



## ***Punica granatum* flower extract mediated synthesis of Copper oxide Nanoparticle and evolution of its antibacterial activity**

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### **Abstract**

*Nano copper oxide is extensively used as an important inorganic material in variety of fields such as catalysis, superconductors, ceramic etc. Owing to its characteristic properties, such as photovoltaic properties, thermal resistance and antioxidant activity it has achieved a huge applications compared with the ordinary copper oxide. In this paper, we report the green synthesis of copper oxide nanoparticle making use of eco-friendly Punica granatum flower extract. The synthesized CuONPs are characterized by UV-visible absorption spectroscopy, fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) and X-ray diffraction (XRD). The UV absorption band at 442 nm confirms the formation of CuO NPs and XRD pattern confirms the crystalline monoclinic structure of CuO NPs. FT-IR reveals the presence of variety of phytochemicals like terpenoids, alkaloids, phenolic along with CuO NPs as capping agents. The synthesized CuO NPs exhibit very good anti bacterial activity of towards both gram positive and negative pathogens.*

**Keywords-** Green synthesis, Punica granatum flower and Copperoxide nanoparticles

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Nanotechnology plays a vital role in recent years of research[1]. It is one of the successful technology finding applications in almost all the fields including pharmaceutical, electronics, bio-medical technological, chemical industry, and cosmetics. In pharmaceuticals, it has been applied to cure infection[2], cancer[3], allergy[4], diabetes[5] and inflammation[6].

Nanoparticle is behaved as a unique because of its large surface area and surface energy. It is highly reactive and can be used, as a good catalyst[7]. Metal nanoparticles have been synthesized using variety of methods, which follow either top-down (physical) approach or bottom-up (chemical) approach. Most popular chemical methods produce nanoparticles along with the existence of toxic chemicals on the surfaces, which lead to some adverse effect in medical applications [8]. Environmental friendly and secure technology is the ultimate need for the production of nanoparticles. Green synthesis of NPs making use of plant extracts becomes the ultimate method for the production of metal NPs considering its cost effective, easy scale up and environmental benign steps.

Copper oxide NPs have numerous applications in different fields of research including high-Tc superconductors, gas sensors, optical, electrical, sensors, high magnet resistance materials [9] etc. The reported conventional synthesis of Copper oxide NPs like chemical route [10], hydrothermal method [11], solid-state reaction method [12], thermal decomposition of precursor [13], etc leaves some toxic chemicals absorbed at the surface, which can cause adverse outcomes in medical applications. A variety of plant extracts such as *Aloe vera* Leaf[14], *Ixora Coccinea*[15], Pomegranate peel [16], *Magnolia kobus*[17], *Carica Papaya*[18], *Manihot esculenta*[19], *Tridax procumbens*[20], *Azadirachta indica* [21], *Saraca indica*[22] have been utilized for the greener way production of CuO NPs.

*Punicagranatum* (*Pomegranate*) belongs to the family of Punicaceae, which is mainly cultivated in India, Spain, America, China and Israel. Various alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins and

phenolic compounds[23] extracted from roots, bark, leaves, peel and seed of *Punica granatum* is found to cure heart disease, anemia and some type of cancers[24]. The flower contains Gallic acid, ursolic acid [25], triterpenoids and asiatic acid. No study has been found in the literature for the synthesis of CuO NPs using *Punica granatum* flower extract. Therefore, we report here, the synthesis and characterization CuO NPs using *Punica granatum* flower extract. We also report the anti bacterial activity of the synthesized CuO NPs.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Materials

The *Punicagranatum* flower samples were collected from sawyerpuram, Tuticorin district, TamilNadu, India. Copper chloride ( $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and Sodium hydroxide were purchased from Standard Scientific Supplies chemicals (P) Ltd, Tirunelveli, India.

