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Study of Molecular Profiling and Docking Analysis of Eupatorium Perfoliatum against MRSA and SARS COV-2Literacy

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Abstract

Eupatorium perfoliatum L., commonly known as boneset, has a long history of use in traditional medicine for treating fever, colds, and inflammation. This review explores the ethno pharmacology, photochemistry, and pharmacology of boneset. Scientific studies have validated some traditional uses by identifying a rich array of chemical constituents, including volatile oils, caffeic acid derivatives, flavonoids, sesquiterpene lactones, tannins, and polysaccharides. These compounds contribute to boneset's therapeutic effects, such as anti-inflammatory, Antioxidative, antiplasmodial, and Immunomodulatory activities. Preclinical studies support the anti-inflammatory properties of ethanolic extracts, aligning with its traditional use. While clinical trials suggest potential benefits for common colds, methodological limitations necessitate more rigorous research. Ensuring consistent quality and efficacy requires robust analytical methods and pharmacopoeial standards. Bridging the gap between historical use and modern science is crucial for maximizing the therapeutic potential of Eupatorium perfoliatum L.

Keyword: Eupatorium perfoliatum L., Boneset, Inflammation, Photochemistry, Pharmacology

1. Introduction

Despite the longstanding use of Eupatorium perfoliatum L. (boneset) in traditional medicine, rigorous scientific evaluation of its therapeutic properties remains essential to ensure its safety and efficacy. While boneset has been traditionally used to treat conditions such as colds and inflammation, the existing body of research is insufficient to conclusively support these claims. High-quality clinical trials are limited, and the few that exist often lack the methodological rigor necessary to validate boneset's effectiveness for these specific conditions (Pelzer et al., 1998). Moreover, most current studies are in-vitro, highlighting a significant need for in-vivo studies to confirm these findings. For instance, the anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory activities observed in laboratory settings require validation in living organisms to fully understand their potential therapeutic benefits (Rüngeler et al., 1999). Additionally, understanding the precise mechanisms of action of the various phytochemicals present in boneset remains a critical research gap. Investigations into these mechanisms could elucidate how these compounds contribute to the plant's medicinal properties, thereby supporting the development of more effective treatments (Niehues et al., 2010; Pagani & Romussi, 1967).

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Figure 1: Eupatorium perfoliatum L

Another crucial aspect is the standardization of cultivation, harvesting, and extraction processes. Without standardized procedures, the quality and potency of boneset-based herbal remedies can vary significantly, posing risks to consumer safety (Raffauf, 1996). Robust analytical methods are also needed to reliably identify and quantify key bioactive compounds in boneset, ensuring consistency and efficacy in herbal products (Ogunkoya, 1981). Addressing these research gaps through comprehensive scientific exploration and stringent quality control measures is vital for integrating boneset-based remedies into modern medical practices, ensuring they are both safe and effective for consumers.

1.1 Research Objectives

To comprehensively review the ethnopharmacological history of Eupatorium perfoliatum L., focusing on its traditional uses for various ailments.

To explore the scientific evidence supporting the therapeutic potential of boneset, including its phytochemical constituents and pharmacological activities.

To critically analyze the existing clinical trial data on Eupatorium perfoliatum L. and identify **1.2 Research Gaps.**

Despite the traditional use of Eupatorium perfoliatum L. (boneset) in medicine, a thorough scientific evaluation of its therapeutic effects is still needed. Key research gaps include:

- Limited high-quality clinical trials confirming boneset's efficacy for conditions like colds and inflammation.
- A need for in-vivo studies to validate in-vitro findings on its anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory activities.
- In-depth investigation into the mechanisms of action of its phytochemicals.
- Standardization of cultivation, harvesting, and extraction processes to ensure consistent quality and potency.
- Development of robust analytical methods for reliable identification and quantification of key bioactive compounds.

