

Molecular mechanisms of skin photoaging and plant inhibitors

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Abstract

Skin ageing is a complex multifactorial process occurring in all living beings. It generally comprises two independent and distinct processes, i.e., intrinsic, age-dependent or chronological aging and premature aging, or photoaging which is the result of undue exposure of the skin to ultraviolet (UV) radiations. Photoaging can be prevented or the effects of photoaging can be reduced by the use of certain anti-aging and anti-wrinkle agents. The extracellular matrix (ECM) which forms the outermost part of skin comprises fibroblasts and proteins such as collagen and elastin. Degradation of ECM is directly linked to skin aging and is responsible for the increase in activity of certain enzymes such as collagenase, elastase, and hyaluronidase (HYAL) that are involved in skin aging. With aging there is decrease in the levels of elastin, collagen, and hyaluronic acid which leads to loss of strength and flexibility of skin and appear as wrinkles on the skin. Further, the increase in the activity of collagenase, elastase, and HYAL is triggered by the high levels of reactive oxygen species produced when the skin is exposed to excessive UV radiations leading to skin aging. Today, in the age of modern science and advanced technology, although many techniques such as laser rejuvenation, plastic surgery, and lots of synthetic products such as sunscreen lotions, creams are available yet, there is a place for natural, herbal anti-aging cosmetics. Various botanical extracts have the power to reduce the appearance of skin aging and enhance the beauty of the skin. Medicinal plants have several phytoconstituents such as polyphenols, alkaloids, tannins, saponins, carotenoids, and terpenoids which possess antioxidant properties and can be used in treating the signs of aging. Some plants contain phenolic compounds which have free-radical scavenging property and can suppress aging. Some plants or their extracts possess several other constituents that may have the capability of inhibiting various enzyme such as HYAL, elastase, and matrix metalloproteinases enzyme that play a major role in skin aging. Some of them may possess the free radical scavenging or antioxidant property to fight against the signs of aging. This review focuses on the compilation of medicinal plants and natural compounds as anti-aging and anti-wrinkling agents along with their chemical constituents based on their possible molecular mechanism of action. The present review will facilitate the scientists working in this area for the development of new anti-aging and anti-wrinkle formulations with better efficiency and safety.

Key words: Collagenases, elastases, herbs, hyaluronidases, matrix metalloproteinases, photoaging, plant inhibitors, wrinkles

INTRODUCTION

Skin aging is a complex multifactorial process occurring in all living beings that are generally influenced by two independent and distinct processes. One being the unpreventable, unavoidable, intrinsic, age-dependent, or chronological aging which influences the skin and all other organs of the body in the similar way.^[1] It may be due to changes in the levels of hormones with age,^[2] production of sex hormones and altered levels of estrogen and progesterone associated with menopause leading to the degradation of collagen, loss of elasticity and appearance of wrinkles in the skin.^[3] However, the aging occurred due to

the excessive exposure of the skin to the ultraviolet (UV) irradiations is generally referred to as premature aging or photoaging which results in hyperpigmentation of the skin. Furthermore, the skin appears leathery with deep furrows and wrinkles.^[4,5] There have been innumerable studies conducted

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to spell out the various molecular mechanisms underlying the cause of aging and its preventive strategies. This review focuses on the molecular mechanism underlying the skin aging and the plant inhibitors that can be used for their treatment.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATION OF PHOTOAGING

Skin is comprised three distinct layers; epidermis, dermis, and subcutaneous tissue. The extracellular matrix (ECM) which forms the outermost part of skin comprises fibroblasts and proteins such as collagen and elastin.^[6] Degradation of ECM is directly linked to skin aging and is responsible for the increase in activity of certain enzymes such as collagenase, elastase, and hyaluronidase (HYAL) that are involved in skin aging.^[5,7,8] With aging there is decrease in the levels of elastin, collagen, and hyaluronic acid (HA) which leads to loss of strength and flexibility of skin and appear as wrinkles on the skin. Further, the increase in the activity of collagenase, elastase, and HYAL is triggered by the high levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS) produced when the skin is exposed to excessive UV radiations leading to skin aging.^[9-11] The skin shows hypertrophic features with deep wrinkles, leathery appearance, dark/light pigmentation, sallowness, premalignant lesions, irregular dryness, and lentiginos.^[12] Other signs of aging include elastosis (a coarse, yellow, cobblestoned effect is on the skin) and actinic purpura (easy bruising corresponding to vascular wall fragility in dermis).^[13] Figure 1 outlines the possible molecular mechanism of skin aging that takes place in the skin.

