# Health benefits of moringa oleifera (Drumstick)

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#### **Abstract**

A significant crop in Asia and Africa is Moringa Oleifera (MO), a member of the Moringaceae family of plants. Because MO is found in substantial quantities in a variety of plant components, including vitamins, phenolic acids, flavonoids, isothiocyanates, tannins, and saponins, it has been investigated for its potential health benefits. The most extensively researched leaves of the Moringa oleifera plant have been found to be effective in treating a number of chronic illnesses, such as cancer, non-alcoholic liver disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, hypercholesterolemia, insulin resistance, and general inflammation. In this review, we summarize the positive outcomes that have been documented for the treatment and prevention of these long-term illnesses in a variety of animal models and in cell research. Additionally discussed is the scant data that is currently available on human research with Moringa oleifera leaves. Overall, the benefits of Moringa oleifera leaves for illnesses like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and fatty liver have been extensively studied.

#### **Keywords**

Moringa oleifera, medicinal use, antitumor, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory.

#### INTRODUCTION

Drumstick (moringa oleifera) is a multipurpose tree belonging to family moringaceae. the tree is mainly native to Sub Himalayan region of north India. But also grown all over the India because they rich source of protein, vitamins and minerals. (1)

Protein	6.7 gm
Vitamin c	220 mg
Iron (Fe)	7 mg
Calcium (Ca)	440 mg

The moringa pods (drumstick) production in India is 1.1 to 1.3 million tonnes which is largest in the world. The largest producer and the largest area both are in Andhra Pradesh followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. It is a continual plant and the pod production can be started after one year. In the first year of cultivation moringa pods are readily edible, but in the

successive year's moringa also bear nonedible bitter pods. It is commercially cultivated plant having big advantages and medicinal values, and therefore now a day it is cultivated under Agroforestry . (2)

## History

Moringa tree is known from 150 B.C. Uses of moringa pods as a vegetable by ancient king and queens to make their skin beautiful. Studies have revealed that there is evidence of Moringa consumption in eighty countries and is known in 200 languages. Not only in India, Moringa is widely used in other cultures like Roman, Greek, Egyptian etc. In ancient times there is reference that the Maurian warriors of India were given the Drumstick leaf juice also known as the Elixer drink. They believed that this juice adds extra energy and is a stress releaser along with a pain reliever which was occurred during the war. (3)

# **Description of drumstick**

• Taxonomic classification of moringa oleifera (4)

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Kingdom		Plantae
Subkingdom		Tracheobionta
Super division		Supermatophtyta
Division		Magnoliophyta
Class		Magnoliopsida
Subclass		Dileniidac
Order		Capparales
Family		Moringaceae
Genus		Moringa
Species		Oleifera

#### **Medicinal use:**

## 1) moringa oleifera leaves

Moringa oleifera leaves treat or prevent mala nutrination.(5) It has been observed that flavonoids including kaempferol and quercetin are the main bioactive components of the phenolic groups found in drumstick leaves. According to reports, clarified butter is prepared in South India using drumstick leaves to extend the product's shelf life. Drumstick leaves include antioxidant chemicals that may contribute to this extension of the clarified butter's shelf life. (6)

#### Chronic disease

# 1) hypolipidemic effect

Moringa oleifera leaves have a wide range of bioactive substances that may affect lipid balance. Flavonoids and phenolic chemicals both have significant roles in the control of lipids. They contribute to the reduction and delay of cholesterol by inhibiting the activity of pancreatic cholesterol esterase. binding and absorbing bile acids, creating insoluble complexes, and accelerating their elimination in the feces, which lowers plasma cholesterol levels. (7)

# 2) Antihypertensive effect

Blood pressure is found to stabilize after drinking moringa leaf juice (The Wealth of India, 1962; Dahot, 1988). blood pressure-lowering action of Moringa leaves was caused by mustard oil glycosides and thiocarbamate glycosides, which were extracted from the plant (Faizi et al., 1994a; 1994b; 1995). The majority of these substances are completely acetylated glycosides, which are extremely uncommon in nature and contain thiocarbamate, carbamate, or nitrile groups (Faizi et al., 1995). Four pure compounds, niazinin A, niazinin B, niazimicin, and niazinin A + B, were isolated from the active ethanol extract of Moringa leaves using bioassay-guided fractionation. These compounds demonstrated a lowering effect on blood pressure in rats, possibly via a calcium antagonist effect (Gilani).(8)

