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STUDY ON THE CHEMISTRY  
AND  
BIO ACTIVITY OF SOME MEDICINAL  
PLANTS OF SRI LANKA

by

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A B S T R A C T

*Centella asiatica* (Umbelliferae) and *Aegle marmelos* (Rutaceae) are widely used as a vegetable and a fruit respectively. These two plants are used in Ayurvedic and indigenous medicinal systems in Sri Lanka.

Earlier researchers have reported the effect of aqueous extracts of these two plants on the classical and alternative pathways of activation of human complement in vitro. Activity directed fractionation of the aqueous extracts indicated that most of the activity was confined to the polysaccharide fraction. This thesis reports the preliminary chemical analysis of the polysaccharide fraction of *Centella asiatica* and *Aegle marmelos*. These polysaccharides were hydrolysed and methanolysed. T.L.C and H.P.L.C analysis were done for analysing their monomer composition. The immunomodulating activity and Biological activity of these fractions using the *Artemia* bio assay were studied.

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