

Pharmacological Properties of Selected Weeds

Pooja Taak¹, Bhupendra Koul^{1*}, Taslimahemad Khatri²

¹School of Bioengineering and Biosciences, Lovely Professional University,
Phagwara, Punjab (INDIA) -144411.

²Department of Chemistry, Government Science College, Chikhli, Gujarat (INDIA)-396521

Abstract

Generally, the weed plants are considered as troublesome, nuisance and problematic in the fields as well in the gardens where they are considered as the enemies (competitors) to the cultivated plants. There is one major misconception that these weeds are worthless. Several herbs which were used in medicinal formulations in Indian traditional system of medicine are now considered as weeds by many field botanists. Moreover, many of the weeds have high pharmacological importance but they are being destroyed due to lack of sufficient scientific knowledge among people. Some weeds do possess diverse group of phytochemicals which include flavonoids, phenolics, alkaloids, steroids, terpenes, saponins etc. these phytochemicals possess promising therapeutic potential like anti-malarial, diuretic, anti-diabetic, hepato-protective, anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial, anti-helmintic, anti-cancerous etc. These phytochemicals have been shown as a promising alternative to the synthetic drugs. The main aim of the present review is to provide information about the pharmacological importance of common weeds, and to create the awareness among the people and scientific community regarding their conservation, protection and sustainable use in medicine.

Key words: Weeds, Phytochemicals, Bioactive compounds, Natural products, Medicinal uses

Introduction

Natural products or herbal drugs have been used for their pharmacological properties and the main source of drugs since long time. According to WHO (world Health Organization) 80% population of the world are estimated to use some kind of herbal product for their well being [1]. In rural India, 70% of the people depend upon the “Ayurveda” which is an Indian traditional system of medicines. Plants are reported to possess very diverse range of phytoconstituents which are actually responsible for their pharmacological activities like, anti-bacterial, anti-oxidant, lipoprotective, hepatoprotective, anti-cancer, diuretic, anti-inflammatory, cardiovascular, anti-diabetic, anti-allergic, immunity booster, aphrodiastic etc. Some important plant derived drugs are artimesinin, ephedrine, physostigmine, quinine, reserpine, aspirin, colchicines, morphine, taxol, pilocarpine, atropine, quinidine, vincristine, tubocurarine, vinblastine and digoxin [2].

Weeds are those plants which are considered undesirable or unwanted in a particular situation. In other words it can be stated that the plants growing in the wrong place. Weeds are considered as the major constraint to the crop production of world by competing with crop plants for mineral nutrients, water, light and space. About 8000 plant species among the total plants are considered as weeds in the world [3]. Asteraceae, poaceae, malvaceae, and fabaceae are the four major families of the weeds [4]. The selected worst weeds of the world which reduce the crop production to a large extent are *Cynodon dactylon*, *Eleusine indica*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *Imperata cylindrical*, *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Echinochloa colonum*, *Chenopodium album* and *Sorghum halepense*. Rice, soya beans, sugar-cane, cotton, coffee, potatoes, sugar-beets, groundnuts, maize, rubber, grapes, sorghum, wheat and tea are the crops which are affected by these weeds [3]. In India there are total 45,000 species of plants are reported. Out of them 3000 species are officially listed as medicinally important. Besides that the traditional

practitioners used more than 6000 plant species. India is the largest producer of the herbal drugs and can be stated as the “Botanical garden of the world” [5], [6]. Total 337 species of weeds are reported in India belonging to 61 families. Out of them there are five prime classes of weeds these are Poaceae, Asteraceae, Fabaceae, Malvaceae and Euphorbiaceae which constitute 42, 40, 40, 18 and 17 weed species respectively [4]. Although weeds are considered as nuisance for commercial crops, but the raw materials obtained from weed plants yield various bioactive compounds which are used by pharmaceutical industries for drug formulations and also used by local communities for herbal preparations [7], [8]. However, in depth study of weed flora regarding their phyto-constituents is still lacking or limited to tribal or local communities as compared to other medicinal plants [9], [10]. As the demand for herbal formulation is increasing day by day, hence there is an urgent need to explore the ignored weed flora in order to find new phyto-constituents for their possible use in drug formulations for human health care. Some of the very important medicinal weeds, their distribution, plant parts used, bioactive compounds and medicinal uses are as shown in Table 1.

There are number of pharmaceuticals companies are present worldwide those manufacture many products from herbal drugs obtained from weeds. The body shop pvt. Ltd England, Nutiva inc. California, Shri baidyanath ayurved pvt ltd India, Hashman California, Nature's plus New York, Swanson health product North Dakota, Rxhomeo New York, Patanjali Ayurveda India, these are some national and international industries which are manufacturing their products from *Alternanthera sessilis*, *Cannabis indica*, *Coleus forskohlii*, *Butea superba*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Achyranthus japonica* respectively, for the treatment of various ailments.

Materials and methods

The present information was collected from databases such as CAB abstract, MEDLINE, EMBASE, J GATE, ERIC, Proquest, INMEDPLAN, NATTS, Indian biodiversity portal, The Plant List, Catalogue of Life, JSTOR, Google scholar, and websites such as www.sciencedirect.com, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles, www.jstor.org, www.eflora.org., www.pfaf.org., www.springer.com., <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com>., www.elsevier.com., <https://www.wikipedia.org> and www.feedipedia.org.

