



## **A Comprehensive Review on Natural Products and Anti-Inflammatory Activity**

**Faruk Alam<sup>1</sup>, Ruhul Amin<sup>1\*</sup> and Biplab Kumar Dey<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Assam Down Town University, Panikhaiti, Guwahati, Assam, India.

### **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Authors FA and RA designed the study, performed the literature search wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author BKD review and update the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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### **ABSTRACT**

Natural plants various metabolites are widely utilized in a different kind of infections and inflammation as traditional medication. The inflammatory response is a reaction always effects in daily life and physical issue and activity of herbal complex act through of blood vessels. Inflammation is a pathologic issue that incorporates a wide scope of sicknesses, for example rheumatic, diabetes, cardiovascular accident and chronic kidney disease. We present a few herbal spices which their metabolites that have been assessed in clinical and test. The review includes number of various herbal plants with their families, parts utilized, k concentrate utilized, bioassay models and their usages in medicinal activities.

**Keywords:** *Anti-inflammatory activity; inducers of inflammation; natural products; medicinal plants; review.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Inflammation has been studied molecular level concentrated trying to manage it without side effect for huge number of years. Inflammation or flogose is a response of the tissue blood vessels against the aggressor agent characterized by access of liquids and of cells to interstice. The inflammatory response is effected by become blush, heat, tumor, pain, and lost cell function. Celsius (in 30 A.D.) described in his study that the four signs of inflammation includes [(rubor, calor, dolor, and tumor or redness), heat, pain and swelling] and he utilized willow leaves as concentrated form to relieve them. Inflammation may occurs as result of contact with infectious microorganisms such as viruses, bacteria or fungi to a specific tissues. [1-3] and this infection progressions lead to a tissue injury, cell death, cancer, ischemia and degeneration of cell wall causes inflammation on that particular area. [4-6]. This process was best represented for microbial contamination (particularly bacterial), in which various receptors of the intrinsic resistant framework, for example, Toll-like receptors (TLRs) and NOD (nucleotide-binding oligomerization-domain protein)-like receptors (NLRs). This early acknowledge of diseases is intervened by tissue inhabitant macrophages and mast cells, this lead to produce variety of inflammatory mediators, including chemokines, cytokines, vasoactive amines, eicosanoids and products of proteolytic falls. Mostly, inflammation progress includes both the innate immune responses as well as the adaptive immune

response [7]. The innate immune system is the primary defense mechanism against entering different microorganisms and carsigenic cells, including macrophages, mast cells and dendritic cells. The adaptive immune systems involve the activity of more immune response cells for example, B and T cells whos mechanism activate for eradicating invading pathogens and cancer cells by creating specific receptors and antibodies. The aggravation reaction is synchronized by a huge scope of go between that structure complex administrative reaction systems. In order to analyze these complex networks, it is important to put these signals into specific functional categories and isolate the inflammatory between inducers and mediators. Inducers are the signals which induce the response to infammation. They trigger pecific sensors, which then cause the production of exact mediator. The mediators, respose to the functional states of different tissues and organs (which are effectors of inflammation) in such a way to indicated that the particular inflammation inducer adapt them to the singiling condition. Consequently, a nonspecific inflammatory 'pathway' consists of inducers, sensors, mediators and effectors, each which determining the type of inflammatory response.

### 1.1 Inducers and Sensors of Inflammation

Inducers induce inflammation can be exogenous or endogenous (Fig. 1).

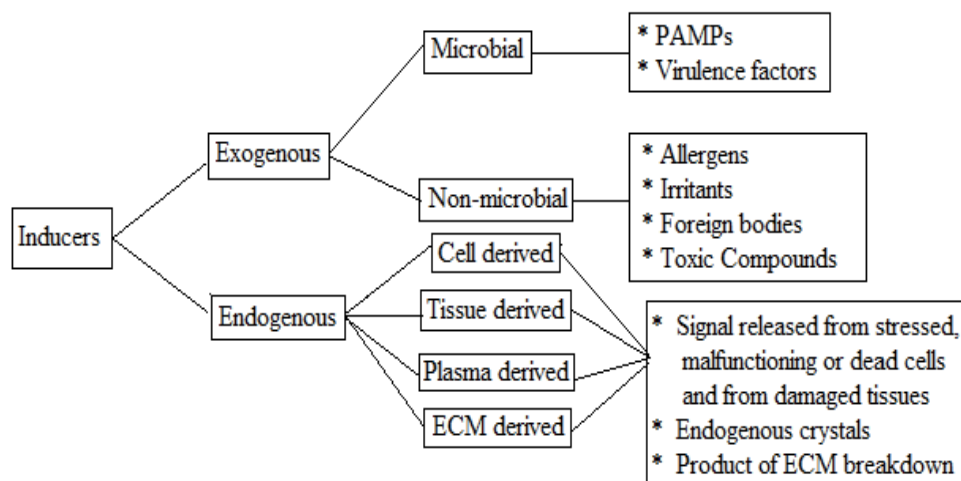


Fig. 1. Inducers of inflammation

### 1.1.1 Endogenous inducers of inflammation

Endogenous inflammation inducers that are signals produced in connection with stressed, injured or otherwise malfunctioning tissues. The identity of the inflammations signals and their characteristic are not well discovered. They probably belong to various functional classes according to the nature and the degree of tissue anomalies [8].

