Heterocyclic Letters Vol. 15/ No.3/495-515/May-July/2025

ISSN: (print) 2231–3087 / (online) 2230-9632

CODEN: HLEEAI http://heteroletters.org



# ANALYSING ADME PROPERTIES OF USNIC ACID AND ITS ANALOGUES - IN SILICO STUDY

# A.Olimathi<sup>1</sup>, L. Akilandeswari<sup>1\*</sup> and P. Kalpana<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, Sri Sarada College for Women, Salem – 636 016, Tamilnadu, India <sup>2</sup>Department of Chemistry, K.L.E.Society's Science and Commerce College, Navi Mumbai – 410 218, Maharashtra, India \*E-mail: akikarsri2008@gmail.com

#### **ABSTRACT:**

Usnic acid [UA] and its derivatives [UA1 to UA10] have been selected to virtually screen for drug properties using various cheminformatics tools such as Molsoft and Molinspiration. The molecules were further subjected to find the target by Swiss Target prediction to bind with enzymes. The results show that all the molecules have the positive value for nuclear receptor interaction.

**KEYWORDS:** Usnic acid, ADME properties, cheminformatics, Molsoft, Molinspiration and SwissADME.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Phytochemical constituents distributed in different parts of plants cause therapeutic effects on treatment of acute and chronic diseases. The identification of bioactive compounds in plants has led to the development of herbal medicines, dietary supplements and pharmaceutical drugs derived from natural sources i. Lichens are symbiotic organisms consisting of a fungus partner and a photosynthetic organism, either an alga or Cyanobacteria. These organisms have historically been used as a cure for human diseases, food, dyes, in the production of alcohol and in the perfume industryii. Usnic acid is a phytochemical and a secondary metabolite isolated predominately from lichen species and has been shown to exhibit antiproliferative properties. However, its application is limited by poor drug-like properties and low specificity. Numerous studies have investigated the various biological activity exhibited by usnic Acid including antibacterial, antiviral and antiprotozoal activity<sup>iii</sup>. Usnic acid is being studied for medical applications, especially in cancer research<sup>iv</sup>. Several in vitro studies described the anti-inflammatory activity of usnic acid in an attempt to discover the potential mechanism at the cellular level<sup>v</sup>. In silico analysis of usnic acid and its analogues has been recently reported using SwissADME web tool<sup>vi</sup>. In this work, usnic Acid [UA] is the lead compound. Its structure is modified to get its derivatives [UA1 – UA10] and their drug properties are computationally studied using Molsoft<sup>vii</sup>, Molinspiration<sup>viii</sup> and Swiss target prediction<sup>ix-xi</sup>.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

## **Softwares used for studying drug properties Molsoft**

Molsoft<sup>vii</sup> is a leading provider of tools, databases and consulting services in the area of structure prediction, structural proteomics, bioinformatics, cheminformatics, molecular visualization and animation, and rational drug design. Molsoft offers complete solutions customized for a biotechnology or pharmaceutical company in the areas of computational biology and chemistry.

## Physicochemical properties:

- MolLogP (octanol/water partition coefficient)
- MolLogS (water solubility Log(Mol/L))
- MolPSA (Molecular Polar Surface Area (PSA) and Volume)
- PSA is defined as sum of surfaces of oxygens, nitrogens and attached hydrogens.

#### **Drug-likeness score:**

- ★ Predicts an overall drug-likeness score using and Molsoft's chemical fingerprints. The training set for this mode consisted of:
- ★ 5K of marketed drugs from WDI (positives)
- ★ 10K of carefully selected non-drug compounds. (negatives)

## Molinspiration

Molinspiration offers a broad range of cheminformatics software tool supporting molecule manipulation and processing, including SMILES and SD file conversion, normalization of molecules, generation of tautomers, molecule fragmentation, calculation of various molecular properties needed in QSAR, molecular modelling and drug design, high quality molecule depiction, molecular database tools supporting substructure and similarity searches. It supports also fragment-based virtual screening, bioactivity prediction and data visualization. Molinspiration tools are written in Java, therefore can be used practically on any computer platform. Molinspiration interactive web services are available from now not only on desktop computers, but also on touch devices including iPhone, iPad and Android phones and tablets. A molecule structure 8 input to our property calculation and bioactivity prediction services is powered by the JSME molecule editor written in JavaScript. Also our Galaxy 3D molecule visualizer that allows interactive display of molecules in various modes and visualization of surface molecule lipophilicity potential and polar surface area is written in JavaScript.

## **Molinspiration Molecule Viewer**

Molinspiration Molecule Viewer allows visualization of collection of molecules encoded as SMILES or SDF file. SMILES is automatically transformed into molecule 2D representation by depiction engine. Display of associated data, selection of molecules, built-in substructure search and export of selected molecules is supported.

#### **Swiss target prediction**

Swiss target prediction is a web interface designed by Swiss instituted of bioinformatics<sup>ix</sup>. It can predict the targets for any bioactive drug molecule. It enables us to select species like Homo sapiens, Mus musculus, Rattus. The input is provided has SMILES are through graphical interface proved by chemaxon. The list of targets and their details are available.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:**

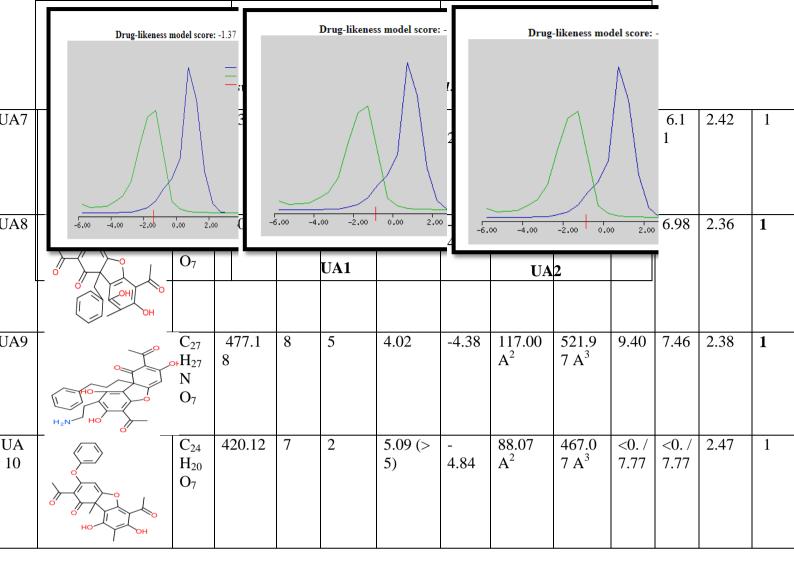
The molecule chosen for virtual screening and drug action studies are lichen class of phytochemical shown in Table 1.

