

# Ethnomedicinal And Pharmacological Uses Of Curcuma Caesia

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## Abstract

Curcuma caesia Roxb. is a perennial rhizomatous grass having large leaves is commonly used as traditional medicine. The plant contains camphor, turmingone, ocimene, cineole, borneol, bornyl acetate, and curcumin as the main phytoconstituents. The C. caesia plant has been reported to possess high antifungal, anti-asthmatic, antimicrobial, antioxidant, analgesic, locomotive depressant, anticonvulsant and anti-inflammatory activities. Curcuma caesia is a valuable source of unique natural products for the therapeutics development against various diseases. This review provides describes the medical uses, photochemistry, and pharmacological actions of the Curcuma caesia plant.

**Key words:** Curcuma caesia, Ethnomedicinal uses, Pharmacological activity.

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## 1. Introduction

Curcuma Black (Curcuma Caesia Roxb.) belonging to Zingiberaceae family, is a perennial grass with a bluish-black rhizome, that is of high economic importance attributed to its broad medicinal properties. The rhizome of this plant is claimed to be useful in the treatment of leprosy, bronchitis, asthma, cancer, epilepsy, fever, wounds, impotence, fertility, vomiting and pain [1]. The black Curcuma rhizome is of high economic importance because

of its medicinal properties. The black Curcuma was considered endangered by the central forest department of India due to organic piracy [2]. *C. caesia* is a wonder grass and contains the highest curcumin content that possesses many curative properties [3]. It is used for the treatment of menstrual disorders, impotence, and epilepsy. Externally, this plant has been used in the treatment of wounds, white spots over skin, and leprosy wounds [4]. Plant is also capable to improve fertility levels. *C. caesia* is also used to treat the spleen expansion and different forms of tuberculosis. The *C. caesia* leaves and rhizomes are commonly used in the medical formulations [5]. *C. caesia* is called with different names such as: Kali Haldi (India) and Blaugrauekurkuma in Germany [6].

## 2. Morphology of *Curcumacaesia* plant

The tuberous *C. caesia* rhizomes bearing sweet odor is usually 2-6 cm in diameter. Its size and shape are variable. *C. caesia* rhizome is sessile and covered with adventitious roots, root scars, and warts and laterally flattened. The leaves are found in 10-20 groups, that are widely oblong and glabrous. In the middle region, the lamina shows deep ferruginous purple color clouds. Flower of *C. caesia* is smaller than bract with pale and reddish yellow border. The calyx is 10-15 mm long, obtuse, 3-toothed; whereas corolla is long tubular with pale yellow lip - 3-lobed semi-elliptical (figure 1) [7].



**Figure 1:** *Curcuma caesia*, rhizome, flower and leaves, root.

## 3. Ethnomedical uses

The *C. caesia* rhizome paste is administered for the stomach problems such as stomach pain and dysentery. The *C. caesia* rhizome powder is mixed with water and consumed to relieve gastric stress. The *C. caesia* rhizome is known to control the bleeding and induce rapid recovery in case of cuts or wounds and snake bites. The topical administration of *C. caesia* paste eases painful joints. *C. caesia* rhizome is known to possess strong antioxidant, antimicrobials and anti-fungal activity. It assists in easy digestion and proper functioning of liver and kidneys [2]. In different parts of the world, the rhizome and leaves of *C. caesia* plants are used in various indications. It is commonly used as a tonic for heart and brain. Rhizomes of *C. caesia* are commonly used in the treatment of bronchitis, tuberculous glands of the neck, leucoderma, enlargement of spleen piles, asthma, and tumors [8].

## 4. Chemical Constituents of *Curcuma Caesia*

*C. caesia* rhizome is known to possess alkaloids, terpenes, amino acids, carbohydrates, tannins, flavors, flavonoids, steroids, reducing sugars, proteins, anthracene, glycosides, cardiac glycosides. *Caesia curcuma* rhizomes oil contains 30 chemical constituents that represents 97% of the oil, with camphor (28%), turmingone

(12%), Curcumin (7%), ocimen (2%), Cineole (5%), Elemene (4%), Borneol (4%), nerylacetate (3%) and curcumen (3%) as the major chemical constituents [9].

