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"Exploring the Phytochemistry and Pharmacological Effects of Cynoglossum: A Comprehensive Review"

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KEYWORDS

Cynoglossum, Pyrrozolidine, Antioxidant, Antiinflammatory, Antidiabetic, Antifertility, Antitumor, Hepatoprotective **ABSTRACT:** *Cynoglossum* belongs to the family Boraginaceae having around 75 species that are located in warm and temperate regions of Africa, Asia and Europe. It contains four pyrrolizidine alkaloids which are used traditionally as medicines by tribals for the treatment of wounds, burns, cuts chest pain, skin diseases, etc. It is a perennial or biennial herb with similar morphology externally. They produce pyrroles (powerful alkylating agents) when they are metabolized and these pyrroles further react with DNA and proteins causing cellular dysfunction, abnormal mitosis and necrosis of tissue. Few plants belonging to this genus have antioxidant, anti-tuberculosis, diuretic, analgesic, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, antitumor, antifertility and hepatoprotective property.

INTRODUCTION:

Cynoglossum contains 75 species that are widely found in Africa, Europe and Asia, 12 species are found in China, 3 species are found in Taiwan¹ and in Turkey, there are eight species². Plants from the Boragonaceae family have been used in many parts of the country because of their medicinal value like they are used for the treatment of wounds, fever, chest pain, skin diseases, etc^{3,4}. According to the royal botanical garden, Global Compositae Checklist and Missouri Botanical Garden, only 83 specific names are accepted out of 266 plants of this species and 306 species includes infra specific names for Cvnoglossum⁵. The species of Cvnoglossum grow in road side, sand dunes and open woodlands. The external morphology of Cynoglossum have many similarities and due to this taxonomically it is identified as a difficult genus⁶.

Morphology

Cynoglossum is perennial or biennial, rarely annually occurring herb. Leaves are normally basal, in the lower part of the stem lower petiolate leaves are present l. Cymes are terminal or axillary with crowded having bracteate, ebracteae or panicles. Flowers are usually pedicellate and calyx are 5, separated to base and are enlarging in fruit with reflexed and spreading lobes. It has campanulate, tubular or funnel form corolla which is blue, purplish red, white, blackish purple, or yellowish green in colour. Tubes are generally shorter than calyx

with 5 throat appendages. Lobes are ovate to orbicular. Stamens are inserted in corolla tube at middle or above. Anthers are usually ovoid or oblong. Ovary is 4 parted and ovule is anatropous⁷.

According to Flora Zambesiaca, it is perennial or biennial herb with height of 0.3-1.2 m. Its leaves are inferior with petiole 2.5 to 8 cm long, lamina of inferior leaves 8 to 15 cm x 2 to 6 cm and lamina of inferior leaves are 2 to 6 cm x 0.4 to 1.8 cm. Cymes are above the first flower without bracts. Flowers with pedicels 0.5 to 2.5 mm long. Calyx is 1.0 to 1.5 mm long. Stamens are inserted from the corolla base at 0.6 to 0.9 mm. Lobes are ovate to oblong-ovate and rounded at apex. Anthers and filaments are long from 0.4 to 0.6 mm and 0.2 to 0.3 mm. Style is thick up to1.5 mm long in fruit. Nutlets are 1.5 to 2.5 mm x 1.2 to 1.8 mm usually ovate which is joined to the style and after the complete maturity it detaches⁸.

General Distribution

Cynoglossum L has its enormous species widely distributed in Asia, Mediterranean regions and in many parts of Europe mainly in Turkey, Pakistan, Bhutan India, China, Malaysia and Kenya. Cynoglossum Germanicum is protected legally by the Act on Biological Diversity Annex 3 (2007) and has been described as an endemic species⁹. *Cynoglossum Montanum* is widely distributed in the western parts of Mediterranean areas ranging from Centre of Spain to the Black sea region's eastern part and it is located in France, Spain and Italy¹⁰.

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Cynoglossum L is viewed as in the mountains of Eastern Europe and Western Asia and it is also said to be found in Great Britain. Its northern limit is 60° N and is extensively dispersed across Europe. Its isolated occurrence in Sweden extends up to 68° N. Its occurrence is rare in Mediterranean region. It does not grow in Europe's southernmost region¹¹.

