

Herbal Treatments For Dementia And The Role Of Natural Products

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Abstract

Dementia is a disease that causes mental and cognitive decline. It's often linked to neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's, Huntington's, and Parkinson's, and involves cerebral blood flow, toxins, mitochondrial malfunction, and oxidative damage. Most (semi-)synthetic Alzheimer's and dementia drugs have considerable adverse effects. It supplies a varied variety of plant-derived lead molecules for future medicinal research. Around the world, ethnomedicinal herbs are utilised to treat dementia. Using well-known databases, we compiled a list of 90 medicinal plants used to treat dementia. We also study five essential therapeutic plants or plant genera' physiological effects and method of action. We also studied mitochondrial dysfunction and dementia. We conclude that some plant-derived drugs may be effective dementia treatments, although more research is needed.

Keywords: Alzheimer's disease, amyloid fibrils, β -amyloid, dementia, ethnopharmacology, herbal drugs

Introduction

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive loss of mental and cognitive ability. Memory loss lowers an individual's independence (1,2,3). Distinct causes of dementia exist. All reversible causes: substance addiction, subdural hematoma, malignancies, and CNS infections (4). Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's diseases are incurable dementia causes (5).

The most important risk factor and predisposing condition for dementia is ageing (6,7). Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's are the most common dementias (ALS). Vascular dementia is another frequent dementia. They often accompany neurodegenerative dementias (8). Destruction of the blood-brain barrier (BBB) and neurovascular units in hemispheric white matter causes vascular cognitive deficits (8). Other illnesses can cause dementia. Afebrile infections, such as AIDS, which causes indirect brain damage via immune activated macrophages (9,10). Environment can aggravate dementia. Toxicants such mismanaged medicines (11,12) and pesticides cause oxidative stress and neuronal cell death (13). Along with the other parts, dementia is heritable. Alzheimer's disease and gene polymorphisms (14). For example, EOAD is linked to mutations in PSEN1, PSEN2, and APP on 21q (15). Spontaneous lead-onset AD is caused by the apolipoprotein E (APOE) gene at 19q13.2 (16,15,17). In Alzheimer's disease, the most prevalent APOE alleles are 2, 3, and 4. (18,15,17). Inheritance of APOE 4 genotype and Alzheimer's disease pathology (15). Patients with APOE 4 have a 3-to-12-fold greater risk of LOAD and dementia. PSEN1 mutation reduces LOAD risk, although APOE2 mutation reduces LOAD risk (19,15). Other A-independent mechanisms that contribute to AD development include neurovascular, synaptic plasticity, cholesterol homeostasis, and neuroinflammation (15). Having the APOE4 4 allele increases the risk of cerebral amyloid angiopathy and age-related cognitive impairment (20).

Dementia is a very common condition. Despite its prevalence, some research suggests that only 10% to 50% of all dementia patients are diagnosed in low-middle-income countries and high-income ones, respectively (21). Furthermore, because dementia primarily affects the elderly, and the number of individuals over the age of 65 is fast increasing due to global increases in life expectancy, the number of dementia cases will rise in consecutive years. According to Quaglio G et al.2016 (22), dementia affects 1.5–2% of Europeans nowadays. In a similar vein,(21) projected that 47 million people worldwide suffered from dementia in 2015. By 2050, this number may have risen to almost 131 million (21). Dementia will impact one million people in the United Kingdom alone by 2021. (23). The G7 meeting in December 2014 emphasised the significance of developing new dementia treatments. Dementia should be handled as a global priority, with the main goal of introducing effective therapy by 2025, according to the forum attendees (24).

Dementia is a substantial societal burden, both in terms of human suffering and financial costs. In high-income countries, dementia is the sixth leading cause of mortality (25). The health status of the patients had a negative impact on their caretakers, who had fairly high levels of depression symptoms (26). According to the World Alzheimer Report 2016 (21), people with dementia have inadequate access to healthcare not only in low-income nations, but also in high-income countries, due to high costs and insufficient diagnostic methods. Dementia management is particularly costly due to the patients' need for long-term and expensive care (27). In the UK, various dementia-related costs, such as health services, social services, unpaid careers, and others, total roughly e23 billion per year (28). The fact that the current yearly cost of dementia in the United Kingdom is larger than the present annual cost of heart disease and cancer combined exemplifies this economic burden (28). According to another estimate, dementia and Alzheimer's disease will cost the United States roughly USD 1 trillion by 2050. (25).

This article provides a broad overview of ethnomedicine's use in dementia care. We also focus on five well-known plants used to treat dementia and highlight the chemicals responsible for the plant's bioactivity. There is presently no effective treatment for dementia (29). Learn about various plants' active chemicals and how to use them. Their method of action may lead to the creation of novel dementia medicines. The natural product pool continues to be an important drug discovery source (30). In this perspective, the present review may help create ethnomedicine-derived medicines for dementia treatment.

Table No. 1 Most common forms of dementia (29).

Dementia form	Neuropathology	Symptoms	Dementia cases (%)
AD-related dementia	Aβ plaques, neurofibrillary tangles	Memory deficits, depression, poor judgment or evidence of mental confusion	50–80
Vascular dementia	Decreased or interrupted blood flow to the brain, hypoperfusion, oxidative stress	Similar to AD, but less affected memory	20–30
Dementia with Lewy bodies	α-Synuclein aggregates in neurons and glial cells (cortical Lewy bodies)	Similar to AD and less to PD, hallucinations, tremors, impaired attention	<5
Frontotemporal dementia	Accumulation of MAP tau, atrophy of frontal and temporal lobes	Changes in social behavior, difficulties with language	5–10

Frequent forms of dementia

Most dementia cases are Alzheimer's (50–80% of cases) (31,29), followed by vascular dementia (20–30%) (29, 8) (between 15 percent and 5 percent) (29). These illnesses cause abnormal protein buildup in the brain. For example, A peptides create amyloid plaques in AD, while TDP-43 protein accumulates in FTD (32). The frontal and anterior temporal lobes of FTD patients show significant atrophy, with microvacuolar degeneration and pyramidal neuron loss (33,34). (35). Pathologic tau accumulation is frequent in AD and FTD (36). Hyperphosphorylated tau protein causes intraneurial neurofibrillary tangles (37). Hypoperfusion, oxidative stress, and inflammation are connected to cognitive decline (8). Synuclein aggregates in neurons

and glia define Lewy body dementia (38). It might also be claimed that dementia symptoms are extremely similar (29). Its pathophysiology is necessarily more complicated (6). Many AD markers are seen in AD brains (6). Memory-related neurotransmitter acetylcholine (ACh) is one of these markers, as is vascular injury (39, 40). As a result, mitochondrial dysfunction may be a target for treating Alzheimer's disease and associated dementias (41). This is described in the section Mitochondrial Dysfunction and Neurodegeneration.

Mitochondrial dysfunction and neurodegeneration

Mitochondria are double membrane-enclosed organelles that perform numerous cellular functions, including adenosine triphosphate (ATP) production (energy conversion), calcium handling, and apoptosis-programmed cell death (42). Moreover, mitochondria are vital in many other metabolic activities (42). Thus, mitochondrial abnormalities are predictable in energy-dependent disruptions, inflammation, and ageing (43,44). Dementia-associated dementia has mitochondrial malfunction as one of the pathogenic characteristics, due to mitochondria's crucial involvement in neuronal cell survival or death (45). For example, mitochondrial network remodelling may be important in neurodegeneration (46,47). The mitochondrial cascade concept proposed mitochondrial dysfunction as an AD pathogenesis episode (45,48). Furthermore, mitochondrial dysfunction causes an increase in reactive oxygen species (ROS) and alters mitochondrial dynamics (49,50,51). A recent study found a link between ROS and mitochondrial dynamics in early neurodegeneration (52). The buildup of A in mitochondria causes mitochondria-mediated toxicity (50). Recent research shows that mitochondrial malfunction regulates ROS and intracellular calcium levels in neuronal cells (53). The NAD-dependent deacetylase sirtuin-3 (SIRT3) protein is linked to mitochondrial and neuronal damage, as demonstrated by Lee et al. utilising AD human brain tissues (54). Thus, mitochondrial failure is a pathological hallmark of neurodegenerative illnesses including Alzheimer's and dementia (50,42). Figure 1 shows detailed information on mitochondrial activity related with dementia.