Table 1: Pharmacological activities of selected weeds.

Botanical name	Monocot /dicot	Family	Common name	Distribution	Part used	Bioactive compounds	Medicinal uses	Reference(s)
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	Monocot	Poaceae	Bermuda grass, doob, dub, dubra, khabbal, kaligas, neelee doob	Uttarakhand, Tamilnadu, Chennai, Punjab	Leaf and roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,6-anhydro-β-D-glucopyranose (levoglucosan), • 2,3,5,9- tetramethyl tricyclo[6.3.0.0(1,5)]undec-2-en-4-one, • 2,3-dihydro-3,5-dihydroxy-6-methyl-4H-pyran-4-one, • 2,4-dihydro-2,4,5-trimethyl-3H-pyrazol-3-one, • 2-methoxy-4-vinylphenol, • 2,3-dihydro benzofuran, • 3-(chloro acetoxy)- 4-methoxy benzaldehyde, • 3,7,11,15- Tetramethyl-2-hexadecen-1-ol, • 3-hydroxy-1-methylpyridinium hydroxide, • 3-Tert-butyl-4-hydroxyanisole, • 4-hydroxy-3-methoxy cinnamic acid, • 5- (hydroxymethyl)- 2-furancarboxaldehyde, • 5- methyl-2-furancarbox-aldehyde, • 5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-2-one, • 9,9- Dimethoxy-bicyclo [3.3.1]nona-2,4-dione • 9,12- octadecadienoic acid ethyl ester, • Ar-tumerone, • Arundoin, • Benzoic acid, 2- hydroxy-methyl ester, • Curlone, • Cystibenetrimerol A • Cystibenetrimerol B • Decanoic acid ethyl ester, • D-mannose, • Ergonovine (aka Ergometrine), • Ergonovinine, 	Used to treat nasal bleeding, dysentery, central nervous, and cardiovascular and gastrointestinal, problems; possess anti-diabetic, anti-oxidant, immunological, anti-allergic, anti-inflammatory, anti-pyretic, analgesic, anti-cancer, dermatological, diuretic, protective, anti-microbial, anti-parasitic, insecticidal properties.	[11], [4], [12] [75], [76]

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethy ester D-mannose, • Ethyl ester linolenic acid, • Friedelin, • Hexadecanoic acid • Hexadecanoic acid ethyl ester • Hydroquinone, • Levoglucosenone, • Menthol, • N-(2,4-cis dimethylcyclopent-3-enoyl)-pyrrolidin-2-one, • N,N'-dibenzoyloxy hexanediamide, • Octadecanoic acid ethyl ester, • o-hydroxyphenyl acetic acids, • Palmitic acid, • Pantolactone, • p-hydroxybenzoic, • Phytol, • Syringic acid, • Tumerone, • Vanilllic acid, • β- sitosterol 		
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (L.) P.Beauv.	Monocot	Poaceae	Cogon grass	Kerala	Flower and roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-4,β-sitosterol-3-O-β-D-glucopyranosyl-6'-tetradecanoate 5, 3-hydroxy 4-methoxy-benzaldehyde • Daucosterol, • α-amyrin, • β-sitosterol 	Used as diuretic, anti-bacterial, sialagogue, styptic, febrifuge; Used to treat haemorrhages, urinary tract infections, fevers, haematuria, oedema, nose bleeds, jaundice, diarrhea, indigestion, dysentery; Possess anti-vinous, astringent, anti-febrile, haemostatic, emollient, restorative, anti-bacterial, anti-helminthic, viricidal and anti-cancer properties.	[13], [4]

<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i> L.	Monocot	Poaceae	Wild sugarcane, Talahib grass	Karnataka, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra	Whole plant, roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bufotenine 	Used to purify blood and treats mental illness, calculi dyspepsia, haemorrhoids, menorrhagia, constipation, kidney stones, dysentery, dyspepsia, piles, sexual weakness, gynaecological and respiratory troubles; Used as an immunity booster, astringent, aphrodisiac, agalactia phthisis, astringent, emollient, diuretic, lithontriptic, purgative and aphrodisiac.	[14], [4]
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L.	Dicot	Asteraceae	Goat weed	Karnataka, Punjab, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.8-cineole, • 2-(2'-methylethyl)-5,6 dimethylbenzofuran, • 2-(1'-oxo2'methypropyl)-2-methylpropyl-2-methyl-6,7-dimethoxychromene, • 2-(2-methylprop-2-enyl)-2-methyl-6,7-dimethoxychromane-4-one, • 3-(2'-methylpropyl)-2-methyl-6,8-dimethoxychrom-4-one, • 3-(2-methylpropyl)-2-methyl-6,8-dimethoxychrom-4-one, • 5,7,2',19'-tetrahydroxy-6,3'-di-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-isoflavone 5-O-α-L-rhamnopyrosyl-(1\rightarrow19)-α-L-rhamnopyranoside, • 5,7,2,19-tetrahydroxy-6,3-di-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-isoflavone 5-O-α-L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1\rightarrow19)-α-L-rhamnopyranoside, • 6-(1-methoxyethyl)-7-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene, 	Reduces spasms, kills bacteria, relieves inflammation, kills insects, fights free radicals, relaxes muscles, relieves pain, heals wounds and cures ulcers.	[15], [4] [77], [78]

