

Phytochemical analysis using GC-FID, FPLC fingerprinting, antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory activities analysis of traditionally used *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil

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Eucalyptus globules is a widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions. It has been widely used as folk medicine, and folk cosmetic owing to its antioxidant values. Despite its importance, phytochemical and pharmacological studies remain infancy. This study was aimed at extraction of essential oil by hydro-distillation and evaluation of bioactive components, antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory activities along with analysis by Ultra-Violet (UV-VIS), Fourier-Transformation Infra-Red (FT-IR) and Fluorescent techniques. Fast protein liquid chromatography (FPLC) was used to confirm the presence of polyphenols. Different antioxidant activities like superoxide, nitric oxide and reducing power of the essential oil were also studied. *In-vitro* antimicrobial activity was also evaluated. FT-IR fingerprint qualitative analysis was performed using commercial standards. Considerable amount of flavonoids were detected in essential oil. Oil exhibited considerable DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl), ABTS (2,2'-azinobis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonate) scavenging activities and reducing power. UV-VIS, FT-IR analysis revealed the presence of polyphenolics in essential oil. Fluorescent spectroscopy revealed the presence of fluorophores in essential oil. FPLC and FT-IR fingerprint analysis revealed the presence of bioactive constituents like rutin, tannic acid, vanillic acid and ascorbic acid in the essential oil. A strong anti-inflammatory activity of oil was observed using fluorescent spectroscopy. An appreciable *in vitro* antibacterial activity against gram-negative bacteria like *Acetobacter aceti* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was detected. The data provides the scientific support to the use of essential oil from *Eucalyptus globules* as a potent herbal source of bioactive compounds possessing natural antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial activities in food and pharmaceutical industries.

Keywords: *Eucalyptus globules*, essential oil, flavonoids, reducing power, FT-IR, Fluorescent analysis, *In-vitro* antibacterial activity, anti-inflammatory activity.

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Introduction

Aromatic plants are most widely used as a source of traditional medicine (1). Literature survey revealed that, despite great progress in synthetic chemistry and western medicine, plants are still backbone of primary healthcare. Worldwide underutilized plants are widely used as traditional herbal medicine in villages (2). So detailed investigation of these underutilized plants is need of the hour especially in the developing and under developed counties, where primary healthcare strongly relays on traditional drugs as they are healthier, safer and more reliable than synthetic medicines. Consumption of these plants is increasing day by day for development of novel and biodegradable effective drugs as alternative to contemporary medicine. Medicinal plants contribution to phytomedicine has attracted significant amount of interest over the world (3). Medicinal plants have been used as important source of therapeutic drug molecules as they pose bio-active components which are potential source of drugs. The major bio-active components produced by these plants are alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, saponins which are generally produced by plants as defense mechanism (4). These bio-active components are reported to suppress redox reactions of free radicals in biological systems. Herbal

agents are complex mixture and their formulations are vital with respect to medicinal, nutrient and antioxidant values. Plant essential oils are secondary metabolites produced by aromatic plants. Essential oils are complex mixture of various bioactive chemical molecules such as hydrocarbons, aromatic derivatives, terpenes and their oxygenated derivatives such as mono- and sesquiterpenoids, alcohols and esters, alcohols and other aromatic compounds (5). Due to these diverse complex biostructures that act synergistically, essential oil poses various biological activities like antimicrobial, antiviral, fungicidal, insecticidal and herbicidal (6, 7). Essential oils are so named because they represent the very essence of odor and flavor of the plant. This essence of odor of oil comes from volatile substances like aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, aldehydes, alcohols, esters and other constituents being emanated from flowers, seeds and bark of plants (8). Due to their herbal nature, safer alternative to chemical drugs, interest in these kinds of secondary metabolites in plants is increasing day by day. Essential oils are valuable natural produce of plants used as raw materials in several fields, together with perfumes, cosmetics, aromatherapy, botanical medicine, spices and nutrition, pesticides. Therefore, over the time a great interest has been paid to essential oils that may be used as therapeutic medicines (9).

Eucalyptus, member of Myrtaceae family, is a fast growing tree which reaches height up to 25-50 meters. This tree can grow in wide climatic conditions, and thrives best in tropical to temperate conditions. This tree can tolerate drought stress hence can be cultivated in drought areas and waste lands with temperature range from 0-47°C (8). The leaves of this plant are used to extract *Oleum Eucalypti* (*Eucalyptus* oil) worldwide. Essential oil (EO) from this aromatic plant has long history to be used as traditional medicine in ancient times. In addition, various potent biological activities including anti-bacterial, anti-oxidant, and anti-cancer, diaphoretic, disinfectant, anti-malarial, antiseptic, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, expectorant and antioxidant properties are attributed to *Eucalyptus* essential oil, hence playing a key role as therapeutics in the scientific community (8-11). Essential oil from *Eucalyptus* plants are great demand in market due to broad spectrum of applications like: flu, colds, muscular pain, expectorant in case of bronchitis (cough syrups), treatment of gum disease like “pyorrhea”, mosquito repellent products, anodyne, deodorant, hemostat, fumigant, sedative, vermifuge, burns, boils, cancer, dysentery, diarrhea, inflammation, leprosy, malaria, soar throat, sores, spasm, wounds etc (5,10). Patient from asthma are advised to inhale vapors of this oil as aromatherapy. It plays a very important antiseptic role in the preparation of menthol and thymol used in toothpastes. Worldwide it is also used in the preparation of aerosol which is used in chemical and varnishing industries (9). Although EOs from this plant has been empirically used as antimicrobial agent but its mechanism of action is still in infancy. So the objective of the present study is to extract essential oil from *Eucalyptus globules* and study its antioxidant, antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory activities.

Experimental section

Extraction of *Eucalyptus* essential oil

The fresh green leaf samples of *Eucalyptus globule* were collected growing under the natural conditions, from nearby areas of Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar located at 71° - 31° east latitude and 30° -33° north longitude. The *Eucalyptus globule* was recognized by Dr Upma from Botany Dept and voucher with number BT102 was deposited in herbarium, of Dept of Biotechnology. Hydro-distillation method was used for extraction (in duplicate) of essential oil. Extraction was performed using Clevenger-type apparatus. About 15 g of crushed green leaves were distilled at a working temperature of 100°C for 2 hr with addition of 100 ml of double-distilled water. The oil was collected from clevenger apparatus and stored at laboratory condition (25°C). The oil obtained was used without further purification or filtration. Percentage yield of *Eucalyptus* essential oil have been calculated as follow;
Yield (%)=weight of essential oil/
weight of leaves X 100

Preliminary test (Qualitative analysis of phytochemicals)

Eucalyptus globulus essential oil was dissolved in methanol (0.3 ml oil/2 ml of methanol) and analyzed for the presence of various phytochemicals following Kumar et al, (11). Details of protocols used are cited in supplementary section.

