

## Pharmacological and Biological Activities of Artemisia Species in Libya: A Comprehensive Review Article

**Fatma Elshibani<sup>1\*</sup>, Eman Z<sup>2</sup>, Younis Nour Elmiladi<sup>3</sup>, Shurok Algilale<sup>3</sup>, Sondos Alhassi<sup>3</sup>, Narjis M. Husayn<sup>4</sup>**

1)Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Benghazi University, Benghazi, Libya.

2)Department of Biomedical science, Faculty of Pharmacy, Benghazi University, Benghazi, Libya.

3) Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Assalam International University, Benghazi, Libya.

4)Department of Clinical Nutrition , Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences . Alssalam international University, Benghazi, Libya.

### Abstract

Artemisia comprises more than 500 species, making it as one of the cosmopolitan genera of the family Asteraceae. Temperate zones of North America, Asia, North Africa and Europe are the main regions of Artemisia growing. It has been reported as one of the plant derived medication for treating different ailment including digestive illness, menstrual cycle disturbance, typhoid, morning sickness, renal complications, bronchitis epilepsy, as well as malaria, etc. There is a direct relation between several other health benefits and traditional uses of Artemisia. This review is mainly aimed to survey and evaluate the biological and pharmacological effects of the essential oil and extracts obtained by using different solvents and their respective fractions of Artemisia species in Libya. Furthermore, the plant secondary metabolites viz, glycosides, terpenoids, saponins, flavonoids, and lactons were discussed. According to the collected data, Artemisia has divers therapeutic benefits like antimalarial, anxiolytic, antiepileptic, antihypertensive, antihyperlipidemic, antiasthmatic, antidiabetic, antiemetic, gastroprotective, antidepressant, antiparasitic, antitubercular, anticancer, insecticidal, antiviral activities, and potential effects against COVID-19.

**Key words:** Artemisia, Libya, secondary metabolites, pharmacological effects, anticancer.

### INTRODUCTION

Despite the great progress in orthodox medicine, plants still play a vital role in health care. Indeed, they afford an incomparable source of molecular diversity and bioactivity, which has led to the development of hundreds of pharmaceuticals. Therefore, a continuous chemical and/or biological screening of unexplored flora is necessary to find out natural bioactive products for incorporation in drug industry.

*Artemisia* L. is established as the widest-spread herb of the Daisy (Asteraceae or Compositae) family and the largest genus of the tribe (Anthemideae). The name of the genus is derived from the Greek goddess of hunt “Artemis”, forests and childbirth (Mucciarelli and Maffei, 2002). The number of species reported within the genus ranges from about 380 as mentioned by Ling *et al.* (2006) to more than 500 according to other publications (Bisht *et al* 2021; Trifa *et al* 2022). Plants vary from dwarf herbs to tall shrubs, and are mostly perennial. They grow and occurring in temperate climates, and a diversity of habitats between mountainous areas to arid zones and deserts (Mucciarelli and Maffei, 2002; Watson *et al.*, 2002). The end of summer or during autumn is a time of blooming of *Artemisia* species, while the spring and summer are the typical time for flowring of other Anthemideae genera, in addition they are characterized by being almost exclusively wind pollinated (Garnock-Jones, 1986; Valles *et al.*, 1987). Many *Artemisia* species have pharmaceutical,

culinary and economical applications (Bora and Sharma, 2011). The plants have a vast array of folk and conventional medicinal uses due to the chemical diversity of their metabolites; besides, their characteristic scents and tastes have been attributed to their terpenoid components, especially the volatiles (Mucciarelli and Maffei, 2002; Kordali *et al.*, 2005; Bora and Sharma, 2011). These facts account for the inclusion of several *Artemisia* species in pharmacopeias all over the world (Proksch, 1992, Rustaiyan and Faridchehr, 2014). A notably important drug isolated from this genus, mainly from *A. annua*, is artemisinin the well-known antimalarial (Bora and Sharma, 2011); which has been recognized by WHO and is considered as lead compound for production of novel drugs useful for treatment of quinine-resistant malignant cell lines (Zinczuk *et al.*, 2007). From the economic standpoint (Bora and Sharma, 2011, Chauhan *et al.*, 2010;), genus *Artemisia* is considered as an important biological source of natural insecticides and fungicides, which are efficient as crop and wood protective. In addition, certain species are used as forage in steppes and semi-deserts, while others are cultivated as either ornamentals or soil stabilizers in disturbed habitats. Regarding the numerous publications on *Artemisia*, the phytochemicals analysis and biological potential study researches of this plant in Libya remain limited. *Artemisia* L. species, usually aromatic shrubs or herbs (Jafri and El-gadi, 1983), are of worldwide distribution especially in Northern temperate regions, Asia, North America, Western South America, Europe and Southern and North Africa (Mabberley, 1997; Bora and Sharma, 2011). The variation of the chemistry of the metabolites produced by *Artemisia* species leads to a broad spectrum of the biological effects among these members. Besides volatile constituents (terpenoids and non-terpenoids), coumarins, flavonoids, caffeoquinic acids,

acetylenes, sterols have been identified and reported as main phytochemicals in the genus. According to previous researches, *Artemisia* species exhibit, antiviral, antimalarial, antipyretic, antitumor, antihaemorrhagic, antiulcerogenic, antiinflammatory, anticoagulant, antioxidant, antihepatitis, and antispasmodic properties (Bora and Sharma, 2011).

This literature survey valorize and sheds light on data concerning the active ingredients and biological activities of the different species of *Artemisia* that growing as a native plant in Libya. Moreover, the current review will provide valuable information to help researchers for develop safe formulations for treating various illnesses

## Method

In this review article, data were collected from the published studies in the scientific databases: including Web of science, PubMed and Google scholar. All the duplicated and irrelevant papers were excluded while the original articles that focusing on phytochemical profile and biological properties were involved.

## 1. Geographical distribution

*Artemisia* represented by nine recorded species in Libya. These species are widely distributed across different regions, with high population density in Northeastern, particularly in Al-Jaba Al-Akhder and southwest region. *Artemisia absinthium* is one of the widely distributed *Artemisia*, intrinsic in Europe, Asia and North Africa (Szopa *et al* 2020). Nevertheless, limited sources describe its presence in Libya (WFO 2025; Agiel, N., & Mericli, F. (2017). Meanwhile, *Artemisia arborescens*, a mediterranean native species in Libya, is an evergreen shrub characterized by grey-green to silver leaves and distinguished scent (Janacković *et al* 2015).

Another common one plant is *Artemisia campestris*, which distributed in Asia, Europe, and North Africa (Al-Snafi, A. E. (2015).

On the other hands, *Artemisia judiaca* is widely found in the desert of Libya, which characterized by bushy herbs and woody base with strong aromatic leaves (Janacković et al 2015).

*Artemisia monosperma* is a perennial plant that growing broadly in the Arabian deserts including the east arid and semiarid zones in Libya, and is characterized by its distinctive aroma (El Zalabani et al 2017). In fact, *Artemisia inculta* Delile is one of the rare *Artemisia* species native to Libya. It was firstly registered in Libyan flora (Jafri & El-Gadi 1983; El-Barasi et al 2013; Giweli et al 2025; Mahklouf, & Sh-hoob, (2023); Elturbi, et al 2009; Saad et al 2021 and Janacković et al 2015) under *Artemisia herba-alba* and recently classified as *Artemisia herba-alba* var. *densiflora* Boiss. which is heterotypic synonym of *A. inculta* Delile. According to (POWO) Plants of the World Online and flora of egypt, this species occurs in Libya, Egypt and Crete (POWO; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 2024) and no records was found for its herbarium specimens using its recent accepted name. Additionally, *Artemisia annua* L. has been reported as a native species in Libya, however, there is a limited data about its current distribution in specific habitats.

