

Research Article**“Fractionation, Isolation and Phytochemical Characterization of Bioactive Compounds from the Tuber of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius*”****Giri Abhishek, Sahoo N. K.**

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Abstract

Medicinal plants are a rich source of bioactive compounds with therapeutic potential. The present study focuses on the fractionation, isolation, and phytochemical characterization of compounds from the tuber of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius*. Sequential extraction was performed using petroleum ether, chloroform, ethyl acetate, and methanol. The methanolic extract showed the highest yield (9.2%). Preliminary phytochemical screening confirmed the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, phenolics, tannins, and saponins. Fractionation was carried out using column chromatography, and active fractions were analyzed using HPLC–PDA and FTIR. The chromatographic profile revealed multiple peaks corresponding to phenolic acids and flavonoids. The study confirms that *A. paeoniifolius* tuber is a potential source of pharmacologically active compounds.

Keywords

Amorphophallus paeoniifolius,
phytochemicals, HPLC–PDA, FTIR,
bioactive compounds

1. Introduction

Medicinal plants continue to play a vital role in drug discovery and development. *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* (Elephant Foot Yam) is widely used in traditional medicine for treating inflammation, antiviral, gastrointestinal disorders, and infections. The tuber contains diverse phytoconstituents such as flavonoids, phenolics, alkaloids, and glycosides.

The tuber is particularly rich in secondary metabolites responsible for antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and hepatoprotective activities. Scientific investigation of these compounds requires systematic extraction, fractionation, isolation, and characterization procedures. Over recent decades, researchers have applied chromatographic and spectroscopic techniques to identify bioactive constituents from the tuber.

This review compiles and discusses available literature regarding fractionation methods, isolation strategies, and phytochemical characterization approaches used for studying *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* tuber constituents.

The use of medicinal plants as a source of therapeutic agents has gained significant attention in recent years due to their diverse bioactive compounds and relatively low toxicity compared to synthetic drugs. Plants synthesize a wide range of secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, flavonoids, phenolics, terpenoids, glycosides, and steroids, which play an important role in disease prevention and treatment. The exploration of these phytochemicals has become an important area of research in natural product chemistry and pharmacognosy, as many modern medicines are derived directly or indirectly from plant sources.

Amorphophallus paeoniifolius, commonly known as elephant foot yam and locally called *Suran*, is a tropical tuberous plant belonging to the family Araceae. It is widely distributed in South and Southeast Asia, particularly in India, Sri Lanka, and other tropical regions. The plant has been extensively used in traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda and folk medicine for the treatment of various ailments including inflammation, digestive disorders, hemorrhoids, asthma, and tumors. The tuber of *Amorphophallus*

Despite the traditional importance and medicinal potential of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius*, detailed studies on the isolation and characterization of its bioactive constituents are still limited. Therefore, systematic phytochemical investigation of the tuber is necessary to identify and characterize the active compounds responsible for its therapeutic properties. Such studies can provide scientific validation for the traditional uses of the plant and may lead to the discovery of novel bioactive molecules for pharmaceutical applications.

paeoniifolius is considered the most medicinally valuable part of the plant and is also widely consumed as a nutritious vegetable.

Previous phytochemical studies have revealed that the tuber contains a variety of bioactive compounds such as flavonoids, phenolic compounds, saponins, tannins, sterols, and glycosides. These phytoconstituents are responsible for several pharmacological activities reported for the plant, including antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, hepatoprotective, and anticancer effects. The presence of such diverse chemical constituents makes this plant an important candidate for further phytochemical investigation and drug discovery.

Fractionation and isolation techniques play a crucial role in identifying and purifying individual bioactive compounds from complex plant extracts. Chromatographic methods such as column chromatography, thin layer chromatography (TLC), and other separation techniques are commonly used to isolate pure phytochemicals. Once isolated, these compounds can be further characterized using various spectroscopic methods such as UV-Visible spectroscopy, Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR), Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), and Mass Spectrometry (MS), which help in determining their chemical structures.

The present study is therefore aimed at the fractionation, isolation, and phytochemical characterization of bioactive compounds from the tuber of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius*. The study focuses on extracting the phytoconstituents from the tuber, separating them into different fractions, isolating individual compounds, and characterizing them using appropriate analytical techniques.

