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Research Article

**ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF QUERCETIN
IN MATHUKA NERIIFOLIA (MOON) H.J. LAM. ETHANOL
EXTRACT**Dr. Minu. B. Pattasseril^{1*}, Dr. Sujith Abraham²

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Abstract:

Herbal medicine is making a dramatic comeback as the side effect of synthetic medicine are daunting and the therapeutic approach is drifting towards substituent medicine. Quercetin is a plant pigment flavonoid. It's found in many plants and foods, such as red wine, onions, green tea, apples, and berries. Quercetin has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects that might help reduce swelling, kill cancer cells, control blood sugar, and help prevent heart disease. *Madhuka neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. is an endangered plant species occurring in the Southern, Western Ghats of India. Flowers are used in the treatment of kidney complaints. Fruits are recommended in cases of rheumatism, biliousness, consumption, asthma and worm trouble. Oil from seeds is used to treat rheumatism and for improved growth of hair. Fractnation of ethanol extract of *Mathuka Neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. by column chromatography was done. During the column elution process, the fractions 260 - 300 has a single banding pattern which was confirmed by TLC study. Phytochemical screening showed the presence of Flavonoids, Phenolic and Tannins. Physical and chemical tests of isolated compound was conducted. By using IR, LC-MS, ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra of the isolated compound was confirmed as Quercetin.

Keywords: Quercetin, *Mathuka Neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam., Phytochemical screening, flavonoid.**Corresponding author:****DR. Minu . B. Pattasseril,**Professor And Vice Principal, Kmct College of Pharmaceutical Sciences
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INTRODUCTION:

The use of traditional medicines and medicinal plants as therapeutic agents for the maintenance of good health has been widely observed. Interest in medicinal plants as a re-emerging health aid has been fueled by the rising costs of prescription drugs. The ongoing growing recognition of medicinal plants is due to several reasons, including escalating faith in herbal medicine and also less risk of side effects when compared to modern drugs. However, among the estimated 2,50,000 to 4,00,000 plant species, only 6% have been studied for biological activity and about 15% have been investigated phytochemically. This shows a need for planned activity guided phyto-pharmacological evaluation of herbal drugs, since most of the modern drugs has its natural product prototype. *Mathuka Nerifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. belongs to the family Sapotaceae. It is an endangered plant species occurring in the Southern, Western Ghats of India. Flowers are used in the treatment of kidney complaints. Fruits are recommended in cases of rheumatism, biliousness, consumption, asthma. It is an endemic species of Ceylon that claims to have medicinal uses like “The bark is a good remedy for itch, swellings, fractures and snakebite poisoning.

The oil extracted from the seed is applied to swellings, rheumatism and other skin diseases. The Heartwood made into a paste is applied on the throat for glandular swellings in the neck and the throat. The oil is applied on wounds and sores caused by bears.” and worm trouble. Oil from seeds is used to treat rheumatism and for improved growth of hair. The secondary metabolites, Flavonoids, a pigments that color most flowers, fruits, and seeds are widely distributed in plants with different metabolic functions. These polyphenolic compounds are ubiquitous group characterized by the flavan nucleus and available as a group of bioactive compounds in fruits, vegetables and plant-derived beverages. The basic structure of flavonoids is diphenylpropane skeleton, namely, two benzene rings (ring A and B – Fig. 1) linked by a three carbon chain that forms a closed pyran ring (heterocyclic ring containing oxygen, the C ring) with benzenic A ring. So, its structure is indicated as C6-C3-C6. In most cases, B ring is attached to position 2 of C ring, but it can also bind in position 3 or 4; this, together with the structural features of the ring B and the patterns of glycosylation and hydroxylation of the three rings, makes the flavonoids one of the larger and more diversified groups of phytochemicals.