*Artemisia Vulgaris* was reported as introduced species in Libya, it was cultivated in western region, particularly in Khallet Alforjan south of Tripoli (Abuhadra et al 2017), and known as heavily invasive weed and easily spreads under the different climatic conditions (Siwan et al 2022). The species and locations of *Artemisia* were illustrated in (Table 1 and Figure 1)

## Major Constituents

According to a recent review on the essential oils of *Artemisia* (Bisht et al., 2021), the distinctive odour of certain species is mainly due to the accumulation of the volatile mono and sesquiterpenes in the aerial parts, especially the flowers. The significant disparity in the yield,

chemistry, and quality of the oils is influenced by several factors such as season of collection, use of fertilizers, pH of soils, drying and storage conditions, altitude, chemotype or variety, genotype or used parts of the plant, extraction method. Moreover, 1,8-cineole,  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -thujone, *trans*-anethole, artemisia ketone, borneol and camphor, were identified as a major compounds. Table 2 summarizes the reports concerning the essential oils of Libyan *Artemisia* L. The structures of selected compounds reported in these oils are displayed in Figure 2.

Sesquiterpene lactones isolated from genus *Artemisia* have gained an increasing importance due to their application in medicinal and agricultural fields (Ivanescu et al., 2015). The most commonly occurring sesquiterpene lactones in *Artemisia* species belong to guaianolides, germacranolides and eudesmanolides classes, while cadinanolides, elemanolides and psilotachyanolides have also been found in considerable concentration (Ivanescu et al., 2015). Reports on sesquiterpene lactones of genus *Artemisia* are summarized in Table 3 and the structures of selected constituents of the *Artemisia* are represented in Figure 3.

A number of triterpenoids and phytosterols were reported in *Artemisia* species including  $\alpha$ -amyrin, lupeol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol,  $\beta$ -amyrin, campesterol, stigmasterol and daucosterol (Elgamal et al., 1997; Ivanescu et al., 2013). Table 4 summarizes the literature reports concerned with these constituents and structural formulae of representatives of the group are demonstrated in Figure 4.

Several phenolic classes such as phenolic acids, flavonoids and coumarins that identified in *Artemisia* species were summarized in (Table 5 and Figure 5 a, b & c).

Additionally, both free and glycosidic flavones, flavonols, methoxylated flavones viz., *O*-glycosides of luteolin, apigenin, quercetin, kaempferol, isorhamnetin and

chrysoeriol, were isolated and identified from *Artemisia* species; Bohlmann *et al.*, 1985; Shilin *et al.*, 1989; Deng *et al.*, 2008).

Caffeic and vanillic acids are frequently identified phenolic acids in artemisia ; similarly, the coumarins scopoletin, isoscopolin, scoparone, coumarin, herniarin and isofraxidin were isolated from several *Artemisia* species (Trifan *et al* 2022).

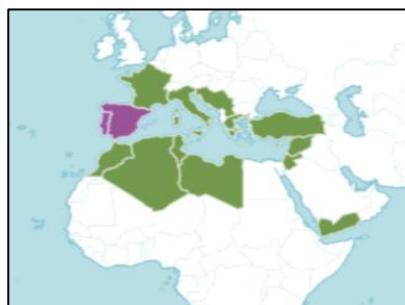
## Biological Activities

According to the literature, the main use of *Artemisia* species in folk medicine are primarily as antispasmodic, anthelmintic and anti-hypertensive (Chakravarty, 1976); additionally, leaves of certain *Artemisia*

are used in Jordan to facilitate labour (Hijazi and Salhab, 2010). The antioxidant, insecticidal, anti-malarial, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and anticancer efficiencies of several species have been explored (Pozdnyakov *et al* 2022; Trifan *et al* 2022). Moreover, the biological potencies of various constituents *viz.*, sesquiterpene lactones and essential oils have been extensively investigated (Ivanescu *et al.*, 2015; Bisht *et al* 2021). Summarized reports concerned with the bioactivities of the plants of the genus are collected in **Table 6**

**Table (1) Species and locations of *Artemisia* species in Libya:**

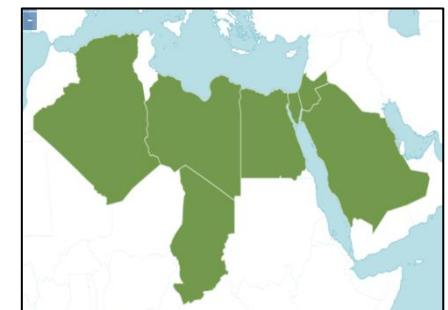
Species	locations	References
<i>A. absinthium</i>	Unfortunately, there is no reliable information regarding the locality of this species in libya	<a href="https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:300106-2">https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:300106-2</a> Agiel, N., & Mericli, F. (2017).
<i>A. arborescens</i>	Zintan and Al-Jabal Al-Akhder	Janacković et al 2015
<i>A. annua L.</i>	The species is recorded in Libya according to <i>Plants of the World Online</i> .	<a href="https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:304416-2">https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:304416-2</a>
<i>A. campestris</i>	Al-Jabal Al-Akhder, Gabel Nafusa, Zawia and Zintan	El-Barasi et al 2013, Janacković et al 2019, Mahklouf, & Sh-hoob, (2023) and Giweli et al 2025
<i>A.judaica</i>	Western Hamada and Zintan	Janacković et al 2015
<i>A. inculta</i> Delile <i>Artemisia herba-alba</i> var. <i>densiflora</i> Boiss ( <i>heterotypic</i> <i>synonym</i> )	Gabel Nafusa, Zintan, south of Tripoli (Tarhona city) and Al-Jabal Al-Akhder areas around the city of Albayda	El-Barasi et al 2013, Giweli et al 2025, Mahklouf, & Sh-hoob, (2023), Elturbi, et al 2009, Saad et al 2021 and Janacković et al 2015
<i>A. monosperma</i>	Has reported in Tobruk in northeast of Libya	El Zalabani et al 2017 and Saad et al 2023
<i>A. scoparia</i> Waldst. & Kit.	Was reported in Sirte at 2016	<a href="http://www.floraoflibya.services.ly">www.floraoflibya.services.ly</a>
<i>A. Vulgaris</i>	Khallet Alforjan about 18km south of Tripoli (introduced)	Abuhadra et al 2017



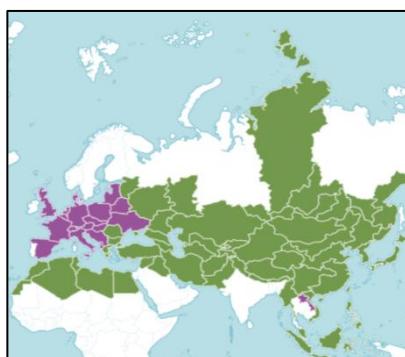
*A. arborescens*



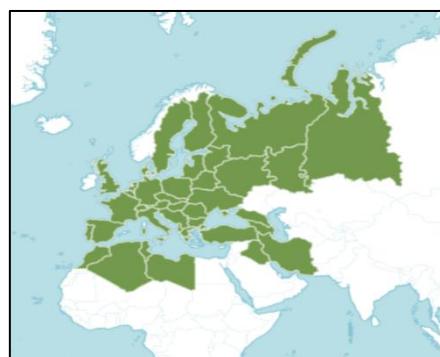
*A. monosperma*



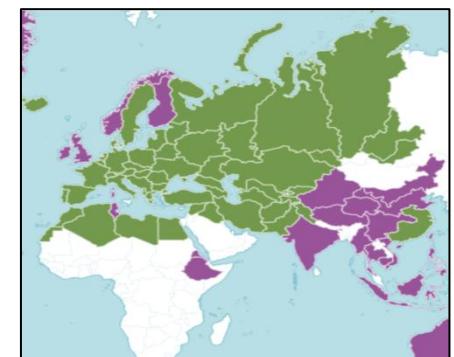
*A. judaica*



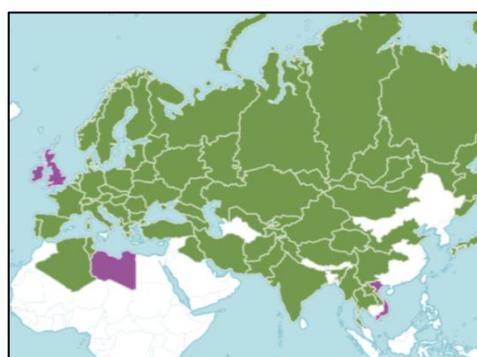
*A. annua*



*A. compestris*



*A. absinthium*



*A. vulgaris*



*A. inulta*

Fig (1) Distribution of Libyan native Artemisia around the world  
(according to POWO)

