

# Paronychia Argentea: A Critical Comprehensive Review on its Diverse Medicinal Potential and Future as Therapeutics

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** *Paronychia argentea* has been used since long as a traditional medicine for the treatment of diabetes, kidney stones, anti-microbial and many other human diseases. However, the plant has not been explored much. In the present scenario of drug resistance and toxicity associated with available drugs, there is a need for elaborated studies of plants like *Paronychia argentea* which had been used as folk medicines. **Aim and Objectives:** The present article is focused on reviewing the ethnopharmacology, phytochemistry, traditional usage, biological activities, of *Paronychia argentea* which has been used in traditional medicinal system for ages. The aim of the study was to assess the ethnopharmacological usage of this plant and to explore therapeutic potentials and future opportunities for research. **Materials and Methods:** Information on the traditional usage and studies of the *Paronychia argentea* was gathered from various journals, MSc dissertation, conference abstract, local books. Various search engines including Google Scholar, Baidu Scholar, Elsevier, ACS, Pubmed, Web of Science, CNKI and EMBASE were used to collect the information along with libraries. **Results:** *Paronychia argentea* has played an important role in traditional medicines in Algeria, Portugal, Israel and Jordan. The aerial parts of this plant are used as diuretics in Algerian traditional medicines and are used as antiurolithiasis. Leaf decoction of this plant is also used as diuretic. *Paronychia argentea* has been used as analgesic, treatment of stomach ulcer, anorexia, and flatulence in Portugal. Scientific studies on extracts of *Paronychia* revealed a wide range of pharmacological activities including anti-microbial activity, anti-oxidant, nephroprotective activity. Moreover, few reports have given contradictory data for usage of *Paronychia* when compared with its traditional usage. As in the case of alpha-amylase inhibitory efficacy of PA, it was observed that PA inhibits alpha-amylase activity but later on it was proven that PA does not have a hypoglycemic effect. Main bioactive metabolites present in this plant include alkaloids, flavonoids, volatile oils, etc. **Conclusions:** Based on this review, there are evidences from various studies regarding pharmacological effects of this plant as nephroprotective, anti-oxidant, anti-microbial activity. Some indications from *in vitro* studies have confirmed the inhibitory activity of this plant extract against alpha amylase enzyme. The available literature showed that most of the activities of the *Paronychia* can be accredited to the flavonoids present in them. Data regarding mechanisms of action of this plant along with pharmacokinetics, toxicology studies is still limited, which indicate the need of such studies for the clinical usage of this plant. **Key words:** *Paronychia argentea*, Nephroprotective, Anti-microbial, Anti-oxidant, Ulcerative colitis, Bioactivity, Oxidative stress, Herbal medicine, Therapeutic value.

## INTRODUCTION

Herbal medicines have been used in almost all the countries, since the beginning of history. A vast repository of such plants with medicinal values has not been explored much. There is need to establish a common platform which has the information regarding traditional original usage and local names of such plant along with other therapeutic efficacies of such plants. It is very unfortunate that in the current technology world, this area has not been explored much. However, renewed interest in this area has arisen, due to emerging problem of drug resistance and toxicity associated with available drugs. One such plant with potential therapeutic value is *Paronychia argentea*.

## Botanical classification and habitat

*Paronychia argentea* (PA) was first described by Jean-Baptiste Lamarck.<sup>1</sup> Its taxonomy is as follows:

**Superdivision:**Spermatophyta

**Division:**Angiospermae

**Class:**Dicotyledoneae

**Family:**Caryophyllaceae

**Genus:**Paronychia

PA is a Perennial plant with stems spreading on the ground. It is in leaf all year and flowers appear from July to August. Flowers of this plant are small and arranged in heads surrounded by hyaline bracts. It is a hermaphrodite species and pollination occurs by