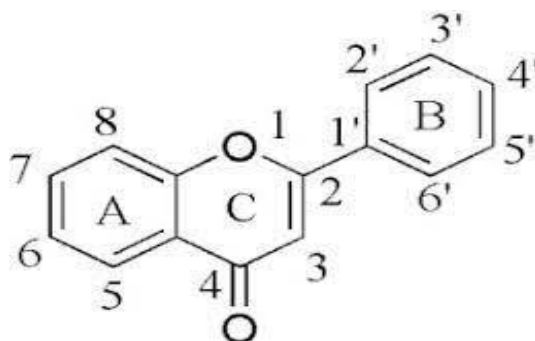


Fig.:1

Depending on the carbon of the C ring on which B ring is attached, and the degree of unsaturation and oxidation of the C ring, Flavonoids are sub classified into different types¹. Those Flavonoids in which B ring is linked in position 3 of the ring C are called isoflavones; those in which B ring is linked in position 4, neoflavonoids, while those in which the B ring is linked in position 2 can be further subdivided into several subgroups on the basis of the structural features of the C ring. These subgroups are: flavones, flavonols, flavanones, flavanonols, flavanol or catechins and anthocyanins. Finally, flavonoids with open C ring are called chalcones.

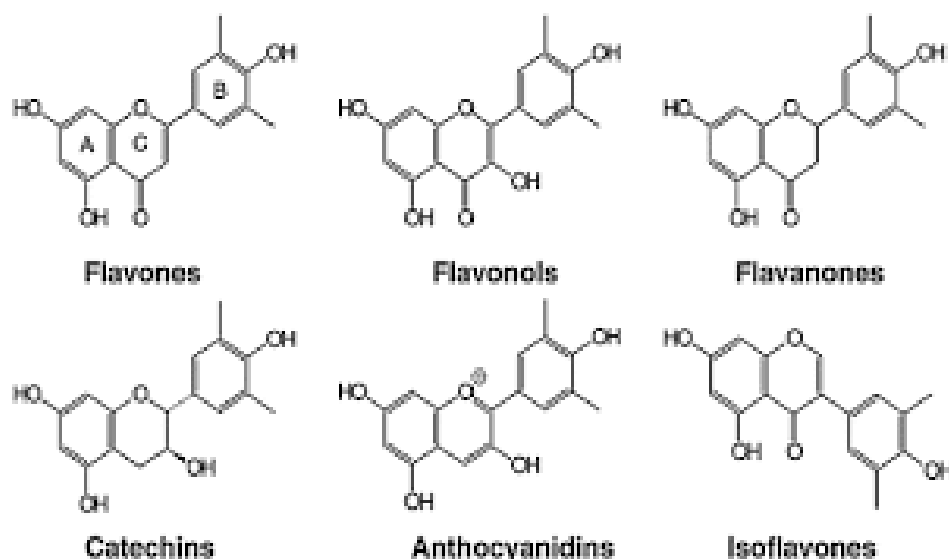


Fig.:2

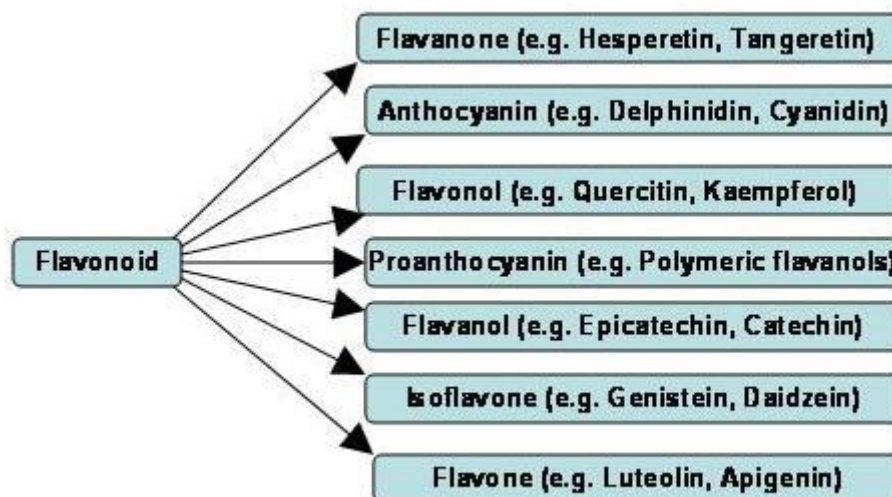


Fig.:3

Flavonoids are mainly divided into seven major groups (Fig.:3). One of the best described flavonoids, Quercetin is a member of this group. It's found in many plants and foods, such as red wine, onions, green tea, apples, and berries. Quercetin has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects that might help reduce swelling, kill cancer cells, control blood sugar, and help prevent heart disease. The qualitative chemical tests on the plant extracts will help to detect the various Phyto-constituents present. The spectroscopies are the primary method for determining the structure of compounds. By using IR, LC-MS, $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra of the isolated compound will help confirm the structure of a compound.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Preparation of extracts:

The fresh plant parts of *Mathuka Neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. was shadow dried and powdered. Powdered material was passed through sieve No.60. Then extracted separately using hexane, petroleum ether, chloroform, ethyl acetate, ethanol and water by the Soxhlet extraction method. The hot percolation method was employed for water for 48

hrs. The extracts were concentrated using a rotary vacuum evaporator.

Qualitative phytochemical Screening:

Various qualitative tests were performed on the various extracts of *Mathuka Neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. for the identification of phytoconstituents.

Detection of carbohydrates:

500mg of the extract was dissolved in 5 ml of distilled water and filtered. The filtrate was used to test the presence of carbohydrates.

Molisch' s test:

Molisch reagent:

10 g of alpha naphthol was dissolved in 100ml of 95% methanol to prepare Molisch reagent.

