

## PHARMACOGNOSTICAL AND PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF *CAYRATIAPEDA* VAR. *GLABRA*—A VITACEAE MEMBER

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**ABSTRACT:** To evaluate a meticulous pharmacognostic screen of *Cayratiapedata* (Lam.) Gagnep. var. *glabra* Gamble (Vitaceae), an important endemic and endangered medicinal plant in Thiashola, Manjoor. The study genus is used in the Siddha, Ayurveda and Folk medicine for treating diarrhoea, refrigerant, hysteria, astringent and ulcers. However, the detailed scientific information of *Cayratiapedata* var. *glabra* is not available to identify the plant material and to ascertain its quality and purity. The plant *C. pedata* var. *glabra* is an herbaceous, large, fragile climber grows up to a height of 8-12 m with nodes and internodes. In

present communication, morphology, anatomical and physico-chemical characters along with phytochemical screening and fluorescence analysis of powdered crude drug were carried out for systemic identification and authentication of aerial plant parts. This study provides referential information for identification and characterization of *C. pedata* var. *glabra* and its extracts.

**Keywords:** *Cayratiapedata* var. *glabra*, Pharmacognostical, Phytochemical, crude drug

**INTRODUCTION:** Substitution and adulteration are common problems in the Indian herbal pharmaceutical sector. Perfumery, pharmaceutical, and biopesticide raw material specifications have recently seen an uptick in local demand 1, 2. Because of the scarcity and/or high cost of prescriptions, it is common for genuine medications to be mixed up (intentionally or unintentionally) or replaced with comparable alternatives. Evidence from studies of crude narcotics suggests that a combination of macro and microscopic features is often useful for accurate drug identification. It is possible to use quantitative microscopy to identify a leaf medicine that is contaminated with a related species that is hardly distinguishable morphologically. Wide differences in quality parameters are seen in the phytopharmaceutical sector since no quality standards for the raw materials have been defined today. 3.

Beloved as kattuppirandai in Tamil, ainhilaikodi (5-pedata) in Hindi, godhapadi in Sanskrit, and veluttasorivalli in Malayalam, *Cayratiapedata* (Lam.) Gagnep. var. *glabra* Gamble belongs to the Vitaceae family and is a weak climber (Fig. 1). This species is known to scramble over trees and hedges in the Thiashola and Korakundah ranges. Most of the fourteen genera and nine hundred species that

make up the vitaceae family live in tropical areas of the neotropics, Asia, Africa, Australia, and the Pacific islands. 4.

Grapes, wine, and resins are the family's bread and butter. Uterine and other fluxes may be treated using the leaf decoction of the species under investigation. 5. Ear drops made of lukewarm leaf juice may be used to treat fungal infections. 6. The leaves have astringent, cooling, and ulcer-curing properties. 7. A paste made from the stems may help mend bone fractures. The whole plant has bitter and cooling properties, and it helps with hysteria, skin burning, and diarrhea.

Up until the 1990s, scientists considered the vast majority of plant chemicals to be innocuous byproducts. Different from the main metabolites, such as glucose and amino acids, which are necessary for the plant to operate, these waste products are known as secondary metabolites. It was only later that scientists discovered the myriad of roles played by these secondary metabolites. 8. Many different sectors, including the food, chemical, and pharmaceutical industries, make use of secondary metabolites. Extensive research on secondary metabolites as a potential source of therapeutic drugs has been conducted, despite their

previously unknown pharmacological activity. 9. Verification of authenticity, purity, and assay is necessary for quality assurance and standardization purposes.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of comprehensive scientific data on *Cayratia pedata* var. *glabra*. Therefore, we conduct its pharmacognostic assessment in this work to try to standardize *Cayratia pedata* var. *glabra*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS:

**Chemicals and instruments:** Formalin, acetic acid, ethyl alcohol, HCl, concentrated  $H_2SO_4$ , concentrated  $HNO_3$ , acetic acid and all other chemicals used in the study were of analytical grade.