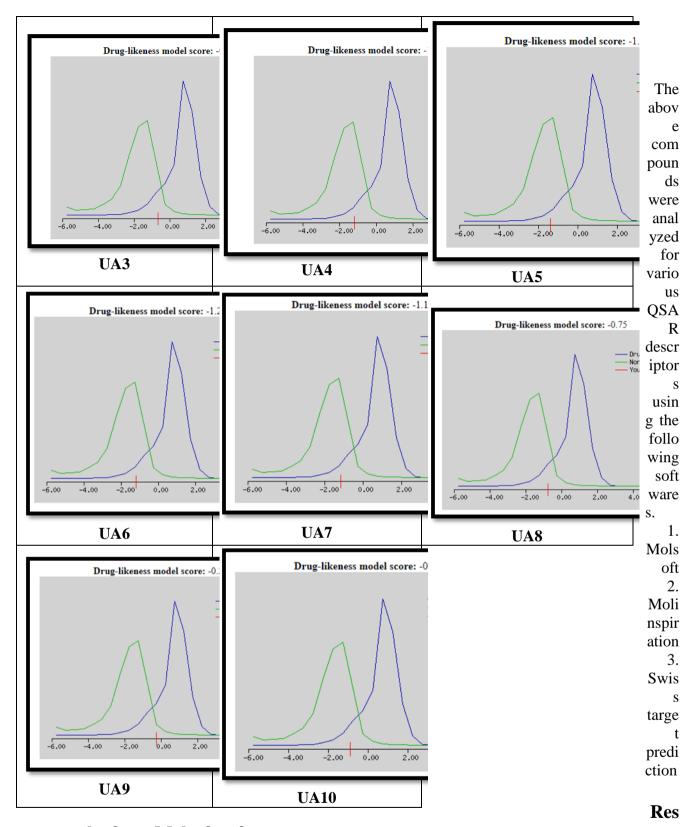
Table 1. Molecules selected for the work

| S.<br>No. | IUPAC name                         | Structure        | Label |
|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| 1.        | 4,10-diacetyl-5,11,13-trihydroxy-  | , O HO CH,       | UA    |
|           | 2,12-dimethyl-8-                   | H,C CH,          |       |
|           | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | но               |       |
|           | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       | о сн,            |       |
|           | (Usnic acid)                       | <i>"</i>         |       |
| 2.        | 4-acetyl-10-butanoyl-5,11,13-      | 0 H0 CH,         | UA1   |
|           | trihydroxy-2,12-dimethyl-8-        | H,C CH,          |       |
|           | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | но               |       |
|           | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       |                  |       |
|           |                                    | Сн,              |       |
| 3.        | 10-acetyl-4-butanoyl-5,11,13-      | H <sub>3</sub> C | UA2   |
|           | trihydroxy-2,12-dimethyl-8-        | CH,              |       |
|           | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | но               |       |
|           | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       | н,с              |       |
| 4.        | 4,10-dibutanoyl-2,12-dichloro-     | H,c              | UA3   |
|           | 5,11,13-trihydroxy-8-              |                  |       |
|           | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | н                |       |
|           | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       | or.              |       |
| 5.        | 4,10-diacetyl-12-chloro-5,11,13-   | 0<br>// о но     | UA4   |
|           | trihydroxy-2-methyl-8-             | н,с сн,          |       |
|           | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | но               |       |
|           | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       |                  |       |
|           |                                    | о сн,            |       |

| 6.  | 4,10-diacetyl-2-chloro-5,11,13-    | / ,0 но си | UA5  |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------|------|
|     | trihydroxy-12-methyl-8-            | H,C CI CH, |      |
|     | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | но         |      |
|     | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       | о сн,      |      |
|     |                                    | •/         |      |
| 7.  | 4,10-diacetyl-2,12-dichloro-       | ∬ ,0 H0 CI | UA6  |
|     | 5,11,13-trihydroxy-8-              | H,C CI     |      |
|     | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | но         |      |
|     | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       | CH,        |      |
|     |                                    | ,          |      |
| 8.  | 4,10-diacetyl-2,12-dichloro-       | ∬ ,0 H0 CI | UA7  |
|     | 6,11,13-trihydroxy-8-              | ,c cl      |      |
|     | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | ОН         |      |
|     | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       | но         |      |
|     |                                    | н,с        |      |
| 9.  | 4,10-diacetyl-2-benzyl-5,11,13-    | НО         | UA8  |
|     | trihydroxy-12-methyl-8-            |            |      |
|     | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | OH         |      |
|     | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       | ОН         |      |
| 10. | 4,10-diacetyl-12-(2-aminoethyl)-   | н,с        | UA9  |
|     | 5,11,13-trihydroxy-2-(3-           |            |      |
|     | phenylpropyl)-8-                   | но         |      |
|     | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | н, м       |      |
|     | 1(9),4,6,10,12-pentaen-3-one       | ·          |      |
| 11. | 4,10-diacetyl-11,13-dihydroxy-     | ,сн,       | UA10 |
|     | 2,12-dimethyl-5-phenoxy-8-         |            |      |
|     | oxatricyclo[7.4.0.0^{2,7}]trideca- | но         |      |
|     | 1(13),4,6,9,11-pentaen-3-one       | H,C H,C    |      |
|     |                                    | OH O' H,C  |      |
| 1   | I                                  |            |      |

