

# The Journal of Phytopharmacology

(Pharmacognosy and phytomedicine Research)

## Research Article

ISSN 2320-480X  
JPHYTO 2020; 9(1): 46-53  
January- February  
Received: 23-01-2020  
Accepted: 01-03-2020  
©2020, All rights reserved  
doi: 10.31254/phyto.2020.9108

### Taaza Duyu

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, KLE College of Pharmacy, Belagavi, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER), Belagavi-590010, India

### NA Khatib

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, KLE College of Pharmacy, Belagavi, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER), Belagavi-590010, India

### Pukar Khanal

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, KLE College of Pharmacy, Belagavi, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER), Belagavi-590010, India

### BM Patil

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, KLE College of Pharmacy, Belagavi, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER), Belagavi-590010, India

### KK Hullatti

Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, KLE College of Pharmacy, Belagavi, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER), Belagavi-590010, India

### Correspondence:

#### NA Khatib

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, KLE College of Pharmacy, Belagavi, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER), Belagavi-590010, India  
Email: [khatibnayeem@hotmail.com](mailto:khatibnayeem@hotmail.com)

## Network pharmacology-based prediction and experimental validation of *Mimosa pudica* for Alzheimer's disease

Taaza Duyu, NA Khatib\*, Pukar Khanal, BM Patil, KK Hullatti

### ABSTRACT

*Mimosa pudica* is a traditional folk medicine and has been reported to improve the memory in experimentally induced amnesia. However, present literature lacks the data for *M. pudica* compound-protein interaction with targets related to Alzheimer's disease (AD) including cytotoxic profile. Hence, the present study aims to evaluate *in silico* and *in vitro* antioxidant, cytotoxicity, and acetylcholinesterase inhibitory activity and network evaluation of *M. pudica* with targets related to Alzheimer's disease. The whole plant of *M. pudica* was collected, authenticated and hydroalcoholic extract/fractions were prepared. The antioxidant activity of the hydroalcoholic extract was evaluated by DPPH free radical scavenging assay (*in vitro*) and xanthine oxidase binding affinity (*in silico*). Acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitors from *M. pudica* were identified from an open-source database and analyzed using a network among compounds, proteins, and modulated pathways. Docking was performed using autodock4 and AChE inhibitory activity of extract/fraction(s) was carried using the *in vitro* method. The cytotoxicity of *M. pudica* was assessed using CLC-Pred (*in silico*) and MTT assay (*in vitro*). Quercetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside and myricetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside showed the highest binding affinity with xanthine oxidase. AChE was majorly targeted by multiple phytoconstituents of *M. pudica*. Quercetin showed the highest binding affinity with AChE. Luteolin interacted with maximum proteins involved in the pathogenesis of AD. The compounds were predicted to be more cytotoxic in cancer cells compared to normal. The phytoconstituents from *M. pudica* were found to be safe in normal cells, and were potent antioxidants. Flavonoids showed highest binding affinity with xanthine oxidase and fraction rich in flavonoids showed the highest AChE inhibitory capacity.

**Keywords:** Acetylcholinesterase, Alzheimer's disease, Anti-oxidant, Cytotoxicity, *Mimosa pudica*

### INTRODUCTION

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that impairs memory and psychiatric functions. Multiple theories have been proposed to explain the pathogenesis of AD e.g. cholinergic theory [1], autophosphorylation of tau protein [2] and accumulation of  $\beta$ - amyloid [3]. However, AD occurs due to multiple etiological factors like a physical injury in neuronal cells, an increase in oxidative stress, aging and genetic factors [4]. These multiple etiological factors trigger several proteins generating the complex network among them [5]. Further, the current pharmacotherapy of AD employs single-target agents like cholinesterase inhibitors (tacrine, donepezil, galantamine), nootropic agents (piracetam, aniracetam) and N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NMDA) receptor antagonist (memantine) [6]; prolong usage of these agents lose their efficacy and are often associated with multiple side effects [7].

*Mimosa pudica* L. belonging to family Fabaceae is a traditional folk agent that is utilized in the management of various diseases [8] including cognitive dysfunction [9]; demonstrated the improvement of memory in experimentally induced amnesia [10]. The beneficial effects of *M. pudica* have been reported due to the presence of flavonoids, saponins, alkaloids, polyphenols, and steroids [8]. Although this agent has been reported for its effectiveness in the amelioration of AD, the probable mechanism has not been proposed due to insufficient evidence for an interaction of phytoconstituents from *M. pudica* with proteins involved in the pathogenesis of AD. Further, the potency of a particular group of phytoconstituents to inhibit acetylcholinesterase (AChE) has not been reported yet. Hence, the present study aimed to identify the group of phytoconstituents for its beneficial effect in the treatment of cognitive dysfunction including cytotoxicity assessment using both *in silico* and *in vitro* approach.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Plant authentication, extract preparation and fractionation

The whole plant of *M. pudica* was collected from local areas of Belagavi and authenticated by a botanist in ICMR-NITM, Belagavi and the herbarium (accession number: RMRC-1421) was deposited for the same for future reference. The collected plant was washed under running water, shade dried and crushed into a coarse powder. Then the extraction and fractions were performed as explained by Cos *et al.*, 2006 [11]. The coarse powder was subjected for maceration with 70% ethanol for seven days, and filtered; marc was shade dried and subjected for soxhlet extraction using 95% ethanol and the combined extract was fractionated. For the fractionation process different solvents like dichloromethane, petroleum ether, water, methanol, and acetone were used. The outline for the extraction and fractionation steps is represented in Figure 1.

### Total polyphenol and flavonoid content

Total polyphenol and flavonoid content of the hydroalcoholic extract of *M. pudica* was performed as explained by Ainsworth *et al.* [12] and Chang *et al.* [13] with equivalent to gallic acid and quercetin respectively. All the experiments were performed in triplicates.

