

Can Iranian Medicinal Plants Apply to Prevent and Treatment of Viral Diseases?

MOHAMAD HESAM SHAHRAJABIAN¹, WENLI SUN¹, AND QI CHENG^{1,2*}

1-Biotechnology Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing 100081, China
2-College of Life Sciences, Hebei Agricultural University, Baoding, Hebei, 071000, China; Global Alliance of HeBAU-CLS&HeQiS for BioAI-Manufacturing, Baoding, Hebei 071000, China

*Corresponding author E-mail: chengqi@caas.cn; hesamshahrajabian@gmail.com;

Received: 25 September 2018

Accepted: 10 JANUARY 2019

ABSTRACT

Medicinal herbs and plants which have entered the fight against viral diseases because they constitute low-cost and efficient host for biopharmaceutical production. Traditional medicinal plants could likely improve therapeutic outcomes and quality of life, and it is an effective adjuvant in the systemic treatment of viral diseases. Viral infections are spreading rapidly, and emergence of drug resistance due to some mutations of viruses and dormant and recurrent infections may lead to new antiviral combination. Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis* L.), Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis*), Myrtle (*Myrtus communis*), Nut grass (*Cyperus rotundus*), Common fig (*Ficus carica* L.), Clove (*Syzygium aromaticum*), Field elm (*Ulmus minor* Mill.), Persian yellow rose (*Rosa foetida*), Horse mint (*Mentha longifolia*), *Acanthophyllum sordidum*, *Euphorbia bungei*, *Leptadenia (Leptadenia pyrotechnica)*, *Linum album*, *Euphorbia helioscopia*, Dog rose (*Rosa canina* L.), Redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), Common chicory (*Cichorium intybus* L.), Wild rue (*Peganum harmala* L.), Borage (*Echium amoenum*), Greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*), Rosmary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), Thymus (*Thymus vulgaris* L.), Sage (*Salvia officinalis*), Mallow (*Malva sylvestris*), Liquorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*), Marjoram (*Oriaganum majorana*), Anise (*Pimpinella anisum* L.), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Garlic (*Allium sativum*), Basil (*Ocimum basilicum* L.), Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) are native to the Middle East, West and Central of Asia and Iran with anti viral characteristics for future studies. These traditional herbs and plants which have both antiviral activity and ability to promote immunity, would have possible inhibition ability in the initiation and promotion of virus-associated diseases. These important medicinal plants should consider more as a great potential source of novel chemical constituents with anti-viral impacts.

Keywords: Traditional Iranian Medicine, Viral Infection, Medicinal Plants, Natural Products.

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants are used in treating diseases because they are low-risk, inexpensive natural materials, readily available, the wide range of both chemical structures and biological activities of natural secondary metabolites the development of recent techniques to accurately detect, isolate, and have a higher consumption by people compared to synthetic drugs (Soleymani and Shahrajabian, 2018; Shahrajabian *et al.*, 2019a,b,c; Sun *et al.*, 2019a,b;

Khoshkharam *et al.*, 2020; Shahrajabian *et al.*, 2020a,b,c,d,e; Sun *et al.*, 2020a,b). Viral infections are spreading rapidly, and emergence of drug resistance due to some mutations of viruses and dormant and recurrent infections may lead to new antiviral combination. The goal of this review is survey on common medicinal plants in the Middle East, especially Iran with antiviral characteristics.