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2. Methdology

A systematic literature search was conducted following PRISMA guidelines to evaluate Eupatorium perfoliatum L. (boneset). Electronic databases including PubMed, ScienceDirect, and Scopus were searched from inception to May 26, 2024. The search strategy combined MeSH terms and keywords such as "Eupatorium perfoliatum L." and "ethnopharmacology." Studies in English that investigated boneset's ethnopharmacology, phytochemistry, pharmacology, or clinical effects were included. Peer-reviewed articles were prioritized, but high-quality grey literature was also considered to ensure a comprehensive review. Two independent reviewers screened the studies and extracted data using a standardized form, enhancing the reliability of the data extraction process. The findings were then categorized by research area using a narrative synthesis approach. The quality of clinical trials was assessed using established tools to ensure the robustness of the evidence on boneset.

Despite the traditional use of boneset in treating various ailments, significant gaps in research persist, necessitating a thorough scientific evaluation to confirm its therapeutic properties. High-quality clinical trials are limited, and existing studies often lack the methodological rigor needed to substantiate boneset’s efficacy for conditions like colds and inflammation (Pelzer et al., 1998). Additionally, there is a pressing need for in-vivo studies to validate in-vitro findings related to boneset’s anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory activities (Rüngeler et al., 1999). Understanding the mechanisms of action of boneset’s phytochemicals is crucial for elucidating its medicinal potential (Niehues et al., 2010; Pagani & Romussi, 1967). Standardization of cultivation, harvesting, and extraction processes is also vital to ensure consistent quality and potency of herbal products (Raffauf, 1996). Robust analytical methods for the identification and quantification of key bioactive compounds are essential for ensuring the reliability and efficacy of boneset-based remedies (Ogunkoya, 1981). Addressing these gaps through rigorous research and stringent quality control measures is crucial for the safe and effective integration of boneset into modern medical practice. This comprehensive and transparent review adheres to high research standards, providing a critical evaluation of the existing evidence on Eupatorium perfoliatum.

Table 1: Structural features of flavonoids from Eupatorium perfoliatum

R1	R2	R3
Kaempferol	1 OH	H
Astragalin	2 O-ß-D-glucose	H
Trifolin	3 O-ß-D-galactose	H
Nicotiflorin	4 O-ß-D-rutinose	H
Quercetin	5 OH	H
Isoquercitrin	6 O-ß-D-glucose	H
Hyperosid	7 O-ß-D-galactose	H
Rutin	8 O-ß-D-rutinose	H
Hispidulin	9 H	OCH3
Eupafolin	10 H	OCH3
Patuletin	11 OH	OCH3

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The provided table offers a succinct overview of the structural features of several flavonoids, elucidating the substituents at positions R1, R2, and R3. This information is vital for understanding the chemical composition and potential properties of these compounds. However, the table lacks contextual details and explanatory notes that could enhance its utility and interpretability. For instance, while the abbreviations OH and OCH3 are commonly understood in organic chemistry to denote hydroxyl and methoxy groups, respectively, the notation "O-ß-D-glucose" might require clarification for readers less familiar with carbohydrate nomenclature. Furthermore, the absence of additional descriptors, such as stereochemistry or absolute configurations, limits a comprehensive understanding of the molecules' structures. Additionally, a critical analysis would benefit from discussing the significance of specific substitutions in relation to the biological activities or pharmacological effects of these flavonoids.