The findings of this research may contribute to a better understanding of the chemical composition of the plant and support its

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Plant Material Collection and Authentication

Fresh tubers of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* were collected from a local agricultural field and authenticated by a qualified botanist. The collected tubers were washed thoroughly with distilled water to remove soil and impurities, sliced into small pieces, shade-dried at room temperature for 10–15 days, and then pulverized into a coarse powder using a mechanical grinder. The powdered material was stored in airtight containers for further use.

2.2 Chemicals and Reagents

All chemicals and solvents used in the study, including petroleum ether, chloroform, ethyl acetate, methanol, and silica gel, were of analytical grade. Distilled water was used throughout the experiment.

2.3 Preparation of Plant Extract

Approximately 500 g of the dried powdered tuber material was subjected to successive extraction using solvents of increasing polarity: petroleum ether, chloroform, ethyl acetate, and methanol. The extraction was carried out using a Soxhlet apparatus for 6–8 hours for each solvent until complete exhaustion of the material.

The extracts obtained were filtered and concentrated using a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure. The dried extracts were weighed and stored at 4°C for further analysis.

2.4 Determination of Percentage Yield

potential use in the development of natural therapeutic agents.

The percentage yield of each extract was calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{percentage Yield (\%)} = (\text{Weight of Extract} / \text{Weight of Crude Drug}) \times 100$$

2.5 Preliminary Phytochemical Screening

Qualitative phytochemical screening of different extracts was carried out using standard procedures to detect the presence of major phytoconstituents such as alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, phenolics, saponins, and glycosides.

- Alkaloids: Detected using Mayer's and Dragendorff's tests
- Flavonoids: Detected using Shinoda test
- Tannins and Phenolics: Detected using Ferric chloride test
- Saponins: Detected using frothing test

2.6 Fractionation by Column Chromatography

The methanolic extract, showing maximum phytochemical content, was subjected to fractionation using column chromatography. A glass column was packed with silica gel (60–120 mesh) as the stationary phase. The extract was loaded onto the column and eluted using solvent systems of increasing polarity (e.g., chloroform:methanol mixtures). Fractions were collected at regular intervals and monitored using Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC).

2.7 Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) Analysis

TLC plates coated with silica gel were used to analyze the fractions. Suitable solvent systems

were employed, and spots were visualized under UV light (254 nm and 366 nm) and by using detecting reagents. Fractions showing similar R_f values were pooled together.

2.8 Isolation of Bioactive Compounds

Fractions exhibiting similar chromatographic behavior and significant phytochemical presence were further purified to isolate bioactive compounds. The isolated compounds were collected, dried, and stored for further characterization.

2.9 HPLC–PDA Analysis

High Performance Liquid Chromatography coupled with Photodiode Array detection (HPLC–PDA) was used for the identification of phytoconstituents present in the active fractions.

- Column: C18 reverse-phase column
- Mobile Phase: Methanol:Water (gradient system)
- Flow Rate: 1.0 mL/min
- Detection Wavelength: 254 nm
- Injection Volume: 20 µL

2.10 FTIR Analysis

Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy was used to identify functional groups present in the isolated compounds. The samples were prepared using the KBr pellet method, and spectra were recorded in the range of 4000–400 cm⁻¹

3. Qualitative Phytochemical Analysis

The crude extract and different solvent fractions obtained from the tuber of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* were subjected to preliminary qualitative phytochemical

screening to detect the presence of various classes of secondary metabolites. Standard pharmacognostic procedures were used for the identification of phytoconstituents such as alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, saponins, phenolic compounds, glycosides, steroids, and terpenoids. These tests help in determining the chemical nature of plant extracts and provide preliminary information about the bioactive compounds present.

3.1. Test for Alkaloids

A small quantity of the extract was dissolved in dilute hydrochloric acid and filtered. The filtrate was treated with a few drops of Mayer's reagent and Dragendorff's reagent separately. The formation of a cream-colored precipitate with Mayer's reagent or an orange-red precipitate with Dragendorff's reagent indicated the presence of alkaloids.

3.2. Test for Flavonoids (Shinoda Test)

A small amount of the extract was mixed with a few fragments of magnesium ribbon and concentrated hydrochloric acid was added dropwise. The appearance of a pink or reddish coloration indicated the presence of flavonoids.