The foregoing highlights the role of oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction in the aetiology of AD and dementia. Thus, natural antioxidants and mitochondria targeting compounds can help treat AD in the elderly (55). In transgenic mice models, antioxidants including Ginkgo biloba and curcumin inhibited age-dependent spatial cognitive behaviour and enhanced A-degrading enzymes (56,57).

Additionally, ferulic acid, alpha-lipoic acid, R-lipoic acid, vitamin E and C were found to be helpful in AD transgenic mouse models (55). They also boosted synaptic activity and reduced A levels and mitochondrial dysfunction while increasing phosphorylated tau and microglial activation (55). So many of them are available as supplements or alternative treatments for neurological disorders like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and other clinical conditions..

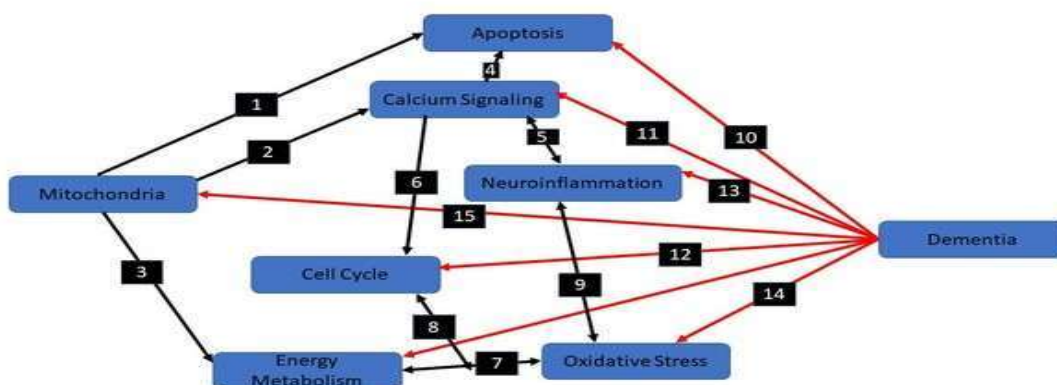


FIGURE 1 | Overview of mitochondrial activity and dementia: apoptosis (58); mitochondria regulate calcium signaling pathway (59); mitochondrial electron transport chain undergoes oxidative phosphorylation (60); 6 calcium signaling in cell cycle (61) Reactive oxygen species are produced by mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation (62); Oxidative stress and neuroinflammation are strongly

interrelated processes (63,9); Alterations in the cell cycle (64,65,12); Increased oxidative stress (66,41,13,67,49).

Current dementia medications

Synthetic Drugs Approved

Worldwide, several (semi-)synthetic medicines are available to treat AD and certain dementias. Some of the most extensively used medications for AD-associated dementia are donepezil, rivastigmine, and the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist memantine (68). Some of these medications, such as rivastigmine, are approved to treat other dementias, like PD-related dementia (68). Table 2 lists the most commonly prescribed medications for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The FDA authorised NamzaricXR in 2014 for the treatment of moderate-to-severe Alzheimer's disease in persons taking donepezil hydrochloride at the clinically effective dose of 10 mg/day (<http://www.alz.org>). DA report This combination drug may induce muscle pain, slow heartbeat, fainting, increased stomach acid, nausea, vomiting, and seizures. Moreover, some research suggests that these medicines do not treat agitation in patients with severe behavioural symptoms (69,71). Some neuroleptic/antipsychotic medicines, like haloperidol, risperidone, and olanzapine, are being used to treat BPSD, however their usage is contentious (70). Thus, the FDA has not approved such medications for BPSD treatment. They are still prescribed off-label because there is no effective treatment for BPSD (72).

The current generation of (semi-)synthetic dementia medications reduce symptoms but do not reverse the disease's progression (73). Thus, the search for naturally occurring chemicals with therapeutic qualities for dementia is of vital medical and socioeconomic value.

Galantamine—the Only Current Drug of Plant Origin against Dementia

Galantamine is a plant-based medication used to treat mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease and dementia (74). Several clinical investigations have proven galantamine's efficacy (75). Galantamine (Figure 2) is an isoquinoline alkaloid found in Amaryllidaceae plants. In 1956, Bulgarian chemist D. Paskov and his team identified and extracted it from *Galanthus nivalis* (common snowdrop) bulbs. The same research group developed the first industrial phytopreparation of pure galantamine extract (NivalinXR) in the late 1950s (76).

Galantamine was first used to treat poliomyelitis, then neuropathic pain, and finally as an anaesthetic (77). In modern times, galantamine is obtained from *Galanthus woronowii* Losinsk and *Galanthus alpinus* Sosn. bulbs, as well as synthetically (78)

Galantamine affects the brain's cholinergic system in two ways (Figure 2). It is an allosteric activator of the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR) and a competitive inhibitor of AChE. (79).

Galantamine also protects mitochondrial dysfunction by restoring MMP and morphological alterations caused by A25/35 or hydrogen peroxide therapy (80,81). Toxic reactive oxygen species (ROS) are produced during electron transport in mitochondria, causing oxidative stress. Galantamine protects mitochondria and inhibits AChE activity, reducing oxidative cell damage and promoting neuroprotection (82).


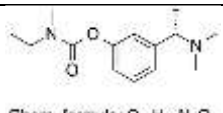
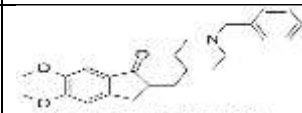
A multi-drug resistance transporter found in the brain's vascular endothelium, P-glycoprotein, may also interact with other brain-targeted medications (83). It prevents medications from entering into the brain by aggressively effluxing them back into the bloodstream (83). Galantamine may thereby facilitate the absorption of medications co-administered with it. Furthermore, galantamine increases rofecoxib (an anti-inflammatory COX-2 inhibitor) and caffeic acid (a phytophenol) protection against neurotoxic neurodegeneration in rats (84). Similarly, galantamine enhances melatonin's antioxidant action (85). Combining galantamine and memantine may also be a unique therapy for schizophrenia (86).

Anxiety, euphoria, depression, irritability, delusions, and aberrant motor behaviour have all been demonstrated to be delayed by galantamine use (87). reviewed 10 clinical trials involving 6,805 demented individuals treated with galantamine. The majority of patients tolerated galantamine satisfactorily. Treatment groups experienced dose-dependent common side effects (78).

The medicine is recommended by both the US and European Alzheimer's disease/dementia therapy standards (88,89). Canada, the European Union (save for the Netherlands under the name NivalinXR in 2000), Japan, Korea, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, etc. In 2001, the FDA approved galantamine

(RazadyneXR) for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and associated dementias. For treating dementia, plant-derived galantamine works by modulating cholinergic signalling and inhibiting oxidative damage.

TABLE 2 | Approved (semi-)synthetic drugs used for the treatment of dementia.

