



Review Article

Pharmacology

A Review on *Zingiber capitatum* Roxb.

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Abstract: *Zingiber capitatum* Roxb is found in numerous places of India and their therapeutic capacity have been extensively examined and acknowledged in numerous conventional system. Various literature has conducted the pharmacological activity in- vitro and in-vivo which proven to have antioxidant and antimicrobial from extracts of rhizomes. Ginger is a vigorous anti-oxidant substance and may either alleviate or prevent generation of free radicals. It is considered a secure herbal medicine with minimum side effects. The medicinal properties of this plant are mainly due to the presence of gingerol, shogaols, paradol, etc which represent it as a beneficial source of medicinal compound. Preliminary phytochemical analysis depict the presence of phytoconstituents introduced in the literature such as alkaloid, cardiac glycoside, carbohydrates, tannin, saponin, ascorbic acid, phenols and flavonoids. Currently, there's an interest in ginger and a lots clinical experiments are accomplished extensively for the isolation, identification of active constituents and scientific verification of its pharmacological for the treatment of several disease and conditions. This article aims at reviewing the most salient recent reports on these investigations that deals with botanical and ayurvedic classifications, different pharmacological activity, cultivation, medicinal uses and chemical composition of essential oils from rhizomes of *Zingiber capitatum* as indicated by ayurveda and modern science. The study elaborates; ginger is effective in contagion diseases and revitalizing the body at disease conditions according to both of Ayurveda and modern concepts through increasing appetite, immunity and re-boosting weakened physiological functions of the human body. We hope that this updated review can appeal a more awareness to *Zingiber capitatum* Roxb and its further applications, together with its potential to be developed into functional foods or nutraceuticals for the precautionary and control of chronic diseases.

Keywords: *Zingiber capitatum* Roxb; Antioxidant; antimicrobial; phytochemical analysis; rhizome extracts.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Zingiber capitatum Roxb plant is commonly known as wild ginger (Ran ale)¹, Oriya: Bana Ada², Hindi: Jangli adrak is found in forest area the Himalayan region (Kumaun to Sikkim), Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and many other parts of India³⁻⁴. *Zingiber capitatum* is a herbaceous perennial plant that spreads by rhizomes and also by seed. It is native to India and is probably also native to Bangladesh and Nepal⁵⁻⁶. It has medicinal properties and is likely to be introduced to the countries outside its native range for horticultural use. It is cultivated in Brazil and is also present in China and Vietnam⁷⁻⁸. Taxonomical classification of *Zingiber capitatum* was first described in 1810 by Roxburgh in India⁹ Kingdom-Plantae, Order- Zingiberales, Family- Zingiberaceae, Genus- Zinger, Species- *Zingiber capitatum*, Class- Monocotyledonae, Sub Class- Angiospermae, Phylum- Spermatophyta. It's External morphology consist of Rhizome thick, yellow inside, aromatic root tubers oblong, many. Plants 1.5-2 m. high. Leafy stem 1-1.25 m. Leaves bifarious 30-45 x 2-3.5 cm. linear, recurved, glabrous above, minutely hairy on the lower side, sheath hairy. Flowers pale yellow, 4.5-4.8 cm. long, longer than the bracts¹⁰. Calyx 1-1.3 x 1-1.2 cm, 3 toothed, white, membranous, apex truncate, unequally 3- toothed, short hairs on the margin. Corolla tube cylindric, c.1.5 cm. long, glabrous; lobes deep yellow, unequal, glabrous, Ovary c. 5 mm. long, Seeds many, black, arillate, aril white, lacerate¹¹⁻¹². Generally plants produce flowers and fruits in

July-October. Plants mainly grow in tropical wet and dry savanna climates and warm temperate climates with dry winters. Most gingers prefer organically rich, well-drained soils. Throughout the history of formal ethnobotany, this medicinal plant has been an area of keen interest as various research is performed on *Zingiber capitatum*. A search of literature revealed rhizome of this species reports composition of essential oil¹³. Therefore, it is an attempt to provide collective information and represent it in a systematic manner.

PHYTOCHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS

The Sofowora A (1983) and Trease GE, Evans WC (1989) illustrated preliminary phytochemical data suggested that the alkaloid presents in hot aqueous extracts and sparingly presents in methanol extracts, saponin was detected in hot aqueous extracts similarly glycoside was detected in hot aqueous and acetone extracts, tannin was present largely in almost all extracts maximum in hot aqueous and methanol extracts¹⁴⁻¹⁵. Various carbohydrates were largely detected by Harborne J B (2001) in all extracts of *Zingiber capitatum* plants. The volatile oil content obtained from the rhizomes of *Zingiber capitatum* was 0.14% v/w, and it exhibited slight yellowish color with characteristics odor¹⁶. Ferguson LR (2001) and Balasundram N, Sundram K., et al. (2006) derived plants antioxidants such as ascorbic acid, polyphenols such as phenolic acid, flavonoid, proanthocyanidins.¹⁷⁻¹⁸



Fig. 1: *Zingiber capitatum* Roxb.

