Antiproliferative Activity of Green Process Synthesized *Epipremnum Aureum* **Silver Nanoparticles Against Breast Cancer Mcf-7 Cells**

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Breast cancer (BC) is one of the most severe cancers among women globally. Local recurrence of cancer after surgery is usually seen as a poor predictor of prognosis. Cancer treatment has been significantly transformed by the progress made in nanotechnology, and nanoparticles have emerged as pivotal components in this domain. Metal nanoparticles are produced using plant extract in green synthesis or eco-friendly techniques for the stabilizing and reducing substance. The current research study synthesizes silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) from Epipremnum aureum leaf extract using the green synthesis method and its evaluations using UV-Vis, FTIR, XRD, SEM, and EDX characterization techniques. The EA-AgNPs exhibit a significant absorption peak at wavelength 420 nm, which confirms the AgNP's presence by UV-visible spectrometer. FTIR spectrum reveals the strong band at 1586.020 cm-1 confirming the O-H group presence. The stretching and bending modes of vibration of the NO32- a sharp band represented molecule at 1382.987 cm-1 and a very tiny band at 1272.241, 1077.355 cm-1. The XRD spectrum exclusively showed Ag peaks, with no additional chemical contaminants, signifying the sample's purity, and the average particle size was 12.92 nm. MTT assay result observed high cytotoxic activity of EA-AgNPs against MCF-7 cells with IC50= 0.1106 µg/ml. This research study aims to preliminary investigate the in-vitro antiproliferative activity of green process synthesized Epipremnum Aureum silver nanoparticles (EA-AgNPs) against breast cancer cell line (MCF-7).

Keywords: Antiproliferative activity; Breast cancer; Green synthesis; MTT Assay; Silver nanoparticles.

Globally, breast cancer (BC) is the primary cause of cancer-associated mortality in women . Based on molecular markers for Human Epidermal Growth factor 2 (ERBB2) and estrogen receptors (ER), it is divided into three primary subtypes: ER-positive/ERBB2 negative (representing 70% of patients), ERBB2 positive (15–20%), and triple-negative (15%)^{1,2}. Chemoresistance induced

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by chemotherapy has become one of the most significant causes of chemotherapy failure and has been reported to increase frequently³. Recurrence is anticipated to occur in 40% of breast cancer patients, with the largest risk occurring within 1-3 years of reconstruction^{1,2}. As a result, a potential treatment that targets specific cancer cells is necessary. However, traditional chemotherapeutic treatments are non-target specific, induce side effects, and attack any rapidly dividing cell, including healthy ones, producing chronic toxicity. Additional adverse effects include mucositis, thrombocytopenia, and alopecia3,4.

The application of nanotechnology has benefited the early diagnosis and management of breast cancer. Various nanomaterials including nanofibers, liposomes, nanoparticles, and nano-capsules have been examined to inhibit breast cancer cell growth, recurrence, and postchemotherapy metastasis⁵. When compared to other conventional methods, sustainable metal oxide nanoparticle formulations have gained significant interest because of their several advantages, which include simple, easily available, cost-effective, non-toxic, and environmentally friendly^{6,7}. Metal nanoparticles synthesized using green synthesis or eco-friendly techniques use different parts of plant extracts such as seeds, leaves, stems, and fruit as reducing agents and stabilizers⁸. Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) gained popularity in nanomedicine because of their chemical stability and carcinogenic activities. Therefore, the green synthesis of nanoparticles may have benefits for therapeutic applications⁸. Prior research has demonstrated that AgNPs operate through the disruption of the mitochondrial electron transfer chain, producing reactive oxygen species (ROS), damage to DNA, and interruption of ATP synthesis. The toxicity of AgNPs is significantly influenced by the overproduction of reactive oxygen species (ROS), as cancer cells are more vulnerable to elevated ROS concentrations compared to healthy cells. Thus, through the elevation of ROS levels, anticancer drugs can trigger apoptosis in tumour cells. Through the Akt/PI3K pathway, AgNPs inhibit VEGF-induced cell proliferation, survival, and migration. Moreover, cancer cells are more vulnerable to the deleterious impacts of silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) in comparison to healthy $cells^{9,10}$.

The current study explored the application of *Epipremnum Aureum* (EA) leaves extract as a green chemistry method for fabricating AgNPs, where *E aureum* leaves serve as both a reducing and stabilizing agent and were thoroughly characterized. *E aureum*, a member of the *Araceae* family, is most often known as the Money Plant^{11,12}.