**Table (2): Reports on essential oil components of genus *Artemisia* L were identified by GC/MS.**

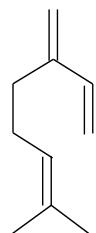
Author, Date	Species and area	Plant part	Summary
Hifnawy et al., 1990	<i>A. monosperma</i> Del.	A.p	The oil was highly rich in dibenzofuran and 1-phenyl-bicyclo [3.3.1] non-2-en-9-ol benzoate while diphenylamine was reported with low concentration.
Goel et al., 2007	<i>A. annua</i> L.	Roots	The oil highly rich with sesquiterpenes and their oxygenated derivatives, represented by cis-arteannic alcohol, $\beta$ -caryophyllene and caryophyllene oxide as a major components.
Verdian-Rizi et al., 2008	<i>A. annua</i> L.	A.p	1,8-cineole, camphor camphene and spathulenol were the major
Rezaeinodehl & Khangholi, 2008	<i>A. absinthium</i> L.	A. p	The main components of the essential oil of the Iranian plant at full blooming season were $\beta$ -pinene and $\beta$ -thujone.
Judzentiene et al., 2010	<i>A. campestris</i> L. ssp. <i>campestris</i>	A.p	Caryophyllene oxide (8.5-38.8%) was the major, followed by germacrene, $\beta$ -ylangene, spathulenol, $\beta$ -elemene, $\beta$ -caryophyllene, junenol, D, humulene epoxide and $\alpha$ - or $\beta$ -pinene.
Viuda-Martos et al., 2010	<i>A. annua</i> L. (Egypt)	Leaves	Eucalyptol and artemisia ketone were predominant.
Joshi et al., 2010	<i>A. scoparia</i> Waldst. & Kit.	A. p	$p$ -cymene, $\gamma$ -terpinene, and (E)- $\beta$ -ocimene were the major in the Indian sample at mature stage of the plant.
Tzenkova et al., 2010	<i>A. annua</i> L.	A. p	$\alpha$ -caryophyllene was the major, while artemisia ketone and camphor were the less.
Militello et al 2011	<i>A. arborescens</i> (Sicily)		$\beta$ -thujone and sesquiterpene hydrocarbon chamazulene were the predominant.
Padalia et al., 2011	<i>A. annua</i> L. (india)	A.p	The major constituents were 1, 8-cineole and camphor.
Williams et al., 2012.	<i>A. vulgaris</i> L.	Leaves & buds	Caryophyllene, germacrene D and <i>alpha</i> -zingiberene were the chief of the leaf oil; whereas buds were rich in 1, 8-cineole (

Cavar <i>et al.</i> , 2012	<i>A. annua</i> L. (Bosnia)	A.p	Artemisia ketone was the major.
Ornano et al 2013	<i>A. arborescens</i> (Italy)	A.p	Chamazulene and $\beta$ -Thujone were the major
Wani <i>et al.</i> , 2014	<i>A. absinthium</i> L. (Kashmir)	Leaves	Chrysanthenyl acetate and $\beta$ -pinene the major.
Janacković <i>et al</i> 2015	<i>A. judaica</i> ; <i>A. herba-alba</i> ; <i>A. arborescens</i> (Libya)	A. p	were the major components in the essential oil of <i>A. arborescens</i> contained Camphor and chamazulene as a main constituents. Chrysanthenone and cis-thujone were dominant in the <i>A. herba-alba</i> oil, while piperitone and cis-chrysanthenol were the major ingredients in the oil of <i>A. judaica</i>
Shehata et al 2015	<i>A. arborescens</i> <i>A. inculta</i> Delile (Crete)	A. p	<i>A. arborescens</i> were found to be chamazulene, camphor and trans-thujone were the major, while those of <i>A. inculta</i> were, cis-thujone, trans-thujone and 1,8-cineole were the major.
Said-Al Ahl <i>et al</i> 2016	<i>A. vulgaris</i> L (Egypt)	A. p	Borneol, camphor, linalool, isoborneol, isobornyl, cineole, ( $\alpha + \beta$ )-thujone, , myrcene, limonene $\beta$ -pinene, were pridomenant
Abu-Shandi <i>et al</i> 2017	<i>A. vulgaris</i> L (Jordan)		Camphor D-limonene , 1,8-cenol , piperitone, and artemisia ketone
El Zalabani <i>et al</i> 2017	<i>A. monosperma</i> (Libya)	A.p	Sabinene, $\beta$ -pinene and $\beta$ -cis-ocimene were the majority; while sesquiterpenoids were absent and bornyl acetate was the major oxygenated monoterpenoid.
Alwahaibi <i>et al</i> 2016	<i>A. judaica</i> (Saudi Arabia)	A.p A.p	Thymol and its isomer carvacrol were the main components followed by hexadecanoic acid, eudesma-4 (15),7-dien-1- $\alpha$ -ol, spathulenol, and $\beta$ -eudesmol
Farah et al2017	<i>A. judaica</i> (Algeria)		Contained mainly piperitone
Dib <i>et al</i> 2019	<i>A. campestris</i> L.	A. p	$\beta$ -pinene p-cymene $\alpha$ pinene, camphor and germacrene D. were the major in ( <i>Tunisia</i> ), $\beta$ -pinene, $\alpha$ -Terpenyl acetate, $\alpha$ -pinene and sabinene were the major in of <i>A. campestris</i> L. ( <i>Algeria</i> ), the main constituents are: tremetone, capillin, $\alpha$ -thujone, methyl-eugenol and p-cymene in <i>A. campestris</i> L sample harvested from <i>Turkey</i>

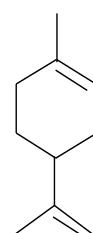
Teshome, B. 2019	<i>A. absinthium</i> (Ethiopia)		Camphor and Bornyl acetate showed the highest concentration
A Benkhaled et al 2020	<i>A. absinthium</i> (Algeria)	Flowering A.p	Camphor was the main component of <i>A. absinthium</i> essential oil followed by chamazulene.
<u>Sahar M</u> et al 2019	<i>Artemisia species</i> from Egypt and aud Saudi Arabia		The results in this study showed that <i>A. monosperma</i> plants growing in Saudi Arabia gave higher yield than the sample collected from Egypt.
Russo et al 2020	<i>A. arborescens</i> (sicily)	Leaves and flowers	Chamazulene was the major with considerable amount
Ramy M et al 2021	<i>A. monosperma</i> (Northern region of Saudi Arabia)	A. p	$\beta$ -Pinene is a chief constituent.
El-Gohary, A et al 2021	<i>A. judaica</i> (eastern desert of Egypt) <i>A. monosperma</i> (eastern of Egypt)	A. p	Piperitone and artemisia ketone were the main components of Egyptian <i>A. judaica</i> essential oil $\delta$ -cadinene and $\beta$ -pinene were the major followed by $\alpha$ -pinene, cis- $\beta$ -ocimene and limonene .
Romeila et al 2021	<i>A. monosperma</i> (Saudi Arabia)	A. p	$\beta$ -Pinene was principal component.
Singh et al 2023	<i>A. vulgaris</i>	Leaves	Eucalyptol was the main
Jaradat et al 2022	<i>A. arborescens</i> ( Palestinian)	A. p	$\beta$ -thujone was the major componenet among the various <i>A. arborescens</i> samples
Bendifallah et al 2023	<i>A. campestris</i> (Algeria)	A. p	$\beta$ -Pinene $\alpha$ -pinene, limonene and $\beta$ cymene



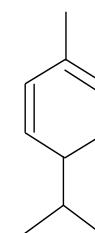
Giweli et al 2025,	<i>A. herba-alba</i> ( <i>Libya</i> )	A. p	Camphor, thujone and sabenin were the major
Abdallah et al. 2025	<i>A. annua</i> , cultivated in Egypt. <i>A. monosperma</i> and <i>A. judaica</i> Egypt) <i>A.campestris</i>	A. p	Camphor was a main constituent in the essential oils of both of both samples <i>A. annua</i> and <i>A. judaica</i> .. While $\alpha$ -pinene and $\beta$ -pinene were constituted as the major components of <i>A. monosperma</i> oil.
Cherfi et al 2025		A. p	Linalyl acetate, geranyl acetate and eucalyptol were the major.



