



Comprehensive computational investigation of *Aerva lanata* phytoconstituents as potential HER2 kinase inhibitors for the treatment of cancer

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ABSTRACT

Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) is a clinically significant oncogenic kinase that drives tumor growth, survival, and therapeutic resistance, making it a validated target for anticancer drug discovery. In the present study, an integrated in silico strategy was employed to evaluate phytochemicals from *Aerva lanata* as potential HER2 kinase inhibitors by combining ADMET profiling with molecular docking analysis. Sixteen phytochemical constituents belonging to alkaloids, flavonoids, and phenolic acids were selected based on reported phytochemical evidence, structural diversity, and pharmacological relevance. Physicochemical properties, drug-likeness, and pharmacokinetic parameters were predicted using SwissADME and ADMETlab 3.0, revealing that most alkaloids and aglycone flavonoids complied with Lipinski's rule of five, exhibited molecular weights below 500 Da, optimal lipophilicity (logP ~1–3), and acceptable safety profiles. Molecular docking was performed against the HER2 kinase domain using AutoDock Vina integrated in PyRx, followed by interaction analysis in Discovery Studio. Docking results demonstrated binding energies ranging from –4.5 to –9.9 kcal/mol, with several phytochemicals outperforming the native ligand (–8.9 kcal/mol). Notably, apigenin 7-O-β-D-glucoside showed the strongest affinity (–9.9 kcal/mol), followed by 10-methoxy-canthin-6-one (–9.1 kcal/mol), canthin-6-one (–9.0 kcal/mol), and quercetin (–8.3 kcal/mol). These compounds formed multiple hydrogen bonds (bond lengths ~2.0–2.8 Å) and hydrophobic interactions with key catalytic residues such as MET801, LEU796, ASP863, and VAL734, indicating stable ligand–protein complexes. Overall, this study highlights *Aerva lanata* as a promising source of lead scaffolds for HER2-targeted anticancer therapy and provides a strong computational rationale for further *in vitro* and *in vivo* validation.

1. Introduction

Cancer remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide, necessitating the continuous discovery of novel and effective therapeutic agents [1–3]. Among the various molecular targets implicated in cancer

progression, the human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) kinase has gained considerable attention due to its critical role in regulating cell proliferation, survival, differentiation, and metastasis [4–6]. Overexpression or aberrant activation of HER2 is strongly associated with aggressive tumor phenotypes, poor prognosis, and

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therapeutic resistance, particularly in breast and gastric cancers [7]. Although several HER2-targeted therapies are clinically available, their long-term use is often limited by drug resistance, cardiotoxicity, and high treatment costs [8]. These challenges underscore the urgent need to identify safer, cost-effective, and structurally diverse HER2 inhibitors, preferably from natural sources. Medicinal plants have historically served as a rich reservoir of bioactive compounds and continue to inspire modern drug discovery [9]. Natural products are characterized by remarkable chemical diversity, biological compatibility, and evolutionary optimization toward molecular targets. In this context, *Aerva lanata*, a traditionally used medicinal plant, has attracted scientific interest due to its broad spectrum of pharmacological properties, including anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimicrobial, hepatoprotective, and anticancer activities [10]. Phytochemical investigations of *A. lanata* have revealed the presence of diverse secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, flavonoids, phenolic acids, and other bioactive constituents, many of which are known to modulate key signaling pathways involved in cancer development and progression [11]. Despite its therapeutic potential, the molecular basis of interaction between *A. lanata* phytoconstituents and oncogenic protein targets such as HER2 remains largely unexplored [11,12]. Advances in computational biology have significantly accelerated early-stage drug discovery by enabling the rapid screening of large compound libraries with reduced cost and time. In silico approaches such as absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and toxicity (ADMET) prediction and molecular docking play a pivotal role in prioritizing drug-like molecules and minimizing late-stage failures. ADMET analysis provides valuable insight into the pharmacokinetic behavior, safety profile, and environmental impact of candidate compounds, while molecular docking elucidates ligand–protein binding affinity, interaction patterns, and structural complementarity within the active site of the target protein [13–15]. The integration of these computational techniques offers a rational and efficient framework for identifying promising lead molecules prior to experimental validation.

In the present study, an integrated in silico strategy was employed to evaluate the potential of selected phytoconstituents of *Aerva lanata* as HER2 kinase inhibitors. A panel of phytochemicals representing major chemical classes reported from plants was systematically screened for drug-likeness and ADMET properties, followed by molecular docking analysis against the HER2 kinase domain.

By correlating pharmacokinetic suitability with binding affinity and interaction profiles, this study aimed to identify promising natural lead compounds capable of modulating HER2 activity. These findings are expected to provide mechanistic insights into the anticancer

potential of *A. lanata* phytochemicals and establish a computational foundation for further in vitro and in vivo investigations for the development of novel HER2-targeted anticancer agents.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Selection of compounds

The selection of phytochemical compounds for the present investigation was guided by an extensive review of the phytochemical and pharmacological literature on *Aerva lanata*. Previous analytical and experimental studies have consistently reported the presence of a broad spectrum of bioactive secondary metabolites in this plant, including alkaloids, flavonoids, phenolic acids, and related compounds with documented therapeutic relevance [16,17]. To ensure scientific rigor and translational relevance, the compounds were selected based on their reported biological activities, structural diversity, and suitability for computational evaluation. Accordingly, a total of sixteen (16) phytochemicals were shortlisted for in silico assessment. The selected alkaloids included 10-methoxy-canthin-6-one, canthin-6-one, and β -carboline-1-propionic acid [16,17]. The flavonoid group comprised kaempferol, quercetin, isorhamnetin, 4'-hydroxy-3,6,7-trimethoxyflavone, 5-hydroxy-2',3,5',6,7-pentamethoxyflavone, and apigenin-7-O- β -D-glucoside. Phenolic acids, such as vanillic acid, syringic acid, and p-hydroxybenzoic acid, along with other reported constituents, including hydroquinone, hydroquinone monobenzyl ether, 2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran, and feruloyl vanillylamine, were also incorporated into the study.

All shortlisted compounds were subsequently evaluated for drug-likeness and ADMET properties to identify pharmacokinetically acceptable candidates for further study. Compounds that satisfied the ADMET criteria were subjected to molecular docking analysis to explore their binding affinity and interaction patterns with the selected target protein.

The three-dimensional structures of all phytochemicals were retrieved from the PubChem database in SDF format and prepared for computational modeling. The chemical structures of all selected compounds are shown in Figure 1.

2.2. ADMET analysis

The absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and toxicity (ADMET) properties of the selected phytochemicals were evaluated using a systematic in silico workflow to assess their drug-likeness and pharmacokinetic suitability [18]. Initially, the chemical structures of all selected compounds were retrieved from PubChem in the SDF format.

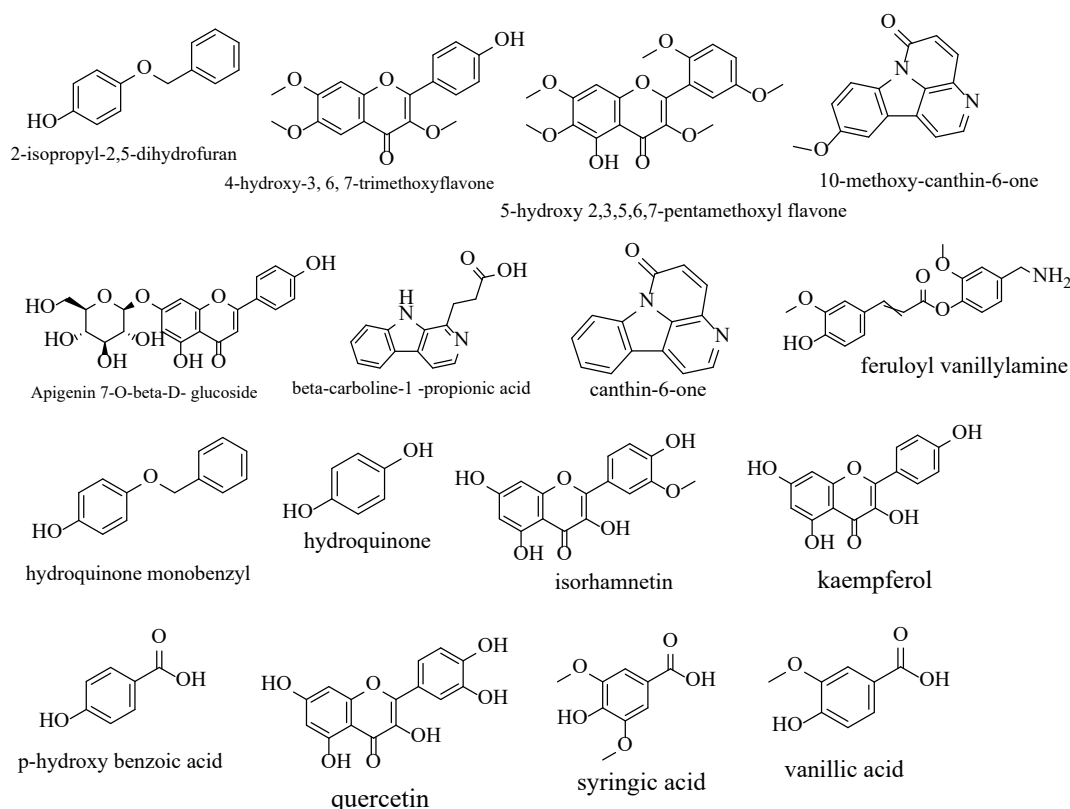


Fig. 1. Chemical Structure of all Selected Compounds.

Where required, the structures were manually drawn and optimized using ChemDraw to ensure correct stereochemistry, valency, and molecular integrity. The finalized structures were converted into SMILES format, which served as the standardized input for subsequent computational analyses. The physicochemical and preliminary pharmacokinetic parameters were predicted using SwissADME. Key descriptors, including molecular weight, lipophilicity (LogP), topological polar surface area (TPSA), number of hydrogen bond donors and acceptors, rotatable bonds, and compliance with Lipinski's rule of five, were analyzed to estimate oral bioavailability and drug-like properties [19–21].