Various research findings have revealed that *E. aureum* plant extract or its other species posses various pharmacological activities including anti-inflammatory, anti-cataract, anticancer activities, etc. Table 1. represents the pharmacological activity of *E. aureum* plant extract. A research study by Srivastava and his coworkers revealed that the *E. pinnatum* chloroform extract showed significant inhibitory activity against T-47D carcinoma cells. The cell mortality mechanism indicates non-apoptotic and apoptotic cell mortality¹³.

In another study, *E. aureum* leaf extracts were evaluated for antioxidant and antiproliferative effects on MCF-7 and HepG2 cancer cells. Studies found that DPPH radicle scavenging was more effective than ABTS by 57.2 ± 2.1 µg/ml, FRAP, metal chelating value, and hydrogen peroxide was 51.6 \pm 3.4 µg/ml, 60.4 \pm 1.9 µg/ml, 49.6 \pm 2.7 µg/ml respectively. The IC50 values for HepG-2 and breast cancer cells was found to be 41.2 µg/ ml and 35.1 µg/ml respectively than tamoxifen standard anticancer drug $12.8 \mu g/ml^{14}$. On the basis of various research finding, it was found that *Epipremnum Aureum* (EA) extract posses different medicinal properties. Therefore, few novel formulations were also synthezied using *E. Aureum* extract, as mentioned in table 2.

The characteristics of silver nanoparticles have led to an increased demand for them in recent years, particularly in the fields of nanotechnology and medicine. However, the safety worries about silver nanoparticles are still not well understood and need more research.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant collection and Extraction Preparation of crude drug

Fresh leaves of *Epipremnum Aureum,* were collected from local areas and authenticated by the Botanical Survey of India, Uttarakhand with accession no. 1304. Collected leaves were washed

thoroughly with normal water and distilled water to clear unwanted foreign impurities. Leaves were dried in proper sunlight for 5-6 days. The dried leaves with the help of a mechanical grinder were coarsely powdered¹⁴.

Method of Extraction

For extraction of *Epipremnum Aureum* crude, a soxhlation method using the Soxhlet apparatus was employed. The extraction was carried out using methanol solvent. The 50 gm of *E. Aureum* coarsely dried crude drug was extracted with 250 ml of methanol until the extraction was completed. After the extraction process was completed, the extra solvent was evaporated using a Rotary evaporator at a temperature not exceeding 60°C. A dark greenish color residue was obtained. The residue was allowed to dry and stored in a desiccator. After drying, the percentage yield of the extract was calculated¹⁴.

Green synthesis of Silver nanoparticle of *Epipremnum Aureum*

The silver nanoparticles of *E. Aureum* are prepared using the green synthesis method and a slight modification of the Barik A., (2010) method¹⁵. In a conical flask, add 100 ml silver nitrate (1 M) and 5gm of plant extract. Mixed the above solution thoroughly using a magnetic

stirrer at 800 rpm for 1.5 hours and also wrapped the above solution with aluminum foil to avoid loss of solvent. To stabilize the prepared silver nanoparticles and eliminate unwanted nitrate ions, 10 ml Sodium Hydroxide solution (1 M) was added dropwise with continuous stirring for the next 30 min. After the addition of NaOH, the solution turned dark brown to black, indicating the development of EA-AgNPs. The whole process was performed in a dark room at room temperature to avoid photoactivation of $AgNO₃$. Suitable parameters were maintained throughout the $experiment¹⁴$. After the above process, the mixture was cooled at room temperature and followed by a centrifugation process at 1500 rpm for 3 min. The resulting black-colored AgNPs were settled at the centrifuge tube bottom and the supernatant layer was discarded. The prepared NPs were washed with distilled water, and the above procedures were repeated until EA-AgNPs were collected and washed. The collected EA-AgNPs were firstly dried at room temperature and further calcinated at a temperature of 250°C for 2 hours to remove any impurities, water, or excess solvents. The schematic representation of the whole process is shown in figure 1. Finally, the prepared EA-AgNPs were preserved for further characterization process $16,17$.

