



Current insights and future perspectives of *In silico* molecular docking in dengue virus proteins inhibition: A review

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ABSTRACT

Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, Zika, malaria, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile fever, and elephantiasis pose significant public health threats globally. Dengue virus (DENV), transmitted primarily by *Aedes* mosquitoes, infects millions annually, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions. The virus, belonging to the Flaviviridae family, comprises four serotypes (DENV-I to DENV-IV) with distinct structural and non-structural proteins. Transmission occurs through mosquito bites, predominantly by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. In 2022, India reported 223,251 dengue cases with 308 fatalities, underscoring the urgent need for effective control strategies beyond synthetic drugs due to their costs and adverse effects. Plant-derived compounds have emerged as promising alternatives due to their biological origin, safety profile, and diverse pharmacological activities, including antiviral properties. This review focuses on the application of molecular docking techniques to evaluate the interaction between plant-derived phytochemicals and key dengue viral proteins, particularly NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, and NS5. Phytochemicals such as apigenin, hesperidin, kaempferol, and myricetin demonstrated significant binding affinity and potential inhibition of crucial viral enzymes, highlighting their therapeutic promise. Studies on compounds from medicinal plants like *Tanacetum parthenium*, *Silybum marianum*, *Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*, and *Astragalus* spp. further support the efficacy of plant-based therapies against dengue. The findings underscore the potential of phytochemicals to inhibit viral replication and protein activity, offering a novel avenue for developing antiviral treatments. Molecular docking simulations provided insights into the molecular interactions between phytochemicals and viral proteins, guiding future research and drug development efforts. This comprehensive review consolidates current knowledge on plant-based antivirals against dengue, emphasizing their role in integrated vector management and public health strategies.

1. Introduction

Mosquito species such as *Aedes*, *Anopheles*, and *Culex* spread many infectious diseases to humans, including dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, Zika, malaria, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile fever, and elephantiasis (diseases and causative agents are illustrated graphically in Fig. 1) (Dass and Mariappan, 1998; Tolle, 2009). Among *Aedes* species spread dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, and Zika viruses. Dengue is a neglected tropical infection (Malavige et al., 2004; Murugesan and Manoharan, 2020). Dengue virus (DENV) disease is a viral infection caused by the *Aedes* mosquito, with an annual incidence of 100–400 million cases, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions (Jagtap

et al., 2023).

The dengue virus is of the Flaviviridae family and includes four serotypes: DENV-I, DENV-II, DENV-III, and DENV-IV (Nasar et al., 2020). The DENV genome consists of up to 11 kb of single-stranded positive-sense RNA and is classified into structural proteins such as membrane (M), envelope (E), and capsid (C), and non-structural proteins such as non-structural protein 1 (NS1), non-structural protein 2A (NS2A), non-structural protein 2B (NS2B), non-structural protein 3 (NS3), non-structural protein 4A (NS4A), non-structural protein 4B (NS4B), and non-structural protein 5 (NS5) (Modis et al., 2004; Benfrid et al., 2022; Lee et al., 2023). Fig. 2 exhibits the classified dengue proteins.

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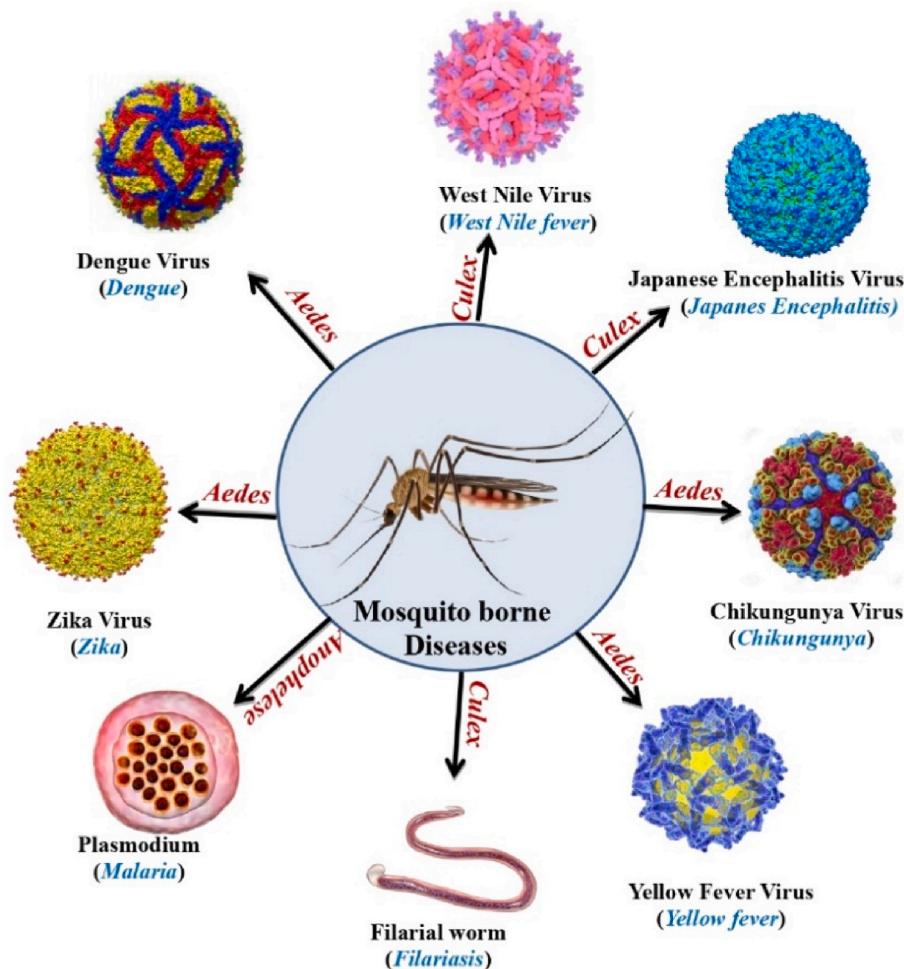


Fig. 1. Mosquito borne diseases.

Dengue fever is caused by four immune-related strains of a single-stranded RNA flavivirus (DENV-1- 4), with the infection pathway of dengue virus proteins shown in Fig. 3. *Aedes* mosquitoes are more common in tropical and subtropical locations and breed in stagnant water in urban and suburban settings such as vases, buckets, tires, and other household water containers (Dass and Mariappan, 1998). People become infected with the virus through the bites of infected female mosquitoes; the principal vectors of dengue fever are *Aedes aegypti*, *Aedes albopictus*, *Aedes japonicus*, and *Aedes vittatus*. In India, 28,9235 cases of dengue fever were reported in 2023, with 483 fatalities. As of February 2024, 19,447 people have been infected, with 61 confirmed deaths (Fig. 4).

