

Utilizing *Pterocarpus marsupium* Rox.b Heartwood Extract for Green Synthesis of Magnesium Oxide Nanoparticles: Exploring Biomedical Applications and Beyond

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Abstract:

Background:

This study aimed to synthesize magnesium oxide nanoparticles (MgO-NPs) by employing an aqueous extract derived from the heartwood of *Pterocarpus marsupium* [1]. The heartwood extract of *Pterocarpus marsupium* is abundant in polyphenolic compounds and flavonoid [2], making it a sustainable and eco-friendly source for the large-scale production of MgO-NPs. The phytoassisted synthesis of MgO-NPs was characterized using various techniques, including UV-Visible spectroscopy [3], X-ray diffraction (XRD), dynamic light scattering (DLS), Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) [4], scanning electron microscopy (SEM) with energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) [5], and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) [6].

Results:

The formation of MgO-NPs was evident through a visible color [7] change from colorless to dark brown, and their presence was confirmed by [8] UV-Spectrophotometry analysis, showing a wavelength of 310 nm [9]. X-ray diffraction analysis revealed the crystalline nature of the synthesized nanoparticles. Scanning electron microscopy [10] (SEM) results displayed spherical-shaped MgO-NPs with an average size of less than 20 nm [11], and the presence of magnesium and oxygen was confirmed by EDS data [12]. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) analysis further confirmed the spherical shape of the nanoparticles [13], with an average particle size of 13.28 nm, and the SAED [14] analysis confirmed their crystalline nature. FT-IR investigation demonstrated the presence of active compounds necessary to stabilize [15] the MgO-NPs, with hydroxyl, carboxyl, and phenolic groups acting as reducing [16], stabilizing, and capping agents [17]. The nanoparticles exhibited varying particle sizes ranging from 15 to

25 nm, and the polydispersity index value was measured as 0.248 [18]. The zeta-potential was found to be -2.9 mV. In addition to their characterization [19], the MgO-NPs were tested for their antibacterial action against Gram-positive bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus* and Gram-negative bacterium [20] *Escherichia coli* using the minimum inhibitory concentration technique, and they showed potency against both bacteria [21]. The nanoparticles also exhibited good antioxidant activity in the DPPH radical scavenging method [22], strong anti-diabetic activity in the alpha-amylase inhibitory activity test [23], and significant anti-inflammatory activity in the albumin denaturation method [24].

Keywords: Magnesium oxide nanoparticles, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, Antioxidant activity, Antimicrobial activity, Antidiabetic activity, Anti-inflammatory activity.

Plant collection:

The heartwood of *Pterocarpus marsupium* was collected from the Tirupati area and authenticated by Dr. K. Madhava Chetty, Assistant Professor[25], Department of Botany, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. Voucher no. 1587 [26] has been deposited in a herbarium. The collection and field studies were conducted in accordance with local regulations [27], with necessary permissions obtained [28]. The collected plant material was washed, dried in shade, finely ground, and stored in an airtight container [29].

Preparation of *P. marsupium* heartwood aqueous extract:

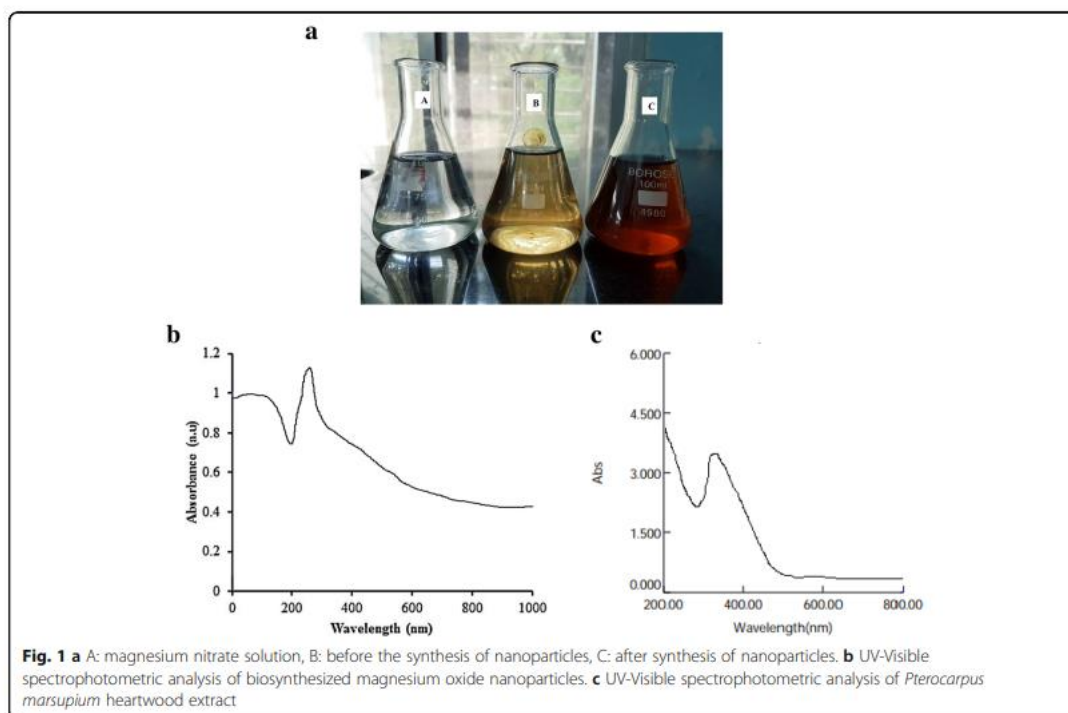
50 g of coarse powder was boiled in 500 mL of distilled water for 30 minutes [30]. The aqueous extract was then cooled, filtered using Whatman No. 1 [32] filter paper, and refrigerated for further use [33].

Total phenolic content:

The total phenolic content was estimated using the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent and gallic acid as a standard [34]. The *P. marsupium* aqueous heartwood extract (2 mL) was mixed with 10 mL of diluted Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (1/10 with distilled water). After incubation for 2 minutes, 8 mL of sodium carbonate was added, and the solution was kept in the dark at 37°C for 2 hours with occasional shaking. The absorbance was measured at 765 nm, and a standard curve was prepared using gallic acid at concentrations ranging from 50 to 500 µg/mL. The results were expressed in µg of equivalent gallic acid (GAE) per mL of *P. marsupium* extract.

Total flavonoid content:

The aluminum chloride colorimetric method was used to calculate the flavonoid content in *P. marsupium* aqueous extract. One milliliter of *P. marsupium* heartwood extract (50 mg/mL) was mixed with 4 mL of distilled water, and 0.3% sodium nitrate was added. After incubation for 10 minutes, 0.3% aluminum chloride was added, and the solution was kept for 6 minutes. Then, 2 mL of 1 mol/L sodium hydroxide solution was added, and the mixture was further incubated for 15 minutes. The absorption was measured at 415 nm, and the total flavonoid content (TFC) was calculated using the calibration curve of quercetin (10-50 µg/mL) as a standard. The results were expressed as mg quercetin equivalent (QE) per gram of dry extract weight. All tests were conducted in triplicate.



