



RESEARCH ARTICLE

NUTRACEUTICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL BIOLOGY OF GREEN SEAWEED *ULVA FASCIATA*

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ABSTRACT

Seaweed are marine macroscopic algae which forms an important component of marine living ecosystem. Being a plant of unique structure and biochemical composition, seaweed could be exploited for its multi-functional properties in the form of food, energy, medicine and cosmetics. The review summarizes a literature review on the nutraceutical and pharmaceutical properties of chlorophyta, *Ulva fasciata*.

Key words:

Ulva fasciata,
Nutraceuticals,
Pharmaceuticals,
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INTRODUCTION

Seaweeds are referred as the large marine benthic macroalgae that are differentiated from other algae of microscopic size (Smith, 1994). The rocky beaches, mudflats, estuaries, coral reefs and lagoons provide suitable habitats for the growth of seaweeds. Based on the chemical composition, seaweeds are classified into *Rhodophyta* (Red algae), *Phaeophyta* (Brown algae), *Chlorophyta* (Green algae) and *Cyanophyceae* (blue-green algae) (Kolanjinathan et al., 2004). Grown in marine environment, these seaweeds absorb the elements and minerals from the sea and accumulate in thalli (Kaur, 1997). The chemical composition of seaweeds largely depends on the geographical distributions, season, environmental factors such as water, temperature, salinity, light and availability of nutrients and minerals (Messyasz and Rybak, 2010). They contain maximum concentration of carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins, minerals, fat, fibre, ash and moisture content compared to cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables (Narasimman and Murugaiyan, 2012) and is the only natural resource of agar, carrageenan and alginates. About 7.5 – 8 million tonnes of wet seaweeds are produced every year along

the coastal regions worldwide (McHugh, 2003). In India, 271 genera and 1153 species of marine algae are enumerated (Anon, 2005).

The green algae: *Ulva fasciata*

Ulva fasciata, are the predominantly found green algae in coastal regions of Tamilnadu both in inter-tidal and deep water (Selvin and Lipton, 2004). Generally known as sea lettuce they serve as source of food, feed, medicine and in agriculture (Bhosale et al., 1994). Though green seaweeds are the least producers of natural compounds compared to brown and red algae, about 300 natural compounds were produced by green seaweeds. Secondary metabolites produced from *Ulva fasciata* exhibits various biological activities such as antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, anti proliferative, anti viral (Shalaby, 2011), antifungal (Mohamed et al., 2012), anti neoplastic (Xu et al., 2004), anticancer, antiobesity, antidiabetic, antihypertensive, anti hyperlipidemic and antioxidant properties (Wijesekara et al., 2011). The chlorophyta contains sulphated polysaccharides in their cell wall known as *Ulvans*. Because of their unusual chemical composition and structure, these green algae possess various biological activities. The sulphated polysaccharides are also of potential interest in food, pharmaceuticals, agricultural applications (Stengel et al., 2011; Lahaye and Robic, 2007;

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Costa *et al.*, 2010), development of novel drugs, as a biomaterial in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine (Mohamed *et al.*, 2012).

Biochemical composition and Nutraceutical properties

Seaweeds, consumed as traditional food is known to cure disease and maintain health. China and Indonesia were the two top producers of seaweeds by mariculture which estimated to about US \$ 6.7 billion in 2013 (FAO, 2015) and 23.8 million tons of seaweeds (38% of global harvest) were consumed by humans during 2012 (FAO, 2014). The biomass of seaweeds greatly depends on the seasonal variations and chlorophyta had maximum biomass during autumn season (Dadolahi – Sohrab, *et al.*, 2012). The presence of non-digestible polysaccharides in their cellwall makes them a good source of dietary fibre (Ruperez and Saura-Calixto, 2001). The bioactive component of seaweeds varies with species, season, locality and environmental factors. Polysaccharides, phenolics, phlorotannins, proteins, peptides, amino acids, terpenes, terpenoids, lipids and halogenated compounds are the main chemical constituents present in seaweeds (Black, 1994; FAO, 2004). The biochemical evaluation of seaweeds from Kanyakumari coast (Jayalakshmi *et al.*, 2014) and Karachi coast (Kashif Ahmed *et al.*, 2015) revealed that *U.fasciata* contains 14.98±0.9% of protein, 39.86±0.22% of carbohydrates, 0.21±0.003% of lipid and 11.06g of protein, 21.27g of carbohydrates and 4.16g of lipid per 100g of dry weight respectively. The dietary fibre content was found to be 11.94g of dry weight. Suparna Roy and Anantharaman (Suparna Roy and Anantharaman, 2017) evaluated the biochemical composition of 33 seaweeds including *U.fasciata* collected from Rameshwaram, southeast coast of India.