MOLECULAR MECHANISMS AND PLANT INHIBITORS

In an ancient system of traditional medicine, various botanical extracts have the power to reduce the appearance of skin aging

and enhance the beauty of the skin. Medicinal plants have several phytoconstituents such as polyphenols, alkaloids, tannins, saponins, carotenoids, and terpenoids which possess antioxidant properties and can be used in treating the signs of aging. Some plants contain phenolic compounds which have free-radical scavenging property and can suppress aging.^[14] The various skin care product that contain natural constituents are rapidly absorbed by the outermost layer of the skin and are mainly hypoallergenic in nature. Some plants or their extracts possess several other constituents that may have the capability of inhibiting various enzyme such as HYAL, elastase, and matrix metalloproteinases (MMP) enzyme that play a key role in skin aging.^[15] Some of them may possess the free radical scavenging or antioxidant property to fight against the signs of aging. Following sections explains the detailed mechanism involved in skin aging.

MOLECULAR MECHANISMS IN SKIN AGING

MMP/Collagenases

MMPs are a group of zinc-containing extracellular proteinases, also referred as matrixins or collagenases, which help in remodeling the extracellular matrix (ECM).^[16-25] MMP expression is induced and activated only after the exposure of skin to UVB radiations.^[26] Fisher *et al.*, 2002^[4] suggested that the UV radiations trigger various growth factors and cytokine receptors existing on the cell surface. This stimulates mitogen-activated protein kinase signal transduction which further upregulates activator protein-1 (AP-1), the transcription factor comprised c-Jun and c-Fos proteins and nuclear factor kappa B (NF- κ B) in the nucleus. The induction of AP-1 leads to the elevation of MMP expression along with the elevation of MMP-1 (collagenase), MMP-3 (stromelysin - 1), and MMP-9 (gelatinases). This further leads to the degradation of the

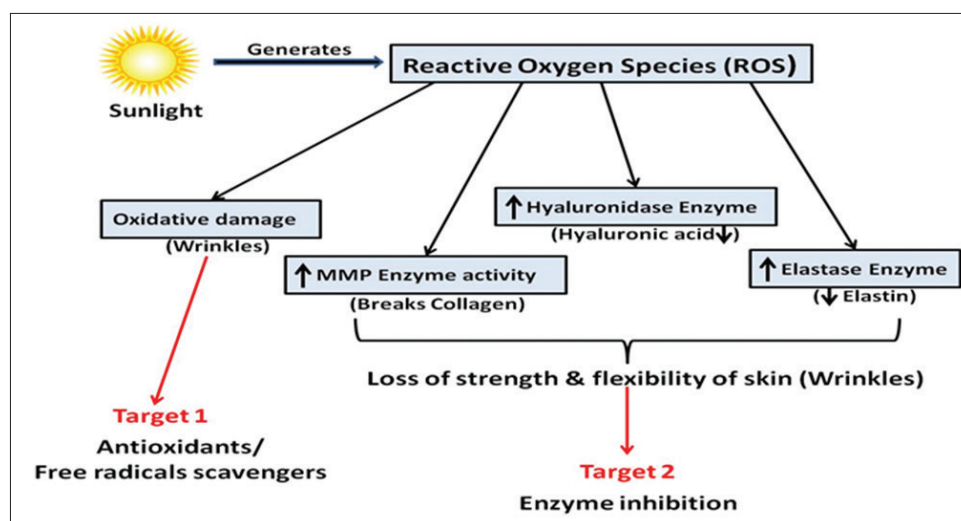


Figure 1: Schematic representation of molecular mechanisms of skin aging

components of extracellular matrix in human skin *in vivo*.^[4,27] As the result of degradation, there is an accumulation of fragmented, disorganized collagen fibrils. These disrupted collagen products downregulate the synthesis of new collagen. Thus, collagen synthesis is negatively regulated by collagen breakdown.^[28,29] The joined actions of MMP-1, MMP-3, and MMP-9 degrade most of the Types - I and III dermal collagen. Furthermore, the procollagen biosynthesis is inhibited by AP-1 by suppressing the Types - I and III procollagen gene expression in the dermis leading to the reduced collagen content.^[30]