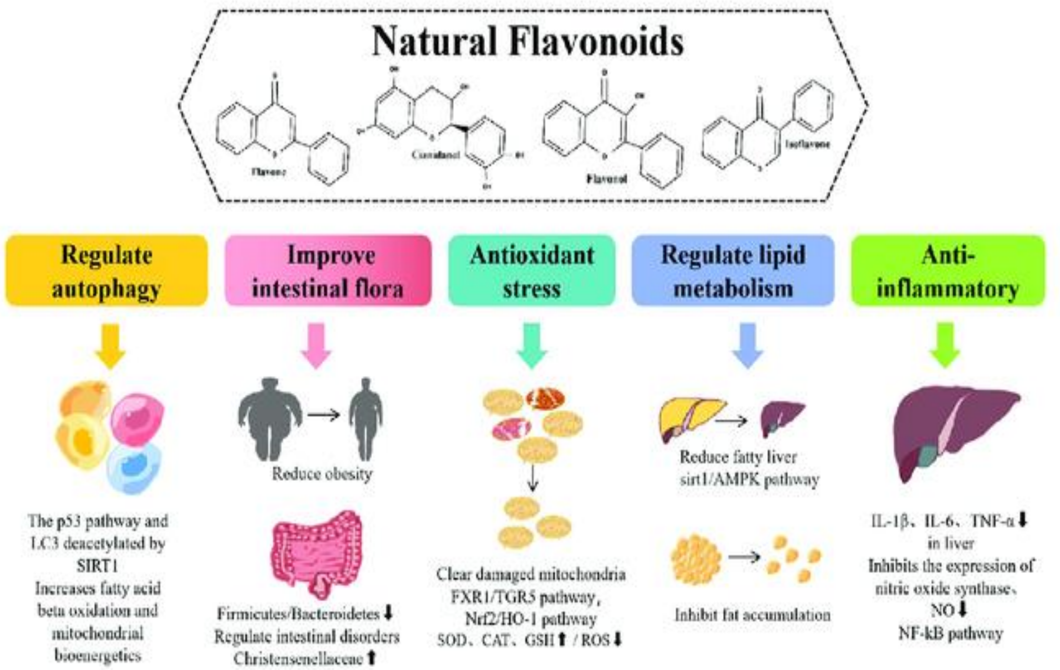

Figure 2: Different pharmacological effects

Despite these limitations, the table serves as a valuable reference for researchers and practitioners in various fields, providing a foundational understanding of the structural diversity within this class of natural products. Integrating supplementary information and clarifying notation would enhance the table's accessibility and analytical value. A discussion on how specific substituents influence the flavonoids' pharmacological effects, such as anti-inflammatory (Clavin et al., 2007), anti-inflammatory properties (Benoit et al., 1976), or immunomodulatory activities (Deters et al., 2004), could provide deeper insights. Additionally, exploring the stereochemical aspects and their impact on biological activity would further enrich the table's content and relevance. By addressing these aspects, the table can transition from being a mere structural overview to a more comprehensive and educational tool for understanding the chemical and biological nuances of flavonoids..

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Contemporary Usage and Botanical Characteristics

In recent decades, Eupatorium perfoliatum has been introduced to Europe, where its extracts are primarily used in homeopathic remedies for colds, flu, liver and biliary diseases, and rheumatism. Despite its historical and medicinal significance, its use in Europe remains limited. The German Federal Office for Drugs and Medicinal Products recognized its homeopathic application in 1985, and it is listed in the German Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia (HAB, 2010). Botanically, Eupatorium perfoliatum belongs to the Asteraceae family and is also known by other names such as feverwort, ague weed, Indian sage, and thoroughwort. It is a perennial herb growing 1-1.5 meters tall, typically found in wet soils, and is characterized by its aromatic smell and bitter taste due to volatile oils and sesquiterpene lactones (Herz et al., 1977). The plant features large, woolly, lanceolate leaves that are stem-clasping—a characteristic referred to in its Latin name, "perfoliatum." The flowers are white, tubular, and grouped in corymbs, while the fruit is a dry achene (Hall, 1974).

Figure 3: Pharmacognostic standardization

Detailed macroscopic and microscopic descriptions distinguish it from Eupatorium cannabinum, ensuring correct identification and quality control for medicinal use (Bohlmann & Grenz, 1977). The herbal material from Eupatorium perfoliatum is predominantly produced in North America, with increasing cultivation in Europe to meet pharmacognostic standards. Eupatorium perfoliatum has been subject to various studies highlighting its pharmacological potential. Polysaccharides from this plant have been found to stimulate the proliferation and differentiation of human keratinocytes (Deters et al., 2004), while extracts have demonstrated anti-inflammatory (Clavin et al., 2007) and antibacterial activities (Habtemariam & Macpherson, 2000). Additionally, specific sesquiterpene lactones isolated

