



Phytochemistry and pharmacology of *Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn: A review

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ABSTRACT

Curculigo orchioides Gaertn. is a rare rasayana herb (family Amaryllidaceae) popularly known as “Kali Musli”. Traditionally used in Ayurvedic medicine as an aphrodisiac and adaptogen, the plant is native to India. There is evidence that the plant contains mucilage, phenolic glycosides, saponins, and aliphatic compounds. This folk medicine can treat a wide range of ailments, including impotency, aphrodisiacs, tonics, jaundice, and skin conditions. There are also many scientists who have investigated its antioxidant, anticancer, and hepatoprotective properties. *Curculigo* was isolated for its chlorophenolic glucosides, curculigine, phenolic glycosides, orcinolides, and polysaccharides. As an herbal medicine, *Curculigo*'s quality can be controlled through new analyzing methods. Furthermore, *Curculigo* has been investigated for its pharmacological activity against diabetes, bacteria, inflammation, osteoporosis, oxidative stress, cancer, and neurodegeneration. Scientific methods were gradually developed for the application of herbal medicine. A more comprehensive pharmacological study of the genus *Curculigo* is needed to determine its medicinal value. An updated and comprehensive review of the medicinal plant *C. orchioides* Gaertn is presented here describing traditional uses, phytochemistry, pharmacology, and toxicology, and understanding its future research and development prospects.

INTRODUCTION

The traditional Indian medical system is called Ayurveda. There is a long history of disease management in Ayurvedic practice dating back about 3000 years (Hankey, 2001). The Ayurvedic healing process relies heavily on plant-based preparations (Sastri, 2002). In Ayurvedic medicine, approximately 90% of the preparations are derived from plants (Kumar *et al.*, 2017). There are many Asia's subtropical regions, including China and India, where *Curculigo orchioides* grows as a perennial herb of the Amaryllidaceae family (Bafna and Mishra, 2005; Jiao *et al.*, 2009; Wang *et al.*, 2012). *Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn, of the Amaryllidaceae family has different names such

as Golden Eye Grass, Talamuli, Kalimusli, Nilapani, and Nilapaniin English, Sanskrit, Hindi, Malayalam, and in Tamil, respectively (Joy *et al.*, 2004).

Originally native to India, *C. orchioides* occur everywhere, especially in rocky areas, especially at sea level and up to 2,300 m above the sea level (Mehta and Nama, 2014). Tonic medicine has been used for centuries with the rhizome of *C. orchioides* by the Chinese since the Tang Dynasty for the maintenance of health, energy, and nourishment of renal and hepatic systems. The root of *C. orchioides* was commonly used in the treatment of impotence, limb limping, lumbar and knee joint arthritis, and diarrheal water (Chauhan *et al.*, 2010). Jaundice, asthma, urinary and skin diseases, and bladder and kidney infections were treated with *C. orchioides* in the Ayurvedic System of Medicines (Khare, 2007).

A variety of secondary metabolites are found in the genus *Curculigo* plants. Ten species: their chemistry and pharmacology have been studied to date. These species include

