

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Characterizing the structural and physicochemical properties of medicinal plants as a proposal for treating of viral malady

Fatemeh Mollaamin^{1,2}

¹ Department of Food Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Kastamonu University, Kastamonu 37100, Turkey; smollaamin@gmail.com

² Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Kastamonu University, Kastamonu 37100, Turkey

ABSTRACT

Regarding coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, this research article wants to study some herbals as the probable therapy for this disease. *Cinnamon leaves*, *curcuma longa* (turmeric), *ginger*, *mentha pulegium* (pennyroyal), *rosemary*, *salvia divinorum* and *thyme* including some principal chemical compounds of cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinatorina A and thymol, respectively, as a probable anti COVID-19 receptor have been selected. The possible roles of these medicinal plants in COVID-19 treatment have been carried out through quantum sensing methods. Formation of hydrogen bonding between principal substances selected in COVID-19 natural drugs bound to Tyrosine-Methionine-Histidine (Tyr-Met-His) or (TMH) (the database amino acids fragment) as the active area of the COVID-19 protein has been evaluated. In fact, it has been exhibited the role of oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen atoms in the active sites of these anti-virus medications towards hydrogen bonding in the active site of "TMH" protein. The physical and chemical attributes of nuclear magnetic resonance, vibrational frequency, the highest occupied molecular orbital energy and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital energy, partial charges and spin density and have been accomplished using density functional theory (DFT) method and 6-311+G (2d,p) basis set by Gaussian 16 revision C.01 program toward the industry of drug design. This research has exhibited that there is a relative agreement among the results that these medicinal plants could be efficient against COVID-19 symptoms.

Keywords: molecular modeling; medicinal plant; COVID-19; Tyr160-Met161-His162

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 30 June 2023

Accepted: 25 August 2023

Available online: 31 August 2023

COPYRIGHT

Copyright © 2023 by author(s).

Trends in Immunotherapy is published by EnPress Publisher, LLC. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

1. Introduction

Pandemic coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a serious malady caused by a new coronavirus known as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV-2). There is non-trustworthy remedy or vaccine accessible to fight versus SARS-CoV-2^[1-6]. More attempts to probe for antiviral agents against COVID-19 are essential, while phytochemicals can be powerful solution. On top of exhibiting direct antiviral effects, medicinal plants with reported anti-inflammatory activities may have pleiotropic roles in COVID-19 management as the elevation of inflammatory markers^[7-11]. Moreover, it has been discovered that a detrimental change in COVID-19 epidemiology should be existed as a (variant of concern) VOC, and the WHO has determined Omicron variant (B.1.1.529 as a VOC).

Local treatment in rural zones keeps its importance as the primary procedure in the usual seasonal maladies like colds and flu. The most important reason for herbs and medicinal plant treatment is the belief that it will influence health. The natural products from medicinal plants are therefore bringing hope to consisting of

phytocompounds which can either kill the SARS-CoV-2 or interfere its replication or make human body immunity strong to fight against.

Recently, antibodies have been almost all produced in human cells, transformed animal cells, and these are platforms that require a lot of equipment, which are very long to set up. Many plant-based antibodies can respond very quickly to the emergence of new variants of COVID-19. The emergence of a new coronavirus, known as the SARS-CoV-2 has initiated a pandemic of COVID-19. Since its first reported case in Wuhan, China in December 2019, new discovered evidence by both clinicians and researchers globally have helped shed some light on the disease pathogenesis and the nature of the virus itself. The availability of new information subsequently fed policy changes on transmission prevention strategies as well as development of preventative vaccines and therapeutic drug candidates. Enforced physical distancing, hand hygiene, and arguably proper usage of personal protective equipment including wearing a surgical mask remains the most effective way of controlling the spread of the disease, with most countries which adopted such measures reporting some success in curbing the disease spread^[12-19].

In the research of phytomedicine, it is common to observe multiple pharmacological properties from a single plant. It is now well understood that a single plant may contain a wide range of phytochemicals, making ethnopharmacology research both full of possibilities yet challenging.

Ćavar Zeljković and his co-workers have indicated that the essential oils from *Mentha aquatica* L. cv. *Veronica*, *Mentha pulegium* L., *Mentha microphylla* K.Koch, *Mentha x villosa* Huds., *Micromeria thymifolia* (Scop.) Fritsch, and *Ziziphora clinopodioides* Lam., and their monoterpenecomponents, carvone, carvacrol, pelugone, menthofuran, and 1,8-cineole exhibited notable antiviral activity against SARS-CoV-2^[20].

New investigations have approved the medicinal advantages of *turmeric* for liver diseases, diabetes, cancer, respiratory diseases, AIDS and Alzheimer's disease. Therefore, the *turmeric* might have the powerful impact against COVID-19. Many therapeutic influences of the natural polyphenol, curcumin, have been exhibited such as potential chemotherapeutic, antioxidant, antiviral, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory properties^[21]. In fact, curcumin can appear a high-affinity for interaction with the S glycoprotein through the establishment of six hydrogen bonds. Moreover, docking results have indicated that curcumin interacted with the active site of the protein, in addition to forming two hydrogen bonds^[22].

Thymol (2-isopropyl-5-methylphenol) relates to the phenolic monoterpenes and exists in *thyme* specie which is one of the main compounds of *thyme* essential oil. They have been used in traditional medicine as expectorant, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, antibacterial, and antiseptic agents, in the remedy of the upper respiratory system^[23-26].

The pharmacological impacts of *ginger* are related to its terpene and phenolic compounds. The *ginger*-extracted phenolic ingredients consist of gingerols, paradols, shogaols, and zingerone. The major pungent compounds of fresh *ginger* are gingerols. Gingerols have anticancer activity, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antiangiogenesis, anti-metastasis, antimicrobial, antifungal, neuroprotective, antiemetic and antihyperlipidemic effects^[27,28].








Scientific researches approve that *cinnamon* can be a potent anti-inflammatory, antioxidant functional food and might be fruitful in mitigation of SARS-CoV-2 induced hyper inflammation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the patients request for consumption of *cinnamon* powder as prophylactic functional food against SARS-CoV-2^[29-31].

Herbal of *rosemary* as a natural antioxidant removes reactive oxygen species from tissues, enhances expression on Nrf2 gene and decreases inflammation by inhibiting production of pro-inflammatory cytokines. Furthermore, rosmarinic acid in *rosemary* extract has positive impacts on renin-angiotensin-system. This

medicinal plant influences respiratory system by decreasing inflammation, oxidative stress, and muscle spasm^[32–34].

In the work, it has been studied cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol as the probable anti-COVID-19 receptor extracts from herbals containing *cinnamon leaves*, *curcuma longa* (turmeric), *ginger*, *mentha pulegium* (pennyroyal), *rosemary*, *salvia divinorum* and *thyme* (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Cynnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol as the anti-COVID-19 receptor extracts from herbals: *cinnamon leaves*, *curcuma longa* (turmeric), *ginger*, *mentha pulegium* (pennyroyal), *rosemary*, *salvia divinorum* and *thyme*.

Component	Image	Species	Symptoms of COVID-19 which can be treated by the medicinal plants ^[35]
Cynnamil		<i>Cinnamon</i>	Anorexia, skin rash
Curcumin		<i>Turmeric</i>	Muscle-joint pain
Gingerol		<i>Ginger</i>	Cough
Pulegone		<i>Mentha</i>	Nausea-vomiting, headache
Rosmarinic acid		<i>Rosemary</i>	Shortness of breath, decreased blood oxygen level, muscle-joint pain
Salvinorina A		<i>Salvia divinorum</i>	Sore throat, shortness of breath
Thymol		<i>Thyme</i>	Fever

Based on this research, it can be estimated the occasions for discovering the efficient medication against COVID-19 using quantum mechanics computations to measure the effect of hydrogen bonding in the variety of junction with these seven natural drugs' components of cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol binded to the active area of COVID-19 virus^[36–41] (**Figure 1**).