**Plant material:** Aerial part of *Cayratia pedata* var. *glabra* were collected from Thiasola, Manjoor, Nilgiris South Division, Western Ghats before that we got proper permission from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai and the District Forest Officer, Ooty under Section 28(i) of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in the month of October. Since the study area is declared as reserve forest, the entry is restricted and direct impact of man on the forest is negligible. The voucher herbarium specimen was preserved by standard methods Jain and Rao, 1970<sup>10</sup>. The plant species is initially identified with the help of the existing local Floras<sup>11,12,13</sup> and the identity is authenticated by matched with type specimens available in the herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, TNAU Campus, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (No. BSI/SRC/5/23/2010-11/Tech. 1300). The type specimen was deposited for further reference in Vellalar College for Women, Erode.

**Macroscopic and microscopic analysis:** The macroscopic and microscopic studies of the plant were carried out according to the method of Johansen, 1940<sup>14</sup> and Wallis, 1985<sup>15</sup>. Fresh leaves, stem and tendrils were separated from the plant and thoroughly washed with running water to remove the adherent impurities. Some quantities of the leaves were air dried, powdered and stored in air-tight containers for powder analysis. Fresh leaves were used for free hand section

cutting and were fixed in FAA and dehydrated with TBA as per the schedule given by Sass, 1940<sup>16</sup>.

The paraffin embedded specimens were sectioned with the help of Rotary Microtome. Dewaxing

of these sections was done by customary procedure Johansen, 1940<sup>14</sup>. The sections were stained with Toluidine blue, Safranin and IKI-Lugol's iodine as per the method of O'Brien *et al.*, 1964<sup>17</sup>. After clearing the T.S various microscopical studies were carried out in the study plant. For studying the leaf constants like stomatal morphology and trichome distribution Jeffrey's maceration fluid Sass, 1940<sup>16</sup> were prepared. Different cell components were studied and measured. Photographs of different magnifications (40x and 100x) were taken with NIKON ALPHAPHOTO-2 microscopic unit. Descriptive terms of the anatomical features are taken from the standard anatomy book Esau, 1964<sup>18</sup>.

## Physico-

**chemical analysis:** Physicochemical values such as organoleptic characters of plant powder and the successive extracts, behaviour of plant powder with different chemical reagents, fluorescence analysis, moisture content and ash values were determined according to the official method<sup>19,20,21</sup> and the WHO guidelines on quality control methods for medicinal plant material<sup>22</sup>.

## Behaviour of powder with different chemical reagents:

The behaviour of powdered plant material treated with different chemical reagents such as concentrated HCl, concentrated  $H_2SO_4$ , concentrated  $HNO_3$  and acetic acid was observed<sup>20</sup>.

**Fluorescence analysis:** Fluorescence behaviour of the powdered plant material with different chemical reagents like 1N NaOH in  $H_2O$  and 1N NaOH in ethanol was observed under day light and UV light at 254 nm<sup>20</sup>.

**Determination of moisture content (Loss on drying):** The loss in weight and the percentage of loss on drying were calculated as per the method

of Anonymous<sup>21</sup>.

**Total ash:** The ash values were determined as per Trease and Evans<sup>19</sup>. The ash values are helpful in determining the quality and purity of the plant sample.

**Extractive values (Solubility percentage):** Extractive values were determined following the procedure of Trease and Evans<sup>19</sup>.

**Successive solvent extraction:** The air dried, powdered plant material was extracted in Soxhlet apparatus successively with different solvents in the increasing order of polarity [Acetone (56.5°C), Ethanol (78.5°C) and Water (99.98°C)]. Each time, before extracting with the next solvent, the powdered material was dried in a hot air oven at 40°C. Finally, the material was macerated using hot water with occasional stirring for 16 hrs and the water extract was filtered. The different solvent extracts were concentrated, vacuum dried and weighed. The percentage yields were expressed in terms of air dried sample. The extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, stored in sealed vials in refrigerator (5-8°C) until analysis<sup>21</sup>.