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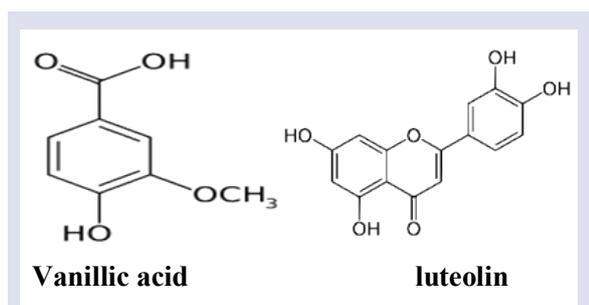
insects. Plant grows well in sandy and loamy soils. PA cannot grow in the shade, since it requires complete exposure to sun. The main habitat of plant includes all the area around the Mediterranean Sea. It grows in abandoned or dry terrains, waste ground, dunes and ditches and flourishes from winter to summer. It has been reported in waste places of mountains; Irbid, Ajloun, Jarash, Amman, Karak, Tafila and Mafraq. Abusaief *et al.*<sup>2</sup> have recorded the presence of PA Lam. species at Al Mansora in Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar-Libya. It has also been reported in California,<sup>3</sup> at Akhanasira range reserve of Jordan,<sup>4</sup> in Spain.<sup>5</sup>

### Traditonal medicinal value

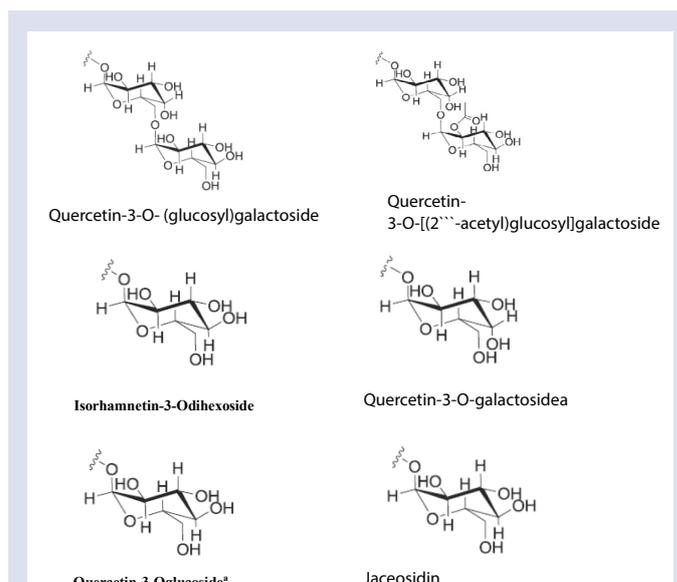
PA is the most common plant used abundantly in conventional medicines in Algeria and is popularly known as Arabic tea (*Kassaretlahdjer*, *Fettatetlahdjer* or *Bissatelmoulouk*). PA have high content of flavonoids isorhamnetin, quercetin and luteolin.<sup>6</sup> The aerial parts of this plant are used in as diuretic in Algerian traditional medicines. It is also used for curing renal diseases, especially as antiurolithiasis.<sup>7</sup> It has been reported that PA also has digestive,<sup>8</sup> hypoglycemic,<sup>9</sup> and antimicrobial activity.<sup>10</sup> Diuretic potential of PA has been described by Dafni *et al.*<sup>11</sup> along with its usage to treat kidney stones, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. It was also used as a blood purifier.<sup>12</sup> In Portugal, PA has been used as analgesic, treatment of stomach ulcer, anorexia and flatulence.<sup>13</sup> Decoction of aerial parts of PA is being used in Jordan as traditional medicine known as 'rejel el-hamama' or 'shoishet el-raei' for UTI infections and other diseases<sup>14</sup> Lev.<sup>15</sup> The tisane of its leaves is used for treating diabetes in Israel.<sup>16,17</sup>

### HPLC analysis of *Paronychia argentea*

A study based on High pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) method of analysis was planned to determine the two major constituents of *Paronychia argentea* dry extract (PAE) (Figure 1). This was based on establishing a chromatographic method to analyse, determine and standardize the two main chemical constituents in PAE viz., vanillic acid and luteolin (Table 1). It was observed that luteolin and vanillic acid were completely separated from other components in the PAE with an R<sub>f</sub> value of 1.3 and 5.7 min. respectively. Two separate peaks of both these compounds were concurrently separated and were determined from other components in PAE collected from the plants present in Jordan area. The concentration of Luteolin was found to be 0.4 % and that of vanillic acid to be 0.1% using a validated chromatographic method of analysis.<sup>18</sup> Another detailed study was carried out to do the phytochemical characterization of PA collected from the region of Adekar (West of Bejaia, Algeria). The main aim of this study was to characterize the flavonoid profile of PA along with evaluation of antioxidant property of the ethanolic extract, decoction and infusion of PA aerial parts. HPLC along with diode array detection and electrospray ionization mass spectrometry was used to analyze the flavonoid contents in PA (Figure 2). In order to identify and estimate the antioxidant property of the plant extracts, four methods were used. These included evaluations of the reducing power along with



**Figure 1:** Chemicals derived from *Paronychia argentea* by High pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC).