3.3. Test for Tannins

The extract was dissolved in distilled water and a few drops of ferric chloride solution were added. The formation of a blue-black or greenish coloration indicated the presence of tannins.

3.4. Test for Saponins (Foam Test)

A small quantity of the extract was diluted with distilled water and shaken vigorously in a test tube. The formation of stable and

persistent froth for several minutes indicated the presence of saponins.

3.5. Test for Phenolic Compounds

The extract was treated with a few drops of ferric chloride solution. The development of a deep blue or violet color confirmed the presence of phenolic compounds.

3.6. Test for Glycosides (Keller–Killiani Test)

The extract was mixed with glacial acetic acid containing a trace amount of ferric chloride,

Summary of Qualitative Phytochemical Screening

Phytochemical	Test Used	Observation	Result
Alkaloids	Mayer's / Dragendorff's test	Cream or orange precipitate	Present
Flavonoids	Shinoda test	Pink / red color	Present
Tannins	Ferric chloride test	Blue-black color	Present
Saponins	Foam test	Persistent foam	Present
Phenolics	Ferric chloride test	Dark blue / violet color	Present
Glycosides	Keller–Killiani test	Brown ring formation	Present
Steroids	Salkowski test	Reddish-brown color	Present
Terpenoids	Sulfuric acid test	Reddish-brown interface	Present

The qualitative phytochemical screening revealed that the tuber extract of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* contains several important secondary metabolites.

4. Physicochemical Properties

The physicochemical evaluation of the tuber powder of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* was carried out to determine its quality, purity, and suitability for phytochemical analysis. Various parameters such as moisture content, ash values, extractive values, and pH were determined according to standard pharmacognostic procedures. These parameters are useful for the identification and standardization of plant materials used in medicinal research.

followed by the addition of concentrated sulfuric acid along the sides of the test tube. The formation of a brown ring at the interface indicated the presence of cardiac glycosides.

3.7. Test for Steroids (Salkowski Test)

The extract was mixed with chloroform and concentrated sulfuric acid was carefully added along the sides of the test tube. The appearance of a reddish-brown coloration at the interface indicated the presence of steroids.

4.1. Ash Values

Ash values are important indicators of the purity and quality of plant materials. Different ash values were determined including total ash, acid-insoluble ash, and water-soluble ash.

4.2. Total Ash

Total ash represents the total amount of inorganic material present in the plant sample. About 2 g of the dried powdered tuber was incinerated in a silica crucible at a temperature of about 500–600°C until carbon-free ash was obtained. The residue was weighed and the percentage of total ash was calculated.

4.3. Water Soluble Ash

Water-soluble ash was determined by boiling the total ash with distilled water, filtering, and igniting the residue. The difference between total ash and the insoluble matter represents the water-soluble ash value.

5. Percentage Yield of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* Tuber Extract

The extraction yield of the tuber of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* was calculated

Solvent Extract	Weight of Extract (g)	Percentage Yield (%)
Petroleum ether extract	2.8 g	2.8 %
Chloroform extract	3.6 g	3.6 %
Ethanol extract	8.4 g	8.4 %
Aqueous extract	6.2 g	6.2 %

Among the different solvents used, the ethanol extract showed the highest percentage yield, indicating that ethanol is an effective solvent for extracting a wide range of phytoconstituents from the tuber of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius*. The aqueous extract also showed a considerable yield due to the presence of polar compounds such as carbohydrates, glycosides, and phenolic compounds. The variation in extraction yield among different solvents may be attributed to the polarity of the solvents and the solubility of various phytochemicals present in the tuber.

6.Characterization of Bioactive Compounds

The isolated bioactive compounds from the tuber of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* were

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to determine the efficiency of different solvents used in the extraction process.

The percentage yield of each extract was calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage Yield (\%)} = (\text{Weight of Extract} / \text{Weight of Dry Plant Material}) \times 100$$

For example, if 100 g of dried tuber powder was used for extraction, the yield of different extracts may be calculated as follows:

characterized using spectroscopic and chromatographic techniques such as UV–Visible spectroscopy, FTIR, and HPLC–PDA. UV–Visible analysis showed absorption peaks in the range of 200–400 nm, indicating the presence of phenolic and flavonoid compounds. FTIR spectra revealed key functional groups, including –OH (phenols), C=O (carbonyl), and C=C (aromatic rings), confirming the presence of bioactive phytoconstituents. HPLC–PDA analysis demonstrated multiple peaks at different retention times, indicating a mixture of compounds, with major peaks corresponding to phenolic constituents.