HYALUROINIDASES

Skin aging is also correlated with loss of skin moisture that is maintained by hyaluronan or HA, a glycosaminoglycan, having the unique property of binding and retaining water molecules.^[31] HA is most abundant in the skin,^[32-36] accounting for 50% of total body HA.^[37] HA is mainly produced by mesenchymal cells but can also be produced by other cell types.^[38-43] It keeps the body smooth, moist and lubricated. During aging, HA present in the skin diminishes leading to the dry and wrinkled skin. HA is degraded by the enzyme HYAL by hydrolyzing the hexosaminidic β (1-4) linkages between N-acetyl-D-glucosamine and D-glucuronic acid residues. HA is hydrolyzed by HYAL by lowering its viscosity and increasing the permeability.^[44]

ELASTASES

Extracellular matrix also contains elastin which is responsible for maintaining the elasticity and resilience.^[45] During aging, the elasticity of the skin is reduced by the enzyme elastase which leads to sagging. Elastin, an insoluble elastic fiber protein, which along with collagen influences the mechanical properties of connective tissue, is only degraded by the enzyme elastase.^[46] Elastase belongs to the family of chymotrypsin, an enzyme that is capable of hydrolyzing materials such as elastin and fibrillin (which are the fiber materials found within the ECM). The secretion and activation of elastase from dermal fibroblasts in response to UV irradiation and/or to cytokines released by keratinocytes are responsible for the degeneration of the three-dimensional structure of elastic fibers during the formation of wrinkles. Elastase has a significant impact in the metabolism of elastic fibers in skin tissues during photoaging. It was also found that the transcriptional activity of NF- κ B is induced by UV irradiation and greatly contributes to the photoaging process.^[47]

FREE RADICAL SCAVENGERS/ ANTIOXIDANTS

When the skin is continuously exposed to the UV radiations, the production of free radicals which damage the biological

skin cell membranes is induced. Free radicals are the highly ROS which contain one or more unpaired electrons that are formed as a result of cellular oxidative metabolic reactions.^[48] Skin is a prime target of oxidative stress as it is rich in lipids, proteins, carbohydrates, and DNA which are highly vulnerable to oxidative processes and the effects of ROS generated as a result of oxidative stress.^[49] The oxidative processes induced by ROS results in lipid peroxidation, DNA mutations and damage of membrane protein that play a key role in skin aging.^[50] Lipid peroxidation causes the alteration in the fluidity of plasma membrane and leakage of molecules and the consequent disruption of their primary roles.^[51] The enzymes can be directly inactivated by ROS that may lead to protein degradation.^[49] ROS also cause an oxidative damage of DNA such as modifications or loss of bases and DNA breakage, which may end up in various adverse processes and even cancer.^[51] This oxidative stress appears as uneven, blotchy pigmentation, and disturbs the basic structural framework of the skin, consequently giving rise to wrinkles and sagging skin.^[52] Although the epidermis of skin possesses an effective natural antioxidant defenses which includes different antioxidant enzymes such as peroxidases, catalases, and glutathione, the protective cover offered by them may be restricted due to huge production of ROS. This leads to cellular oxidative stress because of the imbalance between antioxidant and oxidant species of living organisms. Therefore, antioxidants with free radical scavenging activity may have great significance in defense and therapeutics of age-related diseases involving free radicals.^[50,53,54]

PLANT INHIBITORS

In recent times, there has been an increase in the scientific interest in minimizing the effects of aging.^[55] Although now a day's curing of aging skin is more efficient by the use of modern technology that involves more invasive procedures, the use of herbs and herbal products is still relevant. Combining these herbal preparations with molecular techniques will assist in maximizing their results and help in maintaining the desired anti skin aging benefits. Plants produce a great variety of compound broadly classified as terpenoids, alkaloids, and phenolic compounds.^[56] This article intends to review the plants and plant extracts and their constituents along with their action mechanisms which have been reported to exhibit anti-aging and potential.