Fig. 1. Schematic representation of extraction and green synthesis of EA-AgNPs

Plant Species and Extract	Part used	Plant Species Authentication	Activity	Study Model	Key finding	References
Epipremnum aureum Chloroform and ethanol extracts	Leaves	Authenticated by BSI, Pune (BSI/WRC/ 100-1/Tech./2020/117).	Anticancer activity for breast cancer	In-vitro Study (Cytotoxicity study on MCF-7 cell line)	Results indicated cytotoxic effects with IC50 values of 32.9 and 45.8 ig/mL for chloroform and ethanolic, respectively. Microscopic inspection reveals apoptotic entities, nuclear disintegration, and small nuclei with significant chromatin condensation in	24
Epipremnum aureum Ethanolic extract	Leaves	Department of Botany, University of Calicut, itself. (Specimen 148207)	Anticancer activity Dalton's Ascitic Lymphoma	In-vitro study (DAL cell line) and In-vivo study Animal use: Swiss Albino mice	the extract. In the MTT assay, EEEA showed an IC50 value of $140.95 \mu g/ml$. In the Trypan blue dye exclusion experiment, EEEA has an IC50 of 158.89µg/ml. In-vivo study indicated EEEA increased mice lifespan and reduced body weight, tumour volume, tumour weight, and viable cell count compared to untreated DAL control animals.	25
Epipremnum aureum Ethanolic extracts	Leaves	Maharani College, Peddapuram, and voucher specimen number given is 23113.	Anti-oxidant and Anti-cataract activity	In-vitro anticataract activity. Galactose model in animals.	DPPH radical scavenging results indicate concentration -dependent antioxidant activity, with an IC50 of 87.09 μ g/ml. The IC50 was $24.5 \mu g/ml$ in the nitric oxide scavenging assay.In-vitro and in-vivo studies show reduced cataract lens opacity.	26
Epipremnum aureum Ethanolic and acetone extracts	leaves blades, petioles, stems, and roots	Herbarium of Botany and Microbiology Department, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt.	Antimicrobial activity and Anti-cancer activity.	In-vitro Antimicrobial activity.In-vitro cytotoxicity activity human liver cancer cell line $(HEPG-2)$	The root extracted with acetone was shown to be the most effective antibacterial extract.E. aureum acetone root extract had MIC values of 3, 5, and 9 mg/ml for E. coli, S. aureus, and C. albicans. In vitro, cytotoxicity testing of E. aureum acetone root extract against HEPG-2 human liver cancer cells revealed the most effective concentration at 50 ig/ml, with an $IC50$ value of 36.7 ig/ml.	27
Epipremnum aureum Ethanolic extract	Whole plant	Forest Research Institute Malaysia. The voucher specimen (No. SBID: $001/15$)	Anti-Amnesic Activity	In-vivo Swiss albino mice	Results indicated dose- dependent memory enhancement and scopolamine amnesia reversal.Biochemical analysis indicates a rise in acetylcholine and a decrease in TBARS, reversing the impact of scopolamine in amnesic mice.	28
Epipremnum aureum Ethanolic extract	leaves	Forest Research Institute Malaysia. The voucher specimen (No. SBID: 001/15)	Acute and sub chronic toxicity studies	In-vivo study (Adult Sprague Dawley rats)	Acute oral Epipremnum aureum administration did not cause death or CNS/ ANS toxicity. Similarly, in subchronic toxicity trials, Epipremnum aureum showed no obvious evidence of toxicity.No treatment-related histopathological alterations were found	29
Epipremnum aureum Methanolic extract	leaf, root and stem)	Botanical Survey of India, Jodhpur	Anti-oxidant activity (enzymes catalase, glutathione peroxidase and	In-vitro study DPPH and FRAP methods.	The catalase and peroxidase enzymes in the leaves exhibited a high antioxidant activity. The highest IC50 value was found in E. aureum	30

Table 1. Tabular representation of *Epipremnum aureum* plant extract used in various Pharmacological activity

Table 2. Tabular presentation of different novel formulations prepared using *Epipremnum aureum* plant extract

Characterization of EA-Silver nanoparticle Percentage Yield

The percentage of yield of the *E. Aureum* plant extract after extraction is calculated after the drying process using the formula below formula.

Percentage Yield=(Weight of extract÷Weight of dried plant material)×100

UV Spectroscopy

The silver ion bioreduction process was facilitated by the initial transition in color from

green to silvery brown-black. Additionally, it was confirmed by comparable peaks seen in the EP-AgNPs solution's spectrum using a Shimadzu UV double-beam spectrophotometer (model 1900i). The operational wavelength range was 200–1000 nm 16,17.

XED Analysis

The X-ray powder diffraction technique was employed to determine the crystallinity of biogenic EA-AgNPs. A scan was captured at an angle of 2è and a temperature range of 30° to 80° C¹⁸.

FTIR Analysis

To examine the existence of functional groups in biogenic EA-AgNPs, FTIR analysis was used. The KBr pellet method was used for the measurements, with relevant spectrum scans ranging from 500 to 4000 cm-1 (Nicolet Summit LITe spectrometer)¹⁸.

