

The notes below are excerpted from an old project on Leguminosae chemistry that was never completed.

All entries are still very rough and only semi-completed but it has been suggested this is of value to put online pending its completion.

Table of contents

Mucuna spp.	2
Mucuna andreana	3
Mucuna aterrima	4
Mucuna cochinchinensis	5
Mucuna deeringiana	6
Mucuna birdwoodiana	7
Mucuna holtonii	9
Mucuna mutisiana	10
Mucuna pruriens	11
Mucuna sloani	16
Mucuna urens	17
Mucuna utilis	18
References	19

Mucuna spp.

L-DOPA

In defatted air dried seed meal

Mucuna sp. (Georgia) 3.1% L-Dopa

Mucuna sp. (Japan) 4.4% L-Dopa

Daxenbichler et al. 1971

Mucuna andreana

L-Dopa

M. andreana (Costa Rica) excluding seed coat

wt of whole seed (gm)	% L-Dopa
-----------------------	----------

6.0	6.3
-----	-----

7.6	8.9
-----	-----

9.4	6.9
-----	-----

Bell and Janzen 1971

(—)-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-H⁴-isoquinoline

Menachery et al.

citing

EA Bell, Nulu & Cone 1971 *Phytochemistry* 10: 2191-2194

and

Saito et al 1982 *Phytochemistry* 21: 474

Brazil: dried stems & roots

Reported allantoin, beta-sitosterol, daucosterol, stigmasterol, stigmasterol D-glycoside. Also mixtures of fatty acids and triacylglycerols.

Extract showed nematocidal activity.

Barbosa et al. 1999.

Mucuna aterrima

(all defatted air dried seed meal

% L-Dopa

5.0

Mexico

4.3

Florida

4.4

Colombia

4.6

Costa Rica

4.7

Nigeria

Daxenbuchler et al. 1971

Mucuna cochinchinensis

Performed a generic phytochemical analysis without compound identifications.

Murthy et al. 2016

The fruits produced 0.96% L-dopa in an earlier work.

citing

Anonymous. 2006. The Wealth of India- Raw Materials. First Suppl Ser. NISCAIR; 166-167.

Mucuna deeringiana

(USA & Argentina)

Has several non-protein amino acids

Hegart & Peterson

(—)-1-Methyl-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-H⁴-isoquinoline

Menachery et al 1986

citing

Daxenbichler et al 1972 Tetrahedron Letters 1801

and

(—)-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-H⁴-isoquinoline

Menachery et al 1986

citing

EA Bell, Nulu & Cone 1971 Phytochemistry 10: 2191-2194

Mucuna birdwoodiana

In stem bark:

3'-methoxycoumestrol

formononetin

genisten

8-O-methylretusin

7, 3'-dihydroxy-5'-methoxyisoflavone

chrysophanol

syringaresinol

epifriedelanol

lupeol

Gong et al. 2010 *Zhongguo Zhong yao za zhi*, 35(13):1720-2

Isolated from the stems..

Structures elucidated through spectral analysis.

A novel coumarin (mucodianin A)

three new 2-arylbenzofurans (mucodianins B-D)

four known 2-arylbenzofurans

First report of 7-quinonylcoumarin as stable form in a natural product.

Gong et al 2010 *Chemical & Pharmaceutical Bulletin*, 58(2), 254–256.

Two new isoflavone glycosides from stem

mucodianins E (retusin 7-O-beta-D-xylopyranosyl-(1 → 6)-beta-D-glucopyranoside)

mucodianins F (8-O-methylretusin 7-O-beta-D-xylopyranosyl-(1 → 6)-beta-D-glucopyranoside)

Gong et al 2010 *Journal of Asian Natural Products Research*, 12(3), 199–203.

Stems gave four triterpene sapogenols after hydrolysis and methylation.

The same extract gave four triterpene glycosides after methylation.

Basing their identifications on spectral analysis, they reported:

methyl asiate,

methyl maslinate

methyl 1 β ,2 α ,3 β ,23-tetrahydroxyolean-12-en 28-oate (mucunagenin a)

the urs-12-en isomer (mucunagenin b)

3-O-(6-O-methyl- β -D-glucuronopyranosyl) methyl asiate

3-O-[α -L-arabinopyranosyl(1 → 2)]-6-O-methyl- β -D-glucuronopyranosyl methyl maslinate

3-O-[α -l-arabinopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)]-6-O-methyl- β -d-glucuronopyranosyl
methyl asiatate

3-O-(6-O-methyl- β -d-glucuronopyranosyl) asiatic acid 28-O- β -d-glucopy-
ranoside.

