

Herbs that might be effective for the management of COVID-19: A bioinformatics analysis on anti-tyrosine kinase property

COVID-19 is an important new infectious disease that affects >150 countries worldwide. This respiratory infection is a public health emergency to be managed. As a new disease, there is limited knowledge of treatment. In general, many drugs are tested for possible efficacy in disease management. The widely used antiviral drugs include oseltamivir and anti-HIV drugs.^[1] In medical science, there are also attempts to find herbs, natural products, which might be effective in the treatment of the coronavirus disease.^[2] In the previous report, an important target that is useful for the treatment of coronavirus disease is tyrosine kinase.^[3] Any herbs that pose

anti-tyrosine kinase property might be useful for the treatment of COVID-19. Here, the authors perform a pharmacoinformatics study to search for herbs that have antipeptidase property and might be useful. Using the same database mining technique as in the referencing publication,^[4] the PubMed database is used as a primary tool for data mining. According to data mining, there are at least herbs that present anti-tyrosine kinase properties and might be useful for the treatment of COVID-19. Those herbs are *Hesperethusa crenulata*,^[5] *Perilla frutescens*,^[6] *Ephedra equisetina*,^[7] *Shiraia bambusicola*,^[8] *Panax ginseng*^[9] and *Carthamus tinctorius L* [Table 1].^[10] Of interest, those herbs are the classical well-known herbs in East Asia, where the COVID-19 first emerged. The present data mining is only to roughly include potential herbs for further studies on the possible usefulness in the management of COVID-19. Some of these herbs are already confirmed for their advantages in the management of viral respiratory infections. For example, *E. equisetina* and *P. ginseng* are confirmed for its anti-influenza property.^[11,12]

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Table 1: Local herbs that have potentials for the treatment of coronavirus disease 2019

Herbs	Origin	Ethnopharmacological indication	Administration	Dose/day*
<i>Hesperethusa crenulata</i> <i>Perilla frutescens</i> <i>Ephedra equisetina</i>	Myanmar	Dermatological disorder	Skin paste	Powder paste
<i>Shiraia bambusicola</i> <i>Panax ginseng</i> <i>Carthamus tinctorius L.</i>	Myanmar, China	Gastrointestinal disorder	Ingestion	2.5 g
	Japan	Cardiovascular disorder	Ingestion	30 mg
	China	Respiratory disorder	Ingestion	25 mg
	Korea, China	Many disorder ³⁰	Ingestion	6 g
	Korea	Cardiovascular disorder	Ingestion	30 g

*Dose is referred to local ethnopharmacological practice

Won Sriwijitalai¹, Viroj Wiwanitkit^{2,3,4}

¹Private Academic Writer/Consultant, Bangkok, Thailand. ²Department of Community Medicine, Dr. DY Patil University, Pune, Maharashtra, India. ³Department of Tropical Medicine, Hainan Medical University, Haikou, China. ⁴Department of Biological Science, Joseph Ayobabalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Nigeria

Address for correspondence: Dr. Won Sriwijitalai, RVT Medical Center, Bangkok, Thailand. E-mail: wonsriwi@gmail.com

Submitted: 28-Mar-2020; **Revised:** 04-Apr-2020;

Accepted: 15-Apr-2020; **Published:** 06-May-2020

REFERENCES

- Dong L, Hu S, Gao J. Discovering drugs to treat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). *Drug Discov Ther* 2020;14:58-60.
- Ling CQ. Traditional Chinese medicine is a resource for drug discovery against 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). *J Integr Med* 2020;18:87-8.
- Sisk JM, Frieman MB, Machamer CE. Coronavirus S protein-induced fusion is blocked prior to hemifusion by Abl kinase inhibitors. *J Gen Virol* 2018;99:619-30.
- Wiwanitkit V. Analysis of *Mycobacterium leprae* genome: *In silico* searching for drug targets. *Southeast Asian J Trop Med Public Health* 2005;36 Suppl 4:225-7.
- Wangthong S, Palaga T, Rengpipat S, Wanichwecharungruang SP, Chanchaisak P, Heinrich M. Biological activities and safety of Thanaka (*Hesperethusa crenulata*) stem bark. *J Ethnopharmacol* 2010;132:466-72.
- El-Hafeez AA, Fujimura T, Kamei R, Hirakawa N, Baba K, Ono K, *et al.* Synergistic tumor suppression by a *Perilla frutescens*-derived methoxyflavanone and anti-cancer tyrosine kinase inhibitors in A549 human lung adenocarcinoma. *Cytotechnology* 2018;70:913-9.
- Hyuga S. The pharmacological actions of ephedrine alkaloids-free ephedra herb extract and preparation for clinical application. *Yakugaku Zasshi* 2017;137:179-86.
- Zhang YX, Chen Y, Guo XN, Zhang XW, Zhao WM, Zhong L, *et al.* 11,11'-dideoxy-verticillin: A natural compound possessing growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase-inhibitory effect with anti-tumor activity. *Anticancer Drugs* 2005;16:515-24.
- Sathishkumar N, Karpagam V, Sathiyamoorthy S, Woo MJ, Kim YJ, Yang DC. Computer-aided identification of EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors using ginsenosides from Panax ginseng. *Comput Biol Med* 2013;43:786-97.
- Yuk TH, Kang JH, Lee SR, Yuk SW, Lee KG, Song BY, *et al.* Inhibitory effect of *Carthamus tinctorius* L. seed extracts on bone resorption mediated by tyrosine kinase, COX-2 (cyclooxygenase) and PG (prostaglandin) E2. *Am J Chin Med* 2002;30:95-108.
- Hyuga S, Hyuga M, Oshima N, Maruyama T, Kamakura H, Yamashita T, *et al.* Ephedrine alkaloids-free ephedra herb extract: A safer alternative to ephedra with comparable analgesic, anticancer, and anti-influenza activities. *J Nat Med* 2016;70:571-83.
- Scaglione F, Cattaneo G, Alessandria M, Cogo R. Efficacy and safety of the standardised Ginseng extract G115 for potentiating vaccination against the influenza syndrome and protection against the common cold [corrected]. *Drugs Exp Clin Res* 1996;22:65-72.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:



Website:

www.jmsjournal.net

DOI:

10.4103/jrms.JRMS_312_20

How to cite this article: Sriwijitalai W, Wiwanitkit V. Herbs that might be effective for the management of COVID-19: A bioinformatics analysis on anti-tyrosine kinase property. *J Res Med Sci* 2020;25:44.

© 2020 Journal of Research in Medical Sciences | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow