



## Review article

Elucidating the relevance of high temperature and elevated CO<sub>2</sub> in plant secondary metabolites (PSMs) production

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## ABSTRACT

Plant secondary metabolites (PSMs) are plant products that are discontinuously distributed throughout the plant kingdom. These secondary compounds have various chemical groups and are named according to their chemical constituents. For their ability to defend biotic and abiotic stresses they are considered as plants' defensive compounds. These metabolites take part in plant protection from insects, herbivores, and extreme environmental conditions. They are indirectly involved in plants' growth and development. Secondary metabolites are also used by people in the form of medicines, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, colors, fragrances, flavorings, food additives, biopesticides, and drugs development. However, the increase in atmospheric temperature by several anthropogenic activities majorly by the combustion of hydrocarbons is a great issue now. On the other hand, climate change leaves an impact on the quality and quantity of plant secondary metabolites. It is measured that several greenhouse gases (GHGs) are present in the atmosphere, like Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), etc. CO<sub>2</sub>, the major greenhouse gas is essential for photosynthesis. On the other hand, CO<sub>2</sub> plays a significant role in the up-regulation of atmospheric temperature. Plants produce various types of primary metabolites such as carbohydrates, proteins, fats, membrane lipids, nucleic acids, and chlorophyll as well as a variety of secondary metabolites from photosynthesis. The high temperature in the atmosphere creates heat stress for plants. As a matter of fact many morphological, physiological and biochemical changes occur in the plant. The high temperature invariably elicits the production of several secondary metabolites within plants. Various strategies have been universally documented to improve the production of PSMs. With this objective, the focus of the current review is to further investigate and discuss futuristic scenarios the effect of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and high temperature on PSMs production which may perhaps beneficial for pharmaceutical industries, biotechnology industries, and also in climate change researches.

## 1. Introduction

Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns due to increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations can profoundly affect terrestrial plant growth and productivity (Marchi et al., 2004; Reddy et al., 2010; Kim and Kang, 2011). Earth is getting warmer day by day by changing atmospheric temperature. Climate change refers to changes in weather conditions that persist for an extended period, usually decades or longer. It refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity and it can be identified by using several statistical tools (IPCC, 2019). Global environmental changes act as a stringent stimulus on the physiological processes of plants. By absorbing heat from solar radiation, greenhouse gasses (GHGs) make the atmosphere warmer. Scientists postulated that the earth would get

warmer around 2–4 °C higher by the end of the twenty-first (21<sup>st</sup>) century. Climate change is highly correlated with elevated CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the air. CO<sub>2</sub> as a greenhouse gas increases the Earth's temperature (IPCC, 2014). During the last 50 years, the quantity of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has amplified exponentially, which has touched the level of 409.8 (μmol mol<sup>-1</sup>) in 2019, increasing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere at a rate of 2.5 ppm (i.e., part per million) per year (Lindsey, 2020). It is projected that by 2050 its level will upsurge to 550 (μmol mol<sup>-1</sup>) and will rise to 700 (μmol mol<sup>-1</sup>) by the end of the current century (Collins et al., 2013).

Increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere are due to the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and the construction of high-rise buildings, and chiefly the combustion of hydrocarbons, leading to a steady increase in the temperature of the atmosphere. The presence of pollutants and experienced house fumes in the air triggers the heat-

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trapping mechanisms of the atmosphere. The level of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere is accelerating at an exponential rate and this acceleration behaves like a natural phenomenon because of the human's poor activities towards the environment. Earlier studies reported that initially, concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> was 280 ppm at the time of the industrial revolution in the year 1750, now it is 410 ppm in September 2019 (IPCC, 2019). It is predicted that the level of CO<sub>2</sub> will be doubled at the end of this century. At the regional parameters, global warming mediated climate change strongly affects arctic and boreal areas. It changes the precipitation rate, drought, and cloudiness of the atmosphere. It also takes part in changing temperature-mediated environmental processes in the forest such as macro and micronutrient availability (IPCC, 2019). The increase in concentrations of several GHGs in the atmosphere has resulted in an average global temperature increase of 0.85 °C over the period 1880–2012, It is estimated that it will increase to 0.4–2.6 °C in 2046–2065 and 0.3–4.8 °C in 2081–2100, respectively in comparison to the period of 1986–2005 (IPCC, 2014). An elevated level of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is not only responsible for climate warming, but also hampering the primary productivity of ecosystems. e [CO<sub>2</sub>] is expected to affect the defenses of plants through its effect on plant primary metabolisms (Marchi et al., 2004; Kim and Kang, 2011). CO<sub>2</sub> is utilized by plants for the processes of photosynthesis mechanism. The photosynthetic carbon sequestration phenomenon is the main mechanism for creating secondary metabolites from primary metabolites. e [CO<sub>2</sub>] improves the rate of photosynthesis in plants, thus affecting PSMs productions (Jia et al., 2014), but a very high concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> may prove toxic and the rate of photosynthesis will go down. Elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> changes total phenolic, flavonoid, and condensed tannin content in different plant species (Levine et al., 2008; Novriyanti et al., 2012; Jia et al., 2014). By alternating metabolites content in the plants, atmospheric warming leads to benefit for the quantitative and qualitative production of PSMs. Major global climate change factors like increased CO<sub>2</sub> and heat conditions have foremost distinctive and infrequently different effects on PSMs. Plants were grown at high CO<sub>2</sub> levels display noteworthy variations in their chemical composition. So, along with PSMs production chemo diversity happens in plants (Moore et al., 2014). Generally, the quantity of carbohydrates in plants increases with higher atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, as the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> induces a higher photosynthesis rate in plants (Long et al., 2006; Reddy et al., 2010; Kimball, 2016). Considering the current and future upsurge in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere, it can be concluded that it has a putative effect on the chemical composition of PSMs (Zavala et al., 2017). Chen et al. (2005) reported that under e [CO<sub>2</sub>], the contents of gossypol and, tannin is increased and Bt protein synthesis decreased in *Gossypium barbadense* L. and total phenolics content increases in *Brassica napus* L. (Reddy et al., 2004). Xu et al. (2019) found in their study that under e [CO<sub>2</sub>] there was an increase of 5.13 % in the total phenolics content of *Zea mays* L. Li et al. (2017a, b) found that e [CO<sub>2</sub>] meaningfully amplified the concentrations of total catechin and other polyphenols as well as theanine and free amino acids. In conifers e [CO<sub>2</sub>] mainly influenced an increase in concentrations of few individual monoterpenes (Williams et al., 1994), as well as an increase in the concentration of total phenolics, have been reported (Idso and Idso, 2000). Exposing plants to high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> increases the number of secondary metabolites and antioxidant activity (Ibrahim and Jaafar, 2012). Total phenolics content of *Elaeis guineensis* seedling increased by 52 %–91 % under e [CO<sub>2</sub>] as related to ambient CO<sub>2</sub> condition (Ibrahim and Jaafar, 2012). Apart from that, in vitro generated somatic embryos of *Eleutherococcus senticosus* showed significant variation in PSMs production in exposure to heat stress (Peak et al., 2005). Exposure to high temperatures along with light enhanced the ginsenosides production in *Panax ginseng* hairy root culture (Paek et al., 2005). Naghiloo et al. (2012) stated that secondary metabolite phenolics belonging to the phenols metabolite group increase in high temperature in the root, leaves, and flowers of *Astracantha compacta*.

