

GC/GC-MS analysis and biological activities of *Lantana Camara* Linn.

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal plants have been a part of human history for thousands of years and are still used as healthcare throughout the world. The current research aims to explore the chemical constituents of the methanol soluble extract (LC-Me) and petroleum ether soluble fraction (LCM-PES) from the leaves of *Lantana camara* Linn by GC/ GC-MS. This chemical analysis revealed the existence of 16 and 23 phytoconstituents in LC-Me and LCM-PES respectively. The major constituents in LC-Me were found to beethyl 9,12,15-octadecatrienoate (31.9%), hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester (12.6%), n-hexadecanoic acid (11.1%), linoleic acid ethyl ester (9.1%), squalene (8.7%), di-n-octyl phthalate (6.2%), 9,12-octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)- (4.2%), (E)-9-octadecenoic acid ethyl ester (2.7%) and cyclopropanebutanoic acid, 2-[[2-[[2-[[2-pentylcyclopropyl)methyl]cyclopropyl]methyl]cyclopropyl]methyl]-, methyl ester (2.3%). The chief bioactive compounds in petroleum ether soluble fraction were found to be androst-8-en-3-ol, 4,4,14-trimethyl-17-(2-bromo-1-methylethyl) (57.9%), 14,17-nor-3,21-dioxo-β-amyirin, 17,18-didehydro-3-dehydroxy- (13.0%), barringtonol B (2.5%), olean-12-ene-3,16,21,22,28-pentol, 21-(2-methyl-2-butenate), [3β,16α,21β(Z),22α]- (1.7%), perhydrocyclopropa[e]azulene-4,5,6-triol, 1,1,4,6-tetramethyl (1.7%), ethyl iso-allocholate (1.6%) and 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid, diisooctyl ester (1.6%). Both the extract and its fraction have exhibited very significant antibacterial, antifungal, mosquito repellent and larvicidal properties originated by numerous bioactive metabolites. Twenty eight (20 Gram-positive and 8 Gram-negative) bacteria were tested against LC.Me and LCM-PES with noteworthy zone of inhibition. The significant in vitro antifungal activity was observed against fifteen fungi in LC-Me and LCM-PES. Very robust initial repellency was observed for LC-Me and LCM-PES (94% and 80% respectively) against the dengue-carrying mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) at 2% concentration. The extract and its fraction were also found to be an efficient larvicidal agent against fourth-stage larvae of *Aedes aegypti*. The effective larvicidal property was noted in methanol soluble extract as compared to petroleum ether soluble fraction and standard with LC50 value of 20 and 400 ppm respectively.

Keywords: *Lantana camara* Linn., medicinal plants, GC/GC-MS analysis, chemical composition, antibacterial, antifungal, dengue mosquito repellent, larvicidal activities.

INTRODUCTION

Lantana camara Linn. (Family: *Verbenaceae*) is classified as an intrusive weed, commencing from tropical America. Initially brought into various regions, notably in the Australian Pacific area, as a hedge or ornamental shrub. The plant is traditionally used in treating a wide array of ailments including rheumatism, eczema, anemia, bilious fever, leprosy, toothache, swellings, influenza, stomachache, ulcers, malaria, and tumors. Additionally, it acts as an antiseptic to promote wound healing. This plant species has been documented to contain numerous terpenoids, flavonoids, steroids, esters, hydrocarbons, tannins, saponins, glycosides, fatty acids and nitrogen containing compounds (Ahmed et al., 1972; Ashford et al., 2000; Ayub et al., 2017; Begum et al., 2000; Desjeus et al., 2001; Dua et al., 1996; Sharma et al., 1988; Ganjwala et al., 2009). *L. camara* exhibits an extensive range of biotic attributes including the nematocidal, CNS-depressant, analgesic, anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, insecticidal, anti-convulsant, hepatotoxic, antimalarial, anti-hyperglycemic and anti-hypertensive (Ghisalberti, 2000; Jaipal et al., 1983; Kalita et al., 2012; Kensa, 2011). The extracts from aerial parts of *L. camara* eventually proved to be immensely effective against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* thus revealing the anti-bacterial potential of this plant (Basu et al., 2005). These extracts effectively eradicated two multidrug-resistant strains of *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* as well as other bacterial strains including *Proteus vulgaris*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Vibrio cholera* (Pattnail et al., 2010).