### In silico and In-vitro anti-oxidant activity

X-ray crystallographic protein of xanthine oxidase (PDB ID:3NRZ) was retrieved from the RCSB database (<https://www.rcsb.org/>); was in a complex with hetero atoms; hence, removed using Discovery studio 2019. Similarly, all the ligand molecules were retrieved from the PubChem database (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>); energy was minimized using the mmff94 force field [14] and docked using autodock4 [15]. After the completion of docking, the pose scoring minimum binding energy was chosen to visualize the ligand-protein interaction in Discovery studio 2019. Further, the DPPH free radical scavenging assay of the hydroalcoholic extract was performed as explained by Choi *et al.* [16]. Ascorbic acid was used as standard and all the experiments were performed in triplicates. Suitable controls were taken for test and reference compounds and IC<sub>50</sub> was calculated. All the values were expressed in Mean±SD.

### In silico prediction of AChE inhibitors from *M. pudica* (Network pharmacology)

All the phytoconstituents reported in *M. pudica* were mined from open source database; Canonical SMILES of each compound was retrieved from the PubChem database and their targets were predicted using BindingDB [17] at 70% similarity index. The proteins involved in the memory impairment, primarily in AD were identified with respect to the Therapeutic Target database [18]. Further, protein-protein interaction was assessed using the STRING database [19] and the pathways modulated by protein-protein interaction were identified using the KEGG pathway. The network among phytoconstituents, proteins and pathways were constructed using cytoscape [20]. The constructed network was analyzed by treating it as directed and setting the node size as “low values to small size” and “low values to bright colors” based on edge count for both settings.

### In silico and In vitro AChE inhibitory activity

The homology model of human AChE protein was prepared using accession number: AAA68151.1 as a query sequence and PDB ID:4PQE as a template using Modeller9.10 (<https://salilab.org/modeller/>). Water molecules and other heteroatoms were removed using Discovery Studio 2019 to avoid docking interference. Hydroalcoholic extract of *M. pudica* and its fractions were tested for *in-vitro* AChE activity as explained by Chowdhury S *et al.* [21]. Donepezil was taken as standard and suitable controls for all tests. All the experiments were performed in triplicates and values were expressed in Mean±SD.

### In silico and in vitro cytotoxicity of *M. pudica*

The cell line toxicity was predicted using CLC-Pred [22] at the probability activity (Pa) > 0.5 in both tumor and normal cell lines. Similarly, *in vitro* cytotoxicity assay was performed in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) (normal cell line) and A549 (tumor cell line) using 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay as described by Mosmann *et al.* [23]. The cells were treated with different concentrations (2.0, 2.30, 2.47, 2.60, 2.69, 2.77, 2.84, 2.90 µg/ml; log concentration) of hydroalcoholic extract, incubated for 48hrs in humidified environment (37°C and 5%CO<sub>2</sub>) followed by addition of 10µl of MTT and absorbance was measured 570 nm and IC<sub>50</sub> was calculated. The experiment was performed in triplicate.

## RESULTS

### Preliminary phytochemical investigation

The preliminary phytochemical investigation identified the presence of flavonoids, saponins, alkaloids, tannins, steroids, and polyphenols in a hydroalcoholic extract of the whole plant of *M. pudica*. Similarly, the phytochemical investigation of fractions identified a group of compounds which is summarized in Figure 1.

### Total polyphenol and flavonoid content

The total polyphenol content and flavonoid content in the hydroalcoholic extract were found to be 98.4±1.50 and 147±1µg/ml respectively.

### In silico and In-vitro antioxidant activity of *M. pudica*

Quercetin-3-O-β-D-xylopyranoside and myricetin-3-O-β-D-xylopyranoside were predicted to possess the highest binding affinity with xanthine oxidase i.e. -8.2 kcal/mol by interacting with eleven hydrogen bonds with GLN:144, ALA:142, ASN:146, GLY:145, THR:52, LSN:71, SER:123, and LEU:127 and eight with THR:52, ASN:146, SER:69, ASN:130, HIS:67, and ASP:141 respectively. The binding energy of each ligand with xanthine oxidase with hydrogen bond count and residues is summarized in Table 1. Similarly, the interaction of quercetin-3-O-β-D-xylopyranoside and myricetin-3-O-β-D-xylopyranoside with xanthine oxidase is represented in Figure 2. Further, the DPPH free radical scavenging capacity of hydroalcoholic extract (IC<sub>50</sub>) of *M. pudica*, and ascorbic acid were found to be 546.79±68.06 µg/ml and 25.88±4.847 µg/ml respectively.

### In silico prediction of AChE inhibitors from *M. pudica* (Network pharmacology)

Twenty-seven phytoconstituents from *M. pudica* were identified in which seventeen compounds modulated eighteen proteins (AChE, ADRA2A, ADRA2C, App, BACE1, CHR2, CHR5, DRD2, GSK3B, HTR1A, HTR4, MAOA, MAOB, PTGES, PTGS1, PTGS2, SNCA, and TNF) involved in the pathogenesis of AD. Network analysis identified AChE as a primarily targeted protein by maximum phytoconstituents i.e. 5,3'-di-O-methyluteolin, hernancorizin, quercetin, 7,3',4'-trihydroxy-3,8-dimethoxyflavone, 2'-hydroxy-3,7,8,4',5'-pentamethoxyflavone, diplotrin A, diplotrin B, diplotrin C, and luteolin. Among them, luteolin, a flavonoid was predicted to interact with the highest number of protein molecules i.e. AChE, MAOA, MAOB, App, BACE1, PTGS1, PTGS2, GSK3B, HTR1A, and HTR4 (Figure 3). Further, enrichment analysis identified thirty-five different pathways in which serotonergic synapse and neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction were majorly modulated by affecting the highest number of genes. Table 2 summarizes the modulated pathways with their respective modulated genes by phytoconstituents of *M. pudica*.

