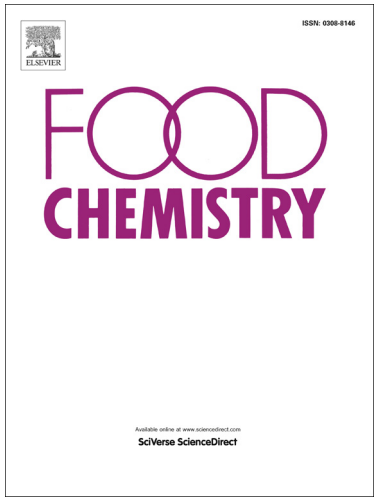

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Phytochemistry and pharmacological activities of the genus *Prunella*

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Abstract

Prunella is a genus of perennial herbaceous plants in the Labiatae family. There are approximately 15 species worldwide, distributed widely in the temperate regions and tropical mountains of Europe and Asia. In the genus *Prunella*, *P. vulgaris* is the most studied, following a several thousand-year history as a traditional antipyretic and antidotal Chinese herb. Furthermore, since ancient times, *P. vulgaris* has been widely used as a cool tea ingredient and consumed as a vegetable. The genus *Prunella* contains triterpenoids and their saponins, phenolic acids, sterols and associated glycosides, flavonoids, organic acids, volatile oil and saccharides. Modern pharmacological studies have revealed that *Prunella* possess antiviral, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, immunoregulatory, anti-oxidative, anti-tumor, antihypertensive and hypoglycemic functions. The active components related to these functions are mainly triterpenoids, phenolic acids, flavonoids and polysaccharides. This review mainly summarizes recent advances in traditional usage, chemical components and pharmacological functions.

Keywords: Prunella genus, chemical constituents; pharmacological activity

The contribution rate of Y. Bai & B. Xia is equal.

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