## **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**



# Aiming COVID-19 SARS-cov-2 proteins by natural antiviral flavonoids through *in-silico* drug repurposing

Karumalaiyan Palanisamy<sup>1</sup>, Pandiyarajan Sabarison<sup>2,5</sup>, Velayutham Gurunathan<sup>3</sup>, Govindasamy Hariharan<sup>4</sup>, Ho-Chiao Chuang\* <sup>2</sup>, Sheng-Tung Huang<sup>5</sup>

\*E-Mail: *hchuang@mail.ntut.edu.tw* 

Received August 09, 2025

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has proclaimed the quickly spreading, extremely infectious, and pathogenic SARS-CoV-2 (SARS-Coronavirus 2) linked COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease 2019) a pandemic. SARS-CoV-2 conquers host cell by connecting glycoprotein (S-protein) spike viral surface with ACE2 (cellular angiotensin converting enzyme 2). That necessary virus molecular association through host cell provides clear beneficial goal on behalf of discovering SARS-CoV-2 antiviral medications. These medications recycling will offer fast and possible therapy to extend COVID-19 exponentially. The present study is to estimate and classify natural antiviral analogues as repurposing medicines like 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone, 3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin, Fisetin, O-Glucosyl-7methyl-5-genistein, Glycosil-7-O-luteolin, Hesperetin, Isoquercitrin, Justicidin B, Luteolin-7-Oglucoside and Morin for COVID-19 main protease and compared with antiviral medication Remdesivir. Molecular docking studies have shown that Luteolin-7-O-glucoside and Justicidin B were natural flavonoid derivative of exceptional inhibition ability through binding energy of -9.5,-9.4 kcal/mol of 5N5O and 6LU7 enzyme, relative to the other compounds and Remdesivir antiviral medication (Binding energy -7.4 and -7.7 Kcal/mol). The need for the most time is the prompt discovery and commitment of appropriate medication to tackle and convince the global COVID-19 crisis. Besides, timely in vivo experiments were needed to approve the inhibition efficacy of the anti-SARS-CoV-2 compounds.

Key words: Anti-viral, ADME, COVID-19, Justicidin B, Luteolin-7-O-glucoside, Molecular docking

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Department of Chemistry, Srinivasan College of Arts and Science, Perambalur 621 212, Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Department of Mechanical Engineering, National Taipei University of Technology, Taipei-10608, Taiwan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Postgraduate & Research Department of Chemistry, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Research Associate, School of Sciences, Bharata Mata College (Autonomous), Thrikkakara-682021, Kochi, Kerala, India.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, National Taipei University of Technology, Taipei-10608, Taiwan.

There is a horrific worldwide public health epidemic as a consequence of a febrile respiratory pandemic such as air syndrome triggered via latest coronavirus, dubbed SARS-CoV-2, which triggers COVID-19. representative of the Coronaviridae group was SARS-CoV-2, that is an optimistic strategy-intellect, enclosed beached RNA virus that causes contagions of marine, mammalian, and avian organisms throughout the globe (Wan et al., 2020; Malik et al., 2020). Medical initiation of COVID-19 disease is described through fatigue, dry cough, multi-organ failure, fever, and sometimes mortality in extreme cases (Huang et al., 2020). As of April 13, 2020, over 1,800,000 people have been adversely affected worldwide, and over 100,000 deaths from Interior China and other 213 pretentious countries have already been reported (WHO, 2020). Alphacoronavirus infections (NL63-CoV and HCoV-229E) are mostly asymptomatic and trivial, while coronaviruses, together with MERS-CoV (Middle East Coronavirus Respiratory Syndrome) and SARS-CoV, have triggered severe diseases (Liu et al., 2020). In 2002, the SARS-CoV epidemic formed in China and contributed to 8,000 cases testified (WHO, 2015). Later in Saudi Arabia, recurrence in the form of MERSCoV was recorded at 35% of the fatality rate (WHO, 2016; Huang et al., 2020).

HCoV-HKU1, HCoV-OC43, and NL63-CoV have limited other human-infected coronaviruses (Gaunt et al., 2010). The coronaviral reappearance, by way of SARS-CoV-2 did by the finale of 2019, devours frightened the globe and developed a troubling state of affairs needing immediate care to avoid the prospective passing of contaminated patients (Malik et al., 2020; Smith & Freedman, 2020). Despite substantial clinical work globally, no appropriate antiviral medications or treatments to cure people or avoid the virus's spread are still used. Present measures to deter human-to-human infection are geared to quarantine and containment of diseased patients (Smith & Freedman, 2020; Wu & McGoogan, 2020). Therefore, reports are available on the repurpose of antiviral medicines such as antimalarial, ritonavir, lopinavir, and remdesivir in contradiction of SARS-CoV-2 (Touret & Lamballerie,

2020). Also. monoclonal antibody neutralization therapies remain now produced to tackle the COVID-19 epidemic (Elshabrawy et al., 2012; Dhama et al., 2020). In human beings, coronavirus infection is guided primarily by associations amongst host cell receptor (ACE2) and the SProtein (envelope-anchored spike glycoprotein) of the coronavirus (Hoffmann et al., 2020; Wong et al., 2004). Environmental and economic characteristics can significantly promote the efflux of secondary metabolites such as tropical plant bioactive compounds. Additionally, secondary plant-concealed metabolites are deemed prodigiously in tropical regions and are progressed in remedies (Guerriero et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2018). Innumerable medicinal plant natural products were already evaluated for antiviral action (Zakaryan et al., 2017; Seema & Thyagarajan, 2016; Jo et al., 2020).