### In silico and In vitro AChE activity

Docking study predicted quercetin to possess the highest binding affinity with AChE i.e. -9.4 kcal/mol with four hydrogen bonds by interacting with HIS:478, TRP:117, GLN:102, and TYR:103. Table 3

summarizes the binding affinity of each phytoconstituents with AChE including hydrogen bond. Figure 4 represents the interaction of quercetin with AChE. The IC<sub>50</sub> of hydroalcoholic extract of *M. pudica* was found to be 398.45±30.19 µg/ml. Similarly, among the different fractions and hydroalcoholic extract, fraction rich in flavonoids showed the highest AChE inhibitory activity 124.26±1.73 µg/ml compared to others fractions. Table 4 summarizes AChE inhibitory activity of hydroalcoholic extract/ fractions of *M. pudica*.

### In silico and In vitro cytotoxicity study

Cytotoxicity prediction identified the phytoconstituents from *M. pudica* were more cytotoxic in tumor cells compared to normal cells. Figure 5 summarizes cluster of cytotoxic potential of phytoconstituents from *M. pudica* in normal (WI-38 VA13) and tumor (786-0, 8505C, A498, ACHN, BT-549, CAKI-1, DMS-114, FaDu, HCC 2998, HCT-15, HL-60, HOP-92, Hs 683, IGROV-1, KM12, LOX IMVI, M14, Malme-3M, MCF7, MDA-MB-468, MOLT-4, NCI-H23, NCI-H460, NCI-H522, NCI-H838, OVCAR-4, OVCAR-5, OVCAR-8, PC-3, PC-9, RPMI-8226, RXF 393, SF-295, SK-MEL-1, SK-MEL-2, SK-MEL-28, SK-MEL-5, SNB-75, SR, SW-620, TK-10, UACC-257, and UO-31) cell lines. Similarly, *in vitro* MTT test pointed higher cytotoxic potency (IC<sub>50</sub>) of hydroalcoholic extract in A549 (cancer) compared to CHO (normal) cell lines i.e. 282.56±6.76 µg/ml and 468.10±12.27 µg/ml respectively.

### DISCUSSION

The present study was performed to investigate various phytoconstituents of *M. pudica* for anti-oxidant, cytotoxicity and AChE inhibitory activity. The study reports the hit phytoconstituents to possess the highest anti-oxidant capacity using both *in silico* and *in vitro* models. Additionally, the compound-protein interactions of phytoconstituents of *M. pudica* with the proteins involved in the pathogenesis of AD were reported to produce a synergistic effect. Similarly, for the first time, the present study reports the multiple interactions of phytoconstituents from *M. pudica* with the proteins involved in the pathogenesis of AD.

Network pharmacology and enrichment analysis are the bioinformatic approaches which have contributed a lot in the elucidation of lead molecules, targets and molecular mechanism of herbal formulations [24, 25]. Similarly, *in silico* docking study also helps to predict the binding affinity of compounds with respective targets [24]. In the present study, network pharmacology identified the lead molecule (luteolin), highly targeted protein (AChE) and majorly regulated pathways (serotonergic synapse and neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction) which are well-recognized synapse in the progression of AD [26-27].

The beneficial effects of flavonoids from various traditional medicines were identified in memory improvement [28]. Over database mining, the majority of phytoconstituents were flavonoid which was also confirmed by the estimation of total flavonoid content. The network interaction also predicted luteolin (flavonoid) to target the maximum number of pathogenic proteins. Further, the *in vitro* study also showed the high

AChE inhibitory activity by flavonoids compared to others. The overall result suggests the potency of flavonoids from *M. pudica* to inhibit the AChE which could be utilized in the management of cognitive impairment.

A docking study helps to predict the binding affinity of small ligand molecules with their targets [29, 30]. This approach utilizes multiple algorithms to assess the pose and interactions of the ligand with the respective targets. However, the obtained docking hit could be falsely positive if the targets were not identified [31]. Hence, to minimize this effect, a cheminformatic tool, BindingDB was utilized to predict the target for each compound; network was constructed between proteins and compounds and analyzed, in which AChE was targeted by maximum phytoconstituents i.e. 2'-hydroxy-3,7,8,4', 5'-pentamethoxyflavone, 7,3',4'-trihydroxy-3,8-dimethoxyflavone, diplotrin A, diplotrin B, diplotrin C, hernancorizin, 5,3'-di-O-methyluteolin, luteolin, and quercetin. This approach has been previously utilized to evaluate multiple compounds-protein interactions and identify multiple lead molecules and targets [32]. The present study identified the majority of flavonoids to have a strong binding affinity with AChE in which quercetin was identified to possess the highest binding affinity. Hence, the beneficial effect of quercetin with donepezil in cognitive dysfunction [33] could be due to the combined inhibition of both molecules over AChE.

Likewise, the anti-oxidant potential of the majority of phytoconstituents also possesses a beneficial effect in the management of AD [34]. For this hypothesis, the potency of hydroalcoholic extract of *M. pudica* for DPPH free radical scavenging assay was performed. Xanthine oxidase is identified to produce free radicals in various cell lines including epithelial, endothelial, connective and polymorphonuclear tissues [35]. Similarly, docking study also revealed compounds from *M. pudica* do not limit only for free radicals scavenging capacity but they also inhibit free radical generators.

The single-target pharmacotherapeutic agents of AD i.e. cholinesterase inhibitors, nootropic agents and NMDA receptor antagonists [6] lose their efficacy for prolonged use and are associated with multiple side effects [7, 36] limiting for further use. More often, these single-target drug molecules are also more cytotoxic since the administered dose is high. However, in the present study, the compounds from *M. pudica* were found to be more cytotoxic in tumor cell lines compared to normal; reflects for safety in human consumption. Further, the study identified the IC<sub>50</sub> value of hydroalcoholic extract to inhibit the acetylcholinesterase was found to be lower compared to the IC<sub>50</sub> value for MTT assay in normal cell lines. However, the IC<sub>50</sub> of DPPH scavenging capacity was found to be higher than IC<sub>50</sub> of MTT cytotoxicity. This suggests the amount of hydroalcoholic extract required to inhibit AChE could be safer in normal cells compared to scavenging free radicals. However, the assessment of safety of fraction rich in flavonoids needs to still investigated which is the future scope of present study. Likewise, the study also suggests investigating the fraction rich in flavonoids from *M. pudica* for its DPPH scavenging capacity.

