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Research article



Evaluation of binding affinity of Seenthil Kudineer with enzyme RNA-dependent RNA polymerase of Dengue virus through molecular docking In-Silico Approach.

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ABSTRACT

Seenthil Kudineer (SK) a classical siddha formulation is used to treat various fevers which cause moderate to severe acute hemorrhagic symptoms as is indicated in the text. The research article has shown the following bioactive compounds such as Tinosporide, Santalic acids, Gingerenone-A, Vasicinone, Beta-santalol, Rutin, Geniposide, Thymol, Ascorbic acid and Gamma-Himachalene. Molecular docking is a great approach in current trends to identify the possibility of pharmacological effects of medicinal compounds which could be exerted over their corresponding protein targets which are relevant for the disease. Docking simulations were performed using the Lamarckian genetic algorithm (LGA) and the Solis & Wets local search method (*Solis and Wets, 1981*) against the target protein Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase (2J7U) which is responsible for viral replication and transcription. The binding energy observed were of the order: -10.28 Kcal/mol (Rutin), -7.90Kcal/mol (Geniposide),

-7.14 Kcal/mol(Gingerenone), - 6.09 Kcal/mol(Santalic acids),-5.91 Kcal/ mol (Gamma Himachalene), -5.80 Kcal/mol(Beta - Santalol), -5.43Kcal/mol (Tinosporide), - 5.32 Kcal/mol(Ascorbic acid), -5.12 Kcal/mol(Vasicinone) and -4.22 Kcal/mol(Thymol), respectively towards for the target 2J7U. These findings confirm that the Siddha formulation *Seenthil Kudineer* has some potent activity against the symptoms produced by Dengue virus.

Keywords:

Seenthil Kudineer, Dengue, Molecular docking, Siddha medicine. .

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout the world, dengue ranks as most important mosquito borne viral disease in the world. WHO estimates that 50-100 million dengue infections occur in each year and almost half of the world's population lives in the countries, where dengue is endemic. Close to 75% of global population exposed to dengue are in Asia-Pacific region. There are no antiviral medicines available for dengue. Current conventional management focuses on fluid replacement and management of other metabolic consequences of viral infection.A major problem in fight against virus is rapid adaptation and development of drug resistance as well as emergence of new hybrid viruses. In past few years natural remedies came more and more in centre of interest. Recent studies showing antiviral potential of plant extracts against viral strains resistant to conventional antiviral agents have challenged modern drug discovery practices and deem a very careful look towards exploring natural antiviral components of medicinal plants and exploring traditional medical formulations used in treatment of viral diseases.

Molecular docking is the preclinical and a insilico approach can be done before starting the pharmacological and the clinical study which can be helpful one to assessing the future outcome whether positive or negative in the management of the particular disease.Eventhough Molecular docking studies are considered as a preliminary study, it is significant with other Pre-clinical studies done by the Research scholars from various fields including in-vivo immuno-modulatory activity against viral infection in backyard chicken and in-vivo safety studies in wistar rats.

Dengue fever is an acute febrile illness caused by virus belonging to Flaviviridae family. Four well defined dengue viruses identified are DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4. Each of them has a distinct genetic structure. Dengue virus is transmitted to humans through bites of infective Ades mosquitos- Ades aegyptii, Ades albopictus. Dengue fever is characterized by biphasic fever, arthralgia myalgia, and rashes. Dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) is characterized by abnormality in haemostasis and by marked leakage of plasma from the capillaries. The later may lead to Dengue shock syndrome (DSS).

In siddha medicine, the *Pithasuram* mentioned in the classical siddha text book, *Yugi Vaidhiya Chinthamani* can be correlated with Dengue fever.Most of the symptoms in the *pitha suram* can be matched with the signs and symptoms of dengue clinical presentation as follow.

Pitha suram explanation inYugi Vaidhiya Chinthamani	As per modern Medicine
Udal sikappu niram adaithal - Reddish discolouration on body	Petechial heamorrhage
Siruneer sikappu niram adaithal -Red colored urination	Hematuria
Malam sikappu niram adaithal - Black colour stools	Melaena
Kan sikappu niram adaithal - Reddish discoloration on eye	Retinal heamorrhage

Table.1. Pitha suram vs Dengue Fever (A Correlation view)

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Manakalakkam, Mayakkam, Padukkaiyil thankamai Confusion, fainting, not sitting in the bed	Restlessness, Symptoms of altered sensorium.
Okaalam - Nausea	Nausea, Vomiting
Neervetkai - Thirst	Thirst due to dehydration
Vayiru kalithal - watery stools	Diarrhoea
Idaividamal athika suram kaaithal - High grade fever	Нурегругехіа
Mugam Karuppu niram adaithal- Blackish discoloration of face	Cyanosis

2.Materials and Methods

2.1.Source of drug

The Sastric drug Seenthil Kudineer (SK) was prepared as per the Siddha classical text book Gunapadam mooligai vaguppu.