One specific method in the detecting of acute tissue injury is the identifying of active molecules that are normally kept separate in intact tissue and cells. Activated components are separated by the various forms of compartmentalization process that exist in normal tissues. The cellular membranes sequestration (especially the plasma membrane), basement membranes, surface epithelium and vascular endothelium [9]. During necrotic cell death, plasma membrane integrity is impaired its activity, resulting in the release of certain cellular chemical mediator, including ATP,  $K^+$  ions, HMGB1 (high-mobility group box 1 protein), uric acid and several S100 calcium-binding protein family (S100A8, S100A9 and S100A12) [10]. The ATP molecule attached to purinoceptors (including P2X7) on the macrophages, subsequently in  $K^+$  ion efflux, and may activated the signaling pathway to inflammatory NALP3 activation [11]. ATP also activates nociceptors, which produces tissue injury to the nervous system. S100A12 and HMGB1 involve the RAGE receptor (advanced glycation end-product-specific receptor; also known as AGER), which lead to (at least in the case of HMGB1) cooperates with TLRs to induce an inflammatory action [11,12].

### 1.1.2 Exogenous inducers of inflammation

Exogenous inducers are two groups inducers includes microbial and nonmicrobial. The microbial inducer in process existing pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) and virulence factors [13,14]. The PAMPs microbial inducer is a partial and specific set of conserved molecular forms that is carried by most of the microorganisms (whether pathogenic or commensal) [15]. PAMPs are represented in the sense of a corresponding set of a receptors (known as pattern-recognition receptors). It has been evolved continuously and detect in presence. The second class of microbial inducer includes a variety of virulence factors and its pathogenesis. PAMPs are dedicated receptors do not specifically rather than the effects of their

operation on host tissues. PAMPs particularly shows their adverse effects and responsible for activating the inflammatory pathway to produces inflammation [11]. Specialized sensors are determine to detect selective behavior of various virulence factors. For example, Bacteria that from pore-producing exotoxins (gram positive bacteria) are detected by the NALP3 (NACHT-, leucine-rich repeat- and pyrin-domain containing protein) inflammasome, which is also sensitive to the efflux of  $K^+$  ions produces by pore formation., the proteolytic activity of helminthes also produce proteases is which is sensed by an unknown sensor of basophiles [16]. Notably, this functional also mimics can be unintentionally activate this sensing mechanism of inflammation, so an allergens of proteases pathway normally induced by helminths. This substitute approached to sensing virulence activity is non-specific, also by detecting the cell death and tissue damage results. In this case, endogenous toxins products damaged cells and tissue are the real inducers of the inflammatory response [17]. Importantly, the inflammatory responses induced by these two of virulence mediator activity sensing mechanism in their specificity, since the former is characteristic of pathogens (and in some cases, pathogen classes), but the latter is not. These inflammatory responses are likely to have different characteristics, and it will be interesting to investigate whether they result in distinct physiological and pathological outcomes [18].

## 1.2 Mediators of Inflammation

There are various herbal products are for controlling and prevents inflammatory crisis. Herbal medicine is widely popular and one of traditional medicine's most significant aspect. The role of anti-inflammatory remission herbs has been asserted in many scientific studies [19-21]. We discussed about herbs which have been tested for anti-inflammatory activity in clinical and laboratory studies. The clinical result are significantly improve condition of inflammation; among our research data, the *Curcuma longa* had shown the most significant clinical benefits in the management of disorders such as RA, uveitis, and IBD. Also, other listed herbs have demonstrated good anti-inflammatory activity in clinical and experimental design [22,23]. Consequently, the inflammation process has shown different mechanisms and multiple method of treatment. usually cytokines are involved in enzyme activation (such as phospholipase A2), mediator release, fluid

extravasation and vasodilation, blood cell migration, and eventually inflammation tissue damage (Fig. 2) [24,25].

### 1.3 Histamine

The production of the histamine from mast cells during the antigen-antibody reactions, as is its active role in cell membrane damage lead to inflammatory process. In the rheumatoid synovium and in the asthmatic lung, increase numbers of mast cells are also present, associated with elevated histamine levels [26-28].

