

# An In-Silico Molecular Docking Analysis of Phytochemicals from *Carica papaya*, *Moringa oleifera*, and *Tinospora cordifolia* as Potential Dengue Virus Inhibitors

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The search for effective antiviral agents against dengue virus (DENV) remains a global priority due to the absence of specific therapeutics. The present study evaluates selected phytochemicals from *Carica papaya*, *Moringa oleifera*, and *Tinospora cordifolia* using an in-silico molecular docking approach to identify compounds with potential dengue-related inhibitory activity. Phytochemicals were screened based on drug-likeness and ADME properties, and their disease-associated gene targets were identified through database mining. Venn analysis identified plasminogen (PLG), a host protein implicated in dengue-associated thrombocytopenia and vascular complications, as a common target linked to both dengue pathophysiology and the selected phytochemicals. The human plasminogen protein (PDB ID: 8UQ6) was selected for molecular docking using PyRx, and interaction analyses were performed with BIOVIA Discovery Studio. Among the evaluated compounds, carpaine from *Carica papaya* exhibited the highest binding affinity (-9.2 kcal/mol), followed by hesperetin from *Moringa oleifera* (-8.3 kcal/mol), whereas phytochemicals from *Tinospora cordifolia* showed comparatively lower affinities. These findings suggest that *Carica papaya* and *Moringa oleifera* contain phytochemicals capable of interacting with dengue-associated host molecular pathways. However, as molecular docking provides predictive insights only, these results are limited to in-silico observations and require further in vitro, in vivo, and clinical validation.

**Keywords:** *Carica papaya*; Dengue virus; *Moringa oleifera*; Molecular docking; Plasminogen; *Tinospora cordifolia*.

## Dengue virus

Dengue is a globally prevalent arboviral disease transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes, with clinical manifestations ranging from asymptomatic infection to severe dengue characterized by hemorrhage, organ dysfunction, and vascular

leakage.<sup>1</sup> Increasing evidence highlights the central role of platelets in dengue pathogenesis. Dengue virus (DENV)-infected platelets actively participate in inflammatory and immunological responses by releasing mediators such as RANTES, macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF), and

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interleukin-1 $\alpha$  (IL-1 $\alpha$ ).<sup>2,3</sup> Elevated levels of these mediators in severe dengue promote leukocyte activation, platelet–leukocyte aggregation, and endothelial dysfunction, ultimately contributing to vascular leakage.<sup>4–9</sup> Thrombocytopenia is a hallmark hematological feature of dengue and correlates strongly with disease severity.<sup>12,13</sup> It is associated with enhanced platelet activation, increased platelet leukocyte interactions, and accelerated clearance of activated or apoptotic platelets by monocytes and macrophages.<sup>4,14,15</sup> These processes collectively underscore the importance of platelet dysfunction in dengue-associated complications.

### History and Epidemiology

Historical records indicate that dengue-like illness was first documented in China between 265 and 420 AD, with later outbreaks reported in the West Indies, Central America, and parts of Africa and Asia between the 17th and 18th centuries.<sup>47</sup> The four classical dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4) are thought to have evolved through both sylvatic transmission cycles involving non-human primates and mosquitoes, and urban transmission between humans and *Aedes* mosquitoes, facilitated by human migration and trade.<sup>45,47,48</sup> While some evidence suggests an African origin with global dissemination via historical trade routes, other studies propose emergence from sylvatic cycles in Southeast Asia.<sup>45,47,48</sup> A genetically distinct fifth serotype (DENV-5) was later identified in Malaysia in 2007, with a probable sylvatic origin.<sup>46,50,51</sup>

Currently, dengue is endemic in more than 100 countries across tropical and subtropical regions, with a marked increase in incidence over recent decades.<sup>46,52</sup> Southeast Asia remains a hyperendemic region, with all serotypes co-circulating and a large population at risk.<sup>53,54</sup> Countries such as India and Sri Lanka experience recurrent outbreaks, with regional variation in circulating serotypes and significant disease burden.<sup>53–56</sup>

### Clinical Aspects

DENV infection presents with a broad clinical spectrum ranging from mild dengue to severe disease. Following an incubation period of 4–10 days, patients typically develop acute febrile illness accompanied by myalgia, headache, and malaise.<sup>1,16</sup> Disease progression in severe cases

is marked by leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, systemic inflammation, and increased plasma leakage, which may lead to hypotension, bleeding, and organ failure.<sup>1,17</sup> Platelet activation and apoptosis are prominent during dengue infection and are more pronounced in severe disease. Activated platelets exhibit surface expression of P-selectin, CD63, and phosphatidylserine, facilitating interactions with leukocytes and endothelial cells and promoting inflammatory and thrombo-inflammatory responses.<sup>4,15,32</sup> These platelet-mediated processes play a key role in disease severity.

### Cycle of Replication

DENV infects multiple host cell types, including monocytes, macrophages, endothelial cells, and platelets, through receptors such as DC-SIGN, heparan sulfate proteoglycans, and mannose receptors.<sup>18–21</sup> Viral entry is mediated by the envelope glycoprotein, followed by endocytosis and translation of viral RNA into structural and non-structural proteins.<sup>22,23</sup> In platelets, DENV binding results in viral RNA accumulation and NS1 expression; however, productive viral replication does not occur. Instead, platelets undergo an abortive infection that triggers inflammatory signaling, platelet activation, and cytokine release, contributing to vascular dysfunction without the production of infectious virions.<sup>2,19,20</sup>

### Mechanisms of Thrombocytopenia

Dengue-associated thrombocytopenia results from a combination of reduced platelet production and enhanced peripheral platelet clearance.<sup>24,25</sup> Early in infection, transient suppression of megakaryopoiesis may occur due to bone marrow dysfunction, while disease progression is dominated by peripheral mechanisms.<sup>26–28</sup> Peripheral platelet clearance is driven by platelet activation, apoptosis, immune-mediated opsonization, complement activation, and increased platelet adhesion to leukocytes and endothelial cells.<sup>15,27,32–34</sup> Additional mechanisms, including von Willebrand factor–mediated platelet desialylation and antibody-dependent platelet destruction, further exacerbate platelet loss and correlate with disease severity.<sup>36–41</sup> Collectively, these processes highlight the multifactorial nature of dengue-associated thrombocytopenia and support the exploration of host-targeted molecular

strategies aimed at modulating platelet-related pathways involved in dengue pathophysiology.<sup>44</sup>