Table 1. Phytochemical Composition Present in the Plant form

Plant Form	Compounds
Fresh ginger rhizome	Gingerols (6-, 8- and 10-gingerol), shogaols (6-, 8- and 10- shogaol), 3-dihydroshogaols,, dihydroparadols, ethanoyl group of gingerdiols, mono- and di-phenyl derivatives of gingerdiols, 1- dehydrogingerdiones, diphenylheptanoids, ingenol, and zingerone ¹⁹ .
Dry ginger rhizome	The powdered rhizome carry 3-6% fatty oil, 9% protein, 60-70% carbohydrates, 3-8% crude fiber, about 8% ash, 9-12% H ₂ O and 2-3% volatile oil. Volatile oil- Monoterpenoids (β -phellandrene, 2,2-Dimethyl-3-methylenenorbornane, cineole, geraniol, curcumene, terphineol, borneol, cineole, geranyl acetate, limonene, linalool) and sesquiterpenoids [α -zingiberene (30–70%), β -sesquiphellandrene (15–20%), β -bisabolene (10–15%), α -farnesene, zingiberol] ²⁰ .

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIONS

ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY

Based on the literature survey Rotimi VO, Laugh on BE, et al (1988) and Makut MD, Gyar SD, et al. (2007) studied Antimicrobial activities by a well diffusion method; the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) was performed.

MINIMUM INHIBITORY CONCENTRATION (MIC)

A quality of 0.5 g of each extract was determined in 4 ml of sterile Mueller Hinton broth which yield an initial concentration of 125 mg l⁻¹, subsequently, two fold of sterile dilution were made from the stock of 4 ml contain 125 mg l⁻¹. Mueller Hinton broth was used to obtain the following concentrations: 125, 62.5, 31.250, 15.65, 7.83, 1.95, 1.00, 0.50, 0.25. 0.13 mg l⁻¹. One millimeter of standardized

inoculums of each extract nutrient broth mixture and then incubated at 37°C for 24h. The concentration of the extract that inhibits the test organisms was recorded as the MIC²¹.

MINIMUM BACTERICIDAL CONCENTRATION (MBC)

All the tubes that showed no microbial growth (No turbidity) after 24 hrs of incubation were sub cultured onto the surface of freshly prepared Mueller Hinton Agar and incubated at 37°C for another 24h. The MBC was regarded as the lowest concentration of the extract that did not permit a visible bacterial 24h incubation²².

ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY

Studies has reported the antioxidant properties of *Zingiber*

capitatum rhizome extracts were evaluated using different methods (α , α -Diphenyl- β -Picryl-hydrazyl, Hydrogen peroxide, Ferric reducing antioxidant power).

DETERMINATION OF DPPH RADICAL SCAVENGING CAPACITY

The study was designed by Shimada K, Fujikawa K, et al. (1992) carried out, briefly taking one ml of all four extracts (Chloroform Extract, Methanolic Extract, Acetone Extract, Hot Aqueous Extract) taken separately and 5 ml of freshly prepared 0.1 mm DPPH (Diphenyl Picryl-hydrazyl). Methanolic solutions were thoroughly mixed and kept in dark for 60 minutes at 517 nm was prepared by replacing samples. Scavenging activities were calculated as follows²³:

$$\text{Scavenging activity}(\%) = \frac{1 - A_{517nm \text{ sample}} \times 100\%}{A_{517nm \text{ blank}}}$$

SCAVENGING OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

Investigation in research articles conducted by Gulcin I, Oktay M. et al. (2003) showed the ability of plant rhizome extract to scavenge hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) was determined according to standard method with minor modification. Briefly rhizome extract and standard Butylated Hydroxy toluene (BHT) in ethanol (1.06, 2.05, 3.30, 4.20, 5.00 and 1.2 mg/l respectively) were added to hydrogen peroxide solution (2.9 ml, 20 mm). Then, the mixture was incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes and absorbance of hydrogen peroxide was measured at 240 nm. The percentage of scavenging was calculated from control value²⁴.