The natural flavonoid analogue 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone was extracted from the Chinese therapeutic plant, Agastache rugosa Kuntze (Labiadae) and displayed a potent antiviral effect against picornavirus (Ishituska et al., 1982). Natural flavonoid derivative methoxyflavone 3'-Dimethoxyquercetin was isolated from the medicinal plants Veronia amygdalina Del. (Compositae) and Euphorbia grantii Oliv. (Euphorbiaceae) exhibiting incredible antiviral activity against vesicular stomatitis virus and picornaviruses (Hoff et al., 1989; Rwangabo et al., 1986). The natural flavonoid derivative Fisetin displayed a significant antiviral effect against pseudorabies virus and extracted from the medicinal plant Rhus spp. (Anacardiaceae) (Beladi et al., 1977). Natural flavonoid analogue O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5genistein showed significant antiviral effect against herpes virus and extracted from the therapeutic plant Ulex europaeus L. (Leguminosae) (Swallow et al., 1975). An antiviral natural flavonoid derivative Glycosil-7-O-luteolin was isolated from the methanolic extract of Matricaria inodora L. (Compositae) and displayed remarkable antiviral activity against poliomyelitis and herpes viruses. The natural flavonoid analogue Hesperetin predominantly present in sweet oranges and lemons; showed significant antiviral effect besides vesicular stomatitis virus and extracted from the medicinal plant Citrus spp. (Rutaceae) (Harborne, 1988). The natural antiviral flavonoid derivative Isoquercitrin revealed significant effect in contradiction of Herpes simplex type 1 virus and extracted from the medicinal plant Waldsteinia fragarioides Michx. (Rosaceae) (Karam & Shier, 1992). Antiviral natural flavonoid analogue Justicidin B displayed remarkable antiviral effect against Sindbis virus. murine. and cytomegalovirus and isolated from the medicinal plant Phyllanthus acuminatus (Euphorbiaceae). The natural flavone derivative, Luteolin-7-O-glucoside, showed significant antiviral effect against poliovirus and herpes virus and extracted from the medicinal plant Matricaria inodora L. (Compositae) (Beladi et al., 1977). An antiviral flavones analogue, Morin displayed remarkable antiviral activity against pseudorabies virus and extracted from the therapeutic plant Chlorophora tinctoria L. Gaud (Moraceae) (Beladi et al., 1977). Figure 1 represents the natural antiviral analogues. We also looked at 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone, 3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin, O-Glucosyl-7-Fisetin, methyl-5-genistein, Glycosil-7-O-luteolin, Hesperetin, Isoquercitrin, Justicidin B, Luteolin-7-Oglucoside and Morin as possible SARS inhibitor candidates (PDB ID: 5N5O and 6LU7), as well as Nelfinavir, an antiviral medication. The findings of this report will give more researchers the prospect of discovering the correct COVID-19 medicines.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

#### In-silico docking

In-silico assessments were being used for binding mode examination, an association of phytoconstituents 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone, 3,3'-Dimethoxyguercetin, Fisetin, O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5genistein, Glycosil-7-O-luteolin, Hesperetin, Isoquercitrin, Justicidin B, Luteolin-7-O-glucoside, Morin and anti-viral Remdesivir with SARS coronavirus proteins (PDB ID: 5N5O and 6LU7) by Autodock vina 1.1.2 (Trott & Olson, 2010). Protein Data Bank (http:/www.rcsb.org) has been employed to obtain the SARS coronavirus main proteases (PDB ID: 5N5O) and (PDB ID: 6LU7) crystal structures. Chem3D Pro 12.0 and ChemDraw Ultra 12.0 programs were utilized to sketch the inhibitors' structures and energy minimization.

The AutoDock Software 1.5.6 application bundle was used to build Autodock Vina input data. Discovery studio 2019 program package was utilized for binding pocket prediction of main protease (PDB ID: 5N5O and 6LU7) via co-crystallized ligands. The 5N5O Protein Quest Grid has been recognized as centre x,y,z: -23.002, -3.023, 4.681 with measurements x,y,z: 24 through 1.0 Å interval. The 6LU7 protein quest grid was defined as centre x,y,z:-10.656, 17.223, 67.024 in dimension x,y,z: 20 in 1.0 Å positioning and meaning of completeness remained fixed to 8. The other restrictions have been fixed and not specified by default for Autodock Vina. The compound which devotes the smallest inhibitory value is the main inhibitor, and the consequences were visually examined by Discovery studio 2019.

#### Molecular property and ADME prediction

Herein, Lipinski's law of five' being utilized for the theoretical prediction of ADMEs and the toxicity of 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone, 3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin, Fisetin, O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5genistein, Glycosil-7-O-luteolin, Hesperetin, Isoquercitrin, Justicidin B, Luteolin-7-O-glucoside, Morin and antiviral Remdesivir compounds (Lipinski et al., 2001). A Swiss ADME online tool was also used to estimate the Lipinski parameters (Swiss ADME, 2020). To predict the transportation and biocompatibility of an active compound over blood-brain obstacle, the tPSA (topological polar surface) has been utilized (Ertl et al., 2000). Bioavailability is too multidimensional but mainly concerned with the absorption of the digestive system (Daina & Zoete, 2016). The percentage of absorption remained determined as of formulas: percent ABS = 109 (TPSA x 0.345). Further predictions involved CYP2D6, PLD (phospholipidosis), P-glycoprotein inhibition, water solubility, and CYP2D9.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