Aloin A and B present in *Aloe vera* have been shown to inhibit *Clostridium histolyticum* collagenase reversibly and noncompetitively. Aloe gel and aloin are also effective inhibitors of stimulated granulocyte MMPs.^[57] UV-B induced MMP-1 expression and increased Type - I procollagen expression is suppressed by Xanthorrhizol present in *Curcuma xanthorrhiza*.^[58] The extracts plant Wild Yam (*Dioscorea villosa*) shows anti collagenase activity making its use in anti-aging products.^[59] Diosgenin present in it shows advantageous effects on aging skin especially to reduce the

effects of climacteric issues.^[60] *Camellia japonica* oil has been reported to have anti-aging property.^[61] It induces the synthesis of human Type - I procollagen and inhibits the MMP-1 activity. The oil of *C. japonica* is also reported to hold transepidermal water loss without causing any adverse effects. The roots of *Panax ginseng* have been demonstrated to induce the synthesis of Type - I collagen via Smads (series of proteins that perform downstream functions from the serine/threonine kinase receptors of the TGF- β family) activation pathway.^[62] Fruit extract of *Emblia officinalis* has been reported to stimulate the proliferation of fibroblasts and production of procollagen. It shows the decrease in the production of MMP-1 from fibroblasts whereas the TIMP-1 was increased significantly.^[63]

There are certain plant metabolites which inhibits HYAL. Quercetin, gallotannins, tannic acid, ascorbic acid, and glycyrrhizin from *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, polyphenols from blackberry, glycoproteins from *Withania somnifera* and certain alkaloids are reported to be good HYAL inhibitors.^[64] Glycyrrhizin also exhibits excellent free radical quenching activity and also act as a blocking agent to stop lipid peroxidation chain reactions.^[65] Thus, *G. glabra* shows powerful antioxidant activity by ROS scavenging, hydrogen donating, and metal ion chelating.^[66] *Tagetes erecta* flowers contain provitamin A “ β -carotene” which is responsible for photoprotection as inhibits HYAL, elastase, and MMP-1.^[5]

Curcumin present in *Curcuma longa*,^[67] procyanidins extracted from *Vitis vinifera*,^[68] phenolic compounds such as epicatechin, resveratrol,^[69] and flavonoidal components such as galangin, kaempferol, quercetin, and myricetin exhibits potential elastase inhibition.^[70] The condensed tannin pentagalloylglucose and ellagic acid are reported to prevent the degradation of elastin and helps to bind it also.^[71]

Peucedanum graveolens (Dill) extract improves the skin elasticity, skin feels more elastic, wrinkles appear smooth, and the face contours are remodeled.^[72] *Zanthoxylum bungeanum* is used as a functional cosmetic ingredient to bring about the temporary improvement of skin wrinkles.^[73]

A large number of plants and their extracts are evaluated for their antioxidant action. Flavonoids like Rutin and other phenolic compounds show antioxidant activities.^[48] The polyphenols derived from Green tea and Yerba mate helps in preventing lipid peroxidation in mammals and other adverse effects caused by UV radiation by reducing the oxidative damage and production of metalloproteinase.^[48] Extracts of Mulberry (*Morus alba*) show superoxide scavenging activity which is involved in the protection against auto-oxidation.^[74,75] The antioxidant activity of Basil, Oregano, and Thyme essential oils has been evaluated through various *in vitro* tests.^[76] *Thymus* species exhibits their antioxidant activity through different mechanisms such as decomposition of peroxides, free radical scavenging, and prevention of continuous hydrogen abstraction.^[77] Fruits of *Vaccinium uliginosum* (bog blueberry) reduces ROS production and act as an antioxidant.^[78] Plants with their chemical constituents and possible molecular mechanisms are listed in Table 1.

DISCUSSION

In the field of cosmetics, the herbal cosmetic as anti-aging agents plays a key role in reversing the adverse effects of aging caused due to excessive exposure to UV radiations. The ingredients present in herbal cosmetics not only show the biological action but also provide the required nutrition to the skin. The use of herbal anti-aging products has increased

Table 1: Plant inhibitors with their possible molecular mechanisms as antiaging agents

Botanical name	Family	Part used	Active constituents	Possible mechanism of action	References
<i>Aloe vera</i>	Liliaceae	Leaves	Aloe-emodin, barbaloin, aloin A and aloin B	By increasing Type - I procollagen and its decreasing the MMP-1 gene expression. Inhibits tyrosine hydroxylase and 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine oxidase	[57,79,80]
<i>Angelica archangelica</i> L.	Apiaceae	Root	Furanocoumarins	Inhibits elastase and collagenase	[81]
<i>Astragalus membranaceus</i>	Fabaceae	Leaves	It contains saponin, amino acids, polysaccharide, trace elements	Increases the content of hyaluronic acid	[82,83]
<i>Alpinia katsumadai</i>	Zingiberaceae	seed	Chalcone, flavonoids, sesquiterpenoids	Inhibitory effect on leukocyte elastase, hyaluronidase and lipid peroxidation	[84]

