Phytochemical studies and elicitation induced changes in production of secondary metabolites in callus cultures of *Givotia moluccana* (L.) Sreem.

A thesis submitted for the award of the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in PLANT SCIENCES

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work embodied in this thesis entitled "Phytochemical studies and elicitation induced changes in production of secondary metabolites in callus cultures of Givotia moluccana (L.) Sreem." has been carried out by me under the supervision and guidance of Prof. G. Padmaja, Department of Plant Sciences, School of Life Sciences. The work presented in this thesis is a bonafide research work and has not been submitted for any degree or diploma in any other University or Institute. A report on plagiarism statistics from the University Librarian has been enclosed.

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Dedicated to my late mother Akhilu Woch

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Abbreviations and Symbols

2,4-D : 2,4-Dichlorophenoxy acid

μM : Micro Molar

μg : Micro Gram

AAE : Ascorbic Acid Equivalents

ABTS : 2,2' azino-bis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid)

AChE : Acetylcholinesterase

AlCl₃ : Aluminum Chloride

APX : Ascorbate Peroxidase

AsA : Ascorbate

AsA-GSH : Ascorbate-Glutathione

BAP : 6-Benzylaminopurine

BSA : Bovine Serum Albumin

BzSA : Benzoylsalicylic Acid

CAT : Catalase

CCl₄ : Carbon Tetrachloride

cDNA : Complementary Deoxyribonucleic acid

CuCl₂ : Copper Chloride

CUPRAC : Cupric Reducing Antioxidant Capacity

COX : Cyclooxygenase

DCM : Dichloromethane

DEG : Differentially Expressed Genes

DHA : Dehydroascorbate

DHAR : Dehydroascorbate reductase

DNA : Deoxyribonucleic acid

DPPH : 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl

DTNB : 5,5-dithio-bis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid)

DTT : Dithiothreitol

DW : Dry Weight

EDTA : Ethylenediaminetetraacetic Acid

ELISA : Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay

FDR : False Discovery Rate

FRAP : Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power

FW : Fresh Weight

GAE : Gallic Acid Equivalents

GC-MS : Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry

Oxidized Glutathione

GR : Glutathione Reductase
GSH : Reduced Glutathione

GO : Gene Ontology

GSSG

HCl : Hydrochloric Acid

 H_2O_2 : Hydrogen Peroxide

HPLC : High Performance Liquid Chromatography

IBA : Indole 3-Butyric acid

IDT : Integrated DNA Technologies

JA : Jasmonic Acid

KCl : Potassium chloride

KEGG : Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes

KIN : Kinetin

KOBAS-I : KEGG Orthology Based Annotation System-Intelligent.

LC-MS : Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry

LOX : Lipoxygenase

MDHAR : Monodehydroascorbate reductase

MDA : Malondialdehyde

MgCl₂ : Magnesium Chloride

MS : Murashige and Skoog

m/z : Mass-to-Charge

NAA : 1-Naphthaleneacetic acid

NADPH : Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate

Na₂CO₃ : Sodium Carbonate NaOH : Sodium Hydroxide

NBT : Nitro Blue Tetrazolium Chloride

NCBI : National Centre for Biotechnology Information

NDGA : Nordihydroguaiaretic acid

nmol : Nano moles

NSG : Next Generation Sequencing

·OH : Hydroxyl Radical

¹O₂ : Singlet Oxygen

 O_2 : Superoxide

OD : Optical Density

PG : Prostaglandin

PlantTFDB : Plant Transcription Factor Database

PM : Phosphomolybdenum method

PMSF : Phenylmethylsulfonyl Fluoride

PPFD : Photosynthetic Photon Flux Density

POD : Peroxidase

PVP : Polyvinylpyrrolidone

RE : Rutin Equivalents

ROS : Reactive Oxygen Species

qRT-PCR : Quantitative Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction

SA : Salicylic Acid

SAR : Systematic Acquired Resistance

SD : Standard Deviation

SDS : Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate

SnCl₂ Stannous Chloride

SNP : Single Nucleotide Polymorphism

SOD : Superoxide Dismutase

TBA : Thiobarbituric acid

TCA : Trichloroacetic Acid

TGSH : Total Glutathione

Tm : Melting Temperature

TPM/TMM : Transcripts Per Million Transcripts

TPC : Total Phenolic Acid content

TPTZ : 2,4,6-Tris (1-pyridyl)-S-Triazine

Tris-HCl : Tris Hydrochloride

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Abstract

Givotia molucanna L. Sreem. Syn. Givotia rottleriformis Griff. ex Wight (White catamaran tree) is an economically important softwood tree species used in traditional medicine for treating inflammation related diseases such as rheumatism, psoriasis and dandruff. There are very limited reports, which validated the medicinal properties of this species. The study mainly focused on analysis of secondary metabolite profiles in different plant parts and determining the antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities of plant parts using *in vitro* based assays. Studies were carried to establish *in vitro* callus cultures and increase the secondary metabolites by elicitation of callus cultures with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid. The effect of elicitation on total phenolic and flavonoid accumulation, and antioxidant changes were investigated. Elicitation induced changes in whole metabolome was assessed using LC-MS/MS and *de novo* transcriptome analysis was performed to identify the differentially expressed genes in response to elicitation of callus cultures with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid.

The first objective of this research work was focused on comparative assessment of phenolics and flavonoids, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities along with metabolites profiling using gas chromatography mass spectroscopy (GC-MS), liquid chromatography tandem mass spectroscopy (LC-MS/MS) of the different parts viz., bark, leaves and pericarp of G. moluccana. The extracts of plant parts showed high phenolic and flavonoid contents and exhibited good antioxidant and anti-inflammatory potential when assayed by different in vitro methods. The methanolic extracts of bark displayed the highest content of total phenolic (TP) (62.07 mg GAE/g DW), total flavonoid (TF) (41.72 mg RE/g DW), and antioxidant activities as evaluated by phosphomolybdenum (PM) assay (70.94 mg AAE/g DW), ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) assay (156.38 mg AAE/g DW), cupric ion reducing antioxidant capacity (CUPRAC) assay (246.32 mg AAE/g DW), DPPH assay (IC₅₀ 48.41 µg/ml) and metal chelating ability (78.58%). The bark extracts exhibited relatively higher protein denaturation (43.46%) and higher inhibition activity against 5-LOX (41.6%) as compared to pericarp and leaves. The bark and pericarp extracts inhibited both COX-2 and 5-LOX enzyme activities, and thus can be explored for developing compounds with dual inhibition and superior antiinflammatory agents. The metabolite profiling of bark, leaves and pericarp revealed the distribution of primary metabolites viz., carboxylic acids, carbohydrates, amino acids and fatty acids. LC-MS/MS analysis revealed that the secondary metabolites predominantly comprised of flavonoids, terpenoids and terpenes, alkaloids and phenolic acids, whose distribution varied in bark, leaves and pericarp. Several putative bioactive compounds which are known to possess anti-psoriasis, anti-rheumatic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anti-cancer activities were identified. The information generated in this study could serve as a base for isolation and characterization of new bioactive compounds for treatment against inflammatory-related ailments. The study further quantified three flavonoids viz., myrcetin, quercetin and rutin in bark, leaves and pericarp.

In vitro callus cultures offer a promising source for secondary metabolite production with the possibility of their enhancement using elicitors. The study aimed at development of methods for callus induction from leaves, cotyledons and endosperm as well as establish plant regeneration via direct shoot organogenesis from zygotic embryonic axes of *G. moluccana*. The best callus induction and high proliferation was achieved from the explants on medium containing 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP. The study was successful in establishing method for multiple shoot induction from zygotic embryo axes by initially culturing on medium with 3 mg/l BAP followed by subcultures on medium with reduced concentrations of BAP. In vitro root induction was achieved on medium with 0.5 mg/l NAA or 0.5 mg/l IBA and the regenerated plants were acclimatized and established in soil with 72.4% success rate.

The effects of SA and JA on production of secondary metabolites from leaves-derived callus cultures was studied for enhancing the secondary metabolite production. A marked increase in total phenolic acids and flavonoids were achieved in callus cultures treated with 50 μM SA for 5 days and 150 μM JA for 20 days as compared to control (untreated) cultures. The study also demonstrated an increase in the activity of antioxidant enzymes and the involvement of ascorbate-glutathione pathway in curbing the free radicals that were produced during elicitation treatment. Analysis of the gene expression pattern of antioxidant related enzymes genes such as *SOD*, *CAT*, *POD*, *APX*, and *PAL* through quantitative Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (qRT-PCR), showed correlation with their enzyme activities. The LC-MS/MS analysis resulted in putative identification of 170, 218 and 203 secondary metabolites in leaves-derived callus cultures, SA and JA-treated callus cultures, respectively. These secondary metabolites belonged to different classes of secondary metabolites such as flavonoids, terpenes and terpenoids, alkaloids, phenolic acids, glycosides, sterols and steroids, vitamins and co-factors, lignans, anthroquinone, stilbenes and betacynin.

Finally, *de novo* transcriptome analysis of leaves, callus, and callus cultures treated with SA, and JA helped in unravelling the transcriptome changes associated with elicitation. The

genes that were differentially expressed in callus cultures as compared to leaves, and callus cultures treated individually with 50 µM SA and 150 µM JA for 20 days were identified. It was observed that 6488 genes were differentially expressed between callus cultures and leaves, of which 2469 were upregulated and 4109 were downregulated. The differentially expressed genes were primarily involved in cell division, plant hormone signaling pathways, plants stress response, plant-pathogen interactions and photosynthesis A total of 714 transcripts encoding transcription factors were discovered in the comparison between leaves and leaves-derived callus, and these were categorized into 49 families. A total of 1623 genes were differentially expressed, with 886 being upregulated and 737 downregulated in salicylic acid (SA)-treated callus cultures compared to the control callus. On the other hand, jasmonic acid (JA)-treated callus cultures showed higher number (3504) of DEGs, with 1719 upregulated genes and 1785 downregulated genes as compared to control callus cultures. The differentially expressed genes in both SA and JA treatments indicates significant changes in gene expression related to biosynthetic pathways of secondary metabolites, plant hormone signaling, plant stress responses, and plant-pathogen interaction. A total of 1062 transcripts encoding transcription factors (TFs) were identified in control callus cultures, salicylic acid (SA)-treated, and jasmonic acid (JA)treated callus which were categorized into 50 families. The TFs with the highest transcript levels were associated with families such as ERF, bHLH, NAC, WRKY, GRAS, C3H, C2H2, MYB, MYB-related, and B3. Several putative genes associated with biosynthesis of phenylpropanoid, flavonoids, terpenoids and lignins were identified, with their expression being enhanced in both SA and JA treatments. The expression pattern of few highly differentially expressed genes was validated using qRT-PCR.

1. Introduction

Phytochemicals are bioactive compounds naturally synthesized by plants via metabolic pathways originating from primary metabolites like carbohydrates, proteins and lipids. Plants synthesize a wide range of phytochemical compounds viz. terpenoids, flavonoids, alkaloids, phenolic acids, glycosides, steroids, tannins and saponins. These compounds play significant roles in the interaction between plants and their environment, contributing to tolerance against biotic and abiotic stresses (Sirikantaramas et al., 2008). Secondary metabolites manifactured by plants hold economic significance, finding applications in pharmaceuticals, flavorings, food additives, fragrances, pigments and dyes and more. Medicinal plants are a valuable reservior of bioactive compounds with therapeutic properties often serving as a basis for novel drug discoveries (Atanasov et al., 2015). The advancement of the modern technologies has accelerated the discovery of plant based natural products with significant therapeutic properties. Plant secondary metabolites are progressively used in the treatment of different ailments such as anti-diabetic (Guerrero-Analco et al., 2007; Farag et al., 2015; Huang et al., 2022; Kiem et al., 2020), anti-inflammatory (Chen et al., 2022; Cho et al., 2022; Youn et al., 2022; Yu et al., 2022), anti-cancer (Chassagne et al., 2018; Abreu et al., 2020; AlQathama et al., 2022), antimicrobial activities (Gonelimali et al., 2018; Mostafa et al., 2018; Akhtar et al., 2018) etc.

Chemical nature and composition of the secondary metabolites varies among plant species. The research on plant secondary metabolites has garnered significant attention due to their diverse array of biological activities. The antioxidant compounds obtained from plant sources play important roles in preventing oxidative damage by scavenging free radicals and modulating cell signaling pathways thus preventing chronic diseases (Valko *et al.*, 2007). Intense efforts are made by the researchers to identify antioxidants from natural sources with fewer side effects. Numerous investigations have demonstrated that phenolic compounds derived from plants possess antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antiproliferative properties, making them highly promising in pharmaceuticals, food, cosmetics, and chemical industries (Yahfoufil *et al.*, 2018; Fraga *et al.*, 2019). The accumulation and concentration of polyphenolic compounds varies in different parts of plants and organs and is related to the growth phase and modulated by various environmental factors (Wegiera *et al.*, 2011; Cheynier *et al.*, 2013). The impact of different solvents on the composition and quantity of secondary metabolites and/or their antioxidant activities has been documented in several studies (Rebey *et al.*, 2012; Kchaou *et al.*,

2013; Ngo *et al.*, 2017). Thus, there is a need to study the phenolic contents in plant extracts and their impending antioxidant activities as they would offer useful sources of natural antioxidants.

Inflammation serves as the body's innate defense machinery against detrimental stimuli such as toxins, pathogens, and celluar damage, and commences the healing process. However, when inflammation is not properly regulated, it can lead to a wide spectrum of disorders like allergies, cancers, cardiovascular disorders, autoimmune diseases, and metabolic ailments (Libby, 2007). Several anti-inflammatory drugs (steroidal and non-steroidal) are available for suppressing inflammatory crisis but are often associated with severe adverse effects (Wehling, 2014). Thus, the need for natural anti-inflammatory factors with high therapeutic response and low unwanted adverse effect is of prime importance and plant secondary metabolites serve as excellent prototype molecules for such drug development.

The inflammatory response is the coordinated activation of many pathways/factors that act to regulate the level of inflammatory mediators in resident cells, and recruit inflammatory cells from the blood (Lawrence, 2009). It encompasses a cascade of processes wherein the metabolism of arachidonic acid via LOX (lipoxygenase) and COX (cyclooxygenase) pathways into eicosanoids holds significant importance. The COX pathway involves two isoforms of cyclooxygenases enzyme namely, COX-1 (constitutive) and COX-2 (inducible) that catalyze the formation of prostaglandins, postacyclins, and thromboxanes from arachidonic acids (Rainsford, 2007). In the lipoxygenase (LOX) pathway, metabolism of arachidonic acid is fueled by different isoforms of LOX such as 15-lipoxygenase (15-LOX), 12-lipoxygenase (12-LOX), 8-lipoxygenase (8-LOX) and, 5-lipoxygenase (5-LOX) resulting in the production of proinflammatory leukotrienes and lipoxins (Yedgar et al., 2007). Both cyclooxygenases and lipoxygenases are crucial enzymes involved in inflammation. COX-1 is a constitutively expressed under normal physiological conditions maintaining the housekeeping functions in several mammalian cells while COX-2 isofom can be induced that generates pro-inflammatory cytokines and pain signaling effectors in response to inflammation (Fiorucci et al., 2001; Martel-Pelletier et al., 2003). LOX enzymes are associated with inflammatory and allergic response due to their roles in the formation of leukotrienes (Serhan, 2007; Radmark et al., 2015). An elevated level of leukotrienes is expressed during inflammatory response in case of asthma, allergies, rheumatism, and psoriasis. Inhibition of LOX and COX enzymes can inhibit the production of leukotrienes and prostaglandins. The simultaneous inhibition of leukotrienes and prostaglandins has emerged as a novel and promising strategy for developing dual inhibitors targeting 5-LOX

and COX-2. Such compounds hold potential as effective anti-inflammatory agents, offering the advantage of avoiding the side effects linked with COX-2 inhibitors, such as cardiovascular issues and gastrointestinal damage (Fiorucci *et al.*, 2001; Davies *et al.*, 2013). Bioactive compounds from medicinal plants are considered to be a promising source for generating new and effective anti-inflammatory medications (Chakraborti *et al.*, 2010). Exploring natural inhibitors of lipoxygenases and cyclooxygenases could pave the way for designing biologically and pharmacologically targeted therapeutic approaches. These strategies hold promise for effectively managing inflammatory diseases.

Metabolomics is very powerful tool for characterizing the metabolites and metabolic pathways and is complementary to other omics technologies such as proteomics, genomics and transcriptomics (Heyman and Dubery, 2016). It offers a glimpse of the biochemical conditions of a biological sample. Metabolomics has become an indispensable tool in drug discovery and development by identification and profiling of secondary metabolites in medicinal plants. Metabolomics based research on medicinal plants is crucial as plants manufacture a wide arrays of metabolites which might have significant therapeutic values, including primary as well as secondary metabolites. In this context, metabolomics can be used as an effective platform to understand the phytochemical basis of such therapeutically active phyto-constituents. Some plant secondary metabolites are scarcely identified, under several instances during drug analysis because of their low abundance resulting in a limited therapeutic efficacy. However, with mecicinal plants and their combinations, biological effects can be enhanced synergistically due to the presence of multiple constituents. Under such instances, metabolomics presents a valuable platform for comprehending the phytochemical foundation of these therapeutically bioactive phyto-constituents (Mukherjee et al., 2016). There are two approaches for metabolomics analysis i.e. targeted and untargeted analysis. Targeted metabolomics is focused on a few metabolites while untargeted metabolomics is intended to analyze the whole metabolome of an organism (Waris et al., 2022). Various analytical techniques are employed for analysis of different metabolites of medicinal plant extracts. Mass spectrometry stands as the predominant technology in metabolomics due to its ability to swiftly, sensitively, and selectively perform qualitative and quantitative analyses of metabolites. The process involves ion formation, followed by the separation of ions based on their mass-to-charge (m/z) ratio, and ultimately the detection of these separated ions. Metabolomics approach is dependent mainly on four techniques which are liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS), gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-

MS), nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), and spectroscopy capillary electrophoresis-mass spectrometry (CE-MS) (Salem et al., 2020). GC-MS is the favored method for separating low molecular weight metabolites, particularly primary metabolites like amino acids, amines, sugars, organic acids, long-chain alcohols, and sterols, which are either volatile or can be converted into volatile and thermally stable compounds through chemical derivatization before analysis, as highlighted by Hall (2006) and Hill and Roessner (2013). Conversely, liquid chromatographymass spectrometry (LC-MS) analysis is preferred for detecting a wider array of metabolites, encompassing metabolites like alkaloids, secondary terpenoids, flavonoids, phenylpropanoids, as indicated by Verhoeven et al. (2006), De Vos et al. (2007), and Marr et al. (2021). LC-MS and GC-MS analysis have been generally used in complementary to medicinal plant metabolomics research (Zeki et al., 2020).

The production of secondary metabolites is often dependent on environmental factors, physiological and developmental stages of the plants and hence can be limiting (Rao and Ravishankar, 2002; Oksman-Caldentey and Inze, 2004). Plant-derived products might exhibit inconsistency in bioactivity and chemical constituents due to highly inducible variables and transitory nature of the secondary metabolites metabolism (Poulev et al., 2003). The difficulties in cultivation of the source plants, low productivity, phyto-geographical and tissue/organ-specific production are some of the limiting factors in utilizing plants for secondary metabolites (Halder et al., 2019). Further, excessive exploitation of medicinal plants has resulted in their depletion in natural habitats. The chemical synthesis of pharmaceutically important plant secondary metabolites is often difficult due to their diverse nature. Plant cell, organ, and tissue culture technology has gained recognition in recent years as a possible option for rapid bulk cultivation, metabolite accrual, and synthesis of precise metabolites for pharmaceutical uses without detrimental effect on the plants' natural habitats (Espinosa-Leal et al., 2018; Niazian, 2019). However, only a limited number of cell cultures are capable of synthesizing secondary metabolites comparable to the abundance found in intact plants (Namedo, 2007). In vitro techniques offer the potential of enhancing the production of high value compounds which are otherwise produced in meagre amounts.

Elicitation is an efficient strategy for enhancing the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites because of its practical feasibility (Poulev *et al.*, 2003). It exploits the plants defense mechanism against stress, pathogens or external stimuli for production of secondary metabolites. Elicitors activate cascades of events such as reaction oxygen species (ROS) production, expression of

defense-related genes and accumulation of secondary metabolites (Zhao et al., 2005). Abiotic elicitors like jasmonic acid (JA) and salicylic acid (SA) are frequently used for enhancing the production of secondary metabolites. SA, synthesized either by the phenylalanine or isochorismate pathways, plays a major role in systematic acquired resistance (SAR) during pathogen attack in plants (Klessig et al., 2018). JA modulates octadecanoid signaling pathway and plays a vital role in plant's tolerance to stress by modulating the defense responses (Sembdner and Parthier, 1993). Both JA and SA, when provided exogenously, trigger responses similar to pathogen exposure or other external stimuli (Giri and Zaheer, 2016). They initiate signal transduction pathways that lead to transcription of various genes thereby triggering the accumulation of molecules such as polyphenols, alkaloids, terpenoids, steroids etc. involved in defense and resistance of plants (Pieterse and van Loon, 1999; Hayat et al., 2010; Giri and Zaheer, 2016). These secondary metabolites are known to have a wide range of pharmacological activities such as anticancer, antidiabetic, antiasthma, antimalarial, antimicrobial, antiviral etc. They have been used in medicine either directly or as the starting points for drug discovery (Awuchi and Amagwula, 2020).

Various environmental stresses including the exogenous application of elicitors like JA and SA trigger the generation of ROS that include singlet oxygen (¹O₂), superoxide (O₂), hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) and hydroxyl radical (·OH) that cause oxidative damage and ultimately cell death. ROS not only have deleterious effects, but also function as important signaling molecules that regulate normal plant growth and responses to stresses (Huang *et al.*, 2019). The level of ROS is maintained by an intricate and flexible enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidant system to balance their production and elimination, required for normal cellular homeostasis. In plants, antioxidant enzymes such as superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), peroxidase (POD) along with ascorbate-glutathione (AsA-GSH) cycle play a vital role in the elimination of ROS such as hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), superoxide (O₂) and hydroxyl free radicals (·OH) generated during stress conditions (Alscher *et al.*, 1997; Mittler *et al.*, 2004). Several non-enzymatic compounds such as phenolics, flavonoids, ascorbic acid, glutathione, carotenoids and α-tocopherol also protect the cells from cytotoxic effects of ROS. The bioactive roles of the phenolics and flavonoids are often associated with the antioxidant potency (Ghasemzadeh *et al.*, 2010).

The advancement in the field of transcriptomics in the recent years has provided an unprecedented insight in understanding the gene structure, regulation and expression associated

with biological processes. The inception of novel high-throughput next-generation sequencing (NGS) technology has opened avenues for quantifying and mapping transcriptomes on a larger scale with enhanced accuracy and sensitivity. The high-throughput capabilities of NGS have facilitated RNA analysis through the sequencing of complementary DNA, as outlined by Wang et al. (2009). The RNA sequencing is one of the key applications of NGS which has revolutionized and transformed the understanding of the genome. It combines the high throughput sequencing along with computational methods to apprehend and analyze the transcripts in the RNA (Morozova et al., 2009). RNA-Seq aids in identifying gense within a genome or genes active at particular point of time (Lowe et al., 2017) and offers comprehensive and quantitative view of gene expression (Kukurba and Montgomery, 2011). It enables the detection of alternative splicing isoforms, as demonstrated by Li et al. (2020), as well as marker discovery for biologically significant single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), as illustrated by Dubey et al. (2011) and Henry et al. (2012). Additionally, it unveils biosynthetic pathways for secondary metabolites, as shown by Li et al. (2013), Senthil et al. (2015), and Pandey et al. (2016). Achieving effective phytochemical production and enhancing selective metabolites necessitates a comprehensive understanding of biosynthetic pathways, regulatory mechanisms, and metabolic alterations.

1.1. Importance of Givotia moluccana (L.) Sreem. and background information

Givotia moluccana Syn. Givotia rottleriformis Griff. ex Wight (White catamaran tree) is a medium-sized, dioecious tree species belonging to Euphorbiaceae family. It is distributed mostly in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Naidu states of India and in certain parts of Sri Lanka. It is well known for its soft and light wood which is used for crafting of toys and decors, catamarans, light boxes for packaging etc. It is an economically important tree species especially for the people of Nirmal (Telangana) and Kondapalli (Andhra Pradesh), where the artisans derive their livelihood from this tree for carving elegant and ingenious toys. The tree species is also well known for its indigenous medicinal practice in treating inflammatory diseases such as rheumatism, skin diseases and dandruff (Thammanna and Narayana Rao, 1990). The extracts of different parts of this plant species have been reported to possess various biological properties including antipsoriatic, hepatoprotective, antimicrobial and antioxidant activities (Vijayalakshmi et al., 2017). However, there has been a scarcity of reports validating its indigenous medicinal claim in the treatment of various inflammatory-related ailments. Vijayalakshmi et al. (2014) isolated flavonoid compounds such as rutin, luteolin an

kaempferol from the bark, which conferred anti-psoriatic activity. Further, the inhibitory effects of bark extract on cyclooxygenase (COX) enzyme which play an important role during inflammation has been reported (Vijayalakshmi *et al.*, 2016). Hepatoprotectant property of the leaves of *G. moluccana* on hepatotoxicity in rats caused by carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) was reported by Sateesh Babu *et al.* (2014). The anti-proliferative effects of gallic acid and methyl gallate isolated from the seed coats of *G. moluccana* on human epidermoid carcinoma was demonstrated (Samuel *et al.*, 2015). In the subsequent studies, Samuel *et al.* (2016) isolated and characterized benzoylsalicylic acid (BzSA) from seed coats of *G. moluccana* that proved to be an efficient inducer of systemic acquired resistance (SAR) against tobacco mosaic virus in tobacco and *Arabidopsis*. The significance of this tree species is evident through its medicinal attributes, which stem from the presence of bioactive compounds known for their therapeutic properties. Secondary metabolites produced in plants serve as the material basis for the curative effects of medicinal plants (Zhang *et al.*, 2021).

1.2. Rationale of the study and Objectives

Studies on secondary metabolites constituent in different plant parts of *G. moluccana* are lacking despite being a highly valuable medicinally important tree species. Investigations on phenolic acid and flavonoid contents and the antioxidant activities of plant parts extracted in different solvents are necessary to evaluate the pharmaceutical values of the extracts. Furthermore, the production of secondary metabolites from *in vitro* cultures remain unexplored in this species. *In vitro* cultures are a promising source for investigations on the production of secondary metabolites as well as understanding their metabolism and regulation. Elicitation of the callus culture represents a promising method for augmenting the production of secondary metabolites. The integration of metabolomics with *de novo* transcriptome analysis of callus cultures exhibiting elevated levels of specific secondary metabolites offers an opportunity to identify the pivotal genes engaged in their biosynthesis and to gain insights into the mechanisms underlying secondary metabolite synthesis. Such studies would provide scope in large scale production of secondary metabolites for different applications. Building upon this background, the study was undetaken with the following objective.

i. Comparative assessment of the total phenolic acids, total flavonoids contents, *in vitro* antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities, and metabolite profiling of different plant parts of *Givotia moluccana*.

- ii. Development of methods for callus formation and plant regeneration, and enhancing the production of secondary metabolites in callus cultures by elicitation.
- iii. Analysis of secondary metabolites and antioxidant metabolism in callus cultures elicited with salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA).
- iv. *De novo* transcriptome analysis to understand the differentially expressed genes, transcription factors and biosynthesis of phenolics, flavonoids, terpenoids and lignins in elicited callus cultures.

2. Review of Literature

Plants generate a wide variety of intricate low molecular weight compounds known as secondary metabolites which are not directly involved in the growth and development of the plants. However, they play a crucial role in plant interactions with biotic and abiotic stress factors, and signal transduction processes (Dixon, 2001). These compounds have remarkable bioactivities and offer a rich source for developing pharmaceutical formulations, novel drugs, flavors, fragrances, food additives, pigments, nutraceuticals and functional foods (Guerriero et al., 2018). Based on their biosynthesis, these compounds can be categorized into three main classes: phenolic compounds (including phenylpropanoids and flavonoids), terpenes (or isoprenes), and nitrogen-containing compounds such as alkaloids, glucosinolates, and cyanogenic glycosides (Harborne, 1999). Phenolic compounds are among the most prevalent secondary metabolites found in plants, characterized by the presence of one or more aromatic rings with one or more hydroxyl groups (Bravo, 1998; Dai and Mumper, 2010). The remarkable antioxidant capacity of these compounds is due to their ability to scavenge free radicals, redox property which helps in donating hydrogen atoms or act as reducing agents (Pratt et al., 1992) or chelate metals (Afanas'ev et al., 1989) or regulating gene expression (Krinsky, 1992). The structure-activity relationship is the key determinant of their radical scavenging ability or metal chelating ability (Balasundram et al., 2006). The antioxidant activities of phenolic acids are dependent on the positions and numbers of hydroxyl groups on these molecules. Hydroxycinnamic acids exhibit higher antioxidant activity compared to hydroxybenzoic acids due to their greater capacity for hydrogen donation and radical stabilization of CH=CH-COOH group of hydroxycinnamic acids than their counterpart -COOH group of hydroxybenzoic acid (Rice-Evans et al., 1996). The structure-activity relationships in flavonoids are intricate, particularly concerning the catechol group. The activity is influenced by factors such as the degree of hydroxylation and the position of the hydroxyl group in the B ring, which confer varying levels of activity (van Acker et al., 1996). The activity of antioxidant is enhanced by the presence of hydroxyl group at 3', 4' 5' position of B ring in pyrogallol group of flavonoids (van Acker et al., 1996; Seeram and Nair, 2002).

In view of the risk factor and deleterious effects associated with the use of various synthetic antioxidants in cosmetics, food industries and therapeutics, the need to switch to natural antioxidants found in medicinal plants has become a new global trend. Natural antioxidants offer a promising alternative to synthetic antioxidants owing to their affordability,

compatibility, and lack of associated ramifications (Lobo *et al.*, 2010). When the endogenous antioxidants becomes compromised upon exposure to excessive ROS, the body can compensate this deficit by using exogenous supply of antioxidants through food, supplements or drugs (Sharifi-Rad *et al.*, 2020). Plants serve as a rich reservoir of antioxidants, offering valuable leads for the development of potent antioxidant agents. The intake of antioxidants such as polyphenols has demonstrated to promote the health and prevent the oxidative stress induced degenerative diseases such as cancer, atherosclerosis, diabetes, cancer etc. (Steinberg *et al.*, 1989; Lai *et al.*, 2001).

There is ample documentation indicating significant variations in the contents of secondary metabolites among plant populations, different plant organs, and developmental stages, all of which are influenced by environmental conditions (Achakzai *et al.*, 2009; Mannan *et al.*, 2011; Ghasemzadeh *et al.*, 2014; Verma and Shukla, 2015). Certain secondary metabolites are universally present across various plant species, while others have been observed to be specific to particular organs or tissues (Popovic *et al.*, 2021). The variations in synthesis and content of secondary metabolites suggest that they play specific physiological roles in different plant tissues and organs. As a reason, it can be inferred that different tissues and organs of medicinal plants may exhibit varying medicinal properties at different developmental stages (Bartwal *et al.*, 2013). Understanding the variation and distribution of secondary metabolites in different plant parts enables the effective utilization of the medicinal properties associated with a given species.

Several factors such as temperature, time, the polarity of the solvents and concentration have found to have an effect on the type and quantity of secondary metabolites extracted from medicinal plants (Ngouana *et al.*, 2021). The selection of an appropriate solvent has been demonstrated to be crucial for achieving the desired pharmacological activity of plant extracts (Dirar *et al.*, 2019). Solvents of different polarities including n-hexane, chloroform, ethanol, methanol and water have been used for extracting essential phytoconstituents from different plant species. The extraction efficiency of phenolic compounds was found to be affected by the polarity of extraction solvents. The presence of hydroxyl groups in phenolic compounds contributes to their antioxidant activity, with more polar extracts typically demonstrating higher antioxidant activities (Kaczorova *et al.*, 2021). However, there are studies showing that increasing solvent polarity does not necessarily enhance the extraction yield, due to variations in the nature of the compounds present in plants (Jeyaraj *et al.*, 2021). These conflicting findings

have emphasized the need for further research to better understand the interaction between solvents and phenolic compounds in different plant sources (Duan *et al.*, 2023).

Numerous researchers have directed their efforts toward medicinal plants to isolate compounds responsible for their medicinal properties. The antioxidant potential of many medicinal plants has been investigated using various *in vitro* and *in vivo* methods (Alam *et al.*, 2013). These studies have revealed that there is no universal method to measure the antioxidant capacity as different procedures differ in their assay principles (Alonso *et al.*, 2002). *In vitro* antioxidant methods, such as DPPH, ABTS, CUPRAC, and metal chelating activity assays, utilized in bioactivity assessments rely on the capacity of compounds or extracts to scavenge free radicals generated in specific reactions. In several studies, radical scavenging activities of plant extracts have been evaluated using more than one method due to varied nature of compounds present in the samples under investigation (Alam *et al.*, 2013).

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are produced as the by-product from the cellular redox reactions in almost all living organisms (Yangthong et al., 2009). A balanced production of ROS is beneficial for cellular functions and immune response as it acts as both a signaling molecule and a mediator of inflammation (Mittal et al., 2014). Uncontrolled production of ROS leads to unfavorable consequences by destroying macromolecules and lipid peroxidation of cell membranes, disrupting homeostasis and contributing to numerous inflammatory-related conditions such as cancer, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, neurogenerative diseases and inflammatory bowel diseases (Taniyama and Griendling, 2003; Pizzino et al., 2017; Forrester et al., 2018). Inflammatory associated enzymes such as 5-lipoxygenase (5-LOX) and two isoforms of cyclooxygenase (COX-1 and COX-2) catalyze the conversion of arachidonic acids to eicosanoids such as prostaglandins, thromboxanes, prostacyclins and leukotrienes. 5-LOX enzyme catalyzes the generation of leukotrienes, which mediates inflammatory response. COX-1 is constitutive in nature and expressed in most of the tissues and mediates physiological responses, while COX-2 is inducible which produces prostaglandins involved in inflammation. Several anti-inflammatory agents have been developed based on selective inhibition of COX-2, however, long term exposure to them pose severe consequences. There have been studies showing that COX-1 is a modulator for inflammation and prostagladins produced by COX-2 are involved in inflammatory reaction as well as homeostatic processes (Armstrong et al., 2011; Langhansova et al., 2017). The emerging trend of inhibiting prostaglandins and leukotrienes holds promise for augmenting anti-inflammatory effects while potentially mitigating the side

effects associated with selective COX-2 inhibitors and NSAIDs (Bertolini *et al.*, 2001; Charlier and Michaux, 2003). Notable inhibition of both COX and LOX enzymes has been reported upon application of efficacious bioactive fractions derived from crude plant extract (Mukhopadhyay *et al.*, 2023). Thus, medicinal plants which are widely used for treating inflammatory diseases offer potential to discover dual COX-LOX inhibitors for developing novel anti-inflammatory compounds.

Metabolomics provides an opportunity for identification and characterization of plant secondary metabolites within their metabolic environments or engineered biological systems. The swift evolution of genomics in recent years has unveiled that numerous organisms have the capability to produce a much larger array of secondary metabolites than previously believed. Many of these newly discovered secondary metabolites are only anticipated through bioinformatics analysis of probable secondary metabolite gene clusters in sequenced genomes, but they are either not naturally produced or exist at levels too minimal to be detected by conventional methods (Breitling et al., 2013). GC-MS and LC-MS are the most commonly utilized techniques in metabolomics research due to their superior resolution and sensitivity, as highlighted by Gowda and Djukovic (2014) and Siddiqui et al. (2020). In GC-MS analysis, samples are derivatized first and separated in a gas chromatograph before being analyzed for volatile metabolites or those that volatilize after derivatization, as outlined by Fernie et al. (2004). This platform is particularly effective for detecting primary metabolites such as amino acids, sugars, and organic acids (Fernie and Tohge, 2017). LC-MS is recognized as one of the most potent analytical method, capable of detecting wide range of hydrophobic metabolites, predominantly, secondary metabolites like flavonoids. alkaloids, terpenoids, and phenylpropanoids, without the need for sample pre-treatment. The use of liquid chromatography combined with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) for the identification and characterization of secondary metabolites has experienced rapid growth, offering sufficient structural insights and enabling the quantification of multiple compounds. LC-MS/MS has the advantage of higher sensitivity by using multiple-reaction monitoring (MRM) scan mode, facilitating considerable noise reduction (Qiao et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2014). Additionally, the ion source polarity can be switched between positive and negative modes, enabling simultaneous analysis of different types of compound ionization within a single chromatographic run (Yang et al., 2010). High-resolution GC-MS and LC-MS/MS coupled with multivariate statistics are jointly adopted as they detect different kinds of metabolites thus uncovering the diversity of compouds present in diverse plants (Fernie *et al.*, 2004; Zeki *et al.*, 2020). These metabolomics-based strategies (both targeted and untargeted) mandate minimal sample preparation and thus provide a better understanding of metabolites composition, allowing identification of novel bioactive compounds, evaluate its bioactivity and nutraceutical potential (López-Fernández *et al.*, 2020).

Different plant parts of G. moluccana are used in the indigenous medicinal practice against inflammatory diseases with bark being used for treatment of rheumatism, jaundice, and bone setting. The extracts of fruits are used in the treatment of psoriasis and dandruff, leaves for wound healing and endosperm for aiding digestion (Thammanna and Narayana Rao, 1990; Madhava Chetty et al., 2008). Despite having high medicinal value, there have been few studies that examined the chemical constituents and pharmacological activities of different parts of G. moluccana. Baskar Ananda Raj et al. (2012) conducted an initial phytochemical assessment of hydroalcoholic extract of leaf of G. rottleriformis and documented the presence of alkaloids, phenolic compounds, tannis, flavonoids and sterols. Similarly, Geetha and Vijayalakshmi et al. (2013) reported the presence of alkaloids, glycosides, tannins, phenolic compounds, flavonoids, steroids, saponins in the alocoholic extract of bark of G. rottleriformis. Samuel et al. (2015) isolated and characterized two phenolic acids viz., gallic acid and its methyl ester-methyl gallate from the methanolic extract of the seed coat (pericarp) of G. moluccana. These compounds showed a significant inhibition on both COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes, along with a significant decline in the viability of A431 skin cancer cell lines. Further, treatment with gallic acid and methyl gallate derived from the seed coat resulted in the downregulation of Bcl-2, a protein that promotes cell proliferation and inhibits apoptosis in cancer cells. Conversely, the expression of caspase-3, an apoptotic marker protein, was upregulated. Subsequently, Samuel et al. (2016) also isolated benzyl salicylic acid (BzSA), a novel acyl derivative of SA from the seed coat of G. moluccana which induced systemic acquired resistance more effectively than SA and ASA in tobacco and Arabidopsis. The exogenous administration of BzSA led to the upregulation of NPR1 (Non-expressor of pathogenesis-related gene-1) and pathogenesis-related (PR) genes. Additionally, it enhanced the expression of hypersensitivity-related (HSR), mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK), and WRKY genes in tobacco plants. As a result, Arabidopsis NahG plants treated with BzSA exhibited enhanced resistance to tobacco mosaic virus (TMV). Nagalakshmi et al. (2020) evaluated the seed oil of G. moluccana and found that the main

components were gamma linolenic acid and linoleic acid. They found that seed oil was effective against pulse beetle (*Callosobruchus chinensis* L.).

The scientific investigations on medicinal property attributes of various plant parts of G. moluccana have been limited. Sana and Dogipathi (2018) synthesized silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) through rapid bio-reduction of aqueous leaves extracts of G. moluccana. The synthesized nanoparticles of leaves extracts were found to have anti-microbial activity against both gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria which was correlated to the presence of substantial level of secondary metabolites. Vijayalakshmi et al. (2014) reported the anti-psoriatic properties of three flavonoids viz., luteolin-7-O-β-D-glucuronide, rutin, and kaempferol 3-O-[2-O-(6-O-feruloyl)-β-D-glucopyranosyl]-β-D-galactopyranoside extracted from the ethanolic extract of G. moluccana bark. The maximum inhibition of keratinocyte proliferation of HaCaT cell line activity and significant orthokeratosis was observed in kaempferol and luteolin, indicating a potent anti-psoriatic activity of the bark ethanol extract. In the following study, Vijayalakshmi et al. (2014) developed a formulation containing kaempferol and luteolin which which notable decreased epidermal thickness, retained the stratum granulosum and prevented the migration of neutrophils in UV-B prompted psoriasis, suggesting anti-psoriatic efficacy. The formulation effectively inhibited major cytokines such as IL-17 and TNF-α involved in psoriasis development. Sateesh Babu et al. (2014) observed that aqueous ethanolic extract of G. moluccana leaves displayed hepatoprotective potential in wistar rats resulting in marked decrease in marker enzymes such as alkaline phosphatase (ALP), serum bilirubin (SB), serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase (SGOT) and serum glutamic-pyruvic transaminase (SGPT). Vijayalakshmi et al. (2016) reported the inhibition of COX-1 and COX-2 activities and protection of membrane stability by the bark extract of G. moluccana which was explained by the abundance of several flavonoids that have the capacity to inhibit arachidonic acid pathway.

The phytochemical profile and their production in any plant species are greatly impacted by temperature, light, soil, salinity and other environmental factors. Furthermore, plants from certain habitats can be difficult to cultivate outside of their native environments, while most secondary metabolites are present in extremely low concentrations, which pose the commercial production of these bioactive compounds an enormous challenge (Bourgaud *et al.*, 2001). Chemical synthesis is feasible only for compounds with simple chemical structures but they can be highly expensive (Kolewe *et al.*, 2008). *In vitro* technology offers an attractive alternative to the conventional method (Namdeo, 2007). The advantages of the plant cell culture includes

consistent yields of the secondary metabolites, and the possibility to increase highly valued compounds substantially for food and medicines without the constraints of geographical, climatic and environment factors (Wilson and Roberts, 2014). Efficient production of secondary metabolites in *in vitro* requires an establishment of efficient system. Callus cultures, hairy root cultures, and micropropagation procedures are some of the most effective tissue culture techniques for producing secondary metabolites in biotechnological applications. Exogenous application of auxin and cytokinin in intermediate ratio usually promoted the formation of callus in many plant species (Skoog and Miller, 1957). There are no published reports on callus induction in *G. moluccana*. The few reports available on *in vitro* culture of this species dealt with evaluation of various factors for inducing germination and seed development (Rambabu *et al.*, 2006; Samuel *et al.*, 2012) and micropropagation (Samuel *et al.*, 2009) using zygotic embryo axes as explant source.

Although undifferentiated cells usually do not produce sufficient secondary metabolites, but exposure to elicitors such as salicylates, jasmonates, chitosan, inorganic salts, or heavy metals can increase their synthesis. Salicylic acid (SA) is a molecule which induces systemic acquired resistance to a wide range of pathogens. The rapid accumulation of SA at the infection site during the plant-pathogen interaction causes a hypersensitive reaction, which transmits signal to other regions of the plant triggering a cascade of defense responses accompanied by accumulation of several secondary metabolites (Dučaiová et al., 2013). Numerous studies have been successful in enhancement of secondary metabolites adopting SA as elicitor for example, paclitaxel production in Taxus chinensis (Wang et al., 2007), taxol production in Corylus avellana (Rezaei et al., 2011), podophyllotoxin production in Linum album (Yousefzadi et al., 2010), production of withanolides in Withania somnifera (Sivanandhan et al., 2013), bilobalide and ginkgolide A and B production in Ginkgo biloba (Kang et al., 2006), phenolics and flavonoids in Oplopanax elatus (Yu et al., 2023). Jasmonates (JAs) are signaling molecules found in plants that govern a variety of physiological and developmental processes which are provoked by pathogens and injuries, which prompts defense responses, both regionally and globally (Farmer et al., 2003; Ramirez-Estrada et al., 2016). Exogenous application of jasmonates to plant cell, organ, and tissue cultures has been successful in enhancing the production of flavonoids in Hypericum perforatum (Wang et al., 2015), Jatropha carcus (Lucho-Constantino et al., 2017); production of terpenoids in Persicaria minor (Sellapan et al., 2018), Taxus spp. (Onrubia et al., 2013); production of alkaloids in Catharanthus roseus (Ruiz-May et

al., 2009); production of phenylpropanoids in *Hypercium perforatum* (Gadzovska *et al.*, (2007), *Celastrus paniculatus* (Anusha *et al.*, 2016), *Thevetia peruviana* (Mendoza *et al.*, 2018), *Ajuga bracteosa* (Saeed *et al.*, 2017); production of stilbenes and trans-resveratrol in *Vitis vinifera* (Belchí-Navarro *et al.*, 2012). Secondary metabolites production using elicitors and callus cultures for improving its production remains unexplored in *G. moluccana*. Hence, it is worthwhile to establish callus cultures and explore their potential for enhanced production in this species.

Oxidative burst is commonly observed plants response to elicitor treatments that causes an upsurge in plant anti-oxidative enzyme activities to scavenge the ROS (Dong et al., 2010). Antioxidant enzymes namely, superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), peroxidase (POD), glutathione reductase (GR), ascorbate peroxidase (APX), monodehydroascorbate reductase (MDHAR) and dehydroascorbate reductase (DHAR) work together as a part of defense system to curb the accumulation of ROS. SOD enzyme known to catalyzes the conversion of super oxide radical (O₂) to hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), which is further converted to H₂O and O₂ by APX enzyme and GR in the chloroplast, CAT enzyme then catalyzes the H₂O₂ that diffuses out of the chloroplast (Takahashi and Asada, 1983). Several studies have shown elevated activities of antioxidant enzymes in response to elicitors' treatment such as JA or SA. Modarres and Yazdi (2021) reported an improved phenolic content as well as POD and CAT activities in Salvia leriifolia cell cultures. Similar studies involving an improved production of phenolic acids such as salvianolic acid B and caffeic acid correlating with enhanced activity of SOD, POD, CAT and phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL) enzymes have been reported by Dong et al. (2010) in Salvia miltiorrhiza. Lucho-Constantino et al. (2017) reported an increased antioxidant response along with accumulation of flavonoids and anthocyanin in Jatropha carcus in response to JA treatment.

Transcriptome analysis provides information on gene structure, regulation of gene expression, function and genome dynamics by understanding genome expression at the transcript level (Dong and Chen, 2013). The emergence of next generation sequencing (NGS) technology offers a quick and efficient method for generating transcriptomic datasets in non-model species. Compared to whole-genome sequencing which is currently costly and time consuming, RNA-Seq is revolutioning the study of transcriptome as it is high throughput and cost-effective, and is specifically attractive for non-model species without genome sequences (Zhu *et al.*, 2014). Transcriptomics research on medicinal plants offers valuable insights into the functional genes

and regulatory mechanisms governing their medicinal properties; such studies can enhance breeding selection and cultivation techniques by providing a deeper understanding of the genetic basis underlying desirable traits. In the recent past, de novo transcriptome sequencing has been used in several medicinal and economically important plant species to elucidate the genome details and regulatory machineries associated in the production of novel metabolites. For instance, transcriptome analysis has been used to probe the genes associated with the production of the diterpenoid lactones andrographolide and neoandrographolide in Andrographis paniculata (Sun et al., 2019). Chen et al. (2018) conducted a transcriptome study in Cinnamomum camphora, uncovering the trends of gene expression during biosynthesis of terpenoids and accumulation of terpenoids in various chemotypes. The study of Kang et al. (2020) provided an insight into the anthraquinone biosynthesis in Senna tora through de novo transcriptome analysis. Zhao et al. (2021) identified the key genes involved in the biosynthesis of coumarins in addition to differentially expressed genes and tissue-specific genes in Angelica dahurica. La et al. (2020) identified coronatine-regulated gene associated with biosynthesis of terpenoid in Hevea brasiliensis by RNA-seq analysis, which deciphered the genetic basis of terpenoid production and resistance traits. Rattan and Warghat (2023) described the improved accumulation of salicydroside and rosavin along with increased expression of key biosynthetic pathway genes in cell cultures elicited with SA and JA in Rhodiola imbricata. To date the genome and transcriptome resources of G. moluccana is not available. Based on the transcriptome approach studies, it is possible to identify DEGs and transcription factors involved in biosynthesis of important biosynthetic pathways in G. moluccana.

3. Materials and Methods

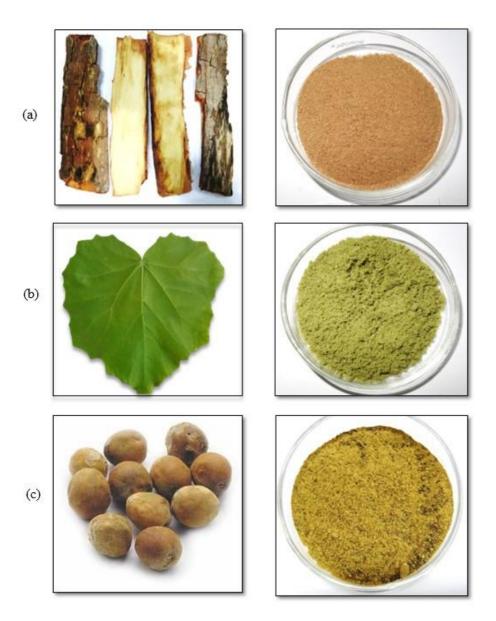
3.1. Plant material

The bark and mature leaves of *G. moluccana* were obtained from 15-year-old plants established at University of Hyderabad; while the matured seeds were collected from trees growing at Forest Research Station, Mulugu, Telangana (Figures 1a & b). The samples were placed in plastic covers and brought to the laboratory. They were washed thoroughly in running tap water to remove dust particles and placed in an oven at 45°C and dried until the moisture content was completely removed. The pericarp of the mature dried seeds was removed using pruning secateurs. Subsequently, the bark, leaves and pericarp were pulverized separately in a grinder, and the powdered samples obtained were sieved. Only finely powdered samples were used for preparation of extracts (Figures 2a-c). Five grams each of the finely powdered samples were placed in a beaker comprising 100 ml each of different solvents *viz.* water, methanol, ethanol, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane (DCM), and hexane, and stirred overnight on a magnetic stirrer. The samples extracted in different solvents were filtered using Whatman filter paper (11 µm pore size), and the resultant filtrate was concentrated in a rotary evaporator (Heidolph Instruments, Schwabach, Germany). The stock of each extract (25 mg/ml) was prepared and used for performing various assays.

The seeds of *G. moluccana* were germinated *in vitro* and seedlings were produced as reported earlier by Samuel *et al.* (2009). The hard stony seeds were washed thoroughly under running tap water and placed in 0.1% Tween-20 (Sigma-Aldrich, Missouri, U.S.A.) for 10 min and rinsed with distilled water followed by 1% bavistin (BASF India Limited, Mumbai, India) treatment for another 10 min. They were surface sterilized with 70% ethanol for 3 min and subsequently with 0.1% mercuric chloride (Sisco Research Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, India) for 10 min in Laminar Air Flow chamber. The seeds were rinsed 3 times with sterile double distilled water after each step of surface sterilization. Then, the seeds were soaked in sterile distilled water overnight, dried using sterilized tissue paper and were cut gently using bench vice. The cut seeds with undamaged zygotic embryo axes were then placed in half-strength MS (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) medium containing 10 mg/l gibberellic acid (Sigma-Aldrich, Missouri, U.S.A.) for 3 days in the dark. The cultures were then moved to culture racks and kept under the light with 16 h photoperiod at a photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) of 83.6 μEm⁻²s⁻¹ provided by white fluorescent tubes (OSRAM Lighting India Pvt. Ltd, Gurgaon,



Figures 1 (a-b). Tree of *Givotia moluccana* growing at Mulugu Research Station. (a) Tree with leaves during September, (b) Tree after leaf fall in February.



Figures 2 (a-c). Different plant parts of *G. moluccana* and their dried powders used for extract preparations. (a) Bark, (b) Leaf and (c) Dried seeds from which pericarp was removed.

Haryana, India) for germination and production of seedlings for using them as a source of explants *viz.*, leaves, cotyledons and endosperm for callus formation.

3.2. Estimation of total phenolic acids (TP) and total flavonoids content (TF) in different plant parts of *G. moluccana*

Different plant parts of G. moluccana viz., bark, leaves and pericarp were assayed for the total phenolic acid (TPA) and total flavonoid (TF) contents. The TPA content was estimated spectrophotometrically using Folin-Ciocalteu method as described by Singleton and Rossi (1965). Gallic acid was used as a standard. The FC reagent was obtained from a mixture of phosphotungstic acid and phosphomolybdic acid, which is reduced to blue coloration after the phenols are oxidized. The blue cloured chromophore developed correspondes to the total phenolic acids found in the samples and has a maximum absorption at 750 nm. The sample (50 μl) was taken from the extracts (25 mg of dried powder/ml of each solvent), and then 2.5 ml of 0.2 N of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent was added. After incubating for 6 min, 2 ml of 7.5% sodium carbonate solution (Na₂CO₃) was added to the sample in the tubes and the volume was made up to 5 ml with distilled water. The tubes were left in the dark at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance of the sample in each tube was read at 750 nm wavelength. Different concentrations of gallic acid ranging from 5-50 µg were aliquoted in triplicates and the reaction was performed and the standard graph was plotted. The TPA content in each sample extract was estimated using the standard curve of gallic acid and expressed as milligrams of gallic acid equivalents (GAE) per gram dry weight (DW).

The total flavonoid content was estimated according to aluminum chloride (AlCl₃) colorimetric assay method described by Barreira *et al.* (2008) using rutin hydrate as the standard. Flavonoids chelate metal ions and form complex compounds. AlCl₃ forms stable complex with flavones and flavonols, and acid liable complexes with flavonoids which are measured spectrophotometrically. The sample of 50 µl was taken from the extract (25 mg of dried powder/ml of each solvent), in each tube followed by the addition of 50 µl of 5% sodium nitrite solution. After 5 min of incubation, 120 µl of 10% AlCl₃ solution was added. The reaction mixture was incubated for 6 min and 200 µl of 1M NaOH was added and the volume was made up to 1 ml with double distilled water. The solution was mixed well and the absorbance was read at 510 nm. A standard curve was plotted using different concentrations of rutin (5-50 µg). The TF content was estimated in sample extracts and expressed as milligrams of rutin equivalents (RE) per gram dry weight (DW) according to the standard curve.

3.3. Evaluation of antioxidant activities and free radical scavenging activities of different plant extracts of *G. moluccana* using different assays

3.3.1. Phosphomolybdenum assay

The total antioxidant capacity of bark, leaves and pericarp extracts was determined using phosphomolybdenum assay as outlined by Prieto *et al.* (1999). The basic principle of this assay is centered on the antioxidant agents reducing molybdenum (VI) to molybdenum (V) at an acidic pH, and the consequent development of a greenish phosphatemolybdenum (V) complex. Briefly, 25 µl each of the different extracts was dissolved in 75 µl double distilled water and 1 ml reagent solution (4 mM ammonium molybdate, 28 mM sodium phosphate, 0.6 M sulphuric acid) was added in each tube. The tubes were plugged and placed in water bath for 90 min at 95°C. The tubes were then allowed to cool at room temperature, and the absorbance was measured at 695 nm using blank samples consisting of the reagent solution with the carrier solvent. The antioxidant capacity was defined as milligrams of ascorbic acid equivalents (AAE) per gram dry weight (DW), with ascorbic acid as standard.

3.3.2. Reducing power assay by FRAP method

The ferric reducing antioxidant power of bark, leaves and pericarp extracts was studied following the method developed by Benzie and Strain (1996), which involves transfer of electron resulting in ferric-tripyridyltriazine [Fe^{III}(TPTZ)]³⁺ being reduced to form a blue coloured ferrous complex [Fe^{II}(TPTZ)]²⁺ under pH 3.6. FRAP reagent was freshly prepared and consisted of 0.3 M acetate buffer and 10 mM 2,4,6-tris (1-pyridyl)-s-triazine (TPTZ) solution in 40 mM HCl and 20 mM FeCl₃.6H₂O (10:1:1 v/v/v ratio) pH 3.6. TPTZ was added at the end to avoid the reduction of FeCl₃ by TPTZ. The sample extracts (25 µl) were added to 2 ml of FRAP reagent and the reaction mixture was left at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance of the resulting complex was measured at 593 nm. The reducing power of the potential antioxidant extracts was expressed in milligrams of ascorbic acid equivalents per gram dry weight (AAE/g DW).

3.3.3. Cupric reducing antioxidant capacity (CUPRAC) assay

The method described by Apak *et al.* (2004) was used for CUPRAC assay. It is a colorimetric method and relies on measuring the reduction of copper (Cu), utilizing bis(neocuproine) copper(II) cation [Cu(Nc)2^2+] as a chromogenic ligand. This compound forms a complex with Cu(II), resulting in a [Cu(II)]-Nc chromogenic oxidizing reagent. This reagent further undergoes reduction in the presence of antioxidants at pH 7, yielding an orange-

yellow [Cu(I)]-Nc chromophore, which displays maximum absorption at 450 nm. Briefly, one ml each of 7.5 mM neocuprine, 10 mM copper chloride (CuCl₂), 1 M ammonium acetate buffer (pH 7), and 0.6 ml double distilled water were homogenized in a tube. Fifty μl of the different plant extracts or standard solutions were added to the initial cocktail. A sample blank was prepared by adding 50 μl of sample solution to 1 ml cocktail mixture without CuCl₂. The absorbance of the mixture was evaluated at 450 nm after incubating at room temperature for 30 min. Varing concentration of ascorbic acid standards (5 to 50 μg) was used to determine CUPRAC of each sample, which was defined as ascorbic acid equivalents per gram dry weight (AAE/g DW).

3.3.4. 2,2-dipheyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) scavenging activity assay

The DPPH radical scavenging activity of different extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp of *G. moluccana* was assessed according to the method outlined by Dasgupta and De (2007). The extracts of different plant parts were taken in different concentrations (50-350 µg) which was made up to 100 µl with distilled water followed by addition of 900 µl of a DPPH solution (0.04% in methanol) (Sigma Aldrich, Missouri, U.S.A.). The tube containing only distilled water (100 µl) and DPPH solution (900 µl) served as control. The tubes were placed in the dark at room temperature for a period of 30 min. The absorbance of decreasing intensity of the reaction solution due to donation of proton by different extracts was spectrophotmetrically measured at wavelength of 517 nm and compared with ascorbic acid (positive control). DPPH radical scavenging activity of each extracts was calculated using the following formula:

DPPH radical scavenging activity (%) =
$$\left(\frac{Abs_{control} - Abs_{sample}}{Abs_{control}}\right) \times 100$$
, where $Abs_{control}$ is the

control absorbance while, *Abs_{sample}* is sample absorbance.

3.3.5. Metal chelating ability assay

The chelators' iron (II) binding ability was assessed using the methods described by Dinis *et al.* (1994). Ferrozine forms a red colour complex with ferrous iron. However, the formation of this complex is interrupted in the presence of chelating agents, resulting in a reduction of the red colour. The concurrent chelator's binding capacity can be estimated by measuring the reduction of the colour intensity. Varying concentrations of the sample extracts were added to a reaction tube, which contained FeCl_{2.}4H₂O (50 µl) and distilled water (1.7 ml). The reaction mixture was held at room temperature for a period of 1 min. To this mixture, 200 µl of ferrozine (5 mM) was added and incubated for 10 min. The final color was monitored spectrophotmetrically at 562 nm. Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) was used as control which was compared to plant

extracts metal chelating efficiency. The inhibition percentage of the ferroxine-Fe²⁺ complex formation was calculated against a blank containing FeCl₂ and ferrozine using the DPPH scavenging activity calculation formula as described in **Section 3.3.4.**

3.4. In vitro anti-inflammatory activities of different plant parts extracs of G. moluccana

3.4.1. Inhibition of protein denaturation assay

The anti-inflammatory activities of bark, leaves and pericarp were studied using inhibition of albumin denaturation assay as described by Williams *et al.* (2008). The plant extracts and acetylsalicylic acid (Sigma-Aldrich, Missouri, U.S.A.) that was used as positive control were prepared at 1 mg/ml. Sample extracts or positive control and 200 µl of 1% aqueous solution of bovine serum albumin (BSA) (HiMedia, Hyderabad, India) and 0.2 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) made up the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was placed at 37°C for 15 min. Denaturation was induced by placing the reaction mixture at 70°C water bath for a period of 10 min after which it was allowed to cool down. The absorbance was then measured at 660 nm spectrophotometrically (UV-1800, Shimadzu, Japan). The experiments were performed in triplicate. The percentage inhibition of protein denaturation was calculated as described in **Section 3.3.4.**

3.4.2. Lipoxygenase (LOX) enzyme inhibition assay

The 5-LOX enzyme was extracted from potato tubers. The enzyme was purified and assayed using the method described by Reddanna *et al.* (1990). The polarographic approach was used to assess enzyme activity using Clark's oxygen electrode on Strathkelvin Instruments (RC300, Model 782; North Lanarkshire, Scotland). Lipoxygenase enzymes are oxygen-consuming enzymes that reduce oxygen levels in the reaction mixture. The enzyme activity was measured accordingly with the rate of reduction in oxygen. The reaction mixture was made up of enzyme (100 µl), 40 mM substrate -arachidonic acid (10 µl) and 100 mM phosphate buffer (pH 6.3) was used to make up the volume upto 3 ml. The reaction was carried out at 25°C, and the highest slope obtained was used to calculate enzyme activity. The enzyme activity was represented in units/mg protein, where one unit representing one micromole of oxygen used per minute. Nordihydroguaiaretic acid (NDGA) was utilised as a positive control. The sample extract (100 µg/ml) was used in the assay to measure the enzyme inhibition activity. The lipoxygenase activity is calculated using the following equation:

VT x $[O_2]$ s x Δ % $[O_2]$ /ENZ Vol x $100 = \mu$ M O_2 incorporated per min/ml of enzyme

Where VT is the reaction mixture volume (ml); $[O_2]$ s is the O_2 concentration in air-saturated buffer at 30°C (µmol/ml); Δ % $[O_2]$ is the maximum percentage change per minute in $[O_2]$ consumed in the course of the linear portion of the reaction (% $[O_2]$ /min), and ENZ Vol is the volume of enzyme added (ml).

3.4.3. Cyclooxygenase (COX) enzyme or prostaglandin H synthase inhibition assay

The bark, leaves and pericarp extracts were tested for their ability to block the metabolism of arachidonic acid to form prostaglandin H2 (PGH2) by cyclooxygenase enzymes by following the manufacturer's protocol of COX (ovine/human) inhibitor screening assay kit (Item No. 560131; Cayman Chemical, MI, U.S.A). Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) was used to quantify PGF2α generated by PGH2 reduction with stannous chloride (SnCl2). The methanolic extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp (25-100 µg/ml) were used for inhibitory studies. COX reactions were first established. Briefly, for obtaining background values, background tubes were taken, cyclooxygenase enzymes were deactivated by placing it in a boiling water for 3 min; deactivated COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes (10 µl each), heme (10 µl) and reaction buffer (160 µl). Reaction buffer consisted of 0.1 M Tris-HCl (pH 8), 5 mM EDTA, 2 mM phenol. To generate tubes with 100% initial activity for the two enzymes, heme and each enzyme (10 µl each) and reaction buffer (160 µl) were added to a reaction tube. The COX inhibitor tubes consisted of extracts or positive control (Diclofenac) (10 µl each), heme and enzymes (10 µl each) and reaction buffers (160 µl), while 10 µl of inhibitor vehicle (methanol) was added to 100% initial activity and background tubes. The tubes were incubated in a water bath at 37°C for 10 min before adding arachidonic acid (10 µl) to start the reactions. After 2 minutes of incubation, saturated stannous chloride (30 µl) was added to each test tube to terminate the reactions. The tubes were vortexed and held at 37°C for 15 min before the prostaglandins were measured using ELISA.

The ELISA buffers and assay specific reagents were prepared as per the manufacturer's instructions. ELISA buffer (990 µl) was aliquoted to background samples BC1 and BC2 containing cycloxygenase enzymes (10 µl each) in the respective tubes. For obtaining COX 100% initial activity, three clean tubes were obtained and labelled as IA1, IA2 and IA3 and dilution was carried as follows. IA1 consisted of ELISA buffer (990 µl) and COX-1 or COX-2 (10 µl each) enzyme initial activity mixed thoroughly. ELISA buffer (950 µl) was added to IA2 (1:2000 dilution) containing 50 µl of IA1 and mixed properly. Subsequently, 500 µl of ELISA buffer was aliquoted to IA3 (1:4000 dilution) tube containing 500 µl of IA2. Only IA2 and IA3

were used for ELISA. Similarly, for COX inhibitors, the tubes were labelled as C1, C2 and C3 for different dilutions, however, instead of enzyme, 10 µl of the sample was used for dilution and only C2 and C3 was used for ELISA. The diluted reactions were subjected to a 96-well plate that consisted of the following: two blank wells, one total activity well (total enzyme activity of AChE-linked tracer), two non-specific binding wells (non-immunological binding of the tracer to the well), Three maximum binding well (maximum amount of the tracer that the antibody can bind in the absence of free analyte), sixteen wells for prostaglandin standards in duplicate, two background cycloxygenase (COX-1 and COX-2). The inhibitors (extracts) were placed in the remaining wells, and each reagent was added to the plate as specified in the assay kit.

The plate was developed by discarding its contents and washing them five times using wash buffer, before using Ellman's reagent (which contains AChE substrate). Five μ l of tracer was introduced to the total activity well. The plate was wrapped in plastic film and incubated in Orbital Shaker (Remi Sales and Engineering Ltd., Mumbai, India) for 60 min. Finally, the plate was read at 420 nm using an ELISA plate reader. The ratio between the absorbance of the sample or reference well and that of the maximum binding well (% B/B₀, where B represents sample or standard bound, while B₀ represents maximum bound) was calculated according to the protocol in the assay kit. The amount of prostaglandins formed was measured from the values of % B/B₀ for all the samples with the aid of standard curve obtained (% B/B₀ of the standard and raw data) and the percentage inhibition value was calculated.

In this assay, PGs and a PG-acetylcholinesterase (AChE) conjugate (PG tracer) compete with each other for a scarced antiserum. The concentration of PG in each well is determined based on the amount of PG tracer that can bind to the PG antiserum, as it is inversely proportional to the concentration of PG. The rabbit antiserum-PG (free or tracer) complex binds to a mouse monoclonal anti-rabbit antibody that is present in the well. This enzymatic reaction creates a characteristic yellow colour, whose absorbance is measured at 420 nm. The intensity of yellow color formed is proportional to the quantity of PG tracer bound to the well, which is inversely related to the amount of free PG present during the incubation. The percentage inhibition was calculated for the control and each of the samples tested.

3.5. Metabolites profiling of bark, leaves and pericarp extracts of *G. moluccana* using GC-MS/MS analysis and LC analysis

The bark and leaves were collected from 15-year-old trees of *G. moluccana* established in the campus of University of Hyderabad, while pericarp was taken from mature seeds collected

from Forest Research Station, Mulugu, Telangana. Each sample was thoroughly washed under tap water followed by sterile water. The samples were parched in hot air oven to remove all the moisture. Using a grinder, each of the samples was ground to fine powder and sieved. The fine powder (5 gms) obtained was soaked overnight in 100 ml methanol under magnetic stirrer. The filterate obtained were concentrated using vacuum evaporator. The concentrated methanolic extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp (25 mg/ml) of *G. moluccana* was dissolved and filtered in membrane filter (0.22 µm) (Axiva Sichem, New Delhi, India).

3.5.1. GC-MS analysis

The GC-MS analysis was performed according to the protocol described by Weckwerth et al. (2004). The methanolic extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp of G. moluccana were subjected to derivatization prior to GS-MS analysis to increase the volatility of metabolites. Twenty five µg of each of the methanolic extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp were dissolved in methoxyamine pyridine (40 mg/ml) and placed at 55°C for 120 min. Thereafter, Ntrimethylsilyl-N-methyl trifluoroacetamide (MSTFA) (80 µl) was added to the resultant mixture and vortexed, the mixture was incubated for 1 hour at 70°C for derivatization. The analysis was performed on GC/MS apparatus-Agilent 7890A mass spectrometer interfaced to MS-LECO, Pegasus® HT high throughput MS equipped with DB-1 high temperature column 29.30 m in length, 250 mm internal diameter and 0.10 µm in thickness (Agilent Technologies, J & W Scientific Products, Santa Clara, CA). One µl of the extract was injected into the instrument using helium as the carrier gas. The initial GC temperature started at 70°C which was then held at 260°C for 1 min and followed by 10 min at a rate of 4°C per min. In the MS setting, the electron impact (EI) ion source was maintained at a temperature of 260°C, with a filament bias set at -70 V. The mass range for data acquisition was set to 50–600 m/z, and the data acquisition rate was set to 5 spectra per second. The compound identification was conducted by comparing with the mass spectral available in National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST) (Davies et al., 1990).

3.5.2. LC-MS/MS analysis

Ten microliter (μl) of the filtrate obtained was injected into LC-MS instrument. LC-MS/MS analysis was executed in Shimadzu Prominence-I HPLC (Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan) coupled with a Shimadzu triple quadrupole LCMS-8045 mass spectrometer (Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan) equipped with C18 column 50 mm x 4.6 mm and 5 μm (Phenomenex Kinetix, California, U.S.A.). Column temperature was 30°C, sample cooler temperature was

25°C with mobile phases comprising of formic acid (0.1%) in water and acetonitrile (100%). Sample input and acquisition was 10 μl with flow rate of 0.8 ml/min and run time was 60 min. Electrospray ionization (ESI)–Mass spectrometer analysis was conducted in both positive and negative ion modes using the following operational parameters: drying gas flow rate of 10 liters/min, interface temperature set to 300°C, nebulizer gas flow rate of 3 litres/min, desolvation line temperature maintained at 250°C, and a heating gas flow rate of 10 litres/min. Full-scan mass spectra were obtained spanning the mass range of m/z 50–2000.

3.5.2.1. Preprocessing of raw data obtained from LC-MS/MS analysis

The preprocessing of the raw data was carried out using an open source software MZmine 2.53. (https://mzmine.github.io/). The MZML files were loaded and trimmed for a retention time of 0-60 min. The mass detection algorithm was then used to determine the masses of the samples and then create chromatograms for all the samples using chromatogram builder algorithm. Subsequently, join aligner algorithm was used to aligned peaks which aligns detected peaks for a specific sample. KEGG/Plantcyc compounds databases were used for metabolite identification. Then, the resulting data in csv (comma separated values) format were exported for further analysis. These csv files were formatted as per software requirement for statistical analysis to generate further analysis plots and data.

3.5.2.2. Processing of data and normalization

MetaboAnalyst 5.0. (https://www.metaboanalyst.ca/) was used for processing of data. The peak intensity data table containing samples in columns and features in rows, with class labels immediately following the sample IDs was uploaded in a comma separated values (.csv) file format. Data integrity check was conducted prior to data analysis, to ensure that all required information had been obtained. Filtering of data was then performed using interquantile range to remove irrelevant variables for modelling purposes to reduce noise. One or more combination of normalization processes is utized to achieve better results. In this study, the normalization procedures were carried out by following the options as (a) Row-wise procedures-normalization by the sample median. (b) Data transformation-log transformation (base 10). (c) Data scaling-pareto scaling.

3.5.2.3. Statistical data analysis

Different methods were employed to analyze the data obtained using LS-MS/MS analysis. In univariate analysis method, Fold-change analysis and Correlation analysis was

performed. The Multivariate analysis method included Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and clustering analysis included heatmap.

3.6. Reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) analysis

Quercetin, myrcetin and rutin contents in bark, leaves and pericarp were quantified using a RP-HPLC system (Agilent Technologies 1260 infinity, California, U.S.A), consisting of solvent delivery pump (Agilent 1260 infinity capillary pump) and detector (Agilent 1260 Infinity II Diode array detector WR). The separation by chromatography was accomplished on 250 x 4.6 mm; 5 µm analytical column C18 kinetex (Phenomenex, Torrance, California, U.S.A). The mobile phase consisted of methanol: 0.1% (v/v) phosphoric acid (65:35) for quercetin and rutin, and water: methanol: acetonitrile (52:42:5) (v/v) for myrcetin. The solvent used for mobile phase were all HPLC grade and degassed through ultrasonication prior to use. The delivery was carried out in isocratic mode at flow rate of 1.0 ml/min at \pm 20°C with injection volume of 20 µl, and the detector was set at 370 and 575 nm. A stock of standard quercetin (5 mg/ml) was prepared by dissolving in methanol. For the preparation of calibration plot, suitable aliquots were transferred into mobile phase for obtaining concentrations of 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 1.0 and 1.5 mg/ml of quercetin, rutin and myrcetin. Twenty µl of the sample was injected into the column using optimized conditions. The peak area vs. the concentration of standard injected was plotted to determine the linearity. The methanol extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp were dissolved and filtered through membrane filter (0.22 µm) using microsyringe/micropipette. Quercetin, myrcetin and rutin in the samples was identified and quantified by comparison with external standard. Each samples were injected in triplicate.

3.7. Evaluation of callus induction potential of different explants

The callus induction potential of leaves, cotyledons and endosperm was evaluated in the study. The cotyledons and endosperm were obtained from aseptically germinated 2-weeks-old seedlings whereas the young leaves were taken from 4-week-old *in vitro* germinated seedlings. The explants were cut into small pieces (approx. 1-1.5 cm) and inoculated in MS medium with 3% sucrose (Merck, Mumbai, India), 0.8% (w/v) agar (Sigma-Aldrich, Missouri, U.S.A.) containing plant growth regulators (Sigma-Aldrich, Missouri, U.S.A.) *viz.*, either individually or in combinations for callus induction. Five different types of media consisting of 2 mg/l 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacid (2,4-D) alone or in combination with 1 mg/l 6-benzylaminopurine (BAP) or 1-naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) or kinetin (KIN) or 2 mg/l NAA with 1 mg/l BAP were used to evaluate their effects on callus induction. The pH of the media was adjusted to 5.6 to 5.8 using

1M sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and 1N hydrochloric acid (HCl) prior to autoclaving at 120° C and 15 psi pressure for 15 min. The explants (5-6) were inoculated into each culture bottle (60 x 110 mm) containing approximately 40 ml of the media. The cultures were incubated in dark at $25 \pm 2^{\circ}$ C and examined periodically for recording the duration of callus initiation from the leaf explants. The observations on frequency of callus initiation, nature and color of callus were taken after 4 weeks of culture on the medium. For measuring the fresh weight and dry weight, approximately 1 gm of callus was placed in each culture bottle containing 40 ml of the medium augmented with different growth regulators. The calli were removed from the culture bottles and dried in an oven (45° C) for 48 h for dry weight estimation. The weight (gm) of the callus at the time of harvesting and at inoculation was determined and the difference was used for measuring the fresh weight and dry weight and expressed as grams per 100 ml medium. Each culture bottle was treated as a replicate in the analysis of the results. To determine the growth curve for leaf derived callus, fresh weight and dry weight of the callus was determined at weekly intervals for 6 weeks after sub-culture of 1 gm of callus on medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP and expressed as grams per 100 ml medium.

