



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### PHARMACOGNOSTICAL REVIEW OF *MENTHA ARVENSIS* LINN

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#### ABSTRACT

*Mentha arvensis* Linn belonging to family Lamiaceae is native to the temperate regions of Europe and western and central Asia, east to the Himalaya and eastern Siberia, and America. It is a herbaceous perennial plant growing to 10–60 cm (rarely to 100 cm) tall. The leaves are in opposite pairs, simple, 2–6.5 cm long and 1–2 cm broad, hairy, and with a coarsely serrated margin. The flowers are pale purple (occasionally white or pink), in clusters on the stem, each flower 3–4 mm long. The plant is widely distributed throughout India.

## INTRODUCTION

Kashmir, with its megabiodiversity and knowledge rich ancient traditional systems of medicine and local health traditions, provides a strong base for the utilization of large number of plants in general healthcare. One of the plants is *Mentha arvensis* Linn. Various parts of the plant viz., leaves, aerial part and oil have been used for evaluating different pharmacological activities. Phytochemical constituents have shown considerable beneficial effects. This review gives a more detailed account of the whole plant so that more activities can be done on this plant which we often use in our daily cuisines.

### *Mentha arvensis* Linn.

#### Taxonomic classification

**Kingdom :** Plantae  
**Division:** Magnoliophyta  
**Class:** Magnoliopsida  
**Order:** Lamiales  
**Family:** Lamiaceae  
**Genus:** *Mentha*  
**Species:** *M. arvensis*

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#### Vernacular names of the plant

**Sanskrit:** Pudina  
**English:** Mint  
**Kannada:** Chetamarugu  
**Marathi:** Pudina  
**Hindi:** Pudina

Plant parts used: Leaves, aerial parts, oil. (Herbal medicine research centre, institute for medical research, Kuala Lumpur. Compendium of medicinal plants used in Malaysia, 2002)

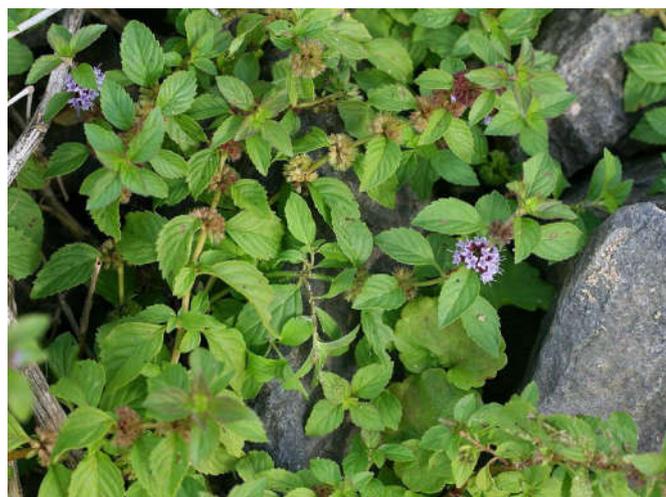
#### Distribution

An erect aromatic annual herb having pleasant odour leaves and is classified as industrial crop, distributed throughout Western Himalaya, also cultivated throughout India. It is mainly cultivated in damp soil.

#### 1. Chemical constituents: (Dr. Duke's phytochemical and Ethnobotanical Databases, 1985)

*Mentha arvensis* consists of menthol (35%-70%), menthone (15%-30%), (-)-menthyl acetate (4-14%) and pulegone (1-4%). *Mentha arvensis* also consists of  $\beta$  pinene,  $\beta$ -phellandrene, cadinene, methyl esters, amyl alcohol, acetaldehyde, cadinene, dimethyl sulphide,  $\alpha$ -pinene, sabinene, terpinoline, trans-ocimene,  $\alpha$ -thujone,  $\beta$ -thujone, citronellol and luteolin-7-O-

rutinoid, limonene (1.0-5.0%), cineole (3.5-14.0%), menthofuran (1.0 -9.0%), isomenthone (1.5-10.0%), isopulegol (max. 0.2%), pulegone (max. 4.0%) and carvone (max. 1.0%).



