

A Review on Poly herbal Formulations as Medicine: A Global Perspective

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Abstract

Medicinal and therapeutic effect of herbal-herbal formulation i.e. Polyherbal formulation has been widely applied in the treatment of various diseases in all over world due to its potential benefit along with easily availability and it neutrality. Herb-herb combination is known as polyherbal preparations for medicinal purpose. This review article overviews the commercial and non-commercial polyherbal formulation's properties. Author had focused on last five-year research studies of different countries in which India was found higher number of research studies on polyherbal products which followed by Bangladesh, South Korea, Pakistan, Nigeria. This article explored scientific contribution of many other countries in formulation of polyherbal products which will make an impact on development of poly herbal preparation in management of various chronic diseases. In addition, it reviewed a list of research studies on polyherbal preparations in the management of different diseases along with pharmacological activities. Most of the polyherbal formulations found to be active as antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, anti-anxiety and hepatoprotectives.

Keywords: Polyherbal Formulation, herb-herb, commercial, non-commercial, herbal combination.

INTRODUCTION

People are depending on natural plants because they give therapeutic as well as medicinal effects against various diseases. Natural plants have been identified before the birth of human beings. A human being's basic needs include shelter, clothing, food, flavor and fragrance, and, of course, medicine. Medicine is frequently derived from plants [1]. Ayurvedic, Unani, and Chinese traditional medicine structures have all been influenced by plants. Plants were revered as divine and supernatural healers in ancient cultures like those of India, Egypt, China, Rome, and Greece. Ancient Egyptian healthcare text on wound healing, the Edwin Smith Papyrus (1700 BC) [2].

Throughout history, herbal remedies have been used to treat a wide range of physical ailments [3]. As a gift from nature to mankind for the treatment of illness, traditional medical literature regarded them highly [4].

Traditional medicines

Traditional herbal medicine refers to the use of plants or plant material for the treatment of injury or disease, either in its raw or processed form. Ethnomedicinal plants are currently being tested for their therapeutic potential. Traditional and herbal medicines are understood and evaluated using an ethnopharmacological approach that incorporates aspects of both the social and natural sciences. Ethnopharmacological studies are based on anthropological field observations [4,5]. As a remedy for a variety of ailments, herbal products have been used extensively over the years. There is a vast array of main functional relevant secondary metabolites found in microbial and plant species that can be used to develop new pharmaceuticals of local use of nature-derived medicines [6].

Herb-herb combinations

In Chinese medicine, polyherbal therapy, or the use of multiple herbs at once, has been practiced since ancient times, but there is little scientific evidence to support its efficacy as a treatment. A combination of drugs is often more effective in treating a disease than a single drug alone. Over the past few decades, Western medicine has been using the concept of combination therapy to great effect [8]. Cancer and infectious disease patients now have new hope thanks to drug combination therapies that have been developed in recent years. There has been evidence that the combination of naturally occurring herbs and herbal components in a formula can have interaction effects [9]. These include mutual aid, mutual restraint, and mutual animosity. Polyherbal compounds predominate in the Ayurvedic medical system when treating various infections [10]. An herbal combination of *Clerodendrum serratum*, *Hedychium spicatum*, and *Inula racemosa* is known as Bharangyadipolyherb [11]. Ayurvedic doctors commonly prescribe the polyherbal remedy IndukanthaGhritha (IG), which contains 17 different plant constituents, for a variety of ailments. Global acceptance is also being gained for Unani systems of medicine due to their clinical efficacy [13]. Despite the fact that Unani medicines have been around for a long time, there is no documented evidence that they are safe or effective. As a result of the lack of evaluation, the development of regulations and legislations has been held back [14]. Unani medicine uses a polyherbal formulation known as Majoon Suranjan (MS) that includes *Lawsonia inermis* (also known as *Lawsonia inermis*), *Foeniculum vulgare* (also known as *Foeniculum vulgare*), *Capparis spinosa* (also known as *Capparis spinosa*), *Terminalia chebula* (also known as *Ipomoea turpethum*), *Apium graveolens* (also known as *Apium graveo* (RA). *Cissus rotundifolia* leaf extracts, *Cassia abbreviata* bark extract, *Zanthoxylum chalybeum* bark extract, and *Zanthoxylum chalybeum* leaf extract from the polyherbal formulation were successfully used for in-vitro studies, and the results were further studied [15, 16].