3.8. In vitro regeneration of plant through direct shoot organogenesis from zygotic embryo axes of G. moluccana

3.8.1. Direct shoot bud induction and multiplication

The zygotic embryo axes were carefully separated from overnight soaked sterilized seeds without damaging and used for induction of multiple shoots. Different concentrations of BAP and KN, alone or in combination were used in full-strength MS medium for inducing multiple shoots. The clump of multiple shoots was separated from the explants after 4 weeks and subcultured on half-strength MS medium with reduced concentrations of BAP every 3 weeks and was finally cultured into half-strength MS medium without BAP. The cultures were monitored for the frequency of multiple shoots and the average number of shoots per explant.

3.8.2. Rooting initiation and establishment in the field

After the emergence of elongated shoots from the clumps, 3-4 cm shoots were separated and cultured on half-strength MS medium containing either 0.5 mg/l of α -naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) or indole 3-butyric acid (IBA) or without growth regulators for root induction. After 4 weeks of culture, the duration and frequency of root induction, as well as the average number of roots per shoot, were recorded. The rooted plantlets were separated from the culture bottles, which was then washed thoroughly but gently under running tapwater to remove agar stuck on

the roots. The plantlets were placed in plastic pots containing soilrite and acclimatized in culture room for 2 weeks by covering with polythene covers to maintain the humidity. The polythene covers were then removed and plantlets were kept in culture room for another week, after which they were transferred to greenhouse and subsequently the plantlets were transferred to earthen pots containing soil and farmyard manure. They were subsequently transplanted in an open field and the survival frequency was determined.

3.9. Effect of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) on biomass, total phenolics, flavonoids and antioxidant activities in leaf callus cultures

Freshly harvested callus obtained after 5 weeks of subculture was used for elicitation experiments with SA and JA. The callus was inoculated in MS medium supplemented with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP with different concentrations (50, 100, 150 and 200 µM) of SA and JA (Sigma-Aldrich, Missouri, U.S.A) which were dissolved in the solvent (ethanol) and added aseptically after filter sterilization with 0.22 µm membrane filter (Axiva Sichem Biotech, New Delhi, India) to the culture media. The culture medium without elicitors served as controls. The experiments were carried out by inoculating 1 gm of callus into each culture bottle containing 40 ml of medium. The effects of SA and JA on fresh weight and dry weight were determined after 5 weeks of culture on the media.

For estimating the total phenolics and flavonoids, the calli were carefully removed from the culture bottles every 5 days for the following 30 days. The calli were dried in an oven (45°C) for 48 h. The dried callus was then ground into fine power and used for preparing the extracts. The dried callus powder (5 gm each) was placed in 100 ml of methanol and stirred overnight in a magnetic stirrer. The extracts were centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 15 min and the supernatants were recovered. The supernatants were then concentrated in rotary vacuum evaporator (Heidolph Instruments, Schwabach, Germany) until it was reduced to powder/dried form, which were stored at -20°C until use for different experiments.

Total phenolic acid (TP) and total flavonoid (TF) contents were estimated as per the protocols described in **Section 3.2.**

3.9.1. DPPH (2,2-dipheyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) and ABTS (2,2' azino-bis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid)) radical scavenging potential of callus extracts

The free radical scavenging activities of the callus cultures treated with different concentrations (50, 100, 150 and 200 uM) of SA and JA elicitors for 20 days was assessed using

DPPH radical scavenging activity by following the protocol described in **Section 3.3.4** and ABTS decoloring assay.

ABTS decoloring assay was performed as per the specification of Re *et al.* (1999). The free radical ions were generated by mixing 20 ml each of potassium persulphate (2.45 mM) and ABTS (7 mM) (HiMedia Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai, India). The blend was kept in the shade at ambient temperature for 15-20 h. The working stock was prepared by diluting using methanol and the absorbance was measured to achieve absorbance of 0.700 at 734 nm. Plant extracts (50-350 µg) were reacted with ABTS radical solution (200 µl) at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance of the resulting decrease in the coloration was measured in 96-wells microplate reader at 734 nm. Ascorbic acid served as positive reference control. The percentage radical scavenging activities were calculated as shown in **Section 3.3.4.**

3.9.2. Quantification of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) and malondialdehyde (MDA)

Hydrogen peroxide levels were determined as per the method reported by Alexieva *et al.* (2001). The callus (500 mg) was homogenized in an ice-cold mortar and pestle with 5 ml of 10 % (w/v) trichloroacetic acid (TCA). The homogenate was centrifuged at 15000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C. Equal volume of the supernatant and 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7) was taken and 1 ml of 1M potassium iodide was added to it. The mixture was measured for its absorbance at 390 nm wave length spectrophotometrically. The mixture without the supernatant was used as blank. The content of the H_2O_2 in the sample was estimated as per the standard curve and expressed in micro mol per gram fresh weight (µmol g^{-1} FW).

Lipid peroxidation assay was carried out by measuring the malondialdehyde (MDA) produced during thiobarbituric acid (TBA) reaction as per the method of Kramer *et al.* (1991). The callus (100 mg) was homogenized with 10% TCA and centrifuged at 15000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C. The supernatants were collected and 0.5 ml of it was added to 1.5 ml of 0.5 % TBA (w/v) in 20% TCA. The mixture was incubated in water bath at 95°C for 25 min and the reaction was ended by incubating it on ice. The mixture was centrifuged at 15000 rpm for 5 min at 4°C. The absorbance of the solution was measured at two different wavelengths *i.e.* 532 nm and 600 nm. The OD 600 values of the non-specific absorption were subtracted from the OD 532 values of MDA-TBA complex (red color). The MDA concentration was calculated based on Beer-Lambert's law with an extinction coefficient of 155 mM⁻¹cm⁻¹. The results were presented in μmol g⁻¹ FW.

3.9.3. Extraction and assay for antioxidant enzymes activities

3.9.3.1. Protein extraction

The protein was extracted according to the method described by Ben Amor *et al.* (2005). The fresh callus (~1 gm) were ground to fine powder using liquid nitrogen in mortar and pestle and homogenized with 100 mM tris hydrochloride (Tris-HCl buffer; pH 8) comprising of 10 mM ethylenediamine tetraaceticacid (EDTA), 20 mM magnesium chloride (MgCl₂), 1 mM dithiothreitol (DTT), 50 mM potassium chloride (KCl), 0.5 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), 0.1 % triton X-100 (v/v) and 10 % polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). The mixture was centrifuged at 14000 rpm for 30 min at 4°C. The protein concentration in the supernatant was determined according to the method of Lowry *et al.* (1951) using bovine serum albumin (BSA) as standard. The protein was stored at -20°C and used for various antioxidant assays.

3.9.3.2. Superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity assay

Beauchamp and Fridovich (1971) method was used to determine the SOD (EC1.15.1.1) activities in the samples. To 20-50 μ l of the enzyme extract, a reaction cocktail consisting of 1.5 ml of 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.8), 13 mM L-methionine (0.2 ml), equal volume of 75 μ M nitro blue tetrazolium chloride (NBT), 4 μ M riboflavin, and 1 μ M EDTA was added in a final volume of 3 ml reaction. The reaction was initiated by exposing it with fluorescent light of photosynthetic photon flux of 50 μ M m⁻¹ s⁻¹ for 15 min. The resulting blue color developed in the solution was spectrophotometrically measured at 560 nm. One unit of SOD activity was taken as 50% of the inhibition of the color developed and expressed as Umg⁻¹ of protein.

3.9.3.3 Catalase (CAT) enzyme activity assay

CAT (EC 1.11.1.6) enzyme activity assay was carried out as described by Aebi (1984). The samples of 500 mg were ground in 5 ml of 50 mM buffer phosphate (pH 7) and 50 mg of PVP in a mortar and pestle that was previously cooled to 4°C. The homogenous mixture was centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 15 min and the supernatant was collected. In order to determine the catalase enzyme activity, the reaction mixture containing 50 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 0.1 ml of 3 mM EDTA, 0.1 ml of 20 mM H_2O_2 and the enzyme extract equivalent to 25 μ g protein in a final volume of 1 ml was added and incubated. The absorbance was recorded for 1 min at 240 nm. The extinction coefficient of H_2O_2 at 240 nm is 43.6 M^{-1} cm⁻¹. A unit of catalase is defined as the quantity of enzyme necessary to decompose 1 μ M of H_2O_2 per min at 25°C.

3.9.3.4. Peroxidase (POD) enzyme activity assay

POD (EC 1.11.1.7) activity was determined according to the method of Polle *et al.* (1994) based on its ability to convert guaiacol to tetraguaiacol (ε =26.6 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹). The 2 ml reaction mixture comprised of 0.5 ml of 50 mM potassium-phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 0.5 ml of 3.4 mM guaiacol, 0.5 ml of 0.9 mM H₂O₂ and 0.5 ml enzyme extract. The increase in absorbance was recorded by the addition of H₂O₂ at 436 nm.

3.9.4. Effects of SA and JA in the regulation of AsA-GSH (ascorbate-glutathione) pathway

The influence of SA and JA on the enzymes involved in Halliwell-Asada cycle or ascorbate-glutathione (AsA-GSH) pathway in callus cultures was studied. The AsA-GsH pathway is involved in the detoxification of hydrogen peroxide using four crucial enzymes *viz.*, APX (ascorbate peroxidase), DHAR (dehydroascorbate reductase), MDHAR (monodehydroascorbate reductase) and GR (glutathione reductase).

3.9.4.1. Analysis of APX, GR, MDHAR and DHAR enzyme activities

All enzyme assays were carried out with the crude extracts. APX (EC 1.11.1.11) was assayed according to the method of Nakano and Asada (1981). The reaction mixture of 1.5 ml for measuring APX activity contained 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 0.2 mM EDTA (0.1 ml), 0.5 mM ascorbic acid and enzyme extract equivalent to 25 μ g of protein. The reaction was initiated by adding 20 mM H_2O_2 and the activity of the enzyme was recorded as decrease in the absorbance at 290 nm for 1 min. The amount of ascorbic acid oxidized was calculated from the molar extinction coefficient of 2.8 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹. One unit of the enzyme is equal to the amount of APX catalyzing the oxidation of 1 μ mol ascorbate per min.

Foyer and Halliwell (1976) method was used for determining GR (EC 1.6.4.2) activity by measuring the decrease in absorbance at 340 nm wavelength and calculated from the 6.22 mM $^{-1}$ molar extinction coefficient. The 3 ml reaction mixture contained 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8), 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH), 100 μ l extract and 10 mM GSSG. The reaction was initiated by the addition of NADPH. One unit of GR activity is the reduction of 1 μ mol NADPH per min.

MDHAR (EC 1.6.5.4) activity was measured by the method of Hossain (1984). The reaction mixture of 1 ml consisted of 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), 2.5 mM ascorbic acid, 0.01 mM EDTA, 0.25 mM NADH, 0.0125 % triton X-100, 50 µl extract and 0.4 units of ascorbate oxidase. The reaction was initiated by adding ascorbate oxidase. The decrease in absorbance due to NADPH oxidation was measured at 340 nm wavelength and

calculated using extinction co-efficient of 6.22 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹. One unit of MDHAR activity is defined as the amount of enzyme that oxidizes 1 µmol NADH per min.

DHAR (EC 1.8.5.1) activity was assayed according to the method described by Nakano and Asada (1981). The reaction mixture of 3 ml consisted of 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7), 20 mM GSH, 1 mM dehydroascorbate (DHA), 0.178 mM EDTA and 100 μ l enzyme extract. The absorbance was measured at 265 nm and the enzyme activity was calculated from the 7.0 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹ extinction co-efficient. One unit of the DHAR activity is the amount of enzyme that produces 1 μ mol ascorbate per min.

3.9.4.3. Determination of ascorbate (AsA), total glutathione (TGSH), reduced glutathione (GSH) and oxidized glutathione (GSSG) contents

Ascorbate was determined using the method of Foyer *et al.* (1983). The freshly harvested callus was immersed in liquid nitrogen and ground to fine powder and homogenized with 1 ml of 4.5 M perchloric acid. The homogenate was allowed to thaw for 30 min at 4°C. The soluble fraction (100 µl) was neutralized with 1.25 M of potassium carbonate (pH 5.6) and 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 5.6). Ascorbate oxidase (5 units) was added to the reaction mixture in a final volume of 1 ml and the decrease in the absorbance was measured at 265 nm wave length.

GSH and GSSG were assayed as per the method described by Sarker and Oba (2018). The callus samples (\sim 1 gm) were homogenized in 10 ml of 5% sulphosalicylic acid and the homogenate was centrifuged at 15000 rpm for 30 min at 4°C. To determine the total glutathione (GSH + GSSG) in the sample, 1 ml of the supernatant was taken and then 1.5 ml of 0.5 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.5) and 50 μ l of double distilled water was added. For determining GSSG in the sample, another part of supernatant (1 ml) was taken and then 1.5 ml of 0.5 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.5) and 50 μ l of 2-vinylpyridine was added. The tube was mixed vigorously until an emulsion was formed and then incubated at room temperature for 1 hour. The difference between the total glutathione and GSSG is used to determine GSH content. The reaction mixture consisted of 0.2 mM NADPH, 100 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), 5 mM EDTA, 0.6 mM DTNB 5,5-dithio-bis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid (DTNB), and 3 units of GR was used for glutathione content estimation. The reaction was started by adding the sample extract of 0.1 ml to the reaction mixture and the rate of reaction was determined by measuring the change in absorbance at 412 nm for 1 min. Two standard curves were prepared based on GSSG and total glutathione. Data were represented as nmol g⁻¹FW.

3.10. Phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL) enzyme activity assay

The crude enzyme for PAL assay was extracted from callus (~1 gm) with borate buffer (pH 8.8). The callus was ground in the buffer with ice-cold mortar and pestle and then centrifuged at 10000 rpm and 4°C for 20 min. The supernatant obtained was used for the assay as per the method of Wu and Lin (2002). The reaction cocktail of 1 ml contained 150 mM tris-HCl (pH 8), 12 mM L-phenylalanine and 50 μ g of protein followed by incubation for 30 min at 30°C. The reaction was stopped using 100 μ l of 6 N HCl and the absorbance was taken at 270 nm. The extinction coefficient for PAL at 270 nm is 19.73 mM⁻¹cm².

3.11. Expression analysis of APX, SOD, CAT, POD and PAL genes using Real-Time PCR

3.11.1. Extraction of total RNA and cDNA synthesis

Total RNA was isolated from the callus elicited with SA and JA along with untreated controls using a modified sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS)/TRIzol method (Wang *et al.*, 2012) The quality of total RNA was analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis. The RNA was quantified using NanoDrop ND-2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Massachusetts, U.S.A.) at 260 nm and the purity was checked from A260/A280 ratio. First strand (cDNA) synthesis was carried out with 2 µg of total RNAs isolated from elicitor treated and control (untreated) callus cultures using the PrimeScript First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Takara Bio Inc., Shiga, Japan) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

3.11.2. Primer design and quantitative real-time Polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

Primers were designed for the *APX*, *SOD*, *CAT*, *POD* and *PAL* genes and synthesized commercially for analyzing their transcript levels in elicited and control (untreated) callus cultures (**Table 1**). The coding sequence (CDS) of these genes from the related species such as *Ricinus communis, Manihot esculenta, Hevea brasiliensis* and *Jatropha curcas* belonging to the same family were downloaded from National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database as a FASTA file and multiple alignments were carried out (T-Coffee). The position where the sequence had more homology was used for primer designing by NCBI primer design tool. The internal complementarity and formation of hairpin loops were checked by Integrated DNA technologies (IDT) tools software and the primers that did not have hairpin loops and self-complementarity was selected. First-strand cDNA samples were diluted 2.5 times and 1 µl of the diluted sample was taken as a qRT-PCR template in 10 µl of total reaction volume containing 0.4 µM gene-specific primers and 5 µl of SYBR Premix ExTaq II (TliRNase H Plus) with ROX

(Takara Bio Inc., Japan). The samples were appraised in three technical replicates. PCR analysis was carried out in a Realplex amplifier (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany) with the following

Table 1. Primers used for Real-Time PCR to analyze the gene expression of APx, POD, CAT, MnSOD and PAL in SA and JA-treated and control callus culture of G. moluccana

Gene name	Primer ID	Primer sequence (5'-3')	% GC content	Length	Tm (°c)				
Ascorbate	APx F	GAACTTACGACGCGAAC	52.94	17	52.77				
peroxidase	APx R	GCTCAAGGAGTCTGACA	GCTCAAGGAGTCTGACA 52.94						
Peroxidase	POD F	TGCTTCGTCTCCATTTCC	50.00	18	53.69				
	POD R	AGTTCCGATTGCTCACTG	50.00	18	53.69				
Catalase	CAT F	CGCCCACAATTCCTCAT	52.94	17	52.77				
	CATR	GCTAGCTTCTCCACCAAA	50.00	17	53.69				
Superoxide	Mn SOD F	CAGAGCGCCATCAAGTTCAATGGT	50.00	24	62.72				
dismutase	Mn SOD R	TGGGTCCTGGTTTGCAGTTGTCT	52.17	23	62.43				
Phenylalanine	PAL2 F	TGTCGAACATGCCTTGGCGAAT	50.00	22	59.7				
ammonia lyase	PAL2 R	TCCGGTGAGCAATCCACTACCTAA	50.00	24	59.5				

cycle parameters: 95°C for 5 min; 40 cycles of 95°C for 20 sec, Tm (Table 1) for 20 sec, and 72°C for 20 sec; followed by a melting curve to ensure that each amplicon was a single product. The relative fold-change in RNA expression was estimated using the 2^{-ΔΔCT} method (Livak and Schmittgen, 2001). Actin with primer sequence 5'-TGAGAGGGAAATCGTGCGTG-3' and 3'-TGCTTGCTGATCCACATCTGC-5' was used as internal control to normalize the real-time amplification data.

3.12. Metabolite profiling in callus cultures elicited with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid

The leaves-derived callus cultures were harvested after 2 weeks of subculture on MS medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP with 3% sucrose and 0.8% agar. The callus cultures were given elicitation treatments by transferring to fresh MS medium containing 50 µM of salicylic acid and 150 µM jasmonic acid for 20 days and used for metabolite profiling. The callus cultures that were subcultured on fresh medium for the same duration (20 days) without any treatment served as controls. The metabolite profiles of callus cultures were also compared with mature leaves. The samples were dried in an oven (45°C) until moisture content was completely removed. The dried extracts were ground to fine power, sieved, soaked in methanol and filtered. HPLC grade methanol was used to re-dissolve the concentrated methanolic extract samples (25 mg/ml) described above. The extracts were then filtered through membrane filter

 $(0.22 \mu m)$ (Axiva Sichem, New Delhi, India). Ten microliter (μ l) of the filtrate obtained was injected into LC-MS instrument (LCMS-8045) for LC-MS/MS analysis. The details of the analysis performed are as described in **Sections 3.5.2** (3.5.2.1 to 3.5.2.3).

3.13. *De novo* transcriptome analysis

The leaves-derived callus cultures obtained after 2 weeks of subculture on medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP with 3% sucrose and 0.8% agar were used for treatments with SA and JA. The callus cultures treated with 50 μ M of salicylic acid and 150 μ M jasmonic acid for 20 days along with untreated callus cultures, and leaves of 4-week-old seedlings as described above were used for RNA extraction as well as stored at -80°C for further validation studies.

3.13.1. RNA isolation, library creation and sequencing of the transcriptome

RNA isolation of the above mentioned samples was carried out using RNeasy plant kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) following the protocol provided by manufacturer. The RNA integrity number (RIN) was verified (≥7) through TapeStation (Agilent technologies, California, U.S.A.) and quantified using Qubit fluorometer (Thermo Scientific, Massachusetts, U.S.A.). Further the library was prepared by TruSeq Stranded Total RNA with Ribo Zero Plant (Illumina INC, California, U.S.A.) and sequenced by 2 x 150 bp paired end sequencing on an Illumina HiSeq X10 platform (Illumina INC, California, U.S.A.).

3.13.2. De novo assembly, functional annotation and gene ontology (GO) analysis

The raw data obtained from RNA sequencing was filtered using AdapterRemoval2 to check and filter out the adapters and low quality bases (≤Q20), and rRNA were removed using bowtie2 based on SILVA database (https://www.arb-silva.de/). The cleaned reads obtained for all samples was used to generate a pooled assembly using Trinity assembler (Trinity 2.8.4) with default parameters (Grabherr *et al.*, 2011). Gene expression estimation of the assembled data was carried by Kallisto 0.46.0. The assembled unigenes were annotated using Uniprot Plant Database BLASTX (2.3.0) program. The best BLASTX hits were purned out on the basis of query coverage, identity and similarity score, and gene descriptions using E-value cut off value of 10⁻³. GO term (http://www.geneontology.org/) annotation was used to classify the function of assembled unigenes into cellular components, molecular function and biological processes through the UniProt database (Ashburner *et al.*, 2000; The Gene Ontology Consortium, 2021).

3.13.3. Differential gene expression (DEGs) analysis

Trinity package (Grabherr et al., 2011; Haas et al., 2013) was used to identify the differentially expressed genes between salicylic acid and jasmonic acid treated callus cultures

with untreated callus cultures (control) of *G. moluccana*. Transcript abundance and counts was estimated using kallisto and cross samples normalized TPM/TMM (Transcripts Per Million transcripts) values were obtained. The counts were used to analyze differential expression with edgeR. The differentially expressed genes with log2 fold change of ≥ 2 and ≤ -2 and p value of 0.05 was considered as significant. Pathway analysis was conducted by comparison of gene number of each pathway in DEG to genome background. Heat maps of top differentially expressed transcript/isoforms across samples along with expression scattered plots between pairwise samples compared were generated.

3.13.4. Pathway enrichment analysis

KOBAS-i (http://kobas.cbi.pku.edu.cn/) (Bu et al., 2021) was utilized to assess the statistical richness of differentially expressed genes. The DEGs involved in different biological and physiological processes were putatively annotated. The pathway enrichment analysis was based on "annotate" and "identify" programs in KOBAS-i (KEGG Orthology Based Annotation System-Intelligent) with hypergeometric test statistical method and Benjamini and Hochberg, (1995) FDR (False discovery rate) correction method.

3.13.5. Transcriptome factor identification

The transcription factors were identified from the transcript sequences of leaves, control callus, SA and JA treated callus transcripts employing plant transcription factor database PlantTFDB 5.0 (http://planttfdb.gao-lab.org/index.php) (Jin *et al.*, 2017) with default parameters. In this tool, bit-score was used as domain threshold instead of e-value cutoff. ESTscan 3.0 was used to help detect CDS region from the transcripts. These CDS regions were employed to identify transcription factors of different families.

3.13.6. Identification of genes implicated in phenylpropanoids, flavonoids, terpenoids, and lignins biosynthetic pathway

The putative genes associated with phenylpropanoids, flavonoids, terpenoids, and lignins biosynthetic pathway were identified using KEGG pathway database (https://www.genome.jp/kegg/kaas/) (Moriya *et al.*, 2007), and their expression pattern in SA treated, JA treated and control callus cultures were studied.

3.14. Validation of differentially expresssed genes (DEGs) by quantitative real time PCR (qRT-PCR)

To affirm the expression profile of the top differentially expressed genes, qRT-PCR was used. Briefly, the total RNA was extracted from the control callus, SA and JA treated callus

using RNeasy® plant kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) as per the protocol. The quality of RNA was checked by NanoDrop ND-2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Massachusetts, U.S.A.) at 260 nm and the purity was checked from A260/A280 ratio. First strand cDNA was synthesized with 2 μ g of total RNAs using the PrimeScript First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Takara Bio Inc., Shiga, Japan) in accordance with the protocol of manufacturer. The list of primers are provided in Table 2. PCR analysis was performed as described in the Section 3.11.2. The relative gene expression was estimated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ method (Livak and Schmittgen, 2001). Actin was used as internal control to normalize the real-time amplification data.

3.15. Statistical analysis

The data was acquired from 3 independent experiments, with 3 replicates used per treatment in each experiment. The values are represented as mean \pm standard deviation (SD). The statistical significance of the means was assessed using one-way analysis of variance followed by Duncan's multiple range tests in SigmaPlot version 13. The probability of p \leq 0.05 was considered as significan

Table 2. Primers used for Real-Time PCR to confirm the expression of few selected genes of different secondary metabolite pathways identified from *de novo* transcriptome analysis of SA and JA-treated and control callus cultures of *G. moluccana*.

Gene name	Primer ID	Primer Sequence	% GC content	Length	Tm (°c) 53.69	
Cysteine Protease	CP-F	ACCTCATCATCCCTTCTC	50	18		
	CP-R	CGGCCCTTCTCTTTATTC	50	18	53.69	
DETOXIFICATION 41	DXT41-F	AAGGCCAAGAAGGGTATG	50	18	53.69	
	DXT41-R	CGGTGGTTCTCTTGTAT	50	18	53.69	
2-Hydroxyisoflavone dehydratase	HID-F	CCCACCACCATGTATGTA	50	18	53.69	
•	HID-R	CCAGTCTCTGCTCGTATT	50	18	53.69	
Shikimate dehydrogenase	SDH- F	GAGTCTGTGGTGGAAGAA	50	18	53.69	
, ,	SDH-R	GGCAACTCATGGAGAAAC	50	18	53.69	
Copper transporter	Ctr	GCCAACCTGAGAAGAGAA	50	18	53.59	
11 1	Ctr	CAACCACACCAACATGAC	50	18	53.69	
Salicylate	SAMT-F	GCTTGGAGGTTTCTGAAG	50	18	53.69	
carboxymethyltransferase	-			-		
	SAMT-R	CAGCTCTCATGCACTTTG	50	18	53.69	
Flavonoid 3'-monoxygenase	F3 'H-F	CGTCACCAAACACTCTTC	50	18	53.69	
	F3 'H-R	GGTACAACGCCAGTAAAC	50	18	53.69	
Senescence-associated protein	SAG-F	CGCCGTCCTACCTATTTA	50	18	53.69	
protein	SAG-R	AGTTTCCCTCAGGATAGC	50	18	53.69	
Serine carboxypeptidase-like	SCPL-F	TCTTGTGGTGAGTCTAGC	50	18	53.69	
S-adenosyl methionine	SAMe-F	GTGCCCTTAGAGCACTCG	61.11	18	61.11	
5 ddenosyi metmonne	SAMe-R	CGACTTGGTATTACTAAT	33.33	18	46.85	
	SCPL-R	TTAGCCCTACTTCTCCC	50	18	53.69	
Cytochrome P450	Cyt-P450-F	GACTTGGGCACTTATCCT	50	18	53.69	
Cytoenionic 1 430	Cyt-P450-R	CTGGAGTTGGGAGTTCAT	50	18	53.69	
MYB transcription factors	<i>MYB-F</i>	CTGATTGGGTTACAGGGA	50	18	53.69	
MTB transcription factors	MYB-R	GCAGAATGTGTGGTCTTC	50	18	53.69	
Rho N domain containing	RhoN-F	GAGTCTGTGGTGGAAGAA	50	18	53.69	
protein containing	Know-r	UAUTETUTUUTUUAAUAA	30	10	33.09	
r	RhoN-R	GGCAACTCATGGAGAAAC	50	18	53.69	
Small heat shock protein	sHsp-F	CCTTGCGGAAACGATTAG	50	18	53.69	
Ziidii iidat siisdii proteiii	sHsp-R	GCCCTCTTGGGAACAATA	50	18	53.69	
Sieve elements	SE-F	GGTAGTGGACCGATCAAT	50	18	53.69	
Sieve ciemenes	SE-R	ATCGAGGAGTGAAGGATG	50	18	53.69	
Vegetative storage protein	VSP-F	GGCTGCTAAGTCAAATGG	50	18	53.69	
, egetati ve storage protein	VSP-R	GCACTATTGCTCTCTCT	50	18	53.69	
Tinoplast intrinsic protein 21		GGCTTGCTGGTCTTATCT	50	18	53.69	
i mopiast manisic protein 21	TIP-R	GACAAACGGATCGGAAAC	50	18	53.69	
Peroxisomal (S)-2-hydroxyacid oxidase	2-HOAX-F	GACTAGGACAGCCAGAAA	50	18	53.69	
	2-HOAX-R	AGTGAAGGGAGAGAATGG	50	18	53.69	
ATP-dependent RNA helicase (ATRX)	ATRX-F	TGGATATGCCTTCACCTC	50	18	53.69	
(11111)	ATRX-R	CATTAGCCTCCCTGTTCT	50	18	53.69	
Pentatricopeptide repeat containing protein	PPR-F	GGTGAGGGTGAAGATGAA	50	18	53.69	
containing protein	PPR-R	CTACGCTGATGACCAGAA	50	18	53.69	
Peroxidase	POD-F	CCTCCCAACATGACAATG	50	18	53.69	
1 CIO/Munic	POD-R	AACCGGAAGGAAGGATAG	50	18	53.69	

WALLS ARE THIN1	WAT1-F	TCCTCCTCCTCTAAT	50	18	53.69
	WAT-R	AAGAGACTGAACCTCCTC	50	18	53.69
Pathogenesis related	SCP-PR1-F	TCTTGTGGTGAGTCTAGC	50	18	53.69
	SCP-PR1-R	TTAGCCCTACTTCTTCCC	50	18	53.69
Glucose/Ribitol	RDH- F	CCCTTGATTCGGAGATGT	50	18	53.69
dehydrogenase					
	RDH- F	GAGCCATCCCTTGAGAAA	50	18	53.69
Transcription factor	E2F- F	GATGGACAGCCACTTAGA	50	18	53.69
Elongation factor					
	E2F- R	CTCTTGACCCACGTAGAA	50	18	53.69
Alpha-dioxygenase	DOX1- F	CCGTGATTGTCTGGTTTC	50	18	53.69
	DOX1-R	TGTCTCTGACTCTCTTGC	50	18	53.69
Proteinase inhibitor	PI-R	GTCCGTAATCACTGCATC	50	18	53.69
	PI-R	CCGACTTCAGGTGTGATA	50	18	53.69
Kunitz trypsin inhibitor	KTI-F	GGAGGGTTGGTGAATTTG	50	18	53.69
	KTI-R	CAGTGGGACAGTATCTGA	50	18	53.69
Chitinase	CHI-F	CCCTAGCATGAACAACAC	50	18	53.69
	CHI-R	CAGAGGTCCAATCCTTCT	50	18	53.69
Patatin like protein	PLP-F	GTCTGCGATTCTTGCTTC	50	18	53.69
1 addin fine protein	PLP-R	TGATGGAGGTGGTGTAAG	50	18	53.69
Catalase	CAT-F	CCCTAGCATGAACAACAC	50	18	53.69
Catalase	CAT-F CAT-R	CAGAGGTCCAATCCTTCT	50 50	18	53.69
Data alasasidasa					53.69
Beta-glucosidase	GBA-F	GGATTCTGGACCACGATA	50	18	
T	GBA-R	GTAGCAATGGCGATGTAG	50	18	53.69
Executer	EX-F	CAGATGTCTAAATGTCTAAG	50	20	51.15
	EX-R	GCTATTCAACTGCTGCTCC	50	19	56.67
Lactamase domain	LAC-B-R	TCTCTACTGCCACTTCAC	50	18	53.69
containing protein B					
	LAC- B - R	TCCCAATCTCCCTTTCTC	50	18	53.69
ELMO domain-containing	ELMO- F	TTCCCTCTTGCTCTTCTC	50	18	53.69
protein A					
	ELMO-R	GACTTCTAACGGGCTCTA	50	18	53.69
GIGANTEA	GI- F	AGTGGGTATCCAAGTCAG	50	18	53.69
	GI-F	GCCTGACAAGATCACAAG	50	18	53.69
Aquaporin/Tonoplastic	TIP- F	GGCTTGCTGGTCTTATCT	50	18	53.69
intrinsic protein					
•	TIP-R	GACAAACGGATCGGAAAC	50	18	53.69
Isoflavone 4-O-methyl	I4'OMT-F	GCTATTCCTCCTGCTGAT	50	18	53.69
transferase	1, 0			10	00.00
transferase	I4'OMT-R	CCATTGCCCTGTCTACTA	50	18	53.69
SNF1 protein kinase	SnRK-F	TCCAACTCATCACATCCC	50	18	53.69
5141 1 protein kinase	SnRK-R	CCTAGAGTGTGCGGTAAA	50	18	53.69
Abscisic acid responsive	ABRE-F	GCATGTCCTAAACCAACC	50	18	53.69
elements	ADKE-T	GCATGTCCTAAACCAACC	50	10	33.09
elements	ADDE D		50	10	52.60
	ABRE-R	CCAGGATTGAGGAGTTCA CCGTGATTGTCTGGTTTC	50	18	53.69
			50	18	53.69
DETOXIFICATION	DTX-F		70	1.0	E2 (0
	DXT-R	TGTCTCTGACTCTCTTGC	50	18	53.69
Phosphoenolpyruvate			50 50	18 18	53.69 53.69
	DXT-R PEPC-F	TGTCTCTGACTCTCTTGC GCAGGAGAGAGGTTGTAA	50	18	53.69
Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase	DXT-R PEPC-F PEPC-R	TGTCTCTGACTCTCTTGC GCAGGAGAGAGGTTGTAA GAAAGGAGATCCGGCTAA	50 50	18 18	53.69 53.69
Phosphoenolpyruvate	DXT-R PEPC-F PEPC-R bHLH144	TGTCTCTGACTCTTTGC GCAGGAGAGAGGTTGTAA GAAAGGAGATCCGGCTAA GCACCCATGTTCACTTTC	50 50 50	18 18 18	53.69 53.69 53.69
Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase Transcription factor	DXT-R PEPC-F PEPC-R bHLH144 bHLH144	TGTCTCTGACTCTTTGC GCAGGAGAGAGGTTGTAA GAAAGGAGATCCGGCTAA GCACCCATGTTCACTTTC CCATCCTTCACTCCACTT	50 50 50 50	18 18 18 18	53.69 53.69 53.69
Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase Transcription factor	DXT-R PEPC-F PEPC-R bHLH144	TGTCTCTGACTCTCTTGC GCAGGAGAGAGGTTGTAA GAAAGGAGATCCGGCTAA GCACCCATGTTCACTTTC CCATCCTTCACTCCACTT CTCCAGCTTCTTCCTCTT	50 50 50 50 50	18 18 18	53.69 53.69 53.69 53.69
Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase Transcription factor	DXT-R PEPC-F PEPC-R bHLH144 bHLH144	TGTCTCTGACTCTTTGC GCAGGAGAGAGGTTGTAA GAAAGGAGATCCGGCTAA GCACCCATGTTCACTTTC CCATCCTTCACTCCACTT	50 50 50 50	18 18 18 18 18	53.69 53.69 53.69
Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase	DXT-R PEPC-F PEPC-R bHLH144 bHLH144 RtE3UT-F	TGTCTCTGACTCTCTTGC GCAGGAGAGAGGTTGTAA GAAAGGAGATCCGGCTAA GCACCCATGTTCACTTTC CCATCCTTCACTCCACTT CTCCAGCTTCTTCCTCTT	50 50 50 50 50	18 18 18 18 18 18	53.69 53.69 53.69 53.69
Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase Transcription factor E3 Ubiquitin protein ligase	DXT-R PEPC-F PEPC-R bHLH144 bHLH144 RtE3UT-F RtE3UT-R	TGTCTCTGACTCTTTGC GCAGGAGAGAGGTTGTAA GAAAGGAGATCCGGCTAA GCACCCATGTTCACTTTC CCATCCTTCACTCCACTT CTCCAGCTTCTTCCTCTT TCCCATCTCATTCCAGTC	50 50 50 50 50 50	18 18 18 18 18	53.69 53.69 53.69 53.69 53.69
Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase Transcription factor E3 Ubiquitin protein ligase	DXT-R PEPC-F PEPC-R bHLH144 bHLH144 RtE3UT-F RtE3UT-R SuSy-F	TGTCTCTGACTCTTTGC GCAGGAGAGAGGTTGTAA GAAAGGAGATCCGGCTAA GCACCCATGTTCACTTTC CCATCCTTCACTCCACTT CTCCAGCTTCTTCCTCTT TCCCATCTCATTCCAGTC AGGGAACCTGAGTTAGTG	50 50 50 50 50 50 50	18 18 18 18 18 18	53.69 53.69 53.69 53.69 53.69 53.69

carboxylase					
•	Rubisco-R	AAGTTGCCTACCTTCTCC	50	18	53.69
Chlorophyll a-b binding	CBP-LHCII-F	CAAGCTCACGGTTCTTAG	50	18	53.69
protein of LHCII type-1					
	CBP-LHCII-R	TACTTGACTGGTGACTCC	50	18	53.69
Thioredoxin	TRX/TXN-F	AGTGGGAACCTCTACAAC	50	18	53.69
	TRX/TXN-R	CTGATACTGTGGCGTTTG	50	18	53.69
Lipoxygenase	LOX- F	AGTGTCCTTGACCCATAC	50	18	53.69
	LOX- R	GTTCATCCTGGACTACCA	50	18	53.69
Fructose-bisphosphate aldose	FBA-F	CTTCCTTCACTGCCAAAG	50	18	53.69
	FBA-R	CTCAGCTGCTTACTACCA	50	18	15.69
EGF like domain containing	EGF- F	TCCAGGTCCATTGAGAAG	50	18	15.69
protein					
	EGF-R	GTCTTCGACGAGGATGAA	50	18	15.69
Alpha amylase inhibitor	AAI-F	CCTTCCTGCTACAGACAT	50	18	15.69
domain containing protein	AALD	CT A TCTCCCCTTTCC A CTC	50	10	15.60
Take and a second	AAI-R	CTATCTGCCTTTGCACTG	50	18	15.69
Late embryogenesis abundant protein	LEA-F	GTTGAAGAAAGGGCTGTG	50	18	15.69
	LEA-R	GCACAATTAGCTGGTCTG	50	18	15.69
WNT family member	WNT-F	GTCATAGTAGCCGAAGGA	50	18	15.69
	WNT-R	ACTAGACAGAACGAGTGG	50	18	15.69
Expansin	EXP-F	GCCAGAATGACACCATTG	50	18	15.69
	EXP-R	CAGCATTAAGCACAGCTC	50	18	15.69
Acetylserotonin O-methyl transferase	ASMT-F	GGGACAGATGTTGGGTAA	50	18	15.69
transiciase	ASMT-R	CAGATGCACCTCCTAAGT	50	18	15.69
Ethylene responsive	ERF-F	GCTAGTTTGTGGTGGTTG	50	18	15.69
transcription factor			-		10.07
	ERF-R	TCACTTCTCAGCCTTCTC	50	18	15.69

4. Results

4.1 Assessment on the contents of phenolics and flavonoids and *in vitro* antioxidant activities of the different plant parts extracts of *G. moluccana*

4.1.1. Total phenolics and total flavonoid contents varied in different plant parts

The total phenolic acid (TPA) contents of the bark, leaves and pericarp extracted in different solvents (hexane, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate, ethanol, methanol and water) were determined using FC assay and the findings are expressed in mg GAE/g DW (milligram gallic acid equivalents per gram dry weight). The TPA content in different extracts ranged from 1.49 mg GAE/g in pericarp to 62.07 mg GAE/g DW in bark extracts (Figure 3). Higher polar solvent like methanol and ethanol with the exception of water showed higher TPA content for all plant parts used. The methanolic extract of bark displayed the highest TPA content (62.07 mg GAE/g DW) which was followed by ethanolic extract of bark (51.66 mg GAE/g DW) and methanolic extract of leaves (46.42 mg GAE/g DW). The lowest TPA content was observed in hexane extract of pericarp (1.49 mg GAE/g DW). Overall, the bark extracts exhibited the highest TPA content as compared to leaves and pericarp extracts in all solvents used. The TPA content in leaves was higher in all solvents than pericarp except in ethyl acetate where higher TPA content was observed in pericarp (14.63 mg GAE/gDW) than leaves (8.10 mg GAE/gDW).

The total flavonoid (TF) contents of bark, leaves and pericarp in different extracts were evaluated using AlCl₃ method and the results are presented in mg RE/g DW (milligram rutin equivalents per gram dry weight). The TF contents ranged from 3.12 in pericarp extract to 41.72 mg RE/g DW in bark extract (Figure 4). Among the different solvents used, methanolic extract of bark showed the highest TF content (41.72 mg RE/g DW) followed by methanolic extract of pericarp (39.3 mg RE/g DW). There were no significant differences observed in TF content in ethanolic extract of bark (31.75 mg RE/g DW) and pericarp (30.15 mg RE/g DW). Polar solvents *viz.*, methanol and ethanol yielded higher content of total flavonoids. Among the different plant parts, bark exhibited highest TF content followed by pericarp and leaves in polar solvents whereas the flavonoid content of bark in hexane and DCM was similar to that of leaves.

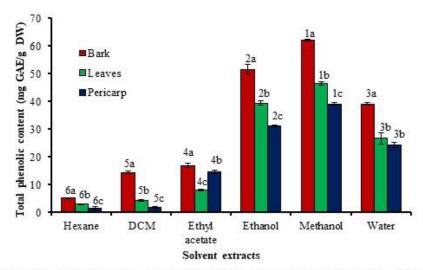


Figure 3. Total phenolic contents of bark, leaves and pericarp in different solvent extracts. Means followed by the same letter in the column are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test. Values represented are means \pm standard deviation.

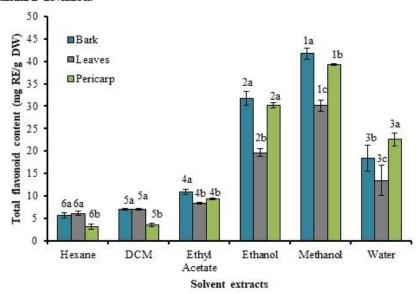


Figure 4. Total flavonoid contents of bark, leaves and pericarp in different solvent extracts. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test. Values represented are means \pm standard deviation.

4.1.2. Bark exhibited higher *in vitro* antioxidant and free radical scavenging activities than pericarp and leaves

The antioxidant potential of the bark, leaves and pericarp extracts were appraised with several antioxidant assays as there is no single universally accepted antioxidant assay. The principle of each assay varies and depends on the type of compounds present in the extracts.

The total antioxidant capacity of plant parts extracted in different solvents was measured by phosphomolybdenum assay which relies on the capabilities of the plant extracts to reduce Mo (VI) to Mo (V) either through electron transfer or hydrogen atom transfer mechanism resulting in a greenish-blue complex. The results are expressed as milligram ascorbic acid equivalents per gram dry weight. In this study, the methanolic extracts revealed the most significant antioxidant capacity and the succeeding was ethanolic extracts in all plant parts compared to other solvents used (Figure 5). Among the plant parts, bark extract exhibited highest antioxidant activity (70.94 mg AAE/g DW) followed by leaves (32.33 mg AAE/g DW) whereas pericarp extracts exhibited the least activity in methanol (28.21 mg AAE/g DW). A similar pattern was observed for ethanolic extracts with the highest in bark (56.85 mg AAE/g DW) and the least was observed in pericarp extracts (21.74 mg AAE/g DW). The antioxidant capacity of hexane, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate and water for bark ranged from 11.83 to 17.37 AAE/g DW, leaves from 7 to 9.31 AAE/g DW and pericarp from 4.27 to 9.65 AAE/g DW. Thus, the highest antioxidant capacity exhibited by bark extracts could be due its greater ability to reduce Mo (VI) to Mo (V) as compared to leaves and pericarp.

The ferric reducing potential of bark, leaves and pericarp was estimated. The FRAP assay data reflect the concentration of electron-donating antioxidants responsible for the reduction of ferric iron (Fe3+) to ferrous iron (Fe2+). The methanolic extract of bark (156.38 mg AAE/g DW) followed by ethanolic extract of bark (137.82 mg AAE/g DW) exhibited the highest antioxidant activity (Figure 6). The ferric reducing antioxidant power of bark extracts were found to be greater than pericarp and leaves extracts in all solvents except for DCM and ethyl acetate where the values were either similar or lower than leaves. The reducing capacity of leaves in all solvents was higher than pericarp except in hexane where similar values were obtained. The FRAP values of hexane, DCM, ethyl acetate and water for bark ranged from 20.02 to 88.84 AAE/g DW, in leaves from 12.87 to 60.89 AAE/g DW whereas for pericarp it ranged from 12.87 to 44.0 AAE/g DW. The lowest reducing capacity was found in hexane extracts of different plant parts.

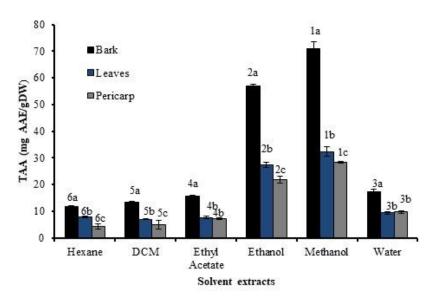


Figure 5. Total antioxidant capacity (TAC) of bark, leaves and pericarp in different solvent extracts by phosphomolydenum assay. Means followed by the same letter within the column are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test. Values represented are means \pm standard deviation.

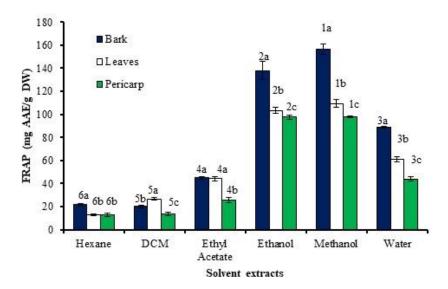


Figure 6. Ferric ion reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) of bark, leaves and pericarp in different solvent extracts. Means followed by the same letter in the column are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test. Values represented are means \pm standard deviation.

Cupric antioxidant reducing capacity (CUPRAC) assay uses a chromogen known as copper (II)-neocuproine [Cu (Nc)₂²⁺], a light blue complex, which is reduced by extracts to form copper (I)- neocuproine chelate [Cu (Nc)²⁺], a light amber colour complex with maximum absorbance at 450 nm. The findings are presented in mg AAE/gDW (milligram ascorbic acid equivalents per gram dry weight). The methanolic extract of bark (246.32 mg AAE/g DW) followed by ethanolic extracts of bark (126.26 mg AAE/g DW) exhibited higher cupric antioxidant reducing capacity (Figure 7). The CUPRAC values of leaves were higher than pericarp extract. The least values of CUPRAC were observed in hexane extract (bark-7.89 AAE/g DW; leaves- 6.64 AAE/g DW and pericarp- 3.41 AAE/g DW). CUPRAC of DCM, ethyl acetate and water extracts of bark ranged from 13.71 AAE/g DW to 64.19 AAE/g DW, leaves from 14.87 AAE/g DW to 28.83 AAE/g DW, and pericarp from 13.40 AAE/g DW to 24.50 AAE/g DW.

The total antioxidant capacities determined though different assays such as PM, FRAP and CUPRAC and total phenolic acids content were positively coorelated, similarly, it was positively coorelated with total flavonoid content as depicted with R² values in Table 3.

DPPH scavenging assay is based on the transfer of hydrogen atom from the antioxidant agent in the extract to the DPPH free radical which is visualized by reduction of purple colored radical to pale yellow color. The antioxidant activity of several plant extracts has been quantified by means of percentage inhibition of DPPH using ascorbic acid as positive control. The extracts showed a concentration dependent scavenging activity, with the highest scavenging activity of 94% in the methanolic extract of bark and pericarp at 300 μ g/ml followed by methanolic extract of leaves (87%) in comparison to 97.6% observed in positive control at the same concentration (Figures 8-10). The ethanolic extracts of different plant parts also exhibited strong scavenging activity at 300 μ g/ml with the highest recorded in pericarp (89.57%) followed by bark (80.05%) and the lowest in leaves (71.6%). The lowest activity at 300 μ g/ml concentration was observed in hexane extract with 29.5% for bark, 22.37% for pericarp and 21.93% for leaves. The scavenging activities of DCM, ethyl acetate and water of bark extracts at 300 μ g/ml ranged from 39.2% to 48.8%, leaves from 31.6% to 43.4% while that of pericarp from 34.87% to 52.7%, which were low in comparison to ethanol, methanol and positive control (Figures 8-10).

Under mild acidic conditions, the phenolics and flavonoids bind to the fractions of Fe²⁺ whilst the rest of ions interact with ferrozine to create a stable deep purple or red color complex (ferrous ion-ferrozine complex). The presence of chelators in the extract prevents the formation

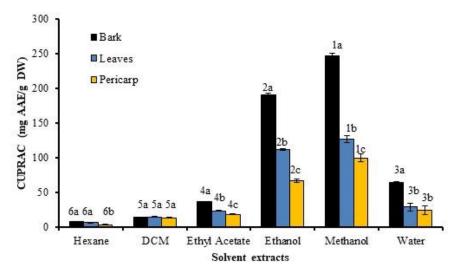


Figure 7. Cupric antioxidant reducing capacity of bark, leaves and pericarp in different solvent extracts. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test. Values represented are means \pm standard deviation.

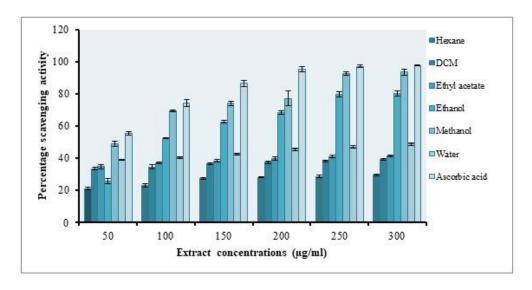


Figure 8. DPPH scavenging activity of bark extract in different solvents. Values represented are means ± standard deviation.

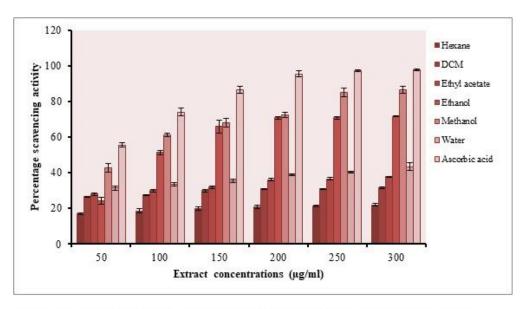


Figure 9. DPPH scavenging activity of leaves extract in different solvents. Values represented are means ± standard deviation.

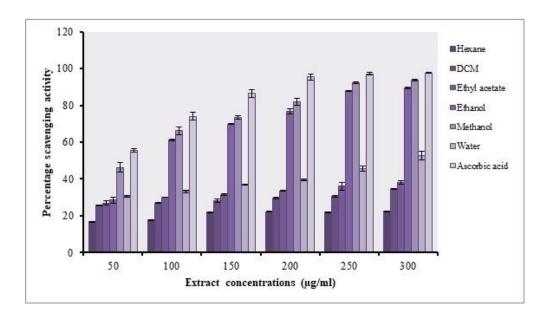


Figure 10. DPPH scavenging activity of pericarp extract in different solvents. Values represented are means \pm standard deviation.

Table 3. Pearson correlations between total phenolic acids content, total flavonoids content and antioxidant potential of different plant parts of G. moluccana

Sample	e Bark							Leaves						Pericarp				
Assay	PM assay FRAP		CUPRAC PM		PM assa	PM assay FRAP			CUPRAC		PM assay		FRAP		CUPRAC			
	\mathbb{R}^2	p-value	\mathbb{R}^2	p-value	\mathbb{R}^2	p-value	\mathbb{R}^2	p-value	\mathbb{R}^2	p-value	\mathbb{R}^2	p-value	\mathbb{R}^2	p-value	\mathbb{R}^2	p-value	\mathbb{R}^2	p-value
TPC	0.903	0.0138	0.986	0.0003	0.947	0.0041	0.919	0.002	0.977	0.0008	0.936	0.0059	0.923	0.0087	0.977	0.0008	0.908	0.0124
TFC	0.970	0.0013	0.985	0.0003	0.993	0.0000	0.949	0.004	0.936	0.0060	0.946	0.0043	0.955	0.0030	0.959	0.0025	0.940	0.0052

Note: Pairs with p-values greater than 0.050, there is no significant relationship between the two variables. The p value less than 0.05 indicates a positive relationship among the variables

of this complex leading to the discoloration of the coloured complex which is measured spectrophotometrically at 562 nm. Greater the quantity of the ferrous ion-ferrozine complex, the higher the absorbance at 562 nm, indicating that the chelator has a lesser binding capacity. The Fe^{2+} metal chelating ability of the methanolic extracts of different plant parts varied with the highest metal chelating ability exhibited by bark extract for all the concentrations tested (Figure 11). The metal chelating capacity of bark extract ranged from 33.36% to 78.58%, for leaves it ranged from 6.82% to 54.81% and for pericarp it ranged from 17.39% to 77.01% at 100-600 μ g/ml. The metal chelating capacity of positive control (EDTA) ranged from 43.71 to 93.8% at 100-600 μ g/ml.

4.1.3. *In vitro* anti-inflammatory activity of bark and pericarp was higher than leaves extracts

Denaturation of tissue protein depicts the onset of inflammatory reaction. The potential of the methanolic extracts of different parts of *G. moluccana* to inhibit the denaturation of protein induced by heat was investigated in this study. A gradual increase in the inhibition of protein denaturation was observed with increase in the concentration of the extracts which suggest a concentration dependent inhibition activity (Figure 12). The results are expressed as percentage inhibition of protein denaturation. The maximum inhibition of protein denaturation was observed in methanolic extract of bark (43.46%) at a concentration of 100 μg/ml as compared to methanolic extracts of pericarp and leaves (37.45 and 31.09%, respectively) at the same concentration (Figure 12). Acetyl salicylic acid, the positive control showed maximum inhibition activity of 74.8% at 100 μg/ml concentration. The inhibition of protein denaturation of bark extract for different concentrations of 10 to 100 μg/ml ranged from 15.9% to 43.46%, while that of leaves and pericarp ranged from 1.7% to 31.09% and 11.3% to 37.45%, respectively.

Lipoxygenase is a pro-inflammatory enzyme implicated in the progression of several inflammatory diseases. The capacity of extracts from various plant components to inhibit 5-LOX enzyme activity obtained from potato tubers was evaluated. NDGA which is the positive control eliminated 5-LOX activities up to 98.3% (IC₅₀-4.5 μM). The crude extracts of plant parts exhibited lower inhibition activity on 5-LOX than the positive control. The methanolic extract of bark showed 41.6% inhibition activity on 5-LOX whereas methanolic extract of leaves exhibited the least effect with 10.67% inhibition of LOX activity (Figure 13). The methanolic extract of pericarp inhibited the activity of 5-LOX by 31.7%. Since crude extracts were used in this investigation, the inhibition activity of LOX enzyme by the extracts was lower as compared

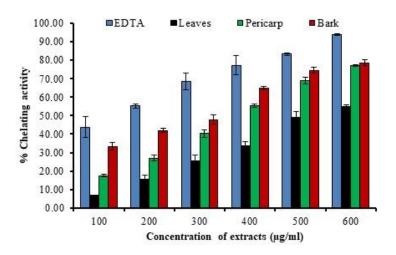


Figure 11. Ferric ions chelating activity of methanolic extract of bark, leaves, pericarp and EDTA (Positive control). Values represented are means \pm standard deviation.

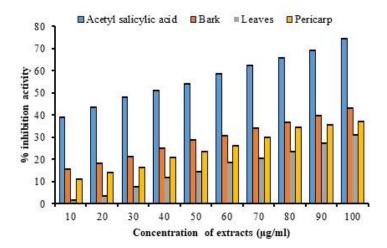


Figure 12. Inhibition of protein denaturation by methanolic extract of bark, leaves, pericarp and acetyl salicylic acid (Positive control). Values represented are means \pm standard deviation.

to positive control, which is a pure compound. Thus, the results showed that bark and pericarp are the potential sources of anti-inflammatory agent. Additional investigations are essential to identify and characterize the active components of plant extracts that are responsible for inhibition of the LOX activity.

The therapeutic value of methanolic extracts of *G. moluccana* plant parts was assessed based on their potential to inhibit cyclooxygenase (COX-1 and COX-2) enzymes, which are targets of popular NSAIDs. COX-1 is a constitutive enzyme expressed in most of the tissues. The results are depicted as percentage inhibition of COX-1 at the concentrations of 25, 50 and 100 μg/ml of plant extracts. A surge in the inhibition of enzyme activity was observed with increase in the concentration of the plant extracts, although the extracts exhibited a weak inhibition on COX-1 enzyme. The methanolic extracts of leaves at 100 μg exhibited the highest inhibition (29.21%) on COX-1. The leaves extract at 50 μg and 25 μg inhibited the activities by 17.26% and 11.69%, respectively. The methanolic extract of bark showed 24.26% inhibition of COX-1 activity at 100 μg concentrations, whereas bark extract at 50 μg and 25 μg exhibited inhibition of 18.69% and 13.33%, respectively. The pericarp extract displayed the least inhibition among the extracts with enzyme activity inhibition of 13.1% at 100 μg whereas 50 μg and 25 μg exhibited 7.29% and 6.46% inhibition on COX-1 (Figure 14).

COX-2 is an inducible enzyme mediated by inflammatory stimuli. The crude methanolic extracts of different plant parts of *G. moluccana* at the concentrations (25, 50 and 100 μ g) tested had the potential to inhibit COX-2 enzyme activity. The plant extracts inhibition ability of COX-2 was low at 25 μ g and increased as the concentration of the extracts increased, with the highest inhibition of 86.71% for pericarp followed by bark (83.46%) and leaves (82.21%) at 100 μ g (Figure 15). Similar trend was observed at 50 μ g, with pericarp (62.41%) showing the highest and the least for leaves (33.24%). Overall, the extracts displayed strong inhibition on COX-2 enzyme as compared to COX-1. Diclofenac used as positive control completely inhibited the activities of both cycloxygenase enzymes.

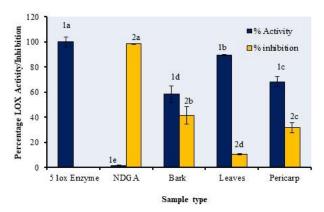


Figure 13. Percentage LOX activity and its inhibition by methanolic extracts of bark, leaves, pericarp and NDGA (Positive control). Values represented are means ± standard deviation. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically different at the 5% probability level by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) according to Duncan's multiple range test.

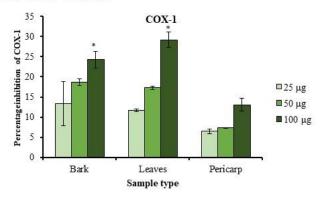


Figure 14. Percentage inhibition of COX-1 by methanolic extract of bark, leaves, pericarp and diclofenac (Positive control) which exhibited 100% inhibition (not shown). Values represented are means ± standard deviation. Asterick (*) indicates that the values are statistically significant as tested by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) at the 5% probability level in comparison to pericarp.

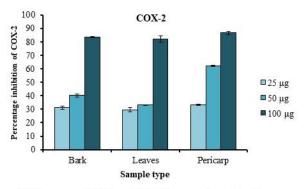


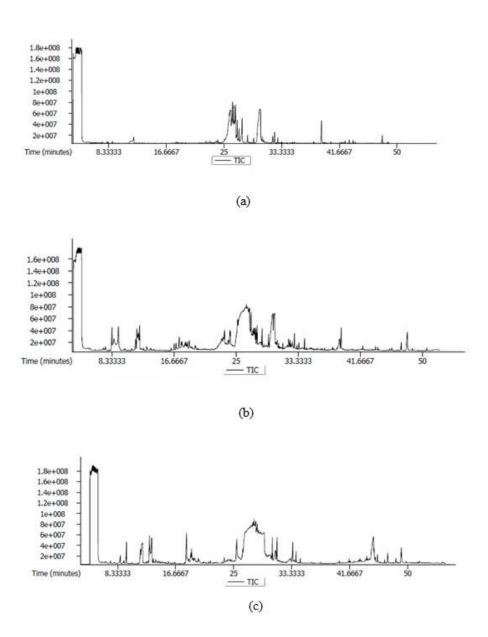
Figure 15. Percentage inhibition of COX-2 enzyme by methanolic extracts of bark, leaves, pericarp and diclofenac (Positive control) which exhibited 100% inhibition for 3 concentrations tested as that of samples (not shown). Values represented are means \pm standard deviation.

4.2. Metabolite profiling in different parts of G. moluccana

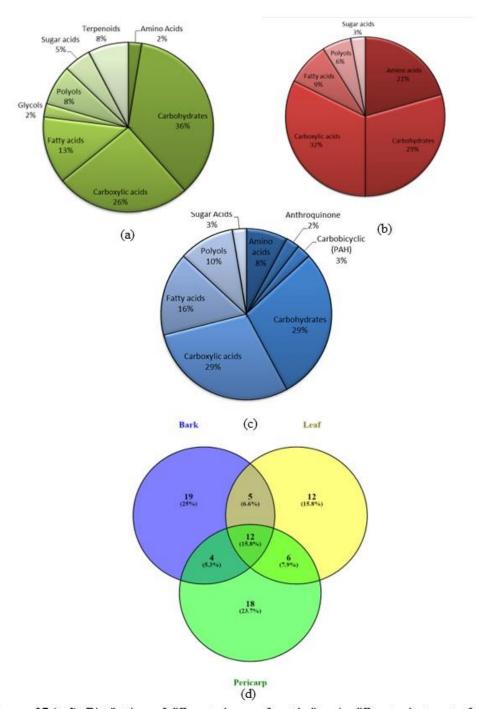
4.2.1. GC-MS analysis revealed the profiles of primary metabolites of bark, leaves and pericarp

GC-MS identifies volatile and semi-volatile molecules of low molecular weight, usually primary metabolites. The comparative analysis of metabolites in the bark, leaves and pericarp of G. moluccana was carried out using GC-MS in this study. The compounds identified along with their retention time, relative abundance and molecular mass for bark, leaves and pericarp are shown in Appendix (Supplementary Tables 1-3). The polar functional groups were altered to make these diverse chemical compounds volatile and thereof suitable for GC-MS investigation. N-methyl-N-(trimethylsilyl) trifluoroacetamide (MSTFA), the derivatization agent which is capable of reacting with a diversed array of chemical class, was utilised for the purpose. The GC-MS total ion chromatogram (TIC) of bark, leaves and pericarp revealed major, minor and trace peaks (Figures 16a-c). The TIC of each sample was distinct; however, leaves and pericarp shared more similarity as compared to bark TIC. To unveil the chemical nature of each peak, their recorded spectra were compared with accessible mass spectra libraries, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The major classes of the metabolites identified were carbohydrates and carboxylic acids in all the three extracts analyzed (Figures 17a-c). Fatty acids, polyols (sugar alcohols), sugar acids and amino acids were identified in all the extracts but lower in number in comparison to carboxylic acids and carbohydrates. The number of metabolites that were unique to the bark, leaves and pericarp extracts were 19 (25%), 12 (15.8%) and 18 (23.7%), respectively (Figure 17d). Twelve metabolites (15.8%) were found to be common to all the three sample extracts.

A total of 40 compounds were identified in bark extract based on similarities of greater than 70% to mass fraction in the NIST mass spectra database. The compounds of the bark were classified into 8 chemical classes' *viz.*, carbohydrates (36%), carboxylic acids (26%), fatty acids (13%), polyols (8%), terpenoids (8%), sugar acids (5%), glycols (2%), and amino acids (2%) (Figure 17a). The major components of the bark and pericarp extracts were found to be carbohydrates followed by carboxylic acids and fatty acids while carbohydrates, carboxylic acids and amino acids were the major classes in leaves. Thirty five compounds identified in leaves extracts were classified into 7 chemical classes' *viz.*, carboxylic acids (32%), carbohydrates (29%), amino acids (21%), fatty acids (9%), polyols (6%), vitamins (3%), and sugar acids (3%) (Figure 17b). Thirty nine compounds were identified in pericarp



Figures 16 (a-c). GC-MS Total ion chromatogram (TIC) of bark, leaves and pericarp extracts. (a) Bark, (b) Leaves and (c) Pericarp.



Figures 17 (a-d). Distribution of different classes of metabolites in different plant parts after GC-MS analysis. (a) Bark, (b) Leaves and (c) Pericarp. (d) Venn diagram of the metabolites among the bark, leaves and pericarp.

extracts, and were classified into 8 chemical classes *viz.*, carbohydrates (29%), carboxylic acids (29%), fatty acids (18%), polyols (10%), amino acids (8%), sugar acids (3%),anthroquinone (2%), and carbobicyclic (PAH) (3%) (Figure 17c). The metabolites set enrichment analysis (MSEA) was carried on each sample through MetaboAnalyst 5.0 (metaboanalyst.ca) to understand the patterns of metabolites concentration changes and most abundant metabolite group in the plant parts studied. The MSEA results provided a snapshot of the concentration of the metabolites in different tissues. Based on the enrichment ratio and p-values, metabolites classes such as monosaccharides, TCA acids, saturated fatty acids, sugar acids and medium-chain keto acids were significantly enriched in bark extracts (Figure 18; Supplementary Table 4). Similarly, the enrichment ratio and p-value of metabolites in leaf extracts indicated that sugar acids, monosaccharides, saturated fatty acids, amino acids and TCA acids were significantly enriched (Figure 19; Supplimentary Table 5) whereas the enrichment ratio and p-value of pericarp demonstrated that the metabolites classes such as monosaccharides, sugar acids, TCA acids, dicarbocylic acids and saturated fatty acids were predominant (Figures 20; Supplementary Table 6).

The data from GC-MS analysis were then applied to principal component analysis (PCA) for understanding and visualization of the variation of metabolites across the different plant parts of *G. moluccana*. The PCA 2D score plot revealed clear separation of the metabolite profiles of bark, leaves and pericarp (Figure 21). The principal component 1 (PC1) elucidated 66.4% of the total variance and clearly differentiated the bark from leaves and pericarp while the principal component 2 (PC2) explained 33.6% variance and clearly distinguished the leaves from pericarp and bark. The relationships between the compounds in different plant parts of *G. moluccana* and their abundance were investigated by hierarchical clustering analysis (HCA) with correlation heat map as shown in Figure 22. The results demonstrated a distinct segregation of compounds between different plant parts as could be seen with regard to compounds such as D-fructose, lyxose, pipecolic acid, 2,3 butanediol, phytol etc. in bark than other plant parts. The compounds such as oleic acid, succinic acid, malonic acid, ribonic acid, D-xylose etc. were more abundant in pericarp whereas butanoic acid, ribitol, D-orinithine, linolenic acid, benzoic acid etc. were abundant in leaves than other plant parts.

Metabolite Sets Enrichment Overview

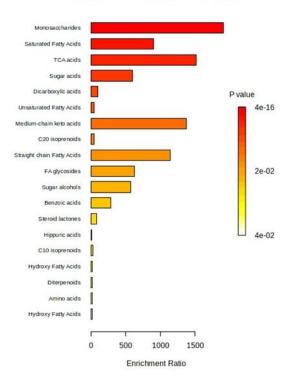
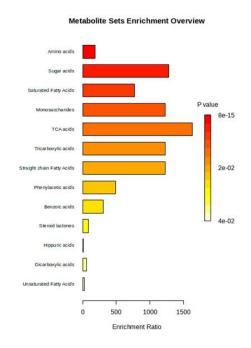


Figure 18. Summary plot of metabolite set enrichment analysis (MSEA) of bark extract.



 $\textbf{Figure 19.} \ \textbf{Summary plot of metabolite } \ \textbf{set enrichment analysis } \ (\textbf{MSEA}) \ \textbf{of leaves} \\ \textbf{extract.}$

Metabolite Sets Enrichment Overview

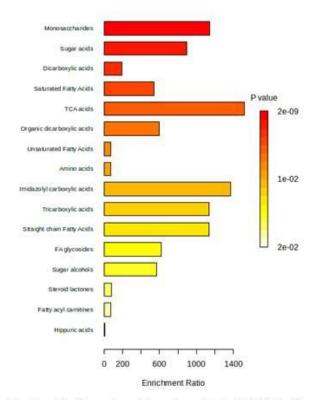


Figure 20. Summary plot of metabolite set enrichment analysis (MSEA) of pericarp extract.

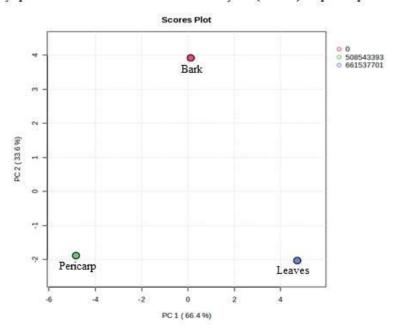


Figure 21. Principal component analysis (PCA) score plot between the selected PCs. The variances are shown in brackets.

4.2.2. LC-MS/MS analysis revealed the profiles of secondary metabolites in bark, leaves and pericarp

It would be important to compare the distribution of metabolites in different plant parts to fully exploit their medicinal and health protective properties for future research on targeted bioactive compounds. Untargeted global metabolomics platform with LC-MS/MS technique was used to investigate the secondary metabolites signatures of G. moluccana bark, leaves and pericarp. The total ion chromatogram (TIC) of bark was significantly different from leaves and pericarp, which shared a similar TIC (Figure 23). In this investigation, the LC-MS/MS analysis of plant parts methanolic extracts resulted in identification and annotation of 181 putative secondary metabolites in bark, 165 putative secondary metabolites in leaves and 153 putative secondary metabolites in pericarp consisting of terpenes and terpenoids, flavonoids, alkaloids, phenolic acids, glycosides, vitamins and co-factors, anthroquinone, lignans, stilbenes and betacynin (Figures 24-28). A total of 89 compounds (35%) were common to all plant parts. The number of compounds common to bark and leaves were 24 (9.4%), 22 (8.7%) for bark and pericarp, and 21 (8.3%) for leaves and pericarp. It was observed that 46 (18.1%) compounds were unique to bark extracts, 31 (12.2%) compounds were unique to leaves extracts and 21 (8.3%) compounds were unique to pericarp extracts (Figure 24).

The putatively identified secondary metabolites in bark extract comprised of 54 flavonoids, 40 terpenes and terpenoids, 36 alkaloids, 22 phenolics acids, 13 steroids and sterols, glycosides, stilbenes, vitamins, lignans, betacynin and anthroquinones (Figure 25). The flavonoids in bark extracts comprised of predominantly flavones (22%) and flavonol (20%) followed by flavonoid glycosides (17%), and other flavonoids such as flavanone, isoflavone, flava-3-ol, anthocyanin, coumestran, chalcone and dehydrochalcone were also identified (Figure 26a). Flavonol compounds such as quercetin, myricetin, kaempferide and patuletin are known to have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects. The biological activities of flavonoid compounds identified are listed in Supplementary Table 7. Triterpenoid (35%) and sesquiterpenoid (27%) were the predominant class of terpenoids identified in bark followed by diterpenoid (20%), tetraterpenoid (10%), monoterpenoid (5%) and norisoterpenoid (2%) (Figure 27a). The list of terpenoids identified along with their potential biological activities are listed in Supplementary Table 8. Indole alkaloid (31%) and benzylisoquinoline alkaloid (27%) were the major class of alkaloids identified in the bark extract (Figure 28a). Alkaloids belonging to other class such as benzophenanthridine alkaloid, indolizidine alkaloid, purine alkaloid, quinoline alkaloid, quinolizidine alkaloid, steroidal alkaloid, tropane alkaloid, and terpenoid alkaloids were also found in smaller number. The phenolic acids were predominated by hydroxycinnamic acid class of phenolics (59%) followed by coumarin (18%), hydroxybenzoic acid (14%) and phenylpropanes (9%) in bark extract (Figure 29a). The list of alkaloids and phenolic acids with their potential biological activities are listed in Supplementary Tables 9 & 10. The list of steroids and sterols, stilbenes, vitamins and cofactors, glycosides, anthroquinones and betacynin with their potential biological activities are listed in Supplementary Table 11.

The secondary metabolites that were putatively identified in leaves extracts consisted of 44 terpenes and terpenoids, 40 flavonoids, 29 alkoloids, 22 phenolics acids, steroids and sterols, glycosides, vitamins and co-factors, and others such as lignans, anthroquinone, betacynin stilbenes were also identified (Figure 25b). Flavones (27%) were the major class of flavonoids followed by flavonol (22%) and isoflavones (15%), and other class of flavonoids such as flavanone, flava-3-ol, anthocyanin, flavonoid glycosides, coumestan, chalones and dihydrochalcones were also identified in smaller number in leaves (Figure 26b). The terpenoids were composed mainly of sesquiterpenoids (34%) followed by diterpenoids (27%) and triterpenoids (21%) (Figure 27b). The alkaloid classes identified in the leaves were indole alkaloid (37%) and benzylisoquinoline alkaloids (37%) while other alkaloids class were meagerly represented (Figure 28b). Similar to the phenolic acids in the bark extracts, hydroxycinnamic acid (53%) were the main class of phenolic acids in the leaves extracts followed by coumarin (31%) and hydroxybenzoic acid (16%) (Figure 29b). The potential biological activities of flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids and phenolic acids identified in leaves extract are listed in Supplementary Tables 12-15. The other compounds such as glycosides, steroids, sterois, anthroquinones, vitamins and co-factors betacyanin were also identified in leaves extract and their potential biological activities are listed in Supplementary Tables 16-17.

The pericarp extract comprised of 42 flavonoids, 31 terpenes and terpenoids, 29 alkoloids, 22 phenolics acids, glycosides steroids and sterols, vitamins and co-factors, anthroquinone, lignans, betacyanin and stilbenes were also detected (Figure 25c). Similar to the flavonoids in leaves extract, the flavones (24%) and flavonol (24%) were the major class of flavonoids found in pericarp extract and other classes of flavonoids such as isoflavone (17%), flavanone (12%) and flavonoid glycosides (12%) were moderately present, whereas flavan-3-ol, anthocyanin, and dihydrochalone were lesser in number (Figure 26c). The terpenoids in the pericarp extract were predominated by sesquiterpenoids (32%) and diterpenoids (26%) similar to leaves extracts (Figure 27c). The remaining terpenoids

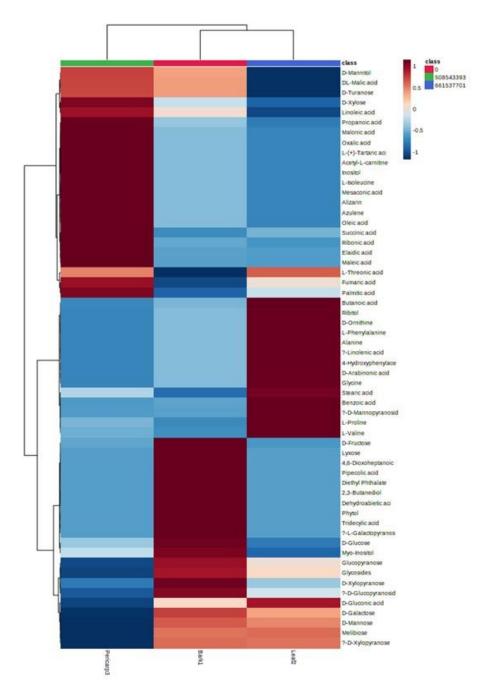
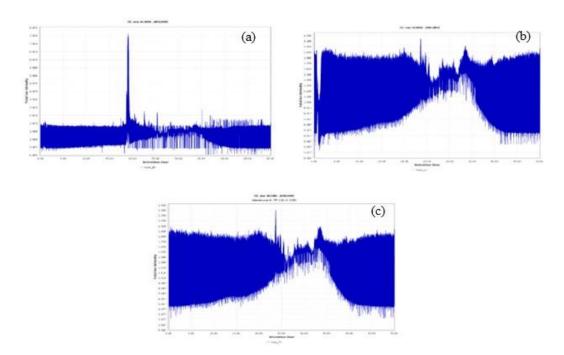


Figure 22. Hierarchical clustering results of metabolites shown as heatmap (distance measured using euclidean, and clustering algorithm using ward D).