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Curculigo capitulata, *Curculigo sinensis*, *Curculigo crassifolia*, *C. orchioides*, *Curculigo breviscapa*, *Curculigo gracilis*, *Curculigo recurvata*, *Curculigo glabrescens*, *Curculigo pilosa*, and *Curculigo latifolia*. The main compounds found in *Curculigo* species include phenols, phenolic glucosides, terpenoids, and norlignans (Nie *et al.*, 2013). *Curculigo* plants are increasingly studied phytochemically due to their traditional uses. This genus of plants contains more than 110 compounds, among which are as follows: phenolic glycosides and phenols (Chang and Lee, 1998; Xu and Xu, 1992; Zuo *et al.*, 2010), lignan glycosides and lignans (Li, 1559; Li *et al.*, 2005a, 2005b; Wang *et al.*, 2008; Zhu *et al.*, 2010), triterpenoid glycosides and triterpenes (Xu *et al.*, 1992; Yokosuka *et al.*, 2010; Zuo *et al.*, 2012), eudesmanes, flavones (Tiwari and Mishra, 1976), alkaloids (Li *et al.*, 2005a, 2005b), and other constituents. In China, *C. orchioides* is considered as a supplemental health product in the form of tea bags and alcoholic beverage (Liu *et al.*, 2022). *Curculigo orchioides* is reported to have the effects of dissipating carbuncle, strengthening muscles and bones, dispelling cold and dampness, tonifying kidney yang, benefiting essence and blood, immunoregulation, hepatoprotective and neuroprotective activities (Fang *et al.*, 2020). These plants are most likely characterized by norlignans, phenol glycosides, and triterpenoids as their major constituents. Bio-active compounds and extracts of *Curculigo* plants exhibited a variety of activities including antidiabetic, immunostimulatory, anti-oxidant, radical scavenging, mast cell stabilization, sweet-tasting and taste-modifying, estrogenic and sexual behaviour-modifying, anti-inflammatory, antihistaminic, antidepressant, antitumor, anti-asthmatic, anti-osteoporotic, neuroprotective, nephroprotective, antiarthritic, vasoconstrictor, anti-microbial, hepatoprotective, antistress activity, and adaptive activity (Table 1) (Wang *et al.*, 2021). By using *C. orchioides* embryos for the green fabrication of gold nanoparticles, an environmentally friendly method for maintaining medicinal plants and preventing them from being overutilized was conducted (Thamilchelvan *et al.*, 2023).

PHYTOCHEMISTRY

Curculigo plants have yielded about 111 secondary metabolites, 3 proteins, and 2 polysaccharides so far. A number of compounds are isolated from extracts of *Curculigo* species which includes phenolic glycosides, phenols, lignan glycosides, lignans, triterpenoid glycosides, triterpenes, polysaccharides such as COPb-1 and COPf-1, flavones, aliphatic compounds, alkaloids, eudesmanes, and bioactive proteins such as neoculin, curculin, and β -amylase (Goyal and Kabra, 2020; Nie *et al.*, 2013). Phytochemicals such as alkaloids, phenols, flavonoids, and tannins were present in the extracts of methanol, ethanol, and chloroform but were found to be absent in the ethyl acetate extract of *C. orchioides* (Saxena, 2022). *Curculigo orchioides* rhizome methanolic extracts were found to contain alkaloids, carbohydrates, steroids, saponins, phenols, tannins, and flavonoids (Agrahari *et al.*, 2010; Asif, 2012). *Curculigo orchioides* rhizome extracts contain an alkaloid lycorine, sterols including sitosterol, saponin, and flavone glycoside 5,7-dimethoxy glucopyranoside. Flavonoids include 5,7-dimethoxy glucopyranoside, and fatty acids such as linolenic, palmitic, behenic, arachidic, and oleic acids (Mehta *et al.*, 1980). O-acetyl-glucomannan COP90-1, a compound soluble in water (Wang *et al.*, 2017) and COP70-

3, a homogeneous heteropolysaccharide compound (Wang *et al.*, 2019) were found in the rhizomes of *C. orchioides*. In a preparative reversed-phase liquid chromatography, levoglucosan was obtained (Niu *et al.*, 2020). The primary metabolites of *Curculigo* plants are phenolic compounds. Two phenolic glucosides named curculigoside H and orcinoside I, along with 10 known phenolic glucosides such as curculigoside A, B, C, and G, orcinol glucoside (OG) B, benzyl-O- β -D-glucopyranoside, 3-hydroxy-5-methylphenol-1-O- $[\beta$ -glucopyranosyl-(1-6)- β -D-glucopyranoside], glucosyringic acid, 3-hydroxy-5-methylphenol-1-O- $[\beta$ -apiosyl-(1-6)- β -glucopyranoside], and OG were isolated from *C. orchioides* rhizomes (Wang *et al.*, 2013, 2014) (Fig. 1). Four other known phenolic compounds, including orcinoside I and J, have been proclaimed to be new heterocyclic phenolic derivatives, including 3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl) propane-1,2-diol, 3-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl) propane-1,2-diol, piperoside, 4-allyl-2, and 6-dimeoxy phenol glucoside (Chen *et al.*, 2017).