Crude fibre, crude fat, crude protein, nitrogen free extracts and minerals such as sodium, potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, Zinc, Iron, Cadmium and lead from extracts of five seaweeds (*Hypnea musciformis*, *Sargassum oligocystum*, *Ulva fasciata*, *Euclima denticulatum*, *Laurencia intermedia*) collected from the Kenya Coast was studied by Muraguri *et al* (Eric *et al.*, 2016). *U.fasciata* had high percentage of crude fat, crude protein and nitrogen free extract, potassium, zinc and iron among the tested seaweeds. Sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium were also reported in *U.fasciata* (Manoj Kumar *et al.*, 2011). Ismail, 2016 estimated the mineral and amino acid content of *U.fasciata* and reported the presence of Ca, Na, K, Mg, Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, Pd, Cd and amino acids such as glutamic acid, aspartic acid, alanine and leucine are responsible for the taste and flavour of *U.fasciata*. The study confirms the high content of proteins and low level of carbohydrates and lipids in *U.fasciata*. Similar findings were also reported by Chandraprabha *et al.*, (2012) and Kokilam and Vasuki (2014), and Seenivasan *et al.*, (2012).

The lipid composition of *U.fasciata* contains unsaturated fatty acids, which were found to be MUFA – Mono Unsaturated Fatty Acids (17 – 33%), PUFA – Poly Unsaturated Fatty Acids (38.4%), Saturated Polysaccharides accounted for about 50% and long chain fatty acids contributed 82% of total fatty acids. Palmitic, Oleic and linolenic fatty acids were isolated from *U.fasciata* by Gas-liquid chromatography technique (Yaser *et al.*, 2014). *U.fasciata* recorded a phospholipid content of 8.18%. Phosphatidyl serine, Phosphatidyl ethanol amine, Phosphatidic acid, Lysophosphatidyl choline, and Phosphatidyl glycerol are the main phospholipid composition (El Baky, 2014).

Antibacterial activity

Algal biomass has been reported to possess antimicrobial activity which mainly depends on the organic solvent used for extraction process. The antimicrobial compound isolated from algal biomass generally disturbs the cell membrane, electron transport system and nucleic acid synthesis of target organisms and coagulates proteins (Gupta *et al.*, 2011). (Antimicrobial activity was reported) Guaiane sesquiterpene derivatives (guai-2-en-10a-ol and guai-2-en-10a-methanol), polyunsaturated fatty acids (stearidonic acid and α -linolenic acid), ulvanobiuronic acid 3-sulfate, bromophenolic and sphingosine-type compound were isolated from *U.fasciata* (Chakraborty *et al.*, 2010; Paulert *et al.*, 2009). It is reported that, *U.fasciata* extracts possess antibacterial and antiviral influences on *Micrococcus luteus*, *B. cereus*, *B. subtilis*, *E. coli*, *A. hydrophila*, *P. aeruginosa*, *V. fischeri*, *V. harveyi*, *Chlorella vulgaris*, *C. sorokiniana*, and *Scenedesmus subspicatus* and Human Metapneumo Virus (Selvin and Lipton, 2004; Mendes *et al.*, 2010). In this regard, labda-14-ene-3 α , 8 α -diol and labda-14ene-8 α -hydroxy-3-one compounds isolated from *U.fasciata* showed inhibitory influences on the growth of *V. parahaemolyticus* and *V. alginolyticus*. Also, (E)-11-oxo-octadeca-12-enoic acid, (E)-11-hydroxy octadeca-12-enoic acids and 6-hydroxy-oct-7-enoic acid are novel fatty acids derived from *U.fasciata* which exposes antimicrobial activities (Chakraborty *et al.*, 2010).