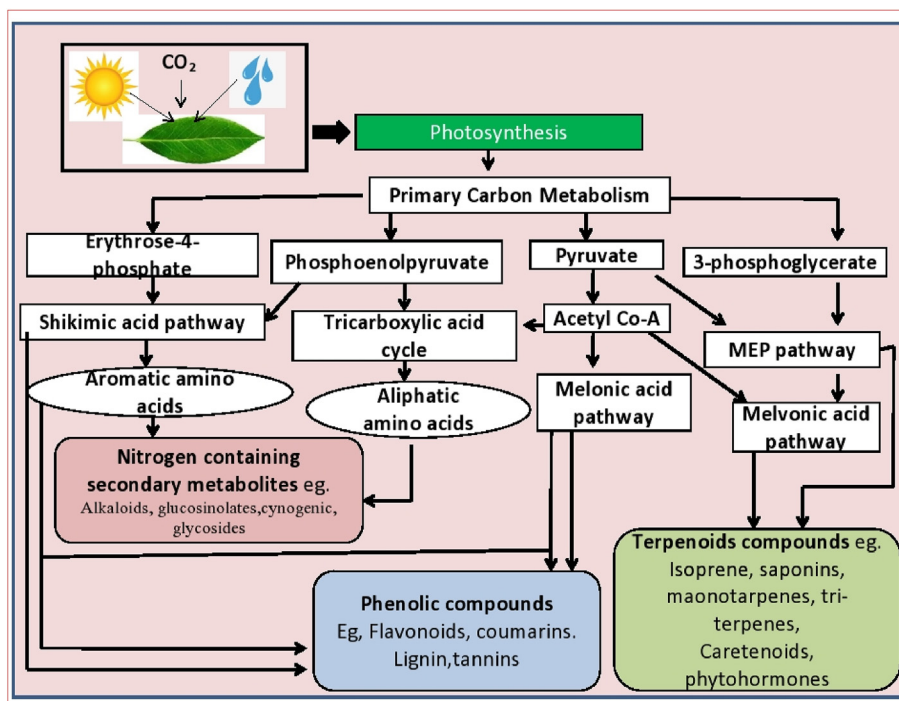
The plants with optimal CO<sub>2</sub> concentration may get benefitted by getting well plant growth, plant morphology, and plant physiological

aspects from the CO<sub>2</sub> fertigation experiments like Open Top Chamber (OTC), Free Air CO<sub>2</sub> Enrichment (FACE), and Controlled Environmental Chamber (CEC). On the other hand, Scientists developed a Free Air Temperature Increase (FATI) system for the study of plant responses to high temperature at a particular ecosystem level (Harte et al., 1995). Climate changes may involve in alteration of plant fitness (Galen and Stanton, 1993) also the reproductive successes of plants and plant-plant interactions by affecting the flowering phenology (Beattie et al., 1973; Bishop and Schemske, 1998; Lacey and Pace, 1983; English-Loeb and Karban, 1992; Schmitt, 1983; Peterson, 1997). Climate change controls the various abiotic factors of forest trees and their physiology, growth, and fighting together with elicited substance production (Metlen et al., 2009). Wang and Taub (2010) reported a rise of the below-ground biomass allocation of genus *Betula* by 59 % in doubled CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from 350 ppm to 700 ppm e [CO<sub>2</sub>] increased leaves, stem, and root biomass in *Gmelina arborea* seedlings as compared to ambient CO<sub>2</sub> (Rasineni et al., 2011). Dijkstra et al. (2002) reported that e [CO<sub>2</sub>] significantly increases the above ground biomass of *Quercus myrtifolia* and *Quercus chapmanii*. Sharma et al. (2020) reported that e [CO<sub>2</sub>] increased higher dry root biomass in *Hypericum perforatum* L. at 280 days as compared to ambient and FACE + FATI experiment. Korner et al. (2005) documented that; five deciduous plants were affected very little by 530 ppm concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in free-air CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (FACE) experiments performed for four years. Experiments performed by different workers suggest that different plants require different levels of optimal CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations for biological processes. The optimal requirement of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations has an impact on PSMs production. This review article highlights the effect of e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and e [CO<sub>2</sub>] mediated heat stress in PSMs production.

### 1.1. Types and uses of secondary metabolites

Despite the dysfunctional role in various metabolic processes found in plants, PSMs are the key machinery for plants that help them to interact with their environment including blocking ultraviolet radiation, enzyme inhibition, antioxidant activity, and pigment development (Bourgaud et al., 2001; Dixon, 2001; Kennedy and Wightman, 2011). Plants devote more energy to the synthesis of PSMs than primary metabolites, which specifies the important nature of PSMs (Gershenzon, 1994). Plant secondary metabolites have huge diversities in chemical and structural patterns. They also appear as either non-volatile compounds or volatile compounds. PSMs are also part of plants' innate immunity (Dixon and Strack, 2003). Alkaloids (approximately 21,000 compounds) (Wink, 2010), Terpenoids (near about 30,000 compounds) (Lamke and Unsicker, 2018), and phenolic compounds (approximately 8,000 compounds) (Munne-Bosch, 2012) are the most important known secondary compounds of plants.

Secondary metabolites are derived from primary metabolites by different biosynthetic pathways [Figure 1]. These metabolites fall into two groups: nitrogenous and non-nitrogenous compounds. Nitrogenous compounds are those compounds that have nitrogen as their chemical constituent. Non – nitrogenous compounds do not have nitrogen. Nitrogenous compounds are further classified in amines, non-proteinogenic amino acids, glucosinolates, alkaloids (like, cyanogenic glycosides. Alkaloids are also classified into several types like free alkaloids, proto alkaloids, polyamine alkaloids, pseudo alkaloids, cyclopeptide alkaloids. The alkaloids are primarily derived from precursors of several amino acids (Wink, 2010). Only coniferous alkaloids are derived through the polyketide biosynthetic pathway (Seigler, 1998). On the other hand, non – nitrogenous compounds are divided into four main types such as polyacetylenes, phenolics (like arylpyrones and styrylpyrones) (Fang et al., 2011), terpenoids, polyketides. Phenolics compounds are extremely diverse in chemical structure. The synthesis of total known phenolic compounds occurs either by the shikimic acid pathway or by the malonate/acetate pathway (Figure 1) (Rodney et al., 2000). Phenolics are divided into phenylpropanoids and phenolic acids.



**Figure 1.** A general sketch of biosynthetic pathways of secondary metabolites. Photosynthesis stimulates primary metabolism. Primary metabolism leads to the formation of secondary metabolites like nitrogen containing secondary metabolites, phenolic compounds, and terpenoids compounds.

Phenyl propanoids are mainly of eight types i.e., hydroxyl – cinnamic acid, lignin, suberin, flavonoids, lignans, coumarins, stilbenes, and cinnamic aldehydes. Flavonoids are one of the largest classes of plant phenolics, which are found as polyphenolic compounds in nature (Jamwal et al., 2018) and are often abundant in fruits, vegetables, and beverages such as fruit drinks, tea, and coffee (Pridham, 1960). Flavonoids are mainly anthocyanins, anthoxanthins, flavones, flavonols, isoflavones, and flavanones [Figure 2]. Terpenoids are the major group of PSMs derived from the five-carbon precursor isopentenyl diphosphate (IPP) (Thirumurugan et al., 2018), synthesized by either the mevalonate pathway or the methyl erythritol phosphate (MEP) pathway (Bartram et al., 2006). Terpenes are divided into monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes (such as ABA), diterpenes (such as Gibberellins); triterpenes (like sterols), and tetraterpenes (such as Carotenoids) (Ashraf et al., 2018). Terpenoids complete protein synthesis than alkaloids and phenolics (Koricheva, 2002).