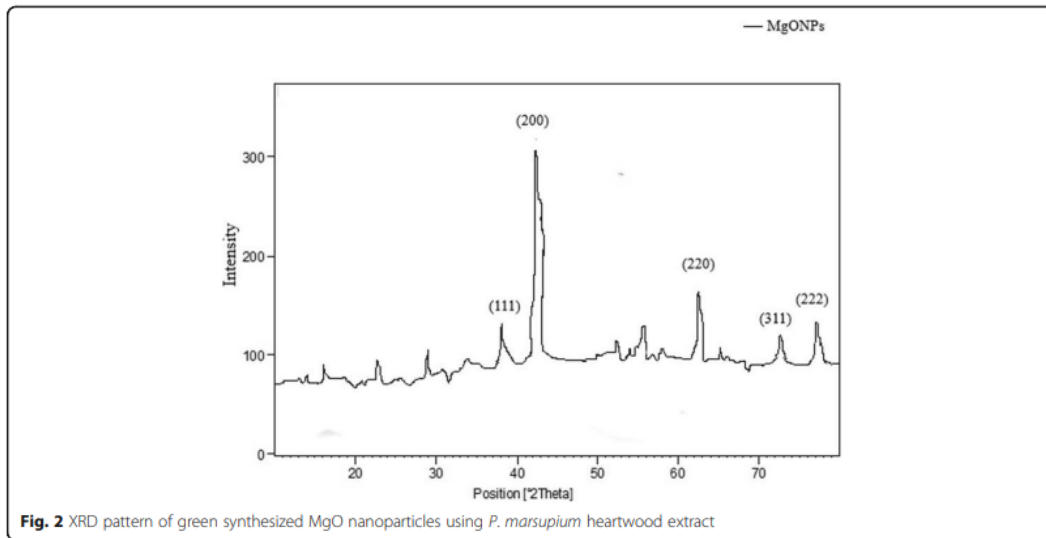


Fig. 2 XRD pattern of green synthesized MgO nanoparticles using *P. marsupium* heartwood extract

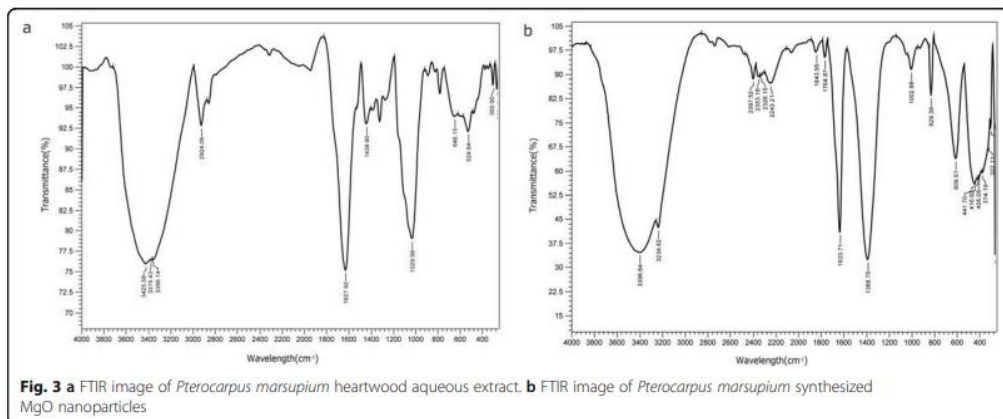


Fig. 3 a FTIR image of *Pterocarpus marsupium* heartwood aqueous extract. b FTIR image of *Pterocarpus marsupium* synthesized MgO nanoparticles

