



UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS Based Identification of Bioactive Compounds from *Garcinia livingstonei* Leaves and Evaluation of their Antioxidant and Antiarthritic Activities



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Abstract

Garcinia livingstonei T. Anderson (family Clusiaceae) is a rich source of different classes of bioactive compounds; mainly phenolics which possess beneficial pharmacological activities. In the present study the methanolic extract (ME) of the leaves was analyzed using UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS technique in both negative and positive modes. Its total phenolics and flavonoids content were determined using Folin-Ciocalteu and Aluminum chloride methods, respectively. Besides, the antioxidant activity of the ME and its different factions was estimated using three different assays (DPPH, FRAP, and ABTS), also the antiarthritic activity was evaluated using inhibition of protein denaturation, membrane stabilization and xanthine oxidase inhibitory % assays. Moreover, two different molecular docking studies were performed to investigate the potential antioxidant and antiarthritic activities of the identified compounds. UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS analysis revealed the presence of biflavonoids, benzophenones, flavonoids, xanthenes, phenolic and organic acids. The total phenolics content was found to be 114.72 mg/g extract expressed as gallic acid equivalent, while the total flavonoids content recorded 53.1 mg/g extract expressed as rutin equivalent. Ethyl acetate fraction showed the most potent antioxidant and antiarthritic activities.

Keywords: *Garcinia livingstonei*, UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS analysis, antioxidant, antiarthritic, docking

1. Introduction

Herbal drugs had provided the humanity with bioactive compounds for many centuries, among them was *Garcinia livingstonei* T. Anderson, a member of Clusiaceae family. It includes about 250 species distributed in tropical and subtropical regions from Malaysia to Philippines [1-3]. Genus *Garcinia* was reported to possess various pharmacological activities including antimicrobial, antioxidant, antiarthritic, skin lightening and anticancer activities [4-7]. *Garcinia livingstonei* was traditionally used for treatment of diarrhea, cough and parasitic diseases [8-9]. *Garcinia* is a rich source of valuable phytoconstituents mainly phenolics such as biflavonoids (amentoflavone and morelloflavone), xanthenes (alloathyriol and montixanthone) and benzophenones (guttiferone A, xanthochymol and 4,3',4'-trihydroxy-2,6-dimethoxybenzophenone) [10-15]. Phenolics are aromatic compounds utilized as coloring and flavoring agents and antioxidants [16, 17]. The use of antioxidants to suppress the damaging effects of free radicals was of practical use in treatment of many diseases [18]. Different organs of many *Garcinia* species including *G. xanthochymus* roots and leaves, *G. merguensis* twigs and *G. morella* fruits were reported to possess antioxidant activity [19-21]. The antioxidant activity of stem wood, twigs and some isolated compounds of *G. livingstonei* were reported [14]. Also, the antioxidant activity of the methanolic extracts of *G. livingstonei* fruits and barks were documented [22, 23]. In addition, two isolated biflavonoids from the leaves of *G. livingstonei* were estimated for their antioxidant potential [8]. Little data were recorded about the total phenolics of *G. livingstonei* leaves, while most of the published data were concerned with its seeds and fruits [24]. Rheumatoid arthritis is an auto-immune disorder which causes joints inflammation. The use of

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synthetic drugs induces harmful side effects [25, 26] which encourages therapists to prescribe natural products as a safer choice for treatment of this disorder [27]. Moreover, molecular docking is one of the most important tools in the long journey of drug discovery [28]. It helps scientists to predict and/or investigate the proposed mechanism of action for a particular drug candidate. Besides, it saves time, effort, and money to introduce a new drug candidate for preclinical and/or clinical studies [29]. The need to explore the phytochemical profile became mandatory to make use of plant health benefits. The present study provides identification of the bioactive compounds of *G. livingstonei* leaves to shed light on this interesting medically efficient natural remedy in correlation to its antioxidant and antiarthritic activities.

2. Experimental

2.1. Plant material

The leaves of *Garcinia livingstonei* were collected from AL Zohriya Garden during August 2021 and authenticated by Prof. Dr. Abd Haleem Abd El-Mogali, Chief researcher, Flora and Phyto Taxonomy Researches Department, Agriculture Museum, Giza, Egypt. Plant voucher sample were deposited at the pharmacy faculty's herbarium, Cairo University under the identification [no. 14.8.23]. One kilogram of air-dried leaves was grinded to fine powder then extracted by methanol (3 x 1 liter). The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to yield 300 g of dark brown sticky residue. The residue was successively fractionated with *n*-hexane, methylene chloride, ethyl acetate and *n*-butanol. The solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain 20, 12, 8 and 15 g of each fraction, respectively.

2.2. UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS analysis

The methanolic extract was analyzed using main column type XBridge C 18 (3.5 μm \times 2.1 \times 50 mm), temperature was adjusted at 40° C with flow rate 0.3 mL/min. Mobile phase A was composed of 5 mM ammonium formate buffer (PH 8) containing 1% methanol. Mobile phase B was 100% acetonitrile. A linear gradient elution was programmed: 0 min., 90% A and 10% B; 21 min., 10% A and 90% B; 25.01 till 28 min., 90% A and 10% B. The method was described in details in supplementary material (S1).

2.3. Quantitative estimation of total phenolics

The total phenolics content of the methanolic extract of *G. livingstonei* was spectrophotometrically determined by Folin-Ciocalteu method and expressed as gallic acid equivalent [30]. The method was described in details in supplementary material (S2).

2.4. Quantitative estimation of total flavonoids content

Total flavonoids content of the methanolic extract of leaves of *G. livingstonei* was estimated by Aluminum chloride colorimetric method and expressed as rutin equivalent [31]. The method was mentioned in details in supplementary material (S3).

2.5. *In vitro* antioxidant activity

The methanolic extract of *G. livingstonei* and its fractions (*n*-hexane, methylene chloride, ethyl acetate and *n*-butanol) were tested for their antioxidant potential by three assays.

2.5.1. DPPH assay: was carried out according to the method of **Boly et al., 2016** using Trolox as standard. The reduction in DPPH color intensity was measured at 540 nm [32]. The method was described in details in supplementary material (S4.1.).

2.5.2. FRAP assay: was performed following the method of **Benzie and Strain 1996** using Trolox as standard. The resulting blue color was measured at 593 nm [33]. The method was mentioned in details in supplementary material (S4.2.).

2.5.3. ABTS assay: was done obeying the method of **Arnao et al., 2001**. The decrease in ABTS color intensity was measured at 734 nm [34, 35]. The method was described in details in supplementary material (S4.3.).

2.6. *In vitro* antiarthritic activity

The antiarthritic activity of *G. livingstonei* and its fractions (*n*-hexane, methylene chloride, ethyl acetate and *n*-butanol) was *in vitro* evaluated using three methods.

2.6.1. Inhibition of protein denaturation method: was estimated following the method of **Singh and Sharma 2016** with some modifications. Diclofenac sodium was used as standard and the reaction mixtures turbidity was measured at 660 nm [36]. The method was described in details in supplementary material (S5.1.).

2.6.2. Membrane stabilization method: was tested according to the modified method described by **Shinde et al., 1999** [37]. The method was mentioned in details in supplementary material (S5.2.).

2.6.3. Xanthine oxidase (XO) inhibitory method: was determined as previously reported [38, 39]. The method was described in details in supplementary material (S5.3.).

All determinations were carried out in triplicate and values were expressed as mean \pm SD.

2.7. Molecular docking studies

All the identified compounds in the methanolic extract of *G. livingstonei* were subjected to two different molecular docking studies using the AutoDock Vina [40], to investigate their potential antioxidant and antiarthritic activities. Visualization of results was performed using PyMOL software [41]. The two target receptors (Cytochrome C peroxidase and COX-2) were downloaded from the Protein Data Bank (PDB IDs: 2X08 and 1PXX, respectively), opened separately, cleaned from water molecules, 3D hydrogenate and energy minimized [42]. Each ligand was sketched in ChemDraw and prepared for docking by optimization of partial charges and energy minimization steps [43]. The most active compounds for each target receptor were selected for further studies.

3. Results & discussion

3.1. UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS analysis

The results of UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS analysis of the methanolic extract of *G. livingstonei* leaves in both negative and positive modes (Fig. 1 and 2 and Table 1) revealed the presence of different classes of phenolic compounds.