	Memantine	Rivastigmine	Donepezil
Brand name	Namenda® (USA) Axura® (Europe) Ebixa® (Europe) Memando® (Ger)	Exelon® (USA, Europe)	Aricept® (USA, Europe)
Chemical structure	 Chem. formula: C ₁₂ H ₂₁ N Mol. wt.: 179.3 g/mol	 Chem. formula: C ₁₄ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₂ Mol. wt.: 250.3	 Chem. formula: C ₂₃ H ₂₉ NO ₂ Mol. wt.: 379.5 g/mol
Indications	Moderate-to-severe AD, AD-related dementia	Mild-to-moderate AD, AD-related dementia	Mild-to-moderate AD, early-to-mid AD dementia
Mode of action	Non-competitive NMDA-receptor antagonist	Slowly reversible, non-selective AChE and BuChE inhibitor	Reversible, selective AChE inhibitor
Side effects (http://www.alz.org)	Confusion, dizziness, constipation, and headache	Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, increased frequency of bowel movements	Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, increased frequency of bowel movements
Half-life (6)	60–100 h (long)	1 h (very short)	70 h (long)
Doses per day (6)	One (first week)	Two	One
Initial dose (6)	5 mg/day	3 mg/day (2 × 1.5mg)	5 mg/day
Recommended clinically efficient dose (6)	20 mg/day	6–12 mg/day	10 mg/day

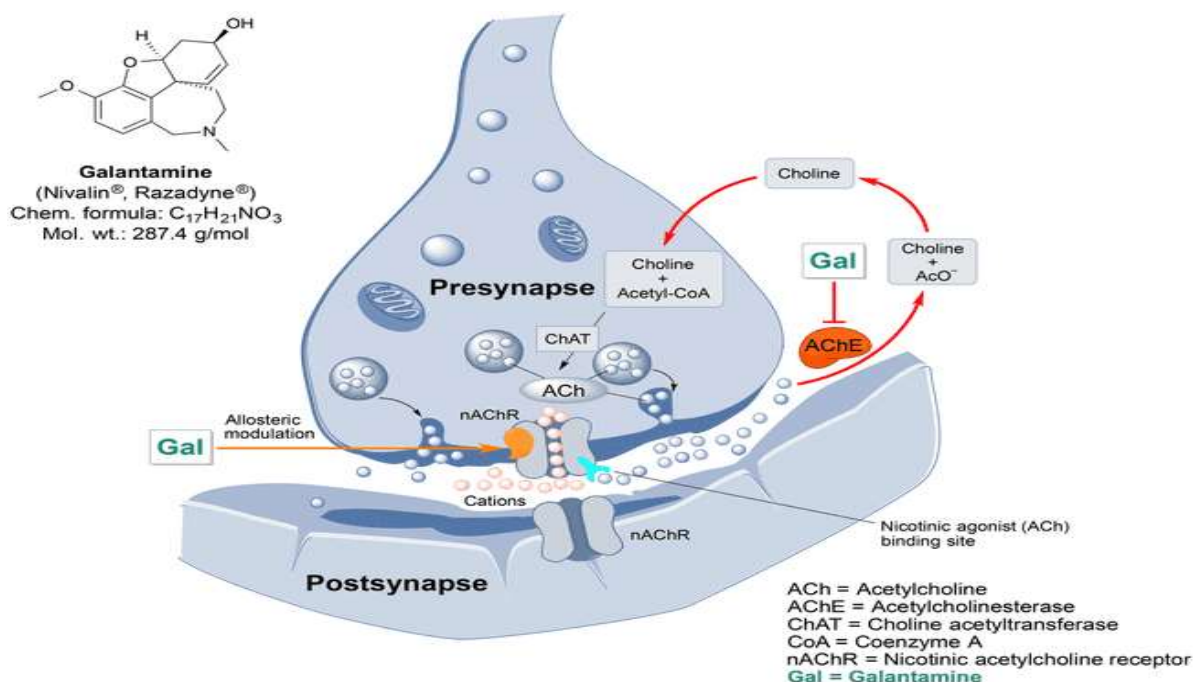


FIGURE 2 | Galantamine (Gal): structure and target mechanisms against AD and dementia. Gal's main biological effects include neuroprotection via dual AChE inhibition and allosteric nAChR stimulation.

An overview of dementia-friendly plants

Dementias are complicated diseases with various biological processes involved in aetiology. This insight ushered in a new paradigm for treating these diseases: treatments for dementia should target numerous biological targets rather than just one. Similarly, plants and plant extracts contain various compounds that may act on multiple molecular targets in an additive or synergistic manner (90). Many herbal remedies already cure dementia.

Sadly, these herbs' active components are inadequately characterised. Similarly, we don't know how these diverse chemicals interact with one other or with prescription drugs (91). This research is vital for generating medicines with no adverse side effects and compounds that enhance each other's activity.

We tried to compile dispersed material from numerous ethnopharmacological papers. We searched ScienceDirect, Pubmed, Scopus, and Google Scholar for articles mentioning dementia, Alzheimer's, traditional medicine, ethnopharmacology, and ethnobotany. The plant name was used using the "AND" operator (92) followed by "dementia" or "Alzheimer's." Table 3 lists the recognized medicinal plants used to treat dementia or Alzheimer's.

Medicinal plants and plant genera used to cure dementia

Following a comprehensive web search for medicinal plants used to treat dementia in diverse places globally, the five plants or plant genera listed below were chosen for further discussion.

Plant (Plant family)	References for the use of the plants for dementia treatment in ethnomedicine
<i>Acorus calamus</i> L. (Acoraceae)	(93)
<i>Aframomum melegueta</i> (Roscoe) K. Schum. (Zingiberaceae)	(94)
<i>Agapanthus africanus</i> (Agapanthaceae)	(95)
<i>Ammocharis coranica</i> (Ker-Gawl.) Herb. (Amaryllidaceae)	(95)
<i>Ananas comosus</i> (Bromeliaceae)	(96,97)
<i>Angelica sinensis</i> (Oliv.) Diels (Apiaceae)	(98)
<i>Angelica archangelica</i> (Apiaceae)	(99, 93)
<i>Angelica</i> species (Apiaceae)	(100)
<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers. (Annonaceae)	(95)
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i> L. (Asteraceae)	(93,97)
<i>Asparagus africanus</i> Lam. (Asparagaceae)	(95)
<i>Asparagus concinnus</i> (Baker) Kies (Asparagaceae)	(95)
<i>Bacopa monnieri</i> (L.) Wettst. (Plantaginaceae)	(101)
<i>Barbieria pinnata</i> (Pers.) Baill. (Fabaceae)	(102,103,97)
<i>Platyclusus orientalis</i> (L.) Franco (Syn. <i>Biota orientalis</i> (L.)Endl.) (Cupressaceae)	(104, 93)
<i>Boophone disticha</i> (L.f.) Herb. (Amaryllidaceae)	(95)

<i>Brugmansia ×candida</i> Pers. (Solanaceae)	(105,97)
<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Fabaceae)	(264)
<i>Bupleurum</i> species (Apiaceae)	(100)
<i>Camellia sinensis</i> Kuntze (Theaceae)	(100)
<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L. (Cannabaceae)	(100)
<i>Carum carvi</i> L. (Apiaceae)	(106)
<i>Caryophyllus</i> spp. (Caryophyllaceae)	(107,97)
<i>Cassia lucens</i> Vog. (Fabaceae)	(102,103, 97)
<i>Celastrus paniculatus</i> Willd. (Celastraceae)	(93)
<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urb (Apiaceae)	(95)
<i>Dysphania ambrosioides</i> (L.) Mosyakin&Clemants (Amaranthaceae) {Syn. <i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i> L.(Chenopodiaceae)}	(108,109,110,97)
<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L. (Fabaceae)	(93)
<i>Codonopsis pilulosa</i> (Franch.) Nannf. (Campanulaceae)	(93)
<i>Coffea arabica</i> L. (Rubiaceae)	(94)
<i>Convallaria majalis</i> L. (Convallariaceae)	(107, 97)
<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> L. (Apiaceae)	(107, 97)
<i>Corydalis cava</i> (L.) Schw. et K. (Papaveraceae)	(106, 97)
<i>Corydalis intermedia</i> (L.) M'erat (Papaveraceae)	(106,97)
<i>Corydalis solida</i> (L.) Swartz ssp. <i>laxa</i> (Papaveraceae)	(106, 97)
<i>Corydalis solida</i> (L.) Swartz ssp. <i>slivenensis</i> (Papaveraceae)	(106, 97)
<i>Crinum bulbispermum</i> (Burm.f.) Milne-Redh. & Schweick. (Amaryllidaceae)	(95)
<i>Crinum moorei</i> Hook.f (Syn. <i>Crinum imbricatum</i> Baker) (Amaryllidaceae)	(95)
<i>Crinum macowanii</i> Baker (Amaryllidaceae)	(95)
<i>Crocus sativus</i> L. (Iridaceae)	(100)
<i>Curcuma longa</i> L. (Zingiberaceae)	(93,100)
<i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i> (Pers.) Wallr. (Scrophulariaceae)	(106)
<i>Tetradium ruticarpum</i> (A.Juss.) T.G.Hartley (Syn.	(98,100)
<i>Ferula gummosa</i> Boiss. (Apiaceae)	(107,97)
<i>Galanthus woronowii</i> Losinsk. (Amaryllidaceae)	(100)
<i>Galanthus alpinus</i> Sosn. (Syn. <i>Galanthus caucasicus</i>) (Amaryllidaceae)	(100)
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> L. (Ginkgoaceae)	(111,100)
<i>Glycyrrhiza</i> species (Leguminosae)	(100)
<i>Huperzia serrate</i> (Thunb.) Trevis. (Lycopodiaceae)	(93,97, 100)