PSMs are also responsible for creating specific, tastes, odors, and colors in plants (Ravishankar and Venkataraman, 1990). Untold applications are found for these molecules in medicative, alimental, and cosmetic industries besides importance in stress biology and plant signalling. Although it's not involved in plant growth and developmental phases; however, they play a role in plant defense against predators, pathogens and herbivores, and nematodes. Some of these metabolites are also known to attract animals for pollination and seed dispersal. Recently, several secondary metabolites are urged to possess vital ecological functions in plants. They shield the plants against being eaten up by herbivores by making bitter tastes. Some secondary metabolites like flavonoids protect plants against UV radiation damage (Jamwal et al., 2018). Several types of PSMs like alkaloids, phenylpropanoids, and terpenoids, are being considered for drug development (Sanchita and Sharma, 2018).

Many alkaloids are used as salts in the treatment of various diseases (Thirumurugan et al., 2018). Some examples include vinblastine which has antitumor properties (Jordan and Leslie, 2004) which is used in the treatment of cancer, quinine has anti-malarial and has antipyretic properties (Reyburn et al., 2009) and reserpine is used to control high blood

pressure. Polyphenols, which are found in abundance in plants, are used for the treatment of Tuberculosis (TB) disease (Mazlun et al., 2019).

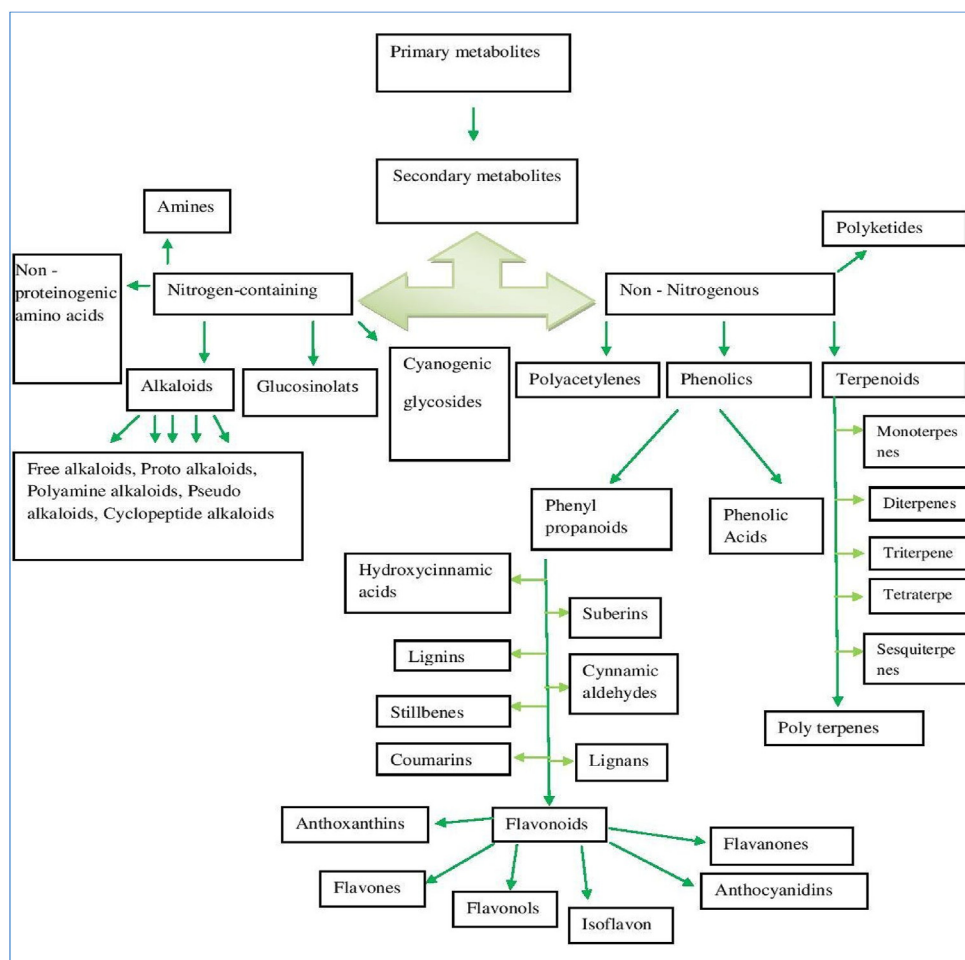
Genistein, an isoflavone binds to estrogens hormone receptor  $\beta$  and it has been reported to improve modifications in the skin. According to In vitro data, at low concentrations, the soy isoflavones-genistein and daidzein are capable of stimulating the proliferation of estrogen receptor alpha positive (ER $\alpha$ +) breast cancer cells (Mohiuddin, 2019). *Camptotheca acuminata* has an indole alkaloid named 10-Hydroxycamptothecin (10-HCPT), which hinders the topoisomerase I activity and has a wide-ranging spectrum of anticancer activities both in “in vitro” and “in vivo”. Isoprene is synthesized through the 2-C-methylerythritol-5-phosphate (MEP) pathway. That pathway also produces abscisic acid (ABA). Pelargonidin chloride is an anthocyanidin chloride that has pelargonidin as the cationic portion. It has a role as a phytoestrogen for containing pelargonidin (Mohiuddin 2019).

Our goal is to review all earlier studies which explain the role of e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and high temperature on the production of PSMs. Both e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and high temperature are known to bring a dramatic change in PSMs production. Some previous studies have shown how e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and high temperatures affect the formation of secondary metabolites but only a few points have been discussed in earlier studies. The review highlights the Increasing interests in mining and formation of bioactive compounds in presence of e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and high temperature.

## 2. Material and methods

### 2.1. Methodology design for an extensive review

For a comprehensive and effective review, which contains complete information, published literature was analyzed from electronic-based journal articles, grey literature, and books. A total of seven publication databases: Web of Science (<https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/solutions/web-of-science/>), PubMed (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>), Scopus (<http://scopus.co.in/>), EBSCO Green FILE (<https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/greenfile>), Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>), and Research gate (<https://www.research>



**Figure 2.** Types of secondary metabolites. Secondary metabolites derive from primary metabolites. It finally leads to the formation of versatile secondary metabolites.

gate.net/), were searched. The reason behind the selection of these databases was that they are generally used for searching various articles which are related to the current topic. To make the study novel and significant, various previous researches have been thoroughly included, as well as various images have been applied for making an effective review article. Apart from that, website search and concept development from IPCC (<https://www.ipcc.ch/>), BBC News (<https://www.bbc.com/news>), and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/>) was also performed and incorporated.

## 2.2. Literature search strategy

To acquire relevant information for the review, Web of Science Core Collection was chosen as the main search database; similarly, Google Scholar was found helpful. Firstly, various research papers, case studies, review papers, short communications related to this topic which have been published before January 2021 were searched; to search the research papers, case studies, review papers, short communications; some main keywords related to this topic such as (climate change, heat stress, secondary metabolites and  $e [CO_2]$ ) were used. Apart from this, the entire thesis related to this topic was also studied which was found in the library of HNBGU Srinagar Garhwal Uttarakhand, India.