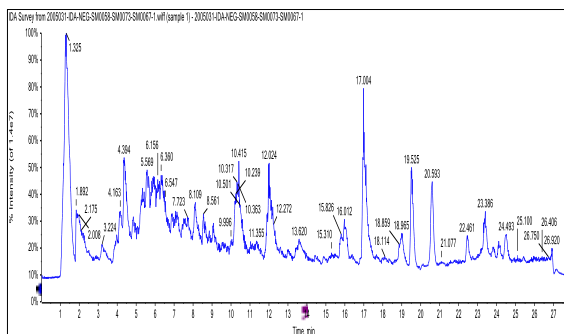


Fig. 1. Total UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS chromatogram of secondary metabolites in the methanolic extract of *Garcinia livingstonei* leaves (Negative mode)

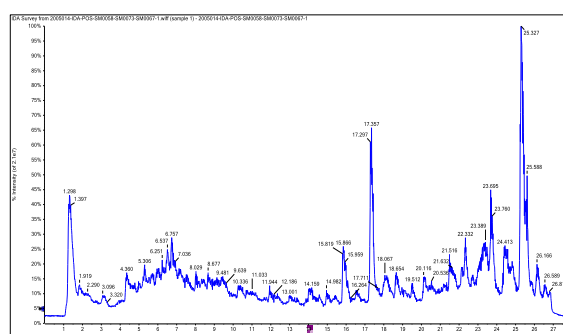


Fig. 2. Total UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS chromatogram of secondary metabolites in the methanolic extract of *Garcinia livingstonei* leaves (Positive mode)

Table 1. Metabolites identified in the methanolic extract of *Garcinia livingstonei* leaves using UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS technique

Compound No.	RT (min.)	Precursor ion (m/z)	Mode	Elemental Composition	Error	MS/MS (m/z)	Metabolite Assignment	Ref.
Phenolic and organic acids								
1.	1.084	191.0191	[M-H] ⁻	C ₆ H ₇ O ₇ ⁻	2.5	173.0088 111.0089	**Citric acid	[44]
2.	1.097	133.0138	[M-H] ⁻	C ₄ H ₅ O ₅ ⁻	4.9	115.0033 89.0240	**Malic acid	[44]
3.	1.174	207.0152	[M-H] ⁻	C ₆ H ₇ O ₈ ⁻	-1.7	189.0042 145.0450	**Hydroxy citric acid	[45]
4.	1.213	189.0048	[M-H] ⁻	C ₆ H ₅ O ₇ ⁻	9.6	171.0436 127.0040	**Hydroxy citric acid lactone	[45]
5.	1.303	225.0605	[M-H] ⁻	C ₇ H ₁₃ O ₈ ⁻	-0.1	207.0246 161.0451	***Glucoheptonic acid	[47]
6.	1.370	359.0980	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₈ H ₁₅ O ₈ ⁻	-6.2	179.0569 161.0469	***Rosmarinic acid	[51]
7.	1.446	315.0712	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₃ H ₁₅ O ₉ ⁻	1.5	153.0184 135.0306	***Protocatechuic acid hexoside	[46]
8.	1.508	331.0670	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₃ H ₁₅ O ₁₀ ⁻	3.1	169.0150 125.0266	***Gallic acid hexoside	[54]
9.	1.879	153.0197	[M-H] ⁻	C ₇ H ₅ O ₄ ⁻	9.2	135.0081 109.0479	**Protocatechuic acid (Dihydroxybenzoic acid)	[46]
10.	2.227	169.0150	[M-H] ⁻	C ₇ H ₅ O ₅ ⁻	7.7	151.0051 125.0249	**Gallic acid	[54]
11.	3.993	137.0237	[M-H] ⁻	C ₇ H ₅ O ₃ ⁻	2.6	119.0156 93.0272	**Hydroxybenzoic acid	[55]
Xanthenes								
12.	7.394	259.0238	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₃ H ₇ O ₆ ⁻	0.3	231.0293 187.0394	*Norathyriol (1,3,6,7-Tetrahydroxyxanthone)	[66]
	9.235	261.0387	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₉ O ₆ ⁺	2.4	243.0279 187.0377		

13.	7.462	259.0234	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₃ H ₇ O ₆ ⁻	1.1-	231.0291 187.0398	**Bellidin (1,3,5,8- Tetrahydroxyxanthone)	[62]
14.	10.028	243.0297	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₃ H ₇ O ₅ ⁻	3.6	199.0401 143.0501	**Trihydroxyxanthone	
15.	11.392	273.0404	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₄ H ₉ O ₆ ⁻	3.7	258.0172 202.0270	*Alloathyriol (1,3,6-Trihydroxy-7- methoxyxanthone)	[62] [66]
	7.093	275.0534	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₄ H ₁₁ O ₆ ⁺	-6	260.0310 203.0342		
16.	11.454	273.0428	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₄ H ₉ O ₆ ⁻	-8.9	258.0166 202.0242	**Trihydroxy methoxyxanthone	
	7.081	275.0544	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₄ H ₁₁ O ₆ ⁺	-2.2	260.0330 204.0430		
17.	11.517	273.0407	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₄ H ₉ O ₆ ⁻	4.9	258.0167 202.0309	*Montixanthone (3,6,7-Trihydroxy-1- methoxyxanthone-9-one)	[62] [66]
	7.195	275.0530	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₄ H ₁₁ O ₆ ⁺	-7.5	260.0311 204.0426		
18.	11.620	273.0399	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₄ H ₉ O ₆ ⁻	1.9	258.0162 202.0204	**Bellidifolin, bellidifodin (1,5,8-Trihydroxy-3- -methoxyxanthone-9-one)	[62] [66]
	7.107	275.0528	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₄ H ₁₁ O ₆ ⁺	-8	260.0298 204.0400		
19.	12.747	257.0442	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₄ H ₉ O ₅ ⁻	-0.9	242.0224 186.0385	**Gentisin (Dihydroxy methoxyxanthone)	[62]
20.	13.854	329.1019	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₈ H ₁₇ O ₆ ⁺	-0.2	273.0402 231.0292	***1,3,5,6-Tetrahydroxy-2 -(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone	[69]
21.	13.895	227.0347	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₃ H ₇ O ₄ ⁻	3.5	199.0415 155.0505	**Dihydroxyxanthone	
22.	14.558	329.1010	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₈ H ₁₇ O ₆ ⁺	-3	273.0377 245.0420 217.0485	***1,3,5,6-Tetrahydroxy-7- (3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone	[69]
23.	14.923	329.1025	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₈ H ₁₇ O ₆ ⁺	-2.9	273.0386 245.0440 217.0486	***1,3,6,7-Tetrahydroxy-8- (3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone	[69]
24.	16.967	341.1015	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₉ H ₁₇ O ₆ ⁻	-1.3	326.0802 285.0397	**Dulxanthone A	[66]
25.	17.819	465.2307	[M+H] ⁺	C ₂₈ H ₃₃ O ₆ ⁺	7.5	341.1061 285.0397	**Allanxanthone C	[69]
Flavonoids								
26.	5.207	461.1089	[M-H] ⁻	C ₂₂ H ₂₁ O ₁₁ ⁻	0.2-	299.0568 284.0304	*** Diosmetin hexoside	[72]
27.	5.258	461.1077	[M-H] ⁻	C ₂₂ H ₂₁ O ₁₁ ⁻	0.2-	299.0559 284.0321	*** Hispidulin hexoside	[73]
28.	5.456	593.1477	[M-H] ⁻	C ₂₇ H ₂₉ O ₁₅ ⁻	-4	473.1046 447.0491 357.0616 327.0477	***Orientin-2''-O- rhamnoside	[74]
29.	5.541	447.0905	[M-H] ⁻	C ₂₁ H ₁₉ O ₁₁ ⁻	-3.8	357.0613 327.0507	**Orientin	[74]
30.	5.871	577.1529	[M-H] ⁻	C ₂₇ H ₂₉ O ₁₄ ⁻	-4.7	457.1112 431.0860 311.0560	***Isovitexin-2''-O- rhamnoside	[74]
31.	5.897	645.1387	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₂ H ₃₅ O ₁₄ ⁻	-2	577.1527 457.1168 311.0541	***Isovitexin-2''-O- rhamnoside isoprenyl	
32.	6.096	447.0933	[M-H] ⁻	C ₂₁ H ₁₉ O ₁₁ ⁻	2.4	357.0594 327.0495	***Isoorientin	[74]
	5.965	449.1076	[M+H] ⁺	C ₂₁ H ₂₁ O ₁₁ ⁺	-0.4	329.0662 299.0553		
33.	6.195	431.0959	[M-H] ⁻	C ₂₁ H ₁₉ O ₁₀ ⁻	3.1-	341.0659 311.0550	**Vitexin	[74] [76]

34.	6.430	431.0953	[M-H] ⁻	C ₂₁ H ₁₉ O ₁₀ ⁻	-4.7	341.0651 311.0546	**Isovitexin	[72]	
	7.084	433.1106	[M+H] ⁺	C ₂₁ H ₂₁ O ₁₀ ⁺	-5.2	313.0696 283.0593		[76]	
35.	7.518	301.0705	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₆ H ₁₃ O ₆ ⁺	-2.3	286.0475 258.0527 153.0180	***Hispidulin	[73]	
36.	7.5493	301.0700	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₆ H ₁₃ O ₆ ⁺	-2.2	286.0468 258.0526 153.0179	***Hispidulin isomer		
37.	7.746	301.0718	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₆ H ₁₃ O ₆ ⁺	3.8	286.0475 258.0519 153.0178	***Diosmetin	[73]	
38.	8.946	287.0550	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₅ H ₁₁ O ₆ ⁻	0.1	151.0042 135.0448	*Eriodictyol	[83]	
	8.336	289.0726	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₅ H ₁₃ O ₆ ⁺	6.6	259.0249 231.0281		[84]	
39.	9.361	285.0398	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₅ H ₉ O ₆ ⁻	1.7	239.0423 151.0055	**Kaempferol	[55]	
	9.749	287.0546	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₅ H ₁₁ O ₆ ⁺	-1.4	241.0520 153.0168		[83]	
40.	10.141	343.0816	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₈ H ₁₅ O ₇ ⁻	1.2	325.0646 313.0726 161.0578	***5,7,4'-Tri-O-methyl quercetin	[85]	
41.	10.476	271.0589	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₅ H ₁₁ O ₅ ⁻	4.6-	177.0178 151.0038 119.0489	**Naringenin	[55]	
42.	10.671	269.0454	[M-H] ⁻	C ₁₅ H ₉ O ₅ ⁻	2.1	225.0631 151.0131	**Apigenin	[55]	
	11.003	271.0594	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₅ H ₁₁ O ₅ ⁺	-2.8	153.0181 119.0508		[83]	
Tannins									
43.	5.542	451.1217	[M-H] ⁻	C ₂₁ H ₂₃ O ₁₁ ⁻	-3.9	289.0711 179.0633	***Catechin-O-hexoside	[98]	
	6.336	453.1390	[M+H] ⁺	C ₂₁ H ₂₅ O ₁₁ ⁺	-0.4	291.0871 181.0502			
Biflavonoids									
Morelloflavone type (Flavan-(3→8'')-flavone)									
44.	7.714	717.1430	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₆ H ₂₉ O ₁₆ ⁻	-2.8	565.0574 429.0574 403.0828	**Fukugiside (7''-O-Glucoside of morelloflavone)	[45]	
45.	8.213	635.0466	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₀ H ₁₉ O ₁₄ S ⁻	3.8-	555.0926 429.0605	*Morelloflavone-7''-O-sulphate	[45]	
46.	8.848	701.1467	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₆ H ₂₉ O ₁₅ ⁻	-4.9	539.0960 413.0645 125.0274	**Epicataside (Volkensiflavone-7''-O-glucoside)	[65]	
	9.430	703.1621	[M+H] ⁺	C ₃₆ H ₃₁ O ₁₅ ⁺	-5.1	541.1080 415.0775		[45]	
47.	9.051	539.0952	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₀ H ₁₉ O ₁₀ ⁻	-3.9	413.0570 384.8872 151.0053	*Volkensiflavone	[66]	
	10.410	541.1129	[M+H] ⁺	C ₃₀ H ₂₁ O ₁₀ ⁺	-1	415.0821 387.0869 153.0185		[45]	
48.	9.966	555.0901	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₀ H ₁₉ O ₁₁ ⁻	-3.8	429.0605 403.0789 125.0248	*Morelloflavone	[101]	
49.	10.688	555.0876	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₀ H ₁₉ O ₁₁ ⁻	-8.3	429.0608 403.0850 125.0267	**Fukugetin (Morelloflavone isomer)	[45]	
GB-1a type (flavanone-(3→8'')-flavanone)									
50.	8.051	719.1551	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₆ H ₃₁ O ₁₆ ⁻	-7.8	593.1282 557.1069 431.0764 125.0237	**GB-2a-O-hexoside	[45]	

51.	8.099	637.0507	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₀ H ₂₁ O ₁₄ S	-4.3	557.0959 431.0673 151.0040	***GB-2a-O-sulphate	[45]
52.	9.931	557.1028	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₀ H ₂₁ O ₁₁	-9.1	431.0752 321.0365 295.0219 151.0028	**GB-2a	[45]
53.	11.061	541.1049	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₀ H ₂₁ O ₁₀	-4.9	415.0816 151.0024 125.0258	**GB-1a	[102]
Amentoflavone type (Flavone-(3→8'')-flavone)								
54.	9.547	713.1466	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₇ H ₂₉ O ₁₅	-4.8	551.0945 375.0510	***Hexoside of methyl amentoflavone	
55.	10.168	537.0800	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₀ H ₁₇ O ₁₀	-3	375.0498	*Amentoflavone	[45]
56.	11.197	555.0931	[M+H] ⁺	C ₃₀ H ₁₉ O ₁₁ ⁺	1.6	403.0548 377.0795	***3''-Hydroxyamentoflavone	[111]
57.	11.976	551.0939	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₁ H ₁₉ O ₁₀	-6.1	399.0505 375.0492	*4''-Methyl amentoflavone	[111]
IC3'-IIC3''' Linked Biflavonoids								
58.	12.977	553.1109	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₁ H ₂₁ O ₁₀	-3.6	401.1018 427.0814 125.0234	***Dihydro 3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether	[101]
	14.457	555.1251	[M+H] ⁺	C ₃₁ H ₂₃ O ₁₀ ⁺	4.3	403.1152 153.0164		
Benzophenones								
59.	2.921	263.0569	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ O ₆ ⁺	1.2-	153.0183 137.0250	**Pentahydroxybenzophenone	
60.	2.998	263.0547	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ O ₆ ⁺	1.2-	153.0159 137.0215	**Maclurin (Pentahydroxybenzophenone)	[114]
61.	8.150	247.0610	[M+H] ⁺	C ₁₃ H ₁₁ O ₅ ⁺	3.6	153.0182 121.0280	**Tetrahydroxybenzophenone	
62.	19.098	601.3501	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₈ H ₄₉ O ₆	-3.8	465.3467 329.2817 177.0209 109.0288	**Cambogin / 30-Epicambogin	[115]
63.	19.448	601.3505	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₈ H ₄₉ O ₆	3.5-	465.3424 329.2730 177.0201 109.0298	**30-Epicambogin / Cambogin	[118]
64.	19.509	601.3479	[M-H] ⁻	C ₃₈ H ₄₉ O ₆	-7.4	449.1943 177.0196 109.0292	**Guttiferone k	[118]
65.	22.317	535.3046	[M+H] ⁺	C ₃₃ H ₄₃ O ₆ ⁺	-1.6	479.2380 399.2495 343.1172 177.0183	**Propolone D hydroperoxide	[121]
66.	26.450	519.3096	[M+H] ⁺	C ₃₃ H ₄₃ O ₅ ⁺	-1.7	463.2437 451.2594 177.0197	**Garcinielliptone I Hyperibone B Propolone C or 18-Epi-propolone C	[121]

* Reported in *Garcinia livingstonei*

** Reported in genus *Garcinia*

*** First time reported in genus *Garcinia*

3.1.1. Phenolic and organic acids

Eleven phenolic and organic acids were detected in leaves of *G. livingstonei*. Compounds (1-5) were identified as citric acid, malic acid, hydroxy citric acid, hydroxy citric acid lactone and glucoheptonic acid. Their [M-H]⁻ appeared at *m/z* 191.0191, 133.0138, 207.0152, 189.0042 and 225.0605, respectively. Their mass spectra showed characteristic product ions due to loss of H₂O [M-H-18]⁻ and CO₂ [M-H-44]⁻ groups [44-47]. Hydroxy citric acid, hydroxy citric acid lactone, malic acid, and citric acid were previously detected in *G. cowa*. Hydroxy citric acid plays an important role in the management of obesity while malic acid was used in skin preparations [48-50].

