Contents

Title	Page No.
TITLE OF THESIS	i
CERTIFICATE	ii
DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE & CERTIFICATE BY THE SUPERVISOR	iii
COPYRIGHT TRANSFER CERTIFICATE	iv
Dedication	v
Acknowledgement	vi-vii
Contents	viii-xviii
List of Figures	xix-xxviii
List of Schemes	xxix-xxx
List of Tables	xxxi
List of Symbols/Abbreviations	xxxii-xxxiv
Preface	xxxv-xxxix
CHAPTER 1: Introduction and literature review	**1-78**
1.1 Introduction	1
1.1.1 Types of nanomaterials	2
1.1.1.1 Based on dimension	2
A. Zero-dimensional (0-D)	2
B. One-dimensional (1-D)	3
C. Two-dimensional (2-D)	3
D. Three-dimensional (3-D)	4
1.1.1.2 Based on core source material	4

A. Carbon-based nanomaterials 4
B. Metal oxide nanoparticles 5
C. Metallic nanoparticles 6
1.2 Synthesis of nanoparticles 8
1.2.1 Top-down method 8
1.2.2 Bottom-up method 8
1.3 Overview of AgNPs and AuNPs 11
1.3.1 AgNPs 11
1.3.2 AuNPs 13
1.3.3 History of AgNPs and AuNPs 14
1.4 Green synthesis of AgNPs and AuNPs 17
1.4.1 Microbial route 18
1.4.1.1 Bacteria 20
1.4.1.2 Fungi 25
1.4.1.3 Algae 30
1.4.1.4 Actinomycetes and Yeast 36
1.4.2 Plants 38
1.4.2.1 Photoinduced synthesis 55
1.5 Properties of AgNPs and AuNPs 57
1.5.1 Tunable shape and size 57
1.5.2 Charged surface 60
1.5.3 Excellent stability 60
1.5.3.1 Electrostatic stabilization 60
1.5.3.2 Steric stabilization 61

1.5.4 Easy functionalization 63

1.5.5 Biocompatibility 64

1.5.6 Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) 65

1.6 Applications of AgNPs and AuNPs 66

1.6.1 Antibacterial 66

1.6.2 Antifungal 66

1.6.3 Antiviral 67

1.6.4 Anticancer 68

1.6.5 Catalytic 69

1.6.6 Biosensing 69

1.6.7 Drug delivery 70

1.6.8 Gene delivery 71

1.6.9 Wound healing 71

1.7 Selection of plant source 72

1.7.1 *Xanthium strumarium* 73

1.7.1.1 Scientific classification of *X. strumarium* 74

1.7.2 *Croton bonplandianum* 75

1.7.2.1 Scientific classification of *C. bonplandianum* 76

1.8 Research objectives 77

Chapter 2: Materials and Methods **79-110**

2.1 Introduction 79

2.2 Materials 79

2.2.1 Bacterial strains 81

2.2.2 Cleaning solution 82

2.2.3 Sterilization 82

2.3 Methods 82

2.3.1 Preparation of leaf extracts 82

2.3.2 Confirmation and quantification of polyphenolic compounds 83

2.3.2.1 Ferric chloride test 83

2.3.2.2 Folin Ciocalteu's method 83

2.3.3 Preparation of standards 84

2.3.3.1 Preparation of standard solution of silver metal ion 84

2.3.3.2 Preparation of standard solution of gold metal ion 85

2.3.4 Green synthesis of AgNPs and AuNPs 85

2.3.4.1 Synthesis of AgNPs 85

2.3.4.2 Synthesis of AuNPs 86

2.3.5 Synthesis of graphene oxide (GO) and reduced graphene oxide (rGO) 87

2.3.6 Fabrication of AgNPs-rGO-PANI nanocomposite 88

2.3.7 Fabrication of AgNPs-rGO-PANI modified glassy carbon electrode 89

2.3.8 Fabrication of AgNPs-rGO nanocomposite 89

2.4 Characterization 89

2.4.1 UV-visible spectroscopy 90

2.4.2 Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy 92

2.4.3 X-Ray diffraction 94

2.4.4 Scanning electron microscopy 96

2.4.5 Transmission electron microscopy 98

2.4.6 Atomic force microscopy 99

2.4.7 Zeta potential 101

2.5 Environmental and biological applications 102

2.5.1 Antibacterial study 102

2.5.1.1 Determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations of AgNPs 102

2.5.1.2 Disc diffusion assay 103

2.5.1.3 Cell viability test 103

2.5.1.4 Evaluation of antibacterial mechanism of AgNPs 104

2.5.1.5 Cell morphology observation 105

2.5.2 Antileishmanial study 105

2.5.2.1 Parasites and culture conditions 105

2.5.2.2 *In vitro* antileishmanial activity 105

2.5.2.3 *In vitro* assay of cytotoxicity on J774A.1 macrophages 106

2.5.2.4 Giemsa staining 107

2.5.3 *In vitro* antioxidant assays 107

2.5.3.1 DPPH free radical scavenging assay 107

2.5.3.2 Hydrogen peroxide scavenging assay 108

2.5.4 Colorimetric detection of iron (Fe^{3+}) 108

2.5.5 Electrochemical detection of H_2O_2 108

2.5.6 Peroxidase like catalytic activity of green synthesized AuNPs 109

2.5.6.1 Colorimetric detection of H_2O_2 109

2.5.6.2 Detection of glutathione 109

2.5.6.3 Detection of cholesterol 110

Chapter 3: 111-137
Photo-induced rapid biosynthesis of silver nanoparticle using aqueous extract of *Xanthium strumarium* and its antibacterial and antileishmanial activity