UV-VIS fingerprint analysis, FT-IR and Fluorescence spectroscopy analysis

UV-VIS analysis of pure *Eucalyptus* oil was conducted using UV-VIS spectrophotometer (Labtronics) with slit width of 2nm, using a 10-mm cell at room temperature and were examined in the wavelength ranging from 200-400 nm and peaks were recorded. FT-IR was used to identify functional groups. A small amount of oil was taken in the sample cup of a diffuse reflectance accessory. IR spectrum was obtained using FT-IR infrared spectrophotometer (Perkin Elmer, USA spectrophotometer). The sample was scanned from 4000 to 400 cm⁻¹ and peaks were observed. The fluorescence spectrum of pure *Eucalyptus* oil was measured on Perkin Elmer Spectrophotometer (FL6500). All experiments were done at room temperature (~30°C).

In vitro antioxidant assays

Photochemical analysis of natural *Eucalyptus* oil was performed as described in literature. In order to investigate the antioxidant properties of oil, following assays were used. Since single assay never confirms antioxidant activity of any sample, hence different assays were used for the same.

Nitric oxide scavenging activity

The nitric oxide scavenging activity of *Eucalyptus globulus essential* oil was measured by the modified method of Obafemi et al, 2017 (12). Various amount of oil was taken. Sodium nitroprusside (2.5 mL, 10 mM) in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) was mixed with different amount of oil. The reaction mixture was allowed to incubate at 25 °C for 150 min. Thereafter 0.5 mL aliquot was mixed with 0.5 mL of Griess reagent and the absorbance was measured at 546 nm. Sodium nitroprusside in phosphate buffered saline (2ml) was taken as control. Ascorbic acid was taken as standard. The nitric oxide scavenging activity of the oil is calculated by the following equation. Percentage of inhibition = [(A₀-A₁)/A₀] ×100, Where A₀ is the absorbance of sodium nitroprusside in PBS and A₁ is the absorbance in the presence of oil.

Superoxide radical scavenging activity

Superoxide radical scavenging activity of various amount of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil was measured by nitroblue tetrazolium reduction method (13). One milliliter of nitroblue tetrazolium (NBT) solution (1 M NBT in 100

mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.4), 1 mL NADH solution (1 M NADH in 100 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.4) was added to various amount of oil (100-300 μ L). 100 μ L of phenazine methosulfate (PMS) solution (60 μ M of PMS in 100 mM of phosphate buffer, pH (7.4) was added to reaction mixture to start the reaction. The reaction mixture was incubated at 25^o C for 5 min. After that absorbance of the mixture was measured at 560 nm. All reagents except PMS were taken as blank. For negative control only solvent was added, and for positive control, sample was replaced by ascorbic acid. All the measurements were made in triplicate. The superoxide radical scavenging activity was determined by using following equation. % superoxide radical scavenging activity = (1-Absorbance of sample at 560 nm /Absorbance of control at 560 nm) \times 100.

DPPH radical scavenging activity

The free radical scavenging activity of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil is determined by the using 1, 1-diphenyl-2-picryl-hydrazyl (DPPH) assay (13). 2.8 ml of DPPH solution (3.2 mg DPPH in 100 mL 82% of methanol) was added to various amount of oil (50-100 μ L). The mixture was allowed to stand in dark at controlled room temperature (25-27^o C) for 1 hr and measured at 517 nm. Mixture of 3.0 mL of 82% of methanol was taken as blank while 3.0 mL of DPPH was taken as control. Ascorbic acid was taken as positive control. The test was performed in triplicate. Percentage inhibition was determined by the following formula. % scavenging = Abs. of control – Abs. of sample \times 100/ Abs. of control.

ABTS radical cation assay

ABTS radical cation assay was conducted using the protocol given by Khan et al, (13). According to the procedure, ABTS (2,20-azinobis-(3-ethylbenzothiazoneline-6-sulphonic acid, 7.4 mM) used as to provide free radical when treated with potassium persulfate (2.45 mM) to form free radicals. 3 mL of this reagent was added in glass tubes with one tube having 3 mL ethanol as blank. Initial absorbance of reagents using glass corvettes was recorded at 414 nm. Various amount of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil (10-25 μ L) was added to the reagent. The mixture was shaken thoroughly and absorbance of the mixture was measured using UV-VIS spectrophotometer at 414 nm after 90 minutes. Ascorbic acid was taken as standard. % ABTS scavenging ability = (A1 - A2/A1) \times 100, Where A1 is the absorbance of the control (ABTS solution without oil), and A2 is the absorbance in the presence of the test sample.

Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity

Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil was calculated by the procedure given by Obafemi et al, (12). According to the procedure, hydroxyl radical is produced in a mixture of 1.0 mL of 0.75 mM 1,10-

phenanthroline, 2.0 mL of 0.2 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4), 1.0 mL of 0.75 mM FeSO₄ and 1.0 mL of H₂O₂ (0.01% v/v). After addition of different amount of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil (10-30 μ L), the mixture was incubated at 37^o C for 30 min. De-ionized water was used as the blank. Ascorbic acid was taken as positive control. The hydroxyl radical scavenging activity is calculated by the following equation. Scavenging activity (%) = (Abs sample – Abs blank) / (Abs₀ – Abs blank) \times 100, Where Abs₀ is the absorbance of deionized water instead of H₂O₂ and sample in assay system.

Iron reducing power

Iron reducing power of the *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil was calculated by the procedure given by Obafemi et al, (12). According to the method different amount of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil (10-25 μ L) was mixed with 1.25 mL of 200 mM of NaPO₄ buffer (pH 6.6) and 1.25 ml of potassium ferricyanide (1%). Then the mixture was incubated at 50^oC for 20 minutes and 2.5 mL of trichloroacetic acid (10%w/v) was added and was centrifuged at 650 rpm for 10 min. 100 μ L of 0.1% ferric chloride and 500 μ L deionized water was added to 500 μ L of upper layer and absorbance was taken at 700 nm. Higher absorbance indicates higher reducing power. The assay was carried out in triplicates. Ascorbic acid was used as standard.