The skin, nails, hair and subcutaneous tissues of humans and animals can be vulnerable to infection from various organisms, predominantly fungi known as dermatophytes. This fungal invasion leads to dermatophytosis (Marchisio, 1996; Tsang et al., 1996) which is primarily caused by three genera of molds, Epidermophyton, Trichophyton and Microsporum. (Chermette et al., 2018). Human dermatophyte infection due to rapidly growing geophilic distribution of *Microsporum gypseum* has increased in the last decade (Ritsuko et al., 2002). This fungus is mainly responsible for sporadic dermatophytosis (*Tinea capitis*, *Tinea incognita* and *Tinea corporis*) in humans. *Tinea corporis* caused by *M. gypseum* has also been reported in AIDS patients (Giudice et al., 2012). The plant is also found to be potent against numerous fungi responsible for dermatophytosis (Bokhari, 2009).

Dengue is a break-bone fever caused by viral infection from mosquitoes and it is commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions. The cure against break-bone fever (Dengue) is a matter of global concern as 5.2 million cases are reported to WHO in 2019 (Bhatt et al., 2019). Extracts from *Lantana camara* Linn. have also demonstrated very significant efficacy against dengue-carrying mosquito *Aedes* mosquitoes (Bhuvaneshwari et al., 2022).

The intriguing pharmaceutical outcomes mentioned earlier have directed our focus to obtain comparative substantial data on methanol soluble extract and petroleum ether soluble fraction of *Lantana camara* by GC/GC-MS analysis. The current research comprehensively explores not only the composition of phytoconstituents in methanol and petroleum ether soluble parts but also provide significant results of the antibacterial, antifungal, mosquito repellent and larvicidal activities of *L. camara*.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Sample Collection

The collection of leaves of *Lantana camara* were achieved in the Karachi region and verified by a Senior Taxonomist (Mr. Abdul Ghafoor), is deposited in University of Karachi. (Department of Botany). A voucher specimen (No. 63482 KUH) was also recorded in the Herbarium for future reference.

2.2 Extraction

The air-dried leaves of *Lantana camara*, were crushed and impelled to repetitive extraction at room temperature using MeOH. The resulting extract (LC-Me) was obtained after evaporating the solvent under reduced pressure. This extract underwent partitioning into ethyl acetate and aqueous phases. To separate the neutral from the acidic fraction in the ethyl acetate phase, an aqueous solution of Na_2CO_3 (4%) was employed. The neutral fraction in the EtOAc layer was then treated with water. The moisture was removed by drying (Na_2SO_4) and passed over activated charcoal. EtOAc and MeOH were used to wash the charcoal bed. These fractions were mixed on TLC based results. After eliminating the solvent from charcoal filtrate and washings, the residual substance was separated into petroleum ether insoluble portion and the petroleum ether soluble portion (LCM-PES).

3. BIOLOGICAL ASSAY

3.1 Screening of Antibacterial Activity

Disc diffusion method (Bauer et al., 1966) was employed for assessing antibacterial activity. Stock solutions of 100 mg/mL (LC-Me) and 50 mg/mL (LCM-PES) were prepared in DMSO. Antiseptic strainer discs, laden with 10 μL of the respective stock solutions, were utilized for screening. Iso Sensitest agar plates (Oxoid) were inoculated with a culture aged 24 hours ($1-2 \times 10^8$ CFU/mL) cultivated in Mueller Hinton broth (Oxoid). Placed on various positions on the agar surfaces, the prepared discs were incubated at 37°C for a day. The results were observed by measuring the region of inhibition in millimeters, with DMSO (negative control). Antibacterial activity of methanol (LC-Me) and petroleum ether soluble (LCM-PES) parts of *L. camara* was studied against twenty Gram-positive and eight Gram-negative bacteria.

3.2 Antifungal Activity

Additionally, the *in vitro* effectiveness of LC-Me and LCM-PES against a range of fungi was assessed, encompassing seven filamentous fungi (*Aspergillus terreus*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Penicillium sp.*, *Rhizopus sp.*, *Aspergillus niger*, ATCC *Rhizopus*, ATCC *Penicillium*), six dermatophytes (*T. mentagrophytes*, *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Microsporum canis*, *T. tonsurans*, *Fusarium sp.*, *M. gypseum*,) and two other fungi (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Candida albicans*).

To create a homogeneous suspension of fungal culture, a slight volume of culture was transferred to 2-3 mL of purified water or normal saline in a screw-capped tube, along with a small assortment of glass beads (diameter of 1 mm), then vortexed for 5-10 minutes. Along with this suspension, Sabouraud dextrose agar (SDA) plates were immunized and sterilised filter discs full with concentrations of 1000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{disc}$ of LC-Me or 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{disc}$ of LCM-PES were positioned on the surfaces by following disc-diffusion protocol (Bauer et al., 1966). Incubation occurred for one week at room temperature and results were examined based on the zones of inhibition measured in millimeters.