According to Tisner Heidy R, Upadhyaya Mahesh K, Pitt Michael D-*Cynoglossum* was introduced as a crop seed contaminant in North America from Europe¹². In 1859, its herbarium species was collected in Ontario. It was described as 'common' in the Montreal area and as 'pest' at Ontario in 1884. As of 1988, *Cynoglossum* was reported to be widespread across across Ontario and Southern British Columbia, with the exception of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

While *Cynoglossum* is found in the United States, reports of its presence in Hawaii or Alaska are lacking¹³. It is said to be a problematic plant in parks and natural areas in the number of states like Michigan, Missouri and Indiana¹⁴. The checklist of flowering plant in Afganistan states that *C. zeylanicum, C. nervosum* and *C. lanceolatum* were found in the Kabul, *C. stylosum* was found in

Badakhshang and Takhar, *C. intermedium* was found in Bamian, Ghazni, Kunar, Logar and Paktia, *C. anchusoides* was found in the province of Badakhshan, *C. golchidiatum* was found in province of Kabul, Badakhshan, Parwan, Baghlan, Maidan, Takhar, *C. stamineum* was found in the province of Badghis, Orozgan Herat, Parwan¹⁵.

The checklist of flowering plants in Afghanistan states that C. intermedium was found in Bamian, Ghazni, Kunar, Logar, and Paktia; C. anchusoides was found in the province of Badakhshan; C. stamineum was found in the province of Badghis, Orozgan Herat, and Takhar; C. zeylanicum, C. nervosum, and C. lanceolatum were found in Kabul; C. golchidiatum was found in the province of Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kabul, Maidan, Parwan, and Takhar; C. stylosum was found in Badakhshang and Takhar; C. intermedium was found in Bamian, Ghazni, Kunar, Logar, and Paktia; C. intermedium was found in Bamian, Ghazni, Kunar, and Takhar; and C. intermedium was found in Bamian, Ghazni, Kunar, Logar, and Takhar.

Scientific name	Habitat	Altitude (metres)	Duration	Habit	Plant height (centimetres)
C. alpestre	Taiwan	1200-1500	Perennial	Herb	50
C. aequinoctle	Kenya, Zambia	1760-2300	Perennial	Herb	20
C. castaneum	Malaysia	Plains	Perennial/Biennial	Herb	75
C. alpinum	Ehiopia	1400-2200	Perennial	Herb	20-50
C. amplifolium	Africa	1980-2440	Perennial	Herb	100
C. amabile	Central America, China	3325	Annual	Herb	45-60
C. baeticum	Africa	1000-1800	Biennial	Herb	40-50
C. bottae	Arabia	2500	Perennial	Herb	50
C. columnae	Turkey	Upto 1800	Annual	Herb	120
C. coeruleum	Africa	3150	Perennial	Herb	120

Table 1: Scientific classification of genus Cynoglossum

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C. birkinshawii	Africa, Asia, Europe	2050	Perennial	Herb	12-30
C. creticum	Mediterranian	1000	Biennial	Herb	30-60
C. bottae	Arabia	2500	Biennial	Herb	50
C. divaricatum	China	500-2500	Perennial	Herb	25-100
C. dioscorides	Europe	500-2300	Biennial	Herb	75
C. grande	Washington, California	-	Perennial	Herb	60-90
C. germanicum	Asia	1300-1400	Biennial	Herb	30-60
C. hispidum	Switzerland, Africa	2200	Perennial/ Biennial	Herb	30-60
C. lanceolatum	Pakistan, China, Asia, India, Africa	300-2800	Perennial	Herb	20-90
C. microglochin	Bhutan, Pakistan, Nepal	3000	Perennial	Herb	12
C. macrocalycinm	China	1500-1800	Biennial	Herb	50-60
C. monophlebium	Africa	100-2500	Perennial	Herb	-
C. hellwigii	Malaysia	1200-1300	Annual	Herb	100
C. celebicum	England	1800	Perennial/ Biennial	Herb	-
C. gansusense	China	1600-2900	Perennial	Herb	30-60
C. glabellum	Malaysia	1750	Perennial	Herb	-
C. macrolimbe	Malaysia	2050	Biennial	Herb	30
C. novaguineense	Malaysia	2014	Perennial/ Biennial	Herb	50-75
C. javanicum	Malaysia	7620	Biennial	Herb	30-100
C. nebrodense	France, India	4000-6000	Biennial	Herb	30-70
C. papuanum	Malaysia	Plains	Annual	Herb	15