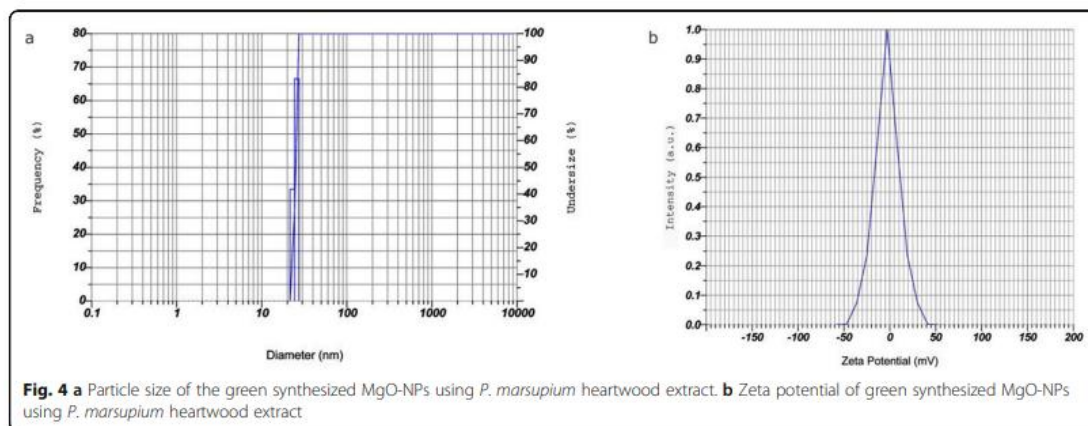
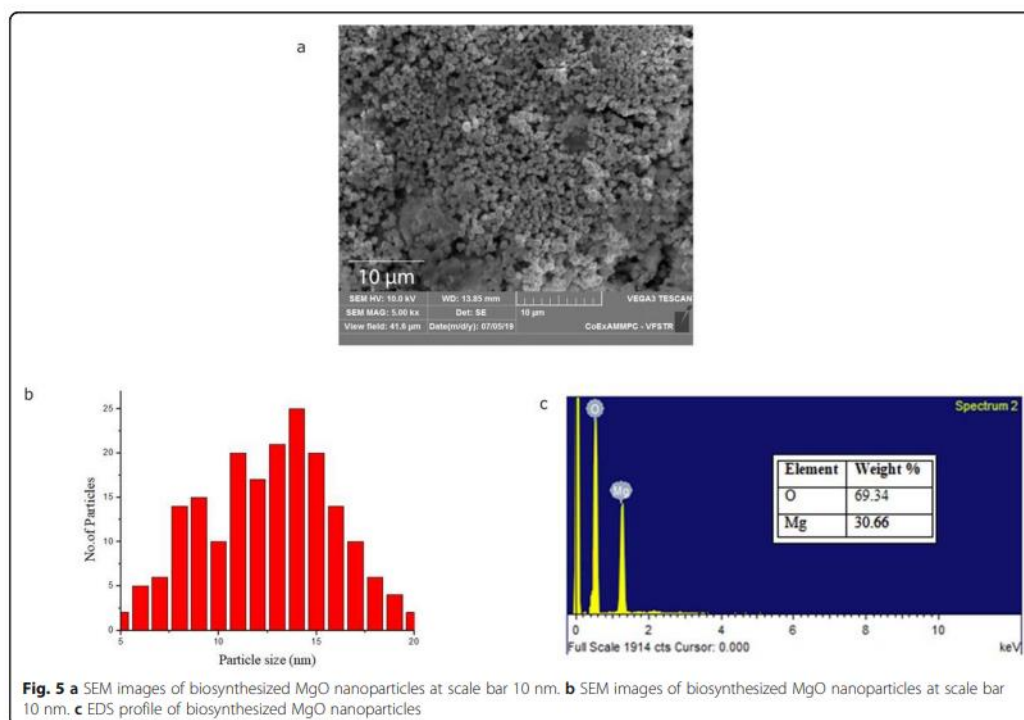


Fig. 4 a Particle size of the green synthesized MgO-NPs using *P. marsupium* heartwood extract. b Zeta potential of green synthesized MgO-NPs using *P. marsupium* heartwood extract



Conclusion:

In this study, we successfully synthesized magnesium oxide nanoparticles (MgO-NPs) using *Pterocarpus marsupium* heartwood extract as a green and eco-friendly method. The organic molecules present in the extract acted as reducing and stabilizing agents during the synthesis. The MgO-NPs were extensively characterized using various techniques such as UV, DLS, FT-IR, XRD, SEM, and TEM. Confirmation of MgO-NP formation was achieved through a distinct absorption peak at 310 nm in the UV analysis. FT-IR analysis provided evidence of the functional groups of *P. marsupium* contributing to the reduction and stabilization of MgO nanoparticles. The average size of the MgO-NPs (16.76 nm) was determined using the Debye Scherer formula from XRD analysis. SEM and TEM analysis further confirmed the nanometer-sized spherical shape of the MgO-NPs. The EDS analysis successfully identified the chemical composition of the MgO nanoparticles. The MgO-NPs exhibited notable antioxidant activity with an IC₅₀ value of 89.67 µg/mL in the DPPH scavenging activity. In terms of antibacterial activity, the MgO-NPs displayed significant inhibitory effects against both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria with MIC values of 22 ± 0.168 and 24 ± 0.439 µg/mL, respectively. Furthermore, the phytoassisted MgO-NPs showed promising antidiabetic activity through α -amylase inhibition, with an IC₅₀ value of 56.32. Additionally, the MgO-NPs demonstrated

strong anti-inflammatory activity with an IC50 value of 81.69, as assessed by the albumin denaturation method.

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