

Therapeutic Potency of *Ocimum Kilimandscharicum* Guerke - A Review

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Abstract: This review paper involves Ethnomedicinal, Phytochemical and Pharmacological survey of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke. a medicinal plant of genus *Ocimum* having immense therapeutic potential. *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke. a perennial evergreen shrub, native of East Africa have been used traditionally in Kenya against measles, abdominal pains, diarrhoea, particularly against mosquitoes (insect repellent), congested chest, cough and cold. In Indian system of medicine (Ayurveda) *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* (Kapur tuls) have been used as an antiinflammatory, indigestion, insecticidal, mosquito repellent, aromatic. In this review an attempt has been made to depict the tremendous usefulness of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* found in various regions of Asia, Africa, Central and Southern America. Various oxygenated monoterpenes have been reported in hydrodistilled essential oil of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke, which were determined using capillary Gas Chromatography (GC), Gas Chromatography-Mass Specrometry (GC-MS), Gas-Liquid Chromatography (GLC). Camphor has been reported as a chief essential oil component from *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke. Other important compounds found to be phenyl propane derivatives or terpenoids, including methyl eugenol, 1, 8-cineole, bornyl acetate, germacrene-D, E-myroxide, germacrene-B, caryophyllene oxide and p-cymene, 1,8-cineole, limonene, caryophyllene, camphene, 4-terpineol, α -terpinol, linalool which have been responsible for various pharmacological activities (insecticidal, mosquito repellent, antimicrobial, antioxidant, wound healing, antimelanoma, radioprotective). In such a way, this review makes us enable to explore more about the *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke. a therapeutic effective drug belonging to genus *Ocimum*.

Key words: *Ocimum* • Essential Oil • Insecticidal • Mosquito Repellent

INTRODUCTION

Ocimum Genus: The genus *Ocimum*, member of Lamiaceae family comprised of almost 200 species of herbs and shrubs [1] and is graded high among some of the astonishing herbs for having tremendous medicinal potentialities. There are large numbers of distinct species and varieties falls in this genus [2-4]. Genus *Ocimum* is widespread over Asia, Africa, Central and Southern America. The genus *Ocimum* is cultivated for its extraordinary essential oil which display many therapeutic usages such as in medicinal application, herbs, culinary, perfume for herbal toiletries, aromatherapy treatment and as flavouring agent. Due to the difficulties in identifying the species, it has concluded that identification can be optimized by combined analysis of morphological traits, essential oil composition and molecular markers as well as biological activity [3]. Leaf flavonoid glycoside (Luteolin

5-O-glucoside) considered as chemosystematic characters in *O. americanum*, *O. basilicum*, *O. gratissimum*, *O. Kilimandscharicum*, *O. lamiifolium*, *O. minimum*, *O. selloi*, *O. gratissimum*, *O. citriodorum*. Essential oils are ambrosial, highly concentrated essences of plants which are considered to illuminate the vitality of the plant [5-7]. Quality and quantity of essential oil afforded by aromatic plants rely on heterogeneous factors such as seasonal variation, method of harvest, leaf development stages, climate and soil type [7-10].

Therapeutic Efficacy of Genus *Ocimum*: Genus *Ocimum* major molecular markers comprised of β -bisabolene, methyl chavicol, 1, 8-cineole, eugenol, (E)- α -bisabolene, α -terpineol, linalool, (Z)-cinnamic acid methyl ester, camphor exerting wide range of therapeutic effects like antimicrobial, antispasmodic, bactericide, carminative, anthelmintic, hepatoprotective, antiviral, larvicidal,



Fig. 1: *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke.

antinociceptive, anti-fungal, antipyretic, phototoxic activity, antiaflatoxic, anti-diarrheic, α -amylase inhibitory etc. which have been shown in Table 1 [11-45, 61-75].

Plant Description: It is perennial evergreen shrub having oblong, ovate green coloured leaves (0.5-5 m), oppositely arranged having pubescent leaf surface, narrow at the base and deeply serrated. One seeded fruits are indehiscent type found in clusters, hermaphrodite flowers are found in clusters, tap roots are deep and soft wooded. The leaves accommodate aromatic oils, which represents the essence of the plant. The essential oil is extracted using distillation, expression or solvent extraction methods. The oil constitutes liquid oil and white solid crystals, where the pure crystals possess a characteristic odour and taste of natural Camphor [46-47].

