Review of the Phytochemical and Pharmacological Studies of the Genus Markhamia

Mutiat Bolanle Ibrahim, Nutan Kaushik¹, Abimbola Adepeju Sowemimo, Olukemi A. Odukoya

Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria, ¹Plant Biotechnology, Environmental and Industrial Biotechnology Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, India

ABSTRACT
Natural product compounds obtained from medicinal plants have been great contributions in the discovery of numerous clinically useful drugs. Markhamia species have been reportedly used by many cultures in human and veterinary traditional medicines. The five identified species of Markhamia, that is, Markhamia lutea, Markhamia obtusifolia, Markhamia stipulata, Markhamia tomentosa, and Markhamia zanzibarica have been the subject of chemical investigations that have led to the characterization of their secondary metabolites. Plants of the genus with the identified phytoconstituents, including phenylpropanoid glycosides (PhGs), terpenoids, phytosterols, lignans, quinones, and flavonoids, have been claimed to possess antiviral, antifungal, antiplatelet, analgesic, antiinflammatory, and cytotoxic activities. In vitro and in vivo pharmacological research studies have reported the validation of the medicinal properties of plants of this genus. The present review analyzes published data from the ethnomedicinal, phytochemical, and pharmacological studies of plants of the genus Markhamia.

Key words: Ethnomedicine, ethnopharmacology, Markhamia, phytochemistry

INTRODUCTION
Markhamia (Seemann ex K.Schum) is a genus of flowering plants in the family Bignoniaceae with about 100 genera and 800 species. Markhamia has been reported among other genera of the family in Nigeria and 10 species are widely distributed in tropical Africa and Asia.¹,² The genus was named by Berthold Seemann, in honor of Sir Clements Robert Markham (1830–1916), who introduced the well-known quinine-yielding Cinchona into India.³ Plants of this genus are trees or shrubs with opposite, compound imparipinnate leaves and yellow-green flowers grown mostly for social, agrihorticultural, and medicinal purposes.⁴ They are mostly found in fringing forests and are drought-resistant. The roots, barks, stems, and leaves of Markhamia species have been used by traditional healers for the treatment of miscellaneous disease conditions such as microbial and parasitic diseases, anemia, diarrhea, backache, sore eyes, intercostal pain, pulmonary troubles, gout, scrotal elephantiasis, rheumatoid arthritis, and external skin diseases.⁵-¹² The plant has also been used in the treatment of diarrhea, dysentery, pain, and inflammation in veterinary patients.¹²,¹³

The therapeutic value of plants used in traditional medicine is due to the presence of phytochemical compounds that are found in parts of the plants; moreover, a medicinal plant is a plant whose biological activity has been ethnoBotanically reported and scientifically established.¹⁴,¹⁵ Preliminary phytochemical investigations of Markhamia species have shown the presence of biologically active substances such as flavonoids, saponins, steroids, terpenes and terpenoids, phytosterols, tannins, phenols, coumarins, and quinones.²,¹⁶,¹⁷ In support of the significance of the genus Markhamia, diverse pharmacological investigations have been reported in the literature.¹⁸-²¹ The isolation and identification of various chemical constituents from different plant parts of species including their pharmacological effects have been reported.

This review aims to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date report on species of the genus Markhamia with emphasis on the ethnomedicinal uses, the phytochemical and pharmacological studies, and highlights of research reports on the isolation, characterization, and identification of various active constituents present in the plant.

ETHNOMEDICINAL USES

The medicinal uses of plants range from administration of the various plant parts (alone or in combination with other plant parts) to the use of decoctions and extracts from the plants.²²,²³ Plants of the genus Markhamia have been used by different tribes in various parts of African and Asian countries. Details of the uses of Markhamia species and the associated references are indicated in Table 1.