U.fasciata ethanolic, methanolic and acetone extracts inhibits both gram positive and gram negative bacteria (Seenivasan *et al.*, 2010). Chellaram *et al* (2015), screened the antibacterial activity of acetone, petroleum ether and methanol extracts of *U.fasciata* against 10 human pathogenic bacteria. The acetone extract of *U.fasciata* showed marked antibacterial activity compared to methanol and petroleum ether extract. Osman *et al* (2013) reported that *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis* were highly susceptible to acetone extract of *U.fasciata*. *E.coli*, *S.aureus*, *streptococci*, *Klebsiella aerogens*, *Aspergillus niger* and *candida albicans* were strongly inhibited by *U.fasciata* (Abirami and Kowsalya, 2011). Chandrasekaran *et al* (2016) reported that ethyl acetate extract of *U.fasciata* was most effective against *B.subtilis* compared to hexane, acetone, chloroform and methanol extracts. Toluene and ethanol extracts of *U.fasciata* was effective in inhibiting *Klebsiella pneumonia* and in particular these extracts shows strong inhibitory action against gram negative bacteria (Elnahas *et al.*, 2017). Sivakumar *et al* (2014) proved that the *U.fasciata* extract reduces the phospholipase, proteolytic, lipolysis and thermonuclease activity of *Vibrio harveyi*. *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, the multi-drug resistant pathogens were inhibited by the methanolic extract of *U.fasciata* (Pramitha and Lipton, 2014).

The antimicrobial activity of algal sulfolipids was investigated by El Baz *et al* (2013). The sulfolipids showed high growth inhibition to *B.subtilis* and *E.coli* at concentration of 100 μ g/well. The *U.fasciata* sulfolipids recorded the growth inhibition of 16mm for *Bacillus subtilis* and 13mm against *E.coli*. Abdel – Khaliq *et al* (2014) examined the effectiveness of crude extract of *U.fasciata* against gram negative bacteria and gram positive bacteria and reported that *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Serratia marcescens*, *E.coli*, *Neisseria meningitides*, *Haemophilus influenza*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*

Bacillus subtilis, *Streptococcus mutans*, *Streptococcus pyogens*, *Bacillus cereus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* were effectively inhibited.

Parameswaran Kailas and Sukumuran Nair (2015) reported the antioxidant and antimicrobial activity of seaweeds including *U.fasciata* collected from the southwest coast of Tamilnadu. Gram negative bacterial strains, *E.coli* and *Salmonella abony* and gram positive bacterial strains, *Staphylococcus* and positive *Cocci* were highly inhibited by the seaweed extracts. The bioactive potential of methanolic extract of *U.fasciata* against *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, *E.coli*, *S.aureus*, *P.aeruginosa*, *Salmonella enteric* and antibiotic resistant *Vibrios* was evaluated by Silva *et al* (2013) and was found effective against *V. Navarrensis*.

cause of morbidity and mortality (Gupta *et al.*, 2012; Low and Rotstein, 2011). The treatment options for invasive fungal infections are limited since there are relatively few chemical classes and targets represented by existing antifungal drugs. Innate resistance in some fungal pathogens against the triazoles, viz., Fluconazole and Itraconazole is a concern in their use. Candidiasis is the most frequent infection by opportunistic fungi, where the species commonly associated with infections are *Candida albicans*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida parapsilosis*, *Candida glabrata* and *Candida krusei* (Cox *et al.*, 2010). *U.fasciata* extracts (Ali *et al.*, 2000, Anonymous, 2000) and natural products (Ali *et al.*, 2000) isolated from this macroalgae are reported for their strong antifungal activity. *U.fasciata* showed strong antifungal activity against *Fusarium solani* (a plant pathogen), *Candida*

Table 1: Antibacterial and Antifungal properties of *Ulva fasciata* solvent extracts

