

Identification of Naturally Occurring Antiviral Molecules for SARS-CoV-2 Mitigation

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Abstract:

Aim:

This study aimed to virtually screen the naturally occurring antiviral molecules for SARS-CoV-2 mitigation based on multiple molecular targets using docking and molecular dynamics simulations.

Background:

The coronavirus catastrophe (COVID-19) caused by a novel strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) has turned the world upside down at an unprecedented level and has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. It has resulted in a huge number of infections as well as fatalities due to severe lower respiratory tract sickness.

Objective:

The objective of this study was the identification of inhibitors against the crucial molecular targets linked with viral infection caused by SARS-CoV-2.

Materials and Methods:

In silico screening of twenty naturally occurring antiviral molecules was performed using the Autodock docking tool. Further, molecular dynamics (MD) simulations were performed on the most stable docked complex between cysteine-like protease or 3CL protease (3CLpro) and the best-identified inhibitor (bilobetin).

Results:

3CLpros is one of the very important molecular targets as it is involved in the replication process of the virus. In the present study, we have initially investigated the inhibitory potential of naturally occurring antiviral molecules against the activity of main viral protease (3CLpro) to put a halt to viral replication. The investigation had been carried out through docking of the molecules with 3CLpro. Based on the results, the three most potential molecules (bilobetin, ginkgetin and sciadopitysin) have been screened. Further, these molecules were subjected to checking their activity on other molecular targets like papain-like protease (PLpro), spike protein S1, RNA dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp), and Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptor. In addition to 3CLpro inhibition, ginkgetin was also predicted as an inhibitor of PLpro. However, none of these three compounds was found to be effective on the rest of the molecular targets. Molecular Dynamics (MD) simulations of the most stable docked complex between 3CLpro and its best inhibitor (bilobetin) confirmed notable conformational stability of the docked complex under a dynamic state.

Conclusion:

Bilobetin alone or a combination of bilobetin and ginkgetin may be used to impede viral replication. These observations are solely based on the results from blind docking with protein molecules and need to be further corroborated with experimental results.

Keywords: SARS-Cov-2, Cysteine like protease inhibition, Papain-like protease inhibition, Bilobetin, Ginkgetin, Sciadopitysin.

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S. No.	Compound	Structure	ChemSpider ID	Source	Reported Antiviral Activity Against
1.	Bilobetin	но он он он он он	4474758	Torreya nucifera	SARS-CoV [1]
2.	Ginkgetin		4436579	Torreya nucifera	SARS-CoV [1]
3.	Sciadopitysin		4445013	Torreya nucifera	SARS-CoV [1]
4.	Narasin		58911	Ionophores	Dengue virus (DENV-2) [2]
5.	Resveratrol	HO OH	392875	Blueberries, cranberries <i>etc</i> .	Respiratory syncytial virus [3]
6.	Esculetin	HOHO	4444764	Lactuca virosa	Porcine Circovirus Type 2 (PCV2) [4]

S. No.	Compound	Structure	ChemSpider ID	Source	Reported Antiviral Activity Against
7.	Esculin		4444765	Lactuca virosa	Porcine Circovirus Type 2 (PCV2) [4]
8.	(+)-Matrine		82591	Sophora flavescens and Sophora tonkinensis	Human Enterovirus 71 [5]
9.	Scutellarin		161366	Scutellaria barbata	Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus [6]
10.	Delphinidin	но от от он он он	114185	Blueberry	West Nile Virus, Zika Virus, and Dengue Virus [7]
11.	Cyanidin	HO OT OH OH OH	114193	Bilberry	H1N1 Influenza Virus [8]
12.	Pelargonidin	HO O ⁺ OH OH OH	389676	Solanum tuberosum	InfV A and B [9]

S. No.	Compound	Structure	ChemSpider ID	Source	Reported Antiviral Activity Against
13.	Harmine		444445	Peganum harmala	murine cytomegalovirus and Sindbis virus [10]
14.	Harmane		4444755	Symplocos setchuensis	HIV [11]
15.	Harmol	HO	10296888	Peganum harmala	Dengue Virus [12]
16.	Avarol	HO OH Marine OH	65156	Disidea avara	HIV [13]
17.	Avarone		65157	Disidea avara	HIV [13]
18.	Polyandrocarpidine B	N N HN HN NH ₂	10469701	Polyandrocarpa sp.	HSV [14]

S. No.	Compound	Structure	ChemSpider ID	Source	Reported Antiviral Activity Against
19.	Polyandrocarpidine D		10469702	Polyandrocarpa sp.	HSV [14]
20.	Halitunal		8513688	Halimeda tuna	murine coronavirus A59 [15]

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