Curculigo rhizomes powdered and dried were used to isolate 3,5-Dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzoic acid and p-Hydroxycinnamic acid (Niu *et al.*, 2020). *Curculigo orchioides* contains natural and rare chlorinated compounds called cuculligines. It was discovered that the rhizome of *C. orchioides* contains three chlorophenolic glucosides, B, C, and curculigine D (Cao *et al.*, 2009; Xu *et al.*, 1987; Xu and Xu, 1992). The *C. orchioides* rhizomes were collected for the purpose of obtaining 11 chlorophenolic glucosides, including curculigine E–G, I, and K–O (Wang *et al.*, 2013, 2014, 2018). The *C. orchioides* rhizomes contain two new chlorophenolic glucosides named ascurculigine P and Q (Deng *et al.*, 2021). Terpenoids are second metabolites produced by *Curculigo* species. There is evidence that *C. orchioides* produces cycloartane-type triterpenoid ketone in its rhizomes (Jiao *et al.*, 2013) (3S,5R,6S,7E,9R)-megastigma-7-ene-3,5,6,9-tetrol, actinidioionoside, (6S,9R)-roseoside, (–)-angelicoidenol-2-O- β -D-glucopyranoside, (–)-angelicoidenol-2-O- β -apiofuranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- β -D-glucopyranosidetetillapyrone[(7R,9S,10R)-3-methyl-5-(4-hydroxyl-5-hydroxylmethyltetrahydrofuryl)]-6-hydroxypyran-2-one are six terpenoids content of *C. orchioides* (Zhang *et al.*, 2019a, 2019b). Rhizomes of *C. orchioides* contain eight cyclodipeptides, such as cyclo-(L-Ala-L-Tyr), cyclo-(Gly-D-Val), cyclo-(LeuAla), cyclo-(Val-Ala), cyclo-(L-Ser-L-Phe), cyclo-(LeuThr), cyclo-(S-Pro-R-Leu), and cyclo-(Leu-Ser), which are previously known (Chen *et al.*, 2017). The aqueous leaf extract of the plant was observed to contain different alkaloids and phenolic compound from the post preliminary phytochemical analysis using Fourier-transform infrared spectrophotometer (Umar *et al.*, 2021). The presence of alkaloids, phenols, and saponins could be a plausible explanation for the observed toxic effects of *C. orchioides*' AL extract in organismal-level toxicity in *Drosophila* (Kushalan *et al.*, 2022a, 2022b).

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

Immunomodulatory activity

Adaptation to hypoxia and high temperatures is improved by *C. orchioides* ethanol extract. Extracts from *C. orchioides* have been found to be sedative, anticonvulsant, and androgen-like. In mice, immunological activity increased as well

Table 1. Effect of *C. orchioides* in many metabolic ailments.

