

Medicinal properties of phyto-constituents from Rubiaceae family of Assam: Critical Review

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ABSTRACT

Assam is the gateway to Northeast India and is well-known for its rich biodiversity and wildlife resources. The land of Assam is very fertile and is blessed with different plant species with high medicinal properties. The tribal and ethnic people living here have a vast knowledge of different medicinal plants and have been using these plants as herbal medicines for different diseases and ailments for ages. Rubiaceae, one of the medicinally and economically important plant families are widely distributed over different locations of Assam. Most of them have great medicinal value because of the different phytochemicals present in it. The present review deliberates some commonly found medicinal plant species of the Rubiaceae family, including *Adina cordifolia*, *Anthocephalous cadamba*, *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Gardenia ternifolia*, *Ixora coccinea*, *Ixora pavetta*, *Paederia foetida*, *Pavetta indica*, *Randia dumetorum*, *Rubia cordifolia* in Assam and their phytoconstituents, ethnomedicinal and pharmacological activities.

Keywords: Assam, Rubiaceae, phytoconstituents, ethnomedicinal, pharmacological activity

1. INTRODUCTION

Plants have been used as medicine along with food, fodder, and fuel since primeval periods [1]. Plants produce several chemical compounds that enhance their therapeutic properties, which can be used directly or indirectly [2]. Some commonly isolated phytochemicals from plants are alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, lignins, terpenoids, saponins, phytosterols, and glycosides [3]. They have many biological activities such as anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritic, antipyretic, anti-gastric ulcer, antifungal, antibacterial,

antimalarial, antitumor and immunomodulatory [4] and so on [5].

Assam is located in the northeast part of India and the southern region of the Himalaya. Depending on the two major rivers, Brahmaputra and Barak, Assam is classified into the Brahmaputra valley and Barak valley [6]. 35.48% of the total land of Assam is covered by forest areas. The total area of Assam is 78,523 sq. km, which extends from 24°09' to 27°58' N longitudinal, from 89°42' to 96°01'E latitudinal [6, 7].

The Rubiaceae family comprises 660 genera and 13,200 species and is found all over the world [6]. 551 species and 150 species of Rubiaceae family plants have been reported from India and Assam, respectively [7]. In the present study, ten plants of the Rubiaceae family viz. *Adina cordifolia*, *Anthocephalous cadamba*, *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Gardenia ternifolia*, *Ixora coccinea*, *Ixora pavetta*, *Paederia foetida*, *Pavetta indica*, *Randia dumetorum*, *Rubia cordifolia* have been reviewed for their ethnomedicinal, phytochemical, and biological activities. The reasons for selecting these plants for review because they are found almost everywhere in Assam and commonly used by people of Assam for a long time.

2. PHYTOCHEMICALS AND ETHNOMEDICINAL USES

Phytochemicals are secondary metabolites that plants produce that protect the plant from pathogens and herbivorous animals. They also provide flavor, odor, color, texture, and medicinal value to the plant. Phytochemicals are extracted from all parts of plants, such as leaves, bark, roots, flowers, fruits, etc. [4, 8]. The medicinal properties of plants are due to the presence of phytochemicals [8]. The tribal and ethnic groups of people are mainly associated with these medicinal plants, thus, the medicines obtained from such plants are known as ethnomedicine [1]. All the different phytochemicals obtained from *A. cordifolia*, *Anthocephalous cadamba*, *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Gardenia ternifolia*, *Ixora coccinea*, *Ixora pavetta*, *Paederia foetida*, *Pavetta indica*, *Randia dumetorum*, and *Rubia cordifolia* are compared for proper evaluation of metabolites in Rubiace family (Table1). The compounds isolated from different plants and their functions are discussed for the brief (Table 2).

2.1. *Adina cordifolia*

A. cordifolia are distinctly rich with secondary metabolites in various extracts, providing broad range of bioactivity. Many earlier studies reported the presence of flavonoids (ethanol and methanol extract), alkaloids (ethanol extract), carbohydrates (ethanol, methanol, and aqueous extract), saponins (ethanol, methanol, and aqueous extract), phenols (ethanol extract), tannins (ethanol, methanol, and aqueous extract) and terpenoids (ethanol, methanol and aqueous extract) [9]. Plant's different parts such as roots, bark, buds, flowers, and leaves are used to cure various diseases [10]. The roots are used for diarrhea treatment [11, 12]. The bark of the plant has been used in skin disorders, fever, abdominal pain, arthritis, stomach disorders, irregular menstruation, and wounds. Buds can be used as anti-snake venoms [12]. Flowers are useful in headache; leaves are mainly used to cure wounds, cuts, boils, and other infections [11, 12]. Some other medicinally important bioactive compounds isolated from *A. cordifolia* are adifoline, cordifoline, benzoic acid, β -sitosterol, and umbelliferone [11].