Compound (6) was identified as rosmarinic acid with $[M-H]^-$ at m/z 359.0980 and product ions at m/z 179.0569 and 161.0469, that matched with the published data [51]. Rosmarinic acid was reported to possess anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects [52]. Compounds (7-11) showed mass spectra of protocatechuic acid hexoside, gallic acid hexoside, protocatechuic acid, gallic acid and hydroxybenzoic acid; with $[M-H]^-$ at m/z 315.0712, 331.0670, 153.0197, 169.0150 and 137.0237, respectively. Their fragmentation patterns showed product ions due to loss of H_2O $[M-H-18]^-$ and CO_2 $[M-H-44]^-$ groups. Phenolic acid glycosides (compounds 7 and 8) showed product ions representing the loss of hexoside moiety $[M-H-162]^-$ [53-55]. Protocatechuic acid and hydroxybenzoic acid were previously detected in *G. mangostana* fruit, while gallic acid was detected in *G. indica* [56, 57]. Protocatechuic acid and gallic acid were reported to possess antioxidant and antibacterial activities. Hydroxybenzoic acid plays an important role as antidiabetic [58-61].

3.1.2. Xanthenes

Fourteen xanthenes were identified in leaves of *G. livingstonei*. The spectra of xanthenes revealed the presence of different substituents such as hydroxy, methoxy and isoprenyl groups, however it was difficult to confirm their position exactly. The fragmentation pattern of xanthenes indicates the loss of H_2O $[M-H-18]^-$, CO $[M-H-28]^-$, CO_2 $[M-H-44]^-$, methyl $[M-H-15]^-$ and prenyl $[M-H-56]^-$ moieties as illustrated in supplementary data (Fig. S1). Four hydroxy xanthenes isomers were represented in compounds (12, 13, 14 and 21) which were tentatively identified as norathyriol (1,3,6,7-tetrahydroxyxanthone) ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 259.0238 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 261.0387), bellidin (1,3,5,8-tetrahydroxyxanthone) ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 259.0234), trihydroxyxanthone ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 243.0297) and dihydroxyxanthone ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 227.0347); with their fragmentation patterns matched with the published data [62]. Norathyriol was isolated from *G. livingstonei* and was reported to possess EGFR-tyrosine kinase inhibitory and antibacterial activities [63]. Bellidin was isolated from *G. campestris* and exhibited anti-AChE activity [64]. Trihydroxyxanthone and dihydroxyxanthone were reported in *G. vieillardii* and *G. succifolia* Kurz with antimalarial activity [14, 65].

Compounds (15-19) represented five hydroxy methoxy xanthone isomers, which were tentatively identified as alloathyriol ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 273.0404 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 275.0534), trihydroxy methoxy xanthone ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 273.0428 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 275.0544), montixanthone ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 273.0407 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 275.0530), bellidifodin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 273.0399 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 275.0528), and gentisin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 257.0442). Beside the above mentioned fragmentation pattern of xanthenes, the mass spectra of these compounds showed product ions $[M-H-15]^-$ and/or $[M+H-15]^+$ due to loss of methyl group [62, 66]. Alloathyriol and montixanthone were isolated before from the stem wood of *G. livingstonei*, while bellidifodin and gentisin were isolated from *G. campestris* and *G. lutea*, respectively [14, 64]. Montixanthone was reported to possess antioxidant activity, while bellidifodin showed anti-AChE activity [67, 68].

Three compounds (20, 22, and 23) were characterized as isoprenyl substituted hydroxy xanthone isomers with the same precursor ion at m/z 329 $[M+H]^+$, having daughter ion at m/z 273 $[M+H-56]^+$ due to loss of isoprenyl group. Their mass spectra were matched with the published data of 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxy-2-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone, 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxy-7-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone and 1,3,6,7-tetrahydroxy-8-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone [69]. Compounds (24 and 25) were corresponding to dulxanthone A ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 341.1015) and allanxanthone C ($[M+H]^+$ at m/z 465.2307) [66, 69]. Dulxanthone A was isolated from *G. cowa* and exhibited antitumor activity, while allanxanthone C was isolated from *G. mackeaniana* and showed antimicrobial activity [70, 71].

3.1.3. Flavonoids

Seventeen flavonoids were identified in the leaves of *G. livingstonei* varying between flavonoid aglycons, *O*-glycoside and *C*-glycosides.

O-Glycoside flavonoids

Two compounds (26 and 27) represent two isomers of flavonoid glycosides having the same parent ion ($[M-H]^-$, m/z 461.1089 and 461.1077) were distinguished as diosmetin hexoside and hispidulin hexoside, respectively. Daughter ions appeared at m/z 299 and 284 resulted from the loss of hexoside $[M-H-162]^-$ followed by loss of methyl $[M-H-162-15]^-$ moieties, respectively. The two isomers can be differentiated by peak ion at 256 m/z which was higher in diosmetin aglycone [72, 73].

C-Glycoside flavonoids

Seven *C*-glycoside flavonoids (28-34) were detected in the leaves of *G. livingstonei* namely; orientin-2''-*O*-rhamnoside ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 593.1477), orientin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 447.0905), isovitexin-2''-*O*-rhamnoside ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 577.1529), isovitexin-2''-*O*-rhamnoside isoprenyl ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 645.1387), isoorientin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 447.0933 and $[M-H]^+$ at m/z 449.1076), vitexin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 431.0959), and isovitexin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 431.0953 and $[M-H]^+$ at m/z 433.1106). The fragmentation patterns of these compounds showed fragmentation ions resulted from the inter-glycosidic cleavage of hexoside moiety $[M-H-120]^-$ and/or $[M+H-120]^+$ which is characteristic for *C*-attached hexoside which differ from the facile loss of the glucoside moiety (-162 amu) in case of *O*-attached hexoside. Isovitexin-2''-*O*-rhamnoside isoprenyl which showed product ion at m/z 577.1527 corresponding to $[M-H-68]^-$ due to loss of isoprenyl group [74, 75]. To differentiate between the isomers of *C*-glycoside flavonoids, mass spectra of isoorientin and isovitexin in positive mode showed peak ions $[(^{0,2}X)^+-CH_2O]^+$ (299 and 283 for isoorientin and isovitexin, respectively) more prominent than the peak ion $[(^{0,2}X)^+-CHO]^+$ (300 and 284 isoorientin and isovitexin, respectively). While in negative mode, isoorientin mass spectrum has product ion $[M-H-90]^-$ (357) higher than $[M-H-120]^-$ (327), while in isovitexin mass spectrum peak ion $[M-H-90]^-$ (341) exhibited higher intensity than that in vitexin [74, 76]. Vitexin and isovitexin were isolated from *G. hombroniana*, while orientin was isolated from *G. cowa*. *C*-Glycoside flavonoids were reported to possess antinociceptive, antioxidant, antiviral and antiglycation activities [77-82].

Flavonoid aglycones

Compounds (35-42) represent eight flavonoid aglycones, namely; hispidulin ($[M+H]^+$ at m/z 301.0705), hispidulin isomer ($[M+H]^+$ at m/z 301.0700), diosmetin ($[M+H]^+$ at m/z 301.0718 m/z), eriodictyol ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 287.0550 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 289.0726), kaempferol ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 285.0398 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 287.0546), 5,7,4'-tri-*O*-methyl quercetin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 343.0816), naringenin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 271.0589) and apigenin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 269.0454 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 271.0594) with characteristic fragmentation patterns (RDA fragmentation pathway) as described in supplementary data (Fig. S2), in addition to product ions due to loss of H₂O and CO moieties that matched with the previously published data [55, 83, 84]. To differentiate between hispidulin, hispidulin isomer and diosmetin, the product ion at 286 was the base peak in hispidulin while the peak ion at 258 m/z has higher intensity in diosmetin [73]. 5,7,4'-Tri-*O*-methyl quercetin mass spectrum showed in addition to RDA fragmentation pathway, peak ion $[M-H-30]^-$ at m/z 313.0726 due to loss of two methyl groups and product ion at m/z 161.0578 refers to (^{1,3}B)⁻ of quercetin plus 14 amu (methyl group) [85]. Hispidulin was reported to exhibit anticancer, antioxidant and antiepileptic effects, while diosmetin plays an important role in treatment of colitis [86-88]. Eriodictyol was isolated from the seeds of *G. livingstonei* and exhibited antioxidant activity [89, 90]. Apigenin, naringenin, quercetin, and kaempferol were reported in other *Garcinia* species and were reported to exhibit anticancer, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities [91-97].