Species	Plant part	Extract	Experimental model	Dose	Effects	References
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Hydroalcoholic extract	STZ-nicotinamide induced diabetic nephropathy	600 mg/kg	Anti-diabetic activity	Zhang <i>et al.</i> , 2017
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	STZ-nicotinamide induced diabetic nephropathy	600 mg/kg	Anti-diabetic activity	Zhang <i>et al.</i> , 2017
<i>C. latifolia</i>	Rhizome	Aqueous extract	HFD + STZ-induced diabetic rats	5 g/day	Anti-diabetic activity	Karigidi and Olaiya, 2020
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	3T3-L1	10 and 100 g/ml	Anti-diabetic activity	Gulati <i>et al.</i> , 2015
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Methanol extract	HFD + STZ-induced diabetic rats	600 mg/kg	Antihypertensive activity	Joshi <i>et al.</i> , 2012
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Hexane /chloroform extract	Hela cells	10, 20–80 mg/ml	Anticancer activity	Xia <i>et al.</i> , 2016
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethyl acetate extract	MCRF-7 cells	80 µg/ml	Anticancer activity	Selvaraj and Agastian, 2017
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Whole plant	Aqueous	HFD + STZ-induced diabetic rats	40 mg/kg	Anticancer activity	Xia <i>et al.</i> , 2016
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	HFD + STZ-induced diabetic rats	0.5, 1.0, and 2.0 g/kg	Anticancer activity	Cao <i>et al.</i> , 2008
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	Radical scavenger for DPPH	25, 50–200 µg/ml	Antioxidant activity	Bagna and Mishra, 2005
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	Visitation by peroxidation of lipids	25, 50–125 µg/ml	Antioxidant activity	Bagna and Mishra, 2005
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Decoctions and hydro-alcoholic extracts	Scavenging DPPH radical	43.57 ± 4.21 mg/ml	Antioxidant activity	Tacchini <i>et al.</i> , 2015
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	Cyclophosphamide-induced oxidative stress	25 mg/kg	Antioxidant activity	Murali and Kuttan, 2015
<i>C. pilosa</i>	Rhizome	Aqueous extract	Rat penile homogenate	0.95 mg/ml	Antioxidant activity	Adefegha <i>et al.</i> , 2018
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Methanolic extracts	An assay to measure ferric reducing antioxidant power	0.16–500.70 mmol/l	Antioxidant activity	Surveswaran <i>et al.</i> , 2007
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	<i>S. pyogenes</i>	49 µg/ml	Antibacterial activity	Marasini <i>et al.</i> , 2015
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Rhizome oil	Microorganisms that cause human pathogens and phytopathogens	2 mg/ml	Antibacterial activity	Jaiswa <i>et al.</i> , 1984
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Curculigoside	Fibroblasts from the foreskin of humans	30 mg/ml	Antibacterial activity	Li <i>et al.</i> , 2011
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Chloroform extract	<i>S. typhimurium</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i>	2 mg/ml	Antibacterial activity	Nagesh and Shanthamma, 2009
<i>C. pilosa</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol crude extract and the neutral metabolite	<i>Streptococcus faecalis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. aureus</i>	100 mg/ml	Antibacterial activity	Nwokonkwo, 2014
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	Mast cells isolated from mouse peritoneum	400 mg/kg	Antiasthmatic activity	Venkatesh <i>et al.</i> , 2009
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	Induction of catalepsy in Swiss mice by haloperidol	250, 375 mg/kg	Antiasthmatic activity	Pandit <i>et al.</i> , 2008
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	Anaphylaxis due to passive paws in Wistar rats	350 mg/kg	Antiasthmatic activity	Pandit <i>et al.</i> , 2008
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	OG	Depressive rats induced by CUMS	1.5, 3, 6 mg/kg	Neuroprotective effect	Pandit <i>et al.</i> , 2008
<i>C. orchioides</i>	Rhizome	Curculigoside	Exposure to N-methyl-d-aspartate (NMDA) leads to the loss of neurons in cortex	1, 10, and 100 µmol/ml	Neuroprotective effect	Ge <i>et al.</i> , 2014

Species	Plant part	Extract	Experimental model	Dose	Effects	References
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Curculigoside	Mice	10, 20, 40 mg/kg	Neuroprotective effect	Tian <i>et al.</i> , 2012
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Curculigoside	Neuronal cell stimulation by NMDA	1 and 10 μ M	Neuroprotective effect	Ge <i>et al.</i> , 2014
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Curculigoside	osteoblasts	25–100 μ g/ml	Anti-osteoporosis	Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2016
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Curculigoside	Iron-overload mice model	100 mg/kg	Anti-osteoporosis	Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2015a, 2015b
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Methanolic extract	A rat model of liver injury induced by carbon tetrachloride (CCl ₄)	70 mg/kg	Hepatoprotective activity	Zhang <i>et al.</i> , 2019a, 2019b
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	Ovariectomized young albino rats	300, 600 and 1,200 mg/kg	Sexual behaviour and estrogenic activity	Venukumar and Latha, 2002
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Ethanol extract	Druckery rats	100 mg/kg	Sexual behaviour and estrogenic activity	Vijayanarayana <i>et al.</i> , 2007
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Methanol extract	BALB/c mice	25 mg/kg	Immunostimulatory effect	Chauhan <i>et al.</i> , 2007
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Methanol extract	BALB/c mice	100 μ g/ml	Immunostimulatory effect	Lakshmi <i>et al.</i> , 2003
<i>C. orchiooides</i>	Rhizome	Methanol extract	Cyclophosphamide-induced immunosuppressed mice	100, 200, 400 and 800 mg/kg	Immunostimulatory effect	Bafna and Mishra, 2006