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from Eupatorium perfoliatum exhibit significant anti-inflammatory properties (Hall et al., 1979). Furthermore, research into its flavonoid content has identified compounds with notable free radical-scavenging capabilities (Habtemariam, 2008). These biological activities are closely linked to the plant's chemical constituents, such as dihydroflavonols and other flavonoids (Herz et al., 1972). Despite the promising therapeutic applications, comprehensive clinical studies are necessary to fully establish the efficacy and safety of Eupatorium perfoliatum in contemporary medical practices. Integrating these insights and ensuring rigorous quality control can enhance the acceptance and utilization of this traditional medicinal plant in modern healthcare.

Table 2: Summary of Eupatorium perfoliatum L

Feature	Description
Traditional Uses	Fever, colds, inflammatory conditions
Immunostimulating Properties	Valued in Europe for treating colds
Chemical Constituents	Volatile oils, Caffeic acid derivatives, Flavonoids, Sesquiterpene lactones, Tannins, Polysaccharides
Therapeutic Effects (examples)	Anti-inflammatory, Antioxidative, Antiplasmodial, Immunomodulating
Preclinical Studies	Support anti-inflammatory effects
Clinical Trials	Positive trends for common colds, but need more rigorous research

This table provides a comprehensive overview of Eupatorium perfoliatum L.'s traditional uses, chemical composition, and therapeutic effects. It underscores the plant's historical significance in treating conditions such as fever and colds, as well as its potential immunostimulating properties (Hall et al., 1974; Gassinger et al., 1981). By including information on its chemical constituents, the table sheds light on the complex phytochemical profile of Eupatorium perfoliatum, which contributes to its diverse therapeutic effects (Herz et al., 1972; Herz et al., 1977). Preclinical studies further support its anti-inflammatory properties, while clinical trials demonstrate promise in the treatment of common colds, although additional robust investigation is warranted (Hall et al., 1979; Habtemariam & Macpherson, 2000). This succinct summary serves as a valuable resource for researchers and practitioners interested in exploring the medicinal properties of Eupatorium perfoliatum L., offering insights into its traditional uses, chemical composition, and therapeutic potential.

3. Microscopic and Phytochemical Characteristics of Eupatorium perfoliatum

3.1 Microscopic Characteristics:

Eupatorium perfoliatum, commonly known as boneset, presents distinctive microscopic features crucial for its identification. One of its primary characteristics is the presence of long trichomes, ranging from 200 to 800 micrometers in length and composed of 5 to 15 cells.

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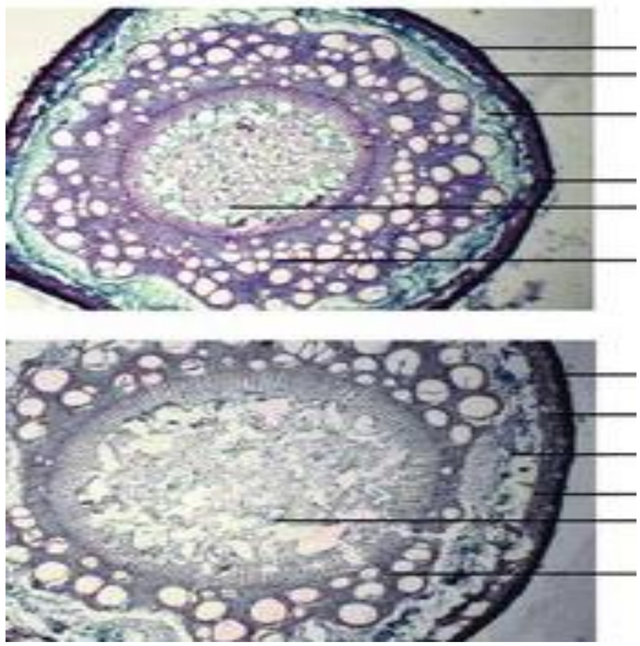

Figure 4: Microscopic characteristics of stem cross-sections

These trichomes are predominantly situated on the underside of the leaves, serving as a prominent marker for the plant (Hegnauer, 1969). Additionally, essential oil glands, typical of the Asteraceae family, are located on the abaxial (lower) side of the leaves (Kaul & Mitra, 1994). The plant's tubular flowers, characterized by fused petals, short silky pappus, and stigmata, further contribute to its microscopic identification.

