

Research article

FREE RADICAL SCAVENGING ACTIVITY OF *TERMINALIA ARJUNA* LEAVES

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INTRODUCTION

Plants are the essential and integral part in Complementary and Alternative medicine and due to this they develop the ability for the formation of secondary metabolites like proteins, flavonoids, alkaloids, steroids and phenolic substances which are in turn used to restore health and heal many diseases. Thus the present investigation was aimed at evaluating the antioxidant activity of *Terminalia Arjuna* leaves (Badoni A.K. 2000).

ABSTRACT

Antioxidant activity of chloroform extract of *Terminalia arjuna* leaves was investigated for its free radical scavenging activity by determining the nitric oxide and superoxide radical scavenging activity. Maximum scavenging of nitric oxide and superoxide radical found were 27.71% and 48.55% respectively at 250 µg/ml concentration.

Terminalia arjuna belonging to the family Combretaceae is an herbaceous, The *Terminalia arjuna* is usually found growing on river banks or near dry river beds in West Bengal and south and central India.. Generally it is called as Arjuna Tree (Rana T. S. and Datt B 1997).

It is generally known for its medicinal properties. Seeds are used as astringent, nutritious, while the oil is used in the treatment of skin disease and rheumatism. Fruit are used in colic disorders; roots are used in leucorrhoea treatment. As a medicine, it is especially used for the complaints of the veins, such as phlebitis, haemorrhoids, varicose veins; in