We also used various other electronic means, such as Pubmed, SCI Hub, and Research gate to identify the literature related to our study for how the rising temperature and high concentrations of  $CO_2$  affect the formation of secondary metabolites in plants. For this, we analyzed various literature related to our study from 1960 to 2020. After searching and studying the research and review papers, issues related to this topic

were investigated and for further processing, these papers were classified into the following categories (1) Plant responses with changing climate (2) Production of PSMs under various abiotic stresses (3) Effect of heat stress on PSMs production (4) Effect of  $CO_2$  enrichment on the synthesis of PSMs. A total of 405 research papers, case studies, review papers, short communications were searched for this study, out of which 156 were finalized for the study. In our study, we have searched many journals, newspapers, news channels. Among them, Web of Science Core Collection, Google Scholar, Pubmed, SCI Hub, and Research gate, Scopus, EBSCO Green FILE, IPCC, BBC News, and YouTube were found useful for us for gaining concepts and better understanding. The final set of articles was critically evaluated for their design, focusing on the effect of  $e [CO_2]$  and high temperature on the production of PSMs.

## 3. Literature survey analyses

### 3.1. Climate change and plant secondary metabolites

Futuristic scenarios in climate are going to affect the physiological performance of overall world vegetation (Austen et al., 2019). The accumulation of PSMs is often subject to changes in environmental conditions, including  $e [CO_2]$ , high temperature, heavy metal toxicity, light intensity, viral and fungal infection, and the allelopathic effects of other plants (Bourgaud et al., 2001). Resisting stress in the environment is one of the major challenges facing plants (Austen et al., 2019). In normal conditions, the synthesis of PSMs is comparatively low. Plants accumulate a high quantity of secondary metabolites during stress conditions. Therefore, stress boosts the production of secondary compounds

and acts as a potent elicitor in the accumulation of secondary metabolites. Thus, various environmental factors are important determinants for biosynthesis, regulation, and fluctuations in PSMs (Verma and Shukla, 2015).

Both biotic and abiotic stress factors change plants' metabolism [Figure 3]. Figure 3 depicts the factors required for the development of plant secondary metabolites. Genetic, Ontogenetic, environmental, and morphogenetic factors are responsible for the development of secondary compounds in plants. Different negative abiotic factors present in the environment, such as low and high temperatures, high light intensity, drought, flood, and the various toxic chemicals present in the soil produce secondary stresses in plants that act as catalysts in the biosynthesis of PSMs (Verma and Shukla, 2015). Experiment results show that the biosynthesis of PSMs triggers in the presence of temperature stress.

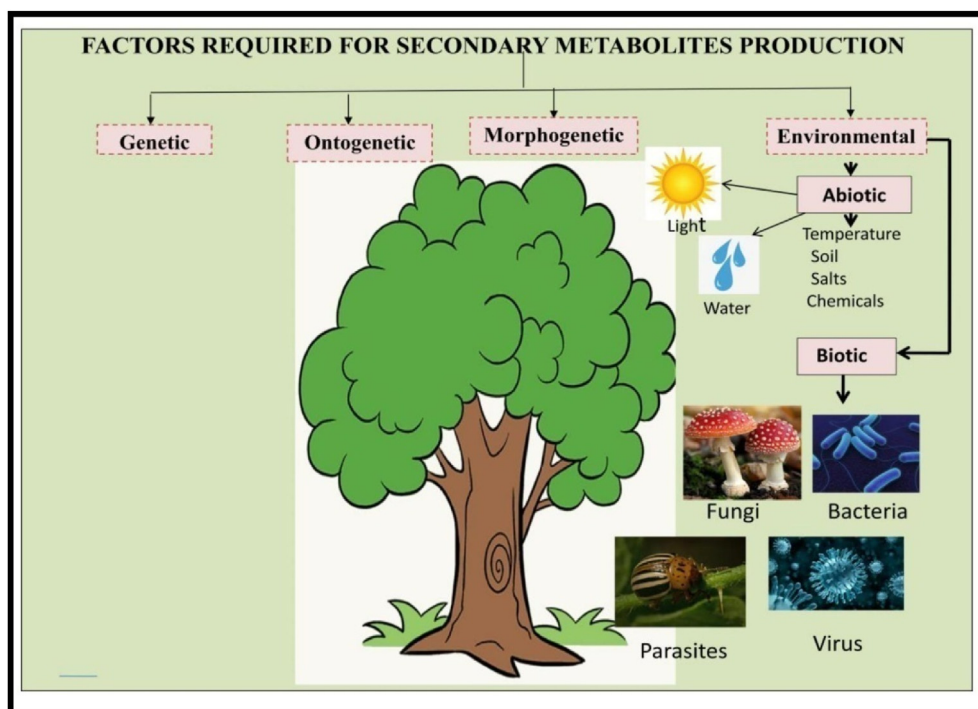
The role of climate change in secondary metabolite production in medicinal plants is still under research. The standard of chemical compounds derived from secondary metabolites in the forest system is stricken by high heat (Kundu et al., 2012). Several of the volatile compounds derived from secondary organic compounds, influence cloud formation in the atmosphere by manufacturing secondary organic aerosols (Rose et al., 2018; Zhao et al., 2017; Scott et al., 2018). In this manner, secondary metabolites facilitate plants to adapt to global climate change (Niinemets, 2018). Usually, when plants facing stress conditions secondary substances production might increase resulting in restrained growth due to chemical change, and also the carbon fixation is not allotted to growth, instead directed to secondary compounds production (Mooney et al., 1991). Many experiments have postulated that the result of high temperature on metabolites production of the plants is positive in most cases however a number of these have negative results too (Jochum et al., 2007). Some experiments show that secondary compounds increase with relevant elevated temperature (Litvak et al., 2002), some workers hypothesized that there is down regulation in the production of phytoconstituents (Snow et al., 2003). Intrinsically the responses of secondary metabolites to increased temperature are under research. An

increased amount of volatile organic compounds has been usually detected (Loreto et al., 2006).

### 3.2. Role of high temperature in development of secondary metabolites

Plant growth and development are directly linked to a certain range of temperature (Li et al., 2020) at which all the physiological processes of a plant are completed. The rate of photosynthesis increased or decreased with an increase in temperature, depending on whether the current temperature has a profound effect on respiration (Turnbull et al., 2002). The biosynthesis of secondary metabolites is also correlated with the high temperature in plants (Verma and Shukla, 2015). Secondary metabolites elicit along with the stress factors up-regulation. High temperature down-regulates or up-regulates the responding genes and affects the growth and development of plants (Li et al., 2016). Temperature strongly influences the metabolic activities of the plants and high temperatures cause premature leaf senescence (Morison, 1999).

Plant enzymes act in optimal temperature zone and any deviation from the range result in denaturation and inactivation of the enzymatic machinery which disturbs plant physiological as well as biochemical activities. It must be concluded that growth temperature is always species-specific in the plant kingdom. The plant kingdom is stretched in diverse areas from tropical forests to alpine areas. So, the different optimum temperature is required for plant physiological growth and survival. Above this temperature, plants suffer from heat-mediated oxidative stress which is the reason for damage to plant cells (Chaitanya et al., 2002). Many earlier studies reported that only a few plant's secondary metabolites increase with elevated temperature in vitro conditions. Temperature stress in plants is mostly legendary to induce the active scavenging enzymes like superoxide dismutase enzyme (SOD), catalase, peroxidase, and few antioxidants, superoxide anions as a primary scavenger of radicals, provides the first defense strategy of the antioxidant system (Asada, 1999; Zhu et al., 2009). Temperature stress is the reason for membrane and lipid denaturation, inactivation of enzymes. The temperature has antagonistic effects in stabilizing membrane integrity.



**Figure 3.** Factors involved in secondary metabolite production. Among factors like genetic ontogenetic, morphogenetic and environmental factors; abiotic and biotic environmental factors are involved for secondary metabolites production. They are the elicitors for secondary metabolites production.

These stress factors will alter the secondary metabolites concentrations and chemical compositions within the plant. So, it might be used as the indicator of stress-connected injury in plants.