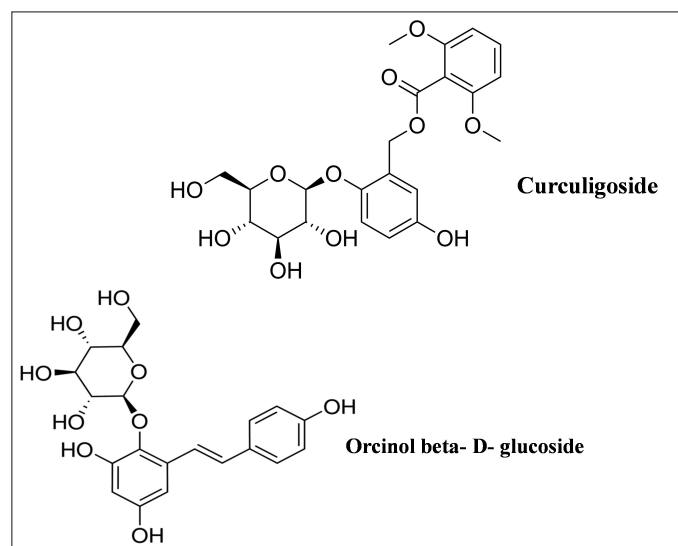


Figure 1. Chief active constituents of *C. orchiooides*.

(Chen *et al.*, 1989). *Curculigo orchiooides* phenolic glucosides increased haemagglutination titer and delayed type hypersensitivity (DTH) response (Lakshmi *et al.*, 2003). Although polysaccharides stimulate splenocyte proliferation, they do not affect thymocyte proliferation. Using ConA-induced splenocyte proliferation as a model, polysaccharides demonstrated an inhibitory effect on thymocyte and splenocyte proliferation *in vitro*. Mice with immunosuppression had larger thymuses and spleens as a result of these effects (Zhou *et al.*, 1996).

It has been suggested that the methanolic extract of *C. orchiooides* (MECO) Gaertn's could be used to prevent the cytotoxic effects of drugs. When the extract was administered to normal mice or cyclophosphamide-induced immunosuppressed mice, humoral antibodies, DTH, and leukocytes increased

depending upon the dose (Bafna and Mishra, 2006). One of the contents of *C. orchiooides* rhizomes, *Curculigo* saponin, acycloartane-type triterpene saponin, enhanced the number of lymphocytes of the spleen remarkably in mice without affecting antibody production (Lacaille-Dubois and Wagner, 1996). Polysaccharides resulted in increased spleen and thymus indexes in normal mice, along with increased hemolytic index and thicker plantar tissue in serum; Mice immune function is enhanced by polysaccharides, according to these results (Ji, 2011).

Antioxidant activity

DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picryl-hydrazyl-hydrate) and nitric oxide radicals are scavenged effectively by methanol extracts of *C. orchiooides* rhizomes, but lipid peroxidation is moderately effective (Bafna and Mishra, 2005). In addition to DPPH testing, ferric reducing ability of plasma testing as well as 2,2'-azino-bis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) testing has also been performed on *C. orchiooides* to confirm its antioxidant activity (Surveswaran *et al.*, 2007). DPPH, reducing power, and phosphomolybdenum assays were used to assess *C. orchiooides*' antioxidant potential ethanol extract of *C. orchiooides* root demonstrated significant anti-free radical activity, reducing power, and antioxidant properties compared with a reference standard, gallic acid (Table 1) (Ratnam *et al.*, 2013). Methanolic extract of elevated rhizomes treated hepatotoxic rats showed increased levels of antioxidant enzymes such as glutathione transferase (Venukumar and Latha, 2002). Methanolic root extract showed DPPH radical scavenging activity (Kushalan *et al.*, 2022a, 2022b). A major component of *C. orchiooides*' antioxidant activity is phenolic compounds (Wu *et al.*, 2005).