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

Botanical name	Family	Part used	Active constituents	Possible mechanism of action	References
<i>Arctium lappa</i> L	Asteraceae	Root	Sulfur containing polyacetylenes in roots including artinal and lappaphens	Inhibits elastase	[81]
<i>Areca catechu</i>	Arecaceae	Seeds	Tannins, polyphenols	Inhibits elastase	[85]
<i>Allium sativum</i>	Amaryllidaceae	Plant's bulb	Homocysteine, allicin (diallyl thiosulfinate or diallyl disulfide)	Antioxidant	[86]
<i>Acanthopanax koreanum</i>	Araliaceae	Leaves, root	Acanthopanic acid, rutin, and saponins	Free radical scavenging activity	[87]
<i>Alnus formosana</i>	Betulaceae	Leaves	Phenolic compounds	Free radical scavenging activity and inhibit matrix metalloproteinases in human skin fibroblasts	[88]
<i>Ananas comosus</i>	Bromeliaceae	Peel	B- carotene, citronic, ascorbic acid	Free radical scavenging activity	[89]
<i>Berberis aristata</i>	Berberidaceae	Berries	Berberamine, berberine, oxycanthine, epiberberine, palmatine, aromoline, dehydracoline, columbamine, karachine	Regulates MMP-1 and Type - I procollagen expression in human dermal fibroblasts by inhibiting MMP-9 and IL-6	[90,91]
<i>Biophytum sensitivum</i>	Oxalidaceae	Leaves	Amentoflavone, cupressuflavone, and isoorientin	Inhibits hyaluronidase	[92]
<i>Boswellia</i> species	Burseraceae	Resin	Boswellic acid, phenolic compounds	Anti-elastase activity	[93]
<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	Brassicaceae	Leaves	Vitamin C, indole-3-carbinol	Antioxidant	[94]
<i>Brassica campestris</i>	Cruciferae/ Brassicaceae	Stem, flower, root	Flavonoids, hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives	Free radical scavenging activity	[87]
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Asteraceae	Flower	Triterpenoids and flavonoids (patuletin and Patulitrin) and saponins	Inhibits the activity/ secretion of MMP-2 and MMP-9, decreases transdermal water loss	[95]
<i>Camellia japonica</i>	Theaceae	Oil	Phenolic and flavonol glycoside triterpenoids, camellenodiol, camelledionol	Inhibits MMP1 activity and induces type-I procollagen synthesis, free radical scavenging activity, and elastase inhibition	[61,87]
<i>Camellia sinensis</i>	Theaceae	Leaves	Epicatechin, epicatechin gallate, epigallocatechin gallate, quercetin, kaempferol, caffeic acid	Inhibits UV - induced erythema, inhibits the activity of collagenases and increase the collagen synthesis rate of human fibroblasts, antioxidant effect, inhibits elastase and collagenase	[81,96-102]

