

## APHARMACOLOGICAL AND TOXICOLOGICAL REVIEW OF *LAWSONIA INERMIS*

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**ABSTRACT:** For basic healthcare, herbal medicines are in high demand in both developed and developing nations due to their low cost, broad range of biological and therapeutic activities, and increased safety margins. Commonly known as Henna or Mhendi, the plant *Lawsonia inermis* L. is widely found in tropical and subtropical regions. The genus *Henna* belongs to a member of the family *Lythraceae*. It also plays an important part in Ayurvedic and natural herbal therapy, as described in ancient Indian history. Healing and aesthetic uses of henna date back more than nine thousand years. Thanks to its many medicinal uses, lack of side effects, and accessibility, henna is enjoying a renaissance in popularity. This study aims to update the existing body of knowledge on several aspects of the globally utilized plant *Lawsonia inermis* (Linn). It provides a comprehensive overview of its pharmacological actions, including analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, antiarthritic, antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, antimalarial, antidiabetic, abortifacient, hepatoprotective, antioxidant, anticancer, antifertility, antiulcer, diuretic, wound healing, protein glycation inhibitory, enzyme inhibitory, antitrypanosomal, anticoagulant, antisickling, nematocidal, molluscicidal, immunomodulatory, nootropic, and tuberculostatic actions, as well as toxicological studies..

**Keywords:** *Lawsonia inermis*, Henna, Pharmacological activities Antibacterial, Antioxidant Toxicological studies

**INTRODUCTION:** The use of plants in ancient medicine is the ancestor of many of today's pharmaceuticals. First, those who have practiced traditional herbal therapy have detailed the curative effects of several native plants for ailments. The main health care system is still based on natural goods, which are a major source of both synthetic and traditional herbal medication. The foundation of herbal medicine is the idea that plants possess inherent healing properties. There has been a recent uptick in plant

research worldwide, and a mountain of data points to the tremendous therapeutic potential of plants with long histories of usage in alternative medicine.

Traditional Indian Medicine (Ayurveda), Siddha, Unani, and Chinese medicine all have extensive literature on the topic of herbal remedies and the many advantages they provide.

*L. inermis* Linn. is a plant that is utilized all over the globe. This current aim is to evaluate and assemble updated information on many elements of the plant. In tropical and subtropical regions, you may find this plant, which is also known as henna or mhendi, in plenty. It has a significant function in Ayurvedic natural herbal remedies and is described in ancient Indian history for its many benefits.

Perennial *Lawsonia inermis* Linn, sometimes known as henna, is a member of the *Lythraceae* family, which includes the *loosestrife* plant. The whole plant, including the roots, stems, leaves, flower pods, and seeds, has significant medical value, and many farmers produce henna for its cosmetic and medicinal uses. In Southeast Asia and North Africa, and widely grown as a decorative plant in India, Persia, and the Mediterranean coast of Africa.

Common names:<sup>7</sup>

English	: Henna, Samphire, Cypress shrub
Sanskrit	: Mendi, Mendika, Timir, Rakigarbha
Telugu	: Goranta, kormni

Hindi : Mehndi  
 Malayalam: Mailanchi  
 Tamil :  
 Maruthani  
 Oriya : Benjati  
 Kannada  
 : Mayilanc  
 hi Bengali : Mehedi

**Morphology:** *Lawsonia inermis* is a glabrous branched shrub or small tree (2 to 6 m in height). Leaves are small, opposite, entire margin elliptical to broadly lanceolate, subsessile, about 1.5 to 5 cm long, 0.5 to 2 cm wide, greenish brown to dull green, petioles short and glabrous, acute or obtuse.

### Traditional Uses:

**TABLE 1: TRADITIONAL USES**

apex with tapering base. New branches are green in colour and quadrangular, turn red with age.

Plant Parts	Traditional Uses (as/in)
Leaves <sup>13-16</sup>	Bitter, astringent, acrid, diuretic, emetic, edema, expectorant, anodyne, anti-inflammatory, constipating, depurative, liver tonic, haematinic, styptic, febrifuge, trichogenous, wound, ulcers, strangury, cough, bronchitis, burning sensation, cephalalgia, hemicranias, lumbago, rheumatism, inflammations, diarrhoea, dysentery, leprosy, leucoderma, scabies, boils, hepatopathy, splenopathy, anemia, hemorrhages, hemoptysis, fever, ophthalmia, amenorrhoea, falling of hair, greyness of hair, jaundice.
Flower <sup>13</sup>	Cardiotonic, refrigerant, soporific, febrifuge, tonic, cephalalgia, burning sensation, cardiopathy, amentia, insomnia, fever
Seed <sup>13</sup>	Antipyretic, intellect promoting, constipating, intermittent fevers, insanity, amentia, diarrhea, dysentery and gastropathy.
Root <sup>13</sup>	Bitter, depurative, diuretic, emmenagogue, abortifacient, burning sensation, leprosy, skin diseases, amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea and premature graying of hair.