<i>Hydrolea glabra</i> Schum. and Thonn. (Hydrophilaceae)	(94, 97)
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> L. (Clusiaceae)	(100)
<i>Lactuca sativa</i> L. (Asteraceae)	(112,97)
<i>Lannea schweinfurthii</i> Engl. (Anacardiaceae)	(95)
<i>Lantana camara</i> L. (Verbenaceae)	(113, 97)
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> Miller (Lamiaceae)	(106,100)
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i> L. (Amaryllidaceae)	(100)
<i>Lycoris radiata</i> Herb. (Amaryllidaceae)	(93)
<i>Magnolia officinalis</i> Rehder and Wilson (Magnoliaceae)	(93)
<i>Matricaria recutita</i> L. (Asteraceae)	(107,97)
<i>Medicago sativa</i> L. (Fabaceae)	(114, 97)
<i>Melissa officinalis</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	(78, 115,116,98,106,97,100)
<i>Mentha spicata</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	(106)
<i>Narcissus</i> spp. (Amaryllidaceae)	(100)
<i>Nicotiana</i> species (Solanaceae)	(100)
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	(63,117,97)
<i>Origanum majorana</i> Moench (Lamiaceae)	(63, 97)
<i>Origanum vulgare</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	(106)
<i>Paeonia x suffruticosa</i> Andrews (Paeoniaceae)	(98)
<i>Panax ginseng</i> C.A.Mey. (Araliaceae)	(100)
<i>Paullinia cupana</i> Kunth ex. H. B. K (Sapindaceae)	(118,97)
<i>Petroselinum crispum</i> (Mil.) Nym.exA.W.Hill. (Apiaceae)	(106)
<i>Physostigma venenosa</i> Balf.f. (Leguminosae)	(98)
<i>Pimpinella anisum</i> L. (Apiaceae)	(106)
<i>Piper methysticum</i> G.Forst. (Piperaceae)	(100)
<i>Polygala tenuifolia</i> Willd. (Polygalaceae)	(119,93)
<i>Pteroselinum vulgare</i> (Mill.) Nym. and A.W. Hill (Apiaceae)	(97)
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	(120,121,116,98 ,97)
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	(106)
<i>Ruta graveolens</i> L. (Rutaceae)	(106)
<i>Salvia lavandulifolia</i> Vahl. (Lamiaceae)	(100)
<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> Bung. (Lamiaceae)	(93)
<i>Salvia officinalis</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	(117,107,122,93,123,97)
<i>Scadoxus multiflorus</i> (Martyn) Raf. (Amaryllidaceae)	(95)
<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> (L.) Merrill and Perry (Myrtaceae)	(107,97)
<i>Tagetes lucida</i> Cav. (Asteraceae)	(124,97)
<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz. (Combretaceae)	(125,101,93)
<i>Terminalia catappa</i> (Combretaceae)	(265)
<i>Theobroma cacao</i> L. (Sterculiaceae)	(126,97)
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	(106)
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i> L. (Valerianaceae)	(94)
<i>Vinca minor</i> L. (Apocynaceae)	(94)
<i>Vitis vinifera</i> L. (Vitaceae)	(94)

Ginkgo biloba L.

Ginkgo biloba is one of the most unusual plants on the planet, and it is one of the world's oldest tree species (127). It's a living fossil with a morphology that hasn't changed in over 200 million years (128). The

Ginkgoaceae family, which first arose during the Mesozoic epoch, is the final extant member. Due to its several therapeutic benefits, Gb was cultivated in ancient China. This plant's extracts were used to cure a variety of diseases and symptoms, including poor circulation, tiredness, vertigo, and tinnitus (129). Ginkgo extract is sold as a herbal supplement called Ginkgium in various countries (for example, China). It is indicated for the treatment of some age-related cognitive impairments, including as memory loss, as well as the symptoms of dementia and Alzheimer's disease (130). Terpene lactones (ginkgolides and bilobalides) and flavonoids (flavonols and flavone glycosides) are the two main chemical phytoconstituents responsible for Ginkgo's neuro-therapeutic potential (Figure 3: 131,127).

Ginkgolides A, B, and C are triterpenes that are only found in Gb (131). Other compounds, such as ginkgotoxin (found in Ginkgo biloba seeds) and the phenolic type lipid bilobol (found in Ginkgo biloba fruits), have particular biological effects (127). Ginkgotoxin, for example, is neurotoxic (causes epileptic convulsions) (127), but bilobol and its derivatives are cytotoxic and antimicrobial (127). (132).

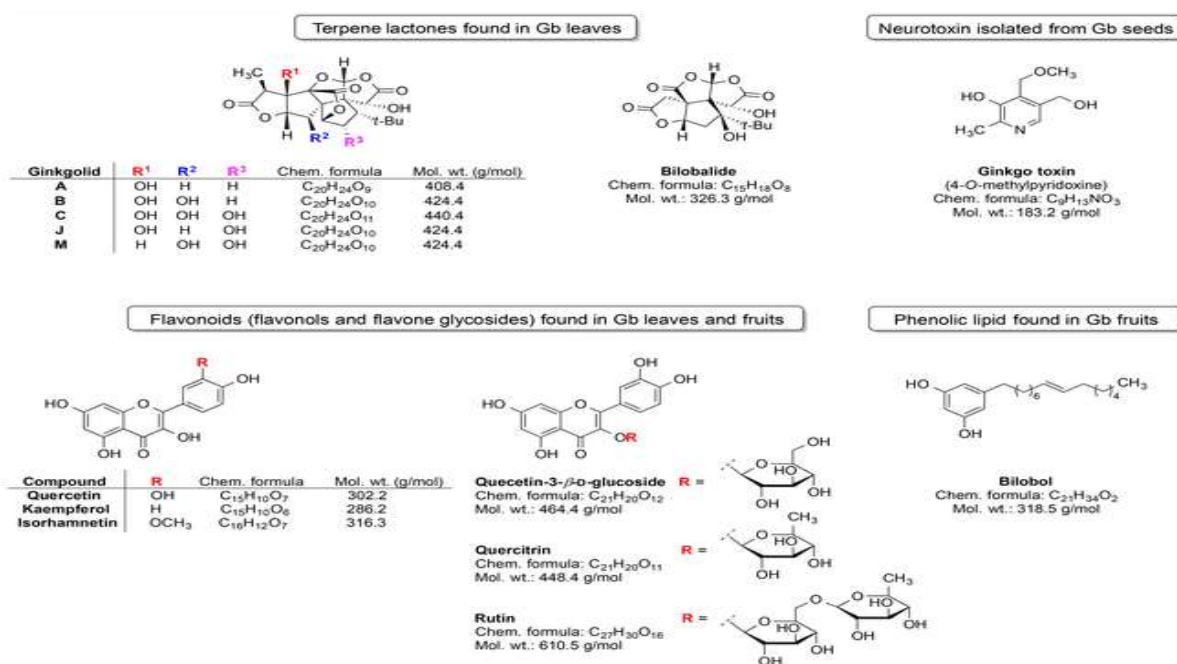


FIGURE 3 | Most prominent phytochemical constituents found in *Ginkgo biloba* (Gb).