Polyherbal Formulation

Polyherbal combination or mixture with green tea was shown and producing the greatest antioxidant efficacy among individual extracts of phenolic and flavonoids in specific individual plants [17]. A combination of polyherbal therapy is especially preferred instead of a single moiety of plant molecules because most traditional systems are used in the treatment of diabetes because of its show synergistic effect and minimum side effects [18]. In the treatment of diabetic wound, a polyherbal cream have been proved for effective and safe treatment in context with healing more efficiently diabetic wound ulcer than silver sulfadiazine wound healing cream [19,20].

Entox® is a polyherbal formulation, which has been shown anti-inflammatory activity in rat. Entox® formulation was made by several plant active ingredients including such as *Allium cepa* [21], *Aloe vera*, *Allium sativum*, *Cajanus cajan*, *Caesalpinia bonducella*, *Coccinia indica*, *Gymnemasylvestre*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Momordica charantia*, *Swertia chirayita*, *Ficus bengalensis*, *Ocimum sanctum*, *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Syzygiumcumini* as well as *Trigonella foenum graecum* [22]. The Carrageenan induced rat paw inflammation and cotton pellet granuloma approaches was used for checking acute and sub-acute inflammation in rat, the oral dose capacity 300-600 mg/kg [23]. Anti-inflammatory activity of the polyherbal formulation of Entox® was similar to that of the conventional medication indomethacin in both experimental models [24]. BHUx, a patented polyherbal formulation consisting of the aqueous fraction of five medicinal plants of the ayurvedic system, has significant anti-inflammatory properties through inhibition of cyclooxygenase-2 and lipoxygenase-15 [25].

RIPARE is a polyherbal formulation which has been used in the treatment of arthritis [26]. This formulation contains active components such as *Vitex negundo*, *Commiphoramukul*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Centella asiatica*, *Cissus quadrangularis*, *Piper nigrum*, *Curcumin longa*, and *Tinospora cordifolia* [27]. A polyherbal formulation list is mentioned in table 1 and table 2 worldwide. In table 3 polyherbal formulation publications have been studied in many countries between 2010 to the present, while in 2015, the number of publications based on polyherbal formulations in the treatment of various illnesses or pharmacological activity has been listed in table 4 [28].

Table 1. List of other polyherbal extract under evaluation.

Plants Name	treatment	Place where found	Type of Study	Referenc e
<i>Terminaliaarjuna</i> , <i>Picorrhizakurroa</i> , <i>Musaparadisiacal</i> , <i>Zingiber officinale</i> , <i>Syzygium, cumini</i> , <i>Allium cepa</i> , <i>Emblica officinalis</i> , <i>Eugenia caryophyllus</i> , <i>Aloevera</i>	Dyslipidemia	India	In-vitro	21