| No. of Stereo<br>centers   | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1                                  | 1   | 1   | 1   |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| BBB score                  | 2.40   | 2.34   | 2.34   | 2.28                               | 2.40  | 2.40  | 2.40  |
| Pka of<br>acidic group     | 7.77   | 7.77   | 7.77   | 6.11                               | 5.80  | 8.08  | 6.11  |
| Pks of most basic<br>group | <0   | <0   | <0   | <0                                 | <0  | <0  | <0  |
| MolVol                     | 388.0<br>1 A <sup>3</sup>                      | 424.7<br>3 A <sup>3</sup>                            | 422.7<br>0 A <sup>3</sup>                            | 450.8<br>8 A <sup>3</sup>          | 381.7<br>0 A <sup>3</sup>                         | 385.7<br>8 A <sup>3</sup>                         | 379.4<br>7 A <sup>3</sup>   |
| MolPSA                     | 96.12<br>A <sup>2</sup>                        | 95.54<br>A <sup>2</sup>                              | 95.54<br>A <sup>2</sup>                              | 94.96<br>A <sup>2</sup>            | 96.12<br>A <sup>2</sup>                           | 96.12<br>A <sup>2</sup>                           | 96.12<br>A <sup>2</sup>   |
| MolLogS                    | 3.51   | 4.48   | -4.51  | 4.85                               | -3.24   | 3.31  | 3.10  |
| MolLogP                    | 3.33   | 4.22   | 4.42   | 4.73                               | 3.06  | 3.00  | 2.74  |
| No. of HBD                 | 3  | 3  | 3  | 3                                  | 3   | 3   | 3   |
| No. of HBA                 | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7                                  | 7   | 7   | 7   |
| M. W.                      | 344.09   | 372.12   | 372.12   | 440.04                             | 364.0<br>3  | 364.03  | 383.98  |
| M. F.                      | C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>7</sub> | C <sub>20</sub><br>H <sub>20</sub><br>O <sub>7</sub> | C <sub>20</sub><br>H <sub>20</sub><br>O <sub>7</sub> | $C_{20}$ $H_{18}$ $C_{12}$ $C_{7}$ | C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>13</sub> Cl O <sub>7</sub> | C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>13</sub> Cl O <sub>7</sub> | C <sub>16</sub><br>H <sub>10</sub><br>Cl <sub>2</sub><br>coO <sub>7</sub> |
| Structure                  | НО   | ОН   | НО   | HO CI OH                           | HO OH   | HO OH   | HO CI OH  |
| Properties                 | UA   | UA1  | UA2  | UA3                                | UA4   | UA5   | UA6   |





ults from Molsoft software Table 2. Physicochemical properties from Molsoft

## Figure 1. Drug-likeness score from Molsoft

Molsoft L.L.C- Molsoft is a foremost provider of tools, databases and consulting services in the field of structure prediction, structural proteomics, bioinformatics, cheminformatics, molecular visualization and animation, and rational drug design. MolSoft is building unique technologies for structure prediction that improves our understanding of the spatial organization of biological molecules and their interactions with each other, their biological substrates and drug-like molecules at the atomic level.

The Table 2 represents the data obtained from molsoft and the Figure 1 represents the druglikeness score graphically. Except UA9, other compounds show the number of HBA and HBD as in Swiss ADME software. Log P value of the compounds under study are in the range 2.52 to 4.73 and UA10 have the Log P value greater than 5 showing its poor drug property.

The Log P values obtained from Molsoft are not agreement with those values obtained from Swiss ADME<sup>vi</sup> but matches with the Log P values obtained from molinspiration.

Log S value represents aqueous solubility and for the molecules under study it is in the range -4.85 to -2.88 which is greater than -6 shows that all the molecules have good drug dissolution.

Molecular weight of all the ligands was found to be less than 500 and thus anticipating their easy transportation, absorption, and diffusion.

Lesser the Pka value, more acidic is the acid. Among the molecules under study, UA 4 has the lowest Pka value of 5.80 showing that it is the most acidic compound.

From the figure 7, it is seen that all the compounds have negative druglikeness score indicating that they have to be optimized to act as drugs.

#### Molinspiration

Table 3. physicochemical properties from molinspiration

| Name | Structure   | Milogp | TPSA   | MW     | Nrotb | Volume |
|------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| UA   | HOOH        | 3.75   | 104.06 | 358.39 | 4     | 321.35 |
| UA1  | ОН          | 2.65   | 121.13 | 372.37 | 4     | 323.53 |
| UA2  | НО          | 3.98   | 121.13 | 441.26 | 6     | 351.09 |
| UA3  | HO CI HO OH | 1.82   | 121.13 | 364.74 | 2     | 286.90 |

| UA4  | НО                  | 1.63 | 121.13 | 364.74 | 2 | 286.90 |
|------|---------------------|------|--------|--------|---|--------|
|      | но                  |      |        |        |   |        |
| UA5  | HO OH               | 1.82 | 121.13 | 364.74 | 2 | 286.90 |
| UA6  | HO CI OH            | 1.86 | 121.13 | 385.15 | 2 | 283.88 |
| UA7  | OH<br>CI<br>HO OH   | 1.86 | 121.13 | 385.15 | 2 | 283.88 |
| UA8  | НООН                | 2.84 | 121.13 | 420.42 | 4 | 361.58 |
| UA9  | H <sub>2</sub> N HO | 3.90 | 110.14 | 420.42 | 4 | 362.31 |
| UA10 | но                  | 2.65 | 121.13 | 372.37 | 4 | 323.53 |

