



Trends in
**Applied Sciences
Research**

ISSN 1819-3579



Academic
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www.academicjournals.com



Review Article

Efficacy and Advancement of *Terminalia arjuna* in Indian Herbal Drug Research: A Review

Neelam Soni and Vinay Kumar Singh

Laboratory of Malacology, Department of Zoology, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, 273009 Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

Medicinal plant *Terminalia arjuna* are used in folkloric system for the treatment of the various disease and disorder since ancient time. This study validated the folkloric system experimentally with modern drug approaches. The main objective of this review was to explore the pharmacological aspect of *Terminalia arjuna*, a indigenous medicinal plant. Medicinal plants have been recognized as major source of therapeutic agents to cure the human disease, as green medicine is healthier than synthetic products. The Arjuna was introduced into Ayurveda as a treatment for heart disease by Vagbhata (c. 7th century CE). It is traditionally prepared as a milk decoction. This plant was a known practice for thousands of years, in ancient Indian Vedas, Vagbhata mentions Arjuna in the treatment of wounds, hemorrhages and ulcers, applied topically as a powder. There is a vast variety of plants, which are rich source of bioactive compounds and several more might still be lying unexplored. The available compounds of Arjuna are more potent against snail-borne diseases and used as molluscicidal agents. Arjuna has also been found effective as an antioxidant, protect cardiovascular diseases and very helpful in regulating the hormonal system of the body. Ailments like eczema, itching, rashes scars and serious skin conditions like psoriasis can also be treated with the regular use of *Terminalia arjuna*. On the basis of ongoing literature and scientific reports the medicinal plant *Terminalia arjuna* has nature's boon to mankind.

Key words: *Terminalia arjuna*, medicinal plant, arjuna, ayurveda, ailments, molluscicidal agent, cardiovascular diseases

Citation: Neelam Soni and Vinay Kumar Singh, 2019. Efficacy and advancement of *Terminalia arjuna* in Indian herbal drug research: A Review. Trends Applied Sci. Res., 14: 233-242.

Corresponding Author: Vinay Kumar Singh, Laboratory of Malacology, Department of Zoology, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, 273009 Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India Tel: +919415855488/9807110100

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Competing Interest: The authors have declared that no competing interest exists.

Data Availability: All relevant data are within the paper and its supporting information files.

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants have been recognized as major component of all traditional system of medicine to cure the human disease, since ancient time and till today because of green medicine is healthier than synthetic counterparts. A large number of wild medicinal plants are to be brought in to cultivation in order to explore its therapeutic potential. Keeping this view the concentrate efforts are needed to make the available compound more potent against disease and safer to environment by way of improved formulations. As per WHO reported about 80% of world population relayed on traditional medicine in India¹. The main Indian traditional system of medicine is primarily plant based system². *Terminalia arjuna* is traditionally widely used in the medical formulation of various aliment due to the presence of large number of active phytoconstituents³. In the Indian traditional system of medicine, the bark is used as astringent, cooling aphrodisiac, cardiotoxic, tonic in fracture, ulcer, spermatorrhoea, leucorrhoea, diabetes, cough, tumor, asthma, inflammation and skin disorder^{4,5}. Primarily, the ingestion of medications prepared with bark of Arjuna ensures usual functioning of the heart, provides energy to the heart muscles, promotes the functioning of platelets as well as helps in sustaining a steady blood pressure level. Arjuna helps in thickening of the serum and the sperm that is very essential for the proper fertilization of the ovum. It is helpful in increasing the sperm count. It is capable in treating polyurea condition and is also helpful regularizing the increased urine frequency⁶. It is also useful to cure obesity, hypertension and hyperglycemia⁷. Keeping in the view of the medicinal importance of the tree in traditional and Ayurvedic system of medicine an attempt has been made to review the available literature. This aim of this comprehensive review was to provide the efficacy and advancement of *Terminalia arjuna* in herbal drug research covering the area of ethnomedical, phytochemical and pharmacological.