**Figure 2:** Flavonoids contents in *Paronychia argentea* by HPLC-UV/DAD and HPLC-ESI-MS<sup>n</sup>.

estimation of lipid peroxidation inhibition and scavenging of free radicals like DPPH• and NO•. Results showed eleven compounds of which six were characterized for the first time. The six new compounds isolated were isorhamnetin-3-O-dihexoside, quercetin-3-O-glucoside, quercetinmethylether-O-hexoside, quercetin, jaceosidin and isorhamnetin. It was found that highest flavonoid content was present in the ethanolic extract followed by decoction and infusion respectively. Protocol standardized by Hseu *et al.*<sup>19</sup> was used to evaluate the reducing power of extracts. DPPH• free radical scavenging activity was determined using protocol by Suja *et al.*<sup>20</sup> and to evaluate the inhibition of lipid peroxidation activity, method by Chan *et al.*<sup>21</sup> was used. It was found that best antioxidant activity was shown by decoction for all the four assays. The data strengthened the antioxidant potential of PA for therapeutic usage.<sup>22</sup> Another study identified two new oleanane saponins and one new flavonol glycoside along with 6 flavonoids which have been identified in aerial parts of PA previously also. The structure of the compounds was elucidated using 1D and 2D NMR.<sup>23</sup> The various classes of phytochemicals present in the *Paronychia argentea* were shown in Table 2.

### Bioactivity

PA possesses potential therapeutic properties such as anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, nephroprotective etc. This section focuses in detail on its various medicinal properties along with the shortcomings of the studies because of which this plant has not reached much up to clinical trials and clinics.