Medical plants with antiviral activities

Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis* L.) of the Lamiaceae family is an aromatic perennial plant which has been widely used for medicinal purposes (Sentkowska *et al.*, 2015; Mokhtarzadeh *et al.*, 2017). Its oil major components are geraniol, neral, citronella, caryophyllene oxide, geranyl acetate, and β -caryophyllene (Shabby *et al.*, 1995; Holla *et al.*, 1997; Esmaeili and Rohani, 2012). Taherpour *et al.* (2012) reported (E)-citral, neral and citronellal as the most important compounds in the essential oil of wild *Melissa officinalis* L. in west of Iran. Afsharypour *et al.* (2015) identified twenty-seven volatile components in the leaf oil, twenty-eight components in the flower oil, and both oils of the leaf and flower were composed of mono- and sesquiterpenoids, and thirty five components in the stem oil which is mainly consisted of the saturated and unsaturated fatty acids as well as some normal saturated hydrocarbons along with minor quantities of volatile terpenoids. Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis* L.) belonging to the family Lamiaceae, is an important medicinal and aromatic plant in Iranian folk medicine (Hristova *et al.*, 2015; Pirbalouti *et al.*, 2019). The major essential oil of *Hyssopus officinalis* are methyl eugenol, limonene, β -pinene, cis-pinocamphone, myrcene, pinocarvone and trans-pine camphone (Figueredo *et al.*, 2012; Zawislak, 2016). *Myrtus communis* L. is an evergreen aromatic plant growing wild in Iran (Pezhmanmehr *et al.*, 2010; Zomorodian *et al.*, 2013). Myrtle is a pleasant annual shrub with dark blue ripe berries with long history of application in pharmaceutical industries, cosmetic, food and perfume (Wannes and Marzouk, 2016). Myrtle (*Myrtus communis* L.) fruit has shown the presence of arabinogalactan, cyclitols, glucose, organic acids, anthocyanins, and oligosaccharides (Chidouh *et al.*, 2014). Alipour *et al.* (2014) reported that polyphenols, myrtucommulone, semimyrtucommulone, 1,8-cineole, α -pinene, myrtenyl acetate, limonene, linalool and α -terpinolene are among the most important compounds considered to be the main biologically active compounds. *Cyperus rotundus* is a traditional medicinal herb used in the treatment of various diseases (Srivastava *et al.*, 2013; Kumar *et al.*, 2014). It is a perennial, monocotyledonous and herbaceous plant of the Cyperaceae family. It contains various volatile and non-volatile components including essential oils, alkaloids, flavonoids, terpenoids, chromones, phenylpropanoids, phenolic acids, iridoides, etc (Dhar *et al.*, 2017). Aghassi *et al.* (2013) discovered twenty-two compounds from *C. rotundus*, of which cyperene and cyperotundone were the major components. *Ficus carica* L. (Moraceae) has considered as super food for its medicinal properties since the beginning of history (Barolo *et al.*, 2014). Its fruits and leaves present important nutritional components, and numerous bioactive compounds such as phenolic compounds, flavonoids, coumarins, sterols, and volatiles (Trad *et al.*, 2014). It has many pharmacological effects, including anti-tumor, antioxidant, the ability to mediate the body metabolism, hyperglycemia, hyperlipidemia, antibiotic, antiviral effects, enhancement of oxidation resistance and activate blood coagulation (Doro *et al.*, 2018; Raafat and Wurglics, 2019; Zhang *et al.*, 2019). Clove is one of the most popular medicinal and aromatic plants due to its strong bioactivity (Sharma *et al.*, 2017; Kaur *et al.*, 2019; Kopru *et al.*, 2020). It is a tropical evergreen tree of the family Myrtaceae and its small

reddish brown flower buds used as a spice. Eugenol is the main volatile compound extracted oil from clove bud which has been used as a bactericide, fungicide, anesthetic and etc in traditional medicinal science (Yoshimura *et al.*, 2011; Bostan *et al.*, 2019; Yassin *et al.*, 2020), other important components are eugenyl acetate and β -caryophyllene (Koba *et al.*, 2011; Tahir *et al.*, 2016). Pino *et al.* (2001) reported that the major components of bud oil were eugenol, β -caryophyllene, and eugenyl acetate, whereas the main constituents in leaf oil contained only eugenol and β -caryophyllene. Its most important pharmaceutical effects are anticancer, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, antinociceptive, antibacterial, antifungal, antiprotozoal, antioxidant, antithrombotic properties and biological properties. Field elm (*Ulmus minor* Mill.) is a riparian noble hardwood tree and since ancient times they have provided important services to humans (Zebec *et al.*, 2016; Martin *et al.*, 2019). *Rosa foetida* Herrm., known as Persian yellow rose, Austrian briar, and Austrian copper rose is a species of rose, native to the foothills of Caucasus mountains, and it was introduced from Persia to Europe (Akhoondi *et al.*, 2015; Rezghi *et al.*, 2015). The major essential oil content of Persian yellow rose is n-nonadecane, 1-heptadecene, and n-dodecanoic acid (Asgarpanah *et al.*, 2014).