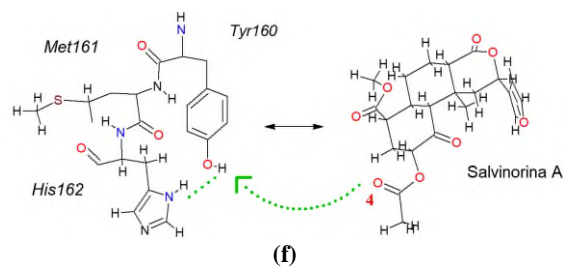
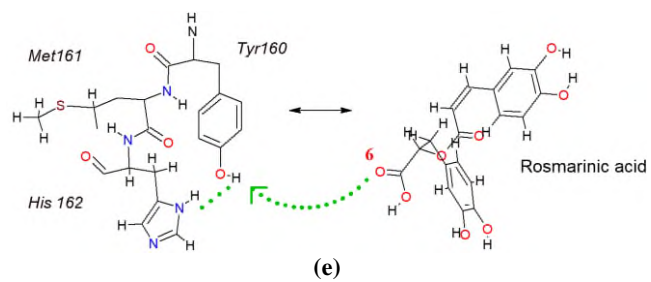
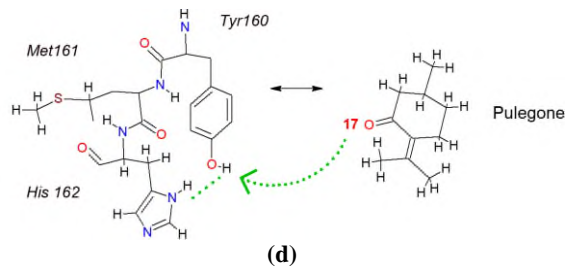
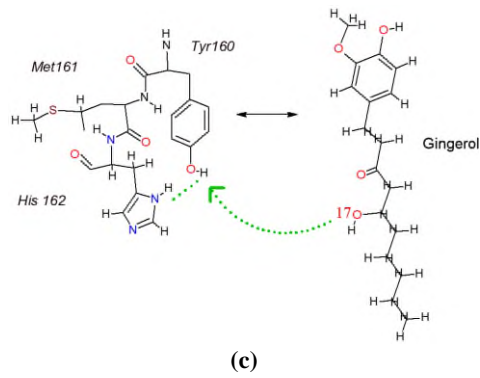
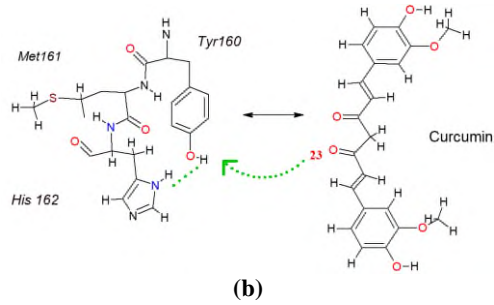
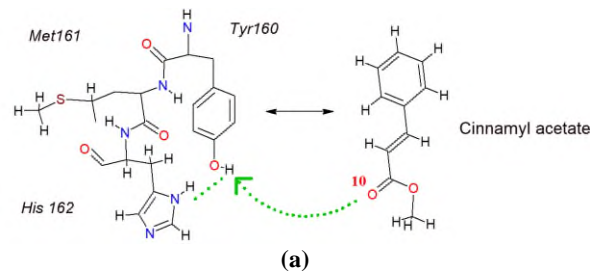


Figure 1. (Continued).

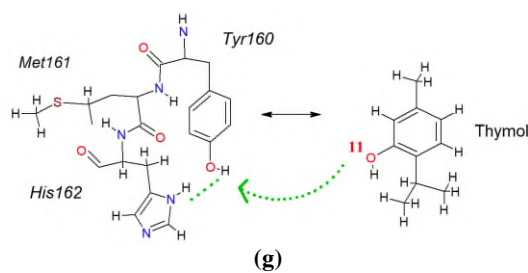


Figure 1. The junction of (a) cinnamil; (b) curcumin; (c) gingerol; (d) pulegone; (e) rosmarinic acid; (f) salvinorina A; and (g) thymol to TMH (Tyr160-Met161-His162) by hydrogen bonding. The sequence of hydrogen bond are as follows: $g > e > c > a > f > b > d$.

Recently, several traditional medicinal plants including *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, *Nigella sativa*, *Curcuma longa*, *Tinospora cordifolia* and *Withania somnifera* with high potential in modulating the main protease (Mpro) activity and cytokine storm in coronavirus disease infection have indicated remedial impacts on COVID-19 patients^[42].

2. Material and method

Cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol have been attached to the active area of COVID-19 compounds which approves the existence of hydrogen bonds toward resistant complexes. Therefore, quantum mechanics approaches with m062x/cc-pvdz pseudo=CEP function for complexes of seven inhibitors for COVID-19 has been accomplished. The favorable coordination of the optimized substances of phenolic natural drug joint to Tyr160-Met161-His162 with IR spectroscopy using the Gaussian 16 revision C.01 program package^[43] has been measured due to the DFT method and m062x/cc-pvdz pseudo=CEP level of theory. The (Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof) “PBE” functional with high-precision generalized gradient approximation “GGA” has been employed to achieve more authentic results^[44].

It has been exhibited that polarization functions into the employed basis set in the calculation always remark us a magnificent prosperity on the simulation and modeling in the drug design industry^[45–52]. Frequency achievement is the finding of harmonic potential wells by analytic procedures which keep the activity of all atoms at the same time in the vibration time scale conducting to an inherent illustration of vibrations in molecules^[53–57].

Thus, the geometry optimization of coordination in medicinal extracts-TMH agents based on the drug design has been found from the active area of certain atoms of “O”, “N” and “H” in the attachment of bond angle and torsion angle values (Table 2 and Figure 1a–g).

For carrying out a firm compound of natural medication attached to COVID-19 active site, chemical shift of nuclear magnetic resonance, vibrational frequency and intensity of the normal modes have been commutated with the “QM” methods, and the original vibrational modes have been analyzed^[58–63].

The computational measurements have been carried out in variety of theoretical levels to profit the more precise balance geometrical amounts and infrared spectral information for each of the indicated substances. It is assumed that a further diffuse and polarization functions into the basis set employed in the calculation direct us to the high evolution on the results of methodical approaches^[64–67].

The different approaches in modeling and simulation exhibit the path which can generate a usual model at a particular temperature by evaluating all physical and chemical attributes based on the partition function amounts^[68–76].

Table 2. The geometry optimization amounts with m062x/cc-pvdz pseudo=CEP for cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol binded to active site of COVID-19 protein through the drug design approach.