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C. obtusicalyx	South Africa	975-1676	Perennial/ Biennial	Herb	30-40
C. suaveolens	Australia	Dam Places	Perennial	Herb	10-60
C. officinale	Europe	2100	Biennial	Herb	30-120
C. wallichi	Kashmir,	1300-3600	Biennial	Herb	20-60
	Pakistan,				
	China, Nepal				
C. virginianum	North America	Forest gaps	Perennial	Herb	75
C. zeylanicum	Tamil Nadu	1200-4100	Biennial	Herb	2
C. viridiflorum	China	700-1700	Perennial	Herb	500-100
C. triste	China	2500-3100	Perennial	Herb	15-50

DISCUSSION:

Phytochemistry

On the basis of spectroscopic analysis and other methods, few compounds like hexadecenoic acid, methyl ester, beta-sistosterol, 5-alpha-stigmastance-3,6-dione, 6-beta-hydroxy-stigmasta-4-en-3-one and daucosterol were isolated from the petroleum ether extraction of *Cynoglossum Lanceolatum Forsk*¹⁶. Shikonin was extracted from the herbal extract of *Cynoglossum Lanceolatum* using a method guided by bioassay. Based on the Shikonin scaffold, (E)-1-(6-bromo-2,3-dihydrochromen-4-ylidene) thiosemicarbazide was synthesized¹⁷.

Cynoglossum Cheirifolium provided crude methanol and tannin extract as well as their phenolic contents (flavonoids, phenolics and tannins). The leaves crude methanolic extract revealed significant levels of phenolic, flavonoid and tannin contents. Phenolic acids and flavonoids such as rutin, naringenin, sinapic acid, rosmarinic acid, caffeic acid, ferulic acid, syringic acid, and p-coumaric acid were identified using RP-HPLC-PDA¹⁸.

Pyrrolizidine alkaloids like trachelanthamine, viridiflorine, echinatine, 7-angeloylheliotridine, rinderine, heliosupine were obtained from *Cynoglossum Officinale*. The PA_s level in new leaves are higher as

compared to older leaves. From 14C labelled putrescine, Isolated rosette plants roots and shoots produced PA_s¹⁹.

Solvent partition, column chromatography and prep. TLC were applied to the methanolic extract of *Cynoglossum Columnae Ten.* roots and aerial parts which yields in the isolation of seven secondary metabolites. Three pyrrolizidine alkaloids (2'-epi-heliosupine N-oxide, rinderine N-oxide, and 3'-O-acetylrinderine N-oxide) were found and isolated from the aerial section of the plant, together with beta arbutin. Echinatine N-oxide, rosmarinic acid, and 9" methyl lithospermate were identified and isolated²⁰.

An investigation is conducted for naphthoquinone red pigments in the underground portions of Cynoglossum Columnae Ten. In order to test for naphthoquinine growth and production, the roots were cultivated in several liquid medium (MS, B5, LS, and DCR). The DCR medium produced the best outcomes. In the phytochemical screening, six naphthoquinone derivatives were found in roots and their post-culture medium using the RP-HPLC DAD technique and none were found in the transformed root culture.

The pyrrolizidine alkaloid which is found in the perennial plant *Cynoglossum Golchidiatum*, is used in the treatment of burns, wounds and infections. In the phytochemical study, the extract of roots has resulted in

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the presence of flavonoids, coumarins, alkaloids, glycosides phenols, xanthoproteins and tannins²⁷.

The whole plant of *Cynoglossum Zeylanicum* was dried and powdered in a wiley mill. The soxhlet apparatus was used to extract the dried powder using ethanol. Rotary evaporator was used to concentrate the extract. For the investigation, Adult Wistar Albino rats were employed²⁸.