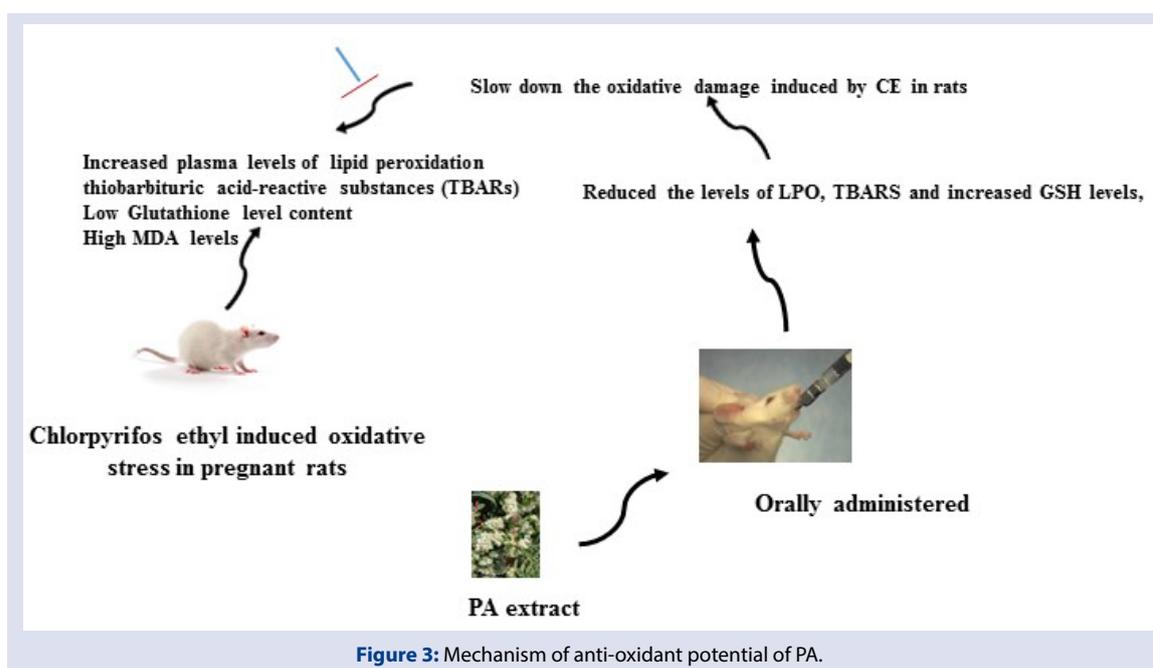
### Nephroprotective

Urinary stone is one of the most common disorder and percentage reappearance of these stones is very high in male followed by female.<sup>24</sup> The main constituent analyzed in these stones is Calcium oxalate (80%).<sup>25</sup> Formation of a kidney stone is a complex process involving various physiochemical events in succession.<sup>26,27</sup> Standard treatment regimen for eliminating kidney stones includes extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy (ESWL) and drug treatment. However, ESWL is related to severe side effects including traumatic effects of shock waves, persistence of residual stone fragments, infection. It may also cause renal injury, effect the functions of kidney, haemorrhage and hypertension.<sup>28,29</sup> These side effects emphasize the need of alternative medicinal approaches, of which medicinal plants may be the safest.

**Table 1: Compounds identified in Paronychia argentea.**

Sno.	Method used	Chemical compound identified	Habitat of Paronychia argentea samples	Content of flavonoids in the ethanolic extract, decoction and infusion of P. argentea (data are expressed as mg/g DM)		
1.	High pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) <sup>18</sup>	Vanillic acid	Plant material of <i>P. argentea</i> , aerial part, was collected on April 2016 from Ajloun area, Jordan.			
2	HPLC-UV/DAD and HPLC-ESI-MS <sup>22</sup>	luteolin Quercetin-3-O-(glucosyl)galactoside	<i>P. argentea</i> aerial parts were collected in the region of Adekar (West of Bejaia, Algeria)	Ethanolic extract	decoction	infusion
				4.3 ± 0.3	1.2 ± 0.1	<LOD
3		Quercetin-3-O-[(2'''-acetyl)glucosyl]galactoside		3.2 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.1	<LOD
4		Isorhamnetin-3-Odihexoside		2.1 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.1	<LOD
5		Quercetin-3-O-galactoside <sup>a</sup>		10.3 ± 0.3	2.9 ± 0.2	<LOD
6		Quercetin-3-Oglucoside <sup>a</sup>		1.8 ± 0.1	0.6 <sup>b</sup>	<LOD
7		Quercetinmethylether-O-hexoside		2.7 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.1	<LOD
8		Isorhamnetin-3-Oglucoside <sup>a</sup>		1.0 ± 0.1	<LOQ	<LOD
9		Jaceosidin-7-Oglucoside		<LOQ	0.6 <sup>b</sup>	0.2 <sup>b</sup>
10		Quercetin <sup>a</sup>		<LOQ	<LOD	<LOD
11		Jaceosidin		<LOD	0.1 <sup>b</sup>	<LOQ
12		Isorhamnetin <sup>a</sup>		<LOQ	<LOD	<LOD

**Abbreviation:** limit of detection (LOD) and the limit of quantification (LOQ)



**Figure 3:** Mechanism of anti-oxidant potential of PA.

**Table 2: Classes of phytochemicals present in the Paronychia argentea.**

Classes of Phytochemicals	Solvent	- = absence; + = presence; ++ = abundant
Sterols and Terpenoids	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	+++
	EtOH	Nil
	H <sub>2</sub> O	
Flavonoids	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	Nil
	EtOH	++
	H <sub>2</sub> O	
Phenolics	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	++
	EtOH	
	H <sub>2</sub> O	
Tannins	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	
	EtOH	+++
	H <sub>2</sub> O	
Saponins	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	
	EtOH	+++
	H <sub>2</sub> O	
Reducing compounds	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	
	EtOH	+++
	H <sub>2</sub> O	
carbohydrates	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	
	EtOH	
	H <sub>2</sub> O	+++
Volatile oils	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	+++
	EtOH	
	H <sub>2</sub> O	