3.3 Screening of Mosquito Repellent Activity

Female pupae of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito were obtained and confined within an isolated cage measuring 30×24×24 inches. Upon reaching adulthood, these mosquitoes were manually hand-fed for their initial blood meal. Due to their developmental progression from the larval phase to the pupal stage before adulthood, these mature female mosquitoes were found free of the dengue virus. Additionally, they were confined within the enclosure to prevent contact with any dengue-infected individuals. Following a three-day period, samples were individually tested on separate days.

To conduct the test, the substance (LC-Me and LCM-PES) in an amount equivalent to 10 drops were applied to the palm, then gently spread on the uncovered part of the right hand, covering an area of 3×3 inches. The hand was inserted into the mosquito enclosure, and the number of visits and bites by mosquitoes was tallied over a 5-minute period. Mosquitoes that refrained from biting and returned due to the scent of the sample were categorized as repelled mosquitoes. Those that bit and fed on blood were recorded as biting mosquitoes.

Initial observation was considered the zero-time (zero hour) reading, without washing the hand, the same hand was revived into the cage precisely after 0.5 hours, repeating the observation. Following the same procedure, subsequent observations were made at intervals of 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, and 2.5 hours. Each sample underwent testing on separate days while the mosquitoes were sustained with a 5% sugar solution to support those that did not feed on blood (Tariq & Qadri, 2001).

The resulting data was tabulated and analyzed using specific formulas for evaluation.

$$\text{Average biting\%} = \frac{\text{Total no. of biting in 5 mins}}{\text{Total no. of visits in 5 mins}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Repellency\%} = \text{Control biting (100\%)} - \text{Average biting\% (in 5 minutes)}$$

Repellency demonstrated an inverse relationship with biting behaviour. The outcomes were contrasted with Mospel, a commercially available product found in the local market, which contains 20% DEET.

3.4 Screening of Larvicidal Activity

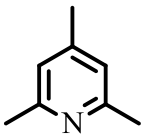
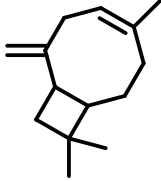
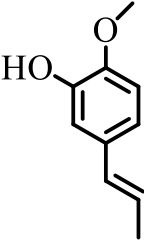
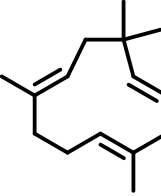
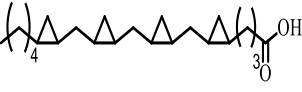
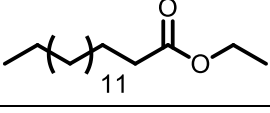
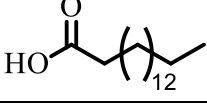
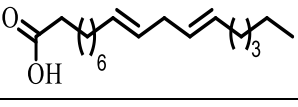

Ten larvae (4th instar) of *A. aegypti* (comprising 10 females and 10 males), all of identical size and age, were introduced into 250 mL (beakers) employing the WHO technique (WHO Expert Committee on Insecticides & World Health Organization, 1973). The larvae underwent exposure to varying concentrations of both samples and the standard (biosal). For each sample, duplicates of seven beakers were prepared, 5 for distinct doses, 1 for the negative control (methanol) and another for the control (water). For the standard (biosal), 6 beakers were arranged, 5 allocated for 5 different doses and 1 for the control (water). However, the 7th beaker (designated for the negative control) was omitted as biosal had been diluted in distilled water. The Mortality was recorded after twenty-four hours, and this experiment was replicated five times. Larvae showing signs of near-death were considered as deceased. The gathered data underwent statistical analysis using Abbot's formula (Abbott, 1925).

Mean values were computed and mortality curves were plotted on logarithmic graph paper to determine the LC₅₀. The doses were marked on the x-axis and the corresponding percentages of mortalities on the y-axis were plotted for each sample. Statistical analysis was performed on the data. The samples were contrasted with the biosal (Tariq & Qadri, 2002), a neem-based formulation with an LC₅₀ of 400 ppm against the identical dengue vector mosquito.

4. ANALYSIS OF LC-Me AND LCM-PES VIA GC/GC-MS

In this study LC-Me and LCM-PES underwent analysis using GC/GC-MS. Identification of compounds relied on retention time, fragmentation design, molecular formula and matching with reported data by using data search of NIST library. Below are the tables 1 and 2 of all the compounds which are identified.