Platelet counts in dengue reach their lowest levels around defervescence and disease progression, even though recovery from acute bone marrow suppression and restoration of hematopoiesis occur before the critical phase, with platelet count normalization seen only during convalescence.<sup>27,32</sup> This temporal mismatch suggests that peripheral platelet clearance plays a major role in dengue-associated thrombocytopenia.<sup>15,21</sup> During infection, platelets exhibit marked activation and apoptotic features, including Translocation of P-selectin and CD63, activation of integrin  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta$ 3, exposure to phosphatidylserine, and mitochondrial dysfunction.<sup>15,21</sup> These changes are more pronounced in severe dengue and are closely linked to enhanced monocyte and macrophage mediated phagocytosis of apoptotic platelets via phosphatidylserine recognition, and platelet-monocyte interactions are facilitated by surface P-selectin and platelet activation.<sup>4,15,32</sup>

Thrombocytopenia in dengue is strongly associated with enhanced platelet interactions with monocytes, other leukocytes, and endothelial cells, leading to increased platelet activation and clearance.<sup>4,10,33,34</sup> Elevated platelet-monocyte and platelet-neutrophil aggregates, platelet adhesion to endothelial cells in organs such as the liver, spleen, and heart, and increased platelet deposition in the microvasculature contribute to disease severity.<sup>4,33-35</sup> DENV infection also promotes endothelial release of von Willebrand factor (vWF), increasing platelet binding, desialylation via GPIb $\alpha$ , and subsequent hepatic clearance.<sup>15,36,37</sup> Antibody-mediated mechanisms further exacerbate thrombocytopenia, as platelet-associated IgG and IgM—particularly anti-NS1 antibodies—cross-react with platelet integrins, enhancing opsonization, complement activation, and platelet destruction.<sup>38-41</sup> Additionally, direct binding of NS1 to platelets activates the complement system, with increased complement activity correlating inversely with platelet counts.<sup>2,42,43</sup> Collectively, dengue-associated thrombocytopenia results from a combination of bone marrow suppression and peripheral mechanisms including platelet activation, immune-mediated clearance,

complement lysis, aggregation, and platelet-cell interactions.<sup>15,44</sup>

#### ***Carica papaya***

*Carica papaya* L. is a fast-growing herbaceous plant of the family Caricaceae, widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions. The plant is characterized by a soft, unbranched stem, palmately lobed leaves, and a large fleshy fruit containing numerous seeds. *C. papaya* is rich in bioactive compounds, including alkaloids (notably carpaine), flavonoids, phenolic acids, and proteolytic enzymes such as papain.<sup>62</sup> These phytochemicals are reported to exhibit antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and platelet-modulating properties, which have attracted attention for their potential role in dengue-associated thrombocytopenia. Owing to its diverse pharmacological profile and traditional use in managing febrile illnesses, *C. papaya* represents a promising source of host-targeted compounds for dengue-related therapeutic exploration.

#### ***Moringa oleifera***

*Moringa oleifera* Lam., commonly known as the drumstick tree, is a rapidly growing deciduous plant belonging to the family Moringaceae and distributed across tropical and subtropical regions. The plant contains a wide spectrum of bioactive constituents, including flavonoids (quercetin, kaempferol), isothiocyanates, phenolic acids, vitamins, and essential amino acids.<sup>64</sup> These compounds are known for their antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, hematopoietic, and immunomodulatory activities. Given the involvement of oxidative stress and immune dysregulation in dengue pathogenesis, *M. oleifera* phytochemicals are of particular interest as potential modulators of host inflammatory and platelet-related pathways relevant to dengue infection.

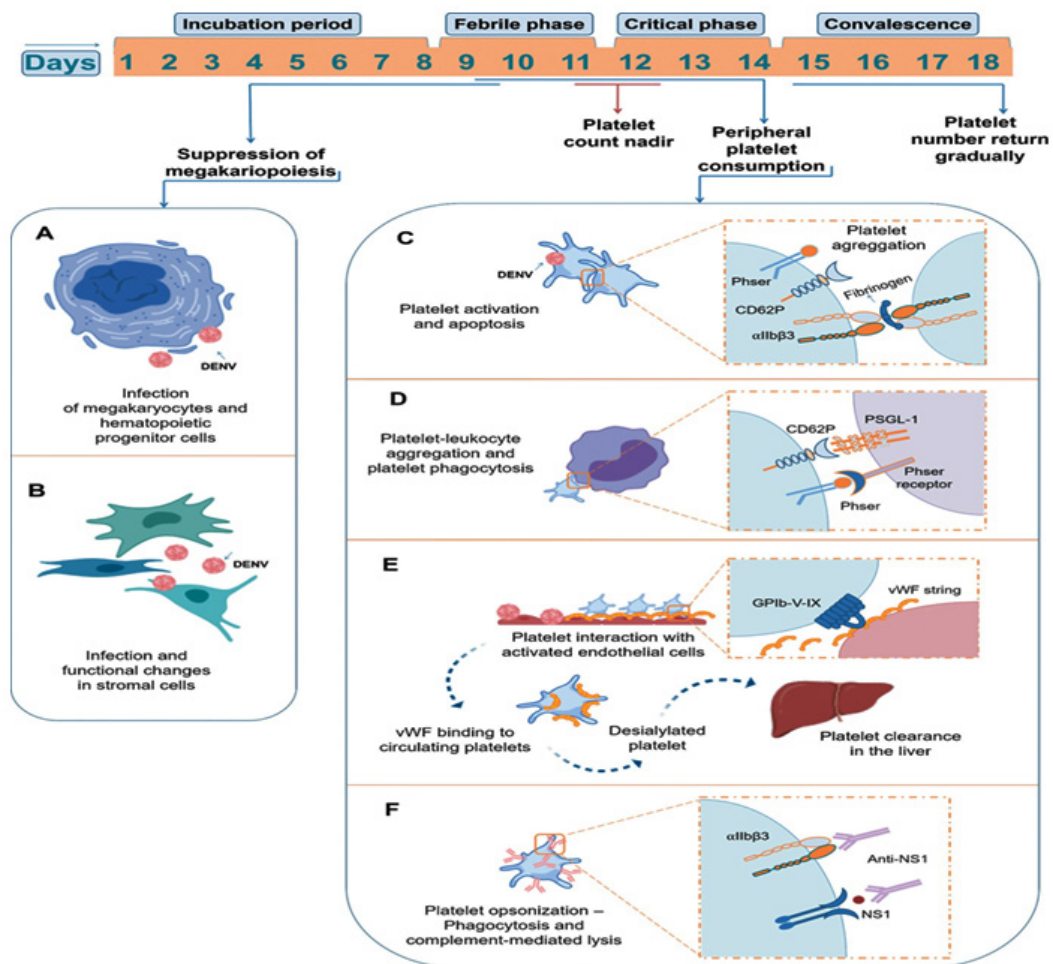
#### ***Tinospora cordifolia***

*Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Miers is a medicinal climber of the family Menispermaceae, widely distributed in tropical regions of India. The plant is characterized by succulent climbing stems with aerial roots and heart-shaped leaves. It possesses a rich phytochemical profile comprising alkaloids (berberine, palmatine), diterpenoids, glycosides (tinosporaside, cordifolide), flavonoids,

