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**A REVIEW: TRADITIONALLY USED MEDICINAL PLANTS OF
FAMILY ARECACEAE WITH PHYTOCONSTITUENTS AND
THERAPEUTIC APPLICATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

Plant-based procedures continue to play an vital role in health protection, and their use by individual civilization has been astronomically reported. The plants of the Arecaceae family composed of about 181 genera and 2600 species mainly distributed in tropical and sub tropical ecological zones as well as in the Arabian deserts and throughout the continents of Africa, Latin America, South and South-East Asia and has been habitually used for treatment of several diseases. The present study aimed to provide a general review of the available literature on ethnomedical, phytoconstituents, and biological data related to the Family Arecaceae as a potential source of new compounds with therapeutic applications. Considering Traditional uses, in the treatment of various gastrointestinal diseases, killing parasites, curing kidney asthenia, tinnitus, diarrhea treatment, amenorrhea, venereal diseases etc. phytochemical studies, flavonoids, fatty acids, carotenoids, spirostan, terpenes, amino acids, tannins, alkaloids and phenolic acids were the main classes of compounds identified in roots, leaf, fruit and seeds which were correlated with their biological activities as anti-microbial, anti-fungal, anti-parasitic, anti-allergic, antidiabetic, antineoplastic, anti-inflammatory or antioxidant agents.

Keywords: Family Arecaceae, Traditional and medicinal importance, phytoconstituents, Therapeutic applications

INTRODUCTION

Family Arecaceae in the order Arecales a monotypic family. It has around 181 genera and 2600 species [1]. Arecaceae plant family containing species of tropical climbers, shrubs and trees commonly known as Palm trees or simply Palms [2]. Many species of family Arecaceae are mainly distributed in tropical and sub tropical ecological zones also in the Arabian deserts and throughout the continents of Africa , Latin America , South and South- East Asia [3]. The leaves, barks, roots, branches, fruits, endocarp, fiber, seed coat, sap, spadix, and heartwoods are used as the traditional medicines. In India Family Arecaceae is reported 225 species belonging to 25 genera [4]. These species are used in many herbal and conventional medicines in India and China because of their good response in many therapeutic applications. Species of Arecaceae family are traditionally used as the treatment of various gastrointestinal diseases, killing parasites, curing kidney asthenia, tinnitus, diarrhea treatment, amenorrhea, venereal diseases etc. *Arecaceae* family has reported the presence of phenolic acids, fatty acids, carotenoids, amino acids, tannins, flavonoids, steroids, terpenes, and alkaloids [5]. Many species of *Arecaceae* family are reported for anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, antioxidant, anti-

parasitic, antimalarial, antineoplastic, antiprotozoal, hepato-protective, Enzyme inhibition, Remediation activity, antifungal, anti-proliferative and antibacterial activity [6]. Some important species of this family are *Cocus nucifer*, *Areca catechu*, *Caryota mitis*, *Phonix dactylifera*, *Washingtonia robusta*, *Serenoa repens*, *Borassus flabellifer*, *Caryota urens* , *Livistona chinensis*, *Archotophoenix alexandrae*, *Rhapis excels*, *Dypsis lutescens* , *Washingtonia filifera* and *Roystonea regia* etc. [7].

TRADITIONAL USES OF SOME PLANTS OF FAMILY ARECACEAE

The plants species of Arecaceae family have been associated to claims of various medicinal properties and wide-ranging applications in traditional and modern medicine alike.

Traditionally, the plants are used to treat inflammation, pain, cancer, and bacterial and viral-based infections. Furthermore, the Arecaceae family species are stomatitis, ulcers, reducing blood pressure, blood lipids, hypertension, coronary heart diseases and wounds while also acting as an antioxidant [12], anti-allergenic, antimicrobials [13], antiviral [14], antitumor and antidiabetic [15] alternative .They are also applied to tend to cases of Indigestion, bloating, constipation

and amenorrhea, besides possessing sedative and laxative properties obtained from the extract of their root, leaf and barks (**Table 1**).

PHYTOCONSTITUENTS PRESENT IN FAMILY ARECACEAE

The phytochemical analyses done for several species of family Arecaceae have revealed the positive presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, phenolic acids, tannins, amino acids, triterpenes, steroids and carotenoids (**Table 2**).

BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES OF DIFFERENT SPECIES OF FAMILY ARECACEAE

The family Arecaceae is the target of different pharmacological investigations, which is evaluated for their various ethno-

medicinal uses. From the literature, it was found that *Arecaceae* family exhibit an extensive variety of biological activities, such as antibacterial, antiviral, anthelmintic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antiplasmodial, anti-allergy, anti-tumour, cognitive activity and cytotoxicity. The active phytoconstituents have been isolated from the solvents like ethanol, butanol, n-hexane, chloroform, acetone, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane, etc. followed by characterization. A summary of the curative activity assessments performed on this Arecaceae has been represented in **Table 3**. These findings endorse the traditional uses of plants with respect to the pharmacological activity (**Table 3**).

Table 1 : Traditional uses of family Arecaceae

Botanical Name	Common Name	Traditional use	References
<i>Areca catechu</i>	Areca palm, Betel palm, Indian nut.	Areca nut -is commonly used as the treatment of various gastrointestinal diseases. Killing parasites, Curing kidney asthenia, tinnitus, and Lumbago-leg pain Curing palpitation, insomnia, mental subnormality, Promoting digestion and diuresis appetite, and curing abdominal distension.	16,17
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut, Nariyal, Yubi, Tennai	Coconut shell fiber -Diarrhea treatment, Amenorrhea, Venereal diseases treatment, Antipyretic, kidney inflammation, Diuretics, Root -gonorrhoea treatment Pulp of coconut -Urogenital inflammation, Amenorrhea, dysmenorrhoeal Coconut water inflorescence -Asthma treatment, Abscesses, dermatitis treatment and injuries, Burns and stomach pains.	18, 19,20, 21,22, 23, 24, 25,26,27,28,29
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Nakhleh, Khejur, Date, Phoenix, Khajur, Pinda, Datter, Kharjura, Pinda	Fruit – Sweet, cooling, tonic, fattening, aphrodisiac, alexiteric, useful in leprosy, thirst, asthma, bronchitis, fatigue, tuberculosis, abdominal complaints, fever, vomiting, loss of consciousness and useful in vata disease. Leave - Aphrodisiac and good for the liver. Flower- Bitter, purgative, expectorant, tonic to the	30,31,32

		liver, fever and blood complaints. Seed - Applied to wounds, lesions, inflammation, demulcent, expectorant, laxative, nutrient and prescribed in the case of asthma, gonorrhoea. Gum – Useful remedy in diarrhoea and disease of the genitor-urinary system ⁷ .	
<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	King palm, Feather palm	leaf sheathes-Neurological disorders, in some cardiovascular diseases, certain type of cancer.	33, 34
<i>Caryota mitis</i>	Fishtail palm	Flower - used to treat gastric ulcer, migraine headaches, snake bite poisoning as well as rheumatic swellings ⁴ .	35, 36
<i>Caryota urens</i>	Mari, Bagane	Seed flour- to treat gastric ulcers, migraine headaches, snake-bite poisoning and rheumatic swellings. Root- is used for treating tooth ailments. Bark and seed- are used to treat boils. tender flowers- are used for promoting hair growth. Flower- is used to treat gastric ulcer, migraine headaches, snake bite poisoning as well as rheumatic swellings	37, 38, 39
<i>Rhapis excels</i>	Lady palm, Bamboo palm	Burned or charred bark applied externally to stop bleeding. Decoction of roots or ashes from burnt bark used for rheumatism; also used to stimulate blood circulation. Used as hemostatic and antidiarrhetic	40, 41, 42
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	European fan palm, Mediterranean Fan palm	leaf extracts for the treatment of diabetes, digestive disorders, spasm, toning and gastrointestinal disorders diseases, decreased total cholesterol and triglycerides,	43
<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>	Toddy palm	Fruit pulp helps to cure skin inflammations. It is used to treat nausea and vomiting as well as worm infestation. It is used as an expectorant and also as a liver tonic. A thin layer of palm fruit jelly applied to the affected area has a soothing effect and immediately alleviates the itchiness associated with prickly heat. It is used effectively to treat digestive problems and other stomach ailments. It is also used as a laxative. 'Neera' and toddy are good for controlling gastric troubles and ulcers. Palm sugar Counteracting agent for poison and to treat liver disorder Spadix To treat heartburn and enlarges	44, 45, 46, 47
<i>P. sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	Fruit -Increasing lactation, Toothache, Gonorrhoea, Asthma, Cough, dehydration, Diarrhoea, Fever, Heart-related problems, Pains, Toothache, Tuberculosis Root – Toothache Sap- Diarrhoea Stomach ache Seed – Dysentery	48, 49, 50