Comprehensive ADMET profiling was performed using ADMETlab 3.0. This platform was employed to predict absorption-related parameters, such as human intestinal absorption and Caco-2 permeability; distribution properties, including plasma protein binding and blood–brain barrier permeability; metabolism characteristics focusing on cytochrome P450 enzyme interactions (CYP inhibition and substrate potential); excretion parameters, such as clearance; and toxicity endpoints, including hepatotoxicity, cardiotoxicity (hERG inhibition), mutagenicity, and carcinogenicity [22]. All predictions were generated using the default model settings. The integrated ADMET evaluation provided a rational basis for prioritizing compounds with favorable pharmacokinetic behaviors and acceptable safety profiles for further molecular docking and biological validation studies.

2.3. Molecular docking analysis

Molecular docking was performed to investigate the binding interactions and affinity of the selected phytocompounds with the target protein. The three-dimensional (3D) structures of the selected ligands were retrieved from PubChem in SDF format. Ligands that were unavailable or required structural correction were drawn manually using ChemDraw, ensuring proper atom types, bond orders, and stereochemistry [23–26]. All ligand structures were subsequently energy-minimized and converted into the appropriate file formats compatible with docking studies. The 3D crystal structure of the target protein was obtained from the Protein Data Bank in PDB format. Protein preparation was carried out using Discovery Studio, which involved removal of crystallographic water molecules, heteroatoms, and co-crystallized ligands, followed by the addition of polar hydrogen atoms and assignment of appropriate partial charges. The prepared protein structure was saved in PDB format for docking. Molecular docking simulations were conducted using PyRx, which integrates AutoDock Vina as the docking engine [27–30]. Ligands were imported in optimized format and converted to PDBQT files prior to docking. The active site of the target protein was defined by setting the grid box parameters based on the known binding pocket, with grid center coordinates set at 13.047658, 1.810132, and 28.168947. Default grid dimensions were maintained to adequately cover the active site region and allow flexible ligand accommodation. Docking was performed using default

exhaustiveness parameters, and multiple binding poses were generated for each ligand. The best docked conformations were selected based on the lowest binding energy (kcal/mol) and favorable interaction profiles. Post-docking analysis, including visualization of hydrogen bonds, hydrophobic interactions, and amino acid residue involvement, was carried out using Discovery Studio.

The docking results provided insights into ligand–protein binding modes and supported the selection of promising compounds for further *in vitro* antifungal evaluation. 3D lines ribbon representation of HER2 kinase with native ligand are shown in Figure 2.

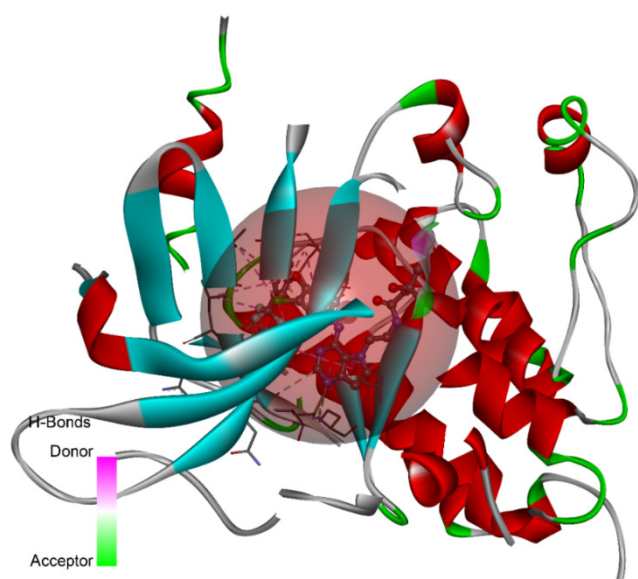


Fig. 2. Three-dimensional (3D) ribbon representation of the HER2 kinase domain in complex with the native ligand. The figure illustrates the overall protein architecture, highlighting the active binding site and spatial orientation of the ligand within the catalytic pocket.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. ADMET analysis

ADMET analysis plays a crucial role in early-stage drug discovery by predicting the absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and toxicity profiles of candidate molecules, thereby reducing the risk of late-stage drug failure. Evaluating physicochemical properties using *in silico* ADMET parameters enables the identification of compounds with optimal pharmacokinetic behavior and drug-likeness before experimental validation.

The physicochemical parameters summarized in Table 1 provide critical insights into the structural features governing the pharmacokinetic behavior of the selected compounds. The molecular weight (MW) ranged from 110.04 Da (hydroquinone) to 547.16 Da for the native ligand. Compounds with MW below 500 Da, such

as canthin-6-one (220.06 Da) and 10-methoxy-canthin-6-one (250.07 Da), and flavonoids such as kaempferol (286.05 Da) and quercetin (302.04 Da), are generally favorable for oral drug development. In contrast, the native ligand exceeded the recommended MW threshold, which may negatively affect permeability. The topological polar surface area (TPSA) varied considerably, with lower values observed for canthin-6-one (34.37 Å²) and 2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran (29.46 Å²), suggesting enhanced membrane permeability. Conversely, the high TPSA values for apigenin 7-O-β-D-glucoside (170.05 Å²) and quercetin (131.36 Å²) indicate limited passive diffusion. The LogP values ranged from 0.58 (hydroquinone) to 4.61 (native ligand), with most compounds falling within the optimal lipophilicity window (logP 1–3), supporting balanced solubility and permeability. Overall, Table 1 highlights that alkaloids and aglycone flavonoids possess more favorable physicochemical profiles than glycosylated or bulky derivatives.

The drug-likeness evaluation presented in Table 2 further refines compound prioritization by integrating structural complexity, bioavailability, and medicinal chemistry filters.

The quantitative Estimate of Drug-likeness (QED) values ranged from 0.241 for the native ligand to 0.825 (2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran and hydroquinone monobenzyl). Higher QED values (>0.6) observed for 4-hydroxy-3,6,7-trimethoxyflavone (0.792), β-carboline-1-propionic acid (0.739), and syringic acid (0.760) indicate a superior overall drug-like quality. All compounds showed zero Lipinski violations, confirming acceptable hydrogen bonding, molecular weight, and lipophilicity. The natural product (NP) scores were positive for most flavonoids (e.g., quercetin 1.701, isorhamnetin 1.566), reflecting their complex yet biologically relevant scaffolds. Some compounds triggered the GSK or Golden Triangle rules, such as native ligands and phenolic acids, suggesting potential challenges in optimization.

Chelator rule alerts observed for flavonoids, such as quercetin and kaempferol, may indicate metal-binding tendencies but do not preclude their therapeutic utility. Collectively, Table 2 supports alkaloids and methoxylated flavones as drug-like leads.

Absorption characteristics predicted in Table 3 reveal substantial variability in intestinal uptake and permeability. Caco-2 permeability values ranged from –4.27 (canthin-6-one) to –6.36 (apigenin 7-O-β-D-glucoside), where less negative values indicate better permeability.

Alkaloids such as canthin-6-one (–4.28) and 10-methoxy-canthin-6-one (–4.54) demonstrated superior epithelial permeability compared to polyphenolic compounds like quercetin (–6.18).

Table 1. Physicochemical and molecular descriptors of selected *Aerva lanata* phytochemicals and the native ligand, including molecular weight, polarity, lipophilicity, solubility, and structural features relevant to drug-likeness.

Compounds	MW	Volume	Dense	nHA	nHD	nRot	nRing	TPSA	logS	logP
Native ligand	547.16	509.7934	1.073297	8	3	11	4	101.3	-6.07271	4.609609
2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran	200.08	218.053	0.917575	2	1	3	2	29.46	-2.32064	2.901587
4-hydroxy-3, 6, 7-trimethoxyflavone	328.09	325.8645	1.00683	6	1	4	3	78.13	-4.17984	2.132532
5-hydroxy 2,3,5,6,7-pentamethoxyl flavone	388.12	378.0369	1.026672	8	1	6	3	96.59	-3.53102	2.338866
10-methoxy-canthin-6-one	250.07	252.2527	0.991347	4	0	1	4	43.6	-3.60951	2.311253
Apigenin 7-O- β -D-glucoside	432.11	404.3569	1.068635	10	6	4	4	170.05	-3.5185	1.212905
β -carboline-1-propionic acid	240.09	246.1496	0.975382	4	2	3	3	65.98	-3.2497	2.057825
canthin-6-one	220.06	226.1665	0.973	3	0	0	4	34.37	-2.57576	2.043489
feruloyl vanillylamine	329.13	336.6275	0.977728	6	3	7	2	91.01	-2.58051	1.999636
hydroquinone monobenzyl	200.08	218.053	0.917575	2	1	3	2	29.46	-2.32064	2.901587
hydroquinone	110.04	113.447	0.969968	2	2	0	1	40.46	-0.58178	0.589621
isorhamnetin	316.06	300.0628	1.053313	7	4	2	3	120.36	-3.9147	1.824764
kaempferol	286.05	273.9766	1.044067	6	4	1	3	111.13	-3.64796	1.965317
p-hydroxy benzoic acid	138.03	136.8967	1.008278	3	2	1	1	57.53	-1.77037	1.401931
quercetin	302.04	282.7668	1.068159	7	5	1	3	131.36	-3.72159	1.447712
syringic acid	198.05	189.0692	1.0475	5	2	3	1	75.99	-2.1659	1.209245
vanillic acid	168.04	162.983	1.031028	4	2	2	1	66.76	-1.92439	1.339687

Table 2. Drug-likeness assessment of selected *Aerva lanata* phytoconstituents and the native ligand based on quantitative estimate of drug-likeness (QED), natural product score, and major medicinal chemistry filters.

Compounds	QED	NP Score	Lipinski rule	Pfizer Rule	GSK Rule	GoldenTri angle	Chelator Rule
Native ligand	0.241	-1.172	0	0	1	1	0
2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran	0.825	-0.189	0	0	0	0	0
4-hydroxy-3, 6, 7-trimethoxyflavone	0.792	0.775	0	0	0	0	0
5-hydroxy 2,3,5,6,7-pentamethoxyl flavone	0.688	1	0	0	0	0	1
10-methoxy-canthin-6-one	0.521	0.106	0	0	0	0	0
Apigenin 7-O- β -D-glucoside	0.331	1.934	0	0	1	0	0
β -carboline-1-propionic acid	0.739	0.518	0	0	0	0	0
canthin-6-one	0.456	0.198	0	0	0	0	0
feruloyl vanillylamine	0.481	0.466	0	0	0	0	1
hydroquinone monobenzyl	0.825	-0.189	0	0	0	0	0
hydroquinone	0.491	0.593	0	0	0	1	0
isorhamnetin	0.572	1.566	0	0	0	0	1
kaempferol	0.546	1.546	0	0	0	0	1
p-hydroxy benzoic acid	0.61	0.377	0	0	0	1	0
quercetin	0.434	1.701	0	0	0	0	1
syringic acid	0.76	0.544	0	0	0	1	1
vanillic acid	0.693	0.524	0	0	0	1	1

Table 3. Predicted absorption-related pharmacokinetic parameters of selected phytochemicals, including intestinal permeability, P-glycoprotein interaction, human intestinal absorption, and fraction absorbed at different thresholds.