<i>BetaVulgarisL. and MorindaCitrifoliaL</i>	Anti-oxidant	India	In-vitro	53
<i>Curcumalonga, Centellaasiatica, Terminaliaarjuna,</i>	Woundhealing	India	In-vivo	52
<i>M. villosus, C.scandens, A.conyzoids</i>	Woundhealing	Nigeria	In-vivo	51
<i>Thymus vulgaris. L., Salviaofficinalis.L., Trigonellafoenum-graecumL. Achillea millefolium L., Taraxacumofficinalis L., AgathosmabetulinaBartl. & Weidl. , UrticaurensL</i>	Anti-oxidant	SouthAfrica	In-vitro	56
<i>Punica granatum, Teucriumpolium, Citrullus colocynthis, Trigonellafoenum, Nigellasativa, Urtica dioica, Juglans regia, Vacciniumarctostaphylos, Cinnamomum zeylanicum, Salviaofficinalis Allium sativum, Olea europaea,</i>	Anti-diabetic	Iran	In-vivo	58
<i>Glycyrrhizaglabra, Cystoseiratrinos, Zingiberofficinale, Allium sativum,</i>	Anti-diabetic	Egypt	In-vivo	60
<i>Vernoniaamygdalina, Perseaamericana,</i>	Anti-hypertensive	Ghanna	In-vivo	62
<i>Terminaliabelerica, Orchis mascula, Zingiberofficinalis,</i>	Antidyslipidemic, endothelialmodulating activities, Anti-hypertensive,	Pakistan	In-vivo	64
<i>Brassicaalba, Foeniculumvulgare</i>	Antidiabetic	Bangladesh	In-vivo	65
<i>Solanumnigrum, Malvasylvestris</i>	Woundhealing	Iran	In-vivo	59
<i>Smilax glabra, Nigellasativa, Hemidesmusindicus</i>	Anti-hepatocarcinogenic	Sirilanka	In-vivo	61
<i>Hyssopus officinalis L., EchinaceapurpureaL., Achillea millefolium L EquisetumarvenseL.</i>	Anti-oxidant	Romania	In-vitro	57

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<i>Ozoroa insignis</i> , <i>Maytenus senegalensis</i> , <i>Rhynchosiaresinosa</i> , <i>Lanneaschimperi</i>	anti-microbial, Anti-ulcer,	Tanzania	in-Vivo/in-vitro	54
<i>Sidacordata</i> , <i>Scopariadulcis</i> , <i>Cocciniaindica</i> ,	Hepatoprotective	India	In-vivo	49
<i>Artemisiaafra</i> , <i>O.asteriscoides</i>	RespiratoryInfection	SouthAfrica	In-vitro	55
<i>Amaranthus tricolor</i> , <i>Raphinusativus</i> , <i>Moringa oleifera</i>	Anti-ulcer	India	In-vivo	50
<i>Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides</i> , <i>Alchorneacordifolia</i> , <i>Eugeniacaryophyllata</i> , <i>Tridaxprocumbens</i> , <i>Psidiumguajava</i>	Superficial mycoses	Ghanna	In-vivo	63

Table2:Listof commercially available polyherbal product

Formulation name	Composition	Pharmacological Activity	Study method	Reference
Hepax-A	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> , <i>Terminaliachebula</i> , <i>Potassiicarbonasimpura</i> . <i>Pipernigrum</i> , <i>Sodii carbonasimpura</i> , <i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> , <i>Calciioxidum</i> , <i>Picrorrhizakurroa</i> , <i>Phyllanthusemblica</i> ,	Hepatoprotective, Antipyretic	In-vivo	23
Praneem	<i>Menthacitrataoil</i> , <i>purifiedSaponins from Sapindusmukerosi</i> , <i>Azadirachta indica (Neem)</i>	Vaginalmicrobicides	Clinical trialPhase-2	25,26
VarunadiGhritha	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> , <i>Aristolochiabracteolata</i> , <i>Solanum melongena</i> , <i>Holoptelia integrifolia</i> , <i>Terminaliachebula</i> , <i>Semicarpusanacardium</i> , <i>Crataevareligiosa</i> , <i>Asparagus racemosus</i> , <i>Aeglemarmelos</i> , <i>Pongamia glabra</i> , <i>Moringaolifera</i> , <i>Premnacorymbosa</i> , <i>Chenomorphafragrans</i> , <i>Strobilanthes ciliates</i> , <i>Aerualanata</i> , <i>Desmostachyabipinnata</i> ,	Head and neckcancer	Clinical trialPhase-1	28
Daouri	<i>Pteleopsissuberosa</i> ,	Anti-diarrhoeal,	In-vivo	30

