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Review on *Tagetes patula* Plant and its Pharmacological Activities



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ABSTRACT

Tagetes patula L (French marigold) is an ornamental plant and widely used in folk medicine. Different parts of the Tagetes species are used as remedies to treat various health problems, including dental, stomach, intestinal, emotional and nervous disorders, as well as muscular pain etc. The flowers and leaves of T. patula contains Triterpenoids, Alkaloids, Carotenoids, Thiophenes, Fatty acids, Tannins and Flavonoids as constituents. Antibacterial, Antifungal, Insecticidal, Antioxidant activity, Larvicidal, Antimicrobial, Antihyperglycemic, Antinociceptive activities have been reported. Therefore researchers are increasingly turning their attention to folk medicine looking for new leads to develop better drugs.





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INTRODUCTION

Tagetes (marigold) is native to America, and its cultivation currently extends to other countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Many species of this genus, such as *T. minuta, T. erecta, T. patula, and T. tenuifolia* are cultivated as ornamental plants and studied for their medicinal properties on the basis of their use in folk medicine. Different parts of the Tagetes species are used as remedies to treat various health problems, including dental, stomach, intestinal, emotional, and nervous disorders, as well as muscular pain.

The Tagetes marigolds, or the common decorative type, are indeed edible, although they do not possess medicinal properties. The fresh flowers may be added to salads or used as an edible garnish; they provide a bitter taste, which can be helpful to balance out an overly sweet dish. The Tangerine Gem and the Lemon Gem varietals are the best-tasting of the Tagetes.



Leaf

Figure No. 1: Tagetes patula plant Flower

TOXONOMICAL CLASSIFICATION

Synonyms:

Marigold, French marigold, African marigold (English) Sthulapushpa, sandu, ganduga (Sanskrit) Genda, gultera (Hindi) Genda (Bengal) Guljharo, Makhanala (Gujarat) Tangla, mentok, genda (Punjab).^[2]

SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION [2]

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Tracheophytes

Clade: Angiosperms

Clade: Eudicots

Clade: Asterids

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

Genus: Tagetes

Species: Tagetes patula

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Tagetes species vary in size from 0.1 to 2.2 m tall. Most species have pinnate green leaves. Blooms naturally occur in golden, orange, yellow, and white colors, often with maroon highlights. Floral heads are typically 4–6 cm diameter, generally with both ray florets and disc florets. In horticulture, they tend to be planted as annuals, although the perennial species are gaining popularity. They have fibrous roots. Depending on the species, *Tagetes* species grow well in almost any sort of soil. Most horticultural selections grow best in soil with good drainage, even though some cultivars are known to have good tolerance to drought.^[1]

Metabolites synthesized by plants belonging to the genus Tagetes show significant effects as antioxidants, enzyme inhibitors, precursors of toxic substances, and pigments. In addition, these bioactive compounds are involved in photosensitization and energy transfer, actions of plant Molecules, growth hormones and regulators, control of respiration and photosynthesis, and defense against parasites, bacteria, fungi, and some insects.

In some climates, it flowers from July to October. In its native habitat of the highlands of central Mexico, blooms are produced from September to killing frost. Achenes ripen and are within of shed two weeks the start of bloom. The heads contain mostly hermaphrodite (having male and florets both female organs) and are pollinated primarily by beetles in the wild, as well as by tachinid flies and other insects. The leaves of all species of marigold include oil glands. The oils are pungent. It requires growing in sunlight. Resists cold well to -1°C; from there it is sensitive to frost and does not develop in the shade.^[3]

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USES OF TAGETES PATULA

Tagetes is a multipurpose plant having ornamental, Ritual, medicinal, anthelmintic, insecticidal, colorant, food flavoring agents, and for- age applications.

- ➤ Healing properties of *Tagetes* species have been implemented by folk medicine for centuries.
- Flowers and entire herb of *Tagetes patula* are used for preparing ethnobotanical remedies against rheumatism, Eyewash, stomach and intestinal problems, kidney and hepatic disorders, fever, pneumonia and also used in refreshing drinks.
- Flowers are used as carminative, aromatic, digestive, diuretic and sedative.
- ➤ Decoction of flowers used to relieve flatulence, treatment of indigestion, colic, severe constipation, coughs, and dysentery.
- ➤ The methanolic extract of *Tagetes patula* florets shows activity against acute and chronic inflammation, and also having anti-oxidant activity.
- ➤ The leaves of *Tagetes patula* are applied on boils and carbuncles and used against kidney troubles, muscular pains, and piles. Their juice is prescribed for earache and ophthalmia.
- ➤ Paste of leaves applied to cuts and wounds as soon as possible after preparation. Leaves also applied to external bleeding.
- The leaves are having insecticidal activity and used in the preparation of natural repellent.
- ➤ Dried flowers used as adulterant of saffron, used for coloring foods yellow. Also used for coloring textiles.
- Secretions from roots have an insecticidal effect on the soil, against nematodes and keeled slugs.

CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS

The different parts of *Tagetes patula* (roots, leaves and flowers) are found to having phytochemicals like Terpenoids (essential oils), Flavonoids, Thiophenes.^[16]

The essential oil of *Tagetes patula* contains nearly 21 active ingredients, among them α -terthinyl, Pentatriacontane, 2-ethyl-dodecanol are major constituents. It also contains limonene, α -terpinolene, (*E*)- β -ocimene, β -caryophyllene, piperitone, and piperitenone.^[4]

Tagetes patula contains several flavonoids belonging into the group of flavonols like quercetin, quercetagetin, patuline, quercetin -3-glucoside, quercetin -7-glucoside, quercetin -3,7 –diglucoside, lutein.

The roots, shoots and flowers containsfour types of thiopheneslike 5-(4-hydroxy-1-butenyl)-2,2'-bithienyl, 5-(4-acetoxy-1-butenyl)-2,2'-bithienyl, 5-(3-buten-1-ynyl)-2,2'-bithienyl and 2,2': 5'2"-terthienyl.^[17]

The Tagetes genus is rich in aromatic compounds and resinous exudates.

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Terpinolene Caryophyllene Quercetin

$$H_3C \xrightarrow{CH_3} \xrightarrow{$$

Lutein

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIONS

• Antibacterial activity

Crude petroleum ether, methanol, and 70% methanol extracts of different parts of *T. patula* were tested against bacteria. Amongst the three extracts of aerial part, the petroleum ether extract was active against all the Gram-negative bacteria except *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The methanol and 70% methanol extract showed significant activity against *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Antibacterial activity against the *E. coli, Pasteurella multocida, B. subtilis*, and *S. aureus* strains, with *Tagetes patula* presenting inhibition zones with values.^[5]

• Antifungal activity

Antifungal activity of hexane and methanolic extracts of aerial parts and roots of *T. patula* was determined by the disk diffusion method on the Spores of the species *Ganoderma* lucidum and Alternaria alternata. [6]

• Insecticidal activity

The aqueous and methanolic extracts of leaves, stems and buds of *Tagetes patula* were reported for insecticidal activity against the second stage larvae of *Tylenchulus semipenetrans* and *Anguina tritici*.^[7]

Antioxidant activity

The essential oil of cultivated *Tagetes patula* L. flowers was obtained by hydro-distillation and analyzed by GC-MS. The volatile oil has a typically pungent odour and is amber red in colour. The main volatile oil is 2'-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH). Antioxidant activity was checked by 2,2'-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging method.^[8]

• Larvicidal activity

The petroleum ether extract of the roots of *Tagetes patula* exhibited toxicity against the third stage mosquito larvae of *Culex fatigans*.

The crude acetone extract (CAE) of defatted inflorescences of *Tagetes patula* was partitioned into five semipurified fractions: n-hexane, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate, n-butanol, and aqueous. CAE and the semipurified fractions were assayed for larvicidal activity against *Aedes aegypti*.^[9]

• Antimicrobial activity

The ethanolic extract of the aerial parts of *Tagetes patula* exhibited slight antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus subtilis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Proteus vulgaris*.^{[10][11]}

• Anti-hyperglycemic activity:

The methanol extract of *Tagetes patula* macerated stems, were evaluated for the anti-diabetic activity in mice. The blood glucose levels were measured by glucose oxidase method.^[12]

• Antinociceptive activity:

The methanol extract of *Tagetes patula* macerated stems, were evaluated for the Antinociceptive activity in mice. From the result, it was observed that the extract having Anti-nociceptive activity which relieves pain caused by physical damage at particular area of body. [12]

OTHER USES

Medicinal

From the literature it was identified that some of the other pharmacological activities were not yet reported, which were using in Ayurveda. For example, the plant parts like dried leaves or florets in the form of infusions was used to treat fungal infection and also using as pesticide against bedbugs.^{[13][14]}

Culinary

The dried and ground flower petals constitute a popular spice compatible with the flavours of cinnamon and cloves which was used in the preparation of spicy dishes.^[15]

Colouring

Tagetes patula florets are used to color human foods. A golden yellow dye is used to color animal-based textiles without a mordant, but a mordant is needed for cotton and synthetic textiles.^[15]

Fragrance

The flower and distilled for its essential oil used in perfumery. It is blended with sandalwood oil to produce 'attar genda' perfume.^[15]

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