EFFICACY AND ADVANCEMENT OF *T. ARJUNA* IN HERBAL DRUG

Classical names: *Terminalia arjuna* is known by its various classical names, such as Arjuna, Dhavala, Kaubha, Nadisaraja, Veeravrikskha, Partha and Indradru⁸.

Botanical description: *Terminalia arjuna* L. (Combretaceae) is a large evergreen deciduous tree (Commonly known as

Arjuna) found throughout India growing to a height of 20-25 m. It commonly grows on banks of rivers, streams and dry watercourses and distributed throughout the greater part of Indian sub-continent, Himalayan tract of Uttar Pradesh, Chota Nagpur, Orissa, west Bengal, Punjab, Deccan and Konkan^{9,10}. The bark of *Terminalia arjuna* is soft and thick with grey in colour on outer surface and tinge easily flakes off in flat large pieces inside.

Leaves of *T. arjuna* are simple, borne opposite shortly acute or obtuse at the apex, glabrous 4-6 inch long and 2-3 inch wide, there are two glands near the base of the petiole. There is a morphological difference in leaf traits of this plant¹¹. It has pale yellow flowers with short auxiliary spikes or terminal panicle arrangement, which appear between March and June; its glabrous, 2.5-5 cm fibrous woody fruit with smooth skinned divided into five hard wings, appears between September and November.

Phytochemistry: The major chemical constituents analysis of different parts of *T. arjuna* was carried out by various standard technique like HPLC, UPLC and LC-ESI-MS/MS analysis¹²⁻¹⁵. The *Terminalia arjuna* bark extract revealed the presence of bio-active chemical constituents which are known to exhibit medicinal as well as physiological activities¹⁶. The chemical constituent of different classes such as; hydrolysable tannins¹⁷, triterpenoides acid (Fig. 1) and their glycosides^{16,18}, flavonoids¹⁹, phenolics²⁰, phytosterol²¹ found in stem bark portion of *T. arjuna* species. Arjunglucoside 1-3, arjunolic acid and terminoic acid were important constituent of bark (Table 1)²².

Ayurvedic formulation: *Terminalia arjuna* is tremendous plant having enormous influence in ayurvedic system of medicines. In Rigveda, the word 'Arjuna' used either to indicate the white colour or one of taintless fame and glow like silver^{41,42}. It may be the first reference of Arjuna used as medicine stated in chief or principle sutra volume of Atharvaveda, Kaushiksutra (400300 B.C.). Further synonyms and properties of Arjuna are mentioned in Bhavprakash Nighantu. Later on Chakradatta, the great ancient physician,

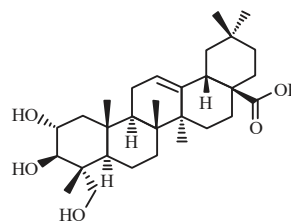


Fig. 1: Arjunolic acid

Table 1: Phytochemical and major chemical constituents of various parts of *Terminalia arjuna*