**Preliminary phytochemical screening:** Phytochemical screening of different successive solvent extracts was carried out using the standard procedure described by Kokate<sup>23</sup>.

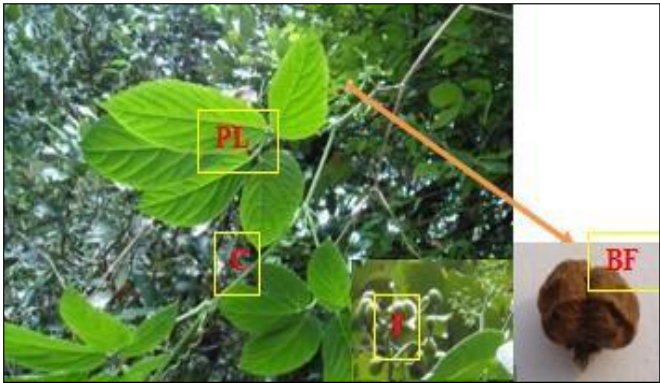
**Quantitative phytochemical studies:** **Determination of total phenolics and tannins:** Determination of total phenolics and tannins were determined following the procedure of Siddhuraju and Becker<sup>24</sup>.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:** Standardization is an essential measure of quality, purity and authenticity. Microscopic method is one of the simplest and cheapest methods to start with establishing the correct identification of the source materials Kokoshi<sup>20</sup>. Formerly there is no pharmacognostic work was recorded on this medicinally potent plant, the present work was undertaken to lay down the standards which could be useful for establishing its authenticity. Microscopic examination of fresh leaf and leaf powder is one

of the identifying parameters to substantiate and authenticate the drug. Botanical detection of a phyto drug involves two steps.

One is identification of the plant by its floral characters and the other is diagnosis of the plant with its microscopic characters. The latter procedure is useful for identification of fragmentary plant specimens. Early plant morphologist Robert Hook<sup>25</sup> clearly demonstrated that each kind of plant has its own distinctive structure by means of which it can be recognized.

**Macroscopic characteristics:** The macroscopic characters of fresh aerial plant parts of *C. pedata* var. *glabra* are presented in **Table 1**. The plant *C. pedata* var. *glabra* is a herbaceous, large, fragile climber grows up to a height of 8-12 m with nodes and internodes. Terminal buds of plants develop into tendrils. The present morphological investigations revealed that the stem is hirsute and grows up to a height of 12 m. The leaves are alternate, pedately lobed, lobes oblong and acuminate with smooth surface and texture. The size is 3 to 6 cm. The stem and leaves showed characteristic odour and bitter taste. Fruit shape is the important differentiable characterization among the other genus (**Fig. 1**). Several earlier workers have described morphological features as one of the effective parameters for the pharmacognostical identification of crude drugs<sup>26,27</sup>.



**FIG.1: CAYRATIA PEDATA (LAM.) GAGNEP. VAR. GLABRA IN ITS NATURAL HABIT**  
F: Fruit; PL: Pedate Leaf; C: Climber; BF: Bilobed Fruit