3.1 Introduction 111

3.2 Materials and methods 113

3.2.1 Preparation of leaf extract 113

3.2.2 Biosynthesis of AgNPs 114

3.2.3 Experimental methodology 115

3.3 Results and discussion 115

3.3.1 Primary confirmation of AgNPs synthesis 115

3.3.2 Optimization 117

3.3.2.1 Sunlight exposure 117

3.3.2.2 AEX inoculum dose 119

3.3.2.3 $AgNO_3$ concentration 121

3.3.3 Mechanism involving AgNPs formation 123

3.3.4 Characterization 125

3.4 Antimicrobial activity of AgNPs 131

3.4.1 Disk diffusion assay 132

3.4.2 Cell viability 132

3.4.3 Antibacterial mechanism of AgNPs 134

3.4.4 Cell morphology observation 134

3.5 Cytotoxicity assay 136

3.5.1 *In vitro* assay of cytotoxicity on J774A.1 macrophages 136

3.6 Conclusion 137

Chapter 4: Photo-mediated optimized synthesis of silver nanoparticles for the selective detection of Iron (III), antibacterial and antioxidant activity **138-176**

4.1 Introduction 138

4.2 Materials and methods 141

4.2.1 Preparation of leaf extract 141

4.2.2 Synthesis of AgNPs 142

4.2.3 Experimental methodology 143

4.3 Results and discussion 144

4.3.1 Primary confirmation of synthesis of AgNPs 144

4.3.2 Optimization of process parameters 146

4.3.2.1 Sunlight duration 146

4.3.2.2 AEC inoculums dose 149

4.3.2.3 $AgNO_3$ concentration 150

4.3.3 Mechanism involving AgNPs biosynthesis 152

4.3.4 Characterization of AgNPs 155

4.3.5 Stability of AgNPs 162

4.4 Colorimetric detection of iron (Fe^{3+}) 164

4.4.1 Mechanism of detection of Fe^{3+} 166

4.5 Antimicrobial activity of AgNPs 167

4.5.1 Cell viability 169

4.5.2	Antimicrobial mechanism of AgNPs	170
4.5.3	Cell morphology observation	171
4.6	Antioxidant activity	173
4.6.1	DPPH assay	173
4.6.2	Measurement of H_2O_2 scavenging assay	174
4.7	Conclusion	175
Chapter 5: Green synthesis of gold nanoparticles and its mimetic activity for the colorimetric detection of hydrogen peroxide		**177-206**
5.1	Introduction	177
5.2	Materials and methods	179
5.2.1	Preparation of leaf extract	179
5.2.2	Biosynthesis of NC-AuNPs	179
5.2.3	Experimental methodology	180
5.3	Results and discussion	180
5.3.1	Optimization of process parameters	182
5.3.1.1	Sunlight exposure	182
5.3.1.2	AEX inoculums dose	184
5.3.1.3	$HAuCl_4.xH_2O$ concentration	185
5.3.2	Mechanism involving NC-AuNPs formation	187
5.3.3	Characterization	189
5.3.4	Peroxidase-like activity of NC-AuNPs	197
5.3.5	Optimization of factors affecting the peroxidase-like activity	198

5.3.6 Detection of H_2O_2 203

5.3.7 Selectivity 204

5.4 Conclusion 205

Chapter 6: Size-dependent green synthesis of gold nanoparticles and its peroxidase-like mimetic activity for the detection of glutathione from human blood serums **207-239**

6.1 Introduction 207

6.2 Materials and methods 209

6.2.1 Preparation of leaf extract 209

6.2.2 Biosynthesis of AuNPs 209

6.2.3 Experimental methodology 210

6.3 Results and discussion 211

6.3.1 Primary confirmation of AuNPs synthesis 211

6.3.2 Optimization of the process parameters 212

6.3.2.1 Sunlight exposure 212

6.3.2.2 AEC inoculums dose 214

6.3.2.3 $HAuCl_4.xH_2O$ concentration 215

6.4 Mechanism involving AuNPs formation 218

6.5 Characterization 220

6.6 Peroxidase-like catalytic activity of green synthesized AuNPs 229

6.6.1 Optimization of factors affecting peroxidase-like activity 231

6.6.2 Detection of GSH 234

6.6.3 Detection of GSH in real samples 237

6.7 Conclusion 238

Chapter 7: Enhanced electron transfer mediated detection of hydrogen peroxide using silver nanoparticles-reduced graphene oxide-polyaniline fabricated electrochemical sensor **240-263**

7.1 Introduction 240

7.2 Materials and methods 242

7.2.1 Experimental methodology 242

7.3 Results and discussion 244

7.3.1 Characterization 244

7.3.2 Electrochemical detection of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) 254

7.3.3 Electrochemical characterization of AgNPs-rGO-PANI-GCE 255

7.3.3.1 Cyclic voltammograms (CV) 255

7.3.3.2 Effect of scan rate 258

7.3.3.3 Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy of AgNPs-rGO-GCE and AgNPs-rGO-PANI-GCE 259

7.3.3.4 Amperometric determination of H_2O_2 260

7.3.3.5 Interference study 262

7.4 Conclusion 263

Chapter 8: Peroxidase-like mimetic activity of AuNPs@rgo nanocomposite for the colorimetric detection of cholesterol **264-283**

8.1 Introduction 264

8.2 Materials and methods 266

8.2.1 Fabrication of AuNPs@rGO nanocomposite 266

8.2.2 Experimental methodology 266

8.3 Results and discussion 267

8.3.1 Characterization 267

8.3.2 Peroxidase-like activity 273

8.3.2.1 Optimization of the factors affecting peroxidase-like activity 276

8.3.2.2 Detection of cholesterol 279

8.3.2.3 Selectivity 281

8.4 Conclusion 283

Summary 284-289

Future Recommendations 290

References 291-317

List of Publications 318-321