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Table 1: Ethnomedicinal data of plants of the genus Markhamia

| Markhamia species               | Synonym (s)                           | Distribution                       | Part used          | Traditional uses                                                                 | Reference |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| M. lutea (Benth.) K.Schum      | Dolichandrone lutea Benth. ex Hook     | Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia   | Root bark          | The root barks are used in the treatment of anemia, diarrhea and backache         | 3,6,11,17,24 |
|                                | Dolichandrone platycalyx (Baker) Sprague | Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe,   |                    | The roots are soaked in cold water and the resulting tea is taken thrice daily to |           |
|                                | Markhamia hildebrandtii Sprague       | Zambia, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, |                    | reduce symptoms of watery bloodless diarrhea. It is also used in treating         |           |
|                                | Markhamia platycalyx Sprague          | South Africa                       |                    | difficult urination and as an analgesic                                           |           |
|                                | Spathodea lutea Benth                 |                                    |                    |                                                                                  |           |
| M. obtusifolia (Baker) Sprague  | Dolichandrone obtusifolia Baker       | Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe,   | Root               | Toothache and fever in children; treatment of hookworm infestation               | 17,30,37,45 |
|                                |                                       | Angola, Namibia, Botswana, and     |                    |                                                                                  |           |
|                                |                                       | South Africa                        |                    |                                                                                  |           |
| M. stipulata Seem. ex K.Schum   | Dolichandrone stipulata (Wall.) Clarke| India, China, Myanmar, Laos,      | Leaves and bark    | External application on skin diseases; used internally for an analgesic effect   | 7,47      |
|                                |                                       | Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand     |                    |                                                                                  |           |
| M. tomentosa (Benth.) K.Schum. Ex Engl | Dolichandrone tomentosa (Benth.) B.D J acks | West African countries from     | Leaves, bud sap,   | Leaves are used in the treatment of diarrhea and scrotal elephantiasis and      | 4,8-11,15,47,49 |
|                                | Markhamia sessilis Sprague            | Senegal, Ghana, and Nigeria to     | bark, root, and    | against snake venom/bite. The leaf decoction and chewed leaves are also used   |           |
|                                | Muenteria tomentosa (Benth.) Seem     | Cameroon, including Congo and Angola| stem bark          | for treating general body pains, backache, lumbago, and headache. The bud sap |           |
|                                | Spathodea tomentosa Benth             |                                    |                    | is used for eye treatment                                                      |           |
| M. zanzibarica (Bojer ex D.C.) K.Schum | Markhamia stenocarpa (Seem.) K.Schum | South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, | Roots               | Decoction of the leaves and bark are used as mild laxative                     | 3,45      |
|                                | Muenteria stenocarpa Seem             | Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania,       |                    | The stem bark is used as an antimarial and in the treatment of intercostal pain|           |
|                                | Spathodea zanzibarica Bojer ex D.C.   | Somali and recently reported in    |                    |                                                                                  |           |
|                                |                                       | India                               |                    |                                                                                  |           |

PHYTOCHEMISTRY OF MARKHAMIA SPECIES

Chemical investigations of different plant parts of the Markhamia species Markhamia lutea (Benth.) K.Schum [Figure 1], Markhamia obtusifolia (Baker) Sprague [Figure 2], Markhamia stipulata (Wall.) Seem [Figure 3], Markhamia tomentosa (Benth.) K.Schum. ex Engl [Figure 4], and Markhamia zanzibarica (Bojer ex D.C.) K.Schum [Figure 5] have led to the characterization of various secondary metabolites. These chemical constituents have been categorized as phenylpropanoid glycosides (PhGs), alkaloids, terpenoids, phytosterols, quinones, lignans, and flavonoids.

PhGs are acylated glycoconjugates with the core structure [Figure 6] characterized by a hydroxyphenethyl aglycone linked to a β-glucopyranose through glycosidic linkage. The glucose residue of the core structure is often encircled with substituents such as aromatic acids (cinnamic acid, ferulic acid, isoflavonic acid, and caffeic acid) and various sugars (apiose, arabinose, rhamnose, galactose, and xylose) through ester and glycosidic linkages, respectively.

Isolation of PhGs from the genus Markhamia was reported for the first time by Kernan et al.