Anti-inflammatory activity

Curculigoside A which is the vital component of *C. orchiooides*, reduced paw swelling and arthritis index in mice

significantly and decreased serum IL-1 β , TNF- α , IL-6, and PGE2 levels, decreased malondialdehyde (MDA) and increased serum superoxide dismutase activity very effectively downregulated NF- κ B/NLRP3 pathways in Freund's complete adjuvant-induced rats with adjuvant arthritis (Ding *et al.*, 2016). Type II collagen-induced arthritis rat showed arthritis scores and paw swelling inhibition, serum pro-inflammatory factor levels of IL-10, TNF- α , IL-17A, IL-6, IL-12, and IL-1 β reduced, the expression of JAK3, STAT3, and JAK1 down-regulated and NF- κ B p65 and I κ B α -regulated because of the active compound curculigoside A (Tan *et al.*, 2019). Carrageen-induced paw oedema in rats was significantly reduced by *C. orchiooides* rhizome gel formulation (Dode *et al.*, 2009).

Mice peritoneal mast cells were significantly inhibited from degranulating by an extract of *C. orchiooides* rhizome in ethanol and mice exposed to 48/80-induced systemic anaphylaxis. Anti-inflammatory properties of *C. orchiooides* are attributed to their inhibitory effects on mast cell degranulation and mast cell-derived immediate-type allergic reactions (Venkatesh *et al.*, 2009).

Estrogenic activity

Total glucosides from *C. orchiooides* were found to increase the thymus, uterus, and spleen indices, testosterone levels, and estrogen levels, and decrease luteinizing hormone levels in perimenopause model mice (Cao *et al.*, 2016; Miao *et al.*, 2017). *Curculigo orchiooides* also alleviate streptozotocin-induced hyperglycaemia in male rats, improving sexual dysfunction as well. The effects of the treatment were observed in male sexual behaviour, penile erection index, seminal fructose content, and sperm counting the test samples (Thakur *et al.*, 2012). It increases steroid synthesis and restores sexual function by enhancing the spermatogenesis process. It could also facilitate hormone absorption into the gonads if *C. orchiooides* was administered (Chauhan *et al.*, 2007).

Anti-osteoporosis activity

The rhizomes of *C. orchiooides* are asserted to strengthen bones and tendons (Cao *et al.*, 2008). The proliferation of bone marrow stromal cells was enhanced by 100 mM curculigoside, osteogenic genes were enhanced, and osteoprotegerin secretion was increased (Shen *et al.*, 2013). A study indicates that curculigoside A chemical compound inhibits the inflammatory cytokines TNF- α , IL-1 α , IL-6, and COX-2 production by rat calvarial osteoblasts induced with dexamethasone and regulates osteoblast COX-2 expression, proliferation, and differentiation (Zhu *et al.*, 2015a, 2015b).

The chlorophenolic glucosides (Curculigine M, Curculigine N, and Curculigine O) isolated from the dried rhizomes of *C. orchiooides* Gaertn showed moderate effect on osteoblast proliferation against MC3T3-E1 cell line by using MTT assays (Wang *et al.*, 2018). A novel homogeneous heteropolysaccharide, COP70-3, was isolated and purified from the crude polysaccharide (CO70) isolated from the rhizomes of *C. orchiooides* (0.94 and 1.87 nM) significantly improved the osteogenic mineralization rate and has favorable anti-osteoporosis activity *in vitro* (Wang *et al.*, 2018). Curculigoside was able to alleviate bone loss induced by oxidative stress resulting from iron overload, suggesting its potential use for the treatment of primary osteoporosis and bone loss in iron-overload-related diseases (Zhang *et al.*, 2019a, 2019b). The major bioactive component of found in the plant's rhizomes, curculigoside, a phenolic glycoside, exhibits neuroprotective and

anti-osteoporotic properties (Zhu *et al.*, 2021). COP50-4, a crude polysaccharide (CO50) from *C. orchiooides* shows great potential for the treatment of osteoporosis (Yu *et al.*, 2022).

Antidepressant activity

The immobility time of the forced swimming test, osmotic fragility test, and tail suspension test was significantly reduced by curculigoside treatment. In the hippocampus of chronic mild stress rats, serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine levels significantly increased along with brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) protein expression following the treatment. There is evidence that curculigoside can treat depression in this way (Wang *et al.*, 2016).