**Table 4. Bioactivity properties from Molinspiration** 

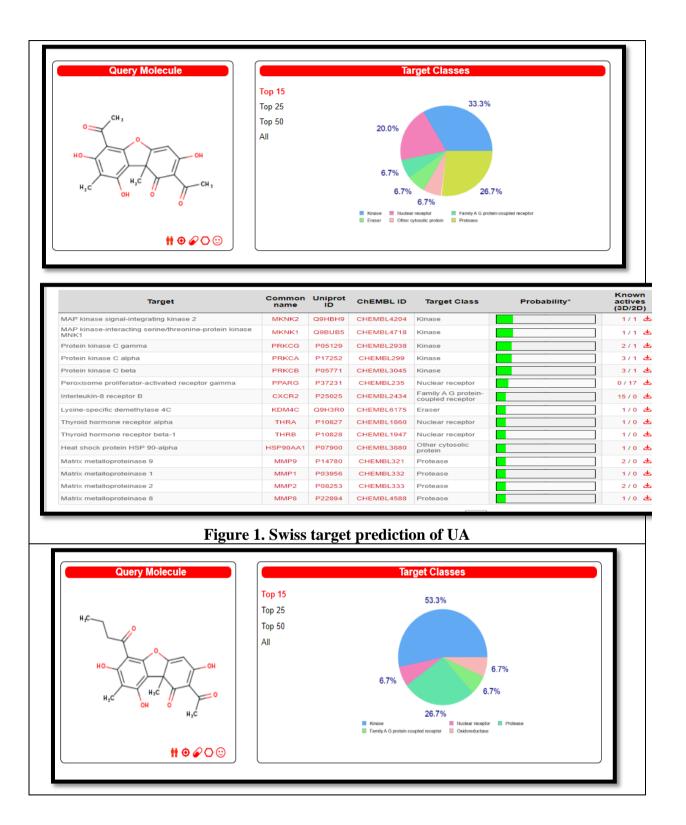
| Name | Structure   | GPCR<br>ligand | Ion<br>channel | Kinase<br>inhibitor | Nuclear<br>receptor | <b>Protease</b> inhibitor | Enzyme inhibitor |
|------|-------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| UA   | НО          | -0.16          | -0.16          | -0.26               | 0.84                | -0.26                     | 0.13             |
| UA1  | ОН          | -0.26          | -0.23          | -0.29               | 1.02                | -0.21                     | 0.10             |
| UA2  | НООН        | -0.30          | -0.29          | -0.39               | 0.42                | -0.19                     | 0.06             |
| UA3  | HO CI HO CI | -0.34          | -0.21          | -0.01               | 1.02                | -0.30                     | 0.00             |
| UA4  | HO HO OH    | -0.41          | -0.29          | -0.41               | 0.48                | -0.40                     | -0.01            |
| UA5  | HO OH       | -0.34          | -0.21          | -0.01               | 1.02                | -0.30                     | 0.00             |

L. Akilandeswari et al. / Heterocyclic Letters Vol. 15/No.3/495-515/May-July/2025

| UA6  | HO CI               | -0.27 | -0.25 | -0.40 | 0.13 | -0.35 | -0.18 |
|------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| UA7  | OH<br>OH<br>CI      | -0.27 | -0.25 | -0.40 | 0.13 | -0.35 | -0.18 |
| UA8  | НО                  | -0.25 | -0.17 | -0.16 | 0.77 | -0.26 | 0.07  |
| UA9  | H <sub>2</sub> N HO | -0.14 | -0.14 | -0.09 | 0.81 | -0.23 | 0.10  |
| UA10 | ноон                | -0.21 | -0.16 | -0.11 | 1.05 | -0.26 | 0.17  |

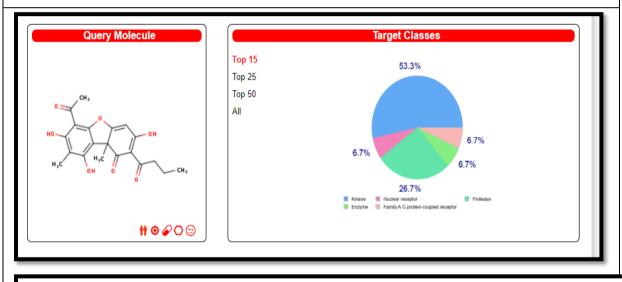
Except UA1, the TPSA values obtained in molinspiration (Table 3.) for the molecules under study matches with those obtained in SwissADME web tool [16]. The bioavailability score of these molecules indicates that they are bioactive by binding to enzyme in the form of inhibitor and have the values ranging from -0.18 to 0. 17 (Table 4.). It is to be noted that the maximum value showing that the molecule has maximum interaction. From the bioactivity score, it is seen that drug interacts with the target as a nuclear receptor. All the molecules have the positive value for nuclear receptor interaction which suggests that the molecule plays a role in gene formation which may have its effect in reproduction and anticarcinogenic activity.

## **SWISS Target prediction**



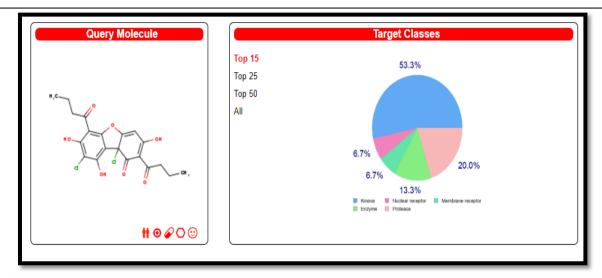
| Target  | Common<br>name | Uniprot<br>ID | ChEMBL ID  | Target Class                            | Probability* | Known<br>actives<br>(3D/2D) |
|---|----------------|---------------|------------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Protein kinase C gamma                                      | PRKCG          | P05129        | CHEMBL2938 | Kinase                                  |              | 15 / 1                      |
| Protein kinase C alpha                                      | PRKCA          | P17252        | CHEMBL299  | Kinase                                  |              | 17 / 1                      |
| Protein kinase C beta                                       | PRKCB          | P05771        | CHEMBL3045 | Kinase                                  |              | 18 / 1                      |
| Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma            | PPARG          | P37231        | CHEMBL235  | Nuclear receptor                        |              | 0 / 17                      |
| MAP kinase signal-integrating kinase 2                      | MKNK2          | Q9НВН9        | CHEMBL4204 | Kinase                                  |              | 1/1                         |
| MAP kinase-interacting serine/threonine-protein kinase MNK1 | MKNK1          | Q9BUB5        | CHEMBL4718 | Kinase                                  |              | 1/1                         |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 9                                  | MMP9           | P14780        | CHEMBL321  | Protease                                |              | 2/0                         |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 1                                  | MMP1           | P03956        | CHEMBL332  | Protease                                |              | 1/0                         |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 2                                  | MMP2           | P08253        | CHEMBL333  | Protease                                |              | 3/0                         |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 8                                  | MMP8           | P22894        | CHEMBL4588 | Protease                                |              | 1/0                         |
| Interleukin-8 receptor B                                    | CXCR2          | P25025        | CHEMBL2434 | Family A G protein-<br>coupled receptor |              | 28 / 0                      |
| Protein kinase C delta                                      | PRKCD          | Q05655        | CHEMBL2996 | Kinase                                  |              | 14/0                        |
| Protein kinase C epsilon                                    | PRKCE          | Q02156        | CHEMBL3582 | Kinase                                  |              | 16 / 0                      |
| Protein kinase C eta  | PRKCH          | P24723        | CHEMBL3616 | Kinase                                  |              | 13 / 0                      |
| Eql nine homolog 1  | EGLN1          | Q9GZT9        | CHEMBL5697 | Oxidoreductase                          |              | 53/0                        |