## In-silico assessment

In-silico docking replications remained carried out to progress appreciative of the conceivable progression of biotic activity. Phytoconstituents 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone, 3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin, Fisetin, O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein, Glycosil-7-O-luteolin, Hesperetin, Isoquercitrin, Justicidin B,

Luteolin-7-O-glucoside and Morin as well as antiviral Remdesivir compounds were evaluated for their inhibition capability concerning SARS coronavirus proteins 5N5O and 6LU7 through the software Autodock Vina. All these checked inhibitors demonstrate negative binding energy. The natural derivative Luteolin-7-Oglucoside demonstrates astonishing inhibition capability through binding ability of -9.5 kcal/mol over former 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone derivatives (-7.4kcal/mol), **3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin** (-7.3 kcal/mol), (-7.3 kcal/mol), O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5genistein (-7.7 kcal/mol), Glycosil-7-O-luteolin (-8.1 kcal/mol), Hesperetin (-7.4 kcal/mol), Isoquercitrin (-7.4 kcal/mol), Justicidin B (-7.8 kcal/mol), Morin (-7.5 kcal/mol) and antiviral drug Remdesivir (-7.4 kcal/mol) in 5N5O receptor individually. The essential aspect of bonding equilibrium between ligand and proteinis hydrogen bonding, and the supporting bonding gap between atoms H-acceptor and H-donor is less than 3.5 Å (Taha et al., 2015). The related hydrogen bonding distances for the specific object receptor inhibitors remained fewer than 3.5 Å, demonstrating the strong hydrogen link amongst ligands and receptors. Luteolin-7-O-glucoside demonstrates two associations between hydrogen bonding and the 5N5O receptor. Asn142 and Gly143 amino acid residues were associated with bond lengths of 3.09 and 2.12 Å in contact with hydrogen. The residues of Met49, Cys145, and Gln189 amino acids came in contact with hydrophobics. Figure 2 indicates the hydrophobic and hydrogen bonding interaction of compound Luteolin-7-O-glucoside with amino acid residues in 5N5O protein. The antiviral Remdesivir treatment demonstrates two associations with hydrogen bonding with the target 5N5O. Cys44 and Glu166 amino acid residues are entangled through associations between hydrogen and the bond lengths 2.20 and 2.49 Å. Thr25, Met165, Leu167, Pro168, and Gln189 amino acid residues were mixed within hydrophobic encounters. Figure 3 indicates the hydrophobic and hydrogen bonding interaction of Remdesivir antiviral medication with amino acid residues in 5N5O receptor.

Table 1 displays the molecular interactions of natural analogues on target protein 5N5O. **Justicidin B** natural flavonoid analogue demonstrates impressive inhibition

capacity through binding ability of -9.4 kcal/mol relative to other derivatives 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7trimethoxyflavone (-7.2)kcal/mol), 3,3'-Dimethoxyguercetin (-7.2 kcal/mol), Fisetin (-7.3 O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein kcal/mol), (-7.9)kcal/mol), Glycosil-7-O-luteolin (-7.8)kcal/mol), Hesperetin (-7.1 kcal/mol), Isoquercitrin (-7.8 kcal/mol), Luteolin-7-O-glucoside (-7.9 kcal/mol), Morin (-8.4 kcal/mol) and antiviral drug Remdesivir (-7.7 kcal/mol) in 6LU7 protein individually. Compound Justicidin B displays one H-bonding contacts through receptor 6LU7. Gly143 amino acid residue was entangled into correlations between hydrogen and the bond lengths of 1.89 Å. The amino acid residues Met49, Phe140, and Cys145, have been entangled in hydrophobic encounters. Figure 4 demonstrated the bonding of hydrogen and hydrophobic constructions of amino acid residues with the Justicidin B compound in the 6LU7 protein. The antiviral medication Remdesivir demonstrates six associations between hydrogen and receptor 6LU7. The residues of Thr26, Cys44, Gly143, Cys145, and Glu166 amino acids were entangled in hydrogen bonding to the 2.08, 2.87, 2.16 & 2.73, 3.00, and 2.38 Å bonding ranges. The residues of the His41, Met49, and Met165 amino acids were in touch with hydrophobia. The hydrogen bonding and hydrophobic connexions with Remdesivir are seen in Figure 5 of amino acid residues in the 6LU7 protein. The findings revealed that Luteolin-7-O-glucoside and Justicidin B had exceptional inhibition capacity in their respective target proteins 5N5O and 6LU7 relative to other compounds. The findings of natural antiviral analogues against SARS coronavirus (PDB ID: 6LU7) have been shortened in Table 2.

#### Molecular property and ADME prediction

The growth of bioactive components as healers is driven by high oral bioavailability (Newby *et al.*, 2015). This analysis's key forecasters were demonstrated, for example, the intestinal absorption, low polar surface region, decreased molecular versatility, and hydrogen bonding ability (Azam *et al.*, 2012). The natural antiviral analogues 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone, 3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin, Fisetin, *O*-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein, Hesperetin, Isoquercitrin,

**Justicidin B**, and **Morin** satisfies Lipinski's "law of 5" without any infringement and compounds **Glycosil-7-O-luteolin**, **Luteolin–7-O-glucoside** and **Remdesivir** 

Fails "Rule of 5" with two infringement HBA, MW > 500, HBD and RoB (Table 3).