Sl.No	Solvent Extract	Biological activity	Test Organism	Reference
1	Ethanol Methanol Acetone	Antibacterial	<i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , <i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Seenivasan <i>et al.</i> , 2010
2	Acetone Petroleum ether	Antibacterial	<i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Shigella sonnei</i> , <i>Bacillus typhimurium</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Vibrio cholera</i> , <i>Enterobacter faecalis</i> , <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> , <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> , <i>Micrococcus luteus</i>	Chellaram <i>et al.</i> , 2015
3	Methanol	Antibacterial	<i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	Osman <i>et al.</i> , 2013
4	Acetone	Antibacterial	<i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Streptococci</i> , <i>Klebsiella aerogene</i> , <i>Proteus vulgaris</i> ,	Abirami, 2011
5	Methanol	Antifungal	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Candida albicans</i>	
5	Ethyl acetate Hexane Acetone Chloroform Methanol	Antifungal	<i>Candida albicans</i> , <i>C. krusei</i> , <i>C. guilliermondi</i> , <i>C. parapsilosis</i> , <i>C. tropicalis</i> , <i>C. glabrata</i> , <i>Trichophyton rubrum</i> , <i>T. mentagrophytes</i> , <i>Microsporium gypseum</i> and <i>Epidermophyton floccosum</i> .	Chandrasekaran <i>et al.</i> , 2016
6	Toluene Ethanol	Antibacterial	<i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>S. pyogenes</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>S. typhimurium</i> , <i>V. cholerae</i> , <i>Shigella flexneri</i> , <i>Proteus mirabilis</i> and <i>P. vulgaris</i>	Elnahas <i>et al.</i> , 2017
6		Antibacterial	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> and <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> , <i>Proteus mirabilis</i> and <i>Escherichia. coli</i> , <i>Acinetobacter sp.</i> and <i>Enterobacter sp.</i>	
7	Crude extract	Antibacterial	<i>Vibrio harveyi</i>	Sivakumar <i>et al.</i> , 2014
8	Methanol	Antibacterial	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , <i>V.alginolyticus</i> , <i>A.hydrophila</i> , <i>B.subtilis</i>	Pramitha <i>et al.</i> , 2014
9	Total Lipid	Antibacterial Antifungal Antiviral	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , <i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Candida albicans</i> <i>Herps simplex virus type- 1 (HSV-1)</i>	El-Baz <i>et al.</i> , 2013
10	Crude	Antibacterial	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> <i>Serratia marcescens</i> , <i>E.coli</i> , <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> , <i>Haemophilus influenza</i> , <i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i> <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , <i>Streptococcus mutans</i> , <i>Streptococcus pyogens</i> , <i>Bacillus cereus</i> and <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	Abdel-Khaliq, 2014
10		Antifungal	<i>Fusarium solani</i> , <i>Candida albicans</i> , <i>Microsporium canis</i> , <i>Geotricum candidum</i> , <i>Candida albicans</i> , <i>Aspergillus clavatus</i> , <i>Aspergillus fumigates</i> , <i>Rhizopus oryzae</i> , <i>Mucor circinelloides</i> and <i>Pencillium marnettei</i>	
11	Aqueous	Antibacterial	<i>E.coli</i> , <i>Salmonella abony</i> , <i>Staphylococcus</i> and positive <i>Cocci</i>	Kailas <i>et al.</i> , 2015
12	Methanol	Antibacterial	<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> , <i>E.coli</i> , <i>S.aureus</i> , <i>P.aeruginosa</i> , <i>Salmonella enteric</i>	Silva <i>et al.</i> , 2013
13	Aqueous	Antibacterial	<i>E.coli</i> and <i>Salmonella abony</i> , <i>Staphylococcus</i> and positive <i>Cocci</i>	Kailas <i>et al.</i> , 2015
14	Methanol	Antibacterial	<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> , <i>E.coli</i> , <i>S.aureus</i> , <i>P.aeruginosa</i> , <i>Salmonella enteric</i>	Silva <i>et al.</i> , 2013
15	Ethyl acetate	Antifungal	<i>Fusarium solani</i> , <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> , <i>Trichoderma hamatum</i> , <i>Aspergillus flavipes</i> and <i>candida albicans</i> .	Shobier <i>et al.</i> , 2016
16	Methanol	Antifungal	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> , <i>Candida utilis</i> , <i>Fusarium solani</i> , <i>Pencillium sp.</i>	Ali, 2013
17	Methanol	Antifungal	<i>Nomuraea rileyi</i>	Kumari <i>et al.</i> , 2017

Fungicidal activity

Fungi cause illnesses (mycoses) ranging from chronic to serious. The incidence of fungal infections has drastically increased over the past three decades and has become a major

albicans (a human pathogen) and *Microsporium canis* (an animal pathogen). The crude extract of *U.fasciata* produced high zone of inhibition against many pathogenic fungi such as *Geotricum candidum*, *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus clavatus*,

Aspergillus fumigates, *Rhizopus oryzae*, *Mucor circinelloides* and *Penicillium marneffei* (Abdel – Khaliq et al., 2014).