+ Faint, ++ clear, +++ very clear, ++++ highly intense

Various medicinal plants have been used to treat urolithiasis.<sup>27,30-33</sup> PA has been used traditionally for its diuretic property and curing kidney other kidney ailments in Algeria.<sup>7,34</sup> However, very few detailed studies have been done to evaluate its potential along with toxicity studies. A detailed study was performed to evaluate the renal protective and antiurolithiasic efficacy of *Paronychia argentea* (PA) was evaluated using two extracts, namely aqueous extract (PAA) and butanolic extract (PAB). Aerial parts of this plant was used to prepare both the extracts and evaluate the effect on reduction in calculi aggregation in Wistar rats in which oxalocalciclithiasis was induced by an intraperitoneal injection of sodium oxalate (NaOx).<sup>35</sup> Both the extracts were administered orally for 28 days at various doses. Various parameters such as changes in body weight, liver function test, kidney function test including serum creatinine levels, uric acid, urea, various ions such as K<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup> along with cytosolic enzyme alanine aminotransferase which is usually present in liver and enzyme aspartate aminotransferase which is present in mitochondria of tissues such as heart and kidney were measured post-treatment. Nephrotoxicities were induced in this study by administration of intraperitoneal injection of sodium oxalate which were indicated by elevated levels of blood urea and serum creatinine. It was observed that in contradiction to PAA treated group, groups treated with two doses of PAB showed attenuation in the levels of serum creatinine and blood urea significantly indicating the nephroprotective effect of PAB. Elevated levels of these enzymes are considered as indicator of hepatotoxicity.<sup>36</sup> It was observed that group treated with PAA had elevated levels of ALT (27%) and PAL (31–51%) in serum indicating that PAA is ineffective against toxicity induced by oxalate and did not show hepatoprotection. Overall data in the study suggested that PAB when administered to rats in which lithiasis was induced by sodium oxalate, reduced and prevented the urinary stones growth, which supported the traditional usage of PA as an antiurolithiasic agent.<sup>37,38</sup> Mechanism which leads to different activities of two extracts need to be explored which will further prove the antiurolithiasic property of PA extracts.

### Protection against Ulcerative Colitis

Ulcerative colitis affects colon and rectum and is classified as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) which occurs recurrently and is chronic when relapsed in intestine.<sup>39</sup> Clinical symptoms include diarrhea, stool with blood, pain in abdomen and loss in body weight.<sup>40</sup> Two most common drugs for treatment of colitis are mesalazine and sulfasalazine.<sup>41</sup> These drugs are associated with unwanted effects on male fertility along with adverse effect of sulfasalazine including vomiting, hypospermia, hepatitis, pneumonitis, hemolytic anemia and chronic nephrosis andencephalitis.<sup>42,43</sup> It has been observed that sometimes treatment with sulfasalazine exacerbates colitis which results in diarrhea, abdominal cramps and uneasiness.<sup>44</sup> These side effects can be overcome by medicinal plant based therapeutics which could have less or no adverse side effects. It is well established fact that oxidative stress contributes majorly to tissue injury and fibrosis which are characteristic features of IBD. Recently a research group has performed *in vivo* assays to evaluate the effect of PA methanolic extract (PAM) against acetic acid-induced ulcerative colitis in mice.<sup>45,46</sup> The study was based on the fact that during ulcerative colitis, increased levels of superoxide and nitric oxide lead to peroxynitrite formation which causes oxidation of lipids, proteins and DNA,<sup>47</sup> reducing these parameters to normal levels by treatment with PA could be a treatment strategy for controlling colitis. It was observed that acetic acid-treated mice groups developed rapidly severe colitis with characteristic symptoms including bloody diarrhea, reduced mobility and food intake, poor coat quality and dramatic body weight loss. Administration of PAM prevented the reduction of body weight. It was further observed that PAM reduced the disease activity index (DAI) significantly, which is a parameter evaluated by severity of weight loss, bleeding from rectum and consistency of stool. Acetic acid had induced severe macroscopic edematous inflammation in the colon and caused colonic shortening and decrease of its wet weight in the colitis control group. It was observed that these changes were improved post treatment with 100, 200 and 500 mg/kg of PAM. Erythrocyte

sedimentation rate (ESR) count which is being used as a marker for inflammatory diseases<sup>48</sup> was found to be reduced to normal levels post-treatment with PAM. Serum C-reactive protein levels, another marker for inflammation was also found to be reduced in treated group when compared with colitis group. As mentioned above, free radicals and reactive oxygen species were reported in ulcerative colitis<sup>49</sup> along with lipid peroxidation. Malondialdehyde (MDA) is the product of lipid peroxidation,<sup>50</sup> it was observed that group of mice treated with PAM showed reduced levels of MDA when compared with colitis control group. Data suggested that efficacy of PA against ulcerative colitis was mediated by anti-lipid peroxidation and free radical scavenging ability. Along with above parameters, reduced glutathione (GSH) levels in the colonic tissue of colitis mice was found. Post-treatment with PAM, significant increase in GSH levels was observed when compared with UC control groups. This data further adds that anti-inflammatory effect of PA could be due to its ability to release glutathione.<sup>51,52</sup>