- 6-(1- ethoxyethyl)-7-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene,
- 6-angeloyloxy-7-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene,
- 6-(1-hydroxyethyl)-7-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene,
- Ageratochromene dimer,
- Brassicasterol,
- Caffeic acid,
- Caryophyllene epoxide,
- Dihydrobrassica sterol,
- Dimethylchromene-7-o- β -glucopyranoside,
- Echinatine,
- Eugenol,
- Eupalestin,
- Friedeline,
- Fumaric acid,
- Kaempferol 3,7- diglucopyranoside,
- Kaempferol,
- Limonene,
- Lycopsamine,
- Methyleugenol,
- Ocimene,
- Precocene I (7-methoxy-2,2'-dimethylchromene),
- Precocene II,
- Quercetin-3- rhamnopyranoside,
- Quercetin-3- rhamnopyranoside,
- Sabinene,
- Scutellarein-5,6,7,1-tetrahydroxyflavone,
- Sesquiphellandrene,
- Spinasterol,
- Stigmasterol,
- Terpenen-4-ol,
- Transcaryophyllene,
- α -Terpineol,
- α -Pinene,
- β -Sitosterol,

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • β-Pinene, • β-Phellandrene, • β-Caryophyllene, • δ- Cadinene 		
<i>Bidens pilosa</i> L.	Dicot	Asteraceae	Spanish needles	Nagaland, Meghalaya, Uttrakhand, New Delhi	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21a-hydroxyfriedelan-3-one, • Eleosanole acid, • Friedelin, • Friedelin-3β-ol-27-oic acid, • Friedelinol, • Lupeol, • n-tridecane, • Stigmasterol, • Stigmasterol-3-O-β-D-glucopyranoside • β-Sitosterol 	It possess anti-inflammatory, anti-hyperglycemic, anti-diabetic, immunomodulatory, anti-tumor, anti-oxidant, anti-bacterial, anti-malarial, anti-hypertensive, anti-fungal, anti-ulcerative and vasodilatory property.	[4], [16], [17]
<i>Erigeron canadensis</i> L.	Dicot	Asteraceae	Canadian horseweed	Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eugenyl β- primeveroside, • Luteolin, • Luteolin-7-O-β-D-glucuronide, • Quercetin, • Quercetin-3-O-β-D glucopyranoside, • Scutellarin 	Used as anti-rheumatic, emmenagogue, diuretic and astringent; Used to treat bladder problems, colon trouble, vermifuge, cholera, balsamic, tuberculosis, diabetes, fevers, nosebleeds, cystitis, dropsy, bronchitis and coughs.	[18], [4]
<i>Sonchus asper</i> (L.) Hill.	Dicot	Asteraceae	Spiny sowthistle	Maharashtra, Bengaluru, Tamilnadu	Tender young leaves and stem tops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-O- β -glucopyranosyl-11-β,13-dihydrourospermal A, • Loliolide, • Lupeol, • Ursolic acid. • β-sitoststerol-3-O-β-glucopyranoside 	Used to treat cough, asthma, bronchitis, gastrointestinal infection, wounds and burns, inflammation, cardiac dysfunction, diabetes, kidney, liver disorders and impotence (erectile dysfunction) in humans.	[21], [22], [23], [24], [25], [4] [79], [80]

<i>Spilanthes acmella</i> auct. non L.	Dicot	Asteraceae	Pellitory	Throughout India	Roots and flowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-acetyl aleuritolic acid, • Limonene, • Scopolelin, • Spilanthol, • Stigmasterol, • trans-ferulicacid, • trans-isoferulic acid, • Vanillic acid, • α-amyrin, • β-Amyrin, • β-Caryophyllene, • β-Sitostenone, • β-Sitosterol, 	Used as anti-pyretic, anti-fungal, aphrodisiac, analgesic, anti-convulsant, bioinsecticide, anaesthetic, anti-oxidant, anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, vasorelaxant, anti-nociception, diuretic and anti-human immunodeficiency virus; Used as pancreatic lipase inhibitor and relieves toothache.	[26], [27], [4], [28]
<i>Tridax procumbens</i> (L.) L.	Dicot	Asteraceae	Coatbuttons	Throughout India	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Z)-falcarinol, • Limonene, • Zerumbone, • α -Selinene 	Used as anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, hepatoprotective, wound healing, activity, immunomodulating property, hypotensive effect, bronchial catarrh, dysentery, diarrhea, prevent hair fall, promote hair growth and anti-microbial.	[29], [4], [30]
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> L.	Dicot	Asteraceae	Chota dhatura, Common Cocklebur	Throughout India	Roots, leaves and fruits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caffeic acid, • Carboxyatractylloside, • Desacetyl lanthumin, • Quinic acid • Sesquiterpene lactones, • Thiazinedione, • Xanthanol, • Xanthanolide, • Xanthatin, • Xanthumin 	Used as laxative, anthelmintic, anti-pyretic, improves appetite, anti-rheumatic, diaphoretic, diuretic, emollient, sedative, malaria, tuberculosis, rheumatism and kidney disorders.	[31], [4]