Eradicating dengue fever and its vector using synthetic drugs involves significant costs and side effects on humans. As a result, studying alternative methods and tactics for controlling dengue fever and its vector using plant resources has emerged as a significant area of research (Mgbemena, 2010; Dass et al., 2022). Plant-derived compounds have spurred interest in pharmacological and antiviral research due to their biological source, lack of side effects, and availability. Plant phytochemicals have a wide range of biological and pharmacological effects, including antiallergenic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-larvicidal, pesticidal (antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral), anticancer, and antidiarrheal properties. Numerous bioflavonoid compounds, including quercetin, hesperidin, naringin, and daidzein, have been experimentally shown to have antiviral properties against various viruses (Dass and Mariappan, 2014a,b; Dass and Mariappan, 2016; Dass et al., 2018; Dass, 2020; Nwozo et al., 2023).

Molecular docking is a popular bioinformatics tool for CADD

(Bharatam, 2021; Patel et al., 2022). One important application of bioinformatics in drug development is the use of molecular docking to anticipate drug interactions with target proteins (Agnihotry et al., 2020; Anwar et al., 2021). The purpose of this review was to evaluate the in-silico prediction of antiviral potential against dengue-associated viral proteins.

2. Methods

A literature review on plant phytocompounds and other sources docking with dengue viral protein action in various parts of the world was compiled using internet databases, WHO, and indexed scientific publications such as Web of Science, Taylor and Francis, PubMed, ResearchGate, Springer, Wiley, JSTOR, Google Scholar, and the National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control (NCVBD) database of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Key topics include molecular docking, phytochemicals with therapeutic potential, and dengue virus proteins NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, and NS5. Although the study focused on plant phytochemicals docking with dengue viral proteins to derive drugs from plant resources, the search engine results were utilized to clarify the purpose of this review.

3. Main text

Molecular docking revealed that the main phytocomponents, such as apigenin, hesperidin, and kaempferol, have the ability to inhibit RdRp, as indicated by their interaction with the desired protein's vital active

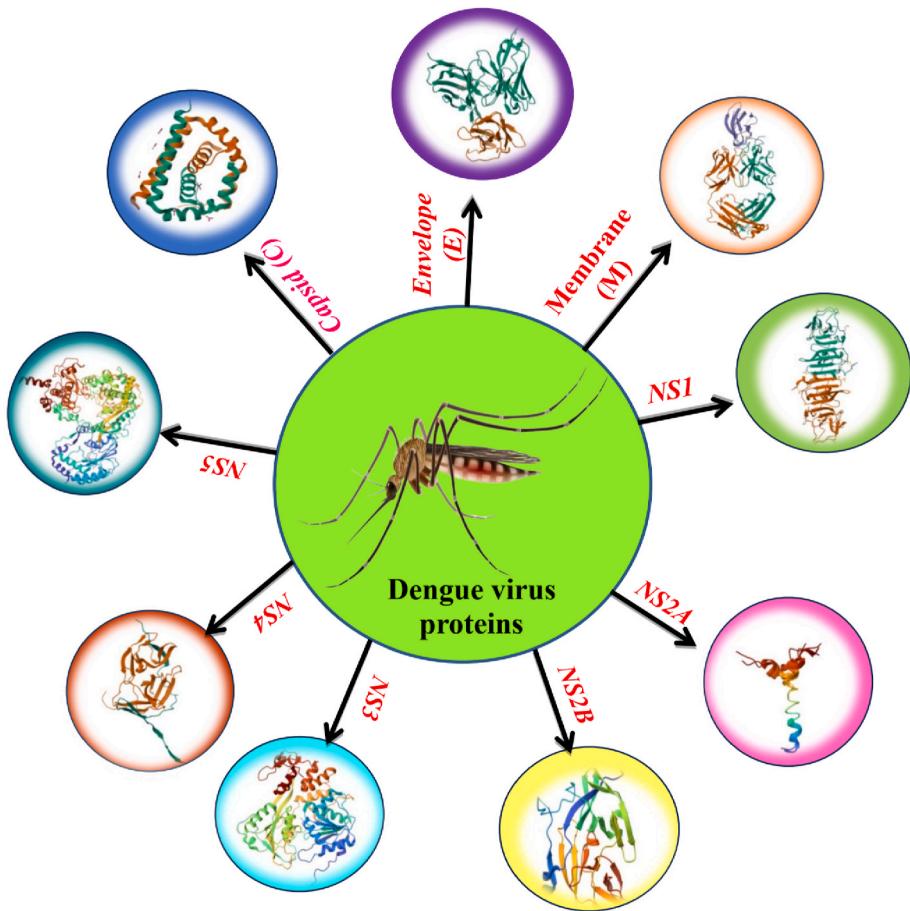


Fig. 2. Various dengue virus proteins.

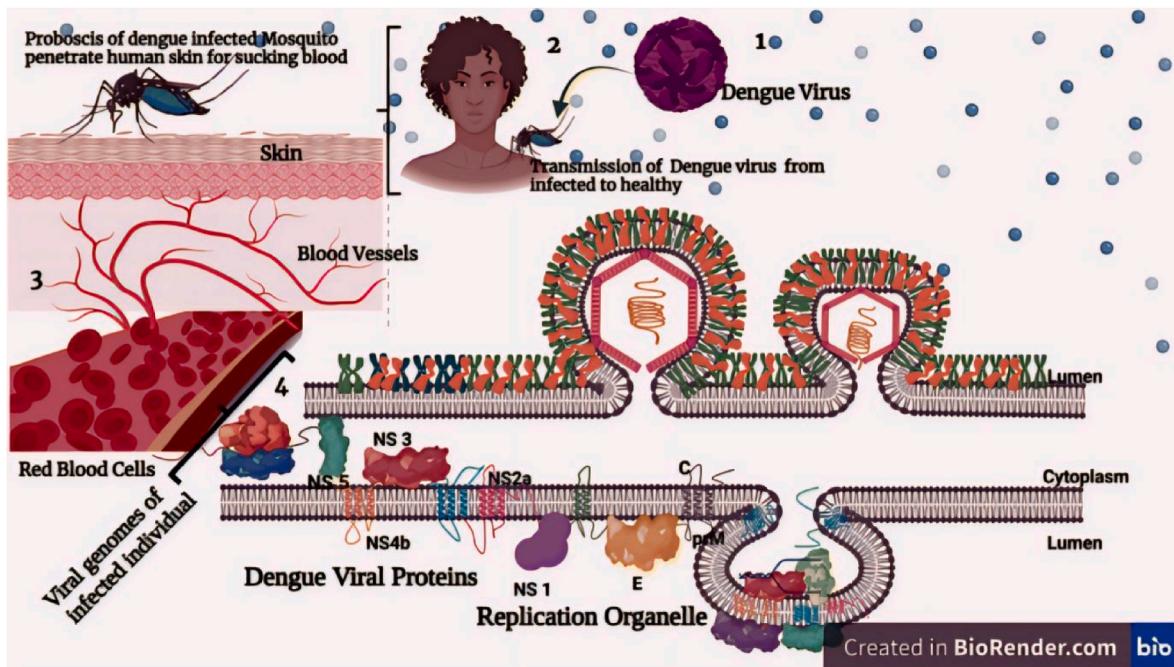


Fig. 3. Infection pathway of dengue virus proteins in human.