### Protection from the oxidative stress

It has been well proven that pesticide chemicals can lead to oxidative stress through generation of free radicals and it can also alter the antioxidant levels of the enzymes showing free radical scavenging activity. Chlorpyrifos (CE) is one such pesticide used in farms (Figure 3). Its toxicity is mediated by inhibiting acetyl cholinesterase (AChE) along with other mechanisms. This chemical has got ability to modify endogenous antioxidants like SOD, GPX and GSH which may cause oxidative stress in tissues<sup>53</sup> and can significantly reduce the activities of glutathione (GSH), catalase (CAT) and glutathione-S-transferase (GST).<sup>54</sup> Many plant extracts have proven anti-oxidant activity which boosts immune response and many studies have shown that flavonoids have antioxidants property.<sup>55</sup> PA has a high flavonoid content, this indicates its antioxidant property. Zama *et al.* have elucidated the role of PA in protection from the oxidative stress caused by CE.<sup>7</sup> Pregnant albino Wistar rats were used for the study and these were orally fed with pesticide and PA extract. Plasma and tissue malondialdehyde (MDA), GSH and erythrocyte superoxide dismutase (SOD) activities were calculated. MDA levels were estimated in plasma and different organs (liver, kidney, brain, placenta and in the fetuses and their livers) as an indicator of lipid peroxidation (LPO). Effect of CE and butanolic plant extract (PAB) on fetus was observed. Groups treated with CE showed significant increase in lipid peroxidation levels pesticide which was attenuated by the plant extract (PAB). Also, CE caused a significant decrease in antioxidant enzyme activity and this effect was partially reversed in groups treated with the PAB. The decrease in LPO levels and the increase in GSH and SOD enzyme activities post treatment with PAB validated its antioxidant property.<sup>7</sup>

### Anti-bacterial efficacy

Bacterial community both gram positive and gram negative are the major causative agent for various human infections.<sup>56</sup> Resistance is developing to available antimicrobials limiting the options for treatment. The prevalence of multi-drug resistance of bacterial strains necessitates new classes of anti-bacterials which can overcome resistance.<sup>57,58</sup> PA has been tested for its antimicrobial potential, since plant extracts and molecules derived from them can be a safe alternative. Antimicrobial potential of aqueous and ethanolic extract of *Paronychia argentea* Lam. (Caryophyllaceae) was studied against six Gram negative bacteria and one Gram positive bacterium. It was observed that ethanolic extract of PA exhibited the highest antimicrobial potential against most of the tested bacteria except for *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli*.<sup>59</sup> Another most common bacterial infection is by *Helicobacter pylori* which has been proven to be the major factor in gastric cancer, chronic active gastritis, duodenal ulcer, gastric ulcer and gastric lymphoma.<sup>60-63</sup> The available treatment regimen for *H. pylori* includes the combination of antibiotics along with agents which can suppress acid formation.

With the prevalence of drug resistance along with side effects and cost of the available treatment, search for new drugs with reduced side effects is the need.<sup>64-67</sup> A study conducted using PA extract has shown that PA has a moderate efficacy against *H. pylori*.<sup>66</sup> Another study has shown the efficacy of crude saponins extracted from the aerial parts of PA for the antioxidant, antimicrobial and synergistic effects with antibiotics. The results of minimum inhibitory concentration showed that saponins-rich extract of PA was found to be effective against the many *Candida* strains and Gram-positive bacteria. Moreover, it was found that the combination of saponins rich extract and classical antibiotics exhibited synergistic role against resistant bacteria and *Candida*.<sup>67</sup>