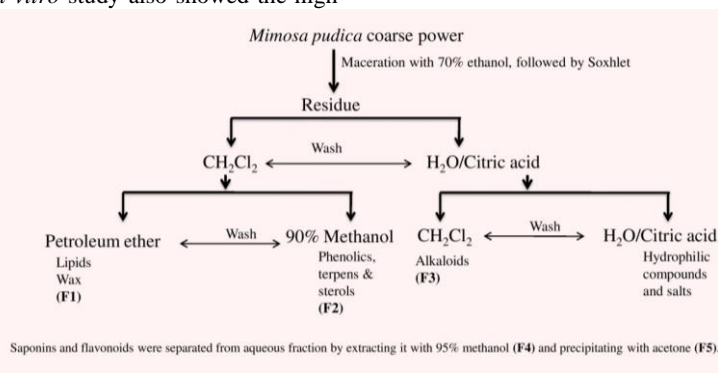


Figure 1: Flow diagram for extraction and fractionation

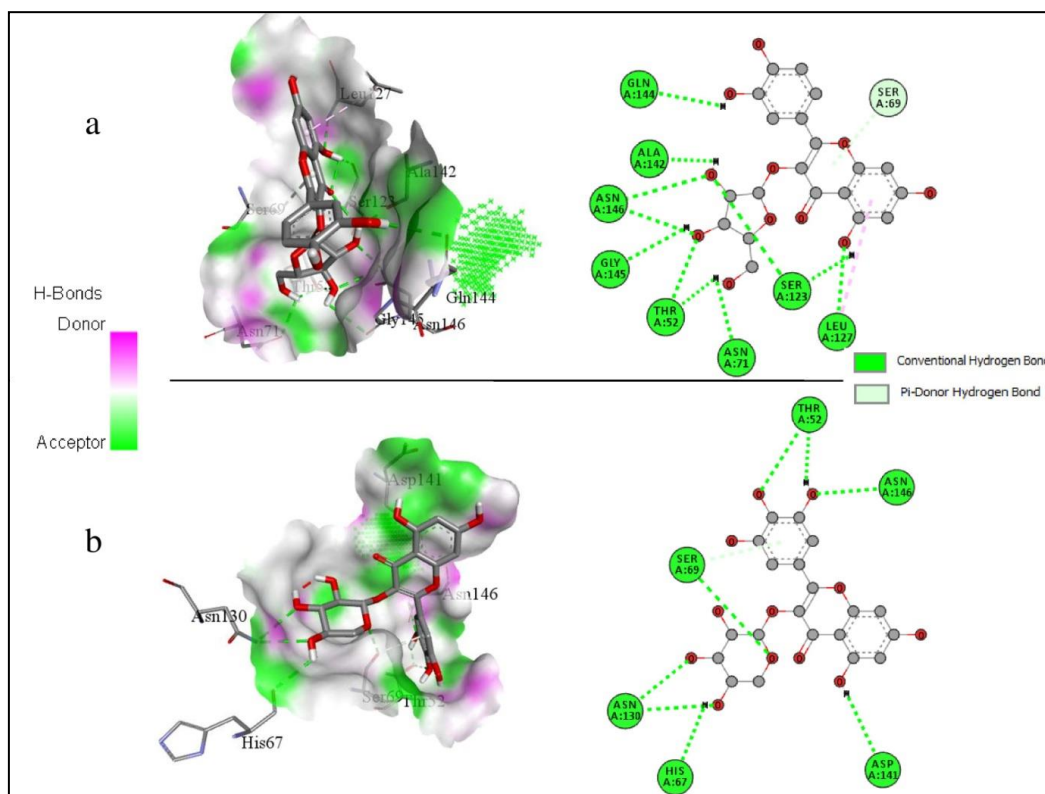


Figure 2: Interaction of (a) Quercetin-3-O-β-D-xylopyranoside and (b) myricetin-3-O-β-D-xylopyranoside with xanthine oxidase

