

# Multi-target based virtual screening of phytochemicals from *Heliotropium indicum* L. leaves for identification of potential anti-urolithiatic agent

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## Research Article

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# Abstract

*Heliotropium indicum* Linn., a plant also known as 'Indian heliotrope,' is found in tropical and temperate regions of the world, and throughout India. This plant exhibits varieties of therapeutic effects like anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, anti-fertility, anti-nociceptive, and anti-tumor activities. In addition, the *Heliotropium indicum* L. plant have been reported to have therapeutic effects in kidney stone or urolithiasis. But it is not reported to date which phytochemicals are responsible for it. The current studies deal with multi-targets-based virtual screening for identification of the phytochemicals found in *Heliotropium indicum* L. leaves against different targets including antioxidants and anti-urolithiatic proteins. From the molecular docking-based screening, it was found that phytochemicals *Pestalamide B*, *Rapanone*, and *Supinine* possess had excellent binding modes against the targets selected for urolithiasis activities. However, 3'-Acetyl lycopsamine, Trachelanthamine, Lycopsamine, Heliotrine, Rinderine, Echinatine exhibited the binding modes with some anti-urolithiasis targets only along with all the antioxidant targets. Therefore, these phytochemicals from *Heliotropium indicum* L. leaves were found to have high potential in urolithiasis, but need to be proved experimentally. These phytochemicals are never reported against urolithiasis or kidney stone to date. Therefore, the results of the current studies can be exploited further for designing and discovering new anti-urolithiasis agents for the treatment of kidney stone/urolithiasis.

## 1. Introduction

Urolithiasis (Kidney stone in the urinary tract) is a multifarious process caused by an imbalance between stone inhibitors and promoter factors in kidneys[1]. The precipitation of oxalate and phosphate salts is occurs in the urinary tract which can obstruct the urethra that results in renal colic, haematuria, pyuria, dysuria, and oliguria[2, 3]. The formation of these stones blocks the flow of urine resulting in pain[4, 5]. In the past few years, the incidence of kidney stones has increased in both males and females may be due to the high dietary intake of minerals and proteins. In addition, the male sex hormone testosterone has been found an enhanced effect on kidney stone formation while the female sex hormone estrogen has been responsible for the prevention of kidney stone formation as it is keeping urine pH alkaline and increasing citrate levels in urine[6–9]. The recurrence rate of this disease differs in males (70–80%) and in females (47–60%)[10].

Stone formation is a cascade of events including nucleation, growth, aggregation, and retention of crystals within the kidneys. In the first step of the formation of kidney stones, crystal nucleation begins with the formation of the nucleus (termed as nidus) from supersaturated urine retained inside the kidney[11, 12]. The crystals in urine are starting to stick together to form a small hard mass of the stone, this process is termed crystal growth. The next step is crystal aggregation, in which a small hard mass of a crystal in solution sticks together to form a larger stone. In this step, aggregation of preformed crystals or secondary nucleation of crystal on the matrix-coated surface occurs. The stone growth and aggregation processes are slow and require a longer time to get a bigger size and subsequent blocking and retention of stone in the renal tubules[13]. The crystal can get interacted and/or attach to the epithelial cells lining the renal tubule of lining which may lead to damage to the epithelial cells and produce tubule injury[14].

The aberration in the chemical composition of the urine is related to the chemical composition of kidney stones[15, 16]. 80% of urinary stones are predominantly contained calcium oxalate[17]. The majority of calcium oxalate is found in the form of calcium oxalate monohydrate (COM), and calcium oxalate dihydrate (COD), or a combination of both which accounts for greater than 60%[18]. However, the struvite stone (magnesium ammonium phosphate) is also commonly found in the upper urinary tract due to bacteria infection[19]. Other stones, like ammonium acid urate, monosodium urate monohydrate, uric acid anhydrous, uric acid mono, and dihydrate are also found[20, 21].

Oxidative stress is caused by the imbalance of antioxidant capacity and reactive oxygen species (ROS) production. The ROS is formed via the involvement of mitochondria and NADPH oxidase (especially in the kidney)[22]. Under normal conditions, ROS found as a mediator of several signalling pathways including apoptosis, proliferation, and regulation of gene/transcription factor[22–24]. But, ROS also responsible for inducing oxidative stress which is critical for the formation of kidney stone/urolithiasis[22, 25]. It has been reported that oxidative stress increases the deposition of calcium oxalate crystals (kidney stones) [26, 27]. This oxidative stress causes injury to the renal epithelial cells and interacts with calcium oxalate crystals or oxalate ions is likely to enhance renal calculi formation[22, 23]. The increased oxidative stress causes ROS-induced cell injury, damage, and inflammation. The human body is having an antioxidant defensive mechanism which is used to scavenge the ROS and protect the body from the development of oxidative stress- mediated diseases including kidney stones. Therefore, the therapeutic intervention of antioxidants is helping to reduce oxidative stress/damage and crystal deposits[24]. Citrate is widely used as a key therapeutic agent for inhibiting kidney stones. Citrate is found in citrus as well as non-citrus fruits[28, 29]. Natural antioxidants like phenols and flavonoids were reported to mitigate free radical toxicity and alleviate stone formation in animal models as well as humans[30–33]. Therefore, phytochemicals with antioxidant activities could be useful in kidney stone prevention.

For the management of urolithiasis or kidney stones, several proteins were reported[34]. Glycolate oxidase (GO) (PDB ID: 2RDT)[35, 36] is expressed in the liver and pancreas and localized in peroxisomes. The dietary glycolate directly or indirectly is converted by peroxisomal GO (EC 1.1.3.15) into glyoxylate to oxalate. So, the GO is responsible for the overproduction of oxalate from glyoxylate[35, 37]. The high concentration of oxalate is responsible for hyperoxaluria which leads to kidney stone formation. Moreover, the function of GO in glyoxylate production plays an important role in Primary hyperoxaluria type 1 (PH1, a genetic disorder that leads to the formation of a high level of oxalate or hyperoxaluria) and oxalate mediates disorders[38, 39]. The inhibition of GO has been identified as a potential treatment for PH1 and oxalate mediate disorder can be targeted to inhibit/stop oxalate formation [35, 37, 38]. In addition, the antioxidant enzymes have also been found to be significant for urolithiasis management by preventing oxidative damage and protective effect on kidney stones. Antioxidant enzymes prevent calcium oxalate retention which could be precipitated into kidney stones[30–34, 40, 41]. The antioxidant proteins are glutathione-disulfide reductase (PDB ID: 1BWC[42]), glutathione-S-transferase (PDB ID: 4MPG), superoxide dismutase (PDB ID: 1CB4 [43]) and glutathione peroxidase (PDB ID: 2WGR [44]).

The human calcium-sensing receptor (PDB ID: 5FBH[45]) is a G-coupled protein responsible for calcium homeostasis in the body. The reduction in calcium-sensing receptor expression in the medulla of the kidney may lead to the formation of calculi. It may occur due to the imbalance in the excretion of water, calcium, and phosphate. This imbalance leads to calcium-phosphate precipitation and results in the formation of the stone[46]. Previous research has confirmed that this receptor is to be responsible for the formation of kidney stones [45, 47, 48].

