



# Monograph Studies on *Tinospora Cordifolia*

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**Abstract:** *Tinospora cordifolia* is a deciduous woody climbing shrub distributed throughout India, China, Africa. It belongs to the family Menispermaceae. The pharmaceutical significance of this plant is mainly because of root, stem, leaf. It constitute various phytoactive compounds such as alkaloids, steroids, glycosides, lactones, polysaccharides and so on. Almost all parts of the plant constitute immunomodulatory properties. It is one of the important medicinal plant used in Ayurvedic medicine for the treatment of cold, fever, diabetes, and even rheumatoid arthritis. This paper presents a review on botanical description medicinal properties and pharmaceutical importance of *Tinospora cordifolia*.

**Keywords:** *Tinospora cordifolia*, Medicinal plant, Immunomodulatory, Botanical description, Medicinal properties

## I. INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that upto 80% of people still rely mainly on traditional remedies such as medicinal plants for their medicines. Since the beginning of human civilization, plants have been used as natural medicines. Recently, scientists are showing a great interest in the development of new drugs from traditional medicinal plants. India with its vast bio-diversity and huge knowledge of ancient traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Amchiand provide a strong base for the utilization of a large number of plants in general healthcare and common ailments of the people.[1]

Among the vast library of important medicinal plants, *Tinospora cordifolia* (willd) is a deciduous climbing shrub which belongs to the family Menispermaceae. The plant family Menispermeaceae consists of about 70genus & 450 species that are found in tropical regions. It is found throughout the India & also in parts of SriLanka,Bangladeshand China. [2]The plant is designated as Rasayana in Ayurveda and is very well known for building up the immune system and body's defence against definite infecting Micro-organisms.[ 3,4]



Fig :3.Leaves of *tinospora cordifolia* .



Fig:2. Stems of tinospora cordifolia



Fig: 1.Morphology of plant T.cordifolia

### 1.1 Taxonomic Classification

- Kingdom: Plantae – Plants
- Subkingdom: Tracheophyta –Vascular Plants;
- Super- division: Spermatophyta-Seed bearing plants;
- Division: Magnoliophyta-Flowering;
- Class: Magnoliopsia-Dicotyledons
- Subclass: Polypeptalae-Petals are free;
- Series: Thalamiflorae-Many stamens and flower hypogynous
- Order: Ranunculales
- Family: Menispermaceae-The Moonsee family
- Tribe: Tinosporeace
- Genus: Tinospora
- Species: Cordifolia



### 1.2 Distribution

The plant is distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical regions of India. It is indigenous to areas of India, Sri Lanka, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Bangladesh and South Africa.[5,6]

### 1.3 Growth Requirement

The plant is very rigid and it can be grown in almost all climates but prefer climate. Planting is usually done during rainy season (July-August).[7] It can be successfully grown in all variety of soils. For cultivation purpose black or red soil can prefer.

### 1.4 Botanical Description

*Tinospora corifolia* is a large, deciduous, extensively spreading and climbing shrub with several elongated twining branches. Different parts of exhibits different types of morphology which are described below.

#### A. Root

Roots are aerial, thread like, long filiform, threadlike, squarish, which arise from the mature branches or cut bits of stems grow downward and by continuously lengthening sometimes reach the ground.[8] Microscopic observations of aerial roots are characterized by tetra to penta-arch primary structure. However, cortex of root is divided into outer thick walled and inner parenchymatous zone.[9] The dried aerial roots are light grey –brown or creamy white in colour, odourless and bitter taste. Starch is present throughout the parenchyma of the aerial root.

#### B. Stem

Stem of this plant is rather succulent with long, filiform, fleshy and climbing in nature. Aerial roots arise from the branches.[10] Dried stem is cylindrical, slender, slightly twisted in shape. Outer bark is thin and papery which is brown to greyish in colour. The stem when sectioned transversely shows a wheel like structure. Lenticels are circular and prominent. The stem powder is creamish brown to dark brown in colour with characteristic odour and bitter taste. The stem is used in dyspepsia, fever and urinary diseases.[11] The starch obtained from the stem known as “Guduchi-satva” is highly nutritive and digestive and used for many diseases.

#### C. Leaves

Leaves of this plant are membranous, simple, alternate, with long petiole approximately 15cm which is round,[9,12,13,14] pulvinate, heart shaped, twisted partially and half way round. Leaves are seen in bulk intensely green in colour but over mature leaves are yellowish green to yellow colour. Leaves are bitter and have an indistinct odour. Lamina is ovate cordate, 10-20 cm long, 8-15cm broad[13]. Leaves are rich in protein, calcium and phosphorus.[15]

#### D. Flower

Flowers are small and unisexual which are greenish yellow in colour. Male flowers are clustered and female flowers exist in solitary. Sepals are six in two series of three each. Outer ones are smaller than the inner sepals. Petals are also six, smaller than sepals, free and membranous. Flowering is seen during summer ( March to June) [5,12,13].