The drug has the following 8 herbals such

as Tinospora cordifolia (Seenthil),

Santalum album(Santhanam), Zingiber

officinale (Chukku),

Sida cordifolia (Sittramutti), Cyprus rotundus (Korai kizhangu),

Hedyotis corymbosa (Parpadagam), Plectranthus vettiveriodes (Vilamichuver) and Chrysopogon zizanioides(Veetiver).

Table.2. List of herbs present in the SK formulation with their phytochemicals

SI. No	Herbs	Phyto chemicals	References
1.	Tinospora cordifolia	Tinosporide	Krupanidhi S, Abraham Peele K, Venkateswarulu TC, et al. Screening of phytochemical compounds of Tinospora cordifolia for their inhibitory activity on SARS-CoV-2: an in silico study .J Biomol Struct Dyn. 2020;1-5.
2.	Santalum album	Santalic acids	Gautam P. Vadnere. Phytochemical Investigation And In Vitro Antimicrobial Screening Of Santalum Album Seeds Extracts. International Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, vol. 9, no. 10, Nov. 2017, pp. 117-24,
3.	Zingiber officinale	Gingerenone-A	Rampogu S, Baek A, Gajula RG, et al. Ginger (Zingiber officinale) phytochemicals-gingerenone-A and shogaol inhibit SaHPPK: molecular docking, molecular dynamics simulations and in vitro approaches. Ann Clin Microbiol Antimicrob. 2018;17(1):16.

4.	Sida cordifolia	Vasicinone	 Momin, M. A., Bellah, S. F., Rahman, S. M., Rahman, A. A., Murshid, G. M., & Emran, T. B. (2014). Phytopharmacological evaluation of ethanol extract of Sida cordifolia L. roots. Asian Pacific journal of tropical biomedicine, 4(1), 18–24. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2221-1691(14)60202-1 					
5.	Cyprus rotundus	Beta-santalol	Yasaman Taheri. Cyperus spp.: A Review on Phytochemical Composition, Biological Activity, and Health-Promoting Effects.2021.https://doi.org/10.1155/2021/4014867					
6.	Hedyotis corymbosa	Rutin Geniposide	Sridevi SKS. A Review on Phytochemical and Pharmacological Profile of Hedyotis corymbosa Linn. Int. J. Pharm. Sci. Rev. Res., 26(1), May – Jun 2014; Article No. 54, Pages: 320-324					
7.	Plectranthus vettiveriodes	Thymol	Arumugam G, Swamy MK, Sinniah UR. Plectranthus amboinicus (Lour.) Spreng: Botanical, Phytochemical, Pharmacological and Nutritional Significance. Molecules. 2016;21(4):369					
8.	Chrysopogon zizanioides	Ascorbic acid, Gamma- Himachalene	Grover, M., Behl, T., & Virmani, T. (2021). Phytochemical Screening, Antioxidant Assay and Cytotoxic Profile for Differe Extracts of Chrysopogon zizanioides Roots. Chemistry & biodiversity,18(8),e2100012. https://doi.org/10.1002/cbdv.202100012					

2.2.Molecular Docking

Molecular Docking analysis performed with a commonly well-known established software Auto dock Gridfree a very convenient and excellent screening tool for identifying binding energy between the 3D structures of each ligand and target proteins.

The target protein PDB ID: 2J7U was selected, a Gridfree docking performed, and the binding energies of each ligand found.

PDB	Name of the Target									
2J7U	Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase									

Figure.1.Structure of Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase protein



2.3.Receptor Structure :

Crystalline structure of the target protein Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase (2J7U) was retrieved from protein data bank and protein clean-up process was done and essential missing hydrogen atom were being added. Different orientation of the lead molecules with respect to the target protein was evaluated by Autodock program and the best dock pose was selected based on the interaction study analysis.

2.4. Objective of Molecular Docking :

Binding of phytocomponents with the core amino acids (Arg-737, Arg-729 and Ser-710) of the targets by forming hydrogen bond will hinder the function of the enzyme RNA-dependent RNA polymerase since these are the prime mediators for dengue viral replication. Thereby phytocomponents which inhibit this enzyme may act as a potential therapeutic agent for management of dengue fever can be assessed by this method.

2.5. METHODOLOGY:

Docking calculations were carried out for retrieved phytocomponents against target enzyme Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase (2J7U). Essential hydrogen atoms, Kollman united atom type charges, and solvation parameters were added with the aid of AutoDock tools (*Morris, Goodsell et al., 1998*).