Figure 2. Swiss target prediction of UA1



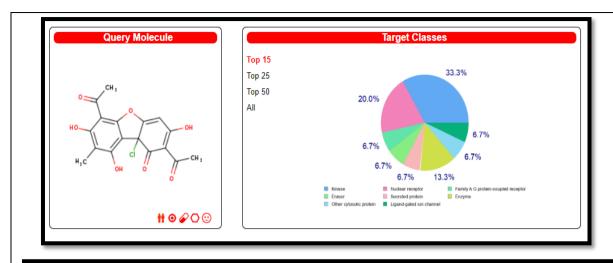
| Target  | Common<br>name | Uniprot<br>ID | ChEMBL ID  | Target Class                            | Probability* | Kr<br>ac<br>(31 |
|---|----------------|---------------|------------|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Protein kinase C gamma                                      | PRKCG          | P05129        | CHEMBL2938 | Kinase                                  |              | 16              |
| Protein kinase C alpha                                      | PRKCA          | P17252        | CHEMBL299  | Kinase                                  |              | 19              |
| Protein kinase C beta                                       | PRKCB          | P05771        | CHEMBL3045 | Kinase                                  |              | 20              |
| Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma            | PPARG          | P37231        | CHEMBL235  | Nuclear receptor                        |              | 0/              |
| MAP kinase signal-integrating kinase 2                      | MKNK2          | Q9НВН9        | CHEMBL4204 | Kinase                                  |              | ] 1             |
| MAP kinase-interacting serine/threonine-protein kinase MNK1 | MKNK1          | Q9BUB5        | CHEMBL4718 | Kinase                                  |              | ] 1             |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 9                                  | MMP9           | P14780        | CHEMBL321  | Protease                                |              | 2               |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 1                                  | MMP1           | P03956        | CHEMBL332  | Protease                                |              | ] 1             |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 2                                  | MMP2           | P08253        | CHEMBL333  | Protease                                |              | ] 3             |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 8                                  | MMP8           | P22894        | CHEMBL4588 | Protease                                |              | ] 1             |
| PI3-kinase p110-alpha subunit                               | PIK3CA         | P42336        | CHEMBL4005 | Enzyme                                  |              | 7               |
| Interleukin-8 receptor B                                    | CXCR2          | P25025        | CHEMBL2434 | Family A G protein-<br>coupled receptor |              | 27              |
| Protein kinase C delta                                      | PRKCD          | Q05655        | CHEMBL2996 | Kinase                                  |              | 15              |
| Protein kinase C epsilon                                    | PRKCE          | Q02156        | CHEMBL3582 | Kinase                                  |              | 18              |
| Protein kinase C eta  | PRKCH          | P24723        | CHEMBL3616 | Kinase                                  |              | 15              |

Figure 3. Swiss target prediction of UA2



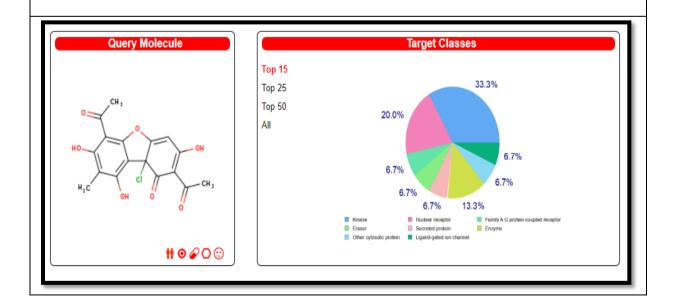
| Target  | Common<br>name | Uniprot<br>ID | ChEMBL ID  | Target Class                            | Probability* | Known<br>actives<br>(3D/2D) |
|---|----------------|---------------|------------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Protein kinase C gamma                                      | PRKCG          | P05129        | CHEMBL2938 | Kinase                                  |              | 16/1 😃                      |
| Protein kinase C alpha                                      | PRKCA          | P17252        | CHEMBL299  | Kinase                                  |              | 19/1 🕹                      |
| Protein kinase C beta                                       | PRKCB          | P05771        | CHEMBL3045 | Kinase                                  |              | 20/1 🕹                      |
| Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma            | PPARG          | P37231        | CHEMBL235  | Nuclear receptor                        |              | 0/17 😃                      |
| MAP kinase signal-integrating kinase 2                      | MKNK2          | Q9НВН9        | CHEMBL4204 | Kinase                                  |              | 1/1 🕹                       |
| MAP kinase-interacting serine/threonine-protein kinase MNK1 | MKNK1          | Q9BUB5        | CHEMBL4718 | Kinase                                  |              | 1/1 🕹                       |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 9                                  | MMP9           | P14780        | CHEMBL321  | Protease                                |              | 2/0 😃                       |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 1                                  | MMP1           | P03956        | CHEMBL332  | Protease                                |              | 1/0 😃                       |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 2                                  | MMP2           | P08253        | CHEMBL333  | Protease                                |              | 3/0 🕹                       |
| Matrix metalloproteinase 8                                  | MMP8           | P22894        | CHEMBL4588 | Protease                                |              | 1/0 😃                       |
| PI3-kinase p110-alpha subunit                               | PIK3CA         | P42336        | CHEMBL4005 | Enzyme                                  |              | 7/0 🕹                       |
| Interleukin-8 receptor B                                    | CXCR2          | P25025        | CHEMBL2434 | Family A G protein-<br>coupled receptor |              | 27/0 🕹                      |
| Protein kinase C delta                                      | PRKCD          | Q05655        | CHEMBL2996 | Kinase                                  |              | 15/0 😃                      |
| Protein kinase C epsilon                                    | PRKCE          | Q02156        | CHEMBL3582 | Kinase                                  |              | 18/0 🕹                      |
| Protein kinase C eta  | PRKCH          | P24723        | CHEMBL3616 | Kinase                                  |              | 15/0 🕹                      |

