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GC-MS analysis of secondary metabolites from the whole plant methanolic extract of *Blechnum orientale* Linn. (Blechnaceae)

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Abstract

To investigate the secondary metabolites present in methanolic extract of *Blechnum orientale* Linn. (Blechnaceae). GC-MS analysis of whole fern extract were performed using a Trace GC Ultra and DSQII model MS from Thermo Fisher Scientific Limited. The instrument was set as follows, Injector port temperature set to 250°C, Interface temperature set as 250°C, and source kept at 200°C. The oven temperature programmed as a variable, 70°C for 2 mins, 150°C @ 8°C/min, up to 260°C @ 10°C/min. Split ratio set as 1:50 and the injector used was splitless mode. The DB-35 MS Nonpolar column was used whose dimensions were 0.25 mm OD x 0.25 µm ID x 30 metres length procured from Agilent Co., USA. Helium was used as the carrier gas at 1 ml/min. The MS was set to scan from 50 to 650 Da. The results of the GC-MS analysis confirmed the presence of 6 compounds. The most prevailing compounds in this study 1, 2 Benzenedicarboxylic acid, bibutyl ester, Phytol, Hexanedioic acid, dioctyl ester, Lucenin 2, QUERCETIN 7, 3', 4'-TRIMETHOXY and Neophytadiene found to have significant medicinal property. It can be concluded that the plant extract show the presence of 6 phytochemicals. The presence of various bioactive compounds justifies the use of the whole fern for various ailments by traditional practitioners.

Keywords: *Microlepia speluncae* (L.) Moore, Secondary metabolites, GC-MS analysis, Whole fern

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