### Chemical Constituents:

**Leaves:** 2-Hydroxy-1, 4-naphthoquinone (HNQ; Lawsone) is the principal natural dye contained at 1.0 - 1.4 % in the leaves of Henna<sup>17</sup>. Other related compounds present in the leaves are: 1, 4-dihydroxynaphthalene, 1, 4-naphthoquinone, 1, 2-dihydroxy- glucosyloxy naphthalene and 2-hydroxy-1, 4- diglucosyloxy naphthalene. Flavonoids (luteolins, apigenin, and their glycosides). Coumarins (esculetin, fraxetin, scopletin). Steroids ( $\beta$ - sitosterol)<sup>18</sup>. The leaves of *Lawsonia inermis* also reported to contain soluble matter tannin, gallic acid, glucose, mannitol, fat, resin and mucilage<sup>2</sup>.

**Bark:** Bark contains naphthoquinone, isoprenoids, triterpenoids, Hennadiol, aliphatics (3-

Young barks are greyish brown, older plants have spine-tipped branchlets. Inflorescence has large pyramid shaped cyme. Flowers are small, numerous, aromatic, white or red coloured with four crumpled petals. Calyx has 0.2 cm tube and 0.3 cm spread lobes. The fruits are small, brown globose capsule, opening irregularly and split into four sections with a permanent style. Seeds have typical, pyramidal, hard and typical seed coat with brownish colouration<sup>8-10</sup>.

**Cultivation:** Henna grows better in tropical savannah and tropical arid zones, in latitude between 15° and 25° N and S, produces highest dye content in temperature between 35 - 45 °C. The optimal soil temperature range for germination is 25 - 30 °C. Henna leaves are very popular natural dye to colour hand, finger, nails and hair. The dye molecule, lawsone is the chief constituents of the plant; its highest concentration is detected in the petioles (0.5-1.5 %) <sup>11,12</sup>.

methyl nonacosan-1-ol)<sup>18</sup>.

**Flower:** Flowers on steam distillation gave an essential oil (0.02 %) rich in ionones (90 %) in which  $\beta$ -ionones predominated<sup>18</sup>.

**Root:** Aqueous root extract of *L. inermis* contains alkaloids, saponins, steroids, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, tannins and reducing sugars<sup>19</sup>.

**Pharmacological Activities:** Several researchers have reported the different pharmacological activities of *L. inermis* which are discussed below.

**Analgesic and Antipyretic Activity:**

The ethanolic extract of leaves of *Lawsonia* showed significant analgesic as well as antipyretic activity. The fixed oil obtained from seeds were screened for pharmacological activity both *in-vitro* and *in-vivo*. It was concluded that seed oil is devoid of behavioral and CNS effects and failed to produce any effect on isolated tissue though it possesses significant analgesic activity<sup>20</sup>.

**Anti-Inflammatory Activity:** Methanol extract of *Lawsonia inermis* flowers showed a good anti-inflammatory activity against 5-Lipoxygenase ( $IC_{50}=49.33\text{mg/L}$ ) compared to references. It may be interpreted that the greatest anti-inflammatory activity was due to the high amounts of total phenolic compounds<sup>21</sup>.

Isoplumbagin and lawsaritol, isolated from stem bark and root of *L. inermis* screened for anti-inflammatory activity against carrageenan induced paw edema in rats. The results showed that isoplumbagin exhibited significant activity, was compared to that of phenylbutazone<sup>22</sup>.

Butanol and chloroform fractions showed potent anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic effects that aqueous fraction of crude ethanol extract of *L. inermis* in a dose dependent manner. Leaves showed significant anti-inflammatory effect with some active principles<sup>20</sup>.

**Antiarthritic Activity:** Aqueous and ethanol leaf extract demonstrated anti-arthritic activity, as reflected by a reduction in paw oedema, paw diameter and body weight loss in both Freund's adjuvant-induced and formaldehyde-induced arthritis mice models, at doses of 200 and 400 mg/kg p.o., respectively. In this study, an oral dose of 10 mg/kg of diclofenac sodium was used as the positive control<sup>23</sup>.