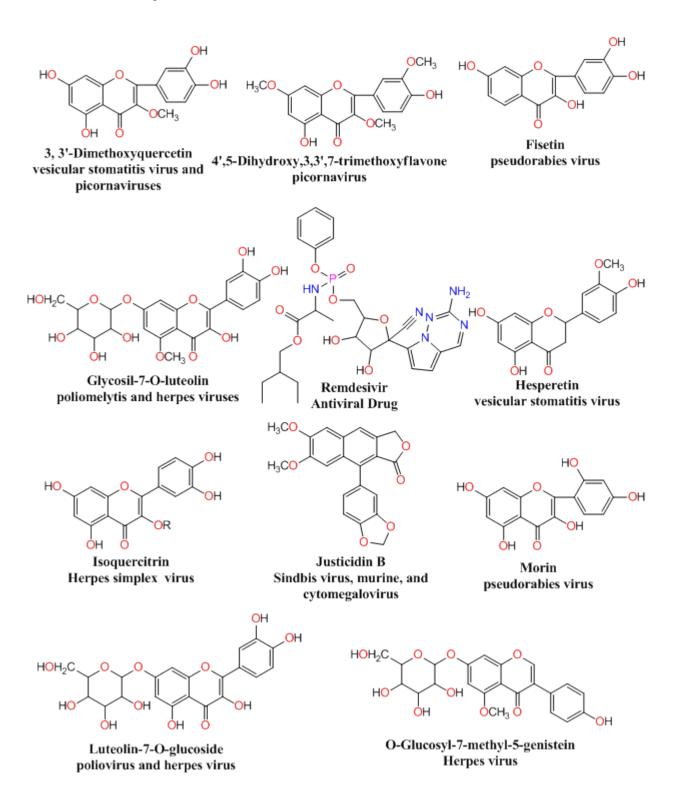


Figure 1: Natural antiviral derivatives.

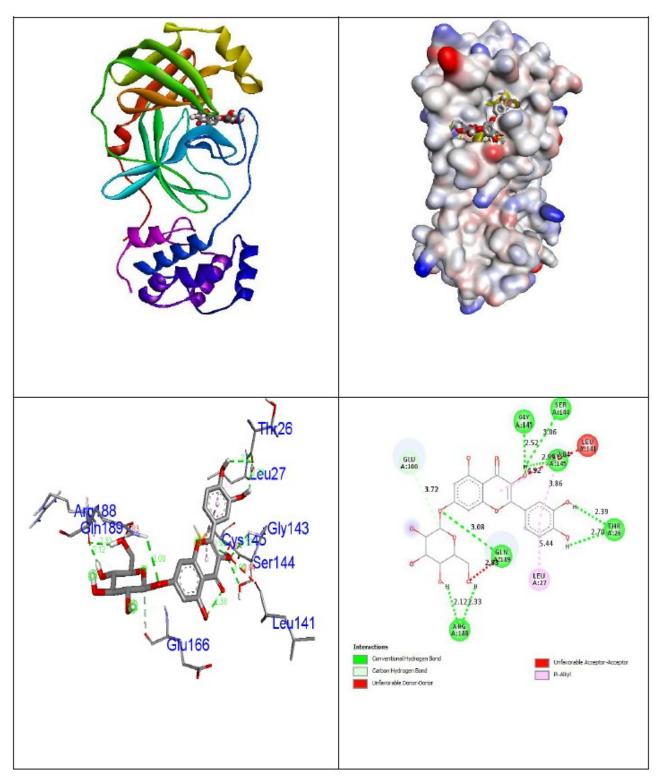


Figure 2: Interactions of Luteolin-7-O-glucoside inside the binding pocket of receptor 5N5O.

**Figure 3:** Interactions of antiviral drug **Remdesivir** inside the binding pocket of receptor **5N5O**.

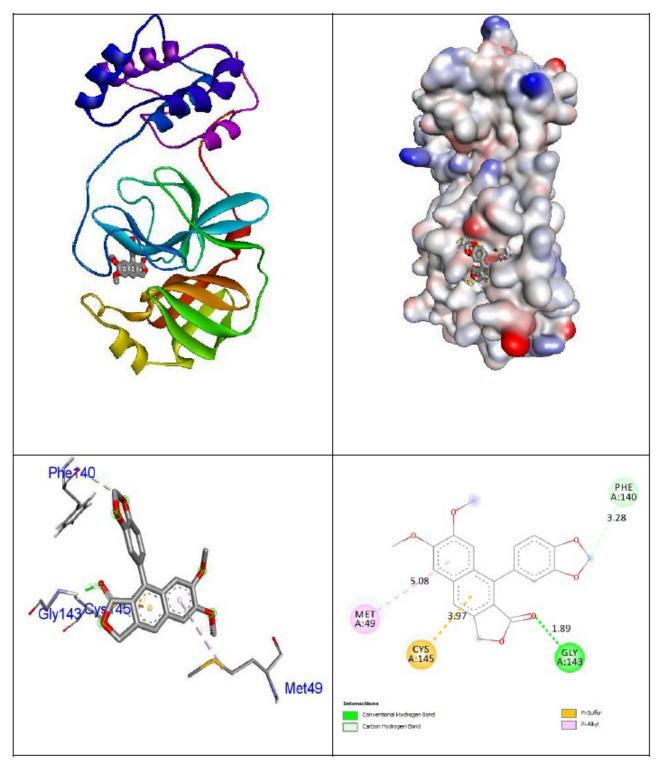


Figure 4: Interactions of Justicidin B within the binding pocket of receptor 6LU7.

