

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

[ISSN: 0975-4725; CODEN(USA): IJPS00] Journal Homepage: https://www.ijpsjournal.com



#### **Review Article**

# A Detailed Pharmacological Review on Clitoria Ternatea

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#### ARTICLE INFO

Published: 24 April. 2025 Keywords: Clitoria Ternatea, Brain Tonic, Memory Booster, Anti-Inflammatory, Anti-Cancer, Ayurveda, Health, Anti-Stress. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.15275328

#### ABSTRACT

Clitoria ternatea often called Shankhpushpi or butterfly pea is a member of the Fabaceae family. It is a perennial herb with beautiful blue Flowers that has various health advantages and is used as traditional medicine. India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and the Philippines are among the tropical Asian countries where it can be found. The plant has been shown to boost memory, lower anxiety, increase brain function, and support general wellness. In addition to treating snake bites, Clitoria ternatea's leaves, roots, and seeds are also used to cure indigestion, migraines, eye conditions, and urinary issues. Clitoria ternatea has medicinal qualities due to the presence of beneficial phytochemicals like flavonoids, alkaloids, terpenoids, anthocyanins, and saponins. Its flowers contain anthocyanins that give them their vibrant blue colour and have been studied for their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects. Additionally, the plant has shown antimicrobial, anti-cancer, anti-stress, and neuroprotective activities in scientific studies. It is also known to be used in Ayurvedic practices as a memory booster, brain tonic, and to alleviate various ailments like asthma, fever, and skin disorders. In summary, Clitoria ternatea is a multi-functional plant that has traditional and modern medicinal applications, ranging from brain enhancement to treating respiratory and skin issues.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Clitoria ternatea (CT), is a member of the Fabaceae family, is commonly known as butterfly pea, Asian chump bodies, blue pea, cordofan pea, and Darwin pea. (Antonyms Clitoris principissae) It's an elliptic, blunt imperishable herbaceous factory that thrives in damp, neutral soil and grows as a vine or creeper <sup>[1]</sup>. It's an imperishable twinning herbaceous factory, with Seven elliptic, blunt leaves, terete and pubescent stems, spectacular flowers with, a pictorial deep blue; solitary, with light unheroic markings. It is about 4 cm long and 3 cm wide in size. Some kinds yield white flowers. The fruit capsules are compressed and direct. Each cover contains 6 to 10 seeds which is 5-7cm long

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**Relevant conflicts of interest/financial disclosures**: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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and flat<sup>[2]</sup>. Clitoria ternatea Linn. locally known as Shankhpushpi. One of the medhyarasayana factories, Shankhpushpi is said to stimulate the mind, revitalize the body and nerve system, improve the body's air quality, and improve overall health to induce healthy aging <sup>[3]</sup>. Additionally, it is used to treat leprosy, dropsy, goitre, chronic bronchitis, mucous infections, visual weakness, skin disorders, sore throats, and excrescences <sup>[4]</sup>. Clitoria ternatea is now extensively distributed throughout the sticky, tableland tropics being both naturally and in polish although no advanced pasturage cultivars have been developed  $^{[5,6]}$ . CT is a majorly cultivated plant in the Asian region including India, Malaysia, Burma, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines <sup>[7,8]</sup>. The phytochemical ingredients of these shops revealed that colourful secondary metabolites like flavonoids, anthocyanin pentacyclic triterpenoids glycosides. and phytosterols have been insulated from this factory [9]

# 1. Physical Properties:

0.5 to 3 m is the range of length of the slender, corkscrewing stems of Clitoria ternate. The pinnate leaves are 3- to 5-cm long, with elliptic to lanceolate circulars on the underside that are soon pubescent. Single flowers range in colour from deep blue to blue mauve, and they are just 4-5 cm long with a very short pedicel. Up to 10 seeds are contained in flat, straight, beaked capsules that are 6-12 cm length, 0.7-1.2 mm diameter, and somewhat pubescent. The seeds are 4.5-7 mm long, 3-4 mm broad, olive, brown or black, and often speckled <sup>[10]</sup>. Clitoria ternatea's root system is made up of many thin side roots and a reasonably robust taproot with multiple branches. There are multicellular trichomes with two primitive cells beneath the terminal cells. A dorsiventral structure was observed in in transverse section splint. All along the mode