Figures 23 (a-c). Total ion chromatogram (TIC) plot of (a) bark, (b) leaves and (c) pericarp extracts.

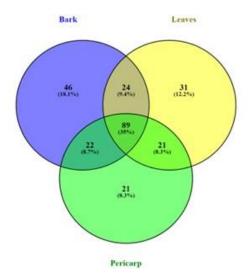
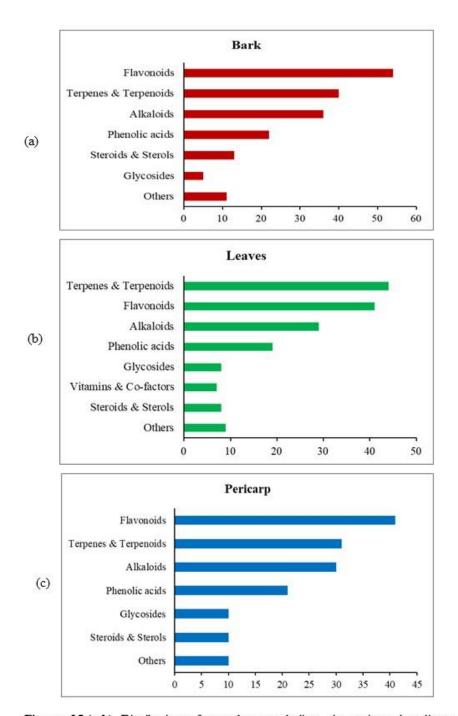
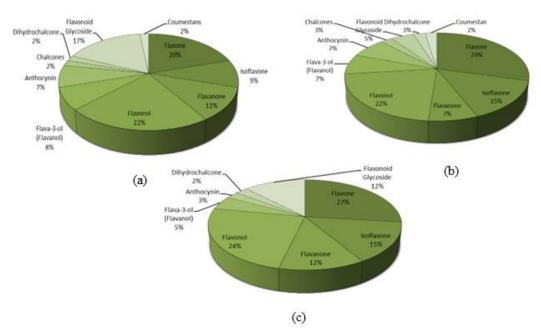


Figure 24. Distribution of secondary metabolites classes in methanolic extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp of G. moluccana.

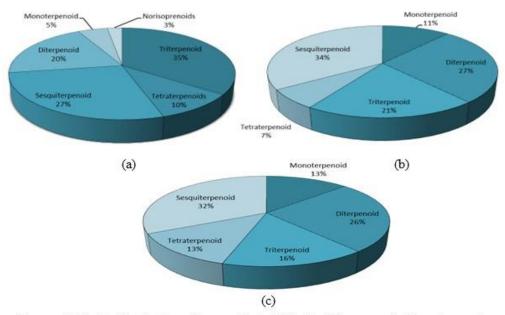


Figures 25 (a-b). Distribution of secondary metabolites classes in methanolic extracts of different plant parts. (a) Bark, (b) Leaves and (c) Pericarp.

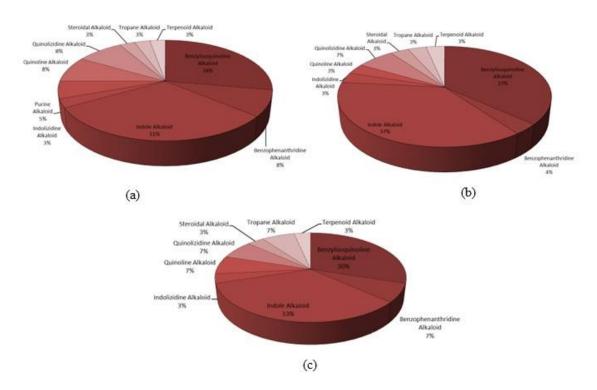


Figures 26 (a-c). Distribution of flavonoids in methanolic extracts of different plant parts.

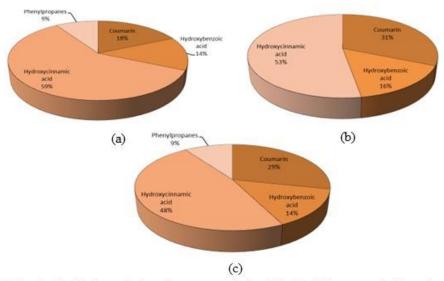
(a) Bark, (b) Leaves and (c) Pericarp of G. moluccana.



Figures 27 (a-c). Distribution of terpenoids in (a) bark, (b) leaves and (c) pericarp of G. moluccana



Figures 28 (a-c). Distribution of alkaloids in (a) bark, (b) leaves and (c) pericarp of G. moluccana.

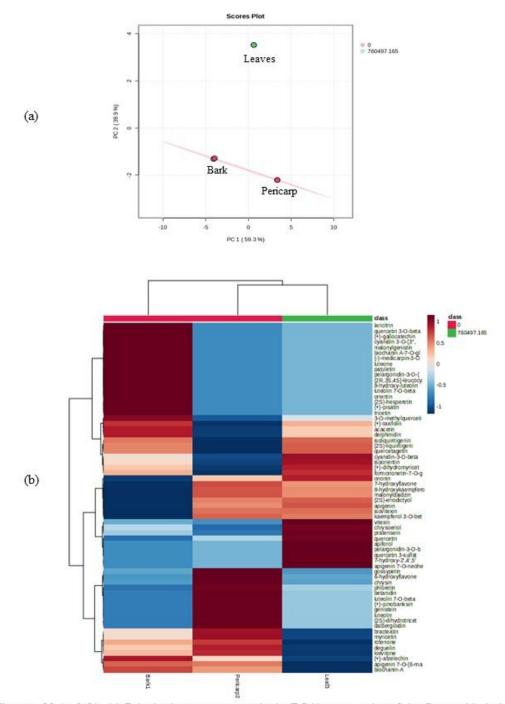


Figures 29 (a-c). Distribution of phenolic compounds in (a) bark, (b) leaves and (c) pericarp of G. moluccana..

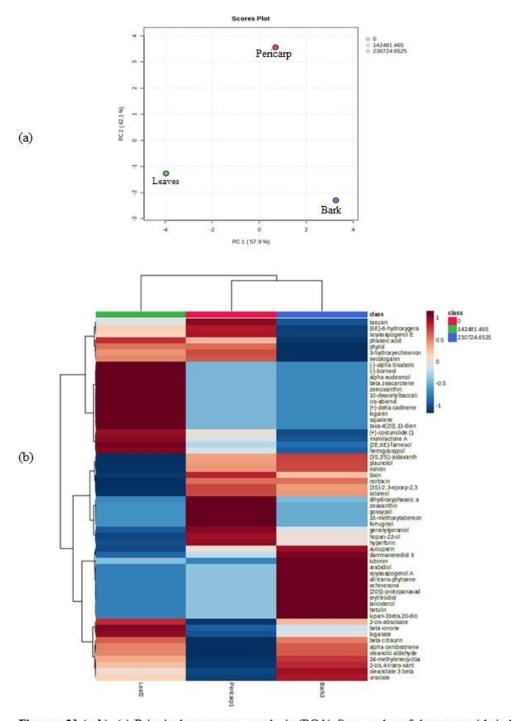
consisted of triperpenoids (16%), monoterpenoids (13%) and tetraterpenoids (13%). Similar to the alkaloids in bark and leaves extracts, indole alkaloid (33%) and benzylisoquinoline alkaloid (30%) comprised the major portion, and other class of alkaloids such as indolizidine alkaloid, quinoline alkaloid, quinolizidine alkaloid, steroidal alkaloid, tropane alkaloid, terpenoid alkaloid and benzophenanthridine alkaloids were represented in lesser proportion (Figure 28c). Hydroxycinnamic acids (48%) were the main class of phenolic acids present in pericarp followed by coumarin (29%), hydroxybenzoic acid (14%) and phenyl propanes (9%) as was observed in bark and leaves extracts (Figure 29c). The list of flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, phenolics, and other compounds such as putative steroids, sterols, glycosides, anthroquinone, lignins and betacyanin are listed in Supplementary Tables 18-22.

In this study, PCA and HC were used to distinguish and group the bark, leaves and pericarp based on their flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, and phenolic acids. The outcomes of this analysis are depicted in Figures 30a & b, 31a & b, 32a & b, 33a & b, respectively. The PCA score plot of the flavonoid PC1 accounted for 59.3% variance and PC1 accounted for 39.9% variance (Figure 30a). The flavonoids were clustered into two groups where the flavonoids in leaves were significantly distinct from bark and pericarp (Figure 30b). In PCA score plot of the terpenoids, the bark, leaves and pericarp were clearly separated into three clusters where the PC1 and PC2 explained 57.9% and 42.1% of total variance, respectively (Figure 31a). The clear distinction among the three tepenoid classes indicated that there were notable variations in the terpenoid profiles of G. molucanna in different plant parts (Figure 31b). The score plots of alkaloids were clustered into two groups, with pericarp alkaloids showing divergence from leaves and bark alkaloid contents (Figure 32a). The PC1 and PC2 of alkaloids explained 59.5% and 40.5% variance, respectively. As observed for flavonoids, the score plot of phenolic acids in bark, leaves and pericarp were clustered into two groups with dissimilarities in leaves in comparison to bark and pericarp. The PCA of phenolic acids showed 32.2% (PC2) and 67.8% (PC1).

Hierarchical Cluster Analysis (HCA) is a method used to organize and classify extensive datasets by considering qualitative or quantitative attributes from experimental data. In this study, hierarchical cluster analysis was used to group the data based on the flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids and phenolics in bark, leaves and pericarp of *G. moluccana*. This analysis provided insights into the inter relationships of the datasets obtained for different plant parts (Figure 30b, 31b, 32b & 33b). The flavonoids such as laricitrin, quercetin 3-o-beta D-glucosyl-(1->2)-glucosyl-(1->2)-beta D-glucoside, gallocatechin, cyanidin 3-o-(3",6"-o-dimalonyl-beta glucopyranoside), malonylgenistin, biochanin A-7-O-glucoside,



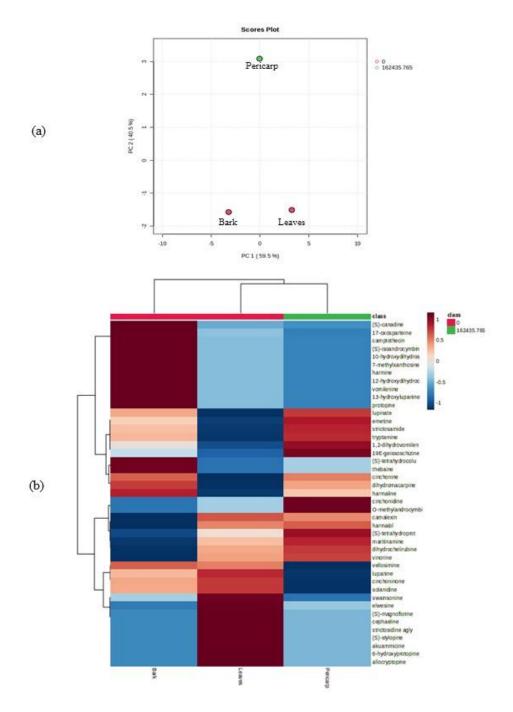
Figures 30 (a & b). (a) Principal component analysis (PCA)-scores plot of the flavonoids in bark, leaves and pericarp. The variances are shown in brackets, (b) Hierarchical clustering result of flavonoids shown as heatmap (distance measured using euclidean, and clustering algorithm using ward D).



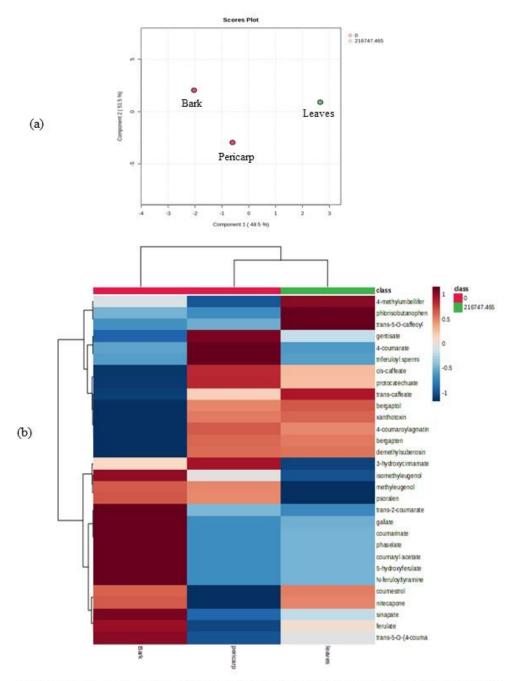
Figures 31 (a-b). (a) Principal component analysis (PCA)-Scores plot of the terpenoids in bark, leaves and pericarp. The variances are shown in brackets. (b) Hierarchical clustering result of terpenoids shown as heatmap (distance measured using euclidean, and clustering algorithm using ward. D).

medicarpin-3-o-glucoside-6"-malonate, luteone, patuletin, tricetin, pisatin, and (2s)-hesperetin were abundant in bark extracts (Figure 30b). The flavonoids that were abundant in leaves include pratensein, chrysoeriol, quercetin, vitexin, quercetin 3-sulfate and apiforol. In pericarp extracts, the most abundant flavonoids were chrysin, gossypetin, 6-hydroxyflavone, genistein, pinobanksin, luteolin, and dalbergioidin (Figure 30b).

The most abundant terpenoids in bark extracts were betulin, arabidiol, soyasapogenol a, lanosterol, lubimin, botulin, and erythrodiol (Figure 31b). The terpenoids that were most abundant in leaves were alpha bisabolo, borneol, alpha eudesmol, beta zeacarotene, zeinoxanthin, 10-deacetylbaccatin III, albienol, delta cadinene, loganin and squalene. In pericarp extracts, the most abundant terpenoids were dihydroyphaseic acid, zeaxanthin, gossypol, 16-methoxytaberson and furruginol (Figure 31b). The most abundant alkaloids in bark extracts include (s)-canadine, 17-oxosparteine, camptothecin, (s)-isoandrocymbin, 10methylxanthosine, harmine, vomilenine, 12-hydroxydihydrochelirubine, 13-hydroxylupinine and protopine (Figure 32b). In leaves extracts, the abundant alkaloids were elwesine, smagnoflorine, cephaeline, strictosidine, stylopine, akuammicine, 6-hydroxyprotopine and allocrytopine. On the other hand, the most abundant alkaloids in pericarp extracts were 1,2dihydrovomilenine, 19E-geissoschizine, chinhonidine, O-methylandrocymbine, emetine, lupinate, strictosamine and tryptamine (Figure 32b). Phenolic acids such as trans-2coumarate, gallate, coumarinate, phaselate, coumaryl acetate, 5-hydroxyferulate, sinapate and N-feruloyltyramine were the most predominant in bark extracts (Figure 33b). The most abundant phenolic acids in leaves were 4-methyllumbelliferone, trans-5-o-caffeoyl-d-quinate, trans-caffeate, bergaptol and xanthotoxin. In pericarp, the major phenolic acids were gentisate, 4-coumarate, cis-caffeate, protocatechuate, 3-hydroxycinnamate coumaroylagmatine (Figure 33b).



Figures 32 (a & b). (a) Principal component analysis (PCA) scores plot of the alkaloids content in bark, leaves and pericarp. The explained variances are shown in brackets. (b) Hierarchical clustering result of alkaloids shown as heatmap (distance measure using euclidean, and clustering algorithm using ward D).



Figures 33 (a & b). Principal component analysis (PCA)-Scores plot of the phenolic acids in bark, leaves and pericarp. The variances are shown in brackets. (b) Hierarchical clustering results of phenolic acids shown as heatmap (distance measured using euclidean, and clustering algorithm using ward D).

4.2.3. Flavonoids (quercetin, rutin, myrecetin) were quantified in pericarp, bark and leaves by RP-HPLC

The flavonoid compounds viz., quercetin, rutin and myricetin which are known to have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities have been quantified in the methanolic extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp using RP-HPLC method. Linearity was tested by analyzing the average peak area of quercetin, rutin and myrecetin of different injection volumes. Thus, a good linearity was observed when the quercetin, rutin and myrcetin standard concentrations ranged from 0.1 to 1.5 mg/ml. The correlation co-efficient (r) obtained from the linear regression equation for quercetin, rutin and myrcetin were 0.9929, 0.9913 and 0.9955, respectively. The retention time was found to be 3.52, 3.50 and 3.55 min for quercetin (Figures 34a-c) whereas it was 3.35, 3.39 and 3.34 min for rutin in bark, leaves and pericarp, respectively (Figures 35a-c). The retention time was 3.46, 3.52 and 3.95 for myrcetin in bark, leaves and pericarp, respectively (Figures 36a-c). The average quercetin content in bark, leaves and pericarp was 5.71 µg/g dry weight, 9.43 µg/g dry weight, 1.44 μg/g dry weight, respectively (**Table 4**). The rutin content in bark, leaves and pericarp was found to be 2.13 µg/g dry weight, 45.19 µg/g dry weight, and 55.39 µg/g dry weight, respectively (Table 5). The myrcetin content was 0.24 µg/g dry weight, 13.22 µg/g dry weight and 8.4 μ g/g dry weight, in bark, leaves and pericarp, respectively (**Table 6**).

Table 4. Quercetin content in methanolic extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp estimated by RP-HPLC.

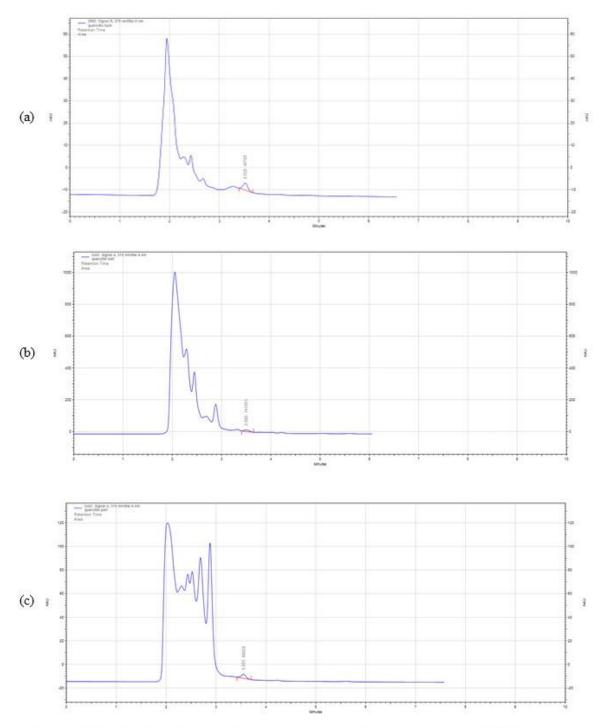
Sample	Retention time	Area	Height	Quercetin content (μg/g dry weight)
Bark	3.52	45705	6726	5.71
Leaves	3.5	141551	19691	9.43
Pericarp	3.55	49028	7467	1.44

Table 5. Rutin content in methanolic extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp estimated by RP-HPLC.

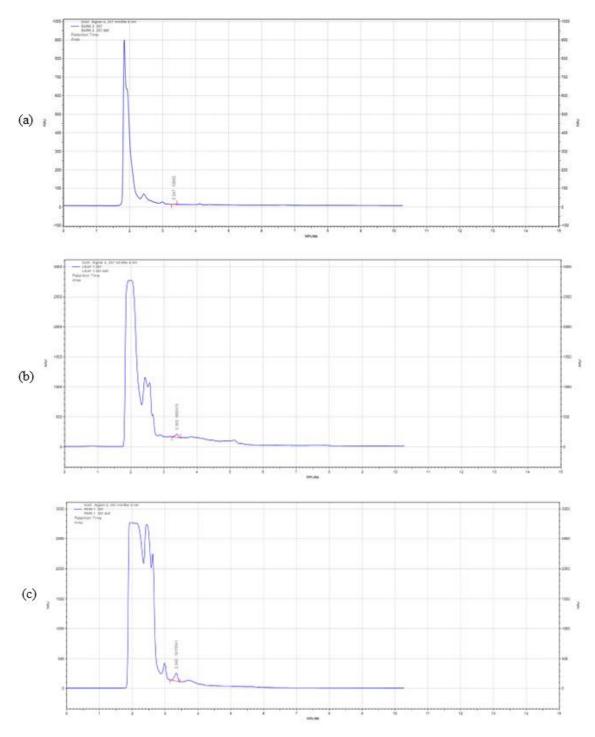
Sample	Retention	Area	Height	Rutin content
	time			(μg/g dry weight)
Bark	3.35	9854	10680	2.13
Leaves	3.39	660415	604964	45.19
Pericarp	3.34	1915541	1951359	55.39

Table 6. Myrcetin contents in methanolic extracts of bark, leaves and pericarp estimated by RP-HPLC.

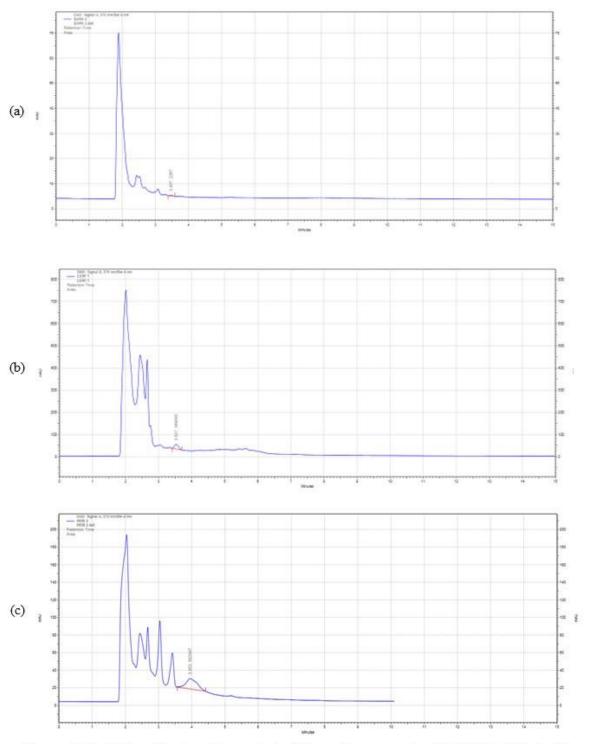
Sample	Retention time	Area	Height	Myrcetin content (μg/g dry weight)
Bark	3.46	2420	2267	0.24
Leaves	3.52	369585	370916	13.22
Pericarp	3.95	589024	583447	8.40



Figures 34 (a-c). Quantification of quercetin content in different parts using RP-HPLC. (a) Bark, (b) Leaves and (c) Pericarp.



Figures 35 (a-c). Quantification of rutin in different plant parts using RP-HPLC. (a) Bark, (b) Leaves and (c) Pericarp.



Figures 36 (a-c). Quantification of myrcetin in different plant parts using RP-HPLC: (a) Bark, (b) Leaves and (c) Pericarp.

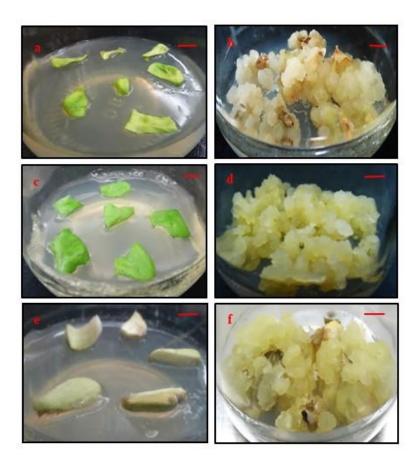
4.3. Callus induction from different explants and direct shoot organogenersis from zygotic embryo axes of *G. moluccana*

4.3.1. Callus induction varied with the explants and growth regulators

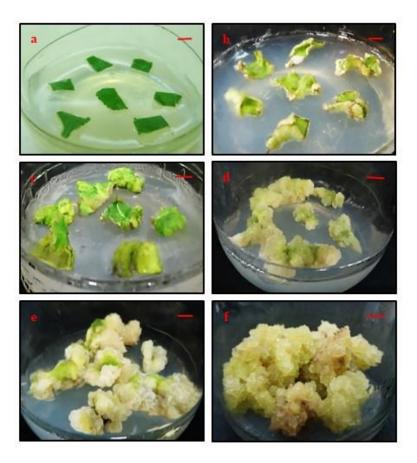
The response of different explants viz., cotyledons, leaves and endosperm obtained from in vitro germinated seedlings for callus induction was evaluated after culture on full-strength MS medium with different growth regulators. Among the different growth regulators tested, 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP proved to be effective in inducing high-frequency callus formation (91.3– 100%) followed by 1 mg/l BAP and 2 mg/l NAA (60.3-83.9%) (Table 7). Of the different explants tested, the frequency of callus induction was found to be higher from endosperm explants (29.8%-100%) as compared to leaves (10.5-100%) and cotyledons (20.3-91.3%) on medium fortified with different growth regulators. Maximum callus induction of 100% was achieved from both leaves and endosperm on medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP. Callus was initiated from different explants after 7-16 days of culture on different media with rapid response observed from leaves and cotyledon explants in the presence of 2,4-D alone or in combination with BAP (Table 7). The morphology of the callus (color and texture) varied depending on the explant and growth regulators used. The callus induced from leaves was greenish white whereas it was mostly white or creamy white for other explants (Figures 37a-f). Callus formed from leaves in the presence of 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP was friable and nodular (Figures 38a-f) whereas it was either hard and compact or soft in nature in the presence of other growth regulators. The callus developed from endosperm was either compact or either compact and nodular in nature while cotyledon derived callus was soft type on different media tested. The proliferation rate of the callus produced from different explants was determined after 4 weeks of subculture to fresh medium. The callus biomass in terms of fresh weight and dry weight was found to be higher on MS medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP as compared to other growth regulators for all the explants (Figure 39). It was observed that leaves derived callus cultures showed highest biomass followed by endoperm whereas it was lowest from cotyledons in the presence of 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP (Figure 39). Thus, the study

Table 7. Effect of plant growth regulators on callus induction from different explants of G. moluccana on MS full-strength medium

Growth	Explant	Callus	Days for	Characteristics of callus	
regulator(s)	•	induction (%)	initiation	Appearance	Color
2 mg/l 2,4-D	Leaves	48.2	7-9	Hard and compact	Greenish white
	Cotyledons	57.6	7-9	Soft and watery	White
	Endosperm	60.3	12-14	Compact	White
2 mg/l 2,4-D +	Leaves	100	7-9	Friable and nodular	Greenish white
1 mg/l BAP	Cotyledons	91.3	7-9	Soft	White
	Endosperm	100	10-12	Compact and nodular	Creamy white
2 mg/l NAA +	Leaves	60.3	10-12	Soft	Greenish white
1 mg/l BAP	Cotyledons	70	10-12	Hard and compact	White
	Endosperm	83.9	14-16	Compact and nodular	Creamy white
2 mg/l 2,4-D +	Leaves	44	10-12	Soft	Greenish white
1 mg/l Kinetin	Cotyledons	49.1	10-12	Soft and watery	Greenish white
	Endosperm	58.3	12-14	Compact and nodular	White
2 mg/l 2,4-D +	Leaves	10.5	14-16	Soft	Greenish white
1 mg/l NAA	Cotyledons	20.3	10-12	Soft	Creamy white
	Endosperm	29.8	14-16	Compact	Creamy white



Figures 37 (a-f). Callus formed from different explants after 5 weeks of subculture on MS media with 2 mg/ml 2, 4-D and 1 mg/l BAP. (a & b) Cotyledons, (c & d) Leaves and (e & f) Endosperm (Bars=1cm).



Figures 38 (a-f). Initiation and proliferation of callus from leaves explants after different durations of culture on MS medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP. (a) Explants after inoculation, (b-f) Callus formation after 1-week, 2-weeks, 4-weeks, 5-weeks and 7 weeks of culture, respectively.

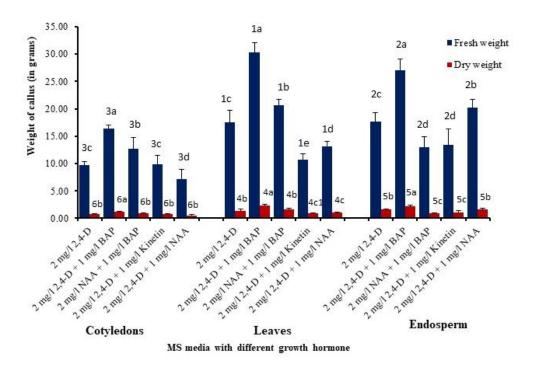


Figure 39. Effect of different growth regulators on biomass of callus derived from cotyledons, leaves and endosperm of G. molucamma. The fresh weight and dry weight was determined after 5 weeks of subculture of the callus on the fresh medium. Data represents Means \pm SD of three independent experiments. Means followed by the same letter in the column are not statistically significant at the 5% probability level by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) according to Duncan's multiple range test.

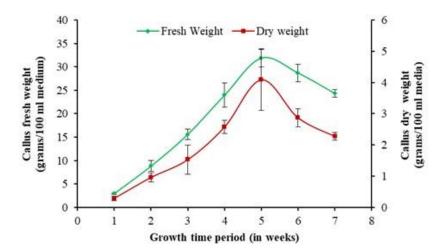
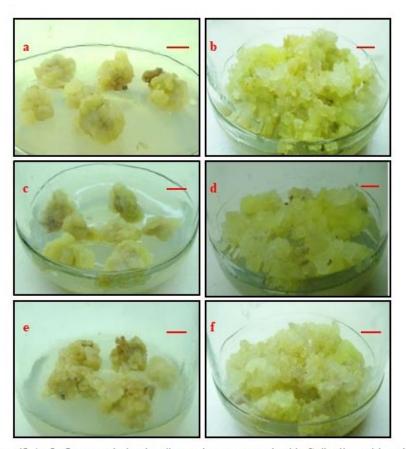


Figure 40. Growth curve of callus derived from leaves explants as determined by fresh weight and dry weight at different periods after culture on MS medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP.



Figures 41 (a-f). Leaves derived callus cultures treated with Salicylic acid and Jasmonic acid. (a & b) Control callus (untreated), (c & d) Salicylic acid, (e & f) Jasmonic acid (after 20 days of culture (Bars=1 cm).

revealed efficient induction of callus and proliferation from leaves followed by endosperm in the presence of 2 mg/l BAP and 1 mg/l 2,4-D. The callus obtained from leaves, cotyledons and endosperm can be employed in future for studying the impact of polyploidy on secondary metabolite production in callus cultures.

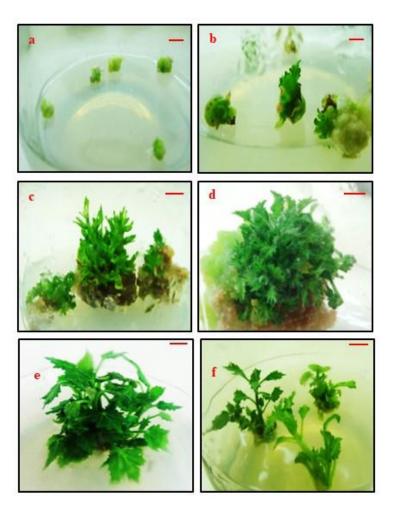
Further experiments were conducted in this study with leaves explants as they exhibited superior response and also as they are diploid with more number of explants being available for initiation. The growth rate of callus derived from leaves was further examined at different time periods which revealed highest fresh weight (31.86 gm/100 ml medium) and dry weight (4.08 gm/100 ml medium) at 5 weeks and thereafter declined (Figure 40). The leaves derived callus cultures were used in elicitation experiments by treating with SA and JA and their effects on biomass (Figure 41) and secondary metabolite production was evaluated.

4.3.2. Efficient multiple shoot induction and elongation was achieved from zygotic embryo axes

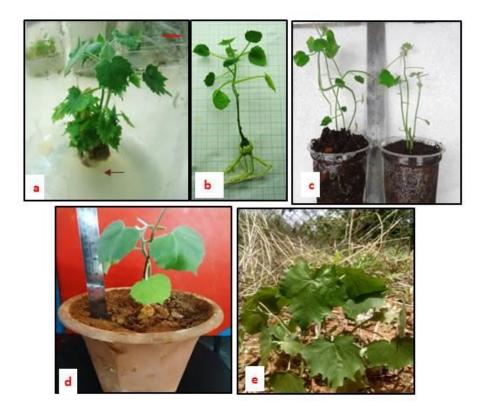
Zygotic embryo axes were cultured on medium containing different concentrations (0.5, 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 mg/l) of BAP and kinetin, individually or in combinations to evaluate their potential to form multiple shoots. The initial response from the explants were observed within 2 weeks of culture, however, the true sign of multiple shoot induction was observed on the 3rd week, which were induced directly from the proximal region with the emergence of several greenish structures which grew in size and formed a clump (Figures 42a-c). Among the different growth media used, 3 mg/l of BAP showed a better response by inducing multiple shoots at higher frequency (91.1%) whereas it varied (17.8-51.1%) on medium with other growth regulators. Although higher number of shoots (9-11) per explant were achieved after subculture on medium with 3 mg/l BAP, it increased the callus formation from the base of the explants. Subculture of multiple shoots clumps to half-strength medium with 2 mg/l BAP minimized callus formation and induced shoot proliferation (Figure 42e). Elongation of multiple shoots was achieved by transferring shoot clumps (3-5 shoots per clump) sequentially to half-strength medium with reduced concentrations of BAP (1 mg/l, 0.5 mg/l) followed by half-stength medium without growth regulators (Table 8; Figure 42f). Thus, efficient shoot induction and elongation was successfully achieved with 6-8 shoots per zygotic embyo axes explant at the end of last subculture on medium without growth regulators.

Table 8. Response of multiple shoots induction from zygotic embryo axes on MS media fortified with BAP and/or kinetin after 8 weeks of culture.

Growth regulators BAP (mg/l) Kin (mg/l)		Shooting induction (%)	Average number of shoots/explant
0	1	17.8	3.3 ± 1.0
0	2	35.5	5.6 ± 0.6
0	3	51.1	7.0 ± 1.0
1	0	17.8	5.0 ± 2.0
2	0	40.0	4.6 ± 1.5
3	0	91.1	8.3 ± 2.1
0.5	0.5	46.7	6.0 ± 0.0
1	1	48.9	6.6 ± 1.5
1	2	30.6	3.6 ± 0.6
2	1	22.0	3.6 ± 0.6



Figures 42 (a-h). Multiple shoot induction and elongation from zygotic embryo axes after culture on full-strength MS medium with 3 mg/l BAP followed by transfer to half-strength MS medium with reduced concentrations (1.0 and 0.5 mg/) of BAP (Bars=1 cm). (a-c) Multiple shoots induced on initiation medium with 3 mg/l BAP, (d) Proliferation of multiple shoots after subculture on medium with 3 mg/l BAP (e) Elongation of shoots on half-strength medium with (e) 1 mg/l BAP and (f) 0.5 mg/l BAP, respectively.



Figures 43 (a-e). Root induction, acclimatization and establishment of plants in soil. (a) Initiation of roots from shoot cultured on half-strength MS medium with 0.1 mg/l NAA, (b) Roots induced from shoots after 5 weeks of culture on 0.1 mg/l NAA (c) Acclimatization of the regenerated plantlets, (d) Regenerated plant transferred to soil and established in pots (e) Regenerated plant growing in the soil in field after 6 months of transplantation.

The elongated multiple shoots were separated and placed on half-strength MS medium containing 0.5 mg/l IBA or 0.5 mg/l NAA or without growth regulators for root induction (Figure 43a). Root induction was successfully achieved at a frequency of 71.5% and 72.8% with IBA or NAA whereas no rooting was achieved in the absence of growth regulators. Root initiation was observed in 10-12 days on medium with either IBA or NAA. About 5-6 roots per shoot were induced in each shoot after 5 weeks of culture on medium using either IBA or NAA (Figure 43b). The regenerated plants were acclimatized for 4 weeks in culture room with a survival frequency of 72.4% (Figure 43c). The acclimatized plants were transferred to earthen pots in soil in greenhouse and successfully transplanted in the field (Figures 43d & e). Thus, multiple shoot induction and subsequent plant regeneration was successfully achieved from zygotic embryo axes which can be exploited in future for secondary metabolites production from shoot cultures which otherwise may not produced in undifferentiated callus cultures.

4.4. Elicitation of callus cultures with JA and SA for enhanced accumulation of total phenolics and flavonoids

4.4.1. SA and JA elicitation influenced the callus biomass and accumulation of total phenolics and flavonoids

The callus fresh weight and dry weight decreased upon elicitation with SA and JA for 30 days as compared to control callus cultures (FW, 33.58 gm/100 ml medium; DW, 5.75 gm/medium) (Figures 41 & 44). SA treatment resulted in greater decrease in fresh weight (21.8 to 23.12 gm/100 ml medium) and dry weight (1.24 to 1.78 gm/100 ml medium) in comparison to JA treatment where the fresh weight and dry weight was found to be 28.47 to 25.27 gm/100 ml medium and 2.15 to 4.75 gm/100 ml medium, respectively for the different concentrations tested. Elicitation of callus cultures with SA and JA had a marked effect on the accumulation of total phenolic acids in callus cultures of *G. moluccana*. The phenolic acids content varied in callus cultures treated with SA and JA depending on the concentration and duration of treatment (Figures 45a & b). The highest content of phenolics in SA treated samples (31.4 mg GAE g⁻¹DW) was recorded in callus cultures treated with 50 μ M SA for 5 days. The phenolic content decreased with increase in the concentrations of SA as well as the duration of cultures (Figure 45a). The pattern of phenolic acid accumulation varied in callus cultures treated with JA, which showed an increase in phenolic content from 50 μ M to 150 μ M, with the highest content (81.83 mg GAE g⁻¹ DW) observed in callus cultures treated with 150 μ M for 20 days (Figure 45b). A

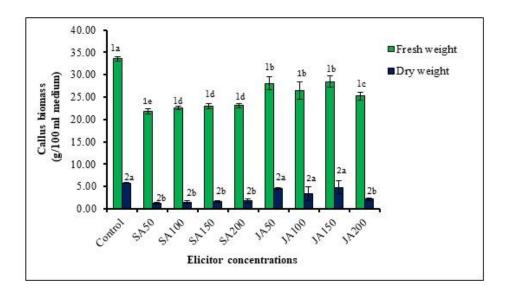
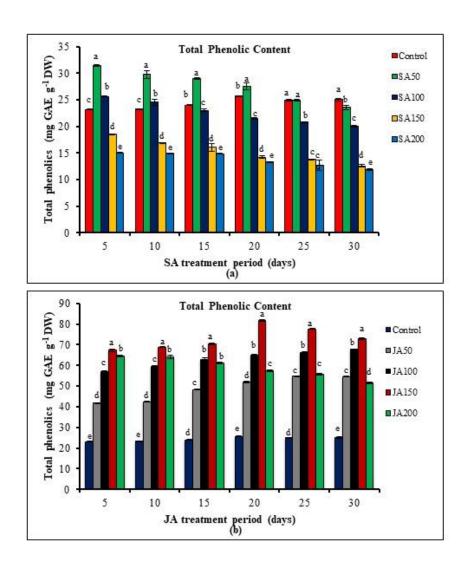
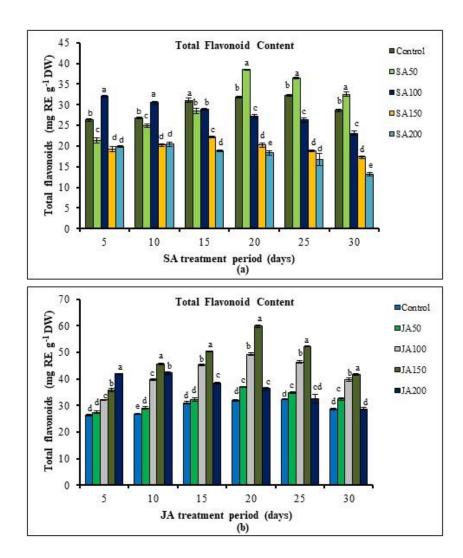


Figure 44. Effect of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) elicitation on callus biomass as determined by fresh weight and dry weight. The fresh weight and dry of the callus was recorded after 5 weeks of culture on the media. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test.



Figures 45 (a & b). Total phenolic acid of callus cultures after elicitation with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid along with controls. (a) Salicylic acid elicited cultures, (b) Jasmonic acid elicited cultures. Means followed by the different letter within a group are statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test.



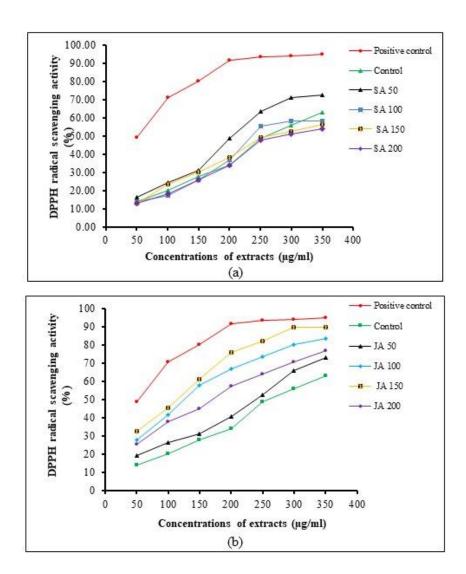
Figures 46 (a-b). Total flavonoid contents of callus cultures after elicitation with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid along with controls. (a) Salicylic acid elicited cultures, (b) Jasmonic acid elicited cultures. Means followed by the different letter within a group are statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test.

significant decline in phenolic content was noticed with further increase in JA concentration or duration of the cultures. The phenolic contents in the control callus cultures varied from 23.18 to $25.68 \text{ mg GAE g}^{-1} \text{ DW}$ after 5-30 days of culture.

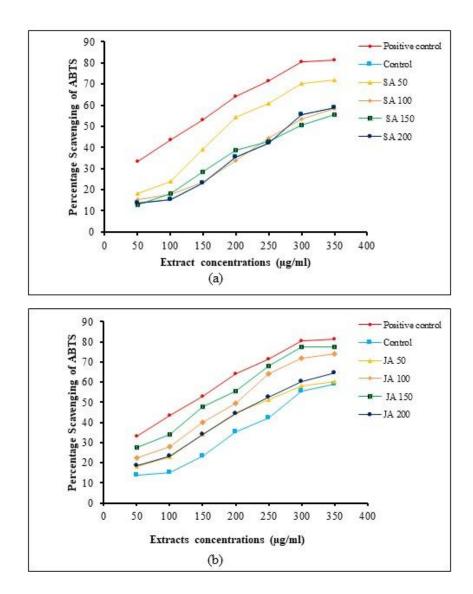
SA and JA treatments affected the accumulation of flavonoids in a concentration and time-dependent manner. The highest content of flavonoids (38.49 mg RE g⁻¹ DW) in SA treated samples was recorded in callus cultures treated with 50 μ M for 20 days, and thereafter declined (Figure 46a). The flavonoid content in callus cultures treated with 100 μ M was higher than the controls at 5 days and 10 days, and the content was lower than controls during subsequent periods (15-30 days) of culture. The JA elicited callus cultures showed highest flavonoid content at 150 μ M (60.08 mg RE g⁻¹ DW) on the 20th day as compared to other treatments and controls. The flavonoid content decreased with further increase in the concentration and duration of culture (Figure 46b). Callus cultures treated with 100 μ M JA also resulted in higher flavonoid content than controls at all durations of culture.

4.4.2. SA and JA treated callus cultures exhibited free radical scavenging activities

The methanolic extract of leaves-derived callus cultures of G. moluccana exhibited strong antioxidant activity as assayed by their ability to scavenge free radicals such as DPPH and ABTS. Callus cultures treated with SA for 20 days showed a lower percentage of radical scavenging activity in comparison to JA elicited callus cultures for the same duration but its activity was higher than controls in callus cultures treated with 50 µM SA (Figures 47a & b). The percentage DPPH radical scavenging activity varied with the concentration of salicylic acid i.e. SA50 (16.22–72.41%), SA100 (13.67–58.08%), SA150 (13–56.30%), and SA200 (13.05– 53.95%) for different concentrations of extracts used (50–350 µg/ml). The DPPH radical scavenging activity for control callus extracts ranged between 13.87 to 62.93% while that of ascorbic acid (positive control) ranged between 48.90 to 94.95%. The DPPH radical scavenging activity decreased as the concentration of salicylic acid was increased to 200 µM and remained lower than controls at 150 to 200 µM (Figure 47a). The DPPH scavenging activity for JA-treated callus cultures was higher than the control cultures for all the concentrations tested (Figure 47b). The percentage of DPPH radical scavenging activity for different concentrations of JA-treated callus cultures were JA50 (19.17–73.07%), JA100 (27.69–83.53%), JA150 (32.59–89.85%), and JA200 (25.50-76.80 %). The most significant scavenging activity was observed in callus extracts containing 150 µM of JA and showed a decrease at 200 µM. The higher radical



Figures 47 (a & b). DPPH radical scavenging activity of extracts of callus cultures elicited with different concentrations of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) as compared with control (without elicitor treatment) and positive control (ascorbic acid), (a) Salicylic acid elicited cultures, (b) Jasmonic acid elicited cultures.



Figures 48 (a-b). ABTS radical scavenging activity of callus cultures elicited with salicyclic acid and jasmonic acid in comparison with controls (ascorbic acid was used as positive control) and cultures with any treatment are normal controls. (a) SA elicited cultures and (b) JA elicited cultures.

scavenging activity exhibited by JA and SA treated callus cultures could be due to the enriched phenolics and flavonoids as compared to control callus cultures.

Similar pattern of radical scavenging activity was observed, when the methanolic extracts of callus cultures treated with SA and JA for 20 days was assayed for ABTS. The percentage of ABTS radical scavenging activities of 50 μM SA treated callus cultures ranged from 18.36–71.98%, 100 μM SA ranged from 15.28–58.17%, 150 μM SA ranged from 13–55.36% and 200 μM SA ranged from 13.67–58.98%, while that of control callus cultures and positive controls ranged from 13.67 to 58.98%, and 33.3 to 81.5%, respectively (Figure 48a). The percentage ABTS radical scavenging activities for JA treatments varied with the concentrations *i.e.* JA50 (17.96–60.32%), JA100 (22.52–73.99%), JA150 (27.61–77.34%), and JA200 (18.49–64.74%) (Figure 48b). The highest ABTS radical scavenging activity was observed in SA treatment with 50 μM whereas for JA treatment, the highest scavenging activity was observed at 150 μM. In both SA and JA treatments, the ABTS radical scavenging activity was higher as compared to control callus cultures.

4.4.3. SA and JA elicitation increased the production of H₂O₂ and MDA levels

The accumulation of H_2O_2 in both the control and elicited callus cultures were assessed as it is one of the earliest indications of elicitor recognition by the plants. An increase in the accumulation of H_2O_2 was observed in the callus treated with SA and JA as compared to controls (0.86 µmol g⁻¹ FW) (Figure 49). The levels of H_2O_2 elevated as the concentration of SA increased up to 150 µM (3.23 µmolg⁻¹ FW) and did not change significantly at 200 µM (3.35 µmolg⁻¹ FW). Similarly in JA elicited callus cultures, the highest level of H_2O_2 was observed with 150 µM JA (3.6 µmol g⁻¹ FW) which did not differ significantly from 200 µM JA (3.7 µmol g⁻¹ FW). However, at lower concentrations of 50 µM (1.61 µmolg⁻¹ FW) and 100 µM (1.86 µmolg⁻¹ FW), the H_2O_2 levels were found to be higher in SA-treated callus cultures as compared to JA at 50 µM (1.46 µmolg⁻¹ FW) and 100 µM (1.69 µmolg⁻¹ FW).

The control and elicitor-treated callus were analyzed for the MDA content which is an indicator of lipid peroxidation. All the treatments resulted in higher MDA accumulation as compared to controls (0.50 μ mol g⁻¹ FW) (Figure 50). Under the influence of the SA as elicitor, the content of MDA remained in the range of 0.77 to 1.45 μ mol g⁻¹ FW. Treatment with JA induced maximum MDA accumulation, with the highest recorded with 200 μ M JA (2.27 μ mol g⁻¹ FW) followed by 150 μ M JA (1.68 μ mol g⁻¹ FW).

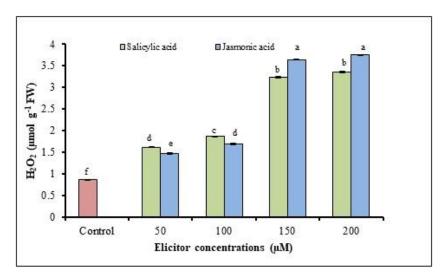


Figure 49. Effect of different concentrations of salicylic acid and jasmonic acid on generation of H_2O_2 in callus cultures of G. moluccana. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test.

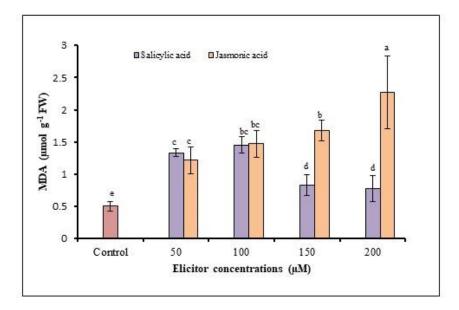


Figure 50. Malondialdehyde (MDA) levels in callus cultures elicited with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test.

4.4.4. SA and JA elicitation of callus cultures caused alteration in antioxidant enzyme activities

For better understanding the elicitation effects of salicylic acid and jasmonic acid, the activities of several antioxidant enzymes were examined in the elicitor-treated callus cultures and compared with controls.

4.4.4.1. Superoxide dismutase (SOD) enzyme activity

The ability of SOD to reduce the superoxide into hydrogen peroxide and molecular oxygen is the basis of this assay. An elevated activity of SOD was observed in all the treatments compared to control cultures (Figure 51). Lower concentrations of SA (50 μ M) stimulated higher SOD activity (20.3 U mg⁻¹) than higher concentrations (150-200 μ M) where the activity did not change significantly. On the other hand, JA at 150 μ M induced the maximum SOD activity (24.28 U mg⁻¹) followed by a decline at 200 μ M.

4.4.4.2. Catalase (CAT) enzyme activity

Catalase is a well-known intracellular enzyme which protects against the ROS that is generated within the cell. Treatment of SA resulted in highest catalase activity at the lowest concentration of 50 μ M (12.39 U mg⁻¹) followed by a decline with increase in the concentration of SA although it did not differ significantly for 150 μ M and 200 μ M treatments. Under the influence of JA, the catalase activity gradually increased reaching the highest (18.62 U mg⁻¹) at 150 μ M, however, upon reaching 200 μ M, its activity decreased to 13.06 U mg⁻¹ (Figure 52).

4.4.4.3. Peroxidase (POD) enzyme activity

Peroxidases are protective enzymes of plant cells which act against a variety of stresses by regulating the concentration of O_2 and H_2O_2 . Similar to CAT activity, SA at lower concentrations of 50 μ M induced highest (504.25 U mg⁻¹) peroxidase activity (Figure 53). The enzyme activity decreased as the concentration of SA increased, with the activity in 150 and 200 μ M treated cultures being lower than controls (338.43 U mg⁻¹). JA-elicited callus cultures showed highest activity (579.84 U mg⁻¹) at 150 μ M and subsequently decreased (Figure 53). The JA induced peroxidase activity remained higher (380.13-579.84 U mg⁻¹) than controls for all the concentrations (100-200 μ M) except at 50 μ M where the activity was lower than controls.

4.4.4.4. SA and JA treatments regulated the AsA-GSH pathway

Significant changes in the activities of the enzymes involved in ascorbate-glutathione cycle were observed in callus cultures elicited with SA and JA (Figures 54a-d). APX is a key

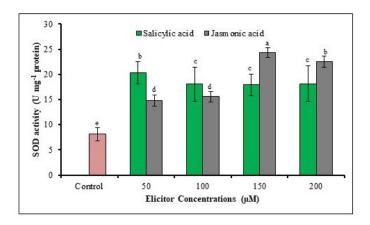


Figure 51. Effect of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) on superoxide dismutase (SOD) enzyme activity in callus cultures of *G. moluccana*.

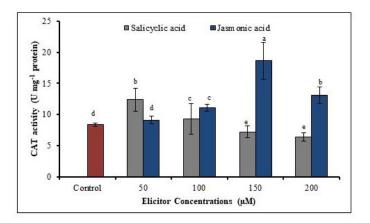


Figure 52. Effect of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) on catalase (CAT) enzyme activity in callus cultures of *G. moluccana*.

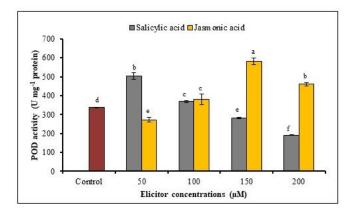
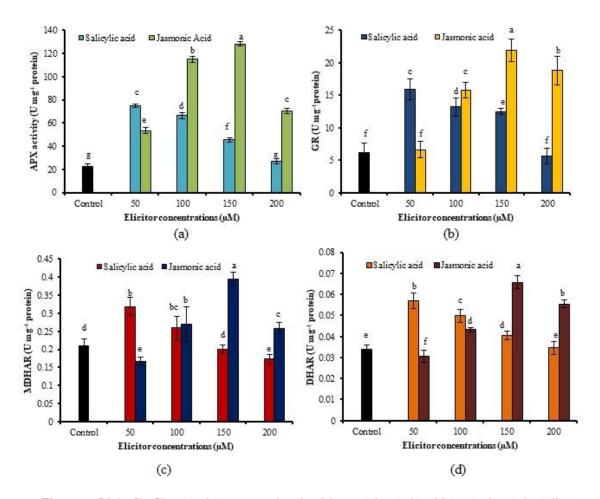


Figure 53. Effect of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) on peroxidase (POD) enzyme activity in callus cultures of G. moluccana.

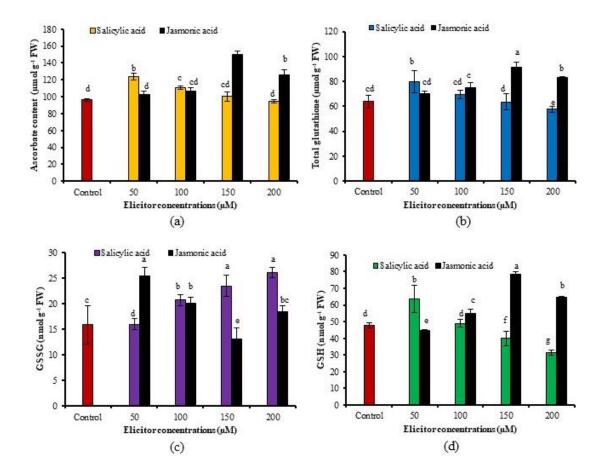
enzyme that detoxifies H_2O_2 , which utilizes ascorbic acid as its electron donor and reduces H_2O_2 to H_2O . With regard to SA treatment, the highest APX activity (74.85 U mg⁻¹) was observed at the lowest concentration of 50 μ M (Figure 54a) and declined with increase in the concentration (100-200 μ M). The APX activity (26.9 U mg⁻¹) of 200 μ M SA-treated callus cultures did not differ significantly from the controls (22.36 U mg⁻¹). Treatment with JA resulted in a pronounced increase in APX activity being significantly higher than controls for all the concentrations, with the highest activity (127.9 U mg⁻¹) recorded at the concentration of 150 μ M (Figure 54a). A similar trend was observed for GR activity where SA at 50 μ M induced highest activity (15.9 U mg⁻¹) whereas it decreased to the values of controls as the concentration of SA increased to 200 μ M (Figure 54b). In case of JA treated callus cultures, the activity was similar to controls at 50 μ M and exhibited maximum activity (21.94 U mg⁻¹) in 150 μ M treated callus cultures followed by a decrease in the activity at 200 μ M (18.79 U mg⁻¹).

Salicylic acid at 50 μ M triggered higher MDHAR activity (0.31 U mg⁻¹) and the values were lower than controls at higher concentrations of 200 μ M (Figure 54c). In case of JA-elicited callus cultures, the MDHAR activity was lower than controls at 50 μ M, and the activity raised as the concentration increased, with the maximum (0.39 U mg⁻¹) detected in 150 μ M treated callus cultures. Similar pattern were observed for DHAR in response to SA treatment, with the highest activity (0.057 U mg⁻¹) observed at 50 μ M and was similar to controls at 200 μ M (0.034 U mg⁻¹). In JA-treated callus cultures, the DHAR activity (0.03 U mg⁻¹) at 50 μ M was lower than controls whereas it elevated at higher concentrations of 100 to 200 μ M (Figure 54d). The maximum activity of DHAR was observed at 150 μ M JA (0.06 U mg⁻¹).

To examine the effects of SA and JA on the components of AsA-GSH in callus cultures, the contents of ascorbate, total glutathione, GSSG and GSH were determined. Ascorbate content varied in SA and JA-treated cultures in comparison to the control cultures (96.39 μmol g⁻¹ FW). The highest (123.98 μmol g⁻¹ FW) ascorbate content in SA-elicited callus cultures was observed in 50 μM SA and gradually decreased as the concentration increased (Figure 55a). In JA-elicited callus cultures, ascorbate content increased from 102.39 μmol g⁻¹ FW to 149.68 μmol g⁻¹ FW as the concentration of JA was increased from 50 to 150 μM and decreased to 125.94 μmol g⁻¹ FW at 200 μM which was higher than controls. Similar trend were observed in the total glutathione content, where the highest content was observed in the cultures treated with 150 μM JA



Figures 54 (a-d). Changes in enzymes involved in ascorbate-glutathione pathway in callus cultures in response to elicitation with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid. (a) APX, (b) GR, (c) MDHAR and (d) DHAR. Callus cultures without elicitation are used as controls.



Figures 55 (a-d). Changes in non-enzymatic antioxidants of ascorbate-glutathione cycle in callus cultures after elicitation with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid in comparison to control callus cultures. (a) Ascorbate content, (b) Total glutathione, (c) GSSG and (d) GSH contents.

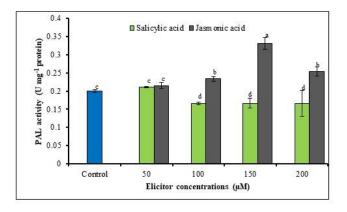


Figure 56. Effect of salicylic acid and jasmonic acid on phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL) enzyme activity in callus cultures in comparison to control cultures.

(91.5 μ mol g⁻¹ FW) followed by 200 μ M JA (83.04 μ mol g⁻¹ FW) and 50 μ M SA (79.6 μ mol g⁻¹ FW) as compared to other treatments (Figure 55b). The glutathione content in other treated cultures were either similar or lower than controls (63.78 μ mol g⁻¹ FW).

The endogenous content of GSSG and GSH were determined in both the treated and control callus cultures. Under the influence of SA, the GSSG content showed a dose-dependent increase up to 150 μM with no further significant difference observed at 200 μM (Figure 55c). On the other hand, lower concentrations of JA resulted in highest GSSG content (25.48 nmol g⁻¹ FW) whereas the content decreased at higher concentrations. Overall, the highest content was detected in treatments with 200 μM SA (26.1 nmol g⁻¹ FW) followed by 50 μM JA (25.48 nmol g⁻¹ FW). The GSH content in callus cultures treated with 50 μM SA was significantly higher (63.57 nmol g⁻¹ FW) than controls (47.84 nmol g⁻¹ FW), however, it was similar to controls or showed a significant decrease at higher concentrations (Fig. 15d). Under the influence of JA, highest (78.43 nmol g⁻¹ FW) content of GSH was observed at 150 μM and then declined (Figure 55d). The GSH content in 50 μM JA-treated callus cultures were significantly lower (44.62 nmol g⁻¹ FW) than controls (47.84 nmol g⁻¹ FW).

4.4.4.5. Phenylalanine ammonia lyase enzyme activity was differentially modulated by SA and JA treatments

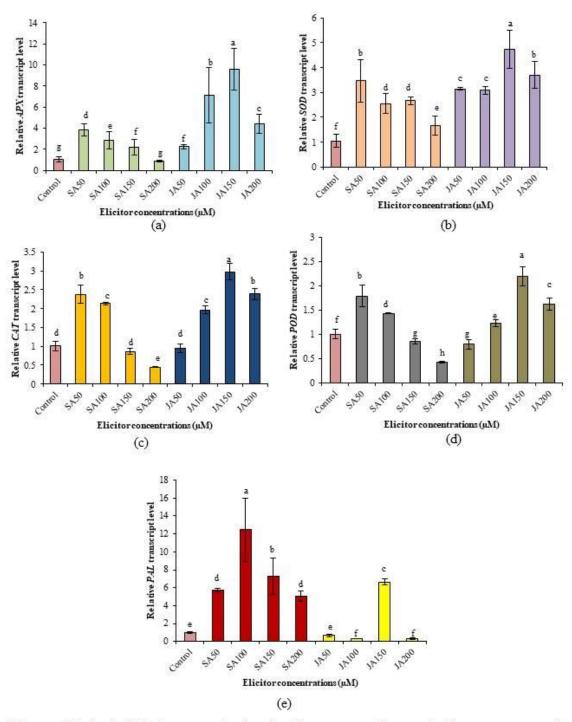
An increase in PAL activity after elicitor treatment often results in enhanced secondary metabolism in plant cells (Zhao *et al.*, 2010). A significant change in PAL activity was observed in callus cultures treated with SA and JA depending on the concentration used (**Figure 56**). The PAL activity in callus cultures treated with SA at 50 μ M (0.21 U mg⁻¹ protein) did not differ significantly from controls (0.20 U mg⁻¹ protein), however, the activity decreased at higher concentrations. It was interesting to note that JA at 150 μ M triggered highest activity (0.33 U mg⁻¹ protein) as compared to 100 and 200 μ M whereas the value of 50 μ M did not differ from controls.

4.4.4.6. Correlation of transcript levels of genes and enzyme activities in SA- and JA-treated callus cultures showed similar or different expression patterns

Real-Time PCR analysis showing variation in transcript level of the genes encoding antioxidant enzymes viz., APX, SOD, CAT and POD in callus cultures treated with SA and JA (Figures 57a-d). SA-treated callus cultures showed an increase in the transcript level of APX gene by 3.71-fold at 50 μ M, and decreased gradually reaching the value similar to controls at

200 μM. The transcript levels of *APX* gene in JA-treated callus cultures was higher than controls for all concentrations, with the maximum fold-change of 9.24 detected at 150 μM JA (Figure 57a). Both SA and JA treatments significantly elevated the transcript levels of *SOD* gene for all concentrations used compared to control callus cultures. Among the different treatments, the maximum fold-change (4.54) in transcript levels of *SOD* gene was observed in 150 μM JA-treated callus cultures compared to controls (Figure 57b). Both *CAT* and *POD* genes showed similar expression pattern under the influence of SA and JA. The transcript levels of *CAT* and *POD* genes were found to be highest at the lowest concentration of 50 μM SA and gradually decreased being lower than controls at 200 μM (Figure 57b & c). A reverse trend was observed in JA-treated callus cultures, where the transcript levels of *CAT* and *POD* genes gradually increased reaching the maximum at 150 μM followed by a decrease at 200 μM which still remained higher than controls (Figures 57c & d). Overall, JA at 150 μM induced higher transcript levels of *APX*, *SOD*, *CAT* and *POD* genes than SA-treated cultures.

PAL is a key enzyme in phenylpropanoid pathway involved in the deamination of phenyl alanine to trans-cinnamic acid, which is the precursor for lignin and flavonoid biosynthetic pathway. SA treatment triggered higher expression of *PAL* gene at all concentrations as compared to controls, with the highest fold-change of 12.45 observed at 100 μM. Interestingly, JA-elicited callus cultures showed highest expression at 150 μM (6.6 fold-change), whereas it was similar or lower than controls at other concentrations (Figure 57e). Overall, the SA-treated callus cultures exhibited higher transcript levels than JA treatments across all concentrations. The pattern of gene expression of *PAL* detected at the transcript levels, however, did not correspond with enzyme activity for SA and JA-treated callus cultures.



Figures 57 (a-e). Relative transcript levels of genes encoding antioxidant enzymes and phenylalanine ammonia lyase in elicitor (SA and JA) treated and control (unelicited) callus cultures. (a) APX, (b) SOD, (c) CAT, (d) POD and (e) PAL.

4.5. LC-MS analysis for secondary metabolite profiling in leaves and leaves derived callus cultures

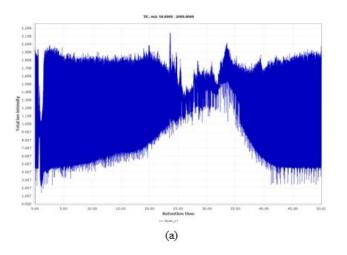
4.5.1. Metabolite analysis reveals differences in secondary metabolites in leaves derived callus as compared to leaves

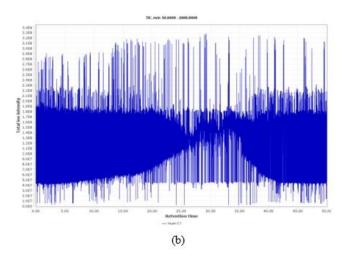
The untargeted metabolite profiling of mature leaves and leaves derived callus was carried out using LC-MS/MS. The TIC of mature leaves and leaves-derived callus were distinct from each other (Figures 58a & b). A total of 165 and 170 putative secondary metabolites were detected in mature leaves and callus, respectively. Out of the total secondary metabolites detected, 55 compounds were unique to mature leaves, while 60 compounds were unique to callus and 115 compounds were common to mature leaves and callus (Figure 59). Secondary metabolites such as flavonoids, terpenes and terpenoids, alkaloids and phenolic acids were most abundant in both leaves and callus. The major distinction in the number secondary metabolites between leaves and callus was observed for terpenoids and alkaloids, where the number of alkaloids in callus were higher than leaves and the number of terpenoids were higher in leaves in comparison to callus. This was followed by flavonoids which were marginally higher in callus than leaves whereas phenolic acids were higher in leaves compared to callus. The other compounds such as sterods and sterols, lignins, glycosides, vitamins and cofactors, anthroquinones, stilbenes and betacynin did not differ between leaves and callus.

4.6. Metabolite profiling of elicited callus cultures using LC-MS/MS

4.6.1. Callus cultures elicited with SA and JA showed higher flavonoids than other secondary metabolites

The untargeted metabolite profiling was carried out through metabolomics platform with LC-MS/MS to comprehend the secondary metabolites present in the leaves derived callus cultures (untreated control), SA and JA treated callus cultures of *G. moluccana*. The total ion chromatogram (TIC) of control callus, SA-treated callus and JA-treated callus were distinct from each other (Figures 61a-c). The metabolome analysis revealed 170, 203 and 218 secondary metabolites in control callus, JA and SA treated callus, respectively (Figure 62, 63a-c, 64a-c, 65a-c, 66 a-c). Of these, 19 compounds were unique to control callus extract, 42 compounds were unique to SA treated callus extracts, while 34 compounds were unique to JA treated callus (Figure 62). Flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids and phenolic acids were the main constituents in each of the three samples. Other compounds such as glycosides, sterols and steroids, vitamins and co-factors, lignans, anthroquinone, stilbenes and betacynin were also identified in all the





Figures 58 (a & b). The LC-MS total ion chromatogram of methanolic extracts of mature leaf and leaf derived callus cultures, (a) mature leaf, (b) leaf-derived callus.

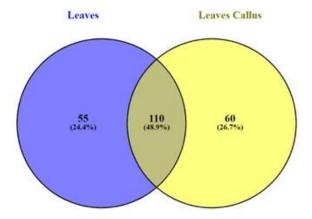


Figure 59. Venn diagram of secondary metabolites between mature leaves and leaves-derived callus.

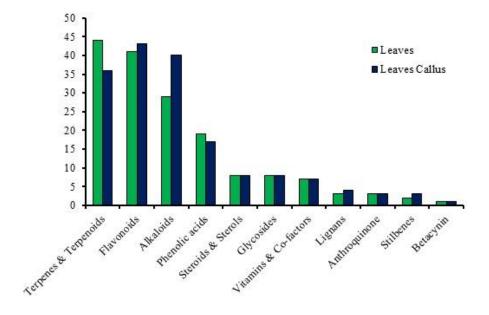
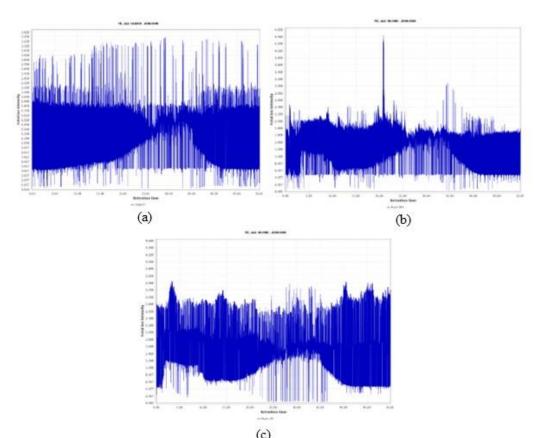


Figure 60. Comparison of different secondary metabolites in mature leaves and leaves-derived callus

samples (Figure 63a). Out of the 43 flavonoids identified in the control samples, flavone (30%) and flavonol (23%) constituted the major class of flavonoids, while other class of flavonoids such as flavonoid glycosides (14%), flavan-3-ol (9%), flavonone (7%), isoflavone (7%), anthocyanins (7%) and 3% dihydrochalcone (3%) were also found (Figure 64a).

Sesquiterpenoids (34%) were the main class of terpenoids identified followed by diterpenoids (20%), tetraterpenoids (17%), triterpenoids (17%) and monoterpenoids (12%) in control callus (Figure 65a). Benzylisoquinoline alkaloids (30%) represented the main class of alkaloids in callus cultures followed by quinoline (22%) and benzophenanthridine alkaloid (10%). Other classes of alkaloids such as tropane indole alkaloids, quinolizidine alkaloid, terpenoid alkaloid, purine alkaloid, indolizidine alkaloid were also detected (Figure 66a). Hydroxycinnamic acid (41%) and coumarins (35%) followed by hydroxybenzoic acids (18%) and phenylpropanes (6%) made up the phenolic acids types in the callus cultures (Figure 67a).

Annotation of secondary metabolites in SA treated callus cultures revealed 53 flavonoids, 52 terpenoids, 39 alkaloids, 20 phenolic acids, 18 steroids and sterols, and others such as vitamins and co-factors, anthroquinone, lignans, stilbenes and betacyanins were in lesser in number (Figure 63b). The 53 flavonoids were mostly flavones (30%) class, flavonol (23%), flavonoid glycoside (14%) and anthocyanin (13%). Other class of flavonoids such as flavanone (10%), isoflavone (9%), flavan-3-ol (4%) and dihydrochalcone (2%) formed the rest of the flavonoids (Figure 64b). The 52 terpenoids were comprised of 26% sesquiterpenoids, 24% triterpenoids, 20% tetraterpenoids, 18% diterpenoids and 12% monoterpenoids (Figure 65b). Ten different class of alkaloids were annotated from the 37 alkaloids putatively identified, with benzylisoquinoline alkaloid class dominating the group with 36% followed by indole alkaloid with 20%. The rest of the alkaloid classes such as quinoline alkaloid, benzophenanthridine alkaloid, tropane alkaloid, indole alkaloid, quinolizidine alkaloid, terpenoid alkaloid, purine alkaloid, indolizidine alkaloid and steroidal alkaloids were present in the range of 3-10% (Figure 66b). Coumarin (45%), hydroxycinnamic acids (35%), hydroxybenzoic acids (15%) and phenylpropanes (5%) were the other phenolic acids detected in SA treated callus extract (Figure 67b). The number of steroids and sterols in SA treated callus were twice as much in the control samples. Eighteen steroids and sterols with different bioactive and biological roles were putatively identified.



(c)
Figures 61 (a-c). The LC-MS total ion Chromatogram (TIC) plot of control and elicitor treated callus cultures. (a) control callus, (b) SA treated callus and (c) JA treated callus.

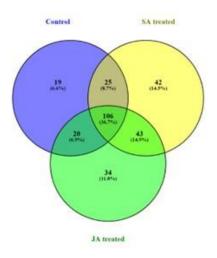
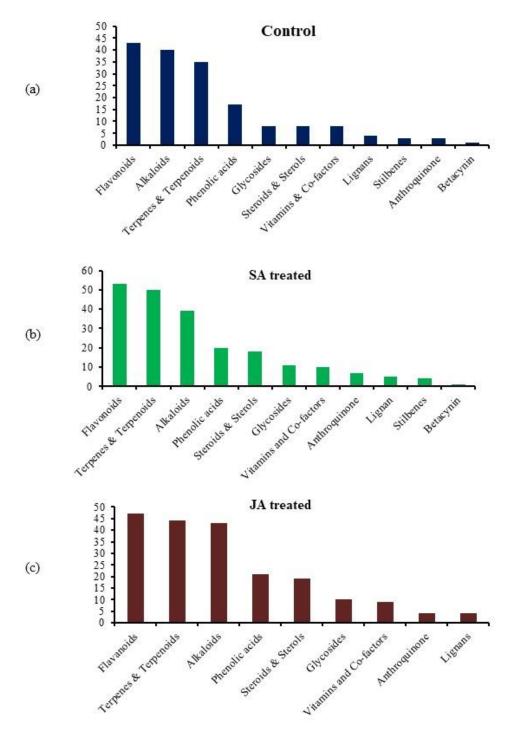
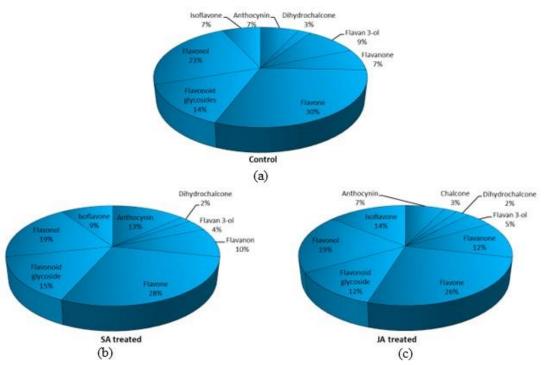


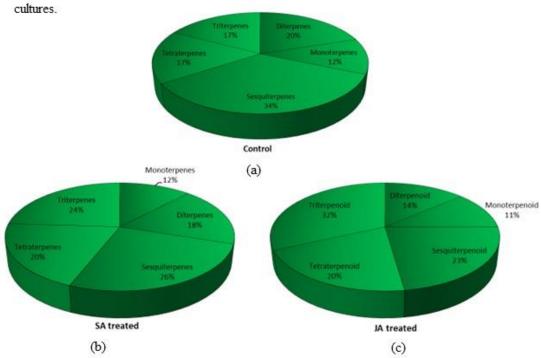
Figure 62. Venn diagram of the secondary metabolites in leaves-derived callus, SA treated and JA treated callus cultures.