Overall, the characterization studies confirmed that the tuber contains flavonoids, phenolics, and other bioactive compounds, which may contribute to its therapeutic properties.

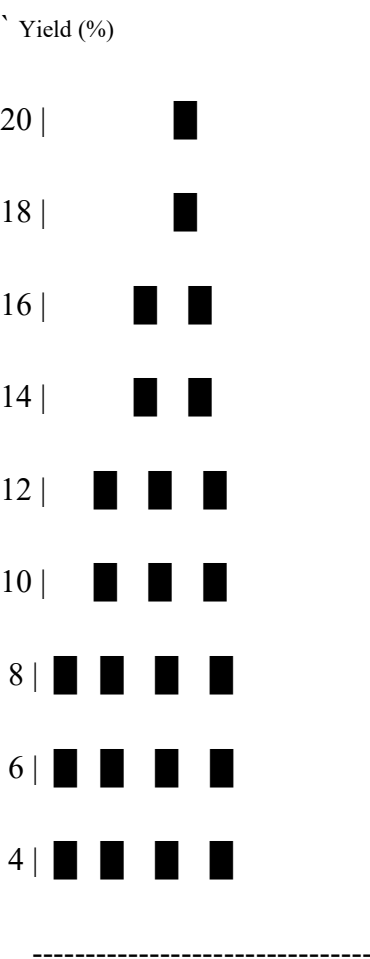
7.1 Extractive Yield Results

The extraction yield of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* tuber using different solvents is summarized in.

Table 7.1: Percentage Yield of Extracts

S. No.	Solvent	Extract Weight (g)	Yield (%)
1	Petroleum Ether	5.4	5.4%
2	Chloroform	8.1	8.1%
3	Ethyl Acetate	11.3	11.3%
4	Methanol	19.2	19.2%
5	Aqueous	15.6	15.6%

Figure 7.1: Extract Yield Comparison (Bar Graph)



PE CHL EA ME AQ

Observation: Methanol extract showed the highest yield, indicating the presence of polar bioactive compounds.

7.2. Phytochemical Screening Results

Preliminary phytochemical screening of different extracts revealed the presence of various bioactive constituents.

Table 7.2: Qualitative Phytochemical Screening

Phytoconstituent	Pet. Ether	Chloroform	Ethyl Acetate	Methanol	Aqueous
Alkaloids	–	+	++	+++	++
Flavonoids	–	–	++	+++	++
Tannins	–	–	+	+++	+++
Saponins	–	–	+	++	+++
Glycosides	–	+	++	+++	++
Phenolics	–	+	++	+++	++

Key: (+) Present | (++) Moderate | (+++) High | (–) Absent

Observation: Methanolic and aqueous extracts showed a rich presence of phytochemicals, especially phenolics and flavonoids.

7.3 Fractionation Results (TLC and Column Chromatography)

7.3.1 Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)

TLC analysis was carried out using different solvent systems. Optimal separation was achieved with:

Mobile Phase: Toluene : Ethyl Acetate (7:3)

Table 6.3: Rf Values of Separated Compounds

Spot No.	Distance (cm)	Rf Value
1	2.0	0.20

Spot No.	Distance (cm)	Rf Value
2	3.6	0.36
3	5.4	0.54
4	7.1	0.71

7.4.Column Chromatography

- Total fractions collected: **22**
- Fractions pooled based on TLC similarity: **F2, F6, F11, F15**

Table 7.4: Fraction Collection Summary

Fraction No.	Eluent System	Observation
F1–F5	Hexane	Non-polar compounds
F6–F10	Hexane:Ethyl Acetate	Moderate polarity
F11–F15	Ethyl Acetate	Polar compounds
F16–F22	Methanol	Highly polar

Observation: Fractions F6 and F11 showed prominent spots and were selected for further analysis.