Ding et al. 1991

Mucuna holtonii

M. holtonii excluding seed coat

wt of whole seed (gm)	% L-Dopa
-----------------------	----------

6.8	6.4
-----	-----

6.2	7.5
-----	-----

Bell and Janzen 1971

Guatemala

6.7% L-Dopa (defatted air-dried seed meal)

Purported to have the highest level of genus

Daxenbichler et al. 1971

(—)-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-H⁴-isoquinoline

Menachery et al 1986

citing

EA Bell, Nulu & Cone 1971 *Phytochemistry* 10: 2191-2194

Mucuna mutisiana

L-Dopa (also the isoquinoline)

seeds 3.9% yield

Bell, Nulu and Cone 1971

L-Dopa

and

l-3-carboxy 6,7 dihydroxy 1,2,3,4 H⁴ isoquinoline

200 g seeds gave 8 g L Dopa and 4.4 g of the isoquinoline

B Oliver Bever 1983

cited

Bell et al 1971

Colombia

wt of whole seed (gm)

excluding seed coat

7.4

6.8

7.3

6.3

Bell and Janzen 1971

(—)-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-H⁴-isoquinoline

Menachery et al 1986

cited

EA Bell, Nulu & Cone 1971 *Phytochemistry* 10: 2191-2194

Mucuna pruriens

Mucuna pruriens (Linn.) DC

= *Dolichos pruriens* Linn.

= *Mucuna prurita* Hook.

= *Stizolobium pruriens* (Linn.) Medic.

ICMR 1987 Medicinal Plants of India vol. 2, p. 282-289.

cowhage - cow-itch

5-HT

Mears and Mabry 1971 p. 147

cited

K. Bowden et al 1954 Nature London 174, 925

Serotonin in trichomes (stinging hairs) on pods.

Ghosal et al 1971 Planta Medica 19: 279-284:

&

Gibbs 1974

&

Stowe 1959

Also B Oliver-Bever 1983 J Ethnopharm 1-93

who cited

Broadbent 1953

&

Bowden et al 1954

Colombia

wt of whole seed (gm)

0.4

0.4

Bell and Janzen 1971

% L-Dopa

excluding seed coat

6.4

5.9

L-Dopa

1.5% of seed wt

Bell and Janzen 1971

also Bell, Nulu and Cone 1971

also ICMR 1987 Medicinal Plants of India vol. 2, p. 282-289.

cited

Damodaran and Ramaswamy 1937 Biochem J 31: 2149.

L-Dopa

4% crude weight

Cultivation and Utilization of Medicinal Plants

(–)-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-H⁴-isoquinoline

Menachery et al 1986

citing

EA Bell, Nulu & Cone 1971 *Phytochemistry* 10: 2191-2194

Indole alkylamines

Hofmann and Schultes 1980

cited

Bhattacharya 1971 *Ind. J. Physiol. Allied Sci* 25(2): 53-56

DMT root, stem-leaf, pod

DMT-N-oxide root, stem

5-MeO-DMT root, stem

Serotonin trichomes

Bufotenine root, stem-leaf, pod

6-Methoxyharman stem-leaf

Ghosal 1972 *Planta Medica* 200-209

DMT-N-oxide leaf/stem/seed

Choline leaf/stem/seed

Ghosal, Banerjee, Banerjee 1970 *Phytochem*

6-Methoxy-1-methyl-9*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole

6-Methoxyharman

Allen and Holmstedt 1980

cited

116

Serotonin

5-MeO-DMT

DMT

DMT-N-oxide

Bufotenine

leaf/stem/flower

Smith 1977b

cited

74 Bhattacharya

and

75 Ghosal

In seeds:

mucunine

mucinadine

ICMR 1987 Medicinal Plants of India vol. 2, p. 282-289.

cited

Mehta and Majumdar 1944 Indian J Pharm 6: 92

and

Santra and Majumdar 1953 Indian J Pharm 15: 60

prurienine

ICMR 1987 Medicinal Plants of India vol. 2, p. 282-289.

cited

Majumdar and Zalani 1953 Indian J Pharm 5: 62

5 indolic compounds

2 of which were tryptamine and 5HT

ICMR 1987 Medicinal Plants of India vol. 2, p. 282-289.