SEM-EDX Analysis

To study the structure and shape, SEM and EDX analysis was conducted. Dried biogenic EA-AgNPs were prepared on a copper-coated carbon grid and observed using a scanning electron microscope (Carl Zeiss EVO18) to determine their form and bonding configuration. The EDX study was used to determine elements present in the biogenic EA-AgNPs. Cu-Ká radiation was utilized to perform the scan within the 2è range of 10 to 80°, with an applied voltage of 40 kV and an amperage of 35 mA18.

In-Vitro cytotoxicity study

The MTT test used to evaluate the antiproliferative activity of EA-AgNPs samples on the MCF-7 cells which eas obtained from NCCS Pune. In 96-well plates, 10,000 cells were cultured with 5% CO₂ in Dulbecco's modified eagle medium (DMEM) along with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1% antibiotic solution for 24 hours at 37°C. The cultured cells were exposed to varying concentrations of prepared EA-AgNPs, i.e., 1 ìg/ml, 10 ìg/ml, 50 ìg/ml, 100 ìg/ml, 250 ìg/ml, 500 ìg/ml and 1000 ìg/ml. The untreated cultured cells were used as controls. After 24 hours of incubation, the cell culture was mixed with the prepared $250\mu\text{g/ml}$ of MTT solution and incubated for the next 2 hours. On completion of the above process, the supernatant layer of the cultured medium was collected, and the cell

Table 3. EA-AgNPs size was determined using the Debye Scherrer equation

Peak Position (2) Theta)	FWHM	Crystalline Size $D(nm)$	D nm (Average)
29.75	0.42208	18.19	12.92
38.27	0.41201	18.21	
44.44	0.4446	16.54	
64.62	182.6407	0.03	
77.54	0.53204	11.64	

Fig. 2. The UV-visible absorption spectrum of EA-AgNPs

matrix layer was dissolved in 100 µl of Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO) and observed in an Elisa plate reader (iMark, Biorad, USA) at 540 and 660 nm. Using Graph Pad Prism-6 software the IC-50 value was determined. The images of cell culture treated and controlled cell cultured were taken using an inverted microscope (made: Olympus ek2) with the camera (made: Amscope digital camera 10MP Aptima CMOS) 18–21.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Percentage Yield

The 50 gm of *E. Aureum* coarsely dried crude *leaves* showed a percentage yield of 20% with methanol solvent (250 ml) using the soxhlation method.

UV Spectroscopy

The addition of leaf extracts into an aqueous silver nitrate solution resulted in a

Fig. 4. FTIR Spectrum of EA-AgNPs

color transition from pale light to yellowish brown, and colloidal brown, indicating the formation of AgNPs. The color transition is the result of the surface plasmon vibration. In this study, a similar color change has been observed confirming the reaction occurred between leaf extract and AgNO₃ completed. The UV-visible spectroscopy at wavelength 200–1000 nm was used to analyze the formation of EA-AgNPs. The UV-visible spectrum was observed in time intervals of 30, 60, 90 minutes and 24 hours from the initiation of the reaction are shown in Figure 2. The results revealed the formation of spectral absorption peaks for Ag from *Epipremnum Aureum* leaves NPs. The EA-AgNPs exhibit a significant absorption peak at 420 nm, confirming AgNPs presence in the solution since the absorption peaks at wavelengths

400-450 nm range are the characteristic properties of AgNPs due to Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR). The UV-visible spectrum absorbs the bulk of SPPR, determining the bio-reduction process of Ag+ and the size and shape of NPs by determining absorptive locations at wavelengths that increase NP size and shift the SPPR peak to a longer wavelength 18–21.

XRD study

Crystallographic analysis of OS-AgNPs

The XRD results reveal the size and crystalline phase of biogenic EA-AgNPs. The EA-AgNPs diffraction peaks at positions 29.75, 38.27, 44.44, 64.62, and 77.54 confirm that the corresponding Bragg reflections are (100), (112), (200), (219), and (315), respectively (Fig. 3). The cubic face-centered shape of the synthesized

Fig. 5. SEM images of EA-AgNPs

Fig. 6. EDX Results of EA-AgNPs

Fig. 7. MTT Assay images MCF-7 cells exposed to EA-AgNPs in various concentrations for 24 hrs

Fig. 8. MTT assay of synthesized EA-AgNPs against MCF-7 cell line

EA-AgNPs was verified by hkl values. Debye Scherrer's formula was applied to evaluate the particle size of the EA-AgNPs:

D = kë /â 1/2COS è x100

Where, $k =$ geometric factor's shaped constant,

 \ddot{e} = wavelength,

 \hat{a} = line broadening at half-maximum amplitude

 \dot{e} = Bragg angle,

 D = average crystalline size of the NPs.