The known PhGs verbacoside (1) and isoverbacoside (2) and three new PhGs lutidosides A–C (3–5) were isolated from the roots of Markhamia lutea. This was followed by the isolation of five new verbacoside derivatives: Markhamiosides A–E (6–10) and 13 known compounds from the leaves and branches of Markhamia stipulata. The characterization and identification of acteoside, also known as verbacoside (1) and isooacteoside (2), in the ethyl-acetate fraction of the leaves of Markhamia tomentosa have been reported.

Terpenoids and phytosterols

Terpenoids including their oxygenated, hydrogenated, and dehydrogenated derivatives are naturally occurring hydrocarbon molecules that are built up of isoprene units (C_5H_8) n joined in a head-to-tail fashion. Terpenoids are classified based on the number of isoprene units into monoterpenoids C_{10}, sesterterpenoids C_{15}, diterpenoids C_{20}, sterterpenoids C_{25}, triterpenoid C_{30}, and carotenoids C_{40}. Phytosterols are among the subclass of terpenoids and are derived from tetracyclic triterpenes. Six cyctoartane triterpenoids [Figure 7], that is, musambins A–C (19–21) and their 3-O-xyloside derivatives musambiosides A–C (22–24), along with other with pentacyclic triterpenes [Figure 8], that is, 2-epi-tormenolic acid (25) and arjunic acid (26), were reportedly isolated from the ethylacetate leaf extract of...
Markhamia lutea. Three bioactive pentacyclic triterpenoids [Figure 8], that is, epi-tormentic acid (25), ursolic acid (29), and pomic acid (30) were isolated from the leaves of Markhamia obtusifolia.\textsuperscript{31} Gamma-sitosterol (38), campesterol (39), and tritriacontane (40) were isolated from the root, stem bark, and leaves of Markhamia zanzibarica, respectively.\textsuperscript{26} Additionally, the isolation of pentacyclic triterpenoids such as pomolic acid (30), oleanolic acid (33), tormentic acid (35), and β-sitosterol (28) and its derivatives has been reported from the stem bark of Markhamia tomentosa.\textsuperscript{29} Ajugol (31), tormentic acid (35), carnasol (36), and oxopomolic acid (37) were identified in the leaves of M. tomentosa.\textsuperscript{29} The structures of the compounds were established by proton nuclear magnetic resonance (\textsuperscript{1}H-NMR) and carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance (\textsuperscript{13}C-NMR)—including one- and two-dimensional techniques—spectroscopy and mass spectrometry.
### Table 2: Secondary metabolites isolated from plants of the genus *Markhamia* and their phytochemical analyses