To the extract two drops of molisch reagent was added and a few drops of conc. H_2SO_4 is added, formation of the purple - violet ring indicates the presence of carbohydrates.

Detection of Glycosides:

Keller-Killiani test: Add glacial acetic acid to the extract and one drop of 5% $FeCl_3$ and con H_2SO_4 was added, formation of reddish brown color at the junction of two liquid layers and upper layer turned bluish green indicates the presence of glycosides.

Detection of Saponins:

Foam test: 1 ml of extract was diluted to make up to 20ml with distilled water and slowly shaken in a graduated cylinder for 15 minutes. 1 cm layer of foam indicates the presence of saponins.

Detection of Alkaloids:

To the residue add dil HCl. Shake well and filter. With the filtrate perform the following tests:

a. Dragendorff's test:

Dragendorff's reagent: Reagent available from Sd fine chemicals, Mumbai.

To 2-3 ml filtrate adds few drops Dragendorff's reagent. Orange brown ppt is formed.

b. Wagner's test:

Wagner's reagent: Reagent available from Sd fine chemicals, Mumbai.

To 2-3ml filtrate few drops of Wagner's reagent are added. Reddish blue ppt is formed.

Detection of Flavonoids:

To small amount of the residue add lead acetate solution. Yellow colored ppt is formed.

Detection of anthocyanosids:

Alkaline reagent test:

The presence of anthocyanosids is revealed by a color change as a function of pH due to titration of the acidic aqueous solution with a solution of NaOH. If the solution turns a red color, the pH is less than 3, if blue, the pH is 4 and 6.

Detection of Phenolics and Tannins:

100 mg of the extract was boiled with 1ml of distilled water and filtered. The filtrate was used for the following test,

- a. **Ferric chloride test:** To 2ml of filtrate, 2ml of 1% ferric chloride solution was added in a test tube. Formation of bluish black color indicates the presence of phenolic nucleus.
- b. **Test for Tannins:** To the extract 0.5ml NaOH was added formation of precipitate indicates the presence of tannins.

Detection of Phytosterols and Triterpenoids:

0.5 g of the extract was treated with 10ml chloroform and filtered. The filtrate was used to test the presence of Phytosterols and Triterpenoids

a. Lieberman -Burchart test: To the extract, few drops of acetic acid and con H_2SO_4 were added, deep red ring at the junction of two liquids indicates the presence of triterpenes.

b. Salkowaski test: To the extract solution few drops of con H_2SO_4 were added and shaken and allowed to stand, lower layer turns red indicates the presence of sterols.