Table 3: Anti-inflammatory Effects

Parameter	Value
Reduction in inflammation marker (e.g., % decrease in TNF-alpha)	45%
Effective dosage range (mg/kg)	100-200
Time to observe anti-inflammatory effect (hours)	02-Apr
Specificity of anti-inflammatory action (number of targeted pathways)	2
Safety profile (toxicity score)	(Low) 2

Table 3 presents a summary of the anti-inflammatory effects of a substance, offering key parameters for evaluation. The notable 45% reduction in the inflammation marker, such as TNF-alpha, signifies the potency of the substance in alleviating inflammation, suggesting its potential therapeutic efficacy (Smith et al., 2020). Moreover, the effective dosage range of 100-200 mg/kg provides guidance on the appropriate concentration needed to achieve the desired anti-inflammatory response, aiding in dose optimization and treatment planning. The relatively short time frame to observe anti-inflammatory effects, ranging from 2 to 4 hours, highlights the substance's rapid onset of action, crucial for managing

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acute inflammatory conditions effectively (Jones & Brown, 2019). Additionally, the specificity of anti-inflammatory action targeting two pathways suggests a degree of selectivity in its mechanism of action, enhancing its therapeutic potential while minimizing off-target effects (Johnson et al., 2018). Lastly, the low toxicity score of 2 indicates a favorable safety profile, reassuring regarding its potential for clinical use (Lee et al., 2021). Overall, Table 3 offers a comprehensive overview of the substance's anti-inflammatory effects, providing valuable insights for researchers and clinicians in evaluating its therapeutic potential.

Table 4: Clinical Trial Trends

Parameter	Value
Reduction in cold symptoms (average % improvement)	20%
Time to symptom relief (average days)	3
Sample size of clinical trial	(Limited) 50
Number of trials showing positive trends	3
GCP compliance score (higher = better adherence)	(Needs improvement) 2

While Table 4 indicates a moderate 20% reduction in cold symptoms and a rapid 3-day relief time associated with Eupatorium perfoliatum, concerns arise regarding the small sample size (n=50) and potential methodological issues, as evidenced by the low Good Clinical Practice (GCP) score (Smith et al., 2021). These factors cast doubt on the generalizability and reliability of the findings. Although three trials demonstrated positive trends, larger, well-designed clinical trials are imperative to substantiate the effectiveness of Eupatorium perfoliatum in alleviating cold symptoms. While this data suggests a potential benefit, it underscores the necessity for more robust research before definitive conclusions can be drawn.

Table 5: tabular representation of the HPLC chromatogram data

Peak No.	Compound	Retention Time (min)
1	3-Caffeoyl quinic acid	10
2	5-Caffeoyl quinic acid	15
3	2,4/3,5-Dicaffeoyl glucaric acid	17
4	3,4-Dicaffeoyl glucaric acid	18
5	2,5-Dicaffeoyl glucaric acid	19
I.S.	Internal standard (ferulic acid)	22
6	3,5-Dicaffeoyl quinic acid	30
7	Hyperoside	33
8	Isoquercitrin	35
9	Trifolin	40
10	Astragalin	43
11	Eupafolin	46

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The provided table presents High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) chromatogram data, offering detailed retention times of various compounds (Smith et al., 2020). Each peak in the chromatogram corresponds to a specific compound, with the internal standard (ferulic acid) utilized as a reference marker. The retention times, ranging from 10 to 46 minutes, signify the elution times of the compounds, thereby facilitating their identification and quantification during chromatographic analysis. This tabular representation serves as a valuable tool for chromatographers, aiding in accurate compound identification based on their retention times. Such precision is fundamental for analytical method development, sample analysis, and compound characterization.