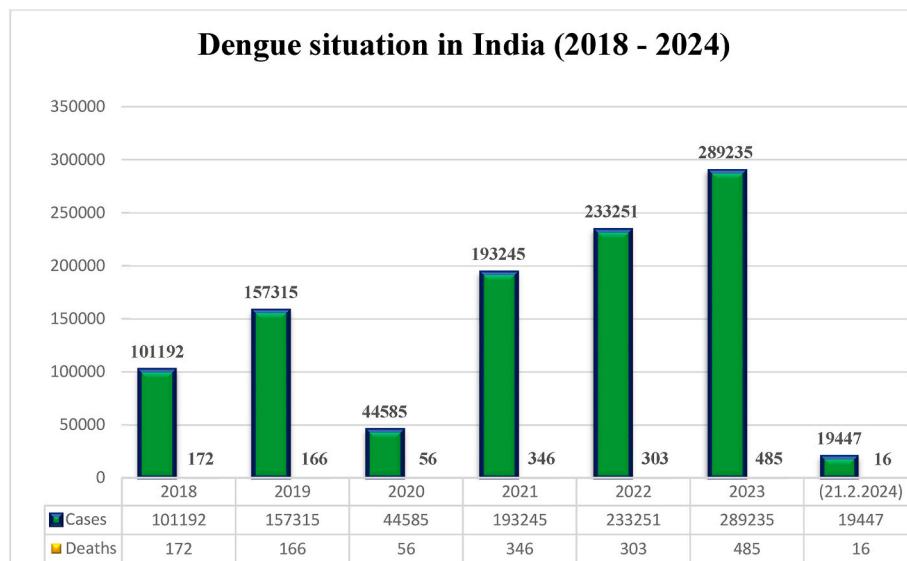


Fig. 4. Dengue situation in India (2018–2024) (NVBDCP).

amino acid residues (710 SER, 729 ARG, and 737 ARG). Apigenin showed the greatest binding affinity for RdRp (-8.28 kcal/mol), followed by kaempferol (-7.00 kcal/mol), myricetin (-4.37 kcal/mol), naringenin (-4.35 kcal/mol), and hesperidin (-3.20 kcal/mol). Among these, apigenin exhibited the highest binding affinity (-8.28 kcal/mol). This work clearly demonstrates that plant-derived bioflavonoids are antiviral against the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (Sivaraman and Pradeep, 2020).

Qaddir et al. (2020) assessed the inhibitory effects of 18 phytochemicals from two medicinal plants, *Tanacetum parthenium* and *Silybum marianum*, on DENV4-NS1. The proposed results highlight the unique inhibitory activity of jaceidin (-7.0 kcal/mol), centaureidin (-6.4 kcal/mol), artecanin (-7.4 kcal/mol), secotanaparthenolide (-7.4 kcal/mol), artematin (-6.4 kcal/mol) for *Tanacetum parthenium*, likewise schizolaenone B (-7.7 kcal/mol), isopomiferin (-8.7 kcal/mol), 6, 8-diprenyleriodictyol (-7.8 kcal/mol), and anthraxin for *Silybum marianum*. Most phytochemicals have been shown to be utilized in humans to cure a variety of disorders.

Molecular docking studies revealed that phytocompounds from *Cyamopsis tetragonoloba* inhibit the dengue-2 virus. Molecular docking revealed that dengue-2 virus binds with 1,2-benzene dicarboxylic acid, bis(2-methylpropyl) ester (-4.1 kcal/mol), and 9,12-octadecadienoyl chloride (z,z) (-4.0 kcal/mol). *C. tetragonoloba* has been shown to have an important role in inhibiting the dengue-2 virus (Kaushik et al., 2020).

Three phytocompounds, astragaloside I, astragaloside III, and astragaloside IV, were selected based on their maximum binding energy values of dengue protein targets. Astragaloside III had the highest interaction energy values of -8.718 kcal/mol and -8.447 kcal/mol against the envelope protein and NS2b/NS3 protein respectively. Astragaloside IV showed -7.244 kcal/mol against the SAM site and -9.179 kcal/mol against the RNA cap site of NS5 targets. According to the findings of this study, astragaloside II, III, and IV molecules have the ability to inhibit the dengue virus (Indu et al., 2021).

Rahman et al. (2021) studied antiviral phytochemicals such as saficinolide, sageone, thymohydroquinone, thymol, thymoquinone, zingerone, cyanidin 3-glucoside, dithymoquinone, gingerol, glabridin, hibiscus acid, carvacrol, and lopinavir. Among these phytocompounds, cyanidin 3-glucoside (-8.0 kcal/mol), glabridin (-7.4 kcal/mol), lopinavir (-7.4 kcal/mol), and dithymoquinone (-7.3 kcal/mol) are effective inhibitors of the dengue virus NS3 protease.

Polyphenols docking against the dengue protein NS2B47-NS3, the polyphenol (R)-(+)-rosmarinic acid had a docking score of -8.451 kcal/mol.

mol and an energy value of $-59,860$. Curcumin has the second-best docking score of -8.221 , followed by D-(+)-catechin (-7.042 kcal/mol) and epicatechin (-7.069). Furthermore, molecular dynamic simulations show that the complex of (R)-(+)-rosmarinic acid and dengue protein provides an in-depth understanding of their specific interactions (Rani et al., 2022).