Figures 63 (a-c). Distribution of secondary metabolites classes in (a) control callus, (b) SA treated and (c) JA treated callus.



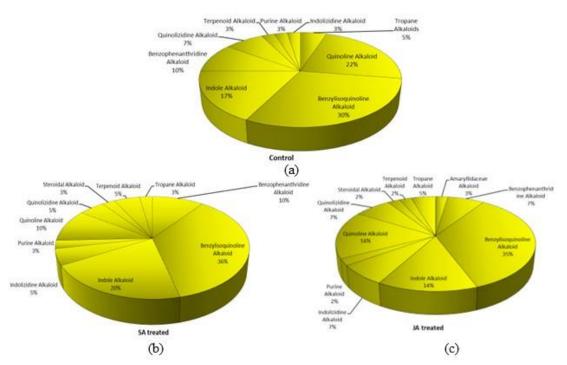
Figures 64 (a-c). Classification of flavonoids in control, SA and JA treated callus



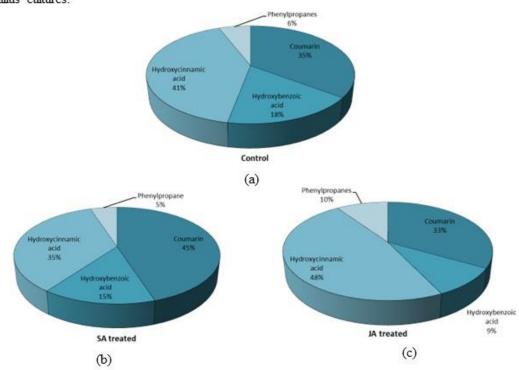
Figures 65 (a-c). Classification of terpenoids in control, SA and JA treated callus cultures.

In JA treated callus cultures, the predominant compounds were flavonoids (47), terpenoids (45), alkaloids (43), phenolic acids (21), steroids and sterols (19) (Figure 63c). The 47 flavonoids were comprised of 26% flavones, 19% flavonols, 14% isoflavone, 12% flavonoid glycosides and flavonone and others such as flavan-3-ol, anthocyanin, chalcone, dihydrochalone were in the range of 2-7% (Figure 64c). Triterpenoid (32%), sesquiterpenoid (23%), tetraterpenoid (20%), diterpenoid (14%) and monoterpenoid (11%) were the different sub-class of terpenoids identified and annotated in the JA treated callus (Figure 65c). Similar to the alkaloids in control and SA treated callus, benzylisoquinoline alkaloid (35%) was the predominant class in JA treated followed by indole alkaloid (14%). Quinoline alkaloid, benzophenanthridine alkaloid, tropane alkaloid, quinolizidine alkaloid, terpenoid alkaloid, purine alkaloid, indolizidine alkaloid, steroidal alkaloid, and amaryllidaceae alkaloid were present in the range of 2-13% (Figure 66c). Hydroxycinnamic acid accounted to 48% of the phenolic compounds annotated followed by coumarins with 33%; hydroxybenzoic acids and phenylpropanes with 9% and 10%, respectively in JA-treated callus cultures (Figure 67c).

The potential biological activities of the different classes of compounds *viz.*, flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, phenolic acids, and other compounds (steroids, vitamins and cofactors, anthroquinone, lignin etc.) identified in control callus cultures, SA-treated callus cultures and JA-treated callus cultures are listed in Supplementary Tables 23-39.



Figures 66 (a-c). Classification of alkaloids in (a) control, (b) SA-treated and (c) JA-treated callus cultures.

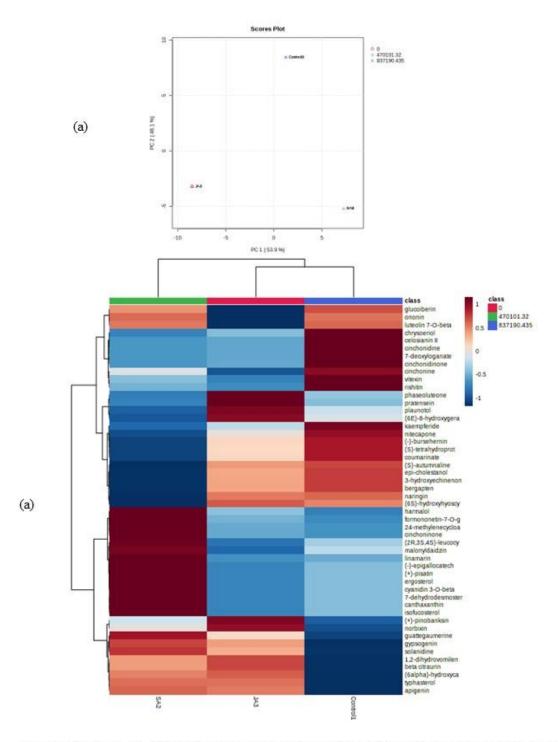


Figures 67 (a-c). Classification of phenolics in (a) control, (b) SA-treated and (c) JA-treated callus cultures.

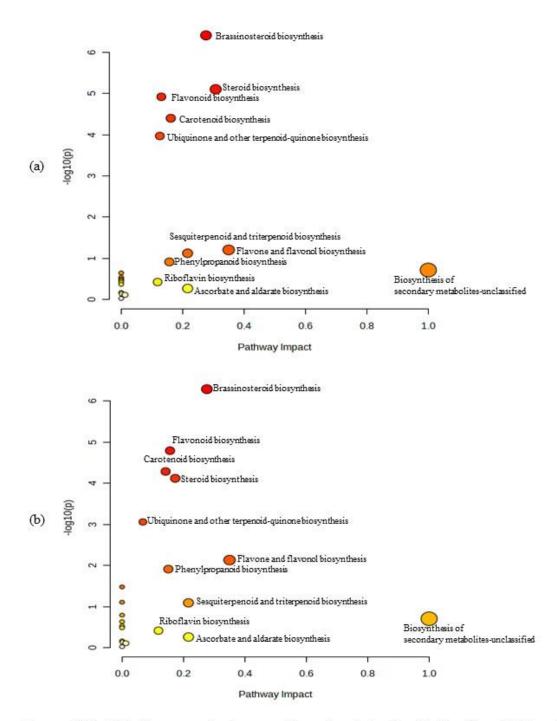
The principal component analysis (PCA) for LC-MS/MS data of the control callus, SA treated callus and JA treated callus was carried out in Metabo Analyst (Figure 68a). The PCA demonstrated that the metabolites profiles of control callus, SA treated callus and JA treated callus extracts were clearly distinct signifying the role of different elicitors in eliciting different types of metabolites. The principal component 1 (PC1) showed 53.9% variance and the principal component 2 (PC2) elucidated a further 46.1% variance. The hierarchical clustering analysis (HCA) heat map of the samples revealed a distinct pattern with regard to the abundance of the compounds of the top 50 compounds annotated in each of the extracts (Figure 68b).

The metabolites pathway analysis was performed on known metabolites by using the pathway libraries of *Arabidopsis thaliana* to associate the biological functions of identified metabolites in SA and JA treated callus cultures to different pathways (Figures 69a & b). The plots depict various metabolic pathway alterations induced by SA and JA treatments in comparison to control callus. The most significantly enriched pathways were characterized by high-log (p) value and pathway impact. In both SA and JA treated callus cultures metabolites, 21 different pathways were identified. Brassinosteroids biosynthesis, steroids biosynthesis, flavonoid biosynthesis, carotenoid biosynthesis, ubiquinone and other terpenoid-quinone biosynthesis, and phenylpropanoid biosynthesis pathways were more affected in both SA and JA treated callus cultures. Most of the components of steroid biosynthesis and ubiquinone synthesis were found to be more enriched in SA treated callus as compared to JA treated callus cultures.

Results



Figures 68 (a & b). Principal component analysis (PCA) and Hierarchical clustering results of secondary metabolites in treated and control callus cultures. (a) PCA-Scores plot of the secondary metabolites in leaves derived callus, SA-treated callus and JA-treated callus. The variances are shown in brackets. (b) Hierarchical clustering results of metabolites (top 50 shown as heatmap (distance measured using euclidean, and clustering algorithm using ward. D).



Figures 69 (a & b). Summary of pathway enrichment analysis of metabolites from (a) SA and (b) JA treated callus extract. The x-axis represents the pathway impact value computed from pathway topological analysis, and the y-axis is the-log of the P-value obtained from pathway enrichment analysis.

4.7. De novo transcriptome analysis of control and treated callus cultures

De novo transcriptome assembly is a useful approach in analyzing differentially expressed genes in non-model species where whole genome information is meagre or unavailable. As the genome of G. moluccana is not sequenced, RNA sequencing was executed to classify the differentially expressed transcripts in leaves, leaves derived callus (control) and leaves derived callus cultures treated with SA and JA. A total of four sequencing libraries were constructed each consisting of 5.7 Gb data. The sequences (raw data) obtained has been uploaded to National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) website with ID as PRJNA1010650. The average base quality is above Q20 for 95.23% of bases. A total of 37,379,166 raw reads were obtained for leaves, 37,885,176 raw reads were obtained for leaves-derived callus (control), 39,896,956 raw reads for SA treated callus and 38,423,972 raw reads for JA treated callus cultures (Table 9). After filtering and trimming these raw reads, 36,610,058 clean reads were obtained for leaves, 37,263,180 clean reads were obtained for leaves-derived callus (control), 30,435,498 clean reads for SA and 37,764,748 clean reads for JA (Table 9). High-quality reads from these samples were combined and provided to transcriptome assembler program Trinity 2.8.4. A total of 171,971 total trinity transcripts (isoforms) and trinity unigenes of 77,522 was generated with an average contig length of 1578.49 bp and 925.37 bp and N50 of 2,882 and 2,118 for isoform and unigenes, respectively. An overview of the assembled sequences is shown in Table 10. The assemblage of transcripts revealed distribution of the transcripts from 200 bp to >5000 bp for unigenes and isoforms. A higher number of transcripts for isoforms were distributed between 2000 bp to 5000 bp while for unigenes they were distributed between 200 to 300 bp. Large number of transcripts for both unigenes and their isoforms contained nearly 30-45% of GC content and nearly 8000 transcripts for isoforms and 3000 transcripts for unigenes contained 35-40% GC content (Figures 70a & b). The transcriptome data generated was of fine quality and found suitable for further annotation.

Gene expression estimation of the assembled data was carried by Kallisto 0.46.0. The top BLASTX hits were filtered out depending on query coverage, identity and similarity score, and gene descriptions using E-value cut off value of 10^{-3} . Out of 77,522 unigenes, 35,128 unigenes with best hit BLASTX match were generated (Table 11). The gene ontology (OG) assignment categorized the annotated unigenes to three key GO categories namely biological processes (BP: 29008 unigenes; 31.16%), molecular function (MF: 37100 unigenes; 39:85%) and cellular

Table 9. Summary of Illumina sequencing quality statistics of leaves, control and treated callus cultures

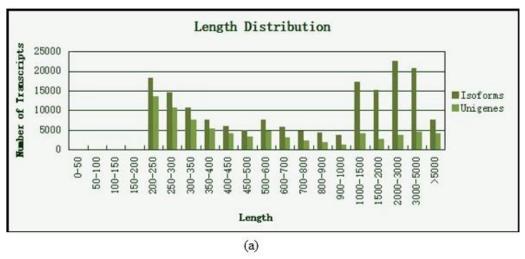
Samples	Raw reads	No. of bases	Clean	No. of	GC %	Q30
used		(GB)	reads	Bases (GB)		
Leaves	37,379,166	5,607	36,610,058	5,417.01	45.17	90.9
Control	37,885,176	5,683	37,263,180	5,522.78	47.25	88.56
SA treated	39,896,956	5,985	30,435,498	4,507.31	48.01	88.32
JA treated	38,423,972	5,764	37,764,748	5,586.54	49.59	89.68

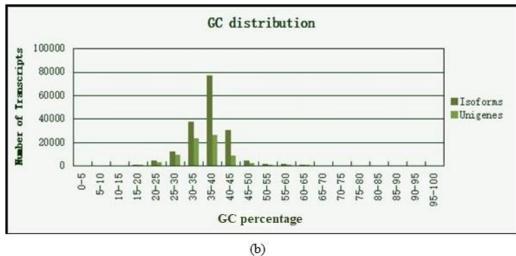
Table 10. Comprehensive *de novo* transcriptome assembled statistics of leaves, control and treated callus cultures

Trinity Assembly statistics	Numbers
Total trinity transcript	171,971
Total trinity unigenes	77,522
Contig N50	2,882
Contig N50 (unigene)	2,118
Median contig length	933
Median contig length (unigene)	403
Average contig length	1578.49
Average contig length (unigene)	925.37
Total assembled bases	271,454,489
Total assembled bases (unigene)	71,736,894
Mean GC% of transcripts	37.83
Mean GC% of transcripts (unigene)	36.25

Table 11. Summary of transcriptome data of leaves, control and treated callus cultures

Program used	Blastx	
Database used	Ref seq Plant	
Annotated transcripts	35,128	
e-value cut off	<=0.001	
Gene-ontology-biological processes	29008	
Gene-ontology-cellular components	26957	
Gene-ontology-molecular functions	37100	





Figures 70 (a & b). (a) Length distribution of isoforms and unigene transcripts from leaves, leaves-derived callus, SA-treated and JA-treated callus cultures (b) GC distribution of isoforms and unigenes transcripts from leaves, leaves-derived callus, SA-treated and JA-treated callus cultures.

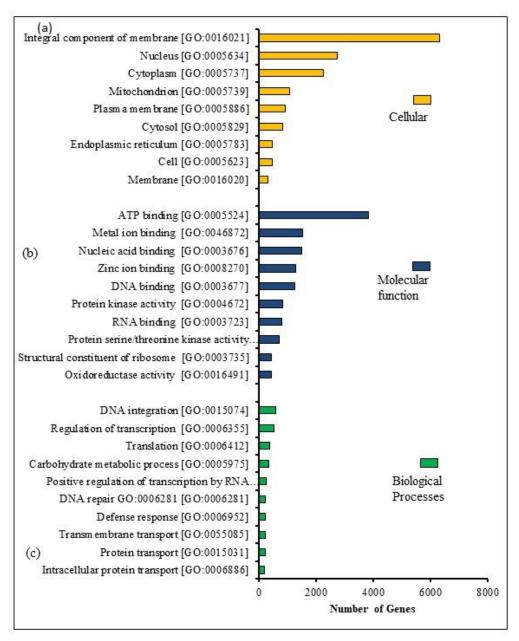
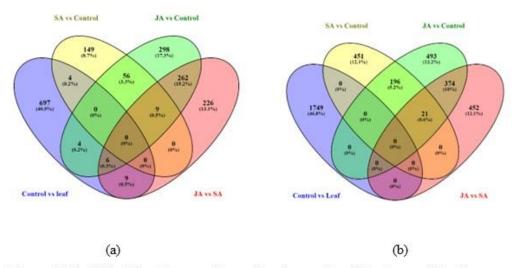
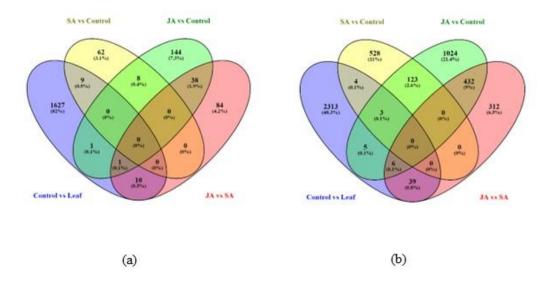


Figure 71. The gene ontology (GO) terms for unigenes (a) Biological processes, (b) Molecular function and (c) Cellular component.



Figures 72 (a & b). Venn diagram of upregulated transcripts (a) unigenes (b) isoforms. in different samples analyzed.



Figures 73 (a & b). Venn diagram of downregulated transcripts (a) unigenes (b) isoforms in different samples analyzed.

component (CC: 26957; 28.97%) (Figures 71a-c). In biological function, the major enriched functional groups were DNA integration, regulation of transcription, translation and carbohydrates metabolic processes with 592, 528, 393 and 357 unigenes, respectively. The integral components of the membrane (6315), nucleus (2753), cytoplasm (2263) and mitochondria (1079) were the dominant category in cellular component. The molecular function category consisted of ATP binding (3849), metal ion binding (1537), nucleic acid binding (1492), zinc ion binding (1278) and DNA binding (Figure 71).

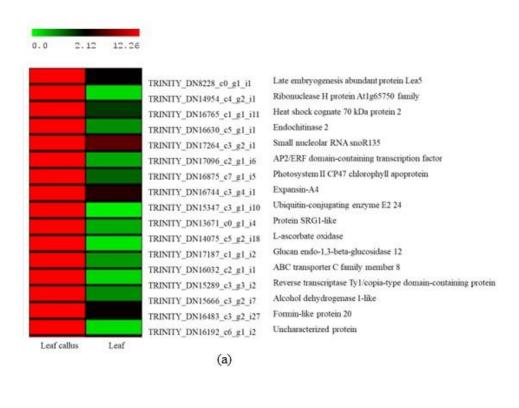
The venn diagram depicts the shared and unique transcripts and isoforms in upregulated and downregulated between the four groups namely, leaves-derived callus (control) vs. leaves, SA treated vs. callus control, JA treated control vs. callus, SA treated callus vs. JA treated callus (Figures 72 a-b & 73 a-b). The number of upregulated transcripts were found to be 5002 transcripts out of which 1040 were unigenes and 3962 were isoforms. Of these, 683 (65.7%) unigenes and 1486 (37.5%) isoforms were unique to leaves-derived callus vs. leaves, 67 (6.4%) unigenes and 512 (12.9%) isoforms were found only in SA treated vs. control callus, 131 (12.6%) unigenes and 913 (23%) isoforms were only present in JA vs. control callus, 85 (8.2%) unigenes and 329 (8.3%) isoforms were unique to JA vs. SA treated callus cultures. There were no common transcripts among the four groups. Out of 2356 unigenes and 4010 isoforms downregulated, 1333 unigenes (56.65%) and 2023 (50.4%) isoforms were unique to leaves derived callus vs. leaves, 176 (7.5%) unigenes and 400 (10%) isoforms downregulated were unique to JA-treated vs. control callus, 118 (5%) unigenes and 371 (9.3%) isoforms downregulated were unique to SA treated vs. control callus, while 199 (8.4%) unigenes and 420 (10.5%) isoforms downregulated were unique to JA vs. SA treated callus. Only one downregulated unigene and 4 isoforms were common to all four groups.

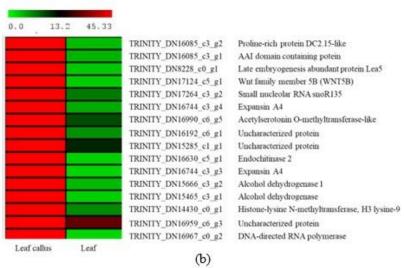
4.7.1. Transcriptomic changes associated with callus formation from leaves explants

The differentially expressed unigenes/isoforms between leaves and leaves-derived callus with p-value cutoff 0.05 are mentioned in Table 11. The clustered heat maps of highly upregulated unigenes/isoforms in leaves-derived callus in comparison to leaves are shown in Figures 74a & b, 75a & b. There were 6488 differentially expressed genes between leaves and callus which were primarily involved in cell division, plant hormone signaling pathways, plants stress response and plant-pathogen interactions. Out of 6488 DEGs, 2469 were upregulated and 4019 were downregulated. The top upregulated genes in callus include stress related genes such

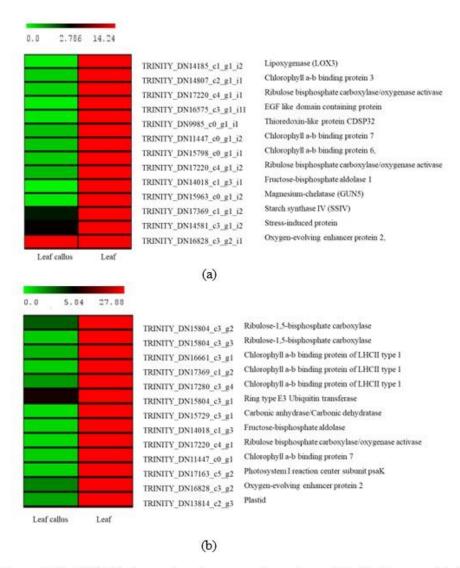
Table 12. Overview of differentially expressed genes (DEGs) among different samples

Sl. No.	Samples	Unregulated	Downregulated
1	SA treated vs. Control (Unigenes)	218	79
2	SA treated vs. Control (Isoforms)	668	658
3	JA treated vs. Control (Unigenes)	635	192
4	JA treated vs. Control (Isoforms)	1,084	1,593
5	JA treated vs. SA treated (Unigenes)	512	133
6	JA treated vs. SA treated (Isoforms)	847	789
7	Control vs. Leaves (Unigenes)	720	1,649
8	Control vs. Leaves (Isoforms)	1,749	2,370





Figures 74 (a & b). Heat map showing the expression pattern of highly upregulated genes in leaves-derived callus cultures in comparison to leaves. (a) Isoform and (b) Transcripts.

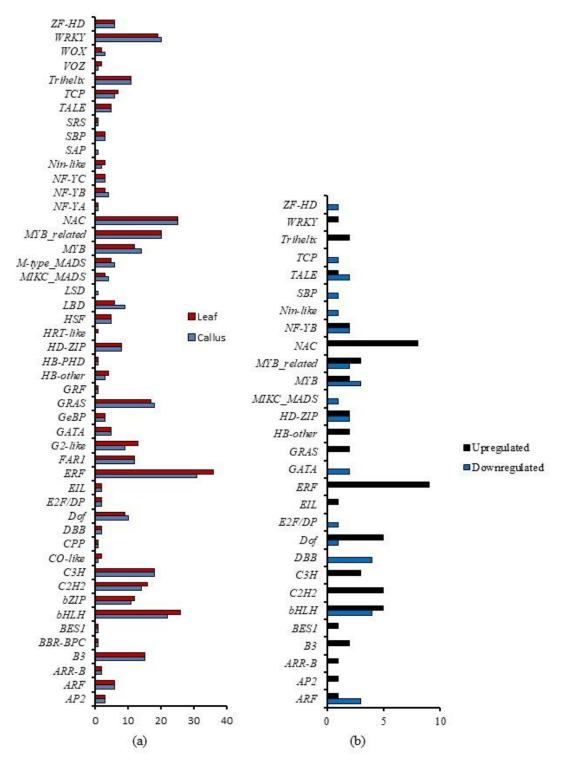


Figures 75 (a & b). Heat map showing expression pattern of highly downregulated genes in leaf-derived callus as compared to leaves. (a) Isoform and (b) Transcripts.

as proline-rich protein, alcohol dehydrogenase, and expansin (cell wall protein) which are involved in wound healing process and cold stress, AAI domain containing protein, late embryogenesis abundant protein (lea5) take part during callus formation, signaling protein like WNT family protein, acetylserotonin-o-methyl transferase which are involved in biosynthesis of important metabolites, pathogenesis-related protein such as endochitinase, heat shock protein, transcription factors AP2/EFR domain containing transcription factor and ABC transporter C family. The most downregulated genes in callus were lipoxygenase (LOX3), ribulose bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase activase, EGF like domain containing protein, thioredoxin-like protein CDSP32, stress-induced protein, chlorophyll a-b binding protein of LHCII type 1, ring type E3 ubiquitin transferase, carbonic anhydrase, fructose-bisphosphate aldolase, oxygenevolving enhancer protein 2, starch synthase IV (SSIV) and magnesium-chelatase (GUN5).

The callus formation is governed by several genes some of which were identified and were upregulated in leaves derived callus such as auxin response factor (ARF), AP2/ERF domain-containing transcription factor, CYCLIN (CYC) and CYCLIN-DEPENDENT KINASES (CDK). ARF induce auxin signaling, which in turn activate the expression of two very crucial transcription factors, LATERAL ORGAN BOUNDARIES DOMAIN (LBD) and E2F TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR a (E2Fa) (Fan *et al.*, 2012), AP2/ERF domain-containing transcription factor is crucial for orchestrating the cellular reprogramming that occurs in response to wounds in plants. It achieves this by augmenting ENHANCER OF SHOOT REGENERATION1 (ESR1) gene expression, which further codes for AP2/ERF transcription factor, in the model plant species *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Iwase *et al.*, 2017). CYCLIN (CYC) and CYCLIN-DEPENDENT KINASES (CDK) are cell cycle regulators which trigger the process of callus development and the regeneration of organs by reactivating (Cheng *et al.*, 2015.)

Several transcription factors involved in various mechanisms were identified in both leaves and callus through plant transcription factor database. Between the leaves and callus, 714 transcripts encoding transcription factors were identified, which were classified into 49 families (Figure 76a). The highest number of transcripts belonged to *ERF* (Ethylene response factor), *NAC* (NAC domain protein), *bHLH* (basic/helix-loop-helix), *WRKY* (WRKY-type DNA binding protein), *GRAS* (Gibberellin-insensitive (GAI), *C3H* (Cys3His zinc finger protein), *MYB* related (myeloblastosis DNA-binding related protein). *SAP* (STERILE APETALA) and *LSD* (Lesion

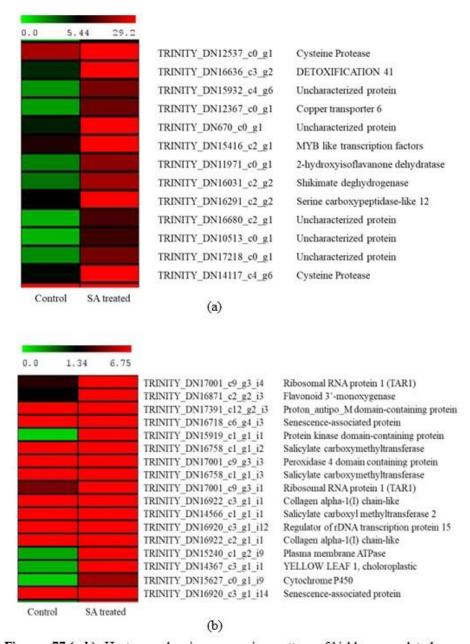


Figures 76 (a & b). Transcription factors identified and their expression pattern in leaves and leavesderived callus. (a) Transcription factors identied in the samples and (b) Expression pattern of TF in leaves and leaves-derived callus.

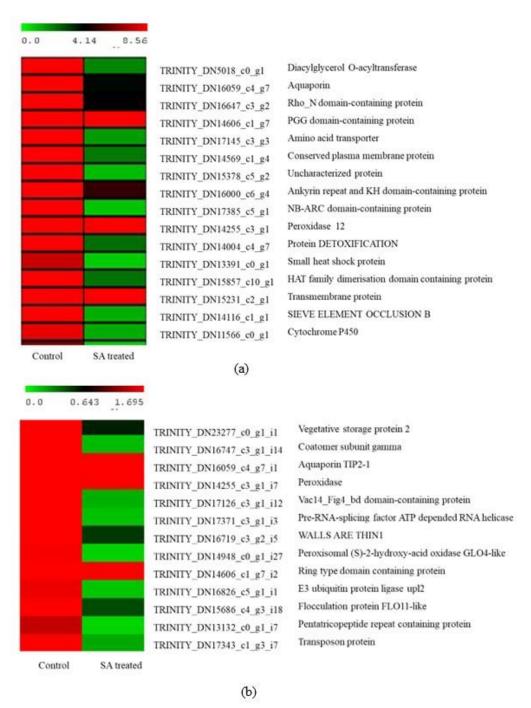
simulating disease) transcription factors were only identified in callus while *HRT*-like transcription factor was only identified in leaves. Out of the 49 families of TF identified, 29 were differentially expressed. The most abundant transcripts of TF that were upregulated included ERF and *NAC* in leaves-derived callus in comparison to leaves while the most abundant downregulated were *DBB* and *bHLH* transcription factors (Figure 76b).

4.7.2. Transcriptome analysis revealed differentially expressed genes in JA-treated and SA-treated callus cultures

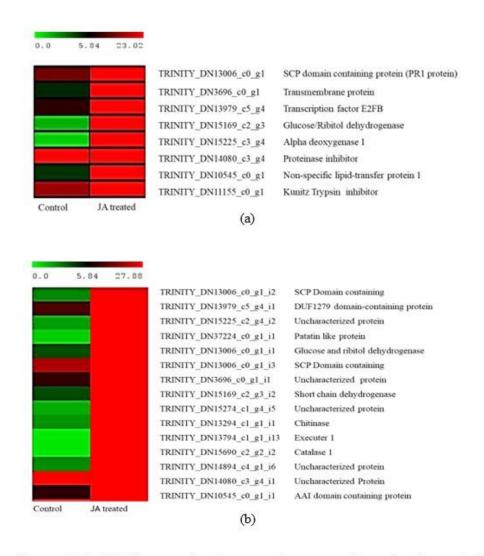
To identify DEGs among three different samples, comparisons were made between each set of transcriptome data. Transcript abundance and counts were estimated using Kallisto and cross sample normalized TPM/TMM (Transcripts Per Million transcripts) values were obtained. The counts were used to perform differential expression with edgeR. Differentially expressed unigenes/isoforms with p-value cutoff 0.05 are mentioned in Table 12. There were 1623 differentially expressed genes between SA treated and control callus cultures which were primarily involved in biosynthetic pathways, plant hormone signaling pathways, plants stress response, plant-pathogen interactions. Out of 1623 DEGs, 886 were upregulated and 737 were downregulated in SA treated callus cultures. The clustered heat maps of top up regulated and down regulated unigenes and isoforms of SA treated callus in comparison to control callus are shown in Figures 77 a & b, 78a & b. The top upregulated genes in SA treated cultures consisted of genes associated with phenylpropanoid pathway namely 2-hydroxyisoflavanone dehydratase, flavonoid 3'-monoxygenase, and shikimate pathway such as shikimate dehydrogenase, signaling transduction proteins such as cysteine protease, serine carboxypeptidase-like 12, senescenceassociated protein, salicylate carboxymethyltransferase YELLOW LEAF, stress response protein such as peroxidase 4, Cytochrome P450, MYB transcription factor, transmembrane protein such as proton_antipo_M domain-containing protein (AQP/TIP), copper transporter, plasma membrane ATPase (Figures 78a & b). The top downregulated genes in SA treatment included membrane proteins like amino acid transporter, conserved plasma membrane protein aquraporin/tonoplast intrinsic protein, transmembrane protein, SIEVE ELEMENT OCCLUSION B, stress response protein such as peroxidase 12, cytochrome P450, protein DETOXIFICATION, small heat shock protein, diacylglycerol-o-acyltransferase, signaling preotein such as Rho-N-domain containing protein, ankyrin repeat and KH domain containing



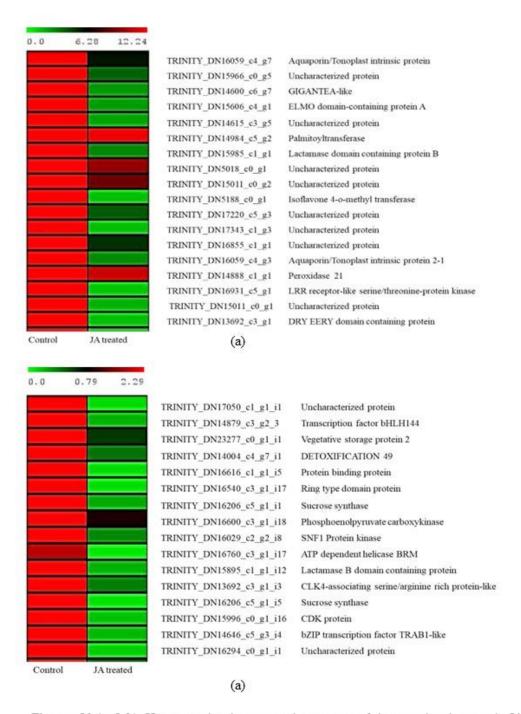
Figures 77 (a-b). Heat map showing expression pattern of highly upregulated genes in SA-treated callus in comparison to control (untreated) callus. (a) Transcript and (b) Isoform.



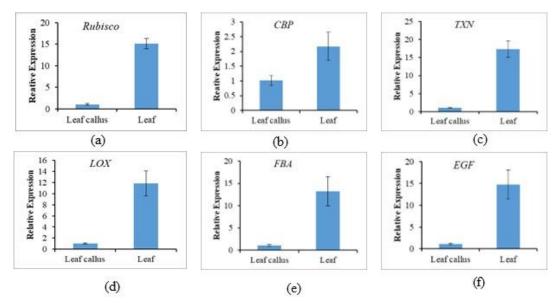
Figures 78 (a-b). Heat map showing the expression pattern of highly downregulated genes expression SA treated callus in comparison to control (untreated) callus. (a) Transcripts and (b) Isoforms.



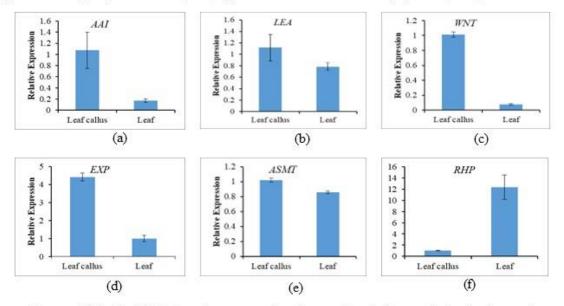
Figures 79 (a & b). Heat map showing expression pattern of upregulated genes in JA treated callus in comparison to control callus. (a) Transcripts and (b) Isoforms.



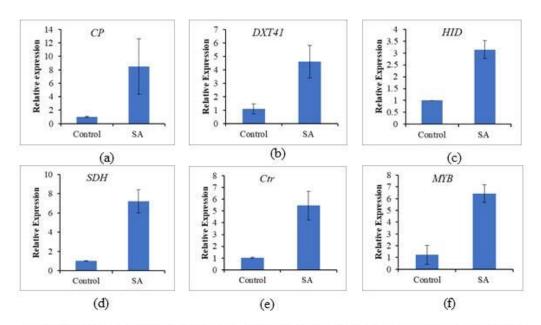
Figures 80 (a & b). Heat map showing expression pattern of downregulated genes in JA treated callus in comparison to control callus. (a) Transcripts and (b) Isoforms.



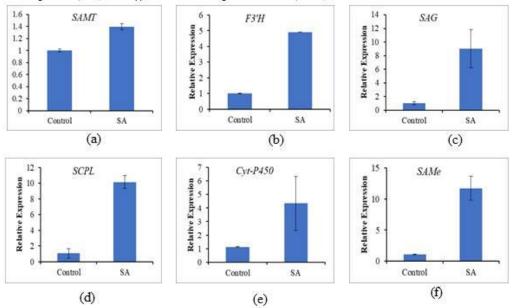
Figures 81 (a-f). Validation of top downregulated transcripts in leaves derived callus cultures in comparison to leaves (a) Ribulose-1, 5-bisphosphate carboxylase (Rubisco) (b) Chlorophyll a-b binding protein of LHCII type-1(CBP-LHCII) (c) Thioredoxin (TRX/TXN) (d) Lipoxygenase (LOX) (e) Fructose-bisphosphate aldose (FBA) (d) EGF like domain containing protein (EGF)



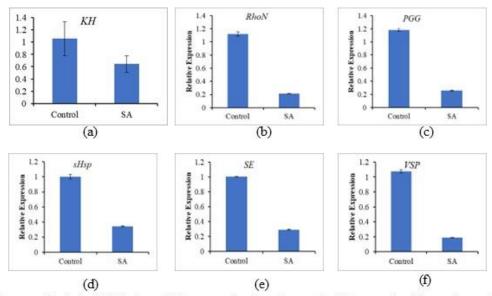
Figures 82 (a-f). Validation of top upregulated transcripts in leaves derived callus and leaves. (a) Alpha amylase inhibitor domain containing protein (AAI), (b) Late embryogenesis abundant protein (LEA), (c) WNT family member (WNT), (d) Expansin (EXP), (e) Acetylserotonin O-methyl transferase (ASMT) and (d) Ethylene responsive transcription factor (ERF).



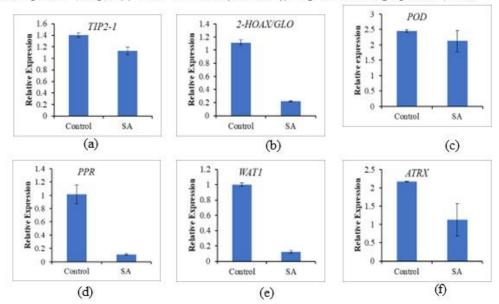
Figures 83 (a-f). Validation of upregulated unigenes in SA-treated callus in comparison to control callus. (a) Cysteine Protease (CP), (b) DETOXIFICATION 41 (DXT41), (c) 2-hydroxyisoflavone dehydratase (HID), (d) Shikimate dehydrogenase (SDH), (e) Copper transporter (Ctr) and (f) MYB transcription factor (MYB)



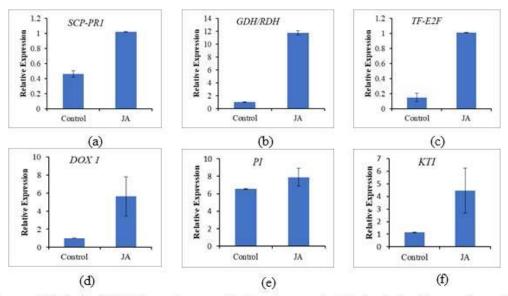
Figures 84 (a-f). Validation of upregulated isoforms in SA treated callus in comparison to control callus (a) Salicylate carboxymethyltransferase (SAMT), (b) Flavonoid 3'-monoxygenase (F3'H), (c) Senescence-associated protein (SAG), (d) Serine carboxypeptidase-like (SCPL), (e) Cytochrome P450 (Cyt-P450) and (f) S-Adenosyl methionine (SAMe).



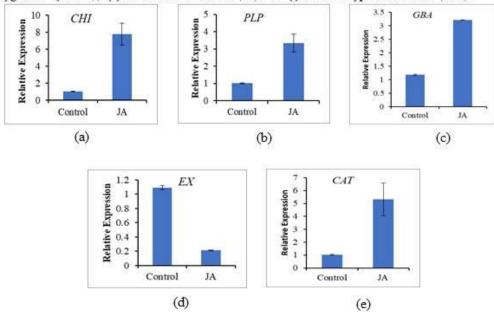
Figures 85 (a-f). Validation of downregulated unigenes in SA treated callus cultures in comparison to control callus. (a) KH domain containing protein (KH), (b) Rho N domain containing protein (RhoN), (c) PGG domain containing protein, (PGG), (d) Small heat shock protein (sHsp), (e) Sieve elements (SE) and (f) Vegetative storage protein (VSP).



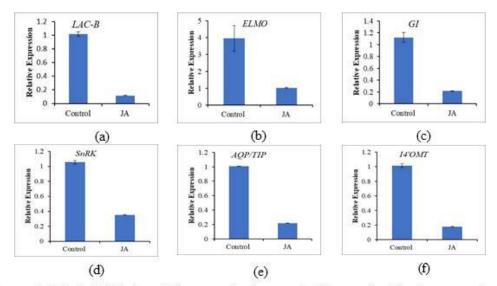
Figures 86 (a-f). Validation of downregulated isoforms in SA treated callus cultures in comparison to control callus. (a) Tonoplast intrinsic protein (TIP2-1), (b) Peroxisomal (S)-2-hydroxy-acid oxidase (2-HOAX/GLO), (c) Peroxidase (POD), (d) Pentatricopeptide repeat containing protein (PPR), (e) WALLS ARE THIN1 (WAT1) and (f) ATP-dependent RNA Helicase (ATRX).



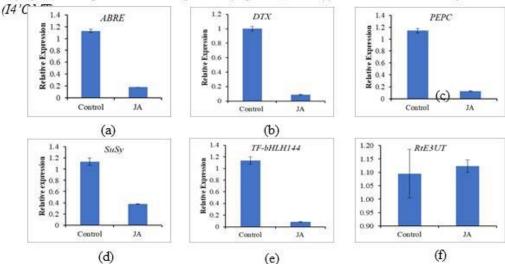
Figures 87 (a-f). Validation of upregulated unigenes in JA treated callus cultures in comparison to control callus. (a) Pathogenesis related (SCP-PRI), (b) Glucose/Ribitol dehydrogenase (GDH/RDH), (c) Transcription factor Elongation factor (TF-E2F), (d) Alphadioxygenase (DOXI), (e) Proteinase inhibitor (PI) and (f) Kunitz trypsin inhibitor (KTI).



Figures 88 (a-e). Validation of upregulated isoforms in JA treated callus cultures in comparison to control callus. (a) Chitinase (CHI), (b) Patatin like protein (PLP), (c) beta-glucosidase (GBA), (d) Executer (EX) and (e) Catalase (CAT).



Figures 89 (a-f). Validation of downregulated genes in JA-treated callus in comparison to control callus. (a) Lactamase domain containing protein B (LAC-B), (b) ELMO domain-containing protein A (ELMO), (c) GIGANTEA (GI), (d) SNF1 protein kinase (SnRK), (e) Aquaporin/Tonoplastic intrinsic protein (AQP/TIP) and (f) Isoflavone 4-O-methyl transferase



Figures 90 (a-f). Validation of downregulated isoform(a) in JA-treated callus in comparison to control callus. (a) Abscisic acid responsive elements (ABRE), (b) DETOXIFICATION (DTX), (c) Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase (PEPC), (d) Sucrose synthase (SuSy), (e) Transcription factor (bHLH144) and (f) Ring type domain containing protein/E3 Ubiquitin protein ligase(RtE3UT)

protein, NB-ARC domain-containing protein, HAT family dimerisation domain containing protein (Figures 78a & b).

In JA treated callus cultures, 3504 differentially expressed genes were identified out of which 1719 were upregulated and 1785 were downregulated (Table 12). The top upregulated genes in JA treated callus cultures included SCP domain containing protein (PR1 protein), transmembrane protein, transcription factor *E2FB*, glucose/ribitol dehydrogenase, alpha deoxygenase 1, proteinase inhibitor, non-specific lipid-transfer protein 1, kunitz trypsin inhibitor, patatin like protein, short chain dehydrogenase, chitinase, executer 1, catalase 1, AAI domain containing protein that take part in signaling and plant oxidative stress response (Figures 79a & b). The downregulated genes in JA treated callus cultures consisted of aquaporin/tonoplast intrinsic protein, ELMO domain-containing protein A, palmitoyltransferase, GIGANTEA-like, lactamase domain containing protein B, S-adenosyl methionine, peroxidase 21, LRR receptor-like serine/threonine-protein kinase, DRY EERY domain containing protein, transcription factor bHLH144, vegetative storage protein 2, DETOXIFICATION 49, protein binding protein, ring type domain protein, sucrose synthase, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase, SNF1 protein kinase, ATP dependent helicase BRM, CLK4-associating serine/arginine rich protein-like, CDK protein, bZIP transcription factor TRAB1-like (Figures 79a & b, 80a & b).

4.7.2.1. Validation of DEGs by quantitative real time PCR (qRT-PCR)

To affirm and validate the accuracy and consistency of the transcriptome analysis data, 11-12 genes each of the top upregulated and top downregulated transcripts and isoforms from leaves, leaves derived callus, SA treated callus, and JA treated callus were selected for qRT-PCR. The result of each validated genes are illustrated in Figures 81a-f, 82a-f, 83a-f, 84a-f, 85a-f, 86a-e, 87a-f, 88-90. The relative expression of each selected genes were consistent with the result generated in transcriptome analysis. The results obtained therefore were reliable and would be expedient for future studies involving the phenylpropanoid, flavonoid, terpenoid and other secondary metabolite biosynthesis studies. The transcriptome analysis and qRT-PCR thus helped in understanding the gene expression changes induced by JA and SA and the putative functions of the differentially expressed genes in comparison to control callus cultures.

4.7.2.2. Pathway enrichment analysis

The transcript sequences of differentially expressed genes in SA and JA treated callus culture were entered into kobas server, where it carries out gene set enrichment analysis using the hypergeometric test and generates plot using *Ricinus communis* and *Jatropha curcas* as the

reference organism. In SA treatment, pathway enrichment analysis resulted in 8 clusters. In SA, cluster 1(C1) comprised of three biosynthesis pathways namely, flavonoid biosynthesis pathway, biosynthesis of secondary metabolites, and metabolic pathway. Flavonoid biosynthetic pathway was significantly enriched. The cluster 2 (C2) comprised of two biosynthetic pathways namely biosynthesis of secondary metabolites (unclassified) and ubiquinone and other terpenoid-quinone biosynthesis. The cluster 3 (C3) comprised of linoleic acid metabolism and alpha linolenic acid metabolism. Cluster 4 (C4) comprised of taurine and hypotaurine metabolism, butanoate metabolism, alanine, aspartate, glutamine metabolism, and beta-alanine metabolism. Cluster 5 (C5) consisted of autophage and mRNA survellence pathway. Cluster 6 (C6) consisted of MAPK signaling, plant-pathogen interactions and plant-hormone signal transduction. Cluster 7 (C7) consisted of propanoate metabolism and valine, leucine, and isoleucine degradation. Cluster 8 (C8) included other biosynthesis and metabolism such as monoterpenoid biosynthesis, photosynthesis-antenna proteins, stilbenoid, diarylheptanoid and gingerol biosynthesis, phenylpropanoid biosynthesis, and ether lipid metabolism (Figure 91).

In JA treatment, the pathway enrichment showed 8 clusters. The cluster 1(C1) comprised of three biosynthesis pathways namely, phenylpropanoid biosynthesis pathway, biosynthesis of secondary metabolites, and metabolic pathways. The cluster 2 (C2) comprised of two biosynthetic pathway namely biosynthesis of secondary metabolites (unclassified), stilbenoid, diarylheptanoid and gingerol biosynthesis and flavonoid biosynthesis. The cluster 3 (C3) comprised of linoleic acid metabolism and alpha linolenic acid metabolism. Cluster 4 (C4) comprised of ether lipid metabolism, glycerophospholipid metabolism, and endocytosis. Cluster 5 (C5) consisted of isoquinoline alkaloid biosynthesis, ubiquinone and other terpenoid-quinone biosynthesis, phenylalanine metabolism, tyrosine metabolism, tropane, piperidine and pyridine alkaloid biosynthesis. Cluster 6 (C6) consisted of alanine, aspartate and glutamate metabolism, glyoxylate and dicarboxylate metabolism, peroxisome, glycine, serine, threonine metabolism, carbon metabolism. Cluster 7 (C7) consisted of non-homologous end-joining and homologous recombination. Cluster 8 (C8) included flavone and flavonol biosynthesis, monoterpenoid biosynthesis, isoflavonoid biosynthesis, photosynthesis, glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchor biosynthesis (Figure 92).

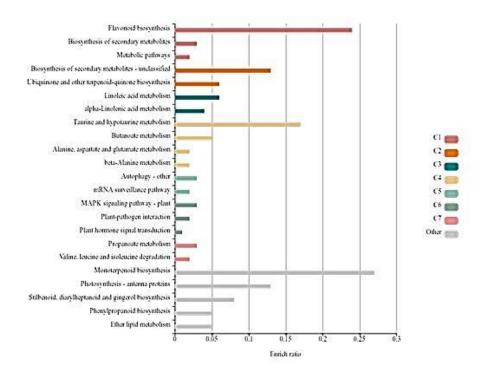


Figure 91. Pathway enrichment analysis of the differentially expressed genes in SA treated callus cultures in comparison to control callus.

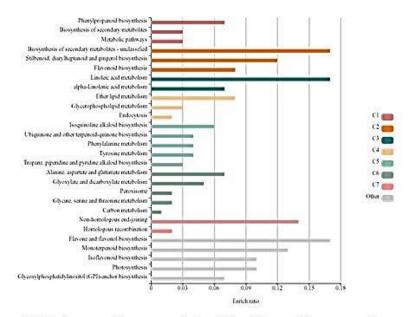


Figure 92. Pathway enrichment analysis of the differentially expressed genes in JA treated callus cultures in comparison to control callus.

4.7.3. Identification of transcription factors (TFs) and their expression pattern in JA-treated and SA-treated callus cultures

Several transcription factors involved in various mechanisms were identified in both control callus and treated callus. Herein, 1062 transcripts encoding transcription factors were identified in control, SA and JA treated callus and were classified into 50 families (Figure 93). The TFs with the highest family belonged to ERF (ethylene-responsive factor), bHLH (basic/helix-loop-helix), NAC (NAC domain protein), WRKY (WRKY-type DNA binding protein), GRAS (Gibberellin-insensitive (GAI), C3H (Cys3His zinc finger protein), C2H2 (C2H2 zinc-finger protein), MYB (myeloblastosis DNA-binding protein), MYB related (myeloblastosis DNA-binding related protein) and B3 (B3 DNA binding domain). LYF transcription factor was found specifically in JA treated callus while SAP was found only in control and SA treated callus. On the other hand, LSD was found only in control and JA treated callus. Of the 699 TFs, 29 belonging to 12 families were differentially expressed between SA and control callus. WRKY, MYB related and bHLH were found to be the largest DEGs. The most abundant upregulated transcripts in SA treated callus were WRKY, and MYB related whereas bHLH was the most abundant downregulated (Figure 94a). Out of 716 TFs between control and JA, 81 transcripts belonging to 31 families were differentially expressed. The upregulated TFs with the most abundant transcripts belonged to WRKY and ERF, while most abundantly downregulated TFs belong to ERF, bHLH and B3 (Figure 94b).

4.7.4. Expression profile of putative genes involved in phenylpropanoid and flavonoid biosynthesis pathway during SA and JA treatment

Phenylpropanoid pathway is very crucial for the biosynthesis of a diverse array of secondary metabolites such as flavonoids, phenolic acids, coumarins and lignins. In this study, several genes pertaining to phenylpropanoid pathway were observed to be differentially expressed such as phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL), trans-cinnamate 4-monooxygenase (C4H), 4-coumarate-CoA ligase (4CL), shikimate-o-hydrooxycinnamoyltransferase (HCT), 5-o-(4-coumaroyl)-D-quinate 3'-monooxygenase (C3'H), caffeoylshikimate esterase (CSE), caffeoyl- CoA o-methyltransferase (CCoAOMT), ferulate-5-hydrolate (F5H), caffeic acid 3-o-methyltransferase (COMT), cinnamyl-alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD) (Figure 95). The genes such as PAL, C4H, C3'H, CCoAOMT were upregulated in both SA and JA treatments. PAL initiates the metabolism of phenylalanine to cinnamic acid, which constitutes the first step in the

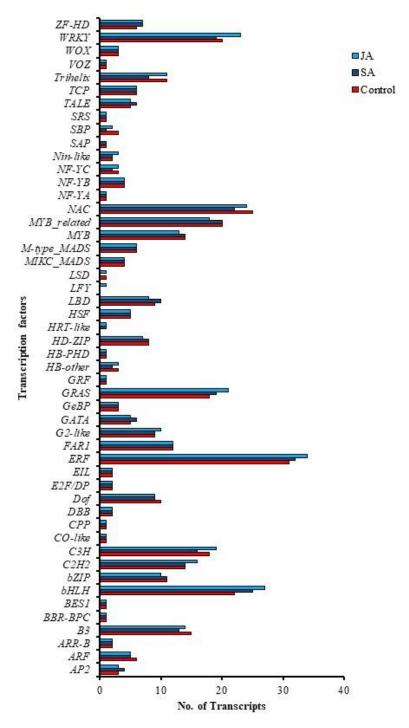
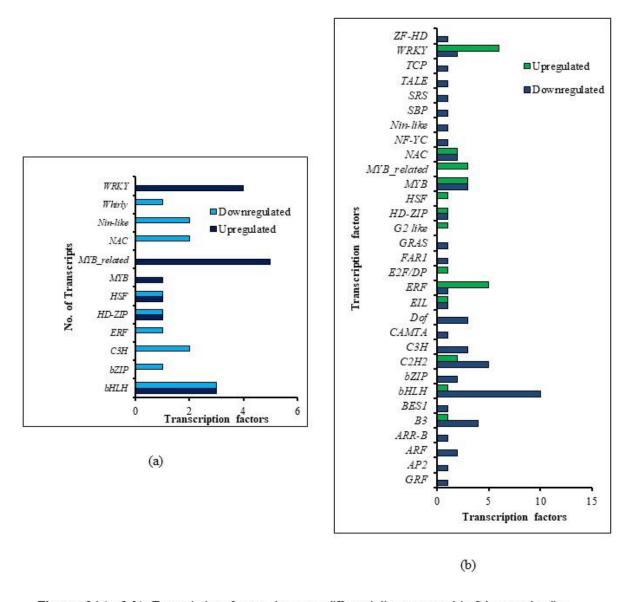


Figure 93. Various transcription factors identified in leaves-derived callus (control), SA-treated and JA-treated callus cultures.



Figures 94 (a & b). Transcription factors that were differentially expressed in SA-treated callus cultures and JA-treated callus cultures in comparison to control callus. (a) SA-treated callus cultures.

phenylpropanoid pathway. C4H stimulates the conversion of trans-cinnamate into p-coumarate, which is the first oxidative step of the phenylpropanoid pathway. C3'H catalyzes the conversion of 5-O-(4-coumaroyl)-D-quinate to caffeoyl-D-quinate, which is necessary for the biosynthesis of chlorogenic acids. CCoAOMT is involved in the methylation of caffeoyl-CoA to form feruloyl-CoA, an important step in the biosynthesis of lignin. CAD which is involved in biosynthesis of lignin was downregulated in JA treatment and *F5H* gene which is involved in the conversion of flavanone to dihydroflavonol was downregulated in SA treatment. Further, some of the transcripts of the genes such as *HCT*, *CSE*, *COMT*, and *4CL* which are involved in lignin biosynthesis were upregulated while some transcripts of the same genes were downregulated in both SA and JA treatments.

Ten putative genes pertaining to flavonoid biosynthesis pathway were differential expressed in SA and JA treated callus cultures (Figure 96). This includes chalcone synthase (CHS), chalcone isomerase (CHI), trans-cinnamate 4-monooxygenase (C4H), chalcone reductase (CHR), flavonoid 3'-monooxygenase (F3H), flavonone 4-reductase (FNR), flavonoid 3',5'hydroxylase (F3'5'H), anthocynidin synthase (ANS), anthocynidin reductase (ANR), leucoanthrocynidin reductase (LAR). CHS catalyzes the initial steps of flavonoid biosynthetic pathway, converting 4-coumaroyl-CoA and malonyl-CoA into naringenin chalcone. CHI also known as chalcone-flavanone isomerase (CFI) catalyzes the isomerization and reduction of chalcones into their corresponding flavonones. Flavonoid 3'-monooxygenase, also known as flavonoid 3'-hydroxylase (F3'H) and F3',5'H catalyzes the hydroxylation of the B-ring of flavonoids by attaching a hydroxyl (-OH) group to the carbon atom at the 3' and, 3' and 5' positions of the B-ring, respectively. This hydroxylation step is crucial for formation of different flavonoid compounds, such as quercetin and kaempferol. LAR or ANR that are known to catalyze the conversion of colored anthocyanidins to colorless leucoanthocyanidins were upregulated in SA and JA treatments. CHR, which catalyzes the reduction of chalcones into their corresponding flavonones, and ANS also known as leucoanthocyanidin dioxygenase (LDOX) which fuels the metabolism of colorless leucoanthocyanidins into colored anthocyanidins were downregulated in JA treatment. FNR enzyme is involved in the reduction of flavanones into their corresponding dihydroflavonols was downregulated in SA treatment. Four putative genes flavonoid 3',5'-hydroxylase (F3'5'H), flavonoid 3'-monooxygenase (F3H), flavonol-3-o-glucose L-rhamnosyltransferase (F3GLRT) and anthocyanidin 3-o-glucoslyteransferase (UGT79B1),

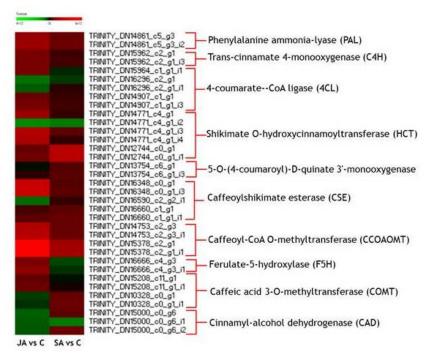


Figure 95. Heatmap diagram of expression patterns of genes involved in phenylpropanoid pathway in JA-treated, SA-treated in comparison to control callus cultures.

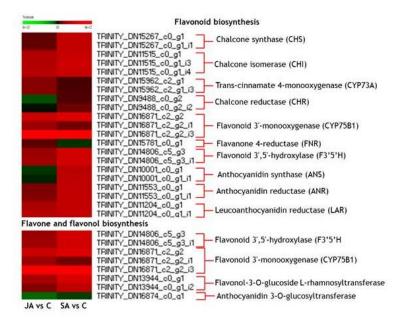


Figure 96. Heatmap diagram of expression patterns of differentially expressed genes involved in flavonoid, flavone and flavonol biosynthetic pathway in JA-treated, SA-treated in comparison to control callus.

involved in flavone and flavonol biosynthesis were identified which were also differentially expressed. All the four genes except anthocyanidin 3-o-glucoslyteransferase were upregulated in both SA and JA treatment. UGT79B1 which catalyze the transfer of glucose and L-rhamnose moieties to the 3-position of a flavonol molecule, typically quercetin, kaempferol, or myricetin were downregulated in both SA and JA treatments.

4.7.4. Expression profile of putative genes associated with terpenoid biosynthesis pathway in SA and JA treated callus cultures

Terpenoid biosynthesis pathway encompasses several enzymatic reactions and is divided into mevalonate (MVA) pathway that operates in cytosols and non-mevalonate pathway or the methylerythritol 4-phosphate (MEP) pathway which takes place in plastids. SA and JA treatments resulted in differential expression of the genes involved in both MVA and MEP pathway (Figures 97 & 98). Both the pathways contribute to the biosynthesis of wide range of terpenoids with diverse functions. Seven putative genes which are pertaining to MVA pathway were identified and differentially expressed namely acetyl-CoA C-acetyltransferase or acetoacetyl-CoA thiolase (AACT), 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzymeA synthase (HMGS), mevalonate kinase (MVK), phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK), diphosphomevalonate decarboxylase (MVD), isopentenyl-diphosphate delta-isomerase (IDI or IPP), farnesyl diphosphate synthase (FDPS) (Figure 97). Overall, the number of transcripts that encode enzymes involved in MVA pathway was mostly upregulated under JA treatment, while they are mostly downregulated in SA treatment. Genes such as AACT, HMGS, MVK, PMK, IDI and FDPS were upregulated while MVD gene which catalyzes a key step in the biosynthesis of isopentenyl diphosphate (IPP) and dimethylallyl diphosphate (DMAPP) was downregulated in JA treatment. AACT or thiolase-II catalyzes the formation of acetoacetyl-CoA by reversible condensation of two molecules of acetyl-CoA. HMGS fuels the condensation reaction between acetyl-CoA and acetoacetyl-CoA to form HMG-CoA (3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA) in MVA pathway. MVK facilitates the phosphorylation of mevalonic acid to form mevalonate-5phosphate. The primary function of PMK is to catalyze the phosphorylation of 5-phosphomevalonate, compound from mevalonic a derived acid, to form 5-diphosphomevalonate. IDI or IPP catalyze the interconversion of isopentenyl diphosphate (IPP) and its isomer, dimethylallyl diphosphate (DMAPP). FDPS stimulates the condensation of

isopentenyl diphosphate (IPP) and dimethylallyl diphosphate (DMAPP) to form farnesyl diphosphate (FPP). In SA treatment, several transcripts of the genes involved in MVA pathway such as *PMK*, *MVK*, *HMGS* and *AACT* were downregulated with the exception of few transcripts which were upregulated. Only transcripts encoding *MVD* were upregulated. *IDI* and *FDPS* genes were downregulated in SA treatment.

Genes pertaining to MEP pathway such as 1-deoxy-D-xylulose-5-phosphate synthase (*DXS*), 1-deoxy-D-xylulose-5-phosphate reductoisomerase (*DXR*), 2-C-methyl-D-erythritol 4-phosphate cytidylyltransferase (*MCT*), 4-diphosphocytidyl-2-C-methyl-D-erythritol kinase (*CMK*), 4-hydroxy-3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl diphosphate synthase (*HDS*), 4-hydroxy-3-methylbut-2-enyl diphosphate reductase (*HDR*), isopentenyl-diphosphate delta-isomerase (*IDI*), geranylgeranyl diphosphate synthase (*GGDPS*) were identified and differentially expressed in SA and JA treated callus culture as compared to control callus (Figure 99). Interestingly, majority of the transcripts encoding the genes involved in MEP pathway were upregulated in SA treatment and downregulated in JA treatment. *IDI*, *CMK* and *DXR* were the genes upregulated in both SA and JA treatments, while the transcripts of rest of the genes were both upregulated as well as downregulated.

Several genes involved in monoterpenoid, diterpenoid, triterpenoid, and sesquiterpenoid were identified (Figure 99). Neomenthol dehydrogenase (NMD) which is involved in the biosynthesis of neomenthol, a monoterpenoid was downregulated in JA treatment, while it was upregulated in SA treatment. Five genes involved in biosynthesis of diterpenoids were identified namely ent-copally diphosphate synthase (*CPSent*), ent-kaurene oxidase (*KO*), ent-kaurenoic acid monooxygenase (*KAO*), gibberellin-44 dioxygenase (*GA20ox*), gibberellin 2beta-dioxygenase (*GA20ax*). *CPSent*, *GA20ox*, *GA20x* were upregulated in JA treatment, while *KO* and most transcripts of *KAO* were downregulated in JA treatment. In SA treatment, *KO* and most transcripts of *CPSent* were upregulated while *GA20ox* and *KAO* were downregulated and some transcripts of *GA2ox* were both upregulated and downregulated. Five genes involved in triterpenoid and sesquiterpenoids were identified which includes farnesyl-diphosphate farnesyltransferase (*SQS*), squalene monooxygenase (*SM*), squalene epoxidase (*SE*), germacrene D synthase (*GDS*), beta-amyrin synthase (*BAS*). *SQS* and *GDS* were upregulated in JA treatment, and *SE* was downregulated in JA treatment. *BAS* was downregulated in both SA and JA

Mevalonate (MVA) Pathway

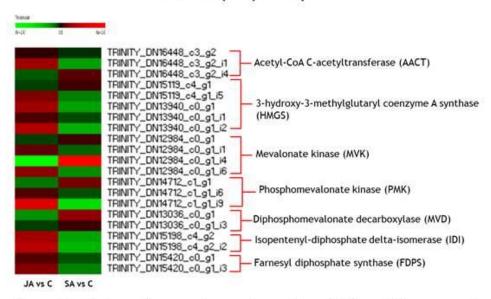


Figure 97. Heatmap diagram of expression pattern of differentially expressed genes involved in MVA pathway in JA-treated, SA-treated and control callus.

Methylerythritoil 4-phosphate (MEP) Pathway

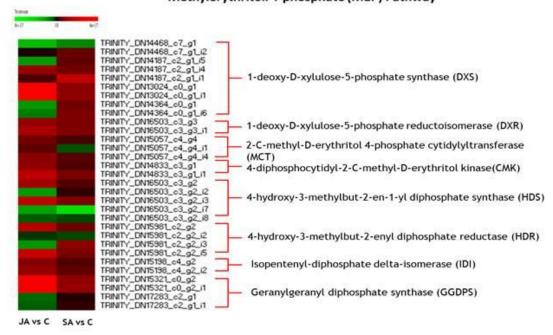


Figure 98. Heatmap diagram of expression pattern of differentially expressed genes involved in MEP pathway in JA-treated, SA-treated and control callus.

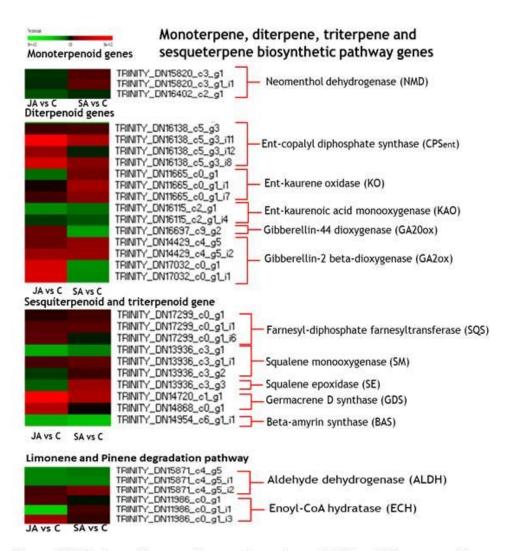


Figure 99. Heatmap diagram of expression pattern of differentially expressed genes involved in monoterpenoid, diterpenoid, triterpenoid, sesquiterpenoid, limonene and pinene degradation pathway.

treatments. *GDS* and *SE* were upregulated in SA treatment. Both *SQS* and *SM* were upregulated and downregulated in treated callus. Two genes namely aldehyde dehydrogenase (*ALDH*) and enoyl-CoA hydratase (*ECH*) related to limonene and pinene degradation pathway was identified. The trancripts of both genes were upregulated as well as downregulated.

4.7.4. Expression profile of putative genes involved in lignin biosynthesis pathway during SA and JA treatments

Lignins are intricate aromatic heteropolymers and rank among the most prevalent biopolymers following cellulose. Predominantly located in the secondary cell walls of vascular plants, lignins play pivotal roles in upholding the structural integrity of cell walls, bolstering stem strength, aiding water transport, furnishing mechanical support, and safeguarding against pathogens (You et al., 2013). Lignins are synthesized through the phenylpropanoid pathway from three primary types of monolignols: p-hydroxyphenyl (H), guaiacyl (G), and syringyl (S). These monolignols are derived from the dehydrogenation of the hydroxycinnamyl alcohols p-coumaryl, coniferyl, and sinapyl (Zhao and Dixon, 2011). The expression of the enzymes involved in the biosynthetic pathway after SA and JA elicitor treatment in comparison to control were investigated. An overview of the lignin biosynthetic pathway and differentially expressed genes involved is shown in Figure 100. Phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL) which facilitates the conversion of phenylalanine to cinnamic acid was upregulated in both SA and JA treatments, with JA treatment resulting in higher expression than JA. Trans-cinnamate monooxygenase (C4H/CYP73A) which stimulates the conversion of cinnamic acid to p-coumaric acid were also upregulated in both SA and JA treatments. The next step in the pathway involves the formation of p-coumaroyl CoA from p-coumaric acid aided by an enzyme 4-coumarate –CoA ligase (4CL), the transcripts that encode this enzyme were both upregulated and downregulated in both SA and JA treatments. p-Coumaryl CoA is then converted to p-coumaroyl shikimate with the help of hydroxycinnamoyltransferase (HCT). The transcripts that encodes this enzyme were upregulated in both SA and JA treatments, except one transcript in each which were downregulated. The compound, p-Coumaroyl shikimate with the help of enzyme 4-coumarate 3-hydroxylase (C3H/CYP98A) and shikimic acid from chloroplast is converted into caffeoyl shikimic acid which is then catalyzed by an enzyme HCT to form caffeoyl CoA. The enzyme caffeoyl coenzyme A O-methyltransferase (CCoAOMT), catalyzes the conversion of caffeoyl CoA to

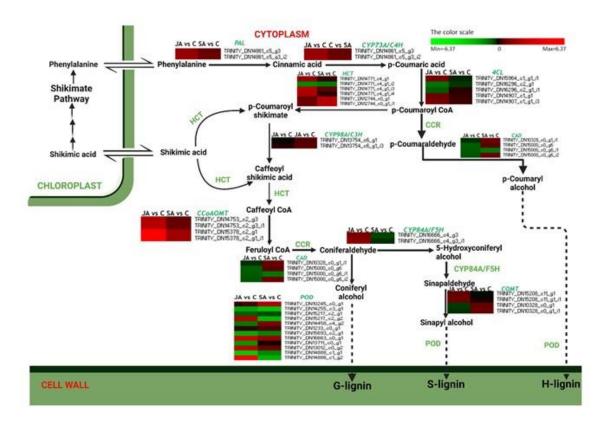


Figure 100. Overview of lignin biosynthetic pathway and differentially expressed genes involved in its biosynthetic pathway in JA-treated, SA-treated and control callus.

feruloyl CoA; the transcripts encoding CCoAOMT were upregulated in both SA and JA treatments. Feruloyl CoA is converted to coniferaldehyde catalyzed by cinnamoyl-CoA reductase (CCR). Coniferaldehyde is then converted to coniferyl alcohol with the help of cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD), is found to be downregulated in JA treatment and highly upregulated in SA treatment. Coniferyl alcohol in the presence of peroxidase forms G-lignins (guaiacyl) in the cell wall. Coniferaldehyde in the presence of ferulate 5-hydroxylase (F5H/CYP84A) gets converted to 5-hydroxyconiferyl alcohol. F5H/CYP84A was upregulated in JA treatment and downregulated in SA treatment. In the presence of F3H/CYP84A, 5-hydroxyconiferyl was converted to sinapaldehyde. Transcripts of catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) exhibited differential expression in both SA and JA treatments. COMT catalyzes the conversion of sinapaldehyde to sinapyl alcohol, which, in the presence of the peroxidase enzyme, contributes to the formation of S-lignin (syringyl). P-coumaryl CoA obtained via p-coumaric acid in the presence of CCR is converted to p-coumaryldehyde, which is then catalyzed by CAD to form p-coumarly alcohol, which in the presence of peroxidase is converted to H-lignin (phydroxyphenyl). The transcripts of peroxidase enzyme were differentially expressed in both SA and JA treatments. Thus, the transcriptome analysis of callus cultures treated with SA and JA provided insights into the differentially expressed genes involved pathways of phenylpropanoid, flavonoid, terpenoid and lignin biosynthesis including including transcripton factors.

5. Discussion

5.1. Higher phenolic and flavonoids were observed in methanolic extracts of bark than leaves and pericarp

Plant secondary metabolites exhibit remarkable diversity across different species and organs with their synthesis being highly influenced by the developmental stages and environmental factors (Sharma *et al.*, 2022). Phenolics and flavonoids constitute a large group of secondary metabolites having several bio-pharmaceutical activities in addition to antioxidants capabilities. Evidence suggests that polarity and type of extracting solvents and physical characteristics of the samples influence the yield of phenolic compounds in plant extracts (Naczk and Shahidi, 2006). Solvents of different polarities selectively extract different hydrophobic or hydrophilic phenolic compounds (Ngo *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, selection of a suitable solvent plays an important role for obtaining higher quantity of phenolics and flavonoids for the desired pharmaceutical activity.

The study investigated the concentrations of phenolics, flavonoids and the antioxidant activities of bark, pericarp and leaves extracted in solvents of different polarities in Givotia moluccana, a species that has high medicinal value. The results showed a significant variation in the concentration of phenolics and flavonoids in plant parts extracted in solvents of different polarities. Higher polar solvents viz., methanol and ethanol resulted in higher yields of total phenolics and flavonoids whereas their contents remained the lowest in hexane for all plant parts tested. However, the most polar solvent i.e. water was lesser effective than methanol and ethanol in extraction of phenolic and flavonoid compounds. It has been stated that the extraction of phenolics depend on the compatibility of the targeted constituents with the solvent system (Ahmad et al., 2021). Methanol and ethanol were found to be more efficient in extraction of low molecular weight phenolics and flavonoids (Ghasemzadeh et al., 2011; Shi et al., 2005; Chavan et al., 2013) which could be due to better solvation in polar solvents (Boeing et al., 2014). Further, the ethanol and methanol denatures the cell membrane more readily as compared to water, which could be another reason for higher recovery of phenolics and flavonoids in methanol and ethanol. These results are consistent with the findings of Srivani and Krishna Mohan (2022) where higher concentrations of phenolics and flavonoids were observed in methanol and the least in hexane extracts of leaves. However, the content of phenolics and flavonoids in leaves of G. moluccana was lower than the values reported by Srivani and Krishna

Mohan (2022). The plant source as well as the environmental and endogenous factors such as maturity stage might be the reasons for such differences observed in the same species. In this study, the highest content of total phenolics (62.07 mg GAE/g DW) and flavonoids (41.72 mg RE/g DW) were observed in methanolic extract of bark whereas the results varied concerning other plant parts tested. The phenolic content was higher in leaves (2.9 to 46.42 mg GAE/g DW) than pericarp (1.48 to 39.1 mg GAE/g DW) whereas flavonoid content was higher in pericarp (3.12 to 39.3 mg RE/g DW as compared to leaves (6.1 to 30.08 mg RE/g DW). The differences in phenolic composition in different plant parts signify the functional diversity. The phenolic content is influenced by intrinsic metabolic activity in various plant tissues as well as the molecular composition of exudate transferred through phloem channels, which generates such variations. According to Feduraev *et al.* (2019), photosynthesizing mesophilic tissue or the metabolism of a characteristic phloem exudate, sucrose, contributes significantly to the synthesis of phenolics in the stem of the sorrel species.

5.2. Antioxidant activity of methanolic extract of bark was higher than pericarp and leaves

Antioxidants confer a protective role mainly by involving single electron transfer, hydrogen atom transfer and metal chelation (Leopoldini *et al.*, 2011). The antioxidant capacities of the plant extract chiefly relies on extract composition, solvent and the environments of the assessment system (Li *et al.*, 2008). Several research studies have investigated the antioxidant properties of plant extracts using more than one technique to account for the multiple mechanisms of antioxidant activity (Wong *et al.*, 2006). Here, the antioxidant potential of bark, leaves and pericarp extracted in different solvents was evaluated used different assays. The reducing power of the extracts of different plant parts towards phosphomolybdenum, CUPRAC, FRAP and metal chelation was investigated.