Mentha longifolia L. is one the most important aromatic and perennial herbs of the Lamiaceae family, having potential sources of essential oils and compounds with interesting pharmacological and therapeutic properties (Murad *et al.*, 2016; Moshrefi Araghi *et al.*, 2019). The major components of aerial parts of *Mentha longifolia* (L.) are piperitenone oxide, β -caryophyllene, 1,8-cineole, myrcene, limonene, piperitone oxide, germacrene and bicyclogermacrene (Venskutonis, 1996; Nori-Shargh *et al.*, 2000). Its essential oil could provide anti-oxidative and anti-genotoxic protection for the oxidative and genotoxic agents (Ceker *et al.*, 2013). Jaimand and Rezaee (2002) reported that the major constituents of the leaf oil were piperitone, isomenthone, and *cis*-piperitol, while flower oil contained piperitone, carvone and pulegone. The oil of *M. longifolia* contains high levels of limonene which seems to have imparted bactericidal property to the oil (Rasooli and Rezaei, 2002). It has also anti-inflammatory activity against CLP-induced sepsis possibly through modulating oxidative stress/antioxidant parameters (Rasooli *et al.*, 2019). This important herb can be used in treatment of gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory disorders, infectious diseases, with anti-parasitic, anti-microbial, anti-insect, antioxidant, anti-diarrhea, hepatoprotective and spasmolytic effects (Farzaei *et al.*, 2017). *Acanthophyllum* is a genus of flowering plant in the family Caryophyllaceae with about 75 species, spread in the Irano-Turanian area (Shamsabad *et al.*, 2020). It contains moisture, carbohydrate, protein and ash (Jahanbin *et al.*, 2012). Two new gypsogenic acid glycosides, 1 and 2 were isolated from *A. sordidum* and *A. lilacinum*, 2 from *A. elatius* and *A. lilacinum* together with three known saponins, glandulosides B and C and SAPO50 (Timite *et al.*, 2010). Euphorbia is one of the largest genus in Euphorbiaceae with more than 2000 species in the world and about 100 species in Iran (Noori *et al.*, 2009). Iran has the largest number of taxa in Southwest Asia with about 90 species including several endemics and species (Pahlevani and Riina, 2014). The most important chemical diversity of Euphorbiaceae family is isoprenoid, and diterpenoids also found in the majority of the genus (Lin *et al.*, 2012). The secondary metabolites and extracts from *Euphorbia* plants have been used for treatment of human ailments, such as inflammation, cancer, and microbial infections (Salehi *et al.*, 2019). *Euphorbia bungei* Boiss, contains acetone, macrocyclic diterpenoids, and cycloartane triterpenoids (Shokoohinia *et al.*, 2011).

Leptadenia pyrotechnica (Forssk.) Decne (Asclepiadaceae) is a famous medicinal shrub, used by herbal practitioners for various ailments such as rhinitis, productive cough, abortion, diabetes, stomach disorders, fever, kidney disorders, stones and cancer (Rasheed *et al.*, 2016;

