoids, phenolic acid, procyanidin, and flavanol glycosides in addition to anthocyanin [5]. The entire butterfly pea plant is used medicinally, and the extract from the blossom of *C. ternatea* is useful in treating skin conditions and insect bites. The roots are used to heal burns, inflammation, and dementia.[6] *Clitoria ternatea* is abundant in antioxidant qualities as compared to other flowers and medicinal ingredients, according to numerous indications. *Clitoria ternatea* has been utilized to treat neurological conditions from the dawn of human civilization. In addition, *Clitoriaternatea's* anthocyanin pigment demonstrated antiviral, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, anti-allergic, and antimicrobial qualities. It also prevented diabetes, shielded the cardiovascular system from harm, and provided numerous other health advantages. [7] Additionally, studies have indicated that anthocyanin functions as an antiaging agent, shields cells from harm, and supports eye health. It was also discovered that the flower contained high levels of iron, calcium, magnesium, potassium, zinc, and sodium. Numerous investigations looked into, recognized, and separated the bioactive substances found in *C. ternatea* flowers. The nutritive and esthetic benefits of the *C. ternatea* flower are attributed to its elemental and phytochemical composition [8].

2.TAXONOMICAL CLASSIFICATION:

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyte

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fables

Family: Fabceae

Subfamily: Papilionoideae

Genus: Clitoria

Species: Clitoria ternate L



Fig no.1:- Clitoria Ternatea

2.1 SYNONYMS:

Table no. 1:- Synonyms of butterfly pea plant

Bengali	Aparajita
English	Butterfly pea, Blue Pea Vine, Mussel Shell Climber, Pigeon Wings
Sanskrit	Sankha Pushpi, Aparijita, saukarnika, Ardra Karni, girikarnika, supuspi, mohanasini, vishadoshaghi, Shweta Nama, Vishnukranta, ashwakhura.
Hindi	Koyal
Telgu	Dintena
Malayalam	sangupushpam
Kannada	Nagar hedi
Marathi	Gokarna
Portuguese	Fulacriqua

2.2 BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION:

Habit: Twining climber

Root: Branched tap root system having nodules

Stem: Aerial, weak stem and a twiner

Leaf: pinnately compound, alternate, stipulate showing reticulate venation. Leaflets are stipellate. Petiolate and stipels are pulvinate.

Inflorescence: Solitary and axillary.

Flower: Bracteate, bracteolate, bracteoles usually large, pedicellate, heterochlamydeous, complete, bisexual, pentamerous, zygomorphic and hypogynous.

Calyx: Sepals 5, sympetalous, green showing valvate aestivation. Odd sepal is anterior in position.

Corolla: Petals 5, white or blue apopetalous, irregular papilionaceous corolla showing descendingly imbricate aestivation.

Androecium: Stamens 10, diadelphous (9) + 1 nine stamens fused to form a bundle and the tenth stamen is free. Anthers are ditheous, basifixed, introse and dehiscent by longitudinal slits.

3. MORPHOLOGY:

Clitoria ternatea, or butterfly pea, is a perennial herb with normal heights of 90 to 162 cm. Its growth habit is erect, and its characteristic blue flowers are linear and flat, with a length of 6 to 12 cm. The plant has a strong, two-meter-long horizontal root system. Its leathery leaves have three to five leaflets on average. Eventually drive out a lot of weeds. However, during the early development period, cultivation or hand weeding may be required for a pure stand. To manage weeds during establishment, it is advised to apply a pre-emergence herbicide, such as Spinnaker, 200–400 ml/ha, two to eight weeks before to seeding. Because of its excellent palatability, butterfly peas are susceptible to heavy grazing. It displays both self-pollinating (cleistogamous) and insect-pollinated (chasmogamous) flowers, with variations in colour, structure, and arrangement among the several species.[10]

4. TRADITIONAL USES:

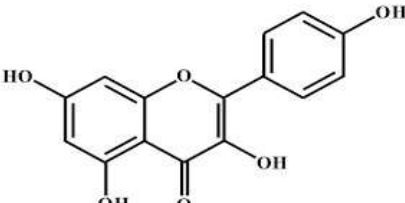
The entire plant, including the leaf, flower, root, and shoot, is used medicinally in traditional Indian medicine. It is thought to enhance memory and is a brain tonic.[11] The flower of *Clitoria ternatea* is rich in phytochemicals that have excellent antibacterial, antioxidant, antidiabetic, 2763nti-inflammatory, and antiproliferative/anticancer qualities. [12]. For millennia, people have utilized it as a sedative, memory booster, nootropic, antistress, anxiolytic, antidepressant, and anticonvulsant.[13]. It has antidotal qualities and is helpful for ulcers, skin conditions, urinary issues (even in cattle), throat and eye infections, and skin problems. Butterfly peas are rich in phytochemicals in addition to their therapeutic qualities. It has been demonstrated that it is homologous to plant defensins and contains antifungal proteins.[14]