Pharmacological effects

Anti-tuberculosis

The herbal extract of *Cynoglossum Lanceolatum* exhibiting anti-TB properties yielded Shikonin, the active component with anti-mycobacterium capabilities. Using MABA, it was discovered that the MIC of Shikonin against Mtb was 128 μ g/ml. The scaffold of shikonin yields (E)-1-(6-bromo-2,3-dihydrochromen-4-ylidene, which has strong anti-Mtb action (MIC=4 μ g/ml)¹⁷.

Antioxidant

The extract of *Cynoglossum Cheirifolium* was assessed in the solvents like methanol using different methods for its antioxidant activity. Results from the activity revealed that the tannin extract of stem showed the highest ability to scavenge DPPH radical which indicated the inhibitory concentration of 50% (IC₅₀) value of $70\pm 1\mu g/ml^{18}$.

The hydroalcoholic extract obtained from the roots and aerial parts of *Cynoglossum Creticum Mill* was assessed for its antioxidant and α -amylase, lipase, cholinesterases, tyrosinase and α -glucosidase inhibitory properties. The aerial part of the plant contains the highest number of phenolic compounds. With hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), the extracts showed protective effects on intestinal HCT116 cell lines and cardiomyocyte C2C12. The best inhibitory effect of lipase enzyme was showed by leaves, which is followed by flowers and then roots. The scalar concentration of flower and root extract could be used for the treatment of both cell lines. The protective effect of *Cynoglossum* extacts can lead to the production of pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals which are derived from *Cynoglossum*²¹.

Diuretic, analgesic and anti-inflammatory

The anti-inflammatory evaluation was done by the following methods- By inducing inflammation in rat's paw using fresh egg white and the substance being tested was administered to observe its effect on reducing the edema, by inducing carrageenam to elicit paw edema in adrenalectomized rats and dimethyl benzene to induce inflammation in mice. The hot plate and the acetic acid-induced writhing test were used to measure the analgesic activity in mice. Rats and rabbits were used to estimate the diuretic effect of *Cynoglossum Lanceolatum* extract. When CLE was orally administered upto 12g/kg, there was no sign of mice death²².

Antidiabetic

Anitha M. (2012) evaluated the ethanolic extract of *Cynoglossum Zeynalicum* whole plant for its antidiabetic activity. The phytochemical analysis revealed the presence of potent phytochemicals like xanthoproteins, coumarins, saponins, alkaloids, tannins, catechin, phenols, flavonoids, steroids and glycosides. They are beneficial for the protection of alleviated complications of diabeties. A total 45 rats were collected and were assigned to 9 groups. For the oral glucose tolerance test, 4 groups of normal rats were used, and 5 rats were chosen from each group. For the oral glucose tolerance test, 5 groups of diabetic-induced rats were used, and 5 rats were picked from each group. Rats treated with drug 100mg/kg and 150mg/kg supressed the increase in blood glucose level when compared to vehicle control²³.

Plants provide a variety of novel bioactive phytoconstituents with hypoglycemic and anti-hyperglycemic properties that show some anti-diabetic potential.²⁴ Alkaloids, phenolics, flavonoids, and triterpenoids make up this phytoconstituents.²⁵

Hepatoprotective and Antioxidant

In phytochemical analysis, the ethanolic extract of *Cynoglossum Zeylanicum* showed the existence of potent phytochemicals like xanthoproteins, catechin, alkaloids, phenols, glycosides, steroids, coumarin, tannin, saponins and flavonoid. The antioxidant and hepatoprotective effect of an ethanolic extract of the whole plant of *Cynoglossum Zeylanicum* (50mg/kg, 100mg/kg and 150mg/kg) on CCl₄ induced hepatotoxicity in rats is studied. For the antioxidant activity, the ethanolic extract of *Cynoglossum Zeylanicum* showed the rise in levels of GSH, CAT, SOD, GRD and GPx by decreasing levels of MDA.²⁶

Toxical Evaluation of Cynoglossum Golchidiatum

Although, *Cynoglossum Golchidiatum* has numerous benefits like antidiabetic, antioxidant and antidiabetic but it also has few toxic effects like in phase 1 trial, there are mild and moderate degenerative changes in liver, spermatogenesis is decreased in testis, vacuolization in



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uterus sub-mucosal layer. In phase 2 trial, it showed stimaulation of gland with hypertrophy of capsule and epithelial layer of seminal vesicle, increased spermatogenesis and mild fatty degenerative changes in kidney of one rat. Phototoxic reaction, urticaria, allergic dermatitis, asthma exacerbations and anaphylaxis has rarely been reported²⁷.