#### Morphological characteristics of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. (Blamey and Grey Wilson, 1989)

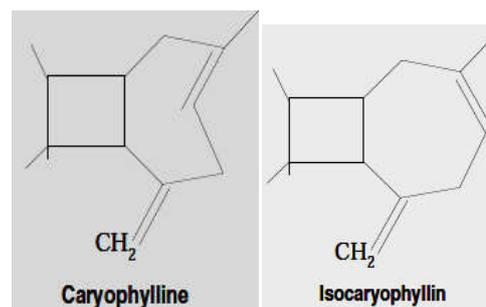
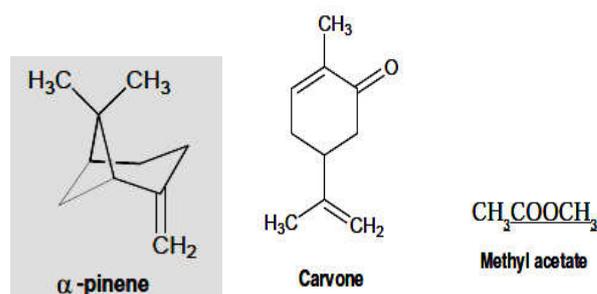
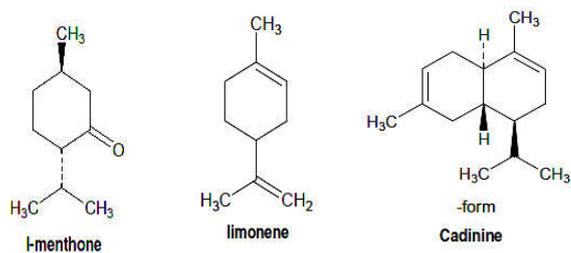
<b>Plant -</b>	<b>An erect aromatic herb up to 60 cm height</b>
<b>Stem -</b>	The color of the hairy stem varies from brownish- green to green.
<b>Leaves -</b>	Simple green leaves with toothed edges. They grow somewhere between 2 cm and 6.5 cm in length and 1 cm and 2 cm in breadth. They grow in opposite pairs. Each leaf in the pair is aligned in opposite directions to each other.
<b>Flowers -</b>	Flowers are pale purple; however, white or pink flowers can also be seen in some subspecies. They grow in clusters, each flower being an average 3-4 mm in size.

#### Various chemical constituents of *Mentha arvensis* Linn.

##### Traditional uses

In the traditional medicine the plant under study (*Mentha arvensis* Linn.) has been used as *antiseptic, carminative,*

*Headache, stomachic, and a refrigerant.* It is also used in *Helmenthiasis, flatulence, Vomiting, Diarrhea, cough, Asthma, Bronchitis, skin diseases, dental caries, Jaundice, fever, general weakness* (Kirtikar *et al.*, 1984), hypertension and ischemic heart diseases (Saima Gul *et al.*, 2014).



#### Reported pharmacological action

Scientifically the plant has been proved to be useful in the following conditions:

**Antiulcerogenic Effect:** Petroleum ether, chloroform and aqueous extract of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. are reported to have a protective effect against acid secretion and gastric ulcers in ibuprofen plus pyloric ligation, 0.6mol/L HCl and 90% ethanol induced ulcers. (Berman *et al.*, 1999)

**Inflammatory bowel syndrome (IBS):** A research on the oil of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. has revealed a protective role of mint oil in the inflammatory bowel syndrome (IBS) (Hunt *et al.*, 2000).

**Antibacterial:** A study on the ethanolic extract of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. showed that the ethanolic extract inhibit the growth of E coli, S.aureus, P.aeruginosa, S. flexineri and K. pneumoniae (John A De Britto, Steena Roshan, 2012).