Phosphomolybenum assay evaluates the capability of samples to reduce Mo (VI) to Mo (V) either through electron transfer or hydrogen transfer mechanism. The total antioxidant activities were in the order of methanolic extracts > ethanolic extracts > water extracts > ethyl acetate extracts > dichloromethane extracts > hexane extracts for different plant parts. Overall, the methanolic extract of bark demonstrated the highest total antioxidant activity (70.94 mg AAE/gDW) followed by ethanolic extract of bark (56.85 AAE/gDW). The antioxidant activities of methanolic and ethanolic extracts of leaves and pericarp did not differ significantly. Saeed *et al.* (2012) and Khan *et al.* (2012) highlighted that medicinal plant's phosphomolybdate scavenging action is considerably influenced by several phenylpropanoid and flavonoids. Both

methanolic and ethanolic extracts of leaves and pericarp displayed a similar antioxidant capacity. Single electron transfer (SET) antioxidant assays such as FRAP and CUPRAC evaluate the capability of compounds to reduce the transition metals such as Fe (iron) and Cu (copper). In FRAP assay, the differences in antioxidant capacities were large, with the highest in bark (21.6 to 156.37 mg AAE /gDW) and the least in pericarp (12.86 to 97.72 mg AAE/gDW). Similar results were obtained in CUPRAC assay, where the values of the extracts were found to be the highest in bark extract (7.89 to 246.3 mg AAE /gDW) and the least activity being observed in pericarp (3.41 to 99.74 mg AAE /gDW).

DPPH method is widely used in the assessment of free radical scavenging activities due to its remarkable stability as free radical. In the presence of an antioxidant agent, the DPPH radical diminishes by accepting a hydrogen atom or an electron, and the degree of color shift from purple to pale color is utilized to quantify the antioxidant capacity of the sample. Phenolics and flavonoids are prominent naturally occurring antioxidants capable of inhibiting free radicaldriven chemical processes (Mahdi-Pour et al., 2012; Sartini et al., 2019). The potency of phenolics and flavonoids to their antioxidant function is attributed to the benzene ring in their structure and the number and positioning of hydroxyl (OH) group (Rice-Evans et al., 1996). In this study, the extracts of different plant parts exhibited dose-dependent radical scavenging activities. Our findings revealed that the methanol extract of bark showed best radical scavenging activities comparable to the positive control at higher concentrations (Figures 10a-c). The leaves and pericarp ethanolic extracts also exhibited good DPPH antioxidant activity. The IC₅₀ value of a sample is the concentration at which 50% of DPPH radicals initially present in the solution were inhibited. The IC₅₀ of bark in ethanol and methanol extract was 73.48 μg and 48.41 μg respectively, whereas IC₅₀ of ethanol and methanol extract of leaves was 65.77 μg and 53.28 μg, respectively and IC₅₀ of pericarp extract in ethanol and methanol extract was 72.15 μg and 53.74 μg, respectively. The lowest activity was observed with hexane extracts. The results are consistent with the high antioxidant activity detected for methanolic extracts of bark by phosphomolybdenum assay. Variation in compounds extracted in different solvents might have contributed to differences in antioxidant capacities of the extracts as suggested by Ngo et al. (2017). Previously, Srivani and Krishna Mohan (2022) appraised the antioxidant activity of leaf extracts of G. moluccana by DPPH and FRAP assays and observed highest activity in methanolic extracts and the least in hexane extracts. The higher antioxidant activity was ascribed to the considerable amounts of phenols and flavonoids detected in methanolic extracts as

compared to other solvents. Pryzbylski *et al.* (1998) reported that the antioxidant activity of buck-wheat extracts varied with polarity of the solvent wherein methanolic extract showing comparatively higher antioxidant ability. Thus, it can be inferred that higher concentration of phenolic and flavonoid along with the presence of specific polyphenols in the plant extracts might have contributed to high scavenging activities. The correlation among total phenols, flavonoids and different antioxidant activities was performed to further augment the results. A good correlation was established between the *in vitro* antioxidant activity and the total phenolic acid content and total flavonoids content indicating that plant extracts can efficiently neutralize free radicals. These results are in conformity with several studies where positive correlations between polyphenols, flavonoids and antioxidant activities have been documented.

Although iron participates in several essential processes such as cellular metabolism, growth and death, DNA synthesis and repair, however excess accumulation can lead to generation of hydroxyl radicals, which can have damaging effects on protein, nucleic acids and lipids (Cornelissen *et al.*, 2019; De Paola *et al.*, 2022). Metal chelating is based on the production of a stable purple ferrous ion-ferrozine complex by Fe²⁺ ions (Dinis *et al.*, 1994). The formation of this stable colored complex is hindered by potential metal chelators in the plant extracts leading to the discoloration of the complex, which demonstrates their ability to chelate ferrous ions. The chelating abilities of the plant extracts in this study were proportional to the concentration of the extract, where with increase in the concentration of extracts, there was an increase in metal chelating ability (Figure 12). The bark extract displayed the best chelating ability (78.58%) followed by pericarp (77.01%) and leaves (54.81%).

5.3. Methanolic extract of bark and pericarp exhibited higher anti-inflammatory activity than leaves

Denaturation of protein is reported to occur during inflammatory reaction, which leads to various maladies like rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, asthma, neurodegenerative disorders, cardiovascular disorders and autoimmune diseases (Rawdin *et al.*, 2013). Protein denaturation implicates the disruption of electrostatic, disulphide, hydrophobic or hydrogen bonds as a result of which they lose their secondary and tertiary structures and thus biological functions due to exposure to external factors and stresses (Angel *et al.*, 2013). Plant extract's capacity to suppress protein denaturation is an indicator of the presence of a potential anti-inflammatory agent in the extracts as several anti-inflammatory drugs are well known to inhibit the protein denaturation. In this study, bark exhibited maximum inhibition of protein denaturation (43.46%) at 100 μg/ml

concentration followed by leaves (37.45%) and pericarp (31.09%) (Figure 11). Truong *et al.* (2019) reported that methanolic extract of *Severinia buxifolia* effectively inhibited protein denaturation ($IC_{50} = 28.86 \mu g/ml$). Osman *et al.* (2016) observed greatest anti-inflammatory activity in inflorescence extract of *Barringtonia racemosa* as compared to other plant parts although its phenolic content was lower than leaves extract. It was suggested that the anti-inflammatory activity was not solely due to the phenolic content but could be due to other factors such as fatty acid composition (Osman *et al.*, 2016). Sen *et al.* (2015) revealed that methanol and butanol extracts of leaves of *Amaranthus caudatus* inhibited protein denaturation by 54.1% and 49.33%. It was opined that anti-inflammatory agents in the extracts might have contributed to alteration of the synthesis of antigens related to type-III hypersensitivity reaction which are expressed when protein is denatured by heat.

The link between oxidative stress and inflammation has been well established in literature. Various studies have shown that arachidonic acid metabolism enzymes such as cyclooxygenase (COX) and lipoxygenase (LOX) are involved in several inflammatory diseases (Hussain et al., 2016). Inhibitions of these enzymes suppress the synthesis of prostaglandins and leukotrienes which are primary regulators of inflammation, and hence are considered in the therapeutic aspect for the treatment of several inflammatory diseases (Mehta et al., 2006). This study elucidated the potential of G. moluccana bark, leaves and pericarp extracts on three crucial therapeutic targets of inflammatory events viz., LOX-5, COX-1 and COX-2 by measuring their inhibition on these enzyme activities. The methanolic crude extract of bark demonstrated LOX enzyme inhibition activity of 41.6% whereas for pericarp extract it was 31.7%. The leaves extract showed the least LOX inhibition activities (10.67%) among the three extracts used. Lipoxygenase enzymes are sensitive to antioxidants that inhibit peroxidation because they hinder the production of peroxides by scavenging lipidoxy- or lipidperoxy-radicals. Consequently, this prevents the availability of lipid hydrogen peroxide substrate necessary for LOX reaction (Rackova et al., 2007). Another assumption proposed was that inhibition by antioxidants could be achieved through chelation of its non-heme coupled iron (Lin et al., 2001) or through the reduction of its ferric form (Gutierrez-Lugo et al., 2004) suggesting a competitive kind of inhibition. It can be speculated that LOX inhibition could be due to the presence of polyphenolic compound(s) and the antioxidant properties of the methanolic extracts. There have been studies showing that polyphenols are responsible for lipoxygenase inhibition (Wangensteen et al., 2004; Frum and Viljoen, 2006; Kamatou et al., 2010). According to Schneider and Bucar (2005),

several LOX inhibitors may operate as nonselective antioxidants by lowering the active site ferric ion, hence limiting the enzyme's catalytic activity. Weerasena *et al.* (2016) proposed another mechanism of LOX inhibition through scavenging radical intermediates formed during arachidonate-LOX catalytic function, which is verified by a significant positive relationship between anti-arachidonate-LOX activities and DPPH free radical scavenging activities.

LOX inhibition and consequent substrate accumulation may activate the cyclooxygenase (COX) pathway, exacerbating chronic inflammatory diseases (Yang et al., 2007). Hence, dual LOX/COX inhibition has been recognized as a promising method to produce innovative antiinflammatory agent (Langhansova et al., 2017; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2023; Rudrapal et al., 2023). COX-1 and COX-2 were shown to have independent functions. COX-2 is primarily responsible for inflammatory reactions, whereas COX-1 is associated with hemostatic activities (Hsi et al., 1999), and hence COX-2 inhibitors are beneficial for the treatment of inflammation as well as cancer (Raman et al., 2008). The methanolic extracts of G. moluccana showed better inhibition activity on COX-2 (inhibition %: 86.71 %-pericarp, 83.46%-bark, 82.21%-leaves) in comparison to COX-1 (29.21%-leaves-, 24.26%-bark, 13.1%-pericarp). This selectivity for COX-2 is usually considered desirable as it can reduce the side effects associated with nonselective COX inhibitors, which often inhibit both COX-1 and COX-2. The perceptible inhibitory activity of the extracts, particularly at 100 µg concentration, indicates its potential as a potent COX-2 inhibitor. Various studies have shown that natural products such as flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, glycosides, phenolics, resins etc. effectively suppress lipoxygenase and cyclooxygenase enzymes (Mukhopadhyay et al., 2023). The varied chemicals are known for their ability to target multiple cellular or molecular points and manifest in many ways because of their diversity which can act individually as well as synergistically. Thus, it can be inferred that higher phenolic and flavonoid contents together with specific compounds and their synergistic interactions could have resulted in bark extract showing higher inhibition activity against LOX as compared to other plant parts.

5.4. GC-MS and LC-MS/MS revealed the distribution of different metabolites in bark, pericarp and leaves

The metabolite distribution in various parts of plants serves as indicators of the overall phytochemicals distribution among different organs of plants within the same plant species (Hans *et al.*, 2015). Understanding the distribution of metabolites in different plant parts would aid in identifying the most beneficial plant parts for future targeted bioactive compound studies.

The non-targeted metabolomics based metabolite profiling was carried out for the first time in bark, leaves and pericarp of *G. moluccana* using two prominent analytical methods; gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) for comprehensive analysis of primary and secondary metabolites. GC-MS is more inclined towards detecting smaller metabolites such as alcohols, hydroxyl acids, amino acids, sugars, fatty acids, sterols, catecholamines, etc., and commonly utilizes derivatization process to render these compounds volatile for gas chromatography assessment (Fiehn, 2016). LC-MS/MS is used for identification of varied spectra of biological molecules such as phenolics and flavonoids with high accuracy (Saravanakumar *et al.*, 2021).

In this investigation, the GC-MS study elaborated that the major constituents in methanolic bark and pericarp extracts were carbohydrates, carboxylic acids and fatty acids, while the major constituents in leaves extract were carboxylic acids, carbohydrates and amino acids (Figures 17a-c). Carbohydrates constitute the predominant form of carbon that is assimilated through photosynthesis in the biosphere and exhibit a wide range of functional groups tailored to their various biological functions within living organisms. Beyond their nutritional significance, carbohydrates also act as structural materials, integral components of membranes, and play a crucial role in cellular recognition (Ruiz-Matute et al., 2011). Several carboxylic acids were detected namely, fumaric acid, malic acid, succinic acid and maleic acid involved in tricarboxylic acid (TCA) of Kreb cycle, an iconic energy pathway for oxidation of amino acids, fatty acids and carbohydrates. Numerous studies have elucidated the significant role of the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle in the development of plants. The presence of TCA cycle intermediates in plants is recognized as vital for a wide range of functions within and beyond cellular metabolism in all plant species (Zhang and Fernie, 2018). However, the extent to which these various organic acids accumulate varies significantly among species, stages of development, and types of plant tissues, indicating stringent regulation over the enzymes responsible for interconverting these metabolic intermediates (Fernie and Martinoia, 2009). Furthermore, the sequestration of organic acids into vacuoles and their release into the rhizosphere also serves as crucial mechanisms for controlling the abundance of these intermediates (Meyer et al. 2010). Fatty acids such as linoleic acid, linolenic acids, oleic acids, elaidic acids, palmitic acid, stearic acid, tridecylic acids, and acetyl-L-carnitine were detected among the three plant parts. The bark and pericarp were found to have a number of fatty acids whereas leaves contained 3 important fatty acids namely, palmitic acid, stearic acid and linolenic

acid. Oleic acid, linoleic acid, and linolenic acids are the major unsaturated fatty acids in most plants (Harwood, 1998). These compounds are multifunctional with critical roles in cellular structure, energy storage, and response to stress. They are also important traits of commercial oil yielding plants. Their ability to act as antioxidants and precursors for bioactive molecules adds to their importance in maintaining cell health and facilitating various biological processes (He *et al.*, 2020). Palmitic acid and stearic acid are saturated fatty acids commonly observed in plants with several applications in cosmetics, food, and pharmaceuticals industries.

In the realm of plant research, LC-MS/MS methods are anticipated to play a crucial role due to the intricate and diverse biochemistry of plants. This biochemistry encompasses numerous semi-polar compounds, including significant secondary metabolite categories, which are most effectively separated and detected using LC-MS/MS techniques. In this study, the secondary metabolites in bark, leaves and pericarp were tentatively identified and classified into different classes of secondary metabolites such as flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, phenolic acids, glycosides, vitamins, steroids and sterols, anthroquinones, lignins and stilbenes. The predominant classes in all the three plant parts were flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids and phenolic acids (Figures 25a-c). *G. moluccana* is well known for its traditional uses in medicine particularly for treating inflammatory diseases such as psoriasis, rheumatism and dandruff condition. There have been studies that have reported the presence of psoralen and furocoumarin compounds used in the treatment of psoriasis in different plant parts of *G. moluccana* (Sivanesan *et al.*, 2009; Richard, 2020). Our study also revealed the presence of psoralen in all the plant parts of *G. moluccana*, substantiating its use in the treatment of psoriasis by further implicating the role of psoralen.

The study showed the presence of apigenin, kaempferol, genistein, vitexin and apiforol in plant parts of *G. moluccana* and these compounds have been demonstrated to have various medicinal activities. Apigenin is a potent inhibitor of NF-κB activation in autoimmune cells, and is known to lower the levels of cytokines such as IL-6 and IL-12 (Mirzoeva *et al.*, 2018). Kaempferol attenuated the inflammatory psoriasis in mice by suppressing T helper 17 cells (Th17) and inhibiting the phosphorylation of NF-κB, a common pro-inflammatory signaling pathway in psoriasis (Liu *et al.*, 2019). Wang *et al.* (2019) showed that genistein reduced the expression of cytokines such as IL-1β, IL-6, TNF-α, CCL2, IL-17, and IL-23 in mice. Vitexin showed several pharmacological effects including antioxidant (Li *et al.*, 2012; Ugusman *et al.*, 2012), anti-inflammatory (Borghi *et al.*, 2013; Li et al., 2020), anticancer (He *et al.*, 2016;

Ninfali *et al.*, 2017), anticonvulsant and anxiolytic-like effects (De Oliveira *et al.*, 2020) and neuroprotective effects (Yang *et al.*, 2014; Min *et al.*, 2015). Apiforol isolated from *Musa balbisiana* has been reported to have anti-diabetic effect by Gopalan *et al.* (2018).

Gallic acid, delphinine, and costunolide were detected in all plant parts of *G. molucanna*. Gallic acid has been reported to inhibit pro-inflammatory transcription factors which contribute to the development of psoriasis such as STAT3, RORγt, and NF-κB, or cytokines as IL-1β and TNF (Hsiang *et al.*, 2013; Fan *et al.*, 2019; Yang *et al.*, 2021). It also decreased the frequency of IL-17 and IFN-γ producing cells, a crucial cytokine and interferon, in the pathogenesis of psoriasis (Tsiogkas *et al.*, 2023). Delphinidin is a plant pigment which significantly reduced the expression of Ki-67 and PCNA which are proliferation markers in tumour cells. Furthermore, delphinidin significantly suppressed the expression of inflammatory markers, such as iNOS (inducible nitric oxide synthase), S100A7 (psoriasin), and S100A15 (koebnerisin), commonly found in psoriatic skin lesions (Chamcheu *et al.*, 2013; Chamcheu *et al.*, 2015). Koo *et al.* (2001) identified costunolide, a sesquiterpene that refuted the activation of transcription factor nuclear factor-kappaB (NF-κB). Scarponi *et al.* (2014) reported that costunolide reduced the phosphorylation of STAT1 and STAT3 in IL-22 or IFN-γ-induced human keratinocytes.

Flavonoids are well recognized for their broad range of biological effects. The most abundant flavonoids in bark were laricitrin, quercetin 3-o-beta D-glucosyl-(1->2)-glucosyl-(1->2)-beta D-glucoside, gallocatechin, cyanidin 3-o-(3",6"-o-dimalonyl-beta glucopyranoside), malonylgenistin, biochanin A-7-O-glucoside, medicarpin-3-o-glucoside-6"-malonate, luteone, patuletin, tricetin, pisatin, and (2s)-hesperetin (Figure 30b). Laricitrin demonstrated significant potential in alleviating the suppressive impact of lung cancer on the differentiation, maturation, and function of dendritic cells (DCs). In human lung cancer A549 and CL1-5 cells, laricitrin effectively counteracts the alterations in DC phenotype, characterized by elevated levels of IL-10 expression and a skewing of T cell priming towards an immune suppression type-2 response (Th2) (Chang *et al.*, 2016); larictrin also has been reported to inhibit resistance protein (BCRP/ABCG2) of the breast cancer (Tan *et al.*, 2013). Gallocatechin also has the potential for treatment of breast cancer as it has been reported to inhibit human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), which promote cancer cell growth (Ebenyi *et al.*, 2022). Gallocatechin has been described to have an efficient preventive effect on osteoclastgenesis rendering its potential for potential use as a chemoprophylaxis agent against osteoporosis (Ko *et al.*, 2009).

The bark of *G. moluccana* is also used in bone setting in indigenous medicinal practices. Luteone is stated to have anti-fungal and antiviral effects (Harborne, 1976; Ahmed *et al.*, 2020). Patuletin has been reported to have several bioactivities such as anti-inflammatory, cytotoxic, genotoxic, hepatoprotective, antiproliferative, and antioxidant activity (Patel *et al.*, 2023); the potential of patuletin to inhibit fatty acid synthase (FASN), which plays an important role in breast cancer has been reported by Zhu *et al.* (2017). Its potential for use in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis has been illustrated by Razzak *et al.* (2023), where patuletin effectively diminish proinflammatory cytokines, including interleukin (IL-1 β and IL-6), tumor necrosis factor (TNF- α), and mitogen-activated protein kinase p38 α with additional significant reduction in the genes and protein expression of matrix metalloproteinases (MMP-2 and MMP-9) while preserving the knee bone architecture.

The plant parts of *G. moluccana* have also been used in traditional medicinal practice for treatment against rheumatism. Tricetin has been reported to have potential treatment against inflammation, neurodegenerative diseases, atherosclerosis, and diabetes (Patel, 2022). Hesperetin has been described to have anti-diabetic, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects (Khan *et al.*, 2020; Yang *et al.*, 2022). The most abundant flavonoids found in leaves extract were pratensein, chrysoeriol, quercetin, vitexin, quercetin 3-sulfate and apiforol (Figure 30b). Pratensein is reported to possess strong antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities (Chen *et al.*, 2008; Liang *et al.*, 2015). Pratensein also demonstrated a preventive effect on myocardial ischemia-reperfusion (I/R) injury-induced ferroptosis in cardiomyocytes, which showed its potential for therapeutic treatment against myocardial ischemia (Wang *et al.*, 2022). Chrysoeriol's is reported to have several bioactivities in different studies (Wei *et al.*, 2019; Min *et al.*, 2020; Zingue *et al.*, 2020), predominantly against tumor cell lines (Aboulaghras *et al.*, 2022).

The most abundant flavonoids in pericarp extract of *G. moluccana* were compounds such as chrysin, gossypetin, 6-hydroxyflavone, genistein, pinobanksin, luteolin, and dalbergioidin (Figure 30b) which are well known for their potent bioactivities. Chrysin is a potent anti-cancer (Li *et al.*, 2011; Mehdi *et al.*, 2019), antidiabetic (Samarghandian *et al.*, 2016), and anti-asthmatic (Wadibhasme *et al.*, 2011) compound found in different plant species. Gossypetin act as a modulator of inflammatory cytokine production and acts as a suppressor of osteosarcoma cell growth (Proença *et al.*, 2023). It is also reported to ameliorate oxidative stress and DNA damage by virtue of its ability to scavenge free radicals (Khan *et al.*, 2013), further its anticancer role has been demonstrated by inhibition of PBK/TOPK protein kinase that modulates the

signaling cascades of p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (p38 MAPK) in cutaneous basal cell carcinoma (BCC) (Wang *et al.*, 2019). 6-hydroxyflavone exhibited anti-inflammatory activities against kidney mesangial cells demonstrating its potential in treatment and prevention against nephritis (Wang *et al.*, 2014). Genistein exhibited a myriad of biological activities like anti-inflammation (Frączek *et al.*, 2015; Ganai *et al.*, 2015), anticancer (Bolca *et al.*, 2010; Löhr *et al.*, 2016; Paul et al., 2017; Naeem et al., 2023, antidiabetic (Catmull *et al.*, 2016; Dkhar *et al.*, 2017; Schacht *et al.*, 2017) and anti-osteoporotic activities. Genistein demonstrates a unique mechanism in its anti-osteoporotic effects by enhancing bone cell metabolism, leading to a shift in bone turnover that favors bone formation. In particular, genistein boosts osteoblast activity while reducing osteoclast function, mainly through modulation of the osteoprotegerin-sRANKL system (Bitto *et al.*, 2010). Miao *et al.* (2012) highlighted the potential of genistein in the prevention and treatment of post-menopausal osteoporosis with undesirable side effects.

Pinobanksin is one of the bioactive compounds found in honey renowned for its antioxidant and anticancer activities (Zheng *et al.*, 2018; Chen *et al.*, 2023). Antiangiogenic agent potential of pinobanksin was reported by Bang and Ahn (2021), which demonstrated an antiangiogenic effect by inducing apoptosis in endothelial cells. This compound was also reported to act as apoptosis inducer by Alday *et al.* (2015). Luteolin is a natural flavone found in many plants and has been used for treatment of many inflammatory related ailments. Aziz *et al.* (2018) has reported the antioxidant activities of luteolin. The antidiabetic potential of luteolin was elucidated by Choi *et al.* (2014), where they showed the impact of C-glycosylation at various sites of luteolin on the potency and modification of luteolin's antioxidant, anti-diabetic, and anti-inflammatory properties. Dalbergioidin is an anthocyanin found in many plants, which has been reported to ameliorate renal fibrosis induced by doxorubicin which has a broad-spectrum antitumor activity, by suppression of TGF-β signal pathway (Ren *et al.*, 2016).

Terpenes and terpenoids among the most extensive and varied class of secondary metabolites and are biologically active with numerous pharmacological applications. Several terpenoids were identified in bark, leaves and pericarp of *G. moluccana*. The most abundant terpenoids in bark includes betulin, arabidiol, soyasapogenol a, lanosterol, lubimin, botulin, and erythrodiol (Figure 31b). Betulin isolated from *Acacia nilotica* bark exhibited a potent antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anticancer activity in an investigation carried out by Kaur *et al.* (2022). Several studies have shown the potential of betulin against cancer (Li *et al.*, 2016; Zhou *et al.*, 2018; So *et al.*, 2018), while, its anti-inflammatory potential has been demonstrated

in a studies of Ci *et al.* (2017) and Wu *et al.* (2014). Soyasapogenol-A is a potent anti-cancer agent which has shown to be effective against hepatocarcoma, HepG2 cells (Zhang and Popovich, 2008; Omar *et al.*, 2020). Lanosterol is an important intermediate of cholesterol and Zhao *et al.* (2015) illustrated that lanosterol is capable of reversing protein aggregation which is vital for the treatment of cataracts. Lubimin and aucuparin are phytoalexins found in plants, which have anti-microbial activities. Lee *et al.* (2021) reported that aucuprin exhibited anti-inflammatory activity thus showing its potential to be a therapeutic drug against idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF).

Erythrodiol is a triterpenoid recognized for its role in anti-inflammatory and anticancer activities. Erythrodiol exhibited antioxidant, anti-proliferative and pro-apoptotic activities against MCF-7 human breast cancer cells (Allouche et al., 2011), skin chronic inflammation (Máñez et al., 1997), HT-29 human adenocarcinoma cells (Juan et al., 2008) and hepatocarcinoma (HepG2) cells (Peñas-Fuente et al., 2022). In leaves of G. moluccana, the most abundant terpenoids included alpha bisabolol, borneol, alpha eudesmol, beta zeacarotene, zeinoxanthin, 10deacetylbaccatin III, albienol, delta cadinene, loganin, and squalene (Figure 31b). Bisabolol is a neuroprotectant, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-apoptotic agent as reported by Javed et al. (2020) and Ramazani et al. (2022). Borneol display an array of biopharmacological activities like antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anticancer and anti-diabetic activities (Rajput et al., 2023). Alpha eudesmol is a component of many essential oils in plants, and this has been reported to inhibit calcium channels suggesting a potential treatment for migraine (Asakura et al., 2000; Russo and Marcu, 2017). Beta zeacarotene and zeinoxanthin are carotenoids which are used as coloring agents. 10-deacetylbaccatin III is a diterpene which is an intermediate in taxol biosynthesis, has been shown to be an anti-cancer compound (Han et al., 2014). Delta-cadinene is a commonly occurring plant sesquiterpenoid which has an antimicrobial activity towards Streptococcus pneumoniae (Pérez-López et al., 2011). Loganin protects against MPP+-induced apoptotic cell death, neurite damage, and oxidative stress by enhancing neurotrophic signaling, activating IGF-1R/GLP-1R, and inhibiting the RhoA/ROCK pathway, supporting the claim that loganin has neuroprotective properties (Tseng et al., 2018). Loganin exhibited antiinflammatory and antioxidant effects by effectively inhibiting apoptosis and extracellular matrix (ECM) catabolism induced by IL-1β in rat chondrocytes (Yang et al., 2019) and reduced burnsinduced during intestinal inflammation and oxidative stress by regulating the TLR4/NF-κB signaling pathway (Wen et al., 2020). Yang et al. (2019) also confirmed in their in vivo studies

that loganin mitigated cartilage degeneration suggesting that loganin holds promise as a potentially beneficial agent for treating osteoarthritis. Squalene is an intermediate compound found during cholesterol biosynthesis and exhibits several bioactivities such as anti-oxidant (Senthilkumar *et al.*, 2006; Warleta *et al.*, 2010), anti-tumor (Rao *et al.*, 1998; Smith *et al.*, 2000), and in cosmetics (Blasco *et al.*, 2006; Rissmann *et al.*, 2008).

Dihydroyphaseic acid, zeaxanthin, gossypol, 16-methoxytaberson, and furruginol compounds were the most abundant terpenoids distributed in pericarp extracts (Figure 31b). Dihydroyphaseic acid is an apocarotenoid, while zeaxanthin is a dihydroxy derivative of β-carotenoid with numerous health benefits such as neuroprotective effect through antioxidant and anti-inflammatory and anti-apoptotic mechanisms, and anti-cancer activity. Several studies have reported the potential of zeaxanthin in alleviating ocular complications and mitigated alterations in the expression of genes associated with inflammation which could potentially lower the menace of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) (Nakajima et al., 2009; Bian et al., 2012; Manikandan et al., 2016). Zeaxanthan induced apoptosis in human choroidal melanoma by suppressing Bcl-X and Bcl-2, which are antiapoptic proteins and enhanced the expression proapoptotic proteins such as Bax and Bak along with cytochrome C (cyto C) release, which prompt the activation of caspases (Bi et al., 2013). Similar observations were made in gastric cancer cells of humans by Sheng et al. (2020). Gossypol has a potential as a contraceptive, as it hinder sperm production and motility. Its contraceptive effects stems from the inhibition of energy metabolism enzymes within spermatogenic cells, as highlighted in various studies by Coutinho (2002), Wang et al. (2009), Keshmiri-Neghab and Goliaei (2014). The antitumor potential of gossypol against several cancer cell such as breast cancer (Liu et al., 2002), human prostrate cancer (Jiang et al., 2004; Xu et al., 2005; Meng et al., 2008), leukemia (Balakrishnan et al., 2008; Moon et al., 2008), head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (Oliver et al., 2004) has been reported. Dodou et al. (2005) proposed the potential of gossypol for the treatment of psoriasis based on its anti-proliferative and antioxidant activities. Furruginol is a natural diterpenoid which has been reported to have inhibitory effect on proliferation of human thyroid cancer cells by triggering mitochondrial-reliant apoptosis, ROS production, compromise mitochondrial membrane, and suppressing the signaling pathways of mitogenactivated protein kinase (MAPK) and PI3K/ATK (Luo et al., 2019); they are reported to have apoptotic effect on human ovarian cancer cells (Xiong et al., 2017). Ferruginol has also been suggested to have a neuroprotective function against neurodegeneration induced by α-synuclein

oligomers thus positioning as a promising candidate for treating Parkinson's disease (PD) and other neurodegenerative conditions (Wang *et al.*, 2022).

Alkaloids are a class of plant secondary metabolites which play important roles in plant's defense against pathogens and are known to have several bioactivities with wide therapeutic applications such as anaesthetics, cardioprotectants, and anti-inflammatory agents (Heinrich et al., 2021). In G. moluccana, alkaloids were the third most abundant class of compounds which were putatively identified in bark, leaves and pericarp. The main alkaloids putatively identified in bark extract were (s)-canadine, 17-oxosparteine, camptothecin, (s)-isoandrocymbin, 10methylxanthosine, harmine, vomilenine, 12-hydroxydihydrochelirubine, 13-hydroxylupinine, and protopine (Figure 32b). Canadine is the intermediate in the biosynthesis of berberine, which which has anti-diabetic and antihypertensive properties. The potential of canadine as a novel antioxidant agent has been reported by Correché et al. (2008). 17-oxosparteine has been confirmed to have neuroprotective effects as it activates nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR), which could sever as a possible approach for treatment against Alzheimer disease (Gavilan et al., 2019). Camptothecin is a proven anti-cancer compound (Kepler et al., 1969; Pullaiah and Raveendran, 2020). Harmine has been attributed to have several pharmacological effects as it interacts with several important molecular targets such as cyclin-dependent kinases (CDKs), monoamine oxidase A (MAO A), serotonin receptors (5-HT2A), and imidazoline receptors at I1 and I2 sites accrediting its cancer prevention, anxiolytic, and anti-inflammatory properties (Patel et al., 2012). Protopine has been reported to have several bioactivities such as anti-thrombotic (Saeed et al., 1997), hepatoprotectant (Rathi et al., 1998), anti-inflammatory (Kim et al., 2022), antispasmodic (Hiller et al., 1998), and anti-cancer activities (Nie et al., 2021; He and Gao, 2014).

The most abundant alkaloids in leaves were elwesine, (s)-magnoflorine, cephaeline, strictosidine, stylopine, akuammicine, 6-hydroxyprotopine, and allocrytopine (Figure 32b). Magnoflorine exhibits various pharmacological effects such as antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective effects. Magnoflorine demonstrates a therapeutic impact on inflammation and fibrosis in rats experiencing diabetic nephropathy by regulating the stability of lysine-specific demethylase 3A (Chang *et al.*, 2020); further, Patel and Mishra (2012) reported the preventive activity of magnoflorine on α -glucosidase enzymes. Magnoflorine has been revealed to have anticancer activities against lung cancer, breast cancer, glioma and rhabdomyosarcoma (Okon *et al.*, 2020). Wang *et al.* (2023) reported the potential anti-arthritic and anti-inflammatory effects

of magnoflorine whereby signaling pathways of NF-κB and MAPK were inhibited; magnoflorine effect on inflammatory osteolysis has been reported by Sun et al. (2020). Cephaeline is an isoquinoline alkaloid, which possess a potential therapeutic strategy to manage mucoepidermoid carcinomas (MEC) of the salivary glands (Silva et al., 2022). The pharmacological potential of cephaeline against ebola and zika virus has been outlined by Yang et al. (2018), through inhibition of polymerase activity and disruption of lysosomal function of zika virus and inhibition of entry for ebola virus. Strictosidine is an intermediate in monoterpene indole alkaloid biosynthetic pathway, which is regarded as a core scaffold from which several other monoterpene indole alkaloids are derived (Brown et al., 2015). Stylopine exhibited a potent antitumor effect on human MG-63 osteosarcoma cells by regulating vascular endothelial growth factor 2 (VEGFR-2) signaling pathway (Velayutham et al., 2023). Akuammicine has been reported to enhanced uptake of glucose in fully differentiated 3T3-L1 adipocytes, which would serve as an important strategy for treatment for diabetes (Shittu et al., 2010). Allocrytopine is an isoquinoline alkaloid with neuroprotective effects (Dolanbay et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2023) and antiarrhythmic effects (Lin et al., 2013; Li et al., 2019). In pericarp, the most abundant alkaloids were 1,2-dihydrovomilenine, 19E-geissoschizine, cinchonidine, O-methylandrocymbine, emetine, lupinate, strictosamide, and tryptamine (Figure 32b). 1,2-dihydrovomilenine, 19Egeissoschizine, and O-methylandrocymbine are intermediate products in the biosynthesis pathway of isoquinoline alkaloid, monoterpene indole alkaloid, and colchicine, respectively. Cinchonidine is a quinidine alkaloids, which is well-known to be an antimalarial agent along with other quinine. Strictosamide has been documented to have anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects by Jia et al. (2021) and Li et al. (2014). Yüce et al. (2019) reported that strictosamide is a potent free-radical scavenger and α-glucosidase inhibitor rendering its antidiabetic potential. Tryptamine in plants serves as the starting point for metabolic pathways that leads to synthesis of some notable pharmacologically important indole alkaloids such as vincristine and vinblastine (Negri et al., 2021). There are several evidences, which suggest that tryptamine psychedelics exert significant neuromodulatory effects on crucial brain regions associated with mental imagery, theory of mind, and emotional regulation, indicating its potential therapeutic uses (Castelhano et al., 2021).

Phenolic acids are derived from benzoic and cinnamic acids, and are among the most abundant phenolic compounds available in plants. They occur in many forms, including free, conjugated-soluble, and insoluble-bound forms (Chandrasekara, 2019); they exhibit high

antioxidant activities and are beneficial to human health (Kamath et al., 2004). Several important phenolic acids were also putatively identified in all the plant parts examined. In bark extracts, the main phenolic acids found were trans-2-coumarate, gallate, coumarinate, phaselate, coumaryl acetate, 5-hydroxyferulate, sinapate and N-feruloyltyramine (Figure 33b). Gallate is a wellknown natural phenolic compound which possess several health promoting effects like antineoplastic, antimicrobial and several cardio antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, neuroprotectant effects (Badhani et al., 2015; Kahkeshani et al., 2019; Bhuia et al., 2023). Trans-2-coumarate and coumarinate are intermediates in the biosynthesis of coumarin and cinnamic acids. Coumaryl acetate serves as substrates for the production of bioactive phenylpropanoid compounds such as eugenol and chavicol (Anand et al., 2016). Phaselate or phaselic acid has been reported to possess antirheumatoid arthritis activities (Wang et al., 2012). 5-hydroxyferulate is a hydroxycinnamic acid and an intermediate product in phenylpropanoid pathway, which serves as a precursor in the biosynthesis of sinapic acid (Maury et al., 1999). Sinapic acid is a hydroxycinnamic acid possessing several pharmacological effects like antioxidant (Kikuzaki et al., 2002; Galano et al., 2011), anti-inflammatory (Yun et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2016; Lee., 2018; Lee et al., 2021), anticancer (Eroğlu et al., 2018; Huang et al., 2022; Pandi and Kalappan, 2022; Taştemur et al., 2023), antiglycemic (Kanchana et al., 2011; Cherng et al., 2013; Altındağ et al., 2021), neuroprotective (Lee et al., 2012; Zare et al., 2015; Verma et al., 2020), and anti-anxiety activities (Yoon et al., 2007). N-feruloyltyramine is a potent inhibitor of COX enzyme (Park, 2009; Jiang et al., 2015), while N-feruloyltyramine has anti-oxidative and anti-apoptotic properties against H₂O₂ induced cytotoxicity (Soi-ampornkul et al., 2022). The neuroprotective and neurogenesis effect of N-feruloyltyramine has been reported by Khan *et al.* (2021).

The most abundant phenolic acids in leaves were 4-methylumbelliferone, trans-5-o-caffeoyl-D-quinate, trans-caffeate, bergaptol, and xanthotoxin. 4-methylumbelliferone has been effectively used against tumor and cancer cells including inflammation and autoimmunity (Nagy *et al.*, 2015). 4-methylumbelliferone treatment effectively inhibited hyaluronan, a conspicuous component of the extracellular matrix at several places during chronic inflammation. Bergaptol also known as 5-hydroxypsoralen is a furocoumarin compound with several anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, anticancer, antiosteoporosis, and used for treatment for vitiligo and hypoglycemic and hypolypemic conditions (Quetglas-Llabrés *et al.*, 2022). Xanthotoxin also known as 8-methoxypsoralen is another furocoumarin demonstrated considerable efficacy in addressing

diverse health conditions, encompassing neuroprotection, skin repair, osteoprotection, organ protection, anticancer properties, anti-inflammatory effects, antioxidative stress mechanisms, and antibacterial activities as reported by Wu et al. (2022). Trans-caffeate is recognized for its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities, anti-tumor and immunomodulatory activities as reported by Zhang et al. (2014). In pericarp extracts, the most abundant phenolic acids were gentisate, 4-coumarate, cis-caffeate, protocatechuate, 3-hydroxycinnamate, Gentisate is a dihydroxybenzoic acid with broad 4-coumaroylagmatine. spectrum pharmacological properties such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-carcinogenesis, antimutagenic, antimicrobial, hepatoprotective, and neuroprotective as reported by Gutiérrez-Grijalva (2016) and Abedi et al. (2019). 4-coumarate is hydroxyl derivative of cinnamic acid and has been reported to have numerous biological activities (Boz, 2015; Aldaba-Muruato et al., 2021; Kaur and Kaur. 2022). Lee et al. (2018) reported the potential of 4-coumarate to contribute to bone growth, increased height and a viable alternative to growth hormone (GH) therapy as it enhances the chondrocyte proliferation and longitudinal bone growth by upregulating the activity of IGF-1. Neog et al. (2017) and Zhu et al. (2018) also reported the promising and therapeutic potential of 4-coumarate for the treatment of rheumatic arthritis, as it exerts its anti-inflammatory effects on rheumatic arthritis. Protocatechuate is a dihydroxybenzoic acid that has been shown in several studies to have antioxidant, antibacterial, anticancer, antiulcer, antidiabetic, antiaging, antifibrotic, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antiatherosclerotic, cardiac, hepatoprotective, neurological and nephroprotective uses (Kakkar and Bias, 2014; Khan et al., 2015; Krzysztoforska et al., 2017). 3-hydroxycinnamate had been reported to induce apoptosis through pathways involving p53 and caspase-3 indicating the anticancer role of 3-hydroxycinnamate (Chuang et al., 2005).

5.5. Quercetin, rutin and myricetin were quantified in pericarp, bark and leaves by RP-HPLC

RP-HPLC is a valuable method for evaluating crude plant extracts. It has also been successfully used in the past to study flavonoid in plants for instance; it was utilized to quantitatively assess flavonoid variation for differentiating species by Harborne *et al.* (1985) and quantitative study of flavonoid aglycones by Hertog *et al.* (1992). Flavonoids are attributed to have several pharmacological activities such as anticarcinogenic, antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and anti-allergic effects (Garcia-Closas *et al.*, 1999; Hollman *et al.*, 1996; Vaquero *et al.*, 2007; Pan *et al.*, 2010). In this study, three important flavonoids namely quercetin, rutin,

and myricetin belonging to flavonol class which modulates inflammation and other important bioactivities were quantified from the bark, leaves and pericarp extracts of G. moluccana. Quercetin is a well-known potent antioxidant flavonoid (Xu et al., 2019), and its ability to inhibit inflammatory enzymes such as COX-2 (Xiao et al., 2011) and LOX (Takahama, 1985; Sadik et al, 2003; Borbulevych et al. 2004) has been demonstrated. Quercetin administered to imiquimod (IMQ)-induced psoriasis mice model, the levels of TNF-α, IL-6, and IL-17 were significantly decreased (Chen et al., 2017). The content of quercetin was highest in leaves (9.43 µg/g DW), followed by bark (5.71 µg/g DW) and pericarp (1.44 µg/g DW). Quercetin also acts as anticancer agent by regulating cell cycle, interaction with type II estrogen binding sites, and inhibition of tyrosine kinase (Lamson and Brignall, 2000). The content of rutin in leaves was 45.19 µg/g DW. Rutin is another highly potent anti-inflammatory agent with several other bioactivities such as anti-tumor (Satari et al., 2021), neuroprotective (Javed et al., 2012), cardio protective (Trumbeckaite et al., 2006), hepatoprotectant (Janbaz et al., 2002) and so on. The content of rutin was highest in pericarp (55.39 µg/g DW), while it was least in bark (2.13 µg/g DW). Myricetin exhibits wide range of bioactivities such as anti-inflammatory (Winekenstädde et al., 2015; Hou et al., 2018), anti-cancer (Kim et al., 2014; Jiang et al., 2019), antidiabetic (Meng et al., 2016; Li et al., 2017) activities. Myricetin content was relatively high in leaves (13.22 μ g/g DW) and least in bark (0.24 μ g/g DW). Its content in pericarp was 8.40 μ g/g DW. The inhibitory activity of quercetin and myricetin on LOX-5 and COX-1 enzymes has been reported by different research groups (Lee and Kim, 2010; Kutil et al., 2014; Winekenstädde et al., 2015). The presence of highly potent antioxidant agents such as quercetin, rutin, and myricetin could have contributed to high antioxidant and anti-inflammation activities of the G. moluccana plant parts extracts. This also justifies the traditional use of the various plant parts of G. moluccana for treatment of various inflammatory related ailments.

5.6. Leaf and endosperm exhibited high callus induction and proliferation

The increasing demand of plant derived secondary metabolites has driven the research towards using plant cell, tissue and organ cultures as a major platform for secondary metabolite production. Callus cultures or suspension cultures offer immense potential for sustainable and large scale production of secondary metabolites. It is essential to establish efficient methods for callus formation for utilization in studies on secondary metabolites in *G. moluccana* where such reports are lacking. The explant type and growth regulators are known to have a determining effect on callus induction in any plant species. In the present study, the effects of different

growth regulators was evaluated on callus formation from seedling-derived explants viz., leaves, cotyledons that are diploid, and endosperm that is triploid in nature. The combination of 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP was found to be superior as it resulted in high frequency (91-100%) of callus induction in all explants tested as compared to medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D alone or other growth regulators used in full-strength MS medium (Table 7). Further, the explants differed in their ability for callus induction with relatively higher frequency of callus induction observed from endosperm than leaves and cotyledons except for the medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP where both endosperm and leaves explants formed callus with 100% frequency. Variation in the callus induction response noticed from different explants could be due to differential uptake of growth regulators applied or due to differences in the endogenous hormones in the source tissue as suggested by Preece and Imel (1991). The morphological appearance and growth of the callus induced from different explants in this study differed depending on the growth regulators used. Leaves derived callus cultures obtained on medium with 2,4-D and BAP were friable and nodular, and exhibited relatively higher growth as evidenced by increased biomass after subculture to fresh medium. Similar to our findings Bong et al. (2021) reported that the combination of 2,4-D and BAP was effective for callus induction and proliferation from leaf explants of Sabah Snake grass (Clinacanthus nutans). Dalila et al. (2013) observed that 2,4-D was essential for inducing callus induction from leaf and endosperm and addition of KN promoted callus growth in endosperms of Barringtonia racemosa. According to the report of Ikeuchi et al. (2013) both auxin and cytokinin are interconnected in the hormone signaling pathways which activate cell cycle for callus initiation.

5.7. Efficient plant regeneration *via* direct shoot organogenesis was achieved from zygotic embryo axes of *G. moluccana*

Differentiated organ cultures like shoots or roots or hairy roots produced *in vitro* represent a metabolite profile similar to native plants and can overcome the limitations of low yield of secondary metabolites from cell cultures as a consequence of lack of differentiated structures (Verpoorte *et al.*, 2002; Karuppusamy, 2009). Thus, *in vitro* propagation methods are needed as they could be used as a means for achieving improved production of phytocompounds (Isah *et al.*, 2018). Zygotic embryo axes have been successfully used for obtaining multiple shoot formation in different plant species like castor (Sujatha and Reddy, 1998; Morre *et al.*, 1998), wild species of groundnut (Gagliardi *et al.*, 2000) and sunflower (Charriere *et al.*, 1999). Previously, *in vitro* propagation was achieved from shoot tips of *G. moluccana* by culturing

initially on 0.5 µM TDZ followed by transfer to secondary medium with 1.2 µM KN which induced shoot elongation (Samuel et al., 2009). Here, zygotic embryo axes were used to assess their potential to form multiple shoots in the presence of KN and/or BAP. The best results in terms of shoot proliferation and elongation was observed when 3 mg/l BAP was used initially in full-strength medium followed by transfer of shoot clumps to half-strength medium containing reduced concentrations of BAP (2.0 mg/l, 1.0 mg/l and 0.5 mg/l) and then without BAP which led to 7-8 shoots per explant. The shoot tips of primary cultures of multiple shoots obtained in this study can be subjected to repeated shoot multiplication using the procedure described earlier for this species (Samuel et al., 2009). In tissue culture studies using seedling derived explants of castor, multiple shoots could be proliferated when BAP was used singly at 0.5-2.0 mg/l (Athma and Reddy, 1982; Reddy et al., 1987) while there are reports where higher concentrations of BAP (4.0 mg/l) was used for multi-shoot formation (Khumsub, 1988; Ahn et al., 2007). As per the study of Morre et al. (1998), higher and lower concentrations of BAP yielded few shoots whereas 3 mg/l BAP was reported to be optimal resulting in induction of 3.4 shoots per embryonic axes of cotton. Based on the results, it was suggested that BAP was responsible for re-programming of the embryonic apical meristem axes of cotton towards the production of multiple buds and subsequent shoot development. In the current study, both NAA and IBA when used singly at 0.1 mg/l induced rooting at frequencies of 72.8% and 71.5%, whereas in castor (Ahn et al., 2007) IBA exhibited better effect on root induction than NAA. The efficient regeneration system established in this study can be exploited for generating sufficient plant material for secondary metabolites production without the need to rely on wild plants for such purposes.

Thus, the study demonstrated luxuriant growth of callus from both leaves and endosperm explants on medium augmented with 2,4-D and BAP. As endosperm cells are known to be triploid, it would be useful for future investigations on determining the impact of ploidy on primary and secondary metabolism as well as their response to elicitation. In addition, the *in vitro* produced multiple shoots offer prospect in producing secondary metabolites that are not guaranteed in callus or cell suspension cultures.

For further studies on elicitation, callus cultures were established from leaves explants as they are diploid with more number of explants being available and also as they exhibited higher proliferation than other explants.

5.8. Elicitation of callus cultures with SA and JA enhanced the phenolic and flavonoid contents

The cultured plant cells represent a potential source of biochemicals but relatively few cultures synthesize secondary metabolites comparable to those found in the whole plants. (DiCosmo and Misawa, 1985). Various approaches are used to overcome the limitations of the production of secondary metabolites from the cultured cells required for different applications. Elicitors like JA and SA have been commonly used to improve the productivity of secondary metabolites in plant species. They have been reported to have positive or negative effects on callus growth depending on the concentrations used in the cultures. It is important to determine the optimal concentration of elicitors to prevent hypersensitivity that leads to cell death (Naik and Al-Khayri, 2016). In this research, both SA and JA at the concentrations tested caused a decrease in callus biomass as compared to the control callus cultures (33.58 g FW/100 ml medium) although the biomass of SA-treated callus was lower (21.80-23.12 g FW/100 ml medium) than JA (25.27–28.47 g FW/100 ml medium) treatment (Figure 44). Cai et al. (2017) reported that higher concentrations of elicitors including MeJA and SA suppressed cell growth of the cell suspension cultures of *Changium smyrnioides*. A similar decrease in biomass in response to SA elicitation has been reported in the cell cultures of S. miltiorrhiza (Dong et al., 2010). Nonetheless, low concentrations of JA and SA have been shown to improve the growth of callus in normal or stressful conditions (Al-Qatrani et al., 2021; Galal, 2012).

The concentration of the elicitor and the duration of its exposure are important factors to induce the optimum level of secondary metabolite production. Here, the elicitation of callus cultures with SA and JA proved to be effective in enhancing the total phenolics and flavonoid contents although it depended on the concentration and duration of treatments. The maximum accumulation of total phenolic acids (81.93 mg GAE $g^{-1}DW$) and flavonoids (60.88 mg RE $g^{-1}DW$) was observed in callus cultures when elicited with 150 μ M JA for 20 days (Figures 46a-b). However, for salicylic acid elicited callus cultures, 50 μ M for 5 days resulted in the highest phenolic content (31.43 mg GAE $g^{-1}DW$) (Figures 45a-b) while 50 μ M for 20 days was optimal for flavonoid content (38.49 mg RE $g^{-1}DW$). Similarly, Mendoza *et al.* (2018) reported that specific concentrations of SA (300 μ M) and MeJA (3 μ M) increased the content of phenolics and flavonoids in cell suspension cultures of *Thevetia peruviana* suggesting an inducer effect of these elicitors in the phenylpropanoid metabolic pathway. Phenolic acids and flavonoids, which act as antioxidants, provide cellular protection by counteracting the damaging effects of excessive free

radical production and oxidative stress. Increased levels of free radicals can lead to cell death through the oxidation of DNA, proteins, and lipids. Maintaining a balance between free radicals and antioxidants is essential for proper physiological functioning. The study of Stanly *et al.* (2011) demonstrated that extracts from callus or cell suspension cultures of various plant species possess the ability to scavenge free radicals. This scavenging potential can be further enhanced by treating these cultures with chemical elicitors like salicylic acid (SA) and methyl jasmonate (JA).

Interestingly, the study demonstrated that elicitation of callus cultures with 50 μ M of JA for 5 days caused 1.3 and 1.45-fold increase in phenolic acid and flavonoid contents, respectively in comparison to the bark extracts which exhibited the highest phenolic acids and flavonoid content in different plant parts of *G. moluccana* studied.

5.9. Elicited callus cultures exhibited high radical scavenging activities than untreated control callus cultures

In our study, we observed that extracts from callus cultures treated with SA and JA exhibited improved free radical scavenging activities against DPPH and ABTS radicals compared to untreated callus cultures, as shown in Figures 47a-b and 48a-b. Notably, callus cultures elicited with JA demonstrated a higher capacity for free radical scavenging than those elicited with SA across various concentrations. Specifically, the extract from callus cultures treated with 150 µM JA showed the highest free radical scavenging activity, with a significant inhibition percentage against DPPH (89.85%) and ABTS (77.34%) radicals compared to other JA concentrations. This heightened free radical scavenging activity in JA-elicited cultures corresponded with higher total phenolic and flavonoid content in these cultures. Our findings align with the results reported by Manivannan *et al.* (2016), where methyl jasmonate (MeJA) stimulated the accumulation of bioactive secondary metabolites and enhanced the free radical scavenging potential of cell extracts from *Scriphularia kokudensis* Franch.

5.10. Elicitation enhanced the ROS and improved the antioxidant metabolism in callus cultures at specific concentration

The oxidative burst of H_2O_2 in many plant species is found to be necessary for the production of several secondary metabolites (Kuzniak and Urbanek, 2000). Antioxidants like phenolic acids and flavonoids confer protection to the cells by coping with the oxidative stress caused due to excess production of free radicals. The harmful effects of increased levels of free radicals resulting in cell death have been ascribed to the oxidation of DNA, proteins, and lipids.

A balance between free radicals and antioxidants is necessary for proper physiological function. The administration of exogenous chemical elicitors imitates the reaction of pathogen attacks or wound signals which activates a defense response in plants by inducing oxidative burst (Khanpour-Ardestani *et al.*, 2015; Manivannan *et al.*, 2016). Consequently, the endogenous reactive oxygen species are accumulated in the cells (Lamb and Dixon, 1999) that lead to a cascade of antioxidant metabolic changes in plants. In this study, the exogenous application of SA and JA to the callus cultures at all the concentrations stimulated higher production of H₂O₂ (1.46–3.74 μmol g⁻¹ FW) compared to the control cultures (0.86 μmol g⁻¹ FW). The maximum H₂O₂ levels were observed in callus cultures exposed to JA (3.74 μmol g⁻¹ FW) than SA (3.30 μmol g⁻¹ FW) at the highest concentration (200 μM) used in the study (Figure 49). Similarly, H₂O₂ facilitated several elicitor-induced accumulations of specific secondary metabolites such as indole alkaloids in *Catharanthus roseus* (Zhao *et al.*, 2001), saponin in Ginseng (Hu *et al.*, 2003), and tcibulin in *Alium cepa* (Kraychuk *et al.*, 2003).

Several studies have suggested that elicitor treatment to cell cultures stimulates the generation of ROS leading to increased accumulation of malondialdehyde (MDA), which is an end product of lipid peroxidation (Chong et al., 2005; Ghanati and Dehaghi 2011). It is known from the literature that high levels of MDA are a reflection of an oxidative imbalance. In our study, exposure of callus cultures of G. molucanna to SA and JA at all the concentrations showed a significant increase in the accumulation of MDA (Figure 50). The remarkable increase of MDA level (1.68–2.27 μmol g⁻¹ FW) observed in callus cultures treated with 150 and 200 μM JA might be due to jasmonic-induced enhanced expression of lipoxygenase (Kohlmann et al., 1999), which catalyzes the oxygenation of polyunsaturated fatty acids (Chamulitrat and Mason 1989). In this study, the marked reduction of MDA content observed in 150 and 200 µM SAtreated callus cultures as compared to lower concentrations of 50 and 100 µM is pointing towards the inhibitor effect of SA on lipid peroxidation at higher concentrations possibly due to diminished lipoxygenase activity or altered cellular metabolism. Effect of salicylic acid inhibitory effect on lipoxygenase-dependent lipid peroxidation has been previously reported (Lapenna et al., 2009). Although 150 and 200 µM JA-elicited callus cultures showed higher H_2O_2 levels, the MDA levels of 200 μ M JA (2.27 μ mol g⁻¹ FW) were strikingly higher than that of 150 μM JA (1.68 μmol g⁻¹ FW) which could due to impaired antioxidant capacity of the cells to detoxify the excess produced ROS.

Previous investigations have reported a correlation between phenolics, flavonoids, and antioxidant activities (Wong et al., 2006; Zayova et al., 2012). The present study revealed significant changes in the antioxidant enzyme activities of SOD, CAT, and POD in response to SA and JA elicitation of callus cultures. Varied trends were observed in this study indicating different activity levels with different concentrations of elicitors. Enzymatic antioxidant systems are usually activated during stress conditions. The first line of defense involves the SOD enzyme which catalyzes the conversion of superoxide radical (O_2^-) into H_2O_2 and O_2 . The control of the steady-state O₂⁻ levels by SOD is known to be an important factor in protecting the cells against oxidative damage. In this study, enhanced SOD activities were observed at all the concentrations of the elicitors used indicating the protective action of elicitors to scavenge O_2^- radicals produced in the callus cultures (Figure 51). The H₂O₂ generated during the breakdown of O₂⁻ is further scavenged subsequently by other enzymes such as CAT, POD, and APX. CAT enzyme functions in peroxisomes and involves in the conversion of H₂O₂ to O₂ and H₂O in an energy-efficient manner (Das and Roychoudhury, 2014), while POD eliminates H2O2 both during stress and normal conditions (Asada, 1999). In this study, the CAT (18.62 U mg⁻¹ protein) and POD (579.84 U mg⁻¹) activities markedly increased in callus cultures under the influence of JA at 100 and 200 µM indicating efficient H₂O₂ detoxification system (Figures 52 & 53). The enhanced activities of CAT and POD enzymes in response to SA and JA treatments have been reported in the cell suspension cultures of Scrophularia kakudensis (Manivannan et al., 2016) and Cucumis melo (Nafie et al., 2011). In contrast, Chong et al. (2005) reported a reduction in CAT and ascorbate peroxidase in cell cultures of Morinda elliptica treated with JA, indicative of the antioxidant roles played prominently by other antioxidants that were all enhanced in elicited cultures. It is observed that SA at 50 µM was effective in enhancing the CAT and POD activities while a higher concentration of 200 μM SA reduced the activity which shows the cells' inability to detoxify the H₂O₂ at higher concentrations resulting in ROS imbalance and impaired functions in the cells. Ali et al. (2006) observed a strong decrease in the activity of CAT while guaiacol peroxidase (G-POD) was induced in both MJ- and SA-treated roots of *Panax ginseng*. Thus, it was suggested that CAT functions were taken over by G-POD enzymes in the treated roots.

Another antioxidant mechanism for maintaining redox balance in plants is through the ascorbate–glutathione pathway consisting of four enzymes *viz.*, APX, GR, MDHAR, and DHAR. The H₂O₂ generated by ROS after elicitor treatment is converted to H₂O by APX enzyme through oxidation of AsA to monodehydroascorbate, which is converted to AsA with the help of enzyme

MDHAR. The monodehydroascorbate which escapes this cycle is further converted to dehydroascorbate (DHA) by releasing one more electron. The DHA is converted into AsA to maintain the ascorbate pool by the enzyme DHAR. GSH regenerated from its oxidized form (GSSG) via GR is utilized by DHAR (Murshed et al., 2008). Several studies have reported an enhancement in the activities of APX, GR, MDHAR, and DHAR during stress conditions (Ali et al., 2006; Jiang et al., 2016; Gaafar and Seyam, 2018; Hasanuzzaman et al., 2019). In this study, the activities of enzymes involved in the AsA-GSH cycle were significantly increased in JA 150 µM elicited callus cultures which corroborated with the highest contents of ascorbate and glutathione indicating better ROS regulation at this concentration (Figures 54a-d, 55a-d). Additionally, improved GSH (reduced form) and diminished GSSG (oxidized form) along with enhanced GR activity maintains the higher GSH/GSSG ratio suggesting the effectiveness of 150 μM JA in maintaining the AsA-GSH pool. These results are in agreement with the report of Li et al. (2017) where exogenous JA increased the activities of key enzymes in the AsA-GSH cycle, decreased the oxidized glutathione (GSSG), and increased the GSH/GSSG ratio which resulted in lower MDA and H₂O₂ contents in low root-zone temperature in roots of Malus baccata Borkh. Moreover, a gradual decrease in APX, MDHAR, DHAR, and GR activities with declined GSH and raised GSSG contents in callus cultures under the influence of SA at higher concentrations of 100 to 200 µM is pointing towards the concentration-dependent inhibition of the AsA-GSH cycle by SA in callus cultures in our study (Figures 54a-d). Durner and Klessig (1995) have previously demonstrated the ability of SA to inhibit APX activity supporting the hypothesis that SA-induced defense responses are mediated, in part, through H₂O₂ levels or coupled perturbations of the cellular redox state.

The PAL enzyme is a key enzyme of the phenylpropanoid pathway that is involved in the biosynthesis of several secondary metabolites. There are numerous reports indicating positive relationships between PAL activity and the accumulation of phenolics, but on the other hand, there are puzzling data concerning this correlation (Bauer *et al.*, 2011). In this study, the highest PAL activity (0.33 U mg⁻¹ protein) was recorded in the callus cultures treated with 150 μM JA for 20 days, which could explain the higher accumulation of phenolics and flavonoids in these cultures (Figure 56). It can be presumed that jasmonic acid has a positive regulatory role in activating phenylpropanoid pathway although the mechanism by which specific concentration regulates higher biosynthesis is unknown. Interestingly, in our study, the PAL activity in 50 μM SA (0.21 U mg⁻¹ protein) treated callus cultures did not differ significantly from control callus

cultures (0.19 U mg⁻¹ protein) although there was a significant increase in total phenolics and flavonoid contents in response to SA treatment. The reduction in PAL activity at higher concentrations (100–200 µM) of SA with a concomitant decrease in total phenolics and flavonoids is pointing towards the inhibitory effects of higher concentrations. In agreement with our results, Kovacik *et al.* (2009) found that PAL activity decreased at higher SA doses in *Martricaria chamomilla* plants which could be caused by a decrease in the phenylalanine pool.

The transcript levels of SOD, CAT, POD, and APX genes, as well as PAL which is involved in the phenylpropanoid pathway, were analyzed for ascertaining the correspondence between transcript levels and enzyme activities. The relative transcript levels of SOD, CAT, POD, and APX genes were significantly upregulated in callus cultures treated with 100 to 200 μM JA, whereas at lower concentration of 50 μM, the transcript levels of CAT and POD genes were either downregulated or equivalent to controls. On the contrary, the highest transcript levels of antioxidant genes were observed at 50 µM SA which showed a decrease with an increase in the concentration (100–200 µM). The enhanced transcript level of these genes is consistent with the activities of these enzymes, justifying similar regulation at both the transcriptional and protein levels in addition to indicating the role of these enzymes in the process of detoxification of ROS during elicitor treatment. The study of Mejia-Ieniente et al. (2013) revealed the inducing effect of SA on CAT and PAL gene expression which correlated with their enzyme activities in Capsicum annuum L. Surprisingly, we observed a lack of correlation between PAL transcript level and PAL activity in SA- and JA-treated callus cultures as PAL transcript levels were found to be higher in SA-treated callus cultures as compared to JA-treated callus cultures. Moreover, the PAL activity in SA 50 µM treated callus cultures was similar to control callus cultures despite a significant increase in total phenolic content recorded in response to SA treatment. This discrepancy between transcript levels and enzyme activity of PAL can be due to posttranscriptional modifications as stated by Ballester et al. (2006). Ejtahed et al. (2015) reported that despite the increase in the transcript rate of the PAL gene at the higher concentration of SA, lower amounts of rosmarinic acid were accumulated in shoots of Salvia officinalis. Thus, it was suggested that some other unknown factors participate in the synthesis of phenolics.

5.11. Elicitation showed an increase in number of secondary metabolite classes as compared to untreated controls

Elicitation represents a compelling strategy for enhancing the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites that are typically produced at low levels under normal conditions (Ramirez-Estrada et al., 2016). In this study, metabolomics strategies equipped with LC-MS/MS was employed for putative detection of secondary metabolites in leaves derived callus cultures (control) as well as SA treated and JA treated callus cultures of *G. moluccana*, resulting in detection of numerous secondary metabolites of different types such as flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, phenolics, and steroids and sterois being the prominent and abundant ones. The classifications of different class of secondary metabolites in control and under SA and JA treatments are demonstrated in Figures 63a-c. SA, JA and its derivatives has been successfully used for production of various types' secondary metabolites in different plants systems (Naik and Al-Kharyi, 2016). The use of SA for the enhanced production of different class of secondary is well documented for example enhanced production of phenolic compounds in *Crocus sativus* (Tajik et al., 2019), *Salvia miltiorrhiza* (Guo et al., 2015; Li et al., 2016), *Ginkgo biloba* (Ni et al., 2018; Ye et al., 2020), *Vitis vinifera* (Xu et al., 2015), *Orostachys cartilaginous* (Wen et al., 2019) and several other plant species.

Enhanced production of terpenoids by SA has been reported in *Centella asiatica* (Buraphaka and Putalun, 2020), *Artemisia annua* (Aftab et al., 2010), *Aquilaria sinesis* (Lv et al., 2019), *Stevia rebaudiana* (Moharramnejad et al., 2019). Similarly, SA treated increased the production of alkaloids in *Catharanthus roseus* (Idrees et al., 2011), *Arthrospira platensis* (Hadizadeh et al., 2019), *Stemona curtisii* (Chotikadachanarong et al., 2011), *Ricinus communis* (Zavala-Gómez et al., 2021; Withania somnifera (Sivanandhan et al., 2013). SA enhanced the production of secondary metabolites by modulating the expression of genes related to enzymes involved in the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites (Ali, 2021). Enhanced production of phenolic compounds such as flavonoids, phenolic acids, anthocyanins and stilbenes under the treatment of JA has been reported in many plant systems such as *Vitis vinifera* (Curtin et al., 2003; Belhadj et al., 2006); *Salvia miltiorrhiza* (Xiao et al., (2009); *Lycopersicon esculentum* (Chen et al., 2006), *Ophiorrhiza mungos* (Deepthi and Satheeshkumar, 2007); *Glycyrrhiza glabra* (Shabani et al., 2009); *Calendula officinalis* (Wiktorowska et al., 2010); *Mentha piperita* (Krzyzanowska et al., 2012); *Artemisia absinthium* (Ali et al., 2015). Singh et al. (2020) reported an increase in the production of terpenoids and alkaloids in *Withania somnifera*. The mechanism

that is employed by plants cells upon encountering with elicitors such as SA and JA involves a series of events. The signal from the elicitors is detected by the plant cells, which activates a series of intricate responses such as membrane depolarization, reversible phosphorylation of plasma membrane proteins, Cl and K+ efflux/H+ influx, and changes in cytosolic [Ca²⁺] concentration, ion fluxes increased, NADPH oxidase activation, mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) activation, and ROS and reactive nitrogen species (RNS) production, which results in activation of transcription and translation of defense-responsive genes/enzymes leading to production of secondary metabolites (Jeyasri *et al.*, 2023).

5.12. *De novo* transcriptome analysis revealed differentially expressed genes in elicited callus cultures

De novo transcriptome analysis serves as a valuable tool not only for discovering new genes and developing molecular markers but also for establishing gene expression networks across different tissues and organs in animal and plants. It is employed in non-model species that lack comprehensive genome information (Li et al., 2016). The significant progress in RNA sequencing in the past decade has made our understanding of the genomics easier, cost-effective and high throughput resulting in generation of extensive transcriptome data from diverse organisms and tissue types, particularly in cases where there is no pre-existing reference genome available (Shah et al., 2020). This study provided the first insight on transcriptome and differentially expressed genes of G. moluccana leaves, leaves derived callus and callus treated with SA and JA in G. moluccana.

A comprehensive transcriptome analysis was carried out through Illumina Hiseq based paired end sequencing to generate four sets of *de novo* transcriptome data which were assembled, annotated and analyzed. The Illumina, a next-generation sequencing platform utilized for transcriptome assembly, produces relatively shorter sequencing reads. However, it offers significantly broader transcriptome coverage at a lower cost compared to other sequencing platforms (Deng *et al.*, 2019). The Trinity assembly strategy was employed as a comprehensive approach for constructing the transcriptome as there was no available reference genome. After filtering and trimming the raw files, clean reads of 36,610,058, 37,263,180, 30,435,498, and 37,764,748 were generated for leaves, leaves derived callus (control), SA treated callus and JA treated callus, respectively. These high quality clean reads were *de novo* assembled into 77,522 unigenes and 171,971 isoforms with 37.83% GC content and N50 of 2882 bp indicating a high quality assembly. The N50 is a critical metric for evaluating assembly quality, with a longer N50

length indicating a higher quality assembly (Hou et al., 2018). The N50 length of unigenes of 2882 bp in our study demonstrated that the sequence assembly was of high quality and wellsuited for in-depth research. Among the 77,522 unigenes generated, 35,128 (45.31%) of the unigenes were effectively matched and annotated from public database such as nr, Pfam, Swiss-Prot, GO, COG, and KEGG using BlastX. The unannotated data could be as a result from the inadequacy of sequences available in public databases for closely related species in terms of phylogenetic relationships or poorly conserved regions (Hou et al., 2011). Additionally, the presence of non-coding genes, untranslated regions (UTRs), random transcriptional noise, or incomplete spliced introns that do not match the sequences available in public databases, and further some genes might not have been expressed at the time of RNA extraction or were expressed at very low levels which contributes to challenges while annotation (Kang et al., 2017; Shah et al., 2020). Gene ontology (GO) emphasized the functional diversity within the transcriptome dataset, with the highest transcript abundance associated with molecular functions (39.85%) followed by biological processes (31.16%) and cellular processes (28.97 %). GO is a globally accepted and standardized system for classifying gene functions. Rastogi et al. (2014) highlighted that GO provides a contemporary and well-established framework for an in-depth and extensive overview of the features and activities of genes and their products across each organism. The annotation and sequence information derived from gene ontology results would serve as valuable gene resources for future prospective molecular-level investigations in G. moluccana and its related species.

Callus formation involves reprogramming of gene networks highlighting the importance of comprehending the molecular mechanisms behind this process. Such understanding is pivotal not only for achieving rapid plant propagation, but also for secondary metabolite production for incorporating specific genetic traits in both research and commercial setting. Over the past decade, numerous studies have shed light on the intricate regulatory mechanisms behind callus formation, which involves complex processes, with the reacquisition of cell proliferative ability being the main aspect (Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2013). It has been observed that terminally differentiated plant cells usually suppress the mitotic cell cycle, making the restoration of proliferative competence a key step in callus formation (Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2013). However, triggering callus formation typically requires more than the activation of cyclins (CYCs) or cyclin-dependent kinases (CDKs), cell cycle regulating factors. For instance, solely activating these factors does not usually lead to callus induction (Dewitte *et al.*, 2003), instead, most described callus

induction mechanisms rely on transcriptional or posttranscriptional regulators that orchestrate widespread alterations in gene expression or protein translation (Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2013). This study provided an insight on the transcriptome changes during callus formation from leaves of *G. moluccana*. A total of 6488 DEGs were identified between leaves and leaves derived callus. Several genes involved in cell division, plant hormone signaling pathways, plants stress response, plant-pathogen interactions were among the top upregulated including alpha-amylase inhibitor domain containing protein (*AAI*) proline rich proteins (*PRP*), late embryogenesis abundant protein (*LEA5*), WNT protein family, expansins (*EXP*), acetylserotonin-o-methyl transferase (*ASMT*), alcohol dehydrogenase (*ADH*), APETALA2/ETHYLENE RESPONSIVE FACTOR (*AP2/ERF*) domain containing transcription factors and ascorbate oxidase (*AO*).

AAI proteins are plant's natural defense system and are known to preferentially express in flower tissues and in response to phytohormones such as, methyl jasmonate, salicylic acid, indole 3-acetic acid, gibberellic acid and brassinolide. *PRP* gene plays a significant role in plant growth and development as well as in cell death processes in several plant species under normal conditions (Gujjar *et al.*, 2019) and during abiotic and biotic stress conditions. Reports on *PRP* have shown that it can be either upregulated as well as downregulated during different stress conditions. Peng *et al.* (2015) and Gujjar *et al.* (2018) reported the downregulation of *PRP* in *Poncirus trifoliate* and *Solanum lycopersicum* during osmotic stress, while upregulation of *PRP* were also reported by Qin *et al.* (2013) in *Gossypium hirsutum* and in *Glycine soja* (Liu *et al.*, 2015). The upregulation of *AAI* and *PRP* genes in leaves derived callus in comparison to leaves may be as a result of hormones like 2,4-D and BAP in the media or as a result of wound induced in the leaves in the process of callus induction. Gyögyey *et al.* (1997) underlined that the expression of *PRP* in dedifferentiated callus cultures of alfalfa was induced by 2,4-D and not expressed or weakly expressed in other differentiated tissues.

LEA proteins are known to play a significant role in different stress conditions such as cold stress in *Zea mays* (Liu *et al.*, 2018), drought and salinity in *Oryza sativa* (Huang *et al.*, 2018) and *Jatropha curcas* (Liang *et al.*, 2013) and during seed desiccation (Leprince *et al.*, 2017). The involvement of LEA protein during the process of callus induction was demonstrated by He *et al.* (2021) in *Arabidopsis*. The elevated levels of LEA protein in callus cultures in this study might be due to wounding of the tissue, which was similarly observed in protocorm-like body (PLB), a callus mass of *Dendrobium officinale* (He *et al.*, 2021). *WNT* gene encodes highly conserved signaling molecules and plays a crucial role in cellular development and

developmental processes (Das and Kumar, 2016). The role of WNT family protein during callusing and somatic embryogenesis has been reported in cotton (Aydin *et al.*, 2006). Expansins are also known as cell wall-loosening protein (Choi *et al.*, 2006). They have a broad range of roles in plant growth and development including vegetative growth (Cho and Cosgrove, 2000), fruit development (Kitagawa *et al.*, 2005; Trivedi and Nath, 2004), cell elongation (Gookin *et al.*, 2003; Harmer *et al.*, 2002) and environmental stress (Rochange *et al.*, 2001; Balestrini *et al.*, 2005; Lee and Kende, 2001). Acetylserotonin-O-methyltransferase (ASMT) is pivotal in facilitating the last stage of melatonin production in plants, which plays important role in growth and development of plants and its response to adverse condition has been reported (Ma *et al.*, 2022).

Alcohol dehydrogenases are derived from multi-gene family and are paramount to various aspects of plant growth and development including adaptation to environment, fruit maturation and generation of aromatic compounds (Jin *et al.*, 2016). A substantial rise in the activity of ADH during the process of callus formation with 2-4-D in the media (van der Plas and van der Pal, 1983; Dolferus *et al.*, 1985; Torquato and Machado, 1995) and slicing of potato tuber has been reported. In another study, incubation of the sliced tuber of potato in carbon such as sucrose triggered high ADH activities, and this increase was contingent on the synthesis of cytoplasmic proteins (van der Plas and van der Pal, 1983). The role of *AP2/ERF* transcription factor in the process of cell dedifferentiation and callus formation at the site of wounding has been well established in *Arabidopsis* (Iwase *et al.*, 2011; Asahina *et al.*, 2011; Ye *et al.*, 2020) and tobacco (Marsch-Martinez *et al.*, 2006; Srinivasan *et al.*, 2007).

Ascorbate oxidase gene is involved in the regulation of cell division and growth of tissues (Alós, *et al.*, 2013; Minutolo *et al.*, 2020) and signaling between cells and its environment (Stevens *et al.*, 2018). The expression of *AO* gene is triggered by wounding, hormones and other forms of stress (Stevens *et al.*, 2018). Esaka *et al.* (1988) and Sekiya *et al.* (1989) also reported a marked increase in its expression and activity during callus formation in pumpkin. The majority of the top downregulated genes in callus cultures were found to be associated with photosynthesis such as ribulose-1,5-biphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase (Rubisco), Rubisco activase, chlorophyll a-b binding protein, elements of light-harvesting complex-II type 1 (LHC-II type-1), magnesium chelatase and oxygen evolving enhancer protein, plastids, photosystem-I reaction center subunit PsaK and thioredoxin like protein. This could be inferred as a result of the callus cells switching to heterotroph mode of nutrition intake resulting in repression of genes

associated with photosynthesis as substantiated by Bilgin *et al.* (2010) and Chen *et al.* (2020). Suppression of photosynthetic processes results in conservation of energy stimulating a defense response, paving way for accumulation of secondary metabolites (Rojas *et al.*, 2014). Fructose bisphosphate aldolase (FBA), a bifunctional glycolytic enzyme which is usually highly expressed in leaves tissues (Lv *et al.*, 2017) is also known to improve the photosynthesis process (Zeng *et al.*, 2015). The downregulation of gene encoding the photosynthesis related proteins and FBA may also be attributed to dedifferentiation of the leaves tissue to callus formation. Other top downregulated were starch synthase, EGF like domain containing protein and carbonic anhydrase involved in several metabolism and pathways.