Table 2: Phytoconstituents Present in family Arecaceae

S. NO.	Species	Phytoconstituent	References
1	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Quercetin, Epigallocatechin Mangiferin, Gallic acid, Gallate, Kaempferol, Gallic acid, Hydroxybenzoic acid, Caffeic acid, p-cumaric, Ferulic acid, Protocateic acid	52, 53
2	<i>Salacca zalacca</i>	Quercetin	54
3.	<i>R. excels</i>	Luteolin, Vitexin, Vicenin, Isoorientin	40, 41

		Orientin, Protocatechuic acid, Benzoic acid, Catechine, Caffeic acid, Syringic acid, Vanillic acid, Ferulic acid, Sinapic acid, Cinnamic acid, Coumarin	
4	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Apigenin, Luteolin, Quercetin, Diosmetin, Kaempferol, Procyanidin, Isoquercetin, Rutin, Lutein, B-Carotene, Neoxanthin, Viola xanthin, Anthracanthin, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, Protocatechuic acid, Vanillic acid, Gallic acid, Syringic acid, o-coumaric acid, p-coumaric acid, Caffeic acid, Ferulic acid, Xanthoxylic acid, Hydrocaffeic acid, Coumaroylquinic acid, Catechin, Pelargonin	30,31,32
5	<i>Areca catechu</i>	Isorhamnetin, Chrysoeriol, Luteolin, 5-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-7-methoxychroman-4-one, Quercetin, (s)-5-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-7-methoxychroman-4-one, Liquiritigenin, Arecoline, 2,6-di-t-butyl-4-methylphenol, Methyl cinnamate, Nonanoic acid, 2,4-di-t-butylphenol, Benzoic acid, Lauric acid, Myristic acid, Pentadecanoic acid, Ursolic acid acetate, Sitosterol, Arborinol, Cylindrin, Fernenol, Arundoin, Cycloatanol, Ergosterol, peroxide B-sitostenone, Proline, Tyrosine, Phenylalanine, Arginine, Tryptophan, Methionine, N-benzoylphenylalaninophenyllalinol acetate, TMS-58B, Aspartic acid, Glutamic acid, Lysine, Arginine, Arecatannin A1, Arecatannin A2, Arecatannin A3, Arecatannin B1, Arecatannin B2, Arecatannin C1, Areoline, Arecaine, Guvacoline, Guvacine, Arecolidine, Homoarecoline, Isoguvacine, Gallic acid, Coumaric acid, Epicatechu, Ferulic acid, Rutin, Naringin	16,17,55,59,60,67
6.	<i>Mauritia flexuosa</i>	Kaempferol, Catechin, Luteolin, Rutin, Orientin, Lycopene	56
7.	<i>Euterpe oleracea</i>	Catechin, Luteolin, Rutin, Orientin	57
8.	<i>Caryota mitis</i>	Quercetin, Isoquercetin, Rutin	35,36
9.	<i>H.verschaffeltii</i>	Quercetin, Quercetin-7,3,4-trimethoxy, Luteolin	58
10.	<i>Serena repens</i>	Oleic acid, Lauric acid, Myristic acid, Palmitic acid, Linoleic acid	61
11.	<i>Caryota urens</i>	Hexanoic acid, Dodecanoic acid, Nitrous acid, Lignoceric acid, 11-octadecenoic acid, 9,12-octadecenoic acid, Linolenic acid, Benzoic acid, Stearic acid, Oleic acid, 10-undecenoic acid, 8-nonynoic acid, Hendecynoic acid, Palmitic acid, 3-butanoic acid	37,38
12	<i>Acrocomia aculeata</i>	B-carotene, Lutein	57
13.	<i>Archontophoenix alexander</i>	Gallic acid, 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid, Chlorogenic acid, Syringic acid, Caffeic acid	33,34