Part used	Major chemical constituents	References
Stem bark	Triterpenoids and tannins	
	Arjunic acid, Arjunin	Anjaneyulu and Prasad ²⁰
	Arjunetin, Lactone	Amalraj and Gopi ²³
	Arjunanin, Arjunolic acid	Singh <i>et al.</i> ^{12,13} and Soni and Singh ^{24,25}
	Casuarinin	Kuo <i>et al.</i> ²⁶
	Flavonoids and phenolics	
	Arjunolone, Baicalein	Sharma <i>et al.</i> ¹⁹
	Catechin, Gallocatechin, Epicatechin	Rastogi and Mehrotra ²⁷
	Ursane triterpenoids	
	2 α , 3 β - dihydroxy urs-12,18 dien-28 oic acid 28-O- β -D-glucopyranosyl eater	Wang <i>et al.</i> ²⁸
2 α , 3 β , 23- trihydroxyurs-12,18 oic-acid 28-O- β -D-glucopyranosyl eater		
Qudranoside VIII, Kajiichigoside F1		
Root bark	Glycosides	
	Arjunoglucoiside I and II	Rastogi and Mehrotra ²⁹
	Terminoic acid	Ahmad <i>et al.</i> ³⁰
	Arjunoglucoiside IV, V	Wang <i>et al.</i> ³¹
	Terminoside A	Ali <i>et al.</i> ³²
	Terminoglucoiside I, II	Alam <i>et al.</i> ³³
	Arjunoside I, II 8- hydroxyl Hexadecanoic, Oleanoic, Arjunic acids, Arjunolic acid, β -sitosterol,	Anjaneyulu and Prasad ²⁰
	Terminic acid	Anjaneyulu and Prasad ³⁴
	Arjunoside III, IV, Arjunoside I, Arjunetin, Ellagic acid, Gallic acid Leucocyanidin	Anjaneyulu and Prasad ³⁵
	Arjunetoside	Upadhyay <i>et al.</i> ³⁶
Fruit	16-17 dihydroneeridienone 3-O- β -D- glucopyranosyl-(1-6)-O- β -D galactopyranoside	Yadav and Rathor ³⁷
	Arjunic acid, Arjunone, Arachidic stearate, Cerasidine, Ellagic acid, Friedelin, Gallic acid, Hentriacetone, Mleaolate, Myristyl oleate, β -Sitosterol	Rastogi and Mehrotra ³⁸
Leaves and seeds	Luteolin	Pettit <i>et al.</i> ³⁹
	14-16 dianhydrogitoxygenin 3- β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1>2)-O- β -galactopyranoside	Yadav and Rathor ⁴⁰

recommended uses of Arjuna bark in form of decoction with milk (Kshirpaka) or as a ghrita (a preparation with ghee)³.

USES OF ARJUNA IN TRADITIONAL AYURVEDIC HERBALISM

Generally stem, bark, fruits and leaves of Arjuna are used in human therapeutic. Fresh leaves juice used in the treatment of earache and root paste used in headache⁴³. Fruit paste was used topically as a traditional healer in south India⁴⁴. It was also used to treat cough, sore throat and dyspepsia⁴⁵. The bark was the main part used in Ayurveda as well as in allopathy for curing various diseases⁴⁶. Bark ash is prescribed on snakebite and scorpion sting⁴⁷. This act was astringent, cooling cardiogenic, antidysentery, urinary astringent, hypertension, hemorrhage, diarrhea associated with blood, cirrhosis of liver, hypertension inflammation and skin disorder⁴⁸.

Pharmacological significance: Since the time immemorial *T. arjuna* has been a herb of choice in dealing with the treatment of many congenituous disease. It serve as a blessing in Indian traditional (Ayurvedic) as well as allopathy medicinal system⁴⁶ and posses the wide range of therapeutic properties and has the potential to treat many medical condition².

Cardio-protective activity: The Arjuna plant (lat. *Terminalia arjuna*) has traditionally been used to treat heart disease for centuries, that is why it got the nickname "Guardian of the heart". It was also known as hero of the famous epic "Mahabharata" because of its protective effects. Researchers studied the cardio-protective role of chronic oral administration of methanolic extract of *T. arjuna* bark in *in vitro* myocardial ischemic reperfusion injury and the induction of HSP72. The results of the study suggested that the methanolic extract of the bark powder of *T. arjuna* in rat induces myocardial HSP72 and augments myocardial endogenous antioxidants, without causing any cellular injury⁴⁹. The ongoing researches demonstrated that *T. arjuna* ethanolic extract and aqueous extract both produced significant cardio-protection in isoproterenol induced myocardial infraction animals⁵⁰. The bark of *T. arjuna* was used in India as cardio-protective agent in hypertension and eschaemic heart disease⁵¹. The antioxidant properties of ethanol extract of bark of *T. arjuna* against sodium fluoride (NaF)-induced oxidative stress in murine hearts⁵². High amount of plant extract should not be consumed because, hepatotoxicity as well as hypothyroidism may be caused by them⁵³. Arjunanin was very good cardio-protective drug used on the process of respiratory oxybrust⁵⁴. The *T. arjuna* bark extract had a significant prophylactic and therapeutic