Medicinal extracts—COVID-19 active area	Bond length	(Å)	Bond/Torsion angle	(°)
Cynnamil acetate	N71–H72	1.03	N71–H72–O10	177.85
	H72–O10	0.99		
	O10–C9	1.42	N71–H72–O10–C9	139.37
Curcumin	N96–H97	1.03	N96–H97–O23	178.49
	H97–O23	0.99		
	O23–C9	1.42	N96–H97–O23–C9	110.09
Gingerol	N95–H96	1.03	N95–H96–O17	178.00
	H96–O17	0.99		
	O17–C11	1.40	N95–H96–O17–C11	–128.61
Pulegone	N49–H50	1.03	N49–H50–O72	176.66
	H50–O72	0.99		
	O72–C57	1.41	N49–H50–O72–C57	172.37
Rosmarinic acid	N91–H92	1.03	N91–H92–O6	174.51
	H92–O6	0.99		
	O6–C5	1.40	N91–H92–O6–C5	–176.79
Salvinorina A	N105–H106	1.03	N105–H106–O4	178.66
	H106–O4	0.99		
	O4–C2	1.41	N105–H106–O4–C2	99.43
Thymol	N73–H74	1.03	N73–H74–O11	175.09
	H74–O11	0.99		
	O11–C4	1.37	N73–H74–O11–C4	–168.33

3. Results and discussion

Nuclear magnetic resonance or “NMR” shifts for Tyr160-Met161-His162 through the database of amino acids in beta sheet conformation and four certain extracts of natural medications containing cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol have been evaluated to discover the exhibited of oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen in the active sites of these anti-virus medications through the production of hydrogen bonding by representing the reaction area of “TMH” agent (**Figure 2a–f**).

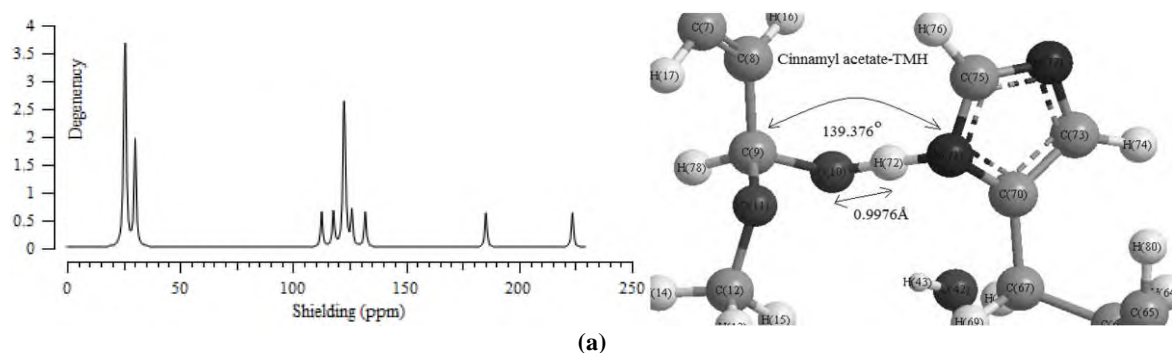


Figure 2. (Continued).

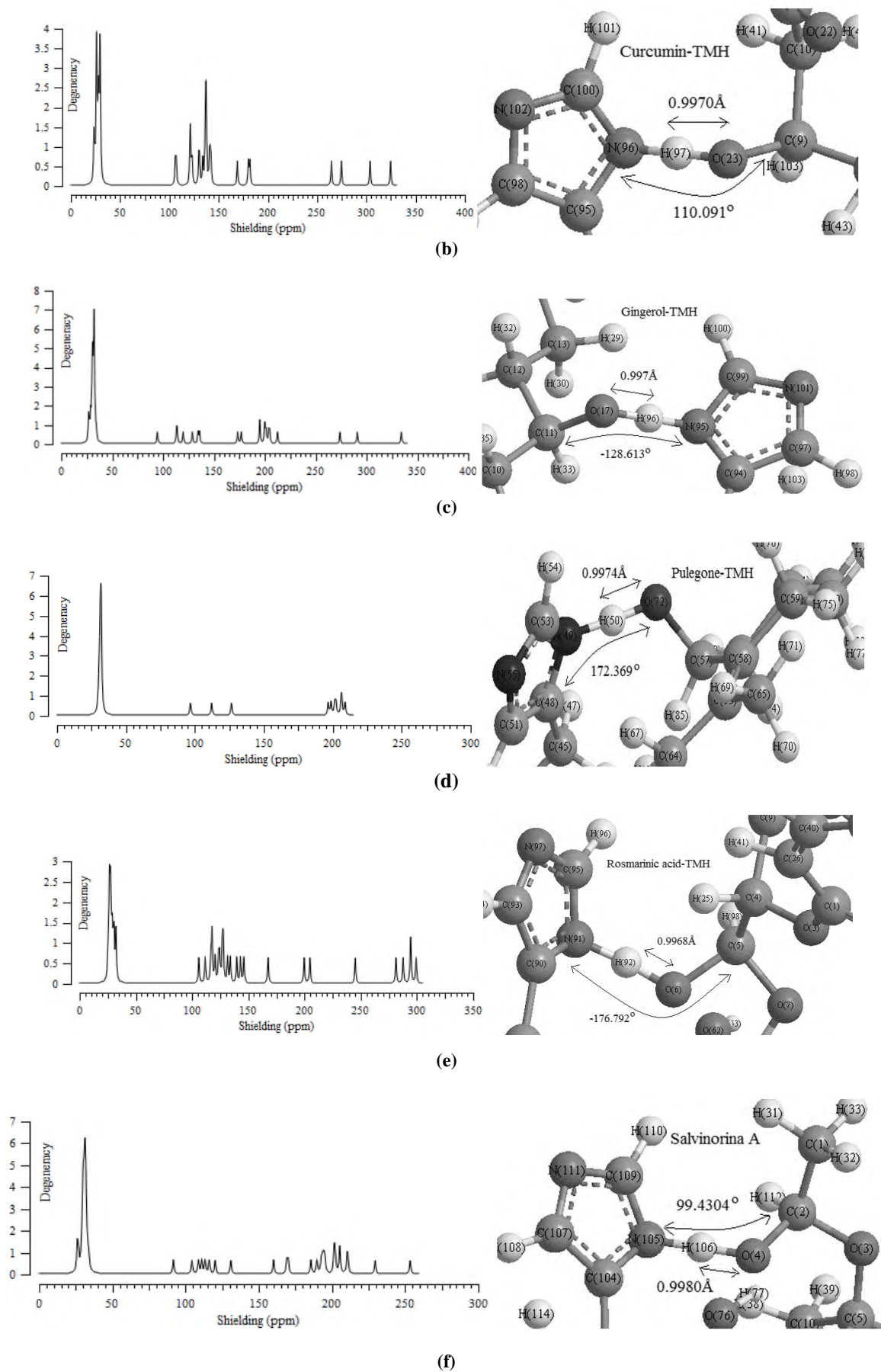


Figure 2. “NMR” spectroscopy for (a) cinnamil acetate; (b) curcumin; (c) gingerol; (d) pulegone; (e) rosmarinic acid; (f) salvinatorina A binded to “TMH” COVID-19 active area through the drug design approach.

NMR properties have denoted the critical points of essential extracts of pharmaceutical kinds for attaching to the Tyr160-Met161-His162 (TMH) in producing the anti-virus medications while each critical atom of “O” and “N” as the electronegative atoms for jointing to the hydrogen has remarked the major changing in the “NMR” graphs (Figure 2a–f).

The technique of infrared (IR) for main ingredients of medicinal plants including cynamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol have been calculated for fixing the intersection of Tyr160-Met161-His162 as the COVID-19 medication through the drug design approach applying “IR” spectroscopy using Gaussian 16 revision C.01 program to obtain the best amounts for geometrical coordination and thermochemical parameters. Then, thermodynamic properties have distinguished the resistant anti-COVID-19 agent complexes of principal extracts of pharmaceutical kinds of “TMH” through the hydrogen bonding constitution employing the drug design framework (Table 3).