Ethyl acetate and methanolic extracts of *U.fasciata* was effective against *Fusarium solani*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Trichoderma hamatum*, *Aspergillus flavipes* and *Candida albicans*. Though the methanolic extract of *U.fasciata* was effective against all fungal pathogens, *A.flavipes* and *C.albicans* recorded a high MIC of 128µg/ml compared to 18µg for other pathogens. The antifungal property of methanolic extract was reported to the presence of palmitic acid, methylester, trichloromethyloxirane, linolenic acid, ethylster, 3, 7, 11, 15 tetramethyl-2- hexadecane-1-01, 11-Octadecenoic acid, methyl ester and 12, 15, Octadecadienoic acid (Shobier et al., 2016). Similarly the methanolic extract of *U.fasciata* inhibited *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Candida utilis*, *Fusarium solani*, *Penicillium sp.* (Ali, 2013). The antifungal activity of three seaweeds, *Caulerpa serrulata*, *Gracilaria edulis* and *U.fasciata* against silkworm fungal pathogen, *Nomuraea rileyi* was evaluated by Suguna kumara et al, (Kumari et al., 2017). The methanolic extract of both *G.edulis* and *U.fasciata* were effective against fungal pathogen producing 16mm zone of inhibition at 3mg/ml.

Antiviral activity

Natural products have been the source of most of the active ingredients of medicines (Clardy et al., 2006). Several screening studies have been carried out over few decades with the aim to discover new antibiotic or cytotoxic metabolites from green algae (Alejandro et al., 2004, 2007). A novel sphingosine derivative from *Ulva fasciata* has been found to have antiviral activity *in vivo* (63). Sulphated polysaccharide extracts collected by maceration and decoction from Green algae *Ulva fasciata* possessed 100% inhibitory activity against Human Meta Pneumo Virus (HMPV). Mendes et al (39) evaluated the antiviral activity of *U.fasciata* on the replication of Human Meta Pneumo Virus (HMPV). Similarly a previous work of Garg et al (1993), also reports the antiviral activity of *U.fasciata* and isolation of antiviral compound UF-131. Baky et al (2014) reported the antiviral, anticancer and antimicrobial activities of five marine macro algae, *Laurencia popillose*, *Galaxoura cylindrical*, *Ulva fasciata*, *Dilophs fasciola* and *Taonia atomaria*. Phospholipids are found to possess antiviral property, inhibiting simplex virus and antimicrobial property inhibiting bacteria, fungus and yeast. The study reported that the phospholipid fractions of *U.fasciata* in particular was highly effective against simplex virus, *E.coli* and *B.subtilis* but had no inhibitory effect on Fungus (*A.niger* and *C.albicans*). Antiviral activity of *U.fasciata* against Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) was also evaluated by Soares et al (2012). The highest activity (99.9%) of *U.fasciata* against HSV-1 may be due to the presence of triacyl glycerols and fatty acids. *Ulva fasciata* crude extracts [IC50 = 50 µg/ml] have been documented to exhibit strong activity against the promastigote form of *L. major in vitro* (Sabina et al., 2005).

Antioxidant activity and Anti cancer activity

The Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) are an array of metabolites derived from molecular oxygen that causes damage in DNA, protein, lipids, altering biochemical compounds, corroding cell membranes and thereby play an important role in development of various diseases such as cancer, atherosclerosis and respiratory diseases. (Vijayabaskar and Vaseela, 2012). Cancer is one of the major health