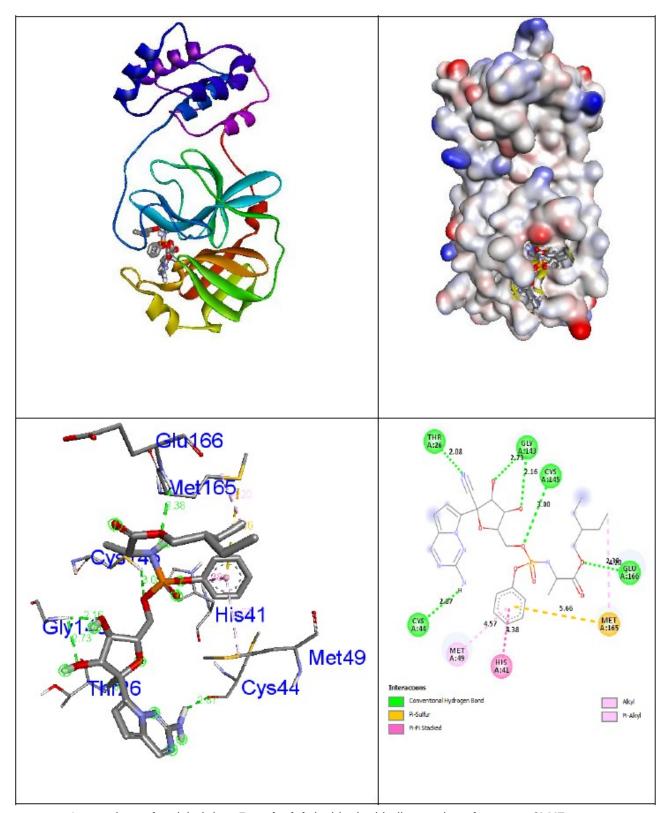


Figure 5: Interactions of antiviral drug Remdesivir inside the binding pocket of receptor 6LU7.

Table 1. Interactions of compounds (1a-1k) against SARS coronavirus key protease (PDB ID: 5N5O).

Compounds	Binding affinity (kcal/mol)	No. of H- bonds	H-bonding residues			
4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7- trimethoxyflavone (1a)	-7.4	2	Gly143, Cys145			
3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin (1b)	-7.3	1	Gly143			
Fisetin (1c)	-7.3	1	Glu166			
O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein (1d)	-7.7	6	Thr26, Gly143, Glu166, Arg188. Gln189			
Glycosil-7-O-luteolin (1e)	-8.1	3	Thr26, Gln189, Thr190			
Hesperetin (1f)	-7.4	3	Asn142, Glu166, Arg188			
Isoquercitrin (1g)	-7.4	3	Gly143, Ser144			
Justicidin B (1h)	-7.8	2	Gly143, Cys145			
Luteolin-7-O-glucoside(1i)	-9.5	8	Thr26, Gly143, Ser144, Cys145, Arg188, Gln189			
Morin (1j)	-7.5	1	Arg188			
Remdesivir (1k)	-7.4	2	Cys44, Glu166			

Table 2. Interaction of compounds (1a-1k) against SARS coronavirus key protease (PDB ID: 6LU7).

Compounds	Binding affinity (kcal/mol)	No. of H-bonds	H-bonding residues				
4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7- trimethoxyflavone (1a)	-7.2	1	Gly143				
3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin (1b)	-7.2	0	-				
Fisetin (1c)	-7.3	0	-				
O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein (1d)	-7.9	6	Phe140, Asn142, Cys145, Glu166, Asp187				
Glycosil-7-O-luteolin (1e)	-7.8	5	Thr24, Ser144, Cys145, Glu166, Arg188				
Hesperetin (1f)	-7.1	3	Leu141, Arg188, Thr190				
Isoquercitrin (1g)	-7.8	2	Leu141, Ser144				
Justicidin B (1h)	-9.4	1	Gly143				
Luteolin-7-O-glucoside(1i)	-7.9	5	Thr26, Cys44, Ser144, Cys145				
Morin (1j)	-8.4	3	Gly143, Ser166, Asp187				
Remdesivir (1k)	-7.7	6	Thr26, Cys44, Gly143, Cys145, Glu166				

**Table 3** Molecular property and computer-generated ADME (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion) forecast of potent compounds (1a-1k).

potent com			N 40 A 40	D . D	LIDD®	LIDAÍ	MPC	u ph	1	0)/0000
Compound	tPSAª	%Abs <sup>b</sup>	MW <sup>c</sup>	RoB	HBD <sup>e</sup>	HBA <sup>f</sup>	MR <sup>g</sup>	IlogP <sup>h</sup> (MlogP)	LogS	CYP2D6 Inhibitor
Rule	≤140 ´Å²	>50	≤500	≤10	≤5	≤10	40– 130	<5	>-4	-
4',5- Dihydroxy,3,3',7- trimethoxyflavon e (1a)	98.36	75.06	344.32	4	2	7	91.44	3.26 (0.17)	-4.46	Yes
3,3'-Dimethoxy quercetin (1b)	120.3 6	67.47	316.26	2	4	7	82.50	2.00 (-0.31)	-3.89	Yes
Fisetin (1c)	111.1 3	70.66	286.24	1	4	6	76.01	1.50 (-0.03)	-3.35	Yes
O-Glucosyl-7- methyl-5- genistein (1d)	159.0 5	54.12	446.40	5	5	10	110.58	1.93 (-1.39)	-3.05	No
Glycosil-7- <i>O-</i> luteolin (1e)	199.5 1	40.16	478.40	5	7	12	114.63	1.50 (-2.37)	-2.91	No
Hesperetin (1f)	96.22	75.80	302.28	2	3	6	78.06	2.25 (0.41)	-3.62	No
Isoquercitrin (1g)	131.3 6	63.68	302.24	1	5	7	78.03	1.63 (-0.56)	-3.16	Yes
Justicidin B (1h)	63.22	87.18	364.35	3	0	6	97.76	3.15 (2.60)	-4.85	Yes
Luteolin–7- <i>O</i> - glucoside(1i)	210.5 1	36.37	464.38	4	8	12	110.16	1.54 (-2.59)	-3.04	No
Morin (1j)	131.3 6	63.68	302.24	1	5	7	78.04	1.47 (-0.56)	-3.16	Yes
Remdesivir (1k)	213.3 6	35.39	602.58	14	4	12	150.43	2.74 (0.18)	-4.12	No

