



## Phytochemical Screening, Physicochemical Analysis of Starch from Colocasia Esculenta

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### ABSTRACT

Colocasia esculenta is herbaceous plant with central edible corms, it is widely cultivated in high rain fall area and it was first cultivated in 'south east Asia'. Now a day, people suffering from a variety of health issues, including new ailments and costly therapies for those disease. As a result, employing the herbal plant is less expensive and has less adverse effects. Taro contains 70-80% starch, which is a fantastic source of energy for the human body. Starch is also beneficial for peptic ulcers, pancreatic ulcers, inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), chronic liver disease, making it a readily available and nutritious food. The starch can be extracted from taro corm powder by simple extraction process. The phytochemical evaluation of extracted starch reveals that it contains starch, glycoside and protein. The physicochemical evaluation shows the extracted starch powder has poor flow properties also absorption maxima of extracted starch is match with the standard starch. The extracted starch shows the moderate anti-ulcerogenic activity.

**KEYWORDS:** Taro, Medicinal uses, Edible corms, Starch, Phytochemical screening, UV-Spectrophotometry, IR Spectroscopy.

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### INTRODUCTION

#### History

Colocasia esculenta plant was first cultivated in Southeast Asia and then transported to South China via Japan and Indonesia, an archipelago of islands. Taro may have been cultivated as early as 100 B.C. in China and Egypt. The wheel was then transported to West

Africa by an Arab commerce caravan some 2,000 years ago, then to South America by the slave trade, and lastly to the Caribbean by the slave trade. It is now grown practically everywhere in the tropical and subtropical world, and it is a widely distributed plant. The majority of taro is grown in West Africa. [1]



Indigenous medicinal plants have recently grown in relevance on a global scale. And there are a lot of these medicinal plants. People in rural areas, especially those without access to healthcare, rely on medicinal herbs. Colocasia esculenta, sometimes known as Taro. The plant also contains bioactive phytonutrients like flavonoids, glycosides, and micronutrients. [1]

Taro is a tuberous perennial plant that is typically grown in tropical and subtropical regions around the world [15,17]. Taro's botanical name is Colocasia esculenta, and it is from the Arum family (Apiaceae). This herb is grown in more than 60 nations throughout the world, making it the sixteenth most popular. It is a widely grown crop in India. Taro has a modest protein (1.5%) and fat (0.2%) content in its corm, which is similar to many other tuber crops. It contains a lot

of starch (70–80 g/100 g dry taro), fibre (0.8%), and ash (1.2 percent). Taro also contains thiamine, riboflavin, iron, phosphorus, and zinc, as well as vitamin B6, vitamin C, niacin, potassium copper, and manganese. Taro can be utilized to entrap flavoring chemicals as well. [2,8]

### Morphology

Taro is an herbaceous plant with a central corm (just below the soil surface) from which leaves and roots grow upward and cormels, daughter corms, and runners (stolon's) sprout laterally. The fibrous root structure can be seen largely in the upper one metre of soil. Dasheen taro has a large, cylindrical corm. It can grow up to 30 cm in length and 15 cm in diameter, and is the plant's principal edible component. [1]



Fig.No.1 Leaf

**Leaf:** Taro leaves with a high protein content (23%) could be a good complement to the high carbohydrate content (87%) found in the tuber component of the plant as a human dietary source [2,10]. Taro leaves have been shown to be high



Fig.No.2 Corm

in minerals such as calcium, phosphorus, and iron, as well as vitamins. The taro leaf's high dietary fibre content is also beneficial since it helps regulate intestinal transit by boosting dietary volume [2,11]. **Root:** Roots and tubers have a lot of nutritional potential for providing cheap



sources of dietary energy in the form of carbs. The protein level of roots and tubers is generally modest, ranging from 1 to 2 % dry weight. [2,6] Taro is low in protein and fat, however it is strong in carbs, fibre and minerals. [15,24] Other nutrients such as zinc, vitamin C, thiamine, riboflavin and niacin are higher in it than in other root crops. [2,7]

#### **Chemical Constituents**

**Minerals:** When compared to other tuber crops including potato, sweet potato, cassava, and rice, taro has a higher nutritional value. Potassium, along with magnesium, phosphorus, and calcium, is the most prevalent mineral in taro. [21].