Table 3. Physical and thermochemical properties of cynamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol jointed to COVID-19 active site (TMH) complexes at 300 K.

Component-COVID-19 active site	$E_{\text{electronic}} \times 10^{-4}$ (kcal.mol ⁻¹)	$E_{\text{core-core}} \times 10^{-4}$ (kcal.mol ⁻¹)	$\Delta G \times 10^{-4}$ (kcal.mol ⁻¹)	ΔS (kcal.K ⁻¹ .mol ⁻¹)	$T\Delta S \times 10^{-4}$ (kcal/K ⁻¹ .mol ⁻¹)
Cynamil acetate	-167.07	151.18	-15.88	529.81	15.89
Curcumin	-267.14	245.21	-21.93	731.67	21.95
Gingerol	-244.84	225.18	-19.66	655.03	19.65
Pulegone	-175.39	159.96	-15.43	514.44	15.43
Rosmarinic acid	-268.87	246.53	-22.34	744.48	22.33
Salvinorina A	-330.98	307.19	-23.79	792.74	23.78
Thymol	-166.91	151.62	-15.28	509.72	15.29

In cynamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol attached to Tyr160-Met161-His162 through its database of amino acids in beta sheet conformation, as the critical point of COVID-19 protein compound in the procedure of drug design steps, the thermodynamic properties of pharmaceutical extracts-TMH complexes have been discovered to be significantly distinct through the resistance of hydrogen bonding organized between critical point of COVID-19 agent and pharmaceutical extracts which establishes the anti-COVID-19 medication (Table 3 and Figure 3).

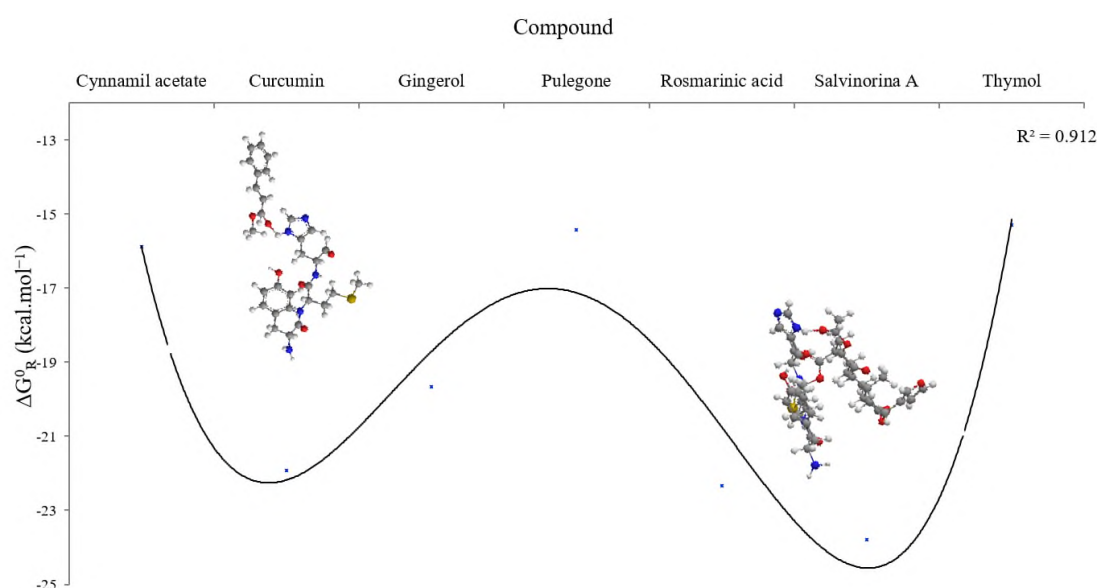


Figure 3. (Continued).

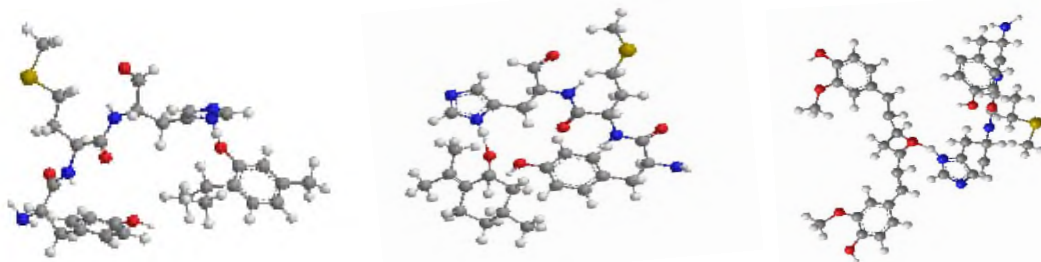


Figure 3. ΔG°_R for the stable anti-COVID-19 complexes of cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol jointed to TMH through the H-bonding formation using the drug design method.

Moreover, the heat formation (ΔH°_f) for cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol jointed to COVID-19 has been discussed the H-bonding due to the database of amino acids in beta sheet conformation; Tyr160-Met161-His162 ($\Delta H^{\circ}_{TMH} = 25.8242 \times 10^4 \text{ kcal.mol}^{-1}$) as the active site of the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529 molecule. Finally, the reaction heat formation ΔH°_R have been calculated as follows (**Table 4, Figure 4**):

$$\Delta H^{\circ}_R = \Delta H^{\circ}_{f(X-TMH)} - (\Delta H^{\circ}_{f, TMH} + \Delta H^{\circ}_{f, X}),$$

where X is cinnamil acetate, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A, thymol.

Table 4. The heat of formation, ΔH°_f (kcal.mol^{-1}), ΔH°_R (kcal.mol^{-1}) among cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol jointed to COVID-19 active site (TMH) complexes at 300 K.

$\Delta H^{\circ}_f \times 10^{-4}$	$\Delta H^{\circ}_f \times 10^{-4}$	$\Delta H^{\circ}_R \times 10^{-4}$
Cinnamil acetate -29.6736	Cinnamil acetate-TMH 66.9460	-25.8146
Curcumin 115.3026	Curcumin-TMH 192.8237	-25.8165
Gingerol -145.3195	Gingerol-TMH -70.9553	-25.8168
Pulegone -48.9909	Pulegone-TMH 21.7634	-25.8172
Rosmarinic acid 355.7935	Rosmarinic acid-TMH -107.7616	-25.8706
Salvinorina A -218.2009	Salvinorina A-TMH -134.8384	-25.8159
Thymol -28.9166	Thymol-TMH 53.7594	-25.8160

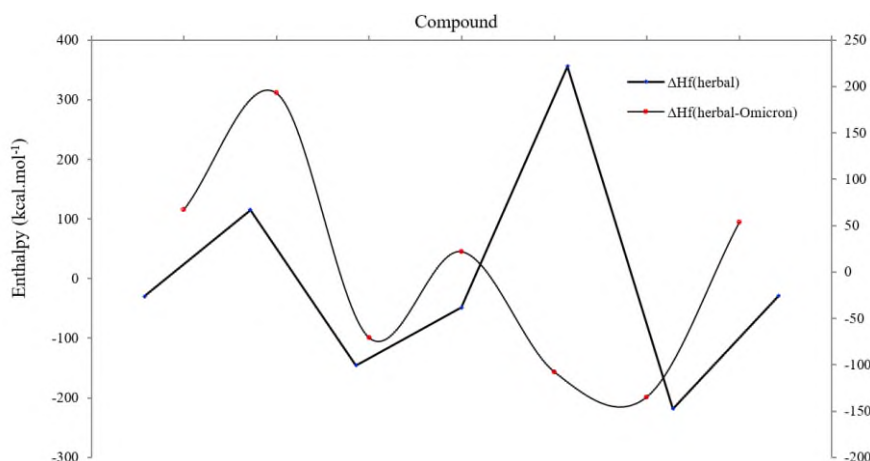


Figure 4. The difference of ΔH_f among cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol jointed to COVID-19 active site (TMH) complexes at 300 K.