polychromatic chargers of calcium ox alate are present. The tone – island number is 7.5 and palisade rate is 6.0. The capsules are (5- 10 cm) long, flat and 6- 11 planted. <sup>[11,12]</sup> Cortex is composed of 10 12 layers of thin- walled nearly polygonal or tangentially stretched cells, packed with substantially composite bounce grains. <sup>[11,13]</sup> All the shaft cells are completely packed with bounce grains and many contain calcium oxalate chargers. <sup>[11,14,15]</sup>



Fig. 1: Clitoria ternatea

# 2. Traditional Use:

Clitoria ternatea is used as a medicine for a variety of ailments and is regarded as a genuinely bioactive plant. The seeds are used as a cathartic and the roots as a diuretic. <sup>[16]</sup> The roots, seeds, and leaves of CT have long been used extensively as a brain alcohol in traditional medicine, especially in Ayurveda, where it is thought to improve memory and intelligence.<sup>[17]</sup> According to Sangu Pushpam, a native remedy in Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram area, root cream is diluted with water and administered orally to treat eve disorders, head injuries, and indigestion.<sup>[18]</sup> It is used as a diuretic claimed by Chhattisgarh state. For two weeks, crushed fresh root bark is consumed with a mug of warm milk. With a mug of water 50g of crushed seeds are given once a day for 3 days as a purgative. <sup>[19]</sup> The CT is boiled in water and the water is drained via fabric, according to Rajshahi

quarter in Bangladesh. For seven days, 1/32 kg of simulated water is recommended for urinary issues.<sup>[20]</sup> In Assam, leaf juice is combined with tar and administered to the area of the brain to cure headaches and conterminous gland lumps. Juice is used as a preventative measure for snake bites.<sup>[21]</sup> The effectiveness of antiviral shops in Tamil Nadu was measured, and CT extract showed the strongest effect. [22] This further supports the scientific evidence that traditional plant remedies are effective in treating infectious diseases. <sup>[23]</sup> For constipation, Clitoria ternatea seed cream was administered with pepper. Townies from Tamil Dharapuram Taluk provided Nadu's this information. <sup>[24]</sup>, CT leaves and roots are used to treat UTIs, burning sensations in the urinary system, and frequent and absent urine, according to Bangladesh's Tripura lineage. In Karnataka, India's Uttara Kannada sector, root juice is applied topically to lower fever. <sup>[25]</sup> For eruptions, leaves are infused. For the observance-stitch, warm flake juice combined with ordinary tar is put around the cognizance. Poultices made from leaves are applied to blown joints. Seeds are used as an

Antihelmintic, purgative, and mild laxative. The seeds are burned for disruptions, as well as for asthmatic pall inhalation. Also used for skin disorders, eye infections, and throat issues. For facial care, root ash is used. Hostility is treated with root cream. Applying root juice to the nose can help with migraines. Apply the root juice to the boils after mixing it with gusto if the boils are painful. All things considered, CT is a classic Ayurvedic medication that is utilized as an anti-convulsant, anxiolytic, brain alcohol, memory and intelligence-depressant, and calming agent. <sup>[11, 27]</sup>



Fig. 2: Plant Of Clitoria Ternatea

Sr.	Parts of plant	Function
No.	usable	
1	Root	Diuretic, Treat indigestion, Eye diseases and
		Headache, Brain tonic, memory and intelligence
		enhancer, UTI, burning sensation in urinary tract,
		Fever reduction, Facial care, Jaundice, Migraine,
		Painful boils.
2	Seeds	Cathartic, purgative, treat constipation, Brain tonic,
		memory and intelligence enhancer, Laxative,
		Antihelmintic, Hiccups, Asthma, throat infections
3	Leaves (juice)	(with salt) applied around ears in headache and
		swelling of adjacent gland to relieve pain. an anti-dote
		against snake-bite, Brain tonic, memory and
		intelligence enhancer, UTI, burning sensation in
		urinary tract, Eruptions
4	Flower	cure infections of eye and for headache, antidote for
		snake-bites
5	<b>Boiled parts</b>	Urinary problems

#### Table 1: Traditional uses of Clitoria ternatea



Sr. no.	Domain	Eukaryote
1	Kingdom	Plantae
2	Phylum	Spermatophyta
3	Subphylum	Angiospermae
4	Family	Fabaceae
5	Subfamily	Papilionoidea
6	Genus	Clitoria
7	Species	Clitoria ternatea

Table 2: Taxonomy of Clitoria ternatea.