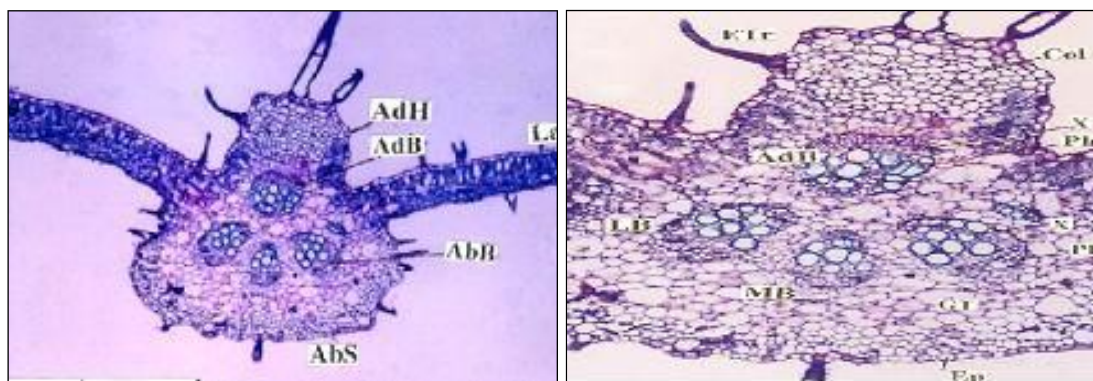
**TABLE 1: MACROSCOPIC ANALYSIS OF AERIAL PLANT PARTS OF C. PEDATA VAR. GLABRA**

S.no.	Macroscopic characters
1.	<b>Stem:</b> Hirsute Height: Up to 12 m in height Surface: Bearing distinct hairs Texture: Smooth Taste: Bitter Odour: Characteristic Colour: Dark green
2.	<b>Leaves:</b> Alternate, pedately 5 foliolate, 8 - 15 cm long Leaflets: Elliptic, oblong, apex acuminate, serrate Number of leaflets: 7-12 Size: 3-6 cm Surface: Quite glabrous except on the veins underneath Texture: Smooth Taste: Bitter Odour: Characteristic Colour: Dark green
3.	<b>Tendrils:</b> Leaf opposed, branched, wiry, coiled
4.	<b>Flowers:</b> At first yellow later white
5.	<b>Fruit:</b> Berry, bilobed

**Microscopic characteristics:**

Plant microtechnique is a branch of botanical science that deals with the internal structure and organization of plant organs. This microscopic structure studies are closely correlated with the function of an organ Asokan<sup>2</sup><sup>8</sup>. The present anatomical study provides a set of characters specific for *C. pedata* var. *glabra* with which one can establish the identity of the plant in fragmentary form. Free hand section of the leaf observed under the microscope revealed that the leaf has thick midrib and lateral veins and thin dorsiventral lamina. The midrib is characteristic in having thick (1.15 mm), flat and wide adaxial (500 µm in horizontal plane and 350 µm in height) hump and thick and wide

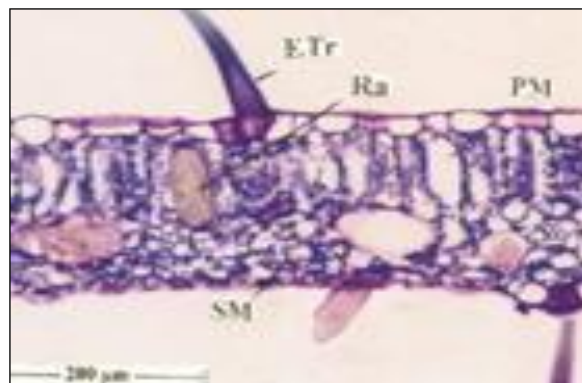
semicircular abaxial part (1.2 mm wide) (**Fig. 2**).