and immunomodulatory polysaccharides.<sup>63</sup> Traditionally known as “Amrita,” *T. cordifolia* has been reported to exhibit antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and immunomodulatory properties. These biological activities support its selection for in-silico evaluation as a potential source of host-directed compounds in dengue-associated inflammatory and immune responses.

In-silico approaches such as molecular docking offer a rapid and cost-effective strategy

to predict molecular interactions between viral or host targets and bioactive compounds prior to experimental validation. Medicinal plants such as *Carica papaya*, *Moringa oleifera*, and *Tinospora cordifolia* have been traditionally used in dengue management, particularly for thrombocytopenia and immune modulation. However, limited information is available regarding their molecular interactions with dengue-associated targets. Therefore, the present study aims to computationally evaluate



**Fig. 1.** Mechanisms for dengue thrombocytopenia. Thrombocytopenia might be caused by a reduction in megakaryopoiesis or peripheral platelet consumption. Both 1(a) direct megakaryocyte infection and 1(b) stromal cell infection can cause megakaryopoiesis suppression. 1(c) platelet death, 1(D-E) platelet heterologous aggregation with 1(d) leukocytes or 1(e) endothelial cells, and 1(f) platelet opsonization by complement and anti-platelet antibodies can all lead to peripheral platelet consumption.

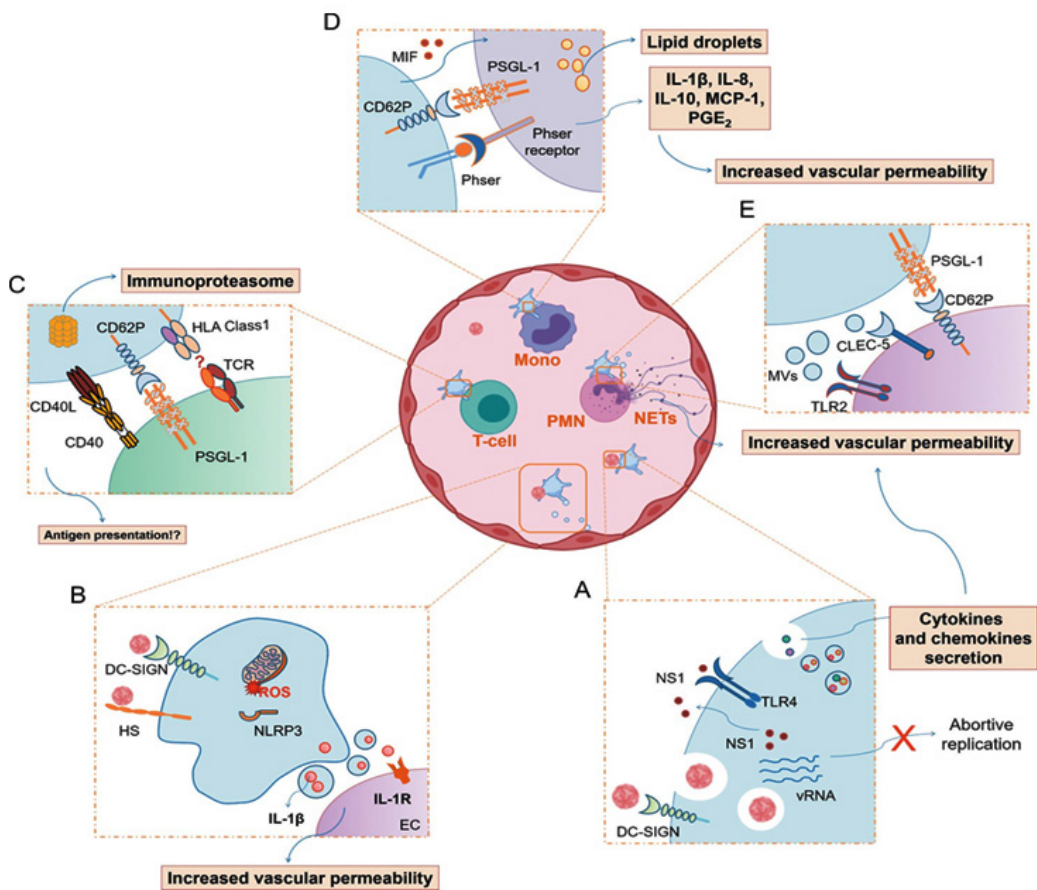
selected phytochemicals from these plants against dengue-related gene targets to identify potential inhibitors and provide a rational basis for further experimental investigation<sup>[60,61]</sup>.

Given the involvement of plasminogen in platelet dysfunction during dengue infection, targeting PLG through phytochemical-based molecular docking offers a rational in-silico strategy

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Identification of target genes of both Disease and Phytochemicals

The Disease target genes of Dengue virus are identified and taken from the Mala cards data base website. The plant phytochemical compounds present in *Carica papaya*, *Moringa Oleifera* and *Tinospora Cordifolia* are identified from the



**Fig. 2.** The Dengue inflammatory response is significantly influenced by platelets. 2(a) DENV's genome is translated and duplicated when it binds to platelets via DC-SIGN, resulting in the buildup of viral proteins and fresh viral RNA copies. DENV-infected platelets do not produce new DENV particles, but they do release chemokines, cytokines, and freshly produced NS1. By autocrinally engaging with TLR4, platelet-derived NS1 stimulates platelet activation. 2(b) DENV-infected platelets produce the NLRP3 inflammasome and release EVs with IL-1 $\alpha$ , which bind to endothelial cells' IL-1R and enhance vascular permeability. Through CD40-CD40L, CD62P-PSGL-1, and the release of EVs to bind CLEC-5 and TLR2, respectively, platelets interact with 2(c) lymphocytes, 2(d) monocytes, and 2(e) neutrophils. Cytokines, chemokines, eicosanoids, and NETosis are produced as a result of these interactions, all of which aid in leukocyte activation.