#### Taxonomy: -

#### 3. Phytoconstituents of *Clitoria ternatea*.

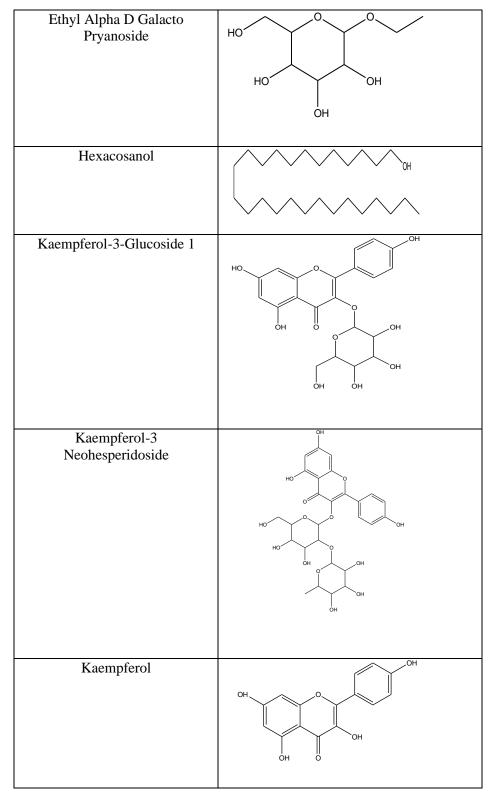
The plant parts that have reportedly been used since ancient times are roots, seeds, and leaves.<sup>[5]</sup> The main phytoconstituents of Clitoria ternatea are pentacyclic triterpenoids, such as taraxerol and [23, 24] taraxerone. Ternatins. alkaloids. flavonoids, saponins, tannins, carbohydrates, proteins, resins, starch, taraxerol, and taraxerone are present in the roots according to the studies.<sup>[25]</sup> Using a new High Performance Thin Layer Chromatography method that is simple, sensitive, accurate, and selective, taraxerol in Clitoria ternatea Linn was identified. The analysis was carried out on Thin Layer Chromatography aluminium plates. Numerous secondary metabolites, including triterpenoids, flavanol glycosides, anthocyanins, and steroids, have been discovered from Clitoria ternatea Linn.<sup>[18]</sup> Clitoria ternatea L. leaves yielded four kaempferol glycosides: I, II, III, and IV. The compounds kaempferol-3-glucoside (I), kaempferol-3rutinoside kaempferol-3-(II). and neohesperidoside (III) were identified by Ultra Violet, Protein Magnetic Resonance, and Mass Spectrometry. Based on spectral data, (IV), C33H40O19, mp: 198, was identified as Kaempferol-3-orhamnosylglucoside and given the name clitorin. The seeds contain an anthoxanthin glucoside, pentosan, water-soluble mucilage, delphinidin-3,3,5-triglucoside, adenosine,