Anti-inflammatory

Using an approach that involved inducing paw edema in rats with carrageenan, the entire plant Cynoglossum zeylanicum was extracted with ethanol and tested for anti-inflammatory efficacy.

One may compute the percentage inhibition of paw edema generated by carrageenan by utilizing the following formula:

% inhibition is equal to 1-dt \times 100 / dc.

Where:

dt is the treated paw diameter;

Table 2: Traditional uses of genus Cynoglossum

dc is the control's paw diameter²⁸⁻³⁷

The ethanolic extract of *Cynoglossum Zeylanicum* is evaluated for its anti-inflammatory activity in rats. The ethanolic extract of whole plant *Cynoglossum Zeylanicum* showed the decrement in edema at the doses of 50, 100, 150 mg/kg by 66.81%, 74.72% and 80.53% respectively after the administration of extract when compared to controlled group. The result shown here is same to that observed at 10 mg/kg which inhibited 79.57% in Indomethacin³⁸.

Ethno-pharmacology

Cynoglossum mainly contain pyrrozolidine alkaloids. It is traditionally used for curing numerous diseases described in the table given below.

S.No	Plant Name	Region	Traditional Uses
1	C. amplifolium	Ethipia	Arthritis and Ear Infection ³⁹ .
2	C. lanceolatum	India, Japan, Tibet, China, England, Rwanda, Congo, South Africa, Mongolia, Burundi	Heal sores, used to join fractured and cracked bones, diarrhoea, relieve swollen limbs, regulates the menstrual cycle. It also function as sedative and aphrodisiac. It is also helpful in mental problems ^{39,40} .
3	C. denticulatum	India, Nepal, China	It's root part enhances potency and stops vomiting. It is used in the wound healing and also controls vomiting in infants ³⁹ .
4	C. javanicum	Papua New Guinea	Its leaves are used in the treatment of topical ulcers ³⁹ .
5	C. officinale	China and Tibet	Antiseptic, Antihemorrhagic, Diuretic, veneral diseases ³⁹ .

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7 C. meeboldii India Roots juice are applied on ripe boils ³⁹ . 8 C. zeylanicum England, India, China, Nepal, Tibet Roots and leaves- Antiseptic for cuts and wounds and powder in ring worms ⁴⁰ . Diluted juice of leaves is used for fractured bone, conjunctivitis of cornea and to terminate tumors in uterus ⁴¹ . Diluted juice of whole plant is used for healing wounds and cuts ⁴² . Decoction of whole plant or paste of leaves are used for Inflammation, vomiting, Dyspepsis and digestive disorders. Leaf paste or juice for Ulcer and Earache ⁴³ .	6	C. monophlebium	Madagascar	Antirheumatic ³⁹ .
 8 C. zeylanicum England, India, China, Nepal, Tibet Roots and leaves- Antiseptic for cuts and wounds and powder in ring worms⁴⁰. Diluted juice of leaves is used for fractured bone, conjunctivitis of cornea and to terminate tumors in uterus⁴¹. Poultice of whole plant is used for healing wounds and cuts⁴². Decoction of whole plant or paste of leaves are used for Inflammation, vomiting, Dyspepsis and digestive disorders. Leaf paste or juice for Ulcer and Earache⁴³. 	7	C. meeboldii	India	Roots juice are applied on ripe boils ³⁹ .
	8	C. zeylanicum	England, India, China, Nepal, Tibet	Roots and leaves- Antiseptic for cuts and wounds and powder in ring worms ⁴⁰ .Diluted juice of leaves is used for for fractured bone, conjunctivitis of cornea and to terminate tumors in uterus ⁴¹ .Poultice of whole plant is used for healing wounds and cuts ⁴² .Decoction of whole plant or paste of leaves are used for Inflammation, vomiting, Dyspepsis and digestive disorders.Leaf paste or juice for Ulcer and Earache ⁴³

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