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# A short review on Traditional Herbal drugs used as Anti-diabetic agents

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**ABSTRACT:** Diabetes Mellitus (DM), often referred to as "honey" due to its metaphorical association with sweetness, encompasses a hyperglycaemic disorder resulting from abnormal metabolism of ingested lipids, fats, and proteins. This metabolic imbalance leads to a myriad of complications across various disciplines, including cardiovascular diseases, neuropathy, retinopathy, and nephropathy. At its core, DM is elevated blood sugar levels and disruptions in insulin metabolism and homeostasis characterize DM, culminating in potentially fatal medical conditions such as blindness, heart disease, kidney damage, and stroke. Despite significant advancements in treatment, the morbidity and mortality rates associated with DM remain stubbornly high, necessitating the exploration of novel therapeutic approaches to mitigate its impact. One promising avenue lies in the utilization of medicinal plants, vitamins, and essential nutrients, offering a cost-effective means of prevention and therapy for individuals affected by diabetes. This review article aims to delve into the realm of DM therapy options centered on medicinal plants. Through a comprehensive analysis of scientific literature, it becomes evident that certain medicinal plants, including Aloe vera linn, cinnamon, Ivy gourd, ginseng, Catharanthus roseus, Azadirachta indica, Carica papaya, and Mangifera indica, harbour phytochemicals with notable anti-hyperglycemic properties. By bridging this knowledge gap, the review sheds light on the biological significance of these potent medicinal plants, underscoring their potential as effective agents in the prevention and treatment of DM.

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Mr. Sanjay Kumar Yadav Assistant Professor, Institute of Pharmacy, DSMNRU, Mohaan Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. Tel: +91-8052805002 E.Mail ID: rrscopashu1986@gmail.com **Keywords:** Medicinal plant, Diabetes mellitus, Phytochemicals, anti-hyperglycemic.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

One of the most non-communicable diseases is diabetes mellitus. Diabetes mellitus is a chronic illness that affects the metabolism of proteins, lipids, and carbs. Diabetes mellitus is characterized by a poor or insufficient insulin secretory response, which leads to impaired carbohydrate (glucose) utilization and resultant hyperglycaemia<sup>[1]</sup>. Diabetes mellitus (DM), the most

common endocrine disease, is typically caused by an insufficient or non-existent supply of insulin or, less frequently, by an impairment of insulin function (insulin resistance)<sup>[2]</sup>. Diabetes is also referred to as sugar in popular culture. According to the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), India now has 40.9 million diabetics, with that number anticipated to rise to 69.9 million by 2025<sup>[3]</sup>. The pancreas produces the hormones insulin and glucagon. Pancreatic islets are required for blood glucose regulation because they emit insulin, glucagon, and somatostatin from the alpha, beta, and delta cells, respectively. Although each kind of islet cell has internal systems for glucose sensing and secretory activity, the observed secretory profiles from intact units cannot be explained by these intrinsic processes [4]. The beta ( $\beta$ ) cells of the islets of Langerhans secrete insulin, while the alpha cells emit glucagon. Insulin decreases blood sugar levels by promoting glycogenesis and transferring glucose to the muscles, liver, and adipose tissue. While alpha cells play an important role in blood glucose management by producing glucagon, which increases blood glucose levels by speeding glycogenolysis, erythrocytes and brain tissue do not require insulin for glucose utilization.

#### **Classification of Diabetes Mellitus:**

- Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (Type1 IDDM).
- Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (Type2 NIDDM).
- Gestational Diabetes Mellitus.

#### Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (Type1 IDDM):

Type I diabetes is caused by the loss of beta-cells, which usually leads to total insulin insufficiency. Diabetes, also known as insulin-dependent diabetes, juvenile diabetes, or childhood diabetes, is caused by an autoimmune reaction in which the immune system assaults the beta cells of the pancreas that make insulin<sup>[5]</sup>. The body's inability to manufacture insulin distinguishes type I diabetes. Patients with this kind of diabetes require daily insulin treatment to return their blood glucose levels to normal. They are in danger of dying if they do not take the insulin. Type 1 diabetes is characterized by antibodies against glutamic acid decarboxylase, islet cells, or insulin, which indicate the autoimmune mechanisms that result in beta-cell death. Type 1 diabetes (caused by the loss of b cells, resulting in a complete lack of insulin) (American Diabetes Association, 2014). Beta cell degeneration occurs at

varying rates; in some persons, it occurs quickly, while in others, it takes much longer, as illustrated in Fig 1<sup>[6]</sup>.



Fig 1. Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (Type1 IDDM).

# Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2 NIDDM):

Type 2 diabetes mellitus is also known as adult-onset diabetes. Insulin resistance and insulin secretion dysfunction (American Diabetes Association, 2014)<sup>[5]</sup>. Insulin activity is usually suppressed in persons with this kind of diabetes <sup>[7]</sup>. Diabetes-related morbidity and death are mostly caused by long-term issues in the blood vessels, kidneys, eyes, and nerves, which impact all of these organs. The body can still generate insulin in this case, but it is no longer effective due to resistance. When this happens, insulin levels may become insufficient. High blood sugar levels are caused by both insufficient and resistant insulin. Because the symptoms (coincidental to type I diabetes symptoms) are often less visible or non-existent, the condition can go undiagnosed for many years, not until the effects have already ascended.

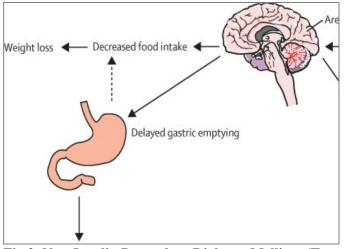


Fig 2. Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2 NIDDM).

Type IIDM was previously exclusively seen in adults, but in recent years, as illustrated in Fig 2<sup>[8]</sup>, it has begun to appear in children as well.

## Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM):

GDM refers to glucose intolerance that appears or is diagnosed for the first-time during pregnancy. Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) refers to both women who develop Type 1 diabetes mellitus during pregnancy and women who discover they have undiscovered, asymptomatic Type 2 diabetes mellitus during pregnancy <sup>[9]</sup>. Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) refers to pregnancy-related diabetes that is not diabetic. Children born to moms with GDM are more likely to develop obesity and type 2 diabetes later in life, a phenomenon related to the effects of intrauterine hyperglycaemia. As illustrated in Fig 3, gestational diabetes mellitus can develop during pregnancy and vanish after birth <sup>[10]</sup>.

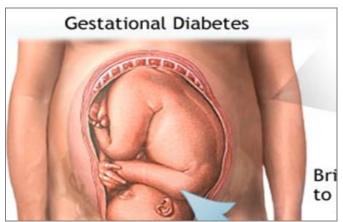


Fig 3. Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM).

# **Epidemiology:**

The ministries and majority of public health officials are still unaware of the current state of this disease and its implications, making diabetes one of the most serious health crises of the twenty-first century. Table 1 summarises the projected number of diabetes patients in 2015 and 2040. It is believed that 87 to 91 % of people with diabetes who have been diagnosed have type II diabetes, 7 to 12 % have type 1 diabetes, and 1 to 3 % have other types of illness in affluent countries. The prevalence of type I and type II diabetes in developing and poor countries has not been adequately studied. Regardless, type I diabetes appears to be less common than type II diabetes and is on the 3 % rise annually across the globe. According to research, type I diabetes accounts for the majority of cases of juvenile and toddler diabetes mellitus (DM) in developed countries, although

type II diabetes is regarded to be a more common disease. Most of the time, the prevalence of type II diabetes has risen in tandem with accelerating societal changes: ageing populations, an increase in urban inhabitants, low levels of physical activity, an increase in sugar consumption, and a low intake of fruits and vegetables <sup>[12]</sup>.

# Causes of DM:

- Unhealthy eating habits.
- Predisposition to genetic diseases.
- ➤ Genealogy.
- Lack of regular exercise.
- High levels of blood pressure.
- Chronic stress (as discussed in Fig 4).

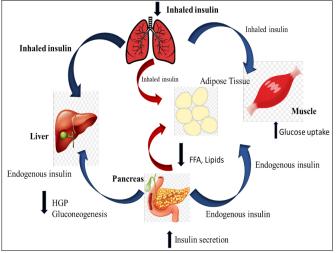


Fig 4. Causes of Diabetes mellitus.

# **Etiology of DM:**

> At the present moment, the juvenile-onset (insulindependent) type is assumed to have an autoimmune etiology.

Additionally, viruses may contribute to the aetiology of polygenic disorders such as coxsackie B.

➢ Both German measles viruses and epidemic parotitis have been shown to cause morphologic changes in isletcell structure. The relevance of genetics in the aetiology of polygenic sickness is controversial.

> Perhaps a genetic trait makes an individual's exocrine gland more sensitive to one of the aforementioned viruses [13].

> Mellitus Disturbances or anomalies in  $\beta$  cell glucoreceptors cause them to respond to an increase in aldohexose concentration or a relative beta-cell deficit.