Total phenolic content

The total phenolic content of the *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil was measured by the Folin- Ciocalteu method (14). Briefly, 50 μ L of oil was made up to 3 mL with double distilled water and then mixed properly with 0.5 mL of 1:10 Folin-Ciocalteu reagent and incubated for 3 minutes. After incubation, 2 mL of 20% (w/v) sodium carbonate was added. The resulting solution was incubated for 60 minutes in the dark before absorbance readings were measured at 650 nm. Gallic acid (5-50 μ g/mL) was used in the calibration curve. Result were expressed as mg gallic acid (GAE)/10kg fresh weight using the standard curve equation $y = 0.0123x + 0.1476$ R² = 0.8835. All the sample were analyzed in triplicate.

Total flavonoid content

The total flavonoid content of extracted *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil was measured by the aluminum chloride colorimetric method (14). In brief, 10 μ L of oil was made up to 1 mL of methanol and then mixed with 4 mL of double distilled water. Then 0.3 mL of 5% NaNO₂ was added and incubated for 5 min. After incubation 0.3 mL of 10% AlCl₃ was added and mixture was allowed to stand for 6 minutes. After that 2 mL of 1 mol/L NaOH

solution was added and then the final volume of reaction mixture was brought to 10 mL with double distilled water and incubated for 15 minutes in the dark. After incubation absorbance was measured at 510 nm. Rutin (50-500 µg/mL) was used in the calibration curve. The result of oil were expressed as mg of rutin equivalent per 10kg fresh weight using the standard curve equation $y=0.0005x$ $R^2 = 0.7683$. All the samples were analyzed in triplicate.

Anti-Inflammatory activity (protein denaturation) of the *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil

Protein denaturation essay was done according to the protocol described by Kumar et al., (11) with some modification. The reaction mixture consisted of 0.4 mL of 1% BSA, 4.78 mL of phosphate buffered saline (PBS, pH 6.4) and different amount of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil. The reaction mixture was incubated in water bath at 37°C for 15 minutes. After that reaction mixture was heated at 70°C for 5 min. The reaction mixture was immediately cool down. After cooling, the turbidity was measured at 600 nm using UV / VIS spectrophotometer. Phosphate buffer solution was taken as control. Aspirin was taken as standard. The % inhibition of protein denaturation = $100 \times (1 - A_2 / A_1)$, Where A1 is the absorbance of the control sample and A2 is the absorbance of the test sample.

In addition, protein denaturant assay was also studied using fluorescent assay. The reaction mixture contained 0.4ml of 1% BSA, 4.78 mL of phosphate buffered saline (PBS, pH 6.4) and 100 µl of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil. The reaction mixture was incubated in water bath at 37°C for 15 min. After that reaction mixture was heated at 70°C for 5 min. After cooling, 1 mL of mixture was subjected to fluorescent spectroscopy analysis on Perkin Elmer Spectrophotometer (FL6500). The excitation wavelength was 280 nm and fluorescence emission spectrum was recorded over wavelength range from 300-400 nm. All experiments were done at room temperature (~30°C).

In vitro Antibacterial activities

In vitro antibacterial activity of the *Eucalyptus globules* essential oil was carried out by agar disc diffusion method against 6 test organisms, gram-negative (*Acetobacter aceti*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MTCC 427, *Escherichia coli* MTCC 40), and Gram-positive (*Bacillus subtilis* MTCC 121, *Staphylococcus aureus* MTCC 3160) and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains. Pathogens were purchased from Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh. Sterile paper discs (6 mm in diameter) impregnated with 100 µl of *Eucalyptus globules* essential oil. Inoculums of all strains were prepared from 12-h cultures, and OD of suspensions was adjusted to 0.5 at 570nm using spectrophotometer. A swab of bacteria suspension was spread on to the petri plates having Luria Broth and allowed to dry for 30 min. The discs with essential oil were then applied and plates were left for 20

min at room temperature to allow to diffusion of oil followed by incubation at 37°C for 24 hours. After incubation, the EO diffuses into the luria agar plates and prevent germination and growth of the test microorganism and antibacterial activity was observed as the zone of inhibition around the discs. The experiment was repeated three times.

Chemical fingerprinting

FPLC fingerprint analysis of essential oil supernatants was carried out using AKTA prime PLUS system (GE healthcare, Sweden), equipped with gradient pump, auto sampler, and Prime view 5.0 software for data acquisition and processing. The analysis was carried out using HiTrap™ column (5 x 5 ml) with flow rate 1.0 mLmin⁻¹, operating pressure, 1MPa (145 psi). The fingerprints were registered at wavelength $\lambda = 254$ nm and an aliquot of 0.5 ml was injected for acquiring chromatograms. A pre-equilibration period of 10 min with 20% methanol was used between individual runs.

Identification and Quantization

The four chemical standards - Rutin (in methanol), Tannic acid (in ethanol), Vanillic acid (in methanol), Ascorbic acid (in water) were prepared in appropriate solvents (25 mg per ml) and filtered by 0.2µm filters. Relative peak area (RPA) and Relative retention time (RRT) with respect to related to reference peak were also calculated. The calibration curve for each compound was established by plotting the peak area (y) versus the concentration (x) of each analyte and were fitted to a linear function of type $y = ax + b$. The limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ) for each analyte at S/N of 3 and 10, respectively. Quantization was established by preparing calibration curves with pure analytes.

Gas Chromatography analysis

Gas chromatography (GC-FID) analysis of *Eucalyptus* oil was performed using a Chemtron 2045 gas chromatograph coupled with flame ionization detector. A 2 m long stainless steel column filed with 10% OV-17 on 80-100% mesh Chromosorb W (HP) was used. Nitrogen gas was used as carrier at flow rate of 30 ml/min. The injector and detector temperatures were 250 °C and 200 °C, respectively and sample (0.2 µl) was injected. Ramping conditions for oven were: initially maintained at 50°C ramped to 200 °C at 2 °C/min. The identification of bioactive constituents was achieved by comparison of their relative retention times with either those of known standards or with published data in the literature and matching their mass GC-FID spectra with those obtained from authentic samples and/or the NIST spectral libraries spectra and literature data.

Statistical analysis

MS Excel software was used to determine P values by student t test. Values of P < 0.05 were significant. IC50

values of oil providing 50% inhibition was calculated at <https://www.aatbio.com/tools/ic50-calculator>.