Compounds	Caco-2 Permeability	MDCK Permeability	Pgp-inhibitor	Pgp-substrate	HIA	F20%	F30%	F50%
Native ligand	-5.23574	-5.08469	0.266528	0.636519	0.0229 41	0.3712 14	0.0209 62	0.9972 32
2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran	-4.8342	-4.59881	0.023638	0.008309	0.0218 64	0.2915 99	0.1692 63	0.1781 51
4-hydroxy-3, 6, 7-trimethoxyflavone	-4.85315	-4.6775	0.890109	0.085763	0.0401 14	0.0945 49	0.1184 08	0.9378 37
5-hydroxy 2,3,5,6,7-pentamethoxyl flavone	-4.95844	-4.66833	0.992943	0.158241	0.4071 12	0.0419 8	0.2014 9	0.9792 13
10-methoxy-canthin-6-one	-4.53792	-4.35778	0.558963	0.130556	0.1124 44	0.1805 26	0.1392 37	0.4486
Apigenin 7-O-β-D-glucoside	-6.36043	-5.01883	0.000176	0.391179	0.4654 37	0.3687 47	0.9900 34	0.9935 49
β-carboline-1-propionic acid	-5.24591	-4.62196	8.84E-05	0.008667	0.0068 41	0.0047 15	0.0122 47	0.0194 67
canthin-6-one	-4.2756	-4.43019	0.583772	0.112732	0.0045 19	0.0567 01	0.1430 21	0.2870 49
feruloyl vanillylamine	-5.62165	-4.9781	0.186403	0.082906	0.2023 32	0.6630 47	0.5576 21	0.9538 82
hydroquinone monobenzyl	-4.8342	-4.59881	0.023638	0.008309	0.0218 64	0.2915 99	0.1692 63	0.1781 51
hydroquinone	-5.07778	-4.73985	0.018239	0.014532	0.0016 86	0.3641 51	0.2863 54	0.7038 75
isorhamnetin	-5.48423	-4.86797	0.789891	0.095298	0.1193 77	0.0499 05	0.8382 13	0.9923 75
kaempferol	-5.96934	-4.90902	0.14215	0.163041	0.0151 43	0.0844 82	0.7155 65	0.9833 32
p-hydroxy benzoic acid	-5.11051	-4.79538	0.001654	0.280958	0.0978 97	0.3191 74	0.1691 81	0.7157 48
quercetin	-6.17681	-4.92272	0.027569	0.030731	0.1335 89	0.5038	0.9910 8	0.9985 93
syringic acid	-5.19884	-4.78484	0.616712	0.333231	0.0401 25	0.0874 48	0.0251 54	0.3626 49
vanillic acid	-5.09626	-4.77351	0.004502	0.217586	0.1114 5	0.1557 23	0.0548 23	0.5605 47

Human intestinal absorption (HIA) probabilities were generally low to moderate; however, 5-hydroxy-2,3,5,6,7-pentamethoxyflavone (0.407) and apigenin glycoside (0.465) showed relatively higher absorption potential. Many compounds were predicted as P-glycoprotein substrates, such as native ligand (0.64) and quercetin (0.03), which may reduce intracellular accumulation due to efflux. Fraction absorbed values (F20%, F30%, F50%) highlighted that several compounds reach meaningful absorption at higher thresholds, particularly quercetin (F50% = 0.998) and isorhamnetin (0.992). Overall, Table 3 indicates alkaloids possess better intrinsic permeability, while flavonoids may require formulation strategies to enhance absorption.

The distribution and metabolic predictions summarized in Table 4 indicate extensive plasma protein binding (PPB) for most compounds, with values exceeding 95% for the native ligand (99.09%), quercetin (98.66%), and isorhamnetin (98.34%). High PPB may

prolong circulation time but reduce free drug concentration.

The volume of distribution (VD) values were generally low to moderate, suggesting confinement mainly within the plasma and extracellular fluids. Blood–brain barrier (BBB) penetration is limited for most flavonoids (e.g., quercetin 0.0004, kaempferol 0.001), indicating minimal central nervous system (CNS) exposure. In contrast, canthin-6-one (0.38) showed relatively higher BBB permeability, which may be advantageous or undesirable depending on the therapeutic targets. CYP450 interaction analysis revealed that many compounds act as substrates rather than inhibitors, particularly CYP3A4, reducing the likelihood of adverse drug–drug interactions. Alkaloids showed broader CYP involvement, whereas glycosides exhibited minimal metabolic interactions. Thus, Table 4 supports the favorable metabolic safety of most compounds, especially flavonoids.

Table 4. In silico distribution and metabolism profiles of selected *Aerva lanata* phytochemicals, highlighting plasma protein binding, volume of distribution, blood–brain barrier permeability, and cytochrome P450 interactions.

Compounds	Distribution				Metabolism									
	PPB %	VD	BB B	Fu	CYP1A2		CYP2C19		CYP2C9		CYP2D6		CYP3A4	
					Inhi bitor	Subs trate	Inhi bitor	Subs trate	Inhi bitor	Subs trate	Inhi bitor	Subs trate	Inhi bitor	Subs trate
Native ligand	99.0	0.27	0.15	0.42	0.02	0.39	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	6.53	0.00	0.11	0.99
	9294	3474	4844	9866	057	3111	6818	7027	95	0168	E-05	0225	4765	9905
2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran	97.6	0.26	0.27	1.80	0.99	0.41	0.98	0.30	0.06	0.92	0.03	0.99	0.06	0.12
	864	7119	7744	7737	3152	2608	0856	1373	7139	1746	0971	9431	112	8935
4-hydroxy-3, 6, 7-trimethoxyflavone	94.8	-	0.00	4.40	0.03	0.96	0.25	0.99	0.18	0.27	0.00	0.50	0.92	0.96
	7235	0.08	2382	6625	0282	4375	0276	6066	1777	1697	0396	4925	1031	6719
5-hydroxy 2,3,5,6,7-pentamethoxyl flavone	85.8	-	0.01	10.0	0.98	0.99	0.55	0.73	0.27	0.89	0.00	0.90	0.69	0.04
	5183	0.48	2763	254	4038	8198	8509	4662	7982	6032	1719	2334	7579	9286
10-methoxy-canthin-6-one	87.4	-	0.03	12.2	0.99	0.99	0.70	0.99	0.71	0.99	0.44	0.98	0.95	0.12
	1169	0.02	8148	3605	9988	929	6802	589	6327	9335	8664	9505	6959	9448
Apigenin 7-O-β-D-glucoside	83.7	-	0.00	14.2	0.00	4.77	6.85	9.91	6.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	8.43
	5095	0.04	3549	7875	1123	E-05	E-06	E-07	E-06	0229	0172	0952	7287	E-07
β-carboline-1-propionic acid	97.2	-	0.01	1.44	0.00	0.00	1.44	0.57	2.26	0.99	0.00	0.00	2.42	0.03
	0608	0.75	1929	9869	0361	2908	E-08	0698	E-08	9882	0375	0346	E-06	7499
canthin-6-one	94.7	-	0.38	6.31	1	0.99	0.63	0.63	0.94	0.95	0.78	0.82	0.65	0.71
	5171	0.07	4498	8909		8477	5762	0448	6031	5838	6769	5791	1809	1474
feruloyl vanillylamine	63.3	0.06	0.02	38.2	0.07	0.64	0.00	0.99	2.00	0.99	0.00	0.09	0.00	8.89
	7863	8624	1597	7625	3863	3635	1384	211	E-05	1773	0698	228	1173	E-05
hydroquinone monobenzyl hydroquinone	97.6	0.26	0.27	1.80	0.99	0.41	0.98	0.30	0.06	0.92	0.03	0.99	0.06	0.12
	864	7119	7744	7737	3152	2608	0856	1373	7139	1746	0971	9431	112	8935
isorhamnetin	24.1	-	0.02	68.3	0.78	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.36	0.11	0.99	0.08	0.06
	6628	0.02	5911	2486	9206	2139	8417	8367	9116	7889	763	0192	5296	5149
kaempferol	98.3	-	0.00	1.15	0.99	0.85	0.17	0.00	0.87	0.18	0.00	0.99	0.97	9.74
	3522	0.78	0106	0948	9643	0024	8334	563	5218	6766	7985	8295	6015	E-05
p-hydroxy benzoic acid	97.8	-	0.00	1.36	0.99	0.59	0.13	0.00	0.79	0.51	0.00	0.99	0.97	0.00
	8079	0.81	0951	0188	6672	8314	2402	0515	9358	8549	489	4622	4528	1706
quercetin	75.9	-	0.00	19.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
	2269	0.61	5552	651	2003	0742	0119	5616	4069	038	0231	6	0724	3851
syringic acid	98.6	-	0.00	1.13	0.99	0.38	0.00	4.87	0.43	0.02	0.00	0.97	0.93	1.34
	5997	0.87	0445	1221	8312	429	5855	E-05	2249	9644	018	8297	6699	E-06
vanillic acid	76.5	-	0.21	18.6	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2587	0.63	6208	6545	0455	0249	0511	0752	3657	6528	7765	1338	5643	1208
	67.7	-	0.00	25.9	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
	0231	0.67	2189	5035	1958	5754	2598	9476	0776	3576	6766	4894	2813	1667
		118												

The excretion and toxicity predictions in Table 5 demonstrate acceptable elimination and safety profiles for most compounds.