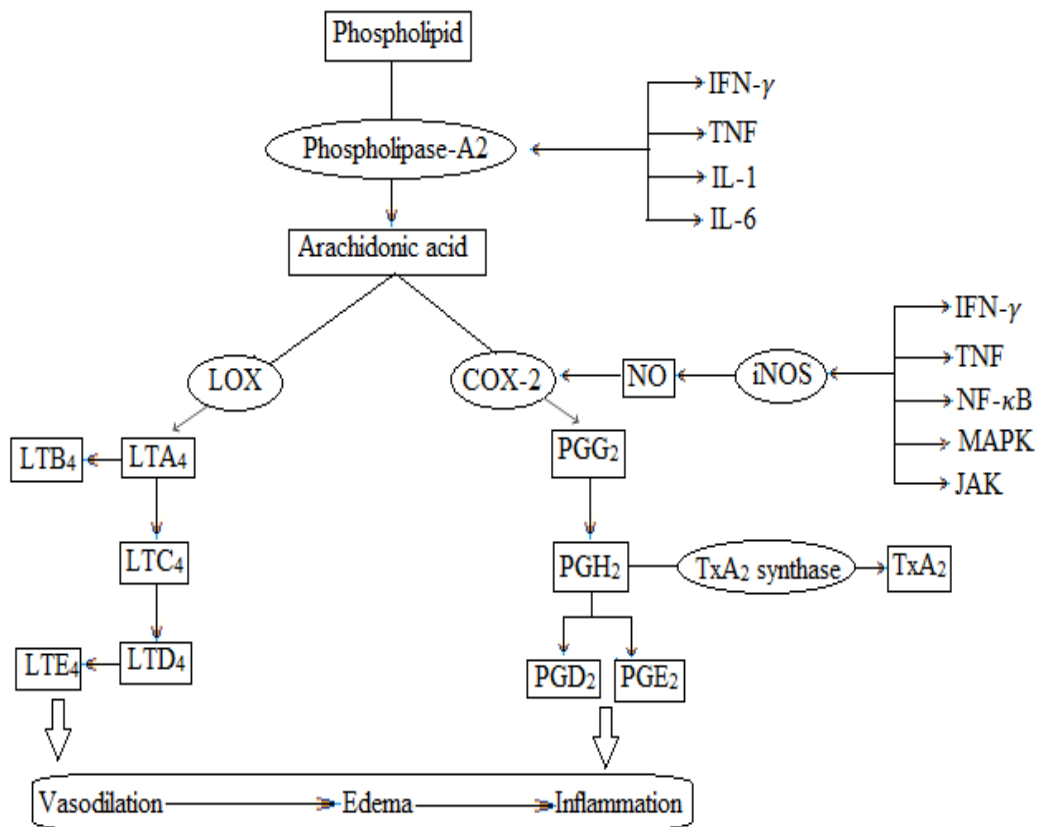
### 1.4 Bradykinin

Bradykinin is a chemical association with pain, vasodilatation, and edema, resulting in inflammatory reaction. Mediator-like

immunoreactivity of bradykinin chemicals has been found in inflammatory pleural rat exudates [29,30]. After immunological challenge, kinines chemical mediators are also present in nasal secretion and kininogens is produced from mast cells of the lung [31-34].

### 1.5 The Prostaglandins

Beside non-nucleated erythrocytes, all kind of other cells are synthesizing PGs as per need basis, usually released in response to many types of cell membrane disruption. Aspirin was discovered by Vane in 1971 acting on this pathway and similar other drugs inhibit PGs, biosynthesis and predicted that his would explain their mechanism of action [35]. In other words, NSAIDs drugs inhibit the release of PGs chemical mediators that contributes to inflammation, fever, and pain.



**Fig. 2. Inflammation pathway. COX [cyclooxygenase]; IL [interleukin]; LT [leukotriene]; LOX [lipoxygenase]; PG [prostaglandin]; TX [thromboxane]; NO [nitricoxide]; iNOS [inducibleNOsynthase]; IFN [interferon]; TNF [tumornecrosisfactor]; NF-κB[nuclearfactor-κB]; MAPK [mitogenactivated proteinkinase]; JAK [januskinase]; IL [interleukin]**

## 1.6 Thromboxane A2 and Prostacyclin

Aspirin's antiplatelet properties could not be explained by inhibiting the chemical mediator of PGE2 or PGF2a, because these PGs have no significant effect on platelet aggregation. However, in 1975 Samuelsson found that arachidonic acid (AA) is metabolized in platelets into pro aggregatory thromboxane (TX) A2 [36]. Through this pathway aspirin was prevented the formation of the intermediate endoperoxide (Fig. 3) [37]. The TXA2 chemical mediator is a another prostaglandin chemical exhibited opposite behavior to that of TXA2 [38]. Prostacyclin, as it was later named prostacyclin also relaxes blood vessels and prevents platelets aggregation. The chemical synthesis is of particular importance in the endothelial cells of blood vessel walls [39,40].

## 1.7 Leukotrienes

The leukotrienes Slow-reacting anaphylaxis substance (SRS-A) was identified as a product of AA metabolism's 5-lipoxygenase pathway [41,42], and Samuelsson termed the chemical constituents of SRS-A as leukotrienes (LTs). In its inhibitory effects on cyclo-oxygenase, aspirin does not inhibit 5-lipoxygenase and, therefore, neither does it inhibit LT synthesis (Fig. 4) [43]. There's some evidence that lipo-oxygenase products leads to inflammatory vascular changes.

## 1.8 Platelet-Activating Factor (PAF)

The phospholipid PAF-acether is produced from the most proinflammatory cells, through the action of phospholipaseA2 mediated through vascular endothelial cells and platelets [44]. It usually caused inflammatory response in various species of animals and human skin [45].

## 1.9 Interleukin-I

IL-I is a polypeptide formed by activated macrophages mimicking chronic inflammation symptoms [46,20]. It also called as endogenous pyrogen. IL-I-like activity (equivalent to 1.69 U/mi) was observed in synovial fluids of rheumatoid arthritis patients [47]. Its actions include lymphocytes activation and fever production which is mediated by release of PGE2.