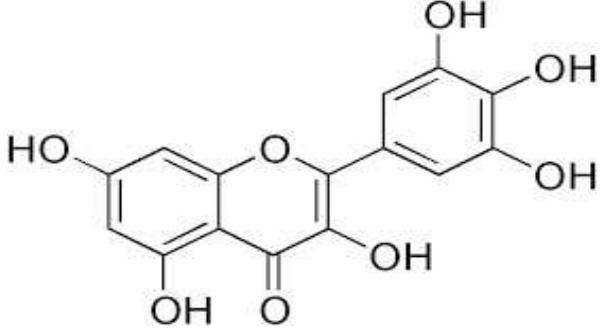
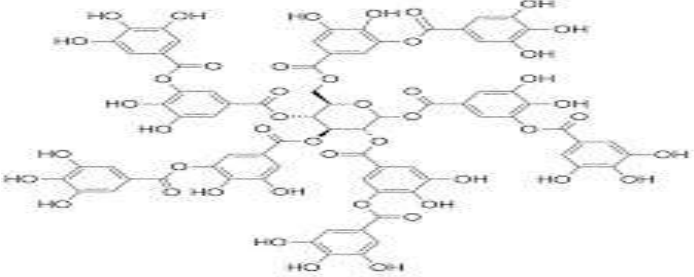
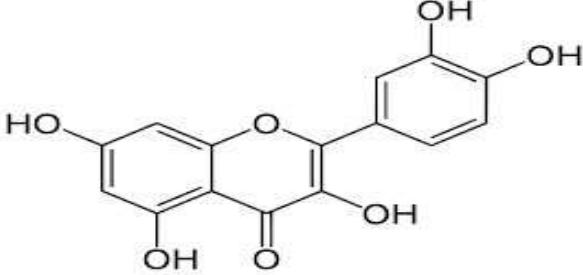
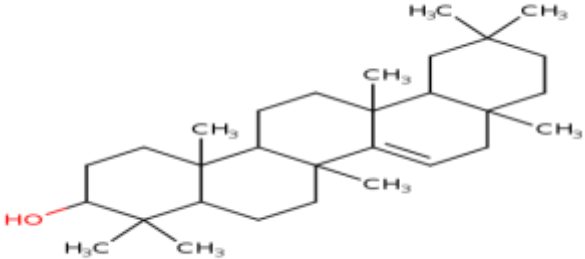
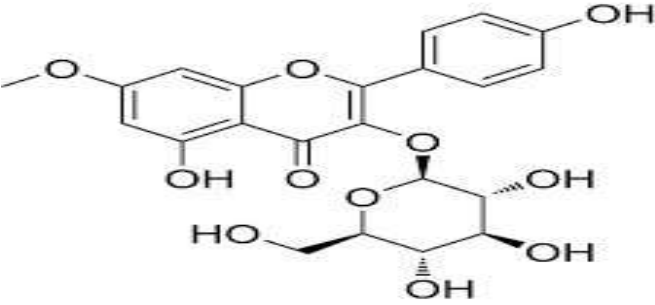
5. PHYTOCHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS:

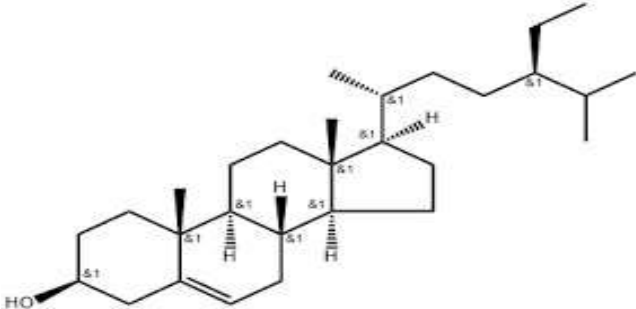
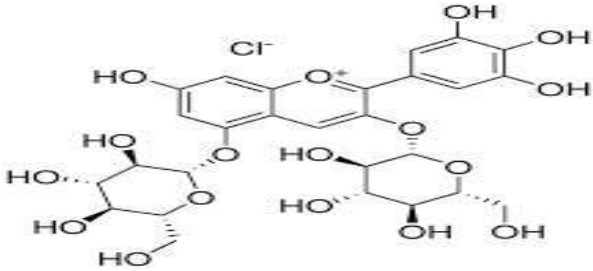
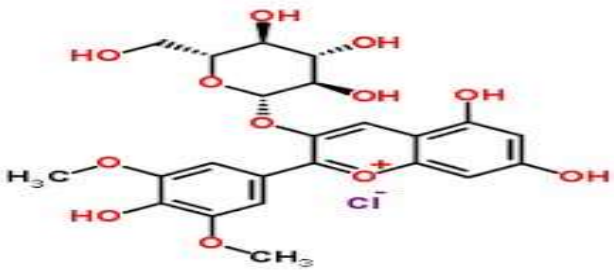
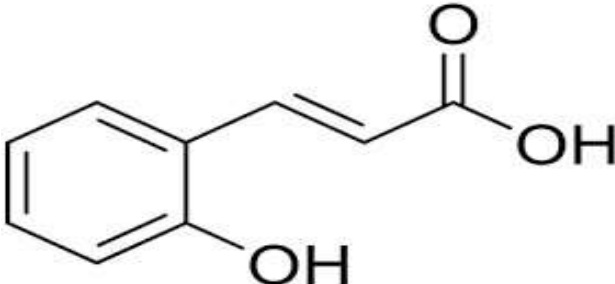
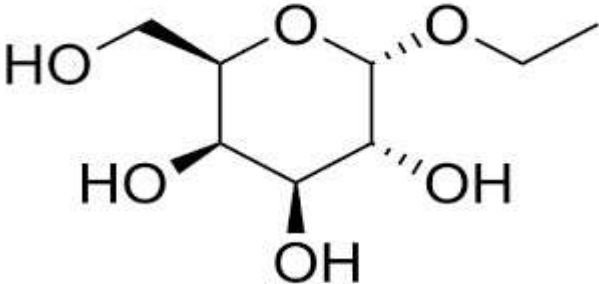
Butterfly pea (*Clitoria ternatea*) contains a wide range of chemical compounds, each contributing to its therapeutic benefits. The plant's chemical composition includes tannins, phlobatannins, carbohydrates, saponins, triterpenoids, phenols, flavonoids, flavanol glycosides, proteins, alkaloids, anthraquinones, anthocyanins, cardiac glycosides, Stigmast-4-ene-3,6-dione, volatile oils, and steroids. The medicinal properties of butterfly pea are greatly impacted by these various chemical components. The main chemical components of this plant are listed below.

