

A Review: Active Principals Isolated from Medicinal Plants and Their Activity

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INTRODUCTION:

An attempt has been made to list some of the active principals extracted and purified from medicinal plants. These medicinal plants are traditionally used in Indian Medicinal System ie *Ayurveda*. *Terminalia arjuna* is a very important plant used as medicinal plant in the *Ayurveda*. It has been reported for antihepatotoxic, anti-implantation and antifertility activities^{1,2}. It has been observed that many of these compounds are

very frequently used for the cure of rare diseases. Like resperine isolated from *Rouwolfia serpent* is a well-known active principal used for the cure of hypertension³. Camptothecin which is an alkaloid isolated from *Camptotheca acuminata* is known to be used for the cure of cervical and ovarian cancer treatment⁴.

a-amyrine and Lupeol acetate isolated from medicinal plant *Alstonia scholaris* are reported to exhibit antifertility activity^{5,6}.

LIST OF SOME MEDICINAL PLANTS WITH ACTIVE PRINCIPALS ISOLATED FROM THEM

S. No.	Name of the Plant	Active Principal Isolated	Reported Activity	References
1.	<i>Acokanthera schimperi</i>	Ouabain	Cardiac	7
2.	<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Aconitine	CNS active	8
3.	<i>Ananas cosmosus</i>	Bromelain	Proteolytic	9
4.	<i>Barberis vulgaris</i>	Berberine	Antihypertoxic	10
5.	<i>Brunfelsia hopeana</i>	Manacine	CNS depressant, Anti-inflammatory	11
	<i>Capparis Decidua</i>		Anti-diabetic	12, 13
6.	<i>Capsium papper</i>	Capsaicin	Cytotoxic	14
7.	<i>Cinchopubescens</i>	Quinonic Acid	Cytotoxic	15
8.	<i>Coptis japonica</i>	Berberine, Palmatine	Anti-feeding, Anti-photooxidative	16, 17
9.	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Digoxin	Cardiovascular systolic, ventricular, dysfunction	18, 19
10.	<i>Dioscorea betatas</i>	Diosgenin, Dioscorin	Anti-oxidant	20
11.	<i>Ephidra garardiana</i>	Ephedrine	In weight loss products	21
12.	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Glaucine	Antitussive, hypotensive	22
13.	<i>Guarea Guidonia</i>	Cocillana	Antiviral	23

14.	<i>Huperzia serrata</i>	Hyperzine-A	Alzheimer's disease	24
16.	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	Flavones	Antioxidative, Antiinflammatory, diuretic,	25, 26
17	<i>Pelargonium redula</i> (Cav.) L Herit.	Flavones	Antimicrobial	27
18.	<i>Plumeria bicolor</i>	Plumeride	Antitumor	28
15.	<i>Saussurea lappa</i>	Cynaropicrin	Anti-inflammatory	29

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