## 1.10 Mechanism of Action of Non Steroid Anti-Inflammatory Agents

The PGE2-like chemicals composition presents in synovial fluid of rheumatoid arthritis legs is around 20 ng/ml. This chemical reduce to zero in patients who used aspirin and its clinical proves effect on PG synthesis [48]. Polyester sponges impregnated with carrageenan injection s.c. experimental inflammation was induced in rats [49]. The inflammatory mediator examination contained within the sponges showed an increase in PGE2 concentration throughout the 24-h experiment. Additionally, the TXA2 and LTB4 usually showing peak after 4-6 h and then decreased over the rest of the experiment (Fig. 5). PGE2 induces hyperalgesia and vasodilatation. The chemical property of LTB4 is likely to draw polymorphonuclear leukocytes to the area [50]. However, the role of TXA2 in the process inflammation not well conventional.

Evidence has been shown that role of PGs in the inflammation producer usually caused by carrageenan to cause inflammation in the rat paw. Aspirin clinically proven suppression of endogenous PGs and then the administration of low doses of exogenous PGE2 (1.0 ng) or prostacyclin (10 ng) caused an increase in edema [51]. The ability for aspirin-like drugs to affect the release of certain compound, such as histamine and bradykinin, has been experimentally dismissed and further experiments have been planned to demonstrate that the anti-enzyme activity of aspirin-like drugs associated with their anti-inflammatory effect [52].

## 1.11 The Mechanism of Action of Steroids in Inflammation

Steroids clinically demonstrated the inhibit phospholipase A2 activity, which is precursor for the release of AA. Thus, corticosteroids mechanism of inhibit the complex of PGs, TX, and the LTs. Anti-inflammatory properties of steroids prevent phospholipase A2 release by producing inhibitory protein. This has been inhibitory proteins called as macrocortin, lipomodulin, or renocortin, and its molecular sizes ranges 15, 30, and 40 kDa have been identified by scientific studies. There is some dispute with respect to its mode of action of lipocortins appear due to similar identical to calpactins [54]. Calpactins usually bind calcium ion and also phospholipid ion. it has been

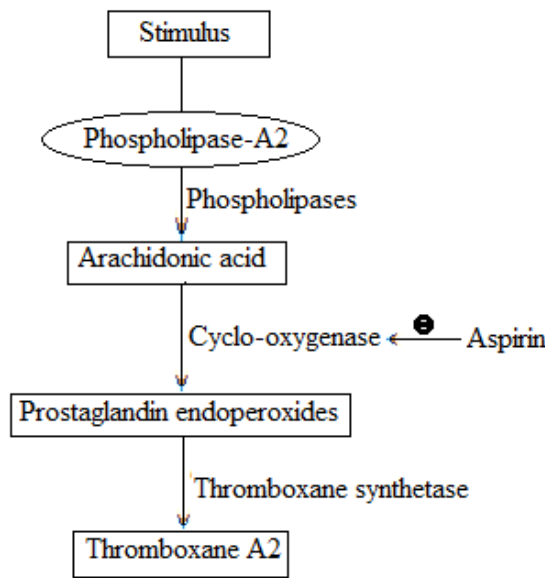
suggested that this property of Calpacitns direct inhibition of phospholipase A2, and also responsible for the reduction in eicosanoid formation [55-57].

**2. METHODS**

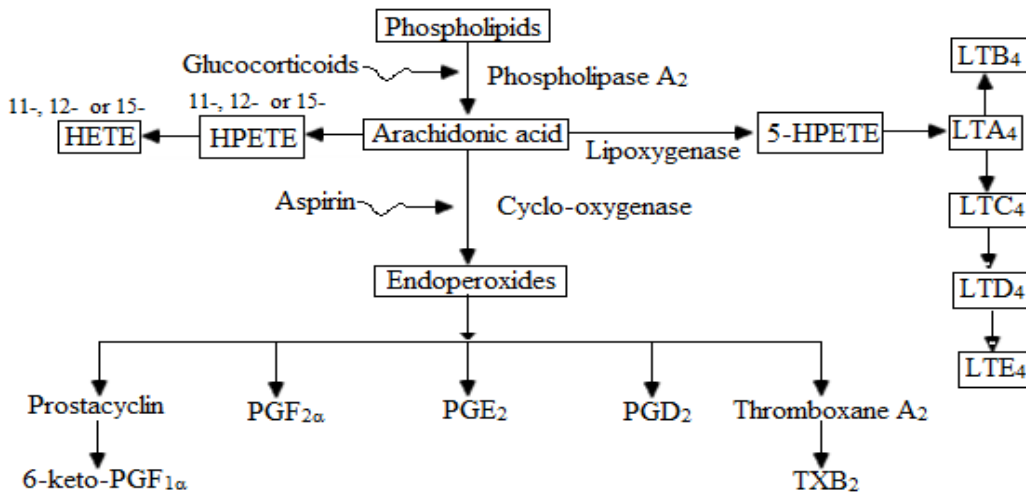
In this study, all the data from internet search engines were generated as follows: Pub Med, Science Direct, Google Scholar, web of science and Cocraine review. We used several keywords for searching in the database, “anti-inflammatory”, “herbs”, “herbal”, “herbal

medicine”, and “Herbal Anti-Inflammatory medication”.