During callus formation, the gene expression of the explants undergo profound changes as reported in several plants species such Arabidopsis (Che et al., 2006; Okushima et al., 2007; Fan et al., 2012), Populus trichocarpa (Tuskan et al., 2018), Glycine max (Park et al., 2023), Nicotiana tabacum (Kosugi and Ohashi, 2003) and several other plants. The process of callus formation is governed by a complex regulatory mechanism involving several transcription factors. The TF that were identified in leaves derived callus and are known to contribute in the callus formation were LATERAL ORGAN BOUNDARIES DOMAIN (LBD) or ASYMMETRIC LEAVES2-LIKE, which is a key regulators that mediate auxin signals and directs callus formation (Fan et al., 2012). AUXIN RESPONSE FACTOR (ARF) which is intertwined with other TF such as BRASSINOSTEROID-INSENSITIVE (BIN2) and LBD, that regulate callus formation (Lee and Seo, 2017), APETALA2/ETHYLENE RESPONSIVE FACTOR (AP2/ERF), is involved in monitoring cell dedifferentiation in response to wounding (Iwase et al., 2011), B3 transcription factor is involved in the callus formation and somatic embryogenesis in Citrus sinensis (Ge et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2020). WRKY and bHLH, act as transcriptional activator and repressor during auxin induced callus pluripotency (Zhang et al., 2022; Xu et al., 2024). WUSCHEL-RELATED HOMEOBOX (WOX), promotes the callus formation in leaf petioles and hypocotyl (Ikeuchi et al., 2022), SBP transcription factors were reported in rice callus suggesting their role in cell dedifferentiation (Yang et al., 2008). NIN-like transcription factors participates in the regulation of callus formation enhancing the genes expression linked to biosynthesis of auxin and transport in the process of callus formation (Tong et al., 2023), Nuclear factor-Ys-NF-YA were reported to increase the weight of callus upon overexpression, NF-YB were highly expressed in embryonic callus while NF-YC were highly expressed during somatic embryogenesis in Medicago truncatula (Potsenkovskaia et al., 2022). NAC transcription factorscertain NAC TF are tissue specific and found only in callus tissue of rice (Fang et al., 2008). MYB and MYB related transcription have been reported to participate in promoting embryonic callus formation in maize (Ge et al., 2016) as well as suppression of callus formation in Arabidopsis (Dai et al., 2020). MADS-box genes (MCM1-AGAMOUS-DEFICIENCY-SRF) are known for their roles in floral organ identity determination, although there are reports which suggested their roles in embryonic callus formation in cotton (Yang et al., 2014), soyabean (Perry et al., 2016) and Arabidopsis (Xu et al., 2017). Heat Stress Transcription Factors (HSFs) has been reported to be instrumental in plant response to stress condition (Guo et al., 2016) as well as enhance the callus formation (Ogawa et al., 2007). GROWTH REGULATING FACTOR (GRF) transcription factor enhances the callus growth in canola (Kong et al., 2020). GOLDEN2 (G2) transcription factor have been reported to improve callus regeneration in rice and maize (Luo et al., 2023). Basic region/leucine zipper (bZIP) transcription factor have been reported to form a complex with LBDs to regulate auxin-induced callus formation in Arabidopsis (Xu et al., 2018). BESI (BRI1-EMS-suppressor 1) transcription factor which is associated with brassinosteroid signaling has been reported to be highly expressed during callus formation (Park et al., 2023).

The top upregulated genes in SA treated callus cultures are known for their roles in several metabolism and pathways. 2-hydroxyisoflavanone dehydratase vital for determining the productivity of isoflavones (Shimamura et al., 2007) while flavonoid 3'-monoxygenase (F3'M) is responsible for catalyzing the hydroxylation of naringenin and dihydrokampferol, which ultimately leads to the production of anthocyanins based on cyanidin in the flavonoid pathway (Jia et al., 2019) were among the highly upregulated genes. The upregulation of flavonoid pathways genes such as F3'M with SA treatment has been reported in Camellia sinensis var. asssamica (Jiang et al., 2022) and Osmanthus fragrans (Han et al., 2019). Ali et al. (2007) reported the increased activities of shikimate dehydrogenase when treated with SA in Panax ginseng. Shikimate dehydrogenase is an enzyme that assists the fourth step reactions in the shikimate pathway, which is an indispensable route for the biosynthesis of aromatic compounds in plants and microorganisms. Several signaling and transduction proteins such as cysteine protease (CP), serine carboxypeptidase-like 12 (SCPL), senescence-associated protein, salicylate carboxy methyltransferase (SAMT), and YELLOW LEAF were also among the top upregulated genes in SA treatment. Cysteine proteases (CP) are proteolytic enzymes which have been implicated in various physiological and development stages of the plants including germination,

senescence, and plant immunity (Niño *et al.*, 2014). CP is known to be induced and upregulated by salicylic acid (Kovács *et al.*, 2016). SCPL gene family has been associated with biotic and abiotic stress (Xu *et al.*, 2021), and they have been reported to exhibit significant overexpression with SA treatment in rice (Liu *et al.*, 2008).

Senescence-associated proteins are associated with various plant processes such as the degradation of primary metabolites, nutrient recycling and transport, sugar metabolism, removal of oxidative by-products, and development of stress resilience. They are responsive to various environmental signals, such as abiotic and biotic stresses, and access to nutrients, implying substantial signaling crosstalk between the senescence process and stress responses (Lim et al., 2007; Seo et al., 2011). Salicylate carboxymethyltransferase is a regulator of salicylic pathway which facilitates the methylation of SA with S-adenosyl-L-methionine to form methyl salicylate (Wang et al., 2019). They participate in plant defense mechanism and are reported to be induced by SA in rice which confers disease resistance (Xu et al., 2006). Stress response proteins such as peroxidase 4, Cytochrome P450, MYB transcription factor along with transmembrane protein such as proton antipo M domain-containing protein, copper transporter, plasma membrane ATPase were some of the genes among the highly top regulated in SA treatment of G. moluccanna. Several reports have elucidated the role of salicylic acid in combating with different stress conditions through the involvement of stress response protein, transcription factors and transmembrane protein and antioxidant enzymes (Khanom et al., 2019; Brouwer et al., 2020; Tiwari et al., 2020; Khalvandi et al., 2021). SA has been reported to inhibit diacylglycerol O-acyltranferase (DGAT) in Arabidopsis (Chen et al., 2015). Aquaporins are transmembrane water channel protein that facilitates water movement across the cell membranes; the downregulatory role of SA on aquaporins has also been reported in Arabidopsis by Boursiac et al. (2008) and in rice by Liang et al. (2013) similar to our study. Peroxidase 12 is specifically expressed only in leaves and roots; the downregulation of peroxidase gene by SA has also been reported in previous studies (Durner and Klessig, 1995; Liu et al., 2018) as observed in this study.

The genes that were top upregulated in JA treated callus cultures mostly include signaling and plant oxidative stress response genes such as SCP domain containing protein (PR1 protein), transcription factor E2FB, glucose/ribitol dehydrogenase, alpha deoxygenase 1, proteinase inhibitor, non-specific lipid-transfer protein 1, kunitz trypsin inhibitor, patatin like protein, chitinase, executer 1, catalase 1 and AAI domain containing protein. SCP domain containing

proteins (PR1 protein) are plant defense proteins which act as molecular markers in system acquired resistance (SAR) (Van Loon and Van Strien, 1999) and its expression is induced by SA and JA. The transcription factor, E2FB, is JA-responsive gene which is associated with cell cycle, stress and plant defense response (Vincent et al., 2022). Stress associated protein such as glucose/ribitol dehydrogenase, alpha deoxygenase, executer1, proteinase inhibitor, kunitz trypsin inhibitor, patatin like protein expression are induced by jasmonic acid (Farmer et al., 1992; Wagner et al., 2004; Koeduka et al., 2005; Gomès et al., 2007; Li et al., 2008; Lu et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2021). Chitinase is another pathogenesis-related protein, which is induced by jasmonic acid (Rakwal et al., 2004). Catalase, an important antioxidant enzyme often associated with elevated activities and gene express under the influence of JA (Kumari et al., 2006; Woch et al., 2023). The downregulated genes in JA treated callus cultures comprised of aquaporin/tonoplast intrinsic protein, ELMO domain-containing protein A, palmitoyltransferase, GIGANTEA-like (GI), lactamase domain containing protein B, S-adenosyl methionine, peroxidase 21, LRR receptor-like serine/threonine-protein kinase, DRY EERY domain containing protein, transcription factor bHLH144, vegetative storage protein 2, DETOXIFICATION 49, protein binding protein, ring type domain protein, sucrose synthase, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase, SNF1 protein kinase, ATP dependent helicase BRM, CLK4-associating serine/arginine rich protein-like, CDK protein, bZIP transcription factor TRAB1-like. GI is well known for its role in circadian rhythm, flowering time, environmental stress responses, plant growth and development. The down regulation of GI like genes have been reported to enhance plant growth and tolerance against stresses (Ke et al., 2016; Acharya et al., 2022).

5.13. Transcription factors involved in secondary metabolites were identified in elicited callus cultures

Transcription factors act as a significant regulators of secondary metabolites, cell growth and development and plant response to various environment factors (Wang *et al.*, 2016). In this study, 1062 transcripts encoding transcription factors belonging to 50 different families were identified between leaves derived calluses (control), SA treated callus and JA treated callus culture. The TF family with high number of transcripts belonged to *ERF*, *bHLH*, *NAC*, *WRKY*, *GRAS*, *C3H*, *C2H2*, *MYB*, *MYB* related and *B3*. Several members of the transcription factors such as *WRKY*, *MYB*, *NAC*, *AP2/ERF*, *bHLH*, *DOF* and so on are well known for their roles in

regulation of secondary metabolites in plants. ERF transcription factor makes up one of the largest transcription families and they play essential roles in plant growth and development, hormone regulation and signaling and respond to various adverse conditions like drought, pathogens, salinity and cold; ERF also regulate the production of various metabolites such as proline, malondialdehyde, and flavonoids. Functioning as antioxidants, flavonoids possess the ability to neutralize reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated in plants under abiotic stress conditions (Wu et al., 2022). The bHLH transcription factors play a crucial role in various cellular activities associated with plant growth and development such as regulation of seed germination, flowering, fruit ripening, trichome formation, and root hair development. These bHLH transcription factors also contribute to plant reaction to abiotic stress like drought, salt, cold; additionally play an important roles in plant secondary metabolism and terpenoid biosynthesis (Liang et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2022). MYB transcription factors (TFs) are also among the most prominent groups of genes in plants and hold a significant regulatory role across multiple biological and physiological functions like plant growth and development, cellular structure, primary and secondary product metabolism, environmental stress response, and biosynthesis of secondary metabolites such as flavonoids, phenolic acids, and anthocyanins (Cao et al., 2020). WRKY transcription factors represent one of the most expansive families of transcriptional regulators, uniquely present in plants. These factors exhibit diverse biological functions encompassing plant disease resistance, responses to abiotic stress, nutrient deprivation, senescence, seed and trichome development, embryogenesis, and biosynthesis of flavonoids and terpenoids (Vom Endt et al., 2002; Bakshi and Oelmüller, 2014).

NAC transcription factors family have been demonstrated to regulate a diverse array of developmental processes which includes seeds and embryo development, shoot apical meristem formation, fiber development, leaf senescence, and cell division (Nuruzzaman et al., 2013). The emerging role of NAC in regulating plant secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, terpenoids in the recent times has also been highlighted in several plants (Kumar et al., 2021). C3H and C2H2 are zinc finger protein (ZFP) which are known as the master regulators of many downstream genes involved in plant growth and development, morphogenesis, signal transduction, stress responses (Liu et al., 2020; Han et al., 2020). B3 transcription factors are DNA binding proteins with diverse roles in plants including flowering (Ruan et al., 2021). Transcription factors respond to phytohormones by creating dynamic regulatory networks which finely adjust the timing, intensity, and tissue-specific expression of genes in metabolic pathways, influencing the

subsequent accumulation of secondary metabolites. Transcriptional regulations in plants are orchestrated massively by plant hormones such a SA and JA, which directs the signaling networks of induction or repression (Caarls *et al.*, 2015). Fifteen transcripts belonging to 6 transcription factor families namely *bHLH*, *WRKY*, *MYB* and *MYB* related, *HSF* and *HD-ZIP* were upregulated in SA treatment while 14 transcripts belonging to 9 transcription factor families namely *bHLH*, *bZIP*, *C3H*, *ERF*, *HD-ZIP*, *HSF*, *NAC*, *Nin-like* and *Whirly* were downregulated in SA treatment. In JA treatment, 28 transcripts belonging to 13 transcriptions factor families were upregulated including *B3*, *bHLH*, *C2H2*, *EIL*, *ERF*, *E2F/DP*, *G2-like*, *HD-ZIP*, *HSF*, *MYB*, *MYB* related, *NAC* and *WRKY*. While 53 transcripts belonging to 27 transcriptions factor families namely *GRF*, *AP2*, *ARF*, *ARR-B*, *B3*, *BES1*, *bHLH*, *bZIP*, *C2H2*, *C3H*, *CAMTA*, *Dof*, *EIL*, *ERF*, *FAR1*, *GRAS*, *HD-ZIP*, *MYB*, *NAC*, *NF-YC*, *Nin-like*, *SBP*, *SRS*, *TALE*, *TCP*, *WRKY*, and *ZF-HD* were downregulated in JA treatment.

5.14. Elicitation by SA and JA caused changes in expression of genes involved in synthesis of phenylpropanoids

Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) techniques have enabled the identification of genes that are associated with pathways responsible for secondary metabolites synthesis. Exogenous application of SA and JA for improved biosynthesis of different secondary metabolites has been well reported in different plant species. In this study, the treatment of callus cultures with SA and JA resulted in increased accumulation of phenolic acids, flavonoids, and other class of secondary metabolites along with improved antioxidant machineries. Plants upon exposure to SA and JA treatments, exhibit a broad spectrum of intricate molecular responses such as alterations in gene expression, modifications in transcriptional regulation, and changes in signal transduction processes linked to the production of secondary metabolites (Soltani *et al.*, 2022).

Here, ten differentially expressed putative genes corresponding to phenylpropanoid pathway were identified in both SA and JA treated callus cultures. Phenylpropanoids are class of plant-based compounds which are derived from deamination of aromatic amino acid phenylalanine. They partake in plant growth and development, and defense mechanisms, as these secondary metabolites responses to environmental stress, interacts with pathogens, and maintain plant cells structural integrity (Agar and Cankaya, 2020). Phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL) is the crucial enzyme which catalyzes the initial phenylpropanoid pathway that paves way to the regulation of several phenylpropanoid compounds. In this study, the transcripts of four key enzymes of phenylpropanoid pathway namely phenylalanine ammonia lyase, cinnamate 4-

hydroxylase 4-coumarate 3-hydroxylase (C3'H) and Caffeoyl-CoA 3-O-(C4H), methyltransferase (CCoAOMT) were upregulated with the treatments of SA and JA. Several studies has showcased that SA and JA treatments have led to enhanced expression of enzymes such as PAL (Gondor et al., 2016; Li et al., 2019), C3'H (Choi et al., 2012) C4H (Rostami et al., 2022) and CCoAOMT (Zheng et al., 2019). Previous studies have demonstrated that SA and JA trigger the expression of these genes which encodes the enzymes participating in lignin biosynthesis pathway (Salzman et al., 2005; Yaqoob et al., 2012). SA and JA share a similar signaling pathway with pathogen responses and wound healing such as strengthening cell wall (Maleck and Dietrich., 1999; Desender et al., 2007). The involvement of SA and JA in generating intracellular signaling molecules which facilitate the activation of gene expression in response to various stimuli such as wounding, elicitors, and pathogen infection has been highlighted by Sembdner and Parthier (1993) and Farmer (1994). CAD which catalyzes the final step in the biosynthesis of monolignols was found to be downregulated in JA treatment in this study. Contrastingly, Kim et al. (2010) reported that treatment with JA and SA induced the CAD gene in sweet potatoes. The exogenously applied MeJA or SA in Camellia sinensis changed the expression levels of CADs, reacting to different hormones differently, implying that these genes are at least partially transcriptionally regulated by hormone signaling (Deng et al., 2013). Liu et al. (2021) reported the accumulation of hydroxycinnamaldehyde, a monolignol precursor in CAD down-regulation plants. The genes that encode enzyme ferulate 5-hydrolase was downregulated in SA treatment, Kim et al. (2006) also highlighted the inhibitory effect of SA on ferulate 5-hydrolase gene (F5H) in Camptotheca acuminate, where F5H was induced by wounding. Some of the transcripts of the genes encoding enzymes such HCT, CSE, COMT, and 4CL were upregulated while some were downregulated which is as a result of isoforms of those genes. There are similar reports where SA and JA treatment have enhanced the regulation of the genes involved in phenylpropanoid pathway (Suzuki et al., 2005; Zhou et al., 2018; Niu et al., 2023).

Flavonoids are also synthesized through phenylpropanoid pathway and involve several enzymes (Winkel-shirley, 2002). Several factors can affect the biosynthesis of flavonoids like temperature, nutrient light, and water deficiency; however, phytohormones remain the most important regulators of flavonoid biosynthesis such as jasmonates, abscisic acids, auxins, cytokinins, and ethylene (Premathilake *et al.*, 2020). In this study, 29 transcripts of genes that encode different enzymes involved in flavonoid pathways were annotated and identified. Most of

the genes identified were upregulated in SA and JA treatments except for the gene that encode chalcone reductase (CHR), anthocynidin synthase (ANS), flavanone 4-reductase (FNR), and anthocyanidin 3-o-glucoslyteransferase, which were downregulated. *FNR* gene was downregulated in SA treatment, while *CHR* and *ANS* genes were downregulated in JA treatment, and anthocyanidin 3-o-glucoslyteransferase was downregulated in both SA and JA treatments. Salicylic acid, jasmonic acid and its methyl esters derivatives have shown to induce flavonoid biosynthesis in different plants such as *Mentha piperita* (Figueroa-Pérez *et al.* 2018), *Pyrus communis* (Premathilake *et al.*, 2020), *Brassica napus* (Luo *et al.*, 2021), *Citrullus lanatus* (Liu *et al.*, 2023).

Two recognized terpenoids biosynthetic routes namely mevalonate (MVA) pathway which takes place in cytoplasm and 2-C-methyl-D-erythritol-4-phosphate (MEP) pathway that takes place in plastid are well established in higher plants, which produces isopentenyl diphosphate (IPP) and dimethylallyl diphosphate (DMAPP). These function as precursors for sesquiterpenes, triterpenes, sterols, and polyterpenes in the cytoplasm, while in the plastid pool, they contribute to the synthesis of monoterpenes, diterpenes, and tetraterpenes (Liu *et al.*, 2015). In this study, 21 transcripts which encode the enzymes that participate in MVA pathway and 31 transcripts encoding the enzymes involved in MEP pathway were annotated and identified. Overall, the JA treatment resulted in upregulation of larger number of transcripts involved in MVA pathway whereas SA treatment caused upregulation of larger number of transcripts upregulated in MEP pathway. Only diphosphomevalonate decarboxylase (MVD) gene was upregulated by SA treatment but downregulated in JA treatment in MVA pathway. Several reports have shown that SA and JA treatments resulted in enhanced expression of genes involved in MVA and MEP pathways.

Furthermore, we identified various transcripts encoding the genes of enzymes that participate in lignin biosynthesis pathway, which is also a part of phenylpropanoid pathway. Majority of the transcripts involved in lignin pathway were upregulated with the treatment of SA and JA including phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL), cinnamate 4-monooxygenase (C4H), 4-coumarate-coA ligase (4CL), hydroxycinnamoyl transferase (HCT), 4-Coumarate 3-hydroxylase (C3H) and CoA O-methyltransferase (CCoAOMT). Cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD) was downregulated in JA but upregulated in SA treatment, while ferulate 5-hydrolase (F5H) gene was upregulated in JA but downregulated in SA treatment. Meanwhile,

the transcripts of peroxidase and catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) were differentially expressed in both SA and JA treatments.

The outcomes of this investigation demonstrates that the application of SA and JA in callus cultures of *G. moluccana* significantly impacted various crucial biological processes, including photosynthesis response and defense system, signaling and transport, and various secondary metabolic pathways. Additionally, the transcriptome profiles highlighted gene expressions linked to responses to abiotic stress and the biosynthesis of phenylpropanoids, flavonoid and terpenoids. These findings are consistent with the observed enhancement of secondary metabolites in the callus cultures of *G. moluccana*. As this is the first report of the transcriptomic data of leaves, callus and callus treated with SA and JA in *G. moluccana*, these data would serve as a valuable resource, contributing to an enhanced understanding of molecular mechanism during callus formation as well as salicylic acid and jasmonic acid response network and the molecular mechanisms governing the influence of this hormones on defense and stress responses at the transcriptional level.

6. Summary and Conclusions

G. moluccana is a tree species of economic importance valued for its soft wood and medicinal properties, especially for treatment of inflammatory diseases. It is considered to be a rich source of phenolic compounds, however, the information on secondary metabolite composition in various plant parts and their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities is limited. Research on production of secondary metabolite production from in vitro cultures remains unexplored in this species. The study focussed on assessing the phenolic and flavonoid contents, antioxidant potential of bark, pericarp and leaves extracted in different solvents and also the anti-inflammatory activity of methonolic extracts was determined. An effort was made to establish in vitro callus cultures and study the effect of elicition on secondary metabolite production from callus cultures. De novo transcriptome analysis was carried out to identify the differentially expressed genes in leaves derived callus cultures in response to elicitation with SA and JA. The transcription factors and the genes involved in different biosynthetic pathways were annotated and their expression pattern in elicited callus cultures was analyzed. The research findings of the work are summarized below:

6.1. Methanolic extract of bark showed higher phenolics, flavonoids, antioxidant activities than pericarp and leaves

Methanol and ethanol were the most effective solvents for extracting phenolic acids and flavonoids as compared to other solvents used. This could possibly be due to improved solvation of phenolic and flavonoid compounds in the extracts and their interaction with the polar solvent. Of the different plant parts, bark methanolic extract exhibited the highest contents of total phenolic acid (TP) (62.07 mg GAE/g DW), total flavonoid (TF) (41.72 mg RE/g DW). The antioxidant activities of bark methanolic extract was also higher than other plant parts, as determined by phosphomolybdenum (PM) assay (70.94 mg AAE /g DW), ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) assay (156.38 mg AAE/g DW), cupric ion reducing antioxidant capacity (CUPRAC) assay (246.32 mg AAE/g DW), DPPH assay (IC₅₀ 48.41 μg/ml) and superior metal chelating ability (78.58%). However, the results varied for leaves and pericarp extracts. The variation in phenolic and flavonoid contents in different parts might be due to differences in metabolic activities, which could have influenced the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites. The antioxidant efficacy of methanolic plant extracts correlated with higher phenolic and flavonoids in these plant parts.

6.2. Methanolic extract of bark and pericarp exhibited higher inhibition activity against 5-LOX and COX-2 than leaves

The methanolic extract of bark exhibited higher protein denaturation (43.46%) and high activity of 5-LOX (41.6%). The pericarp extract exhibited notable inhibition on COX-2 enzyme activity (86.71%) followed by bark, suggesting their potential for use in the treatment of inflammatory diseases. The methanolic extracts displayed moderate inhibition of the COX-1 enzyme in comparison to COX-2 enzyme activities, though the precise underlying mechanism remains to be elucidated. The bark and pericarp extracts of *G. moluccana* have demonstrated a potential as dual inhibitors of COX-2 and 5-LOX, which is a new approach for developing compounds with superior anti-inflammatory effects and mitigated cardiovascular and gastrointestinal side effects.

6.3. LC-MS/MS analysis revealed the presence of several medicinally important compounds in different plant parts

The metabolite profiling through GC-MS analysis showed that the major constituents of methanolic, bark, and pericarp extract were carbohydrates, carbohydrates, and fatty acids, while major constituents in leaves extract were carbohydrates, carbohydrates, and amino acids. The secondary metabolites profiling by LC-MS/MS analysis in different plant parts of *G. moluccana* showed that flavonoids were the prominent class of secondary metabolites in bark and pericarp, followed by terpene and terpenoids, while in case of leaves it was *vice-versa*. Several compounds with various bioactivities such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, anti-cancer, neuroprotectant and hepatoprotectant effects were putatively identified. Interestingly, the study led to identification of compounds with putative anti-psoriatic, anti-rheumatism and anti-osteoporotic activities providing scientific basis for its treatment in psoriasis, rheumatism and bone-setting. Quantification of flavonoids by HPLC showed that the content of quercetin (9.43 μg/g DW) and myrcetin (13.22 μg/g DW) was higher in leaves, while higher content of rutin was observed in pericarp extracts (55.39 μg/g DW).

6.4. Efficient callus proliferation and direct shoot multiplication was achieved in G. moluccana

Callus cultures provide an opportunity for studying secondary metabolite production, as well as gaining insights into their metabolism and regulation. In this study, leaves and endosperm explants displayed a high rate of callus induction when placed on MS medium supplemented with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP. The callus generated from both leaves and endosperm

exhibited vigorous proliferation, evident from the abundant callus formation after 5 weeks of subculture on fresh medium. This prolific callus formation from leaves and endosperm which differ in their ploidy has potential applications in secondary metabolite synthesis and provides an opportunity to investigate the influence of ploidy on metabolite biosynthesis.

Successful induction of multiple shoots was achieved from zygotic embryo axes by culturing them on MS medium supplemented with 3 mg/l of BAP. Subsequent subcultures on medium with lower concentrations of BAP facilitated the elongation of shoots. The rooting of shoots occurred with a frequency of 72.8% on MS medium containing 0.5 mg/l NAA. The rooted plantlets were then acclimatized and successfully established in soil, achieving a success rate of 72.4%. This method could be used for rapid production of shoots/plantlets for producing compounds associated with differentiated structures, and their enhancement by elicitation.

6.5. Elicitation of callus cultures with JA and SA resulted in enhanced phenolic and flavonoid content

The elicitation of callus cultures emerges as a promising method to enhance the production of secondary metabolites. Treating callus cultures with salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) led to a reduction in biomass; however, it resulted in a significant increase in total phenolic (50 µM SA treatment, 5 days: 31.4 mg GAE g⁻¹DW; 150 µM JA treatments, 20 days: 81.83 mg GAE g⁻¹ DW) and flavonoid contents (50 µM SA treatment, 20 days; 38.49 mg RE g-1 DW: 150 µM JA treatment, 20 days; 60.08 mg RE g-1 DW) compared to control callus cultures. Callus cultures treated with JA displayed elevated scavenging activity compared to both SA treated and control callus cultures, which is in accordance with the observed increase in phenolic compounds. This study, for the first time, highlights the high proliferation capability of callus cultures and the potential to enhance phenolic compounds through treatments with JA or SA. This finding opens avenues for genetic engineering of biosynthetic pathways to optimize the production of targeted bioactive compounds.

The exogenous application of SA and JA to callus cultures induced the production of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) and resulted in a significant elevation in malondialdehyde (MDA) accumulation compared to control cultures. The callus cultures exposed to JA, particularly at the highest concentration 200 μ M JA (3.7 μ mol g-1 FW), exhibited the maximum levels of H_2O_2 . The substantial increase in MDA levels in callus cultures treated with 150 μ M JA (1.68 μ mol g-1 FW) and 200 μ M JA (2.27 μ mol g-1 FW) is likely attributed to the jasmonic acid-induced upregulation of lipoxygenase, an enzyme catalyzing the oxygenation of polyunsaturated fatty

acids. Conversely, the noticeable reduction in MDA content observed in SA treated callus cultures suggests an inhibitory effect of SA on lipid peroxidation, especially at higher concentrations. This effect could be due to the suppression of lipoxygenase activity or alterations in cellular metabolism induced by salicylic acid.

6.6. Enhancement of phenolic and flavonoid contents was associated with improved antioxidant metablosm in callus cultures

The antioxidant enzymes, including superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), and peroxidase (POD), crucial in mitigating reactive oxygen species (ROS), experienced a substantial enhancement in callus cultures treated with specific concentrations of jasmonic acid (JA) and salicylic acid (SA). However, higher concentrations (200 µM) of these elicitors led to a reduction in enzyme activities, causing an imbalance in ROS levels. Concomitantly, the activities of enzymes associated with the ascorbate-glutathione (AsA-GSH) cycle were significantly increased in the elicited callus cultures. This elevation correlated with the highest contents of ascorbate and glutathione, indicating a more effective regulation of ROS. The observed improvement in reduced glutathione (GSH) levels, along with a decrease in oxidized glutathione (GSSG), contributed to an enhanced GSH/GSSG ratio. This suggests the efficacy of the elicitors in maintaining the AsA-GSH pool, further emphasizing their role in ROS regulation.

The activity of the PAL (phenylalanine ammonia-lyase) enzyme reached its peak in callus cultures treated with 150 μ M JA and 50 μ M SA. However, the transcript levels of PAL genes did not align consistently with the enzyme activity. Despite higher PAL enzyme activity in the 150 μ M JA-treated callus (0.33 U mg-1 protein) and 50 μ M SA-treated callus (0.21 U mg-1 protein) cultures, the transcript level of *PAL* gene was lower in comparison, suggesting a potential influence of post-transcriptional modifications.

The increased transcript levels of superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), peroxidase (POD), and ascorbate peroxidase (APX) were in agreement with the activities of these enzymes suggesting a coordinated regulation at both the transcriptional and protein levels. These findings support the notion that these enzymes play a significant role in the detoxification of reactive oxygen species (ROS) during the treatment with elicitors.

6.7. Untargeted metabolite analysis using LC-MS/MS revealed an increase in several classes of secondary metabolites in SA and JA treated callus cultures

The LC-MS/MS analysis putatively identified 170, 203 and 218 secondary metabolites in leaves derived callus, JA, and SA treated callus cultures, respectively which belonged to

different class of secondary metabolites such as flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, phenolic acids, glycosides, sterols and steroids, vitamins and co-factors, lignans, anthroquinone, stilbenes and betacynin. Brassinosteroids biosynthesis, steroids biosynthesis, flavonoid biosynthesis, carotenoid biosynthesis, ubiquinone and other terpenoid-quinone biosynthesis, phenylpropanoid biosynthesis pathway were significantly enriched in both SA and JA treated callus cultures.

6.8. De novo transcriptome analysis revealed differentially expressed genes in leaves vs. callus cultures and SA and JA treated callus cultures

A total of 77,522 Trinity unigenes and 171,971 transcript isoforms were assembled, with 35,128 unigenes showing the best hit BLASTx match. The study unveiled 6488 differentially expressed genes between leaves derived callus and leaves, which were primarily involved in cell division, plant hormone signaling pathways, plants stress response, plant-pathogen interactions. Out of 6488 DEGs, 2469 were upregulated and 4018 were downregulated. A total of 714 transcripts encoding transcription factors were discovered in the comparison between leaves and leaves derived callus, and these were categorized into 49 families. The predominant families among these transcripts were *ERF*, *NAC*, *bHLH*, *WRKY*, *GRAS*, *C3H*, and *MYB*-related. The most upregulated TFs were *ERF* and *NAC* in leaves derived callus in comparison to leaves, while the most abundant downregulated were *DBB* and *bHLH* transcription factors

The study also unveiled 1623 differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in salicylic acid (SA) treated callus cultures compared to the control callus, which were primarily associated with biosynthetic pathways of secondary metabolites, plant hormone signaling, plant stress responses, and plant-pathogen interactions. Among these DEGs, 886 were upregulated, and 737 were downregulated in SA treated callus cultures. In case of jasmonic acid (JA) treated callus cultures, 3504 DEGs were identified, wherein 1719 genes showed upregulation and 1785 exhibited downregulation. The differentially expressed genes in both SA and JA treatments indicate significant changes in gene expression related to various biological processes and pathways.

A total of 1062 transcripts encoding transcription factors (TFs) were identified in control, salicylic acid (SA) treated, and jasmonic acid (JA) treated callus, categorized into 50 families. The TFs with the highest transcript levels were associated with families such as *ERF*, *bHLH*, *NAC*, *WRKY*, *GRAS*, *C3H*, *C2H2*, *MYB*, *MYB-related*, and *B3*. In SA treated callus, the most abundant upregulated transcripts were from the *WRKY* and *MYB-related* families, while *bHLH* transcripts were the most abundant downregulated. In JA treated callus, upregulated transcripts with the highest abundance belonged to the *WRKY* and *ERF* families, while downregulated

transcripts were most abundant in the *ERF*, *bHLH*, and *B3* families. Numerous genes associated with the biosynthetic pathways of terpenoids, flavonoids, phenylpropanoid, and lignin demonstrated increased expression in callus cultures following treatments with salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA). However, the expression levels remained higher in JA treated cultures compared to SA. This study represents the first transcriptomic approach in *Givotia moluccana*, and the genetic resources generated are anticipated to be immensely valuable for future research endeavors, particularly in deciphering the biosynthetic pathways of secondary metabolites and facilitating metabolic engineering studies.

Major findings:

- Polar solvents *viz.*, methanol and ethanol resulted in higher yields of phenolics and flavonoids from all plant parts as compared to non-polar solvents.
- The highest content of TP, TF and antioxidant activities was found in methanolic extracts of bark while varied results were observed in leaves and pericarp extracts.
- The antioxidant activities of the different plant extracts were consistent with the content of phenolics and flavonoids.
- Methanolic extract of bark showed higher inhibitiory activity against 5-LOX, while pericarp extract showed better inhibition activity on COX-2 which supports its use in treatment of inflammatory diseases.
- LC-MS/MS analysis in different plant parts of *G. moluccana* suggested that flavonoids were the prominent class of secondary metabolites in bark and pericarp, followed by terpene and terpenoids, while in case of leaves it was *vice-versa*.
- Leaves and endosperm showed potential for callus induction and proliferation on MS medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP.
- Treatment of callus cultures with SA and JA caused a decrease in the biomass, however, resulted in a marked increased in total phenolic and flavonoid contents as compared to control callus cultures.
- Exogenous application of SA and JA to the callus cultures at all the concentrations triggered the production of H_2O_2 as well as caused a significant increase in the accumulation of MDA compared to the control cultures.

- Antioxidant enzymes such as SOD, CAT and POD involved in curbing ROS were enhanced significantly in callus cultures treated with specific concentrations of JA and SA whereas higher concentrations reduced the activities resulting in ROS imbalance.
- PAL enzyme activity was highest in 150 μM JA treated callus and 50 μM SA treated callus cultures, however, the transcript level of *PAL* genes was not consistent with the activity of PAL enzyme. *PAL* gene transcript was lower in comparison to SA treated which could be due to post-transcriptional modification.
- A total of 77,522 trinity unigenes and 171,971 total trinity transcript isoforms were assembled. 35,128 unigenes with best hit BLASTx match were generated.
- Out of 6488 DEGs identified between leaves and leaves derived callus, 2469 were upregulated and 4019 were downregulated. A toal of 714 transcripts belonging to 49 TF family were identified between leaves and leaves derived callus.
- Study revealed that 1623 genes were differentially expressed in SA treated and control
 callus cultures which were primarily involved in biosynthetic pathways of secondary
 metabolites, plant hormone signaling pathways, plants stress response and plant-pathogen
 interactions.
- Out of 1623 DEGs, 886 were upregulated and 737 were downregulated in SA treated callus cultures. In JA treated callus cultures, 3504 differentially expressed genes were identified, out of which the expression of 1719 genes was upregulated while 1785 were downregulated.
- Transcripts encoding transcription factors (TFs) identified (1062) in control, SA and JA treated callus were classified into 50 families. The TFs with the highest transcripts belonged to *ERF*, *bHLH*, *NAC*, *WRKY*, *GRAS*, *C3H*, *C2H2*, *MYB*, *MYB*-related and B3 family.
- The most abundant upregulated transcripts in SA treated callus were *WRKY* and *MYB* related whereas *bHLH* was the most abundant downregulated. Analysis of the upregulated TFs in SA treated callus cultures showed that the most abundant transcripts belonged to *WRKY* and *ERF*, while most downregulated TFs belonged to *ERF*, *bHLH* and *B3*.

 Several genes involved in biosynthetic pathways of terpenoids, flavonoids, phenylpropanoid and lignin exhibited higher expression in callus cultures in response to SA and JA treatments although the expression of few genes remained higher in JA as compared to SA.

Overall, the study revealed higher contents of total phenolics and flavonoids in the methanolic extract of bark along with the significant antioxidant activities. The crude extracts of bark and pericarp showed significant inhibition activities against COX-2 and 5-LOX enzymes thus demonstrating their anti-inflammatory potential. The study also provided an insight into the metabolites constituents of bark, leaves, and pericarp; wherein several compounds with bioactivities such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-rheumatic, anti-psoriasis, anti-diabetic, anti-cancer, anti-osteoporosis, hepatoprotectant and neuroprotectant effects were putatively identified thus providing scientific clues regarding the medicinal properties. The *in vitro* studies revealed high proliferation ability of callus cultures from different explants and a significant enhancement of total phenolics and flavonoids in callus cultures upon treatment with JA or SA. Further, the increased phenolics and flavonoid contents in SA and JA-treated callus cultures correlated with improved enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidants showing better ROS regulation during elicitation. The study also revealed an enrichment of secondary metabolites of brassinosteroid, steroid, flavonoid, and carotenoid biosynthetic pathways in response to SA and JA treatments of callus cultures. De novo transcriptome analysis helped in understanding the transcriptomic changes during callus formation and in response to treatments with SA and JA, which is reported for the first time in this species. The information generated in this study could be of immense help for future research related to bioactive compound(s) isolation and their possible enhancement using elicitation. The transcriptome sequence information generated in the study could offer valuable molecular resource which can be exploited in future for deducing the biosynthetic pathways of targeted secondary metabolites using omic approaches and their increased production by metabolic engineering.

8. References

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Supplementary Table 1. GC-MS spectral analysis of methanolic bark extract of *G. moluccana*

Peak No.	Putative Metabolites	Similarity	R.T. (mins)	Peak Area %	Exact Mass	
	Carbohydrates					
155	α-D-Glucopyranoside	794	39.12	7.129	918.43	
149	α-D-Mannopyranoside	742	36.24	0.005	482.24	
118	α-L-Galactopyranoside	775	30.94	0.010	394.20	
84	D-Fructose	804	26.44	7.832	569.29	
93	D-Galactose	864	27.17	2.239	569.29	
89	D-Glucose	932	26.92	3.076	569.29	
164	D-Turanose	771	40.42	0.284	846.39	
124	D-Xylopyranose	810	32.01	0.819	438.21	
176	D-Xylose	819	42.35	0.022	438.21	
132	Glycosides	834	32.33	1.580	482.24	
187	Lyxose	815	44.48	0.017	438.21	
170	Mannose	793	41.85	0.085	452.23	
151	Melibiose	773	37.94	0.284	918.43	
64	Ribonic acid	774	23.86	0.305	526.25	
01	Carboxylic acids	,,,	23.00	0.303	320.23	
37	2-Butenedioic acid (E); Fumaric acid	877	13.20	0.073	260.09	
46	2-Butenedioic acid (Z); Maleic acid	708	17.39	0.008	228.14	
45	2-Piperidinecarboxylic acid; Pipecolic acid	846	16.95	0.004	273.16	
63	4,6-Dioxoheptanoic acid	731	23.72	0.023	374.18	
7	α-Hydroxyisovaleric acid	903	4.56	0.001	118.06	
75	Benzoic acid	749	24.85	0.087	370.15	
34	Butanedioic acid: Succinic acid	865	12.28	0.069	262.11	
47	Butanoic acid	838	18.39	0.079	319.18	
48	Diethyl Phthalate	849	18.44	0.075	222.09	
66	Propanoic acid	712	24.04	0.023	322.15	
00	Fatty Acids	712	24.04	0.036	322.13	
90	Tridecanoic acid:Tridecylic acids	781	27.01	0.082	228.21	
128	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid: Linoleic acid	771	32.10	0.105	294.26	
107	Hexadecanoic acid; Palmitic acid	898	29.29	0.796	328.28	
134	Octadecanoic acid: Stearic acid	870	32.78	0.738	356.31	
131	trans-9-Octadecenoic acid: Elaidic acid	736	32.23	0.054	354.30	
	Polyols/Sugar Alcohols					
92	D-Mannitol	703	27.10	0.267	614.32	
99	Myo-Inositol	891	27.63	6.351	612.30	
68	Ribitol	708	24.12	0.546	512.27	
	Sugar acids					
103	D-Gluconic acid	807	28.42	1.281	628.30	
104	L-(+)-Tartaric acid	721	28.52	0.026	438.17	
	Terpenoids					
140	Dehydroabietic acid	742	34.67	0.013	372.25	
56	Geraniol	810	22.20	0.000	154.14	
121	Phytol	748	31.54	0.017	368.35	
	Amino acids					
14	1-Valine	864	7.16	0.038	189.12	
	Gylcols					
60	2,3-Butanediol	711	23.15	0.016	204.12	

Supplementary Table 2. GC-MS spectral analysis of methanolic leaves extract of *G. moluccana*

Peak No	Putative Metabolites	Similarity	R.T. (mins)	Peak Area %	Exact
NO	Cambahadaataa		(IIIIIS)	70	Mass
173	Carbohydrates α-D-Glucopyranoside	793	39.10	3.095	918.43
103	α-D-Mannopyranoside	731	25.22	0.383	482.24
144	α-D-Xylopyranose	716	32.02	0.383	438.21
122	D-Galactose	771	27.49	1.806	569.29
112	D-Garactose D-Glucose	880	26.80	0.942	569.29
136	D-Glacose D-Mannose	837	30.93	0.082	569.29
160	Glycoside	845	34.17	1.017	482.24
193	Melibiose	835	45.88	0.287	918.43
129	Ribonic acid	766	28.73	0.198	526.25
133	D-Xylopyranose	803	30.36	0.230	438.21
133	Carboxylic acids	003	30.30	0.230	430.21
102	1,2,3-Propanetricarboxylic acid	776	25.19	2.390	480.19
44	2-Butenedioic acid (E); Fumaric acid	815	13.48	0.157	260.09
4	4-Hydroxyphenylacetic acid	814	3.80	0.069	152.05
125	Benzoic acid	799	27.82	2.617	458.18
41	Butanedioic acid; Succinic acid	869	12.54	0.203	262.11
68	Butanoic acid	907	18.46	0.543	319.18
79	D-Arabinonic acid	764	19.82	0.225	364.16
62	DL-Malic acid	846	17.72	1.128	350.14
126	Isophthalic acid	706	27.85	0.001	274.12
71	L-Threonic acid	858	18.68	0.636	424.20
42	Propanoic acid	856	12.99	0.342	322.15
	Amino Acids				
26	Alanine	830	11.43	0.013	287.21
54	D-Ornithine	701	16.77	0.005	132.09
46	Glycine	731	13.62	0.097	175.07
59	L-Proline	883	17.36	1.645	273.12
11	L-Valine	899	7.21	0.364	189.12
143	Tryptophane	721	31.97	0.000	420.21
81	L-Phenylalanine	797	20.57	0.043	309.16
	Fatty acids				
149	α-Linolenic acid	864	32.24	0.598	350.26
132	Hexadecanoic acid; Palmitic acid	880	29.36	1.336	328.28
153	Octadecanoic acid; Stearic acid	863	32.82	1.564	356.31
	Polyols/Sugar Alcohols				
123	Myo-Inositol	889	27.65	1.433	612.30
90	Ribitol	765	23.44	2.240	512.27
	Sugar Acids				
127	D-Gluconic acid	824	28.49	2.067	628.30

Supplementary Table 3. GC-MS spectral analysis of methanolic pericarp extract of *G. moluccana*

Peak No	Putative Metabolites	Similarity	R.T. (mins)	Peak Area %	Exact Mass
	Carbohydrates				
152	α-D-Glucopyranoside	780	40.18	0.269	918.43
105	D-Fructose	794	27.79	0.531	569.29
129	D-Galactose	842	31.86	0.076	569.29
109	D-Glucose	890	28.39	1.568	569.29
130	D-Mannose	819	32.00	0.058	569.29
154	D-Turanose	779	41.60	0.366	846.39
148	D-Xylopyranose	778	35.29	0.060	438.21
74	Erythro-Pentonic acid; Ribonic acid	722	18.96	2.203	438.21
155	Melibiose	765	41.72	0.134	918.43
176	D-Xylose	728	45.96	0.059	438.21
121	Glycosides	744	30.43	0.227	482.24
	Carboxylic acids				
103	1,2,3-Propanetricarboxylic acid	827	26.47	1.895	480.19
45	2-Butenedioic acid (Z): Maleic acid	895	13.46	0.452	260.09
4	4-Imidazoleacrylic acid	795	5.37	0.000	138.04
73	DL-Malic acid	873	18.95	2.310	350.14
22	Ethanedioic acid;Oxalic acid	702	9.60	3.109	234.07
80	L-Threonic acid	844	19.90	0.662	424.20
59	Mesaconic acid	800	15.95	0.034	274.11
58	Propanedioic acid; Malonic acid	712	15.62	0.358	248.09
50	Propanoic acid	849	14.22	0.268	322.15
56	2-Butenedioic acid (E); Fumaric acid	839	14.71	0.254	260.09
39	Butanedioic acid; Succinic acid	748	12.93	1.377	262.11
	Fatty Acids				
139	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z); Linoleic acid	846	33.51	0.196	352.28
127	9-Octadecenoic acid (Z); Oleic acid	803	31.39	0.091	296.27
112	Acetyl-L-Carnitine	702	28.70	0.058	203.12
138	Trans-9-Octadecenoic acid; Elaidic acid	905	33.49	3.207	354.30
143	Octadecanoic acid, Stearic acid	866	33.96	1.086	356.31
124	Hexadecanoic acid: Palmitic acid	845	30.57	2.465	328.28
	Amino Acids				
27	L-Isoleucine	705	10.30	0.011	203.13
	L-Proline	874	18.56	0.329	273.12
16	L-Valine	738	8.46	0.074	189.12
	Polyols/Sugar Alcohols				
120	Inositol	700	30.22	0.334	612.30
126	Myo-Inositol	894	31.25	3.504	612.30
81	Ribitol	711	19.93	0.252	512.27
110	D-Mannitol	832	28.57	0.352	614.32
	Others		,		···• -
119	D-Gluconic acid (Sugar Acids)	797	29.96	0.149	628.30
9	Azulene (Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon)	851	5.86	0.006	128.06
197	1,2-Dihydroxyanthraquinone; Alizarin (Anthraquinones)	705	54.22	0.094	384.12

Supplementary Table 4. Over representation analysis (ORA) of methanolic bark extract of G. moluccana

	total	expected	hits	Raw p	Holm p	FDR
Monosaccharides	97	0.01	7	4.70E-18	1.15E-15	1.15E-15
Fatty Acids and Conjugates	3090	0.42	10	5.42E-12	1.32E-09	6.61E-10
TCA acids	9	0.00	2	6.41E-07	1.55E-04	5.22 E-05
Organic dicarboxylic acids	23	0.00	2	4.50E-06	1.08E-03	2.75E-04
Amino acids and peptides	723	0.10	3	1.32E-04	3.17E-02	6.44E-03
Carboxylic acids	44	0.01	1	5.97E-03	1.00E+00	2.43E-01
Fatty acyl glycosides	81	0.01	1	1.10E-02	1.00E+00	3.82E-01
Benzamides	1470	0.20	2	1.69E-02	1.00E+00	5.17E-01
Fatty esters	1870	0.26	1	2.26E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E + 00

Supplementary Table 5. Over representation analysis (ORA) of methanolic leaves extract of *G. moluccana*

	total	expected	hits	Raw p	Holm p	FDR
Monosaccharides	18	0.00	3	1.83E-09	1.91E-06	1.43E-06
Sugar acids	23	0.00	3	3.96E-09	4.14E-06	1.43E-06
Dicarboxylic acids	140	0.02	4	4.10E-09	4.28E-06	1.43E-06
Saturated Fatty Acids	38	0.01	3	1.88E-08	1.97E-05	4.93E-06
TCA acids	9	0.00	2	6.40E-07	6.67 E-04	1.34E-04
Organic dicarboxylic acids	23	0.00	2	4.50E-06	4.68E-03	7.84E-04
Unsaturated Fatty Acids	267	0.04	3	6.86E-06	7.14E-03	1.00E-03
Amino acids	277	0.04	3	7.66E-06	7.96E-03	1.00E-03
Tricarboxylic acids	6	0.00	1	8.15E-04	8.46E-01	8.53E-02
Straight chain Fatty Acids	6	0.00	1	8.15E-04	8.46 E-01	8.53E-02
FA glycosides	11	0.00	1	1.49E-03	1.00E + 00	1.42E-01
Sugar alcohols	12	0.00	1	1.63E-03	1.00E + 00	1.42E-01
Fatty acyl carnitines	91	0.01	1	1.23E-02	1.00E + 00	9.90E-01
Hippuric acids	1470	0.20	2	1.70E-02	1.00E+00	1.00E+00

Supplementary Table 6. Over representation analysis (ORA) of methanolic pericarp extract of *G. moluccana*

	total	expected	hits	Raw p	Holm p	FDR
Amino acids	277	0.04	7	8.34E-15	6.10E-12	6.10E-12
Sugar acids	23	0.00	4	2.41E-12	1.76E-09	8.80E-10
Saturated Fatty Acids	38	0.01	4	2.00E-11	1.46E-08	4.89E-09
Monosaccharides	18	0.00	3	1.83E-09	1.34E-06	3.35E-07
TCA acids	9	0.00	2	6.42E-07	4.67E-04	9.39E-05
Benzoic acids	24	0.00	2	4.92E-06	3.57E-03	5.99E-04
Tricarboxylic acids	6	0.00	1	8.17E-04	5.92 E-01	7.46E-02
Straight chain Fatty Acids	6	0.00	1	8.17E-04	5.92E-01	7.46E-02
Phenylacetic acids	15	0.00	1	2.04E-03	1.00E + 00	1.66E-01
Hippuric acids	1470	0.20	2	1.70E-02	1.00E + 00	1.00E+00
Dicarboxylic acids	140	0.02	1	1.89E-02	1.00E + 00	1.00E + 00
Unsaturated Fatty Acids	267	0.04	1	3.57E-02	1.00E+00	1.00E+00

Supplementary Table 7. List of putative Flavonoids identified from bark extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

	Retention	KEGG ID	Putative Compounds	Molecular	Bioactivity*
value	time		(Flavonoids)	formula	·
			(-)-Medicarpin-3-o-glucoside-6"-		
517.10	34.07	C16224	malonate	C25H25O12	Unknown
256.00	46.75	C08650	Isoliquiritigenin	C15H12O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammtory
301.00	4.12	C00389	Quercetin	C15H9O7	Anti-inflammatory
283.00	19.95	C00814	Biochanin-A	C16H11O5	Antiproliferative
431.00	23.27	C01460	Vitexin	C21H19O10	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
283.10	24.72	C01470	Acacetin	C16H11O5	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
355.00	13.45	C01590	Kievitone	C20H19O6	Antimicrobial
303.00	23.53	C01617	(+)-Taxifolin	C15H11O7	Anticancer
446.90	19.63	C01821	Isoorientin	C21H19O11	Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
301.00	14.86	C02806	8-Hydroxykaempferol	C15H9O7	Anticancer
319.10	19.53	C02906	(+)-Dihydromyricetin	C15H11O8	Antidiabetic; Anticancer
316.90	12.76	C04109	Gossypetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antibacterial
446.80	19.37	C05376	Biochanin A-7-O-Glucoside	C22H22O10	Anticancer
275.10	2.15	C09320	(+)-Afzelechin	C15H14O5	Antioxidant; Cardiopratectant
299.00	14.80	C04293	Chrysoeriol	C16H11O6	Antioxidant; Anticancer
314.90	42.32	C04443	3-O-Methylquercetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Anticancer
307.00	45.55	C05906	(2R,3S,4S)-leucocyanidin	C15H14O7	Antiviral
353.00	13.73	C10486	Phaseoluteone/Licoisoflavone A	C20H17O6	Antioxidant
353.00	23.75	C10498	Luteone	C20H17O6	Antioxidant; Antimicrobial
430.90	9.90	C10509	Ononin	C22H22O9	Anti-inflammatory
314.10	19.60	C10516	(+)-Pisatin	C17H14O6	Antimicrobial
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299.00	37.99	C10520	Pratensein	C16H11O6	Antioxidant
239.00	36.44	C11264	7-hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
256.10	1.01	C09762	(2s)-Liquiritigenin	C15H12O4	Hepatoprotectant
255.00	3.37	C09827	(2S)-Pinocembrin	C15H11O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
395.00	9.64	C10417	Deguelin	C23H22O6	Anticancer
£16.00	10.20	C10020	Apigenin 7-o-(6-malonyl-beta D-	C24H21O12	A
516.80	18.29	C10020	glucoside)	C24H21O13	Antimicrobial; Anticancer
252.90	18.89	C10028	Chrysin	C15H9O4	Anti-inflammatory
301.10	18.27	C10078	8-hydroxy-luteolin/Hypolaetin	C15H9O7	Anti-inflammatory
315.00	9.88	C10084	Isorhamnetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
299.00	20.21	C10098	Kaempferide	C16H11O6	Anti-inflammatory
317.00	7.72	C10107	Myricetin	C15H9O8	Anti-inflammatory
394.80	18.14	C07593	Rotenone	C23H22O6	Anticancer
447.00	18.18	C10114	Orientin	C21H19O11	Anti-inflammatory
330.90	17.52	C10118	Patuletin	C16H11O8	Anti-inflammatory
317.00	22.18	C10122	Quercetagetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
307.10	10.88	C12127	(+)-Gallocatechin	C15H14O7	Antioxidant
301.10	23.58	C10192	Tricetin	C15H9O7	Anticancer; Dietary
637.00	32.41	C12632	Luteolin 7-o-beta D-diglucuronide	C27H24O18	Anticancer
330.90	48.88	C12633	Laricitrin	C16H11O8	Antioxidant
			Kaempferol 3-o-beta D-glucosyl-(1->2))-	
772.10	21.85	C12635	glucosyl-(1->2)-beta D-glucoside	C33H40O21	Anti-glycation
			Quercetin 3-o-beta D-glucosyl-(1->2)-	-	
789.00	22.68	C12668	glucosyl-(1->2)-beta D-glucoside	C33H40O22	Anti-inflammatory
239.00	44.64	C14137	6-hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anticancer
500.80	37.86	C16191	Malonyldaidzin	C24H21O12	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
516.90	33.66	C16192	Malonylgenistin	C24H21O13	Anticancer
			266		

301.20 273.90	26.45 5.31	C01709 C00774	(2s)-hesperetin Phloretin	C16H13O6 C15H14O5	Antioxidant Antioxidant; Anti-ageing
516.90	27.78	C12642	Pelargonidin-3-o-(6	C24H21O13	Antidiabetic
			Cyanidin 3-o-(3",6"-o-dimalonyl-beta		
617.00	24.10	C16289	Glucopyranoside)	C27H21O17	Anticancer; Pigments
			Formononetin-7-O-Glucoside-6"-		
514.90	33.55	C16222	Malonate	C25H23O12	Antioxidant
301.00	21.53	C05908	Delphinidin	C15H9O7	Antitumor
446.90	39.41	C08604	Cyanidin-3-o-beta D-glucoside	C21H19O11	Antioxidants; Pigments
268.70	11.72	C10205	Coumestrol	C15H8O5	Anti-inflammatory
301.00	35.03	C08577	Bracteatin	C15H9O7	Antioxidant

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 8. List of putative Terpenoids identified from bark extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention		Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	KEGG ID	(Terpenoids)	formula	Bioactivity*
290.90	8.99	C20158	(13e)-labda-7,13-dien-15-ol	C20H34O	
596.90	19.69	C08580	(3s,3's)-Astaxanthin	C40H52O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
393.00	4.20	C08582	Bixin	C25H29O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
551.00	20.95	C08592	Echinenone	C40H54O	Pigments; Antioxidant
378.90	13.28	C08608	Norbixin	C24H26O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
443.00	19.19	C08618	Betulin	C30H50O2	Anticancer
444.90	19.69	C08621	Dammarenediol II	C30H52O2	Anticancer
440.80	34.90	C08830	24-methylenecycloartanol	C31H52O	Antimicrobial
306.80	19.98	C09072	Alpha Cembratriene-4,6-diol	C20H34O2	Anticancer
290.80	21.13	C09094	Geranylgeraniol	C20H34O	Anticancer
308.80	18.72	C09183	Sclareol	C20H36O2	Anticancer; Fragrant
261.00	16.11	C09680	Hemigossypol	C15H16O4	Anticancer; Anti-microbial
236.90	44.29	C09700	Lubimin	C15H24O2	Unknown
223.10	14.85	C09715	Rishitin	C14H22O2	Antimicrobial
544.90	22.59	C05413	All-trans-Phytoene	C40H64	Pigments
			(3s)-2,3-epoxy-2,3-		
426.80	5.89	C01054	Dihydrosqualene	C30H50O	Anti-inflammatory
223.10	24.08	C01126	(2e,6e)-Farnesol	C15H26O	Antibacterial
374.90	10.65	C01512	Loganate	C16H23O10	Antioxidant
426.90	22.43	C01724	Lanosterol	C30H50O	
263.00	30.87	C06082	2-Cis-Abscisate	C15H19O4	Plant Hormone
536.00	32.03	C07608	Hyperforin	C35H52O4	Anticancer
233.00	30.08	C09382	(+)-Costunolide (12,6alpha)	C15H20O2	Anticancer
231.00	43.05	C09918	Aucuparin	C14H14O3	Anticancer
192.70	3.73	C12287	Beta Ionone	C13H20O	Antioxidant; Fragrant
306.80	45.43	C13273	Plaunotol	C20H34O2	Anticancer; Antiulcer
250.00	18.57	C13453	2-cis,4-trans-Xanthoxin	C15H22O3	Antioxidant
475.20	27.88	C17419	Soyasapogenol A	C30H50O4	Anticancer
428.90	11.92	C06309	Hopan-22-ol	C30H52O	Antimicrobial
171.10	38.64	C17621	(6E)-8-hydroxygeraniol	C10H18O2	Unknown
314.80	43.35	C18015	Momilactone A	C20H26O3	Antidiabetic; Antifungal
444.90	47.93	C19828	Arabidiol	C30H52O2	Antioomycete
445.00	27.58	C19863	Lupan-3beta,20-diol	C30H52O2	-

505.00	31.10	C20152	Taxusin	C28H40O8	Anticancer
460.90	1.19	C20715	(20s)-Protopanaxadiol	C30H52O3	
432.80	16.49	C20894	Beta Citraurin	C30H40O2	
280.90	33.94	C15971	Dihydroxyphaseic Acid	C15H21O5	Plant Hormone
443.00	33.15	C20945	Erythrodiol	C30H50O2	Antioxidant
			Oleanolate 3 Beta D-		
630.80	21.84	C08964	glucuronoside	C36H54O9	Antidiabetic
456.90	22.92	C08988	Ursolate	C30H48O3	Antidiabetic
440.70	30.53	C20946	Oleanolic Aldehyde	C30H48O2	Antioxidant

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 8. List of putative Alkaloids identified from bark extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z I	Retention	n KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	Bioactivity*
value	time	ID	(Alkaloids)	formula	•
274.90	11.67	C21637	Elwesine	C16H21NO3	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
274.90	39.72	C21639	Maritinamine	C16H21NO3	Unknown
200.00	2.86	C21721	Camalexin	C11H8N2S	Antimicrobial
299.10	25.73	C16352	7-Methylxanthosine	C11H15N4O6	Unknown
370.90	38.84	C16708	(S)-Isoandrocymbine	C21H25NO5	Unknown
498.90	22.15	C16724	Strictosamide	C26H30N2O8	Anti-inflammatory
292.90	47.99	C16726	Cinchoninone	C19H20N2O	Antiplasmodial
292.80	8.33	C11633	16-Epivellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
292.80	20.71	C11634	Vellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
352.90	36.45	C11808	1,2-Dihydrovomilenine	C21H24N2O3	Anticancer
248.90	26.66	C10752	17-Oxosparteine	C15H25N2O	Antimicrobial
248.90	33.39	C10772	Lupanine	C15H25N2O	Antioxidant
172.90	7.51	C10173	Swainsonine	C8H15NO3	Anticancer
481.80	20.16	C09421	Emetine	C29H42N2O4	Antimicrobial
313.00	49.19	C06173	Thebaine	C19H22NO3	Antimicrobial
295.00	26.18	C06528	Cinchonine	C19H23N2O	Antimalarial; Antidiabetic
215.00	0.82	C06536	Harmaline	C13H14N2O	Anti-inflammatory
199.90	36.83	C06537	Harmalol	C12H12N2O	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
213.10	39.20	C06538	Harmine	C13H12N2O	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
398.80	35.78	C06543	Solanidine	C27H44NO	Unknown
378.90	34.59	C05193	12-Hydroxydihydrochelirubine	C21H17NO6	Unknown
236.90	6.29	C05204	(S)-Tetrahydroprotoberberine	C17H18N	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
349.10	28.76		10-Hydroxydihydrosanguinarine	e C20H15NO5	Unknown
352.80	1.40	C05315	Palmatine	C21H22NO4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
353.00	34.83	C05189	Protopine	C20H19NO5	Anticancer
392.90	16.56	C05316	Dihydromacarpine	C22H19NO6	Neuroprotective
339.20	25.43	C03329	(S)-Canadine	C20H21NO4	Antioxidant; Anti-caner
341.30	26.72	C04118	(S)-Tetrahydrocolumbamine	C20H23NO4	Unknown
265.10	30.84	C02621	13-Hydroxylupanine	C15H25N2O2	Antioxidant
352.90	9.05	C02151	19E-Geissoschizine	C21H24N2O3	Unknown
348.10	18.81	C01897	Camptothecin	C20H16N2O4	Anticancer
350.10	19.04	C01761	Vomilenine	C21H22N2O3	Unknown
306.90	36.07	C01513	Lupinate	C13H18N6O3	Unknown
140.90	13.24	C00783	Tropinone	C8H14NO	Anticholinergic
161.10	2.36	C00398	Tryptamine	C10H13N2	Psychoactive

*As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 10. List of putative Phenolics identified from bark extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z		KEGG ID	Putative Compounds	Molecular	Bioactivity*
value	time		(Phenolics)	formula	
153.00	9.75	C00230	Protocatechuate	C7H5O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
312.90	42.34	C02717	N-feruloyltyramine	C18H19NO4	Anti-inflammatory
223.00	15.71	C00482	Sinapate	C11H11O5	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
153.00	24.84	C00628	Gentisate	C7H5O4	Antioxidant: Anti-inflammatory
201.90	37.10	C00758	Bergaptol	C11H6O4	Anticancer
177.10	36.59	C03081	4-Methylumbelliferone	C10H8O3	Anticancer
162.90	11.06	C00811	4-Coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant
185.90	26.39	C09305	Psoralen	C11H6O3	Antipsoriasis
353.00	3.36	C00852	Trans-5-o-caffeoyl-d-quinate	C16H17O9	Antioxidant
209.00	19.22	C05619	5-hydroxyferulate	C10H9O5	Antioxidant
163.00	1.85	C01772	Trans-2-coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
163.00	44.55	C05838	Coumarinate	C9H7O3	Antidiabetic
179.00	3.84	C01197	Trans-Caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
168.90	11.61	C01424	Gallate	C7H5O5	Antioxidant; Anti-cancer
193.00	1.27	C01494	Ferulate	C10H9O4	Antioxidant; Anti-aging
179.10	41.86	C10478	Isomethyleugenol	C11H14O2	Antioxidant
294.10	20.80	C10483	Phaselate	C13H10O8	Unknown
179.10	25.38	C10454	Methyleugenol	C11H14O2	Antioxidant
336.90	13.51	C12208	Trans-5-O-(4-Coumaroyl)-D-Quinate	C16H17O8	Unknown
192.70	19.51	C20465	Coumaryl Acetate	C11H12O3	Antioxidant
163.10	29.85	C12621	3-Hydroxycinnamate	C9H7O3	Anti-inflammatory
264.90	34.07	D03241	Nitecapone	C12H11NO6	Antioxidant

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 11. List of putative Steroids and sterol, Stilbenes, Vitamins and cofactors, Glycosides, Anthriquinone, Betacyanin identified from bark extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention time	KEGG ID	-	Molecular	Bioactivity*
value			(Steroids and Sterols)	formula	
386.80		C00187	Cholesterol	C27H46O	Unknown
400.90		C01789	Campesterol		Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
403.00		C15787	Campestanol	C28H50O	Unknown
419.30		C15788	(6alpha)-hydroxycampestano		Unknown
448.80		C15791	Teasterone	C28H48O4	Unknown
446.70		C15792	3-Dehydroteasterone	C28H46O4	Unknown
448.90		C15793	Typhasterol	C28H48O4	Unknown
382.80		C05107	7-dehydrodesmosterol	C27H42O	Unknown
412.80		C05108	14-Demethyllanosterol	C29H48O	Unknown
464.80		C15794	Castasterone	C28H48O5	Unknown
450.80		C15802	6-Deoxocastasterone	C28H50O4	Unknown
386.90		C01189	Lathosterol		Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
466.90	18.16	C15803	6alpha Hydroxy-castasterone	C28H50O5	Unknown
			Stilbenes		
227.00	38.16	C10276	Pinosylvin Monomethylether	C15H14O2	Antioxidant
229.10	46.56	C03582	Trans-Resveratrol	C14H12O3	Anticancer
214.90		C10254	Dihydropinosylvin	C14H14O2	Antioxidant
213.10	5.21	C01745	Pinosylvin	C14H12O2	Antioxidant
			Vitamins & Co-factors		
174.90		C00072	L-Ascorbate	C6H7O6	Antioxidant
451.00	7.94	C02059	Phylloquinone	C31H46O2	Coagulation disorder
430.80) 4.52	C02477	Alpha Tocopherol	C29H50O2	Antioxidant; Anticancer
			Glycosides		
260.90	29.51	C08334	Lotaustralin	C11H19NO6	Unknown
297.00		C05342	Psicofuranine	C11H15N5O5	Anticancer
311.00	5.88	C01855	Taxiphyllin	C14H17NO7	Antimicrobial
422.80	13.81	C08411	Glucoiberin	C11H20NO10S3	Antimicrobial
295.00	17.74	C08481	Indican	C14H17NO6	Pigment
406.70		C08412	Glucoiberverin	C11H20NO9S3	Antimicrobial
370.80		C21183	(-)-Bursehernin	C21H22O6	Anticancer
252.90	23.94	C10628	(7s)-Cis-Hinokiresinol	C17H16O2	Antioxidant; Antiatherogenic
			Anthroquinone		
241.00	48.96	C01474	Alizarin	C14H8O4	Pigment
			Betacynin		
386.20	26.91	C08539	Betanidin	C18H14N2O8	Antioxidant; Pigment

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 12. List of putative Flavonoids identified from leaves extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

	Retention Time		Putative Compound (Flavonoids)	Molecular Formula	Bioactivity*
value	(mins	110	(Flavonolus)	Formula	
256	49.84	C08650	Isoliquiritigenin	C15H12O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
301	15.26	C00389	Quercetin	C15H9O7	Anti-inflammatory;
380	19.41	C00616	Quercetin 3-sulfate	C15H8O10S	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
274.8	38.30	C00774	Phloretin	C15H14O5	Antioxidant;
283	5.22	C00814	Biochanin-A	C16H11O5	Antiproliferative
283	13.46	C01470	Acacetin	C16H11O5	Anti-inflamatory; Anticancer
269	49.52	C01477	Apigenin	C15H9O5	Anticancer; Antidiabetic
303.1	31.42	C01617	(+)-Taxifolin	C15H11O7	Anticancer
430.9	37.72	C01714	Isovitexin	C21H19O10	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
446.9	22.52	C01821	Isoorientin	C21H19O11	Anti-inflammatory, Antidiabetic
301	22.55	C02806	8-Hydroxykaempferol	C15H9O7	Anticancer
319.1	20.09	C02906	(+)-Dihydromyricetin	C15H11O8	Antidiabetic; Anticancer
316.9	14.46	C04109	Gossypetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antibacterial
299	10.33	C04293	Chrysoeriol	C16H11O6	Antioxidant; Anticancer
314.9	14.32	C04443	3-o-methylquercetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Anticancer
287	16.36	C05631	(2s)-Eriodictyol	C15H11O6	Anticancer; Anti-inflammatory
256.2	32.02	C09762	(2s)-Liquiritigenin	C15H12O4	Anti-inflammatory
255	9.72	C09827	(2S)-Pinocembrin	C15H11O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
253	28.65	C10028	Chrysin	C15H9O4	Anti-inflammatory
314.9	47.63	C10084	Isorhamnetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
299	16.93	C10098	Kaempferide	C16H11O6	Anti-inflammatory
316.9	46.85	C10107	Myricetin	C15H9O8	Anti-inflammatory
317	19.08	C10122	Quercetagetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
353.1	19.12	C10486	Phaseoluteone/Licoisoflavone A	C20H17O6	Antioxidant
430.8	22.03	C10509	Ononin	C22H22O9	Anti-inflammatory
275	17.87	C09320	(+)-Afzelechin	C15H14O5	Antioxidant
299	40.69	C10520	Pratensein	C16H11O6	Antioxidant
239	13.12	C11264	7-Hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
275	48.79	C12124	Apiforol	C15H14O5	Antidiabetic
275.1	45.55	C12128	(-)-Epiafzelechin	C15H14O5	Phytoestrogen
578.8	2.87	C12627	Apigenin 7-O-Neohesperidoside	C27H30O14	Antimicrobial
			Kaempferol 3-o-beta D-glucosyl-(1->2)-		
772.8	33.30	C12635	glucosyl-(1->2)-beta D-glucoside	C33H40O21	Anti-inflammatory
239	25.19	C14137	6-Hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anticancer
430.9	20.16	C01460	Vitexin	C21H19O10	Anticancer
328.7	6.18	C16188	7-Hydroxy-2',4',5'-trimethoxyisoflavone	C18H16O6	Antilithiatic
500.9	35.44	C16191	Malonyldaidzin	C24H21O12	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
431	20.60	C12137	Pelargonidin-3-O-Beta D-Glucoside	C21H19O10	Antidiabetic
446.9	33.55	C08604	Cyanidin-3-O-Beta D-Glucoside	C21H19O11	Antioxidants/Pigments
301.1	27.70	C05908	Delphinidin	C15H9O7	Pigments
514.9	23.11	C16222	Formononetin-7-O-Glucoside-6"-Malonate	C25H23O12	Antioxidant

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 13. List of putative Terpenoids identified from leaves extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention		Putative Compounds	Molecular	-
value	time	ID	(Terpenoids)	formula	Bioactivity*
410.9	36.92	C00751	Squalene	C30H50	Anticancer
223	44.90	C01126	(2e,6e)-Farnesol	C15H26O	Antibacterial
296.8	20.75	C01389	Phytol	C20H40O	Antioxidant; Antimicrobial
155.1	20.34	C01411	(-)-Borneol	C10H18O	Antimicrobial
389.1	25.59	C01852	Secologanin	C17H24O10	Neuroprotective
390.8	41.88	C01433	Loganin	C17H26O10	Anti-inflammatory
374.9	0.69	C01512	Loganate	C16H23O10	Antioxidant
538.9	31.95	C05434	Beta Zeacarotene	C40H58	Pigments
263	3.05	C06082	2-cis-Abscisate	C15H19O4	Plant Hormone
204.7	21.49	C06394	(+)-Delta Cadinene	C15H24	Antimicrobial; Fragrant
553.1	30.58	C08590	Zeinoxanthin	C40H56O	Antioxidants; Pigments
378.9	5.06	C08608	Norbixin	C24H26O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
444.9	13.86	C08621	Dammarenediol II	C30H52O2	Anticancer
441	34.61	C08830	24-Methylenecycloartanol	C31H52O	Antimicrobial
307	33.43	C09072	Alpha Cembratriene-4,6-diol	C20H34O2	Anticancer
290.6	34.90	C09094	Geranylgeraniol	C20H34O	Anticancer
308.9	16.57	C09183	Sclareol	C20H36O2	Anticancer; Fragrant
233	48.25	C09382	(+)-Costunolide (12,6alpha)	C15H20O2	Anticancer
223.1	21.30	C09621	(-)-Alpha Bisabolol	C15H26O	Anti-inflammatory
223.1	30.19	C09663	Alpha Eudesmol	C15H26O	Hepatoprotectant
261	19.24	C09680	Hemigossypol	C15H16O4	Anticancer; Anti-microbial
237	18.36	C09700	Lubimin	C15H24O2	Unknown
279	21.17	C09707	Phaseic Acid	C15H19O5	Plant hormone
223	31.85	C09715	Rishitin	C14H22O2	Antimicrobial
456.8	24.93	C08988	Ursolate	C30H48O3	Antidiabetic
544.7	24.31	C11700	10-deacetylbaccatin III	C29H36O10	Anticancer
231	13.24	C09918	Aucuparin	C14H14O3	Anticancer
330.8	43.27	C11896	Taxa-4(20),11-dien-5-alpha Yl Acetate	C22H34O2	Unknown
193	46.78	C12287	Beta Ionone	C13H20O	Antioxidant; Fragrant
428.9	44.76	C06309	Hopan-22-ol	C30H52O	Antimicrobial
250	13.06	C13453	2-cis,4-trans-Xanthoxin	C15H22O3	Antioxidant
566.8	34.54	C15966	3-Hydroxyechinenone	C40H54O2	Pigments
306.8	47.23	C13273	Plaunotol	C20H34O2	Anticancer
281	22.28	C15971	Dihydroxyphaseic Acid	C15H21O5	Plant hormone
440.8	24.37	C20946	Oleanolic Aldehyde	C30H48O2	Anti-inflammatory,
456.9	20.01	C17420	Soyasapogenol E	C30H48O3	Hepatoprotectant
432.8	13.32	C20894	Beta Citraurin	C30H40O2	Antioxidant
171.1	33.22	C17621	(6E)-8-Hydroxygeraniol	C10H18O2	Unknown
314.8	17.39	C18015	Momilactone A	C20H26O3	Antidiabetic; Antifungal
504.8	17.37	C20152	Taxusin	C28H40O8	Anticancer
290.9	33.72	C20158	(13E)-Labda-7,13-Dien-15-ol	C20H34O	Unknown
290.9	44.83	C20481	Cis-Abienol	C20H34O	Fragrant
629.9	29.23	C08964	Oleanolate 3 Beta D-glucuronoside	C36H54O9	Antidiabetic
535.9	27.60	C07608	Hyperforin	C35H52O4	Anticancer