## **5. Pharmacological response of *Curcuma caesia***

The use of *C. caesia* rhizomes for medicinal purposes emerges from various bioactive compounds. Previous reports suggest that due to phenolic and flavonoid constituents [10] *C. Caesia* exhibits numerous pharmacological effects given as follows.

### **5.1 Antimicrobial response**

Human body comprises a huge population of bacteria and human cells together in a hypothetical ratio of 1:1. An infinitesimal small disturbance in this ecosystem may lead to various infections or diseases [11-17]. A large number of studies suggested extensive use of plants as antimicrobial agents. In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the use of vegetable parts as antimicrobial agents, because some of the synthetic antibiotics can become ineffective due to the resistance of the human body [18-34]. A study reported that the essential oil of *C. Caesia* rhizome could inhibit the growth of mushrooms, *Curvularia Oryzae*, *Aspergillus Niger*, and *A. Flavus* [34]. Another study highlighted that oleoresins present in *C. Caesia* Rhizome essential oil are effective against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Escherichia coli*. The diameter of the inhibition zone was measured and it was found that it is very effective against *B. subtilis*. This can be linked to the traditional use of *Caesia* rhizome in the healing of infections and wounds [35]. Evidence suggested *C. Caesia* could prevent the growth of *S. Typhimurium* and *S. Aureus*, and fungus such as: *A. Fumigatus*, *A. Niger*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and *Candida albicans*. The tests were carried out using the disk diffusion method and the minimum inhibitory concentrations were determined, where *C. Caesia* Leaf essential oil showed maximum inhibition against *S. aureus* and *A. Niger* [10].

### **5.2 Antioxidant response**

Plants are reported as rich source for antioxidants, attributed to their phytoconstituents such as phenols, polyphenols, alkaloids, flavonoids etc. [36-40]. The antioxidant properties of *C. caesia* have been determined by studying its free radical recovery activities. An investigation reported antioxidant potential *C. Caesia* rhizome extracts. Study involved DPPH test. Study reported that *C. Caesia* methanolic extracts exhibited high antioxidant potential [41]. Several other latest studies also highlighted the high antioxidant potential of *C. Caesia* plants [42,43]. One of the investigations reported that total phenolic content of *C. Caesia* and antioxidant activity were proportionate. A study reported that the total phenolic content (TPC) and antioxidant activity of the *C. Caesia* is greater than *C. amada* [44]. Study of Rajamma et al. (2012) reported a significant correlation between TPC and antioxidant activity of *caesia* isolated oleoresin [35]. Another study on the antioxidant potential of *Caesia* leaf essential oil indicated that the radical scavenging activity and the reductive power activity of the essential oil of leaves increases with increasing concentration. The essential oil of the leaves is rich in flavonoids and phenol, which can make the properties antioxidants. The studies examined here showing in the silicon antioxidant tests are less pharmacological relevance. The non-specificity and potential sensitivity of chemical analyzes make the results unworthy. In vivo tests are needed to determine the clinical application of this plant. In addition, antioxidants derived from natural products are gaining importance in recent years. Some industries are trying to focus on replacing synthetic antioxidants with natural animals because people prefer to use

ecological and safe products to use. Thus, these plants such as *C. caesia* can be the source of natural antioxidants, which can be used in various cosmetics as well as pharmaceuticals [45].

### **5.3 Anticancer response**

Cancer affects millions of population across the globe, hence there is persistent demand for development of new drugs and therapies for its treatment. Development of natural therapeutics especially from plants source for the cancer treatment always withdraws the investigators attention [45,46]. A study performed evaluation of chemoprotective response of *C. Caesia* using mouse model. Study revealed that *C. Caesia* methanolic extract can restore the diethyl nitrosamine structural anomalies. Additionally, the *Caesia* rhizome hexane extract exhibited its potential to inhibit the proliferation of the human liver adenocarcinoma (HEPG2) cell line [43].

### **5.4 Thrombolytic response**

Recent study **response** thrombolytic activity of *C. Caesia*. This study involved analysis of percent clot activity of *C. Caesia* Rhizome ethanolic extract. Study revealed that *C. Caesia* Rhizome ethanolic extract exhibited 49.18% of fibrin lysis [47].