Mangiferin, a phytocompound derived from *Mangifera indica* L, has been shown in various studies to have potential pharmacological properties including analgesic, anti-aging, anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, anti-oxidant, anti-proliferative, antiviral, cardiotonic, diuretic, hepatoprotective, and immunomodulatory effects. Kalaimathi et al. (2022) investigated mangiferin's potential via molecular docking with selected dengue enzymes. The docking studies indicate that mangiferin may be against dengue virus (1UZG at -9.729 kcal/mol), dengue virus 3 (NS2B/NS3 at -8.066 kcal/mol), and non-structural protein 5 (NS5 at -9.868 kcal/mol). The data demonstrate that mangiferin has high docking scores and strong binding affinities to all docked proteins.

The NS5 RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) docked against various phytochemicals such as curcumin, apigenin, andrographolide, berberine, and (+)-1-alliin. The docking results revealed that all phytocomponents, with the exception of berberine and (+)-1-alliin, had good docking scores of -8.577 kcal/mol (azadirachtin), -8.112 kcal/mol (curcumin), -7.348 kcal/mol (apigenin), and -6.028 kcal/mol (andrographolide). However, berberine and (+)-1-alliin had excellent hydrogen-bonding interactions with RdRp. In conclusion, the data suggest that not only azadirachtin but also curcumin, apigenin, andrographolide, and berberine have strong therapeutic potential against the dengue virus (Rani et al., 2022).

According to Shimu et al. (2022), the dengue viral protease NS2B/NS3 docks with 27 phytocompounds. The top three active compounds identified based on binding results were phellodendroside (-63 kcal/mol), quercimeritritin (-59.5 kcal/mol), and quercetin-7-O-rutinoside (-54.1 kcal/mol). The pharmaceutical compounds induced numerous interactions at Lys74, Asn152, and Gln167 residues in the active areas of NS2B/NS3, which are required for the protein's inhibition.

Phytocompounds from *Azadirachta indica*, *Andrographis paniculata*, *Tinospora cordifolia*, and *Carica papaya* were screened against Dengue 4 envelope protein domain II ED3 (3WE1), envelope protein domain III (5BIC), Dengue 3 NS5 Methyltransferase (5EC8), and Dengue virus 1 NS5 Methyltransferase (5IKM). As a result, nimbozinol and meliacynanhydride from *A. indica* were the most effective phytocompounds against dengue viral proteins, with the highest binding affinity.

Table 1

Docking interactions between ligand and the various dengue viral proteins.

S. no	Source of ligands	Protein (Target)	Phytocompounds (Ligands)	Docking score	References
1.	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i> <i>Citrus aurantium</i> , <i>Citrus sinensis</i> , <i>Citrus unshiu</i> , and <i>Citrus mitis</i> <i>Euphorbia pekinensis</i> , <i>Ginkgo</i> <i>biloba L</i> , and <i>Rosmarinus</i> <i>officinalis</i> <i>Myrica rubra</i> <i>Vitis vinifera</i>	2J7U (NS5 RNA Dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp))	Apigenin Hesperidin Kaempferol	-8.2 -3.0 -7.0	Sivaraman and Pradeep, 2020
2.	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	4O6B (Non-structural protein 1)	Myricetin Naringenin Centaureidin Parthenolide Jaceidin Santin Secotanaparthenolide B Quercetin Artecanin Artematin	-4.3 -4.3 -6.4 -8.6 -7.0 -7.4 -7.4 -8.0 -7.4 -6.4	Qaddir et al. (2020)
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	4O6B (Non-structural protein 1)	2,3-dehydrosilybin Silybin A Silymarin Flavobion 6,8-diprenyleriodictyol Anthraxin Silydianin A Schizolaenone B Isopomiferin	-7.8 -7.7 -7.6 -7.7 -7.8 -7.7 -8.6 -7.7 -8.7	
3.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	1PZ4 (Sterol carrying protein-2)	Paniculide A Panicolin 3 O beta D glucosyl 14 deoxyandrographolide 6 acetylneoandrographolide Andrographolactone 3 oxo 14 deoxyandrographolide	-8.6 -9.8 -8.9 -9.1 -9.3 -8.8	Paul et al. (2020)
	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	1PZ4 (Sterol carrying protein-2)	Beta sitosterol Berberine Chasmanthin Palmatine Tetrahydropalmatine Tinocordifolin	-9.1 -10.3 -6.5 -6.9 -6.4 -6.3	
4.	<i>Cyamopsis tetragonoloba</i>	4O6B (Non-structural protein 1)	1,2-benzeneddicarboxylic acid, bis (2-methylpropyl) ester 9,12- Octadecadienoyl chloride (z,z) Dodecanoic acid Tridecanoic acid, 12-methyl-, methyl-ester 3,7,11,15-tetramethyl-2 hexadecen-1-ol Methyl dodecanoic acid Methyl stearate Hexadecanoic acid, 15-methyl-, methyl ester Tetracontane, 3,5,24-trimethyl Tritetracontane	-4.1 -4.0 -3.9 -3.8 -3.8 -3.6 -3.0 -3.0 -2.5 -2.3	Kaushik et al. (2020)
5.	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i> , <i>Adlumia fungosa</i> <i>Chelidonium majus</i> <i>Citrus aurantium</i> , <i>Citrus sinensis</i> , <i>Citrus unshiu</i> , and <i>Citrus mitis</i> <i>Corydalis ternate</i> and <i>Fumaria indica</i> <i>Corydalis solida</i> and <i>Corydalis racemosa</i> <i>Strychnos colubrina</i>	2FOM (Polyprotein)	(S)-stylopine Limonin Pseudopropotopine Stylopine	-8.8 -8.5 -9.3 -9.0 -8.9	Cadiz et al., 2020
	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i> , <i>Adlumia fungosa</i> <i>Chelidonium majus</i> <i>Citrus aurantium</i> , <i>Citrus sinensis</i> , <i>Citrus unshiu</i> , and <i>Citrus mitis</i> <i>Corydalis ternate</i> and <i>Fumaria indica</i> <i>Corydalis solida</i> and <i>Corydalis racemosa</i> <i>Strychnos colubrina</i>	2JLQ (Serine protease)	Angustidine Bicuculline (S)-stylopine Limonin Pseudopropotopine Stylopine	-9.4 -9.4 -9.1 -10.5 -9.8 -9.3	
6.	<i>PubChem</i> , <i>NPACT</i> <i>Astragalus hoantchy</i> and <i>Astragalus lepsensis</i>	1OKE (Major envelope protein)	Angustidine BOG Astragaloside III Astragaloside IV	-10.1 -8.3 -8.7 -7.4	Indu et al. (2021)

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Table 1 (continued)