2.2. *Anthocephalous cadamba*

Anthocephalous cadamba are tall annual plant with great variant of secondary metabolites. Some of the commonly found bioactive compound from *A. cadamba* are Tannins (in methanol, chloroform, acetone and ethanol extract), phenols (in methanol extract), alkaloids (in methanol and chloroform extract), saponin (in methanol, chloroform and ethanol extract), iridoids (in petroleum ether and acetone), coumarin (in petroleum ether, chloroform and acetone), 6,7-dimethoxycoumarin (chloroform and acetone), 5-Methoxy genistein (in chloroform extract), anthocyanin (in petroleum ether extract), proanthocyanidins (in petroleum ether extract), flavonoid (in methanol, chloroform and ethanol extract), glycosides (in methanol and chloroform extract), steroids (in petroleum ether, chloroform,

methanol and ethanol), triterpenoid (in petroleum ether and chloroform extract), carbohydrates (in methanol and acetone extract), proteins and amino acids (in chloroform, acetone and ethanol extract) and gums [13, 14, 15]. According to Dubey *et al.* (2011), some workers isolated phytochemicals such as cadambagenic acid (18 α -Olean-12ene-3 β -hydroxy-27,28-dioic acid), quinovic acid (C₃₀H₄₆O₅), and β -sitosterol from the *Anthocephalus cadamba* stem bark. From the leaves of *A. cadamba*, glycosidic indole alkaloids such as cadambine (C₂₇H₃₂N₂O₁₀), 3 α -dihydrocadambine (C₂₇H₃₄N₂O₁₀), isodihydrocadambine (C₃₇H₄₄N₂O₁₅), and two non-glycosidic alkaloids viz. cadamine (C₂₁H₂₁N₃O₃) and isocadamine. Aminocadambine A (C₂₄H₂₇N₃O₅) and Aminocadambine B (C₂₅H₂₉N₃O₅) are two novel monoterpene indole alkaloids which are found in the leaves of *Anthocephalus cadamba* [16]. Some reports also suggest the extraction of Saponin B (C₄₈H₇₆O₁₇) [17] and chlorogenic acid from *A. cadamba*.

Due to presence of wide variety of metabolites *A. cadamba* are used since ages for the treatment of fever, blood diseases, skin diseases, measles, diarrhea, menorrhagia, and improvement of semen quality [18]. Recently, the plant has been reported to contain antimicrobial, wound healing, hypolipidemic, antidiabetic, antioxidant, antimalarial, and hepatoprotective effects [16, 19].

2.3. *Gardenia jasminoides*

Gardenia jasminoides are shrubby flower plant commonly found in Indian household. The bioactive compounds isolated from *Gardenia jasminoides* fruits were geniposide, genipin, and geniposidic acid. All of these are iridoid glycosides and medicinally very important [20]. Other important phytochemicals obtained from the plant are shanzhiside, scandoside, methyl ester, crocin, crocetin, gardoside, jasminoside

D, 7 α , 8 β -epoxy-8 α -dihydrogeniposide, genipin-1- β -gentibioside, sinapylglucoside, jasminodiol, rutin, isoquercitrin, nicotiflorin, 11-(6-O-trans-sinapolyglucopyranosyl)-gardendiol, 3,5-dicaffeoylquinic acid, trans-crocin 4, 6''-O-trans-sinapoyl genipin-gentiobioside, 6''-O-p-coumaroyl genipin-gentiobioside, 6'-O-trans-sinapoyl jasminoside L, 5-O-caffeoyl-4-O-sinapoylquinic acid, 6'-O-trans-coumaroyl-geniposide [21]. These plants have various ethnomedicinal properties that are used to cure jaundice, headache, dropsy, fever, liver diseases, high blood pressure, and stomach inflammation [22].

2.4. *Gardenia ternifolia*

Gardenia ternifolia are fragrant, flowering shrubby plant with some prominent secondary metabolites. The leaves extract of *Gardenia ternifolia* with ethanol and water reported the presence of polyphenols, anthocyanin, leuco-anthocyanin, flavonoids, gallic tannins, coumarins, quinones, alkaloids, saponins, terpenes and steroids with some important pharmaceutical properties [23]. These plant has a great ethnomedicinal value that has been used to cure malaria, peptic ulcer, cough, fever, abdominal pain, syphilis, joint inflammation, bronchial asthma, a stimulant laxative, and an antidote to snake poison [24].

2.5. *Ixora coccinea*

Ixora coccinea are flowering plant with some beneficial metabolites. *Ixora coccinea* is an ingredient of many herbal medicines used to treat several severe diseases. The leaves, flowers, and stems of *Ixora coccinea* were collected and extracted with methanol. The phytochemicals from *Ixora coccinea* showed the presence of terpenoids (6), flavonoids, alkaloids, coumarins, and phenolic compounds [25]. The essential oil of *Ixora coccinea* consists of triterpenes,

monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, and esters. Further recorded phytochemicals include ixorene, β -sitosterol, lupeol, D-mannitol, kaempferol, and camptothecin [26, 27]. The decoction of roots is beneficial for dysentery and is used as a sedative. It is also used for hiccups, nausea, fatigue, fever, and gonorrhoea. Flowers and bark are used to cure eye disorders. The decoction of flowers is used to treat cough and bronchitis [28].

2.6. *Ixora pavetta*

Different parts of *Ixora pavetta* are used to treat malnourishment, lesions, urinary tract disease, skin infection, hepatic disorders, calnative, hypertension, dysentery, and cervicitis. Flowers are mainly used to cure coughs and peptic ulcers. Roots are beneficial for jaundice and anemia. Leaves are useful in chest and muscle pain [30]. The ethanol extracts of *Ixora pavetta* flowers were analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) technique, which found the presence of 3-Butyn-2-ol, 3-Butyn- 1-ol, amyl nitrite, 1, 9-Decadiyne, 2-Octyn-1-ol and butyl glyoxylate (Baboo et al. 2011) [29]. Other phytochemicals obtained from stem, leaves, and seeds are chrysin 5-O- β -D-xylopyranoside, flavone glycoside, 6, 7-dimethoxycoumarin and essential oils such as capric, lauric, myristic, palmitic, stearic, arachidic, behenic, oleic and linoleic acids [30].