Table 1. Compounds from the methanol soluble extract (LC-Me) of leaves (*L. camara*)

S.No	RI ^a	Retention Time ^b (min)	Percentage of compounds	Name of compound/molecular formula	Structure	Mass Fragmentation
1	1014	9.9	2.0	Pyridine, 2,4,6-trimethyl (C ₈ H ₁₁ N)		121, 106, 79, 77, 51, 42
2	1494	18.3	1.6	Caryophyllene (C ₁₅ H ₂₄)		204, 133, 105, 93, 69, 41
3	1410	18.8	1.9	Phenol, 2-methoxy-5-(1-propenyl)-, (E)- (C ₁₀ H ₁₂ O ₂)		164, 149, 137, 91, 77, 55
4	1579	19.1	0.6	α-Caryophyllene (C ₁₅ H ₂₄)		204, 189, 121, 93, 80, 69
5	2528	26.5	2.3	Cyclopropanebutanoic acid, 2-[[2-[[2-[(2-pentylcyclopropyl)methyl]cyclopropyl]methyl]cyclopropyl]methyl]-, methyl ester (C ₂₅ H ₄₂ O ₂)		270, 227, 87, 67, 55, 43
6	1978	27.5	12.6	Hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester (C ₁₈ H ₃₆ O ₂)		284, 101, 88, 69, 57, 43
7	1976	27.7	11.1	n-Hexadecanoic acid (C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂)		256, 213, 129, 61, 57, 41
8	2139	30.3	1.3	9,12-Octadecadienoyl chloride, (Z,Z)- (C ₁₈ H ₃₁ ClO)		294, 109, 95, 81, 67, 41
9	2183	30.8	1.7	9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, methyl ester, (Z,Z,Z)- (C ₁₉ H ₃₂ O ₂)		292, 121, 108, 95, 79, 67

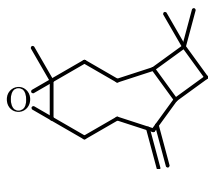
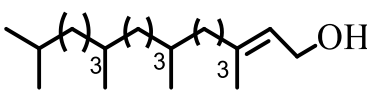
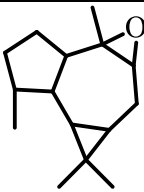
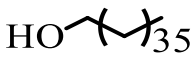
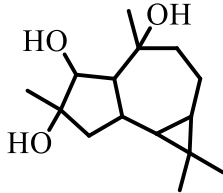
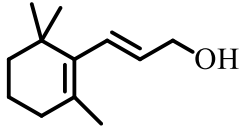
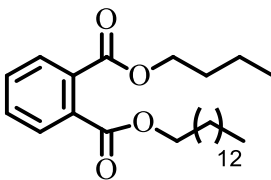
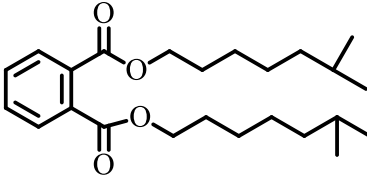
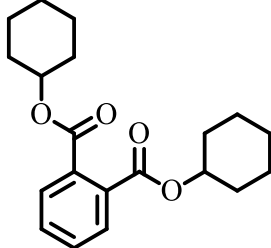
10	2185	31.7	4.2	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)- (C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂)		280, 109, 95, 81, 67, 55
11	2193	31.9	2.7	(E)-9-Octadecenoic acid ethyl ester (C ₂₀ H ₃₈ O ₂)		310, 264, 101, 88, 69, 55
12	2201	32.6	9.1	Linoleic acid ethyl ester (C ₂₀ H ₃₆ O ₂)		308, 109, 95, 81, 67, 55
13	2704	56.8	31.9	Ethyl 9,12,15-octadecatrienoate (C ₂₀ H ₃₄ O ₂)		306, 101, 108, 95, 79, 67
14	2914	60.7	2.3	1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, diisooctyl ester (C ₂₄ H ₃₈ O ₄)		279, 167, 149, 70, 57, 41
15	2183	69.6	6.2	Di-n-octyl phthalate (C ₂₄ H ₃₈ O ₄)		279, 167, 149, 70, 57, 41
16	3942	74.4	8.7	Squalene (C ₃₀ H ₅₀)		218, 137, 121, 95, 81, 69