### Alpha amylase inhibitory activity of *Paronychia argentea*

Various medicinal plants are in use in traditional medicines for their hypoglycemic efficacy.<sup>68</sup> Hypoglycemic activity of many such plants has been proven *in vivo* using animal models.<sup>69-72</sup> The mechanism for hypoglycaemic potential of many traditional plants has not yet been explored. The hypoglycaemic effect of the plant extracts could be due to decreased absorption of ingested sugars. This could be possible by inhibition of enzymes which degrade complex carbohydrates. One such enzyme Alpha amylase has been evaluated as a prospective target for controlling diabetes since long.<sup>73</sup> First alpha glucosidase (alpha amylase as well) clinically used was acarbose which was obtained long screening program for glucosidase inhibitors and was significantly efficient in controlling blood glucose. However, it was also associated with side effects such as flatulence.<sup>74</sup> Moreover, it has been well established that alpha amylase inhibitors have better efficacy than alpha glucosidase inhibitors, since they do not lead to the accumulation of maltose and oligosaccharides in the gut.<sup>75</sup> Based on these facts a study was conducted in Jordan to identify new alpha amylase inhibitors and their mechanism of action for the hypoglycemic efficacy. It was found that PA dried crude extract exhibited significant (more than 80%) alpha amylase inhibitory activity. This data supported the hypoglycaemic activity of PA mediated by inhibition of alpha amylase activity which was later on contradicted by *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies as explained in next section. The activity of PA was attributed to high flavonoid components in it.<sup>76,77</sup>

### Hypoglycemic activity of PA

PA has been reported to have high content of the flavonoids isorhamnetin, quercetin and luteolin.<sup>6</sup> Various flavonoids aglycons and glycosides have been explored for their hypoglycemic activity.<sup>78-84</sup> A study was designed to evaluate the effect of PA on the levels of blood sugar, when crude extract was administered intranasal in the rabbits. This mode of drug administration assures rapid the rapid absorption of the drug and quick beginning of the therapeutic action. It was observed that 10% aqueous extract of PA along with Pluronic F127 (as drug delivery systems)<sup>85,86</sup> at a concentration of 5% (w/w) did not show any decrease in blood sugar levels. The data suggests that this study need to be further carried out using repeated administration of the extracts, since PA is still widely used in Jordan for hypoglycemic efficacy.<sup>87</sup> Another study was conducted using inbred male Fisher rats in which diabetes was induced by streptozocin.<sup>88</sup> It was observed that PA has no hypoglycemic effect on streptozocin-induced diabetic or normal rats. This data which is totally different from the traditional medicinal use of PA as hypoglycemic agent emphasises the need for comprehensive scientific evaluation of chemical, pharmacological and biological properties of medicinal plants used locally as nearly half of the population still depend on medicines from plant sources<sup>14,89,90</sup> The Pharmacological effects of *Paronychia argentea* were shown in Table 3. The detailed research on activities of less explored medicinal plants of historical practice will not only enhance the available knowledge but also ascertain efficacy and safety.

**Table 3:** Pharmacological effects of PA.

Extract tested of <i>Paronychia argentea</i>	In vitro/in vivo	Activity
Aqueous extract (PAA) and butanolic extract (PAB)	<i>In vivo</i> in Wistar rats	<b>Nephroprotective</b> (PAB when administered to rats with NaOx-induced lithiasis, reduced and prevented the growth of urinary stones) <sup>37</sup>
PA methanolic extract (PAM)	<i>In vivo</i> against acetic acid-induced ulcerative colitis in mice	<b>Protective against Ulcerative Colitis</b> Evident by decreased levels of inflammatory markers and Malondialdehyde (MDA), product of lipid peroxidation <sup>52</sup>
n -butanolic extract	<i>In vivo</i> in Pregnant albino Wistar rats	<b>Decreased oxidative stress induced by Chlorpyrifos (CE)</b> decrease in LPO levels and the increase in GSH and SOD enzyme activities post treatment with PAB validated its antioxidant property <sup>7</sup>
Aqueous and ethanolic extract of PA	In vitro	<b>Anti-bacterial efficacy</b> majority of <i>Candida</i> strains and Gram-positive bacteria, <i>H. Pylori</i>
Crude extract of PA	In vitro	Alpha amylase inhibitory activity
Aqueous extract of PA	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>In vivo</i> in streptozocine-induced diabetic rats	<b>Hypoglycemic activity of PA</b> In contrary to traditional usage, no hypoglycemic efficacy was observed

## CONCLUSION

This review was focussed on the morphology, habitat, photochemistry, traditional medicinal usage and pharmacological evaluation of *Paronychia argentea*. Available literature showing various bioactivities of PA has strengthened its medicinal value. However, few studies have also given contradictory data when compared with traditional usage of the plant. As in the case of alpha-amylase inhibitory efficacy of PA, it was observed that PA inhibits alpha-amylase activity but later on it was proven that PA does not have a hypoglycemic effect. This emphasises the need for proper investigation of the mechanism of action, toxicity evaluation and clinical studies of this plant. Further detailed studies of the structure of compounds obtained from the extract of PA could lead to synthesis of new therapeutic molecules which could serve as safe and better alternative.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nil.