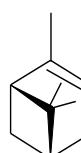
$\beta$  -Myrcene



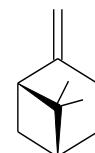
Limonene



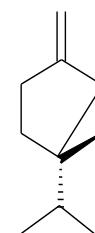
$\alpha$  -Phellandrene



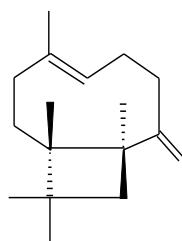
$\alpha$  -Pinene



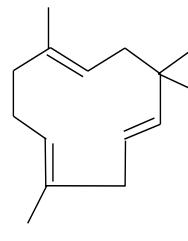
$\beta$  -Pinene



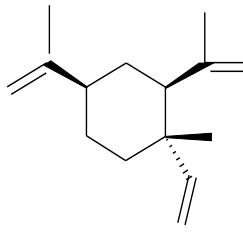
Sabinene



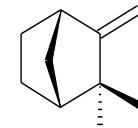
$\beta$  -Caryophyllene



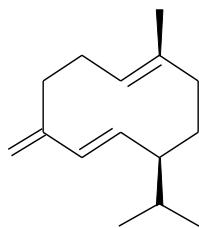
$\alpha$  -Caryophyllene  
or  $\alpha$  -Humulene



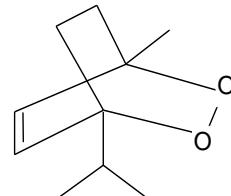
$\beta$  -Elemene



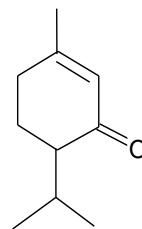
Camphene



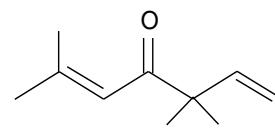
Germacrene D



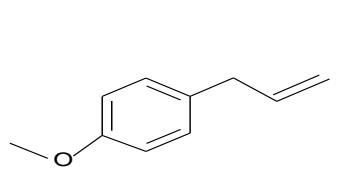
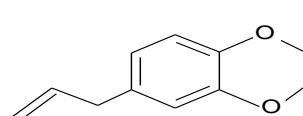
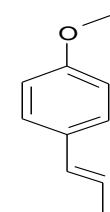
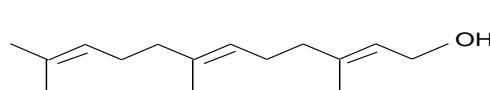
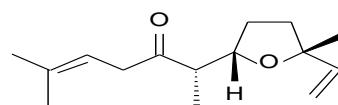
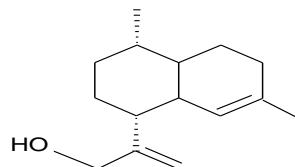
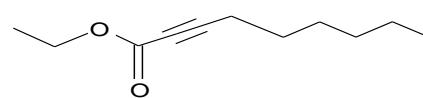
Trans-Ascaridol



Piperitone



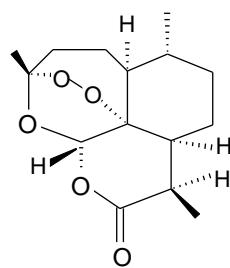
Artemisia ketone

**Estragole****Methyleugenol****E-Anethole****Farnesol****Cis-davanone****Cis-arteannuic alcohol****Ethyl 2-nonynoate**

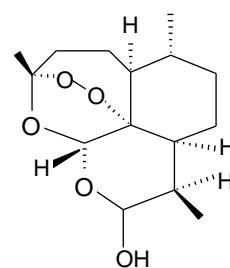
**Fig. (2): Selected volatile components reported in genus *Artemisia* L.**

**Table (3): Reports on sesquiterpene lactones of genus *Artemisia* L.**

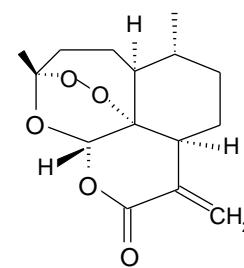
<b>Author, Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Plant part</b>	<b>Summary</b>
El-Sohly <i>et al.</i> , 1990; Foglio <i>et al.</i> , 2002 and Quispe-Condori <i>et al.</i> , 2005	<i>A. annua</i> L.	Leaves	Artemisinin is the prototype bioactive sesquiterpene lactone along to dihydro-epoxideyarteannuin B, and deoxyartemisinin. These compounds were extracted by from <i>A. annua</i> leaves using ethyl ether, hexane or chloroform.
Tzeng <i>et al.</i> , 2007	<i>A. annua</i> L.	A. p	Artemisinin yield was significantly enhanced by using supercritical fluid extraction.
de Souza-Chagas <i>et al.</i> , 2011	<i>A. annua</i> L.	Leaves	Deoxyartemisinin contents in addition to Artemisinin were analysed and quantified in the EtOH fraction of <i>A. annua</i> leaves.
El Maggar, 2012	<i>A. monosperma</i> Del. & <i>A. herba alba</i> Asso	A. p	Artemisinin, $\alpha$ - and $\beta$ - dihydroartemisinin, and dihydroartemisinic alcohol were detected and quantified in <i>A. monosperma</i> . Meanwhile, artemisinin, artemisitene and dihydroartemisinic acid, were detected in reasonable concentration in the MeOH extract of <i>A. herba alba</i> .
Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2013; Favero <i>et al.</i> , 2014	<i>A. annua</i> L.	Leaves	Artemisinin, artemisinic acid and arteannuin B, In addition to deoxyartemisinin were identified as isolate compounds from the extract of <i>A. annua</i> leaves.
H. Ghafoori et al 2014	<i>A. absinthium</i> L		Anabsinthin and derivatized artemisinin
Mashraqi et al., 2024	<i>A. herba-alba</i> Asso. <i>A. absinthium</i> L.	Entire plant	(-)-caryophyllene oxide was the major in both plants (42 and 19% respectively)



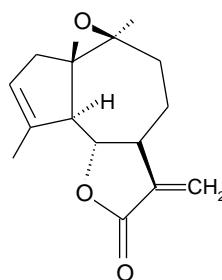
Artemisinin



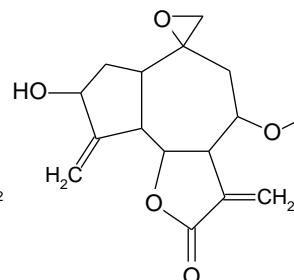
Dihydroartemisinin



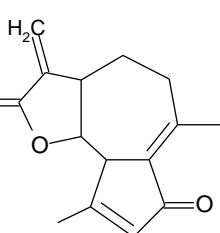
Artemisitene



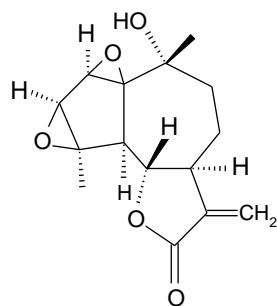
Argabin



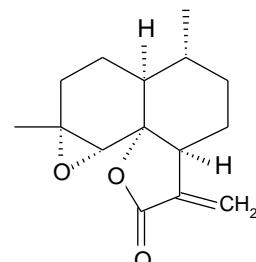
Artefransin



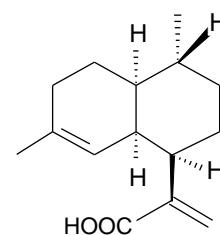
Dehydroleucodine



Artecanin



Arteannuin B



Artemisinic acid

**Fig. (3): Selected examples of sesquiterpene lactones reported in genus *Artemisia* L.**

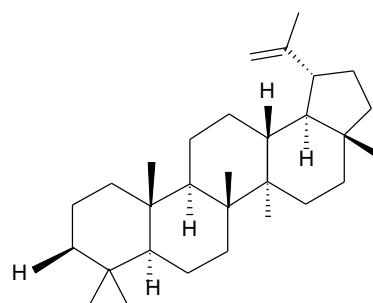
**Table (4): Reports on triterpenoids and phytosterols of genus *Artemisia* L.**