3.1.4. Tannin

Compound (43) was identified as catechin-*O*-hexoside ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 451.1217 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 453.1390) with fragment ion due to loss of hexoside moiety to give the characteristic peak of catechin ($[M-H-162]^-$ at m/z 289.0711 and $[M+H-162]^+$ at m/z 291.0871) [98]. Catechin was effective as antidiabetic, anticancer, and antiarthritic [99].

3.1.5. Biflavonoids

Biflavonoids are flavonoid dimers result from the connection of two units of flavone, flavanone, flavanonol, flavonol or aurones or mixtures of them, in addition to chalcone and isoflavone dimers [100]. The fragmentation pattern of biflavonoids includes cleavage at positions 1/3 and 0/4 in the flavanone part more than in flavone part, producing characteristic product ions, (^{1,3}IB)⁻ and (^{1,3}IIB)⁻, in addition to product ions due to loss of H₂O [^{1,3}IIB) - H₂O]⁻ and [^{1,3}IB) - H₂O]⁻ (Fig. S3). Fifteen biflavonoids were identified from the different types of biflavonoids depending on position and type of the linkage between the two flavonoids. Another characteristic peak ions were also detected at m/z 151 and 125 corresponding to A ring fragments (^{1,3}IA)⁻ or (^{1,3}IIA)⁻, and (^{1,4}IA)⁻ or (^{1,4}IIA)⁻ ions, respectively [101].

Biflavonoids of morelloflavone type

The fragmentation pattern of this type of biflavonoids shows the loss of C₆H₆O₃ group (126 amu) followed by loss of CO moiety (28 amu) as described in supplementary data (Fig. S4). Six compounds (44-49) of morelloflavone type biflavonoids were identified in leaves of *G. livingstonei* namely; fukugiside ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 717.1430), morelloflavone-7''-*O*-sulphate ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 635.0466), espicataside ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 701.1467 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 703.1621), volkensiflavone ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 539.0952 and $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 541.1129), morelloflavone ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 555.0901) and its isomer fukugetin ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 555.0876) [45, 66, 102]. All these compounds showed characteristic product ion $[M-H-126]^-$ resulted from the loss of C₆H₆O₃ group which undergoes further loss of CO group, in addition to (^{1,4}IA)⁻, (^{1,4}IIA)⁻, (^{1,3}IA)⁻ and (^{1,3}IIA)⁻ ions [101]. Espicataside showed additional peak ion $[M-H-162]^-$ at m/z 539.0960 due to loss of hexose moiety, while morelloflavone-7''-*O*-sulphate showed peak ion $[M-H-80]^-$ at m/z 555.0926 due to loss of SO₃ group (Fig. S4). Fukugiside has characteristic fragmentation pathway leading to the loss of C₇H₄O₄ [$M-H-152]^-$ to give peak ion at m/z 565 followed by the loss of hexoside moiety to yield the product ion at 403 m/z [45]. Volkensiflavone, morelloflavone, and morelloflavone-7''-*O*-sulphate were isolated from *G. livingstonei* and were reported to have skin lightening and antioxidant activities [7, 103]. Espicataside was isolated from *G. madruno*, while fukugetin and fukugiside were isolated from *G. brasiliensis* and they were reported to have antioxidant and cytotoxic activities [89, 104-106].

Biflavonoids of GB-1a type

The fragmentation pattern of this type of biflavonoids showed the loss of C₆H₆O₃ group (126 amu), followed by loss of C₆H₆O₂ (110 amu) or loss of C₈H₈O₂ (136 amu) as illustrated in supplementary data (Fig. S5). Four biflavonoids of GB-1a type (compounds 50-53) were identified in the negative mode namely; GB-2a hexoside, GB-2a-*O*-sulphate, GB-2a, and GB-1a; with parent ions $[M-H]^-$ at m/z 719.1551, 637.0507, 557.1028 and 541.1049, respectively. These compounds had product ion $[M-H-126]^-$ due to loss of C₆H₆O₃ group followed by loss of 136 amu (C₈H₈O₂ group). GB-2a-*O*-sulphate and GB-2a-*O*-hexoside showed additional product ions at m/z 557.0959 [$M-H-80]^-$ and 557.1069 [$M-H-162]^-$ due to loss of SO₃ and hexoside moieties, respectively. The fragmentation pattern of GB-2a (naringenin-3-8''-eriodictyol) was similar to GB-1 (naringenin-3→8''-dihydrokaempferol), but they can be differentiated by fragment ion at m/z 321.0365, present only in the mass spectrum of GB-2a, that resulted from the loss of B ring of eriodictyol [$(M-H-126)-110]^-$ [101, 102]. GB-1a, GB-2a, and GB-2a-*O*-hexoside were isolated from *Garcinia* species and were reported to have antiplasmodial, anti-inflammatory, and monoamine oxidase inhibitory activities [104, 107-110].

Biflavonoids of amentoflavone type

Fragmentation pattern of this type of biflavonoid includes the cleavage of the C ring of flavonoid part II at position 0/4 and loss of C₉H₆O₃ (-162 amu) as presented in supplementary data (Fig. S6) [45]. Four compounds (54-57) of amentoflavone type biflavonoids were identified in leaves of *G. livingstonei* namely; methyl amentoflavone hexoside ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 713.1466), amentoflavone ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 537.0800), 3'''-hydroxyamentoflavone ($[M+H]^+$ at m/z 555.0931), and 4'''-methyl amentoflavone ($[M-H]^-$ at m/z 551.0939). Methyl amentoflavone was identified by the product ion at 551 which was higher than amentoflavone by 14 amu and the characteristic fragment ion of amentoflavone at m/z 375.0492, indicating that methyl group was at 4''' position.

Also, methyl amentoflavone hexoside was identified by the presence of 162 amu (hexoside moiety) higher than 551 [45, 102, 111]. Amentoflavone and methoxyamentoflavone were previously isolated from *G. livingstonei* and the twigs of *G. xanthochymus* and showed antioxidant and antiviral activities [8, 20, 112].

IC3'-IIC3''' Linked biflavonoids type

Compound (58) showed precursor ions [M-H]⁻ at m/z 553.1109 and [M+H]⁺ at m/z 555.1251, less than that of 3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether by (2 amu) suggesting the presence of dihydro-3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether. This assignment was confirmed by comparing the product ions at m/z 427.0814 (^{0,4}IIB-H₂O)⁻ and 401.1018 (^{1,3}IIB)⁻ with that of 3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether (m/z 429 and 403) [101].

3.1.6. Benzophenones

Benzophenones are natural compounds that have two benzene rings attached *via* carbonyl group. Eight benzophenones were identified in the chromatogram of *G. livingstonei*. Compounds (59 and 60) showed [M+H]⁺ at m/z 263.0569 and 263.0547, respectively, the fragmentation pattern of these compounds showed peak ion at 153 m/z due to loss of benzene ring with one hydroxyl group [M+H-77-17]⁺. Compound (61) showed [M+H]⁺ at m/z 247.0610 with product ion at 153 m/z due to loss of benzene ring with two hydroxyl groups [M+H-77-17-16]⁺. The fragmentations of these three compounds were in accordance with pentahydroxy (compound 59 and 60) and tetrahydroxy (61) benzophenones, containing three hydroxyl groups in the other benzene ring. The distribution of hydroxyl groups however, can't be determined by LC/MS only [113, 114]. Tetra and penta hydroxy benzophenones were reported in *Garcinia* species (*G. cantleyana* and *G. mangostana*) and were reported to have anticancer effect [91, 115-117].