Figure 4. Swiss target prediction of UA3



| Target  | Common<br>name | Uniprot<br>ID | ChEMBL ID  | Target Class                            | Probability* | Known<br>actives<br>(3D/2D) |
|---|----------------|---------------|------------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|
| MAP kinase signal-integrating kinase 2                      | MKNK2          | Q9НВН9        | CHEMBL4204 | Kinase                                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| MAP kinase-interacting serine/threonine-protein kinase MNK1 | MKNK1          | Q9BUB5        | CHEMBL4718 | Kinase                                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma            | PPARG          | P37231        | CHEMBL235  | Nuclear receptor                        |              | 0 / 15 😃                    |
| Protein kinase C gamma                                      | PRKCG          | P05129        | CHEMBL2938 | Kinase                                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| Protein kinase C alpha                                      | PRKCA          | P17252        | CHEMBL299  | Kinase                                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| Protein kinase C beta                                       | PRKCB          | P05771        | CHEMBL3045 | Kinase                                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| Insulin-like growth factor binding protein 3                | IGFBP3         | P17936        | CHEMBL3997 | Secreted protein                        |              | 3/0 坐                       |
| Lysine-specific demethylase 4C                              | KDM4C          | Q9H3R0        | CHEMBL6175 | Eraser                                  |              | 1/0 😃                       |
| Estradiol 17-beta-dehydrogenase 2                           | HSD17B2        | P37059        | CHEMBL2789 | Enzyme                                  |              | 4/0 😃                       |
| Estradiol 17-beta-dehydrogenase 1                           | HSD17B1        | P14061        | CHEMBL3181 | Enzyme                                  |              | 4/0 😃                       |
| Interleukin-8 receptor B                                    | CXCR2          | P25025        | CHEMBL2434 | Family A G protein-<br>coupled receptor |              | 8/0 😃                       |
| Thyroid hormone receptor alpha                              | THRA           | P10827        | CHEMBL1860 | Nuclear receptor                        |              | 1/0 😃                       |
| Thyroid hormone receptor beta-1                             | THRB           | P10828        | CHEMBL1947 | Nuclear receptor                        |              | 1/0 😃                       |
| Heat shock protein HSP 90-alpha                             | HSP90AA1       | P07900        | CHEMBL3880 | Other cytosolic protein                 |              | 1/0 😃                       |
| Catechol O-methyltransferase                                | COMT           | P21964        | CHEMBL2023 | Transferase                             |              | 15/0 🕹                      |

Figure 5. Swiss target prediction of UA4



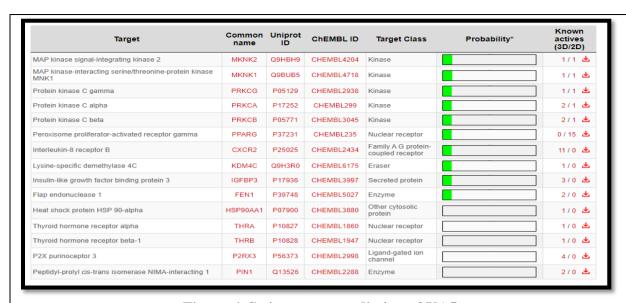
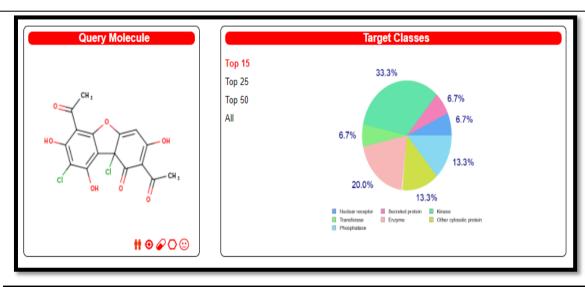
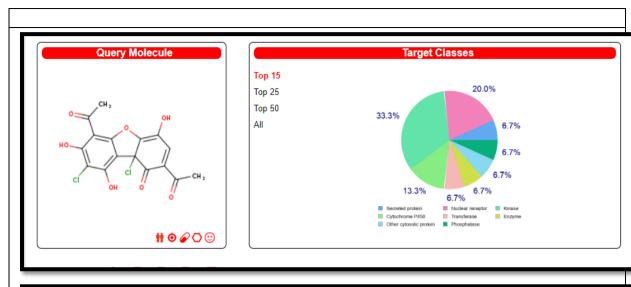