cited

Pant and Joshi 1970 Indian J Pharmacol 2: 24

Different parts (except trichomes of pods)

4 indole alkylamines:

DMT

DMT-N-oxide

bufotenine

5-MeO-DMT

plus 2 unidentified 5-oxy-indole-3-alkylamines

choline in all parts

trichomes of pods= onlt 5HT

ICMR 1987 Medicinal Plants of India vol. 2, p. 282-289.

cited

Ghosal and Singh 1970 2nd Soviet Symp Chem Nat Prod incl Pharmacology

and

Ghosal et al 1971 Planta Medica 19: 279

From fresh leaves

DMT 0.01%

DMT-N-oxide 0.003%

5-MeO-DMT 0.01%

Chloroform soluble bases:

unidentified beta carboline

unidentified 5-oxy-indol-3-alkylamine

choline in all parts

Water soluble base:

unidentified indole-3-alkylamine

Ghosal et al 1971 *Planta Medica* 19: 279-284:

In micrograms/gm.

Part	Bufotenine	5-MeO-DMT	
Seeds (Malawi)	1.2	0.63	(also saw tryptamine)

Szabo 2003

See also Szabo & Tebbett 2002.

Indole alkyl amines

Hofmann and Schultes 1980

cited

Bhattacharya 1971

Mucuna pruriens

6-methoxyharman

stem-leaf

ICMR 1987 *Medicinal Plants of India* vol. 2, p. 282-289.

cited

Ghosal 1972 *Planta Medica* 21: 200

In seed oil:

stearic acid

palmitic acid

myristic acid

arachidic acid

oleic acid

linoleic acid

a sterol

ICMR 1987 *Medicinal Plants of India* vol. 2, p. 282-289.

cited

Mehta and Majumdar 1944 Indian J Pharm 6: 92

also

cis-12,13-epoxyoctadec-trans-9-enoic acid

cis-12,13-epoxyoctadec-cis-9-enoic acid (vernolic acid)

ICMR 1987 Medicinal Plants of India vol. 2, p. 282-289.

cited

Hasan et al 1980 J India Chem Soc 57: 920

Beans used in aphrodisiac and for seminal weakness and impotency.

Roots and twigs used in certain magical curing.

Pushpangadan and Atal 1984

Leaf infusion for scorpion stings.

Seed decoction for snake bite and scorpion stings

1990 J. Ethnopharm 29(2): p 148

Leaf used for snake bite

Houghton & Osibogun 1993

cited

Houghton & Skari 1992

Also see:

Bell et al. 1971

Ghosal et al 1971b

Majumdar and Zalani 1953

Mucuna sloani

wt of whole seed (gm)	excluding seed coat % L-Dopa
2.9	8.7%
3.5	9.0%
Bell and Janzen 1971	

(—)-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-H⁴-isoquinoline

Menachery et al.

citing

EA Bell, Nulu & Cone 1971 *Phytochemistry* 10: 2191-2194

Mucuna urens

air-dried defatted seed meal
(Florida)

5.2% L-Dopa

wt of whole seed (gm)

excluding seed coat % L-Dopa

6.3

6.4%

4.8

7.4%

Daxenbichler et al 1971

Root used for snake bite

Houghton & Osibogun 1993

cited

Houghton & Skari 1992

(—)-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-H⁴-isoquinoline

Menachery et al.

cited

EA Bell, Nulu & Cone 1971 *Phytochemistry* 10: 2191-2194

Mucuna utilis

L-Dopa

seeds 0.24%

IMCR 1987 Med Plants of India vol 2

cited

Ghosh 1982 Indian Drugs 20: 24

As *Mucuna pruriens* var. *utilis*

Indolealkylamines were reported in assorted plant parts (in micrograms/gm).

Part	Bufotenine	5-MeO-DMT	
Leaves	8.29	2.73	(also saw tryptamine)
Pods	<0.5	1.29	
Roots	5.96	1.76	
Seeds (Nord 98)	1.46	0.34	
Seeds (IITA 98)	1.25	0.39	
Stems	5.05	2.04	

Szabo 2003

See also Szabo & Tebbett 2002. in BM Flores et al (eds) *Mucuna* as a Food and Feed: Current Uses and the Way Forward, pages 120-141. The Chemistry and Toxicity of *Mucuna* Species.