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 14. List of putative Alkaloids identified from leaves extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	Bioactivity*
value	time	ID	(Alkaloids)	formula	
323	35.63	C09025	Akuammicine	C20H23N2O2	Anticancer
161.1	7.75	C00398	Tryptamine	C10H13N2	Psychoactive
141	14.30	C00783	Tropinone	C8H14NO	Anticholinergic
368.9	23.25	C02134	Allocryptopine	C21H23NO5	Neuroprotective
352.9	43.52	C02151	19E-Geissoschizine	C21H24N2O3	Unknown
323	29.59	C05175	(S)-Stylopine	C19H17NO4	Antimicrobial
369	35.29	C05190	6-Hydroxyprotopine	C20H19NO6	Antimicrobial
363	2.51	C05194	Dihydrochelirubine	C21H17NO5	Anti-tuberculosis
236.6	6.83	C05204	(S)-Tetrahydroprotoberberine	C17H18N	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
352.9	18.29	C05315	Palmatine	C21H22NO4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
368.9	32.85	C03309	Strictosidine Aglycone	C21H25N2O4	Anticancer
339.2	33.72	C03329	(S)-Canadine	C20H21NO4	Antioxidant; Anticancer
312.6	46.56	C06173	Thebaine	C19H22NO3	Antimicrobial
173	19.44	C10173	Swainsonine	C8H15NO3	Anticancer
215	8.19	C06536	Harmaline	C13H14N2O	Anti-inflammatory
199.9	12.24	C06537	Harmalol	C12H12N2O	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
398.7	11.81	C06543	Solanidine	C27H44NO	Unknown
468.7	6.20	C09390	Cephaeline	C28H40N2O4	Antioxidant
342.8	30.79	C09581	(S)-Magnoflorine	C20H24NO4	Anti-inflammatory
248.9	17.69	C10752	17-Oxosparteine	C15H25N2O	Antimicrobial
248.9	26.47	C10772	Lupanine	C15H25N2O	Antioxidant
334.8	43.93	C11807	Vinorine	C21H22N2O2	Anti-inflammatory
292.7	9.79	C11633	16-Epivellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
292.7	48.59	C11634	Vellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
498.8	8.28	C16724	Strictosamide	C26H30N2O8	Anti-inflammatory
274.9	19.99	C21639	Maritinamine	C16H21NO3	Unknown
292.9	38.91	C16726	Cinchoninone	C19H20N2O	Antiplasmodial
274.9	3.29	C21637	Elwesine	C16H21NO3	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
200	2.96	C21721	Camalexin	C11H8N2S	Antimicrobial

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 15. List of putative Phenolics identified from leaves extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	ID	(Phenolics)	formula	Bioactivity*
153	43.00	C00230	Protocatechuate	C7H5O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
168.8	14.36	c01424	Gallate	C7H5O5	Antioxidant; Anticancer
223	8.14	C00482	Sinapate	C11H11O5	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
153.1	20.70	C00628	Gentisate	C7H5O4	Antioxidant: Anti-inflammatory
202	1.78	C00758	Bergaptol	C11H6O4	Anticancer
162.9	28.54	C00811	4-coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant
			Trans-5-o-(4-coumaroyl)-d-		
336.9	15.07	C12208	Quinate	C16H17O8	Unknown
353	9.27	C00852	Trans-5-o-caffeoyl-d-quinate	C16H17O9	Antioxidant
386.2	26.91	C01175	1-o-Sinapoyl-beta D-glucose	C17H22O10	Antioxidant
163	28.05	C01772	Trans-2-Coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
179	49.50	C01197	Trans-Caffeate	C9H7O4	Anti-inflammatory
179.1	3.16	C01481	Cis-Caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
193	7.41	C01494	Ferulate	C10H9O4	Antioxidant; Anti-aging
217	22.60	C01557	Bergapten	C12H8O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
217	39.43	C01864	Xanthotoxin	C12H8O4	Anticancer
177.1	49.63	C03081	4-Methylumbelliferone	C10H8O3	Anticancer
276.9	45.83	C04498	4-Coumaroylagmatine	C14H21N4O2	Adrenergic receptor
264.9	31.73	D03241	Nitecapone	C12H11NO6	Antioxidant
231	49.29	C18083	Demethylsuberosin	C14H14O3	Anti-inflammatory
268.7	21.15	C10205	Coumestrol	C15H8O5	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 16. List of putative glycoside and steroids and sterois identified from leaves extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z value	Retention time	KEGG ID	Putative Compounds (Glycosides)	Molecular formula	Bioactivity*
260.9	40.69	C08334	Lotaustralin	C11H19NO6	Unknown
423.2	27.88	C08336	Neolinustatin	C17H29NO11	Unknown
406.8	18.68	C08412	Glucoiberverin	C11H20NO9S3	Antimicrobial
422.9	33.76	C08411	Glucoiberin	C11H20NO10S3	Antimicrobial
437.1	9.84	C08419	Glucoraphanin	C12H22NO10S3	Antioxidant
295	36.65	C08481	Indican	C14H17NO6	Pigment
311	36.18	C01855	Taxiphyllin	C14H17NO7	Antimicrobial
297	5.67	C05342	Psicofuranine	C11H15N5O5	Anticancer
-			Steroids and Sterols	•	
448.8	16.64	C15791	Teasterone	C28H48O4	Unknown
446.6	49.38	C15792	3-dehydroteasterone	C28H46O4	Unknown
448.9	14.82	C15793	Typhasterol	C28H48O4	Unknown
386.8	19.38	C00187	Cholesterol	C27H46O	Unknown
384.9	24.87	C01164	7-dehydrocholesterol	C27H44O	Unknown
464.9	20.89	C15794	Castasterone	C28H48O5	Unknown
386.9	34.86	C01189	Lathosterol	C27H46O	Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
414.9	13.01	C01753	Sitosterol	C29H50O	Anticancer; Anti-inflammatory

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Figure 17. List of putative Anthroquinone and Vitamins and Co-factors Betacyanin identified from leaves extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

KEGG Molecular **Putative Compounds** m/z value **Retention time** ID formula Bioactivity* Anthroquinone 241 40.80 C10314 Chrysophanol Anthrone C15H12O3 **Psosiasis** 502.7 39.00 C07606 Hypericin C30H14O8 Anticancer 0.69 241 C01474 Alizarin C14H8O4 **Pigment** Vitamins and Co-factors 175.1 27.68 C00072 L-Ascorbate C6H7O6 Antioxidant 374.9 6.39 C00255 Riboflavin C17H19N4O6 Dietary supplement 536.9 31.49 C02094 C40H56 Beta Carotene **Pigments** 430.8 6.99 C02477 Alpha Tocopherol C29H50O2 Antioxidant; Anticancer Delta Tocotrienol 397.5 25.21 C14156 C27H40O2 Anti-inflammatory 417 23.44 Gamma Tocopherol C28H48O2 C02483 Antioxidant; Anticancer 452.7 39.19 C03313 Phylloquinol C31H48O2 Coagulation disorder **Betacynin** 386 26.10 C08539 Betanidin C18H14N2O8 Antioxidant; Pigment **Stilbenes** 214.9 37.67 C10254 Dihydropinosylvin C14H14O2 Antioxidant 26.40 C03582 Trans-Resveratrol 229 C14H12O3 Anticancer Lignan 362.9 29.27 C18167 (-)-Secoisolariciresinol C20H26O6 Anticancer 370.8 35.92 C21183 (-)-Bursehernin C21H22O6 Anticancer 253.1 3.54 C10628 (7s)-Cis-Hinokiresinol C17H16O2 Antioxidant; Antiatherogenic

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 18. List of putative Flavonoids identified from pericarp extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

	Potention	KEGG ID	Putative Compounds	Molecular	Bioactivity*
value		KEGG ID	(Flavanoids)	formula	Dioactivity.
301	10.85	C00389	Quercetin	C15H9O7	Anti inflammatamy Antigonaga
283.1	27.40	C00389 C00814	Biochanin-A		Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
			Bracteatin	C16H11O5	Antiproliferative Antioxidant
301.1	24.10	C08577		C15H9O7	
285	36.47	C01514	Luteolin	C15H9O6	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
447.1	19.12	C01821	Isoorientin	C21H19O11	•
275	49.88	C00774	Phloretin	C15H14O5	Antioxidant; Anti-ageing
355	19.74	C01590	Kievitone	C20H19O6	Antimicrobial
302.9	13.23	C01617	(+)-Taxifolin	C15H11O7	Anticancer
430.9	3.68	C01714	Isovitexin	C21H19O10	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
301	21.83	C02806	8-hydroxykaempferol	C15H9O7	Anticancer
319	48.38	C02906	(+)-Dihydromyricetin	C15H11O8	Anticancer; Antidiabetic;
448	20.63	C03951	Luteolin 7-O-Beta D-Glucoside		Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
316.9	20.52	C04109	Gossypetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antibacterial
299	1.76	C04293	Chrysoeriol	C16H11O6	Antioxidant; Anticancer
314.9	15.74	C04443	3-O-Methylquercetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Anticancer
287	27.65	C05631	(2S)-Eriodictyol	C15H11O6	Anticancer; Anti-inflammatory
303	31.69	C05911	(2S)-Dihydrotricetin	C15H11O7	Anti-inflammatory
269	10.26	C06563	Genistein	C15H9O5	Phytoestrogen; Anticancer
394.9	48.96	C07593	Rotenone	C23H22O6	Anticancer
275.1	47.33	C09320	(+)-Afzelechin	C15H14O5	Antioxidant; Cardio protectant
271	39.48	C09826	(+)-Pinobanksin	C15H11O5	Antioxidant
430.8	7.74	C01460	Vitexin	C21H19O10	Antioxidant; Anticancer
254.9	34.34	C09827	(2S)-Pinocembrin	C15H11O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
			Apigenin 7-O-(6-Malonyl-Beta D-		•
517	19.88	C10020	Glucoside)	C24H21O13	Antimicrobial; Anticancer
252.9	16.96	C10028	Chrysin	C15H9O4	Anti-inflammatory
314.9	44.54	C10084	Isorhamnetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
299	14.84	C10098	Kaempferide	C16H11O6	Anti-inflammatory
316.9	39.15	C10107	Myricetin	C15H9O8	Anti-inflammatory
317	0.81	C10122	Quercetagetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
287.1	20.77	C10415	Dalbergioidin	C15H11O6	Antioxidant
395.1	26.54	C10417	Deguelin	C23H22O6	Anticancer
353	18.27	C10486	Phaseoluteone/Licoisoflavone A	C20H17O6	Antioxidant
430.7	17.23	C10509	Ononin	C22H22O9	Anti-inflammatory
299	41.51	C10520	Pratensein	C16H11O6	Antioxidant
239	3.62	C11264	7-hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
	0.02	01120.	Kaempferol 3-o-beta D-glucosyl-(1-	010111000	1 222 222 222 222 222 222 222 222 222 2
771.8	30.79	C12635	>2)-glucosyl-(1->2)-beta D-glucoside	C33H40O21	Antioxidant
239	17.64	C14137	6-hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anticancer
500.9		C14197	Malonyldaidzin	C24H21O12	
268.9		C01477	Apigenin	C15H9O5	Anticancer; Antidiabetic
301	35.61	C05908	Delphinidin	C15H9O7	Pigments
501	55.01	C03700	Formononetin-7-O-Glucoside-6"-	01311707	1 ignicitis
514.8	20.11	C16222	Malonate	C25H23O12	Antioxidant
514.0	40.11	C10222	iviaioliaic	C231123O12	AntioAluant

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 19. List of putative Terpenoids identified from pericarp extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z		KEGG ID	Putative Compounds	Molecular	Bioactivity*
value	time		(Terpenoids)	formula	
1260	24.05	001054	(3s)-2,3-epoxy-2,3-	G2011500	A
426.9	34.05	C01054	dihydrosqualene	C30H50O	Anti-inflammatory
223.1	36.21	C01126	(2e,6e)-farnesol	C15H26O	Antibacterial
296.9	22.34	C01389	Phytol	C20H40O	Antioxidant; Antimicrobial
388.8	21.88	C01852	Secologanin	C17H24O10	Neuroprotective
568.1	33.07	C06098	Zeaxanthin	C40H56O2	Pigments; Antioxidant
306.9	9.73	C13273	Plaunotol	C20H34O2	Anticancer; Antiulcer
566.8	29.77	C15966	3-Hydroxyechinenone	C40H54O2	Pigments
428.8	16.75	C06309	Hopan-22-ol	C30H52O	Antimicrobial
596.7	6.36	C08580	(3s,3's)-Astaxanthin	C40H52O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
393	5.85	C08582	Bixin	C25H29O4	Anti-oxidants; Pigments
280.9	29.86	C15971	Dihydroxyphaseic Acid	C15H21O5	Plant hormone
536.8	31.03	C07608	Hyperforin	C35H52O4	Anticancer
518.8	19.93	C07667	Gossypol	C30H30O8	Anticancer
378.8	8.86	C08608	Norbixin	C24H26O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
444.8	28.49	C08621	Dammarenediol II	C30H52O2	Anticancer
286.8	36.73	C09092	Ferruginol	C20H30O	Anti-inflammatory;
290.7	47.74	C09094	Geranylgeraniol	C20H34O	Anticancer
308.9	34.96	C09183	Sclareol	C20H36O2	Anticancer; Fragrant
192.7	23.33	C12287	Beta Ionone	C13H20O	Antioxidant; Fragrant
232.9	38.84	C09382	(+)-psounolide (12,6alpha)	C15H20O2	Anticancer
366.9	39.58	C11675	16-methoxytabersonine	C22H27N2O3	Unknown
260.9	14.14	C09680	Hemigossypol	C15H16O4	Anticancer; Anti-microbial
237	11.03	C09700	Lubimin	C15H24O2	Unknown
278.8	41.13	C09707	Phaseic Acid	C15H19O5	Plant hormone
223.1	15.59	C09715	Rishitin	C14H22O2	Antimicrobial
456.9	23.97	C17420	Soyasapogenol E	C30H48O3	Hepatoprotectant
171.1	17.45	C17621	(6E)-8-Hydroxygeraniol	C10H18O2	Unknown
504.9	35.53	C20152	Taxusin	C28H40O8	Anticancer
230.9	41.46	C09918	Aucuparin	C14H14O3	Antimicrobial; Anticancer
456.8	21.77	C08988	Ursolate	C30H48O3	Antidiabetic
314.8	17.79	C18015	Momilactone A	C20H26O3	Antidiabetic; Antifungal

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 20. List of putative Alkaloids identified from pericarp extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	1	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	KEGG ID	(Alkaloid)	formula	Bioactivity*
161.1	47.03	C00398	Tryptamine	C10H13N2	Psychoactive
352.8	0.27	C02151	19E-Geissoschizine	C21H24N2O3	Unknown
341.1	28.40	C04118	(S)-Tetrahydrocolumbamine	C20H23NO4	Unknown
140.9	7.13	C00783	Tropinone	C8H14NO	Anticholinergic
307	46.25	C03325	(6s)-Hydroxyhyoscyamine	C17H24NO4	Anti-inflammatory; Anti-arrhythmia
339.1	26.10	C03329	(S)-Canadine	C20H21NO4	Antioxidant; Anticaner
363	11.71	C05194	Dihydrochelirubine	C21H17NO5	Anti-tuberculosis
236.9	10.94	C05204	(S)-Tetrahydroprotoberberine	C17H18N	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
352.7	44.83	C05315	Palmatine	C21H22NO4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
392.9	13.24	C05316	Dihydromacarpine	C22H19NO6	Neuroprotective
312.8	43.64	C06173	Thebaine	C19H22NO3	Antimicrobial
295	10.71	C06528	Cinchonine	C19H23N2O	Antimalarial; Antidiabetic
215	18.90	C06536	Harmaline	C13H14N2O	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
199.9	7.38	C06537	Harmalol	C12H12N2O	Anticancer; Anti-microbial
482.8	15.75	C09421	Emetine	C29H42N2O4	Antimicrobial
172.9	38.99	C10173	Swainsonine	C8H15NO3	Anticancer
249	23.21	C10752	17-Oxosparteine	C15H25N2O	Antimicrobial
334.9	6.86	C11807	Vinorine	C21H22N2O2	Anti-inflammation
249	49.86	C10772	Lupanine	C15H25N2O	Antioxidant
295	24.11	C11379	Cinchonidine	C19H23N2O	Antimalarial
292.9	13.12	C11633	16-Epivellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
293	44.81	C11634	Vellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
352.9	21.48	C11808	1,2-Dihydrovomilenine	C21H24N2O3	Anticancer
385.8	36.72	C16709	O-Methylandrocymbine	C22H27NO5	Antimicrobial
498.9	26.70	C16724	Strictosamide	C26H30N2O8	Anti-inflammatory
274.9	23.25	C21637	Elwesine	C16H21NO3	Anticancer; Anti-microbial
274.9	46.71	C21639	Maritinamine	C16H21NO3	Unknown
307	2.27	C01513	Lupinate	C13H18N6O3	Unknown
200	2.12	C21721	Camalexin	C11H8N2S	Antimicrobial

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 21. List of putative phenolics identified from pericarp extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	n KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	-
value	time	ID	(Phenolic acids)	formula	Bioactivity*
152.9	48.52	C00230	Protocatechuate	C7H5O4	Anti-inflammatory ;Anticancer
202	49.69	C00758	Bergaptol	C11H6O4	Anticancer
			Trans-5-o-(4-coumaroyl)-d-		
337	4.56	C12208	quinate	C16H17O8	Unknown
			Trans-5-o-Caffeoyl-d-quinate		
353	6.22	C00852	(Choloringenic Acid)	C16H17O9	Antidiabetic; Anti-inflammatory
162.9	5.88	C00811	4-Coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant
178.9	40.33	C01197	Trans-caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
168.9	23.21	c01424	Gallate	C7H5O5	Antioxidant; Anticancer
179	2.66	C01481	Cis-caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
217	49.29	C01557	Bergapten	C12H8O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
162.9	12.02	C01772	Trans-2-Coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
217.1	22.73	C01864	Xanthotoxin	C12H8O4	Anticancer
277.1	13.08	C04498	4-coumaroylagmatine	C14H21N4O2	Adrenergic receptor
186.1	29.13	C09305	Psoralen	C11H6O3	Antipsoriasis
179.1	5.45	C10454	Methyleugenol	C11H14O2	Antioxidant
179.1	11.70	C10478	Isomethyleugenol	C11H14O2	Antioxidant
163	49.38	C12621	3-Hydroxycinnamate	C9H7O3	Anti-inflammatory
673.1	27.63	C18071	Triferuloyl Spermidine	C37H43N3O9	
231	49.34	C18083	Demethylsuberosin	C14H14O3	Anti-inflammatory
222.9	30.94	C00482	Sinapate	C11H11O5	Antioxidant, Anti-inflammatory,
153	3.19	C00628	Gentisate	C7H5O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory;
264.8	3.20	D03241	Nitecapone	C12H11NO6	Antioxidant

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 22. List of putative steroids and sterols, vitamins, glycosides, anthroquinone, lignan, betacyanin identified from pericarp extract through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	Brian, setae	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	KEGG ID	(Steroids and sterols)	formula	Bioactivity*
386.8	34.25	C01189	Lathosterol	C27H46O	Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
414.8	20.44	C01753	Sitosterol	C29H50O	Anticancer; Antidiabetic
316.8	0.04	C01953	Pregnenolone	C21H32O2	Phytohormones
384.9	30.98	C01164	7-Dehydrocholesterol	C27H44O	Unknown
386.8	19.41	C00187	Cholesterol	C27H46O	Unknown
434.8	46.82	C15799	6-Deoxoteasterone	C28H50O3	Unknown
450.9	16.56	C15802	6-Deoxocastasterone	C28H50O4	Unknown
446.7	12.20	C15792	3-Dehydroteasterone	C28H46O4	Unknown
382.9	20.72	C05107	7-Dehydrodesmosterol	C27H42O	Unknown
412.9	4.68	C05108	14-Demethyllanosterol	C29H48O	Unknown
	•		Vitamins and co-factors	-	
174.9	3.19	C00072	L-Ascorbate	C6H7O6	Antioxidant
278	35.07	C00831	Pantetheine	C11H22N2O4S	
451	11.39	C02059	Phylloquinone	C31H46O2	Coagulation disorder
431	23.04	C02477	Alpha Tocopherol	C29H50O2	Antioxidant; Anticancer
452.8	9.20	C03313	Phylloquinol	C31H48O2	Coagulation disorder
			Glycosides		
260.9	6.35	C08334	Lotaustralin	C11H19NO6	Unknown
423	22.28	C08336	Neolinustatin	C17H29NO11	Unknown
423.1	20.59	C08411	Glucoiberin	C11H20NO10S3	Antimicrobial
407	21.31	C08412	Glucoiberverin	C11H20NO9S3	Antimicrobial
436.9	16.13	C08419	Glucoraphanin	C12H22NO10S3	Antioxidant
294.9	25.47	C08481	Indican	C14H17NO6	Pigment
255.2	31.31	C08574	Apigeninidin	C15H10O4	Antiproliferative; Pigments
			Cyanidin-3-o-beta D-		
446.9	30.93	C08604	glucoside	C21H19O11	Antioxidants/Pigments
269	0.22	C05904	Pelargonidin	C15H9O5	Anti-inflammatory
297	16.46	C05342	Psicofuranine	C11H15N5O5	Anticancer
271	32.04	C08652	Luteolinidin	C15H11O5	Anti-inflammatory
	•	-	Anthroquinone	-	
240.9	47.95	C10314	Chrysophanol Anthrone	C15H12O3	Psoriasis
240.9	27.55	C01474	Alizarin	C14H8O4	Pigment
			Lignans		
252.9	36.52	C10628	(7s)-Cis-Hinokiresinol	C17H16O2	Antioxidant; Antiatherogenic
215	7.88	C10254	Dihydropinosylvin	C14H14O2	Antioxidant
	-	•	Betacynin		
386	30.89	c08539	Betanidin	C18H14N2O8	Antioxidant; Pigment
					-

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 23. List of putative Flavonoids from extract of leaves derived callus cultures (control) through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	ID	(Flavonoids)	formula	Bioactivity*
283	24.68	C00814	Biochanin-A	C16H11O5	Antiproliferative
301	16.82	C00389	Quercetin	C15H9O7	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
379.9	30.44	C00616	Quercetin 3-sulfate	C15H8O10S	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
430.8	36.80	C01460	Vitexin	C21H19O10	Antioxidant; Anticancer
283.1	25.94	C01470	Acacetin	C16H11O5	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
285	32.56	C01514	Luteolin	C15H9O6	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
274.9	40.95	C00774	Phloretin	C15H14O5	Antioxidant; Anti-ageing
430.9	14.81	C01714	Isovitexin	C21H19O10	Antioxidant; Anticancer
446.9	17.51	C01821	Isoorientin	C21H19O11	Anti-inflammatory; Anti-diabetic
316.9	19.97	C04109	Gossypetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antibacterial
299	0.41	C04293	Chrysoeriol	C16H11O6	Antioxidant; Anticancer
314.9	14.81	C04443	3-O-Methylquercetin	C16H11O7	Anticancer; Antioxidant
301	34.67	C02806	8-Hydroxykaempferol	C15H9O7	Anticancer
446.8	12.47	C05376	Biochanin A-7-o-Glucoside	C22H22O10	Anticancer
286.9	0.32	C05631	(2S)-Eriodictyol	C15H11O6	Anticancer; Anti-inflammatory
285.1	26.99	C05903	Kaempferol	C15H9O6	Anticancer
307.1	11.83	C05906	(2R,3S,4S)-Leucocyanidin	C15H14O7	Antiviral
395	18.86	C07593	Rotenone	C23H22O6	Anticancer
255.2	27.16	C08574	Apigeninidin	C15H10O4	Antiproliferative; Pigments
275	5.94	C09320	(+)-Afzelechin	C15H14O5	Antioxidant; Cardio protectant
580.6	4.51	C09789	Naringin	C27H32O14	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
255	16.23	C09827	(2S)-Pinocembrin	C15H11O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
516.9	32.24	C10020	Apigenin 7-o-(6-Malonyl-Beta D-glucoside)	C24H21O13	Antimicrobial; Anticancer
252.9	6.98	C10028	Chrysin	C15H9O4	Anti-inflammatory
314.9	39.75	C10084	Isorhamnetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
299	19.98	C10098	Kaempferide	C16H11O6	Anti-inflammatory
317	3.66	C10107	Myricetin	C15H9O8	Anti-inflammatory
331	41.43	C10118	Patuletin	C16H11O8	Anti-inflammatory
317	22.02	C10122	Quercetagetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
286.9	5.86	C10415	Dalbergioidin	C15H11O6	Antioxidant
430.4	23.33	C10509	Ononin	C22H22O9	Anti-inflammatory
299.1	13.88	C10520	Pratensein	C16H11O6	Antioxidant
239	48.26	C11264	7-Hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
275	14.61	C12124	Apiforol	C15H14O5	Antidiabetic
307.1	22.88	C12127	(+)-Gallocatechin	C15H14O7	Antioxidant
275	49.26	C12128	(-)-Epiafzelechin	C15H14O5	Phytoestrogen
430.9	39.35	C12137	Pelargonidin-3-o-beta D-glucoside	C21H19O10	Antidiabetic
636.9	30.50	C12632	Luteolin 7-O-Beta D-Diglucuronide	C27H24O18	Anticancer
239.1	18.78	C14137	6-Hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anticancer
330.9	16.02	C12633	Laricitrin	C16H11O8	Antioxidant
500.8	32.14	C16191	Malonyldaidzin	C24H21O12	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
514.9	19.03	C16222	Formononetin-7-O-Glucoside-6"-Malonate	C25H23O12	Antioxidant
319	38.29	C02906	(+)-Dihydromyricetin	C15H11O8	Anticancer; Antidiabetic

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 24. List of putative Terpenoids from extract of leaves derived callus cultures (control) through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	KEGG		Molecular	
value	time	ID	Putative Compounds (Terpenoids)	formula	Bioactivity*
544.9	19.60	C05413	All-Trans-Phytoene	C40H64	Pigments
223.1	20.06	C01126	(2e,6e)-Farnesol	C15H26O	Antibacterial
296.9	48.32	C01389	Phytol	C20H40O	Antioxidant; Antimicrobial
390.7	36.61	C01433	Loganin	C17H26O10	Anti-inflammatory
428.8	3.69	C06309	Hopan-22-ol	C30H52O	Anti-microbial
535.9	36.00	C07608	Hyperforin	C35H52O4	Anticancer
518.9	34.81	C07667	Gossypol	C30H30O8	Anticancer
393	46.02	C08582	Bixin	C25H29O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
552.9	32.95	C08590	Zeinoxanthin	C40H56O	Antioxidant; Pigments
378.8	8.59	C08608	Norbixin	C24H26O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
443	24.60	C08618	Betulin	C30H50O2	Anticancer
444.8	48.59	C08621	Dammarenediol II	C30H52O2	Anticancer
440.9	2.88	C08830	24-Methylenecycloartanol	C31H52O	Antimicrobial
456.9	32.88	C08988	Ursolate	C30H48O3	Antidiabetic
306.7	13.54	C09072	Alpha Cembratriene-4,6-diol	C20H34O2	Anticancer
290.8	38.00	C09094	Geranylgeraniol	C20H34O	Anticancer
308.8	7.88	C09183	Sclareol	C20H36O2	Anticancer; Fragrant
233	9.14	C09382	(+)-Costunolide (12,6alpha)	C15H20O2	Anticancer
223.1	46.66	C09621	(-)-Alpha Bisabolol	C15H26O	Anti-inflammatory
261	17.21	C09680	Hemigossypol	C15H16O4	Anticancer; anti-microbial
236.9	23.02	C09700	Lubimin	C15H24O2	Unknown
223	44.74	C09715	Rishitin	C14H22O2	Antimicrobial
231	14.20	C09918	Aucuparin	C14H14O3	Antimicrobial; Anticancer
359	39.53	C11636	7-Deoxyloganate	C16H23O9	Antioxidant
193	6.37	C12287	Beta Ionone	C13H20O	Antioxidant; Fragrant
306.8	7.01	C13273	Plaunotol	C20H34O2	Anticancer; Anticancer
250	25.05	C13453	2-Cis,4-Trans-Xanthoxin	C15H22O3	Antioxidant
566.8	33.43	C15966	3-Hydroxyechinenone	C40H54O2	Pigments
281	23.46	C15971	Dihydroxyphaseic Acid	C15H21O5	Plant hormones
171	42.35	C17621	(6E)-8-Hydroxygeraniol	C10H18O2	Unknown
444.9	18.31	C19828	Arabidiol	C30H52O2	Anti-oomycete
504.8	34.82	C20152	Taxusin	C28H40O8	Anticancer
290.9	35.63	C20481	Cis-Abienol	C20H34O	Fragrant
388.9	34.63	C01852	Secologanin	C17H24O10	Neuroprotective
262.9	16.27	C06082	2-cis-Abscisate	C15H19O4	Plant hormone

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 25. List of putative Alkaloids from extract of leaves derived callus cultures (control) through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	ID	(Alkaloids)	formula	Bioactivity*
306.9	35.47	C01513	Lupinate	C13H18N6O3	Unknown
274.9	14.96	C21637	Elwesine	C16H21NO3	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
274.9	20.97	C21639	Maritinamine	C16H21NO3	Unknown
199.9	43.50	C21721	Camalexin	C11H8N2S	Antimicrobial
140.9	15.19	C00783	Tropinone	C8H14NO	Anticholinergic
330.8	41.96	C02105	(S)-Reticuline	C19H24NO4	Anti-inflammatory
352.9	8.25	C02151	19E-Geissoschizine	C21H24N2O3	Unknown
265.1	19.12	C02621	13-Hydroxylupanine	C15H25N2O2	Antioxidant
354.8	19.65	C02915	(S)-N-Methylcanadine	C21H24NO4	Antioxidant
306.9	42.23	C03325	(6s)-Hydroxyhyoscyamine	C17H24NO4	Anti-inflammatory; Anti-arrhythmia
323	14.31	C05175	(S)-Stylopine	C19H17NO4	Antimicrobial
369	30.17	C05190	6-Hydroxyprotopine	C20H19NO6	Antimicrobial
378.9	38.02	C05193	12-Hydroxydihydrochelirubine	C21H17NO6	Unknown
352.8	45.83	C05315	Palmatine	C21H22NO4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
363	20.14	C05194	Dihydrochelirubine	C21H17NO5	Anti-tuberculosis
236.9	0.95	C05204	(S)-Tetrahydroprotoberberine	C17H18N	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
392.9	10.03	C05316	Dihydromacarpine	C22H19NO6	Neuroprotective
393.3	27.81	C06165	Macarpine	C22H18NO6	Anti-inflammatory
313	41.50	C06173	Thebaine	C19H22NO3	Antimicrobial
295	22.50	C06528	Cinchonine	C19H23N2O	Antimalarial; Antidiabetic
215	8.40	C06536	Harmaline	C13H14N2O	Anti-inflammatory
201.1	37.25	C06537	Harmalol	C12H12N2O	Anticancer; Anti-microbial
468.7	20.79	C09390	Cephaeline	C28H40N2O4	Antioxidant
483	26.89	C09421	Emetine	C29H42N2O4	Antimicrobial
343	35.68	C09581	(S)-Magnoflorine	C20H24NO4	Anti-inflammatory
173	23.78	C10173	Swainsonine	C8H15NO3	Anticancer
248.9	18.72	C10752	17-Oxosparteine	C15H25N2O	Antimicrobial
248.9	31.41	C10772	Lupanine	C15H25N2O	Antioxidant
295.1	11.70	C11379	Cinchonidine	C19H23N2O	Antimalarial
292.9	21.90	C11633	16-Epivellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
292.9	28.57	C11634	Vellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
294.8	39.24	C11635	10-Deoxysarpagine	C19H22N2O	Unknown
334.8	38.38	C11807	Vinorine	C21H22N2O2	Anti-inflammatory
373	41.50	C16707	(S)-Autumnaline	C21H27NO5	Anticancer
385.8	32.93	C16709	O-Methylandrocymbine	C22H27NO5	Antimicrobial
341.1	27.92	C04118	(S)-tetrahydrocolumbamine	C20H23NO4	Unknown
292.8	42.11	C16726	Cinchoninone	C19H20N2O	Antiplasmodial
294.8	49.60	C16735	Corynantheal	C19H22N2O	Antimalarial; Analgesic
292.8	47.30	C16846	Cinchonidinone	C19H20N2O	Antimalarial
512.9	37.34	C16723	Pumiloside	C26H28N2O9	Anti-inflammatory

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 26. List of putative Phenolics, Vitamins and co factors and anthroquinones, Glycosides and lignan from extract of leaves derived callus cultures (control) through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	ID	(Phenolic acids)	formula	Bioactivity*
153	15.39	C00230	Protocatechuate	C7H5O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
153	37.23	C00628	Gentisate	C7H5O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
162.8	48.65	C00811	4-Coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant
202	41.01	C00758	Bergaptol	C11H6O4	Anticancer
179	6.69	C01197	Trans-caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
169	5.94	c01424	Gallate	C7H5O5	Antioxidant; Anticancer
179	12.40	C01481	Cis-Caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
162.9	7.63	C01772	Trans-2-coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
233	49.50	C02951	5-hydroxyxanthotoxin	C12H8O5	Anticancer
217.1	22.33	C01864	Xanthotoxin	C12H8O4	Anticancer
276.9	3.88	C04498	4-Coumaroylagmatine	C14H21N4O2	Adrenergic receptor
163	1.35	C05838	Coumarinate	C9H7O3	Antidiabetic
163	9.32	C12621	3-hydroxycinnamate	C9H7O3	Anti-inflammatory
179.1	15.29	C10454	Methyleugenol	C11H14O2	Antioxidant
231	43.27	C18083	Demethylsuberosin	C14H14O3	Anti-inflammatory
264.9	29.26	D03241	Nitecapone	C12H11NO6	Antioxidant
359	5.85	C01850	Rosmarinate	C18H15O8	Anti-inflammatory
	-		Vitamins and Co-factors	<u>, </u>	
452.9	38.44	C03313	Phylloquinol	C31H48O2	Coagulation disorder
375.1	11.64	C00255	Riboflavin	C17H19N4O6	Dietary supplement
450.9	22.17	C02059	Phylloquinone	C31H46O2	Coagulation disorder
536.9	30.06	C02094	Beta-Carotene	C40H56	Pigments
430.6	39.49	C02477	Alpha Tocopherol	C29H50O2	Antioxidant; Anticancer
173.2	16.08	C05422	L-Dehydro-ascorbate	C6H6O6	Antioxidant
436.8	18.54	C13309	Demethylphylloquinone	C30H44O2	Unknown
			Anthroquinone		
327.1	21.42	C00113	Pyrroloquinoline Quinone	C14H3N2O8	Antioxidant
241	3.17	C01474	Alizarin	C14H8O4	Pigment
195	0.70	C00822	Dopaquinone	C9H9NO4	Unknown
	•		Glycosides	-	
260.9	25.65	C08334	Lotaustralin	C11H19NO6	Unknown
423	32.11	C08336	Neolinustatin	C17H29NO11	Unknown
422.8	21.11	C08411	Glucoiberin	C11H20NO10S3	Antimicrobial
406.9	10.96	C08412	Glucoiberverin	C11H20NO9S3	Antimicrobial
436.9	21.85	C08419	Glucoraphanin	C12H22NO10S3	Antioxidant
247.1	24.49	C01594	Linamarin	C10H17NO6	Anticancer
313.2	27.58	C01625	Vicianose	C11H20O10	Unknown
295	9.60	C08481	Indican	C14H17NO6	Pigment
			Lignan		•
252.9	23.77	C10628	(7s)-Cis-Hinokiresinol	C17H16O2	Antioxidant; Antiatherogenic
370.8	19.20	C21183	(-)-Bursehernin	C21H22O6	Anticancer
372.9	2.27	C10545	Arctigenin	C21H24O6	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
380	28.07	C10559	Diphyllin	C21H16O7	Anticancer; Antiviral

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 27. List of putative Steroids and sterol, Stilbenes and Betacynins from extract of leaves derived callus cultures (control) through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z		KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value R	etention time	ID	(Steroid and sterols)	formula	Bioactivity*
388.8	33.86	C12978	Epi-Cholestanol	C27H48O	Unknown
448.8	19.18	C15791	Teasterone	C28H48O4	Unknown
446.7	47.91	C15792	3-Dehydroteasterone	C28H46O4	Unknown
434.7	49.00	C15799	6-Deoxoteasterone	C28H50O3	Unknown
434.8	40.94	C15801	6-Deoxotyphasterol	C28H50O3	Unknown
450.9	9.05	C15802	6-Deoxocastasterone	C28H50O4	Unknown
400.7	26.68	C01789	Campesterol	C28H48O	Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
466.9	19.42	C15803	6alpha Hydroxy-castasterone	C28H50O5	Unknown
			Stilbenes		
228.9	35.70	C03582	Trans-Resveratrol	C14H12O3	Anticancer
227	35.65	C10276	Pinosylvin Monomethylether	C15H14O2	Antioxidant
215	0.03	C10254	Dihydropinosylvin	C14H14O2	Antioxidant
			Betacynin		
900.7	34.04	C08542	Celosianin II	C40H40N2O22	Unknown

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 28. List of putative Flavonoids from extract of callus (leaves-derived) cultures treated with Salicylic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

		1 KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	D
value	time	ID	(Flavonoids)	formula	Bioactivity
270.9	47.26	C01592	Licodione	C15H11O5	Unknown
316.9	24.04	C04109	Gossypetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antibacterial
298.9	38.75	C04293	Chrysoeriol	C16H11O6	Antioxidant; Anticancer
271	11.36	C08652	Luteolinidin	C15H11O5	Anti-inflammatory
255.2	30.11	C08574	Apigeninidin	C15H10O4	Antiproliferative; Pigments
314.9	45.37	C04443	3-O-Methylquercetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Anticancer
359.9	21.15	C04552	3,6,7-Trimethylquercetagetin	C18H16O8	Unknown
446.8	29.75	C05376	Biochanin A-7-O-Glucoside	C22H22O10	Anticancer
286.9	31.48	C05631	(2S)-Eriodictyol	C15H11O6	Anticancer; Anti-inflammatory
307	8.42	C05906	(2R,3S,4S)-Leucocyanidin	C15H14O7	Antiviral
300.9	21.30	C00389	Quercetin	C15H9O7	Anti-inflammatory
380	23.58	C00616	Quercetin 3-sulfate	C15H8O10S	Anti-inflammatory: anticancer
283	7.86	C00814	Biochanin-A	C16H11O5	Antiproliferative
431	9.42	C01460	Vitexin	C21H19O10	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
283	14.30	C01470	Acacetin	C16H11O5	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
269	22.09	C01477	Apigenin	C15H9O5	Anticancer; Antidiabetic
303	22.94	C01617	(+)-Taxifolin	C15H11O7	Anticancer
338.8	44.01	C01701	Glyceollin I	C20H18O5	Anticancer
446.9	15.11	C01821	Isoorientin	C21H19O11	Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
300.9	37.71	C02806	8-Hydroxykaempferol	C15H9O7	Anticancer
319	7.20	C02906	(+)-Dihydromyricetin	C15H11O8	Anticancer; Antidiabetic
271	22.63	C09826	(+)-Pinobanksin	C15H11O5	Antioxidant
255	0.35	C09827	(2S)-Pinocembrin	C15H11O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
			Apigenin 7-O-(6-Malonyl-Beta D-		
516.9	20.88	C10020	Glucoside)	C24H21O13	Antimicrobial; Anticancer
252.9	25.89	C10028	Chrysin	C15H9O4	Anti-inflammatory
315	40.32	C10084	Isorhamnetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
298.9	49.36	C10098	Kaempferide	C16H11O6	Anti-inflammatory
316.9	44.59	C10107	Myricetin	C15H9O8	Anti-inflammatory
446.9	30.43	C10114	Orientin	C21H19O11	Anti-inflammatory
331	39.89	C10118	Patuletin	C16H11O8	Anti-inflammatory
317	24.14	C10122	Quercetagetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
287	7.49	C10415	Dalbergioidin	C15H11O6	Antioxidant
339.3	24.45	C10422	Glyceollin II	C20H18O5	Anticancer
314	6.72	C10516	(+)-Pisatin	C17H14O6	Antimicrobial
239	20.21	C11264	7-hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
307	13.71	C12127	(+)-Gallocatechin	C15H14O7	Antioxidant
307	21.49	C12136	(-)-Epigallocatechin	C15H14O7	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
578.8	19.25	C12627	Apigenin 7-O-Neohesperidoside	C27H30O14	Anti-microbial
636	4.41	C12632	Luteolin 7-O-Beta D-Diglucuronide	C27H24O18	Anticancer
331.1	23.15	C12633	Laricitrin	C16H11O8	Antioxidant
578.8	25.63	C12644	Pelargonidin-3-o-rutinoside	C27H30O14	Antidiabetic
500.8	34.16	C16191	Malonyldaidzin	C24H21O12	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
514.9	31.45	C16222	Formononetin-7-O-Glucoside-6"-Malonate Cyanidin 3-o-(3",6"-o-dimalonyl-beta	C25H23O12	Antioxidant
616.8	23.96	C16289	Glucopyranoside)	C27H21O17	Anticancer; Pigments
872.9	4.14	C16303	Ternatin C5	C36H40O25	Unknown
464.9	8.22	C16410	Bracteatin 6-o-glucoside	C21H20O12	Unknown
578.9	16.20		Kaempferol-3,7-bis-o-alpha L-rhamnoside	C27H30O14	Unknown
449	21.37	C17391	Sakuranin	C22H24O10	Anticancer
579	22.07	C20490	Cyanidin 3-o-beta D-sambubioside	C26H27O15	Unknown
	22.07	C20-770	Cyanidin 5-0-octa D-samoubloside	020112/013	CHAHOWH

425.1	20.37	C18053	Sophoraflavanone G	C25H28O6	Anticancer	
239	40.50	C14137	6-hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anticancer	
394.9	15.51	C07593	Rotenone	C23H22O6	Anticancer	
299	21.76	C10520	Pratensein	C16H11O6	Antioxidant	

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 29. List of putative Terpenoids from extract of callus cultures (leaves derived) treated with Salicylic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	·	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	KEGG ID	(Terpenoids)	formula	Bioactivity*
426.9	37.75	C01902	Cycloartenol	C30H50O	Phytosterol precursor
544.9	18.14	C05413	All-trans-Phytoene	C40H64	Pigments
542.7	19.02	C05414	All-trans Phytofluene	C40H62	Pigments
538.1	29.25	C05434	Beta Zeacarotene	C40H58	Pigments
374.8	15.70	C06071	7-Deoxyloganin	C17H26O9	Anti-inflammatory
428.8	37.10	C06309	Hopan-22-ol	C30H52O	Antimicrobial
535.9	32.62	C07608	Hyperforin	C35H52O4	Anticancer
518.9	32.16	C07667	Gossypol	C30H30O8	Anticancer
411	8.34	C00751	Squalene	C30H50	Anticancer
223	48.72	C01126	(2e,6e)-Farnesol	C15H26O	Antibacterial
374.9	10.34	C01512	Loganate	C16H23O10	Antioxidant
296.9	0.85	C01389	Phytol	C20H40O	Antioxidant; Antimicrobial
391	44.39	C01433	Loganin	C17H26O10	Anti-inflammatory
584.9	16.18	C08579	Antheraxanthin	C40H56O3	Pigments
597	5.25	C08580	(3s,3's)-Astaxanthin	C40H52O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
393	12.88	C08582	Bixin	C25H29O4	Pigments; Antioxidant
564.7	2.09	C08583	Canthaxanthin	C40H52O2	Pigments; Antioxidant
550.7	44.93	C08592	Echinenone	C40H54O	Pigments; Antioxidant
378.8	9.67	C08608	Norbixin	C24H26O4	Antioxidant; Pigments
442.9	7.18	C08618	Betulin	C30H50O2	Anticancer
444.8	19.08	C08621	Dammarenediol II	C30H52O2	Anticancer
441	7.41	C08830	24-Methylenecycloartanol	C31H52O	Antimicrobial
458.9	8.87	C08980	Soyasapogenol B	C30H50O3	Antioxidant
457	27.78	C08988	Ursolate	C30H48O3	Antidiabetic
307.1	5.23	C09072	Alpha Cembratriene-4,6-diol	C20H34O2	Anticancer
290.8	37.94	C09094	Geranylgeraniol	C20H34O	Anticancer
309	8.63	C09183	Sclareol	C20H36O2	Anticancer; Fragrant
233	13.43	C09382	(+)-Costunolide (12,6alpha)	C15H20O2	Anticancer
223.1	10.72	C09621	(-)-Alpha Bisabolol	C15H26O	Anti-inflammatory;
223.1	24.18	C09663	Alpha Eudesmol	C15H26O	Hepatoprotectant
223.2	17.33	C09664	Beta Eudesmol	C15H26O	Hepatoprotectant
261	10.92	C09680	Hemigossypol	C15H16O4	Anticancer; anti-microbial
236.9	18.05	C09700	Lubimin	C15H24O2	Unknown
279	25.69	C09707	Phaseic Acid	C15H19O5	Plant Hormone
230.8	0.68	C09918	Aucuparin	C14H14O3	Antimicrobial; Anticancer
306.9	15.43	C13273	Plaunotol	C20H34O2	Anticancer; Antiulcer
582.8	11.77	C15968	Adonixanthin	C40H54O3	Pigments
280.9	21.72	C15971	Dihydroxyphaseic Acid	C15H21O5	Plant Hormone
498.9	13.59	C16724	Strictosamide	C26H30N2O8	•
474.9	27.55	C17419	Soyasapogenol A	C30H50O4	Anticancer
171	38.79	C17621	(6E)-8-Hydroxygeraniol	C10H18O2	Unknown
314.8	48.92	C18015	Momilactone A	C20H26O3	Antidiabetic; Antifungal
444.8	46.66	C19828	Arabidiol	C30H52O2	Antioomycete
504.8	12.95	C20152	Taxusin	C28H40O8	Anticancer

290.9	36.75	C20481	Cis-Abienol	C20H34O	Fragrant
477	18.20	C20716	Protopanaxatriol	C30H52O4	Anticancer
432.8	37.64	C20894	Beta Citraurin	C30H40O2	Antioxidant
587	22.78	C11900	Baccatin III	C31H38O11	Anticancer
468.9	31.43	C08950	Gypsogenin	C30H45O4	Anticancer
223	36.75	C09715	Rishitin	C14H22O2	Antimicrobial
262.9	13.01	C06082	2-Cis-Abscisate	C15H19O4	Plant Hormone

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 30. List of putative Alkaloids from extract of leaves derived callus cultures treated with Salicylic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retentior	1		Molecular	
value	time		Putative Compounds (Alkaloids)	formula	Bioactivity*
140.9	27.04	C00783	Tropinone	C8H14NO	Anticholinergic
306.9	35.62	C01513	Lupinate	C13H18N6O3	Unknown
327	24.11	C02106	(S)-Scoulerine	C19H21NO4	Anticancer
352.8	34.60	C02151	19E-Geissoschizine	C21H24N2O3	Unknown
339	21.30	C03329	(S)-Canadine	C20H21NO4	Antioxidant: Anti-caner
351	37.23	C03677	4,21-Dehydrogeissoschizine	C21H23N2O3	Unknown
341	22.94	C04118	(S)-Tetrahydrocolumbamine	C20H23NO4	Unknown
598.8	9.56	C05177	Berbamunine	C36H42N2O6	Unknown
369.2	29.09	C05190	6-Hydroxyprotopine	C20H19NO6	Antimicrobial
379.1	8.03	C05193	12-Hydroxydihydrochelirubine	C21H17NO6	Unknown
363	19.71	C05194	Dihydrochelirubine	C21H17NO5	Anti-tuberculosis
352.8	13.43	C05315	Palmatine	C21H22NO4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
392.9	10.96	C05316	Dihydromacarpine	C22H19NO6	Neuroprotective
372.8	18.05	C05322	7-O-Acetylsalutaridinol	C21H26NO5	Unknown
392.9	42.77	C06165	Macarpine	C22H18NO6	Anti-inflammatory
313.2	25.39	C06173	Thebaine	C19H22NO3	Antimicrobial
295	34.65	C06528	Cinchonine	C19H23N2O	Antimalarial; Antidiabetic
201	8.94	C06537	Harmalol	C12H12N2O	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
172.9	13.37	C10173	Swainsonine	C8H15NO3	Anticancer
287	22.56	C08532	Lycorine	C16H17NO4	Anticancer
467.8	5.79	C09390	Cephaeline	C28H40N2O4	Antioxidant
483	25.93	C09421	Emetine	C29H42N2O4	Antimicrobial
248.9	31.25	C10752	17-Oxosparteine	C15H25N2O	Antimicrobial
248.9	48.97	C10772	Lupanine	C15H25N2O	Antioxidant
292.9	20.98	C11633	16-Epivellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
292.9	35.45	C11634	Vellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
366.9	25.64	C11675	16-Methoxytabersonine	C22H27N2O3	Unknown
334.9	49.33	C11807	Vinorine	C21H22N2O2	Anti-inflammatory
352.9	18.27	C11808	1,2-Dihydrovomilenine	C21H24N2O3	Anticancer
274.9	23.91	C21637	Elwesine	C16H21NO3	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
275	49.01	C21639	Maritinamine	C16H21NO3	Unknown
201	39.54	C21721	Camalexin	C11H8N2S	Antimicrobial
385.9	28.54	C16709	O-Methylandrocymbine	C22H27NO5	Antimicrobial
292.9	48.10	C16726	Cinchoninone	C19H20N2O	Antiplasmodial
368.8	11.80	C15985	17-O-Acetylajmaline	C22H28N2O3	Unknown
339	47.48	C11818	(R)-Canadine	C20H21NO4	Antioxidant
398.8	19.75	C06543	Solanidine	C27H44NO	Unknown

598.9	3.29	C06511	Guattegaumerine	C36H42N2O6	Anticancer
512.9	20.80	C16723	Pumiloside	C26H28N2O9	Anti-inflammatory

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 31. List of putative phenolics and vitamins and cofactors, anthroquinones and lignans from extract of callus cultures (leaf-derived) treated with Salicylic acid

m/z	Retention		Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	ID	(Phenolic acids)	formula	Bioactivity*
153	48.88	C00230	Protocatechuate	C7H5O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
223	1.96	C00482	Sinapate	C11H11O5	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
153.1	13.45	C00628	Gentisate	C7H5O4	Antioxidant: Anti-inflammatory
201.9	2.62	C00758	Bergaptol	C11H6O4	Anticancer
163	1.51	C00811	4-Coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant
179	12.60	C01197	Trans-Caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
169	15.69	c01424	Gallate	C7H5O5	Antioxidant; Anticancer
179	49.79	C01481	Cis-Caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
193	10.52	C01494	Ferulate	C10H9O4	Antioxidant; Anti-aging
217	25.08	C01557	Bergapten	C12H8O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
163	49.64	C01772	Trans-2-Coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
359	10.32	C01850	Rosmarinate	C18H15O8	Anti-inflammatory
277.1	20.74	C04498	4-Coumaroylagmatine	C14H21N4O2	Adrenergic receptor
177.1	37.67	C03081	4-Methylumbelliferone	C10H8O3	Anticancer
179.1	44.39	C10454	Methyleugenol	C11H14O2	Antioxidant
264.7	35.53	D03241	Nitecapone	C12H11NO6	Antioxidant
186	3.23	C09305	Psoralen	C11H6O3	Antipsoriasis
217	41.53	C01864	Xanthotoxin	C12H8O4	Anticancer
233.1	43.69	C02951	5-hydroxyxanthotoxin	C12H8O5	Anticancer
230.9	48.32	C18083	Demethylsuberosin	C14H14O3	Anti-inflammatory
			Vitamins And Co-factors		
175	23.61	C00072	L-Ascorbate	C6H7O6	Antioxidant
450.9	17.69	C02059	Phylloquinone	C31H46O2	Coagulation disorder
537	6.05	C02094	Beta Carotene	C40H56	Pigments
430.9	38.41	C02477	Alpha Tocopherol	C29H50O2	Antioxidant; Anticancer
453	9.98	C03313	Phylloquinol	C31H48O2	Coagulation disorder
436.7	37.79	C13309	Demethylphylloquinone	C30H44O2	Unknown
425.1	4.86	C14153	Alpha Tocotrienol	C29H44O2	Anti-inflammatory
396.8	8.38	C14156	Delta Tocotrienol	C27H40O2	Anti-inflammatory
374.9	20.72	C00255	Riboflavin	C17H19N4O6	Dietary supplement
			Anthroquinones		
195	49.72	C00822	Dopaquinone	C9H9NO4	Unknown
240.8	40.93	C01474	Alizarin	C14H8O4	Pigment
502	21.15	C07606	Hypericin	C30H14O8	Anticancer
263	20.88	C18132	3"-hydroxy-geranylhydroquinone	C16H22O3	Unknown
752.9	3.33	C16695	Plastoquinol-9	C53H84O2	Unknown
327	0.95	C00113	Pyrroloquinoline Quinone	C14H3N2O8	Unknown
			Lignan		
372.8	11.39	C10545	Arctigenin	C21H24O6	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
380.2	24.91	C10559	Diphyllin	C21H16O7	Anticancer; Antiviral
252.9	31.13	C10628	(7s)-Cis-Hinokiresinol	C17H16O2	Antioxidant; Antiatherogenic
362.9	22.34	C18167	(-)-Secoisolariciresinol	C20H26O6	Anticancer
364	31.85	C10636	Justicidin B	C21H16O6	Anticancer

Supplementary Table 32. List of putative Steroids and sterols from callus cultures (leaves-derived) treated with Salicylic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retentio	n	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	KEGG ID	(Steroids and sterols)	formula	Bioactivity*
403	9.79	C15787	Campestanol	C28H50O	Unknown
419	3.48	C15788	(6alpha)-Hydroxycampestanol	C28H50O2	Unknown
448.9	27.41	C15791	Teasterone	C28H48O4	Unknown
446.8	20.34	C15792	3-Dehydroteasterone	C28H46O4	Unknown
448.9	32.82	C15793	Typhasterol	C28H48O4	Unknown
465	9.36	C15794	Castasterone	C28H48O5	Unknown
418.9	14.47	C15798	6-Deoxocathasterone	C28H50O2	Unknown
434.8	20.66	C15799	6-Deoxoteasterone	C28H50O3	Unknown
435	23.87	C15801	6-Deoxotyphasterol	C28H50O3	Unknown
413	14.59	C08821	Isofucosterol	C29H48O	Unknown
450.7	36.19	C15802	6-Deoxocastasterone	C28H50O4	Unknown
396.9	0.66	C01694	Ergosterol	C28H44O	Unknown
426.9	8.71	C01724	Lanosterol	C30H50O	Unknown
414.8	19.33	C01753	Sitosterol	C29H50O	Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
427	5.00	C01943	Obtusifoliol	C30H50O	Unknown
383	12.75	C05107	7-Dehydrodesmosterol	C27H42O	Unknown
412.2	21.36	C05108	14-Demethyllanosterol	C29H48O	Unknown
412.9	13.76	C05442	Stigmasterol	C29H48O	Unknown

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 33. List of Glycosides, Betacyanin from callus cultures (leaves-derived) treated with Salicylic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	ID	(Glycoside)	formula	Bioactivity*
311	30.64	C01855	Taxiphyllin	C14H17NO7	Antimicrobial
297	5.17	C05342	Psicofuranine	C11H15N5O5	Anticancer
254.9	18.99	C05841	Beta D-Ribosylnicotinate	C11H13NO6	Unknown
260.9	16.09	C08334	Lotaustralin	C11H19NO6	Unknown
423	13.23	C08336	Neolinustatin	C17H29NO11	Unknown
422.9	32.40	C08411	Glucoiberin	C11H20NO10S3	Antimicrobial
406.9	8.91	C08412	Glucoiberverin	C11H20NO9S3	Antimicrobial
436.9	33.04	C08419	Glucoraphanin	C12H22NO10S3	Antioxidant
577	5.48	C12628	Vitexin 2"-O-Beta L-Rhamnoside	C27H29O14	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
294.9	46.67	C08481	Indican	C14H17NO6	Pigment
		•	Betacyanin		
386	27.98	C08539	Betanidin	C18H14N2O8	Antioxidant; Pigment

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 34. List of putative flavonoids from callus cultures (leaves-derived) treated with Jasmonic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	-	Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	KEGG ID		formula	Bioactivity*
270.9	20.38	C01592	Licodione	C15H11O5	Unknown
301	30.55	C00389	Quercetin	C15H9O7	Anti-inflammatory
256	40.47	C08650	Isoliquiritigenin	C15H12O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
283.1	25.86	C00814	Biochanin-A	C16H11O5	Antiproliferative
430.9	10.37	C01460	Vitexin	C21H19O10	-
283.2	28.32	C01470	Acacetin	C16H11O5	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
269.1	31.75	C01477	Apigenin	C15H9O5	Anticancer; Antidiabetic
285	39.46	C01514	Luteolin	C15H9O6	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
355	1.03	C01590	Kievitone	C20H19O6	Antimicrobial
339.3	26.33	C01701	Glyceollin I	C20H18O5	Anticancer
431.2	24.37	C01714	Isovitexin		Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
446.9	39.08	C01821	Isoorientin		Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
319	8.41	C02906	(+)-Dihydromyricetin	C15H11O8	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
316.9	15.50	C04109	Gossypetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antibacterial
298.9	11.83	C04293	Chrysoeriol	C16H11O6	Antioxidant; Anticancer
315	14.69	C04443	3-O-Methylquercetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Anticancer
446.8	21.56	C05376	Biochanin A-7-O-Glucoside	C22H22O10	Anticancer
286.9	29.56	C05631	(2S)-Eriodictyol	C15H11O6	Anticancer; Anti-inflammatory
307	12.43	C05906	(2R,3S,4S)-Leucocyanidin	C15H14O7	Antiviral
395	20.09	C07593	Rotenone	C23H22O6	Anticancer
594.9	7.46	C08064	Isovitexin 7-o-glucoside	C27H30O15	Antidiabetic
270.9	48.30	C08652	Luteolinidin	C15H11O5	Anti-inflammatory
			Pelargonidin-3,5-Di-O-Beta D-		,
595	2.36	C08725	Glucoside	C27H30O15	Pigment
458.8	48.67	C09731	(-)-Epigallocatechin-3-O-Gallate	C22H18O11	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
581	9.67	C09789	Naringin	C27H32O14	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
271	2.15	C09826	(+)-Pinobanksin	C15H11O5	Antioxidant
255.2	32.62	C09827	(2S)-Pinocembrin	C15H11O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
252.9	13.03	C10028	Chrysin	C15H9O4	Anti-inflammatory
315	35.07	C10084	Isorhamnetin	C16H11O7	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
298.9	46.82	C10098	Kaempferide	C16H11O6	Anti-inflammatory
317	23.58	C10107	Myricetin	C15H9O8	Anti-inflammatory
317	41.09	C10122	Quercetagetin	C15H9O8	Antioxidant; Antidiabetic
287	10.28	C10415	Dalbergioidin	C15H11O6	Antioxidant
352.9	22.36	C10486	Phaseoluteone	C20H17O6	Antioxidant
352.9	42.28	C10498	Luteone	C20H17O6	Antioxidant; Antimicrobial
430.8	40.80	C10509	Ononin	C22H22O9	Anti-inflammatory
299	16.52	C10520	Pratensein	C16H11O6	Antioxidant
238.9	41.57	C11264	7-hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
307	26.14	C12127	(+)-Gallocatechin	C15H14O7	Antioxidant
840.8	24.67	C12641	Monodemalonylsalvianin	C39H37O21	Unknown
238.9	46.64	C14137	6-Hydroxyflavone	C15H10O3	Anticancer
500.8	34.13	C16191	Malonyldaidzin	C24H21O12	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
			Formononetin-7-O-Glucoside-6"-		
514.8	15.45	C16222	Malonate	C25H23O12	Antioxidant
			Cyanidin 3-o-(3",6"-o-dimalonyl-beta		
616.9	31.14	C16289	Glucopyranoside)	C27H21O17	Anticancer; Pigments
840.8	31.80	C16299	Malonylshisonin	C39H37O21	Pigments
464.9	9.44	C16410	Bracteatin 6-O-Glucoside	C21H20O12	Unknown
596	4.97	C20491	inidin 3-O-Beta D-Sambubioside	C26H27O16	Apoptosis inducer

Supplementary Table 35. List of putative Terpenoids from extract of callus cultures (leaves-derived) treated with Jasmonic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	m/z Retention Putative Compounds Molecular						
value		KEGG ID	(Terpenoids)	formula	Bioactivity*		
374.9	0.59	C01512	Loganate	C16H23O10	Antioxidant		
223.1	24.00	C011126	(2e,6e)-farnesol	C15H26O	Antibacterial		
390.9	10.37	C01433	Loganin	C17H26O10	Anti-inflammatory		
469.9	1.88	C02283	Glycyrrhetinate	C30H45O4	Antioxidant		
310.9	45.57	C03190	(+)-Bornyl-diphosphate	C10H17O7P2	Anti-inflammatory		
544.9	22.68	C05413	All-Trans-Phytoene	C40H64	Pigments		
542.9	21.17	C05414	All-trans Phytofluene	C40H62	Pigments		
375	20.67	C06071	7-Deoxyloganin	C17H26O9	Anti-inflammatory		
428.9	15.15	C06309	Hopan-22-ol	C30H52O	Antimicrobial		
536.1	25.21	C07608	Hyperforin	C35H52O4	Anticancer		
518.8	36.11	C07667	Gossypol	C30H30O8	Anticancer		
597	8.29	C08580	(3s,3's)-astaxanthin	C40H52O4	Pigments; Antioxidant		
393	12.87	C08582	Bixin	C25H29O4	Pigments; Antioxidant		
553	7.96	C08590	Zeinoxanthin	C40H56O	Antioxidants/Pigments		
550.9	23.77	C08592	Echinenone	C40H54O	Pigments; Antioxidant		
378.8	38.60	C08608	Norbixin	C24H26O4	Pigments; Antioxidant		
443.1	19.11	C08618	Betulin	C30H50O2	Anticancer		
444.8	0.66	C08621	Dammarenediol II	C30H52O2	Anticancer		
441	9.66	C08830	24-methylenecycloartanol	C31H52O	Antimicrobial		
470	5.43	C08950	Gypsogenin	C30H45O4	Anticancer		
458.7	26.13	C08980	Soyasapogenol B	C30H50O3	Antioxidant		
456.9	10.45	C08988	Ursolate	C30H48O3	Antidiabetic		
306.8	16.22	C09072	Alpha Cembratriene-4,6-diol	C20H34O2	Anticancer		
290.8	23.50	C09094	Geranylgeraniol	C20H34O	Anticancer		
309	24.04	C09183	Sclareol	C20H36O2	Anticancer; Fragrant		
233	18.00	C09382	(+)-Costunolide (12,6alpha)	C15H20O2	Anticancer		
261	37.68	C09680	Hemigossypol	C15H16O4	Anticancer; Anti-microbial		
237	3.46	C09700	Lubimin	C15H24O2	Unknown		
223.1	10.23	C09715	Rishitin	C14H22O2	Antimicrobial		
231.1	44.63	C09918	Aucuparin	C14H14O3	Antimicrobial; Anticancer		
306.8	27.38	C13273	Plaunotol	C20H34O2	Anticancer; Antiulcer		
250	12.94	C13453	2-cis,4-trans-xanthoxin	C15H22O3	Antioxidant		
566.9	32.78	C15966	3-hydroxyechinenone	C40H54O2	Pigments		
580.8	20.45	C15967	Adonirubin	C40H52O3	Antioxidant		
281.2	26.27	C15971	Dihydroxyphaseic Acid	C15H21O5	Plant Hormone		
444.8	46.66	C19828	Arabidiol	C30H52O2	Anti-oomycete		
504.8	45.39	C20152	Taxusin	C28H40O8	Anticancer		
476.8	34.63	C20716	Protopanaxatriol	C30H52O4	Anticancer		
432.9	6.93	C20894	Beta Citraurin	C30H40O2	Antioxidant		
440.9	9.44	C20946	Oleanolic Aldehyde	C30H48O2	Antioxidant		
475.7	18.66	C17419	Soyasapogenol A	C30H50O4	Anticancer		
171.1	14.84	C17621	(6E)-8-hydroxygeraniol	C10H18O2	Unknown		
314.7	39.98	C18015	Momilactone A	C20H26O3	Antidiabetic; Antifungal		
410.9	8.30	C00751	Squalene	C30H50	Anticancer		
262.9	20.59	C06082	2-cis-Abscisate	C15H19O4	Plant Hormone		

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 36. List of putative Alkaloids from extract of callus (leaves-derived)

treated with Jasmonic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention		Putative Compounds	Molecular	-
value	time	KEGG ID	(Alkaloids)	formula	Bioactivity*
140.9	38.003	C00783	Tropinone	C8H14NO	Anticholinergic
306.9	34.162	C01513	Lupinate	C13H18N6O3	Unknown
369.1	26.123	C02134	Allocryptopine	C21H23NO5	Neuroprotective
352.7	39.231	C02151	19e-geissoschizine	C21H24N2O3	Unknown
265	26.926	C02621	13-hydroxylupanine	C15H25N2O2	Antioxidant
354.9	12.569	C02915	(S)-N-methylcanadine	C21H24NO4	Antioxidant
307	4.556	C03325	(6S)-Hydroxyhyoscyamine	C17H24NO4	Anti-inflammatory; Anti-arrhythmia
323.1	23.288	C05175	(S)-Stylopine	C19H17NO4	Antimicrobial
598.6	35.255	C05177	Berbamunine	C36H42N2O6	Anticancer
369	17.645	C05190	6-Hydroxyprotopine	C20H19NO6	Antimicrobial
378.9	28.357	C05193	12-Hydroxydihydrochelirubine	C21H17NO6	Unknown
363	7.891	C05194	Dihydrochelirubine	C21H17NO5	Anti-tuberculosis
236.9	8.897	C05204	(S)-tetrahydroprotoberberine	C17H18N	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
295	38.745	C06528	Cinchonine	C19H23N2O	Antimalarial; Antidiabetic
199.9	5.279	C06537	Harmalol	C12H12N2O	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
271	48.458	C08521	Caranine	C16H17NO3	Unknown
468.9	10.422	C09390	Cephaeline	C28H40N2O4	Antioxidant
248.9	28.910	C10752	17-Oxosparteine	C15H25N2O	Antimicrobial
292.8	23.288	C11633	16-Epivellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
292.9	39.069	C11634	Vellosimine	C19H20N2O	Unknown
352.8	38.475	C11808	1,2-dihydrovomilenine	C21H24N2O3	Anticancer
271.1	43.477	C12162	Crinine	C16H17NO3	Unknown
373.1	0.878	C16707	(S)-Autumnaline	C21H27NO5	Anticancer
292.9	44.786	C16726	Cinchoninone	C19H20N2O	Antiplasmodial
274.9	14.931	C21637	Elwesine	C16H21NO3	Anticancer; Antimicrobial
275	45.374	C21639	Maritinamine	C16H21NO3	Unknown
200	43.686	C21721	Camalexin	C11H8N2S	Antimicrobial
322.9	49.167	C16728	Quinidinone	C20H22N2O2	Antiarrhythmic
498.9	27.925	C16724	Strictosamide	C26H30N2O8	Anti-inflammatory
370.9	47.520	C16708	(S)-Isoandrocymbine	C21H25NO5	Unknown
339.1	22.127	C11818	(R)-Canadine	C20H21NO4	Antioxidant
248.9	48.647	C10772	Lupanine	C15H25N2O	Antioxidant
173	17.793	C10173	Swainsonine	C8H15NO3	Anticancer
482.9	18.826	C09421	Emetine	C29H42N2O4	Antimicrobial
287	18.833	C08532	Lycorine	C16H17NO4	Anticancer
398.7	18.968	C06543	Solanidine	C27H44NO	Unknown
392.9	19.386	C05316	Dihydromacarpine	C22H19NO6	Neuroprotective
341	13.865	C04118	(S)-Tetrahydrocolumbamine	C20H23NO4	Unknown
338.9	23.868	C03329	(S)-Canadine	C20H21NO4	Antioxidant: Anti-caner
598.9	9.41	C06511	Guattegaumerine	C36H42N2O6	Anticancer
355	23.382	C02890	(S)-Tetrahydropalmatine	C21H25NO4	Unknown
389.2	27.68	C01852	Secologanin	C17H24O10	Neuroprotective
496.8	14.29	C16725	Deoxypumiloside	C26H28N2O8	Anti-inflammatory
512.9	13.37	C16723	Pumiloside	C26H28N2O9	Anti-inflammatory

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 37. List of putative phenolics from extract of callus cultures (leaves-derived) treated with Jasmonic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	Bioactivity
value	time	ID	(Phenolic acids)	formula	
223	12.30	C00482	Sinapate	C11H11O5	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
336.8	37.80	C00796	Dicoumarol	C19H12O6	Anticoagulant
162.9	47.40	C00811	4-Coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant
386.1	27.44	C01175	1-O-Sinapoyl-Beta D-Glucose	C17H22O10	Antioxidant
178.9	40.06	C01197	Trans-Caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
168.9	22.14	c01424	Gallate	C7H5O5	Antioxidant; Anticancer
179	2.05	C01481	Cis-Caffeate	C9H7O4	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
217	49.68	C01557	Bergapten	C12H8O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer
163	13.12	C01772	Trans-2-Coumarate	C9H7O3	Antioxidant; Anti-inflammatory
359.1	22.80	C01850	Rosmarinate	C18H15O8	Anti-inflammatory
217.1	24.15	C01864	Xanthotoxin	C12H8O4	Anticancer
211	35.95	C02325	Sinapyl Alcohol	C11H14O4	Unknown
313	8.36	C02717	N-Feruloyltyramine	C18H19NO4	Anti-inflammatory
233.1	0.26	C02951	5-Hydroxyxanthotoxin	C12H8O5	Anticancer
276.9	13.38	C04498	4-Coumaroylagmatine	C14H21N4O2	Adrenergic receptor
163.1	2.69	C05838	Coumarinate	C9H7O3	Antidiabetic
186	28.01	C09305	Psoralen	C11H6O3	Antipsoriasis
179.1	46.02	C10454	Methyleugenol	C11H14O2	Antioxidant
163.1	43.85	C12621	3-Hydroxycinnamate	C9H7O3	Anti-inflammatory
265.1	33.54	D03241	Nitecapone	C12H11NO6	Antioxidant
153.3	12.10	C00230	Protocatechuate	C7H5O4	Anti-inflammatory; Anticancer

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 38. List of putative Steroids and sterols, and glycosides from extract of callus treated with Jasmonic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention	KEGG	Putative Compounds	Molecular	Diagoticite.
value	time	ID	(Steroids and sterols)	formula	Bioactivity
400.8	8.89	C01789	Campesterol	C28H48O	Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic
385	34.63	C01802	Desmosterol	C27H44O	Unknown
385	39.68	C05437	Zymosterol	C27H44O	Unknown
413	22.06	C05442	Stigmasterol	C29H48O	Unknown
398.9	49.50	C08813	Brassicasterol	C28H46O	Unknown
388.8	20.77	C12978	Epi-cholestanol	C27H48O	Unknown
419.1	22.64	C15788	(6alpha)-hydroxycampestanol	C28H50O2	Unknown
448.8	22.28	C15791	Teasterone	C28H48O4	Unknown
446.8	13.86	C15792	3-dehydroteasterone	C28H46O4	Unknown
448.9	23.49	C15793	Typhasterol	C28H48O4	Unknown
464.8	17.81	C15794	Castasterone	C28H48O5	Unknown
419	2.86	C15798	6-deoxocathasterone	C28H50O2	Unknown
435	3.97	C15799	6-deoxoteasterone	C28H50O3	Unknown
435	11.39	C15801	6-deoxotyphasterol	C28H50O3	Unknown
450.9	10.85	C15802	6-deoxocastasterone	C28H50O4	Unknown
316.8	41.38	C01953	Pregnenolone	C21H32O2	Phytahormones
415.1	21.53	C01753	Sitosterol	C29H50O	Unknown
314.8	34.41	C00410	Progesterone	C21H30O2	Unknown
386.9	33.99	C01189	Lathosterol	C27H46O	Anti-inflammatory; Antidiabetic

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 39. List of putative Vitamins and Co-factors, Anthroquinones, Lignan from extract of callus treated with Jasmonic acid through LC-MS/MS analysis

m/z	Retention		Putative Compounds	Molecular	
value	time	ID	(Glycosides)	formula	Bioactivity
247	19.87	C01594	Linamarin	C10H17NO6	Anticancer
311	22.13	C01855	Taxiphyllin	C14H17NO7	Antimicrobial
311	32.84	C05143	Dhurrin	C14H17NO7	Unknown
297	10.40	C05342	Psicofuranine	C11H15N5O5	Anticancer
457.1	32.17	C08325	(R)-Amygdalin	C20H27NO11	Anticancer
260.9	44.35	C08334	Lotaustralin	C11H19NO6	Unknown
422.9	33.70	C08411	Glucoiberin	C11H20NO10S3	Antimicrobial
406.9	22.21	C08412	Glucoiberverin	C11H20NO9S3	Antimicrobial
294.9	21.68	C08481	Indican	C14H17NO6	Pigment
	-	•	Stilbenes	-	
229	12.29	C03582	Trans-Resveratrol	C14H12O3	Anticancer
227	43.30	C10276	Pinosylvin Monomethylether	C15H14O2	Antioxidant
	-		Vitamins and Co-factors	•	
374.9	20.18	C00255	Riboflavin	C17H19N4O6	Dietary supplement
450.9	39.17	C02059			Coagulation disorder
537	3.04	C02094	Beta Carotene	C40H56	Pigment
431	10.83	C02477	Alpha Tocopherol	C29H50O2	Antioxidant; Anticancer
452.8	15.07	C03313	Phylloquinol	C31H48O2	Coagulation disorder
403	2.88	C14151	Delta Tocopherol	C27H46O2	Antioxidant; Anticancer
397	31.13	C14156	Delta Tocotrienol	C27H40O2	Anti-inflammatory
175.1	2.32	C00072	L-Ascorbate	C6H7O6	Antioxidant
	-		Anthroquinones	-	
502	19.49	C07606	Hypericin	C30H14O8	Anticancer
752.9	8.77	C16695	Plastoquinol-9	C53H84O2	Unknown
240.9	47.14	C01474	Alizarin	C14H8O4	Pigment
195	3.29	C00822	Dopaquinone	C9H9NO4	Unknown
			Lignan		
362.9	29.86	C18167	(-)-Secoisolariciresinol	C20H26O6	Anticancer
252.8	26.76	C10628	(7S)-Cis-Hinokiresinol	C17H16O2	Antioxidant; Antiatherogenic
365	9.98	C10636	Justicidin B	C21H16O6	Anticancer
370.8	42.32	C21183	(-)-Bursehernin	C21H22O6	Anticancer

^{*}As reported in literature

Supplementary Table 40. Summary of pathway enrichment analysis of metabolites in SA treated callus cultures

	Total:	Expected	Hits	Raw p	~-log10(p) ~-	-Holm adjust	FDR	Impac
Brassinosteroid biosynthesis	26	1.09	. 9	3.88E-07	6.41E+00	3.72E-05	3.72E-05	0.28
Steroid biosynthesis	45	1.88	10	7.91E-06	5.10E+00	7.52E-04	3.80E-04	0.31
Flavonoid biosynthesis	47	1.96	10	1.20E-05	4.92E+00	1.13E-03	3.85E-04	0.13
Carotenoid biosynthesis	43	1.80	9	3.99E-05	4.40E+00	3.71E-03	9.57E-04	0.16
Ubiquinone and other terpenoid-quinone	38	1.59	8	1.07E-04	3.97E+00	9.88E-03	2.06E-03	0.13
biosynthesis		A.2004798			0.55		20-24-0411-0032-000	
Flavone and flavonol biosynthesis	10	0.42	2	6.24E-02	1.21E+00	1.00E + 00	9.98E-01	0.35
Sesquiterpenoid and triterpenoid biosyn-	24	1.00	.3	7.54E-02	1.12E+00	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.22
thesis								2
Phenylpropanoid biosynthesis	46	1.92	4	1.22E-01	9.13E-01	1.00E + 00	1.00E+00	0.16
Biosynthesis of secondary metabolites -	5	0.21	1	1.93E-01	7.16E-01	1.00E + 00	1.00E+00	1.00
unclassified	100	110						
Biosynthesis of secondary metabolites -	6	0.25	1	2.26E-01	6.45E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
other antibiotics		Lancas and the same of the sam		Name and the same and				
Tropane, piperidine and pyridine alkaloid	8	0.33	1	2.90E-01	5.38E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
biosynthesis	400				3100 300		V 200	
Monoterpenoid biosynthesis	9	0.38	1	3.20E-01	4.95E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Cyanoamino acid metabolism	29	1.21	2	3.44E-01	4.63E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Anthocyanin biosynthesis	11	0.46	1	3.76E-01	4.25E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Riboflavin metabolism	11	0.46	1	3.76E-01	4.25E-01	1.00E + 00	1.00E+00	0.12
Nicotinate and nicotinamide metabolism	13	0.54	1	4.27E-01	3.69E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Ascorbate and aldarate metabolism	18	0.75	1	5.38E-01	2.69E-01	1.00E + 00	1.00E+00	0.22
Glutathione metabolism	26	1.09	1	6.74E-01	1.72E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Terpenoid backbone biosynthesis	30	1.25	1	7.26E-01	1.39E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Arginine and proline metabolism	34	1.42	1	7.70E-01	1.14E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.01
Glucosinolate biosynthesis	65	2.72	1	9.42E-01	2.62E-02	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00

Supplementary Table 41. Summary of pathway enrichment analysis of metabolites JA treated callus cultures

	Total	Expected	Hits	Raw p	-log10(p)-	Holm adjust	FDR =	Impact
Brassinosteroid biosynthesis	26	1.12	9	5.15E-07	6.29E+00	4.95E-05	4.95E-05	0.28
Flavonoid biosynthesis	47	2.03	10	1.62E-05	4.79E+00	1.53E-03	7.75E-04	0.16
Carotenoid biosynthesis	43	1.86	9	5.19E-05	4.29E+00	4.87E-03	1.66E-03	0.14
Steroid biosynthesis	45	1.94	9	7.61E-05	4.12E+00	7.07E-03	1.83E-03	0.17
Ubiquinone and other terpenoid-quinone	38	1.64	7	8.75E-04	3.06E+00	8.05E-02	1.68E-02	0.07
biosynthesis		COOKINA II	100	I may a recommendation	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.		Variable	313450
Flavone and flavonol biosynthesis	10	0.43	3	7.41E-03	2.13E+00	6.74E-01	1.18E-01	0.35
Phenylpropanoid biosynthesis	46	1.99	6	1.23E-02	1.91E+00	1.00E + 00	1.68E-01	0.15
Cyanoamino acid metabolism	29	1.25	4	3.33E-02	1.48E+00	1.00E + 00	3.99E-01	0.00
Anthocyanin biosynthesis	11	0.47	2	7.85E-02	1.11E+00	1.00E + 00	7.81E-01	0.00
Sesquiterpenoid and triterpenoid biosyn-	24	1.04	3	8.13E-02	1.09E+00	1.00E+00	7.81E-01	0.22
thesis					samil'againe		months of the	
Indole alkaloid biosynthesis	4	0.17	1	1.62E-01	7.91E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Biosynthesis of secondary metabolites - unclassified	5	0.22	1	1.98E-01	7.03E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	1.00
Biosynthesis of secondary metabolites - other antibiotics	6	0.26	1	2.33E-01	6.33E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Tropane, piperidine and pyridine alkaloid biosynthesis	8	0.35	1	2.98E-01	5.26E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Monoterpenoid biosynthesis	9	0.39	1	3.28E-01	4.84E-01	1.00E + 00	1.00E + 00	0.00
Riboflavin metabolism	11	0.47	1	3.86E-01	4.14E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E + 00	0.12
Ascorbate and aldarate metabolism	18	0.78	1	5.50E-01	2.60E-01	1.00E + 00	1.00E+00	0.22
Glutathione metabolism	26	1.12	1	6.86E-01	1.64E-01	1.00E + 00	1.00E+00	0.00
Terpenoid backbone biosynthesis	30	1.29	1	7.37E-01	1.32E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00
Arginine and proline metabolism	34	1.47	1	7.81E-01	1.08E-01	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.01
Glucosinolate biosynthesis	65	2.81	1	9.47E-01	2.38E-02	1.00E+00	1.00E+00	0.00

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Salicylic acid and jasmonic acid induced enhanced production of total phenolics, flavonoids, and antioxidant metabolism in callus cultures of Givotia moluccana (L.) Sreem

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Abstract

Givotia moluccana (L.) Sreem. is a highly valued forest tree species known for its medicinal properties and the presence of bioactive compounds. Elicitation is an effective strategy used for the biotechnological production of secondary metabolites. The study aimed at determining the effects of jasmonic acid (JA) and salicylic acid (SA) elicitation on accumulation of total phenolics, flavonoids, and regulation of antioxidant metabolism in callus cultures of G. moluccana L. Callus cultures treated with 150 μM JA for 20 d resulted in highest contents of total phenolics (81.83 mg GAE g⁻¹ DW) and flavonoids (60.89 mg RE g⁻¹ DW) as compared to SA-treated and control cultures. SA-treated callus cultures showed relatively higher contents of total phenolics (31.43 GAE g^{-1} DW) and flavonoids (38.49 RE g^{-1} DW) when treated with 50 μ M for 5 d and 20 d, respectively. tively, compared to control callus cultures. Treatment of callus cultures with 150 µM JA for 20 d was found to be optimal as the maximum production of H2O2 was associated with increased enzymatic (SOD, CAT, and POD) and non-enzymatic (ascorbate, total glutathione, and GSH) antioxidants that were higher than SA-treated and control callus cultures. Real-time PCR analysis of transcript levels of antioxidant genes revealed similar pattern of expression as that of enzymatic activities in SA- and JA-treated callus cultures showing correlation between transcriptional and enzyme activity regulation. On the other hand, the transcript level of PAL gene in JA-treated callus cultures was lower than in SA-treated callus although elevated enzyme activity was observed in response to JA treatment which could be due to differential posttranscriptional modifications. Overall, the study revealed that JA is more effective than SA in achieving higher yields of total phenolics and flavonoids in callus cultures of G. moluccana as well as provided insights into antioxidant metabolism in response to the treatments.