Two isomers cambogin (compound 62) and 30-epicambogin (compound 63), with parent ion [M-H]⁻ at m/z 601.3501 and 601.3505, respectively, showed characteristic product ions at m/z 177 and 109. Cambogin and its isomer 30-epicambogin gave product ion at m/z 465 indicating the facile loss of geranyl unit (136 amu) followed by loss of prenyl unit then C₆H₈ unit from the pyran ring as illustrated in supplementary data (Fig. S7) to give product ion at 329. Guttiferone K (compound 64) with precursor ion [M-H]⁻ at m/z 601.3479 and the characteristic fragments 177.0196 and 109.0292 m/z was matched with the published data [118]. Cambogin and 30-epicambogin were isolated from *G. multiflora* and *G. indica*, respectively, while guttiferone K was reported in *G. yunnanensis*, these compounds exhibited anticancer activity [66, 119, 120].

Compound (65) with precursor ion [M+H]⁺ at m/z 535.3046, suggested the presence of oxygenated propolone D (519 m/z + 16). This suggestion was supported by the presence of product ion at 399.2495 m/z [M+H-136]⁺ due to loss of geranyl group resembling the peak ion at 383 m/z in propolone D [M+H-136]⁺, so this compound was tentatively identified as propolone D hydroperoxide [121].

Mass spectrum of compound (66) with [M+H]⁺ at m/z 519.3096 and product ions at 463.2437 m/z [M+H-56]⁺ and 451.2594 m/z [M+H-68]⁺ due to loss of prenyl and isoprenyl groups, respectively. This fragmentation represented garcinielliptone I benzophenone or its isomers namely, hyperibone B, propolone C or 18-epi-propolone C, that was difficult to distinguish between them [121, 122]. Garcinielliptone I was reported to possess anti-inflammatory activity [123].

3.2. Total phenolics and total flavonoids content

The total phenolics content of the methanolic extract of *G. livingstonei* leaves expressed as gallic acid equivalent was found to be 114.72 mg GAE/g extract. Calibration curve of standard gallic acid was established ($R^2=0.9961$) ($Y=0.0031x-0.0564$) by taking the average of the readings of 6 replicates (Fig. S8). While, the total flavonoids content expressed as rutin equivalent was found to be 53.1 mg RE/g extract. Standard rutin calibration curve was established ($R^2=0.9981$) ($Y=0.0032x-0.0398$) by taking the average of the readings of 6 replicates (Fig. S9). This is the first determination of the total phenolics in the leaves of *G. livingstonei*. Previously published data reported the total phenolics content in other plant parts rather than the leaves. The total phenolics content of the fruits was 115.5 mg GAE/g [22]. In another study, the total phenolics content in the different fruit parts and seeds was determined, it was found that the epicarp had the highest total phenolics (174.02 ± 0.17 mg GAE/g), while the highest flavonoids content was found in the seeds (99.98 ± 0.23 μg QE/g) [24].

3.3. *In vitro* antioxidant activity

The antioxidant activity of the methanolic extract of leaves of *G. livingstonei* and its fractions (*n*-hexane, methylene chloride, ethyl acetate and *n*-butanol) was evaluated using DPPH, FRAP and ABTS assays compared to trolox as standard.

3.3.1. DPPH assay

The percentage of inhibition on the stable radical DPPH due to the electron donating character of the tested samples was measured (Fig. S10) [124]. IC₅₀ was then determined (Fig. 3), the ethyl acetate fraction of *G. livingstonei* was the most potent fraction with IC₅₀ = 13.7 μg/mL compared to the standard trolox which exhibited IC₅₀ = 24.24 μg/mL followed by methylene chloride and *n*-hexane fractions with IC₅₀ = 23.11 and 23.33 μg/mL, respectively. The *n*-butanol fraction showed the same DPPH activity as the standard (IC₅₀ = 24.27 μg/mL). Meanwhile, the methanolic extract was the least effective one with the highest IC₅₀ value (43.68 μg/mL).

3.3.2. FRAP assay

The FRAP assay measures the reduction in ferric ion (Fe⁺³) to ferrous ion (Fe⁺²) due to the presence of electrons donor [125]. The results were expressed as μM trolox equivalent/mg sample using linear dose-inhibition curve of trolox ($R^2=0.9993$) ($Y=0.0014x-0.0603$) (Fig. S11). The *n*-butanol fraction followed by the ethyl acetate fraction were the most potent (1680.23 and 1611.19 μM trolox equivalent/mg, respectively). *n*-Hexane and methylene chloride fractions have nearly the same values (861.78

and 811.19 μM trolox equivalent/mg, respectively), which were more effective than the methanolic extract (621.52 μM trolox equivalent/mg) (Fig. 4).

3.3.3. ABTS assay

This assay measures the ability of the tested sample to scavenge the ABTS cation radicals [126]. The results were expressed as μM trolox equivalent/mg sample using linear dose-inhibition curve of Trolox. ($R^2 = 0.9948$) ($Y = 0.1089x - 3.5686$) (Fig. S12). The results showed that the ethyl acetate fraction was the most potent (2997.80 μM trolox equivalent/mg), followed by *n*-butanol fraction (2060.93 μM trolox equivalent/mg). Methylene chloride and *n*-hexane fractions have nearly the same potency (1725.42 and 1617.85 μM trolox equivalent/mg, respectively). The least effective sample was the methanolic extract (1508.21 μM trolox equivalent/mg) (Fig. 5).

As shown from the previous results, the ethyl acetate and *n*-butanol fractions were the most potent, while the methanolic extract was the least potent in the three assays. This may be due to the presence of higher concentration of phenolic compounds like flavonoids and biflavonoids in the ethyl acetate and *n*-butanol fractions [8, 126].

The present study is the first evaluation of the antioxidant activity of the methanolic extract and its different fractions of the leaves of *G. livingstonei*. Previous trials on the other parts of the plant showed that the methanol and combined ethyl acetate and acetone extracts of stem wood recorded $\text{IC}_{50} = 30.3$ and $53.6 \mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively, in DPPH assay. While, the aqueous and methanol extracts of the bark showed $\text{IC}_{50} = 0.35$ and $0.39 \mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively [23]. The methanolic extract of fruits from Florida showed $\text{IC}_{50} = 108.4 \mu\text{g/mL}$ [22]. Also, the methanol extract of twigs was assessed using DPPH assay ($\text{IC}_{50} = 100.1 \mu\text{g/mL}$) [14]. The isolated compounds were also tested for their antioxidant activity, amentoflavone and 4'-monomethoxyamentoflavone, isolated from *G. livingstonei* of South Africa, recorded 0.9 and 2.2 Trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity, respectively [8]. 3',4,4',6-Tetrahydroxy-2-methoxybenzophenone was the most active antioxidant compared to vitamin C [14].

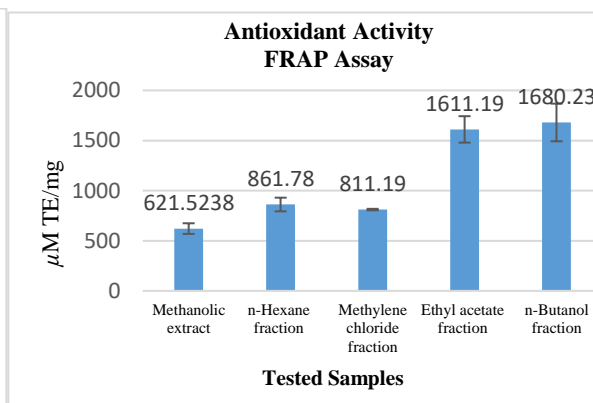
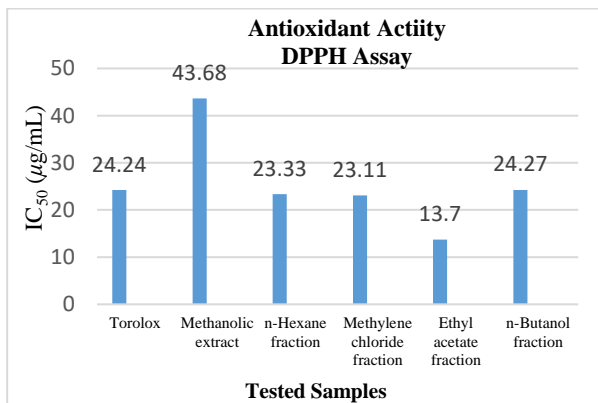