2.7. *Paederia foetida*

Paederia foetida is a climber plant with small flowers with some important medicinal metabolites. Fresh and dry leaves extract with aqueous, methanol, ethanol, and acetone and reported the presence of phenol, flavonoids, and tannins [31, 32]. Some other phytochemicals found in the plant are paederolone, paederone, β -sitosterol, paederoside, glucosides, iridoid, asperuloside, friedelin, campesterol, ursolic acid, hentriacontane, hentriacontanol, cetyl alcohol,

palmitic acid, ellagic acid, terpenoids and methyl mercaptan [33]. People of the Northeast India, especially in Assam, use *Paederia foetida* leaves as vegetables, as it is very helpful for different stomach issues. The leaf juice is slightly bitter which has anti-dysenteric properties. Root and bark decoction is beneficial for piles, spleen inflammation, and chest pain. Fruits can be used during toothache [34].

2.8. *Pavetta indica*

Pavetta indica are large shrubs or small tree with some beneficial phytochemicals. The leaves of the plant were extracted with petroleum ether and isolated carbohydrates, glycosides, alkaloids, phytosterols, and flavonoids [35], Linoleic acid, proanthocyanidins, epicatechin, ferulic acid and (9z,12z,15z)-octadeca-9,12,15-trienoic acid [36]. Leaves, roots, and fruits of the plant *Pavetta indica* are used as ethnomedicine. The leaves can be applied to dressing wounds and boils. The decoction of leaves is used in piles and nose ulcers. Roots also have the potential to heal boils, itches, and cure headaches. The fruits have anthelmintic properties [36, 37].

2.9. *Randia dumetorum*

Randia dumetorum is a thorny shrub with variety of metabolites. *Randia dumetorum* plant is an important constituent of different Ayurvedic medicines that are commonly used to treat cough, dermatological problems, peptic ulcer, and asthma, etc. The leaves and bark extract of *Randia dumetorum* showed the presence of phenol, flavonoids, saponins, terpenoids, coumarins, and iridoid glycosides [38, 39]. Column chromatography, high-performance thin layer chromatography (HPTLC), and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) techniques were used to identify triterpenoid esters, cinnamate, naphthalene, phenolic compounds, amines and coumarins [39]. The decoction of the bark is used during diarrhea and

dysentery as well as reduces pain and bone aches. Fruits are used to cure ulcers, inflammation, tumor, abscesses, and different skin diseases [40].

2.10. *Rubia cordifolia*

Rubia cordifolia plays a vital role in skin infections, skin lesions, and nerve damage, itchy skin, dysentery, ulcer, and anti-snake venom [41]. The roots, stems, and leaves of *Rubia cordifolia* were extracted with hexane, chloroform, acetone, and methanol and isolated anthraquinones, glycosides, saponins, terpenoids, and resins [42]. The aqueous, ethanol, acetone, methanol, and hexane extract isolated

carbohydrates, alkaloids, protein, saponins, glycosides, phenolic compounds, and tannins [43]. Roots contain hydroxyanthraquinone, which is named rubiadin, along with GSH and vitamin C [44]. Nordamnacanthal, rubiadin, Hydroxy-1 methyl-2 anthraquinone, and xanthopurpurin were isolated from the root extract of *R. cordifolia* [45]. Furomollugin, mollugin, and dehydro- α -lapachone isolated from *R. cordifolia* roots have an anti-allergic effect [46]. The roots of *Rubia cordifolia* have been used because of their potential wound healing capacity along with blood coagulation and clumping of platelets.

Table 1. Comparative study different phytochemicals isolated from *Adina cordifolia*, *Anthocephalous cadamba*, *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Gardenia ternifolia*, *Ixora coccinea*, *Ixora pavetta*, *Paederia foetida*, *Pavetta indica*, *Randia dumetorum*, *Rubia cordifolia*

Phytochemicals	<i>A. cordifolia</i>	<i>A. cadamba</i>	<i>G. jasminoides</i>	<i>G. ternifolia</i>	<i>I. coccinea</i>	<i>I. pavetta</i>	<i>P. foetida</i>	<i>P. indica</i>	<i>R. dumetorum</i>	<i>R. cordifolia</i>
Flavonoid	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Alkaloids	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Carbohydrates	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+
Saponin	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+
Phenol	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Tannins	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
Terpenoids	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Steroids	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-
Adifoline	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cordifoline	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzoic acid	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
β -sitosterol	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Umbelliferone	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iridoids	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Coumarin	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-
6,7-dimethoxycoumarin	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-

