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# **A Preliminary** *In-silico* **Analysis and Molecular Docking of Active Compounds in**  *Coriandrum sativum* **as Potential Drug Targets Against SARS-COV-2 Infection**

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## *Authors' contributions*

*This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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## **ABSTRACT**

A novel strain of coronavirus, namely, SARS-CoV-2 has already taken the lives of more than 2 million people worldwide, causing several socio-economic and political disturbances, affecting our daily life. There are no definite therapies available and research is still being conducted to identify and develop an effective antiviral drug leads against SARS-CoV-2. Therefore, there is an immediate need to identify and develop new or repurposed antiviral (anti-coronavirus) drug leads. The virus requires the main protease (Pdb ID:6WTT), a multifunctional protein involved in the processing and replication of the viral RNAs. This paper aims to screen potential phytochemical compounds of *Coriandrum sativum* against the viral main protease. In order to identify a novel potent inhibitor, we have performed docking studies on the SARS-CoV-2 main protease with the phytochemical compounds of *Coriandrum sativum*. Among studied compounds, Cosomosiin, Erucic acid, Rosemarinic, and Pimentel appear to be potential inhibitors of the SARS-CoV-2 main protease. When docked against the crystal structure of the main protease, these four compounds revealed Libdock scores of 141.40, 133.89, 143.89, and 148.60 respectively. However, all these identified phytochemical compounds need to be further validated by molecular dynamics and invitro lab experiments for clinical use only after appropriate trials.

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*molecular docking; libdock score.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The latest category of coronavirus, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) [initially recognized as 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)], is responsible for this pandemic condition in the world [1]. At present, the newly mutated SARS-CoV-2 has caused millions of deaths around the world, representing a severe threat to general well-being. The most characteristic feature shared by SARS-2 coronaviruses is the single-strand, positive-sense RNA genomes with a total structural weight of 105.02 kDa. Coronavirus polyproteins encode two proteases, namely, the main protease called 3C-like protease (Mpro) and papain-like protease (Plpro), which correlate while releasing and processing the translated nonstructural proteins. Both Plpro and Mpro are essentially the focus of drug design and development against the ongoing COVID fatal epidemic disease, including SARS-CoV. and MERS – CoV [2].

Currently, there is no known effective treatment or vaccine that can mitigate/inhibit SARS-CoV-2. Available clinical interventions for COVID-19 are only palliative and limited to support [3].

In the absence of an effective vaccine and specific drug, the only option is immunityboosting nutraceuticals and symptomatic treatment. It is no wonder that medicinal plants and their phytochemical compounds could be employed as a potent weapon against COVID-19. In the present study, the phytochemicals extract of leaves, stem, seeds of *Coriandrum sativum* (also known as curry leaves) have been screened in silico against the main protease of SARS-CoV-2 to investigate the potent inhibitors [4]. The below Fig. 1 shows the structure of SARS-COV-2.



**Fig. 1. structure of SARS-COV-2 [5]**

*Keywords: Coriandrum sativum; SARS-CoV-2 main protease; molecular dynamic simulation;* 

## **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

#### **2.1 Software and Program**

Discovery Studio Biovia 2020 (developed and distributed by [Dassault Systemes BIOVIA\)](https://www.3dsbiovia.com/) was employed to visualize and modify receptor and ligand structures.

#### **2.2 Protein Preparation**

RCSB (Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics) Protein Data Bank [\(https://www.rcsb.org/\)](https://www.rcsb.org/) was used to retrieve the three-dimensional crystal structure of novel SARS CoV- 2 (COVID-19) main protease with inhibitor GC- 376 ( Protein ID: 6WTT) was derived in pdb. format. It was used as it is a wellannotated model in the database that constitutes three chains A, B, and C with a good resolution of 2.15 Å. This model was employed because it has the largest number of non-hydrogen atoms in the deposited model (7,430) and the most recent release date (2020-05-20). Moreover, the 3D structure of the target protein was sterilized using the Discovery Studio Biovia 2020 (DS 4.0) software to remove the original ligand [6,7].

Protein preparation was done with the help of the 'Prepare protein' protocol of Discovery studio 4.0 (DS 4.0). Water molecules and heteroatoms present in the crystal structure were removed at physiological pH 7.4 using DS 4.0. Further, the prediction of the active site in the prepared protein was done by using the receptor cavities option in the DS 4.0.

## **2.3 Ligands Selection**

For the documentation of potential inhibitors of the main protease of SARS-CoV-2, a total of seventy-three active phytochemicals of *Coriandrum sativum* were retrieved from the literature. PubChem compound database [\(https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/\)](https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) was used for the retrieval of phytochemical structures in 2 dimensional SDF (Structure Data File) format. Afterward ligand optimization, energy minimization, and conversion of retrieved ligands to 3-D PDB format and clean geometry were done with the help of Discovery Studio client 4.0 [8].

#### **A. Phytochemicals of Coriander (***Coriandrum sativum***)**

The result of the phytochemical screening of coriander leaf, stem, and fruit powder extracted with methanol, chloroform, and distilled water for different phytochemical tests and the identification of different groups are obtained from already published study [9] has used for our study. The phytochemical screening of leaf, stem, and fruit extract of coriander using three different solvents namely chloroform, methanol, dilution with water has shown following results as listed in the Tables 1,2, and 3. Further individual ligands along with their simile IDs retrieved from respective PubChem webpage [10] are listed in Table 4.