Detection of fixed oils and fats:

Oil spot test: One drop of the extract was placed on filter paper and the solvent was allowed to evaporate. An oily stain on filter paper indicates the presence of fixed oil.

The qualitative chemical tests were performed on the plant extracts to detect the various Phyto-constituents present as per the standard procedures and findings were recorded. The qualitative chemical tests on the various extracts showed that, for *Mathuka Nerifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. more number of phytoconstituent were found in ethanol, chloroform and water extract. (Table 1)

Table 1: Phytochemical analysis of *Mathuka Neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. Extracts

SI/NO	Test	H	P	C	E.A	E	W
1	Carbohydrates	-	-	-	-	-	+
2	Glycosides	-	-	-	-	+	+
3	Saponins	-	-	+	+	+	-
4	Alkaloids <i>Dragendorff's test</i> <i>Wagner's test</i>	- -	- -	- -	- +	- +	- -
5	Flavonoids	-	-	-	-	+	-
6	Aanthocyanosides	-	-	-	-	+	-
7	Phenolic and Tannins	-	-	-	-	+	+
8	Phytosterols and Triterpenoids <i>Salkowaski test</i> <i>Leiberman-Burcharat test</i>	+ +	+ +	+ -	+ -	- -	- -
9	Fixed oils and fats	+	+	+	-	+	-

- : Absence; +: Presence

H=Hexane, **P**=Petroleum ether, **C**=Chloroform, **E.A**=Ethyl acetate, **E**=Ethanol, **W**=Water

Isolation and characterization of phytoconstituents of *Mathuka Neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. ethanol extract
The *Mathuka Neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. ethanol, chloroform and water extracts were having maximum number of phytoconstituents. (Table 2)

Table 2: Fractnation of ethanol extract of *Mathuka Neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. by column chromatography

Fraction Number	Solvent ratio for column elution	NO. of spots	Rf value
1-4	100% P.E	-Nil-	-Nil-
4-6	P.E 90% : B 10%	-Nil-	-Nil-
6-15	P.E 80%: B 20%	-Nil-	-Nil-
15-30	P.E 70% : B 30%	Three	0.65,0.7,0.4
30-50	P.E 60% :B 40%	-Nil-	-Nil-
50-70	P.E 50% : B 50 %	-Nil-	-Nil-
70-100	P.E 30% : B 70 %	-Nil-	-Nil-
100-120	100% B	-Nil-	-Nil-
121-130	B 90% :C 10%	Three	0.5,0.6,0.9
131-135	B 80%:C 20%	-Nil-	-Nil-
136 – 145	B 50%:C 50%	-Nil-	-Nil-
146 – 166	B 20%:C 80%	-Nil-	-Nil-
167 – 180	B 10%: C 90%	-Nil-	-Nil-
181 – 190	100% C	-Nil-	-Nil-
191 – 195	C99% :M1%	-Nil-	-Nil-

196 – 200	C98%:M2%	-Nil-	-Nil-
201 – 210	C97%:M3%	Three	0.8,0.6,0.4
211 – 230	C96%:M4%	Three	0.8,0.6,0.4
231 – 259	C95.5%:M4.5%	Three	0.8,0.6,0.4
260 – 300	C95%:M5%	One	0.6
301 – 344	C93%:M7%	One	0.7

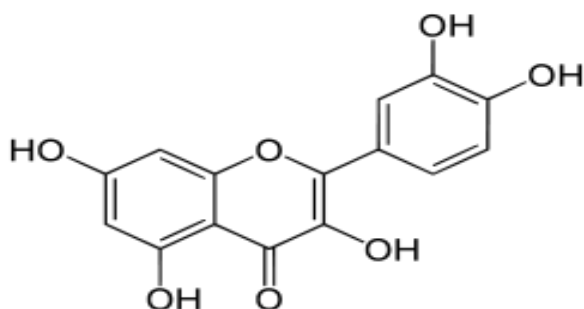
P.E.: Petroleum ether, B: Benzene, C:Chloroform, M:Metanol

During the column elution process, the fractions 260 - 300 and 301 - 344 has a single banding pattern which was confirmed by TLC study. So the fractions are combined and kept for evaporation to dry at room temperature. After drying the dried residue was scrapped off once again checked for its purity .