Figure 6. Swiss target prediction of UA5



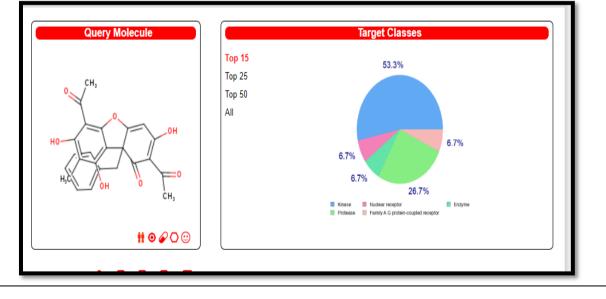
| Target  | Common<br>name | Uniprot<br>ID | ChEMBL ID     | Target Class            | Probability* | Known<br>actives<br>(3D/2D) |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma            | PPARG          | P37231        | CHEMBL235     | Nuclear receptor        |              | 0 / 15 😃                    |
| Insulin-like growth factor binding protein 3                | IGFBP3         | P17936        | CHEMBL3997    | Secreted protein        |              | 3/0 🕹                       |
| MAP kinase signal-integrating kinase 2                      | MKNK2          | Q9НВН9        | CHEMBL4204    | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| MAP kinase-interacting serine/threonine-protein kinase MNK1 | MKNK1          | Q9BUB5        | CHEMBL4718    | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| Protein kinase C gamma                                      | PRKCG          | P05129        | CHEMBL2938    | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| Protein kinase C alpha                                      | PRKCA          | P17252        | CHEMBL299     | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| Protein kinase C beta                                       | PRKCB          | P05771        | CHEMBL3045    | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 😃                       |
| Catechol O-methyltransferase                                | COMT           | P21964        | CHEMBL2023    | Transferase             |              | 9/0 😃                       |
| Estradiol 17-beta-dehydrogenase 2                           | HSD17B2        | P37059        | CHEMBL2789    | Enzyme                  |              | 3/0 😃                       |
| Estradiol 17-beta-dehydrogenase 1                           | HSD17B1        | P14061        | CHEMBL3181    | Enzyme                  |              | 3/0 😃                       |
| Flap endonuclease 1   | FEN1           | P39748        | CHEMBL5027    | Enzyme                  |              | 1/0 😃                       |
| Heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein                           | HSPA8          | P11142        | CHEMBL1275223 | Other cytosolic protein |              | 2/0 😃                       |
| Dual specificity phosphatase Cdc25A                         | CDC25A         | P30304        | CHEMBL3775    | Phosphatase             |              | 1/0 😃                       |
| Dual specificity phosphatase Cdc25B                         | CDC25B         | P30305        | CHEMBL4804    | Phosphatase             |              | 1/0 😃                       |
| Heat shock 70 kDa protein 1                                 | HSPA1A         | P0DMV8        | CHEMBL5460    | Other cytosolic protein |              | 2/0 😃                       |

Figure 7. Swiss target prediction of UA6



| Target  | Common<br>name | Uniprot<br>ID | ChEMBL ID     | Target Class            | Probability* | Known<br>actives<br>(3D/2D) |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Insulin-like growth factor binding protein 3                | IGFBP3         | P17936        | CHEMBL3997    | Secreted protein        |              | 3/0 년                       |
| Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma            | PPARG          | P37231        | CHEMBL235     | Nuclear receptor        |              | 0 / 15                      |
| MAP kinase signal-integrating kinase 2                      | MKNK2          | Q9НВН9        | CHEMBL4204    | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 년                       |
| MAP kinase-interacting serine/threonine-protein kinase MNK1 | MKNK1          | Q9BUB5        | CHEMBL4718    | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 년                       |
| Cytochrome P450 2C9   | CYP2C9         | P11712        | CHEMBL3397    | Cytochrome P450         |              | 1/0 년                       |
| Cytochrome P450 2C19  | CYP2C19        | P33261        | CHEMBL3622    | Cytochrome P450         |              | 1/0 년                       |
| Protein kinase C gamma                                      | PRKCG          | P05129        | CHEMBL2938    | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 년                       |
| Protein kinase C alpha                                      | PRKCA          | P17252        | CHEMBL299     | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 년                       |
| Protein kinase C beta                                       | PRKCB          | P05771        | CHEMBL3045    | Kinase                  |              | 1/1 년                       |
| Catechol O-methyltransferase                                | COMT           | P21964        | CHEMBL2023    | Transferase             |              | 7/0 년                       |
| Aldose reductase  | AKR1B1         | P15121        | CHEMBL1900    | Enzyme                  |              | 6/0 🕹                       |
| Heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein                           | HSPA8          | P11142        | CHEMBL1275223 | Other cytosolic protein |              | 2/0 년                       |
| Thyroid hormone receptor alpha                              | THRA           | P10827        | CHEMBL1860    | Nuclear receptor        |              | 1/0 년                       |
| Thyroid hormone receptor beta-1                             | THRB           | P10828        | CHEMBL1947    | Nuclear receptor        |              | 1/0 년                       |
| Dual specificity phosphatase Cdc25A                         | CDC25A         | P30304        | CHEMBL3775    | Phosphatase             |              | 1/0 8                       |





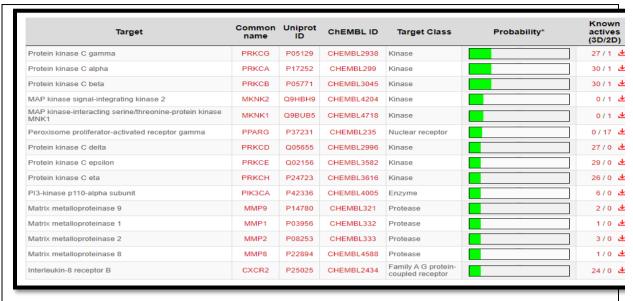
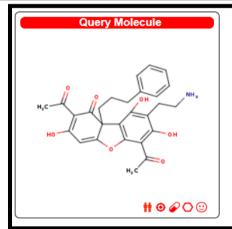
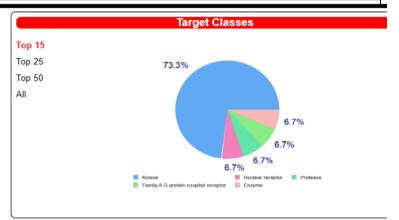