High temperature leads to changing root secondary metabolites concentrations in *Panax quinquefolius* (Jochum et al., 2007). Increasing temperature by 5 °C alter all the chemical action and biomass production of the herb *Panax quinquefolius*, on the other hand, the storage of ginsenoside is reported to be increased. The root ginsenosides contents enhance with the elevated temperature in *Panax quinquefolius* plants (Jochum et al., 2007). Cawood et al. (2018) considered the effect of temperature on the production of secondary metabolites in the *Amaranthus cruentus* plant. For this, they grown *A. cruentus* at three different temperatures and found that plants grown at higher temperatures had the maximum composition of major secondary metabolite compounds than low and ambient temperatures, where its level in the ambient temperature was 75.69 %, while at the higher temperature it was 91.89 %. As per reports of Zobayed et al. (2005), it is postulated that concentration of the secondary metabolites like hypericin, hyperforin, and pseudo hypericin decreases with the down-regulation of temperature within the shoot tissue of *Hypericum perforatum* a highly valuable medicinal plant. The Hypericin concentration in Free Air Temperature Increase (FATI) was 13.76 % higher as compared to the ambient temperature in *Hypericum perforatum* L. (Sharma et al., 2020). The composition of some secondary compounds such as  $\alpha$ -guaiane and globulol content in *Valeriana jatamansi* increased under the FATI experiment as compared to ambient and FACE conditions (Kaundal et al., 2018). Certain plant secondary metabolites like flavonoids (Lavola et al., 2013) and monoterpenes (Semiz et al., 2007) are beneath strong genotypic management. This may elevate the potentiality for forest tree chemical defenses to evolutionary adaption to gradual environment changes (Lavola et al., 2013). Julkunen-Tiitto et al. (2015) explained the reduction in leaf phenolics at high temperatures by a dilution impact. A lot of carbon sequestration processes trigger growth along with slow phenolics storage (Kosonen et al., 2012). Several earlier studies reported that high temperature reduces flavonoids production in plants (Zhang et al., 2018; Nissinen et al., 2016). Phenolic and Salicylic acids (Sivadasan et al., 2018) in deciduous trees and total phenolics content in Gymnosperms reduce with high temperature (Zhang et al., 2018) (Table 2). Warm condition is needed for increasing the foliar terpenes concentrations (Julkunen-Tiitto et al., 2015; Valkama et al., 2007). Sallas et al. (2003) explained improved plant growth and larger storage space for stored terpenes such as monoterpenes and resin acids in *Pinus sylvestris*. Recent studies showed higher monoterpenes concentration in xylem resin (Ferrenberg et al., 2017) an increased number of needle resin canals (Kivimaenpää et al., 2016) in *Pinus* sp. An increase in temperature of 2 °C may increase the concentration of *Picea abies* needle alkaloids (Virjamo et al., 2014) and temperature range attached with conifer alkaloids concentration (Virjamo and Julkunen-Tiitto, 2016; Gerson et al., 2009). High temperature reduces the total concentration of phenolic compounds (Julkunen-Tiitto et al., 2015). The combined effect of high temperature and elevated UVB radiation has confirmed that high temperature has a more positive effect on foliage phenolics (Nissinen et al., 2017) and terpenoids emission (Maja et al., 2016) than increasing exposure to UVB. Many earlier studies reported that the high temperature significantly reduced the concentration of most phenolic compounds and thus total phenolic acid, flavonoids, and plant glycosides concentration but the opposite was found for salicin, tremulacin, and neochlorogenic acid. Randriamanana et al. (2015) reported that the concentration of Gallo catechin, HCH salicortin, and diglucoside of salicyl alcohol elevated in response to up-regulated temperature (Randriamanana et al., 2015). Sobuj et al. (2018) reported that under elevated temperature the total amount of salicylates gets lowered by 22 % in the bark of *Populus tremula* stem compared to the control treatment. Salicyl alcohol obtained through phenolic metabolites is dominantly present in *Populus* sp. (Tsai et al., 2006; Randriamanana et al., 2015; Keefover-Ring et al., 2014). The total flavonoids concentration was decreased in response to the elevated temperature. Warming reduces the total concentration of phenolic

compounds by 55 % in the stem bark of *Populus tremula* when compared with control plants (Sobuj et al., 2018). Alhathloul et al. (2019) reported that the number of few plants' secondary compounds such as flavonoid, phenols, and saponin contents decreases in response to drought and heat stress; however, the quantity of other secondary compounds such as alkaloids, tannins, and terpenoids regulate under heat and drought stress in *Mentha pipertita* and *Catharanthus roseus*.

### 3.3. Reduction in phenolics compounds with elevated temperature

Temperature strongly influences the production and sequestration of secondary compounds in plants. Phenolics compounds represent a vital category of aromatic secondary metabolites (Malocovska et al., 2014) with the phenyl ring having one or more attached acidic hydroxyl groups (Ali et al., 2013; Achakzai et al., 2009). The synthesis of phenolic compounds in plants is measured by various enzymes like phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL), UDP glucose flavonoid glucosyltransferase (UGT), and chalcone isomerase (CHI) (Cohen and Kennedy, 2010). It has been observed that the concentration of some phenolic compounds in plants decreases with elevated temperatures. According to the scientist, the plant phenolics are biosynthesized in plants from a common biosynthetic intermediate, phenylalanine or its close precursor shikimic acid through the shikimic acid pathway and the growth of plants depends on the common precursor L-phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL) enzyme (McDonald et al., 1999; Matsuki, 1996). It was observed that the higher growth in plants reduces the activity of phenylalanine ammonia-lyase resulting in decreases in the formation of plant secondary compounds (McDonald et al., 1999; Matsuki, 1996). High temperature decreases the concentration of phenolics compounds. However, several alternative earlier studies supported that the concentration of phenolic compounds increases with elevated temperature. Rivero et al. (2001) reported that elevated temperature may increase the PAL enzymatic activity in tomatoes, and the total concentration of phenolic compounds is elevated with heat stress. Wang and Zheng (2001) observed that the quantity of total phenolic compounds in *Fragaria × ananassa* plant up-regulated under elevated temperature treatment, whereas high temperatures considerably reduce total phenolic compounds in leaves of *Ipomoea batatas*. A decrease in the total amount of some secondary compounds, such as stilbenes and acetophenones has been observed during high-temperature stress (Zhang et al., 2018). The number of total phenolics content in seedling stems of *Picea abies* from all sources was significantly lower at a higher temperature (5–18 %) (Zhang et al., 2018). Higher temperature significantly decreases the concentration of total acetophenones, lignans, flavonoids, and stilbenes decreased in phenolics content caused by increasing temperature have been reported in many other tree species, like *Pinus sylvestris* (Sallas et al., 2001), *Betula pendula* (Lavola et al., 2013), *Salix myrsinifolia* (Nybakken and Julkanen-Tiitto, 2013) and *Populus tremula* (Randriamanana et al., 2015).