In addition, matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-9 (PDB ID: 4XCT[49]) and MMP2 (PDB ID: 1HOV[50]) were also found to be important biomarkers in several kidney diseases[25, 51, 52]. Wu et al. reported that the inhibition of reactive oxygen species (ROS) production or the nuclear factor kappa-light chain-enhancer of activated B cell (NF- $\kappa$ B) pathway is significantly reduced calcium-induced MMP-9 expression and calcium crystal deposition. These studies suggested that the ROS/NF- $\kappa$ B/MMP-9 pathway is having a role in the regulation of calcium crystal deposition in renal tubule[25]. However, MMP-2 is also associated with a higher risk for stones in the patients[52]. MMP-9 and MMP-2 are reported to protect the kidneys from infection, fibrosis, cancer, and injury caused by kidney stones and fibrosis[52–57]. In different studies, it was found that kidney stones may occur in 3%-6% of patients suffering from fibrosis, and kidney stone can precipitate the fibrosis as well[58, 59]. It has been reported that these MMPs are found to be involved in tubular repair after acute kidney injury in renal tubules. These MMPs are found to have a protective effects on kidney diseases (also in urolithiasis[34]). These proteins (MMP2 and 9) are not directly involved in kidney stone formation. However, these are protecting the kidney from deposition of calcium, injury, infection, cancer, and angiogenesis, and fibrosis[25, 52–57, 60]. This means, that if the kidney is protected from stone formation then the kidney can be prevented from injury, fibrosis, and cancer, or angiogenesis/metastasis in the kidney. Targeting these proteins (MMP2 and 9) may be helpful in the management of kidney stones and subsequent morbidities. Nirala et al. targeted these proteins for computational studies to predict binding modes of phytochemical betulin[34]

All the aforementioned proteins were found to have an important role in the management of kidney stones and associated injuries. Therefore, these proteins were selected in these studies to check the binding potential of the phytochemicals of the leave of the *Heliotropium indicum* L..

The plants possess multiple constituents that work synergistically with minimum side effects and are accessible to a large population. Therefore, natural products have been attractive for drug design and discovery. Various plants like *Aervajavanica*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Curcuma longa*, *Citrus medica*[3], *Desmodium microphyllum*, *Eupatorium birmanicum*[10], *Fructus aurantii*[61], *Holarrhenaantidysenterica*[62], *Hordeum vulgare*[63], etc. have been reported in management and treatment of urolithiasis. But still, there is no potential treatment for this disease.

Traditionally, *Heliotropium indicum* L. has been reported to have antioxidant potential[64], prevent stone formation, and bear protective effects to prevent kidney cell damage. In the Philippines and Senegal, this plant is used for its diuretic and anti-urolithiasis activity[65–67]. But there are no reports about which phytochemicals are responsible for urolithiasis activity from this plant to date.

Virtual screening is found to be important in the identification of hits/leads against the biological targets in computer-aided drug design and discovery as it is saving time and money [68]. Molecular docking is one of the virtual screening methods which is extensively used for this purpose. This strategy has successfully found the active molecules against the different targets [69–71]. The molecular docking method is also used to understand the binding mechanism of a ligand inside the active site of the protein. It predicts the important binding modes of the ligand against the biological target with the binding score. The binding score of ligands has elucidated the strength of binding into the active sites of the biological targets. Therefore, molecular docking would be useful to identify the potential phytochemicals of *Heliotropium indicum* L. leaves against targets for urolithiasis.

In the current studies, multitargets-based virtual screening of phytochemicals of leaves of *Heliotropium indicum* L. was performed against the different biological targets (mentioned above) which were found to be important in the management of kidney stone formation or urolithiasis. For virtual screening, the molecular docking studies were carried out to predict their binding potential against the glycolate oxidase, glutathione-disulfide reductase, glutathione-S-transferase, superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase, Human calcium-sensing receptor, and MMP-9 and MMP-2. This is the first kind of report of individual phytochemicals of *Heliotropium indicum* L. leaves that were investigated against multiple targets responsible for urolithiasis or kidney stone. The results indicated that some of the phytochemicals were found to have high binding potential against the targets selected for studies.

## 2. Computational Details

### 2.1 Data set

Data sets of 40 phytochemicals (listed in **Table S1 in supplementary material**), present in the leaves of *Heliotropium indicum* L. were collected from PubMed[66, 67]. All the phytochemicals were prepared using LigPrep (Schrödinger LLC) program using the OPLS\_2005 force field. All the parameters (including ionization state at pH 7.4, 32 stereoisomers per ligand, retain specified chiralities, desalination, etc.) [Schrödinger Suite 2017: LigPrep, version 2.5, Schrödinger, LLC; New York, USA] were kept as default.

### 2.2 Multi-targets Virtual Screening

#### 2.2.1 Molecular docking

Total 7 different target proteins, which were found to be responsible for urolithiasis, were downloaded from protein data bank (PDB) [glutathione-disulphide reductase (PDB ID: 1BWC), glutathione-S-transferase(PDB ID:4MPG), superoxide dismutase (PDB ID: 1CB4), glycolate oxidase (PDB ID: 2RDT), MMP-9 (PDB ID: 4XCT), MMP-2 (PDB ID: 1HOV)human calcium-sensing receptor with bound  $Gd^{3+}$ (PDB ID: 5FBH), glutathione peroxidase (PDB ID: 2WGR)]for molecular docking based screening. All the proteins were prepared using the protein preparation wizard from the Maestro program incorporated in Schrödinger (water molecules were removed and hydrogen and missing atoms were also added) software. The receptor grid generation program of the Glide module of the Schrödinger software was used to generate the grid around the active site of the protein. For grid generation, grid size 10X10X10Åwas set and center of the

grid was selected based on a bound co-crystallized ligand of the PDB. Moreover, the maximum length of docking ligands was set to cut off 20 Å. The grid files are a pre-requisite for molecular docking studies in the Glide program and are important for accurate scoring of docking poses. To validate the docking protocol, first, redock the co-crystallized ligand of the PDB against the active site of the same PDB structure to check whether its binding pose is similar to its experimentally derived pose or not (in terms of position and interactions). In the case of the superoxide dismutase (PDB 1CB4), no co-crystallized ligand was present in the PDB, so a grid was generated around the important residues responsible for the binding of the ligand[72]. The glide docking protocol was repeated three times using different options high-throughput virtual screening (HTVS), standard precision (SP), and extra precision (XP). The accuracy of the docking is increased from HTVS to XP with increased computational time. Each level is filtered out the best binding pose with improved binding affinity. The final refined results will be again subjected to rescoring each XP binding pose in the glide program without docking into the active site[73, 74]. The final results are the best binding pose of each phytochemical against the protein. This protocol was repeated for all proteins used for the studies.

After successful validation, all the phytochemicals (40 phytochemicals listed in **Table S1 in supplementary material**) were docked into the active site of each target protein using the same grid file. All the docking results were interpreted using the binding pose of the co-crystallized ligand (X-ray) as well as based on available works of literature.

## 2.3 Validation of docking results

The best binding poses (protein-ligand complexes) were further processed by using the convolutional neural network (CNN) method implemented in Glimpse [75, 76] to predict their binding pose and affinities. This method was used to validate the binding affinities of the best docking poses of phytochemicals obtained from the Glide program. This prediction will be helpful in the analysis of the final results and of course, to distinguish the high and low binder. If both binding poses, as well as affinities, are consistent, then the docked phytochemical is a high binder against the given protein.