**Fat:** Taro is low in fat and has a low fat content. Raw taro has a fat percentage of 0.65%, and cooked taro has a fat content ranging from 0.3 g/50 g to 0.7 g/50 g. [21]

**Carbohydrate:** On a fresh weight basis, taro carbohydrates are claimed to account for 29%. According to a study, inaccessible carbohydrates account for 14.7 percent of the dry matter in taro, with hemicellulose accounting for about 70% of the fraction, pectin for 17%, and cellulose for 13%, making taro a great alternative flour source. [21]

**Dietary fibres:** Taro is a good source of dietary fibre when compared to other tubers, particularly potatoes. Polysaccharides, which make up the majority of dietary fibers. [21]

**Starch:** Taro has 70–80 percent (dry weight basis) starch within granules, according to report. Taro starch is easily digestible [2,13]. Peptic ulcer patients, pancreatic disease patients, chronic liver disease patients,

inflammatory bowel disease patients, and all benefit from taro starch [2,14].

#### **Medicinal Uses**

1. The plant's leaves, roots, and tubers all have several therapeutic powers.
2. Taro was used by traditional medicine to treat illness ranging from constipation to tuberculosis.
3. Studies have been reported on its possible beneficial role in the treatment of diarrhea, gastroenteritis, and inflammatory bowel disease, cancer.
4. The juice extracted from the root of the plant is used as an expectorant, stimulant, for hemorrhoids, and as astringent for alopecia [22].

#### **EXPERIMENT**

##### **ALWORK**

##### **Collection of Tubers and Identification**

Tubers were collected locally from Maharashtra. Herbarium was prepared and submitted at the botany department of Balwant College, Vita. Dist. Sangli (specimen No. ASK01). The botanical identification of the plant was confirmed by Dr. Shankar. M. Shendage. Tubers were washed and air dried. Dried tubers part of Colocasia esculenta were crushed to fine powder using grinder at Adarsh College of Pharmacy, Vita and stored in an airtight container for further studies.

##### **Extraction of Starch from Tubers**

Taro tubers were harvested and thoroughly cleaned. The exterior covering layer was stripped after washing. After that, the tuber was sliced and dried at room temperature. The dried sliced tuber pieces were crushed in a mixer grinder to make



the powder after drying. This powder is also used for starch extraction. The following procedures were used to extract starch [22].

**Extraction by a Simple Method**

The taro powder (15 gm) was distributed in 150 ml of hot water and homogenized for around 30 minutes with a homogenizer. The resulting solution was kept in the refrigerator overnight. The

solid and liquid layers split the next day, with the solid matter settling at the bottom of the glass beaker and the liquid floating at the top. The liquid layer is decanted, and any leftover sediment is rinsed away with more hot water. The water is decanted after washing, and the starch powder is produced by filtering it through Whatman filter paper. [22]

**Table No. 1 Phytochemical Test**

Test	Observation	Inference
<b>1. Test for carbohydrate</b> <b>A) Fehling's test</b> Equal volume of Fehling A & B reagent were mixed and 2 ml of crude extract and gently boiled.	A brick red precipitate appeared at bottom of the test tube.	Positive
<b>B) Benedict's test</b> Crude extract mixed with 2 ml of benedict's reagent and boiled.	Reddish brown precipitate formed.	Positive
<b>C) Molisch's test</b> Crude extracts was mixed with 2 ml of Molisch agent and the mixture was shaken, 2 ml of conc. H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> was poured along the side of the test tubes.	Appearance of a violet ring at the interface.	Positive
<b>2. Iodine test</b> Crude extract was mixed with 2 ml of iodine solution.	A dark blue or purple coloration.	Positive
<b>3. Test for Protein</b> <b>A) Millon's test</b> crude extract mixed with 2 ml of Millon's reagent.	White precipitate appeared which turned red upon gentle heating.	Positive
<b>B) Ninhydrin test</b> Crude extract boiled with 2 ml of solution of Ninhydrin.	Violet colour appeared.	Positive
<b>4. Test for Flavonoids</b> <b>A) Alkaline reagent test</b> Crude extract was mixed with 2 ml NaOH and added few drop		Positive