## 3) anti -tumor and anti -cancer effect

Moringa leaves were discovered to be a possible source of anticancer action by Makonnen et al. [1997]. [ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnosyloxy] benzyl carbamate, O-Ethyl-4 in addition to 3-O-[6'-O-oleoyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl], niazimicin, and 4[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnosyloxy]-benzyl isothiocyanateAn in vitro assay was used to assess - $\beta$ -sitosterol's potential antitumor promoting action, and the results demonstrated a strong inhibitory effect on the Epstein-Barr virus early antigen. It has been suggested that niazimicin is a powerful chemopreventive agent in chemical carcinogenesis. (9) the anticancer activity of moringa olifera leaves is observed showed a reduction of Hela cancer cell viability. (10)

# 4) Anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effect

In immunodeficient mice produced by cyclophosphamide, extracts from MO leaves enhanced both cellular and humoral immune responses by increasing the percentage of neutrophils, white blood cells, and serum immunoglobulins. (11) Tobacco smoke and lipopolysaccharide (LPS) both stimulated the synthesis of human macrophage cytokines, such as tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α), interleukin-6 (IL-6), and IL-8, which were reduced by the extract of MO leaves. (12)



Fig no. 1 Moringa oleifera leaves

# 2) moringa oleifera roots use

1) antispasmodic, anticancer activity

Moringa oleifera roots used as antispasmodic activity (13). The antiplasmodic effect give when the calcium channel bloked (14) the effects of plant root sections on sensitive and resistant colorectal malignant cells, as well as their ability to combat various cancer kinds. (15)

2) antibacterial and antifungal activity

The roots of moringa oleifera also gives the antibacterial activity. (16) are said to be abundant in antibacterial substances. According to reports, these include pterygospermin, an active antibiotic principle with potent antimicrobial and antifungal properties. (17) Moreover, the root extract has antibacterial properties since it contains 4-α-L-rhamnosyloxybenzyl isothiocyanate. (18)

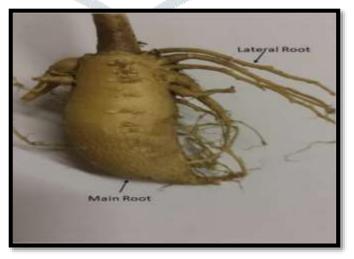


Fig. no. 2 moringa oleifera roots

## 3) moringa oleifera seeds use

## 1) moringa oleifera seeds as coagulant

The moringa oleifera seeds best natural coagulant (19) the crushed seeds mainly replaced synthetic coagulant (20) M. oleifera's ability to coagulate varies with the initial turbidity; it has been suggested that M. oleifera could lessen the turbidity by 92% to 99% (21)

### 2) moringa seeds biosorbents

A less costly biosorbent for removing cadmium [Cd] from aqueous medium would be moringa seeds. (22) The aqueous solution of Moringa seed is a heterogeneous complex mixture is functional groups, mainly low molecular weight organic acids. (23)

## 3) anti – fibrotic

Now a days that moringa oleifera seeds extract exhibited anti fibrotic effect on liver fibrosis in rats (hamza ,2010), showed protective effect against CCI4 induced liver fibrosis in rats. Moringa was found to stimulate hepatoprotective effects against hepatocellular injury by blocking the increase of two serums, aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT), which are indicators of liver health conditions. (24)

# 4) anti hyperglycemic effects

The anti-hyperglycemic effect on seeds due to the presence of terpenoids, which appears the stimulation of the beta cell and subsequent secretion of preformed insulin. (25)



Fig. no.3 Moringa oleifera seeds

#### Conclusion

Some people utilize the leaves, root, and seeds of Moringa oleifera to treat and prevent malnutrition, but it is also used to treat common medical ailments. Existence of Phytochemicals suggest that M. oleifera leaves, root, seeds may have therapeutic and preventative qualities. Further pharmacological research is required to bolster M. oleifera's potential utility as a therapeutic herb.

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