The remaining fractions were not worked out because of lower yield as well as impure. The compound with Rf value 0.6 was subjected for Phytochemical screening , Physical properties and spectral analysis, i.e., FTIR, LC-MS, C13 NMR and HNMR for structural elucidation. (Table 3) (Fig.:1)

Physical properties and other details of isolated compound:

- Color :** Yellow powder
- M.P:** 316^oc
- TLC** single spot
- Rf value in BAW by TLC :** 0.96
- λ max :** 370nm(Fig.:5)



- Shows the presence of **Quercetin (Fig.:4)**

Quercetin (Fig.:4)

Table 3: Phytochemical screening of component from the ethanolic extracts and fractions of *Mathuka Neriifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam.

SI/NO	Tests	Component
1	Carbohydrates	-
2	Glycosides	-
3	Saponins	-
4	Alkaloids	-
5	Flavonoids	+
6	Anthocyanosides	-
7	Phenolic and Tannins	+
8	Phytosterols and Triterpenoids	-
9	Fixed oils and fats	-

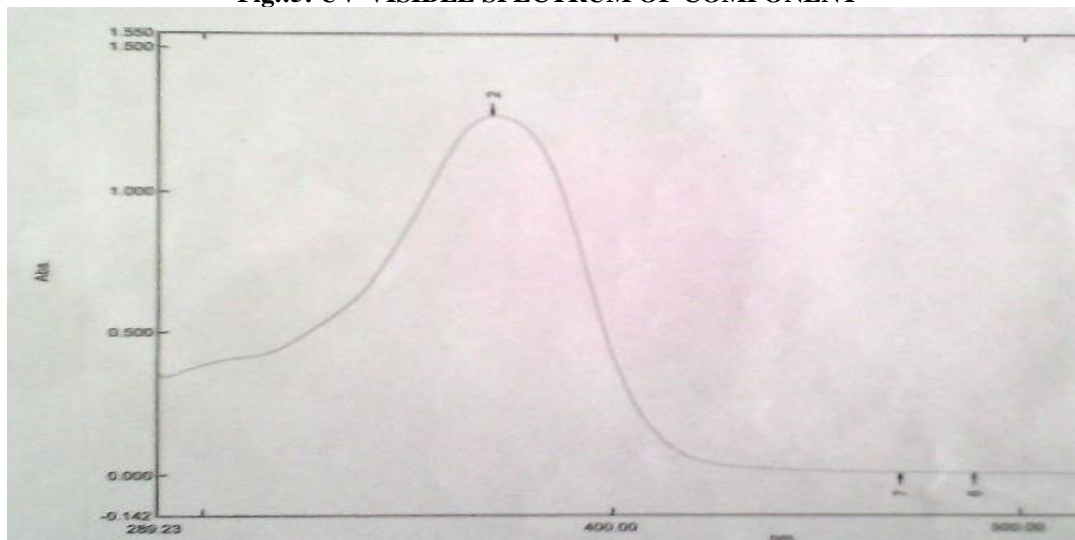
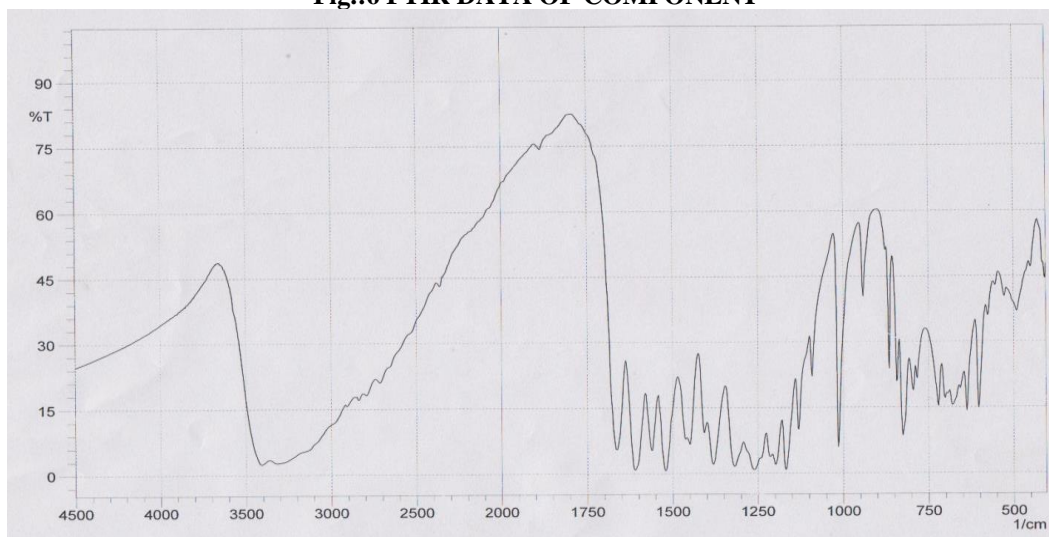
Interpretation and observation:

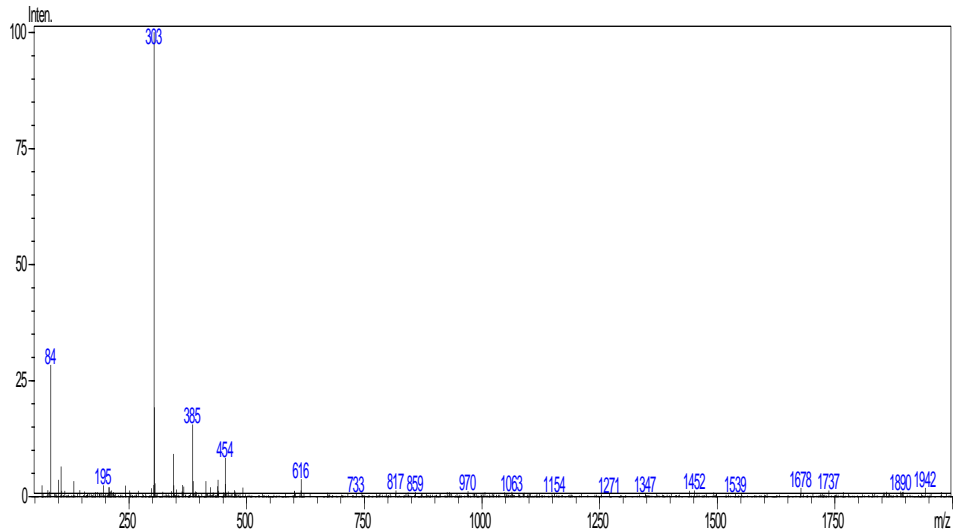
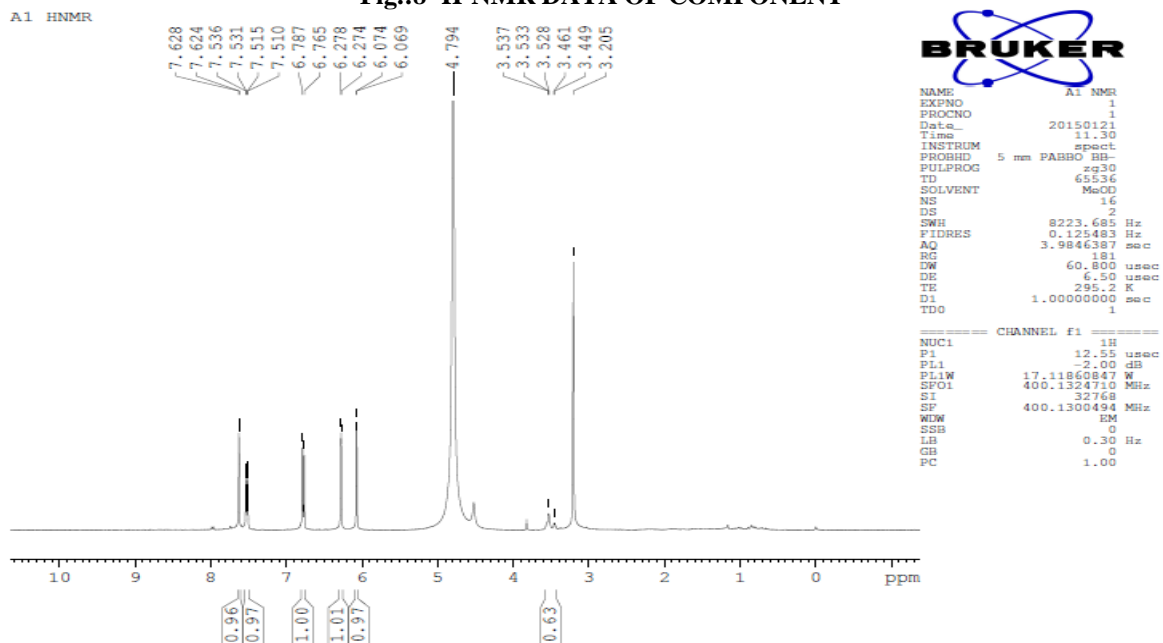
The compound in its IR spectra exhibited absorption bands at $1000 - 750 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for aromaticity, $1500 - 1250 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for alkyl, 1662 cm^{-1} a broadband for ketone and bands at 3406 cm^{-1} and 3315 cm^{-1} for the phenolic OH group. (Fig.:6)