| Species/Part used | Extract type | Class of compounds | Isolation/Purification technique | Mobile phase | Reference |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| *M. lutea* roots  | Aqueous extract | Phenylpropanoid glycosides: Verbascoside (1) (3,4-dihydroxyphenylethyl alcohol 8-O-[(4'-O-caffeoyl)-3'-O-a-L-rhamnopyranosyl (1->3')-β-D-glucopyranoside). Isoverbascoside (2); Luteoside A (3) (1-O-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl) ethyl β-D apiofuranosyl (1->2')-a-L-rhamnopyranosyl (1->3')-4'-O-caffeyl-6'-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranoside); Luteoside B (4) (1-O-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl) ethyl β-D-apiofuranosyl (1->2')-a-L-rhamnopyranosyl (1->3')-6'-O-caffeyl-β-D-glucopyranoside); Luteoside C (5) (1-O-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl) ethyl β-D-apiofuranosyl (1->2')-α-L-rhamnopyranosyl (1->3')-6'-O-feruloyl-β-D-glucopyranoside) | Crude extract was subjected to successive reverse-phase HP-20 and C-18 column chromatography. Eluting fractions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography on C18. Purification of fractions by preparative TLC on silica gel. Purification of fractions by centrifugal partition chromatography. Monitoring of eluent by TLC on C-18 | Increasing amount of methanol in water | 24 |
| *M. lutea* leaves | Ethylacetate extract | Terpenoids: Musambin A (19) (1α,3β-dihydroxy-24-hydroperoxy-cycloart-26-methylene-28-carboxylic acid); Musambin B (20) (1α,3β-dihydroxy-25-hydroperoxy-cycloart-23E-en-28-carboxylic acid); Musambin C (21) (1α,3β-dihydroxy-24-hydroperoxy-cycloart-26-methylene-24-oxo-28-carboxylic acid); Musambioside A (22) (3β-D-xylloside of musambin A); Musambioside B (23) (3β-D-xylloside of musambin B); Musambioside C (24) (3β-D-xylloside of musambin C); 2-epi-tormentic acid (25), arjunic acid (26) | Repeated medium-pressure chromatography of crude extract on 60 H Merck silica gel column. Fractions were chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20 column. Further purification of fractions on silica gel column | Gradient elution with cyclohexane: dichloromethane: methanol: ethyl-acetate: methanol: cyclohexane: ethyl-acetate gradient elution | 26 |
| *M. lutea* leaves | Ethylacetate extract | Phaeophorbide A (27) and β-sitosterol (28) | Purification of subfractions by HPLC and semi preparative HPLC on RP-18 silica gel | Acetonitrile: water gradient elution | 26 |
| *M. obtusifolia* roots and leaves | Methanol root and acetone leaf extracts | Terpenoids: Ursolic acid (29) (3β-hydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid); Pomolic acid (30) (3β, 19α-dihydroxy-urs-12-en-28-oic acid); Epi-tormentic (25) (25α, 3β, 19α-trihydroxy-urs-12-en-28-oic acid) Hydroxynaphthoquinones | Fractionation of extract on silica gel column. Silica gel CC of fractions | Successive elution with chloroform (100%) followed by chloroform: methanol (95:5 v/v) Elution with 100% chloroform followed by increasing gradient of ethylacetate: methanol up to 50% | 30,42 |
| *M. stipulata* stem heartwood | Alcohol extract | Naphthoquinone: Dehydro-α-lapachone (43); lapachol (44); dehydro-iso-α-lapachone (45); β-lapachone (46); tectol (47) Phytosterol; β-sitosterol (28) Lignans: Paulownin (41); Palmitone (42) | Successive CC on silica gel | Elution with light petroleum and benzene (3:1 and 1:4); pure benzene; benzene and ethylacetate (9:1; 3:1; 1:1; 1:3) and ratio 9:1 of ethylacetate: methanol | 32 |

*Contd...*
### Table 2: Contd...