Table 3 : Biological activity of family Arecaceae

S.N.	Species	Plant parts	Activity studies	Tested extracts	Refrence
1	Archontophoeni	Leaf sheath	Antioxidant	Aqueous	33,34

	x alexandrae				
2	Areca catechu	Areca nut	Antioxidant, Anti-inflammatory, skin-aging and cosmetics, hypoglycemic activity , Antihypertensive, alpha glucosidase inhibitionand, hypoglycemic, hypolipideamic, antimicrobial, Vascular relaxation, Antidepressant platelet aggregation inhibitory activity , antiradical capacity ,anti-allergic , prevention of dental cavities, anti-allergic ,central nervous system stimulant ,anti-HIVactivity, molluscicidal activity	Ethanolic	16,17,55,59,
3	Caryota mitis	leaves	Antimicrobial activity , antibacterial activity	Ethanol	35,36
4	Caryota urens	Leaves Immature fruits Fruit skin	Antioxidant Antimicrobial Larvicidal activity Anti-inflammatory Antidiabetic, Remediation activity	Methanol	37,38,39
5	Chamaerops humilis	Leaves Seeds Pulp and peel	Antioxidant Enzyme- inhibition activity	Methanol	43
6	Cocos nucifera	Husk Endocarp Husk Fiber Endocarp Husk oil husk	Anti-inflammatory activity Anti-bacterial Anti-parasitic Anti-leishmania activity Antioxidant Depressant and Anti-convulsant, Antimalarial Antineoplastic, Antithrombotic effect, Anti-atherosclerotic effect Hypolipid effect Antiprotozoal activity Antidiabetic effect Hepatoprotective Anticholecystitic effect	Aqueous Ethanol Ethanol Ethyl acetate Ethanol Aqueous Methanol Methanol Aqueous	18,19,20,21,22, 23,24
7	Hyophorbe verschaffeltii	Leaves	Antioxidant	Methanol	58
8	Livistona chinensis	Fruit	Antioxidant, Antiproliferative	Water Chloroform	48
9	Phoenix pusilla	Root	Antioxidant, Antimicrobial	Ethanol	77
10.	Phoenix sylvestris	Root Leaves Seed Leaves	Anthemintic activity Antimicrobial Antibacterial Antioxidant	Ethanol Methanol Methanol Methanol	48,49,50
11	Rhapis repens	Leaves	Antioxidant, Antimicrobial Antibacterial	Aqueous	40,41,42
12.	Serenoa repens	Leaves	Antiproliferative, Anti-inflammatory	Hexane	68
13	Washingtonia robusta	Fruit	Antioxidant	Methanol	52, 53
14.	Mauritia flexuosa	Pulp oil	Antimicrobial and Antibiotic,activity, Antibacterial, Antimicrobial activity Insecticidal activity	Hexane	56,57

			Hypocholesterolemic effect, Antiplatelets Anti-inflammatory		
15	Euterpe oleracea mart.	Pulp Oil Concentrat e juice Frozen concentrate d juice	Antimicrobial and antibiofilm activity Histological and histochemical Anti-lipidaemic and anti-inflammatory Anti-lipidaemic Anti-inflammatory	Hexane	57
16	Acrocomia aculeate	Pulp oil dehydrated pulp leaves	Antioxidant lipid oxidation Antimicrobial	Hexane	57

CONCLUSIONS

Species of family Arecaceae have been used as a conventional medicine across the globe as it is a rich source of isoflavonoids, rotenoids, sterols, phenolic compounds, coumarin, terpenoids, resin, saponins, etc . The present review reports traditional uses, phytochemical constituents and pharmacological activities based on ethnopharmacological claims of family "Arecaceae. Extensive literature survey revealed that most of the species are used traditionally in different African and Asian countries etc where, only a few species were scientifically evaluated for their phytochemical constituents Quercetin, Luteolin, Orientin, Rutin, Arecoline, Benzoic acid, oleic acid, Palmitic acid, Neoxanthin, Lycopene, Sitosterol, Arundoin, Kaempferol etc. that could mediate particular pharmacological activities. The major traditional use of species of family Arecaceae

as reviewed involved in the treatment of joint pain, rheumatoid arthritis, hepatitis amenorrhea, tuberculosis, chronic bronchitis, insecticide, skin disease, vermifuge which have been validated scientifically. It is observed that most of the pharmacological activity studies were limited to both *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* screening where, the mechanisms of action, bioavailability and pharmacokinetics are not explored clearly. Furthermore, a number of studies were done for the bioassay-guided extraction and isolation of phytochemical constituents. Further research should target on the exploration and validation of traditional claims of other species by focusing the bioassay-guided drug discovery along with the formulation and mode of administration of drugs which we found lacking in most of the reviewed literature. So, further well designed and more clinical in-depth studies are required by focusing on the mechanism-

based *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies for understanding the underlying mechanisms linked to ethnopharmacological uses.

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