### **5.5 Anthelmintic response**

Reports suggest anthelmintic activity of *C. Amada* and *C. Caesia*. Study involved analysis of 04 extracts of *C. caesia* and *C. amada* that were prepared using petroleum ether, dichloromethane, ethanol, and water at three different concentrations. The study revealed that the ethanolic extract of *C. Caesia* paralyzed the earthworm, whereas ethanolic extracts of two plants effectively caused death of earthworms [48].

### **5.6 Anti-ulcer response**

Although there exist several synthetic drugs that possess anti-ulcer potential, but these synthetic drugs are relatively more expensive and produces more side effects when compared with herbal drugs [49]. An *in vivo* study was performed to evaluate the antiulcer potential of *Caesia* rhizome ethanolic extract using experimental animals. The study revealed that the *Caesia* rhizome ethanolic extract possess good antiulcer response [50].

### **5.7 Toxicology**

As essential oils are reported to exhibit toxic nature, hence before its commercial applications the toxic nature of any compound must be evaluated prior to its commercial applications. One of the study was performed to test the genotoxicity of *Caesia* leaves essential oil. Study revealed that essential oil exhibited no toxic effect over the growth of *A. Cepa* roots and mitotic cell index. In the study, the cells were also evaluated for chromosomal aberrations. Study revealed no detrimental changes. For the study the parameters such as chromosome aberration test, chromosome casting, bridge, multipolarity, chromosomal key and chromosomal collecting were the considered [9]. Investigation reported that genotoxic effect of *C. Caesia* rhizome essential oil has a negative effect on *A. Cepa* roots and mitotic cell index [51].

### **5.8 Bronchial response**

A study evaluated bronchial activity of *Caesia* extract. The study involved evaluation of bronchodilator response of *Caesia* extract over histamine induced bronchospasm and dyspnea of pre-convulsion using guinea pig model

[7]. Study revealed that treatment with *C. Caesiamethanolic* extract exhibited significant protection against histamine-induced bronchospasm[52].

### 5.9 Neuro pharmacological response

A study reported pharmacological response of *C. Caesia*. Study revealed rhizome to possess analgesic, anticonvulsant, muscle relaxant, and locomotor depressant effect, which revealed antidepressant potential of the central nervous system [53]. Study was done to evaluate the neuro pharmacological response of *C. Caesiamethanolic* extract in adult male albino swishes mice. *C. Caesiamethanolic* extract was evaluated for its analgesic potential at the dose of 50 and 100 mg/kg of body weight. Anticonvulsant response was evaluated in mice using Rota-Rod apparatus. Study revealed *C. Caesiamethanolic* extract to inhibit torturing dose-dependent and significant rise in reaction time of mouse tail, was not a dependent dose, the maximum analgesic effect has increased up to a maximum[43]. In respect to dose, the *C. Caesiamethanolic* extract expanded the locomotors activity in mice. The *C. Caesia* pre-treatment methanolic extract exhibited protection and dose-dependent on PTZ-induced convulsions in mice by slowing convulsions beginning. *C. Caesiamethanolic* extract demonstrated its muscle relaxing effect [53]. A study was performed to evaluate the antioxidant activity of non-enzymatic and enzymatic rhizome and leaves extracts of *C. zedoary*, *C. Caesia*, and *C. angustifolia* based on their free radical cleaning activity. The non enzymatic extract of *C. Caesia* exhibited the DPPH cleaning activity of  $55.32 \pm 0.2$  at 200  $\mu\text{g} / \text{ml}$  concentration. The hydroxyl radical cleaning activity of *Caesia* was  $40.26 \pm 0.01$ . Enzymatic extract of *C. caesia* exhibited DPPH cleaning activity of  $31.2 \pm 0.8$  at a concentration of 200  $\mu\text{g} / \text{ml}$ . Where, highest antioxidant activity was exhibited with Catalase, superoxide dismutase, and peroxidase glutathione enzyme [54].

### 6. Conclusion

The plant appears to have a broad spectrum of activity on many ailments. Rhizomes of the plant were investigated for antifungal activity, anti-inflammatory activity, antiemetic anti-microbial activity, analgesic, anxiolytic and CNS activity and many other various activities. This study emphasizes the knowledge on the plant *Curcuma Caesia* Roxb. The rhizomes of the plant have enough bioactive Properties as shown in the different animal models. The phyto-constituents are proven to be identified. The information provided in this review would assist in other investigations for different bioactive compounds of the plant *Curcuma Caesia* Roxb.

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