<b>Author, Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Plant part</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Ahmed & Misra, 1994	<i>A. annua</i> L.	A. p.	Stigmasterol, $\beta$ - sitosterol, $\alpha$ - and $\beta$ -amyrin acetate, $\beta$ -amyrenone, $\alpha$ - amyrenone and $\beta$ -amyrin were isolated from the hexane extract of <i>A. annua</i> L. aerial parts by silica gel column chromatography.
Elgamal et al., 1997	<i>A. monosperma</i>	Dried shoot	Taraxasterol, taraxasterol acetate, lupeol, and $\beta$ -sitosterol were found to be the major constituents in the nonpolar fraction of the aerial part of <i>A. monosperma</i> .
jvanescu et al., 2013	<i>A.absinthium</i> & L., <i>annua</i> L. and <i>A. vulgaris</i> L	A. p.	The $\beta$ -sitosterol, stigmasterol, campesterol and ergosterol were found as a chief constituents of the

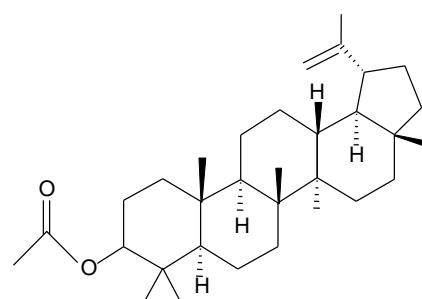
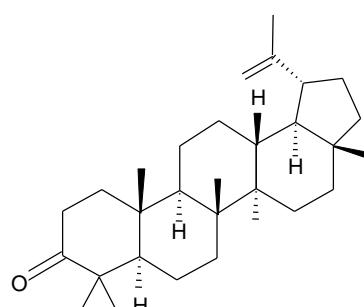
**Table (5): Reports on phenolic components of genus *Artemisia* L.**

<b>Author, Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Plant part</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Zhang, et al., 2002	<i>A. scoparia</i> Waldst. & Kit.	Flower buds	Four flavones were isolated and their structures identified as cirsilineol, cirsimarinin, arcapillin and cirsiliol.
Han et al., 2008	<i>A. annua</i> L.	Leaves	Quinic acid derivatives were detected by HPLC/MS in the MeOH extract of the leaves.
Hammoda et al., 2008	<i>A. monosperma</i> Del.	Root	Two isolated new coumarins were identified, besides the known compounds; fraxinol, tomentin and methyl- $\beta$ -D-fructofuranoside.
Ornano et al 2013	<i>A. arborescens</i>	A.p	Neochlorogenic acid the main constituent
Mouton & Van, 2014	<i>A. annua</i> L.	A. p	Chlorogenic acid and feruloylquinic acid were the predominant constituents.

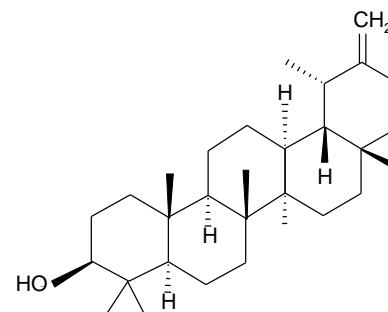
Zhao et al., 2015	<i>A. annua</i> L.	A. p	Monocaffeoylquinic acids, dicaffeoylquinic acids, 1 feruloylquinic acid, caffeoylferuloylquinic acids, ferulylquinic acids, <i>p</i> -coumaroylquinic acid and dimethoxy-cinnamoylquinic acid were described for the first time.
Hussain et al 2017	<i>A. absinthium</i>	A.p.	Quercitin-3- O-d-glucoside, Rutin, isoquercitrin, isorhamnetin-3-glucoside and isorhamnetin-3-Orutinoside were identified
Pozdnyakov et al 2022	<i>A. scoparia</i>	A.p.	Chlorogenic acid, scopoletin, umbelliferone and scoparone
Slimestad et al. 2022	<i>A. annua</i> L.	leaves and stalks	The major were chlorogenic acid, the caffeic acid esters and quinic acid were the main.
Lantzouraki et al 2023	<i>A. arborescens</i> and <i>A. inculta</i>	A. p.	isorhamnetin, kaempferol-3-O-rutinoside, kaempferol-3-O-glucoside and chlorogenic acid, were common in the extracts from both Artemisia species
Veagu et al 2023	<i>A. vulgaris</i> and <i>A. absinthium</i>	A. p	Both rosmarinic and chlorogenic acids, rutin in <i>A. absinthium</i> ; chlorogenic acid, luteolin and rutin in <i>A. vulgaris</i> ;



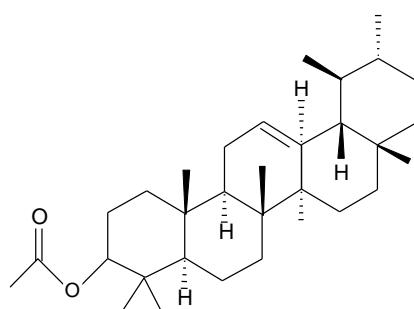
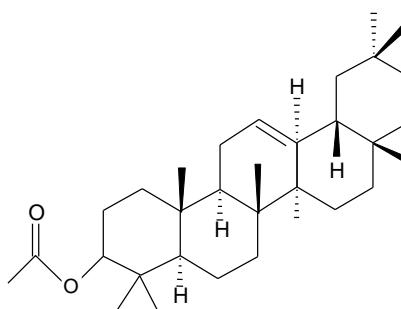
Lupeol

Lupenyl acetate  
(Lupeol acetate)

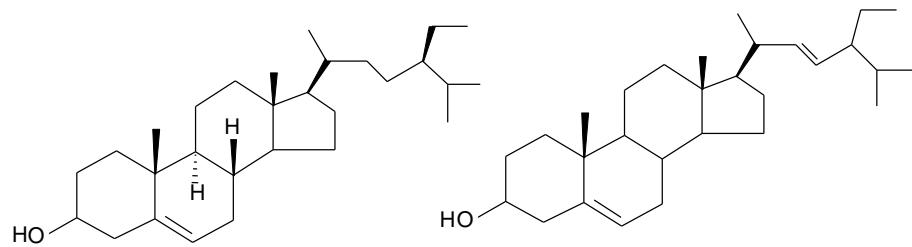
Lupenone



Taraxasterol

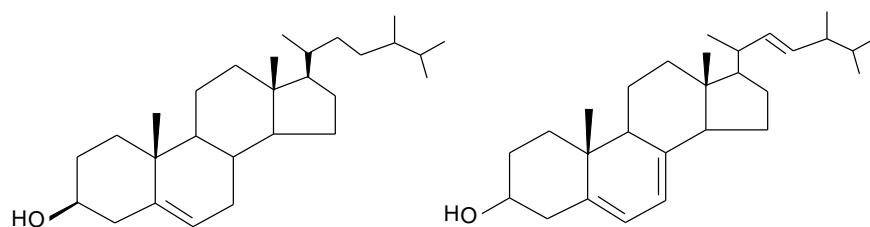
 $\alpha$  - Amyrin acetate $\beta$  - Amyrin acetate