S. no	Source of ligands	Protein (Target)	Phytocompounds (Ligands)	Docking score	References
	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	1R6A (Genome polyprotein)	Astragaloside II S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine Astragaloside IV	-5.0 -11.6 -7.2	
	<i>Astragalus hoantchy</i> and <i>Astragalus lepsensis</i>		Astragaloside II Astragaloside III RPV	-6.8 -5.9 -8.00	
	<i>Astragalus hoantchy</i> and <i>Astragalus lepsensis</i>	1R6A (Genome polyprotein)	Astragaloside IV	-9.1	
	<i>Astragalus hoantchy</i> and <i>Astragalus lepsensis</i>		Astragaloside II Astragaloside III Astragaloside III	-8.6 -6.3 -8.4	
	<i>Astragalus hoantchy</i> and <i>Astragalus lepsensis</i>	4M9K (NS2B-NS3 protease)	Astragaloside IV Astragaloside II	-7.4 -6.7	
7.	<i>PubChem CID:92430</i>	5V13 (Mosquito Juvenile Hormone-binding protein)	Silafluofen	-10.9	Ononamadu et al. (2021)
	<i>PubChem CID:10342051</i>		Esfenvalerate	-10.7	
	<i>PubChem CID:50980</i>		Flucythrinate	-10.6	
	<i>PubChem CID:5053</i>		Resmethrin	-10.6	
	<i>PubChem CID:71245</i>		Ethofenprox	-10.6	
	<i>PubChem CID:4767</i>		Phenothrin	-10.5	
	<i>PubChem CID:83975</i>		Tetramethrin	-10.4	
	<i>PubChem CID:123622</i>		Imiprothrin	-10.5	
8.	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	2F0M (Polyprotein)	Safficinolide	-6.3	Rahman et al. (2021)
	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>		Sageone	-6.9	
	<i>Nigella sativa</i>		Thymohydroquinone	-5.4	
	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> ,		Thymol	-5.4	
	<i>Acanthospermum austral</i> and <i>Humulus lupulus</i> ,				
	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> and <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>		Thomoquinone	-5.6	
	<i>Alpinia officinarum</i> , <i>Aframomum melegueta</i>		Zingerone	-5.7	
	<i>Alcea rosea</i>		Cyanidin 3-glucoside	-8.0	
	<i>Nigella sativa</i>		Dithymoquinone	-7.3	
	<i>Cuminum cyminum</i> , <i>Aframomum melegueta</i>		Gingerol	-6.1	
	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> , <i>Glycyrrhiza uralensis</i> and <i>Ornithopus sativus</i>		Glabridin	-7.4	
	<i>Hibiscus rosa sinensis</i>		Hibiscus acid	-5.7	
	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i> , <i>Perilla frutescens</i> and <i>Origanum vulgare</i>		Carvacrol	-5.5	
	<i>PubChem CID:11979606</i>		Lopinavir	-7.4	
9.	<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> and <i>Aspergillus duricaulis</i>	NS2B47-NS3 (Polyphenols)	Rosmarinic acid	-8.4	Rani et al. (2022)
	<i>Curcuma longa L</i>		Curcumin	-8.2	
	<i>Camellia sinensis</i> and <i>Paeonia obovata</i>		Catechin	-7.0	
10.	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	2J7U (RNA Dependent RNA Polymerase)	Mangiferin	-9.6	Kalaimathi et al. (2022)
		1UZG (Major Envelope Protein E)	Mangiferin	-9.7	
		3L6P (Fusion protein of nonstructural protein 2B and nonstructural protein 3)	Mangiferin	-8.0	
11.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	2J7W (Polyprotein)	Azadirachtin	-8.5	Rani et al. (2022)
	<i>Curcuma longa L</i>		Curcumin	-8.1	
	<i>Allium fistulosum L. Caricca Papaya L</i>		Apigenin	-7.3	
	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>		Andrographolide	-6.0	
	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>		Berberine	-5.1	
	<i>Allium sativum L</i> and <i>Allium ursinum L</i>		- (+)-l-Alliin	-4.0	
12.	<i>Tetradium ruticarpum</i> and <i>Zanthoxylum wutaiense</i>	2F0M (Polyprotein)	Rutaecarpine	-4.2	Shimu et al. (2022)
	<i>Sesamum indicum L</i>		Sesamin	-5.3	
	<i>Choerospindias axillaris</i>		Choerospindin	-6.3	
	<i>Evodia rutaecarpa</i>		Evodiamine	-4.7	
	<i>Citrus sulcata</i> and <i>Citrus reticulata</i>		Narirutin	-5	
	<i>Strychnos colubrina</i>		Angustididine	-4.6	
	<i>Forsythia suspensa</i>		Forsythoside A	-6.0	
	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>		Luteone	-5.8	

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Table 1 (continued)