**Table 1.** Selected Plant phytochemicals of *Carica papaya*, *Moringa oleifera* and *Tinospora cordifolia*. *Carica papaya*

No	Name of phytochemical	IMPPAT identifier (IMPHY no)	Lipins rule	Drug Likeness Ghose rule	Drug like score (%)	GI Absorption	ADME properties BBB crossing	Bio-availability
1	Carpaine	003831	Pass (1)	Pass (1)	0.44	High	No	0.55
2	Palmitic acid	007327	Pass (1)	Pass (0)	0.41	High	Yes	0.85
3	Lauric acid	003016	Pass (0)	Pass (0)	0.54	High	Yes	0.85
4	Myristic acid	000060	Pass (0)	Pass (0)	0.29	High	Yes	0.85
<i>Moringa oleifera</i>								
No	Name of phytochemical	IMPPAT identifier (IMPHY no)	Lipins rule	Drug Likeness Ghose rule	Drug like score (%)	GI Absorption	ADME properties BBB crossing	Bio-availability
1	Palmitic acid	007327	Pass (1)	Pass (0)	0.41	High	Yes	0.85
2	Hesperetin	006750	Pass (0)	Pass (0)	0.79	High	No	0.55
3	Apigenin	004661	Pass (0)	Pass (0)	0.63	High	No	0.55
4	Niazirinin	001105	Pass (0)	Pass (0)	0.78	High	No	0.55
<i>Tinospora Cordifolia</i>								
No	Name of phytochemical	IMPPAT identifier (IMPHY no)	Lipins rule	Drug Likeness Ghose rule	Drug like score (%)	GI Absorption	ADME properties BBB crossing	Bio-availability
1	Palmitic acid	007327	Pass (0)	Pass (0)	0.41	High	Yes	0.85
2	Pentadecanoic acid	002667	Pass (1)	Pass (0)	0.45	High	Yes	0.85
3	Myristic acid	000060	Pass (0)	Pass (0)	0.29	High	Yes	0.85

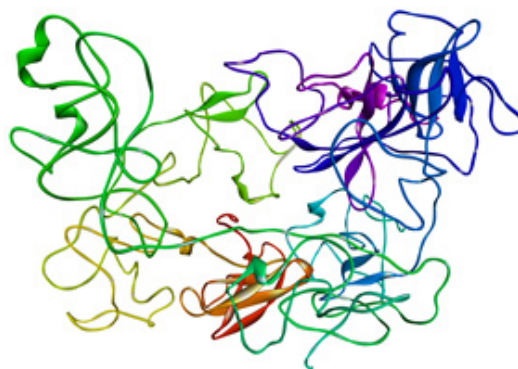
website IMPPAT and they further scrutinized based on the Drug likeliness and ADME analysis. The Gene targets of these phytochemical compounds are identified and taken from the Swiss Target predictor website.

#### Identification of common genes

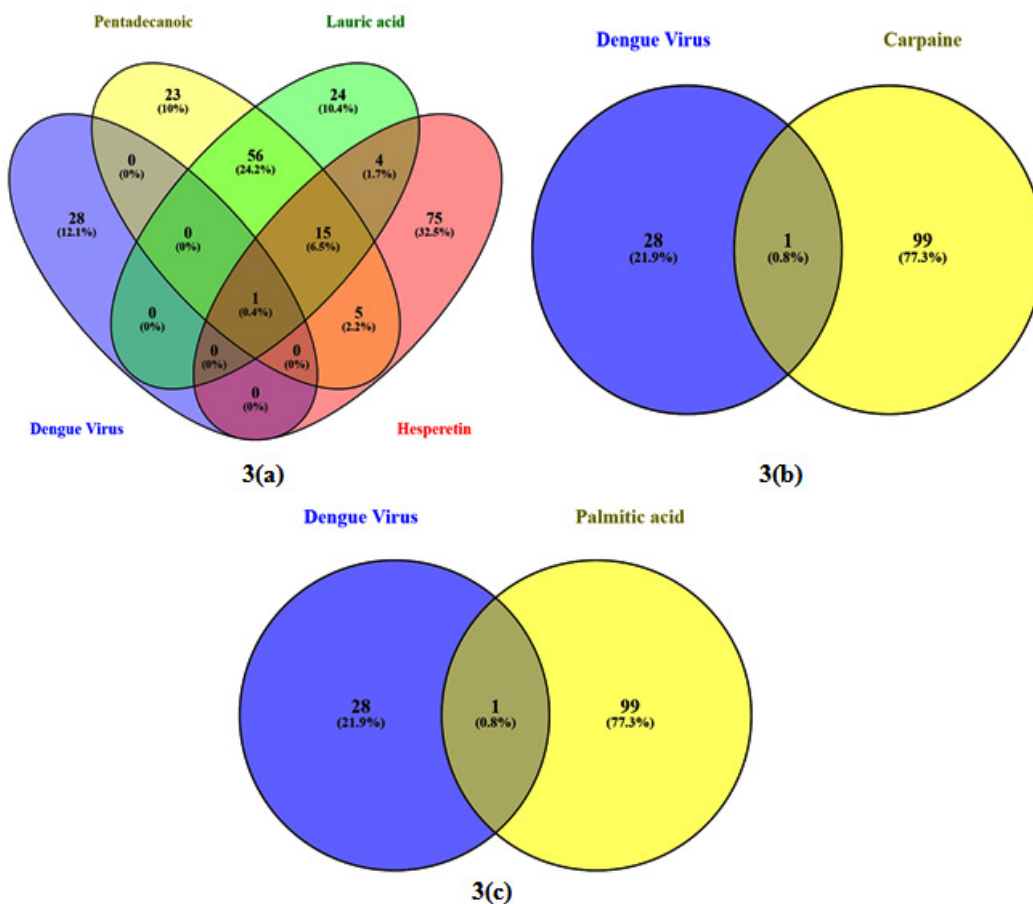
Using the VENNY 2.0 website, the disease genes from the mala cards and the phytochemical target genes from the Swiss target predictor are used for the Venn analysis to determine the shared target genes.