	Dicot	Fabaceae	Kuntumani, Ratti, Gunchi, Gunja, Crab's eye, Indian liquorice, Jequirity, Wild liquorice, Guncaci, Ratti Dhorgunj, Erragurivinda, Gurivinda, Guruginja	Forest tracts of India	Leaf, seeds, roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abricin, • Abrine, • Abrusgenic acid methylester, • Abrusgenic acid, • Abruslactone, • Abrusoside A-D , • Abrussic acid, • Hemiphloin, • Trigonellin, 	Used to treat urinary complaints, purgative, headache, snake bite, cough, aphrodisiac, anti-spasmodic, emetic, ophthalmic, anti-diarrhoeal, anthelmintic, anti-convulsant, anti-bacterial, anti-spasmodic and insecticide.	[32], [33]
	Dicot	Fabaceae	Tella-Jeeluga, (Telugu), Didhen, Phulan (Hindi), Netti, Attunetti (Tamil)	Maharashtra, Karnataka	Leaves and roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apigenin, • Delphinidin, • Isochlorogenic acid, • Kaempferol, • Malvidin, • Peonidin, • p-hydroxy benzoic acid 	Used as spermicidal, treat kidney stones, urinary disorders, body pain and swelling.	[34], [35], [4]
	Dicot	Fabaceae	Kasundi, Kasonda	Throughout India	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassiaoccidentalin A, • Emodine, • Physcion, • Physcion-1β-D-Glucopyranoside, • β-Sitosterol 	Used to treat indigestion, acne, anemia, digestive, liver tonic, analgesic and anti-allergic.	[4]
	Dicot	Malvaceae	Country mallow, Kanghi, Petari	Throughout India	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-lycoperidine, • 1-methoxycarbonyl-β-carboline, • 3,7-Dihydroxychromen-2-One, • 3-Hydroxy-β-Damascene, • 3-Hydroxy -β-ionol, 	Used as aphrodisiac, sedative, diuretic, expectorant, laxative, demulcent, anti-inflammatory, astringent,	[36], [4]

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-hydroxy-3-methoxy- • Abutilin A, • Adenine, • Adenosine, • Aurantiamide acetate, • Methyl 4-hydroxyphenylacetate, • Methyl indole-3-carboxylate, • Methylcoumarate, • Methylparaben, • N-feruloyl tyrosine, • Riboflavin, • (R)-N-(1'-Methoxycarbonyl-2'-phenylethyl)-4-hydroxybenzamide, • Scoparone, • Scopoletin, • Stigmasterol, • Syringaldehyde, • Thymine, • trans-cinnamic acid methyl ester, • trans-<i>p</i>-coumaric acid, • Vanillic acid, • Vanillin, • β-Sitosterol, 	anthelmintic, leprosy, analgesic, ulcers, gonorrhea, headaches and bladder infection.	
	Dicot	Malvaceae	Cheeseweed, Little mallow	Throughout India	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-Methyl Triacontane, • 5α-Stigmast-9(11)-en-3β-ol, • Malvasterone 	Used as emollient, and treats sores, boils, swellings, coughs, ulcers in bladder, anti-dandruff, promote hair growth and soften hairs.	[37], [4]
<i>Sida cordifolia</i> L.	Dicot	Malvaceae	Bala, Country mallow	Throughout tropical and subtropical regions of India	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betaine, • Choline, • Ephedrine, • Hypaphorine, • S-(+)-Nb-methyl tryptophan methyl ester, 	Used to treat asthma, tuberculosis, swine flu, bronchial colds, headaches, lack of perspiration, chills, nasal congestion, cough, wheezing, sore	[4], [81]

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vasicine, • Vasicinol, • Vasicinone, • β-Phenethylamine, • ψ-Ephedrine 	mouth, urinary infections, facial paralysis, heart disease, stroke, tissue pain and swelling, chronic rheumatism, unwanted weight loss, increase urine production, aphrodisiac, erectile dysfunction, allergy, sinus problems and throat diseases.	
<i>Acalypha indica L.</i>	Dicot	Euphorbiaceae	Kuppaimaeni, Indian copperleaf, Indian copperleaf, India acalypha, Kucing Galak	Throughout the plains of India, ascending hills in Orissa	Leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acalyphine, • Triacetoneamine 	Used to treat asthma, bed sores, headache, earache, ulcers, diuretic, bronchitis, pneumonia, purgative, anti-bacterial, anthelmintic, anti-fungal, gum problems, stomach aches, rheumatism, hernia, scabies and skin diseases.	[32], [4]
	Dicot	Euphorbiaceae	Hajarmani, Knocha	Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu	Leaves, seeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linoleic acid, • Linolenic acid, • Myristic acid, • Oleic acid, • Palmitic acid, • Stearic acid 	Used as carminative, diuretic, liver tonic, expectorant, diaphoretic and astringent.	[4]
<i>Taraxacum campylodes</i> G.E.Haglund	Dicot	Asteraceae	Dandelion	North America, Europe, China	Leaves flower, roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glucocorticoids, • Arachidonic acid 	Used to treat inflammation, diuretic, kidney and liver cleanser.	[38]

								
<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i> (Schumach.) Heine	Dicot	Acanthaceae	Hygrophila, Temple plant,Marsh,B arbel	India,Sri Lanka,Burma, Malaysia and Nepal	Roots, seeds and aerial parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23-ethyl cholesta-11(12)-dien-3β-ol, • 23-ethyl cholesta-23(24)-dien-3β-ol • 25-Oxohentriacontyl acetate, • Apigenin, • Arabinose, • Asteracanthicine, • Asteracanthine, • Betulin, • Hentriacontane, • Histidine, • Hygosterol, • Leutolin, • Linoleic acid, • Lupeol, • Lysine, • Methyl 8-n-hexyltetracosanoate, • Myristic acid, • Oleic acid, • Palmitic acid, • Phenylalanine, • Stearic acid, • Stigmastereol, • Syringic acid, • Vanillic acid, • β-Sitosterol, 	Used to treat stone of the urinary bladder and diuretic	[22], [82]
								