Taxonomic classification of <i>Ocimum kilimandscharicum</i> Guerke [48]	
Kingdom	: Plantae
Subkingdom	: Tracheobionta
Division	: Magnoliophyta
Class	: Magnoliopsida
Subclass	: Asteridae
Order	: Lamiales
Family	: Lamiaceae
Genus	: <i>Ocimum</i> L.
Species	: <i>Kilimandscharicum</i> Guerke.
Vernacular Names	
English	: Camphor basil
Hindi	: Kapur tulsi
Ayurvedic	: Karpura tulasi
Common name	: Kilimanjaro basil, Camphor basil

Geographical Source: *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke. is native of East Africa (Kilimanjaro, Kenya) and was introduced and cultivated in India and some parts of Turkey. Cultivated in India (West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Dehradun, North India) [49-50].

Ethnomedicinal Uses: Traditionally, extracts of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke. were used to mitigate many disorders in East Africa comprising remedy of coughs, colds, measles, abdominal pains, diarrhoea, insect repellent, particularly against mosquitoes and storage pest control [51-52]. The essential oils obtained from this plant as repellent against nuisance biting insects and malaria vector have been practised in North-Eastern Tanzania for centuries [53]. *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* is an important aromatic medicinal plant in Kenyan communities as mentioned in Table 2 [54].

Karpura Tulasi in Ayurveda: Ayurvedic benefits of Kapura Tulsi well understood by this Sloka in Sanskrit

अजीर्ण शोथरू लघ्नां कर्णपिडादुराश्रिमार ।
 कार्पूरी तुलसी वन्दे विक्रान्तोऽहं शिवात्मना ॥

“For your (Kapura Tulsi) immense therapeutic potential (used in indigestion, as antiinflammatory, as analgesic (cure ears pain). I (Vikrant Arya) obligated you (Kapura Tulsi) for your courtesy to humanity”

In Indian system of medicine (Ayurveda) *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* (Kapur tulsi) have been used as an antiinflammatory, indigestion, insecticidal, mosquito repellent, aromatic [55].

Other Uses [50]: Whole plant of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* used as spasmolytic, antibacterial and the decamphorized oil obtained from leaves have been employed as insecticidal, mosquito repellent. *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* (Kapur tulsi) essential oil used in preparation of portable liquid disinfection. [56]

Chemistry of *Ocimum Kilimandscharicum* Guerke: The hydrodistilled essential oil of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke. (Northern India region) studied by capillary gas chromatography (GC) and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and have been reported to accommodate oxygenated monoterpenes (95.8%), represented by camphor (1) (64.9%), limonene (2) (8.7%), camphene (3) (6.4%) and (E)- β -ocimene (4) (3.0%) [57]. The essential oil of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke, growing wild in Rwanda region of Africa, investigated by LSC, GLC and GC-MS and its essential oil found to contain 62% 1,8-cineole (5), 16 oxygen-containing compounds and 14 monoterpene hydrocarbons including limonene (6) and β -pinene (7). [58-59] The essential oil of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke, grown in Indiana region of USA have been analyzed by GC and GC/MS and seventeen constituents have been identified in oil. The essential oil content varied

Table 1: Therapeutic efficacy of Genus Ocimum

Species	Common name	Pharmacological activity
<i>O. basilicum</i>	Common basil	Antiviral, larvicidal antinociceptive antimicrobial
<i>O. citriodorum</i>	Lemon basil	Antioxidant
<i>O. sanctum</i>	Holy basil	Antifungal, anticandidal, antioxidant, activity, lipid-lowering effect, antifungal, antiaflatoxicogenic, anthelmintic, hepatoprotective
<i>O. gratissimum</i>	African basil	Against convulsions, antimicrobial, phototoxic activity, cancer-fighting, anti-trypanosomal, anti-nociceptive, antifungal
<i>O. tenuiflorum</i>	Thai basil	Potent α -amylase inhibitory
<i>O. lamiiifolium</i>	Basil	Antiinflammatory
<i>O. suave</i>	Scented basil	Antipyretic
<i>O. canum</i>	Kali tulasi	Acaricidal activity
<i>O. americanum</i>	American basil	Antimicrobial
<i>O. suave</i>	Mtule basil	Antimicrobial
<i>O. kenyense</i>	Kenya basil	Insecticidal
<i>O. selloi</i>	Pepper Basil	Anti-diarrheic, antispasmodic and anti inflammatory
<i>O. micranthum</i>	Peru basil	Radical scavenging activity, antibacterial
<i>O. forskolei</i>	Basilikum	Mosquito repellent
<i>O. minimum</i>	Bush basil	Phytoremediatory effect
<i>O. campechianum</i>	Least basil	Antidiabetic
<i>O. Kilimandscharicum</i>	Camphor basil	Wound healing, insecticidal, mosquito repellent, acaricidal action, antimelanoma, radioprotective, antioxidant, antimicrobial, antibacterial