5-Methoxy genistein	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthocyanin	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Proanthocyanidins	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Glycosides	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+
Cadambagenic acid	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Quinovic acid	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cadambine	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 α -dihydrocadambine	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Isodihydrocadambine	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cadamine	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chlorogenic acid	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aminocadambine A	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aminocadambine B	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geniposide	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genipin	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geniposidic acid	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crocin	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crocetin	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shanzhiside	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scandoside	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gardoside	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jasminoside D	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genipin-1- β -gentibioside	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sinapylglucoside	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jasminodiol	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rutin	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Isoquercitrin	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nicotiflorin	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-(6-O- <i>trans</i> -sinapolyglucopyranosyl)- gardendiol	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3,5-dicaffeoylquinic acid	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>trans</i> -crocin 4	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6''-O- <i>trans</i> -sinapoyl genipin-gentiobioside, 6□	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6''-O- <i>p</i> -coumaroyl genipin-gentiobioside	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6'-O- <i>trans</i> -sinapoyl jasminoside L	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-O-caffeoyl-4-O-sinapoylquinic acid	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6'-O- <i>trans</i> -coumaroyl-geniposide	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Quinones	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ixorene	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-

Lupeol	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
D-mannitol	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Kaempferol	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Camptothecin	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
3-Butyn-2-ol	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
3-Butyn- 1-ol	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Amyl nitrite	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
1, 9-Decadiyne	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
2-Octyn-1-ol	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Butyl glyoxylate	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
chrysin 5-O- β -D-xylopyranoside	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Flavoneglycoside	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Paederolone	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Paederone	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Paederoside	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Asperuloside	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Friedelin	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Campesterol	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
ursolic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Hentriacontane	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Hentriacontanol	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
cetyl alcohol	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
palmitic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
ellagic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
methyl mercaptan	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Linoleic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
epicatechin,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
ferlic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
(9z,12z,15z)-octadeca-9,12,15-trienoic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
triterpenoid esters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Cinnamate,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Naphthalene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Rubiadine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Nordamnacanthal,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Hydroxy-1 methyl-2 anthraquinone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Xanthopurpurin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Furomollugin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Mollugin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Dehydro- α -lapachone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+

(+): indicates the presence of bioactive compound, (-): indicates the absence of bioactive compound.

Table 2. Chemical structure of the compounds and their function isolated from the medicinally important plant belong to Rubiaceae family.

Sl. No.	Name of the compound	Used in treatments	References
1.	Flavonoid (<i>A.cordifolia</i> , <i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>G. jasminoides</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i> , <i>I. coccinea</i> , <i>I. pavetta</i> , <i>P. foetida</i> , <i>P. indica</i> , <i>R. dumetorum</i>)	Anticancer, anti-inflammatory, hepatoprotective, antibacterial and antiviral	[89]
2.	Alkaloids (<i>A.cordifolia</i> , <i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>G. jasminoides</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i> , <i>I. coccinea</i> , <i>I. pavetta</i> , <i>P. foetida</i> , <i>P. indica</i> , <i>R. dumetorum</i> , <i>R. cordifolia</i>)	Antiseptic, pain killer, anti-stress, stomatics, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial activity	[90]
3.	Saponins (<i>A.cordifolia</i> , <i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>G. jasminoides</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i> , <i>I. pavetta</i> , <i>P. foetida</i> , <i>P. indica</i> , <i>R. dumetorum</i> , <i>R. cordifolia</i>)	Anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, cardiac stimulants, increase the frequency of urine and helps to reduce obesity	[91]
4.	Phenols (<i>A.cordifolia</i> , <i>A.cadamb</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i> , <i>I. coccinea</i> , <i>I. pavetta</i> , <i>P. foetida</i> , <i>R. dumetorum</i> , <i>R. cordifolia</i>)	Cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity and microbial diseases	[92]
5.	Tannins (<i>A.cordifolia</i> , <i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i> , (<i>I. pavetta</i> , <i>P. foetida</i> , <i>R. cordifolia</i>)	Cure burns and inflamed skin, diarrhea, ulcer and sore throat. Have antimicrobial and antioxidant effects	[93,94]
6.	Terpenoids (<i>A.cordifolia</i> ., <i>G. jasminoides</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i> , <i>I. coccinea</i> , (<i>I. pavetta</i> , <i>P. foetida</i> , <i>R. dumetorum</i> , <i>R. cordifolia</i>)	Antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, anti-cancer and anti-malarial activity	[95]
7.	Steroids (<i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>G. jasminoides</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i> , (<i>I. pavetta</i> , <i>P. indica</i>)	Reduction of sepsis, pneumonia, reduce nausea and vomiting, control blood pressure, ulcer and eye disorders	[96]
8.	Benzoic acid (<i>A.cordifolia</i>)	Antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral effect	[97]
9.	β-sitosterol (<i>A.cordifolia</i> , <i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>I. coccinea</i> , <i>I. pavetta</i>)	Heart disorders, tumor, joint inflammation, TB and hair loss as well as improve immune system	[98]
10.	Umbelliferone (<i>A.cordifolia</i>)	Antimicrobial, antioxidant, antidiabetic, anticancer	[99]
11.	Iridoids (<i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>G. jasminoides</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i> , <i>P. foetida</i> , <i>R. dumetorum</i>)	Cure pain, breathing problem, diarrhea, liver diseases and have antimicrobial, antidiabetic, antioxidant property	[100]
12.	Coumarin (<i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i> , <i>I. coccinea</i> , <i>R. dumetorum</i>)	Anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antibacterial activity	[101,102]
13.	6,7-dimethoxycoumarin (<i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>I. pavetta</i>)	Decrease blood pressure	[103]
14.	Anthocyanin (<i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>G. ternifolia</i>)	anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antibacterial activity	[101,102]
15.	Proanthocyanidins (<i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>P. indica</i>)	Antioxidant, anticancer, antimicrobial, neuro and cardio protective	[104]
16.	Glycosides (<i>A.cadamba</i> , <i>G. jasminoides</i> , (<i>I. pavetta</i> , <i>P. indica</i> , <i>R. dumetorum</i> , <i>R. cordifolia</i>)	Loweing blood pressure	[105]
17.	quinovic acid (<i>A.cadamba</i>)	Inflammation and urinary tract disease	[106]
18.	Chlorogenic acid	Anti-diabetic, anti-cancer, analgesic and	[107]