Abbreviations: <sup>a</sup> Topological polar surface area; <sup>b</sup> Absorption; <sup>c</sup> Molecular weight; <sup>d</sup> Number of rotatable bonds; <sup>e</sup> Number of hydrogen bond donors; <sup>f</sup> Number of hydrogen bonds acceptors; <sup>g</sup> Molar refractivity; <sup>h</sup> Logarithm of compound partition coefficient between n-octanol and water; <sup>j</sup> Logarithm of water solubility.

The molecular conformational changes defined the number of revolving ties and the potential for the receptor binding. Phytoconstituents 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone, 3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin, Fisetin, O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein, Hesperetin, Isoquercitrin, Justicidin B, Morin, Glycosil-7-O-luteolin, Luteolin-7-O-glucoside were under ten rotatable bonds except for Remdesivir (14 rotatable bonds), which are formed without the chirality core and have poor oral bioavailability conditions. The belongings tPSA (topological Polar

Surface Area) reveals passive molecular transport across membranes and blood-brain barrier penetration (Ertl *et al.*, 2000).

Checked substances except for compounds *O*-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein, Glycosil-7-*O*-luteolin, Luteolin-7-*O*-glucoside, and Remdesivir with tPSA values < 140Å<sup>2</sup> fulfill the requirements for subsequent oral administration for gastrointestinal absorption. In comparison, all of the compounds studied except for *O*-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein (tPSA = 159.05Å<sup>2</sup>), Glycosil-7-*O*-luteolin (tPSA = 199.51 Å<sup>2</sup>), Luteolin-7-*O*-glucoside (tPSA = 210.51 Å<sup>2</sup>), Morin (tPSA = 131.36

 $Å^2$ ), Isoquercitrin (tPSA = 131.36  $Å^2$ ), Fisetin (tPSA = 111.13  $Å^2$ ), Hesperetin (tPSA = 96.22  $Å^2$ ), 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone (tPSA = 98.36  $Å^2$ ), 3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin (tPSA = 120.36  $Å^2$ ), and Remdesivir (tPSA = 213.36  $Å^2$ ) devour lower bloodbrain barrier (tPSA > 90  $Å^2$ ), which reveals detrimental belongings of CNS (Central Nervous System).

The tested compounds except Glycosil-7-O-luteolin (% Abs = 40.16) and Luteolin-7-O-glucoside (% Abs = 36.37) demonstrated absorption percentage (percentage Abs = > 50), suggesting strong bioavailability. Bioavailability by oral route was appropriate (> 50 percent). The compounds 3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin, Fisetin, O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein, Glycosil-7-O-luteolin, Hesperetin, Isoquercitrin, Luteolin-7-Oglucoside and Morin were very water-soluble (-logS > excluding than other derivatives Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone (-logS-4.46), Justicidin B (-logS -4.85) and Remdesivir (-logS -4.12) have modest water solubility. Liver impairment side effects remained not suspected in the case of derivatives O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein, Glycosil-7-O-luteolin, Hesperetin, Luteolin-7-Oglucoside, and Remdesivir since they were predicted to be CYP2D6 non-inhibitors. A part of the P-gp (Pglycoprotein) family transporter ABC (ATP-binding cassette) comprises the pharmaceutical metabolism, intestinal absorption, and brain penetration; its caginess may expressively modify the bioavailability and defense of the drug (Fromm, 2000). Phospholipidosis convinced medication is a condition known for further developing phospholipids in soft tissue and medication-associated poisonousness (Nonoyama & Fukuda, 2008).

The findings indicate that the studied natural derivatives 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone, 3,3'-Dimethoxyquercetin, Fisetin, O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5-genistein,Glycosil-7-O-luteolin,

Isoquercitrin, Luteolin-7-O-glucoside, and Morin were not a part of the P-gp substrate, and phospholipidosis was not promoted. The checks for P-gp-phospholipidosis were anticipated in Hesperetin, Justicidin B, and Remdesivir. The overall findings of ADME and toxicity indicate respectable pharmacological profile and rapid gastrointestinal ingestion through

blood-brain blood barrier penetration in the isolated compound was **Justicidin B**. All assessed compounds remained acknowledged by way of drug-like and passed "Rule of 5" of Lipinski except **Glycosil-7-O-luteolin**, **Luteolin–7-O-glucoside**, and **Remdesivir**. The restrictions predicted are all within the context of accepted principles.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

COVID-19 devours arisen in the anthropological community in China and is a possible danger to wellbeing internationally. However, here is no precisely approved medication to overcome the situation. The already offered COVID-19 medications coping with essential protease. The present work aimed to inspect some natural analogues extracted from medicinal plants that might be tossed off to combat COVID-19. The utmost frequently proposed phytoconstituents in healing plants that may function by way of substantial inhibitors of COVID-19 essential proteases (PDB ID: 5N5O, 6LU7) were 4',5-Dihydroxy,3,3',7-trimethoxyflavone, Dimethoxyguercetin, Fisetin, O-Glucosyl-7-methyl-5genistein, Glycosil-7-O-luteolin, Hesperetin, Isoquercitrin, Justicidin B, Luteolin-7-O-glucoside and Morin with negative binding energies. Studies in molecular docking have shown that compounds Luteolin-7-O-glucoside and Justicidin B were natural flavonoid derivative of exceptional inhibition ability through binding energy of -9.5, -9.4 kcal/mol of 5N5O and 6LU7 enzyme, relative to the other compounds and Remdesivir antiviral medication (Binding energy -7.4 and -7.7 Kcal/mol). However, an advanced study is necessary to inspect the possible application of these compounds in medicinal plants.