Neuroprotective activity

Acetylcholinesterase was effectively inhibited by the extracts of *C. orchiooides* rhizomes, suggesting their potential use in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease (Pratap and Shantaram, 2019). Curculigoside remarkably reduced NMDA-induced loss of neuron cells, apoptosis, necrosis, excitotoxicity, and reactive oxygen species (ROS) production in cultured cortical neurons. The inhibitory properties of curculigoside in cultured cortical neurons may cause the production of intracellular ROS to be reduced and apoptosis may be inhibited. When neurons are exposed to NMDA-induced neuronal excitotoxicity, curculigoside prevents them from dying and reduces their apoptosis and necrosis (Tian *et al.*, 2012).

Spectrophotometry and autography were used to evaluate the anti-acetylcholinesterase activity of *C. orchiooides* extracts *in vitro*. The anti-acetylcholinesterase role of rhizome extract methanol in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease appears to be explained by its inhibition of the acetylcholinesterase enzyme (Pratap, 2020). Using curculigoside A, rats with Alzheimer's can be effectively treated because it inhibits apoptosis in hippocampal neurons and reduces cellular damage (Li *et al.*, 2019). *In vitro*, curculigoside A modulated VCAM-1/Egr-3/CREB/VEGF signalling in cerebroendothelial cells, providing stroke and brain injury therapies by neurovascular repair (Zhu *et al.*, 2015).

It was demonstrated that OG decreased over activity of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis and reduced depressive behavior in chronic unpredictable mild stress rats by up-regulating BDNF expression and phosphorylating ERK1/2 (Ge *et al.*, 2014). Mice showed reduced anxiety-like behaviors after administration of OG, but no sedation was seen (Wang *et al.*, 2016).

Hepatoprotective activity

Aspartate aminotransferase, alkaline phosphatase, gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase, and gamma-glutamyl transpeptidases were reduced in rats exposed to carbon tetrachloride. Food consumption and weight gain were increased by MECO rhizomes. In addition to lowering liver and serum protein levels, serum lipids, cholesterol, and phospholipids were normalized. These studies showed that *C. orchiooides* rhizome has hepatoprotective properties (Venukumar and Latha, 2002).

Nephroprotective activity

Treatment of cyclophosphamide-induced hepatotoxicity and intestinal toxicities with *C. orchiooides* does not compromise cyclophosphamide's chemotherapeutic efficacy. When

administered along with cyclophosphamide, the whole plant extract of *C. orchioides* significantly decreased serum creatinine levels and blood urea nitrogen levels. Induced urotoxicity and nephrotoxicity by cyclophosphamide are alleviated by *C. orchioides* (Murali and Kuttan, 2016)

Antidiabetic activity

Alloxan-induced diabetic rats and glucose-loaded diabetic rats were shown to be antihyperglycemic with aqueous and ethanol extracts (Chauhan *et al.*, 2007). Using streptozotocin–nicotinamide-induced diabetic nephropathy rats, extracts of *C. Orchioides* using ethanol and hydroalcohol reduced hyperglycemia-induced lipid changes, oxidative stress, and renal dysfunction (urea, creatinine, and andalbumin) (Singla and Singh, 2020). *Curculigo orchioides* was shown to inhibit adipogenesis and enhance glucose uptake in 3T3-L1 adipocytes in an ethanolic extract in a cell-based assay (Gulati *et al.*, 2015).

Anti-microbial activity

As well as being antimicrobial against *Bacillus anthracis* and *Bacillus subtilis*, oil of *C. orchioides* rhizomes inhibited *Fusarium solani*, *Salmonella newport*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella pullorum*, and *Aspergillus flavus*, *Fusarium moniliforme*, and *Cladosporium* species (Jaiswa *et al.*, 1984). The *C. orchioides* extract prepared by steam distillation process showed antibacterial activity significantly against several Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *S. aureus*) and Gram-negative bacteria (*Salmonella typhimurium*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Escherichia coli*). Antiseptic properties make the extract ideal for preventing bacterial infections (Nagesh and Shanthamma, 2009).