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

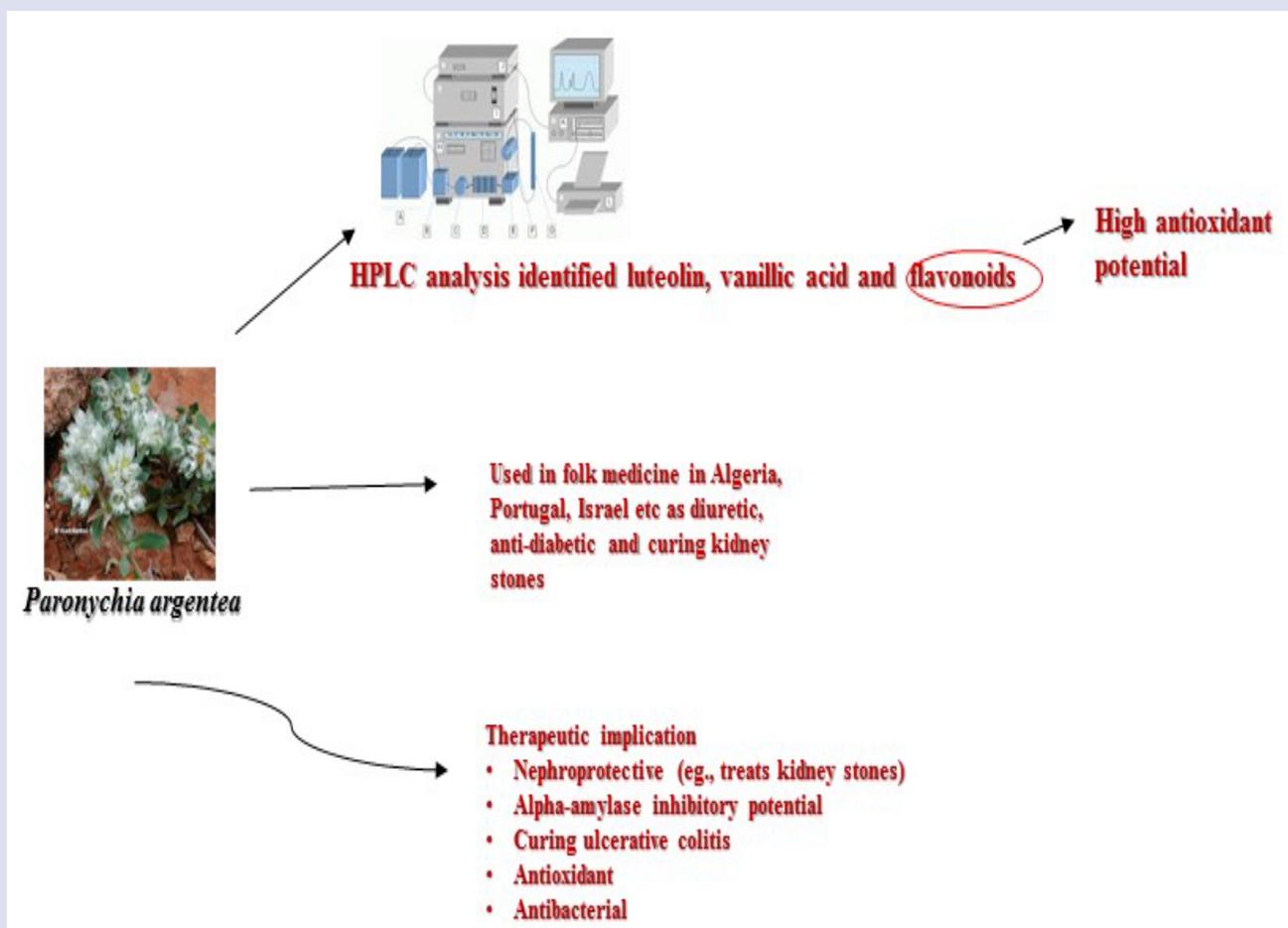
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## GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



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