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## Characterization of bioactive components from petiole of two varieties of colocasia seen in Kerala

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### ABSTRACT

*Colocasia is a genus of flowering plant belongs to the family Araceae native to South-Eastern Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Some species are widely cultivated and naturalized in other tropical and subtropical regions. Different varieties of Colocasia are seen in Kerala of which Colocasia aquatilis is labeled as an aggressive weed that grows in dense clusters along lake shores and riverbanks, displacing native shoreline vegetation. Qualitative analyses of two samples are done using a crude extract from both the varieties. Antimicrobial activity of wild variety is evaluated in both gram positive and gram negative bacteria using pure extract. Even though both comprise the same genus Colocasia, significant differences were seen in the result of these varieties. In our work, we have used two common varieties of Colocasia one is edible variety Colocasia gigantea and another one a weed Colocasia aquatilis.*

**Keywords:** *Colocasia, C. gigantea, C. aquatilis, Extraction, Distillation, GC-MS, Qualitative Analysis, Antimicrobial Activity.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Colocasia is a genus of flowering plant in the family Araceae native to south-eastern Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Some species are widely cultivated and naturalized in other tropical and subtropical region include tarul, elephant-ear, taro, cocoyam, dasheen, chembu, champadhupa, shavigegadde, and eddoe. Elephant-ear and cocoyam are also used for some other large-leaved genera in the Araceae, notably Xanthosoma and Caladium. The generic name is derived from the ancient Greek word kolokasion. It thrives in hot, humid conditions and is found growing in moist forests and wet areas in riparian habitats, riverbanks, along streams, marshes and canals or cultivated near farmhouses, in water fields or as under-planting in coconut groves. It prefers deep, well-drained, friable loams soil particularly alluvial loams, with a high water table. The plant has white, adventitious and fibrous root and a massive, fleshy, starchy modified subterranean stem (corm) at the base. At the apex of the corm is a whorl of petioles bearing large leaves with blades pointing obliquely downwards. Petioles are robust, uniformly light or dark green. Corms consist of the skin, cortex and core; the skin is rough, fibrous and brown coloured or covered with concentric rings of leaf scars and scales. It has purple, white, yellow or pinkish coloured flesh depending on the variety of corm.

### 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The two varieties of Colocasia petiole are collected. The two varieties that we choose are one weed variety the *Colocasia aquatilis* and an edible one the *Colocasia gigantea*. The samples are washed with distilled water and it is chopped into small pieces. The chopped samples are then dried by using Hot Air Oven maintained as 50°C for one day. The dried sample is grinded into powder form by using Mixer Grinder.

The extraction of the sample material for determining the components present is done by using Soxhlet Apparatus using Petroleum Ether as a solvent. The extracted sample is then subjected to Simple Distillation for removing the extraction solvent from the extract obtained. The components present in the two varieties are determined by Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GCMS) Analysis.

Phytochemical analysis of two varieties is done for the detection of flavonoids, diterpenes, and phenols. Qualitative Analysis is done for the two varieties for the identification of the presence of components like carbohydrates, proteins, aminoacids, glycosides, starch, resins, alcohols, saponins, taninsetc using the crude extract.

Antibacterial Activity of the weed variety *Colocasia aquatilis* is checked against two categories of Bacteria which are *Staphylococcus aureus*, a Gram positive and *Escherichia coli*, a Gram negative bacteria using the Petroleum ether extract obtained after simple distillation.

## 2.1 Extraction

The two varieties of *Colocasia* petiole is extracted by using Soxhlet Apparatus. For the extraction procedure, 22gm each of two samples and 400 ml of Petroleum Ether was used as the extraction solvent. The temperature we set for the extraction process is 50°C because petroleum Ether has a boiling point range of 45-60°C. The process of extraction for one sample completed by 8 cycles in 3 hours.

## 2.2 Simple Distillation

Simple Distillation is done to remove the Petroleum Ether from the sample extract for getting the clear extract.

## 2.3 Antibacterial Activity

Antibacterial activity of the *Colocasiaaquatilis* extract is determined using 2 strains of bacteria, one gram-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* and other gram negative bacteria *Escherichia coli*. The 3 petriplates and discs are autoclaved using a pressure cooker for 30 minutes. The nutrient medium is prepared by taking 1.75g nutrient agar in 67.5 ml distilled water and kept at microwave oven for boiling. At an ear bearable temperature, it is poured into the autoclaved petriplates and allowed to solidify. The bacterial culture is prepared by taking a loopful of samples and dissolved in 1ml distilled water and mixed well by using vortex mixer. Taking 200µl of this bacterial sample and pour it into the petriplate and swab it using an L rod. Then insert the paper disc and add 2-3 drops of the *Colocasia aquatilis* extract over it and then kept at the incubator for 24 hours incubation for effective bacterial growth.

## 2.4 GC-MS Analysis

The phytochemical investigation of petroleum ether extract was performed on a GC-MS equipment Thermo GC-TRACE ultra ver.: 5.0, Thermo MS DSQ II. Experimental conditions of GC-MS system were as follows: VF5-MS capillary standard non-polar column, dimension: 30Mts, ID: 0.25 mm, Film thickness: 0.25µm. The flow rate of mobile phase (carrier gas: He) was set at 1.0 ml/min. In the gas chromatography part, temperature programme (oven temperature) was 40°C raised to 250°C at 5°C/min and the injection volume was 1 µl. Samples dissolved in chloroform were run fully at a range of 50-650 m/z and the results were compared by using Nyquist library search programme.