**Antifungal:** The hydroalcoholic extracts of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. showed antifungal activity against C. Albicans and a potential use for human antifungal use (Bina and Usha, 2013).

**Cisplatin induced nephrotoxicity:** A study on hydroalcoholic extract of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. has evaluated the nephroprotective activity of hydroalcoholic extract of the leaves of *M. arvensis* Linn. hydroalcoholic extract (MAHE) in the cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity (Rajneesh Kumar Singh *et al.*, 2014).

**Anticancer:** The study on the anticancer activity of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. has shown in vitro cytotoxicity effect against human cancer cell line (HeLa G2 cell line), significant growth suppression and induction of apoptosis (Vikas Sharma and Shabir Hussain, 2014).

**Hepatoprotective:** The aqueous extract of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. have found to stimulate liver regeneration after 67% partial hepatectomy in rats (Kowti rajash *et al.*, 2013).

**Antidiabetic:** The methanol extract of the root and aerial parts of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. were found to possess significant hypoglycaemic activity against alloxan induced diabetes (Mohd Habibullah Khan and Yadava, 2010).

**Anti Candida:** A study on the essential oil and ethanolic extract of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. showed anti-Candida activity (Karla *et al.*, 2012).

**Analgesic:** The ethyl acetate, ethanolic and aqueous extract of both root and aerial parts of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. showed a very good central and peripheral analgesic activities (Nripendra Nath Biswas *et al.*, 2014).

**Antiallergic:** Study on anti-allergic activity using a histamine inhibitory assay showed the ethanol extracts of leaf and root of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. markedly inhibited the release of histamine from mast cells (Farnaz Malik and Shahzad Malik, 2012).

**Anti-inflammatory:** On anti-inflammatory testing of the aqueous, ethanolic and methanolic extracts of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. using histamine induced paw edema model showed anti-inflammatory effect suggesting the presence of compounds capable of inhibiting histamine release from the mast cells and/or block histamine receptors (Farnaz Malik and Shahzad Malik, 2012).

**Insecticidal:** A research has revealed that the essential oil of the leaf of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. showed repellency against larvae and adults of *T. castaneum*, they strongly repels *T. castaneum* even at low concentration. The percent repellency for *Mentha arvensis* Linn. was 97.66% (Hana H. Mohammed, 2013).

**Anti arthritic activity:** The Methanolic leaf extracts of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. are reported to possess anti arthritic activity by complete Freund's adjuvant induced arthritis in male albino rats (Jaya V Sankar Reddy, 2014).

**In vitro thrombolytic activity:** The Ethanolic, Methanolic, Acetone and chloroform extracts of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. are reported to possess significant blood clots lytic activity in vitro (Shah Md. Shahik *et al.*, 2014).

**Sedative and Hypnotic:** A study on methanolic and aqueous extracts of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. evaluated on mice showed potentiation of phenobarbitone induced sleeping time (Verma and Arora, 2003).

**Anti-helminthic:** Study evaluated the anti-helminthic activity of the petroleum ether extract of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. against *Ascaridia lumbricoides* which resemble the nematode *Ascaris lumbricoides* (Nikesh *et al.*, 2011).

**Radio protective:** Study of the aqueous and ethanolic extract of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. on mice showed benefit with pretreatment of mice with reduction in the severity of symptoms of radiation sickness and mortality (Ganesh and Manjeswar, 2002).

**Antibiotic Resistance-Modifying:** A report on the ethanolic extract of *Mentha arvensis* Linn. showed a potentiating effect on Gentamicin and presents a potential against bacterial resistance to antibiotics (Marta cristina texeira durate, 2005).

## Conclusion

The utilization of herbal plants has drawn immense interest as they could accommodate therapeutic response and are promising candidate to be developed as pharmaceutical products like antioxidants, antibacterial, hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory agents etc. *Mentha arvensis* is one of these herbal plants which has proved beneficial in a number of fields and research is going on.

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