#### Identification of proteins and Ligands

The Protein Data Bank website (PDB) is used to identify the proteins associated with the common target genes that were retrieved



**Fig. 4.** Structure of the cleaned protein 8UQ6 (pdb\_00008uq6) used for the docking Study.



**Fig. 3.** 3(a) Venn diagram for the common genes identification between the Dengue virus genes and the Plant phytochemicals of Lauric acid, Hesperetin and Pentadecanoic acid. 3(b)Venn diagram of common genes of Carpaine and Disease targets. 3(c) Venn Diagram of common genes of Palmitic acid and Disease targets.

from Venny. Proteins are chosen for further processing based on their characteristics, such as Organism, Mutations, and Resolution, among others. For molecular docking research, proteins found in humans with resolutions greater than 2.0 and no mutations are often recommended. The phytochemical compounds used in docking research are called ligands, and they may be found on the Pubchem website.

### Molecular docking

The molecular docking of these identified proteins are done using the PyRx-0.8 software and the results of binding affinity are obtained from it. The Visualization of the docking study

is done using the Biovia discovery studio 2025 software. And at sometimes CB-Dock an online blind docking tool which is used to identify the cur pockets in proteins which are suitable for Flex and Rigid docking.<sup>57,58,59</sup> It is important to emphasize that molecular docking provides predictive insights into binding affinity and interaction patterns, but does not confirm biological efficacy.

## RESULTS

### Dengue virus Genes

These Dengue virus genes are identified from the Mala card data base website from the Gene cards.

**Table 2.** Identified common genes of the plant phytochemicals

No	Medicinal Plant	Phytochemical	Number of Identified genes	Name of the genes	Gene code
1	Carica papaya	Carpaine	1	Plasminogen	PLG
		Palmitic acid	1	Plasminogen	PLG
		Lauric acid	1	Plasminogen	PLG
		Myristic acid	1	Plasminogen	PLG
2	Moringa Oleifera	Palmitic acid	1	Plasminogen	PLG
		Hesperetin	1	Plasminogen	PLG
		Apigenin	1	Plasminogen	PLG
		Niazirin	1	Heat Shock Protein Family A (Hsp70) Member 5	HSPA5
3	Tinospora cordifolia	Palmitic acid	1	Plasminogen	PLG
		Pentadecanoic acid	1	Plasminogen	PLG
		Myristic acid	1	Plasminogen	PLG

**Table 3.** Binding Affinity of the compounds

No.	Phytochemical (Ligand)	Pubchem Id	Binding compounds	Binding Affinity (kcal/mol)
1	Carpaine	442630	8UQ6_442630_uff_E=332.50	-9.2
2	Hesperetin	72281	8UQ6_72281_uff_E=283.48	-8.3
3	Pentadecanoic acid	13849	8UQ6_13849_uff_E=53.38	-5.5
4	Palmitic acid	985	8UQ6_985_uff_E=57.46	-5.4
5	Lauric acid	3893	8UQ6_3893_uff_E=43.33	-5.2

### Plant Phytochemicals

These Phytochemicals are obtained from the IMPPAT website and later Scrutinized based on drug likeliness score and ADME analysis data.

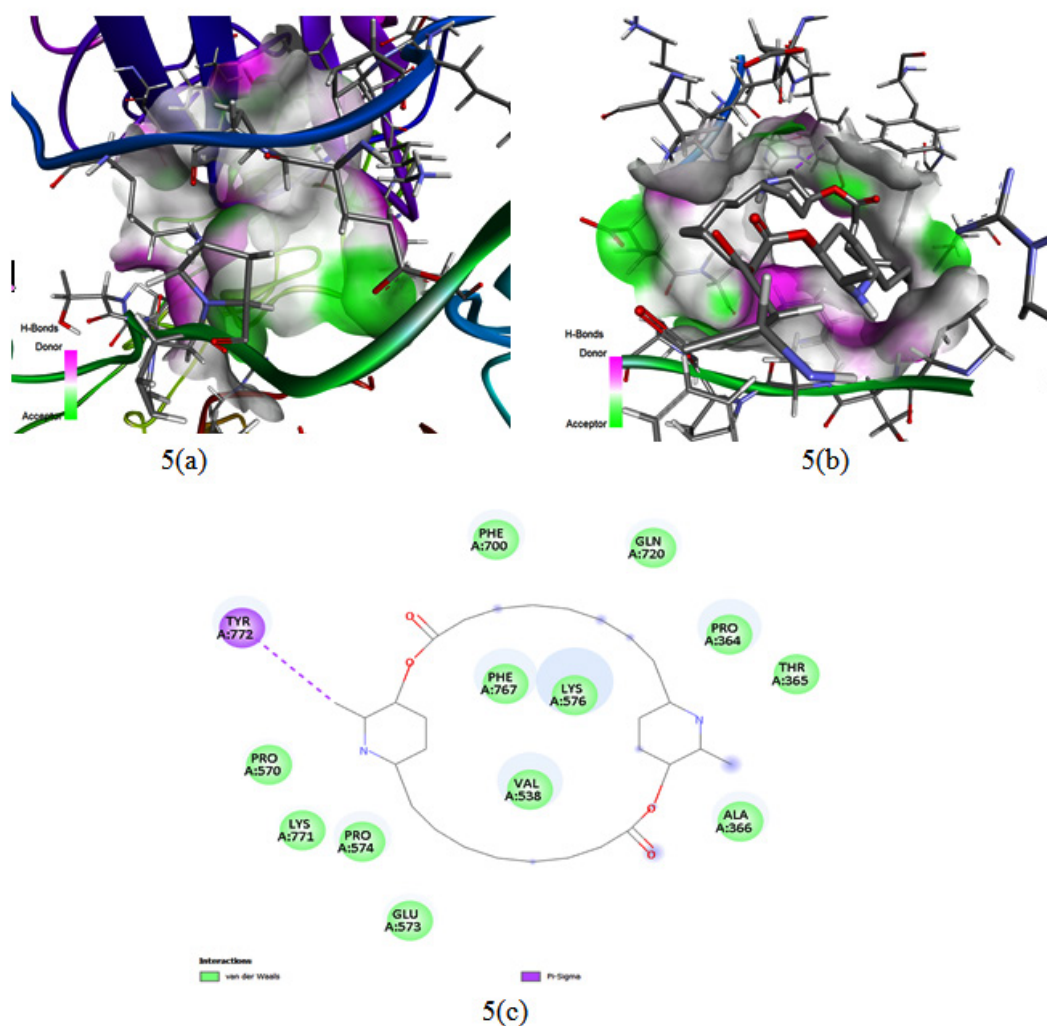
### Identification of common genes

The common genes of the disease targets and the selected phytochemical compounds of *Carica papaya*, *Moringa oleifera* and *Tinospora cordifolia* is identified by drawing VENN diagrams for the disease genes and the plant phytochemical targets. The Venn diagram was drawn in the website VENNY 2.0 between disease genes and

the selected plant phytochemical target compounds. Venn diagram drawn between disease genes and Carpaie, Palmitic acid, Lauric acid, Hesperetin and Pentadecanoic acid.

