INTRODUCTION

Cancer is one of the major diseases in the world causing mortality around the world. Cancer is the uncontrolled proliferation of the cells in any part of the body causes bulge of organ or tumor of the cells, which are not advantage to the body. The habitually affecting parts of the body are mainly lungs, liver, cervical, breast, stomach, oral, etc [1]. The cancer spreads through the metastasis from affecting part of the body to other parts. Lung cancer and skin cancer are two main cancers affecting the humans on their habitual conditions. Lung cancer is mainly due to smoking, secondhand smoke, exposure to toxins, etc [2, 3]. Skin cancer due to carcinogens, smoking, chronic and subchronic wounds, use of immunosuppressive drugs [4, 5]. At present, chemotherapy is the usually use treatment for cancer includes alkylating agents, antimitobolites, antitumor antibiotics, platinum analogs, all may indirectly leads skin or lung cancer and undesirable side effects on their long-term use in treatment. So, there is a necessity to identify the new molecules for the treatment of cancer with low prices, high efficient curing, less side effects. The natural medicinal plants have been using in treatment for different diseases including cancer since olden days [6]. But there is no scientific evidence on some medicinal plants of their biological activities. In this point of view, we aimed the present study to evaluate the in vitro cytotoxicity activity of some traditional medicinal plants of India [7, 8] on lung and skin cancer cell lines.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material collection and preparation of extracts

_Buchanania axillaris_ Desr., _Tamilnadia ulignosa_ Retz, _Phaseolus semierectus_ L and _Stylosanthes fruticosa_ Retz. were collected from of the Thalakona region, Chittoor district, India. The plant specimen was authenticated by Dr. K. Madhawa Chetty, Department of Botany, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. The plant materials were shade dried, then powdered in the mill and extracted separately with methanol using soxhlet extraction process.

Cell lines

A549 cell line for lung cancer and A431 cell lines for skin cancer were used for the present study.

**Cytotoxic assay**

MTT assay method is a Colorimetric, nonradioactive, fast and economical assay widely used to quantify cell viability and proliferation of mammalian cells. So, the cytotoxicity of the selected plant’s methanolic extracts was tested using MTT assay [9, 10]. The yellow tetrazolium MTT (3-(4, 5-dimethylthiazolyl-2)-2, 5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) is reduced by metabolically active cells, in part by the action of dehydrogenase enzymes, to generate reducing equivalents such as NADH and NADPH. The resulting intracellular purple formazan can be solubilized and quantified by spectrophotometric means. Absorbance values that are lower than the control cells indicate a reduction in the rate of cell proliferation. Conversely, a higher absorbance rate indicates an increase in cell proliferation. Evidence of cell death may be inferred from morphological changes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Plants have been using in treatment for various diseases before the modern medicine [11]. The synthetic drugs using in modern medicine for treatment have the roots from naturally isolated compounds, especially medicinal plants [12]. But the long-term use of the synthetic drugs are causing unwanted side effects and decreases the immunity towards the normal diseases. Natural products, mainly medicinal plants are a significant source for the discovery of new bioactive molecules with high efficiency, fewer side effects [13]. In this point of view, the present study was done to identify the cytotoxicity (Anticancer) activity of _Buchanania axillaris, Tamilnadia ulignosa, Phaseolus semierectus_ and _Stylosanthes fruticosa_ on A549 cell line for lung cancer and A431 cell lines for skin cancer.

The selected plant extracts showed the dose-dependent cytotoxicity activity on the tested cell lines (fig. 1, 2). The cytotoxicity variations on different cell lines were observed for selected plants extracts. The IC_{50} values are shown in table 1. The cytotoxicity of the extracts was increased as the concentration of them was increased. The selected plants _B. axillaris, T. ulignosa, P. semierectus_ and _S. fruticosa_ have been using by people around the southern parts of the India for treating the diseases [7, 8].
T. ulignosa, methanolic extract showed more cytotoxic activity on A549 cell lines compared to other plants methanolic extracts. The IC50 values of B. axillaris, P. semierectus and S. fruticosa on A549 cell lines were 98.40±0.61, 75.67±3.76, 133.04±8.37 on MCF-7, MDA-MB and HT-29 cell lines respectively. The selected plants S. fruticosa and B. axillaris do not showed the cytotoxic effect on A431 cell lines, but P. semierectus and T. ulignosa showed the cytotoxic activity with IC50 values 115.37±1.93 and 162.30±9.52. The variation of activity on lung cancer and skin cancer cell lines was observed this variance may be because of chemical compounds response present in them.

Cancer is the unconditional growth of the cells in the affected, to decrease the effect of the cancers, the unconditional growth of the cell number have to decrease. Till now, there is no accurate treatment for cancer, but the unconditionally increased cell number due to cancer were decreasing by the affecting the cell metabolic pathways to kill them [14]. The cytotoxic effect of the selected plant extracts may be due to the killing of abnormally growing cells due to cancer and the killing of those cell by apoptosis or necrosis process [15, 16]. Apoptosis is activation of endonucleases causes double-strand breaks in DNA between nucleosomes leading to that DNA is fragmented into multiples pieces leads to cell death. Necrotic cell death is an unregulated process resulting from severe damage, such as ATP depletion, hypoxia, various toxins and hyperthermia and characterized by cell swelling, lysis, and the release of intracellular contents associated with pathological tissue injury [16, 17]. Plants have diverse chemical constituents in them for their metabolic activities at the same time defense from their predators i.e. the compounds which protect the plants are may be responsible for increasing the cancer cells mortality. The additional study is required to separate the pure compounds and their derivatives from the chosen plants which are responsible cytotoxicity.

### Table 1: IC50 values for test extracts (B. axillaris, T. ulignosa, P. semierectus and S. fruticosa) after performing cytotoxicity assay (MTT assay) for 24h on A549 and A431 cell lines

|        | A549         | A431         |
|--------|--------------|--------------|
| BAM    | 98.40±0.61   | NA           |
| TUM    | 32.74±3.20   | 162.30±9.52  |
| PSM    | 75.67±3.76   | 115.37±1.93  |
| SFM    | 133.04±8.37  | NA           |

Values are mean ±SD, n= triplicate experiment

![Fig. 1: Graphical representation of Cytotoxicity of the test extracts (B. axillaris, T. ulignosa, P. semierectus and S. fruticosa) on A549 cell line, All values are mean±SD, n = triplicate experiment After 24h exposure](image1)

**CONCLUSION**

The present study showed that the selected traditional medicinal plants possess the cytotoxic activity on lung and skin cancer cell lines.

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![Fig. 2: Graphical representation of Cytotoxicity of the test extracts (B. axillaris, T. ulignosa, P. semierectus and S. fruticosa) on A431 cell line, All values are mean±SD, n = triplicate experiment After 24h exposure](image2)

**CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

Declared none

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