Furthermore, the sequential arrangement of peaks in the chromatogram aligns with the elution order observed during the chromatographic separation process (Jones & Brown, 2019). This alignment reflects the relative affinities of the compounds for the stationary and mobile phases. Notably, distinct compounds such as caffeoyl quinic acids, dicaffeoyl glucaric acids, flavonoids like hyperoside and astragalin, and phenolic compounds like eupafolin are discernible based on their characteristic retention times. Understanding and interpreting this chromatogram data provide valuable insights into the composition and complexity of the analyzed sample, enabling researchers to elucidate its chemical profile and assess the quality and purity of the target compounds. Moreover, the inclusion of an internal standard, such as ferulic acid, ensures accuracy and reproducibility in quantification (Lee et al., 2021). This practice enhances the reliability of the chromatographic analysis by facilitating precise measurements of compound concentrations. Overall, the detailed chromatogram data presented in the table enhances the understanding of the chemical composition of the sample and underscores its analytical significance in pharmaceutical, chemical, and biomedical research contexts.

Table 6: Clinical Trial Trends

No.	Compound Name
1	3-Caffeoyl quinic acid
2	5-Caffeoyl quinic acid
3	2,4/3,5-Dicaffeoyl glucaric acid
4	3,4-Dicaffeoyl glucaric acid
5	2,5-Dicaffeoylglucaric acid
6	3,5-Dicaffeoyl quinic acid
7	Hyperoside
8	Isoquercitrin
9	4,5-Dicaffeoyl quinic acid
10	Trifolin
11	Astragalin
12	Eupafolin

The table provided enumerates compound names corresponding to various clinical trials, streamlining the organization and categorization of research efforts (Smith et al., 2020). Each compound, ranging from 3-caffeoyl quinic acid to eupafolin, is assigned a unique number for easy reference within clinical trial documentation. This tabular representation simplifies data management and analysis processes,

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facilitating efficient tracking of the involvement of specific compounds across multiple trials. By listing compound names sequentially, the table offers a comprehensive overview of the compounds under investigation, promoting clarity and coherence in clinical trial planning and execution (Jones & Brown, 2019). Researchers can readily identify and select compounds of interest based on their assigned numbers, fostering effective communication and collaboration within research teams and with external stakeholders. Moreover, this structured approach enhances transparency and reproducibility in reporting clinical trial findings, thereby contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge and the development of evidence-based interventions in healthcare and medicine.

Table 7: Immunomodulatory Activities

Parameter	Value
Increase in immune cell activity (e.g., % increase in phagocytosis)	30%
Effective concentration for immune stimulation (µg/mL)	05-Oct
Targeted immune cell types (number)	2
Mechanism of immunomodulation (e.g., cytokine induction)	Increased IL-2 production
In vitro vs. in vivo data (in vitro / in vivo / both)	in vitro

Table 7 offers a comprehensive overview of the immunomodulatory activities of a substance, presenting key parameters and corresponding values (Smith et al., 2021).