In cinnamyl acetate, gingerol, pulegone, and thymol linked to the database of amino acids in beta sheet conformation, as the active site of COVID-19 protein (Tyr160-Met161-His162) in the process of drug design, the frequency and intensity of different infrared (IR) normal modes of medicinal components-TMH complexes have been discovered to be significantly distinct through the stability of H-bonding formed between active site of COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529 and medicinal ingredients which prove the anti-COVID-19 variant (**Table 5** and **Figure 5**).

Table 5. Cinnamyl acetate, gingerol, pulegone and thymol as anti-COVID-19 drugs in distinct normal modes of infrared spectrums.

Inhibitor	Normal mode	Frequency (cm ⁻¹)	Intensity (km.mol ⁻¹)	Dipole (Debyes)
Cinnamyl acetate	234	3680.71	115.4354	5.034
Gingerol	109	1943.71	67.268	4.291
Pulegone	248	3424.38	829.8741	5.439
Thymol	236	3275.85	4169.9663	8.826

In **Table 5**, it has been shown that intermolecular force of a hydrogen bond forms a special type of dipole-dipole attraction when the hydrogen atom in the active site of “TMH” protein bonded to a strongly electronegative atom becomes in the vicinity of another electronegative atom with a lone pair of electrons in gingerol, cinnamyl acetate, pulegone and thymol with dipole moment of 4.291, 5.034, 5.439 and 8.826 debye, respectively.

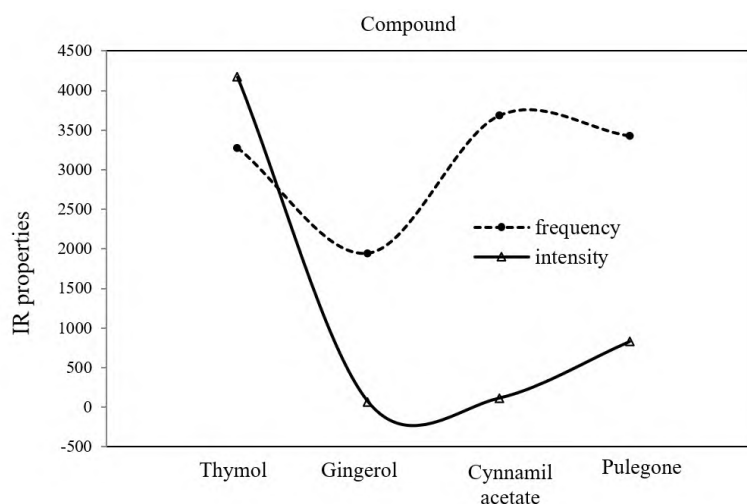


Figure 5. “IR” properties for the phytochemicals of cinnamyl acetate, gingerol, pulegone and thymol anti-COVID-19 drugs.

In this part, the atomic charge of certain atoms of “O” attachment of cinnamyl, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol with Tyr160-Met161-His162 agent has been measured in the critical point of hydrogen bonding existence (**Table 6**).

In **Table 6**, it has been sketched the alterations of “Q” of indicated “O” atoms for optimized molecules of cinnamyl, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorina A and thymol attached to Tyr160-Met161-His162 agent due to existence of hydrogen bonding. Thus, the consequences of **Table 6** in a polar area have notified the consistency of COVID-19 medications which have been accomplished considering the oxygen as the electronegative atoms in growth of the hydrogen bonding using the drug design insight which has proposed the modeling of anti-COVID-19 drug. In fact, hydrogen bonding is a weak force present in polar compounds when the H atom attached to the more electronegative atom having a lone pair of electron. This leaves a partial positive charge on H atom and a partial negative charge on electronegative atom. So, it is observed that the electronegativity of an atom is related to its ability to pull the electron towards itself in covalent bond and this power to pull electrons depends on the size of atom. The results in this article have

manifested that medicinal plants and phytochemicals can have a considerable function due to their substantial antiviral activity against COVID-19 and other coronaviruses. Cinnamyl, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorin A and thymol extracted from *cinnamon leaves*, *curcuma longa* (*turmeric*), *ginger*, *mentha pulegium* (*pennyroyal*), *rosemary*, *salvia divinorum* and *thyme*, respectively, were identified through in-silico molecular modeling by using DFT screening. Identified natural phytochemicals revealed to be potential in exhibiting antiviral activities by disrupting the viral life cycle including viral entrance, replication, assembly, and discharge, as well as virus specific host targets. Thus, this prompt increasing of pharmaceutical industry focused on phytochemical extracts from medicinal plants, and aromatic herbs in the hopes of discovering lead compounds, with purposeful to antiviral medications.

Table 6. The amounts of atomic charge (Q) for indicated “O” atoms in the linkage of cinnamyl, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinorin A and thymol to Tyr160-Met161-His162.

Cinnamyl acetate	Q (e)	Curcumin	Q (e)	Rosmarinic acid	Q (e)
O10	-0.39	O20	-0.19	O2	0.14
O11	-0.24	O21	-0.24	O3	-0.20
		O22	-0.3473	O6	-0.37
		O23	-0.3482	O7	-0.28
		O24	-0.2328	O16	-0.23
		O25	-0.2122	O17	-0.24
				O33	-0.22
				O34	-0.22
Thymol	Q (e)	Gingerol	Q (e)	Salvinorin A	Q (e)
O11	-0.26	O17	-0.31	O3	-0.20
		O18	-0.30	O4	-0.38
		O19	-0.17	O12	-0.23
		O20	-0.23	O13	-0.36
Pulegone	Q (e)			O20	-0.29
O17	-0.34			O22	-0.24
				O25	-0.33
				O28	-0.04

Moreover, a research has compared the total phenolic (TPC), flavonoid (TFC), radical scavenging and cytotoxic activities in the aqueous methanolic extracts of *Angelica sinensis*, *Dioscorea polystachya*, *Ginkgo biloba*, *Glycyrrhiza uralensis* and *Lycium barbarum* with two dietary plants of *Brassica oleracea* and *Zingiber officinale* that all of them were considered inactive and safe for consumption^[77]. For instance, the effect of *Peperomia pellucida* (L.) Kunth as the medicinal plant on the inflammatory illnesses such as conjunctivitis, and gastrointestinal and respiratory tract disorders in tropical and subtropical regions^[78].

Moreover, it has been evaluated the bioactive compounds in *Peperomia pellucida* (L.) Kunth with liquid-liquid partitioning method and compare their anti-glycaemic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and anti-glycation potential in different solvent fractions^[79].

Another investigation has approved the pharmacological activities of anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, antioxidant and anti-glycation potential for the phenolic compounds, flavonoid, tannin, saponin, alkaloid in the plant fractions^[80]. They have shown that ethyl acetate fraction exhibited relatively high anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, antioxidant and anti-glycation potential while the non-toxic methanolic and aqueous fractions exhibited high hyaluronidase and lipoxygenase inhibitory activities, respectively^[80].