Affinity (grid) maps of ×× Å grid points and 0.375 Å spacing were generated using the Autogrid program (*Morris, Goodsell et al., 1998*). AutoDock parameter set- and distance-dependent dielectric functions were used in the calculation of the van der Waals and the electrostatic terms, respectively.

Docking simulations were performed using the Lamarckian genetic algorithm (LGA) and the Solis & Wets local search method (*Solis and Wets*, 1981). Initial position, orientation, and torsions of the ligand molecules were set randomly.

All rotatable torsions were released during docking. Each docking experiment was derived from 2 different runs that were set to terminate after a maximum of 250000 energy evaluations. The population size was set to 150. During the search, a translational step of 0.2 Å, and quaternion and torsion steps of 5 were applied

3.Observation and Inference :

Table.3. 2D and 3D Structure of Selected Ligands with acti	ve components in
Each herbs used in the Seenthil Kudineer prepa	ration

S.No	Compound name	2D and 3D Structure of Selected Ligands With active components in Each herbs used in the Seenthil Kudineer preparation					
1.	Tinosporide	Ligand in 2D	Absolution JSmol				

2.	Santalic acid	Ligand in 2D	Ligand in 3D
		Absolute H,C H,C H,C H H,C H,C H	JSmol
3.	Gingerenone-A	Ligand in 2D	Ligand in 3D
			JSmol
4.	Vasicinone	Ligand in 2D	Ligand in 3D
		Absolute	JSmot
5.	Beta-santalol	Ligand in 2D	Ligand in 3D
			JSmol
6.	Rutin	Ligand in 2D	Ligand in 3D
		- AAAA	JSmol
7.	Geniposide	Ligand in 2D	Ligand in 3D
			JSmol



Table.4. Ligand Properties of the Compounds selected for Molecular docking

Sl.No	Compound	Molar weight g/mol	Molecular Formula	H Bond Donor	H Bond Acceptor	Rotatable bonds	
1.	Tinosporide	374.4 g/mol	$C_{20}H_{22}O_7$	1	7	1	
2.	Santalic acids	234.33 g/mol	$\underline{C_{15}H_{22}O_2}$	1	2	4	
3.	Gingerenone-A	356.4 g/mol	$\underline{C_{21}H_{24}O_5}$	2	5	9	
4.	Vasicinone	202.21 g/mol	$\underline{C_{11}H_{10}N_2O_2}$	1	3	0	
5.	Beta-santalol	220.35 g/mol	$\underline{C_{15}H_{24}O}$	1	1	4	
6.	Rutin	610.5 g/mol	$\underline{C_{27}H_{30}O_{16}}$	10	16	6	
7.	Geniposide	388.4 g/mol	$\underline{C}_{17}\underline{H}_{24}\underline{O}_{10}$	5	10	6	
8.	Thymol	150.221 g/mol	C ₁₀ H ₁₄ O	1	1	1	
9.	Ascorbic acid	176.12 g/mol	C ₆ H ₈ O <u>6</u>	4	6	2	
10.	Gamma- Himachalene	204.35 g/mol	204.35 g/mol $C_{15}H_{24}$ 0 0		0	0	

Table.5. Summary of the molecular docking studies of compounds against

SI. No	Compounds	Binding Free energy Kcal/mol	Inhibition constant Ki µM (*uM)(**nM)	Electrostatic energy Kcal/mol	Intermolecular energy Kcal/mol	Total Interaction Surface
1.	Tinosporide	-5.43	105.16*	-0.31	-5.98	627.235
2.	Santalic acids	-6.09	34.08*	-0.64	-7.50	591.192
3.	Gingerenone-A	-7.14	5.81*	-0.08	-8.21	767.986
4.	Vasicinone	-5.12	176.56*	-0.04	-5.42	519.812
5.	Beta-santalol	-5.80	56.08*	-0.01	-7.18	605.683
6.	Rutin	-10.28	29.35**	-0.04	-5.45	770.183
7.	Geniposide	-7.90	1.63*	-0.01	-7.33	685.726
8.	Thymol	-4.22	804.95*	-0.07	-4.86	454.614
9.	Ascorbic acid	-5.32	126.89*	-0.76	-5.53	419.335
10.	Gamma- Himachalene	-5.91	46.36*	-0.01	-5.91	535.663

Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U

Figure.2. Docking Poses , 2D interaction plot analysis and Hydrogen bond plotting with core amino acid analysis of all the compounds of the molecular docking studies of *Seenthil kudineer* against Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U



Tinosporide with Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U





DOCKING POSE Santalic acid with Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U



Santalic acid with target -2D Interaction Plot An alysis



Santalic acid with target -Hydrogen bond plottin g with core amino acid Analysis



D OCKING POSE Gingerenone-A with Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U



Gingerenone-A with target - 2D Interaction Plot Analysis





DOCKING POSE Vasicinone with Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U