The plasma clearance (CL-plasma) values ranged from 3.04 (vanillic acid) to 17.04 (hydroquinone), indicating moderate elimination rates. Half-life values were generally between 0.5–2.5 h, supporting manageable systemic exposure. The toxicity endpoints predominantly indicated a low to moderate risk. The Ames toxicity probabilities were below the critical

concern for most compounds, with kaempferol (0.545) and quercetin (0.586) indicating non-mutagenic tendencies. Hepatotoxicity (H-HT) and DILI predictions were higher for the native ligands, suggesting caution, whereas phenolic acids and flavonoids showed safer profiles. The skin sensitization and carcinogenicity probabilities were low for most natural compounds. Overall, Table 5 confirms that the traditionally used phytochemicals possess acceptable safety margins, reinforcing their suitability for further development.

Table 5. Predicted excretion characteristics and toxicity endpoints of selected phytoconstituents and the native ligand, including clearance, half-life, organ toxicity, mutagenicity, and safety-related parameters.

Compounds	Excretion	Toxicity										
	CL-plasma	T1/2	H-HT	DILI	Ames Toxicity	Rat Oral Acute Toxicity	FDAMDD	Skin Sensitization	Carcinogenicity	Eye Corrosion	Eye Irritation	Respiratory Toxicity
Native ligand	5.959764	0.54 5126	0.8943 56	0.9758 3	0.5832 68	0.3700 41	0.6701 05	0.3627 38	0.3619 74	1.09E- 07	0.0917 55	0.8689 25
2-isopropyl- 2,5- dihydrofuran	11.91061	0.91 3361	0.1981 99	0.1946 39	0.3452 8	0.1193 05	0.3700 93	0.6425 19	0.6035 08	0.3167 48	0.9860 53	0.4742 76
4-hydroxy-3, 6, 7- trimethoxyflav one	8.891344	1.60 1924	0.4376 77	0.6595 84	0.4434 22	0.4211 49	0.6452 22	0.4615 07	0.8094 57	0.4510 27	0.9749 79	0.5646 92
5-hydroxy 2,3,5,6,7- pentamethoxyl flavone	5.924212	1.04 4578	0.4827 83	0.8541 8	0.5409 09	0.3447 94	0.4742 24	0.3190 27	0.8637 11	0.2339 8	0.9178 2	0.6740 75
10-methoxy- canthin-6-one	8.171058	0.88 1733	0.7800 04	0.9379 86	0.9346 56	0.6212 53	0.8117 6	0.0428 59	0.9065 88	4.17E- 05	0.4256 8	0.9286 65
Apigenin 7-O- β-D-glucoside	3.213789	3.45 4334	0.6376 05	0.9772 05	0.9099 48	0.0470 03	0.1069 48	0.9892 33	0.4715 74	2.91E- 05	0.6316 24	0.0358 92
β-carboline-1- propionic acid	4.964782	1.09 7351	0.6189 45	0.7924 92	0.5616 38	0.4670 02	0.5044 44	0.2065 91	0.5723 73	0.0022 6	0.9601 74	0.8839 19
canthin-6-one	7.449738	1.15 858	0.7566 95	0.8058 24	0.8949 29	0.5647 13	0.6538 89	0.2575 79	0.8519 68	0.0018 06	0.7379 09	0.8704 09
feruloyl vanillylamine	7.045929	0.99 7765	0.3150 47	0.0692 32	0.4406 89	0.6146 79	0.6820 36	0.9984 35	0.1177 54	0.9663 18	0.7521 29	0.9286 69
hydroquinone monobenzyl	11.91061	0.91 3361	0.1981 99	0.1946 39	0.3452 8	0.1193 05	0.3700 93	0.6425 19	0.6035 08	0.3167 48	0.9860 53	0.4742 76
hydroquinone	17.04294	1.76 5023	0.3921 61	0.1825 02	0.5184 54	0.5532 23	0.4895 91	0.9872 61	0.7500 09	0.9910 65	0.9982 74	0.6657 68
isorhamnetin	3.857877	1.70 3521	0.3834 15	0.7246 18	0.5988 37	0.4824 18	0.7404 55	0.6703 75	0.6815 67	0.5549 61	0.9970 21	0.7961 59
kaempferol	5.694431	1.38 759	0.3861 79	0.7028 67	0.5459 69	0.4878 35	0.8045 89	0.6213 22	0.7159 84	0.5752 16	0.9982 04	0.7127 18
p-hydroxy benzoic acid	3.456142	1.66 7961	0.4243 88	0.3633 16	0.2753 01	0.2481 1	0.1339 38	0.4134 93	0.4279 06	0.8598 68	0.9984 17	0.5507 61
quercetin	8.288988	1.58 575	0.3373 82	0.7825 96	0.5860 42	0.4799 17	0.7887 57	0.8969 24	0.6001 77	0.6032 84	0.9984 17	0.6736 57
syringic acid	3.223177	2.45 5797	0.4842 85	0.6501 68	0.3215 8	0.3221 06	0.1198 34	0.4776 41	0.4157 19	0.8069 09	0.9904 6	0.7023 34
vanillic acid	3.040032	1.97 7672	0.4662 11	0.5194 42	0.3835 83	0.2491 82	0.1227 44	0.5480 72	0.4131 94	0.8229 58	0.9957 16	0.6723 26

The environmental toxicity assessment in Table 6 revealed a generally low ecological risk for most compounds. The bioconcentration factor (BCF) values were below 2 for all molecules, indicating limited bioaccumulation potential.

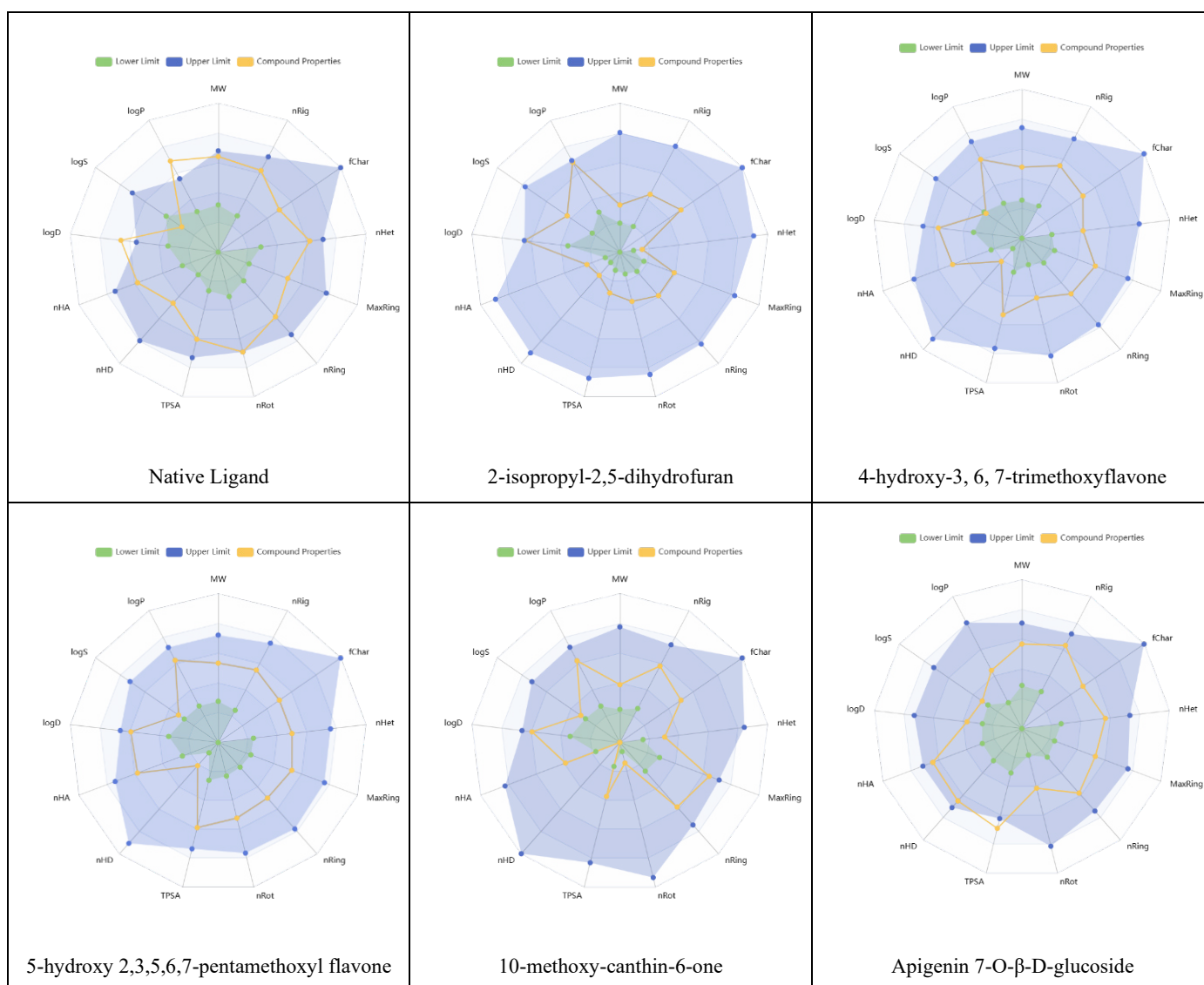
Lower BCF values were observed for β-carboline-1-propionic acid (0.19) and syringic acid (0.25), suggesting their environmental safety. Aquatic toxicity parameters (IGC50, LC50FM, LC50DM) showed moderate values across compounds, with glycosylated and phenolic acids