of diluted acid.	Yellow to colourless appeared.	
<b>4. Test for Flavonoids</b> <b>A) Alkaline reagent test</b> Crude extract was mixed with 2ml NaOH and added few drop of diluted acid.	Yellow to colourless appeared.	Positive
<b>B) Shinoda test</b> Crude extract was mixed with few fragments of magnesium ribbon and conc. HCL	Pink scarlet colour appeared.	Positive
<b>5. Test for Glycoside</b> <b>A) Salkowskistest</b> Crude extract was mixed with 2ml of chloroform then 2ml of conc. H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> and shaken gently.	Reddish brown colour indicated.	Positive
<b>B) Keller-killani test</b> Crude extract was mixed with 2ml of glacial acetic acid and 1-2 drops of lead acetate solution, Then mixture was poured into another test tube containing 2ml of conc. H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> .	A brown ring at interphase.	Positive

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Take a measured amount of powder. Powder is weighed and passed through a 10 mesh sieve. Place the funnel assembly on a glass plate and secure it with a clamp or a ring support. Transfer the powder into the funnel while blocking the stem aperture with



our thumb. Changed the height of the funnel so that there is roughly a 2 cm gap between the bottom of the funnel stem and the pick/top of the powder pile. When the powder is evacuated from the funnel, the angle of repose is measured. Using a pencil, trace the outer edge of the pile on blank paper to determine its diameter. Using two rulers, measure the pile's height. Calculate the angle of repose by using radius and height.

### **Bulk density (fluff density)**

If necessary, filter a portion of the powder sample through an aperture of greater than or equal to 1.0 mm to break up any agglomerates that may have formed during storage. Gently pour 1g of the test sample (m) into a dry graduated cylinder containing 10 ml of water. Carefully level the powder without compacting it, and use the unsettled apparent volume (V) to convert to the nearest graded unit. Using the formula, calculate the bulk density in (g/ml).

$$\text{Bulk density} = \frac{\text{Weight of sample}}{\text{Bulk volume}}$$

### **Tapped density**

Place the cylinder in the bulk density apparatus's holder. Do 100 taps on the same powder sample and take a measurement. Using the formula, determine the tapped density in (g/ml).

$$\text{Tapped density} = \frac{\text{Weight of sample}}{\text{Tapped volume}}$$

## **Measure of Powder Compressibility**

### **1. Carr's index (compressibility index)**

$$\text{Carr's index} = \frac{\text{Tapped Density} - \text{Bulk Density}}{\text{Tapped Density}} \times 100$$

### **2.**

**Hausner's Ratio:** A similar index was defined by Hausner's. The Hausner's ratio is defined

$$\text{Hausner's ratio} = \frac{\text{Tapped Density}}{\text{Bulk Density}}$$

## **Moisture content**

### **Loss on Drying**

Prepare a slurry with 1 gm of sample powder. Weigh the empty petri dish and then fill it with the sample slurry.

Weigh the petri plate with the sample. Maintain at  $105^{\circ}$  for 15 minutes at a time. Measure the loss on drying after placing the petri dish in a hot air oven for 15 min. Drying loss is calculated until the sample weight is equal.

$$\text{Loss on drying} = \frac{\text{Wt. of sample before dry} - \text{wt. of sample after dry}}{\text{Wt. of sample before dry}} \times 100$$

Wt. of sample before dry X 100

### **Determination of globule size**

The sample was mashed using a pestle in a mortar.

To make the extract, the crushed sample was combined with distilled water.

The extracts were given 2-3 drops of Lugol's iodine.

The slides were washed and dried before being used.

The name of the sample was written on the slides.

A few drops of the sample and Lugol's iodine combination were placed on the glass slide



and covered with coverslip to prevent air bubbles. Tissue paper was used to absorb any excess fluids. The slide was examined at magnifications of 10X and 40X.

## Particle Size Determination [24]

### 1. Calibration of eye piece micrometer

Use a dry tissue paper to clean the eye piece and stage micrometer. The stage micrometer is placed on the microscope stage and the eye piece micrometer is placed in the eye piece. The eye piece and stage micrometers are matched in such a way that the first lines of both micrometers coincide. The number of divisions of the eye piece micrometer must be equal to the number of

divisions of the stage micrometer.