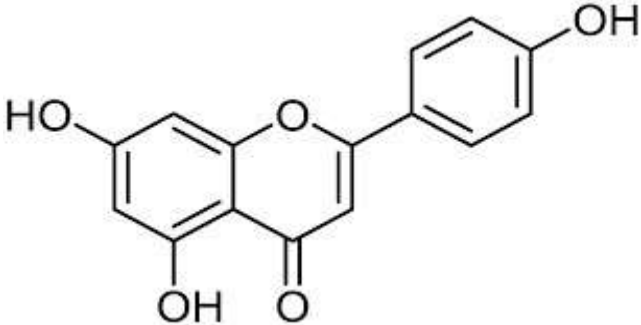
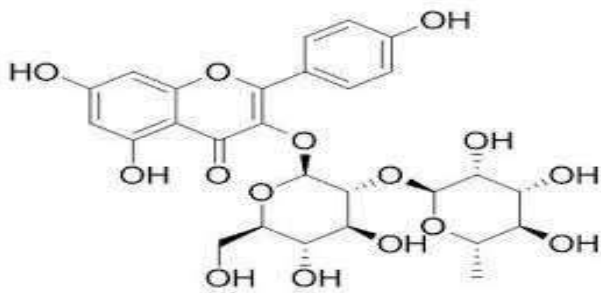
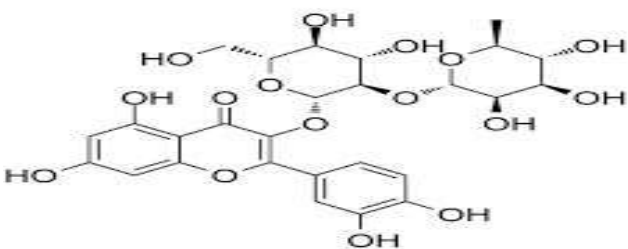
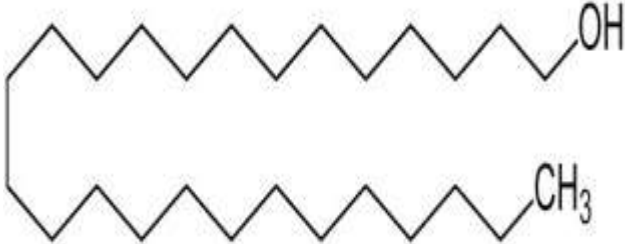
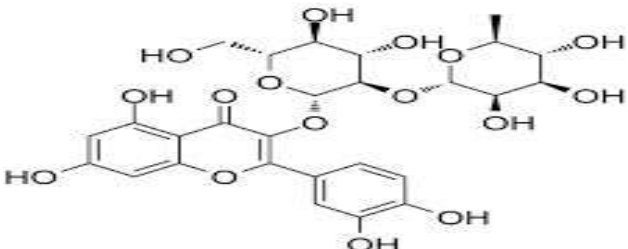
5.1 CHEMICAL COMPOUND FOUND IN CLITORIA TERNATEA:

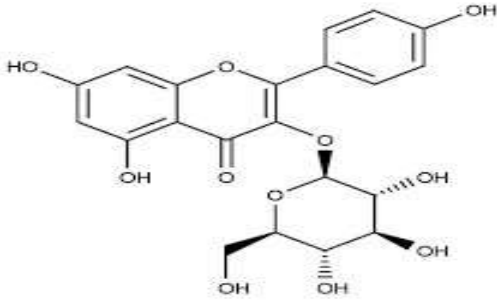
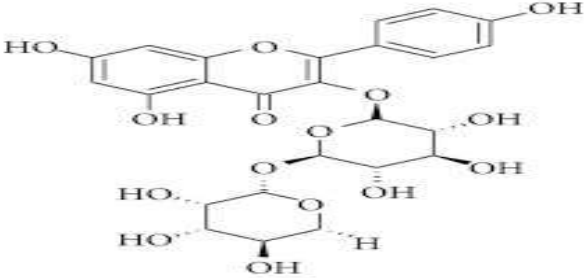
Table no 2:- various chemical compound found in *clitoria ternatea*.

Sr.No	Name of compound	Structure	Reference
1.	1Kaempferol		[15]

2.	Myricetin	 <p>The chemical structure of Myricetin is a flavonoid consisting of a central chromone ring system. It features a hydroxyl group at the 3-position, a hydroxyl group at the 5-position, and a 3,4,5-trihydroxyphenyl group at the 7-position.</p>	[15]
3.	Tannic acid	 <p>The chemical structure of Tannic acid is a complex polyphenolic compound. It consists of a central gallic acid core esterified with multiple gallic acid units, forming a large, branched molecule with numerous hydroxyl groups.</p>	[15]
4.	Quercetin	 <p>The chemical structure of Quercetin is a flavonoid with a chromone core. It has hydroxyl groups at the 3 and 7 positions and a 3,4-dihydroxyphenyl group at the 5 position.</p>	[15]
5.	Taraxerol	 <p>The chemical structure of Taraxerol is a triterpene. It features a complex polycyclic ring system with several methyl groups (CH₃) and a hydroxyl group (OH) attached to the rings.</p>	[15]
6.	3-monoglucoside	 <p>The chemical structure of 3-monoglucoside shows a flavonoid core (likely quercetin) where the 3-hydroxyl group is linked to a glucose molecule via a glycosidic bond. The glucose is shown in its cyclic pyranose form with specific stereochemistry at the 2, 3, and 6 positions.</p>	[15]