| Species/Part used | Extract type | Class of compounds | Isolation/Purification technique | Mobile phase | Reference |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| **M. stipulata leaves and branches** | Methanol extract | Phenylpropanoid glycosides:- Markhamioside A (6) (3,4-dihydroxy-β-phenylethoxy-O-[β-apiofuranosyl-(1’→2’)-α-β-hamnopyranosyl-(1”→3”)-O-β-glucopyranoside]); Markhamioside B (7) (3-hydroxy-4-methoxy-β-phenethoxy-O-[β-apiofuranosyl-(1’→2’)-α-hamnopyranosyl-(1”→3”)-6’-O-feryluloyl-β-glucopyranoside]); Markhamioside C (8) (3,4-dihydroxy-β-phenethoxy-O-[α-arabinopyranosyl-(1’→2’)-α-hamnopyranosyl-(1”→3”)-6’-O-caffeyl-β-glucopyranoside]); Markhamioside D (9) (3,4-dihydroxy-β-phenylethoxy-O-[α-arabinopyranosyl-(1’→2’)-α-rhamnopyranosyl-(1”→3”)-6’-O-caffeyl-6-O-acetyl-β-glucopyranoside]) | Chromatography on column of highly porous copolymer of styrene and divinylbenzene | Successful elution with methanol, water and acetone | 7 |
| **M. stipulata leaves and branches** | Methanol extract | Phenethyl-0-β-glucopyranosyl-(1’→2’)-0-β-glucopyranoside (11); Decaffeoylverbacoside (12); Verbacoside (1); Isoverbacoside (2); Luteoside A (3); Luteoside B (4); 2’-O-apisoylverbacoside (13); Khaephuoside B (14); Sequinoside K (15); (6S,9R)-rosicoside (16); Rengyoside B (17); (+)-lyoniresinol 3α-O-β-glucopyranoside (18) Terpene: Iridoid, ajugol (31) Hydroquinone: Markhamioside F (48) (deacyl-ester of sequinoside K); | Gradient elution with n-hexane-ethylacetate mixture of increasing polarity | Successful gradient elution with hexane: ethylacetate and dichloromethane: methanol | 9 |
| **M. tomentosa stem bark** | Ethyl-acetate extract | Phytosterol: -β-sitosterol (28); β-sitosterol-3-O-β-D-glucopyranoside (32) Naphthoquinone: 2-acetyl-naphth[2,3-b]furan-4,9-dione (49); 2-acetyl-6-methoxynaphth[2,3-b]furan-4,9-dione (50) Triterpenoid: -Oleanolic acid (33); Pomolic acid (31); 3-acetylpomolic acid (34); tormentic acid (35) | Gradient elution with a-hexane-ethylacetate mixture of increasing polarity | Successful gradient elution with hexane: ethylacetate and dichloromethane: methanol | 28 |
| **M. tomentosa leaves** | Ethyl-acetate fraction | Phenylpropanoid glycosides:- Acteoside, also known as verbacoside (1), isoacteoside (2) Terpenoids:- Iridoid, ajugol (31), tormentic acid (35), carnasol (36) and 2-oxo-pomolic acid (37) Naphthoquinone: Dilapachone (51) Flavonoids:- Luteolin (52), Luteolin-7-rutinoside (53), Luteolin-3,7-di-O-glucoside (54) | Fractionation of crude extract by silica CC | Gradient elution with acidified water and acetonitrile | 25,42 |
| **M. zanzibarica root, stem bark, and leaves** | Chloroform root and leaf extracts; petroleum stem bark extract | Phytosterol: γ-sitosterol (38), campesterol (39), tritriacontane (40) | Crude extracts were subjected to silica gel CC to yield colorless and colored fractions | Chloroform and petrol | 25,42 |

CC: Column chromatography; TLC: Thin-layer chromatography; CPC: Centrifugal partition chromatography; MPLC: Medium-pressure chromatography; HPLC: High-performance liquid chromatography
Lignans
Lignans are dimeric compounds formed by the union of two molecules of a phenylpropene derivative. The lignans paulownin (41) and palmitone (42), as well as palustrine, have been isolated from the stem heartwood of *Markhamia stipulata* and *Markhamia tomentosa*, respectively.

Quinones
Quinones are derived from benzoquinone, naphthoquinone, or anthraquinone structural moieties. Four lapachol-type naphthoquinones (43–46) and markhamioside F (48) were isolated from the stem heartwood of *Markhamia stipulata*. Two bioactive naphtho[2,3-b] furan-4,9-diones [Figure 9a], that is, 2-acetyl naptho[2,3-b] furan-4,9-dione (49) and 2-acetyl-6-methoxy-naphtho[2,3-b] furan-4,9-dione (50) were reported to have been isolated from the stem bark of *Markhamia tomentosa*. In addition, dilapachone (51) [Figure 9b] was identified in the ethyl-acetate fraction of the leaves of *Markhamia tomentosa*.

Flavonoids
The identification of luteolin (52), luteolin-7-rutinoside (53), and luteolin-3',7-di-O-glucoside (54) [Figure 10] from the ethyl-acetate fraction of the leaves of *Markhamia tomentosa* has been reported.
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**ETHNOPHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIVITY**

The primary metabolites are mainly important to the plants, while the secondary metabolites are of medicinal value for humans.[34] The medicinal plants of the genus *Markhamia* have emerged as a good source of medicines. Researchers have carried out various *in vitro* and *in vivo* screenings on the extracts and isolated compounds from members of the genus to authenticate their use in traditional medicine. Plants of this genus have demonstrated a wide spectrum of pharmacological profiles such as antiulcer, antioxidant, antimicrobial, antiinflammatory, analgesic, and antiviral activities. In our earlier work,[20] we reported the
cytotoxicity and the antiproliferative and apoptosis-inducing activity of one member of the genus *Markhamia* against brine shrimp larvae and HeLa cervical cancer cell lines. The following section presents a review of the pharmacological properties of these species and the associated references shown in Table 3.