Low particle size and high crystallinity are indicated by the extreme peak positions. Using Origin software and the Scherrer formula, the average particle size of EA-AgNPs was 12.92 nm as shown in Table 3

The XRD spectrum exclusively showed Ag peaks, with no additional chemical contaminants, further demonstrating the sample's purity.

FTIR Study

The primary functional group implicated in EA-AgNPs synthesis was identified via an analysis of the FTIR spectra of biogenic EA-AgNPs. The EA-AgNPs spectra revealed the characteristic groups involved in stabilizing EA-AgNPs by an absorption peak found at 1382.987, 1586.020, 1762.159, 1272.241, 1077.355, 823.907, 764.624, and 670.587 cm-1 (Fig. 4). A strong band at 1586.020 cm-1 confirmed the O-H group presence. The stretching and bending modes of vibration of the NO_3^2 a sharp band represented molecule at 1382.987 cm-1 and a very tiny band at 1272.241, 1077.355 cm-1. The spectrum of silver metal can be seen in the narrow shallow band at 670.587 cm-118. **SEM-EDX Study**

The shape of the EA-AgNPs was established by the surface topography, which was observed through SEM. The well-defined spherical and irregular morphologies of the synthesized EA-AgNPs were observed (Fig. 5). Similar structures of AgNPs range of sizes and shapes using Artemisia nilagirica. Additionally, these NPs were investigated for their pupicidal and larvacidal effects in Anopheles stephensi and Aegypti^{22,23}.

EDX examination demonstrates the weight percentage of the Ag+ ions (29.3%), confirming the EA-AgNPs formations as shown in Figure 6.

EP-AgNPs' *In Vitro* **Cytotoxicity against MCF-7 Cell Line**

After incubation for 24 hours, an inhibitory effect was observed (Figure 7). The graph was plotted against percentage control on the y-axis with different concentrations of EA-AgNPs (1, 10, 50, 100, 250, 500, and 1000 ìg/mL) on the x-axis as shown in Figure 8. The 100% cell viability was observed when cells cultured were untreated with EA-AgNPs. On exposure to varying concentrations of EA-AgNPs samples i.e., 1, 10, 50, 100, 250, 500, and 1000 ìg/mL resulted in the following percentages relative to the control: 9.13, 6.04, 5.26, 5.57, 4.64, 4.95, and 5.42, respectively. Based on the results of the MTT experiment, the half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC50) values obtained for EA-AgNPs against MCF-7 cells were found to be 0.1106 ìg/mL, which shows high cytotoxic behavior of EA-AgNPs against MCF-7 cells.

CONCLUSION

Plant extract-based AgNPs approach provided a promising avenue for treating drug resistance and minimizing the harmful effects associated with chemotherapy treatments. In the current study, synthesized EA-AgNPs showed potential cytotoxicity on MCF-7 breast cancer cells. The characterization techniques including UVvisible spectrophotometry, XRD, FTIR, and EDX analysis confirmed the formation of EA-AgNPs. The in-vitro MTT assay results demonstrated the antiproliferative activity of EA-AgNPs with high cytotoxic efficacy against MCF-7 breast cancer cells. According to these finding the biosynthesized EA-AgNPs have the potential to be utilised as a rapid, simple, cost-effective, and environmentally benign treatment for the fatal disease breast cancer. Still, more investigation is needed to fully understand the underlying mechanism.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors do not have any conflict of interest.

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The manuscript incorporates all datasets produced or examined throughout this research study.

Ethics Statement

This research did not involve human participants, animal subjects, or any material that requires ethical approval.

Informed Consent Statement

This study did not involve human

participants, and therefore, informed consent was not required.

Authors Contribution

Y.A (Yogita Ale): Conceptualization, Methodology, Analysis, Writing – Original Draft.; S.R (Shilpa Rana): Data Collection, Analysis, Writing – Review & Editing.; V.J (Vikash Jakhmola): Visualization, Supervision, Project Administration.; K.K (Kapil Kumar): Funding Acquisition, Resources, Supervision.; R.S.R (Ritik Singh Rana): Analysis and data collection.; D.R (Diksha Rawat): Analysis and data collection.; N.N (Nidhi Nainwal): Visualization, Supervision, Project Administration.

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