### 3.4. Emission of volatile organic compounds under high temperature

Warming has been most intensively studied among all the factors studied in volatile plant secondary metabolites (Penuelas and Staudt, 2010) [Figure 4]. The emission of volatile organic compounds is strongly upregulated by light and temperature and some of them are not stored in leaves (Sharkey and Yeh, 2001). Isoprene creates approximately 50 % of the estimated biogenic volatile organic compounds emission. Near about, 10 % of mounted carbon is used to create volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in plants with temperature stress (Penuelas and Staudt, 2010). Emissions of monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes are usually around 15 and 3% respectively (Guenther et al., 2012). The elevated temperature increased the release of volatile terpenoids most consistently (Penuelas and Staudt, 2010) by enhancing biosynthesis (Fini et al., 2017; Loreto and Schnitzler, 2010) and emission from leaf storage structures (Penuelas and Staudt, 2010; Grote and Niinemets, 2008). Recent studies showed that the volatile organic compounds involved in emission are high in conifers. The

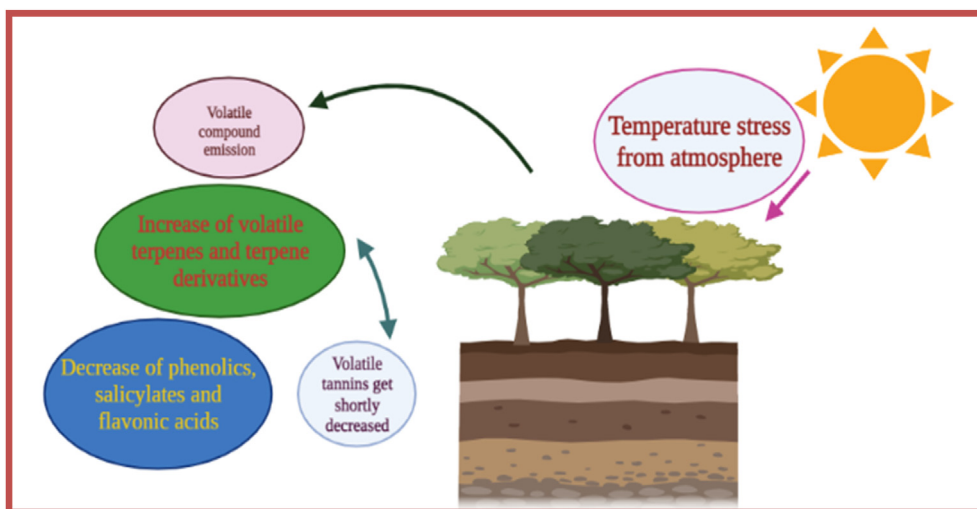


Figure 4. Pictorial presentation of emission of volatile secondary compounds in presence of high temperature.

emission rate is 40 % higher in *Pinus sp.*, and a little concentration in deciduous plants (Ghirardo et al., 2010). Differences in release responses of monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes to temperature might be due to primary storage of fewer volatile sesquiterpenes in leaf coat waxes (Joensuu et al., 2016), and their release (Himanen et al., 2015). Some other studies also reported the isoprene-emitting and monoterpene emitting rate in *Quercus* plant has increased with warming. An increase in temperature of about 3 °C increased 70 % release of isoprene and monoterpenes in *Quercus sp.* (Staudt et al., 2017). Long-term warming of 1 °C along with ambient increased monoterpenes (fivefold), sesquiterpenes (fourfold), and leaf volatile (40 %) emission of *Betula pendula* (Hartikainen et al., 2012). Few specific monoterpenes of forest trees, like  $\beta$ -ocimene, are temperature-stress indicators (Jardine et al., 2017).

### 3.5. Role of secondary metabolites under heat stress

The rise in atmospheric temperature because of  $e$  [CO<sub>2</sub>] leads to heat stress in plants. Heat stress changes morphological as well as physiological parameters in plants. Heat stress also plays a critical role in the formation of many plants' secondary metabolites. Heat stress alters the quantity of PSMs (Moore et al., 2014). Experiments performed in greenhouses under three different temperatures (i.e., 10 °C, 20 °C, and 30 °C) showed that higher temperatures created the formation of more alkaloid content (Jansen et al., 2009). 35 °C temperature for 15 days up-regulates the hypericin and hyperforin composition in the shoot tissue of *Hypericum perforatum* (Zobayed and Afreen et al., 2005). The experiments on temperature affecting alkaloid concentration in sixty-day-old seedling of *Catharanthus roseus* depicted that under short-term heat shock, the concentration of several secondary

compounds such as catharanthine, vinblastine, and vindoline in the seedling leaves was higher at 40 °C than those at 30 °C. To be precise, catharanthine was elevated by 40 % after incubation at 40 °C for 2 h, while it elevated very little at 30 °C and raised the highest value at 6 h, and in a long-term experiment at 35 °C, the concentrations of alkaloids, catharanthine, monomeric and vindoline resulted in a precise increase (Guo et al., 2007). Elevated temperature incubation results in an immediate increase of 10-hydroxycamptothecin (HCPT) so that six-fold sequestration of 10-hydroxycamptothecin in leaves of *Cyanea acuminata* seedlings occurred after incubation at 40 °C for 2 h (Zu et al., 2003). Few examples are given below (Tables 1, 2), (Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11). Moreover, the contents of tannin in tea leaves also get modified by climatic changes. It is found in surveys that the catechin content of tea gets elevated at high temperatures. It is also founded that in the warmer seasons the catechin content of tea leaves gets higher than in the cooler seasons (Yao et al., 2005).

### 3.6. Relevance of $e$ [CO<sub>2</sub>] in plant secondary metabolite formation

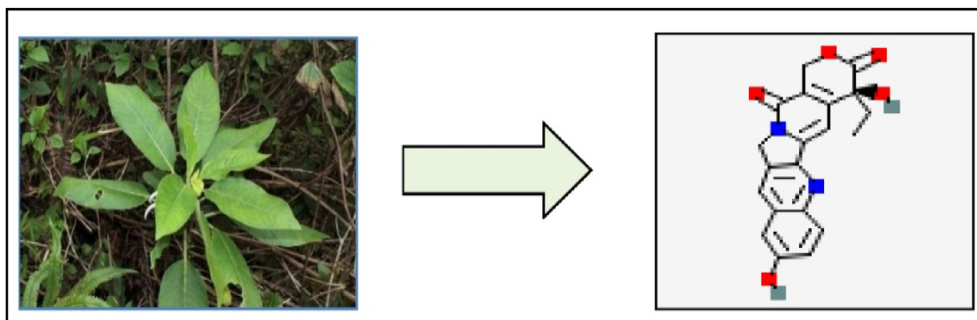
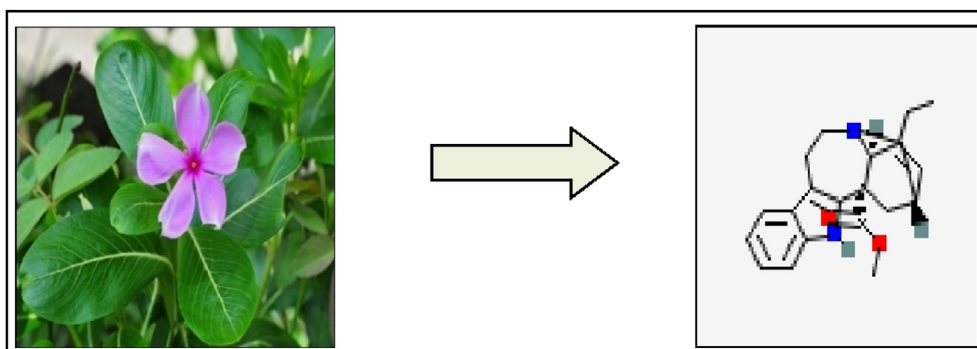
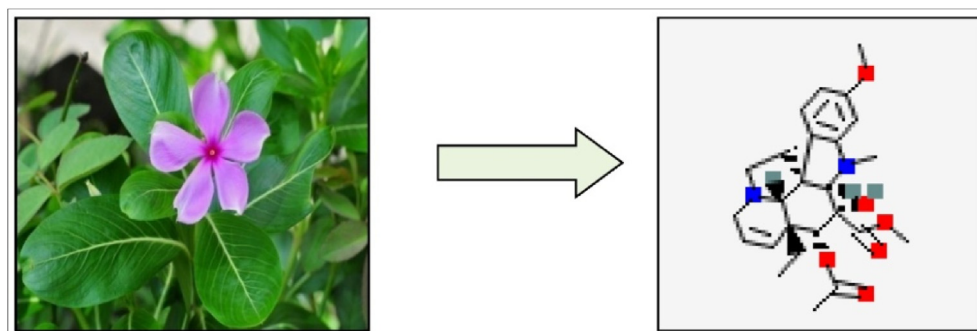
High levels, of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, increase phenolic content in foliage and reduce the terpenoid compounds each in leaf and emission. Ibrahim and Jaafar (2012) observed that PAL enzyme activity increased with  $e$  [CO<sub>2</sub>] in *Eleais guineensis* Jacq seedlings.  $e$  [CO<sub>2</sub>] showed a positive relation with phenolic and flavonoids content, which may indicate up-regulation of PSMs production with increased PAL enzyme activity. Warming conditions decreased the number of phenolics in leaves and increase terpenoid content in foliage and emission (Penuelas and Staudt, 2010; Zevereva and Kozlov, 2006) but CO<sub>2</sub> with warming conditions increase foliage phenolics content, however, lower the phenolics content