### Protein Selection

Plasminogen (PLG) as the common gene target among all the three plants and Protein are identified according to their characters and 8UQ6 with (pdb\_00008uq6) id The Human plasminogen protein which bind to the streptococcal surface enolase is selected for further molecular docking studies. This protein has a Resolution of 3.60Å with



**Fig. 5.** 5(a-b) Representing the Docking of the ligand Carpaie with the protein chain 8UQ6 along the Hydrogen bonds based on the donor and the acceptor. 5(c) Represents the 2D image of the docking process of Ligand and Protein chain.

no mutations in Humans. Without mutations and a high resolution value it is easy to use for the studies without any disturbances. The protein is cleaned by removing the Hetero and Water atoms present if any and after used for molecular docking process.

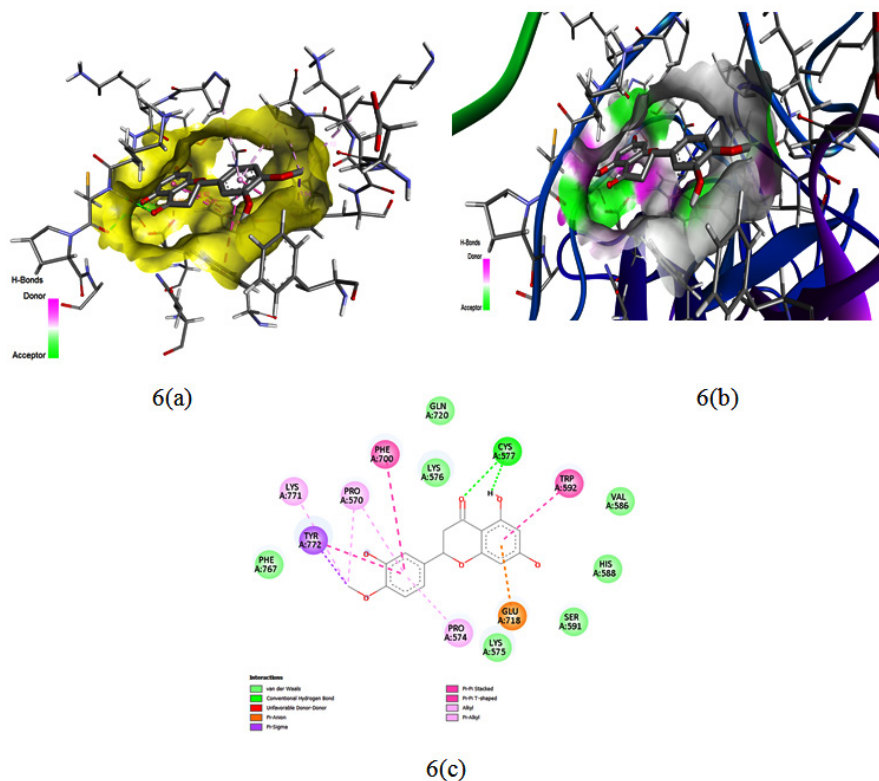
### Molecular Docking

The Molecular docking process of the obtained Phytochemical (ligand) compounds Carpaine, Lauric acid, Palmitic acid, Hesperetin and Pentadecanoic acid as they have a similar gene targets PLG and the obtained protein 8UQ6 is commonly used for the 3 ligands. The molecular docking done by using the software's PyRx and the Biovia Discovery studio 2025. The PyRx software

provides the docking data and the binding affinity of the ligand and protein, where the discovery studio is used to visualize the actual site of docking of the Ligand inside the protein chain. The protein 8UQ6 got bind with the 5 ligand compounds. It is important to emphasize that molecular docking provides predictive insights into binding affinity and interaction patterns, but does not confirm biological efficacy.

### Visualization Analysis

The Visualization analysis for the 5 different ligands with the 1 targeted protein is done by using the Biovia Discovery studio 2025 software