In Germany, ginkgo leaf extract was developed for therapeutic purposes for the first time in 1965. (133). The first commercially accessible extract, EGb761, was registered in France in 1974 and contains around 24% flavonoids and 6% terpene lactones (133). The standardised Gb extract (EGb761) is one of the most thoroughly studied herbal treatments for cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease (131). EGb761 has an effect on a number of systems involved in normal brain function (130, Figure 4).

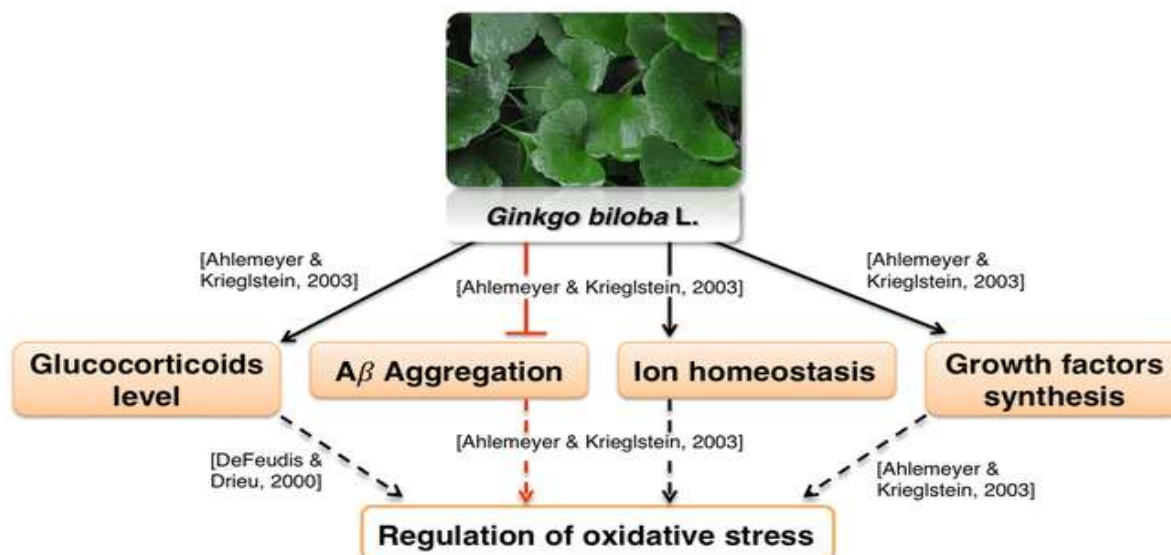


FIGURE 4 | Neuroprotective effects of Ginkgo biloba L.

It was found to modulate circulating glucocorticoid levels, as well as A aggregation, ion homeostasis, and growth factor production, to mediate neuroprotection (134,135). These processes are likely involved in oxidative stress regulation (136,137,138,139,140), which is consistent with various reports showing antioxidative activity of Gb extract (136,137 (141,142). Furthermore, the impact of Ginkgo components on mitochondrial activity has long been known. Ginkgo components have been shown to protect MMP against a variety of toxicants and oxidative stress in a number of in vitro investigations (143,144,145). Many features of mitochondrial morphology are affected by ginkgo extract, including fission (146), swelling (147), and coupling (147). (148). Ginkgo extract also interacts with the electron transport chain in the mitochondria (144). Surprisingly, it was discovered that cells overexpressing APP improved their oxidative phosphorylation efficiency more than control cells (148). This shows that Ginkgo extract could be useful in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Rodent neurons and glial cells were also protected from ischemia/reperfusion and scopolamine-induced toxicity by the extract (142,149,150,151,152). Furthermore, EGb761 improved the functional integrity of cerebral microvascular endothelial cells cultivated in vitro and protected them from harm (153,154). These effects could be linked to Ginkgo extract's antiplatelet action (155). Antiplatelet drugs have been suggested as a potential treatment for vascular disorders (156,157). As a result, EGb761 may be used to treat neurovascular dysfunction, which is one of the diseases linked to Alzheimer's disease (158,159).

Ginkgo has a long history of being used to treat a variety of cerebral dysfunctions linked to neurodegenerative dementia and brain ageing (160). Ginkgo extract appears to improve cognitive and behavioural abilities in elderly people and Parkinson's disease patients, according to animal studies (161,162,163). Aside from animal studies, multiple clinical trials have also revealed that EGb 761 has no significant side effects and is beneficial in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia (164,165,166). Although ginkgo extract appears to be helpful in the treatment of cognitive deficits, more research is needed to determine whether it interacts with other medications. Such research could lead to improved ginkgo extract therapy efficacy and safety. There are now just a few relevant interactions between Ginkgo components and medications that are known (167). Nonetheless, single people have reported major neurological side effects when taking Ginkgo herb in combination with risperidone, valproic acid/phenytoin, or trazodone (167). In conclusion, Ginkgo extract has a neuroprotective effect that could be attributed to its antioxidative and/or antiplatelet properties. Ginkgo extract has been shown to be useful in the treatment of dementia in clinical studies. As a result, we believe that certain Ginkgo-based medications will be available in the near future.

Panax ginseng C.A. Meyer (Ginseng)

Ginseng is widely utilised in nutritional supplements and pharmaceuticals. It's an adaptogen, a drug that promotes homeostasis and protects against biological stresses. This plant's dried root was utilised in traditional Chinese and Korean medicine (168). Panax species include *P. ginseng*, *P. japonicus*, *P. quinquefolius*, *P. trifolius*, *P. notoginseng* (Burkill), and *P. major* (169). ginseng CA Meyer ginseng is the most

widely used and investigated (170). The species is widespread throughout northeastern China. Tonic for weariness, weakness, and ageing, utilised in Chinese medicine for almost 2000 years (171). Some ginseng components, like ginsenosides Rg1 and Rg3 (Figure 5), have been studied for their medicinal potential (172,173,174). For example, 20(S)-ginsenoside Rg3 (Figure 5) has a steroidal backbone structure with carbohydrate component and an aliphatic side chain (175). Rg3 is produced by heating the roots (176,177).

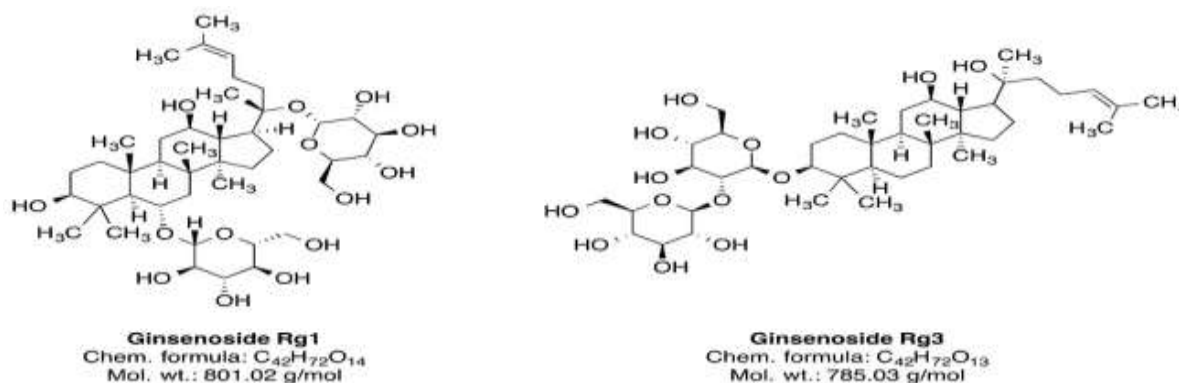


FIGURE 5 | Phytochemical constituents of ginseng

The ginsenoside Rg3 therapy significantly reduced amyloid-40 and amyloid-42 levels in the brains of transgenic mice (Tg2576 line) and in cultured cells (178). Neuroprotective effects of ginsenoside Rg3 in cultured cortical neurons (179). Similarly, ginsenoside Rg1 (GRg1) reduced A-induced neurotoxicity in neuroblastoma cells via activating the p38 pathway (180). Ginsenosides also control nicotinic acetylcholine receptor activation (181). Modulation of acetylcholine receptor activation may be implicated in the compound's effectiveness against dementia (182,183). A ginseng extract high in ginsenoside Rg3 improves memory in mice through modulating AChE activity and the NF- κ B signalling pathway (184). NF- κ B is a protein complex that is activated by ROS (185). GRg1 also lowers A-induced ROS production and cell death (186). Many papers suggest protective effects of ginseng components on brain mitochondrial activity under hazardous conditions, such as ischemia (187), calcium therapy (188,189), and even incubation of cells with A in vitro (188).