Nair *et al.*, 2018). The whole plant afforded 18 new pregnane glycosides with sarcostin, 11-hydroxysarcostin, and deacetyl meta-plexigenin as a glycone moieties and acetyl, benzoyl, cinnamoyl, *p*-coumaroyl, and nicotinoyl ester moieties (Cioffi *et al.*, 2006). The genus *Linum* L. (Lineacea) has over 15 species, subspecies or ecotypes in Iran (Sheidai *et al.*, 2014). *Linum album* is a herbaceous plant with medical interest due to its content of podophyllotoxin, an aryltetralin lignin with cytotoxic activity (Lalaleo *et al.*, 2018a). *Linum* species contain lignans of various chemical structures (von Heimendahl *et al.*, 2005). *Linum album* has been shown to accumulate anti-tumor and anti-cancer podophyllotoxin and its related lignans (Bahabadi *et al.*, 2012; Lalaleo *et al.*, 2018b). Euphornin is one of the main bioactive constituents with the maximal content of *Euphorbia helioscopia* (Chen *et al.*, 2012). Chai *et al.* (2017) considered terpenoid as the most effective medicinal component of *Euphorbia helioscopia* L. Its methanolic extract exhibits the free-radical scavenging activity (Cateni *et al.*, 2014), it also possesses significant anthelmintic activity (Lone *et al.*, 2012), and can be considered as new lipid lowering agents (Li *et al.*, 2018). Geng *et al.* (2015) reported its anti-microbial activity against oral pathogens. As it possesses significant anti-nociceptive, anti-inflammatory and anti-pyretic activities, it can be used for the inhibition synthesis of prostaglandins, and other mediators responsible for pain, inflammation and pyrexia (Saleem *et al.*, 2015).

Rose canina belongs to the family of Rosaceae and genus Rosa with about 200 species spread in the temperate zone and subtopics of the Northern hemisphere (Fetni *et al.*, 2020). *Rosa canina* contains several compounds including phenolics, terpenoids, galactolipids, carotenoids, fruit acids and fatty acid which can be considered responsible for the observed pharmacological and clinical effects (Gruenwald *et al.*, 2019). It exhibits numerous biological properties such as antioxidant, anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory, anti-ulcerogenic, anti-obesity, antidiabetic, diuretic, antimutagenic, anticarcinogenic, anti-arthritic, neuroprotective and antimicrobial effects (Kilinc *et al.*, 2020; Marmol *et al.*, 2020). On the basis of chemical analysis, its extract shows antioxidant activity which may also contribute to the anti-inflammatory effects (Lattanzio *et al.*, 2011; Armenteros *et al.*, 2013). Biogenic silver nanoparticles with the help of *Rosa canina* plants (Rc-Ag NPs) is highly effective for antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal and DNA cleavage activities (Gulbagca *et al.*, 2019). *Erodium* species has been used in traditional medicines of different countries as a therapeutic agent to treat several diseases such as constipation, dermatological disorders, diabetes, indigestion, urinary inflammations, and as carminative agents with great antiviral, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and other health-related activities (Munekata *et al.*, 2019). *Erodium cicutarium* is a one- or two-year plant (Lis-Balchin, 1993) which is known for its antihemorrhagic activity, antiviral effect in relation to myxoviruses, Herpes virus type 1, vesicular stomatitis and vaccine virus (Zielinska-Jencylik *et al.*, 1987). The major components in *E. cicutarium* are isomenthone, citronellol, geraniol and methyl eugenol, respectively (Lis-Balchin, 1993). It contained tannin, catechins, gallic and elagic acids, sugars (glucose, galactose, fructose), amino acids (glycine, alanine, proline, histidine, tryptophan, tyrosine, glutamic acid), vitamins K and C. *Erodium circuatrium* has been used for treatment of dysentery, fever, wounds, and worms as traditional medicine; also hepatitis, nephritis, stomach pain, hearth problems, sores and rashes and even as an abortifacient (Tene *et al.*, 2007; Molares and Ladio, 2009; Heger *et al.*, 2014).