With a minimum inhibitory concentration value of 49 g/ml, *C. orchioides* alcohol extract inhibited methicillin-resistant *P. aeruginosa*, whereas Gram-negative bacteria were not affected (Marasini *et al.*, 2015). *Curculigo orchioides* leaf extracts contain phytochemical-loaded silver nanoparticles which are effective against *S. aureus* and *P. aeruginosa*, but less effective against *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *E. coli* (Perumal *et al.*, 2017).

Anti-asthmatic activity

Goat tracheal chains and guinea pig ileum are relaxed by *C. orchioides* ethanol extract. *Curculigo orchioides* ethanol extract significantly reduced bronchoconstriction and passive paw anaphylaxis in guinea pigs, rats, and mice with haloperidol-induced catalepsy, suggesting an antiasthmatic effect (Pandit *et al.*, 2008).

Anti-stress activity

In forced swimming and tail suspension tests, *Curculigo orchioides* ethanol extract at 200 mg/kg reduced immobility times. It increased mobility in actophotometer-based tests. Ethanolic extract of *C. orchioides*' rhizomes increased resistance to heat [50 and 70 infrared (IR) units] in IR testing and rotarod testing. It provides strong evidence that ethanolic extracts have antistress activity (Chauhan *et al.*, 2021).

Anti-cancer activity

Aqueous fresh root extract and methanolic dried root extract showed significant cytotoxicity activity on the human lung adenocarcinoma NCI-H-522 cancer cell line. The cytotoxicity may

be attributed to the alkaloids and phenols present in it (Aloysius *et al.*, 2020). A new chlorophenolic glucosides curculigines P, isolated from the dried rhizomes of *C. orchioides* showed the most potent inhibitory effect on 5 α -reductase activity by a HaCaT-based bioassay and, hence, may be useful in benign prostatic hyperplasia (Deng *et al.*, 2021).

Ethyl acetate fractions of *C. orchioides* Gaertn down regulated the levels of antiapoptotic Bcl-2 expression and upregulated the expression of apoptotic proteins caspase-3 and caspase-8 through an intrinsic ROS-mediated mitochondrial dysfunction pathway (Hejazi *et al.*, 2018). The plant extract when administered in combination with cyclophosphamide enhanced the anticancer properties of cyclophosphamide and ameliorated its toxic side effects (Murali and Kuttan, 2015). Silver nanoparticles using *C. orchioides* rhizome extracts showed efficacy against human breast cancer cell line (MDA-MB-231) after 48 hours of incubation (Kayalvizhi *et al.*, 2016). Polysaccharides from *C. orchioides* showed a significant anti-tumor effect on cervical cancer *in vivo* and *in vitro* by enhancement of immune function and induction of apoptosis (Xia *et al.*, 2016).

Anti-gout activity

Two heterocyclic phenolic derivatives, orcinolides I and J, displayed xanthine oxidase inhibitory activities with IC₅₀ values 0.25 and 0.62 mM, respectively. Hence, they may have anti-gout effect (Chen *et al.*, 2017).

Anti-hypertensive activity

MECO root possesses antihypertensive activity by inhibiting angiotensin-converting enzyme in deoxycorticosterone acetate salt-induced hypertensive rats (Joshi *et al.*, 2012).

Anti-malarial activity

Silver nanoparticles using *C. orchioides* rhizome extracts showed the highest mortality rate against the malarial vectors such as *Anopheles subpictus* and *Culex quinquefasciatus* (Kayalvizhi *et al.*, 2016).

CONCLUSION

This review aims to summarize the existing phytochemistry and pharmacological activities of plant *C. orchioides* which is a perennial herb, belonging to the family Amaryllidaceae. The content gives a brief proof of the traditional uses of this plant. The plant is reported to show immuno-modulatory, anti-oxidant, hepatoprotective, neuroprotective nephroprotective, anti-inflammatory, anti-gout, anti-arthritis, anti-cancer, anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, anti-malarial, anti-diabetic, anti-stress, and antihypertensive activities. These effects may be attributed to the anti-oxidant principles present in them. Many authors and researchers reported the phytochemical, pharmacological, and toxicological results which may provide suitable data for further scientific research.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors made substantial contributions to the conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; took part in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; agreed to submit

to the current journal and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work. All the authors are eligible to be an author as per the international committee of medical journal editors (ICMJE) requirements/guidelines.

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The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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