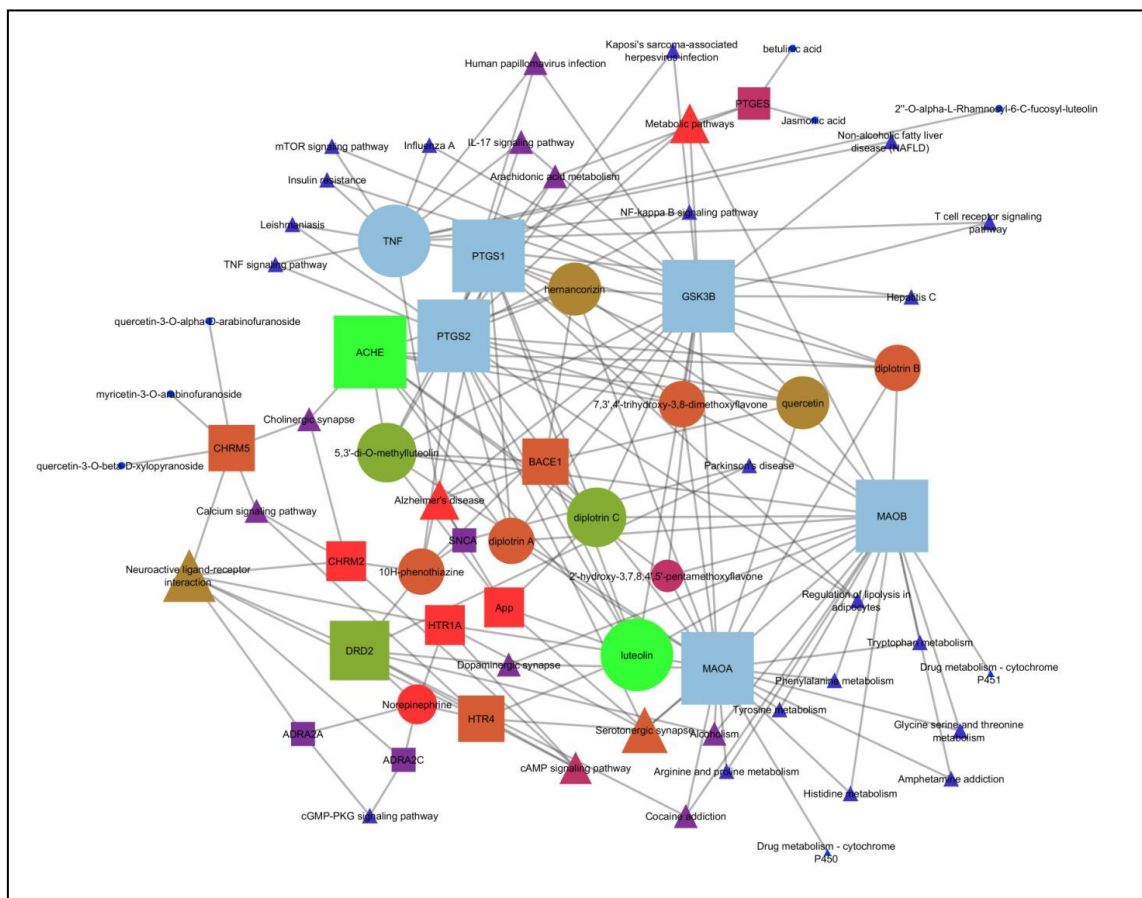


Figure 3: Interaction of phytoconstituents with targets and respective pathways

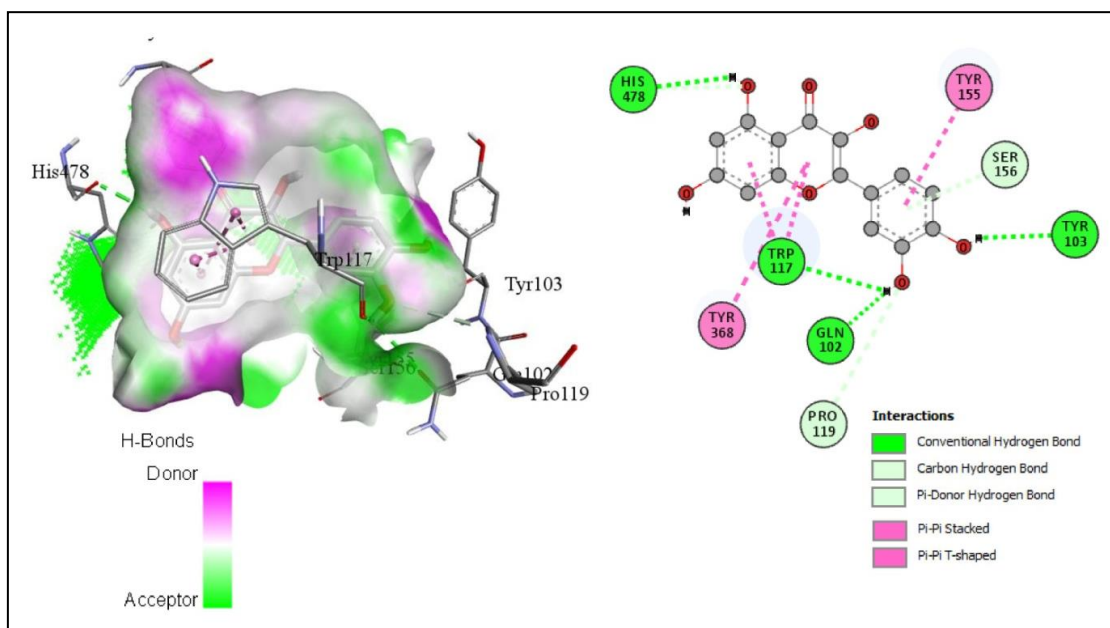


Figure 4: Interaction of quercetin with acetylcholinesterase

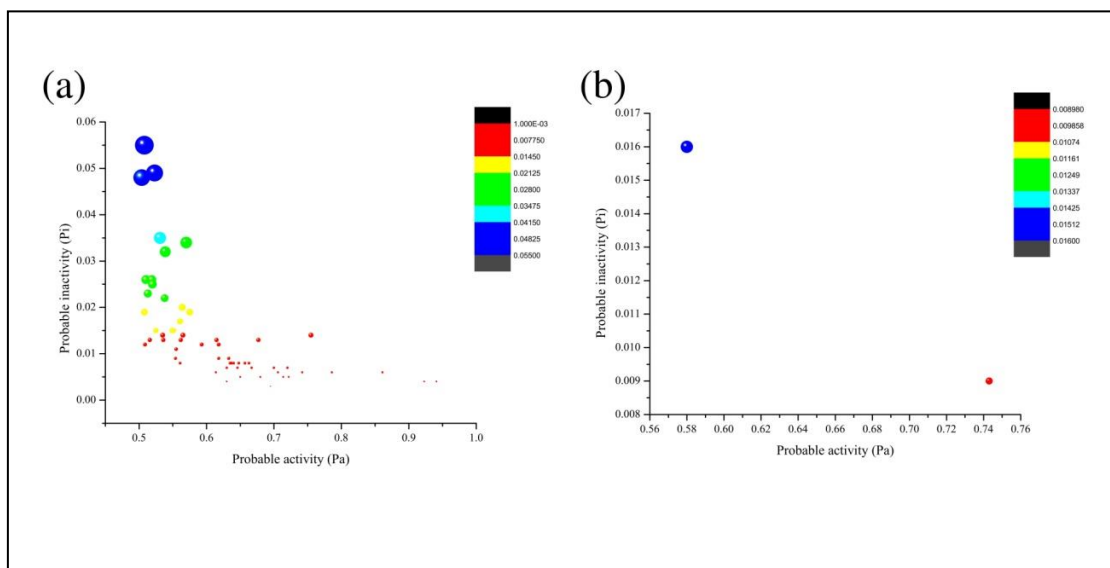


Figure 5: Cytotoxicity of *Mimosa pudica* in (a) cancer and (b) normal cell lines

