7 CONCLUSION
The research work cited in this study contributes to justifying the traditional use of the genus *Combretum* with special reference to *Combretum albidum* G. Don for the treatment of various health problems.

*C. albidum* (Combretaceae), commonly known as Manjakody, is a large woody climbing, deciduous shrub, up to 30 m high. Its distribution restricted to semi-evergreen and deciduous forests, along river banks of Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. The Muthuvans, Chinnar tribe of Idukki district, Kerala, India is using this plant as a remedy for Jaundice. Though, the common jaundice plants like *Phyllanthus airy-shawii* and *P. amarus* are very common there and known for its use, the tribes prefer bark juice of *C. albidum* administered orally against jaundice and so far no scientific reports in this genus. This genus presents itself as a promising new scientific research topic to investigate. From the ethnobotanical survey of Chinnar region of Kerala, it is found that *C. albidum* is a tribal medicine for jaundice and further scientific studies were conducted for the pharmacognostic, phytochemical characterization of the various parts used for the treatment and pharmacological potential of the extracts, fractions and compounds isolated from plant species.

From the present study, quality standardization parameters were developed and proven its biological activities like antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, cytotoxicity, hepatoprotective and anticancerous activities. Three compounds were isolated for the first time from this species and the compounds have known hepatoprotective activity and antioxidant properties. Form the leaf oil, 18 volatile compounds were identified, in which, caryophyllene, linalool, β-phellandrene and phytol were found to be major
in percentage with known biological properties. For the quality control of raw material, botanical and chemical markers were developed with proper phytochemical fingerprinting using HPTLC, GC and LC/MS. The isolated compounds can be used as biological markers for this particular plant.

We see that there is a need for further studies on the chemical characterization of the extracts used, and also for other compounds. With respect to pharmacological studies, there is an increasing need for further in vivo investigations of toxicity and biological activities, as well as for insights into the possible mechanisms involved. Therefore, new research findings on C. albidum could lead to greater safety and benefits to people who use these species to treat diseases, contributing to a better access to health care and thereby a better quality of life.

The goal of ethnopharmacological studies on medicinal plants should not be restricted to find new prototype pure compounds as drugs. Active extracts, fractions or mixture of fractions/extracts may prove very effective drugs. Plant drugs (combinations or individual drug) for liver diseases should possess sufficient efficacy to cure severe liver diseases caused by toxic chemicals, viruses (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, etc.), excess alcohol intake, etc. A single drug cannot be effective against all types of severe liver diseases. Effective formulations have to be developed using indigenous medicinal plants, with proper pharmacological experiments and clinical trials. The manufacture of plant products should be governed by standards of safety and efficacy.