All the references within include publish this descriptive review article was written in English as a standard format, this review attempts to includes all the articles from 1980 to the present. Table 1 summarizes selected articles which report (2010–2016) on the anti-inflammatory effects of herbal plants materials and Table 2 contains summary of relevant research articles reporting on the anti-inflammatory effects of some selected herbs.



**Fig. 3. Action of aspirin on platelets**



**Fig. 4. Catabolic pathways of AA**






**Table 1. Summarizes selected articles which report (2010–2016) on the anti-inflammatory effects of herbal plants materials**






| <b>Author Name</b>       | <b>Article topic</b>                     | <b>Major Method(s) of Testing</b>  | <b>Main Effects on Inflammation*</b>   |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Aravindaram, et al. 2010 | Plant based natural products             | in vitro and in vivo models of inflammation (LPS- induce lipopolysaccharide) and cancer.   | Important reduction of cytokines levels; inhibition of development of COX-2, iNOS, NFκB and STAT (signal transducers and transcription activators) [58].   |
| Arya et al. 2011         | Plant barks                              | Different form of <i>in-vivo</i> inflammation (paw edema caused by carrageenan).   | Significant COX and iNOS inhibition; paw edema attenuation of [59].  |
| Shah, et al. 2011        | Medicinal plants (General)               | Different models of <i>in-vivo</i> (paw edema caused by carrageenan)   | Inhibition of development in COX, iNOS, 5-LOX and PLA2 ; attenuation of paw edema [60].  |
| Beg, et al. 2011         | Herbal drugs (Medicinal plants)          | Various models of inflammation <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> (animals); clinical humans trials with health and efficacy test. | Significant decrease in levels of cytokines, PGs, LTs, and NO; inhibition of development of COX, 5-LOX, PLA2, iNOS, and NFκB ; Humans: different effects of analgesic/pain states, edema reduction, attenuation of inflammatory mitigation [61]. |
| Lucas et al. 2011        | Virgin olive oil                         | Similar <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> inflammation models.  | Important reduction in levels cytokines, LTs, NO and PGs levels; inhibition of development of COX, iNOS and 5-LOX activity [62].   |
| Sengupta et al. 2012     | Medicinal plants                         | Similar <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> inflammation models.  | Analgesic effects and inflammatory action reduction [63].  |
| Shilpi et al. 2012       | Mangrove plants                          | Similar <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> inflammation models.  | Decrease levels of cytokines, LTs, NO and PGs levels; inhibition of development of COX, iNOS, 5-LOX and NFκB activity [64].  |
| S. Kumar et al. 2013     | Herbal plants                            | Similar <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> inflammation models.  | Significant decrease in the levels of cytokines, LTs, NO and PGs levels; COX, iNOS and 5 LOX activity [65].  |
| Wei et al. 2013          | Marine natural products from soft corals | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> models of inflammation (LPS-induced inflammation)                                       | Reduction in levels of cytokines, NO and PGs; inhibition of COX and iNOS activity [66].  |
| Lee et al. 2013          | Marine natural products of algal origin  | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> models of inflammation (LPS-induced inflammation)                                       | Decrease in level of IL-6, TNF-α, NO and PGs ; inhibition of development COX, iNOS, NFκB and STAT activity [67].   |
| Bajpai et al. 2014       | Ethnobotanical plants                    | Carrageenan induced paw edema  | The effects were similar to those of other anti-inflammatory drugs like aspirin, diclofenac, valdecoxib, sulindac, ibuprofen, phenylbutazone and indomethacin [68].  |