> In either case, hypoglycemic agent secretion is compromised, which may eventually lead to beta cell failure  $^{[14]}$ .

#### **Complications of DM:**

Even those with tightly controlled blood sugar levels are susceptible to catastrophic diabetic implications. Diabetes patients experience a variety of adverse effects. Diabetes neuropathy, diabetes retinopathy, diabetes nephropathy, and diabetic foot are examples of complications (Fig 5) <sup>[15]</sup>.

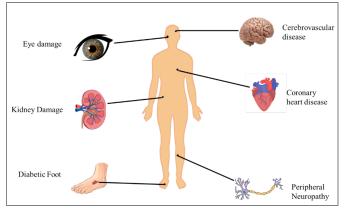


Fig 5. Complications of Diabetes mellitus.

#### **Contributing factors in diabetes mellitus:**

Several factors contribute to the growing diabetes epidemic, including the normal-weight physiologically obese phenotype, high intake of refined carbohydrates, excessive alcohol usage, extensive smoking, and frequent reductions in physical activity or exercise <sup>[16]</sup>. Diabetes may be on the rise because of inadequate nutrition during pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood, mixed with over nutrition later in life. As displayed in Fig 6 and 2 depicts a schematic depiction of the contributing elements that play a vital role in diabetes mellitus.

#### Treatment of diabetes mellitus by herbal drugs:

The most difficult problem for medical practitioners is to find a strategy to manage diabetes without causing severe side effects. According to the World Ethnobotanical, 800 medicinal plants are used to prevent diabetes mellitus<sup>[17]</sup>. Only 450 medicinal plants, of which 109 medicinal plants have a comprehensive mode of action, have been clinically confirmed to have antidiabetic qualities. For thousands of years, both professionals as well as lay people have utilized the active substances and properties of traditional medicinal herbs to treat ailments such as diabetes, cancer, and heart disease [18]. The details of herbal drug used for the treatment of the diabetes is given in Table 1.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Plants serve as potent natural antioxidants and herbal medications due to their anti-diabetic components,

which include flavonoids, tannins, phenolic acids, and alkaloids. These substances improve pancreatic tissue function by increasing insulin production or decreasing intestinal glucose absorption. The active components of plants, as well as the molecular interactions of their constituents, must be studied further to establish their medicinal properties.

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### Table. 1 Herbal drugs used in the treatment of Diabetes Mellitus.

Herbs used	s used in the treatment of Diabet Image	Advantages	Limitations	Author
Aloe <sup>[21,30]</sup> :	Image	The hypoglycaemic	The majority of	Amira
Biological name - <i>Aloe</i>		agent's activity reduced	people may be	Mourad, <i>et al.</i>
vera Linn		starch and provided	sensitive to aloe	(2020)
Family- <i>Liliaceae</i>		effective postprandial	vera gel, which can	(2020)
Chemical		glycaemic control.	result in skin	
constituents-		C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>11</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	allergies, eye	
Resins			redness, skin rashes,	
> Tannins		но	irritation, and	
> Steroids			burning sensations.	
<ul><li>Alkaloids</li></ul>		Alo		
		esin		
<b>Cinnamon</b> <sup>[22,31]</sup> :		In diabetics, cinnamon	Use of cinnamon	Farzaneh
Biological name-		may lower blood	could raise the risk	Hasanzade, <i>et</i>
Cinnamomum		glucose levels.		
		glucose levels.	10	al. (2013)
zeylanicum	A DECEMBER OF		cancer.	
Family- lauraceae Chemical constituents -				
<ul> <li>Cinnamaldehyde</li> </ul>		1		
Caryophyllene				
<ul> <li>Copaene</li> <li>Cadinenes</li> </ul>		ĺ ĺ		
Ginseng <sup>[23,32]</sup> :		Cincert 1. 1. 1. 1	A 1411'	Manuia
		Ginseng included	Although it was	Morris
Biological name -		compounds that could	safe to eat, some	Karmazyn <i>et</i>
Panax ginseng		help to bring blood	persons had	al. (1999)
Family- <i>Araliaceae</i> Chemical constituents -		glucose levels back to	headaches,	
		normal.	diarrhoea, and an	
<ul> <li>Oleanalic acid</li> <li>Demonstration</li> </ul>			accelerated	
> Panaxadiol		OH CH.	heartbeat.	
➢ Ginsenoside		CH, CH,		
<ul><li>Volatile oil</li></ul>		но сн.		
		H,C CH, OH		
Ivy gourd <sup>[24,33]</sup> :		These herbs could aid	There were some	Anura V
Biological name -		with diabetes and could	minor adverse	Kurpad et al.
Coccinia grandis		lower stress and high	effects, such as	(2010)
Family -		blood pressure.	headaches, nausea,	
Cucurbitaceae			and dizziness.	
Chemical		(I)H		
constituents-				
β-amyrin		но		
<ul><li>carbonic acid</li></ul>		β-sitosterol		
coccineside				
taraxerol lupeol	States in the second			
β-sitosterol				
Neem <sup>[26,35]</sup> :		The leaves either had	Serious adverse	Muhammad
Biological name -		decreased glucose	effects included loss	Fazal Hussain
Azadiracta indica		tolerance or had fewer	of consciousness,	Qureshi, et al
family- Meliaceae		and less active insulin	seizures, blood	(2021)
Chemical		signalling molecules.	problems, vomiting,	
constituents-		McOOC	diarrhoea, and	
1. Nimbin			sleepiness.	
2. Azodirachtin		人人人		
3. Phytol				
4. Elemene				