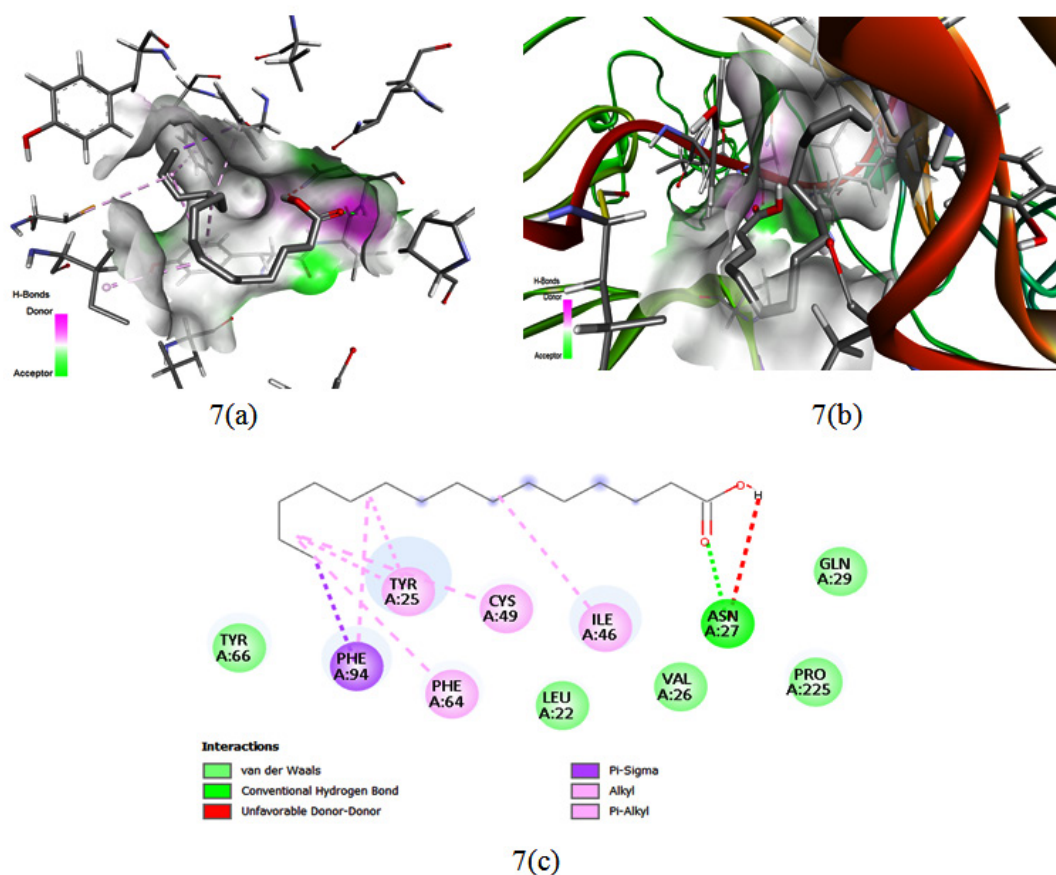


**Fig. 6.** 6(a-b) Representing the Docking of the ligand Hesperetin with the protein chain 8UQ6 along the Hydrogen bonds based on the donor and the acceptor. 6(c) Represents the 2D image of the docking process of Ligand and Protein chain.

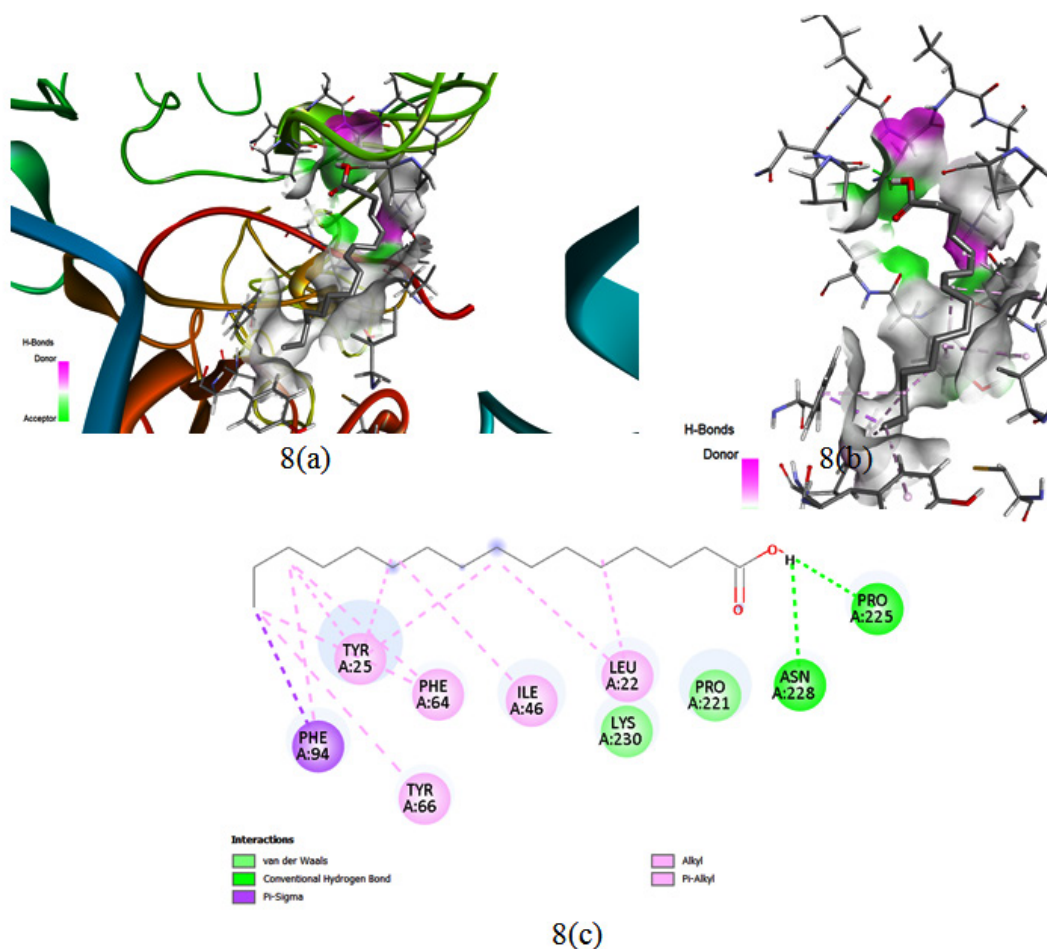
## DISCUSSION

The present in-silico investigation explored the interaction potential of phytochemicals from *Carica papaya*, *Moringa oleifera*, and *Tinospora cordifolia* with host factors relevant to dengue pathogenesis. Network-based target analysis identified plasminogen (PLG) as a shared molecular target associated with dengue-related pathways and the selected phytochemicals, highlighting its potential relevance in host-directed therapeutic strategies.

Plasminogen is a key regulator of fibrinolysis, inflammation, and vascular integrity, processes that are markedly dysregulated during dengue infection and contribute to thrombocytopenia and plasma leakage. Modulation of PLG activity may therefore influence platelet stability and endothelial function, both of which are central to dengue disease severity. Based on structural quality and biological relevance, human plasminogen (PDB ID: 8UQ6) was selected for molecular docking to evaluate ligand–protein interactions.



**Fig. 7.** 7(a-b) Representing the Docking of the ligand Pentadecanoic acid with the protein chain 8UQ6 along the Hydrogen bonds based on the donor and the acceptor. 7(c) Represents the 2D image of the docking process of Ligand and Protein chain.