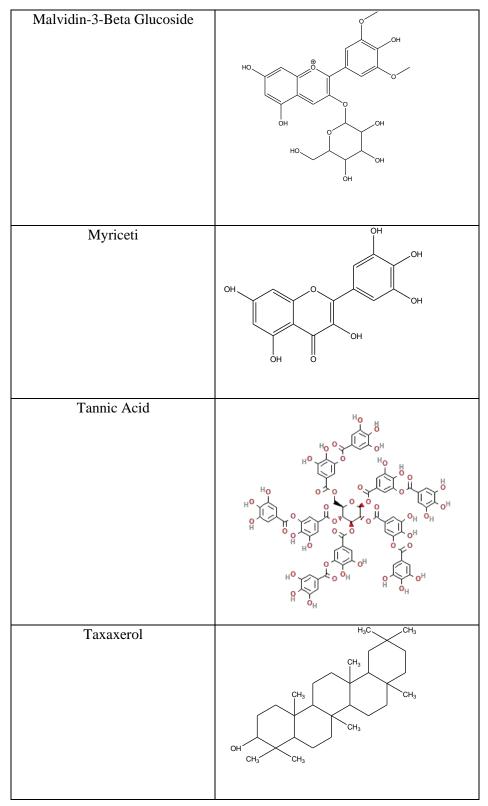
#### necessary amino acids, greenish yellow fixed oil, and a nucleoprotein with an amino acid sequence resembling that of insulin. <sup>[27]</sup> p-hydroxycinnamic acid polypeptide, 6% ash, a lethal alkaloid, ethyl D-galactopyranoside, a bitter acid resin, tannic 3,5,7,4-tetrahydroxy-flavone-3acid. rhamoglycoside, and finotin, an extremely basic [8,28] protein. G-sitosterol. ß-sitosterol. hexacosanol, and anthocyanin glucoside are all found in Yoganarasimhan seeds. <sup>[29, 30]</sup> It has also been demonstrated to be homologous to plant defensins and contains antifungal proteins. [31] A lectin found in Clitoria ternatea seeds agglutinated human B erythrocytes treated with trypsin, according to Aabgeena et al. An alternative high vielding purification approach for the Clitoria ternatea lectin, known as CTL, found in the seeds of this Leguminosae family member was attempted since the purified lectin was discovered to be a potential tool for cancer investigations.<sup>[33]</sup> Another study showed that the juvenile Clitoria ternatea flowers contained eight anthocyanins (Ternatins C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, and D3, as well as preternatins A3 and C4) and minimal delphinidin glycosides.<sup>[34]</sup> Malonylated flavanol glycosides were extracted using LC/MS/MS from the petals of Clitoria ternatea with varying petal hues, according to a recent study, <sup>[35]</sup> it was discovered that five new anthocyanins, Ternatins A3, B3, B4, B2, and D2, were produced from Clitoria ternatea flowers.<sup>[36]</sup> Kaempferol was discovered by

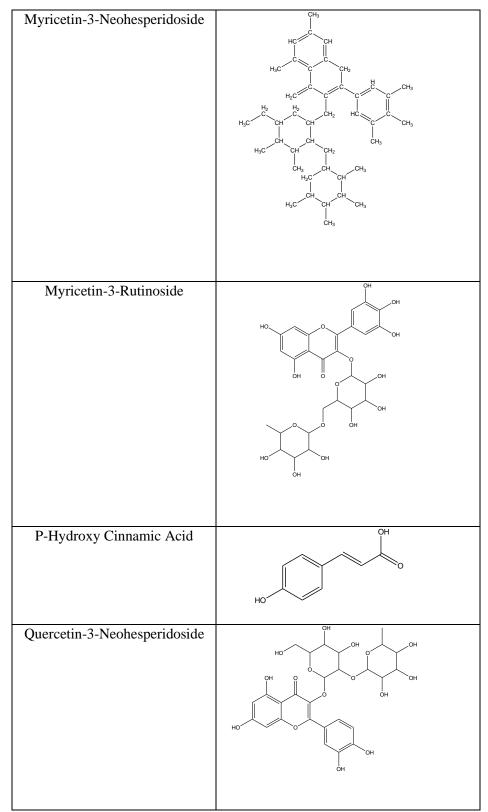


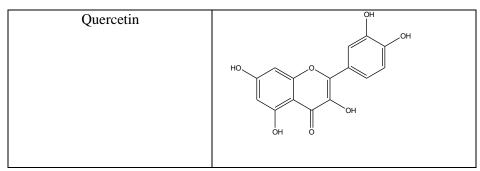
Ranaganayaki and Singh, Saito et al. detected quercetin, quercetin 3-glucoside, kaempferol-3glucoside, and kaempferol-3-robinobioside-7rhamnoside. <sup>[35,37,38]</sup> Phase reversal From Clitoria ternatea flowers, six Ternatins (A1, A2, B1, B2, D1, and D2) were identified using High Performance Liquid Chromatography. Their structures were partially described as highly acylated derivatives of delphinidin. <sup>[39]</sup> Quantitative studies of protein, phenol, starch, carbohydrate, fat, and total soluble sugars were performed using powdered Clitoria ternatea.<sup>[40]</sup>