## 2.4 Pharmacokinetic studies using QikProp

The pharmacokinetic studies [Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, and Excretion (ADME)] were evaluated from the QikProp Tool of the Schrodinger program [QikProp, Schrödinger, LLC, New York, NY, 2020]. QikProp has predicted the ADME properties from the 95% marketed drugs and provides the ranges of these properties for the predicted molecules. The prediction of the property falls under the range of the QikProp, which means that satisfactory ADME property.

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Docking studies

During the validation of the docking protocol for each target, it was found that the co-crystallized ligand was posed in the same position in the active site as well as exhibited important interactions with active site residues (Table 1). After that, multi-targets based virtual screening was performed using molecular docking studies of the phytochemicals (40 phytochemicals listed in **Table S1 in supplementary material**) present in the leaves of the *Heliotropium indicum L.* against all the selected targets (MMP-9 and MMP-2, glycolate oxidase and human calcium-sensing receptor and antioxidant proteins) with same. The analysis of the docking results was done using the binding pose of the co-crystallized ligand (X-ray) of the target as well as works of literature. Only those poses were selected that were positioned near the co-crystallized ligand of the protein and had the docking score close to the co-crystallized ligand. In the case of superoxide dismutase (PDB ID: 1CB4), the bound co-crystallized ligand is absent, so the cut-off value for docking score > -5.00 kcal/mol was used to select the final pose of the phytochemicals (**Table S2 in supplementary material**).

The docking results (Table 1) against glutathione-disulfide reductase (PDB ID: 1BWC), elucidated that pestalamide B (Fig. 1a), rapanone (Fig. 2a), echinatine (**Fig. S1**), and supinine (Fig. 3a) bound into the active site at the same position where co-crystallized ligand posed. However, these phytochemicals were found to have low binding potential as compared to co-crystallized ligands (-11.232 kcal/mol). The rest of the molecules were found to have less docking scores as compared to Supinine (-5.038 kcal/mol) [**Table S2 in supplementary material**]. The 2D docking poses of the pestalamide B, rapanone, echinatine, and supinine are given in **Fig. S2, S3, S4, and S5**, respectively. The important H-bonding interactions were observed with the Gly31, Thr57 Lys66, and Asp331 residues while, Ile26, Val49, Cys58, Cys63, Ala130, Ala155, Tyr197, Ile198, Leu298, Val332, Leu337, Leu338, and Ala342 residues were involved in hydrophobic interactions (Table 1).

The docking results (Table 1) against glutathione-S-transferase (PDB ID:4MPG), elucidated that out of the 40 phytochemicals, 17 phytochemicals (**Table S2 in supplementary material**) were found to have higher binding affinity for co-crystallized ligand (-5.96 kcal/mol). However, pestalamide B (-9.29 kcal/mol) (Fig. 1b and S6) and rapanone (-8.741 kcal/mol) (Fig. 2b and S7) were found to have the highest docking score as compared to co-crystallized ligand (Table 1). The pestalamide B (pyridine-4(1H)-one ring) exhibited pi-pi interactions with Trp115 similar to the co-crystallized ligand (**Fig. S6 and S8**, respectively). The rest of the phytochemicals also exhibited high docking scores (ranging from -5.965 to -7.955 kcal/mol) as compared to the co-crystallized ligand (Table 1). The phytochemicals [pestalamide B, rapanone, 9,12-octadecadienoic acid, lasiocarpine, 3'-acetyllycopsamine, trachelanthamine, lycopsamine, supinine, 9,12,15-octadecatrienoic acid, ethyl ester, acetyl indicine, heleurine, campesterol, heliotrine] had the highest binding affinities against the glutathione-S-transferase (Table 1). The important H-bonding interactions (with Gln12, His40, Leu54, Arg107, Trp115, Gln175) and hydrophobic interactions (with Val10, Pro13, Leu35, Val36, Leu54, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ala235, Ala232, and Met236) were observed with the 13 phytochemicals (Table 1). The rest of the molecules exhibited less binding affinity (less docking score) as compared to the co-crystallized ligand (**Table S2 in supplementary material**).

The docking studies against superoxide dismutase (PDB ID: 1CB4) revealed that rinderine (-6.597 kcal/mol), lycopsamine (-6.594 kcal/mol) and heliotrine (-6.232 kcal/mol) were exhibiting the highest docking score (Table 1 and **Fig. S9-S11, respectively**). However, supinine (-5.788 kcal/mol) (Fig. 3c and S12), acetyl indicine (-5.537 kcal/mol) (**Fig. S13**), echinatine (-5.493 kcal/mol) (**Fig. S14**), trachelanthamine (-5.453 kcal/mol) (**Fig. S15**), pestalamide B (-5.396 kcal/mol) (Fig. 1c and S16) also exhibited high binding affinities against the superoxide dismutase. All the phytochemicals (Table 1) were docked at

the same position in the protein active site as well as reflected the almost same H-bonding and hydrophobic interactions (Table 1). The rest of the molecules exhibited less docking score than the cut-off value of -5.00 kcal/mol [Table S2 in supplementary material]. All phytochemicals (in Table 1) followed the same binding interaction as H-bonding (Val7 and Val146) and hydrophobic interactions (Val5, Cys6, Val7, Leu8, Cys144, Val146, Ile147). This suggests that these interactions were found to be important for binding the molecules into the active site of the protein. The rinderine, lycopsamine, heliotrine, supinine, acetyl indicine, echinatine, trachelanthamine, pestalamide B were found to have high binding potential against the superoxide dismutase.

The docking results (Table 1) against glycolate oxidase (PDB ID: 2RDT) elucidated that pestalamide B (-11.597 kcal/mol) (Fig. 1d and S17), rapanone (-10.606kcal/mol)(Fig. 2c and S18) have the highest docking score as compared to co-crystallized ligand (-8.505 kcal/mol) (Fig. S19 in supplementary material). In addition, supinine (-8.252 kcal/mol) (Fig. 3d and S20 in supplementary material) exhibited almost the same binding affinity as a co-crystallized ligand (Table 1). The rest of the phytochemicals (Table 1) were having less binding affinity as compared to a co-crystallized ligand. The important H-bonding (Tyr26, Ala79, Tyr132, Arg167, His260, andArg263) and hydrophobic interactions (Tyr26, Ala81, Met82, Trp110, Tyr132, Leu164, Leu205, Tyr208, Val209) were found with these phytochemicals. However, some of the phytochemicals exhibited common binding interactions either H-bonding/hydrophobic interactions or both (as reflected in Table 1). The rest of the phytochemicals exhibited less docking score (<-5.00 kcal/mol), thereby, these were not included for analysis (Table S2 in supplementary material).