Cichorius intybus L. is a widely distributed, edible, perennial, herbaceous plant known as chicory (Imam *et al.*, 2019). In traditional medicine this plant is used as diuretic, anti-inflammatory, digestive, cardiogenic and liver tonic (Satmbekova *et al.*, 2018). It is also well known as a coffee substitute and it is also widely used to treat various ailments ranging from

wounds to diabetes (Street *et al.*, 2013). Chicory contains cichoriin, esculin, inulin, which may help general health (Nallamilli *et al.*, 2013). Its leaves are good sources of phenols, vitamins A and C as well as potassium, calcium and phosphorus which make them important in improving human health (Abbas *et al.*, 2015). Bayazid *et al.* (2020) found that the green chicory leaf extract could be used as a natural anti-inflammatory agent. Its main oil components consists of carvacrol, thymol, cinnamic aldehyde, camphor, carvone, linalool, and α -terpineol (Haghi *et al.*, 2012). The antimicrobial and antioxidant effectiveness of methanolic extract and different fractions (*n*-butanol, ethyl acetate, chloroform and *n*-hexane) of *C. intybus* seeds are reported (Mehmood *et al.*, 2012). Chicory extract rich in natural antioxidants and its root extract regulates the oxidative status and antioxidant gene transcripts in CCl₄-induced hepatotoxicity (El-Sayed *et al.*, 2015). *Peganum harmala* (wild rue, Syrian rue, African rue) has been used in traditional medicine of different countries. It is an important perennial herb of the family Zygophyllaceae (Zhang and Chi, 2019). It is mainly distributed in dry areas in the Mediterranean and many Asian countries (Zha *et al.*, 2020). The most important chemical compounds of wild rue are harmaline, harmine, harmalol, Harman, and related hallucinogenic alkaloids. *P. harmala* and its active alkaloids possess a wide range of pharmacological activities like cardiovascular, neurologic, anticancer, antidiabetic, antispasmodic, anticholinergic, antihistaminic and antiadrenergic effects (Hamsa and Kuttan, 2011; Azizi *et al.*, 2017; Amiri and Fozouni, 2020).

Borage (*Echium amoenum*) is a large, hairy annual herb that is a member of the *Boraginaceae* family. The main compounds determined in flower extract of was Acetic acid, Heptanoic acid, and Propanoic acid (Nadi, 2017; Saadatian *et al.*, 2017). The petals of *E. amoenum* have been widely used as sedative, anxiolytic, demulcent, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antioxidant and tranquilizing effects (Shafaghi *et al.*, 2010; Mikaili *et al.*, 2012; Beiraghdar *et al.*, 2017). *Chelidonium majus* (Papaveraceae) is a famous medicinal herb in Asia, Europe and North of Africa (Pantano *et al.*, 2017). *Chelidonium majus* L. contains secondary metabolites, isoquinoline alkaloids such as sanguinarine, chelidonine, chelerythrine, berberine and coptisine, and other compounds unrelated to the alkaloids from the aerial parts are several flavonoids and phenolic acids (Colombo and Bosisio, 1996; Wu *et al.*, 2019). The most important pharmacological activities of *C. majus* are anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, immunomodulatory, anticancer, hepatoprotective and analgesic. *Rosmarinus officinalis* L. (Lamiaceae) is an aromatic plant widely used in traditional medicine as anti-inflammatory, diuretic, antimicrobial, antibacterial and in the prevention and treatment of many other diseases (Chen and Hua, 2019; Karadag *et al.*, 2019; Risaliti *et al.*, 2019; Perez-Mendoza *et al.*, 2019; Ali *et al.*, 2020). Phenolic and terpenic compounds are responsible for main biological activities (Etter, 2005; Lucarini *et al.*, 2013; Oliveira *et al.*, 2019). The major components of essential oil of *Rosmarinus officinalis* L. are 1,8-cineole, camphor, 1,8-cineole, borneol, α -pinene, and α -terpineol (Boutekedjiret *et al.*, 1998; Pino *et al.*, 1998; Apostolides *et al.*, 2013). The free and bound phenolic compounds of rosemary have antioxidant, antihypertensive and antidiabetic properties (Ladan Moghadam, 2015; Aludatt *et al.*, 2017). *Thymus vulgaris* is a flowering plant of the family Lamiaceae commonly known as thyme, native to Southern Europe, West of Asia and North of Africa and has a world wide distribution (Neves *et al.*, 2009; Mahmoodi *et al.*, 2019). It is rich in essential oil and contains oxygenated monoterpenes and monoterpene hydrocarbons as its major chemical components, specifically, thymol, carvacrol, *p*-cymene, borneol, trans-caryophyllene, and cis-sabinene hydrate which are the highest concentrations (Perez Lopez *et al.*, 2015; Noroozisharaf and Kaviani, 2018). It also contains phenolics represented by rosmarinic acid and flavonoids derivatives (Vila, 2002). Thyme is rich in flavonoids act as antioxidants and may improve the immune function