Table 2: Vernacular names and ethnomedicinal uses of Ocimum kilimandscharicum in Kenya

Kenya regions	Location	Vernacular names	Ethnomedicinal use
Meru	Central Kenya	Gethereti/Makori	The strongcamphorscented leaves treat congested chest, cough and cold, by sniffing crushed leaves or inhaling vapour of boiling leaves.
Luhya	Western Kenya	lisuranza/Mwonyi	
Marakwet	Eastern Kenya	Mbirirwa	Infusion is a cure for measles. It is also used to repel insects
Kikuyu	Central province of Kenya	Mutei	

Table 3: Pharmacology of Ocimum kilimandscharicum [66-73,65,74-75]

Extract/Plants	Secondary metabolite	Biological activity	In vivo/ in vitro screening model	Result of study
<i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> (aqueous extract)	Essential oil	Wound healing	Excision, incision and dead space	Significant increase in skin breaking strength, granuloma breaking strength, wound contraction, dry granuloma weight and decreased in epithelisation period was observed in animals of both the treated groups compared to control
<i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> , <i>O. kenyense</i> combined leaf extract	Essential oil	Insecticidal	Lethal toxicity determination against <i>Sitophilus zeamais</i> and <i>Rhizopertha dominica</i>	Essential oil of <i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> was found to be largely responsible for the toxic action against <i>R. dominica</i> , the results with the other treatments indicated that the toxic action of the essential oils were due to the combined effects of different components, either with or without significant individual toxic action of their own against the insects
<i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> leaf extract	Camphor, 1, 8-cineole limonene caryophyllene camphene-4- terpineol, α -terpinol linalool	Mosquito repellent	Experimental huts and selected local houses against <i>Anopheles gambiae</i>	<i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> , revealed significant protective effect by reducing both the indoor resting mosquitoes and inhibiting mosquito blood- feeding
Combined plants <i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> , <i>O. suave</i> , <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> , <i>Azadirachta indica</i> , <i>Tagetes minuta</i> , <i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>	Essential oil	Mosquito repellent	Experimental huts under semi-field conditions inside a screen-walled greenhouse against <i>Anopheles gambiae</i>	<i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> , <i>O. suave</i> , <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> , <i>Azadirachta indica</i> , <i>Tagetes minuta</i> , <i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> did not significantly repel mosquitoes for all treatments

Table 2: Continue

Kenya regions	Location	Vernacular names	Ethnomedicinal use	
Combined plants <i>O. suave</i> , <i>O.kilimandscharicum</i> materials and their essential oils	Essential oil	Mosquito repellent	Experimental huts and selected by burning of <i>Ocimum</i> and other plants	The protective effect of essential oils from <i>Ocimum</i> plants were compared with N, N- diethyl-3- methylbenzamide (DEET), a standard synthetic repellent. Study shows the potential of <i>O. suave</i> , <i>O.kilimandscharicum</i> crude extracts for use in protecting against human biting while the burning of plants reduces significantly the indoor resting mosquitoes
Combined plants <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> , leaves and seeds of <i>O.kilimandscharicum</i> , <i>O. suave</i> , <i>C.citriodora</i>	Essential oil	Mosquito repellent	Modified traditional stoves	All plant species showed significant repellency against <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> with the highest repellency by <i>C. citriodora</i> followed by an equal level of repellency of <i>O.kilimandscharicum</i> and <i>O. suave</i> during application of plant material by thermal expulsion. All three plant species also showed a residual effect against <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> with 36-44% repellency after a period of thermal expulsion
Hydro-distilled extracts of <i>Artemisia</i> <i>annua</i> , <i>A.vulgaris</i> , <i>O.kilimandscharicum</i> , oil seeds of <i>Pongamia glabra</i> <i>kilimandscharicum</i> exhibited	Essential oil	Acaricidal action <i>Boophilus microplus</i>	In vitro efficacy against	Hydro-distilled extracts of three medicinal plants <i>Artemisia annua</i> , <i>A. vulgaris</i> and <i>O.</i> <i>kilimandscharicum</i> and oil seeds of <i>Pongamia</i> <i>glabra</i> were tested for their in vitro efficacy against <i>Boophilus microplus</i> . <i>O.</i> highest efficacy (98.34%) followed by <i>P.</i> <i>glabra</i> (96.67%), <i>A. annua</i> (95.00%) and <i>A.</i> <i>vulgaris</i> (93.34%)
50% alcoholic aqueous leaf extract <i>O. sanctum</i> , <i>O.canum</i> <i>gratissimum</i> <i>O. basilicum</i> , <i>O.kilimandscharicum</i>	Essential oil	Antimelanoma, radioprotective	Determined on the basis of tumor volume, body weight and survival rate of animals. Chromosomal aberration assay	The 50% alcoholic aqueous extract of different species of <i>Ocimum</i> administered orally reduction in tumor volume, increase in <i>O.</i> average body weight and survival rate of mice. The various extracts showed modulatory influence against lethal irradiation doses of gamma radiation in terms of radiation-induced chromosomal damage, while at the same time induced an increase in reduced glutathione level and GST activity
<i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> leaf extract 4- terpineol,	Flavonoid, camphor, limonene, camphene, β - ocimene,	Antioxidant	TBARS assay (in vitro), Enzymatic antioxidant estimation (in vivo)	Free radical scavenging capacity antioxidant potential of <i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> cultivars were proved in vivo, using the TBARS assay. In liver and muscle assay systems of ovarian models results suggested that UV-B doses have modulated the antioxidative machinery of <i>Ocimum</i> plants. Differences in responses were closely related to the differences in the activities of antioxidants and overall growth responses
Aerial parts of <i>O. basilicum</i> , <i>O. kilimandscharicum</i> , <i>O. gratissimum</i>	Methyl chevicol, linalool, methyl eugenol and methyl cinnamate	Antimicrobial	Broth Dilution method	The essential oil of <i>Ocimum</i> species were tested against standard bacterial strains <i>S.</i> <i>aureus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> and the yeast <i>Candida albicans</i> . Among the three oil samples, <i>O.gratissimum</i> oil was found to be more active against all tested micro-organisms, especially against <i>C.</i> <i>albicans</i> and Gram +ve bacteria. The oil of <i>O. basilicum</i> showed best MIC against <i>C.albicans</i> , whereas oil of <i>O.</i> <i>kilimandscharicum</i> did not show any remarkable activity against all tested micro- organisms