S. no	Source of ligands	Protein (Target)	Phytocompounds (Ligands)	Docking score	References
	<i>Camellia sinensis</i> , <i>Spiranthes vernalis</i> and <i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>		Quercimeritrin	-5.2	
	<i>Salvia sclarea</i> and <i>Salvia przewalskii</i>		Hydroxytanshinone	-5.1	
	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>		Methylophiopaganone A	-5.0	
	<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i>		Tanshinolactone	-4.6	
	<i>Aristolochia galeata</i> and <i>Lindera praecox</i>		Asarinin	-5.3	
	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>		Piperitylhonokiol	-4.6	
	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>		Sanjoinine B	-4.3	
	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>		Sanjoinine D	-3.7	
	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>		Scutianine D	-3.4	
	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>		Scutianine C	-4.1	
	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L		6"-o-acetylliclaurin	-5.2	
	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>		Phellodendroside	-5.1	
	<i>Abies nephrolepis</i> , <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>		Quercetin-7-o-rutinoside	-5.0	
	<i>Forsythia koreana</i> , <i>Forsythia suspensa</i> , and <i>Forsythia viridissima</i>		(S)-suspensaside	-4.7	
	PubChem SID:275700413		Paeonidanin B	-5.6	
	PubChem SID:274222159		Phellamuretin	-5.5	
	<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> , <i>Salvia przewalskii</i> , and <i>Salvia yunnanensis</i>		Nortanshinone	-6.1	
	<i>Angelica japonica</i> and <i>Ostericum grosseserratum</i>		Sec-o-glucosylhamaudol	-4.4	
	<i>Paeonia suffruticosa</i>		Benzoyloxypaeoniflorin	-4.9	
	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	3WE1 (Envelope protein E)	14-deoxyandrographolide	-6.4	Gnaneswari et al. (2022)
			Andrograpanin	-6.4	
			14-acetylandrograpolide	-5.8	
		5B1C (Envelope protein E)	Andrographolide	-6.5	
			14-deoxyandrographolide	-6.0	
			Andrograpanin	-5.7	
		5EC8 (Genome polyprotein)	14-deoxy-11-oxoandrographolide	-5.9	
			Isoandrographolide	-5.8	
			Andrograpanin	-5.6	
			5IKM (NS5 Methyl Transferase)	-7.2	
			Andrograpanin	-6.7	
			Neoandrographolide	-6.7	
			Andrographolide	-6.7	
	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	3WE1 (Envelope protein E)	Meliaacinanhydride	-9.2	
			Nimbocinol	-6.6	
			Isomeldenin	-6.1	
		5B1C (Envelope protein E)	Nimbocinol	-6.7	
			Zafaral	-6.5	
			Meliaacinanhydride	-5.9	
		5EC8 (Genome polyprotein)	Nimbocinol	-8.0	
			Isomeldenin	-6.3	
			Meliaacinanhydride	-6.3	
		5IKM (NS5 Methyl Transferase)	Nimbocinol	-8.7	
			Meliaacinanhydride	-7.7	
			Zafaral	-7.5	
	<i>Carica papaya</i>	3WE1 (Envelope protein E)	Coumaric acid	-5.7	
			Caffeic acid	-5.6	
			Kaempferol	-5.0	
		5B1C (Envelope protein E)	Kaempferol	-4.8	
			Coumaric acid	-4.6	
			Protocatechuic acid	-4.5	
		5EC8 (Genome polyprotein)	Coumaric acid	-5.6	
			Caffeic acid	-5.2	
			Protocatechuic acid	-4.9	
		5IKM (NS5 Methyl Transferase)	Coumaric acid	-5.9	
			Citropten	-5.2	
			Kaempferol	-5.2	
	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	3WE1 (Envelope protein E)	Tinosporide	-6.6	
			Berberine	-5.6	
			Palmatine	-5.4	
		5B1C (Envelope protein E)	Magnoflorine	-6.4	
			Berberine	-6.0	
			Tinosporide	-5.8	
		5EC8 (Genome polyprotein)	Berberine	-6.5	
			Tinosporide	-5.9	
			Tinocordifolin	-5.6	
		5IKM (NS5 Methyl Transferase)	Tinosporide	-7.5	

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Table 1 (continued)

S. no	Source of ligands	Protein (Target)	Phytocompounds (Ligands)	Docking score	References
14.	<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> and <i>Hydrangea serrata</i>	3WE1 (Envelope protein E)	Berberine Palmatine Tinosporide Berberine Palmatine Quercetin	-7.3 -7.1 -6.6 -5.6 -7.1 -8.2	Biswas et al. (2022)
15.	<i>Myrica rubra</i>	2FOM (Polyprotein)	Melongoside P Melongoside O Melongoside G Melongoside N Melongoside F Melongoside H Melongoside B	-9.5 -9.0 -8.1 -7.5 -6.6 -5.0 -4.6	
15.	<i>Citrus unshiu</i> , and <i>Citrus mitis</i>	3VWS (Non-structural protein 5)	Myricetin Hesperidin	-10.4 -9.8	
15.	<i>Glycine max</i> and <i>Streptomyces</i>		Fisetin	-9.7	
15.	<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> and <i>Hydrangea serrata</i>		Quercetin	-8.5	
15.	<i>Camellia sinensis</i>		Galangin	-8.0	
15.	<i>Camellia sinensis</i> and <i>Salvia officinalis</i>		Hesperetin	-7.7	
15.	<i>Camellia sinensis</i> and <i>Humulus lupulus</i>		Naringenin	-5.6	
16.	<i>Ginseng</i> and <i>Notoginseng</i>	4R8S (Nonstructural protein NS5)	Isoquercitrin Quercetin Adenosine Syringin P-Glucosyloxymandelonitrile Pancratistatin Dianthramine Protopanaxatriol Kaempferol Gypenoside-A Rhamalic acid Suchilactone Celabenazine (H+) Protopanaxadiol Dencichin (H+) 5-(E)-heptadec-12-enyl benzene-1,3-diol (3R,8E,10S)-10-hydroperoxyheptadeca-1,8-dien-4,6-diyne-3-ol (3S,5R,8R,9R,10R,14R,17S)-17-(2-hydroxy-6-methylhept-5-en-2-yl)-4,4,8,10,14-pentamethyl-2,3,5,6,7,9,11,12,13,15,16,17-dodecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-ol Ginsenoyle B Campesterol	-9.0 -7.7 -7.4 -7.3 -7.2 -7.1 -7.0 -6.9 -6.8 -6.7 -6.6 -6.3 -6.3 -6.3 -6.3 -6.3 -6.3 -6.2 -6.2	Jarerattanachat et al. (2022)
17.	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	2FOM (Polyprotein)	Isofucosterol Genistein Glycitin Pformonetin Matairesinol Lariciiresinol Pinoresinol Secoisolariciresinol Coumestrol Pectolinaringenin	-8.7 -6.2 -8.8 -7.7 -9.3 -8.9 -8.8 -8.7 -6.6 -9.5 -8.7	Al-Keridis et al. (2022)
18.	<i>Lantana camara</i>	1PZ4 (Sterol carrier protein)	Naphthalene, decahydro2,2-dimethyl Gammolenic acid Guggulsterone	-7.9 -7.8 -5.4	Anita and Selvaraj. (2022)
19.	<i>Commiphora gileadensis</i>	2J7W (NS5 RNA dependent RNA polymerase)	Ribavirin Guggulsterone	-6.2 -4.7 -5.7 -4.1 -6.2 -3.4	Abdulhakim (2022)
19.		1L9K (Methyl-transferase)	Ribavirin Guggulsterone	-6.2 -4.7	
19.		2VBC (NS3 protease-helicase)	Ribavirin Guggulsterone	-5.7 -4.1	
19.		1OK8 (Dengue virus type 2 envelope glycoprotein)	Ribavirin Guggulsterone	-6.2 -3.4	
20.	<i>Marine fungi</i>	2FOM (Polyprotein)	Ribavirin Chevalone E Sterolic acid Brevione K	-6.4 -13.5 -10.3 -9.2	Hasan et al. (2022)

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Table 1 (continued)