7.	β -Sitosterol		[15]
8.	Delphinidin-3,5-diglucoside		[15]
9.	Malvidin-3 β glucoside		[15]
10.	phydroxycinnamic acid		[15]
11.	Ethyl- α -Dgalactopyranoside		[15]



12.	Anthoxanthin glucoside	 <p>The structure shows a flavone core (anthoxanthin) with hydroxyl groups at positions 5 and 7, and a p-coumaroyl group at position 8. It is linked to a glucose molecule at position 3.</p>	[15]
13.	Kaempferol 3-neohesperidoside	 <p>The structure shows a flavone core (kaempferol) with hydroxyl groups at positions 5 and 7, and a p-coumaroyl group at position 8. It is linked to a neohesperidose molecule at position 3.</p>	[15]
14.	Quercetin 3-neohesperidoside	 <p>The structure shows a flavone core (quercetin) with hydroxyl groups at positions 5 and 7, and a p-coumaroyl group at position 8. It is linked to a neohesperidose molecule at position 3.</p>	[15]
15.	Hexacosanol	 <p>The structure shows a long-chain alcohol with 26 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl group at one end, and a methyl group at the other.</p>	[15]
16.	Myricetin,3-neohesperidoside	 <p>The structure shows a flavone core (myricetin) with hydroxyl groups at positions 5, 7, and 8, and a p-coumaroyl group at position 8. It is linked to a neohesperidose molecule at position 3.</p>	[15]

17.	Kaempferol 3-glucoside		[15]
18.	Myricetin 3-rutinoside		[15]

5.2 PHYTOCHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS FOUND IN CLITORIA TERNATEA:

Table no. 3: - Various phytochemical constituents present in clitoria ternatea

Parts	Phytochemical constituents	Function	Reference
Leave  Fig no 2	Alkaloids, reducing sugars, flavonoids, steroids, glycoside, phenols, terpenoids, coumarins, catechol, quinines, gum, mucilage, and protein	1. Prevention of neurodegenerative diseases and diabetes mellitus 2. Effectively controls the excessive sweating	[16]and [17],[23]
Flower  Fig.no:3	Carbohydrates, phenolic acid, tocol, fatty acid, 6"-malonylstragalol, phenylalanine, coumaroyl sucrose, tryptophan, and coumaroyl glucose Flavonoids(petals): - delphinidin 3-O-(2"-O- α -rhamnosyl 6'-O-malonyl)- β glucoside, delphinidin 3-O-(6"-O-malonyl)- α -glucoside, delphinidin 3-neohesperidoside, and delphinidin 3-O-glucoside, anthocyanins. Flavonoids glycosides :- kaempferol 3-O-(2"-O- α -rhamnosyl-6'O-malonyl)- β glucoside, quercetin 3-O-(2"-O- α -rhamnosyl-6"-Omalonyl)- β -	2. Ethanol extract is used as antidiabetic 3antioxidant activity 4anti-diabetic activity 5antimicrobial activity 6larvicidal activity 7antipyretic activity 8hepatoprotective activity 9anticytotoxicity activity,	[18] and [19] ,[24],[25],[26], 27]

	<p>glucoside, and myricetin 3-3-O-(2''-O-α-rhamnosyl-6''-O-malonyl)-β-glucoside and eleven additional flavanol, Ternatins, the blue acylated anthocyanins found in flowers are derivatives of delphinidin. A total of 15 (poly) acylated delphinidin glucosides, including ternatins A1, A3, B1, B2, C1, C2, and D1, D3, were found in all blue petal lines.</p>		
<p>Root</p>  <p>Fig no 4</p>	<p>1,1-diphenyl-2picrylhydrazyl (DPPH),ternatins, alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, tannins, carbohydrates, proteins, resins, starch, taraxerol, and taraxerone</p> <p>Root Bark: -resin, tannin, starch, and flavanol glycosides</p> <p>Root nodules: glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, aminobutyric acid, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, ornithine, histadine, and Gama-aminobutyric acid</p>	<p>1. Antioxidant 2.The root bark is diuretic and laxative; a decoction is given as a demulcent in the irritation of the bladder and urethra</p>	<p>[20]and[21],[28], [24],[29]</p>
<p>Seed</p>  <p>Fig no 5</p>	<p>The seeds contain nucleoprotein with its amino-acid sequence similar to insulin, delphinidin-3,3,5-triglucoside, essential aminoacids, pentosan, water soluble mucilage, adenosine, anthoxanthin glucoside, greenish yellow fixed oil a phenol glycoside, 3,5,7,4tetrahydroxyflavone3-rhamoglycoside, alkaloid, ethyl Dgalactopyranoside, p-hydroxy cinnamic acid polypeptide, a highly basic proteinfinotin, a bitter acid resin, tannic acid, 6% ash and three unidentified trypsin inhibitors, watersoluble mucilage, phydroxycinnamic acid, flavonol-3-glycoside, adenosine, a polypeptide, hexacosanol, βsitosterol, γsitosterol, and anthoxanthin glucoside, as oligosaccharides and sterols, glycosides, saponins, tannins, carbohydrates,</p>	<p>1. Seeds are cathartic and the root diuretic.</p> <p>2. Seeds are purgative and aperients</p> <p>3. Seeds are used in swollen joints, dropsy and enlargement of abdominal viscera</p>	<p>[21]and [22],[30],[31],[32]</p>

	protein, flavonoids, and phenolic compounds		
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5.4 CONSTITUENTS FOUND IN VARIOUS EXTRACT METHOD:

Table no.4: -Various constituents found in different extract method

Plant parts	Extraction method	Extraction solvent	Phytochemicals reported	References
Flower	1.Maceration	1. Water	Phenolics, flavonoids, anthocyanins	[33]
		2. 70% ethanol:30% water	Anthocyanins.	[34]
		3. 40% ethanol: 60% water	Flavonoids.	[35]
		4. Methanol	Anthocyanins (Ternatin and delphinidin derivatives), kaempferol.	[36]
		5. Methanol: Chloroform	dl-Glyceraldehyde dimer, 1,2Dioxolan-3-one, 5-ethyl-5methyl-4-methylene.	[37]
		6. Dichloromethane: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate (2:3:0.5)	Phenols, flavonoids, tannins, alkaloids, terpenoids, cardiac glycosides, and steroids.	[38]
	2.Ultrasonic	Water.	Phenolics and flavonoids	[39]
		50% ethanol: 50% water	Phenolics.	[35]
Leaves	1.Maceration	50% methanol: 50% water,	Tannins, saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids glycosides, phenols	[40]
		Acetone.	Carbohydrate, terpenoids, alkaloids, tannin, saponin, phenols	[41]
		Water	Carbohydrate, alkaloids, tannin, saponin, phenols, flavonoid	[41]
		60% methanol: 40% water.	Alkaloids, flavonoid, resins, tannin, saponin, steroid, phenol, glycosides	[42]
	2.Soxhlet.	70% ethanol: 30% water	Alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, tannins, steroids, phenol	[43]
Root	Maceration	Water.	Carbohydrate, terpenoids, alkaloids, steroids, phenol	[41]
		Acetone	Carbohydrate, terpenoids, alkaloids, saponin, flavonoid, phenol	[41]
		Chloroform: Methanol (15:1).	Alkaloids	[44]
		Hexane : ethyl acetate (80:20)	Taraxerol	[29]

		Toluene: ethyl acetate (7:1)	Alkaloids, flavonoids, steroid, carbohydrates, coumarins, and resin.	[45]
	Soxhlet	Ethanol	Phenolic, flavonoids, alkaloids glycosides, tannins	[46]

5.5 PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS REPORTED FOR CLITORIA TERNATEA:

Leaves: -

Quercetin, kaempferol, gallic acid, ferulic acid, caffeic acid, n-Hexadecanoic acid, 1-butanol, 3methylacetate, propane, 1,1,3-triethoxy, Z, Z, Z-1, 4, 6, 9-nonadecatetraene, undecanoic acid, 3trifluoroacetoxy pentadecane, and 4- ethyl - 5-octyl- 2, 2- bis(trifluoromethyl) - cis 1, 3 – dioxalane obtained from 80% aqueous methanol extract, 100% methanol extract by various analytical method such as RP-HPLC, GCMS. [47],[48],[49],[50]

Flower: -

Phenolic acids (Gallic acid, protocatechuic acid, chlorogenic acid), Anthocyanidin (Delphinidin), Flavonoids (kaempferol, quercetin, myricetin, rutin, epicatechin), phenolic acids (gallic acid, syringic acid, 2-Hydroxycinnamic acid, protocatechuic acid, 2,4-Dihydrobenzoic acid, p-Coumaric acid, caffeic acid, ferulic acid), flavonoids (quercetin-3-rutinoside, procyanidin A2, (-)-Epicatechin), anthocyanins, delphinidin-3-O-glucoside, others (ellagic acid), phenolics, gallic acid and rutin, protocatechuic acid, chlorogenic acid, and delphinidin, preternatin A3, ternatin B2, ternatin D2, quercetin-3-rutinoside, ternatin D1, kaempferol-3-O-(2-rhamnosyl) rutinoside, delphinidin-3-glucoside, kaempferol-3-O-rutinoside, delphinidin-3-O-(6-O-p-coumaryl) glucoside, pyruvic acid, (+)-catechin 7-O- β -glucoside, syringetin-3-O-glucoside, quercetin triglycoside and delphinidin derivatives extracted by 80% aqueous extract, ethanol extract, aqueous methanol, 100% methanol extract by LC-MS/MS, RP-HPLC [51],[35],[52],[53],[25],[54]

Root: -

Tannins, alkaloids, saponins, steroids, carbohydrate, protein, flavonoids, and triterpenoids. Root β -sitosterol and taraxerol extracted by specific solvent by using LCMS, HPTLC 21.[48]

6. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTY:

6.1 ANTI-INFLAMMATORY:

Research on *C. ternatea* flowers suggests that they may have beneficial anti-inflammatory qualities via a variety of methods. The petroleum ether extracts significantly reduced paw edema in rats in the first research, indicating a protective action against inflammatory mediators such as prostaglandins and kinin. Another indicator of possible analgesic effects is the Eddy's hot plate method's longer reaction time. The second study evaluated the anti-inflammatory properties of the anthocyanin and flavonol fractions on LPS-induced inflammation in RAW-264.7 macrophage cells. The results demonstrated that anthocyanins successfully blocked the generation of nitric oxide and the translocation of nuclear factor- κ B, two processes critical to inflammatory reactions. In contrast to anthocyanins, flavonols mainly suppressed COX-2 expression while having less of an effect on the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) [55]. *C. ternatea* methanol extract has strong anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antipyretic properties. Additionally, by inhibiting cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) activity, reducing reactive oxygen species (ROS) production, preventing nuclear NF κ B translocation, decreasing inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) protein expression, and nitric oxide (NO) production, quercetin glycosides and ternatin anthocyanins from the blue flower petals of CT ameliorated the lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced inflammation in macrophage cells [56]. These findings suggest that CT could be useful in the development of medications or nutraceuticals that protect against inflammatory chronic illnesses.

