

Small Molecule Natural Products Targeting Nrf2-HO-1 Signaling

Subjects: **Urology & Nephrology**

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The global burden of chronic kidney disease (CKD) intertwined with cardiovascular disease has become a major health problem. Oxidative stress (OS) plays an important role in the pathophysiology of CKD. The nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 (Nrf2)-antioxidant responsive element (ARE) antioxidant system plays a critical role in kidney protection by regulating antioxidants during OS. Heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1), one of the targets of Nrf2-ARE, plays an important role in regulating OS and is protective in a variety of human and animal models of kidney disease. Thus, activation of Nrf2-HO-1 signaling may offer a potential approach to the design of novel therapeutic agents for kidney diseases.

chronic kidney diseases

oxidative stress

Nrf2

HO-1

small molecule natural products

1. Introduction

The incidence and prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients is increasing worldwide. The prevalence of CKD between male and female patients is not constant between countries, however, kidney functions decline faster in males than females ^[1]. Importantly, CKD is not only a risk factor for increasing global mortality but it is also a critical factor involved in cardiovascular disease (CVD) ^[2]. The close link between CKD and CVD has been known for a long time ^{[3][4][5]}. Not only traditional risk factors such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetes, but also non-traditional risk factors such as disturbed minerals and vitamins in CKD may play important roles in the progression of CVD. The current treatment options for CKD are controlling blood pressure, serum glucose, and serum lipid profile ^[6], as well as a modification of lifestyle ^{[7][8]}. Since the efficacy of the current therapeutic strategy is still limited ^[9], there is a need to develop a more effective therapeutic option for treating CKD. Although the exact mechanism involved in the development of CKD is elusive, many lines of evidence strongly suggest that oxidative stress (OS) plays a critical role in the progression of CKD ^{[10][11][12][13]}.

OS is an imbalance between cellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels and antioxidant enzymes, leading to a pathological condition. ROS regulates various signaling pathways, including the growth and differentiation of cells, mitogenesis, production, and breakdown of the extracellular matrix (ECM), inflammation, and apoptosis ^[14]. OS-mediated damaging effects of cells are controlled by activating the antioxidant defense system. OS has also been noticed to be affected by sex hormones in ischemic kidney injury ^[15]. Unfortunately, there is an impairment of antioxidative defense and a reduced activity of antioxidant enzymes in CKD ^[16]. Hence, promoting the endogenous antioxidants defense system may become an important strategy in inhibiting OS-mediated cellular damage in CKD.

Phytochemicals and other natural products are cytoprotective against OS by scavenging oxygen-free radicals and enhancing the level of antioxidants [17]. The literature on protective effects of antioxidant natural products against CKD has been reported [18][19][20]. Nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 (Nrf2) is the master regulator of the cellular antioxidant defense system [17]. Studies review that augmentation of Nrf2 activity prevents the progression of acute kidney injury (AKI) to CKD transition [21][22]. Natural bioactive compounds and their sources have been demonstrated to have kidney protective potential by activating Nrf2 in experimental CKD models [23][24]. In a recent review on clinical studies, bardoxolone methyl (CDDO-me), a semi-synthetic triterpenoid activating the Nrf2 pathway, has been reported as an effective therapeutic for diabetic kidney disease (DKD), although it has limitations in that it increases the risk of heart failure [25]. Heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1), one of the target molecules of Nrf2, attenuates the overall production of ROS through its ability to degrade heme and to produce carbon monoxide (CO), biliverdin/bilirubin, and the release of free iron. Induction of HO-1 mediates many beneficial effects in the cardiovascular system and kidney [26]. Also, the modulatory role of HO-1 has been reported in various kidney injury models including CKD [27][28][29][30][31][32][33][34]. Several natural HO-1 inducers and their therapeutic applications in various diseases, including CKD, have been reported [35].

2. Small Molecule Natural Products Activating Nrf2-HO-1 Signaling

A substantial quantity of natural products has been reported to confer renoprotection and improve disease outcomes of the various types of CKD, primarily through activating the Nrf2/HO-1 antioxidant defense systems and attenuating the proinflammatory signaling pathways. Here, researchers reviewed the existing literature over the past decade to compile comprehensive information on the kidney protective potential of naturally occurring compounds. Experimental and disease models, the pathobiology involved, the research outcomes, and the molecular markers altered by these compounds are summarized in **Table 1** and **Table 2** and **Figure 1**. To facilitate the discussion, researchers have categorized the kidney protective effects of these natural compounds into two distinct chemical groups: phenolic and non-phenolics. This categorization also highlights common bioactive compounds, belonging to phenolic group which represents the largest chemical class showing enormous bioactivity with the potential to be future drug candidates.