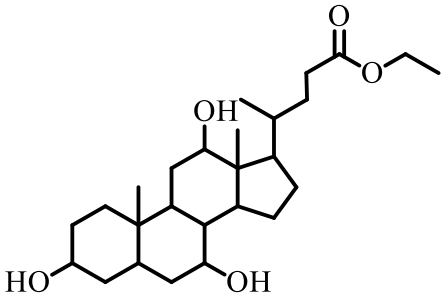
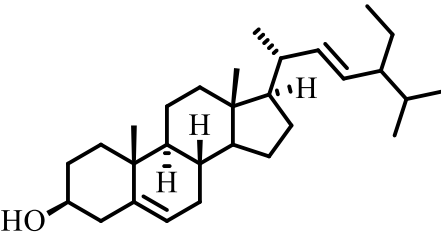
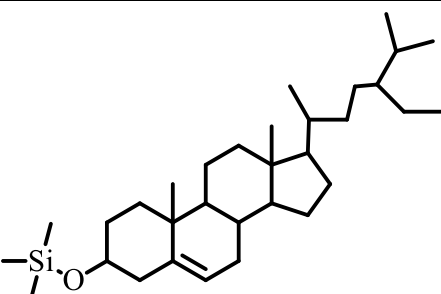
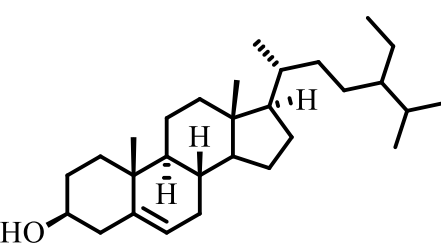
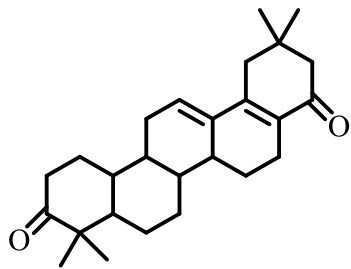
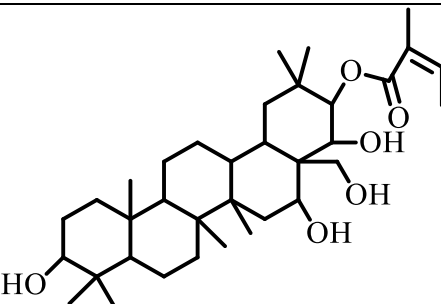
^a The retention indices (RI), specifically non-isothermal Kovats retention indices, are determined on a ZB-5MS column in relation to C10-C30;

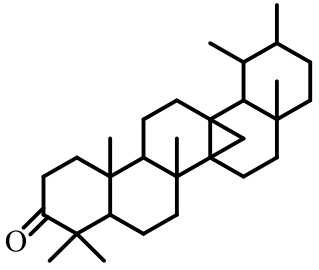
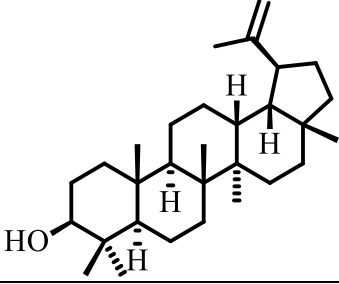
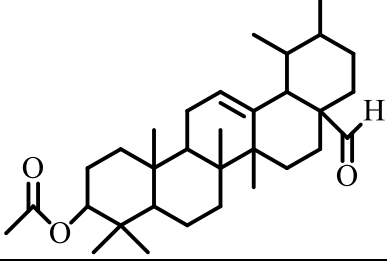
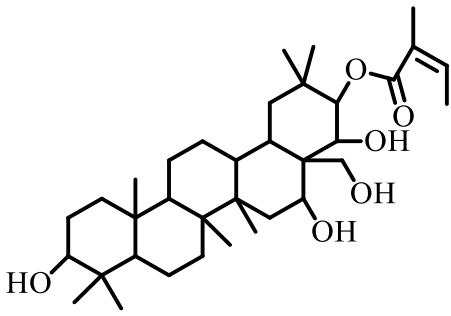
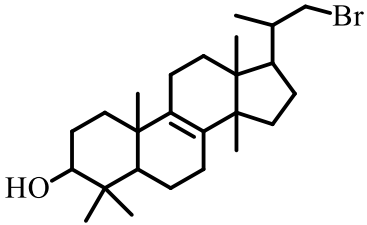
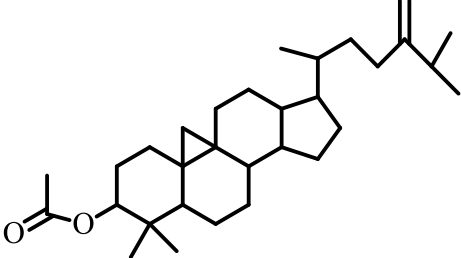
^b compilation of compounds is arranged according to their elution sequence from a Zebron ZB-5 capillary column

Table 2: Compounds from the petroleum ether soluble fraction (LCM-PES) of leaves (*L. camara*)