Results and Discussion

Photochemical analysis

Aromatic plants contain many secondary metabolites and essential oils are one among them which are known to be biological active and poses potent pharmacological activities (8-10). Since oils are plant origin, hence preferred over synthetic ones because of safety concerns (1). Extraction yield of EO from *Eucalyptus* leaves was about 0.133%. Results of preliminary studies show the phytochemicals composition of essential oil extracted from *Eucalyptus* leaves (supplementary Table 1). Our results also indicated that total flavonoids and total phenols were estimated to be 392.5 mg/g RE ($R^2 = 0.9876$, $Y=0.0502x+0.7325$) and 3.375 mg/g GAE ($R^2 = 0.9885$, $Y=0.033x-0.0273$), respectively. The content of flavonoids was dramatically higher as compared to phenols. Earlier literature review also documented that essential oils from *Eucalyptus* species are rich in polyphenolics like flavonoids (5,6,8-10, 24). The presence of high content of flavonoids indicated the effectiveness of EO as potent source of bioactive compounds from *Eucalyptus globulus* (15). As a potent source of bioactive compounds EOs have been shown to reduce the risk of many diseases by scavenging free radical in various biological mechanisms (8-10).

Fingerprint analysis

Secondary metabolite fingerprint characterization by spectroscopy provides valuable insights about qualitative and quantitative formulation of herbal derivatives and bio active components from plants. UV-VIS, fluorescent and FT-IR spectroscopy methods together or separate can be used in this sense as conventional methods for detecting phytocomponents (16). The qualitative UV Spectroscopy profile of essential oil revealed different sharp peaks from 200-250 nm with absorbance of 2.0-2.5 (Fig.1), indicating the accumulation of secondary metabolites (17). Occurrence of peaks at 200-250 nm reveals the presents of flavonoids, and phenolics in essential oil. On comparison of the spectra of extracted oil with literature value, revealed that the oil has some similar flavonoids, and phenolics compounds as reported in by Paulraj et al., (18). Essential oil from *Eucalyptus* plant species have been reported to be rich source of flavonoids and related volatile constituents (17).

Table 1. Log IC50 of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil for various antioxidant systems

Antioxidant assay	Log IC50	
	Oil	Control (Ascorbic acid)
Nitric oxide scavenging activity	48.26	57.19
DPPH radical scavenging activity	70.12	9.62
ABTS radical scavenging activity	15.45	127.16
Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity	17.94	119.38
Iron reducing power	18.37	59.33

In addition to UV-VIS, fluorescent spectroscopy is more reliable and sensitive method for detection of bio-molecules. The fluorescent emission spectrum of essential oil from *Eucalyptus* is shown in Fig. 2. They are grouped together on the basis of excitation wavelengths. Notably two peaks, one major in green fluorescent region (GF) region and one minor, in far red fluorescent region (FRF) region (fingerprints) were detected. Based on the spectra it was suggested that at least two different fluorescent substances possibly presented in the *Eucalyptus* essential oil. It was reported that candidates for GF emission (lambda near 500 nm) are, flavonoids, terpenoids and flavins (19). Another set of bioactive compounds, as evidenced by minor peak, was also detected in red-fluorescent region (FRF) may be due to accumulation of other fluorescent compounds like anthocyanins, phenolics, alkalioids and aromatic benzenoids. Depending on the excitation wavelength, peaks with different intensities were detected. Notably, as excitation wavelength increased, intensity of major peak also increased. Maximum intensity was observed at $\lambda 470$. However, intensity of minor peak decreased dramatically from $\lambda 390$ to $\lambda 470$. Differences in the intensities in fluorescence may be related to chemical composition of essential oil.

Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer (FT-IR) is perhaps most powerful, rapid, non destructive method to fingerprint plant extracts or powders and for detecting types of bonds and functional groups present in the extracts (16). The IR spectrum region 3000-600 cm^{-1} , (fingerprint) contains absorption bands that characterize the molecular structures by vibrations of the spectrum like deformation, combining, harmonic bands. By interpreting the IR absorption spectrum, the chemical bonds in a compound can be determined.

Table 2. Antimicrobial analysis of essential oil

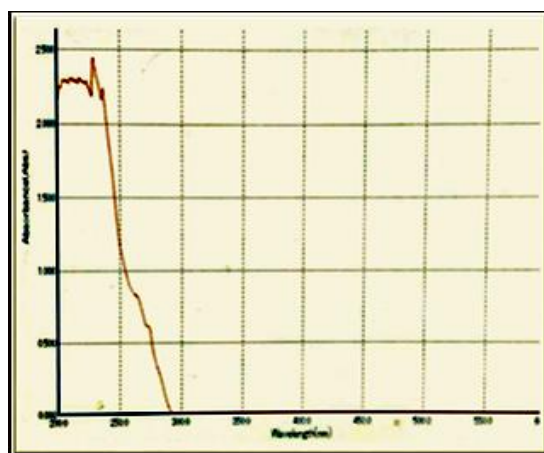
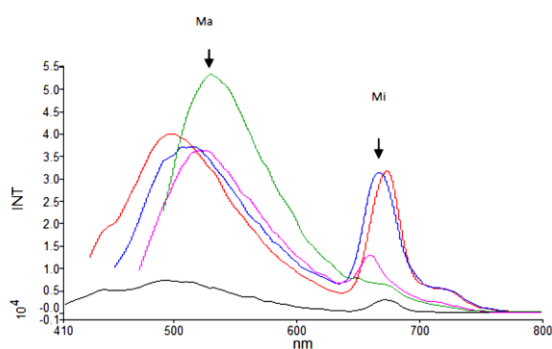
Strain	Strain type	Zone of inhibition (cm)	
		C	EO
<i>Acetobacter aceti</i>	Gram negative	2.1	FI
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Gram negative	1.4	4.3
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	Gram negative	1.8	2.2
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	Gram positive	3	6
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Gram positive	-	-
<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>		2.9	FI

Here: C= Positive control (Vancomycin antibiotic, 10mg), EO= essential oil, FI: 100% inhibition, -: nil inhibition, values are expressed as mean \pm SD (n=3).

Table 3. Anti-inflammatory (protein denaturation activity/BSA denaturation assay) activity of *Eucalyptus* oil

Test sample	Anti-inflammatory activity (%)
Essential oil (50 ul)	79±1.2
Asprin (200 ug/ml)	84±1.8

FT-IR peak values profile and functional groups are documented in Fig. 3. Essential oil showed the presence of bio-active compounds. In FT-IR spectrum gave a broad peak at 2921 cm⁻¹ which indicated the presence of C-H stretching due to alkenes. It showed peaks at about 1457 cm⁻¹ attributed to C-H bending due to alkanes. The peak around 1214 and 1079 were due to esters and alcohols. FT-IR spectrum confirmed the presence of aromatic compounds, alcohols, phenols, alkanes, alkynes, and amines in *Eucalyptus* oil (20). All these compounds belong to the secondary plant metabolites as per researcher explanations (18). The presence of above said secondary metabolites could be reason for its various medicinal properties of *Eucalyptus* essential oil.