beneficial effect on protection of heart against ISO-induced chronic heart failure possibly through maintaining endogenous antioxidant enzyme activities, inhibiting lipid peroxidation and cytokine levels. This cardio-protective action of *T. arjuna* was comparable to fluvastatin, a synthetic drug to cure heart disease⁵⁵. In a study of human monocystic (THP-1) and human aortic endothelial cells (HAECs), cell was cultured by using alcoholic and aqueous extract of *T. arjuna* stem bark provide a biochemical and molecular basis for the therapeutic potential against cardiovascular disease (CDV) as it significantly inhibits the lipid peroxidation and human 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl co-enzyme A (HMG-CoA)¹⁵. Alcoholic and aqueous extracts of *T. arjuna* showed significant inhibition in the activity of CYP3A4, CYP2D6 and CYP2C9 enzymes. Enzyme kinetics study suggested that treatments caused rapidly reversible non-competitive inhibition of all three enzymes human liver microsomes⁵⁶. The *T. arjuna* helps in maintaining the cholesterol level at the normal rate, as it contains the antioxidant properties similar to the vitamin E. It strengthens the heart muscles and maintains the heart functioning properly. It also improved functioning of cardiac muscle and treatment of coronary artery disease, heart failure, angina and hypercholesterolemia. Its bark powder contained asthma, diuretic, prostaglandin enhancing and coronary risk factor modulating properties⁵⁰. Experimental studies on Arjuna pertaining the various aspect of its cardiovascular functions, autonomic control of myocardial functions, molecular mechanisms of its action and cardiac histopathological aspects⁵⁷. A new study demonstrated the therapeutic benefit of *T. arjuna* in diabetes with co-existing cardio-vascular disease⁵⁸.

Hepatoprotective activity: The preventive role of arjunolic acid against arsenic induced cytotoxicity in isolated murine hepatocytes was evaluated by Manna *et al.*⁵⁹. The aqueous extract of *T. arjuna* bark could protect the liver and kidney tissue against CCl₄ induced oxidative stress probably by increasing anti-oxidative defense activity⁵¹. The anti-oxidative effect of *T. arjuna* bark against DEN-induced liver cancer was also studied⁶⁰. It was found that aqueous and ethanol extract of *T. arjuna* bark showed the hepatoprotective potential against paracetamol/CCl₄ induced liver damage in Wistar albino rats. Pre-treatments of the rats with the ethanol and aqueous extract prior to paracetamol/CCl₄ administration caused a significant reduction in the value of serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (γ GPT), serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase (γ GOT) and serum alkaline phosphatase (γ ALP) and serum bilirubin (γ B) almost comparable to silymarin,

standard hepatoprotective agent. Hepatoprotective activity was confirmed by histopathological examination of control and treated rats⁶¹. The extract of *T. arjuna* bark was investigated for its hepatoprotective and antioxidative effect on cadmium provoked toxicity and the result of the experiment indicated that *Terminalia arjuna* (200 mg kg⁻¹) significantly reversed the effect of cadmium and proved that it has hepatoprotective and antioxidant potential⁶². The *T. arjuna* bark aqueous extract was found to be a potential therapeutic agent against alcohol induced oxidative/nitrosative stress mediated hepato and nephrotoxicity in rats⁶³. Alcohol administration significantly raised the plasma concentrations of nitrogenous compounds and increased activities of alcoholic marker enzymes. Administration of aqueous bark extract to alcoholic rats significantly brought these alterations in plasma to normal and also significantly reduced the levels of lipid peroxidation and restored the enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidants in liver. Co-administration of alcohol along with bark extract offered protective effect against alcohol-induced stress in rats. Further, it was reported that the methanolic extract of *Terminalia arjuna* stem bark and its purified flavonoids (baicalein and quercetin) exhibit hepatoprotective effect against CCl₄ induced hepatic damage⁵. Its hepatoprotective role was due to its flavonoids content. Quercetin showed more protective effect than bicalin *in vitro*⁵. Arjunolic acid a major active constituent of Arjuna gives a promising result in the treatment of non-alcoholic fatty acid liver disease as it significantly reduced the lipid level in palmitate-oleate induced HePG₂ cell and also reduced the level of LDH, ALT, AST and GGT in HFD rats⁶⁴.

Anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity: Anti-inflammatory activity of *T. arjuna* bark powder was investigated by Halder *et al.*⁶⁵. Constituents from the stem bark of Arjuna showed potent antioxidant activity and inhibited Nitric Oxide (NO) production in lipopolysaccharide (LPS) stimulated rat peritoneal macrophages³². The poly herbal formulation of ethanolic extract of *Datura stramonium* (leaves), *Terminalia arjuna* (bark) and *Withania somnifera* (root), have anti inflammatory effect and inhibits the enzyme cyclooxygenase (COX) leading to inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis using inflammation at third stage. The result proved the polyherbal formulation showed significant anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity⁶⁶. The extract of *Terminalia arjuna* was used in the study of Carrageenan-induced paw edema method to study the anti-inflammatory activity and observed that extract significantly reduced the formation of edema induced by carrageenan. The extract

was also used to evaluate the centrally acting analgesic potential using formalin, hot plate and peripheral pharmacological actions using acetic acid induced writhing test in mice. The extract of the plant was found to have significant ($p < 0.01$; $p < 0.001$) analgesic activity at the oral dose of 250 and 500 mg kg⁻¹ b.wt., in the tested models⁶⁷. The anti-inflammatory activity of Arjuna Kaseera paka an ayurvedic formulation of *T. arjuna* (prepared in cow milk) and compared with hydroalcoholic extract. The result of the study showed that AKP has higher efficacy that could be due to the presence of milk solids. Milk solids act as adjuvant to *T. arjuna* phytoconstituents contributing to their sustained bioavailability leading to higher efficacy at lower drug concentration⁶⁸.

Anti-tumor and cytotoxic activity: *Terminalia arjuna* is herbal medicine against environmental carcinogenicity as the *T. arjuna* bark extract protects DNA against ADR induced damage⁶⁹. The aqueous extract of stem bark showed anti-oxidant action on anti-carcinogenic activity by reducing the oxidative stress along with inhibition of anaerobic metabolism⁷⁰. The arjunic acid was significantly activated against human oral, ovarian and liver cancer cell lines suggesting its role in anti-cancer treatment⁷¹. It was reported that the ethanolic extract of bark of *T. arjuna* has significant analgesic and cytotoxic effect⁶⁷. Arjunolic acid isolated from *T. arjuna* showed the cytotoxic activity against carcinoma and lymphoma cancer cell⁷². The anti-carcinogenic anti-mutagenic potential of *Terminalia arjuna* extract *in vivo* and *in vitro* was also studied⁷³. Anti-cancer potential of *T. arjuna* bark extract against some human cancer cell line was studied by Singh *et al.*⁷⁴. The methanolic extract of Arjuna was rich in the flavonoids content responsible for its antiproliferative effect. It was studied that phytosome complex of methanolic extract of *Terminalia arjuna* bark has antiproliferative effect on human breast cancer cell lines (MCF-7) as compared to methanolic extract⁷⁵.

Gastric activity: The methanolic bark extract of *T. arjuna* showed a significant increase in the adherent mucus of the gastric wall and in the protein bound carbohydrate complexes of the gastric juice in rats treated with diclofenac sodium⁷⁶. Anti-ulcer effect of methanol extract of *T. arjuna* against *Helicobacter pylori* lipopolysaccharide induced gastric damage in rat were evaluated by Devi *et al.*⁷⁷. The findings of the result suggested that Arjuna has ability to combat factor that damage the gastric mucosa.