**M. lutea** (Benth.) K.Schum

The roots of *Markhamia lutea* are soaked in cold water for 30 min and the resulting tea is used to reduce symptoms of watery and bloodless diarrhea.[25] The aqueous extract of the root bark is used in the treatment of anemia and diarrhea.[9] *Markhamia lutea* and *Markhamia tomentosa* are both used to cure various parasitic and microbial diseases.[11] In ethnoveterinary medicine, the plant is eaten by primates such as chimpanzees and red and black-and-white colobus monkeys.[17,35,36] The presence of phytocomponents such as flavonoids, saponins, terpenoids, phytoestrogens, quinones, and coumarins in the different solvent extracts of *M. lutea* have been reported.[17] Several *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies have so far been carried out to validate the use of this plant. The commonly occurring PhGs include verbacoside (1) and isoverbacoside (2) and new PhGs such as luteosides A, B, and C (1–3) isolated from the root of *M. lutea* showed activity against respiratory syncytial virus.[24] The bioactive compounds musambins A, B, and C (19–21) isolated from the leaves of the plant...
exhibited mild antileishmanial and antitrypanosomal activities.\cite{27} Dichloromethane leaf extract of the plant showed weak antiplasmodial activity with a half maximal inhibitory concentration (IC_{50}) value of 29 μg/mL.\cite{19} The cytotoxic potential of the methanolic root extract of *Markhamia hildebrandtii* (synonym of *Markhamia lutea*) was investigated against cervical carcinoma, colon adenocarcinoma, and skin carcinoma.\cite{18} In *in vivo* pharmacological screening of the leaf extract of *Markhamia platycla** (synonym of *Markhamia lutea*) provided evidence that the plant has high potential as an anti-Alzheimer’s disease drug lead due to its high phenolic content.\cite{21}

**M. obtusifolia (Baker) Sprague**

The root of *Markhamia obtusifolia* is used in folk medicine to treat tuberculosis infection of lymph nodes in the neck,\cite{31} convulsion in children,\cite{18} and hookworm infestation.\cite{19} The roots, barks, and leaves are boiled with other plants and used as an inhalant for the treatment of colds. In ethnovenery medicine, the leaves and fruits of this species are consumed as fodder by goats.\cite{40} The methanolic root extract of *M. obtusifolia* exhibited minimal cytotoxic effect (<50% cell proliferation) against A431 skin carcinoma at 100 μg/mL.\cite{18} The antifungal activity of three isolated triterpenoids (25, 29, and 30) from the acetone extract of *M. obtusifolia* has been reported.\cite{31} The claimed anthelmintic activity of this plant species has been confirmed *in vitro*.\cite{19} Further research is required to confirm the folk uses of the plant in treating other disease conditions.

**M. stipulata Seem. ex K.Schum.**

The leaves and barks of *Markhamia stipulata* are used externally for the treatment of skin diseases and internally as an analgesic [Table 1]. Bioactive chemical compounds including quinones, phytosterols, lignans, and PhGs have been isolated from different parts of the plant.\cite{7,33} Although the pharmacological activity of the compounds isolated from the plant has not been investigated, the pharmacological activities of verbascoside derivatives have been reported to have antifungal, antibacterial, antiviral, and analgesic effects.\cite{10,41,42}