Figure 1. UV Profile of the *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil.

λ _{exc}	Peak intensity (INT) x 10 ⁴		Fluorescence wavelength	
	Ma	Mi	Ma	Mi
390	0.5	0.3	505	667
410	4.0	3.5	515	673
430	3.8	3.5	524	659
450	3.5	1.5	525	670
470	5.5	1.0	508	680

Figure 2. Fluorescent analysis of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil.

FT-IR fingerprinting, being a direct and label-free analytical method, can be used as global chemical fingerprints of unknown herbal sample considering the fact that complex mixture are present in herbal products. Furthermore, the identification of bioactive mixture components quantification may be estimated by FT-IR spectra using known calibration standards. FT-IR region can be used to identify the bioactive compound by comparing IR spectra of oil with standard compounds. There were about 12 peaks in the FT-IR fingerprint spectrum (Fig. 3). Peaks 1, 2, 3 and 6 were identified as rutin, tannic acid, vanillic acid and ascorbic acid, respectively by using standards. Rutin, tannic acid, vanillic acid and ascorbic acid are polyphenolic compounds widely used in food industry as flavors, preservative and food additive properties. Earlier study has also documented that natural *Eucalyptus* oil is used in food industries as flavouring agent, in baked goods, confectionery, meat products and beverages (24). Tyagi et al (24), also documented role of *Eucalyptus* oil as a natural food preservative having antiyeast potential.

Antioxidant Activities

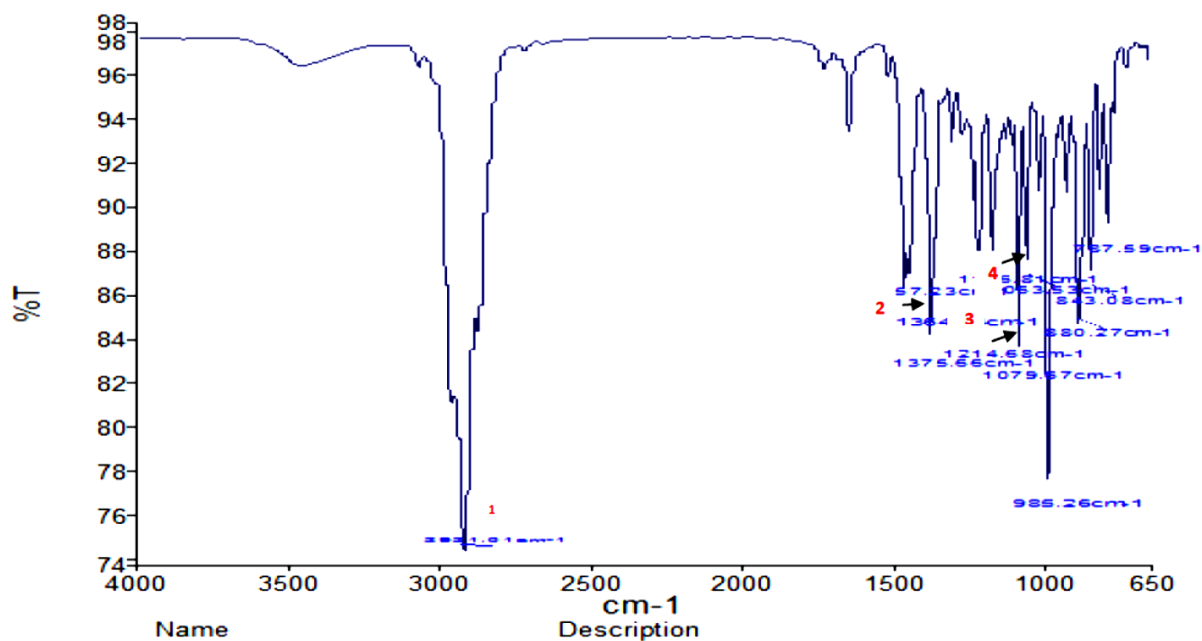
The antioxidant potential of medicinal plants is the key component generally employed to unravel its therapeutic potential. Earlier studies opined that due to complex nature of antioxidants and phytochemicals, no single assay accurately depicts antioxidant potential, hence two or more methods should be used to evaluate total antioxidant activities (22). Different analysis methods may cover all the possible mechanism of antioxidant potential of bioactive constituents of EO.

In the present study antioxidant activities of essential oil extracted from *Eucalyptus globulus* were estimated by various assays like DPPH, NO, OH⁻, ABTS⁺, O²-radical scavenging assays. *Eucalyptus* essential oil endowed with powerful antioxidant activities. The IC₅₀ of the essential oil is depicted in table 1. The performance wise antioxidant potential of *Eucalyptus* oil was in following order: DPPH (70.12), NO (48.26), OH⁻ (17.94), ABTS⁺ (15.45). The observed reducing power of oil was 18.37. Reducing potential is a significant indicator of compounds which is associated with presence of reductones which break free radical chain by donating hydrogen atom (23). Mostly used therapeutic and pharmacologically drugs used to ameliorate free radicals and oxidative stress related diseases have been reported to have strong reducing power. We therefore opine that the marked antioxidant activities of essential oil may be attributed to the presence of flavonoids and other phenolic compounds as observed in this study. Richness of antioxidant activities of any bioactive compound is the symbol of its potential use as food/drug supplement to control damage of biomolecules by inhibiting free radicals in biological system and consequently rejuvenates the body functions (24). In the past few years, the identification of

phenolic based derivatives from different plants extracts has become a major area of health- and medical-related research (21).

In vitro antimicrobial activity

Eucalyptus essential oil was quantitatively assessed for *in-vitro* antimicrobial activity using agar disc diffusion method. The essential oil was found to exhibit varying degree of inhibitory activity against all the microbial drug resistant strains. In the present study, essential oil from *Eucalyptus* showed strong antimicrobial activity with almost all the strains (Table 2).