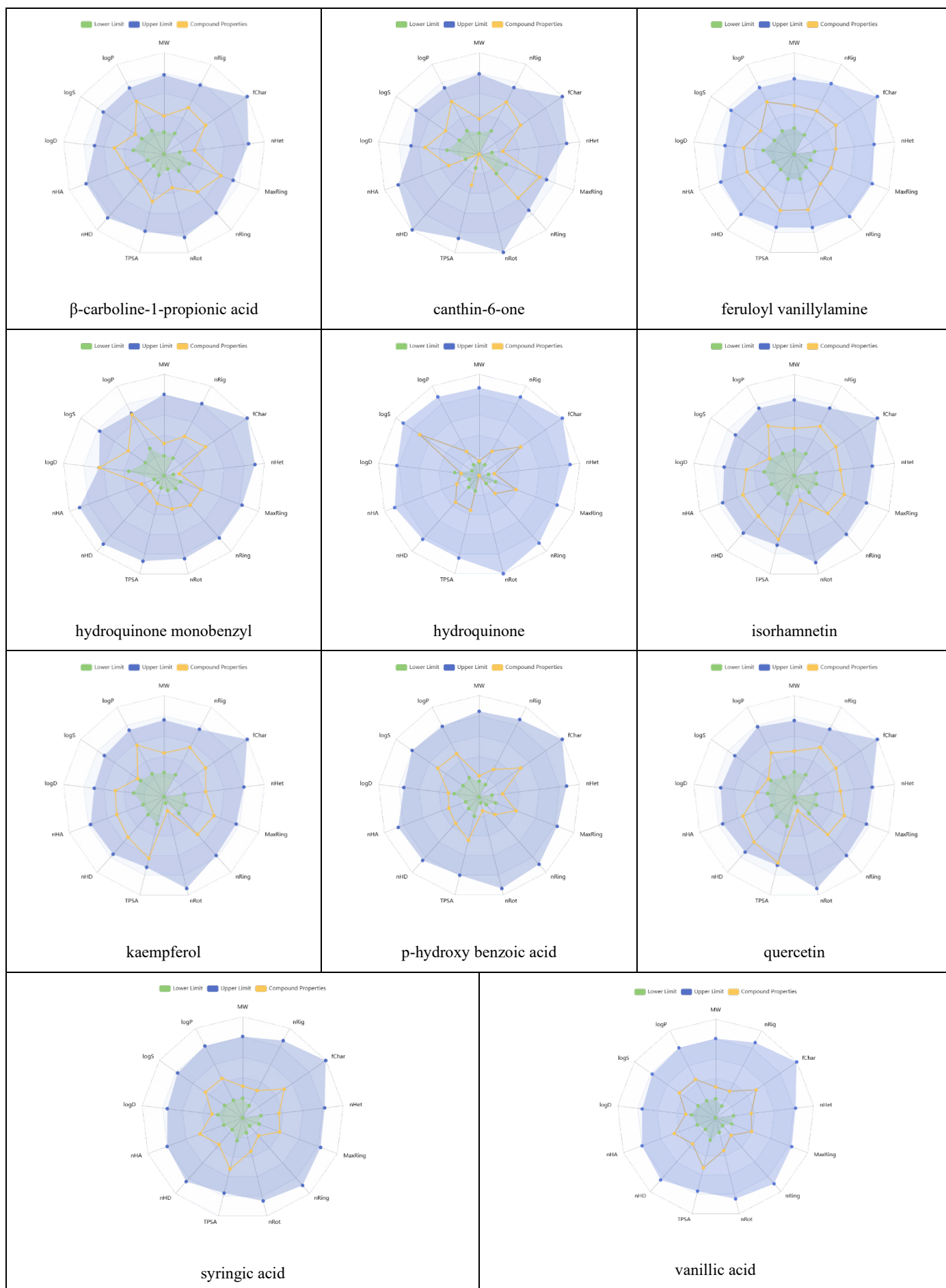
exhibiting lower toxicity than lipophilic alkaloids. For instance, apigenin 7-O-β-D-glucoside exhibited a lower IGC50 (2.98) than canthin-6-one (4.17). These results indicate that most compounds are environmentally benign and are unlikely to pose ecological hazards during pharmaceutical development.

The ADMET radar summary illustrating the comparative pharmacokinetic and drug-likeness profiles of the most potent *Aerva lanata* phytochemicals and the native ligand are shown in Table 7.

Table 6. Environmental toxicity assessment of selected phytochemicals based on bioconcentration factor and aquatic toxicity indices, indicating potential ecological impact.

Compounds	BCF	IGC50	LC50FM	LC50DM
Native ligand	1.415082	3.764566	4.870027	5.500089
2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran	1.447951	4.223595	4.528766	4.746445
4-hydroxy-3, 6, 7-trimethoxyflavone	1.114949	3.723172	4.078883	4.380126
5-hydroxy 2,3,5,6,7-pentamethoxyl flavone	1.448176	3.734289	4.088157	4.747932
10-methoxy-canthin-6-one	1.481177	4.01244	4.78199	5.093218
Apigenin 7-O- β -D-glucoside	0.475118	2.976902	3.564616	4.313864
β -carboline-1-propionic acid	0.19088	2.866782	3.334685	4.025209
canthin-6-one	1.481247	4.170472	4.880582	5.003637
feruloyl vanillylamine	0.607304	3.428797	3.9461	4.370366
hydroquinone monobenzyl	1.447951	4.223595	4.528766	4.746445
hydroquinone	1.369493	3.500777	3.949962	4.386039
isorhamnetin	1.098311	3.560594	3.771446	4.302098
kaempferol	1.241837	3.653071	4.00664	4.37644
p-hydroxy benzoic acid	0.611482	2.436611	3.110776	3.72847
quercetin	1.210035	3.758566	4.112	4.485008
syringic acid	0.255189	2.686035	3.09164	3.675891
vanillic acid	0.379278	2.602067	2.980854	3.670131

Table 7. ADMET radar summary illustrating the comparative pharmacokinetic and drug-likeness profiles of the most potent *Aerva lanata* phytochemicals and the native ligand.



3.2. Molecular docking

Molecular docking analysis of the selected phytochemicals against the HER2 kinase domain revealed substantial variability in binding affinity, interaction profiles, and binding site complementarity compared with the native ligand (Tables 8 and 9). These differences largely reflect the influence of molecular size, functional group diversity, and aromatic scaffolds on ligand–protein recognition and stabilization within the HER2 active site.

Among all the screened compounds, apigenin 7-O- β -D-glucoside exhibited the strongest binding affinity, with a docking score of -9.9 kcal/mol, outperforming the native ligand (-8.9 kcal/mol).

This superior affinity can be attributed to the extensive hydrogen-bonding network and hydrophobic interactions. Apigenin 7-O- β -D-glucoside formed multiple conventional hydrogen bonds with key catalytic residues LEU796 (2.24 Å), MET801 (2.78 Å), and THR862 (2.03 Å), along with a carbon–hydrogen bond with ASP863. These polar interactions were further stabilized by π – π stacking with PHE1004 and π – σ / π –alkyl interactions with LEU852, LEU726, VAL734, and ALA751, indicating deep and stable anchoring within the HER2 binding pocket.

In contrast, the native ligand formed fewer hydrogen bonds, suggesting a comparatively weaker polar stabilization despite its larger molecular size. Canthin-6-one alkaloids also exhibited excellent binding performance relative to native ligands. 10-Methoxycanthin-6-one achieved a docking score of -9.1 kcal/mol, slightly exceeding that of the native ligand. It established a strong conventional hydrogen bond with MET801 (2.19 Å) and a carbon hydrogen bond with ASP863, residues that are critical for HER2 kinase inhibition. These interactions were reinforced by extensive hydrophobic contacts with LEU852, VAL734, LEU726, and ALA751, suggesting efficient occupation of the hydrophobic regions of the active site of the enzyme. Similarly, canthin-6-one showed a docking score of -9.0 kcal/mol and formed a stable hydrogen bond with MET801 (2.25 Å), along with multiple π –alkyl interactions, highlighting a binding behavior comparable to or better than that of the native ligand.

The native ligand exhibited a docking score of -8.9 kcal/mol with a relatively high ligand energy (556.84 kcal/mol), indicating a stable but energetically demanding binding native ligand.

It formed a key hydrogen bond with ASP863 (2.17 Å) and additional stabilizing interactions, including halogen bonds with SER783 and LEU785, a carbon hydrogen bond with GLN799, and π – σ , π – π T-shaped, and π –alkyl interactions with LEU785, PHE864, VAL734, ALA751, and LEU796. While these interactions confirm its

suitability as a reference ligand, the reduced number of conventional hydrogen bonds compared to top-performing phytochemicals explains its comparatively lower docking scores.

Flavonoids such as quercetin, kaempferol, and isorhamnetin also demonstrated strong and consistent binding patterns within the HER2 active site. Quercetin showed a docking score of -8.3 kcal/mol, forming multiple hydrogen bonds with LEU796, MET801, and LYS753, along with a carbon hydrogen bond with GLY804.

These interactions were further supported by hydrophobic contacts with VAL734 and LEU852, resulting in binding affinity comparable to native ligand. Kaempferol (-8.1 kcal/mol) primarily interacted through a π –donor hydrogen bond with ASP863 and hydrophobic contacts with LEU785, VAL734, and ALA751, while isorhamnetin (-8.0 kcal/mol) formed a conventional hydrogen bond with MET801 and additional stabilizing interactions with GLY804, THR798, VAL734, and LEU852.

Although slightly weaker than the native ligand, these flavonoids retained favorable interaction geometries within the catalytic pocket. Compounds such as β -carboline-1-propionic acid, 4'-hydroxy-3,6,7-trimethoxyflavone, 5-hydroxy-2',3,5',6,7-pentamethoxyflavone, feruloyl vanillylamine, and 2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran exhibited moderate docking scores (-7.2 to -7.9 kcal/mol). These ligands typically formed one or two hydrogen bonds with residues such as ASP863, LYS753, SER783, or THR798, accompanied by limited hydrophobic interactions, resulting in less stable complexes compared to native ligand. In contrast, small phenolic acids and simple molecules, including syringic acid, vanillic acid, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, and hydroquinone, displayed weak binding affinities (-4.5 to -6.1 kcal/mol).

Their limited interaction capacity and reduced hydrophobic surface area hindered effective engagement with the HER2 binding pocket, making them substantially inferior to the native ligand. Overall, comparative docking analysis clearly demonstrates that several phytochemicals—particularly apigenin 7-O- β -D-glucoside, 10-methoxycanthin-6-one, canthin-6-one, and quercetin—exhibited equal or superior binding affinity and interaction networks compared to the native ligand.

These compounds achieved stronger or comparable docking scores through a synergistic combination of hydrogen bonding, π –interactions, and hydrophobic contacts with key catalytic residues. Collectively, these findings highlight flavonoids and canthin-6-one alkaloids as promising lead scaffolds for further experimental validation and development of novel HER2-targeted anticancer agents.