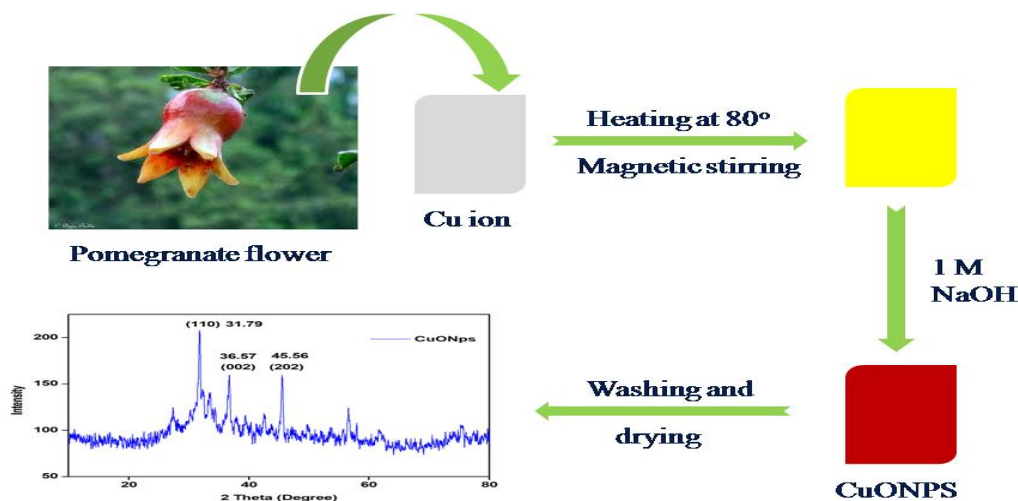
### 2.2 Methods

#### 2.2.1 Preparation of plant Extract

10 g of the collected flower samples was washed thoroughly with distilled water, mixed with 100 ml distilled water and boiled for 15-20 minutes. The extract was filtered through whatmann no. 1 filter paper and stored in a air tight container under  $4^\circ\text{C}$  for further use.

#### 2.2.2 Green-Synthesis of Copper oxide Nanoparticles

40 ml 4mM copper chloride aqueous was treated with 10 ml flower extract and the mixture was stirred at room temperature (at 2000 rpm). The stirring was continued for till to get a dark yellow color from the light straw yellow color. Then the mixture was heated at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 minutes and treated with 1M sodium hydroxide drop by drop. The reddish brown precipitate appeared indicating the formation of water soluble monodispersed copper oxide nanoparticles. The concentration of copper chloride was varied from 1 to 4 mM solution. The reddish brown precipitate was then taken out and washed repeatedly with deionized water to remove the impurities to get the final product.



**Figure .1 Formation of Copper oxide nanoparticle**

### 2.3 Characterization of copper oxide Nanoparticles

The green synthesized CuO NPs was analyzed using UV-visible, FT-IR and XRD analyses. Jasco V-550 spectrophotometer at the range of 200-800nm was used to get absorption maximum. CuO NPs were centrifuged at 9500 rpm for 20 min, dried in a hot air oven and ground to get powder. FT-IR spectrum of the powdered sample was recorded with Jasco 5300 model FTIR instrument using KBr pellet at the spectral range of  $400-4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The xrd pattern of the air dried CuONPs was analyzed by PAN analytical X'PERT-PRO powder X-ray diffractometer (XRD) using

Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation (1.5406Å) in the 2 $\theta$  range 20-80°. The anti-bacterial activity synthesized CuONPs was carried out using gel-diffusion method.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Visual Characterization