6.2 ANTIOXIDANT PROPERTY

Antioxidant fights free radicals. So, these can protect your skin and hair from damage. By using butterfly pea flower products in skincare or hair care, you may be able to reap the benefits of its antioxidants. Butterfly pea, or *Clitoria ternatea*, is renowned for having strong antioxidant qualities, especially in its petals. Packed with flavonoids, anthocyanins, phenolics, and other glycosides, these substances fight oxidative stress, which is associated to a number of diseases because oxidative radicals cause damage. Recent research has evaluated *C. ternatea* extracts' in vitro antioxidant potential by contrasting them with well-known antioxidants such as ascorbic acid and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). According to the findings, *C. ternatea* extracts have a significant amount of antioxidant activity. For example, a recent analysis discovered that each gram of extract has a total phenolic content of 53.08 mg gallic acid equivalents and an anthocyanin content of 1.08 mg delphinidin-3-glucoside equivalents. Anthocyanins and other flavonoids are important for scavenging free radicals, which reduces oxidative stress and inflammation [57]. Thailand uses *Clitoria ternatea* flower extracts in cosmetic products, and the flowers' chemical makeup raises the possibility that the extracts contain antioxidant properties. It was demonstrated that aqueous extracts have more potent antioxidant action than extracts of ethanol [58].

6.3 ANTI MICROBIAL ACTIVITY

The antibacterial activity of *Clitoria ternatea*'s methanolic extracts of its leaves and root was evaluated against a variety of drug-resistant pathogens. Clinical isolates that are Gram-positive and Gram-negative [59]. It was discovered that the leaf has strong antibacterial properties against *Vibrio cholera* and *Escherichia coli*, well-known for resulting in diarrhea, and *Staphylococcus aureus*, agent that causes fever. The leaf extract revealed more potent antibacterial action compared to root extract. It was demonstrated that the two extracts' modes of action were bactericidal. It's possible that quercetin enhances the effects of leaf extract. In an additional investigation, it was revealed that a crude extract derived from *Clitoria* seeds maximal zone of inhibition in *ternatea* (22 ± 0.5 mm) at 0.75 mg against *Escherichia coli* focus and the lowest (14 ± 1.0 mm) with *Flavus micrococcus*. The extract of callus revealed maximal inhibition zones (16 ± 2 mm) against *Typhi salmonella*, but the lowest with *Saintaphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* (12 ± 1) and 12 ± 0.9 mm, in that order) (Mhaskar et al., 2010). Additionally, Shekawat and Vijayvergia (2010) reported that the methanol crude extracts exhibited antibacterial efficacy against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Strong antimicrobial activity was demonstrated by the crude extract from *Clitoria ternate* seeds. The root of this plant is specifically used to treat leucoderma. [60]

6.4 ANTI DIABETIC ACTIVITY

Oral administration of aqueous extract of CT leaves (400mg/kg body weight) and flowers (400mg/kg body weight) for 84 days showed significantly reduced serum glucose, glycosylated hemoglobin, total cholesterol, triglycerides, urea, creatinine and the activity of gluconeogenic enzyme glucose-6-phosphatase, but increased serum insulin, HDLcholesterol, protein, liver and skeletal muscle glycogen content and the activity of glycolytic enzyme glucokinase. For all the above biochemical parameters investigated, *Clitoria ternatea* leaves treated rat showed a little better activity than *Clitoria ternatea* flowers treated diabetic rats [61]. Research indicates that postprandial hyperglycemia can be managed by delaying the digestion and absorption of carbohydrates by blocking pancreatic α -amylase. Intestinal α -glucosidase and amylase [62]. According to research findings, extracts from *Clitoria ternatea* have demonstrated ability to control the biochemical indicators linked to diabetic mellitus. Plant bioactive substances such as Pancreatic α -amylase and α -glucosidase activity are inhibited by anthocyanins and polyphenols, which has antidiabetic properties. It's shown that the phenolic chemicals found in *C.ternatea* may function similarly and cause a delay in after-meal glucose [63].

6.5 ANTIHELMINTIC ACTIONS

Numerous investigations on *Clitoria ternatea*'s antihelmintic activity have been published. Evidence suggested that the unrefined alcoholic extract of CT and its methanol and ethyl acetate fractions clearly showed paralytic and also killed worms, particularly at concentrations greater than 50 mg/ml. In contrast to piperazine citrate, the conventional reference. Restrictive action of CT leaves on nematodes that were free-living was assessed using aqueous and Methanol extract [64]. In a different investigation, the anti-helmintic properties of CT's flowers, leaves, stems, and roots were assessed against adult *Pheretima posthuma* Indian earthworms. Root methanol extract is the most effective and requires very little. Worms' time to paralysis and death in comparison to alternative extracts. The From flowers, leaves, stems, to roots, potency rises. [65].

6.6 EFFECT ON DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

It is an antiemetic, antidyspeptic mild-laxative and Cholagogue. Therefore, it is used in emesis, Dyspepsia, constipation jaundice and piles. It is Used in healing ulcers of pylorus duodenum etc [66].