Ginseng's effect on Alzheimer's disease was inconclusive in a recent (145). The trials had tiny sample sizes and poor design, including no placebo groups (145). Larger trials are needed to determine ginseng's efficacy in AD.

In summary, ginseng components may influence amyloid metabolism, oxidative stress, neuroinflammation, and cholinergic transmission. Despite considerable efforts, the effect of ginseng on dementia sufferers is yet unknown.

Curcuminoids from Genus Curcuma

Curcuma (Turmeric) is one of the largest Zingiberaceae genera, with roughly 80 species (190). Typical yellow turmeric hue comes from curcumin and its curcuminoid analogues demethoxycurcumin and bisdemethoxycurcumin (191). Curcumin is the major bioactive phytoconstituent of Curcuma (Figure 6).

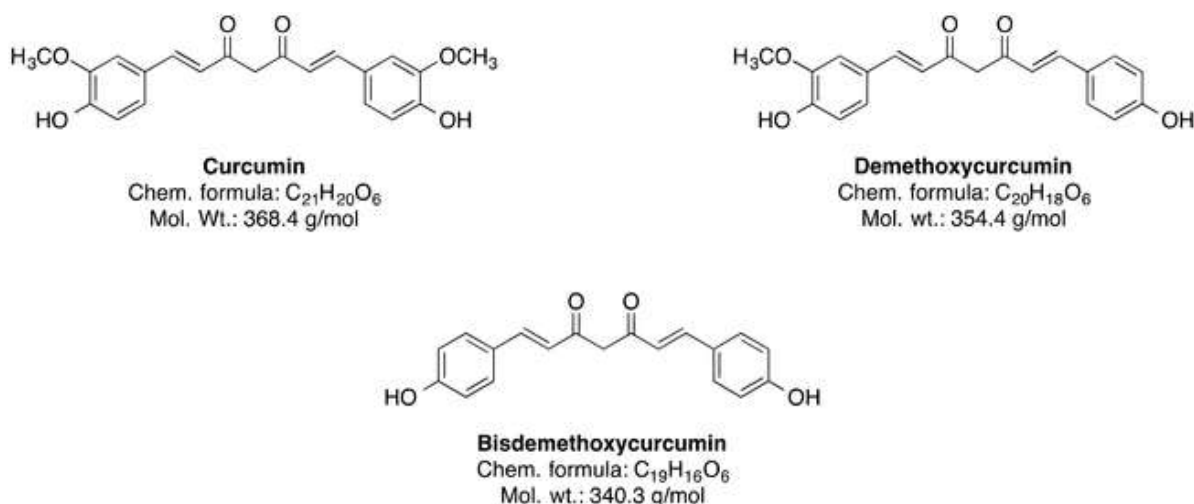


FIGURE 6 | Chemical structures of curcuminoids.

To acquire it from turmeric, simply extract it with a solvent and crystallise it (191). It is also used in traditional Indian medicine to treat anorexia, hepatitis, and other ailments (191,192). Curcumin has been shown to have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antiproliferative, anti-amyloidogenic, and neuro-regulatory activities in vivo (191). This may be linked to the increased curcumin consumption in the Indian population (191), although correlation does not suggest causation.

2 Feruloyl moieties with 3-methoxy-4-hydroxy substituents (Figure 7A; 193). Curcumin is virtually symmetrical due to an unsaturated seven-carbon spacer that includes a -diketo function. Curcumin can exist in two tautomeric forms: enol and diketo, depending on pH. (193). The keto form dominates in acidic and neutral (pH 7.4) conditions, while the enol form dominates in non-polar and basic (pH 8.0) media (193). A second enol tautomer undergoes intramolecular hydrogen transfer (Figure 7B;194). When curcumin reaches physiological pH (7.4), it is in its 1,3-keto-enol form. Curcumin's antioxidant capabilities and ability to scavenge ROS are linked to the stability and antioxidative ability of the methoxy phenolic type groups present. Figure 7 shows curcumin's structural properties, including tautomeric forms and pharmacophores. Curcumin inhibits TNF activity, prevents A plaque development, and protects brain cells from toxins (195). Natural polyphenols have recently been used to treat several neurological illnesses (196, 197).

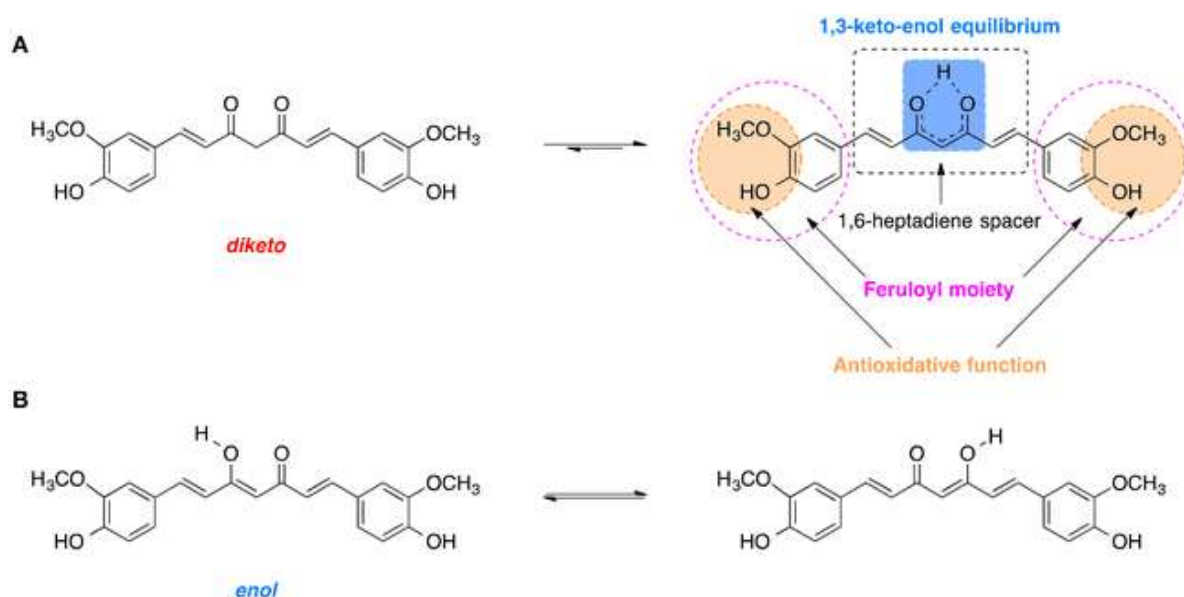


FIGURE 7 | Tautomerism of curcumin: (A) Diketo and 1,3-keto-enol equilibrium form of curcumin with its biologically relevant structural units. (B) Hydrogen transfer in the most stable enol form

Curcumin improves memory and hippocampus neurogenesis in elderly rats (198). Curcumin may exert this action through modulating gene expression involved in cell proliferation and synaptic plasticity (198).