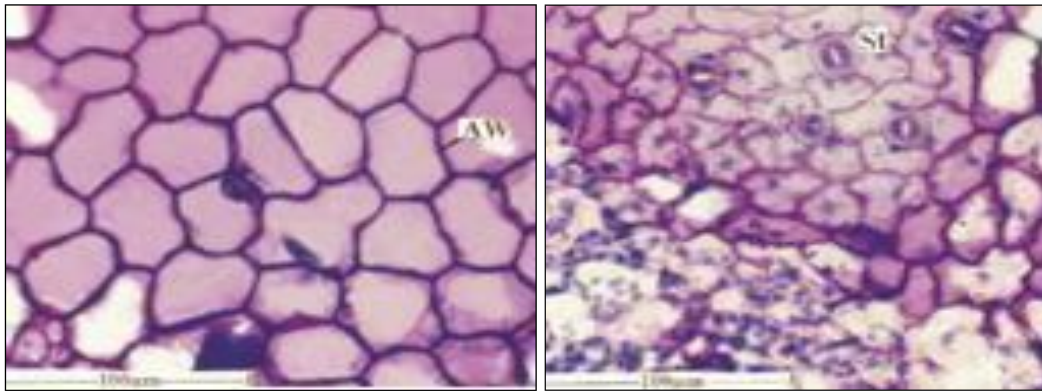
**FIG.2:T.S.OFLEAFTHROUGHMIDRIBENLARGEDSECTION**  
**AbS:** Abaxial Side; **AbB:** Abaxial Bundle; **La:** Lamina; **AdB:** Adaxial Bundle; **AdH:** Adaxial Hump; **LB:** Lateral Bundle; **MB:** Middle Bundle; **X:** Xylem; **Ph:** Phloem; **GT:** Ground Tissue; **Ep:** Epidermis; **ETr:** Epidermal Trichome; **Col:** Collenchyma

In lamina portion calcium oxalate crystals of raphide type are fairly abundant in the palisade zone; the

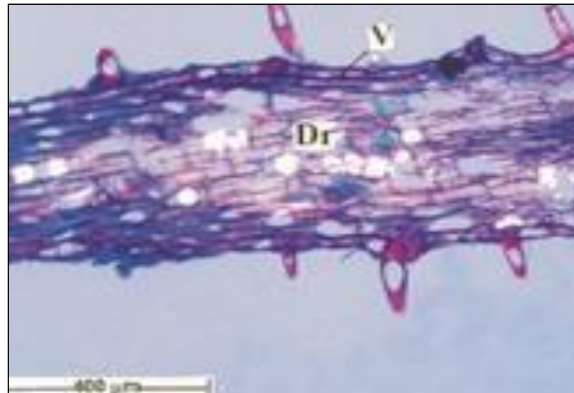
raphide bundles are vertical in position, parallel to the palisade cells (**Fig. 3**). The adaxial epidermal cells are wide, angular and thick walled with slightly wavy anticlinal walls. The adaxial layer is apostomatic (**Fig. 4**). The abaxial epidermis has smaller cells with thin walls and is more wavy. The stomata are anomicytic, having no specific subsidiary cells. The guard cells are circular measuring 15-20  $\mu$ m in diameter. The stomatal pore is distinct and elliptic (**Fig. 4**). Calcium oxalate crystals are abundant in the mesophyll, veins and trichomes. Druses or sphaero-crystals are seen in vertical rows within the veins. On the surface of the epidermal trichomes are seen as minute prismatic crystals in dense masses. Raphides are thick cylindrical bundles of several needle shaped crystals aggregated together (**Fig. 5**). This is in corroboration with the work of Sutapa Choudry<sup>29</sup>.



**FIG.3:T.S.OFLAMINA**  
**ETr:** Epidermal Trichome; **Ra:** Raphide; **PM:** Palisade Mesophyll; **SM:** Spongy Mesophyll



**FIG.4:SECTION OF THE ADAXIAL AND ABAXIAL EPIDERMIS**  
AW:Anticlinal Walls;St:Stomata; EC:Epidermal Cells



**FIG.5:LONGITUDINAL SECTION OF A VEIN OF THE LEAF SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CALCIUM OXALATE DRUSES**  
Dr:Druses;V:Vein

**Powder characteristic:** The organoleptic evaluation of the aerial plant powder revealed the following characteristics. The plant powder showed characteristic odour and bitter taste. Upon drying and powdering the colour of the powder changed from dark green to greenish black as shown in **Table 2**. The organoleptic characters such as colour, consistency and odour were noted in the successive aerial plant extracts of *C. pedata* var. *glabra* (**Table 3**).

