

# In vitro Antioxidant Activity and Phytochemical Screening of Flowers and Leaves of *Hypericum perforatum* L. Ethanolic Extracts from Tonekabon-Iran

Alimohammad Asgharian<sup>1\*</sup> and Shahab Ojani<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry and Biology, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street, Toronto, ON M5B 2K3, Canada

<sup>2</sup>Young Researcher and Elite Club, Tonekabon Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tonekabon, Iran

## Abstract

Medicinal plants are an important source of phytochemicals that offer traditional medicinal treatment of various ailments. This research set to assess phytochemicals in the ethanolic extracts of *Hypericum perforatum* L. leaves and flowers by quantitative and qualitative screening procedures. The *Hypericum perforatum* L. flowers and leaves were gathered, and the extract was provided from ethanol (5%) by microwave assisted extraction (MAE). The phytochemical assessment was done applying standard methods & the phytochemical evaluation by using standard methods. The total phenolic contents of ethanolic extracts were estimated by Folin Ciocalteu method and total flavonoids contents were determined by the Aluminium Chloride Colorimetric method. Ethanolic extracts invitro antioxidant activity was assessed by via evaluating 1,1-diphenyl-2 picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging activity by the standard method. Ethanolic extracts from flowers and leaves of *Hypericum perforatum* L. showed total phenolic contents of (15.32 ± 0.07) and (7.39 ± 0.43) mg GAE/g dry plant material respectively. Total flavonoid contents of ethanolic extracts from leaves and flowers of *Hypericum perforatum* L. were (1.09 ± 0.08) and (0.38 ± 0.05) mg QE/g dry plant material, respectively. The antioxidant activity of the investigated ethanolic extract of leaves and flowers of *Hypericum perforatum* L. were scavenging ability of DPPH radical scavenging activity and IC<sub>50</sub> values (89.45% to 2.15 ± 0.02) and (74.77% to 1.96 ± 0.06) mg/ml respectively. The ethanolic extracts of leaves and flowers of *Hypericum perforatum* L. contains terpenoids, flavonoids, phenols, tannins, cardiac glycosides, quinones and phlobatannins. This study may contribute to drugs development to cure different diseases.

**Keywords:** *Hypericum perforatum* L.; Medicinal plants; Antioxidant activity; Folin-Ciocalteu; Flavonoids; DPPH; IC<sub>50</sub>

## Introduction

Free radicals are chemical species that are produced in the body during normal metabolic processes. They are highly reactive and can cause damage to cells and tissues. Free radicals are produced by various sources, including environmental factors, diet, and aging. They can cause oxidative stress, which is a state of imbalance between the production of free radicals and the body's ability to neutralize them. Oxidative stress has been linked to various chronic diseases, including cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease. Medicinal plants have been used for centuries to treat various ailments, and many of them have been found to have antioxidant properties. *Hypericum perforatum* L. is a well-known medicinal plant that has been used to treat a variety of conditions, including depression, anxiety, and pain. It is believed to have antioxidant properties, and this study aims to investigate its antioxidant activity and phytochemical composition.

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and the results are discussed.

**\*Corresponding author:** Alimohammad Asgharian, Department of Chemistry and Biology, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street, Toronto, On M5B 2K3, Canada, Tel: +989122958644, ++981154271101-9; E-mail: [mehranasgharian@yahoo.com](mailto:mehranasgharian@yahoo.com)

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## Material and Method

Alcoholic and aqueous extracts of flowers and leaves of *Hypericum perforatum* L. were collected from Tonekabon (N 36°37', E 50°50'; at 2650 m above sea level). The plant was collected in 2015 and dried in a shade-drying oven (Faba et al., 2015) at 40°C. The dried plant material (Heba, (Iranic Acad. Univ. - Tonekabon Branch)) was ground to a fine powder (10 mesh) and extracted with 5% ethanol for 24 h at 30°C. The extract was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure at 300 W; the residue was dried at 40°C (GE280S) and stored at 10°C until use. The extract was stored at 4°C until use. The extract was stored at 4°C until use. The extract was stored at 4°C until use.

The antioxidant activity of the flowers and leaves of *Hypericum perforatum* L. was determined by the DPPH method. The detection of the antioxidant activity was done by the DPPH method [33-37]. The antioxidant activity of the flowers and leaves of *Hypericum perforatum* L. was determined by the DPPH method.

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... ce ... f ... d ... a ... a ... d ... e ... a ... e ... ca ... l ... a ... a ... b ... e ... c ...  
ed c ... a ... l ... ca ... ce ... e ... ce ... l ... e ... a ... a ... ea ... a ... a ... a ... b ... e ...  
e ... e ... c ... e ... ca ... l ... a ... e ... a ... - ... da ... , ... a ... - ... a ... a ... , ... a ... -  
ca ... ce ... , ... a ... - ... ba ... c ... te ... a ... , ... a ... - ... d ... a ... b ... e ... c ... , ... a ... - ... e ... c ... , ... a ... e ... c ... , ... a ... -  
c ... a ... , ... a ... e ... c ... , ... a ... a ... b ... e ... c ... , ... a ... - ... a ... a ... c ... , ... e ... da ... e ... , ... a ... e ... c ... ,  
... c ... e ... e ... e ... c ... , ... a ... d ... e ... a ... l ... e ... c ... t ... e ... a ... c ... t ... e ... [49-58].  
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a ... d ... R<sup>2</sup>=0.998). T ... a ... l ... e ... l ... c ... t ... e ... f ... e ... a ... l ... c ... e ... a ... c ... t ... f ... a ... l ... a ... d ... e ... a ... 9] ... 0 ... 5 ... -2.878( ... a ... e ... e ... a ... 9 ... 0.231 T ... 9 ... -(( ... GA1.0251 ... 5 ... e ... H

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