Curcumin's neuroprotective characteristics include anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and lipophilic qualities (199). Infusion of curcumin-loaded lipid-core nanocapsules (but not free curcumin) reversed the increased hippocampus production of pro-inflammatory proteins TNF- and IL-1 beta produced by intracerebroventricular A42 peptide solution infusion (200). Curcumin also reduced the activity of the pro-inflammatory complex NF-B in neuroblastoma cells (201). Curcumin inhibited the activity of NF-B, Nrf2, and Sirt1 in human neuroblastoma cells (202). Curcumin lowers ROS in neuroblastoma cells treated with acrolein and in rat primary neurons treated with Ab42 hyper-expression (203,202). In vitro, curcumin protects mitochondria from oxidative stress and rotenone (an electron transport chain inhibitor) (204,205). It also slows the ageing of rodent brain mitochondrial and oxidative activities (206,207). It also increased Sirt1 and Bcl-2 expression and decreased brain cell death in experimental strokes (208). Curcumin also binds A peptides, inhibiting their aggregation into A plaques (203). (209). Curcumin can penetrate the BBB, bind to plaques, and reduce amyloid plaques in AD by stimulating phagocytosis of A. (199). Some curcumin pyrazoles and isoxazoles bind to A42 (Figure 8; 210).

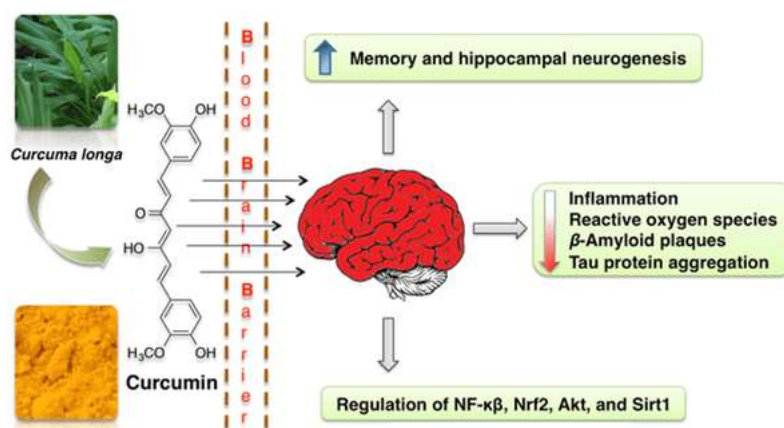


FIGURE 8 | Neuroprotective effects of curcumin.

It reduces A40/42 and PSEN1 protein and mRNA levels in APP+ neuroblastoma cells (211). Curcumin derivatives enhanced A absorption by AD macrophages isolated from blood and cultured in vitro (212). This is significant since peripheral macrophages are known to infiltrate AD patients' brains and help remove amyloid plaques (213). Curcumin also suppresses A-induced tau phosphorylation in neuroblastoma cells via the PTEN/Akt/GSK-3 pathway (214). Others report that curcumin protects against A-induced memory deficits via the Akt/GSK-3 and ERK pathways (215,216). Curcumin improved A-infused rats' hippocampal-dependent memory (215).

According to Brondino et al's systematic review, the few clinical trials evaluating curcumin's effect on AD were equivocal (217). Although curcumin was confirmed to be safe in short-term usage, long-term safety and efficacy in humans must be determined (217). Since the comprehensive review was released, another clinical trial on the topic showed improvement in working memory and mood in a small group of older volunteers treated with curcumin (218). A study also found a link between curcumin-rich curry and improved cognitive function in the elderly (219). The curcumin concentration in curry is modest (220), and the amount of physiologically accessible curcumin consumed with curry is debated. A synergistic effect of curcumin and donepezil on cognition and oxidative stress (221). The donepezil/curcumin combination demonstrated good BBB permeability (222). Curcumin protects brain cells from oxidative stress and A disease. Curcumin's positive effects on dementia symptoms in animal models may be due to these qualities. Curcumin appears to be a good possibility for a novel dementia therapy, however clinical evidence to back this up is still missing. Also, researchers have only studied curcumin's efficacy against AD-associated dementia, excluding other dementias.

Glycyrrhiza Genus

Glycyrrhiza, or licorice, is a member of the Fabaceae family, which includes more than 30 species. These plants are perennial and native to the Mediterranean, Asia, southern Russia, and Iran (223). Glycyrrhiza species can be found all throughout Europe and Asia (224,223). The roots of the licorice plant have been

proven to have anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, and anti-microbial properties, among other things (223,225,226). The principal bioactive phytoconstituents are the sweet-tasting triterpene saponin glycyrrhizin (glycyrrhizic acid) and isoliquiritigenin (a phenolic type molecule) (Figure 9). Other ingredients include shimperocarpin, glabrone, glabridin, galbrene, and lico-isoflavones A and B. Please see the following link for more details (223).

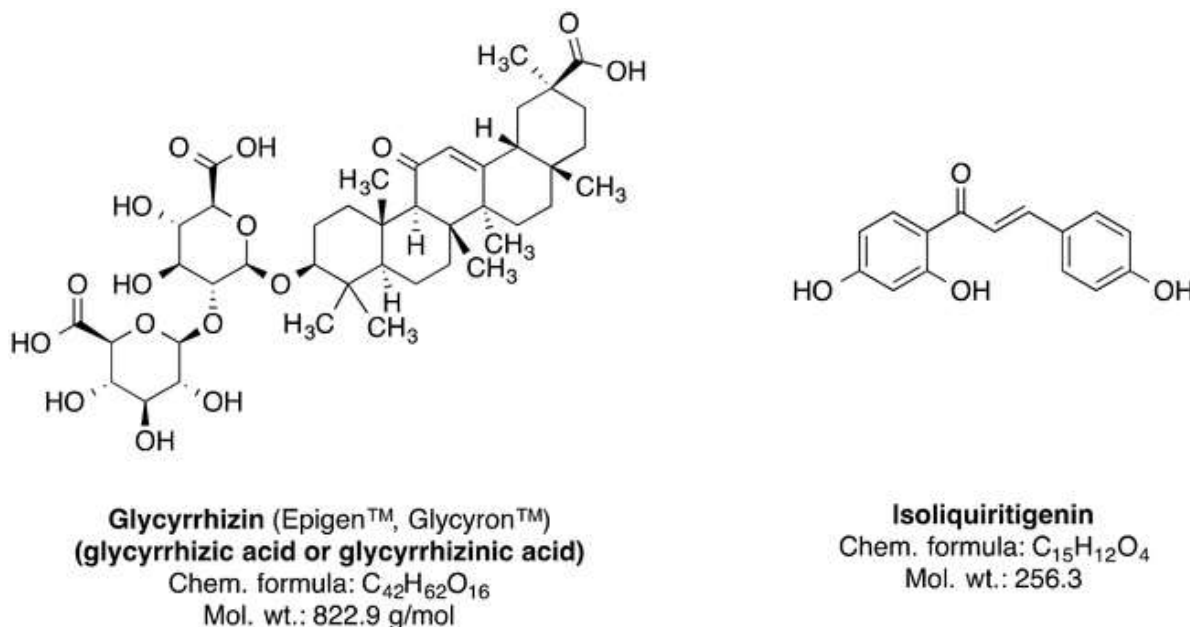


FIGURE 9 | Chemical structures of the major phytoconstituents of *Glycyrrhiza glabra*.

The antioxidant capabilities of *Glycyrrhiza* species have been connected to neurodegenerative illnesses such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia. Tau misfolding is prevented by inflata extract, according to in vitro experiments (227). As a result, this plant's extract could be beneficial in the treatment of tauopathies and Alzheimer's disease. *G. inflata* extract reduced oxidative stress in spinocerebellar ataxia type 3 (SCA3) cells by activating PPARGC1A and the NFE2L2-ARE pathway (228). 1-methyl-4-phenylpyridinium (MPP+) causes cellular toxicity, ROS production, and GSH downregulation (229). MPP+, a neurotoxin, inhibits mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation (MOP) (229).