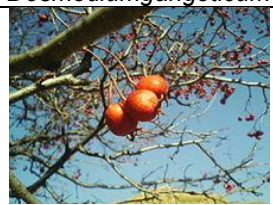

| <b>Author Name</b>      | <b>Article topic</b>                                 | <b>Major Method(s) of Testing</b>   | <b>Main Effects on Inflammation*</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| Furst et al. 2015       | Plant derived compounds                              | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> models of inflammation; pre-clinical tests and clinical trials in humans.                        | Decrease levels of cytokines, LTs and PGs; activation of COX-2, 5-LOX and NFκB in humans: attenuation of inflammatory factors such as CRP, IL-1β, IL-6, and TNF-α [69].  |
| Schafer et al. 2014     | Active organosulfur compounds in garlic              | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> animals models (LPS-induced inflammation); studies in human volunteers and pre-clinical studies. | Anti-inflammatory: reduction of the levels PGs, NO, IL-1β, IL6 and TNF-α increase of the of IL-10 levels; inhibition of COX-2, iNOS and NFκB activity Pro-inflammatory: opposite effects of the mentioned above [70].              |
| Arreola et al. 2015     | Active organosulfur compounds and extracts of garlic | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> animals models (LPS-induced inflammation); studies in human.                                     | Anti-inflammatory: reduction in IL-1β, IL-6 and TNF-α rise in levels; increase in IL-10 levels; inhibition of NFκB activity Pro-inflammatory: increase in NO, IFN-γ and TNF-α levels [71].   |
| Bhagyasri et al. 2015   | Indian medicinal plants                              | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> models   | Decrease levels of TNF-α and other cytokines; PLA2 inhibition; general-anti-inflammatory, analgesic and anti-allergic effects [72].  |
| González et al. 2015    | Marine diterpenoids                                  | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> models (LPS-induced inflammation)  | Substantial reduction in rates IL-6, TNF-α, NO, PGs and LTs levels; substantial inhibition of COX-2, 5-LOX, NFκ B and iNOS activity , some of which were equivalent to those of anti-inflammatory drugs such as indomethacin [73]. |
| Parhiz et al. 2015      | Citrus flavonoids                                    | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> animal models (e.g., LPS-induced inflammation), healthy human volunteers                         | Decreased levels IL-1β, IL-6, TNF-α, PGs and NO levels; inhibition of COX-2, NFκB activity, iNOS , reduction in human plasma CRP levels [74].  |
| Karunaweera et al. 2015 | Plant polyphenols                                    | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> animal models (LPS induced inflammation)   | Reduction in rates IL-1β, IL-6, TNF-α, NO and PGs levels; inhibition of development of COX-2, iNOS and NFκB activity [75].   |
| Cheung et al. 2016      | Marine natural products                              | Various <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> animal models (carrageenan or LPS-induced inflammation)  | Important reduction in rates IL-1β, IL-6, TNF-α, NO and PGs; substantial inhibition of development COX-2, iNOS and NFκB activity [45].   |
| Maione et al. 2016      | Medicinal plants                                     | Diverse animal models <i>in-vitro</i> and <i>in-vivo</i> (LPS induced inflammation)   | Decrease in rates IL-1β, IL-6, TNF-α, NO and PGs levels; inhibition of development of COX-2 and iNOS activity [76].  |











**Table 2. Comprehensive summary of research articles reporting on the anti-inflammatory effects of plant products**




| Plant Name  | Family        | Extracting Solvent(s)  | Major Method(s) of Testing   | Main Effects on Inflammation  |
|---|---------------|--|--|---|
| <br><i>Portulaca oleracea</i>    | Portulacaceae | 10% C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH in H <sub>2</sub> O   | Hot-plate method for assessing analgesia activity; carrageenan-induced paw edema | A significant reduction in paw edema and an analgesic effect, similar to that of diclofenac [77].   |
| <br><i>Salvia officinalis</i>    | Lamiaceae     | n-Hexane, CHCl <sub>3</sub> , MeOH   | Croton oil-induced ear edema in mice   | n-Hexane and CHCl <sub>3</sub> extracts prominently decreased ear edema; MeOH extract had a weak effect while the essential oil was ineffective; the significant effect of ursolic acid was 2-fold stronger in reducing the edema than indomethacin [78]. |
| <br><i>Salvia fruticosa</i>      | Lamiaceae     | CHCl <sub>3</sub> , CH <sub>3</sub> OH, C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub> , n-butyl alcohol | Carrageenan-induced paw edema in mice  | A significant reduction in paw edema similar to that seen under treatment with diclofenac [79].   |
| <br><i>Corchorus olitorius</i> | Malvaceae     | H <sub>2</sub> O   | Yeast-induced pyrexia and carrageenan-induced paw edema and in rats              | A significant reduction in paw edema which was stronger than that of aspirin; attenuation of hyperthermia (fever) [80].   |
| <br><i>Carica papaya</i>       | Caricaceae    | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH   | Cotton pellet -induced granuloma and Carrageenan-induced paw edema in rats       | A significant reduction in paw edema and pellet granuloma; effects were similar to those of indomethacin [81].  |

| Plant Name  | Family         | Extracting Solvent(s) | Major Method(s) of Testing   | Main Effects on Inflammation   |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| <br><i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>  | Lamiaceae      | CH <sub>3</sub> OH    | In-vitro assays for measuring neutrophils inflammation and lipoxigenase activity   | Three compounds had a significant anti-inflammatory activity; two compounds inhibited the activity of lipoxigenase [82].   |
| <br><i>Origanum syriacum</i>   | Lamiaceae      | Essential oils        | LPS-induced inflammation in RAW 264.7 cells  | <i>Origanum syriacum</i> caused a significant decrease in NO production [83].  |
| <br><i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> | Phyllanthaceae | H <sub>2</sub> O      | carrageenan-induced paw edema, Ethyl phenylpropiolate and arachidonic acid-induced ear edema and cotton pellet-induced granuloma in rats | Significant reduction in a paw edema, inhibition of ear inflammation, and pellet granuloma-effects were similar to those of aspirin; the extract exerted an analgesic effect [84]. |
| <br><i>Citrus paradisi</i>    | Rutaceae       | CH <sub>3</sub> OH    | LPS-induced inflammation in RAW 264.7 cells  | A significant, dose-dependent reduction in PGE <sub>2</sub> and NO levels; a significant decrease in COX-2 and iNOS expression [85].   |
| <br><i>Mangifera indica</i>  | Anacardiaceae  | CH <sub>3</sub> OH    | Carrageenan-induced paw edema in rats; Acetic acid-induced writhing in mice.   | A non-significant reduction in paw edema; a significant analgesic effect similar to that of diclofenac [86].   |