**Fig. (4): Selected examples of triterpenoids reported in genus *Artemisia* L.**



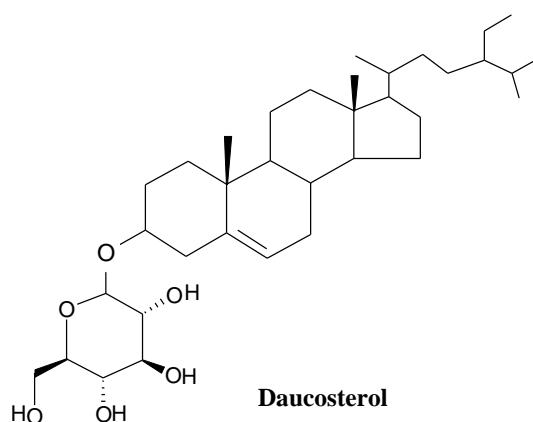
## **$\beta$ - Sitosterol**

## Stigmasterol



## Campesterol

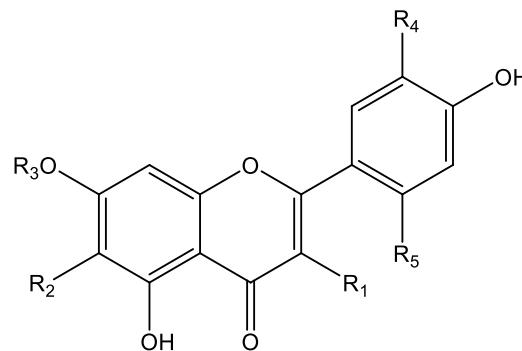
## Ergosterol



## Daucosterol

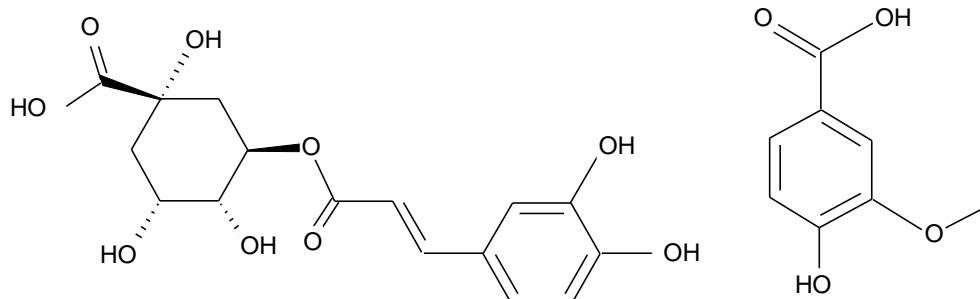
### ( $\beta$ -Sitosterol glucoside)

**Fig. (4) continued: Selected examples of phytosterols reported in genus *Artemisia* L.**



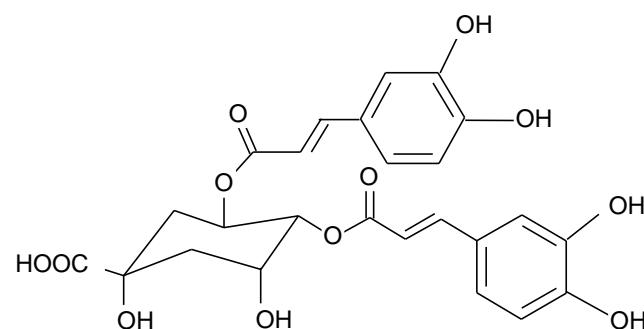
Name	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>
<b>Quercetin</b>	OH	H	H	OH	H
<b>Rutin</b>	O-Glc-Rha	H	H	OH	H
<b>Kaempferol-3-O-Glucoside</b>	O-Glc	H	H	H	H
<b>Isorhamnetin</b>	OH	H	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H
<b>Isorhamnetin-3-O-galactoside</b>	O-Gal	H	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H
<b>Isorhamnetin-3-O-glucoside</b>	O-Glc	H	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H
<b>Isorhamnetin-3-O-arabinoside</b>	O-Arab	H	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H
<b>Hyperoside</b>	O-Gal	H	H	OH	H
<b>Luteolin</b>	H	H	H	OH	H
<b>Cirsimarinin</b>	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H
<b>Cirsiliol</b>	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	OH	H
<b>Hispidulin</b>	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	H
<b>Luteolin-7-O-Glucoside</b>	H	H	Glc	OH	H
<b>Jaceosidin</b>	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H
<b>Chrysoeriol</b>	H	H	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	H
<b>Arcapillin</b>	H	OCH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	OCH <sub>3</sub>	OH

**Fig. (5 a): Selected examples of flavonoids isolated from genus *Artemisia* L.**

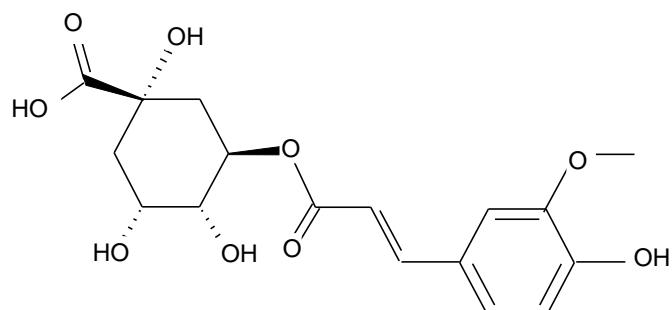


**Chlorogenic acid**

**Vanillic acid**

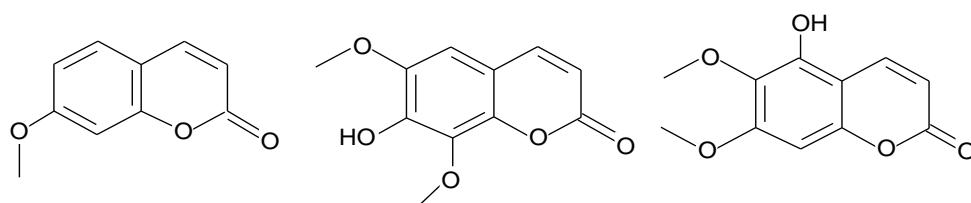


**4,5-Di-O-caffeoylequinic acid**



**3-Feruloylquinic acid**

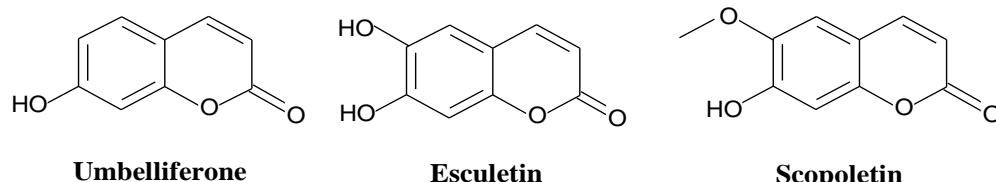
**Fig. (5 b): Selected examples of phenolic acids isolated from genus *Artemisia* L.**



Herniarin

Fraxinol

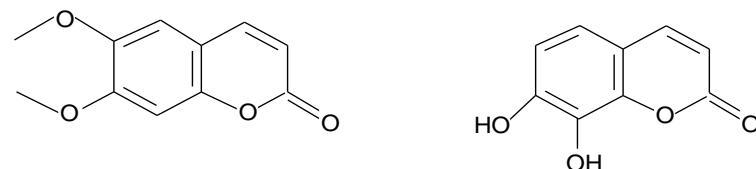
Tomentin



Umbelliferone

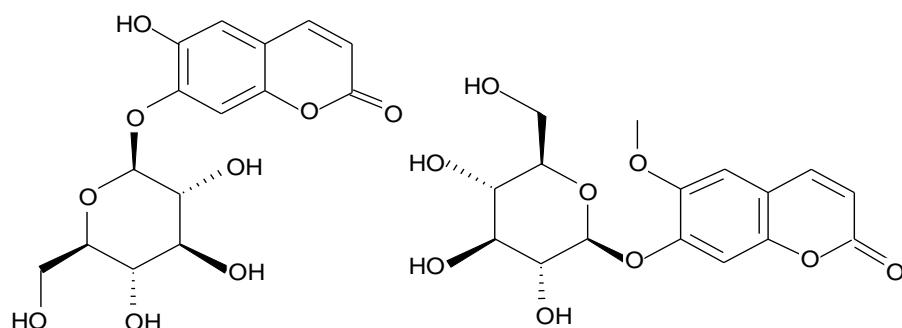
Esculetin

Scopoletin



Scoparone

Daphnetin



Esculin

Scopolin

**Fig. (5 c): Selected examples of coumarins isolated from genus *Artemisia* L.**

Table (6): Reports on biological activities of genus *Artemisia* L.