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

## **REFERENCES**

Abou-Karam M., Shier W.T. (1992) Isolation and characterization of an antiviral flavonoid from Waldsteinia fragarioides. *J Nat Prod.* 55(10):1525-7. doi: 10.1021/np50088a022

Azam F., Madi A.M., Ali H.I. (2012) Molecular Docking

- and Prediction of Pharmacokinetic Properties of Dual Mechanism Drugs that Block MAO-B and Adenosine A(2A) Receptors for the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease. *J Young Pharm.* 4(3):184-92. doi: 10.4103/0975-1483.100027
- Béládi I., Pusztai R., Mucsi I., Bakay M., Gábor M. (1977) Activity of some flavonoids against viruses. Ann N Y Acad Sci. 284:358-64. doi: 10.1111/j.1749-6632.1977
- Daina A., Zoete V. (2016) A BOILED-Egg To Predict Gastrointestinal Absorption and Brain Penetration of Small Molecules. *Chem Med Chem.* 11(11):1117-21. doi: 10.1002/cmdc.201600182
- Dhama K., Sharun K., Tiwari R., Dadar M., Malik Y.S., Singh K.P., Chaicumpa W. (2020) COVID-19, an emerging coronavirus infection: advances and prospects in designing and developing vaccines, immunotherapeutics, and therapeutics. *Hum Vaccin Immunother*. 16(6):1232-1238. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2020.1735227
- Elshabrawy H.A., Coughlin, M.M., Baker S.C., Prabhakar B.S. (2012) Human monoclonal antibodies against highly conserved HR1 and HR2 domains of the SARS-CoV spike protein are more broadly neutralizing. *PLoS One*. 7(11):e50366. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0050366
- Ertl P., Rohde B., Selzer P. (2000) Fast calculation of molecular polar surface area as a sum of fragment-based contributions and its application to the prediction of drug transport properties. *J Med Chem.* 5;43(20):3714-7. doi: 10.1021/jm000942e
- Fromm M.F. (2000) P-glycoprotein: a defense mechanism limiting oral bioavailability and CNS accumulation of drugs. *Int J Clin Pharmacol Ther*. 38(2):69-74. doi: 10.5414/cpp38069
- Gaunt E.R., Hardie A., Claas E.C., Simmonds P., Templeton K.E. (2010) Epidemiology and clinical presentations of the four human coronaviruses 229E, HKU1, NL63, and OC43 detected over 3 years using a novel multiplex real-time PCR method. *J Clin Microbiol.* 48(8):2940-7. doi: 10.1128/JCM.00636-10

- Guerriero G., Berni R., Muñoz-Sanchez J.A., Apone F., Abdel-Salam E.M., Qahtan A.A., Alatar A.A., Cantini C., Cai G., Hausman J.F., Siddiqui K.S., Hernández-Sotomayor S.M.T., Faisal M. (2018) Production of Plant Secondary Metabolites: Examples, Tips and Suggestions for Biotechnologists. *Genes (Basel)*. 9(6):309. doi: 10.3390/genes9060309
- Harborne J.B. (1988) The Flavonoids: Advances in research since 1980. London Chapman and Hall.
- Hoffmann M., Kleine-Weber H., Schroeder S., Krüger N.,
  Herrler T., Erichsen S., Schiergens T.S., Herrler G.,
  Wu N.H., Nitsche A., Müller M.A., Drosten C.,
  Pöhlmann S. (2020) SARS-CoV-2 Cell Entry
  Depends on ACE2 and TMPRSS2 and Is Blocked by
  a Clinically Proven Protease Inhibitor. *Cell*.
  181(2):271-280.e8. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2020.02.052
- Huang C., Wang Y., Li X., Ren L., Zhao J., Hu Y., Zhang L., Fan G., Xu J., Gu X., Cheng Z., Yu T., Xia J., Wei Y., Wu W., Xie X., Yin W., Li H., Liu M., Xiao Y., Gao H., Guo L., Xie J., Wang G., Jiang R., Gao Z., Jin Q., Wang J., Cao B. (2020) Clinical features of patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China. *Lancet*. 15;395(10223):497-506. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30183-5
- Huang Q., Herrmann A. (2020) Fast assessment of human receptor-bindingcapability of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). bioRxiv. 1-14. doi: 10.1101/2020.02.01.930537
- Ishitsuka H., Ninomiya Y.T., Ohsawa C., Fujiu M., Suhara Y. (1982) Direct and specific inactivation of rhinovirus by chalcone Ro 09-0410. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 22(4):617-21. doi: 10.1128/AAC.22.4.617
- Jo S., Kim S., Shin D.H., Kim M.S. (2020) Inhibition of SARS-CoV 3CL protease by flavonoids. *J Enzyme Inhib Med Chem.* 35(1):145-151. doi: 10.1080/14756366.2019
- Lipinski C.A., Lombardo F., Dominy B.W., Feeney P.J. (2001) Experimental and computational approaches to estimate solubility and permeability in drug discovery and development settings. *Adv Drug Deliv*