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

Botanical name	Family	Part used	Active constituents	Possible mechanism of action	References
<i>Capsicum annum</i>	Solanaceae	Whole plant	Carotenoids, ascorbic acid	Free radical scavenging activity, inhibition of elastase activity and MMP-1 expression	[87]
<i>Curculigo orchiodes</i>	Hypoxidaceae	Rhizome	Two phenolic glycosides, curculigosides, orcinol- beta-D-glucoside and two cycloartane saponins, curculigosaponin G, curculigosaponin I, mucilage, tannins, oxalate of calcium	Inhibits MMP-1 expression	[9,103]
<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	Curcuminoids, curcumin, demethoxycurcumin, bisdimethoxycurcumin	Inhibits MMP-2 expression, inhibits elastase, hyaluronidase and lipid peroxidation	[67,104,105]
<i>Curcuma xanthorrhiza</i> Roxb	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	Curcuminoids, xanthorrhizol	Inhibits MMP-1 expression and Type - I procollagen –inducing effect	[58,106]
<i>Centella asiatica</i> L	Umbelliferae	Whole plant	Triterpenoids, omposi acid, asiaticoside, madecassic acid, madecassoside, brahmic acid, brahminoside	Induces Type - I collagen synthesis	[107-109]
<i>Cinnamomum cassia</i>	Lauraceae	Bark	Phenols, isoeugenol, cinnamic aldehyde, coumarin	Inhibitory effect on leukocyte, elastase, hyaluronidase and lipid peroxidation	[84]
<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Fruit juice	Ascorbic acid	Antioxidant activity and inhibitory effect on hyaluronidase and elastase activity	[110]
<i>Citrus sinensis</i> L.	Rutaceae	Fruit	Ascorbic acid	Inhibits elastase	[111]
<i>Callistemon lanceolatus</i>	Myrtaceae	Stem	Betulinic acid, pyracrenic acid, arjunolic acid, catechin	Elastase inhibition and free radical scavenging activity	[112]
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Arecaceae	Fruit and all parts	Vitamin B, vitamin C, etc.	Antioxidant	[113]
<i>Citrus limonum</i>	Rutaceae	Fresh fruits	α -pinene, camphene, β -pinene, limonene, ascorbic acid	Inhibits free radical-mediated reactions	[88,114]
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>	Caesalpinaceae	Flower	Gallic acid, catechin, rutin and ellagic acid	DPPH radical scavenging and ABTS cation radical scavenging activity	[115]
<i>Carica papaya</i>	Caricaceae	Fruit pulp	Vitamin A, E, and C, beta- carotene enzymes		[89]
<i>Dioscorea villosa</i>	Dioscoreaceae	Rhizome	Sponins (diosgenin, dioscin]) and an alkaloid (dioscorin)	Increased bromodeoxyuridine uptake and intracellular cAMP level in keratinocytes	[116]

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

Botanical name	Family	Part used	Active constituents	Possible mechanism of action	References
<i>Diospyros discolor</i>	Ebenaceae	Leaves	Phenolic compounds	Inhibits matrix metalloproteinase in human skin fibroblasts	[117,118]
<i>Dryopteris crassirhizoma</i>	Dryopteridaceae	Entire plant	Dryopteraside, [+] catechin-6-C-beta-D-} glucopyranoside	Inhibitory effect on leukocyte elastase, hyaluronidase, lipid peroxidation and free radical scavenging activity	[84,87]
<i>Distylium racemosum</i>	Hamamelidaceae	Leaves, stem	Catechin derivatives, gallic acid derivatives, tyrosol, flavonoids, lupeol	Free radical scavenging activity and inhibits elastase	[87,119]
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Apiaceae	Leaves	Anthocyanins, caffeic acid, carotenoids, ferulic acid and cinnamic acid derivatives, Sitosterol, vitamin A, laserine, epilaserine	Free radical scavenging activity	[87,120]
<i>Emblica officinalis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Fruit	Tannins, gallic acid, chebulic acid, ascorbic acid, citric acid	By promoting procollagen production and inhibiting MMP-1 in human skin fibroblasts	[63,121,122]
<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	Eucommiaceae	Bark and leaves	Lignans, iridoids, terpenes and phenols, aucubin	Inhibits MMP-1	[123]
<i>Euonymus fortune</i>	Celastraceae	Fruits	Flagelignanins A, lupeol, b- sitosterol glycoside	Inhibits elastase	[87]
<i>Fraxinus chinensis</i>	Oleaceae	Bark	Coumarins such as esculin and esculetin secoiridoids, phenylethanoids, flavonoids	Free radical scavenging activity and decreases the MMP-1 mRNA expression	[124,125]
<i>Fucus vesiculosus</i>	Fucaceae	Thallus	Alginic acid, alginates, volatile oils	Inhibits elastase and collagenase	[81,126]
<i>Garcinia indica</i>	Clusiaceae/ Guttiferae	Fruits	Garcinol, iso garcinol, cyanidin, 3- glucoside, cyaniding, coumarins, 3- sambubioside cambogia	Inhibits hyaluronidase and elastase enzyme	[89,127]
<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>	Fabaceae	Root and rhizome	Glycyrrhizin, hyaluronic acid	Antioxidant inhibits hyaluronidases	[64,92,128]
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	Rubiaceae	Leaves, stem	Tannins, phenolic acids, flavonoids, iridoid glycosides	Inhibits elastase and collagenase	[81]
<i>Glycine max</i> L.	Fabaceae/ leguminoceae	Seeds (bean)	Isoflavones, anthocyanins	Enhance collagen and elastin synthesis, antioxidant activity and prevent caspase-3 pathway activation	[89,129-132]
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgoaceae	Leaves	Ginkgolides, bilobalide kaempferol, quercetin	Antioxidant and free radical scavenging activity	[133,134]
<i>Impatiens parviflora</i> DC	Balsaminaceae	Leaves	Phenols, flavonoids, coumarins, triterpenes, saponins, carotenoids, sterols, and lipids	Inhibits hyaluronidase	[135]