Table 1: Binding energy of ligand molecules with xanthine oxidase (PDB ID:3NRZ)

Ligands	Binding energy (kcal/mol)	NHB D	H-bond residue
10H-phenothiazine	-7	2	PHE:143, ASN:146
2''-O- $\alpha$ -L-Rhamnosyl-6-C-fucosyl-luteolin	-7.7	2	GLU:89, THR:94
2'-hydroxy-3,7,8,4',5'-pentamethoxyflavone	-6	2	SER:69, ASN:71
5,3'-di-O methyl-luteolin	-6.9	3	SER:69, GLU:138
7,3',4'-trihydroxy-3,8-dimethoxyflavone	-6.9	5	THR:52, SER:123, ASN:71, SER:69
Betulinic acid	-7.6	-	-
Diplotrin A	-6.4	2	THR:86
Diplotrin B	-6.4	4	THR:86, VAL:85, GLY:12
Diplotrin C	-6.6	1	VAL:88
Hernancorizin	-6.9	5	ASN:146, SER:123, THR:52, GLY:145, ASP:141
Luteolin	-7.3	5	SER:123, THR:52, GLY:145, SER:69, ASN:130
Myricetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside	-8.2	8	THR52, ASN146, SER69, ASN130, HIS67, ASP141

Norepinephrine	-5.2	4	ASP:141, SER:123, THR:52
Quercetin-3-O- $\alpha$ -D-arabinofuranoside	-7.7	4	SER:123, ASN:146, THR:52
Quercetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside	-8.2	11	GLN144, ALA142, ASN146, GLY145, THR52, 1SN71, SER123, LEU127
Quercetin	-7.3	5	SER:69, SER:123, THR:52, ASN:71, ASP:141
Jasmonic acid	-6.5	0	-NA-

NHBD: Number of Hydrogen Bond Donor, NA: Not Applicable

**Table 2:** Gene-set enrichment analysis of modulated pathways

Pathway	Description	Count in gene set	Gene codes	False discovery rate
hsa04726	Serotonergic synapse	7	HTR4, MAOB, MAOA, HTR1A, APP, PTGS2	8.94e-10
hsa04080	Neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction	7	HTR4, DRD2, HTR1A, ADRA2A, ADRA2C, CHRM2, CHRM5	1.78e-07
hsa05010	Alzheimer's disease	5	TNF, SNCA, GSK3B, BACE1, APP	1.53e-05
hsa04728	Dopaminergic synapse	4	GSK3B, MAOB, MAOA, DRD2	0.00016
hsa05030	Cocaine addiction	3	MAOB, MAOA, DRD2	0.00032
hsa04024	cAMP signaling pathway	4	HTR4, DRD2, HTR1A, CHRM2	0.00051
hsa00590	Arachidonic acid metabolism	3	PTGES, PTGS2, PTGS1	0.00051
hsa04657	IL-17 signaling pathway	3	TNF, PTGS2, GSK3B	0.0012
hsa04725	Cholinergic synapse	3	ACHE, CHRM2, CHRM5	0.0017
hsa00360	Phenylalanine metabolism	2	MAOA, MAOB	0.0017
hsa00340	Histidine metabolism	2	MAOA, MAOB	0.0025
hsa05034	Alcoholism	3	MAOA, MAOB, DRD2	0.0029
hsa04020	Calcium signaling pathway	3	CHRM5, CHRM2, HTR4	0.0049
hsa00350	Tyrosine metabolism	2	MAOA, MAOB	0.0049
hsa00380	Tryptophan metabolism	2	MAOA, MAOB	0.0050
hsa00260	Glycine, serine and threonine metabolism	2	MAOA, MAOB	0.0050
hsa00330	Arginine and proline metabolism	2	MAOA, MAOB	0.0065
hsa04923	Regulation of lipolysis in adipocytes	2	PTGS1, PTGS2	0.0074
hsa05031	Amphetamine addiction	2	MAOA, MAOB	0.0104
hsa00982	Drug metabolism - cytochrome P450	2	MAOA, MAOB	0.0104
hsa05140	Leishmaniasis	2	TNF, PTGS2	0.0108
hsa05165	Human papillomavirus infection	3	TNF, PTGS2, GSK3B	0.0155
hsa04064	NF-kappa B signaling pathway	2	TNF, PTGS2	0.0171
hsa04660	T cell receptor signaling pathway	2	TNF, GSK3B	0.0185
hsa04931	Insulin resistance	2	TNF, GSK3B	0.0206
hsa04668	TNF signaling pathway	2	TNF, PTGS2	0.0206
hsa01100	Metabolic pathways	5	PTGES, PTGS1, PTGS2, MAOA, MAOB	0.0206
hsa05160	Hepatitis C	2	TNF, GSK3B	0.0270
hsa05012	Parkinson's disease	2	SNCA, DRD2	0.0304
hsa04932	Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)	2	TNF, GSK3B	0.0318
hsa04150	mTOR signaling pathway	2	TNF, GSK3B	0.0318
hsa04022	cGMP-PKG signaling pathway	2	ADRA2A, ADRA2C	0.0346
hsa05164	Influenza A	2	TNF, GSK3B	0.0368
hsa05167	Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus infection	2	PTGS2, GSK3B	0.0419