**M. tomentosa (Benth.) K.Schum. ex Engl.**

Of all the members of the *Markhamia* genus, the traditional use of the different plant parts of *Markhamia tomentosa* is the most reported [Table 1]. The species has found use in both human folk and ethnovenery medicines.\cite{2,40} The plant is used in ethnovenery medicine to control gastrointestinal ailments and in pain management.\cite{12,13} Preliminary phytochemical investigations of the leaves revealed the presence of major classes of bioactive compounds including saponins, flavonoids, terpenes, steroids, and phenolic nuclei.\cite{2,40} A number of *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies have been carried out to validate the activity of the plant. Two naphthoquinone [Figure 9] compounds (49–50) isolated from the stem bark of *M. tomentosa* exhibited potent antiprotozoal activity against *Plasmodium falciparum, Leishmania donovani,* and *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense.*\cite{9} The leaf extract of the plant was reported to possess strong antimicrobial and antioxidant effects.\cite{8} The inhibition of *Escherichia coli* by the hexane and ethylacetate extracts of *M. tomentosa* justifies the traditional use of the plant in the management of dysentery and diarrhea.\cite{2} Although hepatoprotective activity has not been reported for this plant species, there has been a report on the prophylactic and therapeutic activities of a member of the family Bignoniaceae against paracetamol-induced liver damage in rats.\cite{40} Alcoholic extracts of the leaves of *M. tomentosa* were shown to have potent analgesic and antiinflammatory effects on rats and mice. The selective inhibition of butyrylcholinesterase enzymes by the root bark of this species in the management of Alzheimer’s disease has also been reported.\cite{43,44} Ethanol crude extract and the different solvent fractions of *M. tomentosa* leaves were reported to prevent gastric mucosal ulceration in the stomachs of rats.\cite{20} In our earlier work,\cite{20} we reported the cytotoxicity activity and underlying mechanisms of *Markhamia tomentosa* leaf extract on brine shrimp larvae, HeLa and MCF-7 cancer cell lines, and noncancerous Vero cell lines. In view of the wide application of this plant species and the tendency for prolonged intake, we are currently investigating the dose- and time-dependent chronic toxicity effects of *Markhamia tomentosa* in rodents (not published).

**M. zanzibarica (Bojer ex DC.) K.Schum.**

*Markhamia zanzibarica* is widely distributed in tropical Africa and Asia. In India, the plant is the second most reported *Markhamia* species after *Markhamia lutea*.\cite{20} The plant is used to treat toothache, headache, and general pains [Table 1]. The cytotoxic effect of this species on *Artemia salina* has been investigated\cite{47} and the activity was attributed to the bioactive gamma-sitosterol (38) compound isolated from the root of the species.\cite{26}

**CONCLUSION**

This review summarizes information on the plants of the genus *Markhamia* with emphasis on their ethnomedicinal uses, isolated phytoconstituents, and ethnopharmacological studies on them. Species of this genus have been useful in the management of various disease conditions in both human and veterinary traditional medicines. Some of the claimed traditional uses have been validated through phytochemical and pharmacological studies of the genus. On preliminary phytochemical screening of plants of this genus, the presence of a wide range of secondary metabolites was reported. However, the major reported class of phytoconstituents, isolated through various separation and purification techniques from *M. lutea, M. obtusifolia, M. stipulata, M. tomentosa,* and *M. zanzibarica*, were PhGs, terpenoids, phytosterols, lignans, quinones, and flavonoids. The isolated compounds were identified on analysis of their spectroscopic and chemical data, which were consistent with values reported in the literature. A number of *in vitro* and *in vivo* pharmacological studies have confirmed that the plant extracts and isolated compounds possess significant antiviral, antiprotozoal, antimicrobial, antioxidant, analgesic, antiinflammatory, anti-Alzheimer, antiulcer, and cytotoxic activities. It may be concluded that plants of this genus hold great potential as a source of new drugs. Thus, further studies aimed at the proper documentation of folk uses, validation of the claimed bioactivities, and isolation and identification of the bioactive compounds of species of the genus are required.

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**Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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ABOUT AUTHORS
Mutiat Bolanle Ibrahim, (MRS) Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lagos, College of Medicine campus, Ii‑araba, Lagos, Nigeria.

Nutan Kaushik, (PhD) Senior Fellow and Area Convenor. Plant Biotechnology, Environmental and Industrial Biotechnology Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Darbahi Seth Block, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003, India.

Abimbola Adepeju Sovemimo, (PhD) Sub‑dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lagos. Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lagos, College of Medicine campus, Ii‑araba, Lagos, Nigeria.

Olukemi A. Odukoya, (PhD) Professor of Pharmacognosy Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lagos, College of Medicine campus, Ii‑araba, Lagos, Nigeria.