Table 1. High heat mediated increase of secondary metabolites in various plant species.

SN	Metabolite Class	Metabolite Name	Abiotic factors	Concentration Change	Plant species	References
1	Alkaloids	10-hydroxy Camptothecin	40 °C for 2 h only	Concentration Increased	<i>Cyanea acuminata</i>	Wang et al., 2003
2	Alkaloids	Vindoline	Short-term heat exposure	Concentration Increased	<i>Catheranthus Roseus</i>	Guo et al., 2007
3	Alkaloids	Catharanthine	Long-term heat exposure	Concentration Increased	<i>Catheranthus Roseus</i>	Guo et al., 2007
4	Terpenes	Isoprene	High temperature	Concentration Increased	<i>Quercus Rubra</i>	Hanson and Sharkey (2001)
5	Terpenes	$\alpha$ -farnesene	High temperature	Concentration Increased	<i>Daucus Carota</i>	Helmig et al. (2007)
6	Flavones	a. Quercetin	High temperature	Concentration Increased	<i>Brassica Oleracea</i>	Molmann et al. (2015)

**Table 2.** Role of plant secondary compounds in high temperature in forest trees.

S. No.	Plant Volatile Compounds	Increase/Decrease	References
1	Volatile terpenoids	Strongly increased	Penuelas and Staudt (2010)
A	Isoprenoids + MBO	Strongly increased	Penuelas and Staudt (2010)
B	MT + SQT (Monoterpenes + Sesquiterpenes)	Strongly increased	Penuelas and Staudt (2010)
C	GLVs + HIPV	Strongly increased	Penuelas and Staudt (2010)
2	Phenolics	Decreased	Zvereva and Kozlov (2006); Julkunen-Tiitto et al. (2015)
A	Phenolic acids	Decreased	Julkunen-Tiitto et al. (2015)
B	Flavonoids	Decreased	Julkunen-Tiitto et al. (2015)
C	Salicylates	Decreased	Julkunen-Tiitto et al. (2015)
D	Tannins	Slightly decreased	Julkunen-Tiitto et al. (2015)
3	Terpenoids	Slightly increased	Zvereva and Kozlov (2006)

**Figure 5.** Pictorial presentation of *Cyanea acuminata* plant producing 10-hydroxy Camptothecin compound.**Figure 6.** Pictorial presentation of *Catharanthus roseus* plant producing Catharanthine compound.**Figure 7.** Pictorial presentation of *Catharanthus roseus* plant producing Vindoline compound.

in woody tissues (Zvereva and Kozlov, 2006). Alkaloids, flavonoids, and saponins were accrued in *Robnia pseudoacacia* mature in the heated OTC having high CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, compared to seedlings grown in an open area (Zhao et al., 2016). Increasing the level of CO<sub>2</sub> is related to a decrease in the concentration of terpenoid compounds in conifer needles

was mitigated by high temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> induced increase in phenolics was intensified by high temperature (Zvereva and Kozlov, 2006). Total phenolics and total flavonoids concentration increase significantly in *Zingiber officinale* rhizomes, stems, and leaves (Ghasemzadeh and Jaafar, 2011).



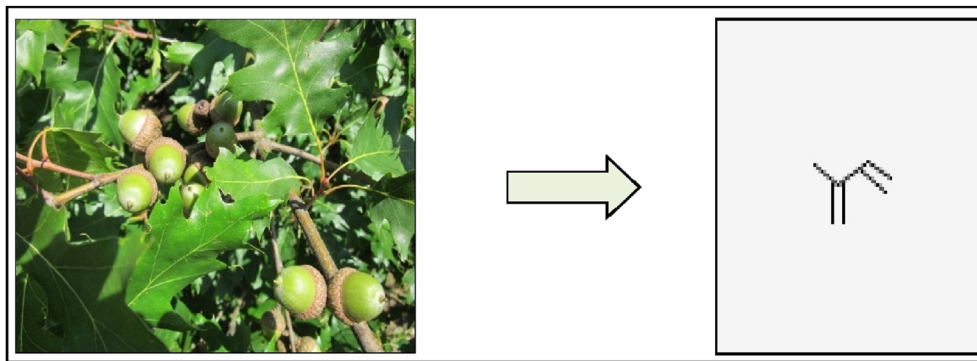


Figure 8. Pictorial presentation of *Quercus rubra* plant producing Isoprene compound.



Figure 9. Pictorial presentation of *Daucus carota* plant producing  $\alpha$ -farnesene compound.

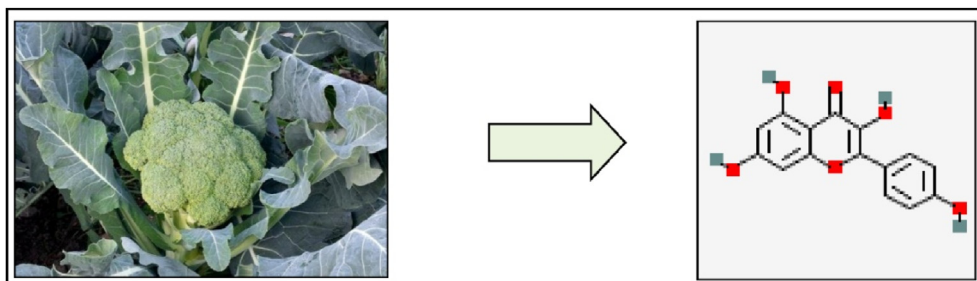


Figure 10. Pictorial presentation of *Brassica oleracea* plant producing Kaempferol compound.



Figure 11. Pictorial presentation of *Brassica oleracea* plant producing Quercetin compound.

e [CO<sub>2</sub>] increases the composition of secondary compounds in *Valeriana jatamansi* oil (Kaundal et al., 2018), similar results have been found in *Thymus hyemalis* (Biel et al., 2005) and *Thymus vulgaris* (Vuro et al., 2009). This may be because e [CO<sub>2</sub>] increases the rate of photosynthesis in plants which has a positive effect on the production of primary metabolites as well as PSMs and indicates that e [CO<sub>2</sub>] in the future may be beneficial for the production of PSMs.

Other greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), and Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) are also present in the atmosphere. All these GHGs absorb and emit radiation in the thermal infrared range (IPCC, 2014).

