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HPTLC Fingerprinting of *Medicago sativa* root extract as a Quality Control Parameter

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Abstract:*Medicago sativa* Linn.is known as the "father of all foods" (al-fal-fa). *Medicago sativa* used inAyurvedic, Homoeopathic and Chinesesystem of medicine in central nervous, digestivesystem disorders, and for the treatment of various otherailments.The present work focuses on developing a simple HPTLC fingerprint of*Medicagosativa*rootextract.Successive maceration was donein increasing order of polarity andtoluene, chloroform, methanol and water extracts were prepared.Methanolroot extract was used to develop a suitable mobile phase forfingerprinting.Mobile phase development involvedseveral pilot TLC. The mobile phase showing distinct spots in TLC was found to be Chloroform: Methanol: Ethyl acetate (1:5:5). It was further subjected to HPTLC fingerprinting whereR_f and Area Under Curve were calculated. HPTLC fingerprinting showed8 peaks at 254nm and 6 peaks at 366nm. This work provides a simple technique for standardization and detection of adulteration of *Medicagosativa*rootextract and preparations, consumed by people for treatment of various disease conditions.

Keywords: Alfalfa, *Medicago sativa*, HPTLC, Quality control, Lucerne.

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