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Natural Phenolics as Antiviral Agents

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Abstract : Viral diseases, such as influenza diseases, are the main reasons of death in humans all over the world, despite the fast progress in human medicine. The lack of effective therapies and/or vaccines for several viral infections, and the rapid emergence of new drug-resistant viruses have led to find out effective chemotherapeutic agents to deal these viral diseases. Recent advances in the understanding of both the cellular and molecular mechanisms of virus replication have provided the basis for novel therapeutic strategies. Many natural products such as phenolic compounds have received great attention for screening and identifying antiviral activity, and some have been shown to have great medicinal value in preventing viral diseases. There are several potentially useful medicinal plants and herbs waiting to be evaluated and exploited for therapeutic applications against genetically and functionally diverse virus families. This review focuses on influenza viruses and antiviral phenolic compounds from medicinal plants (herbs), while paying particular attention to promising compounds in preclinical and clinical trials.

Keywords: Antiviral agents, influenza, phenolic compounds.

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