TOTAL ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY (FRAP)

Another report has shown that Katalinic A, Rosch C (2004) performed the working on FRAP (Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power) reagents were prepared by mixing 10 volumes of 1.0 mol/l acetate buffer, pH 3.6 with 1 volume of 10 mmol/l TPTZ (2, 4, 6-Tripyridyl-S-triazine) in 40 mmol/l hydrochloric acid and 1 volume of 20 mmol/l ferric chloride in a reaction tube, 100 μ l of sample solution of and 30 μ l of deionizer water were added into 3 ml of FRAP reagent. Absorbances were measured after 8 minutes. A standard curve was prepared with different concentrations of FeSO₄.7H₂O (100-1000 μ m/l). The antioxidant efficiency of the sample solution was calculated with reference to the standard curve given by a Fe²⁺ solution of known concentration. Ferric reducing power of the sample was expressed in Mol Fe²⁺/l²⁵.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON VARIOUS DISEASES DIABETES

Ginger (*Zingiber*) is a significant herb that unveil many medicinal and ethno- medicinal properties. It's been analyzed by several clinical trials that ginger has significant effects on diabetes²⁶. A major pungent component, Gingerol, of ginger significantly reduces diabetes²⁷, it also enhances the insulin activity²⁸. In a research a metaanalysis and five randomized clinical trials were determined, the supplementation of ginger lowered fasting blood glucose concentrations significantly²⁹.

NAUSEA AND VOMITING

Ginger, during pregnancy, is very effective for vomiting and Nausea^{30,31,32}. In 2005, a review assay was carried out that 33 studies to appraise the productiveness of the ginger in alleviating of vomiting and nausea induced at the time of the pregnancy. A meta-analysis and five randomized trials were conducted in 2006, in a study administer on 363 patients, to appraise the use of the ginger for vomiting and nausea, unveiled, ginger was effectual than the placebo^{33,34}. Two of these studies discovered to be resemblant to vitamin B6, which has been found to be helpful in treatment of nausea induced in pregnancy. The review emerged that there were no negative impacts of ginger on outcomes of pregnancy³⁵.

VASCULAR CONDITIONS

Research has revealed that using 5g of ginger powder after dietary supplementation has an articulate increase in fibrinolytic activity, although, another study demonstrated that ginger doesn't affect the International Normalized Ratio (INR)^{36,37}.

MEDICINAL USES

Zingiber capitatum is known to possess many healing properties like asthma and cold. Roots and rhizomes are used as antiseptics and in skin care³⁸. The nutraceutical has been found to possess cardiotoxic activity due to compounds such as gingerol and the related compound shogaol as well as providing benefits in the treatment of dizziness and vestibular disorder. It is also effective in the treatment of nausea and other stomach disorders, but the traditional use has not been rationalized in the term of its experimental verification either in vitro or in vivo³⁹. Essential oil from this rhizome is widely used in folklore remedies like fever and rheumatism⁴⁰.

THERAPEUTIC POTENTIALS OF ZINGIBER

Being one of the mostly consumed nutritious condiments, Ginger's medicinal properties are striking. The health aids of ginger are as a natural remedy for the treatment of numerous diseases and health conditions.

Table 2. Health benefits of ginger

Sr.No.	Medical condition	Benefits
1.	Antifungal	Treatment of yeast analogous infections such as athlete's foot, mouth infections etc ⁴¹ .
2.	Antiulcer	Inhibits development of stomach ulcers such as ulcer caused by aspirin intakes ⁴²
3.	Reduce Menstrual Pains	Reduces intensity and time span of dysmenorrhea (period cramps) and associated headaches ⁴³
4.	Anticancer	Inhibits cancer cell growth of ovarian colorectal, pancreatic and prostate cancer by inducing apoptosis and auto-phagocytosis ^{44,45}
5.	Reduces Joint/ Muscle Pain	Diminish inflammation and joints/muscle pain associated with arthritis and osteoarthritis ⁴⁶ .
6.	Reduces Cholesterol Levels	Instinctively reduces high cholesterol and triglyceride levels ⁴⁷ .
7.	Improves Cognitive Functions	Retard brain aging and cognitive decline ⁴⁸ .
8.	Antibacterial	Effective against bacteria causing pneumonia, urinary tract infections, bronchitis and drugresistant bacteria ⁴⁹ .
9.	Anti-inflammatory	Hinder blood clotting Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis Suppress pro-inflammatory compounds such as chemokines and cytokines ^{50,51} .
10.	Stimulates Proper Digestion	Reduces problems like dyspepsia pain, heartburn and discomfort ^{52,53} .

2. CONCLUSION

The present review tries to summarize and document the phytochemical, pharmacological and medicinal uses of *Z. capitatum Roxb*. It can be concluded that *Zingiber capitatum Roxb* is a promising medicinal plant having wide ranges of pharmacological activities and used traditionally as antioxidant and antimicrobial potential. Experimental Studies has proven to have antioxidant properties; hence it will emerge as Immunomodulatory potential in treatment of immunodeficiency disorders. We hope this review can facilitate all concerning the past analysis research and therefore necessary information about the enormous pharmacological activities of *Zingiber capitatum Roxb* and a lot of elaborated clinical research seems worthy to determine it as a standard drug.

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3. AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflict of interest declared none.

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