GSH is an important antioxidant in the brain, hence its downregulation is critical (230). A reduction in GSH levels in dementia exacerbates oxidative stress (229,231). In vitro, *G. inflata* extract was also discovered to have an anti-oxidant effect (232). Oxidative stress has an effect on brain cells. The potential of licorice extract to protect against oxidative stress may be attributed to isoliquiritigenin's mitochondrial action (233). Licorice may minimise brain cell damage, improve neuronal function, and prevent memory loss by reducing oxidative stress linked with various dementias (234,235).

The use of licorice root extract in the treatment of dementia and/or Alzheimer's disease has been proven (see Figure 10). According to certain research, licorice root extract can boost memory by lowering inflammation (236,235). Inflammation and oxidative stress, according to past research, go hand in hand (237). *Glycyrrhiza* Polyherbal is a component. *Glycyrrhiza uralensis* Fisher, a 2A adrenoceptor antagonist, is a component of the yokukansan formula, which incorporates seven distinct plants (238). When used in yokukansan, the glycyrrhiza phytoconstituents glycyrrhizin, liquiritin, and isoliquiritigenin have neuroprotective effects (238). The NMDA receptor's firing rate was lowered by isoliquiritigenin (238). Memantine, a popular anti-dementia medication, works by blocking NMDA receptors (239). The potential of glycoumarin to reduce caspase-3 activity may also play a role in its neuroprotective properties (240, 238).

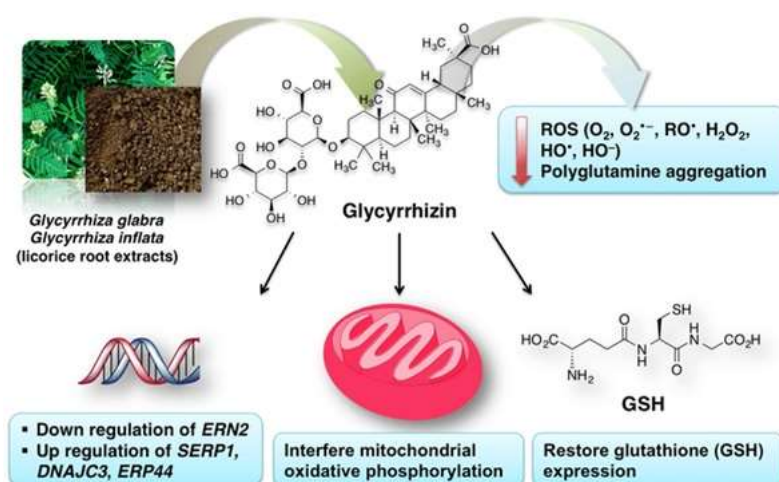


FIGURE 10 | A simplified representation of the neuroprotective effects of licorice for dementia treatment.

Glycyrrhiza glabra extract increased mice's learning abilities after seven days of oral administration (241). A second trial, however, found that the extract was sedative (242). To avoid sedative effects, however, the dosage of *G. glabra* extract should be carefully monitored. Diammonium-glycyrrhizinate, on the other hand, was able to offset A42's effects on mitochondria and cognitive performance in rats (243). Licorice compounds may interact with other medications because they change P450 proteins, which are important regulators of xenobiotic metabolism (244). Glycyrrhiza extracts have been shown to have anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and apoptotic properties. Unlike curcumin and ginseng, glycyrrhiza has not been investigated as a dementia treatment in humans.

Camellia sinensis Kuntze

One of the most popular drinks in the world is green tea (*Camellia sinensis* Kuntze) (245). Green tea use has been linked to obesity, diabetes, inflammation, coronary artery disease, stroke, and different cancers (246,247). Animal and human cognitive processing and memory are boosted by green tea-related chemicals [e.g. (-)- epigallocatechin-3-gallate] (248,246,249).

Polyphenols are one of almost 4,000 bioactive chemicals found in *C. sinensis* (250). Excessive expression and activity of metalloendopeptidase genes and enzymes were enhanced by green tea extract (MME). A peptides can be broken down by many MME (251). When green tea leaf extract was pretreated with AlCl₃, it averted cognitive deficits, alterations in superoxide dismutase activity, and uncontrolled activity of pro-inflammatory enzyme COX and AChE in the same brain area (252). L-theanine from *C. sinensis*, administered intravenously, protects against ischemia-induced memory loss and cell death (253,254). Intriguingly, rats fed L-theanine showed improved cognition and reduced levels of oxidative stress (255). Research by Nishida et al. in a transgenic AD mouse model, epigallocatechin-3-gallate corrected the dysregulated ROS generation, mitochondrial respiration, and MMPs (256). L-theanine is a proteinogenic neurotransmitter L-amino-ethylated glutamine's derivative (Figure 11). Inhibits A42-induced memory loss and cell death, perhaps through lowering ERK/p38 and NF- κ B signalling pathways and decreasing oxidative stress (257).

Alzheimer's disease and dementia may be reduced by drinking green tea (258). The combination of L-theanine and coffee has been shown to have a positive effect on cognitive and emotional well-being in healthy persons (259, 260). The results of studies on L-theanine alone on mood have been mixed, though (261; 259). The P- glycoprotein activity can be altered by green tea catechins, which may have an impact on medication availability (262). To sum up, green tea extract is anti-apoptotic, anti-oxidant, and may directly prevent the development of A plaques in the bloodstream. Human studies have also shown that green tea components may be beneficial in the treatment of dementia.

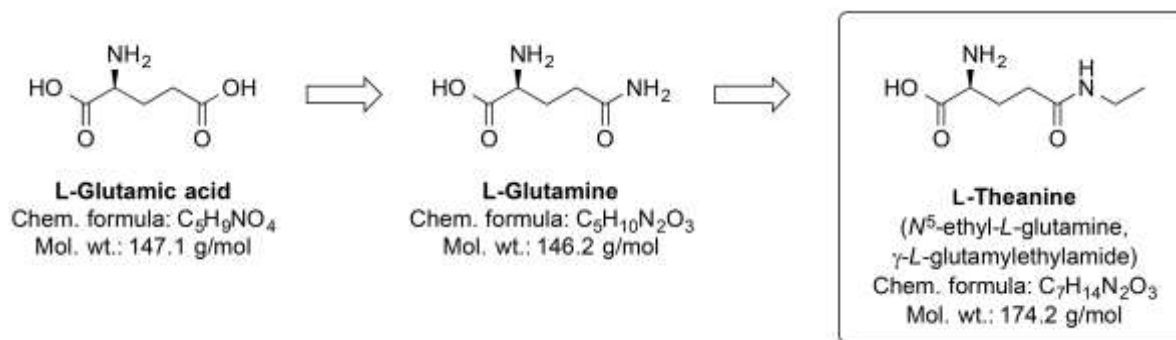


FIGURE 11 | Chemical structures of the nootropic drug L-Theanine and its proteinogenic amino acid analogs

CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we explain how plants have been utilised to treat dementia all across the world. The neuroprotective benefits of these plants or their bioactive ingredients are predominantly connected with anti-inflammatory, antioxidative, and antiapoptotic activity. Some of these naturally occurring chemicals show promise as alternative therapeutics. Curcumin, when combined with the authorised reversible ChE inhibitor donepezil, demonstrated notable synergetic effects on cognition, oxidative stress, and BBB permeability. Moreover, donepezil/curcumin administration may help treat dementia symptoms in animal models. It has also been proven that supplementing with mitochondrial antioxidants like -lipoic acid and acetyl-L-carnitine can help minimise physical and mental fatigue, and even improve memory function in age-related disorders like Alzheimer's and other dementias. However, there are numerous unknowns in this research area that need to be clarified. The scientific community requires more extensive research on plant active components and their mechanisms of action. This research will help clinical trials evaluate the herbal items' efficacy in treating dementia. Research on plants used in traditional and ethnomedicinal medicine could lead to the creation of novel dementia treatments, which is quite exciting.

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