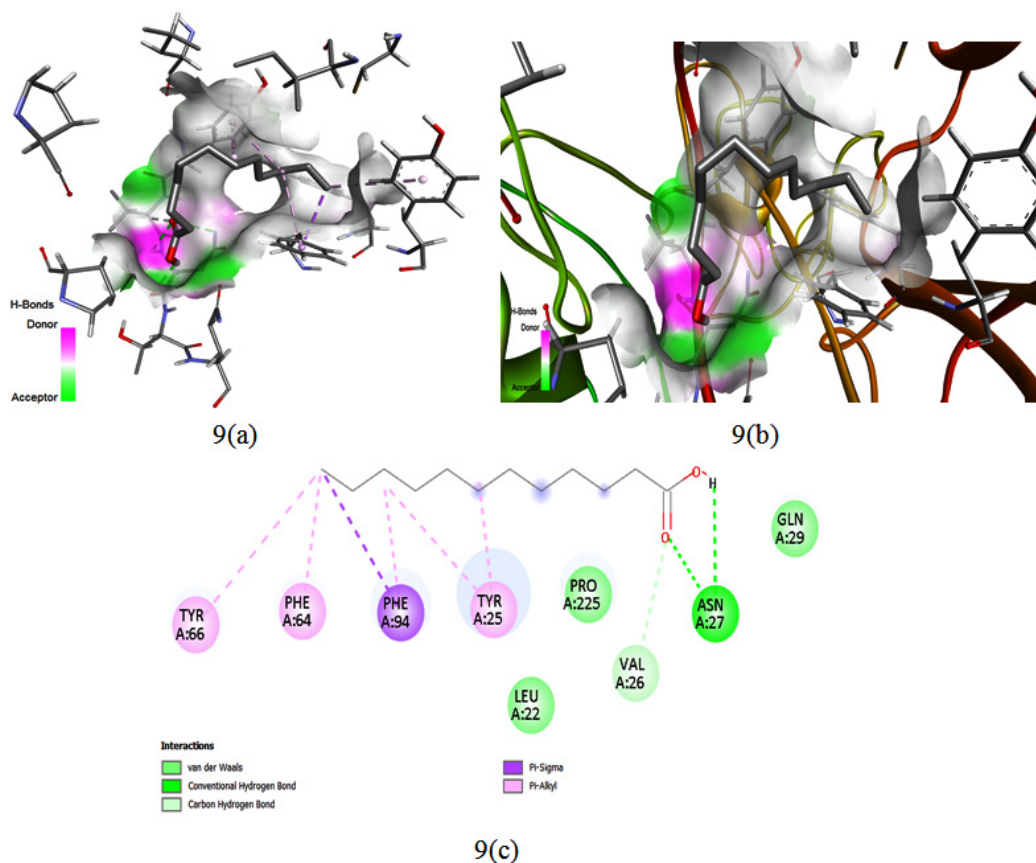


**Fig. 8.** 8(a-b) Representing the Docking of the ligand Palmitic acid with the protein chain 8UQ6 along the Hydrogen bonds based on the donor and the acceptor. 8(c) Represents the 2D image of the docking process of Ligand and Protein chain.

Docking analysis demonstrated that carpaine, an alkaloid from *Carica papaya*, exhibited the highest binding affinity toward PLG, indicating a stable and energetically favorable interaction. This observation provides a plausible molecular basis for previous clinical and experimental reports describing the platelet-supportive effects of *C. papaya* in dengue-associated thrombocytopenia. Hesperetin from *Moringa oleifera* also showed a strong binding interaction, suggesting that flavonoid-mediated modulation of host inflammatory or fibrinolytic pathways may contribute to its reported therapeutic potential. Although *Tinospora cordifolia* is

widely recognized for its immunomodulatory and antiviral properties, its phytochemicals displayed comparatively weaker binding affinities toward PLG in the present model, indicating that its effects may be mediated through alternative molecular targets or pathways not captured in this analysis.

Despite these promising findings, the study has inherent limitations. Molecular docking provides predictive insights into ligand–protein interactions but does not confirm biological activity or therapeutic efficacy. The identification of a single common host target does not fully capture the complexity of dengue pathogenesis, which involves multiple viral and host-mediated



**Fig. 9.** 9(a-b) Representing the Docking of the ligand Lauric acid with the protein chain 8UQ6 along the Hydrogen bonds based on the donor and the acceptor. 9(c) Represents the 2D image of the docking process of Ligand and Protein chain.

mechanisms. Furthermore, docking studies do not account for pharmacokinetic behavior, bioavailability, metabolism, or cellular context. Consequently, the results should be interpreted as preliminary evidence supporting further in vitro, in vivo, and clinical investigations to validate the role of these phytochemicals in dengue management.

## CONCLUSION

The present in-silico study investigated phytochemicals from *Carica papaya*, *Moringa oleifera*, and *Tinospora cordifolia* for their potential interactions with a dengue-associated host target. Molecular docking analysis identified plasminogen as a common target, with carpaine from *Carica papaya* exhibiting the highest binding affinity,

followed by hesperetin from *Moringa oleifera*. These interactions suggest a favorable molecular basis for the reported platelet-supportive and anti-inflammatory properties of these plants in dengue-associated complications.

While phytochemicals from *Tinospora cordifolia* showed comparatively weaker interactions with plasminogen in this model, their established immunomodulatory effects may involve alternative molecular pathways. Overall, the findings highlight *Carica papaya* and *Moringa oleifera* as promising sources of host-directed compounds relevant to dengue pathophysiology and provide a rational computational framework to support further experimental exploration.

Future studies should prioritize experimental validation of the identified

phytochemicals using in vitro assays, including antiviral activity and platelet function models, followed by evaluation in suitable in vivo dengue models. Detailed pharmacokinetic, toxicological, and bioavailability studies will be essential to assess the translational potential of carpaine and hesperetin. Additionally, exploring multi-target host pathways and synergistic phytochemical combinations may provide deeper insight into their therapeutic relevance. Such investigations could facilitate the development of evidence-based, phytochemical-derived adjunct strategies for dengue management.

The promising in silico interactions observed for carpaine and hesperetin warrant further experimental validation through in vitro and in vivo models to confirm their biological relevance and therapeutic potential in dengue-associated complications.

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#### Conflict of interest

The authors do not have any conflict of interest.

#### Data Availability Statement

This statement does not apply to this article.

#### Ethics Statement

This research did not involve human participants, animal subjects, or any material that requires ethical approval.

#### Informed Consent Statement

This study did not involve human participants, and therefore, informed consent was not required.

#### Clinical Trial Registration

This research does not involve any clinical trials.

#### Permission to reproduce material from other sources

Not Applicable

#### Author Contributions

Jhansi Lakshmi Varanasi: Guidance and Supervision; Naga Bharathi Marni: Methodology and Conceptualization; Sai Sudheer Thatavarthi: Data Collection, Analysis, Molecular Docking, Visualization, Writing – Original Draft; Mounika Matcha: Review & Editing.

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