Wound healing activity: The topical application of *T. arjuna* bark hydroalcohol extract on rat dermal wounds using *in vivo* models was assessed the wound healing capacity of *T. arjuna*. The result strongly documented that the beneficial effect was due to its tannin content⁷⁸. Herbal formulation of Himax ointment and lotion containing *T. arjuna* extract was evaluated for its wound healing potential and the result was comparable to the standard drug nitrofurazone⁷⁹. The *T. arjuna* bark powder mix with coconut oil was found to be potentially effective against chronic wound⁸⁰.

Antibacterial activity: Strong antibacterial activity was shown by the methanol extracts of *T. arjuna* against multi drug resistance *salmonella typh*⁸¹. The *T. arjuna* plant extract have great potential to be developed as herbal ear drops to control bacterial ear infection. The leaves and bark extract as potent and effective medicine against tested bacterial responsible for ear infections than that of standard ear drop⁸². Antibacterial and cytotoxic activity of *T. arjuna* bark aqueous and methanolic extract was experimentally carried out by using the agar gel diffusion method against *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella sp.*, *Pseudomonas sp.* and *Staphylococcus sp.* Aqueous and methanolic extract of *T. arjuna* showed inhibition against all the mentioned organism in dose dependent manner⁸³. Antibacterial, antifungal brine shrimp lethality and phytotoxic effect of *Terminalia arjuna* was performed by Javed *et al.*⁸⁴. The results showed that methanolic extract of *T. arjuna* leaves has moderate antifungal effect against *Microsporm canis* and fruit extract posses good antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Moreover, dichloromethane extract of *T. arjuna* bark and fruit posses moderate phytotoxic activity. A recent study find that the *T. arjuna* bark and leaves ethanolic extract and its different solvent fraction show strong antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus subtilis*, *staphylococcus aureus*, *Eschericia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella typhi*, respectively⁸⁵.

Antioxidant activity: Antioxidant and free radical scavenging capacity of *T. arjuna* were studied by various scientist. Comparative study the antioxidant potential of *T. arjuna* bark and leaves ethanolic extract and its different solvent fraction was carried out by Kumar *et al.*⁸⁵. The study demonstrated that the antioxidant properties due to presence flavonoids, tannins and oligomeric proanthocyanidins. It was observed that arjunic acid and

aglycone isolated from the fruit were strong antioxidant or free radical scavenger and more potent than ascorbic acid⁸⁶. Casuarinin extracted from *T. arjuna* protect Cultured Madin Darby Canine Kidney (MDCK) cell against H₂O₂ mediated oxidative stress decrease DNA oxidative damage and prevent the depletion of intracellular GSH in MDCK cells⁸⁷.

Ant diabetic activity: The *T. arjuna* has known to be possess the anti-diabetic activity. The effect ethanol extract of *T. arjuna* bark in alloxan induced diabetic rats and its lipids peroxidation enzymatic and non-enzymatic activity was investigated in the liver and kidney tissue. The results of the study clearly validate the traditional used of this plant in diabetic animal⁸⁸. The anti diabetic effect of *T. arjuna* in co-existing with cardiovascular disease was study by Borde *et al.*⁵⁸. The result of the study demonstrated that *T. arjuna* has beneficial effect in experimental model of myocardial infarction co existing with cardiovascular disease.

Anti-viral activity: Casuarinin extracted from *T. arjuna* bark was investigated for its antiviral activity against Herpes simplex type II *in vitro*. The results showed that casuarinin was virucidal and possesses anti herpesvirus activity in inhibiting viral attachment and penetration⁸⁹.