Author, Date	Species	Plant part	Extract/Compounds	Effect
Foglio et al., 2002	<i>A. annua</i> L.	A. parts	isolated sesquiterpene lactones	Antiulcer
Saleh et al., 2006	<i>A. herba-alba</i> Asso	Leaves	Carvone and piperitone	Antifungal effect
Natividad et al., 2011	<i>A. vulgaris</i> L.	Leaves	Extracts and pure 2,3,4-diepoxy-11(13)-eudesmen-12,8-olide and yomogin	Competitive histamine receptor antagonist
Shehata et al 2015	<i>A. arborescens</i> <i>A. inculta</i> Delile	A.p	Essential oil	Antiradical activity
El-Toumy et al., 2011	<i>A. monosperma</i>	A. p	Extract	Hepatoprotective effect
Al-Soqeer, 2011	<i>A. monosperma</i>	A. p	Extract	Antioxidant Activity.
Ornano et al 2013	<i>A. arborescens</i>	A. p	Essential oil	Antioxidant Activity.
Zengin & Baysal., 2014	<i>A. absinthium</i> (Turkey)	A. p	Essential oil	Antimicrobial and antioxidant effect
Favero et al., 2014	<i>A. annua</i> L.	A. p	Major Sesquiterpene lactone fractions	Anti-inflammatory effect
Talbi et al., 2015	<i>A. herba-alba</i> Asso	A. p	Isolated Sesquiterpene lactones	Antimicrobial effect
El-Tantawy WH (2015)	<i>A. vulgaris</i>	A. p	Extract	Anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antihyperlipidemic effects
Janacković et al 2015	<i>A. judaica</i> ; <i>A. herba-alba</i> ; <i>A. arborescens</i> (Libya)	A. p	Essential oils	Antimicrobial and antioxidant effect
Abushwereb et al 2016	<i>A. herba alba</i>	leaves	Extracts	Anti-ulcerative effect
Dabe et al 2017	<i>Artemisia species</i>		Extracts	Antidiabetic effect
El Zalabani et al 2017	<i>A. monosperma</i> (Libya)	A. p	Essential oil	Remarkable growth inhibitory potential against <i>S. aureus</i> , and with best efficiency as antifungal. Moreover, high potency as anti-inflammatory agents
Rahiminejad et al., 2018	<i>A. absinthium</i>	A. p	Hydroalcoholic extract	Anti-leishmania activity

Czechowski et al 2019	<i>Artemisia annua</i>	A. p	Flavonoids artemisinin	Antimalarial effect
Dib et al 2019	<i>A.campestris L.</i>	A. p	Extracts	Antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial effects
Zayyat et al., 2018	<i>A. monosperma</i>	A. p	Extracts	Antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effect
Batiha, G et al 2020	<i>A. absinthium</i>		Extract	Antiprotozoal activities
ABenkhaled et al 2020	<i>A.absinthium (Algeria)</i>	A.p	Essential oil	Antioxidant effect
Rameilah et al 2021	<i>A. monosperma (Northern region of Saudi Arabia)</i>	A. p	Essential oil	Antioxidant and cytotoxic effects
Jaradat et al 2022	<i>A. arborescens Palestinia)</i>		Essential oil	Antimicrobial and anticancer effects
Agrawal et al 2022	<i>A. annua</i>	A. p	Artemisinin and its derivatives	Showed promising effects against both COVID-19 and (SARS-CoV-2) infection.
Pozdnyakov et al 2022	<i>A.scoparia</i>	A. p	Ethaolic extract	local anti-inflammatory effect
Nida et al 2023	<i>A. monosperma</i>	A. p	Chloroform extract	Anicancer
Singh et al 2023	<i>A. vulgaris</i>	Leaves	Essential oil	Antimicrobial
Bendifallah et al 2023	<i>A.campestris</i>	A. p	Essential oil	Antimicrobial
Neagu et al 2023	<i>A. vulgaris and A. absinthium</i>	A. p	Extracts	Antidiabetic and Anti-Inflammatory
Mashraqi et al., 2024	<i>A. absinthium L. and A. herba-alba</i> Asso.	Entire plant	Extracts by using variety of solvents	Antimicrobial inhibitor agents.
Milutinović, N. (2024)	<i>A. absinthium, and A. vulgaris</i>	Cultivated plant	Essential oil	<i>A. vulgaris</i> a strongest antifungal
Giweli et al 2025	<i>A. herba-alba (Libya)</i>		Essential oil	Antibacterial activity against (MRSA) and anticancer
Cherfi et al 2025	<i>A.campestris</i>	A. parts	Essential oil	Antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer properties.
Bou Malhab et al 2025	<i>A. herba-alba</i>	A. parts	Ethaolic extract	Anticancer

### Anticancer potential of Artemisia

The cytotoxic (*in-vitro* as well as *in-vivo*) activity of different species of *Artemisia* have been evaluated in different studies against several cell lines, and it has been recognized that the species exhibited distinguished antitumor effects, mostly owing to their various groups of bioactive substances acting by different molecular pathways. These results were widely documented in scientific publications (Gordanian et al 2014)

In early research, the methanolic extract of the aerial part of *A. arborescens* L., *A. absinthium* L., *A. scoparia* Waldst&Kit, *A. campestris* L., and *A. vulgaris* L were evaluated by (sura et al 2011) for their *invitro* antiproliferative potency. The findings demonstrated a promising activity, particularly against HeLa (cell lines of human cervical cancer), MCF7 (breast cancer cell line) and A549 (human cell line of lung cancer). Furthermore, *A. scoparia* Waldst&Kit exhibited the highest activity against HeLa and MCF7, whereas *A. absinthium* L showed a selective impact against MCF7.

*Artemisia absinthium*, is one of the reported Libyan *Artemisia*, has gained notable attention for its promising anticancer potency, explained by its distinct phytochemical profile. These findings are supported by the promoted preclinical studies. (Shafi 2012) evaluated the effectiveness of the crud extract of the aerial part of *A. absinthium* against MCF7. Antiproliferative activity of the extract was arbitrated to the apoptosis induction in the cells through the modulation of Bcl-2 proteins and the inhibition of MEK/ERK pathway which is over activated in several cancer types.

Other research performed by (Nazeri et al 2020) designed to measure anticancer effect of *A. absinthium* methanolic extract against

colorectal cancer cell line by using (MTT) method. The results revealed that the extract has a considerable cytotoxic effect and remarkably activate cell cycle arrest and reduces viability of cells of cancer.

Additional study has also shown that *A. absinthium* leaf the methanolic extract possessed antiproliferative potential against human liver cancer cell lines hepatoma-derived (Huh7) by inducing the transcription level of transforming growth factor-beta (TGF- $\beta$ 1) which lead to a significant suppression of cell growth activity and accelerate the apoptosis (Sohail et al 2023).

Recently, the synergistic potency of combining cisplatin with *A. absinthium* extract on Calu-6 human lung cancer cells was evaluated using MTT assay. The finding demonstrated that the combined regimen considerably reduced cell viability and growth, while also promote apoptosis. This enhanced effect could be attributed to the bioactive ingredients of *A. absinthium*, such as artemisinin, thujone and may minimize the adverse effects of cisplatin (Yazdani et al 2022).

The study of the flavonoids fraction of *A. absinthium* L against the cervical cancer activity showed a promising potency. Furthermore, the results found that the apoptosis could be promoted in colon cancer cells through the mitochondrial pathway activation as a major mechanism by utilizing the extracts of *A. absinthium* L. moreover, cynaroside and Astragalin displayed a significant dose-dependent increase of the rate of apoptosis in HeLa cells. Additionally, the final finding showed that the apoptotic effect of both Cynaroside and Astragalin may be linked to the overproduction intracellular of ROS in the cancer cells, (He et al (2023).

