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Phytochemical Profile, Antioxidant, α -amylase Inhibition, Binding Interaction and Docking Studies of *Justicia carnea* Bioactive Compounds with α -amylase

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Abstract: The present study investigated the antioxidant and in vitro antidiabetic capacities of *Justicia carnea* aqueous leaf extract (JCAE) using α -amylase inhibition model. α -Amylase binding-interaction with JCAE was also investigated using fluorescence spectroscopy and molecular docking. Phytochemical screening and Gas ChromatographyMass Spectrometry (GC–MS) analysis indicated presence of bioactive compounds. Phenolic (132 mg GAE/g) and flavonoid contents (31.08 mg CE/g) were high. JCAE exhibited high antioxidant capacity and effectively inhibited α -amylase activity (IC_{50} , $671.43 \pm 1.88 \mu\text{g/mL}$), though lesser than acarbose effect (IC_{50} , $108.91 \pm 0.61 \mu\text{g/mL}$). α -Amylase intrinsic fluorescence was quenched in the presence of JCAE. Ultraviolet-visible and FTIR spectroscopies affirmed mild changes in α -amylase conformation. Synchronous fluorescence analysis indicated alterations in the microenvironments of tryptophan residues near α -amylase active site. Molecular docking affirmed non-polar interactions of compounds 6 and 7 in JCAE with Asp-197 and Trp-58 residues of α -amylase, respectively. Overall, JCAE indicated potential to prevent postprandial hyperglycemia by slowing down carbohydrate hydrolysis

Keywords: *Justicia carnea*, α -Amylase inhibition, Antioxidant, Binding interaction, Fluorescence quenching, Molecular docking