4. Conclusion

Medicinal plants of *cinnamon leaves*, *curcuma longa* (turmeric), *ginger*, *mentha pulegium* (pennyroyal), *rosemary*, *salvia divinorum* and *thyme* are puissant to adhere the database amino acids segment of Tyr160-Met161-His162 agent as the appointive area of the COVID-19 through exhibiting the alteration in their frequency and intensity spectrums after approximation by “NMR” approach which are influenced by the atomic configuration of the anti-virus macromolecule. The resistance of hydrogen bonding between several pharmaceutical extracts of cinnamil, curcumin, gingerol, pulegone, rosmarinic acid, salvinatorina A, thymol and COVID-19 through the constitution of anti-COVID-19 through two possibilities of [N^{····}H] and [O^{····}H] with distinct atomic charges have been inquired using “IR” approaches. Therefore, the thermodynamic attributes of Gibbs free energy, enthalpy of formation, electronic energy, core-core interaction can authorize the consistency of anti-COVID-19 due to hydrogen bonding foundation using the drug design framework. Here, we used the network pharmacology, metabolite analysis, and molecular simulation to comprehend the biochemical basis of the health-boosting impact of medicinal plants. The present study investigates the drug ability, metabolites and potential interaction of the title tea with genes associated with COVID-19-induced pathogenesis. Altogether, the evidence presented in this work supports the notion that medicinal plants have promising therapeutic potential, especially in the case of herb products against viral infections.

Acknowledgments

In successfully completing this paper and the research behind it, the author is grateful to Kastamonu University for their support through the office, library, and scientific websites.

Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

References

1. Alomair L, Mustafa S, Jafri MS, et al. Molecular dynamics simulations to decipher the role of phosphorylation of SARS-CoV-2 nonstructural proteins (nsps) in viral replication. *Viruses* 2022; 14(11): 2436. doi: 10.3390/v14112436
2. Plavec Z, Domanska A, Liu X, et al. SARS-CoV-2 production, purification methods and UV Inactivation for proteomics and structural studies. *Viruses* 2022; 14(9): 1989. doi: 10.3390/v14091989
3. Monajjemi M, Shahriari S, Mollaamin F. Evaluation of coronavirus families & COVID-19 proteins: Molecular modeling study. *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry* 2020; 10(5): 6039–6057. doi: 10.33263/BRIAC105.60396057
4. Yarovaya OI, Shcherbakov DN, Borisevich SS, et al. Borneol ester derivatives as entry inhibitors of a wide spectrum of SARS-CoV-2 viruses. *Viruses* 2022; 14(6): 1295. doi:10.3390/v14061295
5. Shahriari S, Monajjemi M, Mollaamin F. Determination of proteins specification with SARS-COVID-19 based ligand designing. *Journal of the Chilean Chemical Society* 2022; 67(2): 5468–5476. doi: 10.4067/S0717-97072022000205468
6. Majeed A, Zhang X. On the adoption of modern technologies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic: A technical synthesis of latest developments. *COVID* 2023; 3(1): 90–123. doi: 10.3390/covid3010006
7. Bonaccorsi G, Pierrri F, Cinelli M, et al. Economic and social consequences of human mobility restrictions under COVID-19. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 2020; 117(27): 15530–15535. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2007658117
8. Barakat A, Mostafa A, Ali M, et al. Design, synthesis and in vitro evaluation of spirooxindole-based phenylsulfonyl moiety as a candidate anti-SAR-CoV-2 and MERS-CoV-2 with the implementation of combination studies. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* 2022; 23(19): 11861. doi: 10.3390/ijms231911861
9. Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Thermodynamic research on the inhibitors of coronavirus through drug delivery method. *Journal of the Chilean Chemical Society* 2021; 66(2): 5195–5205. doi: 10.4067/S0717-97072021000205195
10. Sardar T, Nadim SS, Rana S, Chattopadhyay J. Assessment of lockdown effect in some states and overall India: A predictive mathematical study on COVID-19 outbreak. *Chaos, Solitons & Fractals* 2020; 139: 110078. doi: 10.1016/j.chaos.2020.110078

11. Mollaamin F, Shahriari S, Monajjemi M. Treating omicron BA.4 & BA.5 via herbal antioxidant asafoetida: A DFT study of carbon nanocarrier in drug delivery. *Journal of the Chilean Chemical Society* 2023; 68(1): 5781–5786. doi: 10.4067/S0717-97072023000105781
12. Zeng F, Huang Y, Guo Y, et al. Association of inflammatory markers with the severity of COVID-19: A meta-analysis. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* 2020; 96: 467–474. doi: 10.1016/j.ijid.2020.05.055
13. Mollaamin F. Physicochemical investigation of anti-COVID19 drugs using several medicinal plants. *Journal of the Chilean Chemical Society* 2022; 67(2): 5537–5546. doi: 10.4067/S0717-97072022000205537
14. Jamal QMS. Antiviral potential of plants against COVID-19 during outbreaks—An update. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* 2022; 23(21): 13564. doi: 10.3390/ijms232113564
15. Remali J, Aizat WM. A review on plant bioactive compounds and their modes of action against coronavirus infection. *Frontiers in Pharmacology* 2021; 11: 589044. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2020.589044
16. Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Application of DFT/TD-DFT frameworks in the drug delivery mechanism: Investigation of chelated bisphosphonate with transition metal cations in bone treatment. *Chemistry* 2023; 5(1): 365–380. doi: 10.3390/chemistry5010027
17. Capell T, Twyman RM, Armario-Najera V, et al. Potential applications of plant biotechnology against SARS-CoV-2. *Trends in Plant Science* 2020; 25(7): 635–643. doi: 10.1016/j.tplants.2020.04.009
18. Mollaamin F. Function of anti-CoV structure using INH [1-6]-Tyr160-Met161-His162 complex. *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry* 2021; 11(6): 14433–14450. doi: 10.33263/BRIAC116.1443314450
19. Bibi S, Khan MS, El-Kafrawy SA, et al. Virtual screening and molecular dynamics simulation analysis of Forsythoside A as a plant-derived inhibitor of SARS-CoV-2 3CLpro. *Saudi Pharmaceutical Journal* 2022; 30(7): 979–1002. doi: 10.1016/j.jsps.2022.05.003
20. Čavar Zeljković S, Schadich E, Džubák P, et al. Antiviral activity of selected lamiaceae essential oils and their monoterpenes against SARS-Cov-2. *Frontiers in Pharmacology* 2022; 13: 893634. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2022.893634
21. Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M, Mohammadi S. Physicochemical characterization of antiviral phytochemicals of *artemisia annua* plant as therapeutic potential against coronavirus disease: In silico-drug delivery by density functional theory benchmark. *Journal of Biological Regulators and Homeostatic Agents* 2023; 37(7): 3629–3639. doi: 10.23812/j.biol.regul.homeost.agents.20233707.358
22. Maurya VK, Kumar S, Prasad AK, et al. Structure-based drug designing for potential antiviral activity of selected natural products from ayurveda against SARS-CoV-2 spike glycoprotein and its cellular receptor. *VirusDisease* 2020; 31: 179–193. doi: 10.1007/s13337-020-00598-8
23. Kosakowska O, Bączek K, Przybył JL, et al. Morphological and chemical traits as quality determinants of common Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* L.), on the example of ‘standard winter’ cultivar. *Agronomy* 2020; 10(6): 909. doi: 10.3390/agronomy10060909
24. Bendif H, Peron G, Miara MD, et al. Total phytochemical analysis of *Thymus munbyanus* subsp. *coloratus* from Algeria by HS-SPME-GC-MS, NMR and HPLC-MSⁿ studies. *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* 2020; 186: 113330. doi: 10.1016/j.jpba.2020.113330
25. Elbe H, Yigitturk G, Cavusoglu T, et al. Apoptotic effects of thymol, a novel monoterpene phenol, on different types of cancer. *Bratislava Medical Journal/Bratislavske Lekarske Listy* 2020; 121(2): 122–128. doi: 10.4149/BLL_2020_016
26. Kowalczyk A, Przychodna M, Sopata S, et al. Thymol and Thyme essential oil—New insights into selected therapeutic applications. *Molecules* 2020; 25(18): 4125. doi: 10.3390/molecules25184125
27. Kiyama R. Nutritional implications of ginger: Chemistry, biological activities and signaling pathways. *The Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry* 2020; 86: 108486. doi: 10.1016/j.jnutbio.2020.108486
28. Mao QQ, Xu XY, Cao SY, et al. Bioactive compounds and bioactivities of ginger (*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe). *Foods* 2019; 8(6): 185. doi: 10.3390/foods8060185
29. Ghosh D. A cinnamon-derived procyanidin type—A compound: A potential candidate molecule against coronaviruses including COVID-19. *Journal of Ayurveda Case Reports* 2020; 3(4): 122–126. doi: 10.4103/jacr.jacr_89_20
30. Lucas K, Fröhlich-Nowoisky J, Oppitz N, Ackermann M. Cinnamon and hop extracts as potential immunomodulators for severe COVID-19 cases. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 2021; 12: 589783. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2021.589783
31. Prasanth DSNBK, Murahari M, Chandramohan V, et al. *In silico* identification of potential inhibitors from Cinnamon against main protease and spike glycoprotein of SARS CoV-2. *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics* 2020; 39(13): 4618–4632. doi: 10.1080/07391102.2020.1779129
32. de Oliveira JR, Camargo SEA, de Oliveira LD. *Rosmarinus officinalis* L. (rosemary) as therapeutic and prophylactic agent. *Journal of Biomedical Science* 2019; 26(1): 5. doi: 10.1186/s12929-019-0499-8
33. Nieto G, Ros G, Castillo J. Antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*, L.): A Review. *Medicines* 2018; 5(3): 98. doi: 10.3390/medicines5030098
34. Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Carbon nanotubes as biosensors for releasing conjugated bisphosphonates—Metal ions in bone tissue: Targeted drug delivery through the DFT method. *C* 2023; 9(2): 61. doi: 10.3390/c9020061