	Dicot	Cleomaceae	Fringed spider flower	Tropical Africa, Asia, the Americas and West Indies	Leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,5-Hexandien-3-ol , • 3,5-Dimethyl-1,2,4-Trithiolane, • 3,7,11-Trimethyldodeca-1,6,10- Triene, • 3-Methyl-2-Methylbutanitrile, • Arachidic acid, • Benzyl isothiocyanate, • Carotol, • Eicosenoic acid, • Linoleic acid, • Linolenic acid, • Oleic acid, • Palmitic acid, • Santene, • Stearic acid, • Z-Myroxide, • β-Eudesmol , • Δ-Cadinene 	Used to treat ear problems, anti-helminthic and carminative.	[39], [40]
	Monocot	Amaranthaceae	Chaff-flower, prickly chaff flower, devil's horsewhip	Tropical world	Seeds, roots, shoots and leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-Pentatriacontane, • Hexatriacontane, • Bisdesmosidic Saponins (I-III), • Ecdysterone, • Oleanolic acid, • Pentatriacontane, • Saponins C (I) & D(II), • Tritriacontane 	Used to treat gastro-intestinal disorders, labor pain, anti-allergic and diuretic.	[41], [42]
	Dicot	Asteraceae	Kakronda, Blumea,Jangli Muli, Pilo Kapurio,Tamr achuda	Malay Islands, Australia, China, Tropical Africa,north-west india	Roots, leaves, whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (25R)-3β-{O-β-D-glucopyranosyl-(1\rightarrow4)-O-α-L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1\rightarrow4)-[O-α-L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1\rightarrow2)]-α-L-rhamnopyranosyl}-22-α-N-spirosol-5-ene, • Allo-ocimene, • Copaene, • Estragole • Linalool, • γ-Elemene , • γ-Terpinene 	Used to treat cough, bronchitis, dysentery, wound healing, atherosclerosis, diabetes, neurological diseases and hypertension.	[43] [83]

<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill.	Dicot	Cryophyllaceae	Chickweed, chickenwort, snow in the summer, starwort	Europe, Africa, America	Aerial parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linoleic acid, • β-Carotene 	Used to treat asthma, congestive, contact dermatitis, diaper rash, inflamed joint, minor skin irritation, varicose ulcers, diuretic and demulcent.	[44]
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> L.	Dicot	Asteraceae	Gordaldo, nose bleed, devil's nettle, oldman's pepper	Temperate region of north America, New Zealand, Australia	Leaves, flower, stem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamazulene, • Isovaleric acid, • Salicylic acid, • β-Cadinol 	Used to treat common cold, dysentery, diarrhea, toothache, cramp, stop bleeding, intestinal gas and anti-inflammatory.	[45]
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L.	Dicot	Convolvulaceae	Bindweeds, possession vine, corn bind	Temperate region of the world	Leaves, flower, stem, roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arachidic acid, • Behenic acid, • Caffeic acid, • Calystegins, • Campesterol • Chlorogenic acid , • Convovulin, • Cuscohygrine, • Esculetin • Ferulic acid • Gentisic acid, • Kaempferol-3-O-α-L-rhamnoside, • Kaempferol-7-O-β-D-glucoside, • Kaempferol -3-O-β-D-glucoside, • Kaempferol-3-O-β-D-galactorhamnoside • Kaempferol-7-O-rutinoside, • Kaempferol-3-O-α-L-rhamnosyl, • Linoleic acid, • Linolenic acid, • Oleic acid, 	Enhances immune function, diuretic, laxative and strongly purgative, fevers, anti-hemorrhagic, relieve intestinal and uterine pain and acute hepatitis.	[46]

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmitic acid , • <i>p</i>-Coumaric acid, • Protocatechic acid, • Quercetin , • Quercetin-3-O-α-L-rhamnoside, • Rutin, • Scopoletin, • Scopoletin-7-O-glucoside • Stearic acid, • Stigmasterol • Syringic acid, • Umbelliferone , • Vanillic acid, • α-Amyrin, • β-Methylesculetin, • β-Sitosterol 		
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.) Medik.	Dicot	Brassicaceae	Shepherd's purse,shepherd's sprout	Europe,through out the temperate parts	Seeds, leaves,roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butylamine, • Butyl isothiocyanate 	Used to treat bleeding piles, diarrhea, dysentery, colorless discharge, chorea, asthma, dropsy, bronchitis and intermittent fever.	[47]
								
<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f.	Dicot	Malvaceae	Wireweed, Vernacular, Morning mallow	Throughout the world	Roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-Phenethylamine, • Betaine, • Choline, • Ephedrine, • Hypaphorine, • S-(+)-N_b,N_b-Dimethyltryptophan methyl ester, • Vasicine, • Vasicinol, • Vasinone, • ψ-Ephedrine 	Used as hepatoprotective, anti-arthritis, gonorrhea, musculoskeletal diseases, anti-tumor, and anti-HIV.	[48], [84]
								