**TABLE 2: ORGANOLEPTIC CHARACTERS OF AERIAL PLANT POWDER OF *C. PEDATA* VAR. *GLABRA***

S.no.	Characters	Observations
1.	Colour	Greenish black
2.	Texture	Fine smooth powder
3.	Taste	Bitter
4.	Odour	Characteristic smell

**TABLE 3: ORGANOLEPTIC CHARACTERS OF AERIAL PLANTS SUCCESSIVE EXTRACTS OF *C. PEDATA* VAR. *GLABRA***

S.no.	Extraction Medium	Colour	Consistency	Odour
1.	Acetone	Yellowish green	Semisolid	Characteristic smell
2.	Ethanol	Brownish black	Semisolid	Characteristic smell
3.	Water	Brownish black	Solid	Characteristic smell

**Powder treated with different chemical reagents:** The behaviour of aerial plant powder with various reagents were observed and presented in **Table 4**. Slight difference (pale green to dark green) was noted in the powder as such and treated with concentrated HCl when compared to other reagents used.

**TABLE 4: BEHAVIOUR OF AERIAL PLANT POWDER WITH DIFFERENT CHEMICAL REAGENTS**

S.no.	Powder + Reagents used	Colour of the powder
1	Powder as such	Pale green
2	Powder + Concentrated HCl	Dark green
3	Powder + Concentrated H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Greenish brown
4	Powder + Concentrated HNO <sub>3</sub>	Wood brown
5	Powder + Acetic acid	Greenish yellow

**Fluorescence analysis:** Fluorescence analysis of plant powder as such showed pale green to dark green in visible and UV light. Powder treated with NaOH in water and NaOH in ethanol showed slight colour differences like pale greenish yellow to yellowish green to light green. There is no distinct colour differences was seen in visible and UV light (**Table 5**).

**TABLE 5: FLUORESCENCE BEHAVIOUR OF AERIAL PLANT POWDER OF *C. PEDATA* VAR. *GLABRA***

S.no.	Reagents	Behaviour of powder	
		Visible light	UV light
1.	Powder as such	Pale green	Dark green
2.	Powder + 1N NaOH in water	Pale greenish yellow	Yellowish green
3.	Powder + 1N NaOH in ethanol	Yellowish green	Greenish yellow



**Ash values and extractive values:** The results of ash values determination indicate that the sample contained 67.32% moisture. The total ash content of the sample was 5.40%. The percentage of extractive value was maximum in ethanol extract (15%) followed by acetone extract (7.50%) respectively.

The extractive values are primarily useful for the determination of the exhausted or adulterated drug (**Table 6**).

**TABLE 6: PHYSICO-CHEMICAL AND EXTRACTIVE VALUES OF AERIAL PLANT POWDER OF *C. PEDATA* VAR. *GLABRA***

S.no.	Physico-chemical properties	Values in percentage
1	Moisture content (Loss on drying)	67.32
2	Total ash	05.40
3	<b>Extractive values</b>	
	a. Acetone	07.50
	b. Ethanol	15.00

### Preliminary phytochemical screening:

A compound or a group of compounds present can serve as a "Biomarker" and the presence and concentration of the same can be followed to decide on the genuineness of the drug/formulation<sup>24</sup>.

To investigate the chemical constituents of plant powder of *C. pedata* var. *glabra*, the successive solvent extracts were subjected to qualitative phytochemical screening. The preliminary phytochemical screening revealed the presence of carbohydrates, proteins, amino acids, alkaloids, anthroquinones, flavonoids, glycosides, phenols and tannins, steroids and sterols, triterpenoids and volatile oil. The acetone extraction was more eff

icient than ethanol and water extracts (**Table 7**). All extracts showed negative response for saponins. The results obtained from the preliminary phytochemical screening will reveal the useful findings about the chemical nature of the drug. In addition, total ash values, fluorescence analysis

and extractive values will be helpful in identification and authentication of the plant material<sup>30</sup>. The extractive values are useful to

evaluate

the chemical constituents of crude drug

**TABLE 7: QUALITATIVE PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING OF AERIAL PLANT POWDER EXTRACTS OF *C. PEDATA* VAR. *GLABRA***