**Anti-ulcer Activity:** Aqueous, ethanol and chloroform leaf extracts showed a strong anti-ulcer activity in pylorus ligation and aspirin-induced rats when compared to ranitidine, the positive control. In addition, significant reductions (p.o. = 0.001) in gastric acid secretions, total acidity and ulcer index were observed<sup>24</sup>. Aqueous, ethanolic and chloroform extracts produced significant activity against

acute and chronic gastric ulcers in two rat models at doses of 200 and 400 mg/kg p.o. when

compared to the negative control gum acacia (2%, w/v). Sucralfate (250 mg/kg) served as the positive control. Aqueous, ethanolic and chloroform extracts were found to reduce ethanol-induced ulcers by up to 81, 94 and 88%, respectively, and cold-restraint stress-induced ulcers by up to 56%, 30% and 56%, respectively<sup>25</sup>.

Ethanolic leaf extract showed antiulcer activity in indomethacin-induced gastric ulcers in pylorus ligation rat models by reducing the ulcer index for all three doses (100, 200 and 400 mg/kg p.o.) tested<sup>26</sup>.

**Antidiabetic activity:** The ethanolic extract of leaves of *Lawsonia inermis* linn (400 mg/kg BW) in alloxan induced diabetic rats showed significant hypoglycaemic activity after oral administration<sup>27</sup>. Ethanolic extract of *Lawsonia inermis* (500 mg/kg body weight) significantly decreased level of blood glucose in streptozotocin induced diabetic rats<sup>28</sup>.

Ethanol (70 %) extract of *L. inermis* showed significant hypoglycemic and hypolipidemic activities in alloxan induced diabetic mice after oral administration. The feeding of 0.8 g/kg of *L. inermis* extract decreased the concentration of glucose, cholesterol and triglycerides to normal. Methanol (95 %) extract of leaves of *L. inermis* showed significant *in-vitro* antihyperglycemic effect<sup>29</sup>.

**Antibacterial activity:** The agar diffusion and minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) assays were used to assess the antibacterial activity of aqueous and methanol extracts of Yemeni henna (*Lawsonia inermis*) leaves against three different bacterial species: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Alkaloids, quinones, glycosides, tannins, and saponins were identified in the preliminary phytochemical screening. The methanolic extract showed promise as an antibacterial agent, outperforming the aqueous extract against

every single type of bacteria.

At an inhibition zone of about ( $27 \pm 1$  mm), the methanolic extract showed the highest activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, whereas the aqueous extract showed the lowest activity against *Escherichia coli* at an inhibition zone of about ( $8.6 \pm 1.2$ ). at a concentration of 2.5 mg/ml for all of the currently available extracts *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* at a concentration of 10 milligrams per milliliter each

30. Using the Agar well diffusion technique, researchers examined the antibacterial properties of an ethanolic extract of *Lawsonia inermis* leaves. *A. niger*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Streptococcus* sp., and *Staphylococcus aureus* were all seen to have their growth patterns inhibited by it (31).

The antibacterial activity of an ethanolic extract of the *Lawsonia inermis* plant was tested against many dangerous pathogenic microbes. Its antibacterial properties were discovered to be effective against both gram-positive (*Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus fusiformis*, *Streptococcus faecalis*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Streptococcus pneumonia*, *Staphylococcus aureus*) and gram-negative (*Salmonella typhi*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Shigella flexneri*, *Vibrio cholera*, *Enterobacter aerogenes*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*) bacteria 32.

The antimicrobial potential of both the dried leaves (HL) and processed powder (HP) of commercially available henna was tested against various microorganisms. The results showed that *Bacillus subtilis* (ATCC6633) was the most sensitive to the extracts from both the HL and HP, with MBC values of approximately  $165.8 \pm 3.7$  µg/ml (HP) and  $454.3 \pm 42$  µg/ml (HL). Other antioxidant and phytotoxic properties of the two types of henna were also examined.33.