Vasicinone with target -2D Interaction Plot Analysis



Vasicinone with target -Hydrogen bond plotting with core amino acid Analysis



DOCKING POSE Beta-santalol with Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U



Beta-santalol with target -2D Interaction Plot Analysis







F797





Docking Pose: Geniposide with Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U



Geniposide with target - 2D Interaction Plot Analysis





DOCKING POSE

Thymol with Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent

RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U



Thymol with target – 2D Interaction Plot Analysis





DOCKING POSE Ascorbic acid with Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase - PDB 2J7U



Ascorbic acid with target - 2D Interaction Plot A nalysis



Thymol with target -Hydrogen bond plotting wi th core amino acid Analysis



DOCKING POSE Gamma- Himachalene with Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase -











3.1.Observations of Amino acid Residue Interaction of Lead and Standard against Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase PDB 2J7U :

Total of 10 bioactive lead compounds were retrieved from the herbs present in the siddha formulation - *Seenthil Kudineer*. From reported data the phytochemicals such as Tinosporide, Santalic acids, Gingerenone-A, Beta-santalol, Rutin, Geniposide, Ascorbic acid and Gamma-Himachalene reveals maximum of 2- 3 interactions that accounts of 100 % of the occupancy with the core active amino acid residues present on the target dengue NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase enzyme.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the computational analysis it was concluded that the bio-active compound's like Tinosporide, Santalic acids, Gingerenone-A, Vasicinone, Beta-santalol, Rutin, Geniposide, Thymol, Ascorbic acid and Gamma-Himachalene in *Seenthil kudineer*, possess significant binding against the amino acid residues Arg-737, Arg-729 and Ser-710 present on the active site thereby it was concluded that these compounds may exerts promising anti-viral by inhibiting the enzyme Dengue NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase.

Table.6. Amino acid Residue Interaction of Lead

and Standard against Dengue virus NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase PDB 2J7U

know the exact mechanism and efficacy of *Seenthil Kudineer* in Dengue infection management.

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	Inter														
Compounds	actions	Amir	no acid	Residu	ues										
		710	729	734	737	794	795	796							
		SE	AR	LE	AR	TH	TR	SE							
Tinosporide	3	R	G	U	G	R	Р	R							
		710	729	734	737	758	761	766	794	796					
Santalic acids		SE	AR	LE	AR	ΤY	ME	ΤY	TH	SE					
	3	R	G	U	G	R	Т	R	R	R					
Gingerenone-		710		729	737	761	766	794	795	796					
A		SE	711	AR	AR	ME	ΤY	TH	TR	SE					
	3	R	HIS	G	G	Т	R	R	Р	R					
		511	709		729	734	761	766	794	796					
		LE	CY	711	AR	LE	ME	ΤY	TH	SE	798				
Vasicinone	1	U	S	HIS	G	U	Т	R	R	R	HIS				
		729	734	737	761	794									
	_	AR	LE	AR	ME	TH									
Beta-santalol	2	G	U	G	Т	R									
					-	51 0			= 2.4		1	-	7 04	-	79
		661	663	664	709	710	711	729	734	737	761	766	794	796	8
	2	SE	AS	AS	CY	SE	711	AR	LE	AR	ME	TY	TH	SE	HI
Rutin	3	R	P	P	S	R	HIS	G	U	G	Т	R	R	R	S
		661	709	710	711	729	737	794	796	707	700				
a · · ·	2	SE	CY	SE	711	AR G	AR	TH	SE R	797	798				
Geniposide	3	R	S	R	HIS		G	R		ILE	HIS				
		511 LE	711	729	761	766 TV	794	796	799	803					
Theresal	1	LE	711 HIS	AR G	ME	TY	TH R	SE R	AL	TR P					
Thymol	1	U 511		710	Т	R 729	к 761	к 766	A 794	P 796				1	
		511 LE	709 CY	/10 SE	711	AR	761 ME	766 TY	794 TH	796 SE	798				
Ascorbic acid	2	LE U	S	SE R	HIS	AK G	ME T	R	R	SE R	HIS				
ASCULUIC ACIU	2	511	3 710	Γ	729	734	1 761	к 766	к 794	к 796	пъ	799			\mid
Gamma-		LE	SE	711	AR	734 LE	ME	700 TY	794 TH	796 SE	798	799 AL			
Gamma- Himachalene	2	U	R	HIS	G	U U	T	R	R	R	HIS	AL A			
machalene	4	U	Ν	1113	U	U	1								

Thereby phytocomponents which inhibit the target may act as a potential therapeutic agent for management of dengue viral infection by inhibiting the viral entry into target cellular pathway and replication.

Based on the findings of docking score values we can strongly suggest this Siddha poly herbal formulation *Seenthil Kudineer* for the better management of Dengue. Further preclinical and clinical trials have to be conducted in order to

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