- Rev. 46(1-3):3-26. doi: 10.1016/s0169-409x(00)00129-0
- Liu, Z., Xiao, X., Wei, X., Li, J., Yang, J., Tan, H., ... & Liu, L. (2020). Composition and divergence of coronavirus spike proteins and host ACE2 receptors predict potential intermediate hosts of SARS-CoV-2. *Journal of medical virology*, 92(6), 595-601. doi: 10.1002/jmv.25726
- Malik Y.S., Sircar S., Bhat S., Sharun K., Dhama K., Dadar M., Tiwari R., Chaicumpa W. (2020) Emerging novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)-current scenario, evolutionary perspective based on genome analysis and recent developments. *Vet Q.* 40(1):68-76. doi: 10.1080/01652176.2020.1727993
- Newby, D., Freitas, A. A., & Ghafourian, T. (2015).

  Decision trees to characterise the roles of permeability and solubility on the prediction of oral absorption. *European journal of medicinal chemistry*, 90, 751-765. doi: 10.1016/j.ejmech.2014.12.006
- Nonoyama T., Fukuda R. (2008) Drug-induced phospholipidosis-pathological aspects and its prediction. *J. Toxicol. Pathol.* 21(1), 9-24. https://doi.org/10.1293/tox.21.9
- Rwangabo P.C., Laekeman G., Claeys M., Totté J.,
  Pieters L., Berghe D.V., Herman A., Vlietinck A.J.
  (1986) Phytochemical- and Pharmacological
  Investigation of the Biologically Active Fraction from
  the Flowers of Vernonia amygdalina. *Planta Med.*6:547-8. doi: 10.1055/s-2007-969351
- Swallow D.L. (1978) Antiviral agents. *Prog Drug Res.* 22:267-326. doi: 10.1007/978-3-0348-7102-0 6
- Swiss ADME. Available online: http://www.swissadme.ch (accessed on October 09 (2020).
- Taha M., Ismail N.H., Khan A., Shah S.A.A., Anwar A., Halim S.A., Fatmi M.Q., Imran S., Rahim F., Kha K.M. (2015) Synthesis of novel derivatives of oxindole, their urease inhibition and molecular docking studies. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Let.* 25(16), 3285-3289.
  - https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bmcl.2015.05.069

- Thayil Seema M., Thyagarajan S.P. (2016) Pa-9: A flavonoid extracted from plectranthus amboinicus inhibits HIV-1 protease. *Int. J. Pharmacogn. Phytochem. Res.* 8(6), 1020-1024.
- Touret F., de Lamballerie X. (2020) Of chloroquine and COVID-19. *Antiviral Res.* 177:104762. doi: 10.1016/j.antiviral.2020.104762
- Trott O., Olson A.J. (2010) AutoDock Vina: improving the speed and accuracy of docking with a new scoring function, efficient optimization, and multithreading. *J Comput Chem.* 30;31(2):455-61. doi: 10.1002/jcc.21334
- Van Hoof L., Totté J., Corthout J., Pieters L.A., Mertens F., Vanden Berghe D.A., Vlietinck A.J., Dommisse R., Esmans E. (1989) Plant antiviral agents, VI. Isolation of antiviral phenolic glucosides from Populus cultivar Beaupre by droplet counter-current chromatography. *J Nat Prod.* 52(4):875-8. doi: 10.1021/np50064a038
- Wan Y., Shang J., Graham R., Baric R.S., Li F. (2020)
  Receptor Recognition by the Novel Coronavirus from
  Wuhan: an Analysis Based on Decade-Long
  Structural Studies of SARS Coronavirus. *J Virol.*94(7):e00127-20. doi: 10.1128/JVI.00127-20
- Wilder-Smith A., Freedman D.O. (2020) Isolation, quarantine, social distancing and community containment: pivotal role for old-style public health measures in the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak. *J Travel Med*. 27(2):taaa020. doi: 10.1093/jtm/taaa020
- Wong S.K., Li W., Moore M.J., Choe H., Farzan M. (2004) A 193-amino acid fragment of the SARS coronavirus S protein efficiently binds angiotensinconverting enzyme 2. *J Biol Chem.* 279(5):3197-201. doi: 10.1074/jbc.C300520200
- World Health Organization. (2015) Summary of Probable SARS Cases with Onset of Illness from November 01 2002 to July 31 2003 (2015). Available online at: https://www.who.int/csr/sars/country/table2004\_04\_2 1/en/ (accessed October 09, 2020).

- World Health Organization. (2016) Middle East
  Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) Saudi Arabia. Available online at:
  https://www.who.int/emergencies/mers-cov/en/
  (accessed October 09, 2020).
- World Health Organization. (2020) Situation Report 80 (2020). Available online at: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus e/situation-reports/20200409-sitrep-80-covid-19.pdf? sfvrsn=1b685d64\_6 (accessed October 09, 2020).
- Wu Z., McGoogan J.M. (2020) Characteristics of and Important Lessons From the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak in China: Summary of a

- Report of 72 314 Cases From the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. *JAMA*. 323(13):1239-1242. doi: 10.1001/jama.2020.2648
- Yang L., Wen K-S., Ruan X., Zhao Y-X., Wei F., Wang Q. (2018) Response of Plant Secondary Metabolites to Environmental Factors. *Molecules*. 23(4):762. doi.org/10.3390/molecules23040762
- Zakaryan H., Arabyan E., Oo A., Zandi K. (2017) Flavonoids: promising natural compounds against viral infections. *Arch Virol*. 162(9):2539-2551. doi: 10.1007/s00705-017-3417-y