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

Botanical name	Family	Part used	Active constituents	Possible mechanism of action	References
<i>Illicium verum</i>	Illiciaceae	Fruit	Essential oil consisting of trans- anethol, anisaldehyde, methyl chavicol and other monoterpenoids	Inhibits elastase and collagenase	[81]
<i>Leucas aspera</i>	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Ursolic acid, phenolic compounds, alkaloids	Inhibits hyaluronidase	[92,136]
<i>Lastrea japonica</i>	Filicales	Entire plant	Phenolic compound	Inhibits elastase	[137]
<i>Luffa cylindrica</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Seeds	Oil contains fatty acids like stearic acid and linoleic acid and phenolic compounds	Antioxidant and free radical scavenging activity	[138,139]
<i>Machilus thunbergii</i>		Stem bark	Procyanidin, epicatechin-(4 β -8)-epicatechin (4 β -6), meso-dihydroguaiaretic acid and licarin A	Inhibition of MMP-1	[140]
<i>Melothria heterophylla</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Roots	1,2,4,6- tetra-O- galloyl-beta-(D)-glucopyranose and 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acid	Inhibition of MMP-1 activity and antioxidant	[141]
<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>	Laminariaceae	Algae	Uronic acids, α -linolenic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosahexaenoic acid, arachidonic acid	Inhibits MMP-1 and MMP-2	[142-144]
<i>Myristica fragrans</i>	Myristicaceae	Seed kernels	Volatile oil, myristicin and myristic, epicatechin and cyaniding	Inhibitory effect on leukocyte elastase, hyaluronidase and lipid peroxidation	[84]
<i>Nardostachys jatamansi</i>	Valerianaceae	Roots	Sesquiterpenes and coumarins	Inhibition of MMP-1	[145]
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	Nelumbonaceae	Leaves, seed, and flower	Kaempferol, glucopyranose, sitosterol flavonoids	Inhibits elastase and free radical scavenging activity	[115]
<i>Panax ginseng</i>	Araliaceae	Leaves, roots	Ginsenosides and panaxosides (Triterpenoid saponin), oleanolic acid	Type - I procollagen gene and protein expression, prevent MMP-9 gene induction, and elongated the fibrillin -1 fiber length. Increase of expression of procollagen Type - I and decrease MMP-1	[146-148]
<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>	Fabaceae	Bark	Terpenoids, pigments-santalin, erthyrodiol	Inhibits the activity and expression of collagenase (MMP-1) and gelatinase (MMP-2) and inhibits tyrosinase	[89,149]
<i>Persicaria dissitiflora</i>	Polygonaceae	Entire plant	Terpenoid, cineol	Inhibits elastase and free radical scavenging activity	[87]