The docking results of MMP-9 (PDB ID: 4XCT) showed that a total of 15 phytochemicals out of 40 exhibited a high docking score as compared to co-crystallized ligand (Range – 6.037 to -8.778 kcal/mol) (Table 1). The 3'-acetyllycopsamine (-8.778kcal/mol) (Fig. S21) and lycopsamine (-8.502 kcal/mol) (Fig. S22) showed the highest docking score as compared to co-crystallized ligand (-5.916 kcal/mol) (Fig. S23 in supplementary material). On the other hand, the phytochemicals like pestalamide B (-7.747 kcal/mol) (Fig. 1e and S24) rinderine (-7.683 kcal/mol) (Fig. S25), rapanone (-7.401 kcal/mol) (Fig. 2d and S26) also exhibited a good binding affinity against MMP-9 as compared to the co-crystallized ligand. The  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions with His226 were also observed in pestalamide B (Fig. S24) as similar to the co-crystallized ligand (Table 1). The important H-bonding (Ala189, Leu188, Glu227, Pro240, Met247, Arg249) and hydrophobic interactions (Leu188, Val223, Leu222, Pro240, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248, Pro255) were observed with the top 15 phytochemicals. The rest of the phytochemicals exhibited less binding affinity as compared to the co-crystallized ligands (Table S2 in Supplementary material).

Table 1

Multitargets based binding interactions analysis of best phytochemicals present in the leaves of *Heliotropium indicum* L. obtained from docking studies

| PDB ID                                    | Phytochemicals/ co-crystallized ligand     | Docking Score<br>(kcal/mol) | H-bonding                                                 | Hydrophobic Interactions                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1BWC<br>(Glutathione-disulfide reductase) | *1BWC-X-ray ligand                         | -11.232                     | Gly31, Glu50, Ser51, Thr57, Lys66, Ala130, Asp331, Thr339 | Ile26, Val49, Cys58, Cys63, Ala130, Phe181, Tyr197, Ile198, Leu298, Ala155, Met202, Val332, Leu337, Leu338, Pro340, Ala342, Phe372 |
|                                           | Pestalamide B                              | -6.06                       | Gly31, Thr57, Asp331                                      | Ile26, Val49, Cys58, Ala130, Ala155, Leu298, Ala312                                                                                |
|                                           | Rapanone                                   | -5.872                      | Thr57, Cys58, Asp331                                      | Cys58, Ala155, Tyr197, Ile198, Ala199, Ala288, Val332, Leu337, Leu338, Ala342                                                      |
|                                           | Echinatine                                 | -5.138                      | Lys66                                                     | Cys58, Val61, Gly62, Cys63, Ile198, Tyr197, Leu337, Leu338, Pro340, Val370, Val371, Phe372                                         |
|                                           | Supinine                                   | -5.038                      | Leu337, Asp331                                            | Cys58, Val61, Gly62, Cys63, Phe181, Tyr197, Ile198, Met202, Leu337, Leu338, Ala342                                                 |
| 4MPG<br>(Glutathione-S-transferase)       | *4MPG-x-ray ligand                         | -5.958                      | -                                                         | Val10, Leu35, Leu114, Leu119<br>$\pi$ - $\pi$ stacking: Trp115                                                                     |
|                                           | Pestalamide B                              | -9.29                       | Gln12, Gln175, Arg239, Arg242                             | Val10, Leu35, Val36, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Pro228, Ala232, Ala235, Met236<br>$\pi$ - $\pi$ stacking: Trp115                      |
|                                           | Rapanone                                   | -8.741                      | Ser11, Leu54                                              | Val10, Pro13, Leu35, Val36, Leu54, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ala232, Ala235, Met236                                                  |
|                                           | 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid                  | -7.955                      | Gly111, Trp115, Gln175                                    | Val10, Val35, Val36, Leu54, Ile112, Leu114, Trp15, Leu119, Ala232, Ala235, Met236                                                  |
|                                           | Lasiocarpine                               | -7.454                      | His40                                                     | Val10, Leu35, Val36, Leu54, Ile112, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ile216, Ala235, Met236                                                 |
|                                           | 3'-Acetyllycopsamine                       | -7.262                      | Gln12, His40, Leu54, Arg107                               | Val10, Pro13, Leu35, Val36, Leu54, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ala232, Ala235, Met236                                                  |
|                                           | Trachelanthamine                           | -7.238                      | Gln12, His40, Arg107, Trp115                              | Val10, Leu119, Pro13, Leu35, Leu114, Trp115, Ala232, Ala235, Met236,                                                               |
|                                           | Lycopsamine                                | -7.017                      | His40, Leu54, Arg107                                      | Pro13, Leu35, Val36, Leu54, Trp115, Leu119, Ala232, Ala235, Met236                                                                 |
|                                           | Supinine                                   | -6.750                      | Gln12, Arg107                                             | Val10, Pro13, Leu35, Val36, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ala232, Ala235, Met236                                                         |
|                                           | 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, Ethyl Ester | -6.711                      | Gln175                                                    | Val10, Leu35, Val36, Leu54, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ala232, Ala235, Met236                                                         |
|                                           | Acetyl indicine                            | -6.507                      | Gln12, Arg107                                             | Val10, Pro13, Leu35, Val36, Leu54, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ala232, Ala235, Met236                                                  |
|                                           | Heleurine                                  | -6.404                      | Gln12, Arg107                                             | Val10, Pro13, Leu35, Val36, Ile112, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ala232, Ala235, Met236                                                 |
|                                           | Campesterol                                | -6.021                      | -                                                         | Val10, Pro13, Leu35, Val36, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ile216, Pro228, Ala232, Ala235, Met236                                         |
|                                           | Heliotrine                                 | -5.965                      | His40                                                     | Val10, Leu35, Val36, Leu54, Leu114, Trp115, Leu119, Ala235, Met236                                                                 |
| 1CB4<br>(Superoxide dismutase)            | Rinderine                                  | -6.597                      | Val7, Val146                                              | Val5, Cys6, Val7, Leu8, Cys144, Val146, Ile147,                                                                                    |
|                                           | Lycopsamine                                | -6.594                      | Val7, Val146                                              | Val5, Cys6, Val7, Leu8, Cys144, Val146, Ile147                                                                                     |
|                                           | Heliotrine                                 | -6.232                      | Val7, Asn51, Val146                                       | Cys6, Val7, Leu8, Cys55, Cys144, Val146,                                                                                           |
|                                           | Supinine                                   | -5.788                      | Val7, Val146                                              | Val5, Cys6, Val7, Cys144, Val146, Ile147                                                                                           |
|                                           | Acetyl indicine                            | -5.537                      | Val7, Val146                                              | Val5, Cys6, Val7, Leu8, Cys144, Val146, Ile147                                                                                     |
|                                           | Echinatine                                 | -5.493                      | Val7, Val146                                              | Val5, Cys6, Val7, Leu8, Cys144, Val146, Ile147                                                                                     |
|                                           | Trachelanthamine                           | -5.453                      | Val7, Val146                                              | Val5, Cys6, Val7, Leu8, Cys144, Val146, Ile147, Ile149                                                                             |
|                                           | Pestalamide B                              | -5.396                      | Val7, Asn51, Val146                                       | Val5, Cys6, Val7, Cys55, Cys144, Val146, Ile147                                                                                    |