(Dauqan and Abdullah, 2017). Thyme demonstrated significant chemopreventive and therapeutic activities against breast carcinoma (Kubatka *et al.*, 2019). *Salvia officinalis* (Sage) is a plant in the family of Lamiaceae which is native to the Middle East and Mediterranean areas (Grzegorzczuk *et al.*, 2005; Khiya *et al.*, 2019). *Salvia officinalis* essential oil was characterized by β -thujone, followed by viridiflorol, camphor, 1,8-cineol, trans-caryophyllene and α -humulene as the major components (Mehalaine *et al.*, 2018). Sage contains a wide range of constituents such as alkaloids, carbohydrate, fatty acids, glycosidic derivatives, phenolic compounds, polyacetylenes, steroids, terpenes/terpenoids and waxes (Lima *et al.*, 2004; Lima *et al.*, 2005; Lima *et al.*, 2007a,b; Hayouni *et al.*, 2008; El-Hadri *et al.*, 2010; Badiie *et al.*, 2012; Russo *et al.*, 2013). The most important pharmacological properties of sage are anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antinociceptive, antioxidant, antimicrobial, antimutagenic, antidementia, hypoglycemic, and hypolipidemic effect (Ghorbani and Esmailizadeh, 2017). *Malva sylvestris* L. is commonly used as vegetable and a medicinal plant in Iran (Azadpour *et al.*, 2016). It is mainly used to treat diseases such as abdominal pain, asthma, colds, digestive and urinary tract infections with reported antioxidant, antibacterial and anti-ulcerogenic properties (Turker and Dalar, 2013; Pinela *et al.*, 2016; Moghaddam *et al.*, 2020). It can be also considered as an antiseptic, a chemopreventive or a chemotherapeutic agent (Razavi *et al.*, 2011). The traditional sources for the use of *Glycyrrhiza* species as an herbal medicine are reported in ancient manuscript from China, Iran, India and Greece (Omer *et al.*, 2014). It possesses antibacterial, antioxidant, antimalarial, antispasmodic, anti-inflammatory, and anti hyper glycaemic properties. Other important effects are antiulcer, antiviral, antihepatotoxic, antifungal and treatment of herpes simplex (Ashfaq *et al.*, 2011; Jalilzadeh-Amin *et al.*, 2015; Karahan *et al.*, 2016). Glycyrrhizin (GL) and 18 β -glycyrrhetic acid (GA) are two main triterpenoids which are responsible for the antiviral activity (Matsumoto *et al.*, 2013, Wang *et al.*, 2013; Yeh *et al.*, 2013; Wang *et al.*, 2015). Marjoram (*Origanum majorana* L.) (Family Lamiaceae) is a frost tender perennial undershrub, native to South of Turkey, Cyprus and Mediterranean regions (Prerna and Vasudeva, 2015; Waller *et al.*, 2016). Its major compounds are terpinen-4-ol, linalool, and thymol (Pino *et al.*, 1997). In folk medicine, it is used to treat asthma, indigestion, cramps, headache, dizziness, depression and rheumatism, and it has diuretic activity (Van Den Broucke and Lemli, 1980; Jun *et al.*, 2001). It has shown wide range of pharmacological activities, such as antioxidant, hepatoprotective, cardioprotective, anti-platelet, gastroprotective, antibacterial, and antifungal, antiprotozoal, antiatherosclerosis, anti-inflammatory, antimetastatic, antitumor, antiulcer and anticholinesterase inhibitory activities (Ibanez and Blazquez, 2017; Meabed *et al.*, 2018). Anis (*Pimpinella anisum* L.) is an annual aromatic plants which has been used for many centuries in folk medicine (Yazdi *et al.*, 2014; Shahamat *et al.*, 2016). The most important compounds of aniseeds essential oil are trans-anetole, estragole, γ -hymachalen, paraanisaldehyde and methyl cavicol (Shojaii and Abdollahi Fard, 2012). Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* Weber) is a member of the Asteraceae (Compositae) family, and it contains a wide array of phytochemical whose biological activities are actively being explored in various areas of human health (Gonzalez-Catejon *et al.*, 2012). Some important health-promoting benefits of it are anti-rheumatic, anti-inflammatory, anti-carcinogenic and hypoglycaemic activities (Shidoji and Ogawa, 2004; Koh *et al.*, 2010; Tetey *et al.*, 2014). Garlic has a wide spectrum of actions (*Allium sativum*) such as antibacterial, antioxidant, antiviral, antifungal, antiprotozoal, and beneficial effects on the cardiovascular and immune systems (Klukackova *et al.*, 2007; Harris *et al.*, 2011; Shang *et al.*, 2019). It is also effective in treating of respiratory infections and triglyceride levels (Zhen *et al.*, 2006). It contains abundance chemical compounds such as allicin, alliin, S-allyl