| Plant Name   | Family    | Extracting Solvent(s)                               | Major Method(s) of Testing   | Main Effects on Inflammation  |
|--|-----------|---|--|---|
| <br><i>Urginea indica</i>         | Liliaceae | CH <sub>3</sub> OH                                  | Hot-plate method in mice; carrageenan-induced paw edema and cotton pellet granuloma in rats                                  | Anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects, a significant reduction in paw edema; effects were similar to those of ibuprofen [87].   |
| <br><i>Desmodium gangeticum</i>   | Fabaceae  | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH                    | Carrageenan-induced paw edema in rats  | A significant reduction in paw edema [88]   |
| <br><i>Crataegus pinnatifida</i> | Rosaceae  | 70% MeOH in H <sub>2</sub> O, in different solvents | LPS-induced inflammation in RAW 264.7 cells  | The aqueous extract caused a significant reduction in NO levels; and, a significant dose-dependent reduction in COX-2, IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$ expression [89]                                    |
| <br><i>Mentha spicata</i>       | Lamiaceae | CH <sub>3</sub> OH                                  | Hot-plate test & acetic acid-induced writhing in mice; yeast-induced pyrexia in rats; carrageenan-induced paw edema in rats; | Significant dose-dependent analgesic effect, anti-inflammatory effect (decrease in paw edema) and antipyretic effect; effects were parallel to those of reference drugs such as ketorolac and paracetamol [90]. |

| Plant Name  | Family     | Extracting Solvent(s)            | Major Method(s) of Testing                                  | Main Effects on Inflammation  |
|---|------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
|  <p><i>Malva sylvestris</i></p>    | Malvaceae  | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH | 12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol-acetate-induced ear edema in mice | A significant dose-dependent decrease in ear edema; a reduction in IL-1β levels, and leukocytes relocation to the tissue; effects were less effective than those of dexamethasone [91]. |
|  <p><i>Abutilon indicum</i></p>    | Malvaceae  | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH | 5-LOX activity in lung malignance cell line A549            | A significant reduction in 5-LOX activity [92].   |
|  <p><i>Capsicum annuum</i></p>    | Solanaceae | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH | Adjuvant-induced arthritis in mice                          | A significant decrease in CRP, IL-1β, IL-6 and TNF-α levels; a significant reduction in arthritis [93].   |
|  <p><i>Morindacitrifolia</i></p> | Rubiaceae  | H <sub>2</sub> O                 | Carrageenan-induced paw edema in mice                       | A significant reduction in TNF-α levels; a significant decline in leukocytes migration; effects were comparable to those of indomethacin [94].  |

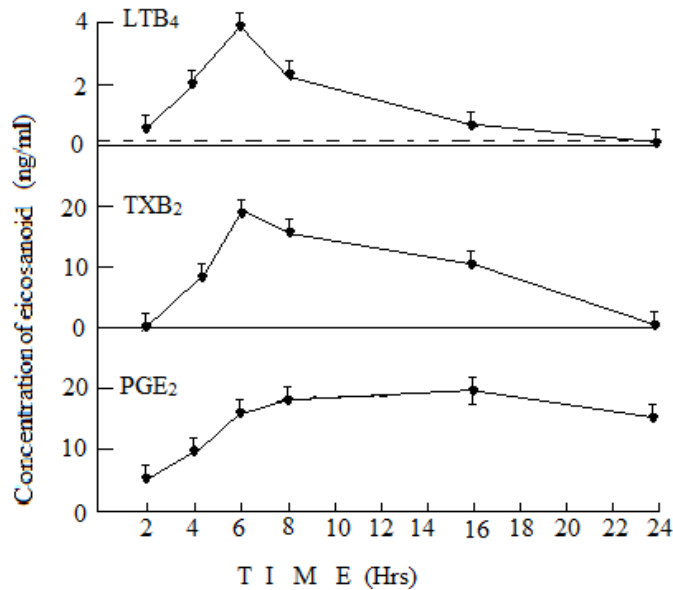
| Plant Name   | Family              | Extracting Solvent(s)  | Major Method(s) of Testing  | Main Effects on Inflammation   |
|--|---------------------|--|---|--|
| <br><i>Solanum lycocarpum</i>         | <i>Solanaceae</i>   | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH and fractionation with n-hexane, CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> , C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OCH <sub>3</sub> | Carrageenan-induced paw edema in mice   | A significant reduction in paw edema which was similar to that seen under treatment with indomethacin [95].  |
| <br><i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>     | <i>Lamiaceae</i>    | CH <sub>3</sub> OH   | LPS-induced inflammation in RAW 264.7 cells; dextran sulfate sodium-induced colitis in mice | A significant dose-dependent decrease in nitrites, IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$ levels; a significant reduction in COX-2 and iNOS expression; a significant decline in NF $\kappa$ B activity, among other inflammatory markers that were attenuated [96]. |
| <br><i>Eriodictyon angustifolium</i> | <i>Boraginaceae</i> | 90% C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH in H <sub>2</sub> O   | LPS-induced inflammation in human gingival fibroblasts.                                     | A significant reduction in IL-6, IL-8 and MCP-1 levels [97].   |
| <br><i>Drosera burmannii</i>        | <i>Droseraceae</i>  | 70% CH <sub>3</sub> OH in H <sub>2</sub> O   | LPS-induced inflammation in RAW 264.7 cells   | A significant dose-dependent decrease in nitrites and TNF- $\alpha$ levels; a significant dose-dependent reduction in COX-2 and iNOS expression [98].  |