\*binding interactions were obtained from Plip program also [Adasme, M. F. et al. PLIP 2021: expanding the scope of the protein–ligand interaction profiler to DNA and RNA. Nucl. Acids Res. (2021). doi: 10.1093/nar/gkab294]

| PDB ID                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Phytochemicals/ co-crystalized ligand | Docking Score<br>(kcal/mol) | H-bonding                                   | Hydrophobic Interactions                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2RDT<br>(Glycolate oxidase)                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 2RDT-x-ray ligand                     | -8.505                      | Arg167, Arg263                              | Tyr26, Ala81, Met82, Trp110, Tyr132, Leu164, Leu205, Tyr208, Val209                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Pestalamide B                         | -11.597                     | Ala79, Ala81, Arg167, Cys236, His260 Arg263 | Tyr26, Ala79, Ala81, Met82, Trp110, Tyr132, Leu164, Leu205, Tyr208, Val209                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Rapanone                              | -10.606                     | Tyr26, Ala79, Tyr132, Arg167, Arg263        | Tyr26, Ala79, Ala81, Met82, Trp110, Ala111, Tyr132, Leu164, Leu205, Tyr208, Val209                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Supinine                              | -8.252                      | Tyr26, Arg167, His260, Arg263               | Tyr26, Ala81, Met82, Tyr132, Trp110, Leu164, Leu205, Tyr208, Val209                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Rinderine                             | -7.826                      | Tyr26, Ala81, Arg167                        | Tyr26, Ala79, Ala81, Met82, Trp110, Tyr132, Leu164, Leu205, Val209, Ile213                                                                                            |
| 4XCT<br>(Matrix metalloproteinase-9)                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4XCT-X-ray-ligand                     | -5.916                      | Leu188, Ala189                              | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Ala191, Leu222, Val223, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248<br><br>Cation- $\pi$ : with Zn <sup>2+</sup><br>$\pi$ - $\pi$ stacking: His226 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 3'-Acetyllycopsamine                  | -8.778                      | Pro240, Arg249                              | Leu188, Leu222, Val223, Pro240, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248, Pro255                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Lycopsamine                           | -8.502                      | Ala242, Arg249                              | Leu188, Val223, Leu222, Pro240, Ala242, Leu243, Pro255, Tyr248, Met247, Pro246, Tyr245, Tyr248, Met244, Pro246, Ala189                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Pestalamide B                         | -7.747                      | Leu188, Ala189, Tyr245                      | Leu222, Val223, Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Pro240, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248<br><br>$\pi$ - $\pi$ stacking: His226                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Rinderine                             | -7.683                      | Tyr245 Glu227                               | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Pro240, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met244, Tyr248                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Rapanone                              | -7.401                      | Ala189                                      | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Pro240, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248, Phe250                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Echinatine                            | -7.302                      | Met247, Arg249                              | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Heliotrine                            | -7.214                      | Glu227                                      | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Ala191, Leu222, Val223, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Dodecanoic acid                       | -7.059                      | Ala189                                      | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Met247, Tyr248, Pro255                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Homo spermidine                       | -7.053                      | Ala189, Glu227, Try245, Arg249              | Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248, Phe250                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Acetyl indicine                       | -6.929                      | Met247, Arg249                              | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Supinine                              | -6.683                      | Glu227                                      | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Heleurine                             | -6.582                      | Glu227                                      | Phe181, Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248, Pro255                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Trachelanthamine                      | -6.329                      | Glu227                                      | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Ala242, Leu243, Met244, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid             | -6.231                      | Glu227                                      | Leu187, Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Ala242, Leu243, Met244, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Tetradecanoic acid                    | -6.037                      | Glu227                                      | Leu188, Ala189, Leu222, Val223, Ala242, Leu243, Tyr245, Pro246, Met247, Tyr248, Phe250, Pro255                                                                        |
| 5FBH<br>(Human calcium sensing receptor)                                                                                                                                                                                      | *5FBH-X-ray-ligand                    | -6.241                      | Ser147, Ala168, Ser170, Glu297              | Thr145, Ala298<br><br>$\pi$ - $\pi$ stacking: Trp70                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                       |                             |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                       |
| *binding interactions were obtained from Plip program also [Adasme, M. F. et al. PLIP 2021: expanding the scope of the protein–ligand interaction profiler to DNA and RNA. Nucl. Acids Res. (2021). doi: 10.1093/nar/gkab294] |                                       |                             |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                       |

| PDB ID                               | Phytochemicals/ co-crystallized ligand | Docking Score<br>(kcal/mol) | H-bonding                      | Hydrophobic Interactions                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                      | 3'-Acetyllycopsamine                   | -8.725                      | Ser147, Ala298                 | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Ala168, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Leu304, Ile416                                                           |
|                                      | Echinatine                             | -8.227                      | Asp275, Ala298                 | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Leu304, Ile416,                                                                  |
|                                      | Acetyl indicine                        | -8.133                      | Arg66, Ala168, Ala298          | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Ala168, Ile187, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Leu304, Ile416                                                   |
|                                      | Rinderine                              | -8.122                      | Ala298                         | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Ala168, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Leu304, Ile416                                                           |
|                                      | Supinine                               | -8.003                      | Ala298                         | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Ala168, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Leu304, Ile416                                                           |
|                                      | Lycopsamine                            | -7.904                      | Ala168, Ala298                 | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Ala168, Ile187, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Ile416                                                           |
|                                      | Rapanone                               | -7.311                      | Asn64, Ala298                  | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Ala168, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Ile416                                                                   |
|                                      | Heliotrine                             | -6.965                      | Ala298                         | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Ala168, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Leu304                                                                   |
|                                      | Heleurine                              | -6.961                      | Ala298                         | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Ala168, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Leu304, Ile416                                                           |
|                                      | Lasiocarpine                           | -6.465                      | Asn102, Ser272                 | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Val104, Val149, Ala168, Ile187, Tyr246, Pro274, Ala298, Ile416                                                   |
|                                      | Trachelanthamine                       | -6.365                      | Ala168                         | Pro39, Phe42, Trp70, Ala168, Ile187, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Leu322, Leu304, Ile416                                           |
| 2WGR<br>(Glutathione peroxidase)     | *2WGR-X-ray-ligand                     | -9.512                      | Thr125, Lys131, Trp132, Tyr149 | *Salt bridge: Lys131, Arg148                                                                                                          |
|                                      | Lycopsamine                            | -5.648                      | Gln122, His123, Arg148,        | Pro151, Tyr149                                                                                                                        |
|                                      | Rinderine                              | -5.395                      | His123, Thr125                 | Pro151, Tyr149                                                                                                                        |
| 1HOV<br>(Matrix metalloproteinase-2) | 1HOV-X-ray-lig                         | -12.375                     | Leu83, Ala84, Ile141           | Tyr74, Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Leu116, Ala136, Leu137, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142, Tyr144, Phe148<br><br>Cation pi: Zn <sup>2+</sup> |
|                                      | Lasiocarpine                           | -6.962                      | Leu83, Ala84, Tyr142           | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Tyr112, Val117, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142                                                                   |
|                                      | 3'-Acetyllycopsamine                   | -6.503                      | Leu83, Ala84, His85, Glu121    | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Ala86, Val117, Tyr142                                                                                            |
|                                      | Supinine                               | -6.415                      | Leu83, Ala84, Glu121           | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Ala86, Phe87, Tyr142                                                                                             |
|                                      | Rinderine                              | -6.319                      | Leu83, Ala84, Glu121           | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Ala86, Val117, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142                                                                    |
|                                      | Pestalamide B                          | -6.24                       | Leu83, Ala84,                  | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Leu116, Val117, Ala136, Leu137, Ala139, Ile141, Tyr142, Tyr144, Leu150                                           |
|                                      | Lycopsamine                            | -6.234                      | Glyu81, Leu83, Ala84, Glu121   | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Ala86, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142                                                                            |
|                                      | 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural                | -5.439                      | Leu83, Ala84, Ala139           | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Val117, Met138, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142<br><br>Cation-pi: Zn<br>Pi-pi: His120                             |
|                                      | Rapanone                               | -5.432                      | Leu83, Glu121                  | Leu82, Leu83, Tyr112, Val117, Ala84, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142                                                                   |
|                                      | Heliotrine                             | -5.405                      | Leu83, Ala84, Glu121           | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Ala86, Leu116, Val117, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142                                                                    |
|                                      | Echinatine                             | -5.374                      | Ala84, Glu121                  | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Ala86, Val117, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142                                                                    |