	<i>Lophiralanceolata, Khaya senegalensis, Paullinia pinnata L., Odinaacida</i>	anti-malarial, Antipyretic		
Joshanda	<i>Glycyrrhizaglabra, Onosmabracteatum, Onosmabracteatum</i>	Anti-bacterial, common cold	In-vitro	35
KOB03	<i>Saposhnikoviae Radix, Scutellariae, Scutellariae, Osterici Radix, RhizomaAlba,</i>	Anti-allergic	In-vivo	32
DHU001	<i>Schisandra chinensis, Platycodon, uralensis Fisch. MenthaarvensisLinnevarpipera scens, Ficus carica Linn, grandiflorum Jacq, Baill., Glycyrrhiza, ZingiberofficinaleRoscoe.,</i>	contactdermatitis	In-vivo	33
Ovoutoline	<i>Asparagusracemosus, Saracaindica, Holarrhenaantidysenterica, Symplocosracemosa, Valerianawalchii, Glycyrrhiza glabra, Tinospora cordifolia,</i>	post-menopausalsymptoms	In-vitro	29
Diabrid	<i>Trigonellagraeceium, Momordicacharantia, Eugenia Jambolana, Gymnemasylvestre</i>	Anti-diabetic	Clinical trialPhase-1	22
MajoonSuranj an	<i>Zingiberoffinialis, Colchicum luteum, Pipernigrum, Rosa damascus, Pyrethrum indicum, Verbascumthapus, Foeniculum vulgare, Terminalia chebula, Apiumgraveolens, Convulvulus scammony, Cassiaangustifolia, Coriandrumsativum, Origanum vulgare, Plumbago zelanicum, Ricinuscommunisoil, Ipomoeaturpethum,</i>	Antiarthriticactivity	In-vivo	14,24
Zyflamend	<i>Rosmarinusoffinialis, Berberisvulgaris, Scutellariabaicalensis, Ocimumsanctum, Zingiber officinale, Polygonum cuspidatum, Camellia sinensis, Coptischinensis, Curcumalonga, Origanum vulgar</i>	Prostate cancer	In-vitro	27

Entoban	<i>Buteafrondosa,</i> <i>Quecrusinfectoria, Aegle</i> <i>marmelos,</i> <i>Holarrhenaantidysenterica,</i> <i>Berberis aristata,</i> <i>Myrtuscommunis</i>	Anti-oxidant	In-vitro	36
TongkatAli	<i>Cistanchedeserticola, Eurycoma</i> <i>longifolia Jack.,</i>	Increase Sexualstamina	In-vivo	42
EMSAeritin	<i>Redrice, Glycinemax,</i> <i>Cocosnucifera</i>	Stimultaion oferythropoiesis	In-vivo	45
Nefang	<i>CaricapapayaL, Citrus sinensis,</i> <i>Mangifera indica, Cymbopogon</i> <i>citratus, Ocimumgratissimum,</i> <i>Psidium guajava</i>	Anti-malarial	In-vivo	47
Prasaranisand han	<i>Piper longum L., Plumbago</i> <i>zeylanica L., Paederiafoetida L,</i> <i>Zingiber officinale,</i> <i>PiperchabaHunter.,</i> <i>Alliumsativum L</i>	Immunomodulat ory	In-vivo	48
Wu-Zi-Yan- Zong	<i>Lyciumbarbarum L.,</i> <i>Plantago</i> <i>asiatica L., RubuschingiiHu.,</i> <i>Cuscuta chinensis Lam,</i> <i>Schizandrachinensis(Turcz.)Bail</i> <i>l</i>	neuroinflammato ry disease	In-vivo	37
Ben-Cha-Lo- Ka-Wi-Chian	-----	Anti-pyretic andantinocicep tive	In-vivo	39,40
PasakBumi	<i>CurcumalongaL,</i> <i>Eurycomalongifolia.,</i>	Increase passion inwomen.	Notfoun d	43,44
Wandererplus,	<i>Gardenia jasminoides,</i> <i>Bupleurumchinense, Mentha</i> <i>haplocalyx,</i> <i>Atractylodesmacrocephala,</i> <i>Paeonia lactiflora, Zingiber</i> <i>officinale, Anglicasinensis,</i> <i>,poriacocos fungus, Paeonia</i> <i>suffruticosa, Glycyrrhizauralensis</i>	Depressivedisord er	In-vivo	46
AVS022	<i>F.racemose, T.triandra,</i> <i>H.perforate, C.indicum,</i> <i>C.micracantha</i>	Anti-oxidant	In-vitro	41
IBS-20	<i>20-herbChinesemedicinalformula</i>	Anti- inflammatory	In-vivo	38