### 2. Particle size determination

The micrometer in the eye piece has been calibrated. Made a suspension with powder sample and liquid paraffin. A portion of it has been put on a glass slide. The mounted material is placed on a microscope stage so that it may be examined under a microscope. For at least 300 components, the particle diameter in both directions is measured and recorded. Because an average particle size is derived, the data is displayed as a size frequency distribution [23].

$$\text{Average particle size} = \frac{\sum nd}{\sum n}$$

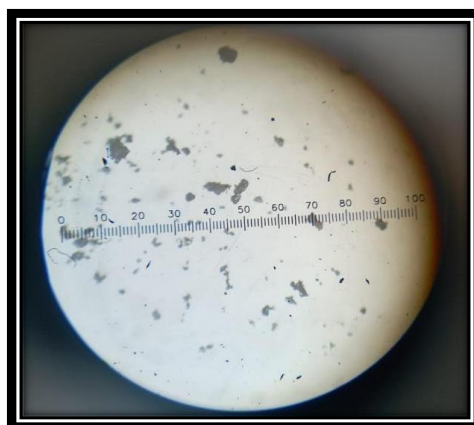


Fig No.3 Particle size determination

### UV-Spectroscopy

Prepare the stock solution by dissolving 100 mg of pure starch in 100 ml of distilled water to make a stock of 1000 ppm strength. Pipette out 1 mL, 1.5 mL, 2 mL, 2.5 mL from above stock solution and dilute up to 10 mL having concentration 100 ppm, 150 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250 ppm. Scanning the above solution in between 200-600 nm.

### IR Spectroscopy

Obtained IR spectrum by using KBr plates technique. Interpretation has been done by using rules of interpretation and also by comparing standard spectrum.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Starch has been extracted from taro successfully by the simple process of extraction.





The Phytochemical analysis of extracted starch carried out and results are as follows:

**Phytochemical analysis**

**Table No. 2 Phytochemical Test**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Test for Carbohydrates</b> 1. Fehling Test 2. Benedict's Test 3. Molisch Test	Negative  Negative  Negative
<b>2.</b>	Iodine Test	Positive
<b>3.</b>	<b>Test for Protein</b> 1. Millon's Test 2. Ninhydrin Test	Positive  Positive
<b>4.</b>	<b>Test for Flavonoids</b> 1. Alkaloids 2. Shinoda Test	Negative  Negative
<b>5.</b>	<b>Test for Glycoside</b> 1. Salkowski Test 2. Killar-Killani Test	Positive  Positive



**Fig no. 4 Phytochemical Test**

**Physicochemical Evaluation**

Physicochemical evaluation study was carried out and that gives the idea about the identification





of physical appearance, melting point, bulk density, tapped density, carrsindex,hausnersratio,angleofrepose,moisturecontent,particlesizeandtheresultsareasfollows:

**TableNo.3PhysicochemicalEvaluation Test**

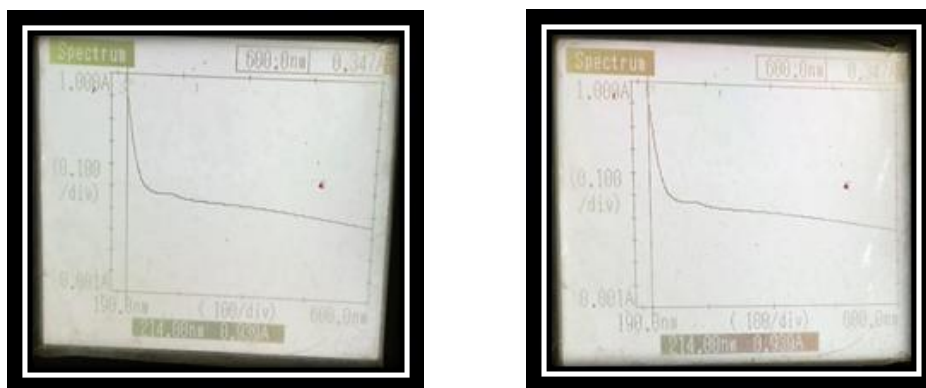
1.	Bulkdensity	0.41gm/cm <sup>3</sup>	-
2.	Tappeddensity	0.51gm/cm <sup>3</sup>	-
3.	Carr'sindex	19.60	Fair
4.	Hausner'sratio	1.26	Fair
5.	Angle ofrepose	50	Poor
6.	Moisturecontent	10.95%	NMT15%
7.	Particlesize	40.15um	-
8.	Meltingpoint	250-253 <sup>0</sup> C	258 <sup>0</sup> C