References

- Anon 2006. The Wealth of India: Raw Materials. First Suppl Ser.; 166-167.
- Barbosa, L. C. A., F. F. Barcelos, A.J. Demuner, M. A. Santos. 1999. Nematropica, 29: 81-88. Chemical constituents from *Mucuna aterrima* with activity against *Meloidogyne incognita* and *Heterodera glycines*.
- Bell EA, & D. H. Janzen 1971. Medicinal and ecological consideration of l-Dopa and 5-HTP in seeds. *Nature* 229:136–137.
- Bell EA, Nulu JR, Cone C 1971. I DOPA and L-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline, a new imino acid, from seeds of *Mucuna mutisiana*. *Phytochemistry* 10: 2191–2194.
- Bhattacharya, S.K. et al. 1971. *Indian Journal of Physiology* 25 (2): 53-56. “Investigations on the hallucinogenic activity of indole alkylamines isolated from *Mucuna pruriens* DC.”
- Brain KR 1979. Accumulation of L-DOPA in cultures from *Mucuna pruriens*. *Plant Sci Letters* 7: 157–161.
- Damodaran M, Ramaswami R 1937. Isolation of L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine from the seeds of *Mucuna pruriens*. *Biochem J* 31: 2149–2152.
- Daxenbichler, M. E. , C. H. Etten, E. A. Van Hallman, F. R. Earle, and A. S. Barclay 1971. Seeds as sources of l-Dopa. *Med. Chem* 14:463–465.
- Daxenbichler ME, Kleiman R, Weisleder D, Etten CH van, Carlson KD 1972. A new amino acid, (–)-1-methyl-3-carboxy-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline, from velvet beans. *Tetrahedron Letters*, 18: 1801–1802.
- Ding, Y., Kinjo, J., Yang, C.-R., Nohara, T. 1991. *Phytochemistry*, 30(11): 3703–3707. Triterpenes from *Mucuna birdwoodiana*.
- Duke, James ND. *Phytochemical database*,
An extract is online at, [http://www.raintree.com/db/Mucuna pruriens-phytochem.html](http://www.raintree.com/db/Mucuna_pruriens-phytochem.html).
Dr. Duke's data needs viewing with caution as it often references itself rather than the sources of its information. If Dr. Duke performed the work

this is acceptable but in a number of instances errors are perpetuated in this database with no means of learning more about their origin.

Ghosal, S. et al. 1970. *Phytochemistry* 9: 429-433. A General Method for the Isolation of Naturally Occurring Water Soluble Bases. (S. Ghosal, P.K. Banerjee & S.K. Banerjee)

Ghosal and Singh 1970 2nd Soviet Symp Chem Nat Prod incl Pharmacology

Ghosal, S & [+ Singh, S?] SK Bhattacharya, SK 1971. *Planta Medica*, 19(3): 279-284. Alkaloids of *Mucuna pruriens*. Chemistry and pharmacology.

Ghosal, Shibnath 1972. *Planta Medica* 21 (2): 200-209. "Occurrence of psychodelic [sic] substances in some Indian Medicinal Plants."

Gong, T., Wang, D.-X., Yang, Y., Liu, P., Chen, R.-Y., & Yu, D.-Q. 2010. *Chemical & Pharmaceutical Bulletin*, 58(2): 254–256. A Novel 3-Arylcoumarin and Three New 2-Arylbenzofurans from *Mucuna birdwoodiana*.

Gong, T., Zhang, T., Wang, D.-X., Liu, P., Chen, R.-Y., & Yu, D.-Q. 2010. *Journal of Asian Natural Products Research*, 12(3): 199–203. Two new isoflavone glycosides from *Mucuna birdwoodiana*.

Gong, Ting et al. 2010. *Zhongguo Zhong yao za zhi* [AKAZhongguo zhongyao zazhi or China journal of Chinese materia medica], 35(13): 1720-1722. Chemical constituents of stem barks of *Mucuna birdwoodiana*.

Gupta M, Mazumder U K, Chakraborti S, Bhattacharya S, Rath N and Bhawal S R 1997 Antiepileptic and anticancer activity of some indigenous plants. *Indian Journal of Physiology and Allied Science* 51: 53-56.

Hasan, S.Q. , M.R.K. Sherwani, I. Ahmad, F. Ahmad and S.M. Osman. 1980 Epoxy acids of *Mucuna prurita* seed oil. *J. Indian Chem Soc.* 57(9): 920-923 1980.