Peak Number	X (cm-1)	Y (%T)	Vibration mode	Functional grp	intensity	Bioactive molecule
1	2921.01	74.35	C-H stretching	alkene	Medium	RU [1,8 Cineole (Eucalyptol)]
2	1457.23	87.44	C-H bending	Alkane	High	[δ (CH ₃), δ 9CH ₂) ³]
3	1375.66	84.23	S=O stretching	Sulphonamide	High	TA [Citronella]
4	1364.04	85.89	S=O stretching	Sulphonamide	High	[Menthol]
5	1214.68	84.59	C-O stretching	Ester	High	[1,8 Cineole (Eucalyptol)]
6	1166.81	88.08	C-O stretching	Aliphatic ether	High	[1,8 Cineole (Eucalyptol)]
7	1079.67	83.68	C-O stretching	Primary alcohol	High	VA [1,8 Cineole (Eucalyptol)]
8	1053.53	87.65	C-O stretching	Primary alcohol	High	AA[1,8 Cineole (Eucalyptol)]
9	985.26	77.68	C=C bending	Alkene	Medium	[1,8 Cineole (Eucalyptol)]
10	880.27	85.57	C-H bending	1,2,4 trisubstituted	High	[1,8 Cineole (Eucalyptol)]
11	843.08	87.19	C=C bending	Alkene	High	[1,8 Cineole (Eucalyptol)]
12	787.59	89.34	C-H bending	1,3 disubstituted	High	[Phenylethyl phenylacetate]

Figure 3. FT-IR analysis of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil.

Data revealed that maximum inhibition (almost full) was noticed for *A. aceti* and *S. cerevisiae*. The essential oil showed strong antimicrobial activity against *P. aerogenosa* and *B. subtilis*. Essential oil showed moderate activity against *E. coli* while inactive against *S. aureus*. The differential action of essential oil and or their constituents may be due to the presence single target or multiple targets for their activity. Consequently, the antimicrobial activities of *Eucalyptus* oil may be attributed to synergistic effects of polyphenolics. Our

findings were in consonance with the earlier studies documenting that oil extracted from eucalyptus leaves posses marked antibacterial activities (5,8,9). Essential oil from *Eucalyptus* species has been reported to have antibacterial activity due to presence of bioactive molecules like Eucalyptol, citronella (22). Phenolics are reported to be involved in the inhibition of various metabolic and biosynthetic pathways. Silva et al., (8) cited that antimicrobial toxicity of EOs may be attributed to hydrolytic enzyme inhibition (proteases) or inhibited

interactive partners like: microbial adhesions, cell wall envelop proteins, and non-specific interaction with carbohydrates. Literature revealed that oil induces antimicrobial activities due to the presence of potent bioactive molecules like terpenoids (eugenol and eucalyptol components) flavonoids and other alkaloids (1). These compounds have capability to diffuse across the cell membranes and induce biological reactions and disrupt the proton motive force, electron flow, active transport, and coagulation of the cell contents. Results further revealed that essential oil from *Eucalyptus* showed dramatic bacteriostatic activity against gram negative bacteria than Gram-positive. It was noteworthy observation as mostly literature suggests that gram negative bacteria are more resistant than gram positive due to complex nature of cell wall (5). Presence of lipopolysaccharides and thick peptidoglycan layer, allows gram negative bacteria to be more resistant to most of hydrophobic antibiotics and toxic drugs. Raho and Benali (5) also cited that essential oil from *Eucalyptus* globules inhibited more growth on gram negative bacteria than gram positive ones.

Anti-protein denaturation studies

The major cause of tissue inflammation is protein denaturation which is associated with indications like redness, pain, heat, swelling and loss of function at that area of tissues (12). The major reason behind loss of protein functions is the disruption of hydrogen, hydrophobic and disulphide bonds in protein structures. Hence it was deduced that compounds which are able to prevent these changes and inhibit heat induced protein denaturation have potential to be used as therapeutic anti-inflammatory drugs. In the present study protein denaturation inhibitory study of essential oil was investigated by fluorescent technique (19). Therefore, in order to study the inhibitory effect of essential oil (EO) from *Eucalyptus* on protein denaturation process, bovine serum albumin (BSA), a water soluble protein, was chosen. Typical fluorescence spectra for denatured BSA and BSA plus EO are shown in Fig. 4. EO exhibited

substantial decrease in inhibition of protein denaturation, as fluorescence intensity decreased substantially after the addition of EO to BSA. The fluorescence intensity using commercial synthetic drugs is also shown in Fig. 4. Further, biochemical protein denaturation assay was also performed to validate the same. As indicated in table 3, EO showed 79% maximum inhibition. Aspirin, a standard anti-inflammatory drug showed 84% activity. These results clearly indicate the potential of *Eucalyptus* essential oil as an anti-inflammatory agent. The anti-denaturation activity of EO may be ascribed to complex mixtures having multiple compounds which may interact synergistically or the contribution of trace components. The present findings were in corroboration with earlier studies reported on anti-inflammatory potential of eucalyptus oil (28, 29).

FPLC fingerprint analysis

Herbal therapeutic product is a complicated system of mixtures having multiple bioactive constituents. Changes in metabolic profiles of 'botanical drug' can be studied with help of chemical fingerprinting which mainly intended to obtain a particular fingerprint of a specific product.

For such purposes, FPLC fingerprint should be considered to evaluate quality of herbal medicine worldwide (27). This technology provides a comprehensive picture of all active biological and pharmaceutical components in the plant. The results of FPLC fingerprint analysis is shown in Figure 5 and supplementary table 2. Satisfactory calibration curve with good linearity were obtained with correlation coefficients from 0.93 to 0.99 for all the analytes. The LODs and LOQs for all the analytes are shown in the supplementary table 2, which depicted the sufficient sensitivity of the analytical methods. The FPLC chromatograms showed abundant diversity of chemical constituents which were analyzed by was analyzed by qualification and quantitation (Figure 5).

Table 4. FPLC analysis of *Eucalyptus* essential oil

Peak no	Analyte	RT	Area (%)	Area (mAumin)	Height (mAu)	RRT*	RPA#	Content (mg/g)
15 ^s	Tannic acid	2.87	14.0	380	2424	1	1	30.12
18	Ascorbic acid	4.30	4.7	128	2158	1.49	0.33	10.12
1	Rutin	1.19	1.5	43	1288	0.41	0.11	5.62
17	Vannilic acid	4.25	6.7	182	2106	1.48	0.47	16.23

* The ratio of peak retention time of the target and internal reference substance.

The ratio between peak area of target and internal reference standard

\$ The internal reference substance.

The four analytes were identified in essential oil by comparing their retention time with those of standard compounds (Figure 5). There were about 20 characteristic peaks with 6 min, shown in Figure 5. Peaks 1, 15, 17 and 18 were identified as rutin, tannic acid, vannilic acid and ascorbic acid, respectively. The contents of identified compounds are summarized in table 4. Tannic acid was

the major compound identified followed by vannilic acid, ascorbic acid and rutin. The content of analytes varied from 5.62 to 301.2 mg/g. Data showed significant difference in contents of compounds. The other peaks may be attributed to the other unknown bio active compounds. Tannic acid (peak 1) has a considerable high content 14% of the total evaluated area of peaks, and it

also had moderate retention time, a stable peak area and good shape. Therefore, it was chosen a reference peak to calculate RRT and RPA. Then RRT and RPA of 4 identified analytes with respect to reference peak were calculated and are shown in table 4.

