2. AIM OF THE STUDY
AIM OF THE PRESENT STUDY

For centuries, indigenous drugs either alone or in combination have been advocated in the traditional system of medicine for the treatment of liver disorders. Four frequently used plants with claims of hepatoprotective activity have been selected for the study, details of which are included under the second part of literature review.

1) *Thespesia populnea*

This is the principal constituent of an indigenous formulation "Kamilari" (New Udaya Pharmacy and Ayurvedic Laboratory, Cochin). This formulation has already been evaluated for its hepatoprotective activity\textsuperscript{125}.

2) *Lagenaria siceraria*

Though this plant has not been incorporated into any formulation, it is a common household remedy for liver disorders.

3) *Capparis spinosa*

This is an ingredient of the ever-popular liver tonic "Liv-52" (Himalaya Drug Co., India), "Livarin" (Patiala Ayurvedic Pharmacy, Sirhind) and "Livomyn" (Charak Pharm. India Pvt., Ltd., Umbergaon).

4) *Solanum nigrum*

This is an incorporate of "Hepa-10" (Jupiter Pharm. Pvt., Ltd., India), "M-Liv" (Indian Medicine Pharm. Corpn. Ltd., Mohan) in addition to the above mentioned "Liv-52", "Livarin" and "Livomyn".
A survey of literature indicated that these plants, though frequently used in indigenous formulations, have not been investigated for the said property. The present study is therefore an attempt to evaluate the hepatoprotective activity and to isolate and characterise active components from these plants.