Keywords G. moluccana · Leaves · Callus cultures · Elicitation · JA · SA · Flavonoids · Phenolics · Antioxidant metabolism

Introduction

Plants produce a wide array of secondary metabolites that play a major role in defense against biotic and abiotic stresses. Plant secondary metabolites have received considerable attention due to potential applications in

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Department of Plant Sciences, School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad 500 046, Telangana, pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, and agrochemical industries. The production of secondary metabolites is often dependent on environmental factors and physiological and developmental stages of the plants and hence can be limiting (Rao and Ravishankar 2002). Moreover, the chemical synthesis of pharmaceutically important plant secondary metabolites is often difficult due to their diverse nature. In vitro techniques offer a promising approach for production of secondary metabolites under controlled conditions along with the possibility of enhancing the production of high-value compounds which are otherwise produced in meager amounts.

Elicitation is an efficient strategy for enhancing the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites because of its practical feasibility (Poulev et al. 2003). It exploits the plants' defense mechanism against stress, pathogens, or external stimuli for production of secondary metabolites. Elicitors activate cascades of events such as reactive oxygen species (ROS)





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production, expression of defense-related genes, and accumulation of secondary metabolites (Zhao et al. 2005). Abiotic elicitors like jasmonic acid (JA) and salicylic acid (SA) are frequently used for enhancing the production of secondary metabolites. SA, synthesized either by the phenylalanine or isochorismate pathways, plays a major role in systematic acquired resistance (SAR) during pathogen attack in plants (Klessig et al. 2018). JA modulates octadecanoid signaling pathway and plays a vital role in plant's tolerance to stress by modulating the defense responses (Sembdner and Parthier 1993). Both JA and SA, when provided exogenously, trigger responses similar to pathogen exposure or other external stimuli (Giri and Zaheer 2016). They initiate signal transduction pathways that lead to transcription of various genes thereby triggering the accumulation of molecules such as polyphenols, alkaloids, terpenoids, and steroids involved in defense and resistance of plants (Pieterse and Van Loon 1999; Hayat et al. 2010; Giri and Zaheer 2016). These secondary metabolites are known to have a range of pharmacological activities such as anticancer, antidiabetic, antiasthma. antimalarial, antimicrobial, and antiviral. They have been used in medicine either directly or as the starting point for drug discovery (Awuchi and Amagwula 2020).

Medicinal plants play an important role in preventing the detrimental consequences of oxidative stress. Various environmental stresses including the exogenous application of elicitors like JA and SA trigger the generation of ROS viz., singlet oxygen (${}^{1}O_{2}$), superoxide (O_{2}^{-}), hydrogen peroxide (H2O2), and hydroxyl radical (•OH) that cause oxidative damage and ultimately cell death. ROS not only have deleterious effects, but also function as important signaling molecules that regulate normal plant growth and responses to stresses (Huang et al. 2019). The level of ROS is maintained by an intricate and flexible enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidant system to balance their production and elimination, required for normal cellular homeostasis. In plants, antioxidant enzymes such as superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), and peroxidase (POD) along with ascorbate-glutathione (AsA-GSH) cycle play a vital role in the elimination of ROS such as hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), superoxide (O2-) and hydroxyl free radicals (•OH) generated during stress conditions (Bowler et al. 1992; Alscher et al. 1997; Mittler et al. 2004). Several non-enzymatic compounds such as phenolics, flavonoids, ascorbic acid, glutathione, carotenoids, and α-tocopherol also protect the cells from cytotoxic effects of ROS. The bioactive roles of phenolics and flavonoids are often associated with antioxidant potency (Ghasemzadeh et al. 2010).

Givotia moluccana (L.) Sreem. (syn. G. rottleriformis Griff. ex Wight) is a tree species of high economic importance due to its softwood and medicinal properties. The tree species has restricted distribution and is found mostly in hilly slopes in the forests of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and West Bengal States of India. This plant species is used in indigenous medicinal practices for treating inflammatory diseases such as rheumatism, psoriasis, and dandruff (Thammanna and Narayana Rao 1990). The extracts of different parts of this plant species have been reported to possess various biological properties including antipsoriatic, hepatoprotective, antimicrobial, and antioxidant activities (Vijayalakshmi et al. 2017). Secondary metabolites produced in plants serve as the material basis for the curative effects of medicinal plants (Zhang et al. 2021). This tree species is reported to be a rich source of phenolics and flavonoids, which are known to have antioxidant properties, justifying its use in traditional medicine. Vijayalakshmi et al. (2014) reported the antipsoriatic activity of flavonoids isolated from the bark of this species. Our research group has isolated phenolic compounds viz. gallic acid, methyl gallate, and benzoylsalicylic acid (BzSA) from seed coats of this species and reported their biological activities (Samuel et al. 2015, 2016). Owing to its medicinal properties and being a rich source of secondary metabolites like phenolics and flavonoids, it offers a good system for biotechnological studies. Callus cultures are a promising source for investigations on the production of secondary metabolites as well as understanding their metabolism and regulation. To the best of our knowledge, callus induction, growth, and secondary metabolite production from in vitro cultures in response to SA and JA elicitation have not been investigated so far in this species. Thus, the present study was undertaken to establish callus cultures from leaf explants and evaluate the effects of SA and JA elicitation on enhancement of phenolic and flavonoid contents and antioxidant metabolism including the expression of the PAL gene in callus cultures of G. moluccana.

Materials and Methods

Plant Materials The seeds of G. moluccana were collected from Forest Research Station, Mulugu, Telangana. The seeds were germinated in vitro and seedlings were produced as reported earlier (Samuel et al. 2009). The pericarp of the seeds was removed using pruning secateurs. The hard stony seeds were washed thoroughly under running tap water and placed in 0.1% Tween-20 (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) for 10 min and rinsed with distilled water followed by 1% bavistin (BASF India Limited, Mumbai, India) treatment for another 10 min. They were surface-sterilized with 70% ethanol for 3 min and subsequently with 0.1% mercuric chloride (Sisco Research Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, India) for 10 min in a laminar airflow chamber. The seeds were rinsed 3 times with sterile double-distilled water after each treatment. After surface sterilization, they were soaked in sterile distilled



water overnight, dried using sterilized tissue paper, and cut gently using a bench vice. The cut seeds with undamaged zygotic embryo axes were then placed in half-strength MS (Murashige and Skoog 1962) medium containing 28.9 μM gibberellic acid (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) for 3 d in the dark. The cultures were then moved to culture racks and kept under the light with 16 h photoperiod at a photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) of 83.6 $\mu Em^{-2}~s^{-1}$ provided by white fluorescent tubes (OSRAM Lighting India Pvt. Ltd, Gurgaon, Haryana, India) for germination and production of seedlings for using them as a source of leaf explants for callus formation.

Establishment of Callus Cultures from Leaf Explants The young leaves obtained from 30-d-old in vitro germinated seedlings were cut into small pieces of 1-1.5 cm and inoculated on MS medium with 3% sucrose (Merck, Mumbai, India), 0.8% (w/v) agar (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) containing plant growth regulators (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) viz., either individually or in combinations for callus induction. Five different types of media were used consisting of 2 mg/l 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacid (2,4-D) alone or in combination with 1 mg/l 6-benzylaminopurine (BAP) or 1-naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) or kinetin (KIN) or 2 mg/l NAA with 1 mg/l BAP to evaluate their effects on callus induction from leaf explants. The pH of the media was adjusted to 5.6 to 5.8 using 1 M sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and 1N hydrochloric acid (HCl) prior to autoclaving at 120°C and 15 psi pressure for 15 min. The explants (6 nos) were inoculated into each culture bottle (60 × 110 mm) containing approximately 40 ml of the media. The cultures were incubated in dark at $25 \pm 2^{\circ}$ C and examined intermittently for recording the duration of callus initiation from the leaf explants. The observations on frequency of callus initiation and nature and color of callus were taken after 4 wk of culture on the medium. The effect of different media on callus biomass was determined based on fresh weight and dry weight after 5 wk of a subculture of callus on fresh medium containing the same growth regulators used for callus initiation. To determine the growth curve, the fresh weight and dry weight of the callus subcultured on medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP were measured at weekly intervals for 6 wk and expressed as grams per 100 ml medium. For measuring the fresh weight and dry weight, approximately 1 g of callus was placed in each culture bottle containing 40 ml of the medium augmented with different growth regulators. The calli were taken out from the culture bottles and dried in an oven (45°C) for 48 h for dry weight estimation. The weight (g) of the callus at the time of harvesting and at inoculation was determined and the difference is used for measuring the fresh weight and dry weight. Each culture bottle is treated as a replicate in the analysis of the results.

Effect of Salicylic Acid (SA) and Jasmonic Acid (JA) on Biomass, Total Phenolics, Total Flavonoids, and Antioxidant Activities in Leaf Callus Cultures Freshly harvested callus obtained after 5 wk of subculture was used for elicitation experiments with SA and JA. The callus was inoculated in MS medium supplemented with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP with different concentrations (50 μM, 100 μM, 150 μM, and 200 μM) of SA and JA (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) which were dissolved in the solvent (ethanol) and added aseptically after filter sterilization with a 0.22-µm membrane filter (Axiva Sichem Biotech, New Delhi, India) to the culture media. The culture medium without any elicitor served as a control. The experiments were carried out by inoculating 1 g of callus into each culture bottle containing 40 ml of medium. The effects of SA and JA on fresh weight and dry weight were determined after 5 wk of culture on

For estimating the total phenolics and flavonoids, the calli were carefully removed from the culture bottles every 5 d for the following 30 d. The calli were dried in an oven (45°C) for 48 h. The dried callus was then ground into fine powder and used for preparing the extracts. The dried callus powder (5 g each) was placed in 100 ml of methanol and stirred overnight in a magnetic stirrer. The extracts were centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 15 min and the supernatants were recovered. The supernatants were then concentrated in a rotary vacuum evaporator (Heidolph Instruments, Schwabach, Germany) until it was reduced to powder/dried form, which were stored at -20°C until used for different experiments.

Estimation of Total Phenolic Acid and Total Flavonoid Contents Total phenolic acid (TPA) estimation was carried out spectrophotometrically using the Folin-Ciocalteu method as described by Singleton and Rossi (1965). Gallic acid was used as a standard. The sample (50 µl) was taken from the diluted extract (25 mg of dried powder/ml of methanol), and then 2.5 ml of 0.2 N of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent was added. After incubating for 6 min, 2 ml of 7.5% sodium carbonate solution (Na₂CO₃) was added to the sample in the tubes and the volume was made up to 5 ml with distilled water. The tubes were left in dark at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance of the sample in each tube was read at 760 nm wavelength. Different concentrations of gallic acid ranging from 5 to 50 µg were aliquoted in triplicates and reaction was performed and the standard graph was plotted. The TPA of each sample was estimated through the standard curve of gallic acid. The total phenolic acid was expressed as milligrams of gallic acid equivalents (GAE) per gram dry weight (DW).

Total flavonoid content was estimated according to aluminum chloride (AlCl₃) colorimetric assay method described by Barreira *et al.* (2008) using rutin hydrate as the standard. The sample of 50 µl was taken from the diluted



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extract (25 mg of dried powder/ml of methanol), in each tube followed by the addition of 50 μ l of 5% sodium nitrite solution. After 5 min of incubation, 120 μ l of 10% AlCl $_3$ solution was added. The reaction mixture was incubated for 6 min and 200 μ l of 1 M NaOH was added and the volume was made up to 1 ml with distilled water. The solution was mixed well and the absorbance was read at 510 nm. A standard curve was plotted using different concentrations of rutin (5–50 μ g). The flavonoid content was estimated for each extract and expressed as milligrams of rutin equivalents (RE) per gram dry weight (DW) according to the standard curve.

Quantification of Hydrogen Peroxide (H_2O_2) and Malondial-dehyde (MDA) Hydrogen peroxide levels were determined as per the method described by Alexieva *et al* (2001). The callus (500 mg) was homogenized in an ice-cold mortar and pestle with 5 ml of 10% (w/v) trichloroacetic acid (TCA). The homogenate was centrifuged at 15,000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C. Equal volume of the supernatant and 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7) were taken and 1 ml of 1 M potassium iodide was added to it. The mixture was measured for its absorbance at 390 nm wavelength spectrophotometrically. The mixture without the supernatant was used as blank. The content of the H_2O_2 in the sample was estimated as per the standard curve and expressed in micromol per gram fresh weight (μ mol g^{-1} FW).

A lipid peroxidation assay was carried out by measuring the malondialdehyde (MDA) produced during thiobarbituric acid (TBA) reaction by following the method of Heath and Pecker (1968). The callus (100 mg) was homogenized with 10% TCA and centrifuged at 15,000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C. The supernatants were collected and 0.5 ml of it was added to 1.5 ml of 0.5% TBA (w/v) in 20% TCA. The mixture was incubated in a water bath at 95°C for 25 min and the reaction was ended by incubating it on ice. The mixture was centrifuged at 15,000 rpm for 5 min at 4°C. The absorbance of the solution was measured at two different wavelengths, i.e., 532 nm and 600 nm. The OD₅₃₂ values of the non-specific absorption were subtracted from the OD600 values of MDA-TBA complex (red color). The MDA concentration was calculated based on Beer-Lambert's law with an extinction coefficient of 155 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹. The results were presented in $\mu mol \ g^{-1} \ FW$.

Extraction and Assay for Antioxidant Enzyme Activities Protein Extraction

The protein was extracted according to the method described by Ben Amor *et al.* (2005). The fresh callus (~1 g) was ground to fine powder using liquid nitrogen in mortar and pestle and homogenized with 100 mM tris hydrochloride (Tris–HCl) buffer (pH 8) comprising of 10 mM ethylenediamine tetraaceticacid (EDTA), 20 mM magnesium chloride

(MgCl₂), 1 mM dithiothreitol (DTT), 50 mM potassium chloride (KCl), 0.5 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), 0.1% Triton X-100 (v/v), and 10% polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). The mixture was centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 30 min at 4°C. The protein concentration in the supernatant was determined according to the method of Lowry $et\ al.$ (1951) using bovine serum albumin (BSA) as standard. The protein was stored at -20° C and used for various antioxidant assays.

Superoxide Dismutase (SOD) Activity Assay Beauchamp and Fridovich (1971) method was used to determine the SOD (EC1.15.1.1) activities in the samples. To 20–50 μl of the enzyme extract, a reaction cocktail consisting of 1.5 ml of 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.8), 13 mM L-methionine (0.2 ml), equal volume of 75 μM nitro blue tetrazolium chloride (NBT), 4 μM riboflavin, and 1 μM EDTA was added in a final volume of 3 ml reaction. The reaction was initiated by exposing it to a fluorescent light of photosynthetic photon flux of 50 μM m $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ for 15 min. The resulting blue color developed in the solution was spectrophotometrically measured at 560 nm. One unit of SOD activity is taken as 50% of the inhibition of the color developed and expressed as U mg $^{-1}$ of protein.

Catalase (CAT) Enzyme Activity Assay CAT (EC 1.11.1.6) enzyme activity assay was carried out as described by Aebi (1984). The samples of 500 mg were ground in 5 ml of 50 mM buffer phosphate (pH 7) and 50 mg of PVP in a mortar and pestle that was previously cooled to 4°C. The homogenous mixture was centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 15 min and the supernatant was collected. In order to determine the catalase enzyme activity, the reaction mixture containing 50 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 0.1 ml of 3 mM EDTA, 0.1 ml of 20 mM $\rm H_2O_2$, and the enzyme extract equivalent to 25 $\rm \mu g$ protein in a final volume of 1 ml was added and incubated. The absorbance was recorded for 1 min at 240 nm. The extinction coefficient of $\rm H_2O_2$ at 240 nm is 43.6 $\rm M^{-1}$ cm⁻¹. A unit of catalase is defined as the quantity of enzyme necessary to decompose 1 $\rm \mu M$ of $\rm H_2O_2$ per min at 25°C.

Peroxidase (POD) Enzyme Activity Assay POD (EC 1.11.1.7) activity was determined according to the method of Polle *et al.* (1994) based on its ability to convert guaiacol to tetraguaiacol (ε = 26.6 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹). The 2 ml reaction mixture consisted of 0.5 ml of 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 0.5 ml of 3.4 mM guaiacol, 0.5 ml of 0.9 mM H₂O₂, and 0.5 ml enzyme extract. The increase in absorbance was recorded by the addition of H₂O₂ at 436 nm.

Effects of SA and JA in the Regulation of AsA-GSH (Ascorbate–Glutathione) Pathway The influence of SA and JA on the enzymes involved in the Halliwell-Asada cycle or ascorbate–glutathione (AsA-GSH) pathway in callus cultures was



studied. The AsA-GsH pathway is involved in the detoxification of hydrogen peroxide using four crucial enzymes *viz.*, APX (ascorbate peroxidase), DHAR (dehydroascorbate reductase), MDHAR (monodehydroascorbate reductase), and GR (glutathione reductase).

Analysis of APX, GR, MDHAR, and DHAR Enzyme Activities All enzyme assays were carried out with crude enzyme extracts. APX (EC 1.11.1.11) was assayed according to the method of Nakano and Asada (1981). The reaction mixture of 1.5 ml for measuring APX activity contained 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 0.2 mM EDTA (0.1 ml), 0.5 mM ascorbic acid, and enzyme extract equivalent to 25 μ g of protein. The reaction was initiated by adding 20 mM H_2O_2 and the activity of the enzyme was recorded as a decrease in the absorbance at 290 nm for 1 min. The amount of ascorbic acid oxidized was calculated from the molar extinction coefficient of 2.8 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹. One unit of the enzyme is equal to the amount of APX catalyzing the oxidation of 1 μ mol ascorbate per min.

The Foyer and Halliwell (1976) method was used for determining GR (EC 1.6.4.2) activity by measuring the decrease in absorbance at 340 nm wavelength and calculated from the 6.22 mM $^{-1}$ molar extinction coefficient. The 3 ml reaction mixture contained 100 mM Tris–HCl (pH 8), 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM MgCl $_2$, 1 mM NADPH, 100 μl extract, and 10 mM GSSG. The reaction was initiated by the addition of NADPH. One unit of GR activity is the reduction of 1 μmol NADPH per min.

MDHAR (EC 1.6.5.4) activity was measured by the method of Hossain *et al.* (1984). The reaction mixture of 1 ml consisted of 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), 2.5 mM ascorbic acid, 0.01 mM EDTA, 0.25 mM NADH, 0.0125% Triton X-100, 50 μ l extract, and 0.4 units of ascorbate oxidase. The reaction was initiated by adding ascorbate oxidase. The decrease in absorbance due to NADPH oxidation was measured at 340 nm wavelength and calculated using an extinction coefficient of 6.22 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹. One unit of MDHAR activity is defined as the amount of enzyme that oxidizes 1 μ mol NADH per min.

DHAR (EC 1.8.5.1) activity was assayed according to the method described by Nakano and Asada (1981). The reaction mixture of 3 ml consisted of 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7), 20 mM GSH, 1 mM dehydroascorbate (DHA), 0.178 mM EDTA, and 100 μ l enzyme extract. The absorbance was measured at 265 nm and the enzyme activity was calculated from the 7.0 mM $^{-1}$ cm $^{-1}$ extinction coefficient. One unit of the DHAR activity is the amount of enzyme that produces 1 μ mol ascorbate per min.

Determination of Ascorbate (AsA), Total Glutathione (TGSH), Reduced Glutathione (GSH), and Oxidized Glutathione (GSSG) Contents Ascorbate was determined using the method of Foyer *et al.* (1983). The freshly harvested callus was immersed in liquid nitrogen and ground to fine powder and homogenized with 1 ml of 4.5 M perchloric acid. The homogenate was allowed to thaw for 30 min at 4°C. The soluble fraction (100 µl) was neutralized with 1.25 M of potassium carbonate (pH 5.6) and 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 5.6). Ascorbate oxidase (5 units) was added to the reaction mixture in a final volume of 1 ml and the decrease in the absorbance was measured at 265 nm wavelength.

GSH and GSSG were assayed as per the method described by Sarker and Oba (2018). The callus samples (~1 g) were homogenized in 10 ml of 5% sulphosalicylic acid and the homogenate was centrifuged at 15,000 rpm for 30 min at 4°C. To determine the total glutathione (GSH+GSSG) in the sample, 1 ml of the supernatant was taken and then 1.5 ml of 0.5 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.5) and 50 µl of double-distilled water were added. For determining GSSG in the sample, another part of the supernatant (1 ml) was taken and then 1.5 ml of 0.5 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.5) and 50 µl of 2-vinylpyridine were added. The tube was mixed vigorously until an emulsion was formed and then incubated at room temperature for 1 h. The difference between the total glutathione and GSSG is used to determine GSH content. The reaction mixture consisted of 0.2 mM NADPH. 100 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), 5 mM EDTA, and 0.6 mM DTNB, and 3 units of GR was used for glutathione content estimation. The reaction was started by adding the sample extract of 0.1 ml to the reaction mixture and the rate of reaction was determined by measuring the change in absorbance at 412 nm for 1 min. Two standard curves were prepared based on GSSG and total glutathione. Data were represented as nmol g⁻¹FW.

Phenylalanine Ammonia-Lyase (PAL) Enzyme Activity Assay The crude enzyme for PAL assay was extracted from the callus (~ 1 g) with borate buffer (pH 8.8). The callus was ground in the buffer with ice-cold mortar and pestle and then centrifuged at 10,000 rpm and 4°C for 20 min. The supernatant obtained was used for the assay as per the method of Wu and Lin (2002). The reaction cocktail of 1 ml contained 150 mM tris–HCl (pH 8), 12 mM L-phenylalanine, and 50 μ g of protein followed by incubation for 30 min at 30°C. The reaction was stopped using 100 μ l of 6 N HCl and the absorbance was taken at 270 nm. The extinction coefficient for PAL at 270 nm is 19.73 mM $^{-1}$ cm 2 .

Expression Analysis of APX, SOD, CAT, POD, and PAL Genes Using Real-Time PCR Extraction of Total RNA and cDNA Synthesis

Total RNA was isolated from the callus elicited with SA and JA along with untreated controls using a modified sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)/TRIzol method (Wang et al. 2011). The quality of total RNA was analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis. The RNA was quantified using a NanoDrop



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ND-2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA) at 260 nm and the purity was checked from A260/A280 ratio. First-strand (cDNA) synthesis was carried out with 2 μ g of total RNAs isolated from elicitor-treated and control (untreated) callus cultures using the PrimeScript First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Takara Bio Inc., Shiga, Japan) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Primer Design and Quantitative Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Primers were designed for the APX, SOD, CAT, POD, and PAL genes and synthesized commercially for analyzing their transcript levels in elicited and control (untreated) callus cultures (Table 1). The coding sequence (CDS) of these genes from the related species such as Ricinus communis, Manihot esculenta, Hevea brasiliensis, and Jatropha curcas belonging to the same family was downloaded from National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database as a FASTA file and multiple alignments were carried out (T-Coffee). The position where the sequence had more homology was used for primer designing by NCBI primer design tool. The internal complementarity and formation of hairpin loops were checked by Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) tools software and the primers that did not have hairpin loops and self-complementarity were selected.

First-strand cDNA samples were diluted 2.5 times and 1 μ l of the diluted sample was taken as a qRT-PCR template in 10 μ l of total reaction volume containing 0.4 μ M gene-specific primers and 5 μ l of SYBR Premix ExTaq II (TliRNase H Plus) with ROX (Takara Bio Inc., Japan). The samples were appraised in three technical replicates. PCR analysis was carried out in a Realplex amplifier (Eppendorf-Hamburg, Germany) with the following cycle parameters: 95°C for 5 min; 40 cycles of 95°C for 20 s, Tm (as given in Table 1) for 20 s, and 72°C for 20 s; followed by a melting curve to ensure that each amplicon was a single product. The relative fold-change in RNA expression was estimated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ method (Livak and Schmittgen 2001). Actin with primer sequence 5'-TGAGAGGGAAATCGT

GCGTG-3' and 3'-TGCTTGCTGATCCACATCTGC-5' was used as an internal control to normalize the real-time amplification data.

Statistical Analysis The data was acquired from three independent experiments, with 3 replicates used per treatment in each experiment. The values are represented as mean \pm standard deviation (SD). The statistical significance of the means was assessed using a one-way analysis of variance followed by Duncan's multiple range test in SigmaPlot 13. The probability of p < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Leaf Explants Exhibited High Potential for Callus Formation Callus was induced from the leaf explants with varying frequencies (10.5-100%) in MS medium containing different growth regulators. The highest callus induction frequency (100%) from leaf explants was achieved on medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP (Table 2). The callus was initiated rapidly after 7-9 d of culture in the presence of 2,4-D alone or in combination with BAP whereas it was observed after 10-16 d on other media tested. The callus produced on different media was greenish-white, soft, and friable in nature while medium with 2,4-D alone resulted in a hard and compact callus. The callus biomass in terms of fresh weight (30.36 g/100 ml medium) and dry weight (4.83 g/100 ml medium) was found to be higher on MS with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP than on other media tested (Figs. 1 and 2). Analysis of the growth rate of the callus at different time periods revealed the highest fresh weight (31.86 g/100 ml medium) and dry weight (4.08 g/100 ml medium) at 5 wk and thereafter declined (Fig. 3). Thus, the callus formed from leaves of this tree species exhibited luxuriant growth with high proliferation rate as evidenced by a substantial increase in biomass after subculture thus making it an ideal source for secondary metabolite production.

Table 1. Primers used for real-time PCR to analyze the gene expression of APx, POD, CAT, MnSOD, and PAL in SA- and JA-treated and control callus culture of G. moluccana

Gene name	Primer ID	Primer sequence (5'-3')	% GC content	Length	Tm
Ascorbate peroxidase	APx F	GAACTTACGACGCGAAC	52.94	17	52.77
	APxR	GCTCAAGGAGTCTGACA	52.94	17	52.77
Peroxidase	PODF	TGCTTCGTCTCCATTTCC	50.00	18	53.69
	PODR	AGTTCCGATTGCTCACTG	50.00	18	53.69
Catalase	CATF	CGCCCACAATTCCTCAT	52.94	17	52.77
	CATR	GCTAGCTTCTCCACCAAA	50.00	17	53.69
Superoxide dismutase	Mn SOD F	CAGAGCGCCATCAAGTTCAATGGT	50.00	24	62.72
	Mn SOD R	TGGGTCCTGGTTTGCAGTTGTCT	52.17	23	62.43
Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase	PAL2 F	TGTCGAACATGCCTTGGCGAAT	50.00	22	59.7
	PAL2 R	TCCGGTGAGCAATCCACTACCTAA	50.00	24	59.5



Table 2. Effect of plant growth regulators on callus induction from leaf explants of *G. moluccana* on MS medium

Growth regulator(s)	No. of explants inoculated	Callus induction (%)	Days for initiation
2 mg/l 2,4-D	56	48.2	7–9
2 mg/l 2,4-D+1 mg/l BAP	58	100	7–9
2 mg/l NAA+1 mg/l BAP	58	60.3	10-12
2 mg/l 2,4-D+1 mg/l KN	59	44.1	10-12
2 mg/l 2,4-D+1 mg/l NAA	57	10.5	14-16

SA and JA Elicitation Influenced the Callus Biomass and Accumulation of Total Phenolics and Flavonoids The callus fresh weight and dry weight decreased upon elicitation with SA and JA for 30 d as compared to control callus cultures (FW, 33.58 g/100 ml medium; DW, 5.75 g/medium). SA treatment resulted in a greater decrease in fresh weight (21.8 to 23.12 g/100 ml medium) and dry weight (1.24 to 1.78 g/100 ml medium) in comparison to JA treatment where the fresh weight and dry weight were found to be 28.47 to 25.27 g/100 ml medium and 2.15 to 4.75 g/100 ml medium, respectively, for the different concentrations tested (Fig. 4).

Elicitation of callus cultures with SA and JA had a marked effect on the accumulation of total phenolics in callus cultures of Givotia. The phenolic content varied in callus cultures treated with SA and JA depending on the concentration and duration of treatments (Fig. 5a, b). The highest content of phenolics in SA-treated samples (31.4 mg GAE g⁻¹ DW) was recorded in callus cultures treated with 50 µM SA for 5 d. The phenolic content decreased with an increase in the concentrations of SA as well as the duration of cultures (Fig. 5a). The pattern of phenolic acid accumulation varied in callus cultures treated with JA, which showed an increase in phenolic content from 50 to 150 μM, with the highest content (81.83 mg GAE g⁻¹ DW) observed in callus cultures treated with 150 µM for 20 d (Fig. 5b). A significant decline in phenolic content was noticed with further increase in JA concentration or duration of the cultures. The phenolic contents in the control callus cultures varied from 23.18 to 25.68 mg GAE g⁻¹ DW after 5-30 d of culture.

SA and JA treatments affected the accumulation of flavonoids in a concentration and time-dependent manner. The highest content of flavonoids (38.49 mg RE g $^{-1}$ DW) in SA-treated samples was recorded in callus cultures treated with 50 μ M for 20 d, and thereafter declined (Fig. 6a). The flavonoid content in callus cultures treated with 100 μ M was higher than the controls at 5 d and 10 d, and the content was lower than controls during subsequent periods (15–30 d) of culture. The JA-elicited callus cultures showed the highest flavonoid content at 150 μ M (60.88 mg RE g $^{-1}$ DW) on the 20th day as compared to other treatments and controls. The flavonoid content decreased with a further increase in the concentration and duration of culture (Fig. 6b). Callus cultures treated with 100 μ M JA also resulted in higher flavonoid content than controls at all durations of culture.

SA and JA Elicitation Increased the Production of H_2O_2 and MDA Levels The accumulation of H_2O_2 in both the control and elicited callus cultures was assessed as it is one of the earliest indications of elicitor recognition by the plants. An increase in the accumulation of H_2O_2 was observed in the callus treated with SA and JA as compared to controls (0.86 μ mol g⁻¹ FW) (Fig. 7). The levels of H_2O_2 elevated as the concentration of SA increased up to 150 μ M and did not change significantly at 200 μ M. Similarly in JA-elicited callus cultures, the highest level of H_2O_2 was observed with 150 μ M JA (3.6 μ mol g⁻¹ FW) which did not differ significantly from 200 μ M JA (3.7 μ mol g⁻¹ FW). However, at lower concentrations of 50 and 100 μ M, the H_2O_2 levels were found to be higher in SA-treated callus cultures as compared to JA.

The control and elicitor-treated callus were analyzed for the MDA content which is an indicator of lipid peroxidation. All the treatments resulted in higher MDA accumulation as compared to controls (0.50 $\mu mol~g^{-1}$ FW) (Fig. 8). Under the influence of the SA as elicitor, the content of MDA remained in the range of 0.77 to 1.45 $\mu mol~g^{-1}$ FW. Treatment with JA induced maximum MDA accumulation, with the highest recorded at 200 μM JA (2.27 $\mu mol~g^{-1}$ FW) followed by 150 μM JA (1.68 $\mu mol~g^{-1}$ FW).

SA and JA Elicitation of Callus Cultures Caused Alteration in Antioxidant Enzyme Activities For a better understanding of the elicitation effects of salicylic acid and jasmonic acid, the activities of several antioxidant enzymes were examined in the elicitor-treated callus cultures and compared with controls.

Superoxide Dismutase (SOD) Enzyme Activity The ability of SOD to reduce the superoxide into hydrogen peroxide and molecular oxygen is the basis of this assay. An elevated activity of SOD was observed in all the treatments compared to control cultures (Fig. 9). Lower concentrations of SA (50 μ M) stimulated higher SOD activity (20.3 U mg $^{-1}$) than higher concentrations (150–200 μ M) where the activity did not change significantly. On the other hand, JA at 150 μ M induced the maximum SOD activity (24.28 U mg $^{-1}$) followed by a decline at 200 μ M.

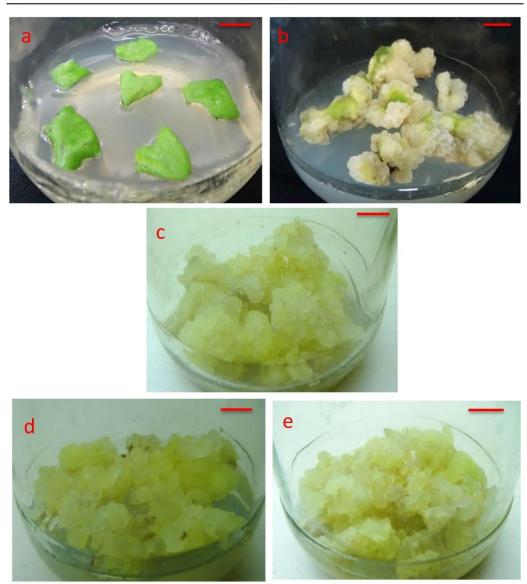


Figure 1. (*a–b*) Callus formation from leaf explants and growth of the callus of *Givotia moluccana* after elicitation with salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) on MS medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP. (*a*) Leaves cultured for callus initiation. (*b*) Callus induced from leaves after 5 wk of culture on initiation medium.

(c) Proliferated callus after 5 wk of subculture on fresh medium. (d) Callus grown on medium with 50 μ M SA after 5 wk of culture. (e) Callus grown on medium with 150 μ M JA after 5 wk of culture. (Bars = 1 cm).

Catalase (CAT) Enzyme Activity Catalase is a well-known intracellular enzyme which protects against the ROS that is generated within the cell. Treatment of SA resulted in the

highest catalase activity at the lowest concentration of 50 μM (12.39 U mg^{-1}) followed by a decline with an increase in the concentration of SA although it did not differ significantly



Figure 2. Effect of different growth regulators on biomass of callus derived from leaves of *G. molucanna*. The fresh weight and dry weight were determined after 5 wk of subculture of the callus on the fresh medium. Data represents means +SD of three independent experiments. Means followed by the same *letter* are not statistically significant at the 5% probability level by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) according to Duncan's multiple range test.

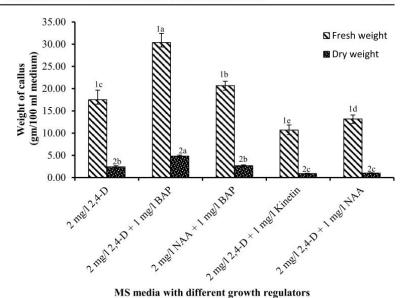
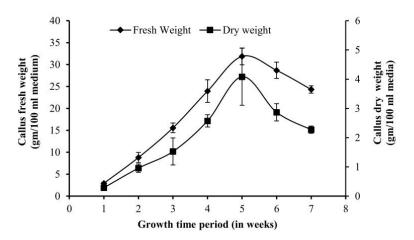


Figure 3. Growth rate of the callus as measured by fresh weight and dry weight after different time periods of culture on MS medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP.



for 150 μ M and 200 μ M treatments. Under the influence of JA, the catalase activity gradually increased reaching the highest (18.62 U mg⁻¹) at 150 μ M; however, upon reaching 200 μ M, its activity decreased to 13.06 U mg⁻¹ (Fig. 10).

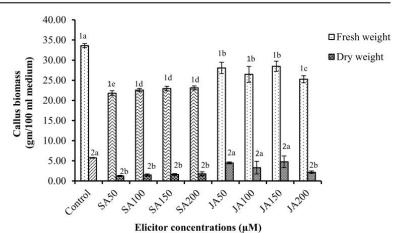
Peroxidase (POD) Enzyme Activity Peroxidases are protective enzymes of plant cells which act against a variety of stresses by regulating the concentration of O_2 and H_2O_2 . Similar to CAT activity, SA at lower concentrations of $50 \, \mu M$ induced the highest ($504.25 \, U \, mg^{-1}$) peroxidase activity (Fig. 11). The enzyme activity decreased as the concentration of SA

increased, with the activity in 150 and 200 μ M treated cultures being lower than controls (338.43 U mg^{-1}). JA-elicited callus cultures showed the highest activity (579.84 U mg^{-1}) at 150 μ M and subsequently decreased. The JA-induced peroxidase activity remained higher (380.13–579.84 U mg^{-1}) than controls for all the concentrations (100–200 μ M) except at 50 μ M where the activity was lower than controls.

SA and JA Treatment Regulated the AsA-GSH Pathway Significant changes in the activities of the enzymes involved in ascorbate–glutathione cycle were observed in callus



Figure 4. Effect of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) elicitation on callus biomass as determined by fresh weight and dry weight. The fresh weight and dry of the callus were recorded after 5 wk of culture on the media. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).



cultures elicited with SA and JA (Fig. 12a-d). APX is a key enzyme that detoxifies H2O2, which utilizes ascorbic acid as its electron donor and reduces H2O2 to H2O. With regard to SA treatment, the highest APX activity (74.85 U mg-1) was observed at the lowest concentration of 50 μM (Fig. 12a) and declined with an increase in the concentration $(100-200 \mu M)$. The APX activity (26.9 U mg^{-1}) of 200 μM SA-treated callus cultures did not differ significantly from the controls (22.36 U mg⁻¹). Treatment with JA resulted in a pronounced increase in APX activity being significantly higher than controls for all the concentrations, with the highest activity (127.9 U mg⁻¹) recorded at the concentration of 150 µM (Fig. 12a). A similar trend was observed for GR activity where SA at 50 µM induced the highest activity (15.9 U mg⁻¹) whereas it decreased to the values of controls as the concentration of SA increased to 200 µM (Fig. 12b). In case of JA-treated callus cultures, the activity was similar to controls at 50 µM and exhibited maximum activity (21.94 U mg⁻¹) in 150 µM treated callus cultures followed by a decrease in the activity at 200 µM (18.79 U mg⁻¹)

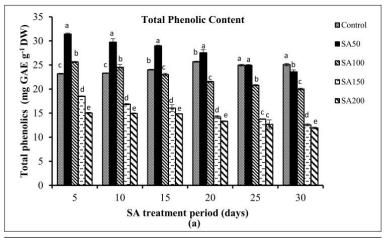
Salicylic acid at 50 μ M triggered higher MDHAR activity (0.31 U mg⁻¹) and the values were lower than controls at higher concentrations of 200 μ M (Fig. 12c). In the case of JA-elicited callus cultures, the MDHAR activity was lower than controls at 50 μ M, and the activity raised as the concentration increased, with the maximum (0.39 U mg⁻¹) detected in 150 μ M treated callus cultures. Similar patterns were observed for DHAR in response to SA treatment, with the highest activity (0.057 U mg⁻¹) observed at 50 μ M and was similar to controls at 200 μ M (0.034 U mg⁻¹). In JA-treated callus cultures, the DHAR activity (0.03 U mg⁻¹) at 50 μ M was lower than controls whereas it elevated at higher concentrations of 100 to 200 μ M (Fig. 12d). The maximum activity of DHAR was observed at 150 μ M JA (0.06 U mg⁻¹).

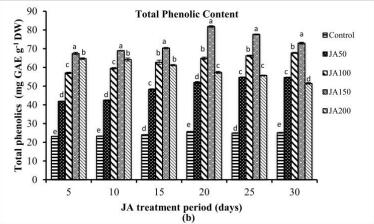
To examine the effects of SA and JA on the components of AsA-GSH in callus cultures, the contents of ascorbate, total glutathione, GSSG, and GSH were determined. Ascorbate content varied in SA- and JA-treated cultures in comparison to the control cultures (96.39 µmol g⁻¹ FW). The highest (123.98 µmol g⁻¹ FW) ascorbate content in SA-elicited callus culture was observed in 50 µM SA and gradually decreased as the concentration increased (Fig. 13a). In JA-elicited callus cultures, ascorbate content increased from 102.39 to 149.68 µmol g⁻¹ FW as the concentration of JA was increased from 50 to 150 µM and decreased to 125.94 µmol g⁻¹ FW at 200 µM which was higher than controls. Similar trends were observed in the total glutathione content, where the highest content was observed in the cultures treated with 150 µM JA $(91.5 \, \mu mol \, g^{-1} \, FW)$ followed by 200 $\mu M \, JA$ (83.04 $\mu mol \, g^{-1}$ FW) and 50 μM SA (79.6 μmol g⁻¹ FW) as compared to other treatments (Fig. 13b). The glutathione content in other treated cultures were either similar or lower than controls (63.78 µmol g⁻¹ FW).

The endogenous content of GSSG and GSH was determined in both the treated and control callus cultures. Under the influence of SA, the GSSG content showed a dose-dependent increase up to 150 μ M with no further significant difference observed at 200 μ M (Fig. 13c). On the other hand, lower concentrations of JA resulted in the highest GSSG content (25.48 nmol g⁻¹ FW) whereas the content decreased at higher concentrations. Overall, the highest content was detected in treatments with 200 μ M SA (26.1 nmol g⁻¹ FW) followed by 50 μ M JA (25.48 nmol g⁻¹ FW). The GSH content in callus cultures treated with 50 μ M SA was significantly higher (63.57 nmol g⁻¹ FW) than controls (47.84 nmol g⁻¹ FW); however, it was similar to controls or showed a significant decrease at higher concentrations (Fig. 13d). Under the influence of JA, the



Figure 5. Total phenolic acid of callus cultures after elicitation with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid along with controls. (a) Salicylic acid-elicited cultures. (b) Jasmonic acid-elicited cultures. Means followed by the same letter in the column are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).





highest (78.43 nmol g^{-1} FW) content of GSH was observed at 150 μ M and then declined (Fig. 13*d*). The GSH content in 50 μ M JA-treated callus cultures was significantly lower (44.62 nmol g^{-1} FW) than controls (47.84 nmol g^{-1} FW).

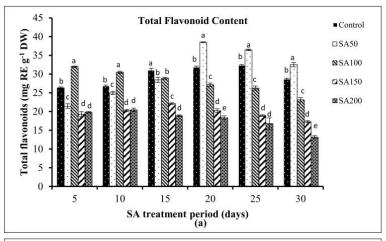
Phenylalanine Ammonia-Lyase Enzyme Activity Was Differentially Modulated by SA and JA Treatments An increase in PAL activity after elicitor treatment often results in enhanced secondary metabolism in plant cells (Zhao *et al.* 2010). A significant change in PAL activity was observed in callus cultures treated with SA and JA depending on the concentration used (Fig. 14). The PAL activity in callus cultures treated with SA at 50 μ M (0.21 U mg $^{-1}$ protein) did not differ significantly from controls (0.20 U mg $^{-1}$ protein); however, the activity decreased at higher concentrations. It was interesting to note that JA at 150 μ M triggered

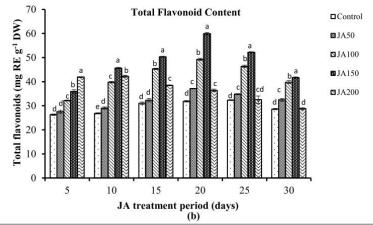
the highest activity (0.33 U mg $^{-1}$ protein) as compared to 100 and 200 μM whereas the value of 50 μM did not differ from controls.

Correlation of Transcript Levels of Genes and Enzyme Activities in SA- and JA-Treated Callus Cultures Showed Similar or Different Expression Patterns Real-time PCR analysis showing variation in transcript level of the genes encoding antioxidant enzymes APX, SOD, CAT, and POD in callus cultures treated with SA and JA (Fig. 15a–d). SA-treated callus cultures showed an increase in the transcript level of the APX gene by 3.71-fold at 50 μ M, and decreased gradually reaching a value similar to controls at 200 μ M. The transcript levels of the APX gene in JA-treated callus cultures were higher than controls for all concentrations, with the maximum fold-change of 9.24 detected at 150 μ M JA (Fig. 15a). Both SA and JA treatments significantly



Figure 6. Total flavonoid contents of callus cultures after elicitation with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid along with controls. (a) Salicylic acid—elicited cultures. (b) Jasmonic acid—elicited cultures. Means followed by the same letter in the column are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).





elevated the transcript levels of the SOD gene for all concentrations used compared to control callus cultures. Among the different treatments, the maximum fold-change (4.54) in transcript levels of the SOD gene was observed in 150 μ M JA-treated callus cultures compared to controls (Fig. 15b). Both CAT and POD genes showed similar expression patterns under the influence of SA and JA. The transcript levels of CAT and POD genes were found to be highest at the lowest concentration of SA (50 μ M) and gradually decreased being lower than controls at 200 μ M (Fig. 15c, d). A reverse trend was observed in JA-treated callus cultures, where the transcript levels of CAT and POD genes gradually increased reaching the maximum at 150 μ M followed by a decrease at 200 μ M which still remained higher than controls. Overall, JA at 150 μ M induced higher transcript levels of APX, SOD, CAT, and POD genes than SA-treated cultures.

PAL is a key enzyme in the phenylpropanoid pathway involved in the deamination of phenylalanine to trans-cinnamic acid, which is the precursor for the lignin and flavonoid biosynthetic pathway. SA treatment triggered higher expression of the PAL gene at all concentrations as compared to the untreated control, with the highest fold-change of 12.45 observed at 100 μ M. Interestingly, JA-elicited callus cultures showed the highest expression at 150 μ M (6.6 fold-change), whereas it was similar to or lower than controls at other concentrations (Fig. 15e). Overall, the SA-treated callus cultures exhibited higher transcript levels than JA treatments across all concentrations. The pattern of gene expression of PAL detected at the transcript levels, however, did not correspond with enzyme activity for SA and JA-treated callus cultures.



Figure 7. Effect of different concentrations of salicylic acid and jasmonic acid on generation of $\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O}_2$ in callus cultures of G. moluccana. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).

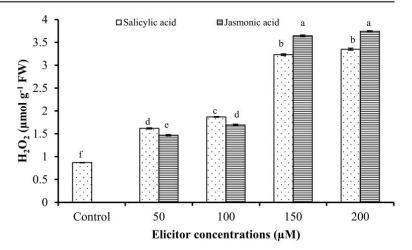
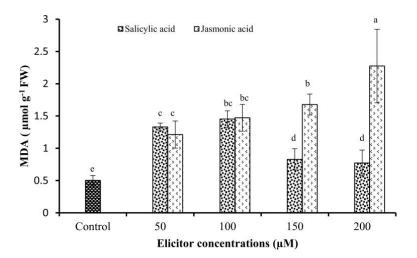


Figure 8. Malondialdehyde (MDA) levels in callus cultures elicited with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid. Means followed by the same *letter* are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).



Discussion

Callus cultures offer immense potential for sustainable and large-scale production of secondary metabolites. The development of efficient methods for callus formation is a prerequisite for secondary metabolite production. The growth regulators play a determining effect on callus induction from explants. The present study showed the ability of leaf explants to form callus on MS medium with different growth regulators although the frequency and biomass varied. The combination of 2,4-D and BAP was found to be superior as it resulted in high frequency

(100%) of callus induction with increased biomass as compared to medium with 2,4-D alone or other growth regulators (Table 2). The callus exhibited a high proliferation rate with a considerable increase in biomass at 5 wk of subculture on fresh medium. Similar to our finding, Bong et al. (2021) reported that the combination of 2,4-D and BAP was effective for callus induction and proliferation from leaf explants of Sabah Snake grass (Clinacanthus nutans). According to the report of Ikeuchi et al. (2013), both auxin and cytokinin are interconnected in the hormone signaling pathways which activate the cell cycle for callus initiation.



Figure 9. Effect of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) on superoxide dismutase (SOD) enzyme activity in callus cultures of G. moluccana. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).

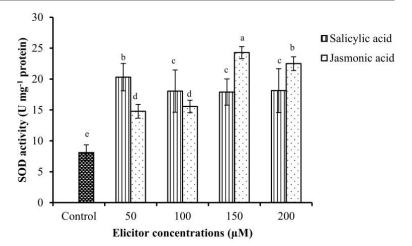
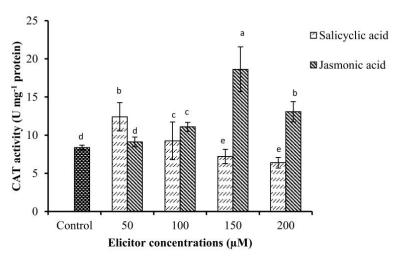


Figure 10. Effect of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) on catalase (CAT) enzyme activity in callus cultures of G. moluccana. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).

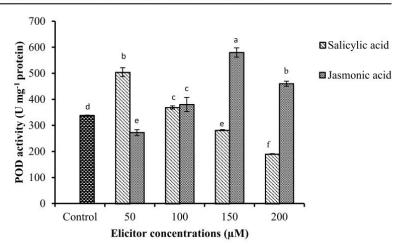


The cultured plant cells represent a potential source of biochemicals but relatively few cultures synthesize secondary metabolites comparable to those found in the whole plants. (DiCosmo and Misawa 1985). Various approaches are used to overcome the limitations of the production of secondary metabolites from the cultured cells required for different applications. Elicitors like JA and SA have been commonly used to improve the productivity of secondary metabolites in plant species. They have been reported to have positive or negative effects on callus growth depending on the concentrations used in the cultures. It is important to determine the optimal concentration of elicitors to prevent hypersensitivity that leads to cell death (Naik and Al-Khayri 2016). In this research, both SA and JA at

the concentrations tested caused a decrease in callus biomass as compared to the control callus cultures (33.58 g FW/100 ml medium) although the biomass of SA-treated callus was lower (21.80–23.12 g FW/100 ml medium) than JA (25.27–28.47 g FW/100 ml medium) treatment (Fig. 4). Cai et al. (2017) reported that higher concentrations of elicitors including MeJA and SA suppressed cell growth of the cell suspension cultures of *Changium smyrnioides*. A similar decrease in biomass in response to SA elicitation has been reported in the cell cultures of *S. miltiorrhiza* (Dong et al. 2010). Nonetheless, low concentrations of JA and SA have been shown to improve the growth of callus in normal or stressful conditions (Al-Qatrani et al. 2021; Galal 2012).



Figure 11. Effect of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA) on peroxidase (POD) enzyme activity in callus cultures of G. moluccana. Means followed by the same letter are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).



The concentration of the elicitor and the duration of its exposure are important factors to induce the optimum level of secondary metabolite production. In this research, the elicitation of callus cultures with SA and JA proved to be effective in enhancing the total phenolics and flavonoid contents although it depended on the concentration and duration of treatment. The maximum accumulation of total phenolics (81.93 mg GAE g⁻¹DW) and flavonoids (60.88 mg RE g-1DW) was observed in callus cultures when elicited with 150 µM JA for 20 d (Figs. 5 and 6). However, for salicylic acid-elicited callus cultures, 50 µM for 5 d resulted in the highest phenolic content (31.43 mg GAE g⁻¹ DW) while 50 µM for 20 d was optimal for flavonoid content (38.49 mg RE g-1 DW). Similarly, Mendoza et al. (2018) reported that specific concentrations of SA (300 μM) and MeJA (3 μM) increased the content of phenolics and flavonoids in cell suspension cultures of Thevetia peruviana suggesting an inducer effect of these elicitors in the phenylpropanoid metabolic pathway.

The oxidative burst of $\rm H_2O_2$ in many plant species is found to be necessary for the production of several secondary metabolites (Kuzniak and Urbanek 2000). Antioxidants like phenolic acids and flavonoids confer protection to the cells by coping with the oxidative stress caused due to excess production of free radicals. The harmful effects of increased levels of free radicals resulting in cell death have been ascribed to the oxidation of DNA, proteins, and lipids. A balance between free radicals and antioxidants is necessary for proper physiological function. The administration of exogenous chemical elicitors imitates the reaction of pathogen attacks or wound signals which activates a defense response in plants by inducing oxidative burst (Khanpour-Ardestani et al. 2015; Manivannan et al. 2016). Consequently, the endogenous reactive oxygen species are

accumulated in the cells (Lamb and Dixon 1997) that lead to a cascade of antioxidant metabolic changes in plants. In this study, the exogenous application of SA and JA to the callus cultures at all the concentrations stimulated higher production of H_2O_2 (1.46–3.74 µmol g^{-1} FW) compared to the control cultures (0.86 µmol g^{-1} FW). The maximum H_2O_2 levels were observed in callus cultures exposed to JA (3.74 µmol g^{-1} FW) than SA (3.30 µmol g^{-1} FW) at the highest concentration (200 µM) used in the study (Fig. 7). Similarly, H_2O_2 facilitated several elicitor-induced accumulations of specific secondary metabolites such as indole alkaloids in *Catharanthus roseus* (Zhao *et al.* 2001), saponin in *Ginseng* (Hu *et al.* 2003), and tcibulin in *Alium cepa* (Kravchuk *et al.* 2003).

Several studies have suggested that elicitor treatment to cell cultures stimulates the generation of ROS leading to increased accumulation of malondialdehyde (MDA), which is an end product of lipid peroxidation (Chong et al. 2005; Ghanati and Dehaghi 2011). It is known from the literature that high levels of MDA are a reflection of an oxidative imbalance. In our study, exposure of callus cultures of G. molucanna to SA and JA at all the concentrations showed a significant increase in the accumulation of MDA (Fig. 8). The remarkable increase of MDA level (1.68-2.27 µmol g⁻¹ FW) observed in callus cultures treated with 150 and 200 µM JA might be due to jasmonic-induced enhanced expression of lipoxygenase (Kohlmann et al. 1999), which catalyzes the oxygenation of polyunsaturated fatty acids (Chamulitrat and Mason 1989). In this study, the marked reduction of MDA content observed in 150 and 200 µM SA-treated callus cultures as compared to lower concentrations of 50 and 100 µM is pointing towards the inhibitor effect of SA on lipid peroxidation at higher concentrations possibly due to diminished lipoxygenase activity or altered cellular metabolism. The



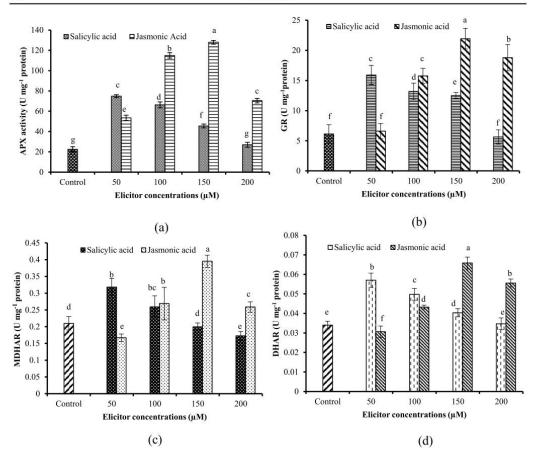


Figure 12. Changes in enzymes involved in ascorbate—glutathione pathway in callus cultures in response to elicitation with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid. (a) APX. (b) GR. (c) MDHAR. (d) DHAR. Callus

cultures without elicitation are used as controls. Means followed by the same *letter* are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).

inhibitory effect of salicylic acid on lipoxygenase-dependent lipid peroxidation has been previously reported (Lapenna $\it et$ $\it al.$ 2009). Although 150 and 200 μM JA-elicited callus cultures showed higher H_2O_2 levels, the MDA levels of 200 μM JA (2.27 $\mu mol~g^{-1}$ FW) were strikingly higher than that of 150 μM JA (1.68 $\mu mol~g^{-1}$ FW) which could due to impaired antioxidant capacity of the cells to detoxify the excess produced ROS.

Previous investigations have reported a correlation between phenolics, flavonoids, and antioxidant activities (Wong et al. 2006; Zayova et al. 2012). The present study revealed significant changes in the antioxidant enzyme activities of SOD, CAT, and POD in response to SA and JA elicitation of callus cultures. Varied trends were observed in

this study indicating different activity levels with different concentrations of elicitors. Enzymatic antioxidant systems are usually activated during stress conditions. The first line of defense involves the SOD enzyme which catalyzes the conversion of superoxide radical (O_2^-) into H_2O_2 and O_2 . The control of the steady-state O_2^- levels by SOD is known to be an important factor in protecting the cells against oxidative damage. In this study, enhanced SOD activities were observed at all the concentrations of the elicitors used indicating the protective action of elicitors to scavenge O_2^- radicals produced in the callus cultures (Fig. 9). The H_2O_2 generated during the breakdown of O_2^- is further scavenged subsequently by other enzymes such as CAT, POD, and APX. CAT enzyme functions in peroxisomes



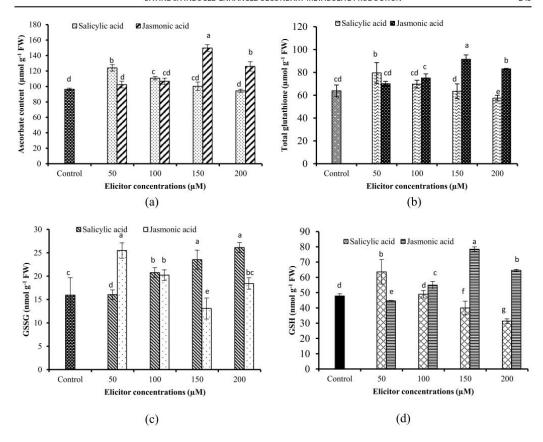


Figure 13. Changes in non-enzymatic antioxidants of ascorbate–glutathione cycle in callus cultures after elicitation with salicylic acid and jasmonic acid in comparison to control callus cultures. (a) Ascor-

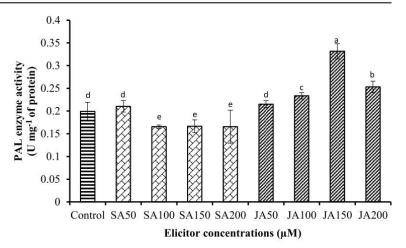
bate content. (b) Total glutathione. (c) GSSG. (d) GSH contents. Means followed by the same *letter* are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).

and involves in the conversion of H2O2 to O2 and H2O in an energy-efficient manner (Das and Roychoudhury 2014), while POD eliminates H2O2 both during stress and normal conditions (Asada 1999). In this study, the CAT (18.62 U mg⁻¹ protein) and POD (579.84 U mg⁻¹) activities markedly increased in callus cultures under the influence of JA at 100 and 200 µM indicating efficient H2O2 detoxification system (Figs. 10 and 11). The enhanced activities of CAT and POD enzymes in response to SA and JA treatments have been reported in the cell suspension culture of Scrophularia kakudensis (Manivannan et al. 2016) and Cucumis melo (Nafie et al. 2011). In contrast, Chong et al. (2005) reported a reduction in CAT and ascorbate peroxidase in cell cultures of Morinda elliptica treated with JA, indicative of the antioxidant roles played prominently by other antioxidants that were all enhanced in elicited cultures. It is observed that SA at 50 μ M was effective in enhancing the CAT and POD activities while a higher concentration of 200 μ M SA reduced the activity which shows the cells' inability to detoxify the H_2O_2 at higher concentrations resulting in ROS imbalance and impaired functions in the cells. Ali *et al.* (2006) observed a strong decrease in the activity of CAT while guaiacol peroxidase (G-POD) was induced in both MJ- and SA-treated roots of *Panax ginseng*. Thus, it was suggested that CAT functions were taken over by G-POD enzymes in the treated roots.

Another antioxidant mechanism for maintaining redox balance in plants is through the ascorbate–glutathione pathway consisting of four enzymes viz., APX, GR, MDHAR, and DHAR. The $\rm H_2O_2$ generated by ROS after elicitor treatment is converted to $\rm H_2O$ by APX enzyme through oxidation of AsA to monodehydroascorbate, which is converted to AsA with the



Figure 14. Effect of salicylic acid and jasmonic acid on phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL) enzyme activity in callus cultures in comparison to control cultures. Means followed by the same *letter* are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).



help of enzyme MDHAR. The monodehydroascorbate which escapes this cycle is further converted to dehydroascorbate (DHA) by releasing one more electron. The DHA is converted into AsA to maintain the ascorbate pool by the enzyme DHAR. GSH regenerated from its oxidized form (GSSG) via GR is utilized by DHAR (Murshed et al. 2008). Several studies have reported an enhancement in the activities of APX, GR, MDHAR, and DHAR during stress conditions (Ali et al. 2006; Jiang et al. 2016; Gaafar and Seyam 2018; Hasanuzzaman et al. 2019). In this study, the activities of enzymes involved in the AsA-GSH cycle were significantly increased in JA 150 µM elicited callus cultures which corroborated with the highest contents of ascorbate and glutathione indicating better ROS regulation at this concentration (Fig. 12). Additionally, improved GSH (reduced form) and diminished GSSG (oxidized form) along with enhanced GR activity maintains the higher GSH/GSSG ratio suggesting the effectiveness of 150 µM JA in maintaining the AsA-GSH pool. These results are in agreement with the report of Li et al. (2017) where exogenous JA increased the activities of key enzymes in the AsA-GSH cycle, decreased the oxidized glutathione (GSSG), and increased the GSH/GSSG ratio which resulted in lower MDA and H2O2 contents in low root-zone temperature in Malus baccata Borkh. roots. Moreover, a gradual decrease in APX, MDHAR, DHAR, and GR activities with declined GSH and raised GSSG contents in callus cultures under the influence of SA at higher concentrations of 100 to 200 µM is pointing towards the concentration-dependent inhibition of the AsA-GSH cycle by SA in callus cultures in our study (Figs. 12 and 13). Durner and Klessig (1995) have previously demonstrated the ability of SA to inhibit APX activity supporting the hypothesis that SA-induced defense responses are mediated, in part, through H2O2 levels or coupled perturbations of the cellular redox state.

The PAL enzyme is a key enzyme of the phenylpropanoid pathway that is involved in the biosynthesis of several secondary metabolites. There are numerous reports indicating positive relationships between PAL activity and the accumulation of phenolics, but on the other hand, there are puzzling data concerning this correlation (Bauer et al. 2011). In this study, the highest PAL activity (0.33 U mg⁻¹ protein) was recorded in the callus cultures treated with 150 µM JA for 20 d, which could explain the higher accumulation of phenolics and flavonoids in these cultures (Fig. 14). It can be presumed that jasmonic acid has a positive regulatory role in activating phenylpropanoid pathway although the mechanism by which specific concentration regulates higher biosynthesis is unknown. Interestingly, in our study, the PAL activity in 50 µM SA (0.21 U mg⁻¹ protein) treated callus cultures did not differ significantly from control callus cultures (0.19 U mg⁻¹ protein) although there was a significant increase in total phenolics and flavonoid contents in response to SA treatment. The reduction in PAL activity at higher concentrations (100-200 µM) of SA with a concomitant decrease in total phenolics and flavonoids is pointing towards the inhibitory effects of higher concentrations. In agreement with our results, Kovacik et al. (2009) found that PAL activity decreased at higher SA doses in Martricaria chamomilla plants which could be caused by a decrease in the phenylalanine pool.

The transcript levels of SOD, CAT, POD, and APX genes, as well as PAL which is involved in the phenylpropanoid pathway, were analyzed for ascertaining the correspondence between transcript levels and enzyme activities. The relative transcript levels of SOD, CAT, POD, and APX genes were significantly upregulated in callus cultures treated with 100 to 200 μ M JA, whereas at lower concentration of 50 μ M, the transcript levels of CAT and POD genes were



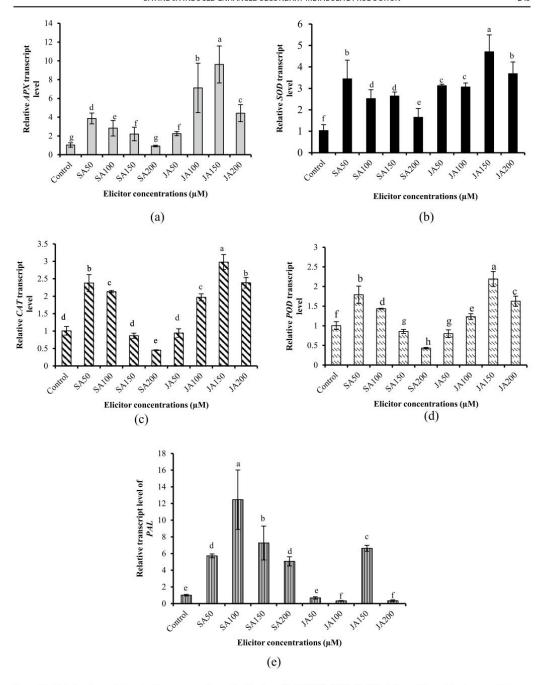


Figure 15. Relative transcript levels of genes encoding antioxidant enzymes and phenylalanine ammonia-lyase in elicitor (SA and JA) treated and control (unelicited) callus cultures. (a) APX. (b) SOD.

(c) CAT. (d) POD. (e) PAL. Means followed by the same *letter* are not statistically significant according to Duncan's multiple range test (p < 0.05).



either downregulated or equivalent to controls. On the contrary, the highest transcript levels of antioxidant genes were observed at 50 µM SA which showed a decrease with an increase in the concentration (100-200 µM). The enhanced transcript level of these genes is consistent with the activities of these enzymes, justifying similar regulation at both the transcriptional and protein levels in addition to indicating the role of these enzymes in the process of detoxification of ROS during elicitor treatment. The study of Mejia-Ieniente et al. (2013) revealed the inducing effect of SA on CAT and PAL gene expression which correlated with their enzyme activities in Capsicum annuum L. Surprisingly, we observed a lack of correlation between PAL transcript level and PAL activity in SA- and JA-treated callus cultures as PAL transcript levels were found to be higher in SA-treated callus cultures as compared to JA-treated callus cultures. Moreover, the PAL activity in SA 50 µM treated callus cultures was similar to control callus cultures despite a significant increase in total phenolic content recorded in response to SA treatment. This discrepancy between transcript levels and enzyme activity of PAL can be due to posttranscriptional modifications as stated by Ballester et al. (2006). Ejtahed et al. (2015) reported that despite the increase in the transcript rate of the PAL gene at the higher concentration of SA, lower amounts of rosmarinic acid were accumulated in shoots of Salvia officinalis. Thus, it was suggested that some other unknown factors participate in the synthesis of phenolics.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the study showed efficient callus induction and proliferation from the leaf explants of Givotia cultured on MS medium with 2 mg/l 2,4-D and 1 mg/l BAP. SA and JA treatments resulted in a higher accumulation of total phenolic and flavonoid contents as compared to control cultures. Elicitation of callus cultures with 150 μ M JA for 20 d proved to be more effective than SA as it resulted in the highest phenolic and flavonoid production for different concentrations and durations tested. The increased phenolics and flavonoid contents in elicited callus cultures correlated with enhanced enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidants showing better ROS regulation during elicitation. This is the first report to demonstrate higher production of secondary metabolite production in callus cultures of G. moluccana by elicitation with SA and JA which provides scope for enhancing the bioactive compounds and elucidate the biosynthetic pathways associated with secondary metabolites using omic approaches.

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Author contribution The study was conceived and designed by NW and GP. The materials and methods were formulated by NW. SL helped in conducting experiments on enzyme assays and assessing the transcript levels of the genes using real-time PCR and preparing the figures. The data was collected by NW, and analyzed and interpreted by all authors. The first draft of the manuscript was written by NW, and edited by all authors. The final manuscript has been checked and approved by all authors.

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Data Availability The data supporting the findings of the study are included within the article. Any further querries related to the article can be directed to the corresponding author.

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