## 2.5 Phytochemical Analysis

Phytochemicals are chemicals produced by plants through primary or secondary metabolism. We did the phytochemical analysis for the detection of flavonoids, diterpenes, phenols, carbohydrates, proteins, aminoacids, resins, alcohol, starch, saponins, glycosides, tannins.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 3.1 Phytochemical Analysis

Qualitative Analysis	C.gigantea	C. aquatilis
Carbohydrates	Positive	Positive
Protein	Positive	Positive
Aminoacid	Positive	Positive
Starch	Negative	Negative
Saponins	Negative	Negative
Alcohol	positive	Positive
Resins	Positive	Negative
Glycosides	Positive	Positive
Tanins	Positive	Positive
Flavanoids	Negative	Positive
Diterpenes	Positive	positive
Phenols	Positive	Positive

### 3.2 Anti-Bacterial Assay

We obtained positive results for *Colocasiaaquatilis* extract in both gram positive (MRSA) and gram negative bacteria (E.coli).

3.3 GCMS Analysis  
3.3.1 Colocasia Aquatilis

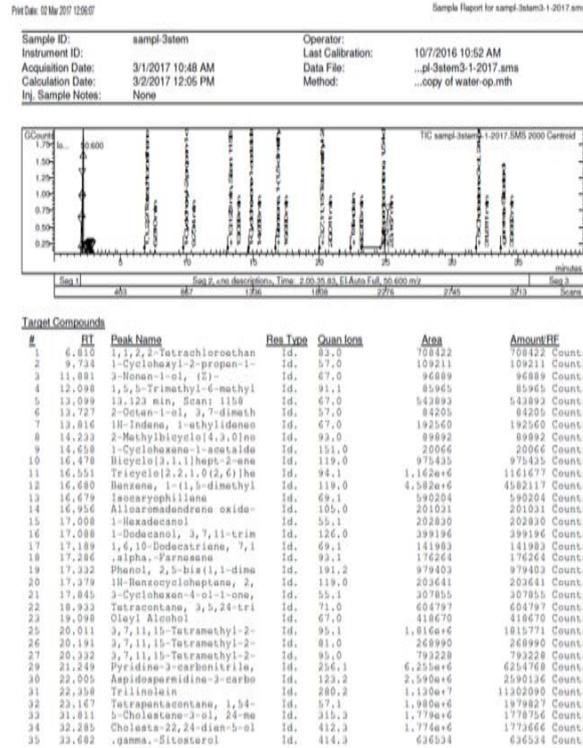
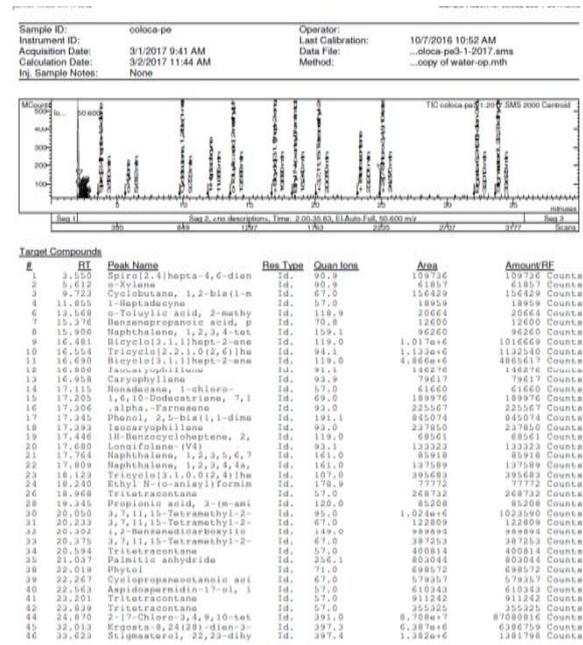


Fig 1: GC-MS analysis of Colocasia Aquatilis

3.3.2 Colocasia Gigantea



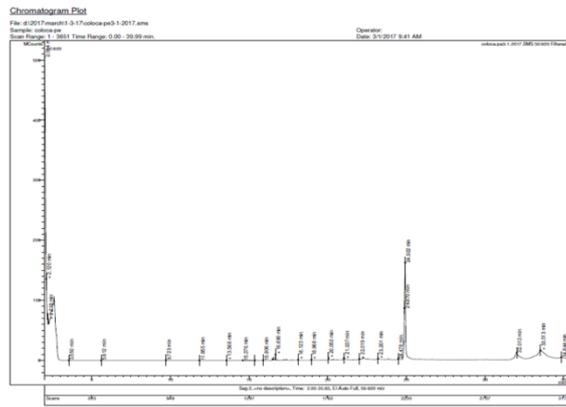


Fig 2: GC-MS analysis of *Colocasia Gigantea*

#### 4. CONCLUSION

By analyzing the result it was concluded that the variety is having a wide range of active components which was not revealed earlier. GC-MS analysis was done for this variety of *Colocasia* for the first time. The research will pave the way to further analysis by using our work as a reference.

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