Table 3: Paper published on polyherbal formulation in different countries.

Countries
Bangladesh
China
Cameroon
Canada
Indonesia
Ghana
Pakistan
Malaysia
Nigeria
SouthAfrica
Tanzania
Spain
SriLanka
Iran
TheUnitedStateofAmerica
Thailand
India
South Korea
China

Table 4: List of number of publications on polyherbal formulation, evaluated in treatment of different diseases in year 2019

Sr. No.	Diseases treatment	No. of publications
1	Antidiarrheal	4
2	Anemia	4
3	Anti-inflammatory	7
4	Anti-malarial	5
5	Abortifacient activity	2
6	post-menopausal symptoms	2
7	Anti-spasmodic	3
8	Immunomodulatory activity	2
9	Osteoporosis	3
10	Analgesic	3
11	Anthelmintic	4
12	Anti-asthmatic	3
13	Antiuro lithiatic Activity	4
14	Diabetes	14
15	Anti-allergic	2
16	Arthritis	10
17	Anti-malarial	4

18	Hepatoprotective	7
19	Anxiety disorder	5
20	Anti-cancer	3
21	Anti-Oxidant	8
22	Wound	2
23	Anti-microbial	3

Discussion:

From getting triggered by ancient medications of herbal medicine, scientist of current trend trying to make herbal formulation based on ancient herbal formula such as Ayurveda who is one of ancient health care system [57]. It is started from decades of 500 BC. Mahwangyounpae-tang is Korian medicine consist of 66 popular herbal medicines and also claimed to treat respiratory disorders by its 23 types of herbal extract [65]. A family from southern region of Nigeria has developed about 68 African herbal formula which consist of a unique combination of plant materials and this formula had passed to generation [68]. After many year African Herbal Formula were applied to cure the diseases and specially for middle level peoples or poor people so that it become famous in low socio-economic family [69]. Haya peoples of western Tanzania region of Kagera, are followed their culture to use medicine as herbal medicine as traditional medicine and Lack Victoria basin of ethonic tributes exchange herbal medicines. Among the huge population of India and Pakistan, traditional system of Unani medicines are practiced, It originated in Greece, founded by old ancient Greek philosophers, and was documented by Muslims during the glorious period of Islamic civilization. It was brought to the Indo-Pak subcontinent by Muslim scholars and practiced here for centuries. [70]

Conclusion:

Polyherbal formulations shows it is preferable choice of treatment in comparison with synthetic one. Although, polyherbal formulation have very less scientific evidence to prove its clinical mechanism in the body. Herbal formulation is much more believable for no or less side effect due to its tradition use from ancient. Many herbal formulations reported to treat as effective medicine in various diseases. But still there is need to do work on its clinical trial along with its scientific evidence of its betterment in comparison of synthetic medicines. In this review article, we have seen the use of polyherbal formulation as medicine all over the world. Many of countries preferring only the herbal approach in treatment of diseases. Although it is need to evaluate properly polyherbal formulations along with its clinical manifestation and mechanism of action for world's future.

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