S. No	RI ^a	Retention time ^b (min)	Percentage of compounds	Name of compound / Molecular formula	Structure	Mass fragmentation
1.	1580	20.3	0.16	3,7,11,15-Tetramethyl-2-hexadecen-1-ol (C ₂₀ H ₄₀ O)		123, 95, 82, 71, 68, 55, 41
2.	1536	22.0	2.2	Spathulenol (C ₁₅ H ₂₄ O)		205, 119, 105, 91, 79, 69

3.	1507	22.1	0.5	Caryophyllene oxide (C ₁₅ H ₂₄ O)		109, 91, 81, 69, 67, 55,43
4.	2045	24.1	0.5	3,7,11,15-Tetramethyl-2-hexadecen-1-ol (C ₂₀ H ₄₀ O)		123, 95, 82, 71, 68, 57, 43
5.	1281	25.0	0.2	Isoaromadendrene epoxide (C ₁₅ H ₂₄ O)		107, 93, 81, 67, 55, 43,27
6.	3942	25.9	0.5	1-Heptatriacontanol C ₃₇ H ₇₆ O 536		95, 91,81, 69, 55,43
7.	1869	26.0	1.7	Perhydrocyclopropa[e]azulene-4,5,6-triol, 1,1,4,6-tetramethyl (C ₁₅ H ₂₆ O ₃)		163, 107, 93, 81, 69, 55,43
8.	1465	26.5	1.2	β-Citrylideneethanol (C ₁₂ H ₂₀ O)		147, 121, 119, 105, 91, 81, 55,41
9.	3031	29.2	0.9	Phthalic acid, butyl tetradecyl ester (C ₂₆ H ₄₂ O ₄)		223, 150, 71, 69, 56, 55, 43, 41
10.	2704	56.3	1.6	1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, diisooctyl ester (C ₂₄ H ₃₈ O ₄)		167, 149, 83, 71, 55, 57, 41
11.	2561	58.3	0.4	1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, dicyclohexyl ester (C ₂₀ H ₂₆ O ₄)		249, 167, 149, 104, 83, 76,67

12.	2739	63.9	0.2	Ethyl iso- allocholate (C ₂₆ H ₄₄ O ₅)		83, 69, 57, 44, 41, 29, 17
13.	2789	66.1	0.8	Stigmasterol (C ₂₉ H ₄₈ O)		255, 133, 95, 83, 69, 55, 43
14.	2731	66.7	5.2	β-Sitosterol trimethylsilyl ether (C ₃₂ H ₅₈ OSi)		485, 396, 381, 357, 129, 73, 57, 55
15.	2932	68.4	2.5	β-Sitosterol (C ₂₉ H ₅₀ O)		107, 105, 95, 81, 69, 55, 43
16.	4116	69.7	13.0	14,17-Nor-3,21- dioxo-β-amyrin, 17,18-didehydro- 3-dehydroxy- (C ₂₈ H ₄₀ O ₂)		409, 408, 203, 189, 69, 55
17.	2819	70.3	2.1	Barringtogenol B (C ₃₅ H ₅₆ O ₆)		264, 215, 207, 297, 105, 95, 55

18.	3201	70.7	1.5	13,27-Cycloursan-3-one (C ₃₀ H ₄₈ O)		424, 205, 138, 123, 95, 69, 55.
19.	4116	73.8	1.5	Lupeol (C ₃₀ H ₅₀ O)		109, 95, 81, 69, 55, 43, 41
20.	2819	74.3	1.7	28-Oxours-12-en-3-yl acetate (C ₃₂ H ₅₀ O ₃)		249, 232, 203, 189, 175, 133, 119
21.	3201	75.0	1.7	Olean-12-ene-3,16,21,22,28-pentol, 21-(2-methyl-2-butenate), [3β,16α,21β(Z),22α]- (C ₃₅ H ₅₆ O ₆)		264, 215, 207, 197, 105, 81, 69, 55
22.	4116	75.2	57.9	Androst-8-en-3-ol, 4,4,14α-trimethyl-17-(2-bromo-1-methylethyl) (C ₂₅ H ₄₁ BrO)		423, 421, 405, 119, 95, 69, 55
23.	2696	78.3	1.9	9,19-Cyclolanostan-3-ol, 24-methylene-, acetate, (3β) (C ₃₃ H ₅₄ O ₂)		422, 407, 175, 95, 69, 55, 43

^a The retention indices (RI), specifically non-isothermal Kovats retention indices, are determined on a ZB-5MS column in relation to C10-C30;

^b Compilation of compounds is arranged according to their elution sequence from a Zebron ZB-5 capillary column

Table3. Antibacterial activity of LC-Me and LCM-PES (zones of inhibition in millimeter).