**Table 3:** Binding energy of ligand molecules with acetylcholinesterase

Ligand	Binding Affinity (kcal/mol)	NHBD	H-bond residue
2'-hydroxy-3,7,8,4', 5'-pentamethoxyflavone	-6.7	2	TRP:563, HIS:436
5, 3'-di-O-methyluteolin	-7.3	2	THR:269, ASN:564
7, 3', 4'-trihydroxy-3,8-dimethoxyflavone	-7.4	2	PRO:67, ASN:217
Diplotrin A	-6.7	2	THR:269, GLY:271
Diplotrin B	-6.6	2	THR:269
Diplotrin C	-7	0	-NA-
Hernancorizin	-7.2	1	ARG:277
Luteolin	-7.7	2	TRP:563, THR:117
Quercetin	-9.4	4	HIS:478, TRP:117, GLN:102, TYR:103

NHBD: Number of Hydrogen Bond Donor, NA: Not Applicable

**Table 4:** Acetylcholinesterase inhibitory activity of extract and fractions of *M. pudica*

S. No.	Test agents	Major Phytoconstituents	IC <sub>50</sub> (µg/ml)
1	HAE	Flavonoids, Saponins, Alkaloids, Tannins, Steroids, And Polyphenols	398.45±30.19
2	Fraction 1	Lipid and Wax	221.54±5.19
3	Fraction 2	Phenolics, terpenes and sterols	191.85±9.32
4	Fraction 3	Alkaloids	257.40±5.48
5	Fraction 4	Flavonoids	124.26 ±1.73
6	Fraction 5	Saponins	182.16 ±11.62
7	Donepezil*	-NA-	89.04±0.67

Values are expressed in mean±SD (n=3). IC<sub>50</sub>: Inhibitory Concentration<sub>50</sub>, HAE: Hydroalcoholic extract, NA: Not applicable, \*gold standard for AChE inhibition.

## CONCLUSION

Multiple compounds from *M. pudica* were identified to inhibit the AChE; demonstrated via *in silico* and *in vitro* approach. The hydroalcoholic extract of *M. pudica* was identified to be a potent free radical scavenger. Further, the compounds from *M. pudica* were more cytotoxic in cancer cell lines compared to normal cell lines. The potency of the compounds to inhibit the AChE could be primarily due to the flavonoids which need to be further proven via *in vivo* animal models.

## Abbreviation

AD: Alzheimer's Disease, BindingDB: Binding database, CHO: Chinese hamster ovary, CLCPred: Cell line toxicity predictor, DPPH: 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl, IC<sub>50</sub>: Inhibitory concentration 50, ICMR-NITM: Indian Council of Medical Research – National Institute of traditional medicine, KEGG: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes, MTT: 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide, NMDA: N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor, PDB: Protein Data Bank, RCSB: Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics, RMRC: Regional Medical Research Center, SMILES: Simplified molecular-input line-entry system, STRING: Search Tool for the Retrieval of Interacting Genes/Proteins.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors are thankful to Principal KLE College of Pharmacy, Belagavi, KAHER, Belagavi for providing necessary facilities to conduct the study.

## Authors' contributions

Taaza Duyu contributed in the completion of work, manuscript preparation and review of literature. NA Khatib suggested the modification in study protocol and reviewed the manuscript. Pukar Khanal designed the study, involved in manuscript preparation and drafting it. Prof. BM Patil, and KK Hullatti has equal contribution in reviewing and editing the manuscript.

## Funding

This work has not received any funds from any agency.

## Competing interests

Nil

## REFERENCE

1. Ferreira-Vieira HT, Guimaraes MI, Silva RF, Ribeiro MF. Alzheimer's disease: targeting the cholinergic system. *Curr Neuropharmacol*. 2016; 14:101-15.
2. Iqbal K, Liu F, Gong CX, Grundke-Iqbal I. Tau in Alzheimer's disease and related tauopathies. *Curr Alzheimer Res* 2010; 7:656-64.
3. Mokhtar SH, Bakhuraysah MM, Cram DS, Petratos S. The Beta-amyloid protein of Alzheimer's disease: communication breakdown by modifying the neuronal cytoskeleton. *Int J Alzheimers Dis* 2013; 2013:910502.
4. Shi Q, Gibson GE. Oxidative stress and transcriptional regulation in Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord* 2007; 21:276-91.