## **Table 1. Phytochemical screening of** *Coriander sativum* **leaf extract**







## **Table 3. Phytochemical screening of** *Coriander sativum* **fruit extract**



## **Table 4. List of Active Phytochemical Composition in** *Coriandrum sativum*







## **2.4** *In Silico* **ADME Properties**

The pharmacokinetics (ADME) properties of the selected compounds were predicted using the Swiss ADME web tool [\(http://www.swissadme.ch/\)](http://www.swissadme.ch/). The phytochemical compounds' structure was retrieved from databases using the import tool on the input zone of the Swiss ADME submission page and converted into respectively SMILES format, and then calculations were run [11].

## **2.5** *In Silico* **Toxicity Risks' Assessment and Drug Likeliness**

OSIRIS Property Explorer's open-source program was used to evaluate the toxicity risks of the compounds retrieved from PubChem. [\(http://www.organicchemistry.org/prog/peo/\)](http://www.organicchemistry.org/prog/peo/)

## **2.6 SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Main Protease**

The 3-dimensional crystallographic structural coordinate files of the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) main protease with inhibitor GC-376 (PDB ID 6WTT), was downloaded from the protein data bank [\(https://www.rcsb.org/pdb\)](https://www.rcsb.org/pdb) and it is opened in Discovery studio module of Biovia client 2020 software for further visualization and docking studies.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

## **3.1 Molecular Docking**

Molecular docking is a popular tool used in computer-assisted drug design and structural molecular biology. It is been widely used to screen the phytochemicals from the plant extract, which acts as a ligand especially when the 3D structure of the target protein is available. This method could help predict both the binding affinity between protein and ligand and the structure of the protein-ligand complex, which is useful information for lead optimization. Indeed, molecular docking is routinely been applied for more than two decades and a great number of novel drug leads have been discovered and developed accordingly. The Discovery studio module of Biovia client 2020 software was used to perform molecular docking and to identify molecular interaction of the protein-ligand complex [12]. And the ligand-binding site in the main protease and interaction of ligands with residues in the cavity is depicted in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 below.

In this process first, the Sdf. files of the phytochemicals found in the *Coriandrum sativum* plant were downloaded from the website [\(https://cb.imsc.res.in/imppat/basicsearchauth\)](https://cb.imsc.res.in/imppat/basicsearchauth). The protein database code of screened phytochemical compounds was identified from the same website. In the same way, target protein (PDB id: 6WTT) was retrieved in PDB.<br>the format from protein data bank the format from protein data bank [\(https://www.rcsb.org/\)](https://www.rcsb.org/). After loading the protein and the ligands, the active site of the target

protein was identified via the "receptor cavities" protocol found under the "receptor-ligand interaction" menu. Molecular docking was done using the Dock ligands (LibDock) protocol of Biovia software under "receptor-ligand interaction". The target protein (enzyme) molecule was treated as the receptor molecule and the identified phytochemicals were treated as the ligands. The "LibDock score", Binding energy, Relative energy, and the number of hydrogen atoms involved in the docking interaction were used as indicators to access the quality of performed molecular docking. The high positive LibDock score of those indicators presented a good interaction between the ligand and the receptor.

Further, the results dock score of phytochemicals with the target protein along with its relative energy are listed in Table 5.

Further the amino acid residues involved in the interaction between the highest LibDock score against the main covid target protein shown in Fig. 4. and the resultant amino acids involved in the interaction re noted for further investigation and studies, especially for molecular dynamics to validate its interactions [13].



**Fig. 2. Represents the 3D structure of the main protease of SARS-CoV-2 virus with inhibitor GC-376**





## **Table 5. Results of Docking of phytochemicals with target protein (PDB id: 6WTT)**

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#### **2- Dimensional Image of the Amino Acids Involved in the Protein-ligand Interaction**

**Fig. 4. Represents the 2D structure of the amino acid involved in the interaction between main protease of SARS-CoV-2 virus with Pimentel phytochemical compound of** *Coriandrum sativum*

SARS-CoV-2 protein (PDB ID 6WTT) interplays with the top three ligands identified by molecular docking analysis, namely, Cosmosiin, erucic acid, Pimental. No hydrogen bond was detected between Undecanal and the target protein. Cosmosiin bonded with five different amino acid residues, i.e., Lys5, Val125, Gly127, Try126, Arg4. Similarly, Erucic acid and Rosmarinic Acid bonded with five amino acids, i.e., Phe291, Trp207, LYS5, Arg4, Val125, and Val125, Ala7, Lys5, Glu288, Phe3 respectively. In both Cosmossin and Pimental, hydrogen bonds occurred between the ligand and the target protein. Hydrogen bonds are common and are usually essential for various interactions such as protein–ligand interactions, protein folding, and catalysis. By promoting molecular interactions, hydrogen bonds diversify a variety of biological activities; they are usually considered to facilitate protein–ligand binding [14-20].

## **4. CONCLUSION**

In this study, the bioactive compounds in *Coriandrum sativum* were subjected to several experiments, such as Lipinski's rule of five, pharmacokinetics, and molecular dynamics simulations, evaluation with the protein target 6WTT of SARS-CoV-2. Among all the photoactive ligands, Cosomosiin, Erucic acid,

Rosmarinic Acid and Pimentel exhibited excellent stability during molecular docking analysis using discovery studio software. Further investigation, particularly molecular dynamic and pathway prediction, are recommended to confirm its interaction properties.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Active phytoconstituents of Ayurvedic medicinal plant *Coriandrum sativum* are predicted to significantly hinder the main protease of SARS-CoV-2.
- Through molecular docking and molecular dynamics simulation study, Cosomosiin, Erucic acid, Rosemarinic acid, and Pimentel were anticipated to impede the activity of the main protease of SARS-CoV-2.
- Further, drug-likeness and ADMET profile prediction of best-docked compounds from the present study were predicted to be safe, drug-like compounds with no toxicity.

#### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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