<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Dicot	Amaranthaceae	Spiny amaranth, spiny pigweed,prick	Asia, Africa, Europe, the Pacific region and Australia	Whole plant (leaf, stem,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferulic acid, • Gallic acid, • <i>p</i>-Coumaric acid, • Salicylic acid, 	Used to treat eczema, broken bone, gonorrhea, colic, piles and dermatitis.	[49]

			ly amaranth or thorny amaranth		roots)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinapic acid • Syringic acid, • Vanilic acid, 		
<i>Amaranthus dubius</i> Mart. ex Thell.	Dicot	Amaranthaceae	Red spinach, Chinese spinach	Native to South America and introduced to Asia, Europe and Africa	Roots, plant sap	Not reported	Used to treat broken bone and internal bleeding.	[50]
	Dicot	Scrophulariaceae	Licorice weed	India: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Odisha, Manipur, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh; America	roots, leaves and tops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-epi-7α-hydroxydulcinodal-13-one, • 4-epi-7α-O-acetyl scoparic acid A, • 7α-Hydroxyscopadiol, • 7α-O-acetyl-8,17β-epoxyscoparic acid A, • Dulcinodal-13-One, • Neo-Dulcinol 	Used as anti-viral, and anti-tumour agent.	[51]
<i>Spermacoce</i> <i>ocymoides</i> Burm.f.	Dicot	Rubiaceae	Purple Leaved Button Weed	America, Asia, Europe and Africa	Roots, leaves, whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borreline, • Borrerine, • Borreverine , • Dehydroborrecapine, • Isoborreverine, • Spermacoecine, • Tetrahydroisoquinoline 	Used as hepatoprotective, treats malaria, hemorrhage, headache, diarrhea, skin diseases, urinary and respiratory infections, fever, inflammation of eye and gums.	[52]
<i>Cyanthillium cinereum</i> (L.) H.Rob.	Dicot	Asteraceae	Little iron weed	North America, South America, Africa, Asia	Seed, leaves,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3R)-3- hydroxy-ionone, • 8α-(2-methylacryloyloxy)- hirsutinolide-13-O-acetate, • 8α-(2-methylacryloyloxy)-hirsutinolide, • 8α-(2'Z-tigloyloxy)-hirsutinolide, 	Used as diuretic, analgesic, and anti- pyretic,anti-bacterial; used for treatment conjunctivitis, fever,	[53], [84]

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8α-(2'Z-tigloyloxy)-hirsutinolide-13-O-acetate, • 8α-(4-hydroxytigloyloxy)-hirsutinolide, • 8α-hydroxy-13-O-tigloyl-hirsutinolide • 8α-hydroxyhirsutinolide, • 8α-tigloyloxyhirsutinolide, • 8α-tigloyloxyhirsutinolide-13-O-acetate, • Apigenine, • Dihydroxy-9-octa Decanoic acid • Isololiolide, • Loliolide, • Vernolic acid, • Vernolide-A, • Vernolide-B 	rheumatism, malaria fever, worms, pain, inflammation, cancer, abortion, and various gastrointestinal ailments.	
<i>Tridax procumbens</i> (L.) L. 	Dicot	Asteraceae	Dhaman grass, tridax daisy	tropical, subtropical, and mild temperate region	Leaves, flower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (E)-Anethole, • (E)-α-Ionone, • (E)-β-Damascenone, • (E)-β-Ionone, • (Z)-Falcarinol, • (Z)-β-Curcumen-12-ol, • Cedr-8(15)-en-9-α-ol • cis-Myrtanol, • Cyclopentadecanolide, • epi-Longipinanol, • Humulene epoxide II, • Limonene, • Linalool, • Methyl chavicol, • n-Tricosane, • trans-Dihydrocarvone, • trans-Vertocitra, • Zerumbone, • α-Eudesmol, • α-Humulene , • α-Selinene, • α-Terpineol, • β-Acoradiene, • β-Bisabolene , • β-Pinene oxide 	Exhibits anti-inflammatory, hepatoprotective, wound healing, anti-microbial, anti-septic, hypotensive and bradycardiac effects.	[54], [85]

<i>Mikania cordata</i>	Dicot	Compositae	Bitter vine	North, Central, and South America	Young shoot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dihydromikanolide, • Dioxymikanolide, • Methoxy benzoic acid, • Mikanolide, • Scandenolide Dihydroscandenolide 	Used to treat gastric pain, ulcer, fresh wounds and cuts.	[55]
								
<i>Richardia brasiliensis</i>	Dicot	Rubiaceae	Tropical Mexican clover, Brazilian calla-lily, white-eye, and Brazil pusley	South America, Hawaii, Indonesia, Japan, Florida and Thailand	leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isorhamnetin-3-O-rutinoside, • m-Methoxy-p-hydroxy-benzoic acid, • Oleanic acid, • Oleanolic acid, • Scopoletin, • Stigmasterol, • Ursolic acid, • β-sitosterol 	Cure for eczema, treatment of boils.	[39] [86], [87]
								
<i>Mimosa pudica L.</i>	Dicot	Mimosaceae	Touch-me-not plant , shame plant, sensitive plant,	America, Australia, India	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,7,3',4'-teteahydroxy-6-C-[β-D-apiose-(1\rightarrow4)]-β-D-glucopyranosyl flavone, • 5,7,4'-trihydroxyl-8-C-β-D-glucopyranosyl flavones, • D-Pinitol, • β-Sitosterol 	Used to treat hemothermia, piles, diarrhea, persistent dysentery ulcers, and wounds, gynecological disorders, sinus and sores.	[56], [88]
								