Table 5. GC-FID identification of bioactive components

Peak no	RT (min)	Compound	Percentage
1	1.08	citral	0.34
2	12.29	α -pinene	16.9
3	16.59	β - pinene	16.01
4	18.99	β -myrcene	7.22
5	20.84	1,8 cineole	7.25
6	22.81	1,8 cineole	21.69
7	26.49	4-terpineol	0.50
8	30.58	α -pinene epoxide	10.73
9	33.99	Cis-limonene oxide	1.22
10	36.58	Linalool	1.67
11	38.69	eugenol	3.78
12	76.49	-	3.75
13	79.33	-	7.92

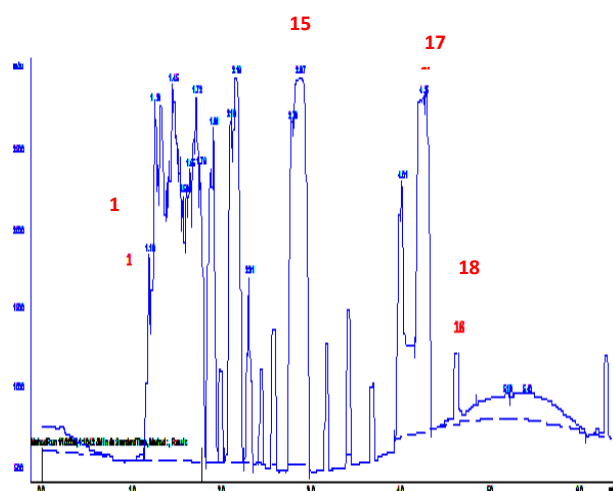


Figure 5. Representative FPLC chromatogram of eucalyptus essential oil. Peaks: 15= tannin acid; 18=ascorbic acid; 1=rutin; 17= vanillic acid

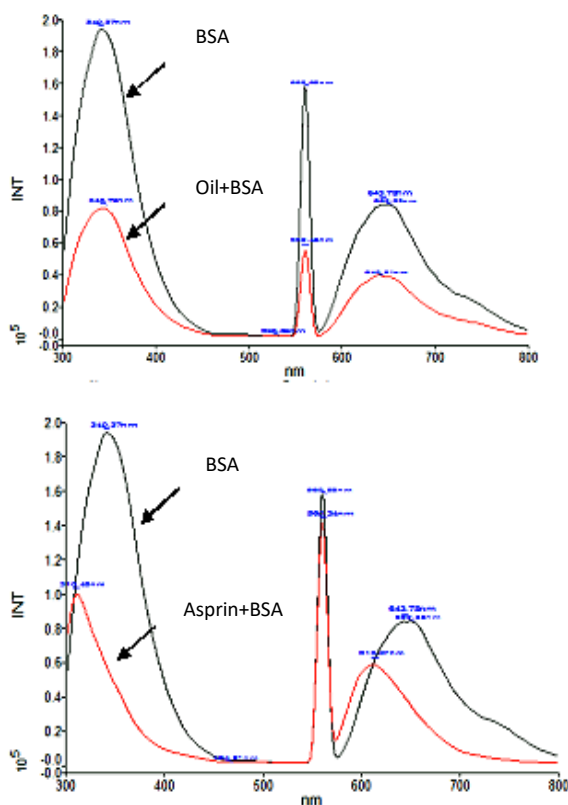


Figure 4. Anti-inflammatory (protein denaturation activity/BSA denaturation assay) activity of Eucalyptus oil using fluorescent technique

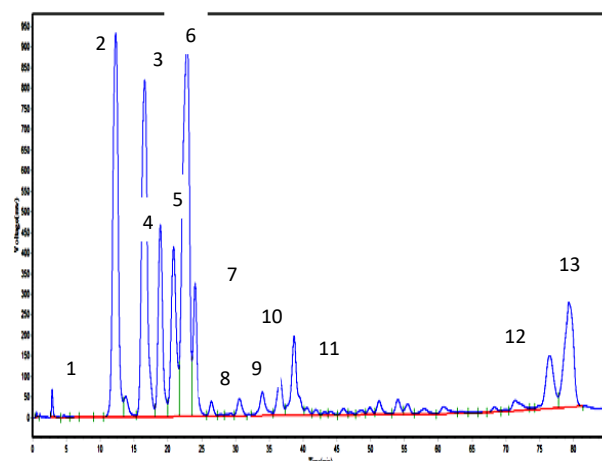


Figure 6. GC-FID chromatogram of Eucalyptus oil

GC-FID analysis

The bioactive constituents identified by GC-FID analyses were enumerated along with their retention time and concentration (Fig. 6, Table 5). GC-FID analysis of *Eucalyptus* oil revealed the presence of 42 compounds for the total of 100%. All identified 11 compounds were: citral, α -pinene, β - pinene, β -myrcene, 1,8 cineole, 1,8 cineole, 4-terpineol, α -pinene epoxide, Cis-limonene oxide, Linalool, and eugenol. GC-FID chromatogram contained three major peaks along with many small peaks indicating the presence of major compounds. The major constituents were 1,8 cineole (29%), α -pinene (16.9%), and β - pinene (16%), The small peaks may be attributed to the bioactive components present in small quantities or disintegrated major compounds. As reported in literature, eucalyptus essential oil was predominant in 1,8 cineole (5,6,9,10,24). Due to these bio-active components, in the past few years, use of *Eucalyptus* oil has become a major area of health- and medical-related research. Earlier research also documented that the cineole-based

Eucalyptus oil is used as major component in pharmaceutical preparations as anti-diabetic, anti-oxidative, antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, antitumor, antihistaminic, anticancer cytochrome p450 inhibitor and hepatoprotective effects and also to reduce the symptoms of influenza and colds, in products like cough sweets, lozenges, ointments, toothpastes and inhalants (5, 26). Nevertheless recent *in-silico* studies also documented the role of eucalyptus oil to combat COVID-19 infections (30-32).

Conclusions

From the above study it was safely concluded that essential oil from underutilized plant *Eucalyptus globulus* leaves has appreciable content of polyphenolics along with antioxidant activities, *in-vitro* antibacterial activity and anti-inflammatory activities. This research clearly raises the possibility that essential oil from this plant having potential health benefits to combat diseases where free radicals have been established as culprits. Therefore this research can be guidelines for researchers in the field of phamagonosy to make more therapeutic drugs from other point of view.