Houghton, P. J., & Osibogun, I. M. 1993. Flowering plants used against snakebite. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 39(1), 1–29.

Houghton, P.J. and Skari, K. 1992. The effect of Indian plants used against snakebite on blood clotting. *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* 44, 1054.

Huizing HJ, Wijnsma R, Batterman S, Malingré ThM and Wichers HJ 1985. Production of L-DOPA by cell suspension cultures of *Mucuna pruriens*. Part I. Initiation and maintenance of cell suspension cultures of *Mucuna pruriens* and identification of L-DOPA. *Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture* 4: 61–73.

ICMR 1987 Medicinal Plants of India vol. 2, p. 282-289.

Majumdar, D.N. & C.D. Zalani. 1953. *Mucuna pruriens*, D.C. Alkaloidal constituents Part III. Isolation of water soluble alkaloids and a study of their chemical and physiological characteristics. *Indian J. Pharm.* 15: 62-65.

Mehta, J.C. & D.N. Majumdar. 1944 Indian medicinal plants. Part V. *Mucuna pruriens* bark. (N.O. Papilionaceae) Part I. *Indian J pharm.* 6: 92-95.

Miller ER 1920. Dihydroxyphenylalanine, a constituent of the velvet bean. *J Biol Chem* 44: 481–486.

Misra, L. & H. Wagner. 2006. Lipid derivatives from *Mucuna pruriens* seeds. *Indian Journal of Chemistry Section B* 45(3): 801-804.

Misra, L. & H. Wagner. 2004. Alkaloidal constituents of *Mucuna pruriens* seeds. *Phytochemistry* 65(18): 2565-2567.

Murthy, S. N. et al. 2016. *IOSR Journal of Biotechnology and Biochemistry (IOSR-JBB)*, 2(2): 1-10. In vitro Physico-chemical, Phytochemical and Fluorescence Assessment of *Mucuna* sps.

Niranjan, G.S. & S.K. Katuyar. 1979. Chemical composition of some legumes. *J. Indian. Chem. Soc.* 56: 822-823.

Pant, R., C. Rajagopalan Nair, K.S. Singh and G.S. Koshti. 1974 Amino acid composition of some wild legumes. *Curr Sci.* 43: 235-239.

Pushpangadan, P., & Atal, C. K. 1984. Ethno-medico-botanical investigations in Kerala I. Some primitive tribals of western ghats and their herbal medicine. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 11(1), 59–77.

Remmen SFA and Ellis BE 1980. DOPA synthesis in non-producer cultures of *Mucuna deeringiana*. *Phytochem* 19: 1421–1423.

Santra, D.K. & D.N. Majumdar. 1953. The *Mucuna pruriens* D.C. Part II. Isolation of water soluble alkaloids. *Indian J pharm.* 15: 60-61.

Smith, TA 1977. Tryptamine and related compounds in plants. *Phytochemistry*, 16(2), 171–175.

Szabo, N. J. 2003. Tropical and Subtropical Agroecosystems, 1(2-3): 295-307. Indolealkylamines in *Mucuna* species.

Wichers, H.J., Wijnsma, R., Visser, J.F. *et al.* Production of L-DOPA by cell suspension cultures of *Mucuna pruriens*. *Plant Cell Tiss Organ Cult* **4**, 75–82 1985. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00041658>

Wichers, H.J., Pras, N., Huizing, H.J. 1989. *Mucuna pruriens*: In Vitro Production of L-DOPA. In: Bajaj, Y.P.S. (eds) *Medicinal and Aromatic Plants II. Biotechnology in Agriculture and Forestry*, vol 7. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-73617-9_19

Wichers, H.J., Visser, J.F., Huizing, H.J. *et al.* Occurrence of L-DOPA and dopamine in plants and cell cultures of *Mucuna pruriens* and effects of 2,4-D and NaCl on these compounds. *Plant Cell Tiss Organ Cult* **33**, 259–264 1993.

Vaish S, Sharma S, Sudarsanan S, Choudhary S, Singh JM, Khosla N. *Mucuna pruriens* (Konch Beej) precipitates manic symptoms. *J Mental Health Hum Behav* [serial online] 2014 [cited 2023 Jan 25];19:85-6. Available from: <https://www.jmhbb.org/text.asp?2014/19/2/85/153717>
10.4103/0971-8990.153717