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Vinca <sup>[27]</sup> : Biological name - Catharanthus roseus Family- Apocynaceae Chemical constituents - > Vindoline > Catharanthine > Vinblastine > Vincristin	These herbs reduced blood sugar levels and had brought TC, LDL, VLDL, and TG down to levels that were nearly normal. $f(t) = \int_{t}^{t} $	It could result in negative side effects include nausea, vomiting, bleeding, hearing loss, hair loss, and hearing impairment. $\overbrace{\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow}_{Vindoline}$	Leena Muralidharan (2014)
Papain[25]:Biological name -Carica papayaFamily- CaricaceaeChemical constituents -> Papayaproteinase> Chymopapain> Arachidic acids> Myristoleic	The strict blood glucose control provided by these medicines lessens microvascular consequences.	The negative effects were nausea, vomiting, and immobility. $HO_{+++++}OH_{+++++}OH_{++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++$	Peter Giovannini, <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> (2016)
Mango $^{[29]}$ :Biological name-Mangifera indicafamily-AnacardiaceaeChemical constituents ->Mangiferin> $\alpha$ -carotene> $\beta$ -carotene>gallic acid	The plant's stem and bark were used to make a variety of dietary supplements because of their antioxidant, anti- inflammatory, and immune-modulating properties.	A high intake could make you feel hotter inside. 0H   0H   0H   0H   0H   0H   0H   0H	Subhasis Samanta, <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> (2015)
Green chiretta <sup>[36]</sup> : Biological name – Andrographis paniculata Family – Acanthaceae Chemical constituents – Neoandrographolide, Deoxy andrographolide, Dihydro andrographolide, Andrographolide	The leaves and stem are used to decrease blood glucose levels, dysentery, snakebites, and peptic ulcer. $H_2C$ $H_2C$ $H_3$ $CH_3$	The negative effects were loss of appetite, diarrhoea, and vomiting. $H_{2}C$ $H_{2}C$ $H_{2}C$ $H_{2}C$ $H_{2}C$ $H_{2}C$	Maoyuan Jiang, <i>et al.</i> (2021)
<b>Mulethi</b> <sup>[28]</sup> : Biological name - <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Family – <i>Fabaceae</i>	Non-alcoholic liver disease, liver damage, Jaundice, hepatitis	Hypokalaemia, hypertension, cardiac arrhythmia, and myopathy.	Ahirwar RK, et al. (2023)
Zygophyllum caccineum <sup>[38]</sup> :	Symptomatic relief of diabetes, hypertension, Wound healing, burns, infections, and rheumatoid arthritis pain.	Severe diarrhea, Polyuria, and Photosensitization.	Amin E, <i>et al.</i> (2011)

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Curcuma longa <sup>[40]</sup> :	Disorder of the skin, Upper respiratory track, joint, and digestive system.	Nausea, diarrhea, skin rash, headache, and yellow stool.	Kartik Verma, et al. (2023)
Acacia nilotica: Wild ex. Del. belongs to family Fabaceae (subfamily: Mimosoideae) <sup>[39]</sup>	Anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antibacterial, anti-uveal melanoma, anticancer, antifungal, antidiabetic, antiplatelet aggregatory, AChE inhibitory activities.	Minor decrease in body weight.	Luqman Jameel, <i>et al.</i> (2015)
Zingiber officinale roscoe <sup>[37]</sup> :	antioxidant, antinausea, antiobesity, anticancer, anti-inflammatory	Burning feeling in mouth/throat, abdominal pain, diarrhea, or heartburn <sup>[36]</sup>	Qian-Qian Mao, <i>et al.</i> (2019)

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