BACTERIA TESTED	LC-Me	LCM-PES ^a
GRAM POSITIVE		
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	14	12
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	10	10
<i>Bacillus thurengiensis 1</i>	15	10
<i>Bacillus thurengiensis2</i>	10	10
<i>Bacillus thurengiensis3</i>	10	10
<i>Bacillus thurengiensis4</i>	10	10
<i>Micrococcus luteus</i>	9	7
<i>Micrococcus lysodekticus</i>	0	10
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	10	7
<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	0	10
<i>Corynebacterium hoffmanii</i>	0	10
<i>Corynebacterium diphtherae</i>	10	7
<i>Corynebacterium xerosis</i>	0	10
MRSA (Methicillin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>)	9	9
<i>Streptococcus faecalis</i>	7	0
<i>Streptococcus faecalis 064</i>	0	9
<i>Streptococcus faecalis 2400</i>	7	0
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	7	0
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	0	0
<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	0	0
GRAM NEGATIVE		
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	0	7
<i>Salmonella para typhi A</i>	0	7
<i>Salmonella para typhi B</i>	0	9
<i>Escherichia coli wild type</i>	10	0
<i>Escherichia coli 40 MT</i>	10	0
<i>Escherichia coli 5014</i>	10	0
<i>Shigella dysenterae</i>	10	10
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	12	0
<i>Shigella boydii</i>	7	7
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	9	0
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	9	0
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	9	20
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	0	0
<i>Enterobacter aerogens</i>	0	7
<i>Enterobacter aerogens ATCC 6541</i>	0	9

^a Conc.: 500µg/disc

Table 5. The repellent effect of LC-Me and LCM-PES on *Aedes aegypti* at 2%.

Sample	Duration of repellency (hour)						
	%R %B	0 h	0.5 h	1 h	1.5 h	2 h	2.5 h
LC-Me	R	94	82	76	68	64	49
	B	06	18	24	32	36	51
LCM-PES	R	80	76	32	18	10	00
	B	20	24	68	82	90	100
Mospel (20% DEET) (Positive control)	R	100	100	100	100	100	100
	B	00	00	00	00	00	00
MeOH (Negative control)	R	00	-	-	-	-	-
	B	100	-	-	-	-	-

R=Repellency; B=Biting

Table 6. LC₅₀ values of the LC-Me and LCM-PES were determined against 4th instar larvae of *Aedes aegypti*.