| Plant Name   | Family         | Extracting Solvent(s)                                | Major Method(s) of Testing   | Main Effects on Inflammation   |
|--|----------------|--|--|--|
| <br><i>Angelica acutiloba</i> | Apiaceae       | CH <sub>3</sub> OH                                   | LPS-induced inflammation in RAW 264 cells                                | A significant decrease in NO, PGE <sub>2</sub> , IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$ levels; a significant increase in heme oxygenase-1 expression, suggesting enhanced anti-inflammatory activity [99].  |
| <br><i>Serennoarepens</i>     | Areaceae       | H <sub>2</sub> O, C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH   | A testosterone-induced benign prostatic hyperplasia model in obese rats. | A significant reduction in IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, NO, and TNF- $\alpha$ levels [100].  |
| <br><i>Picrorhizakurroa</i>  | Plantaginaceae | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH in H <sub>2</sub> O | Formaldehyde and adjuvant-induced Arthritis in rats                      | A significant reduction in synovial expression of IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, and TNF- $\alpha$ ; a significant decrease in paw edema; a significant decline in NO levels and leukocytes infiltration to the inflamed joints; all the effects were comparable to those of indomethacin [101]. |

**Table 3. Mechanisms of anti-inflammatory action of the medicinal plants mentioned in this review article**

| Herb                           | TNF- $\alpha$ | COX-2 | iNOS | NF- $\kappa$ B | Inhibition of PGE <sub>2</sub> | NO  | LOX | Complement | IFN- $\gamma$ |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------|------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|---------------|
| <i>Curcuma longa</i>           | √             | √     | √    | ---            | ---                            | --- | √   | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Zingiber officinalis</i>    | √             | √     | ---  | ---            | ---                            | √   | √   | √          | ---           |
| <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>  | √             | ---   | ---  | ---            | ---                            | --- | --- | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Boragoofficinalis</i>       | √             | ---   | ---  | ---            | √                              | --- | --- | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Oenothera biennis</i>       | √             | √     | ---  | ---            | ---                            | √   | --- | ---        | √             |
| <i>Harpagophytumprocumbens</i> | √             | √     | √    | ---            | √                              | --- | --- | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Boswellia serratsa</i>      | √             | ---   | ---  | ---            | √                              | √   | √   | √          | √             |
| <i>Rosa canina</i>             | ---           | √     | ---  | ---            | √                              | √   | √   | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Urticadioica</i>            | ---           | √     | ---  | ---            | ---                            | --- | --- | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Uncariatomentosa</i>        | √             | √     | √    | √              | √                              | --- | --- | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Salvia officinalis</i>      | ---           | ---   | ---  | ---            | √                              | --- | √   | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Ribes nigrum</i>            | √             | √     | ---  | √              | √                              | --- | √   | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Persea americana</i>        | ---           | ---   | ---  | √              | ---                            | --- | --- | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Glycine max</i>             | √             | √     | √    | ---            | √                              | √   | --- | ---        | √             |
| <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>  | √             | √     | ---  | ---            | ---                            | --- | --- | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>     | √             | ---   | √    | ---            | ---                            | --- | --- | ---        | ---           |
| <i>Olea europaea</i>           | ---           | √     | √    | ---            | ---                            | --- | √   | ---        | ---           |

Note: Other mechanisms may also exist, but we could not cover all of them



**Fig. 5. Concentrations of eicosanoids in inflammatory exudates with the minimum concentration level (-----) [53,49]**

### 3. CONCLUSION

The herbal plants which have been claimed to have an anti-inflammatory effect are many and including all in a single paper is beyond the limit; therefore we have gathered articles refer to the herbs those data is available and clinically significant. Herbal medicine in the treatment of inflammation is widely popular in Indian traditional system of medicine and the most important aspects of modern medicines. Since scientific clinical studies have demonstrated the important of herbs in inflammation remission. we reviews some herbs activities which had been tested in clinical and laboratory studies for anti-inflammatory activities. we focused on more clinical result than others studies; among our research data, the *Curcuma longa* has the most clinical significant for management of various inflammatory disorders. we also listed herbs that have demonstrated efficacy in clinical and experimental anti-inflammatory tests. Inflammation process has numerous mechanisms and their treatment includes variety of drugs. Number of cytokines and enzyme activation (such as phospholipaseA2), mediator release, vasodilation, cell migration, and finally tissue damage which have been enlisted as inflammatory mediator (Fig. 1). The experimental animal studies demonstrated that the potential role of herbal active compounds are responsible for inhibition of pro-inflammatory chemicals such

as cytokines, PG2 etc. (Table 3), although geographical based clinical studies with larger participants, meta analyses and randomized control trials could provide clear overview and minimized conflicts. The enlisted plants in this review believed to have an anti-inflammatory effect and significant for anti-inflammatory effects. Although more evidence-based research are needed for exploit mechanism of action of such herbs in a border demographic population to offer health actioners a consistent approach.

### CONSENT

It is not applicable.

### ETHICAL APPROVAL

It is not applicable.

### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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