S. no	Source of ligands	Protein (Target)	Phytocompounds (Ligands)	Docking score	References
21.	<i>Solanum torvum</i>	IPZ4 (Protease Sterol Carrier Protein-2)	Brevione F Lindgomycin Chevalone E Sterolic acid Brevione K Brevione F Brocazine A 5-Isopropyl-2-methylphenyl heptanoate	-9.0 -8.7 -12.0 -7.0 -7.4 -7.1 -7.1 -8.0	Murugesan et al. (2023)
22.	<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> and <i>Aspergillus duricaulis</i>	4FFY (Single chain variable fragment) (2BMF) RNA helicase 4O6B (Non-structural protein) 2J7U (RNA dependent RNA polymerase)	Benzene, 1-(bromomethyl)-3-nitro Geranylacetone7.5 Hexylamine, N, N-di(allyl) Myristic acid Neophytadiene N-Hexadecanoic acid Nonadecene Phytol 7-tetradecyne Linolenic acid 6,10,14,18,22-Tetracosapentaen-2-ol, 3-bromo-2,6,10,15,19,23-hexamethyl-, (all-E) Alpha-Tocopherol-beta-D-mannoside Campesterin Tetracosahexaen	-6.5 -7.5 -5.1 -6.7 -9.3 -6.9 -6.5 -7.9 -6.3 -7.8 -8.7 -5.7 -10.0 -7.7	Murugesan et al. (2023)
23.	<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> and <i>Aspergillus duricaulis</i>	2J7W (Polyprotein)	Rosmarinic acid	-8.0	Samy et al., 2023
24.	<i>Carica papaya</i> <i>Curcuma longa</i> L <i>Magnolia officinalis</i> and <i>Artemisia xerophytica</i> <i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> and <i>Hydrangea serrata</i>	5E9Q (Genome polyprotein)	Rutin Curcumin D-camphor Quercetin	-4.5 -5.2 -5.2 -5.4	Shakya (2023)
25.	<i>Commiphora wightii</i>	2J7U (NS5- Methyl transferase) 3UZV (Envelope E-protein)	Amentoflavone Commipherin Myrrhanone B Myrrhanone A acetate Myrrhanone B	-6.0 -8.2 -8.0 -11.8 -11.1	Jain et al. (2023)
26.	<i>Carica papaya</i>	4O6B (Non-structural protein 1)	Olean-12-ene Kaempferol 3-(200- rhamnosylrutinoside) Dehydrocarpaine_I Carpaine Manghaslin Obtusol Clitorin Pseudocarpaine Rutin Nicotiflorin Cardenolide Apigenin Stigmasterol Myricetin 3-rhamnoside	-10.3 -9.4 -9.2 -9.0 -9.0 -9.0 -8.9 -8.9 -8.5 -8.5 -8.2 -8.2 -8.1	Banjan et al. (2023)
27.	<i>Centaurea spinosa</i> <i>Aspergillus ochraceopetaliformis</i> and <i>Aspergillus versicolor</i> <i>Aspergillus ochraceopetaliformis</i> and <i>Aspergillus versicolor</i> <i>Centaurea spinosa</i> <i>Centaurea spinosa</i> <i>Aspergillus ochraceopetaliformis</i> and <i>Aspergillus versicolor</i> <i>Centaurea spinosa</i>	1OKE (Major Envelope Protein E) 1R6A (Genome polyprotein) 1R6A (Genome polyprotein) 4M9K (NS2B-NS3 protease)	Malacitanolide Paclitaxel Ressantin E Paclitaxel Malacitanolide Ressantin E Malacitanolide Paclitaxel Malacitanolide Ressantin E Paclitaxel	-7.0 -6.8 -4.4 -9.3 -6.1 -5.8 -5.2 -3.3 -4.0 -3.9 -2.0	Ragavan et al. (2023)

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Table 1 (continued)

S. no	Source of ligands	Protein (Target)	Phytocompounds (Ligands)	Docking score	References		
28.	<i>Dracaena cinnabari</i>	4FFY (DENV1-E111 single chain variable fragment)	Stigmasterol	-7.1	Abutaha and Almutairi. (2023)		
			Campesterol	-7.3			
			2-ethylacridine	-6.0			
		2F0M (Polyprotein)	Stigmasterol	-8.2			
			Campesterol	-7.9			
			2-ethylacridine	-7.0			
		3WE1 (Envelope protein E)	Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-4a,8-dimethyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)	-7.2			
			Stigmasterol	-6.8			
			Campesterol	-6.4			
		2J7U (RNA Dependent RNA Polymerase)	2-ethylacridine	-6.6			
			Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-4a,8-dimethyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)	-5.8			
			Stigmasterol	-8.2			
29.	PMID: 28530609	2BMF (RNA Helicase)	Campesterol	-8.3	Roney et al. (2023)		
			2-ethylacridine	-7.1			
			Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-4a,8-dimethyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)	-6.2			
		4V0Q (NS5 Polymerase)	Stigmasterol	-7.3			
			Campesterol	-7.6			
			2-ethylacridine	-8.0			
		4O6B (Non-structural protein 1)	Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-4a,8-dimethyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)	-5.8			
			Stigmasterol	-9.0			
			Campesterol	-7.8			
30.	<i>Theobroma cacao</i>	DENV-3 NS5 (RdRp protein)	2-ethylacridine	-7.4	Huq et al. (2024)		
			Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-4a,8-dimethyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)	-8.0			
			Stigmasterol	-8.9			
			Campesterol	-8.1			
			2-ethylacridine	-6.3			
			Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-4a,8-dimethyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)	-5.8			
			Stigmasterol	-8.9			
			Campesterol	-8.1			
			2-ethylacridine	-6.3			
			Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-4a,8-dimethyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)	-5.8			
			Stigmasterol	-8.9			
			Campesterol	-8.1			
			2-ethylacridine	-6.3			
			Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-4a,8-dimethyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)	-5.8			
			Stigmasterol	-8.9			
			Campesterol	-8.1			
			2-ethylacridine	-6.3			
			Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-4a,8-dimethyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)	-5.8			
31.	<i>Daphnia pulex</i> and <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> PubChem CID:82972	Aspergillus iizukae and Silybum eburneum	1OKE (Major Envelope Protein E)	-7.7	Mazri et al. (2024)		
			Sinapoyl malate	-6.7			
			Panduratin A	-37.4			
			(+)-Catechin	-42.3			
			Amentoflavone	-50.8			
			Apigenin 7-O-glucoside	-55.0			
			Apigenin	-36.1			
			Caffeic acid	-28.9			
			Chlorogenic acid	-46.6			
			Coumaric acid	-27.6			
			Ferulic acid	-28.2			
			Gallic acid	-26.7			
			Hyperoside	-47.0			
			Isoorientin	-44.6			
			Isorhamnetin	-39.9			
			Isorhoifolin	-57.2			
			Isovitexin	-49.6			
			Kaempferol 3-O-β-D-glucoside	-49.5			
			Kaempferol-7-oneohesperidoside	-51.8			
			Luteolin	-39.2			
			Naringenin	-34.7			
			Naringin	-60.2			
			Nicotiflorin	-54.5			
			Orientin	-51.3			
			Protocatechuic acid	-25.3			
			Prunin	-54.6			
			Quercetin	-40.2			
			Quercitrin	-48.5			
			Rutin	-60.4			
			Luteolin 7-O-β-D-glucoside	-44.0			
	<i>Daphnia pulex</i> and <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> PubChem CID:82972	Aspergillus iizukae and Silybum eburneum	Isoquercetin	-44.5	Mazri et al. (2024)		
			S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine	-12.1			
			1-Amino-4-((4-(dimethylamino)methyl) phenyl) amino anthraquinone	-11.6			
			Silibinin	-11.3			