problems worldwide. The continuing increase in the incidence of cancer is due to changes in dietary patterns (Jemal et al., 2010). Preference of western style diets with large amount of animal fat leads to colon cancer (Yoon et al., 2007). The compounds from seaweeds are reported to induce apoptosis, inhibition of tumour invasions and hyaluronidase activity and anti-angiogenic activity (Suhaila et al., 2012). Shao et al (2013) compared the antioxidant activity of *U.fasciata*, *Gloiopeltis furcata* and *Sargassum henslowianum* and reported that *U.fasciata* showed excellent antioxidant property. The sulphate contents of polysaccharides had a significant role in scavenging the superoxide and hydroxyl radicals. The antioxidant mechanisms of sulphated polysaccharides might be due to strong hydrogen donating ability, a metal chelating ability, and their effectiveness as scavengers of superoxide and free radicals (Ghiselli et al., 1998). The chlorophyll pigments *a* and *b* are attributed to the antioxidant property of *U.fasciata* besides phenols and vitamins (Ismail, 2017). Premalatha et al (2011) confirmed the high antioxidant activity of *U.fasciata* to that of *Chaetomorpha antennina*. The dose dependent antioxidant activity of ethanolic extract (Radhika et al., 2013) and methanolic extract (Larangeira et al., 2016) of *U.fasciata* were reported. Vijavel and Martinez (2010) evaluated the antimicrobial and antioxidant potential of ethanolic extract of *U.fasciata* and *Gracilaria salicornia*. Kurup et al (2016) compared the DPPH and hydroxyl scavenging activity of *U.fasciata*, *S.swartzii* and *C.antennina*. *U.fasciata* was found to have excellent half maximal inhibitory effect on hydroxyl radical scavenging activity. All the three seaweeds showed DPPH radical, Hydroxy radical and Hydrogen peroxide radical scavenging property in the order *S.swartzii* < *U.fasciata* < *C.antennina*. Ryu et al (2013) reported that the *U.fasciata* extract was found to increase ROS level, which in term leads to apoptotic signals against human colon cancer HCT 116 cells. Shao et al (2013) reported the anti tumour activity of *U.fasciata* against MKN45 gastric cancer cells and the human intestinal cancer DLD cells. The cytotoxicity of sulphated polysaccharides of *U.fasciata* was confined to the presence of uronic acids. Human breast and liver cancer were inhibited by the phospholipid fractions of *U.fasciata* (El Baky et al., 2014). The antitumour and antioxidant potential of three sulphated polysaccharides (UFP₁, UFP₂, and UFP₃) extracted from *U.fasciata* by hot water extraction was examined. The polysaccharide (UFP₂) with high sulphate and Uronic acid content showed better antioxidant activity and the partial desulfated polysaccharide (DSUFP₃) with low sulphate and high uronic acid exhibited antitumour activity against DLD cancer cells (Ping Shao et al., 2014). The water soluble polysaccharides extracts from *U.fasciata* showed antioxidant and antitumour potential and the *invitro* free radical scavenging activity was concentration dependent. (Shonima Govindan et al., 2012). The *in vitro* cytotoxic potential of methanolic extract of *U.fasciata* (MEUF) against human colon carcinoma (HT-29), human hepato carcinoma (Hep-G2) and human breast carcinoma (MCF-7) cell lines were evaluated using MTT assay and MEUF exhibited maximum cytotoxicity against Hep-G2 (Das et al., 2014)

Insecticidal and Larvicidal activity

WHO (1996), declared mosquitoes as targeted disease vectors. Human blood sucking mosquitoes belong to genera of *Aedes*, *Anopheles*, *Culex*, *Haemogogus*, *Mansonia*, *Sabethes* and *Psorophora* (Service, 1980). The mosquito control programmes uses synthetic insecticides which are harmful to

non-target organisms and environment. Hence there is a growing interest for the search of novel insecticides from natural sources as an alternative (Paeporn *et al.*, 2003). The insecticidal activities of seaweeds have been reported early (Thangam and Kathiresan, 1991). *U.fasciata* exhibited larval mortality in *Meloidogyne javanica* L. after 72 hours of exposure (Rizvi and Shameel, 2012). Insecticidal activity of *U. fasciata* against *Trogoderma granarium* was reported by Valeem *et al.* (2011). Nymphicidal and ovicidal activity were exhibited by *U.fasciata* against red cotton bug *Dysdercus cingulatus* (Sahayaraj and Kalidas, 2011; Asha *et al.*, 2012).

Male and female adult longevity, reduced fecundity, reduced hatchability and reduced body weight were reported by methanolic extract of *U.fasciata* against *D. Cingulatus* (Asha *et al.*, 2012). Dichloromethane-Methanol extract of *U.fasciata* showed toxic effect on Brine shrimp, *Artemia salina* (Manilal *et al.*, 2009). Similarly, Selvin and Lipton (2004) reported larvicidal activity of Dichloromethane-Methanol extract of *U.fasciata* against second instar larva of *Culex* species. The larvicidal activity of methanol, acetone and benzene extracts of *U.fasciata* was reported against *Anopheles stephensi* (Laali and Li, 2012a) *Culex quinquefasciatus* (Laali and Li, 2012b) and *Aedes aegypti* (Laali Nisha, 2013). Moderate inhibition of *Plasmodium falciparum* and larvicidal activity against *Anopheles stephensi* larvae by hexane and ethyl acetate extract of *U.fasciata* were reported by Sowmiya *et al.* (2017). Khan Hira *et al.* (2017) evaluated the larvicidal activity of ethanol extract of *U.fasciata* against *Aedes aegypti*. Dimethyl sulphoxide extract of *U.fasciata* showed antiplasmodic activity above 25µg/ml which is moderately low when compared to other seaweeds examined (Ravikumar *et al.*, 2011).