S.no.	Chemical constituents	Chemical Tests	Acetone extract	Ethanol extract	Water extract
1	Carbohydrates	Molisch's test	-	-	+
		Barfoed's test	-	-	+
2	Proteins	Warming test	-	+	+
		Test with trichloroacetic acid	-	+	+
3		Biuret test	-	+	+
4	Amino acids	Millon's test	-	+	+
		Ninhydrin test	-	+	+
5	Alkaloids	Dragendorff's reagent	+	-	-
		Mayer's reagent	+	-	-
		Wagner's reagent	+	-	-
6	Anthroquinones	Borntrager's test	+	-	-
7	Flavonoids	Alkaline reagent test	+	+	+
		Zinc hydrochloride test	+	+	+
8	Glycosides	Borntrager's test	+	+	+
9	Phenols and tannins	Ferric chloride test	+	+	+
10	Saponins	Foam test	-	-	-
11	Steroids and sterols	Salkowski test	+	-	-



		Sulfur test	+	-	-
12	Triterpenoids	Liebermann-Burchard test	+	+	+
13	Volatile oil	Sudan test	+	-	-

**Note:** '+', '-' indicate the presence/absence of compounds

**Total phenolics and tannin content:** Phenolic compounds are common in plants and have multiple biological effects. Many of the polyphenols have been identified as anticancer<sup>31</sup> and cardioprotective<sup>32</sup>. Tannins are naturally occurring phenolic compounds which precipitate protein<sup>33</sup>. In the current study, the total phenolics and tannin content of different solvent extracts of

*C. pedata* var. *glabra* were studied and expressed as tannic acid equivalent. As shown in Table 8, the total phenolic content was maximum

in the ethanolic extract (131.7 ± 3.6 mg/g) followed by acetone extract (56.8 ± 0.8 mg/g). The minimum was recorded in water extract (54.1 ± 1.8 mg/g). When compared with other solvent extracts, ethanolic extract registered higher levels of tannin content (52.8 ± 12.9 mg/g) followed by acetone extract (24.1 ± 4.5 mg/g). The minimum was recorded in water extract (10.5 ± 3.2 mg/g). This is in agreement with the reports of Yen and Chen<sup>34,35</sup> who reported that ethanol is an effective solvent for extraction of antioxidants<sup>36</sup>.

**TABLE 8: ESTIMATION OF TOTAL PHENOLICS AND TANNIN CONTENT OF DIFFERENT SOLVENT EXTRACTS OF *C. PEDATA* VAR. *GLABRA* PLANT POWDER**

S.no.	Extraction Medium	Total phenolics (mg TAE/g extract) <sup>#</sup>	Tannin (mg TAE/g extract) <sup>#</sup>
1	Acetone	56.8 ± 0.8	24.1 ± 4.5
2	Ethanol	131.7 ± 3.6	52.8 ± 12.9
3	Water	54.1 ± 1.8	10.5 ± 3.2

<sup>#</sup>Values are means of three independent analysis ± Standard Deviation TAE-Tannic acid equivalent

**CONCLUSION:** In conclusion, detailed anatomical perspectives of the plant organs has been

unequally established that certain anatomical characters of plant organs sustain the environmental stress and remain little modified. Such features can be relied upon for diagnosis of the plant. The total summation of macroscopic features coupled

with microscopic parameters will furnish the protocol for clinical or pharmaceutical investigations. The present work was undertaken with a view to lay down standards which could be useful to detect

the authenticity of this medicinally useful plant.

Pharmacognostic evaluation can be useful to substantiate and authenticate the plant. On the basis of the results obtained in the present study, it is concluded that the ethanolic extract of *C. pedata* var. *glabra*, which contains large amount of phenolics and tannins, exhibit high antioxidant and free radical scavenging activities.

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