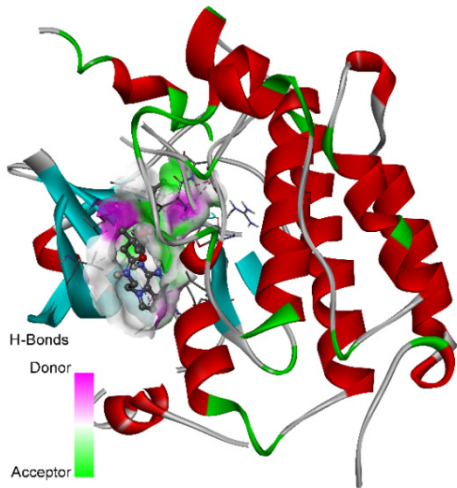
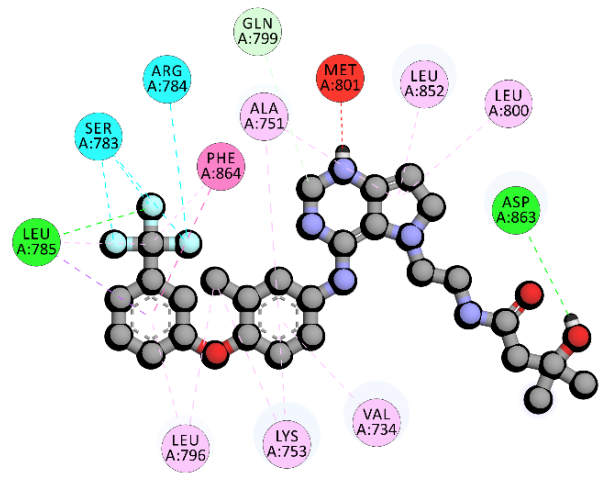
Table 8. Two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) binding interaction representations of selected phytochemicals and the native ligand within the HER2 kinase active site. The interactions include hydrogen bonds, hydrophobic contacts, and π -interactions with key amino acid residues, demonstrating ligand–protein binding patterns and stability.

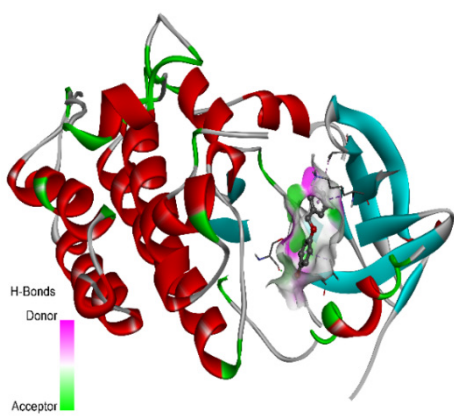
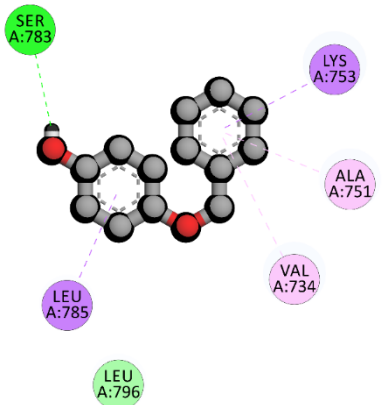
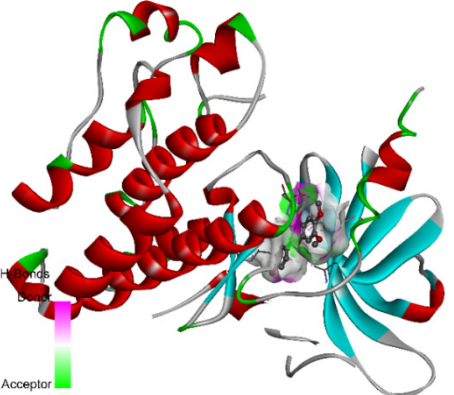
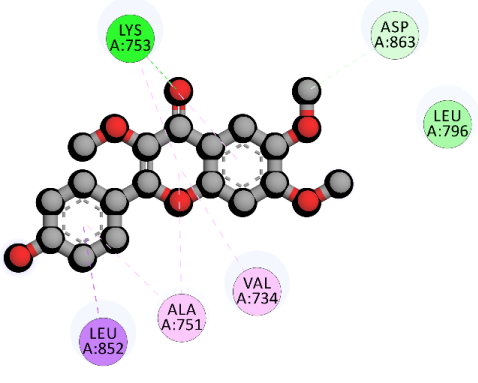
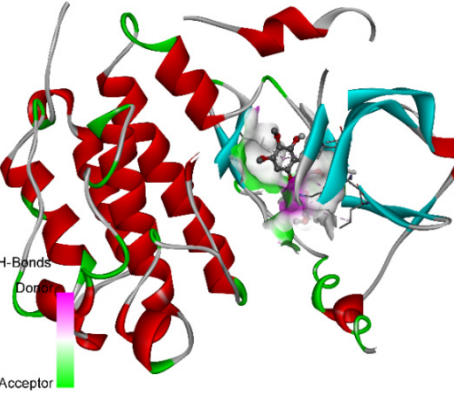
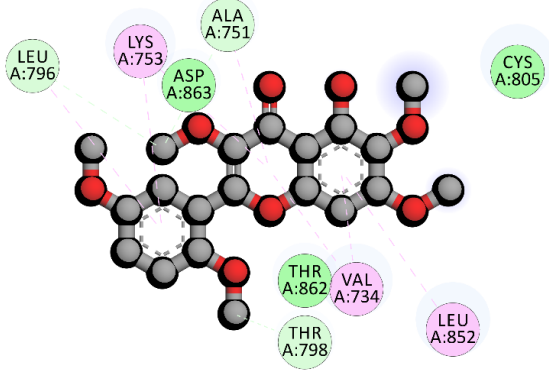
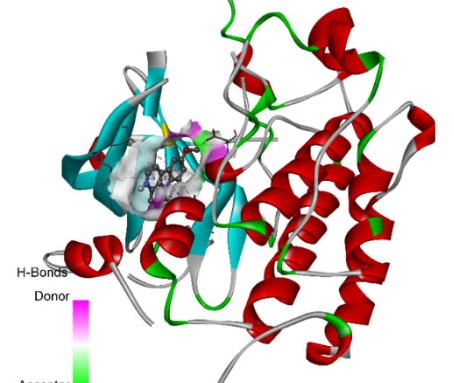
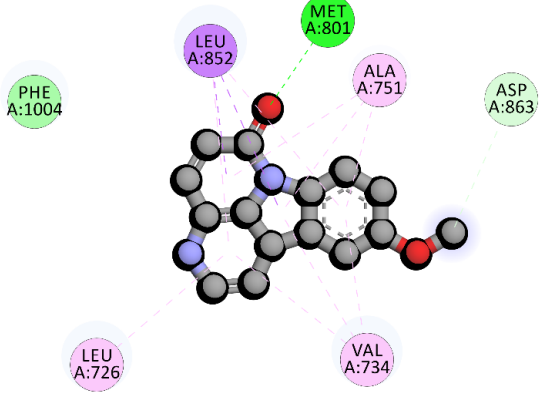
Amino Acid	Bond Length	Bond Type	Bond Category	Ligand Energy (Kcal/mol)	Docking Score
Native ligand					
ASP863	2.17664	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	556.84	-8.9
LEU785	2.94423	Hydrogen Bond;Halogen	Conventional Hydrogen Bond;Halogen (Fluorine)		
GLN799	3.76598	Hydrogen Bond	Carbon Hydrogen Bond		
SER783	2.74741	Halogen	Halogen (Fluorine)		
SER783	3.21657				
SER783	3.49067				
ARG784	3.56247				
LEU785	3.88839	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
PHE864	5.43529		Pi-Pi T-shaped		
LEU800	5.43255		Alkyl		
LEU852	4.47961				
LYS753	4.66397				
LEU796	5.07294				
LEU785	4.38106				
ALA751	4.80879				
VAL734	5.28713		Pi-Alkyl		
ALA751	5.13896				
LYS753	4.18287				
LEU796	4.96499				
PHE864	4.91668				
2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran					
SER783	2.2551	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	112.93	-7.2
LYS753	3.65351	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
LEU785	3.39826				
VAL734	5.08697		Pi-Alkyl		
ALA751	4.71746				
4'-hydroxy-3,6,7-trimethoxyflavone					
LYS753	2.06819	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	419.28	-7.9
ASP863	3.59624		Carbon Hydrogen Bond		
ASP863	3.71508				
LEU852	3.5113	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
VAL734	4.77119		Pi-Alkyl		
ALA751	4.99803				
LYS753	4.58896				
ALA751	4.36984				
5-hydroxy_2',3,5',6,7-pentamethoxyl_flavone					
THR798	3.44689	Hydrogen Bond	Carbon Hydrogen Bond	602.72	-7.3
ALA751	3.3088				
LEU796	3.51122				
VAL734	5.0294	Hydrophobic	Pi-Alkyl		
ALA751	5.38648				
LYS753	4.91772				
VAL734	4.98443				
LEU852	4.99054				
LYS753	4.91203				
LEU796	5.22081				
10-methoxy-canthin-6-one					
MET801	2.19111	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	449.67	-9.1
ASP863	3.49465		Carbon Hydrogen Bond		
LEU852	3.93192	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
LEU726	5.09887		Pi-Alkyl		
VAL734	4.72846				
LEU852	5.38437				