6.7 CNS DEPRESSANT ACTIVITY STUDIES

The central nervous system (CNS) is one of the several pharmacological qualities of butterfly pea that have drawn attention. Its potential to treat cognitive behavior, anxiety, depression, stress, and convulsive disorders has been investigated in recent investigations. Studies have indicated that *Clitoria ternatea* extracts can have a notable effect on a range of behavioral indicators linked to central nervous system activity. In the elevated plus maze, for example, it has been demonstrated that the extract shortens the time needed to occupy the central platform, suggesting improved cognitive function and nootropic activity. It also enhances performance on object identification tests, indicating positive benefits on memory and learning. Additionally, the extract demonstrates anxiolytic and antidepressant qualities as demonstrated by a decrease in stress-induced ulcers and a shorter period of immobility in the tail suspension test. Moreover, *Clitoria ternatea* has shown promise in reducing convulsions brought on by maximum electroshock (MES) and pentylenetetrazol (PTZ), suggesting that it may have neuroprotective properties. [103]

7. MECHANISM OF ACTION:

7.1 FLAVONOIDS:

Anti-oxidant activity:

Flavonoids, especially flavones and catechins, are powerful antioxidants that protect body cells from damage caused by free radicals and reactive oxygen species (ROS), produced during metabolism or from external sources. ROS can lead to lipid peroxidation, damaging cell membranes and causing cell death, as well as triggering inflammation. The body defends itself with antioxidant enzymes (superoxide dismutase, catalase, glutathione peroxidase) and

nonenzymatic antioxidants (glutathione, vitamin C, α -tocopherol). During injury, ROS levels rise, depleting these antioxidants. Flavonoids may bolster this defense, aiding endogenous antioxidants and disrupting multiple free radical-producing systems.[67],[68],[69]

Direct radical scavenging:

Flavonoids protect against free radical damage by directly scavenging these reactive molecules. Their hydroxyl groups react with free radicals, creating more stable and less harmful compounds. Some flavonoids target superoxide radicals, while others neutralize peroxynitrite, a highly reactive oxygen species. Epicatechin and rutin, for example, are potent scavengers, with rutin inhibiting the enzyme xanthine oxidase. This antioxidant action prevents LDL oxidation, potentially offering protective effects against atherosclerosis. [[70],[71],[72].

Xanthine oxidase:

The xanthine oxidase pathway is a key source of oxidative injury to tissues, especially following ischemia-reperfusion. Under normal conditions, xanthine dehydrogenase helps convert xanthine to uric acid, but during ischemia, it shifts to xanthine oxidase, generating superoxide radicals upon reoxygenation. Flavonoids like quercetin, silibin, and luteolin inhibit xanthine oxidase, reducing oxidative damage. Luteolin is reported as a particularly strong inhibitor of this enzyme.[73],[74],[75],[76],[77].

Leukocyte immobilization:

Leukocyte adhesion to the endothelium, particularly during ischemia and inflammation, leads to the release of oxidants and inflammatory mediators, causing tissue injury. Flavonoids help reduce this adhesion, likely by lowering serum complement levels, offering protection against reperfusion injury and similar inflammatory conditions. Some flavonoids also inhibit neutrophil and mast cell degranulation by modulating calcium channels, reducing inflammatory responses without affecting superoxide production.[78],[79],[80],[81]

7.2 ALKALOIDS:

Neurotransmitter Interaction:

Many alkaloids act by binding to neurotransmitter receptors, such as acetylcholine, serotonin, and dopamine receptors, leading to effects on mood, cognition, and perception. For instance, morphine, a well-known alkaloid, binds to opioid receptors in the brain to produce analgesic effects.[82]

Ion Channel Modulation:

Some alkaloids, such as quinine and tubocurarine, interact with ion channels, altering cellular excitability. Quinine blocks sodium and potassium channels, leading to anti-malarial and anti-arrhythmic effects, while tubocurarine blocks acetylcholine receptors in muscle, inducing paralysis.[83]

Enzyme Inhibition:

Certain alkaloids inhibit key enzymes in metabolic pathways. For example, berberine inhibits topoisomerase, affecting DNA replication, and is used for its antimicrobial properties. Similarly, caffeine inhibits phosphodiesterase, leading to increased levels of cyclic AMP (cAMP) and enhanced stimulation of the central nervous system.

Antioxidant and Anti-inflammatory Effects:

Some alkaloids, like capsaicin, exhibit antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Capsaicin binds to the TRPV1 receptor, inducing analgesic effects and modulating inflammatory responses, which is useful in pain management. [84]

7.3 SAPONIN:

Immune Modulation: Saponins can stimulate the immune system by activating macrophages, increasing cytokine production, and enhancing antibody responses. This immune-stimulating action is thought to occur through interactions with cell membranes and modulation of signaling pathways involved in immune function, making them useful in vaccine adjuvants. [85]

Cholesterol-Lowering Effect: Saponins can reduce cholesterol levels by binding to bile acids in the intestine, which are then excreted rather than reabsorbed. This process forces the liver to convert more cholesterol into bile acids, reducing circulating cholesterol. [86]

Antioxidant and Anti-inflammatory Properties: Saponins also possess antioxidant properties, scavenging free radicals and reducing oxidative stress, which in turn may lower inflammation levels and protect against tissue damage.[87]

Anticancer Activity: Some saponins exhibit cytotoxic effects against cancer cells by inducing apoptosis or inhibiting cancer cell proliferation. This effect is thought to be due to saponins' interaction with cell membranes, affecting membrane integrity and signaling [88]

7.4 TANIN:

Antioxidant Activity:

Tannins neutralize free radicals and reduce oxidative stress by donating hydrogen atoms or chelating metal ions, which helps in stabilizing reactive oxygen species (ROS). This action may protect cells from oxidative damage, which is linked to aging and various diseases such as cardiovascular and neurodegenerative conditions.[89]

Protein Binding:

Tannins can bind to proteins, affecting their structure and function. This action is particularly evident in the gastrointestinal tract, where tannins interact with dietary proteins, digestive enzymes, and gut microbiota. This binding limit enzyme activity, slows digestion, and may help manage blood sugar levels by reducing carbohydrate breakdown. [90]

Antimicrobial Properties:

Tannins exhibit antimicrobial effects by binding to bacterial cell walls and proteins, which can inhibit the growth of various pathogens. This action may benefit gastrointestinal health by inhibiting harmful bacteria while sparing beneficial microbes, thereby maintaining gut balance.[91]

Anti-inflammatory Effects:

Tannins may inhibit inflammatory pathways by modulating immune cell function and cytokine production. For example, they have been shown to inhibit nuclear factor-kappa B (NF- κ B) signaling, a pathway that plays a crucial role in inflammation. This anti-inflammatory effect is beneficial in reducing chronic inflammation associated with conditions like arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease. [92]

7.5 STEROIDS:

Steroids, particularly glucocorticoids, exert their effects by binding to the glucocorticoid receptor (GR) in target cells. This receptor, when activated by steroids, translocates to the nucleus, where it influences gene expression. The mechanism involves two primary actions:

Genomic effects: The steroid-receptor complex binds to glucocorticoid response elements (GREs) in the DNA, leading to the upregulation or downregulation of target genes involved in inflammation, immune responses, and metabolism. For example, glucocorticoids inhibit pro-inflammatory cytokines (e.g., TNF- α , IL-1) and enzymes like cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), which are involved in the inflammatory process.[93]

Non-genomic effects: Glucocorticoids can also exert rapid, non-genomic effects by interacting with cell membranes, influencing ion channels, and altering signal transduction pathways, which contribute to their anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive properties.[94]

7.6 POLYSACCHARIDS:**Immunomodulation:**

Polysaccharides, particularly beta-glucans, stimulate immune cells like macrophages, dendritic cells, and natural killer cells. These interactions enhance immune responses, improving resistance to infections and cancer.[95]

Antioxidant Activity:

Some polysaccharides, such as those from medicinal mushrooms or seaweeds, possess antioxidant properties, scavenging free radicals and reducing oxidative stress in the body.[96]

7.7 AMINO ACIDS:**Protein Synthesis:**

Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins. They are incorporated into polypeptides through the process of translation at ribosomes, where mRNA guides the synthesis of proteins by matching codons with the appropriate amino acids.[96]

Regulation of Gene Expression:

Amino acids influence gene expression through mTOR (mechanistic target of rapamycin) signaling, which regulates cell growth, protein synthesis, and autophagy in response to nutrient availability.[97]

Acid-Base Balance:

Amino acids such as histidine play a role in maintaining the body's acid-base balance by acting as buffers in the blood, helping to stabilize pH levels.[98]

8.APPLICATION OF BUTTERFLY



Multipurpose cream : blue colour butterfly pea flower indicates the presence of anthocyanins which are natural antioxidants that slow down the aging process, prevents skin aging and helps skin [99],[100]

Eye gel: antioxidant activity of aqueous ethanol extracts of Clitoria ternatea flowers was determined. flower extract also incorporated into gel base for use as an eye gel.

Drink of butterfly pea: The flower has been recognized to have health benefits such as antioxidants, antidiabetes, antiinflammation and anticancer. The bioactive compound of butterfly pea flower nine types of polyacrylate anthocyanins called ternatins add 15 types of flavonol glucosides.The combination of exotic colour and health benefits promoted butterfly pea flower as functional drink.

Antidandruff shampoo: butterfly pea flower known for its antifungal ,antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties contain flavonoids known as cystocele. Antifungal protein (CRAFP). CRAFP has been studied against candida albicans its effect on malasszia spp. In dandruff remain unexplored [101],[102]

Hair oil : it use preserving hair follicle health,Encouraging rebust health hair grow.,very important for Premature hair graying , help hair retain its natural black colour for an extended amount of time , used top reat hair loss

Pharmaceutical:

Anti-depressant, Anti-helminitics, Anti-diabetic, Anti-ulcer, Diuretics, Anti-pyretic

9.Safety and toxicity: -

Butterfly pea flower is generally considered safe for most people when consumed in moderation. It often used in teas and culinary dishes. The flower rich in antioxidant properties and may provide various health benefits. It has low-risk but concentrated extract should be approached with caution. It has rare allergic reaction may occur. Symptoms include skin rashes or GIT disturbance. Avoid used in pregnancy without consulting healthcare provider.

Toxicity: No significant toxic effects have been reported in studies while some individual experience allergic reactions or sensitivity. Safety and precaution taken during pregnancy it advised to consult with healthcare. Drug interaction as with many herbal supplements there may be interactions with medications, particularly those affecting blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

10.Conclusion: -

Clitoria ternatea, also known as Butterfly Pea, is gaining popularity as a medicinal plant with a diverse range of bioactive components, including flavonoids, anthocyanins, terpenoids, and alkaloids. These components provide the plant with powerful antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, nootropic, anxiolytic, and antibacterial effects, making it useful for treating cognitive deficits, anxiety, depression, infections, and inflammatory diseases.

One of the most prominent medical advantages of Butterfly Pea is its neuroprotective properties. According to research, it can improve cognitive function, memory, and protect against neurodegenerative illnesses like Alzheimer's, owing to chemicals like cyclotides, which assist modify brain pathways and protect neurons from oxidative damage. Butterfly Pea has been utilized in ancient systems such as Ayurveda to treat respiratory problems, skin diseases, and fevers. Modern research also supports its function in blood sugar regulation, which may provide benefits for diabetes management. Its capacity to scavenge free radicals and bind transition metals enhances its anti-aging and anticancer capabilities.

Overall, *Clitoria ternatea* has a positive safety profile, with few negative effects when used at appropriate levels. However, further human clinical trials are required to thoroughly investigate its long-term safety and potential interactions with medications.

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