Microorganisms (Gram positive; *B. subtilis*, *S. aureus*, and *S. epidermidis*; Gram negative; *E.*

*coli*, *S. flexneri*, and *P. aeruginosa* bacteria) are inhibited in a dose-dependent manner by methanolic leaf extracts of *Lawsonia inermis* Linn. *Lawsonia inermis* extracts in water, ethanol, methanol, ethyl acetate, and chloroform have antibacterial action because the plant's leaves contain flavonoids and glycosides, two of its most prominent elements. The *Lawsonia* leaves were examined for their ability to withstand various bacterial strains, including reference strains such as *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Vibrio cholerae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, and clinical isolates from *Staphylococcus aureus* and Amp C  $\beta$ -lactamases producing *Proteus mirabilis*. The bacterial pathogens studied were significantly inhibited by the solvent extracts of *L. inermis* leaves. Gram positive species showed extracts with minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentrations (MBC) ranging from 34 to 64 µg and 39 to 74 µg, respectively. Gram negative bacteria had MICs and MBCs ranging from 46-71 µg and 51-75 µg, respectively, in the extracts. Resistant to routinely prescribed antibiotics used to treat infections caused by uropathogens, the development of clinically significant AmpC  $\beta$ -lactamases generating *Proteus mirabilis* might be inhibited by the plant material. 35.

Notable antibacterial activity against gram positive and gram negative bacterial strains were shown by *Lawsonia inermis*. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) for several bacterial strains varied between 2.31 and 9.27 mg/ml. After 6 hours of medication treatment at 1x MIC of each bacterial isolate, there was a 3log10 drop in CFU, and after 24 hours of exposure, practically all examined bacteria showed no growth 36.

Antimicrobial activity against gram positive and gram negative bacteria was tested in ethanol extracts of twenty plant species used by traditional healers in Yemen to treat infectious disorders. Of all the bacteria tested, the one from *L. inermis* that showed the strongest

activity against them was the one extracted with ethyl acetate 37,38.

Henna samples collected from several parts of Oman showed antibacterial effectiveness against many bacterial strains, the most potent of which were *P. aeruginosa* organisms. 39.

With the exception of the aqueous extract, which had the least impact on the majority of the tested bacterial samples, the extracts of henna leaves demonstrated significant antimicrobial activity against nearly all of the microorganisms. Using the agar-disc diffusion method, the in-vitro antibacterial activities of various leaf fractions, ethanol extracts, and aqueous extracts were examined against a variety of bacteria, including *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Salmonella typhi*, and *Shigella dysenteriae*. Antibacterial activity against the 40 test isolates were shown by the aqueous extract, the fractions, and the fractionation residues.

*Lawsonia inermis* leaf crude extracts in water, methanol, and chloroform were bioassayed in vitro for their bioactivity to prevent the development of four species of bacteria and six human pathogenic fungi. Increasing the concentration of the extract suppressed the development of all pathogens to varied degrees. After methanol and chloroform, the aqueous extract had the highest level of activity. 41.

Using *S. aureus* (MTCC 087), *E. coli* (MTCC 729), *K. pneumoniae*, and the agar well diffusion technique, the antibacterial activity of methanolic extract of *L. inermis* was examined. It's possible that henna might help with wound infections. (332), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (1688), and *Pseudomonas mirabilis* (425). 42.

Using in-vitro agar incorporation and well diffusion procedures, the following primary invaders of burn wounds were treated with aqueous and chloroform extract taken from the leaves of *L. inermis*: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Candida albicans*,

*Fusarium oxysporum*, and *Aspergillus niger*. Except for *Candida albicans*, the extract inhibits the growth pattern of all microorganisms. Research has shown that henna has potential as a wound infection treatment. 1.

The antibacterial activity of crude extracts from dried henna leaves and seeds was tested against three reference strains. The most effective in-vitro antibacterial action was shown by hennadry leaves, especially against *Shigella sonnei*. 43. While 45 species from 29 plant families used in traditional Iranian medicine shown antibacterial activity against 11 bacterial species, henna showed a particularly high effect against *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. *L. inermis* was shown to be effective in treating bacterial infections 43.

The primary henna component was shown to be a modest bacterial mutagen for the *Salmonella typhimurium* strain TA98 and a more potent mutagenic agent for the strain TA2637, according to genotoxic investigations. According to the results, hydroxyl naphthaquinone does not pose any genotoxic danger to humans.

## CONCLUSION:

*In addition to its use as a food dye, Lawsonia inermis has a wide range of pharmacological effects and is thus a general herbal remedy. The many chemical components that provide this medicinal plant its many uses come from its one-of-a-kind source. Despite the long history of medical use of crude plant extracts, the development of contemporary pharmaceuticals is dependent on thorough research into their bioactivity, mechanism of action, pharmacotherapeutics, and toxicity, followed by appropriate standardization and clinical trials. The creation of contemporary pharmaceuticals from L. inermis should be prioritized for the management of different illnesses, since the worldwide scene is now shifting towards the use of non-toxic plant products with traditional therapeutic usage.*

*To further understand the hidden regions and*

*their potential therapeutic uses for the benefit of humanity, more research into L. inermis L. is required.*

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