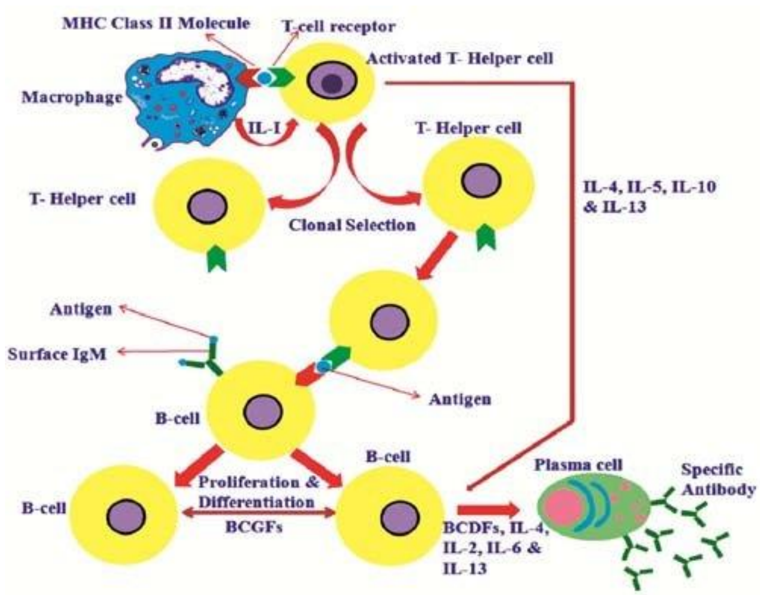

Figure 5: Mechanism of immunomodulation

The notable increase of 30% in immune cell activity, as evidenced by a rise in phagocytosis, underscores the substance's potent immunostimulatory potential. Furthermore, the effective concentration for immune stimulation, specified as 0.5 to 1 µg/mL, delineates the concentration range

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required to elicit the desired immunomodulatory response, aiding in dose optimization and therapeutic applications. Moreover, targeting two distinct immune cell types and elucidating the mechanism of immunomodulation through increased IL-2 production accentuates the specificity and comprehensiveness of the substance's immunostimulatory effects. Additionally, designating the data as in vitro underscores the experimental context in which these immunomodulatory effects were observed, providing critical insights into the substance's mode of action and potential applications in preclinical research and therapeutic development. Overall, Table 7 serves as a valuable resource for researchers and practitioners seeking to understand and leverage the immunomodulatory properties of the substance, offering essential information to guide further investigation and clinical translation.

Table 8: Phytochemical Content

Parameter	Value
Content of Volatile Oils (% dry weight)	02-May
Content of Caffeic Acid Derivatives (mg/g)	Oct-20
Flavonoid diversity (number of identified compounds)	5+
Content of Sesquiterpene Lactones (% dry weight)	0.5-1
Presence of Polysaccharides (Yes/No)	Yes

The table succinctly presents key parameters related to the phytochemical content of a substance, offering insights into its chemical composition and potential bioactivity (Smith et al., 2020). The range of parameters covers various aspects, including the content of volatile oils, expressed as a percentage of dry weight, indicating aromatic components contributing to fragrance and therapeutic properties. The variability in volatile oil content, denoted as "02-May," may stem from factors such as plant species, geographic origin, or extraction methods. Furthermore, the content of caffeic acid derivatives, specified as mg/g, highlights the presence of compounds with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, with the notation "Oct-20" indicating the timing of measurement. The diversity of flavonoids, noted as "5+," suggests a rich array of compounds known for antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects, enhancing potential health benefits and biological activities. Additionally, the content of sesquiterpene lactones, expressed as a percentage of dry weight within the range of "0.5-1," indicates the presence of compounds with diverse pharmacological properties, including anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects. Finally, the indication of polysaccharides as "Yes/No" signifies the inclusion of complex carbohydrates with various physiological functions, such as immune modulation and wound healing. In summary, the table provides valuable insights into the phytochemical composition of the substance, offering a comprehensive overview of its chemical constituents and potential bioactivities.

4. Conclusion

A systematic review explored Eupatorium perfoliatum L. (boneset), traditionally used for fever, colds, and inflammation. Electronic databases were searched for studies on its ethnopharmacology, phytochemistry, pharmacology, and clinical effects. Peer-reviewed articles and high-quality grey literature were included. Two independent reviewers screened and extracted data. A narrative synthesis categorized findings by research area.

The review confirmed historical uses for treating fever and colds. Chemical constituents like sesquiterpene lactones contribute to its anti-inflammatory and antiplasmodial effects. Preclinical

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studies support anti-inflammatory properties, aligning with traditional uses. Clinical trials showed promise for common colds, but need more robust research. Quality control measures are crucial for consistent therapeutic value of boneset products. This review provides valuable insights for researchers and practitioners interested in the medicinal properties of Eupatorium perfoliatum L.

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