\*binding interactions were obtained from Plip program also [Adasme, M. F. et al. PLIP 2021: expanding the scope of the protein–ligand interaction profiler to DNA and RNA. Nucl. Acids Res. (2021). doi: 10.1093/nar/gkab294]

| PDB ID                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Phytochemicals/ co-crystallized ligand | Docking Score<br>(kcal/mol) | H-bonding    | Hydrophobic Interactions                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Tetradecanoic acid                     | -5.262                      | Ala84        | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Tyr74, Pro75, Phe76                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Trachelanthamine                       | -5.256                      | Leu83, Ala84 | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 1-Hexacosanol                          | -5.241                      | Leu83, Ala84 | Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Tyr112, Val117, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142, Tyr144 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Campesterol                            | -5.151                      | Ile141       | Tyr74, Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Phenol, 3-Isopropoxy-5-Methyl          | -5.005                      | Ala136       | Ile116, Pro134, Ala136, Leu137, Ala139, Ile141, Tyr142, Tyr144, Phe148      |
| *binding interactions were obtained from Plip program also [Adasme, M. F. et al. PLIP 2021: expanding the scope of the protein–ligand interaction profiler to DNA and RNA. Nucl. Acids Res. (2021). doi: 10.1093/nar/gkab294] |                                        |                             |              |                                                                             |

Table 1

The docking results (Table 1) of the human calcium-sensing receptor (PDB ID: 5FBH) elucidated that 11 out of 40 phytochemicals were found to have a good binding affinity (from – 6.365 to -8.725 kcal/mol) as compared to co-crystallized ligand (-6.241 kcal/mol). All of these phytochemicals were docked into the same active site where the co-crystallized ligand was bound. Highest binding affinity (above >8.00 kcal/mol) was exhibited by the phytochemicals; 3'-acetyllycopsamine (-8.725 kcal/mol) (**Fig. S27**), echinatine (-8.227 kcal/mol) (**Fig. S28**), Acetyl indicine (-8.133 kcal/mol) (**Fig. S29**), rinderine (-8.122 kcal/mol) (**Fig. S30**), Supinine (-8.003 kcal/mol) (Fig. 3f and S31). On the other hand, phytochemicals lycopsamine (-7.904 kcal/mol), rapanone (-7.311 kcal/mol) (Fig. 2e), heliotrine (-6.965 kcal/mol), heleurine (-6.961 kcal/mol), lasiocarpine (-6.465 kcal/mol) and trachelanthamine (-6.365 kcal/mol) also exhibited the high binding affinity against PDB: 5FBH protein. All these phytochemicals exhibited the common H-bonding interactions with Ala298, except lasiocarpine and Trachelanthamine (Table 1). This signifies that it could be an important interaction for binding the molecules into the active site of the human calcium-sensing receptor (PDB: 5FBH). However, other H-bonding interactions with Ser147, and Ala168 were also observed with the phytochemicals (Table 1). The important hydrophobic (Trp70, Pro39, Phe42, Ala168, Tyr218, Pro274, Ala298, Trp299, Leu304, Ile416) interactions were observed in top-ranked phytochemicals (Table 1). The remaining phytochemicals were also found to bind with active sites but with less binding affinity as compared to that of co-crystallized ligand (**Table S2 in supplementary material**).

The docking studies against glutathione peroxidase (PDB ID: 2WGR) observed that all the phytochemicals exhibited a less binding affinity with active sites of the glutathione peroxidase as compared to co-crystallized ligand (-9.512 kcal/mol) (Table 1 and **Table S2 in supplementary material**). The lycopsamine (-5.648 kcal/mol) and rinderine (-5.395 kcal/mol) exhibited a good docking score as compared to other phytochemicals, but lower than the co-crystallized ligand (Table 1 and **Table S2 in supplementary material**). The H-bonding interactions Arg148, His123 Gln122 in the case of lycopsamine and Thr125, His123 in the case of rinderine were observed. Both the phytochemicals showed hydrophobic interactions with the residues Pro151, Tyr149. These phytochemicals exhibited a low binding affinity as the binding pocket of the PDB ID 2WGR is too small to accommodate them. Because of it, only small size phytochemicals were able to bind into the active site with less binding affinity as compared to the co-crystallized ligand (Fig. 10 and **Table S2**). So, these phytochemicals were found to have less binding potential against glutathione peroxidase, however, this is important antioxidant protein.

The docking studies of all the phytochemicals against MMP-2 (PDB ID: 1HOV) exhibited a low docking score as compared to co-crystallized ligand (-12.375 kcal/mol) (Table 1 and **Table S2 in supplementary material**). However, these phytochemicals were docked at the same position (where co-crystallized ligand was bound) and with common H-bonding (Leu83, Ala84, Glu121) and hydrophobic (Leu82, Leu83, Ala84, Ala86, Val117, Ala139, Pro140, Ile141, Tyr142) interactions (Table 1). These phytochemicals were found to have less binding potential against MMP-2 as compared to the co-crystallized ligand.

By comparing the overall docking results (Table 1), it is found that a few phytochemicals: pestalamide B, rapanone, 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid, lasiocarpine, 3'-acetyllycopsamine, trachelanthamine, lycopsamine, heliotrine, supinine, rinderine, echinatine, dodecanoic acid, homo spermidine, acetyl indicine, heleurine, 5-hydroxymethylfurfural, tetradecanoic acid, 1-hexacosanol, campesterol, and Phenol-3-isopropoxy-5-methyl were found to be the best-docked phytochemicals against the different proteins used in the studies (minimum two proteins, Table 1) and possess higher binding affinity towards selected targets. However, the rest of the phytochemicals were not found to exhibit good binding poses into the active site of either of the proteins used in the studies or were docked with a less binding affinity (Table 1 and **S2 in supplementary material**). These results suggested that these phytochemicals may have anti-urolithiasis activity.

Figure 4 represented the 2D structure of the phytochemicals used for docking validation purposes.

## 3.2 Validation of docking results

All the best-docked phytochemicals were subjected for validation of binding poses as well as affinities obtained from the GLIDE program using CNN method implemented in Glimpse tool. The prediction results are shown in **Table 2** (in bracket). These prediction results suggested that the phytochemicals exhibited satisfactory binding affinities (**Table 2**) and generated almost the same binding poses as found in the Glide program. These results reflected that generated binding poses from different tools were found to have consistency in docking results (with binding poses and affinities). Hence, the results of Glimpse tool established by the validation of all the docking results obtained from Glide program. **Table 2** is showing the binding affinities of each phytochemical obtained from multitargets-based virtual screening using docking methods in Glide and Glimpse (give in bracket) programs for anti-urolithiasis activity.