5. Safari-Alighiarloo N, Taghizadeh M, Rezaei-Tavirani M, Goliaei B, Peyvandi AA. Protein-protein interaction networks (PPI) and complex diseases. *Gastroenterol Hepatol Bed Bench* 2014; 7:17-31.
6. Geldenhuys WJ, Darvesh AS. Pharmacotherapy of Alzheimer's disease: current and future trends. *Expert Rev Neurother* 2015; 15:3-5.
7. Cacabelos R. Donepezil in Alzheimer's disease: from conventional trials to pharmacogenetics. *Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat* 2007; 3:303-33.
8. Muhammad G, Hussain MA, Jantan I, Bukhari SN. *Mimosa pudica* L., a high-value medicinal plant as a source of bioactives for pharmaceuticals. *Compr Rev Food Sci F*. 2016; 15:303-15.
9. Itiyavirah SP, Pullochal I. Adaptogenic and nootropic activity of *Mimosa pudica* in albino wistar rats. *Int J Nutr Pharmacol Neurol Dis* 2014; 4:231-6.
10. Patro G, Bhattamisra SK, Mohanty BK. Effects of *Mimosa pudica* L. leaves extract on anxiety, depression and memory. *Avicenna J Phytomed*. 2016; 6:696-710.
11. Cos P, Vlietinck AJ, Berghe DV, Maes L. Anti-infective potential of natural products: how to develop a stronger *in vitro* 'proof-of-concept'. *J Ethnopharmacol* 2006; 106:290-302.
12. Ainsworth EA, Gillespie KM. Estimation of total phenolic content and other oxidation substrates in plant tissues using Folin-Ciocalteu reagent. *Nat Protoc* 2007; 2:875-7.
13. Chang CC, Yang MH, Wen HM, Chern JC. Estimation of total flavonoid content in propolis by two complementary colorimetric methods. *J Food DruG Anal*. 2002; 10:178-82.
14. Tosco P, Stiefl N, Landrum G. Bringing the MMFF force field to the RDKit: implementation and validation. *J Cheminform* 2014; 6:37.
15. Morris GM, Huey R, Lindstrom W, Sanner MF, Belew RK, Goodsell DS, *et al*. AutoDock4 and AutoDockTools4: Automated docking with selective receptor flexibility. *J Comput Chem* 2009; 30:2785-91.
16. Choi CW, Kim SC, Hwang SS, Choi BK, Ahn HJ, Lee MY *et al*. Antioxidant activity and free radical scavenging capacity between Korean medicinal plants and flavonoids by assay-guided comparison. *Plant Sci*. 2002; 163:1161-8.
17. Liu T, Lin Y, Wen X, Jorissen RN, Gilson MK. Binding DB: a web-accessible database of experimentally determined protein-ligand binding affinities. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2007; 35:D198-201.
18. Li YH, Yu CY, Li XX, Zhang P, Tang J, Yang Q, Fu T *et al*. Therapeutic target database update 2018: enriched resource for facilitating bench-to-clinic research of targeted therapeutics. *Nucleic Acids Res* 2018; 46:D1121-7.
19. Szklarczyk D, Gable AL, Lyon D, Junge A, Wyder S, Huerta-Cepas J, Simonovic M, Doncheva NT, Morris JH, Bork P, Jensen LJ. STRING v11: protein-protein association networks with increased coverage, supporting functional discovery in genome-wide experimental datasets. *Nucleic Acids Res* 2019; 47:D607-13.
20. Shannon P, Markiel A, Ozier O, Baliga NS, Wang JT, Ramage D, *et al*. Cytoscape: a software environment for integrated models of biomolecular interaction networks. *Genome Res*. 2003; 13:2498-504.
21. Chowdhury S, Shivani SK. *In vitro* anti-acetylcholinesterase activity of an aqueous extract of *Unicaria tomentosa* and *in silico* study of its active constituents. *Bioinformation*. 2016; 12:112-8.
22. Lagunin AA, Dubovskaja VI, Rudik AV, Pogodin PV, Druzhilovskiy DS, Glorizova TA *et al*. CLC-Pred: a freely available web-service for *in silico* prediction of human cell line cytotoxicity for drug-like compounds. *PloS one* 2018; 13:e0191838.
23. Mosmann T. Rapid colorimetric assay for cellular growth and survival: application to proliferation and cytotoxicity assays. *J Immunol Methods* 1983; 65(1, 2):55-63.
24. Khanal P, Patil BM, Mandar BK, Dey YN, Duyu T. Network pharmacology-based assessment to elucidate the molecular mechanism of anti-diabetic action of *Tinospora cordifolia*. *Clin Phytosci*. 2019; 5:35.
25. Khanal P, Patil BM. Gene set enrichment analysis of alpha-glucosidase inhibitors from *Ficus benghalensis*. *Asian Pac J Trop Biomed*. 2019; 9:263-70.
26. Lesch KP, Waider J. Serotonin in the modulation of neural plasticity and networks: implications for neurodevelopmental disorders. *Neuron*. 2012; 76:175-91.
27. Sindi IA, Tannenber RK, Dodd PR. A role for the neurexin-neuroigin complex in Alzheimer's disease. *Neurobiol Aging* 2014; 35:746-56.
28. Meng XY, Zhang HX, Ayaz M, Sadiq A, Junaid M, Ullah F *et al*. Flavonoids as prospective neuroprotectants and their therapeutic propensity in aging associated neurological disorders. *Front Aging Neurosci*. 2019; 11:155.
29. Khanal P, Mandar BK, Patil BM, Hullatti KK. *In silico* Antidiabetic Screening of Borapetoside C, Cordifolioside A and Magnoflorine. *Indian J Pharm Sci*. 2019; 81(3):550-555.
30. Khanal P, Mandar BK, Magadam P, Patil BM, Hullatti KK. *In silico* docking study of Limonoids from *Azadirachta indica* with pfpk5: A Novel Target for *Plasmodium falciparum*. *Indian J Pharm Sci*. 2019; 81(2):326-332
31. Mezei M, Cui M. Molecular docking: a powerful approach for structure-based drug discovery. *Curr Comput Aided Drug Des* 2011; 7:46-57.
32. Yabuuchi H, Nijima S, Takematsu H, Ida T, Hirokawa T, Hara T *et al*. Analysis of multiple compound-protein interactions reveals novel bioactive molecules. *Mol Syst Biol* 2011; 7:472.
33. Pattanashetti LA, Taranalli AD, Parvatrao V, Malabade RH, Kumar D. Evaluation of neuroprotective effect of quercetin with donepezil in scopolamine-induced amnesia in rats. *Indian J Pharmacol*. 2017; 49:60-4.
34. Zhang J, Yuan K, Zhou WL, Zhou J, Yang P. Studies on the active components and antioxidant activities of the extracts of *Mimosa pudica* Linn. from southern China. *Pharmacogn Mag* 2011; 7:35-9.
35. Murata M, Fukushima K, Takao T, Seki H, Takeda S, Wake N. Oxidative stress produced by xanthine oxidase induces apoptosis in human extravillous trophoblast cells. *J Reprod Dev*. 2013; 59:7-13.
36. Hogan DB. Long-term efficacy and toxicity of cholinesterase inhibitors in the treatment of Alzheimer disease. *Can J Psychiatry*. 2014; 59:618-23.

**HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE**

Duyu T, Khatib NA, Khanal P, Patil BM, Hullatti KK. Network pharmacology-based prediction and experimental validation of *Mimosa pudica* for Alzheimer's disease. *J Phytopharmacol* 2020; 9(1):46-53.