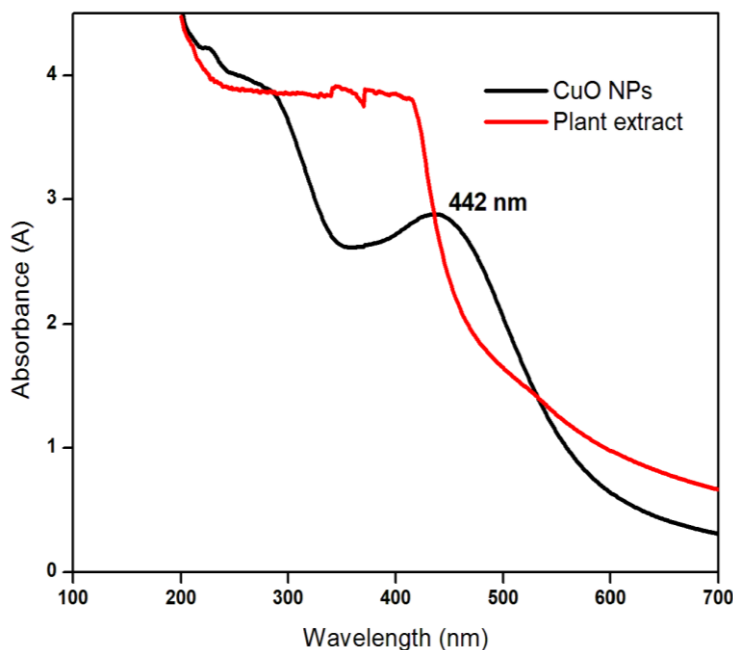
The formation of CuO NPs via a greener route using *Punica granatum* flower extract was well visualized from the Figure 2. The distinct color of the flower extract (A in Fig. 2) has acquired a reddish brown color upon addition of CuCl<sub>2</sub> and NaOH. The color changes indicate the formation of CuONPs.



**Figure .2 Visual observations (A) Plant extract (B) Copper chloride solution and (C) formation of CuO NPs**

#### 3.2 UV-Visible analysis

The bio synthesis for the formation of copper oxide nanoparticles using *Punica granatum* flower extract was reported. Formation of eco-friendly copper oxide nanoparticles had been showed via UV-VIS spectrometry. Figure.3 indicates the UV-Vis absorption spectrum of copper oxide nanoparticles and *Punica grantum* flower extract. The synthesized CuO NPs showed an absorption maximum at 442 nm due to surface plasmon resonance of CuO NPs[26].



**Figure .3 UV-Vis absorption spectrum of green synthesized CuONPs and *Punica granatum* flower extract**

### 3.3 FT-IR Analysis

FT-IR spectroscopy was used to investigate the interactions between different species and changes in chemical compositions of the mixtures. FT-IR measurements of both the aqueous *Punica granatum* flower extract and the air-dried CuO NPs were carried out to identify the possible biomolecules responsible for the reduction, capping and efficient stabilization of the bio-reduced CuONPs. The FT-IR spectra of the *Punica granatum* flower extract and the synthesized CuONPs are shown in Figure 4. The *Punica granatum* flower extract displays a number of adsorption peaks, reflecting its complex nature. The presence of terpenoids in *Punica granatum* flower extract can be identified by the strongest peaks of hydroxyl at  $3396\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha, \beta$ -unsaturated ketone band at  $1716\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and olefinic band at  $1617\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Primary and secondary alcohols showed bands at  $1043\text{ cm}^{-1}$  as well as the peaks around  $1447\text{ cm}^{-1}$  attribute to aliphatic C-H bending modes.

The major peak was observed in CuONPs to be  $546\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was due to stretching of Cu-O bond [26]. In addition the disappearance of  $\gamma_{\text{C=O}}$  stretching vibration of the  $\alpha, \beta$ -unsaturated ketone at  $1716\text{ cm}^{-1}$  confirm that the reduction and the stabilization of CuO NPs.