	<i>(A.cadamba)</i>	helps in lipid metabolism. It also has liver and gastrointestinal health benefits	
19.	Geniposide <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory and antidepressant activity	[20]
20.	Genipin <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Anti-inflammatory	[20]
21.	Crocin <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Antidepressant activity	[20]
22.	Crocetin <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Prevent insulin resistance, kidney damage and improve sleep.	[108]
23.	Shanzhiside <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Blood clotting	[109]
24.	Scandoside <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Antioxidant activity	[110]
25.	Rutin <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Analgesic effect, antiulcer effect, anticancer and sunscreen effect	[111]
26.	Isoquercitrin <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Antidiabetic, anticancer, anti-allergic activity	[112]
27.	Nicotiflorin <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Decrease blood pressure, hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, anti-nociceptive effect, antioxidant and neuroprotective	[113]
28.	3,5-dicaffeoylquinic acid <i>(G. jasminoides)</i>	Neuroprotective effect	[114]
29.	Quinones <i>(G. ternifolia)</i>	Renal diseases	[115]
30.	Lupeol <i>(I. coccinea)</i>	Anti-inflammatory activity	[116]
31.	D-mannitol <i>(I. coccinea)</i>	Renal protection and tissue injury	[117]
32.	Kaempferol <i>(I. coccinea and I. pavetta)</i>	Anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and antitumor activity	[118]
33.	Camptothecin <i>(I. coccinea)</i>	Anticancer activity	[71]
34.	Amyl nitrite <i>(I. pavetta)</i>	Cure heart diseases and act as vasodilator	[119]
35.	Flavoneglycoside <i>(I. pavetta)</i>	Antioxidant activity	[120]
36.	Paederoside <i>(P. foetida)</i>	Cure digestive problems, antimicrobial, antitumor, anti-inflammatory	[121]
37.	Asperuloside <i>(P. foetida)</i>	Anti-inflammatory effect.	[122].
38.	Friedelin <i>(P. foetida)</i>	Antimicrobial, antidiarrheal, anti-inflammatory, antoradical. gastroprotective	.[123]
39.	Campesterol <i>(P. foetida),</i>	Reduce cholesterol absorption	[124]
40.	Ursolic acid <i>(P. foetida)</i>	Hepatoprotective activity	[125]
41.	Hentriacontane <i>(P. foetida)</i>	Cure hepatic disorder and stress	.[126]
42.	Hentriacontanol <i>(P. foetida)</i>	Antibacterial activity	[127]
43.	Palmitic acid <i>(P. foetida)</i>	Anti-inflammatory effect	128]
44.	Ellagic acid	Anticancer and antioxidant	.[129]

	<i>(P. foetida)</i>		
45.	Linoleic acid <i>(P. indica)</i>	Treatment for skin diseases, heart disorder, cancer and inflammation	[130]
46.	Epicatechin <i>(P. indica)</i>	Antioxidant, anti-inflammation, antidiabetic and anticancer property	[131]
47.	Triterpenoid esters <i>(R. dumetorum)</i>	Anti-inflammatory effect	[81]
48.	Cinnamate <i>(R. dumetorum)</i>	Vasorelaxant and hypotensive effect.	[132]
49.	Naphthalene <i>(R. dumetorum)</i>	Traditionally used as anti-malarial agent and have antioxidant activity	[133]
50.	Rubiadin <i>(R. cordifolia)</i>	Antimicrobial	[59]
51.	Nordamnacanthal <i>(R. cordifolia)</i>	Antimicrobial	[59]
52.	Hydroxy-1 methyl-2 anthraquinone <i>(R. cordifolia)</i>	Antimicrobial	[59]
53.	Xanthopurpurin <i>(R. cordifolia)</i>	Antimicrobial	[59]
54.	Furomollugin <i>(R. cordifolia)</i>	Anti-allergic	[45]
55.	Mollugin <i>(R. cordifolia)</i>	Anti- allergic	[45]
56.	Dehydro-α-lapachone <i>(R. cordifolia)</i>	Anti-allergic	[45]

Table 3: Biological properties of *Adina cordifolia*, *Anthocephalous cadamba*, *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Gardenia ternifolia*, *Ixora coccinea*, *Ixora pavetta*, *Paederia foetida*, *Pavetta indica*, *Randia dumetorum*, *Rubia cordifolia* with their common name, habit and active phytochemicals.