## 3.3 Pharmacokinetic studies using QikProp

The ADME studies of the 40 molecules were evaluated from the QikProp of the Schrodinger program. **Table S3** is given the details of the pharmacokinetic studies. From these studies, it was reflected that all the phytochemicals exhibited a satisfactory ADME profile.

## 4. Discussion

Currently, phytochemicals are being explored for their medicinal properties and are attaining a lot of attention in drug discovery. Phytochemicals have diversified biological activities and are traditionally used as folk medicine in varieties of diseases [77, 78]. Therefore, ethnopharmacological studies of phytochemicals still need scientific attention to reveal the pharmacological effects of the phytochemicals in the body i.e. identification of signalling pathways or proteins which are responsible for therapeutic action [79]. In the field of computer-aided drug design, the molecular docking technique constantly holds great attention. It is a powerful tool to explore new phytochemical binding potential against the receptors/proteins of well-known structures. Hence, it plays an important part to identify the therapeutic targets for the phytochemicals [80–82].

Traditionally, the *Heliotropium indicum* L. plant is helpful in the prevention of urolithiasis [65–67]. There is no existing data available that identifies specific phytochemicals in the leaves responsible for anti-urolithiasis activity. Therefore, multi targets based virtual screening studies were designed to understand the binding potential of the different phytochemicals found in the *Heliotropium indicum* L. leaves, against different protein targets responsible for urolithiasis.

The results of the docking studies reflected that only three phytochemicals: pestalamide B, rapanone, and supinine exhibited the highest binding modes with almost all the protein targets used in the studies except glutathione peroxidase (an antioxidant target). These phytochemicals interacted with the proteins which are responsible for kidney stone formation such as glycolate oxidase, MMP-9, MMP-2, and human calcium-sensing proteins (Tables 1 and 2). These phytochemicals exhibited computationally good binding affinities as well as characteristics of binding interactions, therefore, these may have high propensity to show anti-urolithiasis effects (**Table 2** and Fig. 1, 2, and 3).

In addition, 3

– acetyllycopsamine for glutathione-S-transferase, trachelanthamine, lycopsamine, and heliotrine for glutathione-S-transferase and superoxide dismutase, rinderine for superoxide dismutase and glutathione peroxidase, Echinatine for superoxide dismutase and glutathione-disulfide reductase (Tables 1 and 2). It is reflected that these phytochemicals also exhibited satisfactory binding modes with the used protein targets.

Some of the phytochemicals: lasiocarpine, acetyl indicine, and heleurine exhibited good binding modes against MMP-2 or 9 and human calcium-sensing receptors along with an antioxidant target: glutathione-S-transferase only. However, acetyl indicine was also found to have binding modes with superoxide dismutase. These molecules were reported to have binding potential against the important targets of urolithiasis, but not against all the selected targets in the studies (Tables 1 and 2).

The 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid, 5-hydroxymethylfurfural, tetradecanoic acid, 1-Hexacosanol, campesterol, Phenol-3-Isopropoxy-5-methyl exhibited the binding modes against MMP 2 or/and 9 proteins (**Table 2**). However, tetradecanoic acid also exhibited the binding modes against MMP9. The 9, 12-octadecadienoic acid, and campesterol also exhibited the binding modes against an antioxidant target: glutathione-S-transferase. The remaining best-docked phytochemicals like 9, 12, 15-Octadecatrienoic acid ethyl ester, and helindicine only docked into the active site of glutathione-S-transferase and human calcium-sensing receptors, respectively.

The ADME studies of the best-selected phytochemicals (pestalamide B, rapnone, supinine, 3`-acetyl lycopsamine, trachelanthamine, lycopsamine, heliotrine, rinderine, and echinatine) from docking studies exhibited the prediction within the recommended range of the ADME prediction (Table S3). This means, that all these phytochemicals are having a drug-like properties as well as good pharmacokinetic profiles.

Overall binding mode analysis reflected that the pestalamide B, rapnone, and supinine were found with good binding modes in docking studies against an anti-urolithiasis activity. In addition, 3`-acetyl lycopsamine, trachelanthamine, lycopsamine, heliotrine, rinderine, echinatine (**Fig. 4**) were also posed satisfactory, but with some anti-urolithiasis targets (MMP-2 or MMP-9 and human calcium-sensing receptors) only and all the antioxidant targets. The evidence from the literature [30–33, 40, 41], the antioxidant activities of the phytochemicals are beneficial in the prevention of urolithiasis/kidney stone. Therefore, the high antioxidant potential of these phytochemicals computationally may also support here to enhance the therapeutic effects of these phytochemicals in the management of urolithiasis/kidney stones. The rest of the phytochemicals were found to have binding modes with few antioxidants and either MMP-2 or 9 and human calcium-sensing receptors. For confirmation of the anti-urolithiatic potency of the individual phytochemicals, experimental studies need to be performed. Due to structural diversity among the phytochemicals, docking results exhibited diversity in the binding affinities as well as in the binding modes.

## 5. Conclusions

Multi-targets-based virtual screening is an effective approach to depict the binding modes of the different phytochemicals against the active site of multiple targets using molecular docking methods. The docking studies of the phytochemicals of the *Heliotropium indicum* L. leaves elucidated that the phytochemicals like pestalamide B, rapanone, and Supinine generated excellent results in terms of binding modes and affinities against anti-urolithiasis as well as antioxidant targets. Secondly, 3

– Acetyllycopsamine, trachelanthamine, lycopsamine, heliotrine, rinderine, echinatine) have been explored first time in kidney stone or urolithiasis. All these phytochemicals exhibited a satisfactory ADME profile in pharmacokinetic studies. However, further experimental verifications are warranted. These computational results can be useful to identify or design more novel chemical/phytochemicals against urolithiasis.

## Declarations

### Conflict of Interest:

None

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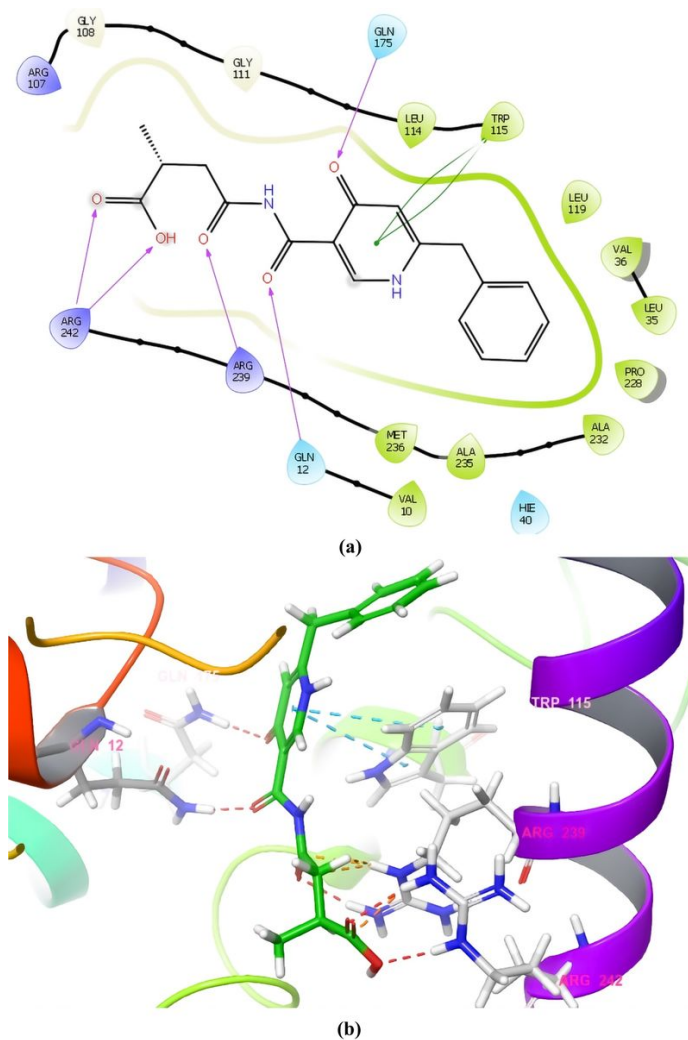
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## Tables