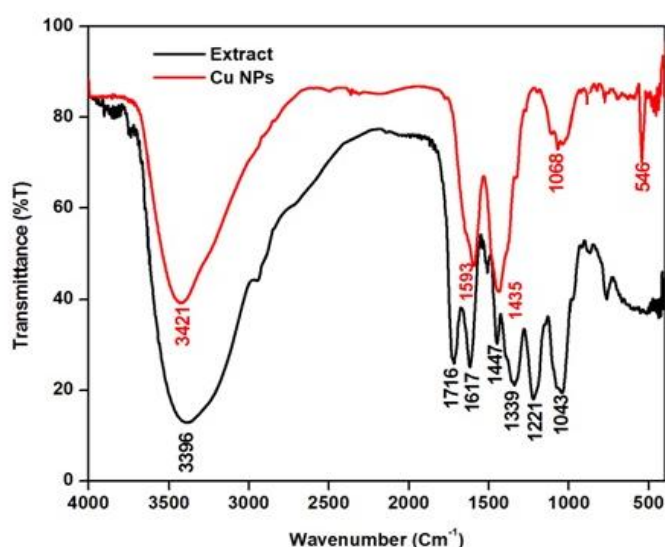


Figure .4 FT-IR spectra of flower extract and CuO NPs

### 3.4 X-Ray Diffraction Analysis

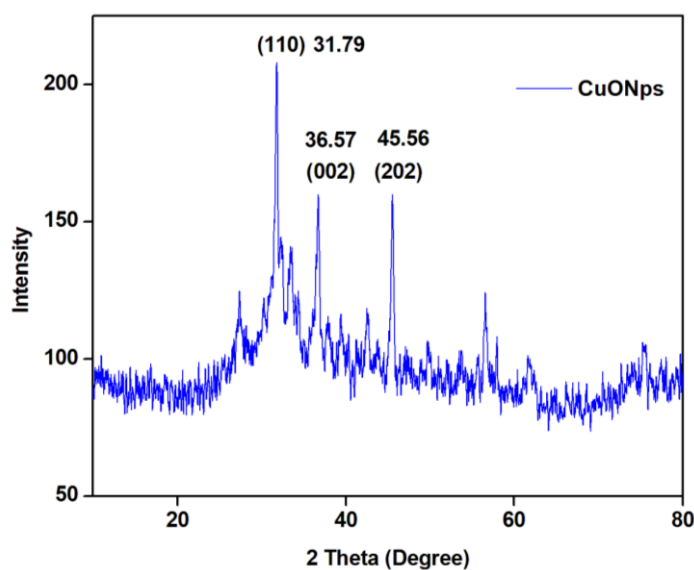


Figure.5 XRD pattern of the green synthesized CuONPs

Figure 5 shows the X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern of the CuONPs synthesized using *Punica granatum* flower extract. The XRD pattern revealed the orientation and crystalline nature of CuO NPs. The peak position with  $2\theta$  values of 31.79, 36.57 and 45.56 with respective planes 110, 002 and 202 confirmed the formation of monoclinic crystalline structure of CuO NPs (JCPDS-80-1268)[27]. The average crystallite size of the synthesized copper oxide nanoparticles was calculated using Debye-Scherrer equation. The analysis of 001 plane revealed that the average crystallite size of the CuO NPs as 30.87 nm.

### 3.5 Anti-bacterial activity

Anti-bacterial activity of synthesized CuO NPs was studied against gram positive *Staphylococcus aureus*, gram negative *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* by using gel-diffusion method. *Punica granatum* flower extract was used as blank and the activity of the sample was compared to that of the standard drug Amikacin.

The results showed that the synthesized CuO NPs were active against gram negative species *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* with the inhibition zone of diameter 8, 11mm respectively. However, CuO NPs has only very feeble activity towards gram positive species *S. aureus*.



**Figure.6 Zone of inhibition bacteria E-Coli, P.aeruginos and S.aureus**

## IV. CONCLUSION

Copper oxide nanoparticles are synthesized via eco-friendly greener route. *Punica granatum* flower extract successfully involved in the preparation of CuO NPs. The extract functions as both reducing and stabilization agent for CuO NPs. FT-IR spectral analysis shows the presence of terpenoids in *Punica granatum* flower extract which could involve in a dual role of reduction and stabilization of CuO NPs. The average crystallite size of the synthesized CuO NPs is 30.87. The synthesized CuONPs are highly stable and have significant effect on both gram negative *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* bacteria.

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