Plant	Common name	Habit	Biological activities	Plant parts used	Active phytochemicals
<i>Adina cordifolia</i>	Kadami, Tarakchapa	Tree	Antioxidant	Leaves	Polyphenol
			Antimicrobial	Bark and leaves	flavonoid, tannins and phenolic compound
			Antidiabetic	Leaves	–
			Hepatoprotective	Leaves	phenolic compounds, tannins, flavonoids
			Analgesic	Stem bark	–
			Anti-inflammatory	Leaves	–
<i>Anthocephalous cadamba</i>	Kadam	Tree	Antioxidant	Bark, flowers, fruits, leaves	Flavonoids

			Antimicrobial	Bark, leaves, flowers	–
			Antidiabetic	Roots	alkaloids, saponins, flavonoid, tannins
			Hepatoprotective	Leaves	chlorogenic
			Antidiarrheal	Flowering top	indole alkaloids, iridoids, triterpenes, saponins
			Analgesic	Flower	–
			Anti-inflammatory	Stem bark	Triterpenoid
<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i>	Gandharaaj	Shrub	Antidiabetic	Fruit	Geniposide
			Anti-inflammatory	Fruits	Geniposide, genipine
			Anti-depression	Fruits	Geniposide and crocin
<i>Gardenia ternifolia</i>	Dekamali	Shrub	Antimicrobial	Leaves	Anthocyanin, organic acids
			Anti-sickling	Leaves	Anthocyanin, organic acids
<i>Ixora coccinea</i>	Rugmini, Rangan	Shrub	Antioxidant	Flowers and leaves	total phenolic content
			Antimicrobial	Leaves	–
			Hepatoprotective	Roots	Ursolic acid
			Anticancer	Leaves	Camptothecin
			Antidiarrheal	Leaves	–
			Analgesic	Leaves	Alkaloids, flavonoids
			Anti-inflammatory	Leaves	Lupeol
			Anti-depression	Flowers	–
<i>Ixora pavetta</i>	Gandhal	Tree	Antidiabetic	Leaves	Alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids, phenolic compound
			Analgesic	Leaves	–
			Anti-inflammatory	Leaves	–
<i>Paederia foetida</i>	Bhedailota,	climber	Antioxidant	Leaves	Phenols

	paduri lota		Antimicrobial	Leaves	–
			Antidiabetic	Leaves	–
			Antidiarrheal	Leaves	–
			Analgesic	Whole plant	–
			Anti-inflammatory	Leaves	–
<i>Pavetta indica.</i>	Kothachampa, samsuku	Shrub	Antimicrobial	Leaves	–
			Antidiabetic	Leaves	–
			Analgesic	Leaves	–
			Anti-inflammatory	Leaves	–
<i>Randia dumetorum</i>	Madanphal, behmona	Shrub	Antimicrobial	Fruits	–
			Antidiabetic	Leaves	
			Hepatoprotective	Leaves, bark	Phenol, flavonoids
			Anti-inflammatory	Dried fruit	–
			Anti-allergic	Dried fruits	–
			Immunomodulatory	Roots	Saponins
<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>	Majathi, Manjistha	Climber	Antioxidant	Roots	Rubiadine
			Antimicrobial	Roots	Nordamnacanthal, Rubiadine, Hydroxy-1 methyl-2 anthraquinone, Xanthopurpurin
			Antidiabetic	Roots	–
			Hepatoprotective	Roots	–
			Anticancer	Roots	–
			Analgesic	Roots	–
			Anti-inflammatory	Roots	–
			Anti-allergic	Roots	Furomollugin, mollugin, dehydro- α -lapachone
			Anti-depression	Roots	–

			Radioprotective	Roots	–
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3. BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Different plants from Rubiaceae family describes various biological properties of *Adina cordifolia*, *Anthocephalous cadamba*, *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Gardenia ternifolia*, *Ixora coccinea*, *Ixora pavetta*, *Paederia foetida*, *Pavetta indica*, *Randia dumetorum*, *Rubia cordifolia*, and their common name, habit, parts used, and bioactive compounds (Table 3).

3.1. Antioxidant activity

The methanol extract of the leaves of *A. cordifolia* showed antioxidant properties due to the presence of total polyphenolic compounds against 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) free radical and nitric oxide (NO) scavenging activity [47]. Different plant parts of *Anthocephalous cadamba* including bark, flowers, fruits, and leaves, were extracted with petroleum ether, acetone, chloroform, ethanol, and water. The extract showed an increase in superoxide dismutase and catalase activity as well as an inhibited lipid peroxidation level in mice, indicating that the plant has antioxidant activity. It has been reported that the antioxidant property of the *Anthocephalous cadamba* is due to the flavonoids present in the plant [48]. The methanol extracts of the flowers and leaves of *Ixora coccinea* also contain antioxidant properties, which were determined using xanthine oxidase (XO) inhibition assay and DPPH radical scavenging assays. The total phenolic content of the plant is responsible for its antioxidant activity [49]. Fresh leaves and dried leaf extracts of *P. foetida* were studied for their antioxidant activity by 2, 2'-azinobis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) (ABTS) radical cation assay and β -carotene bleaching. Among the two samples, the phenolic content of fresh leaves

showed higher antioxidant activity than the dried leaves [50]. The ethanol extract of roots of *Rubia cordifolia* contains a high amount of rubiadine as well as GSH, vitamin C, and metals that possess antioxidant activity and can reduce lead toxicity [51].