Antidiabetic activity

U.fasciata could be used as an alternative for the nutrient and food requirement for controlling diabetes. *Sargassum weightii* and *U.fasciata* reduced diabetics and normalize lipid profile, body and organ weight in streptozotocin induced type 2 diabetic mice (Mohapatra *et al.*, 2016). The aqueous extract of *U.fasciata* reduces blood glucose level and restores hepatic glycogen and hexokinase, glucokinase and glucose-6-phosphate (Abirami and Kowsalya, 2013).

Anti inflammatory activity

The anti-inflammatory pharmacology research had gained interest during 2009 – 2011 and several research reports were published on the molecular mechanism of action to target neutrophils and macrophages both *in vivo* and *in vitro* by marine natural products. Nitric oxide (NO) and Prostaglandin (PG) are involved in the pathogenesis of human inflammatory diseases. Ethylacetate extract of *U.fasciata* inhibited the synthesis of NO and PG and decreased the production of proinflammatory cytokines such as TNF – α , IL -1 β and IL-6 in lipopolysaccharide stimulated macrophage cell (Kim *et al.*, 2013).

Algicidal activity

The algicidal activity of *U.fasciata* was assessed by Mochammad Amin Alamsjah *et al.* The algicidal activity of fresh tissue, dry powder and methanol extracts of *Ulva fasciata* and *Ulva fasciata*. showed effective growth inhibition and lethal effects on *Heterosigma akashiwo*, *Alexandrium*

catenella and *Chattonella marina* and moderate activity against *Fibrocapsa japonica* and *Karenia mikimotoi* cells (Mochammad Amin Alamsjah *et al.*, 2006). Hexadeca-4,7,10,13-tetraenoic acid (HDTA) C16:4 n-3, C18:4 -linolenic acid (ALA) C18:3 n-3 and linoleic acid (LA) C18:2 n-6 as the α -3 (ODTA) were the polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) that are found to be significantly active against several red tide phytoplankton at low concentrations and are promising for the chemical agents for HAB control (Mochammad Amin Alamsjah *et al.*, 2009). The green alga *Ulva fasciata* (Ulvaceae, Chlorophyta) showed strongest algicidal activity among the seaweeds collected from the coast of Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan and tested against the red-tide phytoplankton *Heterosigma akashiwo*. Methanol extract of *U. fasciata* led to isolation of three algicidal compounds hexadeca- 4, 7, 10, 13-tetraenoic acid (HDTA), octadeca-6, 9, 12, 15- tetraenoic acid (ODTA), and linolenic acid on the basis of spectroscopic information. These polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) showed potent algicidal activity against *H. akashiwo* (Mochammad Amin Alamsjah *et al.*, 2005). Linolenic acid and linoleic acid isolated from *Ulva fasciata* showed toxic effects on red tide phytoplankters in a concentration-dependent manner. *Raphidophyceae flagellate Heterosigma akashiwo* was the most susceptible to these fatty acids, and 50% lethal concentrations (LC50) of linolenic acid and linoleic acid were estimated to be 0.58 and 1.91 g/ml respectively, whereas *dinoflagellate Gymnodinium impudicum* and *Heterocapsa circularisquama* were highly resistant and no significant toxic effects were observed up to 1,000g/ml. Both fatty acids were less toxic to fish (devil stinger), zooplankters (brine shrimp and rotifer), and mammalian cell lines (U937, HeLa, Vero, and CHO cells) than *H. akashiwo* (Mochammad Amin Alamsjah *et al.*, 2007).

Conclusion

The present review highlights the pharmacological and nutraceutical properties of the green seaweed, *Ulva fasciata*. Southeast coast of India is a unique marine habitat and *Ulva fasciata* is one among the predominant species (105). The presence of non digestible polysaccharides, *Ulvan* in Chlorophyta makes them unique with different biological properties. Though the antibacterial, antifungal, antioxidant properties of *Ulva fasciata* had been addressed, the larvicidal, insecticidal, anti diabetic, anti inflammatory, anti coagulant, regulation of lipid and carbohydrate metabolism, antiobesity, antihypertensive property of *U.fasciata* has to be explored.

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