Origin of the Problem

“Every word has a power of encashment
Every root has biological activity
Every person has some virtue
But rare person make use of his knowledge”

Diabetes Mellitus is one of the challenges faced by modern medicine. Important progress has been made in understanding the progression of the pathogenesis of Diabetes Mellitus. In the last few years, revolutionary changes in the therapy of Diabetes Mellitus have been described. Drugs like insulin, sulphonylureas, biguanides have rationalized and simplified the treatment of diabetes. But none of them have been unequivocally successful in maintaining euglycaemia and in avoiding late stage complications of diabetes. New drugs are being tried to reduce glucose absorption from gut and to prevent other diabetic complications. A new rapid acting insulin analog [Lys (B28), Pro (B29)] human insulin (LYSPRO) and a technique for transplantation of pancreas and /or islet cells have been developed. In spite of the advances in therapeutics, diabetes still remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the world.

World ethanobotanical information about medicinal plants reports 800 plants used in the control of Diabetes Mellitus but only a small number of these have received scientific and medicinal evaluation to assess its efficacy. However, Traditional herbal remedies are still in use by diabetic patients and may, therefore, provide new avenues in the search for alternative hypoglycemic drugs. Ayurveda aims at getting to the root of the problem with its holistic approach and not just offering symptomatic relief. It induces revitalization of physiological functions. Owing to its unique efficacy & safety profiles, perhaps the wheel is coming full circle and the current trend is a return to nature. Today, popularity of complimentary medicine has increased, worldwide. Dietary measures and traditional plant therapies prescribed by Ayurveda and other indigenous systems of medicine have been used commonly in India. Consequently, it has stimulated a new wave research interest in traditional practices, and the WHO expert committee on diabetes has recommended that traditional methods of treatment for diabetes should be further investigated.

The plant kingdom is a vast repertoire of chemicals and constitutes a promising area of current research in Phytochemical Prevention. Indian medicinal herbs represent a rich source from which novel chemotherapeutic agents have been derived. There is growing interest in the search of phytochemicals from Natural Sources. So far more than of half of the flora has been documented for pharmacological importance; the vast majority has not yet been scientifically evaluated. With this aim in view, the present piece of work reports the unexploited antidiabetic & antioxidative properties of the plant Coccinia indica in the validated animal model of diabetes.