# Chapter 37 Pharmacology and Phytochemistry of Coriander

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# ABSTRACT

Coriander, named as Coriandrum sativum Linn, belongs to the family Umbelliferae and is one of the most popular and well-known spices/condiments and herbal medicines. The essential oils and fatty oils are the two major active chemical constituents present in the plant. The other minor ingredients found to be present are monoterpenes hydrocarbons i-e limonene,  $\gamma$ -terpinene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, p-cymene, borneol, citronellol, camphor, geraniol, and geraniol acetate and abd heterocyclic components such as pyrazine, pyridine, thiazole, furan and tetrahudrofuran derivatives, isocoumarins, coriandrin, dihydrocoriandrin, coriandrons A-E, flavonoids. The volatile oil from the leaf contains aromatic acids such as 2-decenoic acid, E-11-tetradecenoic acid, undecyl alcohol, tridecanoic acid, capric acid, undecanoic acid, and more. The current pharmacological research reveals the application of coriander has antibacterial and antifungal activity.

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## INTRODUCTION

The genus Coriandrum has included two species, the cultivated species *C. sativum* and wild species *C. tordylium*. The name 'cilantro' has been randomly as well as frequently employed in American English which is referred to as *green herb* or *dried leaves*. The origin of *Coriandrum sativum* is still unknown; even many authors and scientists have described coriander to be as a wild plant in nature. But no specific information is available about the same fact. In 1780, Linnaeus had reported coriander occurred as a weed in cereals (Diederichsen, 1996). The 'Coriandrum' is coined from koros, referring to the disagreeable odor of the leaves (Shelef, 2003).

Family: Umbelliferae Juss. ;455 genera; 3600-3751 species Subfamily: Apioideae Drude; 404 genera; 2827-2936 species Tribe: Coriandreae W. Koch; 8 genera; 21 species Genera: Bifora F. Hoffm.; 3 species Common Names Used Worldwide (Diederichsen, 1996). Arab :kuzbara, kuzbura Armenian :chamem Chinese :yuan sui, hu sui Czec :koriandr Danish :koriander Dutc :koriander English :coriander, collender, chinese parsley Ethiopian :dembilal French :coriandre, persil arabe Georgian :kinza, kindza, kindz German :koriander, Wanzendill, Schwindelkorn Greek :koriannon, korion Hindi :dhania, dhanya Hungarian :coriander Italian :coriandolo Japanese :koendoro Malay :ketumbar Persian :geshnes Polish :kolendra Portuguese :coentro Rumanian :coriándru Russian :koriandr, koljandra, ki nec, kinza, vonju ee zel'e, klopovnik Sanskrit :dhanayaka, kusthumbari Spanish :coriandro, cilantro, cilandrio, culantro Swiss :chrapfechörnli, Böbberli, Rügelikümmi Turkish :kisnis Vernacular Indian Names(Diederichsen, 1996). Bengali : dhane, dhania Gujarati : kothmiri, konphir, libdhane

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