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is the second major greenhouse gas after CO<sub>2</sub>. CH<sub>4</sub> is mainly emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, cattle farming, and agriculture. Currently, the concentration of CH<sub>4</sub> is 1.8  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  (IPCC,

2014). CH<sub>4</sub> in the form of GHGs is 30 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> (IPCC, 2014). Excess methane emissions are harmful to plants because methane increases the concentration of ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) in the troposphere, which causes harmful chlorosis and yellowing of leaves in plants. About 93 % of crop losses in the upcoming century will be due to non-carbon dioxide emissions, the most harmful of which is methane (Branscombe, 2016).

In the lower atmosphere (troposphere) Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) acts as a greenhouse gas and is phototoxic to plants (Vapaavuori et al., 2009; Lindroth, 2010). O<sub>3</sub> acts as a pollutant near the troposphere and is harmful to both plants and animals. Due to the high concentration of O<sub>3</sub> in the atmosphere, the stomata of the plants are closed, due to which the rate of plant growth and photosynthesis slows down (Bueker et al., 2015; Li et al., 2017a, b). A high concentration of O<sub>3</sub> causes oxidative stress in plants due to which the plant cells and tissues are damaged (Vainonen and Kangasjärvi, 2015). Several earlier studies reported that total phenolics compounds (Gao et al., 2016), flavonoids (Cotrozzi et al., 2018), and condensed tannins (Couture et al., 2017) were increased in response to O<sub>3</sub> treatment in the foliage of deciduous trees, but this was not similar in the needles of the coniferous trees (Riikonen et al., 2012).

Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and nitric oxide (NO) both act as greenhouse gas (GHGs) (Cassia et al., 2018). Soil contains different types of microbes that are mainly responsible for the emission of (N<sub>2</sub>O) and (NO) through the process of nitrification and denitrification. In the last century, their global emissions have increased significantly, mainly due to human intervention (IPCC, 2014). This is mainly due to using more nitrogen fertilizer in the soil to increase agriculture production which causes high nitrogen-rich soil and increases microbial activity thereby affecting the N cycle. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is a strong greenhouse gas (GHGs), while nitric oxide (NO) indirectly contributes to ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) synthesis (Cassia et al., 2018). As GHG, N<sub>2</sub>O is potentially 300 times stronger than CO<sub>2</sub> (Cassia et al., 2018). In the troposphere, NO quickly oxidizes to nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). NO, and NO<sub>2</sub> (termed as NO<sub>x</sub>) may react with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hydroxyl, resulting in organic nitrates and nitric acid, respectively. On the other hand, nitrogen deposition in the soil in several ways such as wet (with rainfall and snow) and dry (as gaseous compounds) influences the C/N ratio, increases soil acidity, decreases species richness and composition.

Previous studies show that nitrogen (N) deposition into the soil promotes the synthesis of total phenolic compounds in such as *Satureja hortensis* L. (Alizadeh et al., 2010), *Daucus carota* L. (Smoleń and Sady, 2009), and *Stevia rebaudiana* (Tavarini et al., 2015), but opposite effects were also observed in many plants. The metabolism patterns of the phenolic compound with N deposition can also be linked with root, stem, and leaves (Malik et al., 2012; Tavarini et al., 2015) or phenolic subclasses (e.g., flavonoid) (Mokgehele et al., 2017).

#### 4. Conclusion and future strategies

This review article illustrated the role of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and high temperature in secondary metabolite production. From the present overview, it is postulated that plant secondary metabolites are responsible for defending plants in adverse environmental conditions. Plant secondary metabolites help the plant kingdom to survive against oxidative stress-mediated damages which causes cell death and damage to cell membranes. How PSMs are involved in the defense mechanisms is still under research. Based on several earlier studies, it is proved that plants' first line of defense is created by producing secondary metabolites. The role of various greenhouse gases (GHGs) (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, and O<sub>3</sub>) is to elicit the atmospheric temperature, on the other hand, e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and heat stress lead to the generation of a higher number of few secondary metabolites; however, climate change and the warmer environment are harmful it is quite beneficial for the plant kingdom. Several other greenhouse gases (GHGs) also affect plant growth and development as well as their primary productivity. There are only a few studies conducted on the effects of these GHGs on PSMs production. Elicitation of secondary metabolites by e [CO<sub>2</sub>] mediated heat stress and creates

α-chemo diversity (Chemical diversity among plants). This α-chemo diversity leads to the development of β-chemo diversity among plants (chemical diversity among groups). In plants, PSMs help plants in uptaking nutrients. They are helpful in hormone up-regulation. Secondary metabolites are also important for human beings in socio-economic aspects as these are the main constituents of several recreational drugs, perfumes, pharmaceuticals, etc. Secondary metabolites are highly essential for combating several human diseases. They are anti-fungal, anti-microbial. They have cytotoxic roles and antagonistic effects against cancer. Secondary metabolites help humans to fight against cancer, HIV, brain dysfunction, inflammation, RNA virus-mediated diseases, etc. But it is postulated that all the secondary metabolites have cytotoxic potentiality apart from their therapeutic potentiality. The cytotoxicity is also helpful in controlling cancer cell proliferation. In metastatic cells, the cytotoxicity will result in triggering apoptosis. If cytotoxic potentiality increases along with high temperatures, it may not be useful for society. Secondary metabolites are also useful in the cosmetic industry as essential oil. But in the high concentration, they are cytotoxic. Secondary Metabolites have high market value. Moreover, many PSMs have no biological functions, but they are the precursors of several important PSMs. In this regard, the production of secondary metabolites is very much important to maintain many socioeconomic purposes. After screening many reviews and research articles, we can say that the industrial production of PSMs can be possible by using heat as the catalyzing factor. That idea will enrich socio-economic conditions.

After reviewing earlier studies, we found that the effect of e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and high temperature is different on secondary metabolites found in plants, as well as the effect is also species-specific. Different plants react differently to e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and high temperatures, while an increase in temperature increases the number of secondary metabolites in some plants while in some it reduces the number of secondary metabolites. In this regard, e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and high temperature can be used in controlled environment conditions, the concentration of secondary metabolites in plants can be increased so that they can be used for the welfare of mankind. It is observed that plant secondary metabolites and volatile compounds are mostly accumulated in the plant system with the up-regulation of temperature. Research on temperature-regulated MT (Monoterpenes) SQT (Sesquiterpenes) resin acids production is also under research. It is evident that climate change influences growth and PSMs production in higher plants. Plant productivity also depends on the changing ecosystem. Most of the C3 plants i.e., whose first stable product after carbon assimilation is a three-carbon-containing product; favor a warmer environment. So, a higher amount of secondary metabolite production is possible in C3 plants.

It is observed that high temperature will increase secondary metabolite production might be helpful to produce transgenic plants with high metabolite yielding capacity and new drugs. Several biotechnological tools are employed for the enhanced production of secondary metabolites. So, a warming environment may lead to the innovation of a new industry and help in economic progress. It will also deplete the environmental food web and the survival of the lower group of plants and animals.

Secondary metabolites are not abundant in all plants like primary metabolites; they are limited to only a few plants. Currently, the demand for these secondary metabolites is increasing day by day to keep the world's growing population healthy and safe. Therefore, keeping in mind the importance of metabolites maximum emphasis should be focused on their production. For this, the emphasis should be on the use of OTC, CEC, FACE, and FATI systems. On the other hand, there is also a need to study the combined effect of e [CO<sub>2</sub>] and high temperature on the production of these secondary metabolites.

#### Declarations

##### Author contribution statement

All authors listed have significantly contributed to the development and the writing of this article.

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