#### E. Fruit

Fruits are fleshy and single seeded which are aggregates of one to three. These are drupelets on thick stalk with a sub terminal style scars. The shape of the fruit is ovoid with smooth texture and Scarlet or orange red in colour. These appear during winter.[12,13]

#### F. Seed

Seeds are white, bean shaped and curved.[9] Embryo also turned in to curve shape automatically.[16]

**The major biological Properties of *Tinospora cordifolia* includes****Immunomodulatory Property**

The immunomodulatory property of *Tinospora cordifolia* is well documented.[17-18] Active compounds 11-hydroxymustakone, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, N-formylannonain, cordifolioside A, magnoflorine, tinocordiside and syringin[19] has been reported to have potential immunomodulatory and cytotoxic effects.[17-18,20] They have been reported to function by boosting the phagocytic activity of macrophages, production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in human neutrophil cells,[21] enhancement in nitric oxide (NO) production by stimulation of splenocytes and macrophages indicative of anti-tumor effects.[22] Aqueous *Tinospora* extracts has been also reported to influence the cytokine production, mitogenicity, stimulation and activation of immune effector cells. In mice, *Tinospora cordifolia* extracts has been shown to result in up-regulation of IL-6 cytokine, resulting in acute reactions to injury, inflammation, activation of cytotoxic T cells, and B cell differentiation.[23]

**Anti- diabetes properties**

The stem of *Tinospora cordifolia* is widely used in the therapy of diabetes by regulating the blood glucose[24] in traditional folk medicine of India. It has been reported to mediate its anti-diabetic potential through mitigating oxidative stress (OS), promoting insulin secretion and also by inhibiting gluconeogenesis and glycogenolysis, thereby regulating blood glucose.[24] Alkaloids, tannins, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, saponins, and steroids as the major phytoconstituents[25] of *Tinospora cordifolia* have been reported to play an anti-diabetic role.

**Anti- toxic effects**

*Tinospora cordifolia* extracts have been reported to scavenge free radicals generated during aflatoxicosis.[26] It exhibited protective effects by lowering thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) levels and enhancing the GSH, ascorbic acid, protein, and the activities of anti-oxidant enzymes viz., SOD, CAT, GPx, Glutathione S-transferase (GST) and glutathione reductase (GR) in kidney. Alkaloids such as a choline, tinosporin, isocolumbin, palmatine, tetrahydropalmatine, and magnoflorine from *Tinospora cordifolia* showed protection against aflatoxin-induced nephrotoxicity.[26] *Tinospora cordifolia* stem and leaves extract has shown hepatoprotective effect in Swiss albino male mice against lead nitrate induced toxicity.[27]

**Anti- Cancer Effect**

The anti-cancer effects of *Tinospora cordifolia* are mostly studied in animal models. TCE have been shown to have a radioprotective role by significantly increase in body weight, tissue weight, testes-body weight ratio and tubular diameter and inhibit the harmful effects of sub-lethal gamma radiation on testes in male Swiss albino mice. In pre-irradiating mice, TCE significantly affected radiation induced rise in lipid peroxidation and resulted in the decline of GSH concentration in testes.[28] Pre-treatment of HeLa cells by TCE have been shown to decrease the cell viability, increase LDH and decrease in GSH S-transferase activity.[29] Dihydrotestosterone (DHT) in TCE has been reported to stimulate the growth and proliferation of Human LNCaP cells (which are androgen-sensitive human prostate adenocarcinoma cells). Androgenic compounds in TCE act via androgen receptor.[30]

**Antioxidants Activity**

The anti-oxidant capacity of *Tinospora cordifolia* stem methanol extracts administered orally increased the erythrocytes membrane lipid peroxide and catalase activity. It also decreased the activities of SOD, GPx in alloxan-induced diabetic rats.[31,32,33] *Tinosporacordifolia* Willd.(Menispermaceae) extracts possess possible inhibitors of aldose reductase and anti-oxidant agents[34] thereby reducing chemotoxicity induced by free radicals.[35].

**II. CONCLUSION**

The present review focuses on the botanical description and medicinal importance of the plant *Tinospora cordifolia*. The plant, for its vast bio-diversity and traditional medicinal importance, it provides a new sight of challenging



research for the scientists to isolate pharmacologically active and therapeutic components from the plant to treat several dreadful diseases.

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