3.2. Antimicrobial activity

The bark extract of *A. cordifolia* has shown antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Sarcina lutea*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella paratyphi*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Shigella boydii*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Vibrio mimicus* and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* [52]. The flavonoid, tannins, and phenolic compounds isolated from *A. cordifolia* leaves have potent antimicrobial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Klebsiella pneumonia* [53]. The fruits, leaf, and bark extract of *Anthocephalus cadamba* (Roxb.) show potent antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Enterobacter aerogenes* [54]. The fruit extract showed the highest antimicrobial activity compared to leaf and bark extract against all the pathogens. Antibacterial assay of ripe and unripe fruits of *Anthocephalus cadamba* were investigated and the test organisms taken were *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella abony*, and *Shigella boydii* [55]. The fruits were extracted with methanol, ethyl acetate, ethanol, and methanol. The antibacterial property was evaluated by the agar well diffusion method and MIC and MBC were obtained. The ripened fruits showed more antibacterial activity than the unripe fruits. The highest antibacterial activity was shown by ethyl acetate extract against the pathogen. The MIC value was between 0.312 and 25.0 mg/ml. The leaves extract of *Gardenia ternifolia*

was studied for antibacterial activity against *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Enterococcus faecalis* by disc diffusion method. The anthocyanins and organic acid present in the leaves extract showed large inhibition zones around *Lactobacillus fermentum* and *Salmonella typhimurium* as compared to *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus faecalis* [23]. The leave extract of *Paederia foetid* were tested against five bacteria *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [31]. Among the five bacteria, only *Bacillus subtilis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* showed an inhibition zone [31]. The ether extract of *Ixora coccinea* leaves showed strong antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Sarcina lutea*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Bacillus subtilis* [56]. Methanol, chloroform, benzene, and aqueous extract of *Pavetta indica* leaves showed a bactericidal effect against *Bacillus subtilis* and growth inhibition effects against *Escherichia coli* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* [57]. Among six different bacteria tested for antimicrobial activity, the fruits extract of *Randia dumetorum* showed potent antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* and a minimum inhibitory effect against *Staphylococcus aureus* [58]. Antimicrobial agents isolated from *Rubia cordifolia* are Nordamnacanthal, Rubiadine, Hydroxy-1 methyl-2 anthraquinone, Xanthopurpurin extracted from the roots of the plants [59].

3.3. Antidiabetic activity

Aqueous ethanol extract of *Adina cordifolia* leaves showed antidiabetic activity in the Wistar rats which were injected with alloxan monohydrate at 500mg/kg body weight [60]. Geniposide present in the *Gardenia jasminoides* has been considered as an antidiabetic agent since it reduces blood sugar, blood pressure, chelerythrine, triglyceride, and lipid peroxidase when injected orally in rats [20]. The methanol and aqueous extract of roots of *Anthecephalus cadamba* contain

alkaloids, saponins, flavonoids, and tannins that reduced the blood glucose concentration of swiss albino mice at a dose of 400mg/kg [61]. Butanol extract of leaves of *Ixora pavetta* has shown the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids, and phenolic compounds which possess antidiabetic activity induced by Streptozotocin in adult female albino rats at 500mg/kg dose [62]. *Paederia foetida* leaves extract showed a body weight gain of mice treated with Streptozotocin which causes muscle loss due to diabetes. It indicates that leave extract of *Paederia foetida* has antidiabetic [63]. The diabetic male Wistar rats having high blood glucose levels can be reduced by using methanol extract of *Pavetta indica* plant leaves at a dose of 400mg/kg body weight [35]. The ethanol extract of *Randia dumetorum* mature leaves have shown to prevent Streptozotocin-induced diabetes in rats [64]. Bioactive compounds present in the *Rubia cordifolia* roots extract showed potential antidiabetic activity against diabetic mice injected with Streptozotocin [65].

3.4. Hepatoprotective activity

Adina cordifolia leaves were extracted with acetone and water that reveal the presence of different major phytochemicals among which phenolic compounds, tannins, and flavonoids can reduce the level of serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase (SGOT) and serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (SGPT) that causes the damage of hepatic tissues [66]. Chlorogenic acid isolated from leaves extracts of *Anthecephalus cadamba* which have hepatoprotective activity and reduced liver damage [67]. Leaf and bark of *Randia dumetorum* were extracted with methanol which shows the presence of phenol and flavonoid that can reduce hepatotoxic effects brought by [38]. The aqueous methanol extract of *Rubia cordifolia* roots enhanced hepatic condition in mice damaged by acetaminophen and [68] Triterpenoids ursolic acid extracted from roots

of *Ixora coccinea* have potent hepatoprotective activity and cure liver diseases [69].

3.5. Anticancer activity

The crude ethanol extract of *Rubia cordifolia* roots shows significant activity against the human larynx carcinoma cell line (HEp-2) and human cervical cancer cell line (HeLa) but did not show any activity against the human epithelial kidney cell line (HEK 293) [70]. Camptothecin, an alkaloid extracted from the *Ixora coccinea* plant possesses potent anticancer activity [71].

3.6. Antidiarrheal activity

The ethanol extract of *Paederia foetida* has shown antidiarrheal activity against castor oil and magnesium sulfate-induced diarrhea in mice [72]. The leaves of *Ixora coccinea* extracted with water showed a reduction of castor oil-induced diarrhea by reducing intestinal motility and intestinal fluid accumulation in albino Wistar rats [73]. The aqueous ethanol extract of *Anthocephalus cadamba* flowering top isolates indole alkaloids, iridoids, triterpenes, and saponins have potent antidiarrheal activity against castor oil-induced diarrhea and reduce the accumulation of intestinal fluids [74].