Phytoconstituents	Structure
Phytoconstituents 3-Mono Glucoside	
Anthoxanthin Glucoside	
Beta Sitosterol	
Delphinidin-3,5-Diglucoside	









### **Pharmacological effect**

### Anxiolytic activity

Compared to rats administered chlorpromazine, rats given an oral dose of 460 mg/kg of Clitoria ternatea alcoholic extract showed a significant increase in anxiety by taking longer to navigate the labyrinth. (Chauhan et al., 2012). The inflexion ratio and discrimination index significantly increased in the rats given 100 mg/kg of Clitoria ternatea, indicating the species' nootropic effect. Both analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties petroleum ether extract (60-80c) from Clitoria ternatea flowers shown considerable antiinflammatory action at both the dose level (200 and 400 mg/kg body weight) (P<0.01), according to Chauhan et al. (2012)'s anti-inflammatory and analgesic tests. Clitoria ternatea's methanol extract exhibited strong antipyretic properties. When administered orally to rats, a methanol extract from Clitoria ternatea roots was found to prevent vascular permeability brought on by acetic acid as well as rat paw oedema brought on by carrageenin (Devi et al., 2003).

# **Antimicrobial Activity**

Several pathogenic drug-resistant Gram-positive and Gram-negative clinical isolates were used to assess the antibacterial activity of the methanolic extracts of Clitoria ternatea's leaves and root (Chauhan et al., 2012). Strong antibacterial action against Staphylococcus aureus, the cause of fever, Escherichia coli, and Vibrio cholera, which cause diarrhoea, was discovered in the leaf. Compared to root extract, leaf extract exhibited more potent antibacterial activity. It was demonstrated that the two extracts worked in a bactericidal manner. Quercetin might be a factor in the leaf extract's action. According to a different investigation, the crude extract from Clitoria ternatea seeds demonstrated a minimum zone of inhibition (14±1.0 mm) with Micrococcus flavus and a maximum zone of inhibition (22±0.5 mm) against Escherichia coli at 0.75 mg concentration. Salmonella typhi exhibited the largest zones of inhibition  $(16\pm 2 \text{ mm})$  in the callus extract, whereas Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus had the smallest zones (12±1 mm and 12±0.9 mm, respectively). Using the agar well diffusion method, the antibacterial activity of alcoholic and aqueous extracts from in vitro grown Calli against Gram-negative bacteria was evaluated. Shigella dysenteriae and Salmonella spp., which cause enteric fever, were demonstrated to exhibit antibacterial activity (Shahid et al., 2009). Furthermore, Shekawat and Vijayvergia (2010) reported that the methanol crude extracts exhibited antibacterial efficacy against Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Klebsiella pneumoniae. Clitoria ternatea seed crude extract shown significant antibacterial activity. The roots of this plant are specifically used to treat leucoderma (Pendbhaje, 2011).

#### Anti-cancer activity



According to recent reports, plants and their constituents may suppress tumors, induce apoptosis in cancer cells, and inhibit tumor angiogenesis. The most widely used herbal medicine also has tumor-suppressive properties, interferes with cell cycle progression, boosts immune function, and inhibits tumor growth (Devita, 1983). According to Ramaswamy et al. (2011), there is a strong correlation between Clitoria ternatea extracts and other reports of plant extracts with anti-carcinogenic or cancersuppressive properties. According to Naeem et al. (2007), the purified lectin showed promise as a tool for cancer research.

### CNS depressant activity

The narcotic, anxiolytic, antidepressant, and antistress qualities of the Clitoria ternatea extract were found. Narcotic, anxiolytic, antidepressant, and antistress properties were discovered in the Clitoria ternatea extract. Nootropic medications improve memory, learning, and intellectual performance (Gupta, 2010; Mukherjee, 2008). As Clitoria ternatea has calming impact on brain it is used to treat symptoms including syncope, vertigo, and brain weakness. Convulsions, stress, anxiety, depression, and cognitive behaviour were all investigated in relation to Clitoria ternatea. The methanolic extract of Clitoria ternatea was reported to have nootropic, anxiolytic, antidepressant, anticonvulsant, and antistress properties when tested with Pentylenetetrazol (PTZ) and maximal electroshock (MES) (Taranalli, 2003).