Figure 9. Swiss target prediction of UA8





| Target   | Common<br>name | Uniprot<br>ID | ChEMBL ID  | Target Class                            | Probability* | Knowr<br>actives<br>(3D/2D |
|--|----------------|---------------|------------|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| Protein kinase C gamma   | PRKCG          | P05129        | CHEMBL2938 | Kinase                                  |              | 72 / 1                     |
| Protein kinase C alpha   | PRKCA          | P17252        | CHEMBL299  | Kinase                                  |              | 83 / 1                     |
| Protein kinase C beta  | PRKCB          | P05771        | CHEMBL3045 | Kinase                                  |              | 91/1                       |
| MAP kinase signal-integrating kinase 2                         | MKNK2          | Q9НВН9        | CHEMBL4204 | Kinase                                  |              | 0/1                        |
| MAP kinase-interacting serine/threonine-protein kinase<br>MNK1 | MKNK1          | Q9BUB5        | CHEMBL4718 | Kinase                                  |              | 0/1                        |
| Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma               | PPARG          | P37231        | CHEMBL235  | Nuclear receptor                        |              | 0 / 17                     |
| Protein kinase C delta   | PRKCD          | Q05655        | CHEMBL2996 | Kinase                                  |              | 79 / 0                     |
| Protein kinase C (PKC)   | PRKCZ          | Q05513        | CHEMBL3438 | Kinase                                  |              | 12 / 0                     |
| Protein kinase C epsilon                                       | PRKCE          | Q02156        | CHEMBL3582 | Kinase                                  |              | 80 / 0                     |
| Protein kinase C eta   | PRKCH          | P24723        | CHEMBL3616 | Kinase                                  |              | 74/0                       |
| Thrombin and coagulation factor X                              | F10            | P00742        | CHEMBL244  | Protease                                |              | 38 / 0                     |
| cAMP-dependent protein kinase alpha-catalytic subunit          | PRKACA         | P17612        | CHEMBL4101 | Kinase                                  |              | 20 / 0                     |
| Interleukin-8 receptor B                                       | CXCR2          | P25025        | CHEMBL2434 | Family A G protein-<br>coupled receptor |              | 13 / 0                     |
| Aldose reductase (by homology)                                 | AKR1B1         | P15121        | CHEMBL1900 | Enzyme                                  |              | 6/0                        |
| Serine/threonine-protein kinase AKT                            | AKT1           | P31749        | CHEMBL4282 | Kinase                                  |              | 3/0                        |

Figure 10. Swiss target prediction of UA9

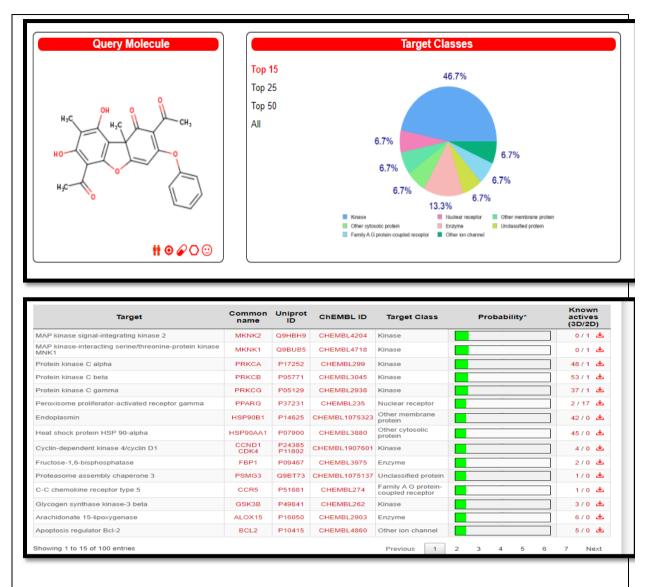


Figure 11. Swiss target prediction of UA10

#### **Analysis of Swiss target prediction**

All the studied molecules (Figure 1-11.), except UA6 and UA7, show effective binding for the enzyme kinase that catalyzes the transfer of phosphate groups from high-energy, phosphate-donating molecules to specific substrates. UA6 has high binding percentage for the enzyme nuclear receptor which directly regulate transcription of genes that control a wide variety of biological processes, including cell proliferation, development, metabolism, and reproduction. UA7 has high binding percentage for the enzymes secreted protein and nuclear receptor.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

All the selected compounds, except UA9, exhibit high GI absorption, indicating their potential for usage as oral medications. Not every chemical has BBB penetration. They cannot therefore be used for illnesses relating to the brain. The log P value for molecules UA1, UA2, UA3, UA9, and UA10 is larger than 2, indicating that they are unable to reach the central nervous system. The remaining compounds, with the exception of UA6 and

UA7, exhibit efficient binding for the kinase enzyme, which catalyzes the transfer of phosphate groups from high-energy, phosphate-donating molecules to particular substrates. The nuclear receptor enzyme, which directly controls the transcription of genes that govern a wide range of biological activities, including cell proliferation, development, metabolism, and reproduction, is bound by UA6 with a high percentage. UA7 binds to nuclear receptors and secreted proteins with a high proportion. The fact that all of the compounds have positive nuclear receptor interaction values indicates that they play a part in gene creation, which may have an impact on reproduction and anti-carcinogenic properties.

#### **REFERENCES:**

- i. Liu R. H.; Potential synergy of phytochemicals in cancer prevention: mechanism of action; J. Nutri, 2004, **134**, 12.
- ii. Marijana K.; Branislav; Ranković; Tatjana S.; Perica V. and Nedeljko M.; Biological activities and chemical composition of lichens from Serbia; Excli. J., 2014, **13**, 1226.
- iii. Ingólfsdóttir K.; Usnic acid; Phytochemistry, 2002, **61**, 7, 729.
- iv. Wojciech P.; Irma P.; Marta G.; Paweł P.; Karolina, G., and Agnieszka, G., Inflammation and Natural Products; Life; 2023, **13**, 1046.
- v. <a href="https://www.acs.org/molecule-of-the-week/archive/u/usnic-acid.html">https://www.acs.org/molecule-of-the-week/archive/u/usnic-acid.html</a>
- vi. Olimathi A.; Akilandeswari L. and Kalpana P.; Medicinal Properties of Usnic Acid and Its Analogues A SwissADME Study; IJCRT; 2025, **13** (3), 654.
- vii. <a href="https://www.molsoft.com/about.html">https://www.molsoft.com/about.html</a>
- viii. www.molinspiration.com
- ix. Daina A.; Michielin O. and Zoete V.; SwissADME: a free web tool to evaluate pharmacokinetics, drug-likeness and medicinal chemistry friendliness of small molecules; Sci. Rep. 2017, 7, 42717.
- x. http://www.swissadme.ch/
- xi. http://www.swisstargetprediction.ch

Received on April 9, 2025