Sample	LC ₅₀ (ppm)
LC-Me	20
LCM-PES	400
Biosal (Neem formulation)*	400

* Positive control; Negative control: MeOH

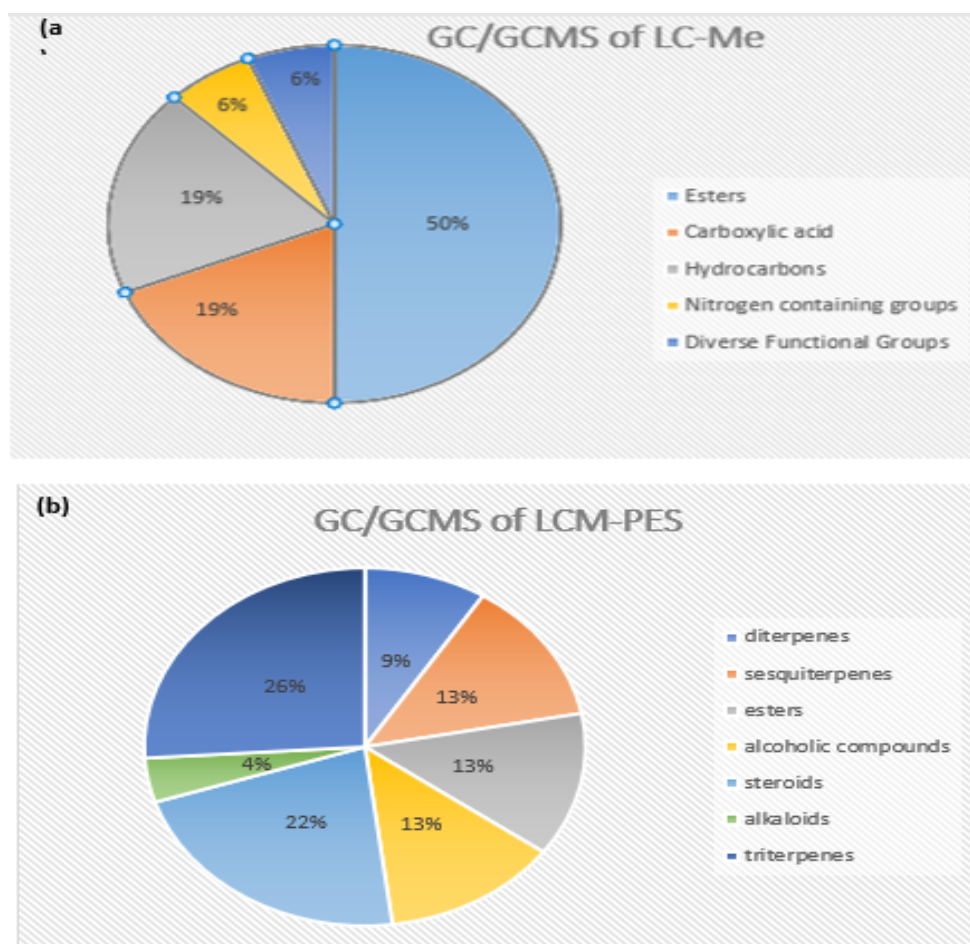


Figure 1; Distribution of natural products in (a) LC-Me and (b) LCM-PES by GC/GC-MS

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sixteen compounds were identified in methanol soluble (LC-Me) extract (Table 1). The chemical profile (Figure 1a) is dominated by the presence of the esters (50 %), mainly ethyl 9,12,15-octadecatrienoate (31.9%) and ethyllinoleate (9.1 %) with antimicrobial and mosquito repellent activities (Kumar et al., 2021). The overall percentage of carboxylic acids and hydrocarbons was found to be 38. The other classes of phytoconstituents were identified as 12%. The petroleum ether soluble (LCM-PES) fraction analysis by GC/GC-MS allowed to identify 23 compounds (Table 2), covering triterpenes (26%), steroids (22%), sesquiterpenes, alcoholic compounds and esters (13%), diterpenes (9%), alkaloids (4 %). The overall percentage of carboxylic acids and hydrocarbons are found to be 26 (Figure 1b).

The methanolic extract (LC-Me) was found operative against 13 out of 20 Gram-positive and 10 out of 16 Gram-negative microorganisms verified at 100mg/mL. The LC-Me has showed 15- and 14-mm zone of inhibition (ZOI) against *Bacillus thurengiensis 1* and *Bacillus cereus*. The antibacterial effect of petroleum ether soluble fraction (LCM-PES) was evaluated against 15 Gram positive and 7 Gram negative microorganisms at 50mg/mL concentration. Significant results were obtained against *Bacillus thurengiensis 1* and *Bacillus cereus B* (10 and 12 mm ZOI). Exposure to *Bacillus thuringiensis* has led to respiratory, eye and skin irritation (Swandener, 1994). *B. cereus* is perhaps a universal soil bacterium, a cunning pathogen that is a mutual reason of food poisoning (Helgason et al., 2000). Our results reveal the potential use of *L. camara* as a remedy against *Bacillus thurengiensis 1* and *Bacillus cereus B* bacteria (Table 3).

The *in vitro* antifungal activity of LC-Me and LCM-PES were determined against five dermatophytes, eight filamentous and two other fungi. The methanolic extract showed a broad-spectrum at 100 mg/mL. The petroleum ether-soluble part showed strongest activity (35 mm ZOIC) against *Microsporum gypseum*. In this study, both the extract and fraction have been found potent against sporadic dermatophytosis (Table 4).

The extract (LC-Me) and its fraction (LCM-PES) underwent assessment for their repellent effects against the dengue vector mosquito. LC-Me exhibited marvelous repellency which was up to 94% whereas LCM-PES have showed 80% effects against *Aedes aegypti* at similar concentration of 2% (Table 5). Additionally, the mosquito larvicidal tests of LC-Me and LCM-PES were conducted on the fourth instar larval stage (immature phase) of *Ae. aegypti*. The methanolic extract exhibited highest toxicity with an LC₅₀ of 20ppm, demonstrating greater activity as compared to the standard biosal, a neem-based formulation (LC₅₀ 400ppm) while its petroleum ether soluble fraction showed similar toxicity as for biosal (LC₅₀ 400ppm). The recent findings indicate that the methanolic extract of *L. camara* and its constituents could serve as a promising origin for developing potent natural larvicides. This study also marks the initial documentation of the larvicidal potential of the methanolic extract and its petroleum ether-soluble fraction (Table 6).

6. CONCLUSION

In the present work, a complete GC/GC-MS analysis of methanol soluble extract of *Lantana camara* Linn. and its petroleum ether soluble fraction has been reported. This research comprehensively explored not only the percentage composition of chemical constituents in methanol and petroleum ether soluble parts but also provided useful results of the antibacterial, antifungal, mosquito repellent and larvicidal activities of the plant. Thus, the study also establishes the significance of plants used in Ayurvedic medicine which might be substantial attention to the development of innovative drugs.

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