35. Akbulut S. Medicinal plants preferences for the treatment of COVID-19 symptoms in Central and Eastern Anatolia. *Kastamonu University Journal of Forestry Faculty* 2021; 21(3): 196–207. doi: 10.17475/kastorman.1048372
36. Dhama K, Natesan S, Yatoo MI, et al. Plant-based vaccines and antibodies to combat COVID-19: Current status and prospects. *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics* 2020; 16(12): 2913–2920. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2020.1842034
37. Nawrot-Hadzik I, Zmudzinski M, Matkowski A, et al. *Reynoutria* rhizomes as a natural source of SARS-CoV-2 Mpro inhibitors—Molecular docking and in vitro study. *Pharmaceuticals* 2021; 14(8): 742. doi: 10.3390/ph14080742
38. Dwarka D, Agoni C, Mellem JJ, et al. Identification of potential SARS-CoV-2 inhibitors from South African medicinal plant extracts using molecular modelling approaches. *South African Journal of Botany* 2020; 133: 273–284. doi: 10.1016/j.sajb.2020.07.035
39. Kulkarni SA, Nagarajan SK, Ramesh V, et al. Computational evaluation of major components from plant essential oils as potent inhibitors of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. *Journal of Molecular Structure* 2020; 1221: 128823. doi: 10.1016/j.molstruc.2020.128823
40. Shree P, Mishra P, Selvaraj C, et al. Targeting COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) main protease through active phytochemicals of ayurvedic medicinal plants—*Withania somnifera* (Ashwagandha), *Tinospora cordifolia* (Giloy) and *Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi)—A molecular docking study. *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics*. 2020; 40(1): 190–203. doi: 10.1080/07391102.2020.1810778
41. Nawrot J, Gornowicz-Porowska J, Budzianowski J, et al. Medicinal herbs in the relief of neurological, cardiovascular, and respiratory symptoms after COVID-19 infection A literature review. *Cells* 2022; 11(12): 1897. doi: 10.3390/cells11121897
42. Choe J, Yong PH, Ng ZX. The efficacy of traditional medicinal plants in modulating the main protease of SARS-CoV-2 and cytokine storm. *Chemistry & Biodiversity* 2022; 19(11): e202200655. doi: 10.1002/cbdv.202200655
43. Frisch MJ, Trucks GW, Schlegel HB, et al. Gaussian 16, revision C.01, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2016. Available online: <https://gaussian.com/> (accessed on 30 August 2023).
44. Perdew JP, Burke K, Ernzerhof M. Generalized gradient approximation made simple. *Physical Review Letters* 1996; 77(18): 3865. doi: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.77.3865
45. Bakhshi K, Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Exchange and correlation effect of hydrogen chemisorption on nano V(100) surface: A DFT study by generalized gradient approximation (GGA). *Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nanoscience* 2011; 8(4): 763–768. doi: 10.1166/jctn.2011.1750
46. Mahdavian L, Monajjemi M. Alcohol sensors based on SWNT as chemical sensors: Monte Carlo and Langevin dynamics simulation. *Microelectronics Journal* 2010; 41(2–3): 142–149. doi: 10.1016/j.mejo.2010.01.011
47. Mollaamin F, Shahriari S, Monajjemi M. Drug design of medicinal plants as a treatment of Omicron Variant (COVID-19 Variant B.1.1.529). *Journal of the Chilean Chemical Society* 2022; 67(3): 5562–5570. doi: 10.4067/S0717-97072022000305562
48. Monajjemi M, Noei M, Mollaamin F. Design of fMet-tRNA and calculation of its bonding properties by quantum mechanics. *Nucleosides, Nucleotides & Nucleic Acids* 2010; 29(9): 676–683. doi: 10.1080/15257771003781642
49. Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Harmonic linear combination and normal mode analysis of semiconductor nanotubes vibrations. *Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nanoscience* 2015; 12(6): 1030–1039. doi: 10.1166/jctn.2015.3846
50. Khaleghian M, Zahmatkesh M, Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Investigation of solvent effects on armchair single-walled carbon nanotubes: A QM/MD study. *Fullerenes, Nanotubes and Carbon Nanostructures* 2011; 19(4): 251–261. doi: 10.1080/15363831003721757
51. Sarasia EM, Afsharnezhad S, Honarparvar B, et al. Theoretical study of solvent effect on NMR shielding tensors of luciferin derivatives. *Physics and Chemistry of Liquids* 2011; 49(5): 561–571. doi: 10.1080/00319101003698992
52. Ghalandari B, Monajjemi M, Mollaamin F. Theoretical investigation of carbon nanotube binding to DNA in view of drug delivery. *Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nanoscience* 2011; 8(7): 1212–1219. doi: 10.1166/jctn.2011.1801
53. Tahan A, Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Thermochemistry and NBO analysis of peptide bond: Investigation of basis sets and binding energy. *Russian Journal of Physical Chemistry A* 2009; 83(4): 587–597. doi: 10.1134/S003602440904013X
54. Mollaamin F, Shahriari S, Monajjemi M. Monkeypox disease treatment by tecovirimat adsorbed onto single-walled carbon nanotube through drug delivery method. *Journal of the Chilean Chemical Society* 2023; 68(1): 5796–5801. doi: 10.4067/S0717-97072023000105796
55. Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Molecular modelling framework of metal-organic clusters for conserving surfaces: Langmuir sorption through the TD-DFT/ONIOM approach. *Molecular Simulation* 2023; 49(4): 365–376. doi: 10.1080/08927022.2022.2159996
56. Shahriari S, Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Increasing the performance of $\{(1-x-y) \text{LiCo}_{0.3}\text{Cu}_{0.7}\} (\text{Al and Mg doped}) \text{O}_2\}$, $x\text{Li}_2\text{MnO}_3$, $y\text{LiCoO}_2$ composites as cathode material in lithium-ion battery: Synthesis and characterization. *Micromachines* 2023; 14(2): 241. doi: 10.3390/mi14020241