<i>Agastache rugosa</i>	Dicot	Lamiaceae	Korean mint, as blue licorice, purple giant hyssop, Indian mint, wrinkled giant hyssop,banga	Russian, Korea China, Japan, Taiwan, and Vietnam.	Seed, leaves, whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-Allylanisole, • Acacetin, • Apigenin, • Apigenin 7-Glucoside, • Bicyclogermacrene, • Cadina-4,9-diene, • Germacrene B, • Spatulenol, • Carvacrol, 	Used to treat digestive system, poor digestion, reduced vitality,anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, aromatic, carminative, diaphoretic, febrifuge and stomachic,abdominal	[57], [89], [90]
								

- Caryophyllene oxide,
- Caryophyllene,
- cis- α -Farnesene,
- Cuminic alcohol, Thymol,
- D-Limonene,
- Elixene,
- Estragole,
- Germacrene D,
- Aromadendrene,
- iso-Ledene,
- L-Carveol,
- L-Carveol,
- Linalool,
- Methyl eugenol,
- Methyl hexadecanoate,
- Pachypodol, Rosmarinic Acid,
- *p*-Anisaldehyde
- Protocatechuic acid,
- Pulegone,
- Pulegone,
- Tilianin,
- trans-*p*-Methoxycinnamaldehyde,
- Ursolic acid,
- Viridiflorol,
- α -Cadinol,
- α -Cubebene,
- α -Caryophyllene,
- α -Farnesene,
- α -Murolene,
- α -Pinene,
- α -Terpineol,
- β -Bourbonene,
- β -Caryophyllene,
- Trans-*p*-Methoxycinnamaldehyde,
- β -Elemene,
- β -Pinene,
- β -sitosterol,
- γ -Murolene,
- γ -Terpinene,
- δ -Cadinene,

bloating, indigestion,
nausea and vomiting.

						• τ -Muurolol,		
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i> 	Dicot	Asclepiadaceae	Tropical milkweed,blo odflower blood flower,cotton bush, hierba de lacucaracha, Mexican butterfly weed, redhead,scarle t milkweed, and wildipecacuan ha	Southern North America, Central America, South America.	Leaves, root, flower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acetyl-β-Glucosaminidase, • Asclepin, • Calactin, • Calotropin, • Coroglucigenin, • Oleanolic acid, • Uzарigenin, • Uзarin and their free genins, • α-Galactosidase, • β- Sitosterol, • β-Fucosidase 	Treats vomiting, used as laxative, treats pneumonia and pleurisy and other lung problems, treat ringworm and used stop bleeding, reduce fevers, constipation, venereal disease, kidney stones, asthma and cancer.	[58], [47]
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> 	Dicot	Asteraceae.	Wild quinine, American feverfew and eastern feverfew	USA, Texas to New York	Leaves, roots, flowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acetylated monoglyceride, • Eicosapen • Gelatin, • Polyoxyethylene-Sorbitan, • Taenoic acid • γ-Linolenic acid 	Treats fevers, coughs, and sore throats,anti-bacterial, anti-septic and immunostimulant.	[59]
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> 	Dicot	Asteraceae	Carrot grass, congress grass or Gajar Ghans. famine weed	Throughout the world	Roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anisic acid, • Caffeic acid, • Chlorogenic acid, • Ferulic acid, • Germacrene-D, • Parthenin, • trans-β-ocimene, • Vanillic acid, • β-Myrcene, • ρ-Coumaric acid 	Treats skin inflammation, rheumatic pain, diarrhoea, urinary tract infections, dysentery, malaria neuralgia,a sthma, bronchitis and contact dermatitis.	[4], [19], [20], [60]

<i>Conyza Canadensis</i>	Dicot	Asteraceae	Canadian fleabane	Native to North America and spread to Europe, Asia and Australia	Leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (E)-β-Ocimene, • 4E,8Z-matricaria-γ-lactone, • 4Z,8Z-matricaria-γ-lactone, • 9,12,13-trihydroxy-10(E)-octadecenoic acid, • Apigenin, • cis-L-achnophyllum ester, • Conyzapryanone A, • Conyzapryanone B, • Epifriedelanol, • Eugenyl-β- primeveroside, • Friedeline, • Germacrene D, • Herpene, • Limonene, • Luteolin, • Matricaria ester, • Quercetin, • Scutellarin, • Simiarenol, • Spinasterol, • Stigmasterol, • Taraxerol, • Trans-matricaria Ester, • β-Sitosterol, 	Used as diuretic, tonic, astringent and anti-hypertensive agent.	[61], [91], [92], [93]
								
<i>Uncaria tomentosa</i>	Dicot	Rubiaceae	cat's claw	Tropical of South and Central America,North	stem bark, leaves and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alloisopteropodine, • Allopteropodine, • Catechin, • Dihydrocorynantheine, 	Used to treat inflammation of the digestive tract, intestinal ulcers,	[62], [20], [21]