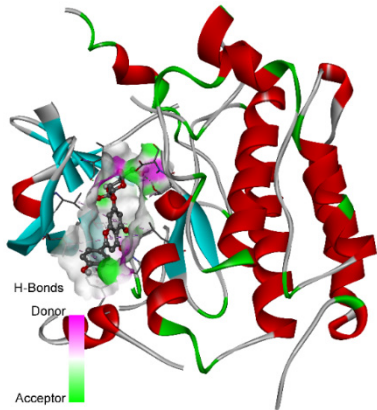
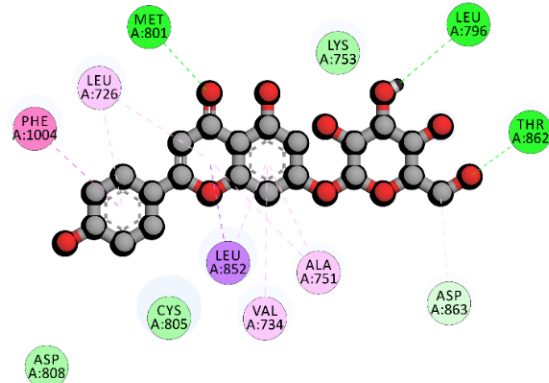
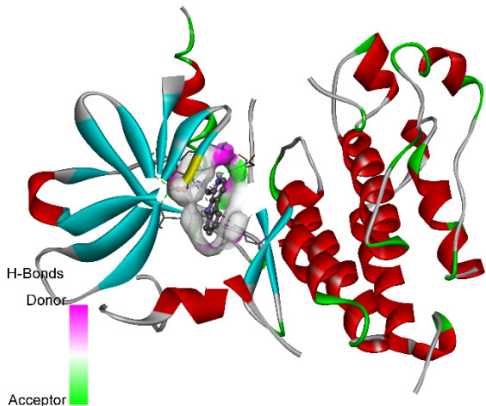
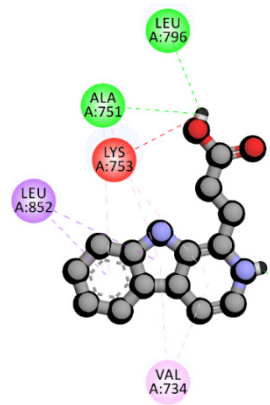
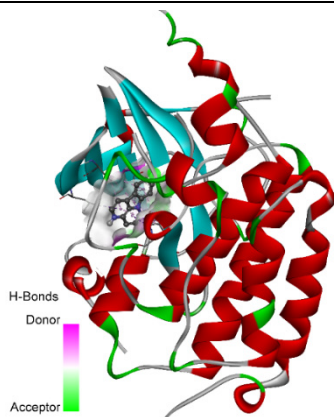
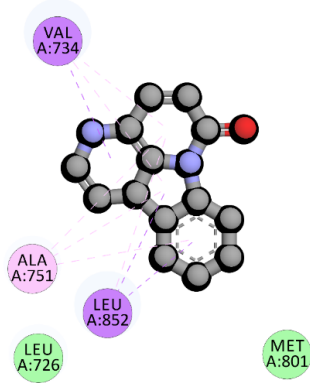
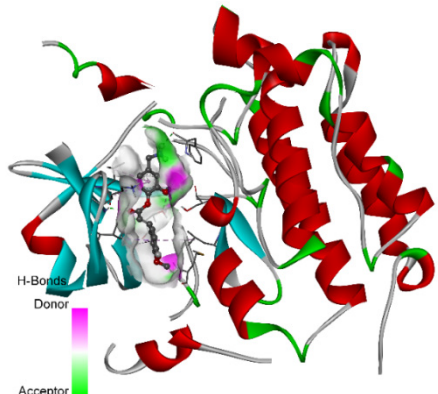
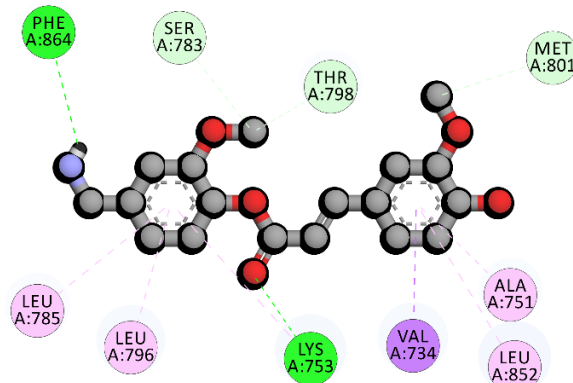
Amino Acid	Bond Length	Bond Type	Bond Category	Ligand Energy (Kcal/mol)	Docking Score
ALA751	4.67034				
VAL734	4.89786				
LEU852	5.13394				
Apigenin 7-O-β-D-glucoside					
LEU796	2.24905	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	317.37	-9.9
MET801	2.78375				
THR862	2.03246				
ASP863	3.66369		Carbon Hydrogen Bond		
LEU852	3.80011	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
PHE100	3.886		Pi-Pi Stacked		
4					
LEU726	5.15651		Pi-Alkyl		
ALA751	5.45144				
VAL734	4.8531				
LEU852	4.59389				
LEU726	4.91305				
β-carboline-1-propionic acid					
ASP863	2.75671	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	361.8	-7.6
ALA751	2.32789				
LEU796	2.20343				
LEU852	3.91082	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
LEU852	3.58086				
VAL734	4.4803		Pi-Alkyl		
LYS753	5.37769				
VAL734	4.92312				
ALA751	4.3858				
canthin-6-one					
MET801	2.25207	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	437.6	-9
LEU726	3.91637	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
LEU852	3.49049				
LEU852	3.9599				
VAL734	4.83717		Pi-Alkyl		
LEU852	5.34892				
ALA751	4.60201				
VAL734	4.89774				
ALA751	4.30796				
feruloyl_vanillylamine					
PHE864	2.77955	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	241.71	-7.4
THR798	3.41117		Carbon Hydrogen Bond		
VAL734	3.88774	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
ALA751	4.94182		Pi-Alkyl		
LEU852	4.89523				
LEU785	5.43058				
LEU796	4.62626				
Hydroquinone					
ALA751	2.35106	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	45.69	-4.8
LYS753	2.42835				
hydroquinone_monobenzyl					
LYS753	3.65336	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma	112.93	-7.2
LEU785	3.39137				
VAL734	5.05788		Pi-Alkyl		
ALA751	4.71002				
isorhamnetin					
MET801	2.35573	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	206.32	-8
GLY804	3.40161		Carbon Hydrogen Bond		
VAL734	3.80839	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
THR798	3.79955				
LEU852	3.48253				
ALA751	4.46776		Pi-Alkyl		

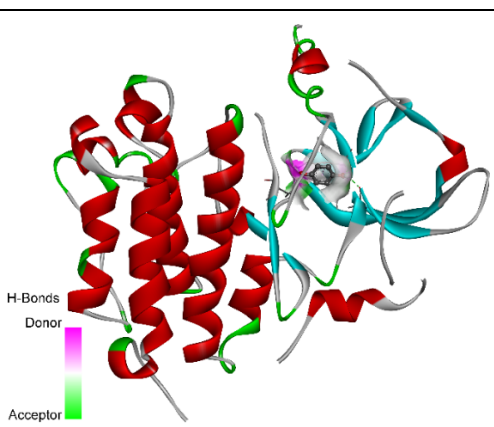
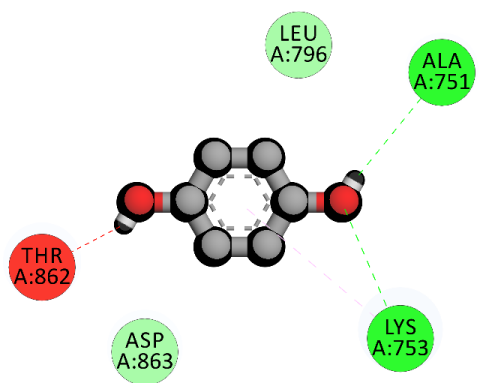
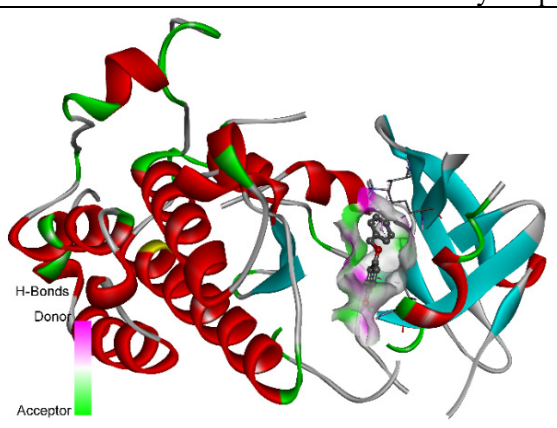
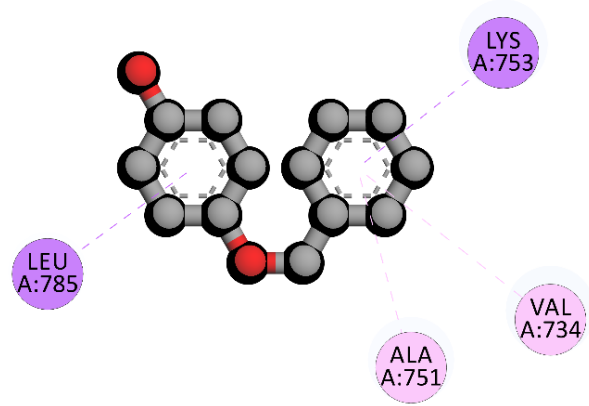
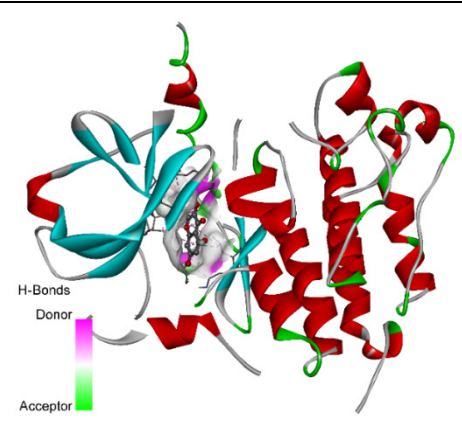
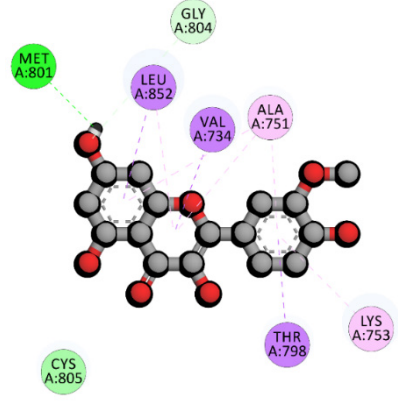
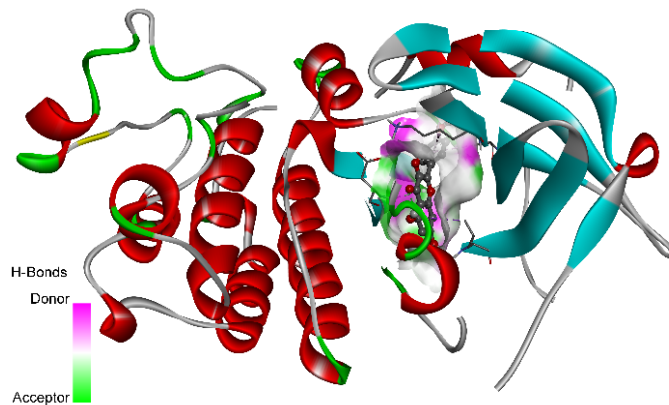
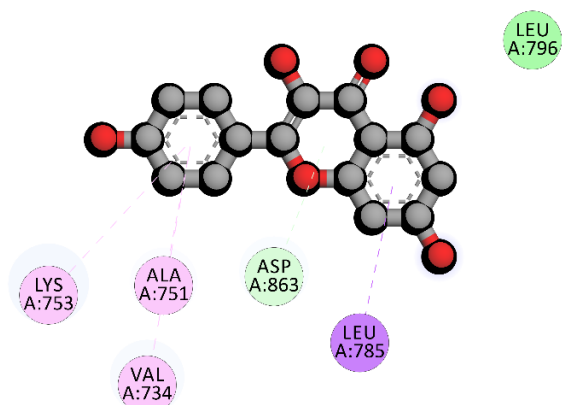
Amino Acid	Bond Length	Bond Type	Bond Category	Ligand Energy (Kcal/mol)	Docking Score
LEU852	4.952				
kaempferol					
ASP863	3.09699	Hydrogen Bond	Pi-Donor Hydrogen Bond	179.69	-8.1
LEU785	3.63153	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
VAL734	5.11894		Pi-Alkyl		
ALA751	4.20139				
LYS753	5.2089				
p-hydroxy_benzoic_acid					
SER783	2.74756	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	53.24	-4.5
LEU785	3.78615	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
PHE864	5.09401		Pi-Pi T-shaped		
LEU796	5.33599		Pi-Alkyl		
Quercetin					
LEU796	2.39886	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	181.05	-8.3
MET801	2.4944				
LYS753	2.41952				
GLY804	3.45712		Carbon Hydrogen Bond		
VAL734	3.85488	Hydrophobic	Pi-Sigma		
LEU852	3.46938				
LEU852	4.89556		Pi-Alkyl		
syringic_acid					
LEU796	1.79554	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	110.62	-6.1
SER783	3.28512		Carbon Hydrogen Bond		
THR798	3.6224				
LEU785	5.35678	Hydrophobic	Pi-Alkyl		
LEU796	4.70304				
vanillic_acid					
LEU796	1.93499	Hydrogen Bond	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	81.11	-5.8
ASP863	2.11921				
THR798	3.03644				
SER783	3.40395		Carbon Hydrogen Bond		
LYS753	4.98647	Hydrophobic	Pi-Alkyl		
LEU785	5.37638				
LEU796	4.6355				