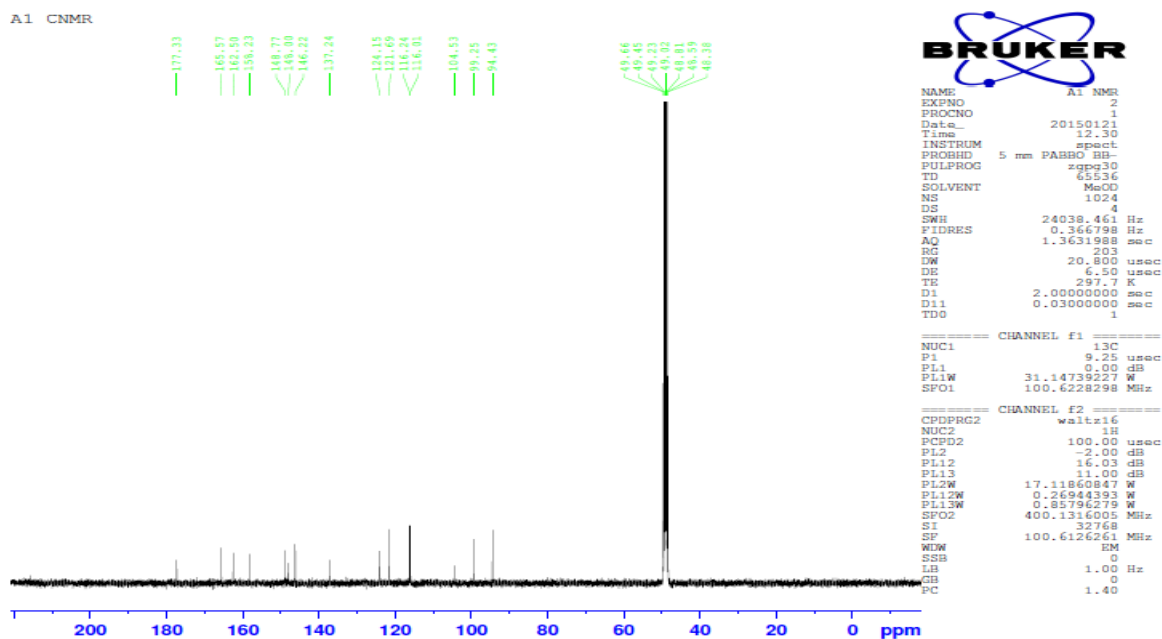
The LC-MS data shows a peak at retention time 11.4 and molecular weight of 303 in positive mode. (Fig.:7)