Table 2: Continue

Kenya regions	Location	Vernacular names	Ethnomedicinal use	
Aerial parts of <i>O. americanum</i> , <i>O. basilicum</i> , <i>O. campechianum</i> , <i>O. citriodorum</i> , <i>O. kilimandscharicum</i>	Essential oil	Antibacterial	Filter paper disc agar diffusion technique	Preliminary screening of antibacterial activity was done against a number of common pathogens <i>E. faecalis</i> , <i>E. faecium</i> , <i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , <i>Listeria ivanovii</i> , <i>Proteus vulgaris</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>S. epidermis</i> . <i>E. coli</i> was inhibited by <i>O. asilicum</i> while <i>O. americanum</i> and <i>O. citriodorum</i> essential oil were the most effective against <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> , <i>Enterococcus faecium</i> , <i>P. vulgaris</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>S. epidermis</i> . Broad variation in the antibacterial properties of investigated essential oils was observed

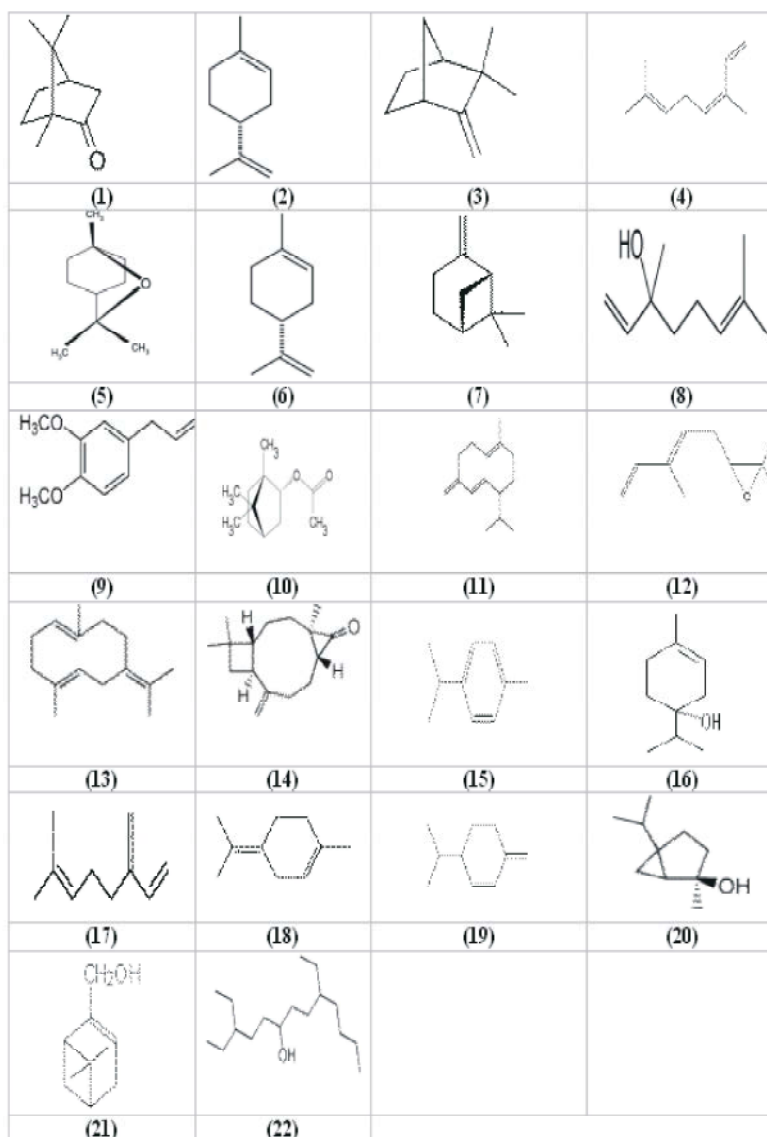


Fig. 2: Essential oil components of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke.

between the leaves (0.77-1.12% dry wt. basis) and the flowers (1.96-2.8% dry wt.). Oil composition was similar between the leaves and flowers with linalool (8) as the major constituent, leaves (41.94%), flowers (58.85%). Other major constituents included camphor, leaves (17.02%), flowers (15.82%) and 1, 8-cineole (5) leaves (10.18%), flowers (6.38).[60] Six samples of essential oils from four *Ocimum* species (*O. basilicum*, *O. kilimandscharicum*, *O. lamiifolium*, *O. suave*) in Tanzania (East Africa) were analyzed by GC and GC-MS. Eighty-one compounds, corresponding to 81.1-98.2% of the chemical components of the oils, have been identified. Major compounds were phenyl propane derivatives or terpenoids, including methyl eugenol (9), 1, 8-cineole (5), camphor (1), bornyl acetate (10), germacrene-D (11), E-myroxide (12), germacrene-B (13), caryophyllene oxide (14) and p-cymene (15). [61] Camphor (1) have also been reported as a chief essential oil component from *Ocimum kilimandscharicum*. [62-64] GC-MS analysis of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* oil from Uttarakhand region of India showed camphor as the major component (1) (56.07%). Besides camphor, DL- limonene (2) (13.56%), camphene (3) (7.32%), 4- terpineol (16) (3.50%), β - ocimene (4) (2.00%), linalool (8) (1.70%), β - myrcene (17) (1.58%) and α -terpinolene (18) (1.33%) have also been reported. L-phellandrene (19) was found in least concentration of about 0.26%. Other components includes sabinene hydrate (20), Myrtenol (21), Ethyl amyl carbinol (22). [65] Major essential oil components of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* have been shown in Figure 2.

Pharmacology of *Ocimum Kilimandscharicum* Guerke:

Various extracts of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke. have been evaluated for screening in-vitro/ in-vivo pharmacological models. Essential oil isolated from the leaf extract exhibited significant wound healing [66], insecticidal [67], mosquito repellent [68] effects. Furthermore, essential oils isolated from hydro-distilled extracts of *Artemisia annua*, *A. vulgaris*, *O. kilimandscharicum*, oil seeds of *Pongamia glabra* showed significant acaricidal action [72]. 50% alcoholic aqueous leaf extract *O. sanctum*, *O. canum* *O. gratissimum*, *O. basilicum*, *O. kilimandscharicum* exhibited antimelanoma and radioprotective activity [73]. Phenolics and essential oil from *O. kilimandscharicum* leaf extract exhibited antioxidant activity estimated by TBARS assay (in vitro) and enzymatic antioxidant estimation (in vivo) [65]. Methyl chevicol, linalool, methyl eugenol and methyl cinnamate isolated from aerial part of *O. basilicum*,

O. kilimandscharicum, *O. gratissimum* exerted antimicrobial activity evaluated by broth Dilution method [74]. *O. americanum*, *O. basilicum*, *O. campechianum*, *O. citriodorum*, *O. kilimandscharicum* leaf extract exerted antibacterial activity evaluated by filter paper disc agar diffusion technique [75]. Various pharmacological activities of *O. kilimandscharicum* Guerke. (Kapura Tuli) has been mentioned in Table 3.

CONCLUSION

The experimental research on *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke. convey a huge pharmacological potential of this plant. It is firmly considered that detailed enlightenment on this plant as displayed in this review on the ethnomedicinal, phytochemical, pharmacological might dispense detailed evidence for the use of this plant in diverse medicines.

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