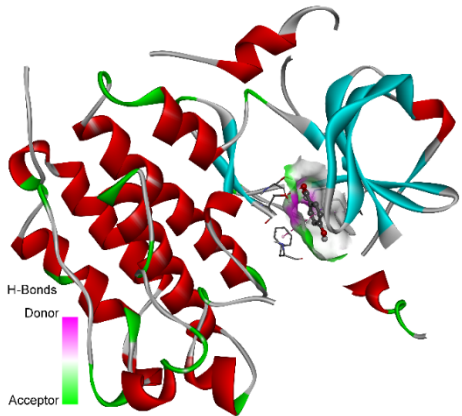
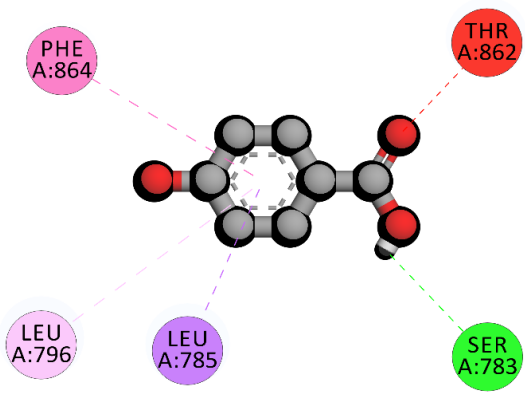
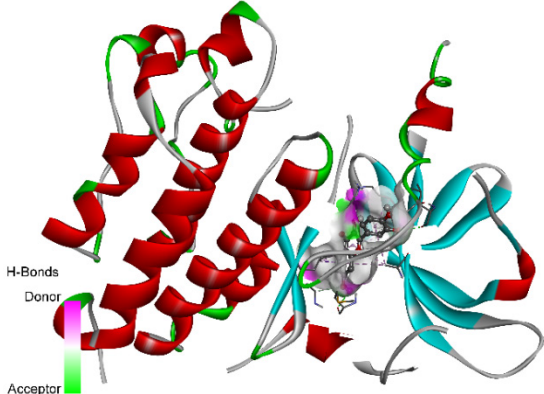
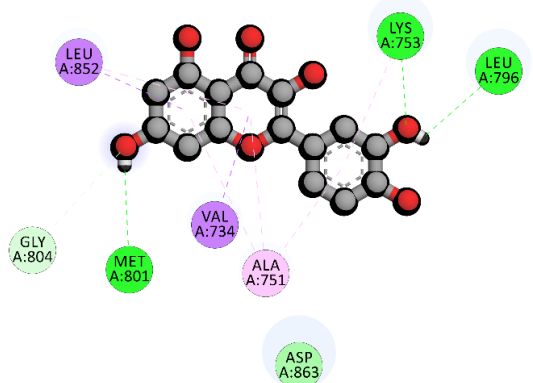
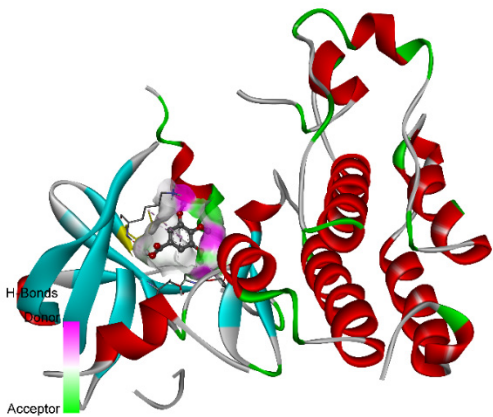
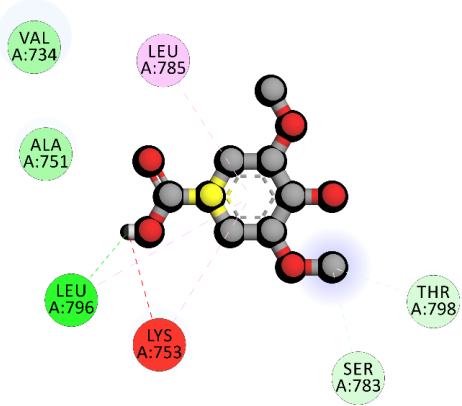
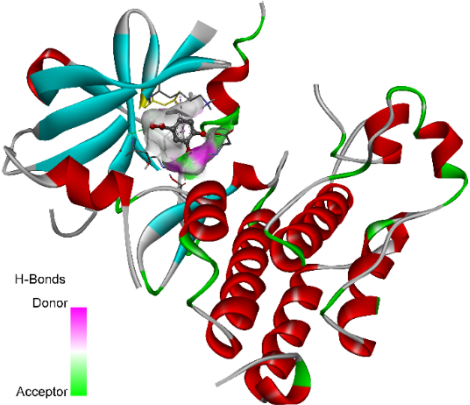
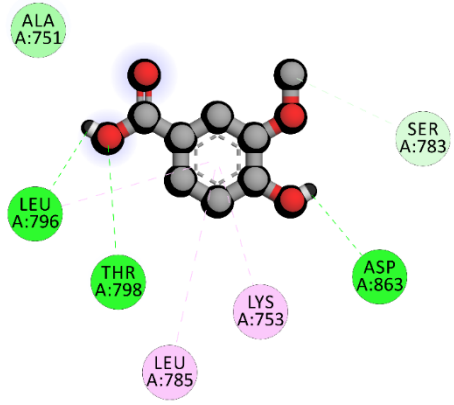
Table 9. 2D and 3D binding interaction representations of the most potent phytochemicals and the native ligand within the HER2 kinase active site.

3D Binding Interaction	2D Binding Interaction
Native Ligand	
	
2-isopropyl-2,5-dihydrofuran	

3D Binding Interaction	2D Binding Interaction
	
4'-hydroxy-3,6,7-trimethoxyflavone	
	
5-hydroxy 2',3,5',6,7-pentamethoxyl flavone	
	
10-methoxy-canthin-6-one	
	

3D Binding Interaction	2D Binding Interaction
Apigenin 7-O- β -D-glucoside	
	
β -carboline-1-propionic acid	
	
canthin-6-one	
	
feruloyl vanillylamine	
	

3D Binding Interaction	2D Binding Interaction
Hydroquinone	
	
Hydroquinone monobenzyl	
	
isorhamnetin	
	
kaempferol	
	

3D Binding Interaction	2D Binding Interaction
p-hydroxy benzoic acid	
	
Quercetin	
	
syringic acid	
	
vanillic acid	
	

4. Conclusion

This study presents a comprehensive in silico evaluation of phytochemicals from *Aerva lanata* as potential inhibitors of the HER2 kinase, integrating ADMET profiling with molecular docking analysis. The systematic screening of sixteen bioactive compounds highlighted clear structure–activity and pharmacokinetic trends. ADMET assessment revealed that alkaloids and aglycone flavonoids generally possessed favorable physicochemical properties, acceptable absorption profiles, limited toxicity risks, and manageable metabolic liabilities, whereas highly polar glycosylated or low-molecular-weight phenolic acids showed weaker permeability or binding potential. Molecular docking results further strengthened these observations, demonstrating that several phytochemicals exhibited binding affinities comparable to or exceeding that of the native ligand. Notably, apigenin 7-O- β -D-glucoside, 10-methoxy-canthin-6-one, canthin-6-one, and quercetin showed strong docking scores, stable interaction networks, and key hydrogen bonding with critical HER2 active-site residues, indicating robust ligand–protein complementarity.

The combined ADMET–docking workflow effectively prioritized compounds with both pharmacokinetic suitability and strong target engagement. Overall, these findings support *Aerva lanata* as a valuable source of lead scaffolds for HER2-targeted anticancer drug development. The identified candidates warrant further experimental validation through in vitro and in vivo studies to confirm their therapeutic potential and translational relevance.

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