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## **Root/Stem Extracts of *Glycyrrhiza glabra*; As a Medicinal Plant Against Disease Forming Microorganisms**

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### **Abstract**

Nature is one of the major sources of medicines since the beginning of human civilization. Different countries around the globe have been used different plant materials to overcome varieties of ailments from simple cough to hepatitis to more complexes like SARS and most recently Covid 19. This review is an effort to emphasize the phytochemical and chemical constituents of *G. glabra* and their mechanisms against disease forming microorganisms. This traditional plant which is well known in Sri Lanka as “Welmi” is belongs to family Leguminosae/ Fabaceae. Chemical constituents of *G. glabra* like isoliquiritine, isoflavones, glycyrrhetic acid, saponin and their derivatives have been examined for their pharmacological activities. Most critical chemical compounds which isolated from the root/stem extract of the *G. glabra* are Glycyrrhizin and Glycyrrhetic acid. Glycyrrhizin is a prominent triterpenoid contain in *Glycyrrhiza glabra* which is responsible for the sweet taste of its roots. Glycyrrhizin act as anti-viral compound in two ways. It is able to inhibit the replication process of some RNA viruses such as SARS like corona type virus. Another process is acting as an immunostimulator. It has been used to treat patients suffering from chronic hepatitis C virus and HIV-1 patients owing to its capability of stimulating endogenous viral defense mechanisms.

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