				America and Europe	branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epicatechin, • Epigallocatechin gallate , • Epigallocatechin, • Hirsutine, • Isomitraphylline, • Isomitraphylline, • Isopteropodine, • Isorhynchophylline, • Mitraphylline, • Mitraphylline, • Oleanolic-acid, • Pteropodine, • Rhynchophylline, • Speciophylline, • Uncarine E, • Uncarine F, • Ursolic acid 	hemorrhoids, parasites, chronic fatigue and leaky bowel syndrome, chicken pox and shingles.	
	Dicot	Pedaliaceae	Grapple plant, wood spider, devil's claw,	North American, southern Africa, South Africa	Whole plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-acetylacteoside, • 6-diacylacteoside, • 6'-O-acetylacteoside, • 8-cinnamoylmyporoside, • 8-feruloylharpagide, • 8-p-coumaroylharpagide, • Acteoside, • Algophytum, • Caffeic acid, • cinnamic acid, • Isoacteoside, • Pagoside, • Ticlopidine 	Used to treat gout, high cholesterol, loss of appetite, muscle pain, migraine headache, skin injuries, upset stomach and back pain.	[63]
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Dicot	Asteraceae	Feverfew, featherfew, altamisa, bachelor's button	Australia, Europe, China, Japan, and North Africa	Leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-Epicannin, Epoxyartemorin, • 1-β-Hydroxyarbusculin, 3-β-Hydroxycostunolide, • 3,4- β-Epoxy-8-deoxycumambrin, • 3-β-Hydroxypartenolide, • 8-β- Hydroxyreynosin, • 9-Epipectachol Canin, • Costunolide, 	Treats rheumatoid arthritis, fevers, migraine headaches, insect bites, stomach aches, tooth aches infertility, and gynaecological problems.	[64]

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epoxysantamarine, • Manolialide, • Reynosin, • Santamarine, • Secotanaparthenolide A, • Secotanaparthenolide B, • Tanaparthin-α-peroxide, • Tanetin 		
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Dicot	Lamiaceae	ground-ivy, creeping charlie, cats foot, field balm, alehoof, tunhoof,	Ireland and northern Scotland, Japan, Europe	Leaves and roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3'-O-methyl-rosmarinic acid, • 7S,7'S,8R,8'R-iциол A2-9-O-β-D-glucopyranoside, • 4-allyl-2-hydroxyphenyl 1-O-β-D-apiosyl-(1\rightarrow6)-β-D-glucopyranoside, • Apigenin 7-O-β-D-glucuronopyranoside, • benzyl-4'-hydroxy-benzoyl-3'-O-β-D-glucopyranoside, • Cistanoside E, • Cymaroside, • Cosmosyn, • Dihydrodehydrodiconiferyl alcohol- 4-O-β-D-glucopyranoside, • Ethyl rosmarinate, • Hyperoside, • Isoquercetin, • Luteolin-7-Diglucoside, • Luteolin 7-O-β-D-glucopyranoside, • Methyl isoferuloyl-7-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl) lactate, • Methyl rosmarinate, • n-Nonacosane, • Oleanolic acid, • Rosmarinic acid • Ursolic acid, • β-Sitosterol, • β-Ursolic acid 	Used to treat colds, coughs, congestion, kidney diseases, gastrointestinal and respiratory tract problems, indigestion, inflammation of the eyes, kidneys and urinary tract, fever, and flu.	[65], [96], [97], [98]
<i>Leonurus cardiac</i>	Dicot	Labiatae	Lion's tail, heartwort; Agripaume, Herbe	Throughout the world	Aerial part, seeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caffeic acid, • Leonuridin, • Leonurine, 	Used to treat blood pressure, anxiety, menopause, pains and calms the nerves,sore	[66]

			battudo, Løvehale			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leonurinine,• Stachydine	or tired eyes diuretic, anti-spasmodic, anti-rheumatic.	
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Results and conclusions:

The objective of the present review is to discuss the medicinal properties of selected weeds who are mostly thought of as useless. This report comprises 49 species of medicinally important weeds belonging to different families. Asteraceae was the most dominant family with 17 species, followed by malvaceae (4 species) and amaranthaceae (4 species), followed by poacece, fabaceae and rubiacece (3 species), followed by lamiaceae and euphorbiaceae (2 species), followed by acanthceae, asclepiadaceae, brassicaceae, cleomaceae, compositae, convolvulaceae, cryophyllaceae, euphorbiaceae, labiateae, lamiaceae, mimosaceae, pedaliaceae and scrophulaiaeae (1 species). Various ailments which were treated using these plants were mentioned in this review in a tabulated form. Certain previous studies have also revealed that these plants contains different bioactive compound such as polyphenolics, alkaloids [69], [70], flavoniods, glycosidessteroids, resins, saponins [71], glycosides, tannins, terpinoids and fatty acids that are able to cure number of diseases and disorders of human health [72], [73]. Various weed plants were used for diabetes treatments with an increase in the demand for natural remedies [74].

Focusing on the view that rapid loss of biodiversity and traditional uses of weed plants, there is an urgent need to record the data of medicinally important weed species. This recorded data will definitely help for recognition of ignored and threatened medicinal weeds and their conservation strategies. People must be aware of their medicinal importance, hence innovative research should be carried out or certain workshops, tutorials, programs or missions should be organized by government authorities in order to disseminate the medicinal value of important weed flora for their conservation and to fill the gap between economy, farmers and weeds. Furthermore, the use of phytochemicals obtained from weed plants requires clinical trials or standardization.

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