Anthelmintic activity: Anthelmintic activity of *T. arjuna* methanol extract against the hatched egg and larvae of *Haemonchus contortus* were found to be toxic at 645.65 and 467.65 µg mL⁻¹ of dose, respectively. The data revealed dose dependents anthelmintic activity both *in vitro* and *in vivo* studied, thus justifying its use in the traditional medicine system⁹⁰. Anthelmintic activity of *T. arjuna* may be only attributed to its tannin content. Anthelmintic effect of *T. arjuna* bark was also studied on *Pheretima posthuma*. The effectiveness of drug was judge on the basis of loss of spontaneous movement and death of trematode⁹¹.

Molluscicidal activity: The molluscicides activity of *T. arjuna* bark and its different organic extract against fasciolosis vector snails *Lymnaea acuminata* and *Indoplanorbis exustus* were studied by Soni and Singh^{24,25}. The results of their findings demonstrated that toxicity of column purified fraction was higher among all the treatments of *Terminalia arjuna* bark against *L. acuminata* (96h LC₅₀ = 3.12 mg L⁻¹) and *I. exustus* (96h LC₅₀ = 14.53 mg L⁻¹). The TLC analysis demonstrated the presence of arjunolic acid in column purified fraction and cause of its molluscicidal activity. *In vivo*

and *in vitro* mode of action of molluscicidal component on key enzymes AChE, ACP and ALP activities in the nervous tissue of snail *L. acuminata* were studied by Soni *et al.*⁹². The results of the study proved that plant have concentration dependent inhibition in key enzymes i.e., AChE, ACP and ALP activities. The maximum inhibition in AChE (60.17% of control) ACP (34.66% of control) and ALP (24.01% of control) activity was observed in snail exposed to 96 h exposure of 80% of 96 h LC₅₀ of arjunolic acid. Percent enzyme inhibition both *in vivo* and *in vitro* condition indicated that inhibition of ALP was more pronounced than ACP and AChE against all the treatments. The study of kinetics of inhibition of AChE, ACP and ALP by column purified fraction and arjunolic acid of *T. arjuna* bark were also studied⁹². The findings of the work clearly indicated that inhibition of AChE was non-competitive, inhibition of ACP was uncompetitive and inhibition of ALP by column purified fraction and arjunolic acid of *T. arjuna* bark were competitive-non-competitive as it is clearly from K_m and V_{max} values of uninhibited and inhibited enzymes on Line weaver plot⁹³. The safety of this plant derived molluscicidal drug were evaluated against non-target aquatic biota i.e., fish *Colisa fasciatus*. The result of the work were found that toxic concentration (24h LC₉₀ against *L. acuminata* and *I. exustus*) of arjunolic acid and column does not exert any effect on nervous tissue of fish⁹⁴.

Apoptosis: At least two modes of cell death can be distinguished: apoptosis and necrosis. Apoptosis is a strictly regulated (programmed) device responsible for the systematic removal of superfluous, aged, harmful, abnormal or misplaced cells. Studies were conducted to establish the effects of *Terminalia arjuna* bark extract on apoptosis of human hepatoma cell line HepG2. It was found that *T. arjuna* induced cytotoxicity in HepG2 cells *in vitro*. Apoptosis effect of *T. arjuna* on HepG2 cells may be due to the DNA damage and expression of apoptotic proteins. Depletion of GSH may be involved in the induction of apoptosis of HepG2 cells⁹⁵.

CONCLUSION

Virtually every part of the plant has a great ethnopharmacological value with wide array of the traditional as well as pharmaceutical application due to the presence of large number of bio-active chemical constituents. Experimental study has demonstrated its cardio-protective, hepatoprotective, antioxidant, anticancerous, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antidiabetic

antihelminthic, antimicrobial, antiviral and molluscicidal effects. However, further, detailed clinical research appears worthwhile to explore the full therapeutic potential of various parts of *Terminalia arjuna* in order to establish it as a standard drug.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

This study efforts to give every aspect of literature such as; pharmacognosy, phytochemistry, pharmacological, ayurvedic traditional and clinical studies on plant and updating available research data. It can be beneficial for the new researcher and students to collect the informative knowledge of plant in comprehensive form.

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