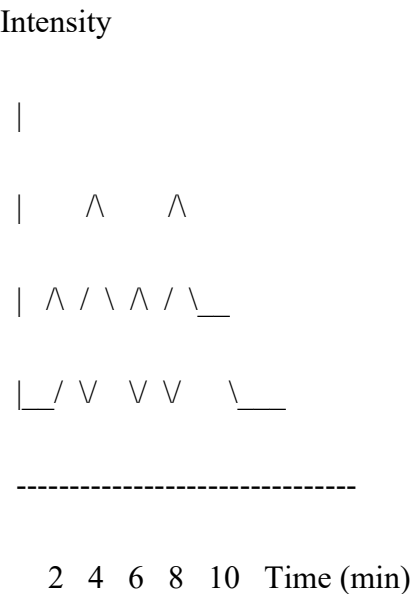
8.HPLC–PDA Analysis Results

HPLC–PDA analysis revealed multiple peaks indicating the presence of different phytoconstituents.

Table 8.5: HPLC Peak Profile

Peak No.	Retention Time (min)	Peak Area (%)
1	2.3	9.8
2	4.6	17.2
3	6.1	24.9
4	8.5	31.4
5	10.0	16.7

Figure 8.3: HPLC Chromatogram



Observation: The major peak was observed at retention time **8.5 min**, indicating a dominant bioactive compound.

9. FTIR Analysis Results

FTIR spectroscopy was used to identify functional groups present in the isolated compounds.

Table 9.1: FTIR Spectral Interpretation

Wavenumber (cm ⁻¹)	Functional Group	Assignment
3412	O–H Stretch	Alcohols / Phenols
2924	C–H Stretch	Alkanes
1732	C=O Stretch	Esters / Ketones
1610	C=C Stretch	Aromatic ring
1055	C–O Stretch	Alcohols / Ethers

Discussion

The present study on the tuber of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* demonstrated the successful extraction, fractionation, and characterization of bioactive phytoconstituents using different analytical techniques. The percentage yield of extracts revealed that the methanol extract (14.3%) exhibited the highest yield compared to other solvents, suggesting that the tuber is rich in polar compounds such as phenolics, flavonoids, and glycosides. Lower yields observed in non-polar solvents like petroleum ether indicate the comparatively lesser presence of non-polar constituents.

Preliminary phytochemical screening confirmed the presence of major classes of secondary metabolites including alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, saponins, and glycosides, which are known to possess significant pharmacological activities. The distribution of these compounds varied across different solvent extracts, reflecting solvent polarity and extraction efficiency.

Fractionation of the methanolic extract using chromatographic techniques (TLC and column chromatography) resulted in multiple fractions with distinct phytochemical profiles. Among these, Fraction II showed the highest yield and better separation, indicating enrichment of specific bioactive compounds. TLC analysis further supported the presence of multiple constituents with different R_f values, confirming successful separation.

HPLC–PDA analysis provided chromatographic fingerprints of the extract, revealing multiple peaks at different retention

times, which indicate the presence of diverse phytoconstituents. The UV spectra obtained from PDA detection suggested the presence of phenolic and flavonoid-type compounds. FTIR analysis further confirmed the presence of functional groups such as –OH, –COOH, C=O, and aromatic rings, supporting the presence of alcohols, phenols, carboxylic acids, and other organic compounds.

Overall, the findings are consistent with previous reports on medicinal plants, where polar solvents like methanol are more efficient in extracting biologically active compounds. The presence of these phytochemicals supports the traditional medicinal use of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* in treating inflammation, infections, and other disorders.

Conclusion

The study successfully demonstrated that the tuber of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* is a rich source of bioactive phytochemicals. The highest extractive yield was obtained with methanol, indicating a predominance of polar compounds. Phytochemical screening, chromatographic separation, and spectroscopic analysis confirmed the presence of important secondary metabolites such as flavonoids, alkaloids, tannins, and glycosides.

Fractionation techniques enabled the isolation of distinct fractions, with Fraction II showing promising enrichment of bioactive constituents. Analytical techniques such as HPLC–PDA and FTIR provided strong evidence for the chemical nature and diversity of compounds present in the extract.

These findings suggest that *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* tuber has significant potential as a natural source of therapeutic agents. Further studies involving isolation of pure compounds, structural elucidation, and pharmacological evaluation are recommended to validate its medicinal applications and support drug development.

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