Fig. 3. IC_{50} values of the methanolic extract and its fractions from *Garcinia livingstonei* in the DPPH assay

Fig. 4. Antioxidant activity of methanolic extract of *Garcinia livingstonei* and its fractions using FRAP assay

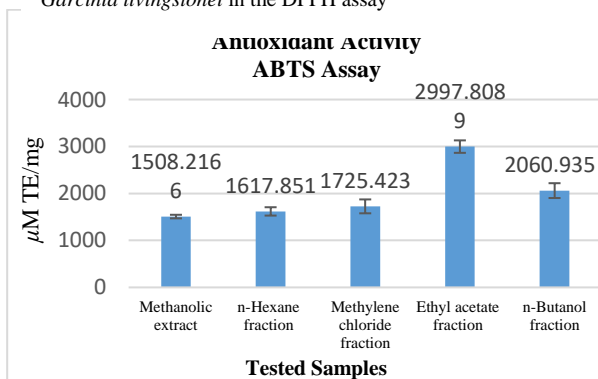


Fig. 5. Antioxidant activity of methanolic extract of *Garcinia livingstonei* and its fractions using ABTS assay

3.4. *In vitro* antiarthritic activity

The antiarthritic activity of the methanolic extract of leaves of *G. livingstonei* and its fractions (*n*-hexane, methylene chloride, ethyl acetate and *n*-butanol) was evaluated *in vitro* using inhibition of protein denaturation, membrane stabilization and xanthine oxidase inhibitory methods (Fig. S13-S15). The antiarthritic efficacy in these three methods is exhibited by preventing the denaturation of albumin which leads to release of antigens causing hypersensitivity reaction, or by decreasing the release of the inflammatory harmful mediators from lysosomes and moreover by inhibition of xanthine oxidase enzyme which is responsible for the formation of xanthine from hypoxanthine and consequently the formation of uric acid that leads to exposure to gouty

arthritic, so inhibition of this enzyme aid in the treatment of gouty arthritis [127-130]. The results revealed that the ethyl acetate fraction followed by methylene chloride possess the most potent antiarthritic activity with the lowest IC₅₀ in the three different assays compared to positive controls (diclofenac sodium, indomethacin and allopurinol, respectively) (Fig. 6-8). The activity of ethyl acetate fraction as antiarthritic may be attributed to the presence of flavonoids, bioflavonoids and other phenolic compounds. These results support the relation between the antioxidants and rheumatoid arthritis as mentioned in previous publications as the increased free radical resulting from xanthine oxidase or oxidative stress are of major causes of rheumatoid [131, 132]. *Garcinia* was reported to possess antiarthritic activity exemplified by fruits of *G. cambogia* [15] and the garcinol enriched fraction isolated from *G. indica* fruits [133]. This is the first report on the antiarthritic activity of *G. livingstonei* using these three assays.

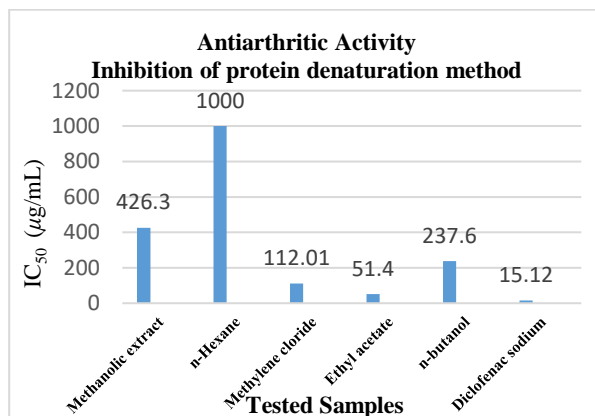


Fig. 6. IC₅₀ of the methanolic extract and its fractions from *Garcinia livingstonei* compared to diclofenac sodium

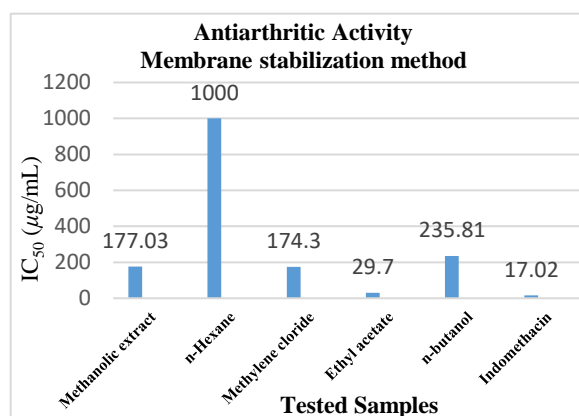


Fig. 7. IC₅₀ of the methanolic extract and its fractions from *Garcinia livingstonei* compared to indomethacin

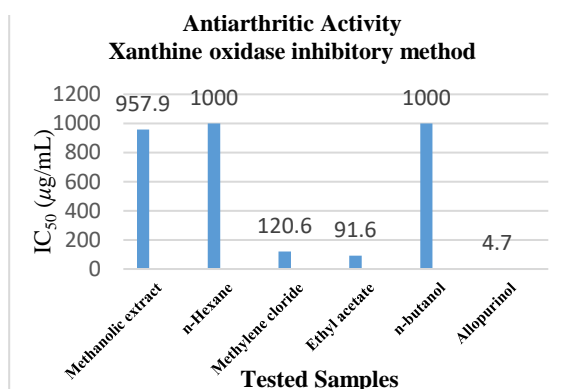


Fig. 8. IC₅₀ of the methanolic extract and its fractions from *Garcinia livingstonei* compared to allopurinol

3.5. Molecular docking studies

First, visualizing the binding pocket of each target receptor was done to identify the co-crystallized ligand and its binding mode as well. For the cytochrome C peroxidase receptor; Arg184 and Val45 were the most crucial amino acids to induce the antagonistic effect; however, for COX-2; Ser530 and Tyr385 were the most important ones. Isovitexin-2''-O-rhamnoside isoprenyl, hexoside of methyl amentoflavone, and dihydro-3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether candidates were found to be the most promising against cytochrome C peroxidase target. Their binding scores were recorded to be -10.24, -9.45, and -9.25 kcal/mol, respectively, which were greatly higher than that of the docked co-crystallized ascorbic acid (-5.62 kcal/mol). Table 2 clarifies that isovitexin-2''-O-rhamnoside isoprenyl formed seven hydrogen bonds with Arg184, His181, Ser185, Lys179 (2), Leu177, and pro44. Besides, hexoside of methyl amentoflavone showed one hydrogen bond with Arg184 and one pi-cation interaction with Lys183. Moreover, dihydro-3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether achieved one pi-cation interaction with Arg184, two hydrogen bonds with Lys183 and Ala83 and two pi-hydrogen interactions with His181 and Ala36. These interactions suggested a strong binding affinity and stable interactions with the target proteins, indicating potential antioxidant activity.

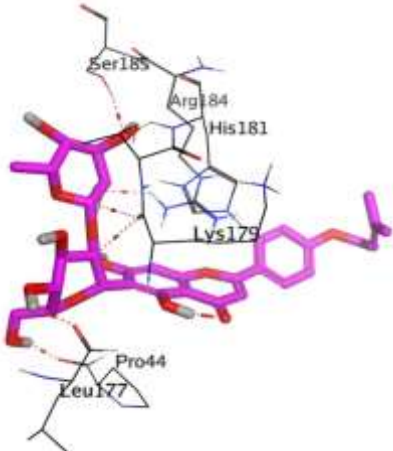
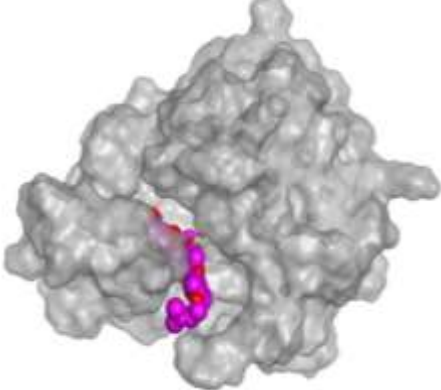

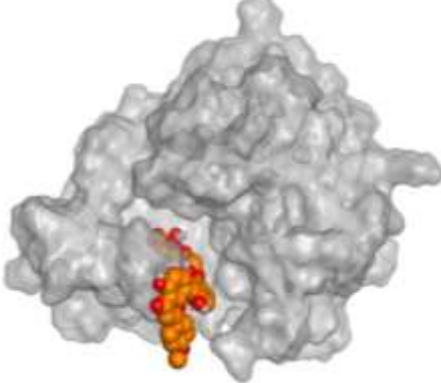
On the other hand, protocatechuic acid hexoside, 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxy-7-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone, and 5,7,4'-tri-O-methyl quercetin were found to be the most promising candidates against COX-2 target with binding scores of -7.14, -7.01, and -6.86 kcal/mol, respectively. These binding scores were even superior to that of the docked co-crystallized diclofenac which achieved a binding score of -6.71 kcal/mol. According to these results we can suggest a potential antiarthritic activity from the prementioned compounds.