According to a recent study on oral cancer, particularly the prevalent type (oral squamous cell carcinomas). The *in vitro*

cytotoxic assay of *A. absinthium* extract showed a significant decrease of cancer cells viability by 99% and increase in of caspase 3 and 9 expression with no affect of healthy human periodontal ligament stem cells (tsamesidis et al 2024). Collectively, the anticancer effect of *A. absinthium* might be recognized to high concentration of sesquiterpene lactone aremisinin alongside to numerous classes of phenolic compounds including the flavonoids and phenolic acids as well as the essential oils (Hussain et al 2017; Roohnavaz et al 2025).

one of the morphologically distinguished *Artemisia* species is *Artemisia arborescens* L. which characterized by silver to grey leaves and an essential oil highly enriched chmazuelene and comphor with mint and woody odour (Michelakis et al 2016).

Antiproliferative potential of the aerial parts oil of *A. arborescens* was evaluated using MTT method against various human cancer cell lines. The results indicated that human malignant melanoma and colon carcinoma were prominently affected. The cytotoxic activity of the oil may be due to the chief constituents, particularly thujone and chamazulene (Ornano et al 2013).

Moreover, *A. arborescens* essential oil was assayed for its cytotoxic activity against human malignant melanoma cell lines in vitro. As supposed, the antiproliferative effect of the oil mainly due to the inhibition of Hsp70 (Heat Shock Protein 70 kDa) expression, the main responsibility of this protein is to arrest apoptosis and promote cancer cells survive (Russo et al 2020).

Antitumor effect of *Artemisia campestris* extracts and essential oil was investigated against a human cell line of colon carcinoma (HT-29). Based on the results, the oil revealed the highest activity and followed by the ethanolic water extract. Myrcene,  $\beta$ -pinene, limonene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, and germacrene D, were the principal constituents of the oil, while the activity of ethanolic-water and

water infusion extract could be attributed to the phenolic acids and flavonoid contents (Akrout et al 2011).

Other study of Cytotoxicity assays conducted by Limam et al (2024) revealed that both methanolic and ethyl acetate extracts of *A. campestris* L exerted a significant inhibitory impact on multiple myeloma and metastatic breast cancer. By inducing the apoptotic and necrotic cell death and ultimately leading to an S phase cell cycle blockage.

The in silico molecular docking study revealed that the essential oil of *A. campestris* exhibited as suggested potent anticancer activity against pancreatic cancer and showed a robust binding affinity to phosphoinositide 3-kinase gamma. These findings highlighting its anticancer properties (Cherfi et al 2025).

Bou Malhab et al (2025) showed that the methanolic extract of *A. herba-alba* exhibited cytotoxicity against colorectal cancer cell line (CRC) via multiple mechanisms. It stimulated apoptosis and significantly arrested cell cycle (phase G2-M) in CRC cells, with reducing the expression of both Cyclin B1 and CDK1. Additionally, it also inhibited the signals of PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway involved in cancer progression. Based on these consequences, *A. herba-alba* can be considered as the promising and a valuable natural resource of anticancer treatments.

Recent study revealed that the methanolic extract of the shoots of *A. judaica* has a considerable cytotoxic potency against different types of cell lines of cancer, such as liver, colon and breast cancer compared with vinblastine as a reference drug. The results reported that the maximum activity was showed against liver HepG2 cells, specifically through several pathways including caspase pathway activation and inducing apoptosis. Moreover, the plant extract demonstrated more selectivity the

cancer cells than normal cells (Younes et al 2022).

Cytotoxic evaluation of the essential oils obtained from the leaves of *A. judaica* displayed dose-dependent activity on cervical adenocarcinoma and liver cancer cells. The anticancer potency of the oil may be linked to the major constituents artemisia ketone, artemisia triene and piperitone (Qneibi et al 2025).

Similarly, other *in vivo* study published recently (Zidane et al 2025) examined the impact of the combination of *A. judaica* extract with triazole derivative against lung cancer in mice. Immunohistochemical examination revealed a synergistic potential using both *A. judaica* and 1,2,4-triazole derivatives (TRI) through promoting apoptosis mechanism and regulating caspase-3 and caspase-7 activity. Additionally, they elevate ROS level which induce mitochondrial trigger mitochondrial damage and apoptosis and significantly decrease in TNF- $\alpha$  expression.

*Artemisia inculta* Delile is another *Artemisia* species native to Libya. The researches of this species with in Libya is completely absent, mostly because it was registered in the flora of Libya encyclopedia as *Artemisia herba-alba* and recently classified as *Artemisia herba-alba* var. *densiflora* Boiss according to POWO (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 2024).which is heterotypic synonum of *A. inculta* Delile. As a result of this change, the published for its data anticancer potential from Libya appear to be absent or not recognized to the present.

Additionally, regarding the anticancer potency of *Artemisia* essential oil, another species found in Libya, *A. monosperma*, has also reported to display remarkable cytotoxic activity against human promyelocytic leukaemia cell lines (Romeilah et al 2021).

Recent study conducted (Farshori et al 2023) displayed that the chloroform extract *A. monosperma* showing a significant reduction of cell viability of human colorectal carcinoma and induced apoptotic pathway by down regulating antiapoptotic genes and upregulate proapoptotic genes.

As well, the cultivated *Artemisia* species showed a notable anticancer potency. Among the different parts of *A. vulgaris*, the flower methanolic extract displayed the highest cytotoxic activity in the breast cancer cell line (MCF7) (gordanian et al 2014).

Other study showed that the aqueous extract of *A. vulgaris* exhibited a significant cytotoxic activity on colorectal cancer cells only after long-term exposure via apoptosis induction and demonstrated a synergistic activity when it combined with mitomycin C (Jakovljević et al 2023).

Finally, one of the most famous taxa of genus *Artemisia* is *Artemisia annua* L. which has been extensively studied over several decades for its chemistry and biological activity. To date, more than 600 compounds were completely isolated and identified from all parts of the plant, moreover some of them showed a potent anticancer effect and deserve further analysis for their mechanism of action and pharmacokinetic pattern (Sun et al 2025). Artemisinin is a lead component among the bioactive ingredients of *A. annua* L.. Advanced researches was performed on this remarkable molecule, leading to the development of a several derivatives including DHA, artesunate and artemether (Marwa et al 2022). It is essential to note that the anticancer activity of these group of compounds due to the structure similarity (The endoperoxide bridge) responsible for over production of ROS. The accumulation of ROS lead to cell cycle arrest, apoptotic and non-apoptotic cell death induction and angiogenesis inhibition, (Sun et al 2025).

Recent study approved this theory and demonstrated a direct correlation between the endoperoxide bridge of artimisinin and its anticancer activity in breast cancer cell lines MCF-7 (Shao 2021). Regrettably, despite the notable antitumor potency of *A. annua* components, the clinical trials have observed that prolonged oral administration of *A. annua* may be associated with an increase in prostate specific antigens PSA in patient with prostate cancer. This finding suggests the development of drug resistance in cancer cells toward *A. annua* treatments. Moreover, the anticancer activity of *A. annua* faced another challenges of insufficient pharmacotoxicological data on chronic exposure, in addition to pharmacokinetic and toxicological data, concerning the short-term effects of high doses also required to cover importantly (Kolesar et al 2022).

### Conclusion

Numerous ailments including cancer, have been conventionally and ethnopharmacologically addressed with *Artemisia* and its associated phytochemicals. *Artemisia* represent a valuable source of natural bioactive compounds, such as polyphenols, lactones, coumarins and essential oils. The biological studies indicate that *Artemisia* species exhibit a wide range

of pharmacological activities, including antineoplastic, antimalarial, antispasmodic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, antiepileptic, and analgesic properties. Although, chronic use of the plant may associated with adverse effects, whereas acute toxicity studies generally indicate that the plant is nontoxic or minimally toxic.

Important to know, Despite the promising results, the translation of *Artemisia*-based products into clinically approved anticancer therapies faces a several gabs. Limitations related to how to achieve the standard dose with optimum bioavailability. Furthermore, the study of the toxicity associated with long-term use has not adequately investigated. Therefore, future research should focus on comprehensive pharmacological characterization, mechanistic elucidation, safety evaluation, and well-designed clinical investigations to validate the efficacy and safety of *Artemisia*-derived compounds. Addressing these limitations is essential for the rational integration of *Artemisia* constituents into evidence-based cancer therapeutic

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