# Nephroprotective

It has been shown that the ethanol extract of Clitoria ternatea possesses nephroprotective properties against APAP-induced nephrotoxicity. According to research on the phytoconstituents, nephro-protective, and antioxidant activities of Clitoria ternatea by Saraumathy et al. (2011), it offers experimental proof that the plant increased the level of myocardial antioxidant enzymes, maintained histoarchitecture, and enhanced cardiac function after APAP administration.

## Activities to reduce stress

Using rat and mouse models of cold restraint stress (CRS)-induced ulcers, lithium-induced head twitches, clonidine-induced hypothermia, sodium nitrite-induced respiratory arrest, and haloperidol-induced catalepsy, the anti-stress action of aerial components was evaluated (Chauhan et al., 2012). Impact on overall conduct significant neuropharmacological action is demonstrated by an ethanol extract of Clitoria ternatea roots (Gupta, 2010).

# Larvicidal actions

The most promising mosquito larvicidal action was displayed by Clitoria ternatea. With LC50 values of 65.2, 154.5, and 54.4 ppm for Anopheles stephensi, Anopheles aegypti, and Culex quinquefascitus, respectively, the methanol extracts of Clitoria ternatea seed extract were effective against the larvae of all three species (Chauhan et al., 2012 and Pendbhaje, 2011).

# **Proteolysis Activities**

Endopeptidases (haemoglobin pH 3.5 and azocasein pH 6.0), carboxypeptidase benzyloxy carbonyl (CBZ-Phe-AlaPh5.2), and arylamidases lysophosphatidic acid and a N-Benzoyl-L-arginine P-nitro-analide (LPA 7.0 and BAPA 7.6) were all active in extracts of Clitoria ternatea's cotyledons and the axis of resting and germinating seeds. Nonetheless, cotyledons had significant levels of arylamidase at pH 7.0 and endopeptidases at pH 3.5 (Chauhan et al., 2012). While the endopeptidases shown an increase at day 3



followed by a reduction, the activities of carboxypeptidase and arylamidase increased in cotyledons, peaking at day 9 (Chauhan et al., 2012). Endopeptidase and carboxypeptidase activities in the axial tissue increased until day 9, at which point they decreased, and arylamidase levels were low. Their involvement in the breakdown of the storage proteins is demonstrated by the rise in acidic endopeptidase and carboxypeptidase activity in sprouting cotyledons.

### Antihelmintic activity

Numerous investigations on Clitoria ternatea's Antihelmintic activity have been published. In comparison to the standard reference piperazine citrate, it was shown that the crude alcoholic extract of Clitoria ternatea, along with its ethyl acetate and methanol fractions, significantly demonstrated paralysis and also caused worm death, particularly at higher concentrations of 50 mg/ml (Chauhan et al., 2012). Using aqueous and methanol extract, the inhibitory effect of Clitoria ternatea leaves on free-living nematodes was assessed. Another study assessed the Antihelmintic properties of Clitoria ternatea's flowers, leaves, stems, and roots on adult Pheretimaposthuma Indian earthworms. Compared to other extracts, the methanol extract of the root is the most effective and takes the shortest amount of time to paralyze and kill the worms. From blossoms to leaves, stems, and roots, the potency rises (Chauhan et al., 2012). The anthelmintic action of the Clitoria ternatea root's methanol extract may be due to the active ingredients in the extract (Pendbhaje, 2011).

#### Anti-hyperglycaemic

The antihyperglycemic properties of Clitoria ternatea were reported by Patil et al. (2011). Impact on the digestive tract. It is a mild laxative, cholagogue, antiemetic, and antidypsetic. As a result, it is utilized for piles, jaundice, constipation, dyspepsia, and emesis. It is used to treat duodenal and pylorus ulcers, among other conditions (Pendbhaje, 2011).