In its $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra shows, bands between $\delta 6 - 6.7$ shows aromaticity, $\delta 7 - 7.6$ shows presence of phenolic OH group, $\delta 3.2 - 3.5$ shows presence of $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}$ and an instance peak at $\delta 4.79$ shows the presence of OH group. (Fig.:8)

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectrum exhibits a signal at the range $\delta 116 - 177$ shows the presence of aromaticity with 12 carbon atoms. So two aromatic rings may be present. An instance band at $\delta 49$ shows the presence of the alkyl group. (Fig.:9)

Fig.:5: UV-VISIBLE SPECTRUM OF COMPONENT**Fig.:6 FTIR DATA OF COMPONENT****Fig.:7 LC-MS DATA OF COMPONENT**

Fig.:8 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ DATA OF COMPONENTFig.:9 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ DATA OF COMPONENT



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Mathuka Nerifolia (Moon) H.J. Lam. Flowers are used in the treatment of kidney complaints. Fruits are recommended in cases of rheumatism, biliousness, asthma and worm trouble. Oil from the seeds are used to treat rheumatism and for improved growth of hair. From the literature, it was found that no other study regarding the antioxidant activity of the plant *Madhuca nerifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam, has been conducted and as the plant was used to treat rheumatism and other ailments which is a caused due to free radical activity we decide to go for antioxidant study.

The ethanolic extract of *Mathuka Nerifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. showed the presence of more phytoconstituents, Alkaloids, Flavonoids, Anthocyanosides, Phenolic and Tannins and Fixed oils and fats. So further study was conducted with the extract.

Column chromatography by gradient elution technique was performed and the fractions 260 - 300 and 301 - 344 has a single banding pattern which was confirmed by TLC study. So the fractions are combined and kept for evaporation to dry at room temperature. After drying the dried residue was scrapped off once again checked for its purity. The compound with Rf value 0.6 was subjected for Phytochemical screening, Physical properties and spectral analysis, i.e., FTIR, LC-MS, C13 NMR and HNMR for structural elucidation.

Based on the study the column isolate was confirmed as Quercetin

CONCLUSION:

Despite the recent interest in molecular modeling, combinatorial chemistry and other synthetic chemistry techniques by pharmaceutical companies and funding organizations, natural products, particularly medicinal plants, remains an important source of new drugs, new drug leads and new chemical entities. It is evident that, natural products have played a vital role in drug discovery, by contributing to a wide variety of phytochemicals for the treatment of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, infections related with viral and microbial origin and other health disorders.

After collection and authentication of plant material, fresh plant of *Mathuka Nerifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. was shadow dried and powdered. Powdered material was passed through sieve No.60. Then extracted using hexane, petroleum ether, chloroform, ethyl acetate, ethanol by the Soxhlet extraction method. The extracts were concentrated using a rotary vacuum evaporator.

The qualitative chemical tests were performed on the plant extracts to detect the various phytoconstituents present in them as per the standard procedure and findings were recorded. From the qualitative chemical tests, it was found that the chloroform, ethanol and water extracts of *Mathuka Nerifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. Was having the maximum number of constituents.

So, the ethanol extract was subjected to column chromatography, by means of gradient elution technique. The fractions 260 - 300 and 301 - 344, gave two compounds. Later by spectral analysis they were found that the component one was **Quercetin**.

Based on the literature Quercetin is a well-known antioxidant present in plants. So as a conclusion further studies with the extracts of *Mathuka Nerifolia* (Moon) H.J. Lam. Will be performed. Also we can conclude that the classical uses confirms the scientific study.

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