57. McArdle S, Mayorov A, Shan X, et al. Digital quantum simulation of molecular vibrations. *Chemical Science* 2019; 10(22): 5725–5735. doi: 10.1039/C9SC01313j
58. Monajjemi M, Baie MT, Mollaamin F. Interaction between threonine and cadmium cation in $[\text{Cd}(\text{Thr})_n]^{2+}$ ($n = 1-3$) complexes: Density functional calculations. *Russian Chemical Bulletin* 2010; 59: 886–889. doi: 10.1007/s11172-010-0181-5
59. Zadeh MAA, Lari H, Kharghanian L, et al. Density functional theory study and anti-cancer properties of shyshaq plant: In view point of nano biotechnology. *Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nanoscience* 2015; 12(11): 4358–4367. doi: 10.1166/jctn.2015.4366
60. Mollaamin F. Computational methods in the drug delivery of carbon nanocarriers onto several compounds in Sarraceniaceae medicinal plant as monkeypox therapy. *Computation* 2023; 11(4): 84. doi: 10.3390/computation11040084
61. Hatada R, Okuwaki K, Mochizuki Y, et al. Fragment molecular orbital based interaction analyses on COVID-19 main protease-inhibitor N3 complex (PDB ID: 6LU7). *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling* 2020; 60(7): 3593–3602. doi: 10.1021/acs.jcim.0c00283
62. Peele KA, Chandrasai P, Srihansa T, et al. Molecular docking and dynamic simulations for antiviral compounds against SARS-CoV-2: A computational study. *Informatics in Medicine Unlocked* 2020; 19: 100345. doi: 10.1016/j.imu.2020.100345
63. Qiao Z, Zhang H, Ji HF, Chen Q. Computational view toward the inhibition of SARS-CoV-2 spike glycoprotein and the 3CL protease. *Computation* 2020; 8(2): 53. doi: 10.3390/computation8020053
64. Liang J, Pitsillou E, Karagiannis C, et al. Interaction of the prototypical α -ketoamide inhibitor with the SARS-CoV-2 main protease active site in silico: Molecular dynamic simulations highlight the stability of the ligand-protein complex. *Computational Biology and Chemistry* 2020; 87: 107292. doi: 10.1016/j.compbiolchem.2020.107292
65. Zheng Q, Yan C, Lv N, et al. Natural products for Omicron BA.1, BA.1.1 and BA.2 therapy: Application of medicinal plants for drug delivery: A DFT & QM/MM simulation. *Journal of Biological Regulators and Homeostatic Agents* 2023; 37(6): 3403–3416. doi: 10.23812/j.biol.regul.homeost.agents.20233706.337
66. Monajjemi M, Mollaamin F, Shojaei S. An overview on coronaviruses family from past to COVID-19: Introduce some inhibitors as antiviruses from Gillan's plants. *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry* 2020; 10(3): 5575–5585. doi: 10.33263/BRIAC103.5575585
67. Sharma A, Tiwari V, Sowdhamini R. Computational search for potential COVID-19 drugs from FDA-approved drugs and small molecules of natural origin identifies several anti-virals and plant products. *Journal of Biosciences* 2020; 45(1): 100. doi: 10.1007/s12038-020-00069-8
68. Wang S. Efficiently calculating anharmonic frequencies of molecular vibration by molecular dynamics trajectory analysis. *ACS Omega* 2019; 4(5): 9271–9283. doi: 10.1021/acsomega.8b03364
69. Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M, Salemi S, Baei MT. A dielectric effect on normal mode analysis and symmetry of BNNT nanotube. *Fullerenes, Nanotubes and Carbon Nanostructures* 2011; 19(3): 182–196. doi: 10.1080/15363831003782932
70. Ni W, Li G, Zhao J, et al. Use of Monte Carlo simulation to evaluate the efficacy of tigecycline and minocycline for the treatment of pneumonia due to carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. *Infectious Diseases* 2018; 50(7): 507–513. doi: 10.1080/23744235.2018.1423703
71. Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Transition metal (X = Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn)-doped graphene as gas sensor for CO₂ and NO₂ detection: A molecular modeling framework by DFT perspective. *Journal of Molecular Modeling* 2023; 29(4): 119. doi: 10.1007/s00894-023-05526-3
72. Aji GK, Hatou K, Morimoto T. Modeling the dynamic response of plant growth to root zone temperature in hydroponic chili pepper plant using neural networks. *Agriculture* 2020; 10(6): 234. doi: 10.3390/agriculture10060234
73. Wang J. Fast identification of possible drug treatment of coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) through computational drug repurposing study. *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling* 2020; 60(6): 3277–3286. doi: 10.1021/acs.jcim.0c00179
74. Khalili Hadad B, Mollaamin F, Monajjemi M. Biophysical chemistry of macrocycles for drug delivery: A theoretical study. *Russian Chemical Bulletin* 2011; 60: 238–241. doi: 10.1007/s11172-011-0039-5
75. Mollaamin F, Ilkhani A, Sakhaei N, et al. Thermodynamic and solvent effect on dynamic structures of nano bilayer-cell membrane: Hydrogen bonding study. *Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nanoscience* 2015; 12(10): 3148–3154. doi: 10.1166/jctn.2015.4092
76. Monajjemi M, Khaleghian M, Tadayonpour N, Mollaamin F. The effect of different solvents and temperatures on stability of single-walled carbon nanotube: A QM/MD study. *International Journal of Nanoscience* 2010; 9(5): 517–529. doi: 10.1142/S0219581X10007071
77. Ng ZX, Koick YTT, Yong PH. Comparative analyses on radical scavenging and cytotoxic activity of phenolic and flavonoid content from selected medicinal plants. *Natural Product Research* 2021; 35(23): 5271–5276. doi: 10.1080/14786419.2020.1749617

78. Ho KL, Yong PH, Wang CW, et al. *Peperomia pellucida* (L.) Kunth and eye diseases: A review on phytochemistry, pharmacology and toxicology. *Journal of Integrative Medicine* 2022; 20(4): 292–304. doi: 10.1016/j.joim.2022.02.002
79. Ho KL, Tan CG, Yong PH, et al. Extraction of phytochemicals with health benefit from *Peperomia pellucida* (L.) Kunth through liquid-liquid partitioning. *Journal of Applied Research on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants* 2022; 30: 100392. doi: 10.1016/j.jarmap.2022.100392
80. Ho KL, Ng ZX, Wang CW, et al. Comparative analysis of in vitro enzyme inhibitory activities and phytochemicals from *platycladus orientalis* (L.) franco via solvent partitioning method. *Applied Biochemistry Biotechnology* 2022; 194: 3621–3644. doi: 10.1007/s12010-022-03921-9