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

Botanical name	Family	Part used	Active constituents	Possible mechanism of action	References
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	Leaves	Phenolic compounds caffeic acid, ferulic acid, rutin trihydrate, quercetin dehydrate	Inhibits elastase	[150]
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	Polygonaceae	Whole plant	Flavonoids (Isoquercitrin and isorhamnetin), flavonoid glycosides and phenylpropanoid glycosides	Free radical scavenging activity, inhibition of elastase activity and MMP-1 expression	[149]
<i>Platycarya strobilacea</i>	Juglandaceae	Fruits	Ellagic acid	Free radical scavenging activity, elastase inhibition and expression of MMP-1 and type-I collagen synthesis	[151]
<i>Peucedanum graveolens</i> (Dill)	Apiaceae	Seeds	Carvone, limonene, phellandrene, cineole, myrcene, paramyrcene, isomyristicin, myristicin, myristin, apiol and dillapiol, furanocoumarin, oxypeucedanin, oxypeucedanin hydrate and falcarindiol	Improves skin elasticity	[72]
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Portulacaceae	Whole plant	Kaempferol, myricetin, luteolin, apigenin, quercetin, genistein, and genistin, monoterpenes such as portulosides A and B, diterpenes such as portulene, and β -amyrin, ascorbic acid, α -tocopherol, β -carotene, glutathione, melatonin, portulacerebroside A, catechol, and bergapten	Antioxidant and free radical scavenging activity	[152-154]
<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	Pinaceae	Bark	Catechin	Antioxidant and free radical scavenging activity	[155]
<i>Prunus dulcis</i> Mill.	Rosaceae	Nuts	Chlorogenic acid, cryptochlorogenic acid, neochlorogenic acid	Free radical scavenging activity and antioxidant	[156]
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L.	Lamiaceae/ Labiatae	Leaves	Carnosic acid and rosmarinic acid, caffeic acid, ursolic acid, betulinic acid, rosmaridiphenol and rosmanol	Protection from free radicals	[157,158]
<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Combretaceae	Fruits	Hydrolysable tannins such as chebulinic acid, gallotannins, casuarinin, chebulanin, corilagin, neochebulinic acid, terchebulin, and gallic acid phenolics such as ellagic acid, chebulic acid	Tyrosinase and MMP-2 inhibition, elastase, hyaluronidase inhibition and collagen synthesis, antioxidative	[151,159,160]

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

Botanical name	Family	Part used	Active constituents	Possible mechanism of action	References
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Fabaceae	Seed coat	Tartaric acid, carotene, vitamin C, tannins	Radical scavenging and lipid peroxidation reducing activity	[161]
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	Poaceae	Grains	Phenolic compounds, phytochemicals, carbohydrates	Inhibition of MMP-1 expression	[162]
<i>Tagetes erecta</i>	Asteraceae	Flowers	Provitamin A “-carotene,” b-amyirin and syringic acids	Inhibits elastase, hyaluronidase, and MMP-1	[5]
<i>Viola hondoensis</i>	Violaceae	Whole plant	Flavonol glycosides	Inhibition of MMP-1 expression at both mRNA and protein levels	[163]
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Vitaceae	Seed, shoot	Proanthocyanidins and resveratrol, Phenolic acids, flavonols, tannins, procyanidins, anthocyanins, carotenoids, terpenes	Free radical scavenging activity and inhibit matrix metalloproteinase in human skin fibroblasts	[5,68,164-166]
<i>Vaccinium Uliginosum</i> L.	Ericaceae	Berries	Anthocyanins like cyaniding-3-glucoside, petunidin-3-glucoside, malvidin-3-glucoside and delphinidin-3- glucoside	Removal of reactive oxygen species, diminished UV-B augmented - release of inflammatory interleukin (IL)-6 and IL-8	[78]
<i>Vetiveria zizconoides</i>	Poaceae	Root	Vetivone [α and β] and vetiverol	Antioxidant	[167]
<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	B- sitosterol palmitate, isovanillin, glycol monopalmitate, hexacosanoic acid _{2,3} dihydroxypropyl ester, maleimide-5-oxime, p-hydroxybenzaldehyde, adenine, 6-gingerol	Inhibits elastase	[5,150]
<i>Zanthoxylum bungeanum</i>	Rutaceae	Fruit husk	Chlorogenic acid, hyperoside, and quercitrin	Anti-elastase activity	[73]

substantially nowadays. This may be attributed to the fact that the ingredients used in synthetic anti-aging formulations are associated with the harmful adverse side effects.^[168] On the other hand, the natural skin care products are safe, quickly absorbed by the skin and are hypoallergenic in nature.^[169] Plant extracts are considered safe,^[170] because of the simple fact that they come from nature.^[171] In addition, the natural herbs have despicable mammalian toxicity and can be handled safely. This makes the use of herbal formulations as skin care products more attractive and common.^[168] The bioactive components such as flavonoids, polyphenols, tannins, and quercetin present in various plants may be combined together to give the synergistic effect in reducing wrinkles, photoaging, depigmentation, diminish redness and improves other signs of skin aging by increasing the free radical scavenging

activity, antagonizing the UV signaling pathway, inhibiting various enzymes such as elastases, HYAL, and MMP. Still, the scientific validation on the use of herbal products as anti-aging and anti-wrinkle agents should be further explored on the basis of different evaluation procedures and scientific models. This review facilitates the scientists working in this area for the development of new anti-aging and anti-wrinkle formulations with better efficiency and safety.^[169]

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