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Conflict of interest

None to declare.

Supplementary sections

Preliminary colorimetric analyses test (Qualitative analysis of phytochemicals)

Eucalyptus globulus essential oil was dissolved in methanol (0.3 ml oil/2 ml of methanol) analyzed for the presence ofvarious phytochemicals following Kumar *et al*, (11).

Tests for terpenoids

Mixture (*Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil and methanol) was mixed with the chloroform and some drops of concentrated H₂SO₄ were added, shaken well, and allowed to stand for some time. Red color appeared at the lower layer indicated the presence of the steroids and formation of yellow color layer indicate the presence of the terpenoids. Methanol was taken as negative control.

Tests for the proteins

Mixture (*Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil with methanol) was treated with one drop of 2% copper sulphate solution. After this 1 mL of 90% ethanol was added, followed by the excess of potassium hydroxide pellets. Pink color in

ethanol layer indicated the presence of protein. Methanol was taken as negative control.

Tests for amino acid

Two drops of 5% ninhydrine were added to 1 mL of mixture of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil and methanol. Amino acid were indicated by purple color. Methanol was taken as negative control.

Tests for phenols

2 mL of 2% ferric chloride was mixed with 1 mL of mixture of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil and methanol. The presence of blue-green and black coloration indicated the presence of phenols. Methanol was taken as negative control.

Tests for saponins

1 mL of mixture of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil and methanol was mixed well in the water and shaken, the presence of foam indicated the preliminary evidence for the presence of saponins. Methanol alone was taken as the negative control.

Test for carbohydrates

Benedict's reagent was mixed with the 1 mL mixture of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil and methanol and slightly boiled, and appearance of reddish-brown precipitate indicated the presence of the carbohydrates. Methanol alone was taken as the negative control.

Test for glycosides

0.5 mL mixture of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil with methanol was taken in a test tube, 0.2 mL of 10% ferric chloride solution, and 50% glacial acetic acid added. 20 ul of sulfuric acid were added and blue color was noticed. Methanol alone was taken as negative control.

Test for flavonoids

1 mL mixture of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil and methanol was taken in a test tube and mixed with the few drops of concentrated HCL and Mg pallets. The appearance of pink scarlet color is indicated the presence of flavonoids.

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Supplementary Material

Supplementary Table 1. Phytochemical analysis of *Eucalyptus globulus* essential oil

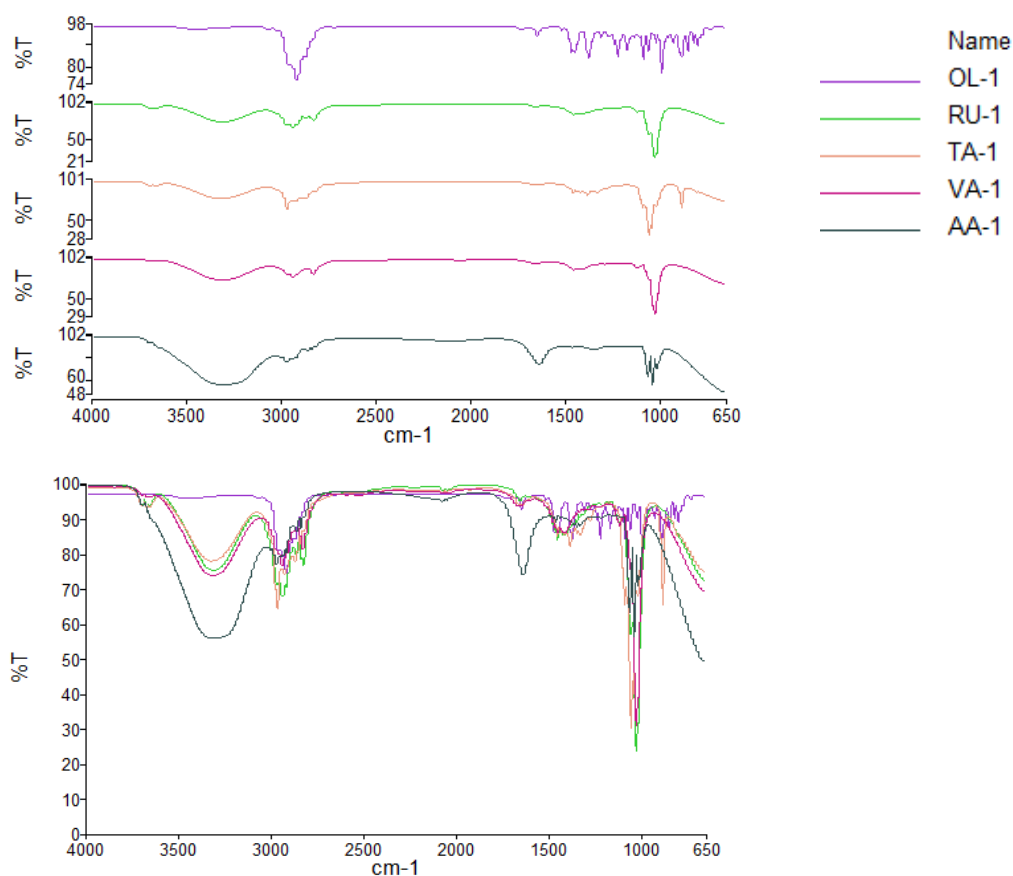
Phytochemicals	Results
Saponins	Positive
Flavonoids	Positive
Terpenoids	Positive
Carbohydrates	Negative
Amino acids	Negative
Protein	Negative
Phenol	Negative
Glycosides	Negative
Total flavonoids and phenolic content	
Total flavonoids	392.5 mg/gRE
Total phenols	3.375 mg/gGAE

Supplementary Table 2. Linearity, LODs and LOQs for different analytes

SNO.	ANALYTE	REGRESSION EQUATION ^a	R ²	LINEAR RANGE($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	LOD ^b ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	LOQ ^b ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)
4	Tannic acid	$y = 2.77x + 0.12$	0.981	5-20	0.57	1.75
7	Vanillic acid	$y = 36x + 7.333$	0.938	5-20	8.8	26.8
8	Rutin	$y = 0.895x - 0.286$	0.962	5-25	0.24	0.75
9	Ascorbic acid	$y = 0.035x - 0.006$	0.993	5-20	0.21	0.65

^a y and x respectively, the peak areas and concentrations of the analytes.

^bLOD limit of detection (S/N=3), LOQ limit of quantification(S/N=10).



Supplementary Figure 1. FT-IR spectra of essential oil and standards. OL1: oil, RU1: rutin, TA1: tannic acid, VA1:vanillic acid, AA1: ascorbic acid