#### UV-Visible Spectrophotometric analysis

Extracted starch solutions were scanned in between 200-600 nm by using UV-Spectrophotometer.

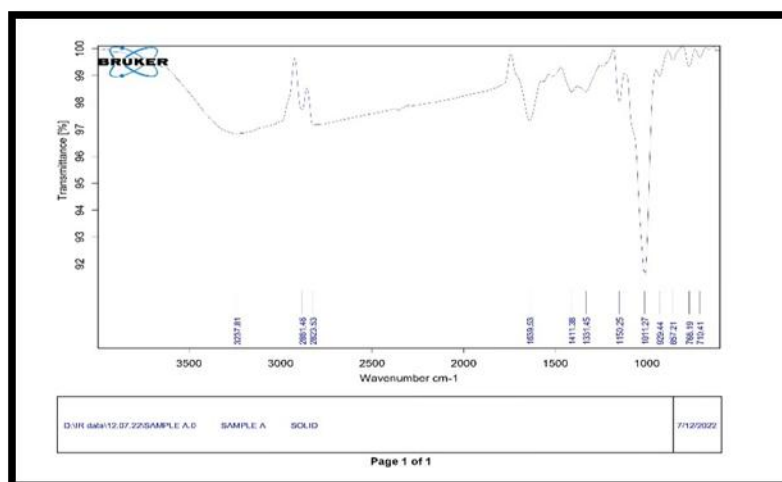
**TableNo.4UV-Visibleabsorption maximumvalues**

1.	100ppm	214
2.	150ppm	214
3.	200ppm	214
4.	250ppm	216



**FigNo.5UVSpectraofextractedStarch**

## IR Spectroscopy



**Fig No.6 IR Spectra of Extracted Starch**

Interpretation of the sample is as follow:

**Table no. 5 Interpretation of sample**

1331.43	O-H bending
1411.38	O-H bending
2823.53	C-H stretching
2881.46	C-H stretching
3237.81	O-H stretching –alcohol
1411.38	CH <sub>3</sub> bends
1639.53	Water bending vibration due to highly hydrophilic nature of polymer structure
1011.27	Vibration of C-O-H bending
857.21	C1- group vibration
929.44	Ring vibration
768.19	Law frequency vibration
710.41	Law frequency vibration
1150.25	Glycosidic C-O-C asymmetric stretch



## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In the present work, phytochemical analysis, physicochemical study and UV-Spectrophotometric analysis of extracted starch is carried out. Phytochemical analysis revealed that present starch powder contains glycoside, protein and iodine test was also positive. Physicochemical study gives brief idea about the identification of physical appearance, solubility studies, melting point, bulk density and tapped density. So the angle of repose of extracted starch which is poor. The Hausner's ratio and Carr's index which is found to be poor flowability of the powder. Absorbance maxima of extract starch is matches with the absorbance maxima standard starch. Loss on drying of extracted starch powder obtained within the limit. (according to IP). The typical assignation of starch include wide bond associated with hydroxyl groups [O-H- bending among 1330-1420  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ] [ O-H stretching among 3237.81  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ] typical signal associated with -CH stretching [ 2823.53- 2881.46] and intense signal has been associated with vibration of C-O-H bending at 1011.27  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In particular signal associated to 1639.53  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is usually describe the water bending vibration due to highly hydrophilic nature of polymer are observed in 712.41-768.19  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The overall result revealed that presence of medicinally important constituents in the plant which is confirm by the phytochemical and physicochemical characterization. So as per traditional medicinal practices starch extract from this plant is recommended strongly as well as it is suggested that further work should carried out to characterized active constituent responsible for activity also addition work is encouraging for further good research.

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