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Table 1 (continued)

S. no	Source of ligands	Protein (Target)	Phytocompounds (Ligands)	Docking score	References
	<i>Cinnamomum iners</i> , <i>Cinnamomum aromaticum</i> , and <i>Cinnamomum verum</i>		Cinnzeylanine	-11.0	
	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>		Valerenic acid	-10.0	
	<i>Daphnia pulex</i> and <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>		S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine	-9.1	

Andrographolide from *A. paniculata*, tinosporide, and berberine from *T. cordifolia* also showed high efficiency against viral proteins (Gnaneswari et al., 2022).

Molecular docking was used to evaluate melongosides as possible inhibitors of the dengue virus NS2B-NS3 (serotype 2). Quercetin (control) exhibited a binding affinity of -8.2 kcal/mol, but melongoside P had the best fitting score of -9.5 kcal/mol. Other potential phytochemicals, such as melongoside O and melongoside G, exhibited docking values of -9.01 kcal/mol and -8.11 kcal/mol, respectively. The findings indicated that steroid saponins (melongosides) are prospective DENV inhibitors, which, if confirmed in vivo and in clinical trials, might be therapeutic targets against DENV-2 (Biswas et al., 2022).

The interaction of 3VWS (Non-structural protein 5) with fisetin, galangin, hesperetin, hesperidin, myricetin, and naringenin was studied using molecular docking. The docking score of different compounds findings, with myricetin (-10.145 kcal/mol), hesperidin (-9.842 kcal/mol), fisetin (-9.796 kcal/mol), quercetin (-8.513 kcal/mol), galangin (-8.036 kcal/mol), hesperetin (-7.761 kcal/mol), and naringenin (-5.634 kcal/mol) showing strong performance. Among them, myricetin (-10.145 kcal/mol) has high docking score.

Lim et al. (2021) found that reports on medicinal plants against the dengue virus have not identified ginseng or notoginseng as viable herbs. However, a study was conducted to test the potential of compounds in Panax ginseng and/or Panax notoginseng as antiviral agents against dengue NS5 Methyltransferase (MTase). Isoquercitrin (-9.0) was identified as a single hit during the virtual screening process. Further analysis revealed that isoquercitrin may work as an inhibitor of the dengue NS5 protein at the MTase domain, proving its potential as an anti-DENV substance.

Hasan et al. (2022) identified 162 compounds from marine fungi with active bioavailability and examined compounds that could potentially inhibit the activity of dengue virus proteins. Of the 162 molecules, 41 were chosen for docking with NS5 methyltransferase and NS2B/NS3 protease (6IZZ and 2FOM, respectively). Chevalone E (-13.5 kcal/mol) and sterolic acid (-10.1 kcal/mol) showed greater binding energy against dengue NS2B/NS3 protease, but Chevalone E (-12.0 kcal/mol) and Brevione K (-7.3 kcal/mol) had higher binding affinity against NS5 methyltransferase. According to the study, Chevalone E is an effective inhibitor of NS5 methyltransferase and NS2B/NS3 protease.

(R)-(+)-Rosmarinic acid is recognized as a promising phytochemical in the field of pharmaceuticals due to its diverse pharmacological properties. The study aimed to evaluate the antiviral activity of (R)-(+)-rosmarinic acid against dengue viruses. The investigations revealed that (R)-(+)-rosmarinic acid had significant docking scores of -10.033 kcal/mol for NS5 and -7.259 kcal/mol for NS1, Rosmarinic acid suggesting potential therapeutic efficacy against dengue virus replication (Samy et al., 2023).

Theobroma cacao L. phenolic molecules bind to dengue RdRp protease. The results showed 29 phenolic compounds from *T. cacao*, with catechin having a high affinity with the active binding site of DENV3-NS5 RdRp protease (Huq et al., 2024). Mazri et al. (2024) conducted molecular docking on five compounds with the NS5 non-structural protein dengue protease, and the results indicated that the S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine (-12 kcal/mol) showed highly favorable docking with the NS5 protein.

4. Discussion and conclusion

In this view, predict the antiviral properties of various plant compounds. The viral activity and docking energy vary for various plant phytocompounds for various reasons, including plant species, parts of the plants used, age of the plants, and different viral proteins. In this literature review, ligands from various plants and other sources and dock with various dengue viral proteins, and docking energy is summarized in Table 1.

The majority of the investigation concentrated to testing dengue proteins against diverse phytocompounds exclusively using the in-silico approach. Conversely, just a few research have been undertaken in vivo and in vitro.

The challenge to of finding promising plant compounds, their deficient characterization, and a lack of knowledge about the molecular makeup of the active plants compounds that are responsible for diverse dengue virus inhibition are the main reasons of plant-based drug unsuccessful. In addition, various plant species need to be examined to uncover a diverse range of plants capable of controlling the dengue virus.

In conclusion, the global burden of dengue fever remains significant, with *Aedes* mosquitoes serving as primary vectors transmitting the virus to humans. Traditional control measures using synthetic chemicals have drawbacks, prompting exploration into alternative strategies utilizing plant-derived compounds. This review highlighted the promising anti-viral properties of various phytochemicals against dengue virus proteins, as demonstrated through molecular docking studies. Compounds like apigenin, hesperidin, and kaempferol exhibited substantial binding affinities with viral proteins, suggesting their potential as therapeutic agents. Future research should focus on validating these findings through in vivo and clinical studies to advance their application in combating dengue fever effectively and sustainably. Integrating plant-based solutions into integrated vector management strategies could offer cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternatives to conventional control methods, thereby mitigating the impact of dengue outbreaks worldwide.

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K. Dass: Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft,

Methodology, Investigation, Conceptualization. N. Prakash: Methodology, Conceptualization. **P. Manogar:** Validation, Data curation. **R. Murugesan:** Visualization, Validation, Methodology, Conceptualization.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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