## **Diuretic action**

The diuretic efficacy of dried whole root powder and ethanol extract was assessed; merely a single intravenous injection of the extract resulted in a moderate rise in the excretion of Na and K and a decrease in Cl, but no change in urine volume. Additionally, there was a noticeable impact on oral dosage (Chauhan et al., 2012).

### Urination

Urination is increased by the urinary system Clitoria ternatea. Decoction has antidotal, ulcer, and dysuric and urinary problems in cattle (Pendbhaje, 2011).

### Antioxidant activity

Clitoria ternatea (butterfly pea) flower extracts are utilized in Thai cosmetics, and the blooms' chemical makeup raises the possibility that they contain antioxidant properties. According to Kamkaen and Wilkinson (2009), Clitoria ternatea water extracts had greater antioxidant activity than ethanol extracts.

# Antihistaminic activity

Using clonidine and haloperidol to induce catalepsy in mice, Clitoria ternatea demonstrated antihistaminic action (Taur and Patil, 2011). Clitoria ternatea is also used to treat filariasis, eye infections, irregular menstruation, and other conditions. In order to prevent abortion and stabilize the foetus, the white version of this plant's mashed roots is administered orally. The herb is said to be a beneficial brain tonic. The roots and seeds of Clitoria ternatea are used to make



"Shankhpushpi," an Ayurvedic remedy that is used as a laxative, alterative, and "tonic of the nerves." Sexually transmitted infections are also treated with it. Extracts from Clitoria ternatea have been used as part of "Medhya Rasayana," a rejuvenating mixture believed to be good for the brain and used to treat neurological conditions. Its leaves' juice reduces the poisons. Ginger juice and fresh leaf juice work well together to reduce excessive perspiration (Pendbhaje, 2011).

#### Impact on the circulatory system

It helps with gout (vatarakta) and haemorrhagic illnesses since it is a haemostatic and blood cleanser. To prevent smallpox, a hot infusion of prickly plants (dhamasa) is administered (Neelamma et al., 2016).

#### The respiratory system

Because it functions as an expectorant and lessens respiratory organ irritation, it is used to treat colds, coughs, and asthma. In addition, the entire plant is smoked. Decoction is used to gargle with symptoms related to the throat. Asthma and coughs produce less sticky phlegm when root juice and milk are given. If given orally, it can also treat whooping cough (Neelamma et al., 2016). impact on various illnesses. Additionally, it has been reported that goitre can be cured by the whiteflowered plant's extract (Pendbhaje, 2011). The white flowered variety's root juice can be blown up the nose to cure haemorrhages (Pendbhaje, 2011).

# 4. CONCLUSION

Often referred to as Butterfly Pea or Shankhpushpi, Clitoria ternatea is a valuable and adaptable plant used in traditional medicine, particularly Ayurveda. Among its many therapeutic applications are memory

enhancement, anxiety relief, and brain tonic properties. The plant's roots, seeds, blossoms, and leaves are used to cure a variety of illnesses, including headaches, eye difficulties, digestive problems, skin concerns, asthma, and urinary problems.

Numerous bioactive substances. such as flavonoids, alkaloids, saponins, tannins, and terpenoids, are abundant in the plant and contribute to its medicinal qualities. Its antiinflammatory, antioxidant, antibacterial, anticancer, and neuroprotective properties are wellknown. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that Clitoria ternatea contains diuretic, Antihelmintic, anti-hyperglycaemic, and stress-relieving properties, making it an effective natural treatment for a number of illnesses. The plant's potential in modern medicine is supported by scientific research, as it shows promise in areas like memory enhancement, cancer research, antimicrobial activity, and neuroprotection. Moreover, it has a well-established place in traditional practices across India, Southeast Asia, and beyond, where it's used both as a remedy and a tonic for overall health.

Overall, Clitoria ternatea is a valuable plant with a rich pharmacological profile, making it an important part of natural healing systems and a potential subject for further scientific research to explore its full benefits.

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**HOW TO CITE**: Amit Jadhav\*, Sanika Sarode, Samiksha Chaher, Kalyani Sahare, A Detailed Pharmacological Review on Clitoria Ternatea, Int. J. of Pharm. Sci., 2025, Vol 3, Issue 4, 2980-2993 https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15275328