Table 3 shows that protocatechuic acid hexoside formed three hydrogen bonds with Tyr385, Met522, and Val523. However, 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxy-7-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone bound Ser530 with a hydrogen bond and 5,7,4'-tri-*O*-methyl quercetin showed the formation of a hydrogen bond with Met522.

Accordingly, the previously discussed binding scores and similar binding modes of the most promising compounds from the methanolic extract of *Garcinia livingstonei* proposed their potential antioxidant and antiarthritic activities as well. The previous results revealed that the most potential compounds belong to flavonoid, bioflavonoids, and xanthenes those were reported for their antioxidant and antiarthritic activities. By analyzing the molecular docking result, we can infer that the compounds with strong binding affinities and stable interactions (e.g., isovitexin-2''-*O*-rhamnoside isoprenyl, hexoside of methyl amentoflavone, dihydro-3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether) contribute significantly to the antioxidant activity, in addition protocatechuic acid hexoside, 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxy-7-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone, and 5,7,4'-tri-*O*-methyl quercetin contribute significantly to the observed *in vitro* antiarthritic activity and resulted in that the ethyl acetate was the most active fraction almost in all assays. This correlation provides mechanistic insights into how specific compounds within the plant extract exert their biological effects, highlighting their potential therapeutic applications as antioxidant and antiarthritic.

Therefore, we recommend further preclinical and clinical studies especially for compounds (isovitexin-2''-*O*-rhamnoside isoprenyl, hexoside of methyl amentoflavone, and dihydro-3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether) and compounds (protocatechuic acid hexoside, 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxy-7-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone, and 5,7,4'-tri-*O*-methyl quercetin) as potential antioxidant and antiarthritic candidates, respectively.

Table 2. 3D binding interactions and positioning of compounds (isovitexin-2''-*O*-rhamnoside isoprenyl, hexoside of methyl amentoflavone, and dihydro-3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether) within the binding pocket of cytochrome C peroxidase (PDB ID: 2X08) target receptor

Compound	3D Interactions	3D Positioning
Isovitexin-2''-<i>O</i>-rhamnoside isoprenyl		
Hexoside of methyl amentoflavone		

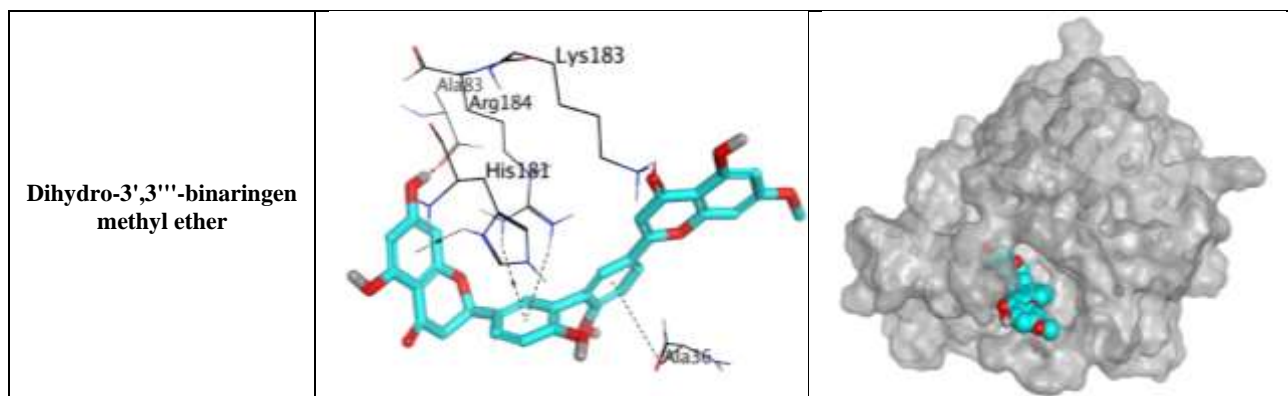
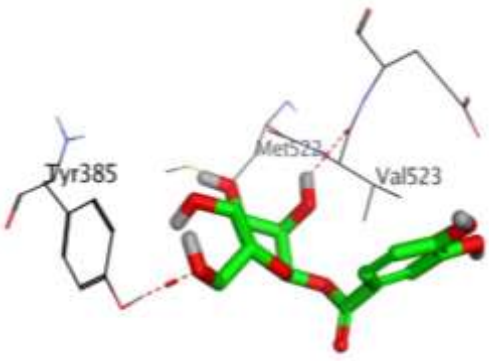
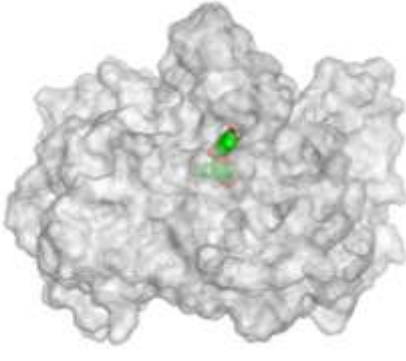

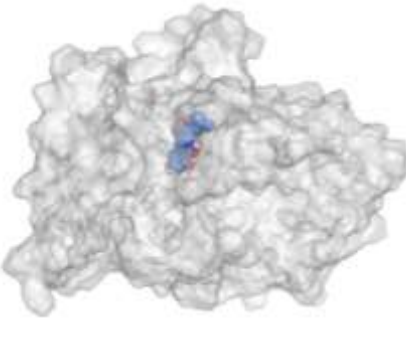

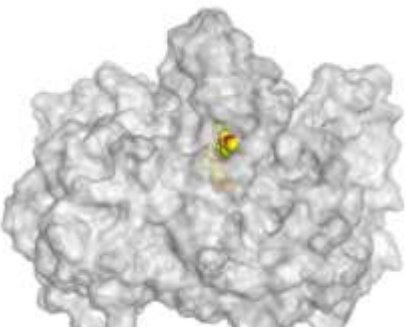


Table 3. 3D binding interactions and positioning of compounds (protocatechuic acid hexoside, 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxy-7-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone, and 5,7,4'-tri-*O*-methyl quercetin) within the binding pocket of COX-2 (PDB ID: 1PXX) target receptor

Compound	3D Interactions	3D Positioning
<p>Protocatechuic acid hexoside</p>		
<p>1,3,5,6-Tetrahydroxy-7-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone</p>		
<p>5,7,4'-Tri-<i>O</i>-methyl quercetin</p>		

4. Conclusion

Sixty-six compounds, belonging to biflavonoids, xanthenes, tannins, benzophenones, flavonoids, phenolic and organic acids, were identified in *G. livingstonei* leaves for the first time by UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS technique. Among them rosmarinic acid, hexosides of protocatechuic and gallic acids, and hydroxy citric acid were detected here for the first time in *G. livingstonei*. *G. livingstonei* leaves proved its effectiveness as antioxidant, especially the phenolics rich ethyl acetate and butanol fractions. Also, the ethyl acetate fraction was the most effective as antiarthritic. Furthermore, molecular docking studies recommend compounds (isovitexin-2''-*O*-rhamnoside isoprenyl, hexoside of methyl amentoflavone and dihydro-3',3'''-binaringen methyl ether) and compounds (protocatechuic acid hexoside, 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxy-7-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) xanthone and 5,7,4'-tri-*O*-methyl quercetin) as potential antioxidant and antiarthritic candidates, respectively.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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(<https://www.57357.org/en/department/proteomics-unit-dept/about-department/>).

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