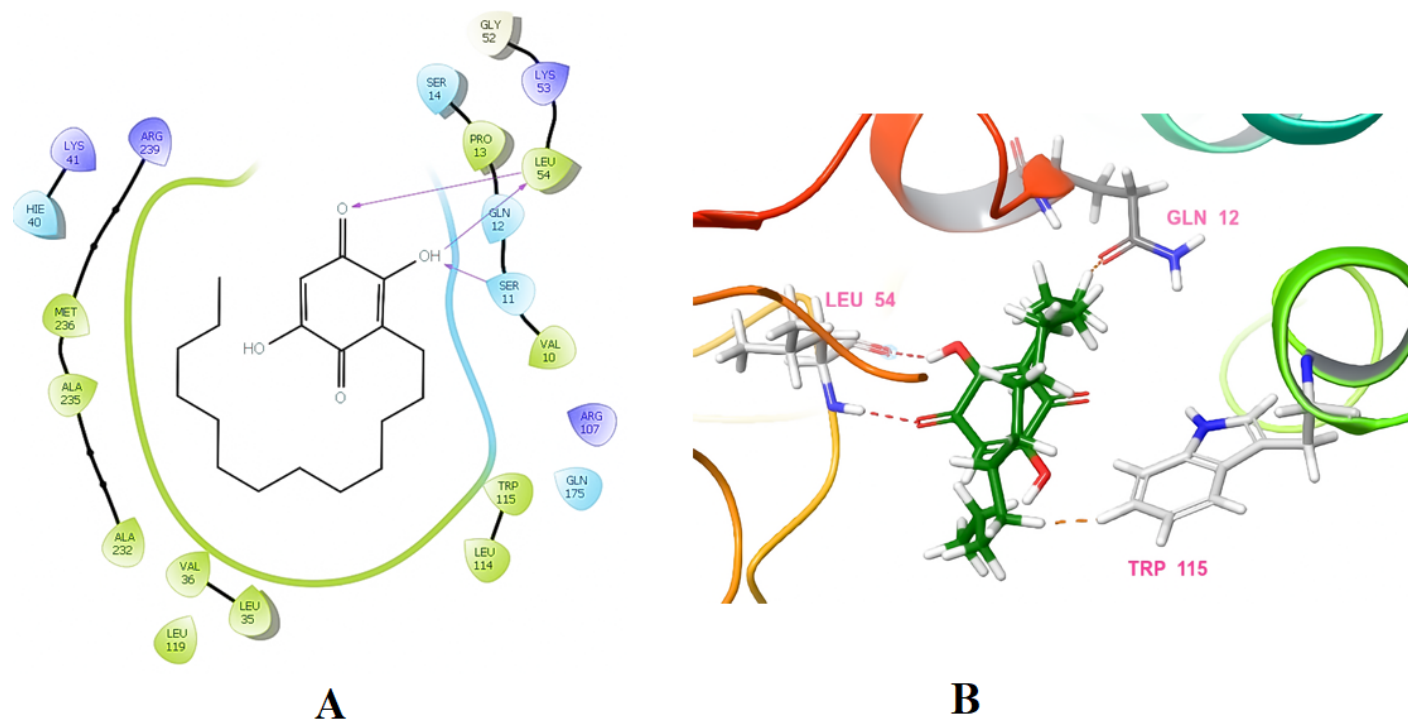
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## Figures



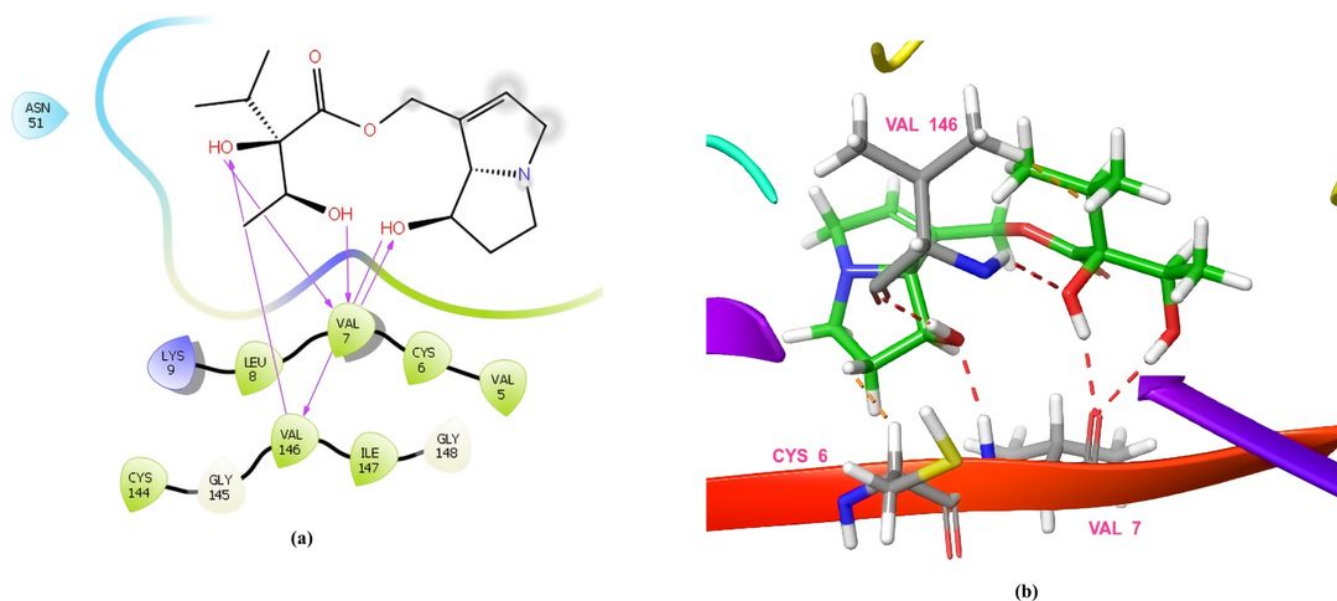
**Figure 1**

Docking pose of the Pestalamide B into the active site of glutathione-S-transferase (PDB ID:4MPG) a) 2D interaction plot b) 3D-pose. Green sticks represent Pestalamide B.



**Figure 2**

Docking pose of the Rapanone into the active site of glutathione-S-transferase (PDB ID:4MPG) a) 2D interaction plot b) 3D-pose. Green sticks represent Rapanone



**Figure 3**

Docking pose of the Rinderine into the active site of superoxide dismutase (PDB ID: 1CB4). **a)** 2D interaction plot **b)**3D-pose. Green sticks represent Rinderine.

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