cysteines, thiacremonone, diallyl-disulfide, diallylsulfide, and others (Dorrigiv *et al.*, 2020). Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*), a member of Lamiaceae family, and its essential oils of basil leaves are composed of phenylpropanoids which are important in treatment of headaches, diarrhea, coughs, warts, worms and kidney malfunctions (Nagi *et al.*, 2011). The most important phenylpropanoid compounds contain eugenol, chavicol, methyl eugenol, methyl chavicol, myristicin, methyl cinnamat and elemicin (Ozcan and Chalchar, 2002). *Foeniculum vulgare* Miller belonging to Umbelliferae (Apiaceae) family, and the volatile oil mainly comprises of five monoterpenes, cumic aldehyde, fenchone, anethole, citronellal and geraniol (Singh *et al.*, 2008; Alamer, 2009; Esquivel-Ferrino *et al.*, 2012). It has several pharmacological benefits such as anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimicrobial, analgesic, carminative, diuretic, and antispasmodic agents (Delaram *et al.*, 2011; Jamshidi *et al.*, 2012; Burkhardt *et al.*, 2015; Abdel-Wahab *et al.*, 2017; Akhtar *et al.*, 2020; Farid *et al.*, 2020). Two different chemotypes, namely methyl chavicol and fenchone are found in the seeds, and the oil from leaves contain methyl chavicol, α -phellandrene, limonene, and fenchone, and the major oil from the stems are (E)-anethole, α -pinene, α -phellandrene, p-cymene, limonene, and fenchone (Garcia-Jimenez *et al.*, 2000). Trans-anethole is the major constituent in the leaves of oil (Mojab *et al.*, 2007). Major fatty acid compounds of fennel 's fruits are oleic, linoleic, palmitic, myristic and stearic acid (Raouffard and Omidbaigi, 2005).

Acknowledgments

Not applicable.

Authors' Contribution

All authors contributed equally to literature research, writing manuscript, etc.

Funding

This work was supported by the National Key R&D Program of China (Research grant 2019YFA0904700)

Availability of data and materials

Not applicable.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

The authors consent for the publication of this review.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no potential conflicts of interest.

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