3.7. Analgesic activity

Ethyl acetate extract and petroleum ether extract of fresh stem bark of *Adina cordifolia* showed a significant analgesic effect in mice induced by the tail-flick method [75]. The aqueous extract of *Ixora coccinea* possesses an analgesic effect due to the alkaloid and flavonoids content in the [76]. Ethanol extract of *Ixora pavetta* leaves can reduce pain in mice induced by hot plate and acetic acid [77]. The whole plant of *Paederia foetida* was extracted with hexane and methanol that showed analgesic activity induced by

acetic acid [34]. The ethanol extract of flowers of *Anthocephalus cadamba* was reported to have an analgesic effect induced by acetic acid-induced writhing test, hot plate test, and hot tail-flick test. Triterpenoids present in the plant help to reduce pain [78]. The analgesic effect of the ethanolic extract of leaves of *Pavetta indica* was also reported induced by hot plate and tail clip method [37]. Roots of *Rubia cordifolia* extracted with methanol showed a significant analgesic effect but the active bioactive compound involved was not isolated [79].

3.8. Anti-inflammatory activity

The petroleum ether extract of *Adina cordifolia* leaves has potent anti-inflammatory activity induced by the hind paw volume method [75]. Geniposide and genipin isolated from *Gardenia jasminoides* have anti-inflammatory activity by reducing lipid peroxidation and nitric oxide production [20]. Inflammation can be cured by methanol extract of leaves of *Paederia foetida* [80]. The anti-inflammatory activity of *Anthocephalus cadamba* was investigated by carrageenan-induced rat paw edema, dextran induced paw edema, histamine, and serotonin-induced inflammation, and cotton-pellets induced granuloma. The triterpenoids isolated from the methanol extract of the stem bark of the plant showed anti-inflammatory activity against all the four methods [81]. Significant anti-inflammatory activity was also shown by dry fruits extract of *Randia dumetorum* [82]. The methanol extract of roots of *Rubia cordifolia* has shown anti-inflammatory activity produced by carrageenan and tail-flick test [79]. Carrageenan and arachidonic acid-induced inflammation can be reduced by ethanol extract of *Ixora pavetta* leaves [77]. Lupeol extracted from leaves of *Ixora coccinea* can reduce inflammation in albino rats [83]. Inflammation in rats induced by carrageenan, histamine, and dextran can be reduced by methanol extract of *Pavetta indica* leaves which can be compared

with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug indomethacin [84].

3.9. Antiallergic activity

The chloroform extract of dried fruits of *Randia dumetorum* showed an anti-allergic effect against milk induced leukocytosis and eosinophilia in mice model [82]. Furomollugin, mollugin, and dehydro- α -lapachone isolated from *Rubia cordifolia* roots showed an anti-allergic effect [45].

3.10. Anti-anxiety and Anti-depression activity

Geniposide and crocin extracted from *Gardenia jasminoides* possess significant anti-depression activity [20]. Alcoholic extract of dried *Rubia cordifolia* roots increases brain γ -amino-n-butyric acid (GABA) levels that act as an anti-depression agent [85]. *Ixora coccinea* flowers extract shows an anti-anxiety effect which was investigated by in-vivo neuro-pharmacological test [86].

3.11. Anti-sickling activity

Anthocyanin and organic acid extracted from *Gardenia ternifolia* leaves showed anti-sickling activity. Anthocyanin interacted with hemoglobin S and thus prevents the sickling of erythrocytes [23].

3.12. Radioprotective activity

Root alcoholic extract of *Rubia cordifolia* has radiation protection effect and radiation-induced lipid peroxidation, hemopoietic injury, and genotoxicity [87].

3.13. Immunomodulatory effect

Saponins isolated from chloroform fraction of fruits of *Randia dumetorum* have an immunomodulatory activity that increases the humoral antibody [88].

4. CONCLUSION

This review is an aim to study the phytochemical, ethnomedicinal, and pharmacological properties of commonly existing plants of the Rubiaceae family in Assam. The medicinal properties of certain bioactive chemicals have been studied which can be used to treat various severe diseases. All the plants discussed here have some common phytochemicals, including alkaloids, flavonoid, tannins, terpenoids, phenolic compounds, saponins, steroids, carbohydrates, etc. and some unique compounds that are only found in some specific plant for example geniposide, genipin and geniposidic acid have isolated from *Gardenia jasminoides* only [20]. All these plants have been commonly used as ethnomedicine to cure diseases like cough, fever, stomach disorders, eye diseases, skin diseases, and so on by the people of Assam. It is observed that all the plants have some common pharmacological activities like anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antioxidant, antidiarrheal, and hepatoprotective activity. But anti-sickling and radioprotective activities have been found only in *Gardenia ternifolia* and *Rubia cordifolia* plant, respectively. The particular bioactive compound responsible for defense against certain specific diseases has been recognized for a few plants only. Therefore, advanced studies should be carried out to identify the phytochemicals that take part in different biological activities.

The increasing demand and importance of medicinal plants encourage to develop more plant-based medicine because of their fewer side effects. From the present study, it can be concluded that the ten plants of the Rubiaceae family are of high medicinal importance. The phytochemicals isolated from these plants have potential health benefits. These chemical compounds can be used to manufacture drugs for different diseases. The realization of the potentials of

these phytochemicals to mankind needs further specific scientific studies in near future.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge Prof. D.K. Jha, Microbial Ecology Laboratory, Department of Botany, Gauhati University, for his constant support and DIST-FIST, Govt. of India, support to the Department of Botany, Gauhati University.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author have declared that there is no conflict of interest.

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