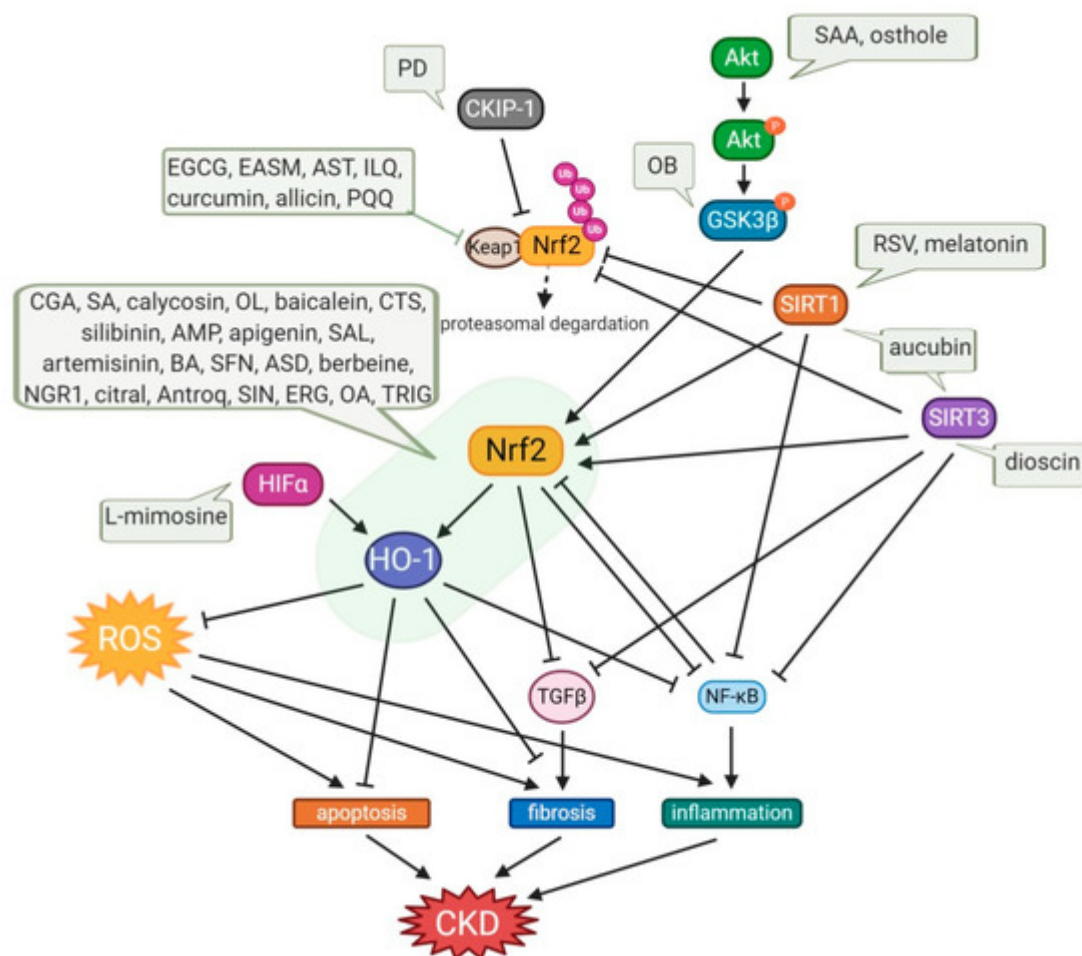


Figure 1. Protective effects of small-molecule natural products on OS in CKD. Osthole and SAA enhance the activation of the Akt/Nrf2/HO-1 signaling pathway with suppression of NF-κB and TGFβ1, consequently attenuating OS, inflammation, and fibrosis. OB induces the phosphorylation of GSK3β, which inhibits Fyn-mediated Nrf2 nuclear export, and activates the transcription of Nrf2-driven antioxidant genes. Expression of SIRT1, which inhibits NF-κB activity, and the activation of Nrf2 are enhanced by aucubin, melatonin, and RSV, which also upregulates SIRT3, resulting in amelioration of kidney injury. Dioscin upregulates SIRT3 level, promotes Nrf2, and suppresses Keap1 expression, resulting in inhibition of inflammation, lipid metabolism, OS, and kidney fibrosis. PD increases the CKIP-1 expression level and promotes the interaction of CKIP-1 with Nrf2, consequently activating the Nrf2-ARE antioxidative pathway. Allicin, AST, curcumin, EASM, EGCG, ILQ, and PQQ attenuate OS via the Nrf2/HO-1 signaling pathway with inhibition of Keap1, and they also reduce TGFβ-mediated fibrosis and NF-κB-induced inflammation. In the cases of an anti-fibrotic effect of apigenin, ASD, baicalein, BA, CGA, CTS, ERG, OL, and SFN, AMP, antroq, artemisinin, berbeine, calycosin, SA, SIN, and TRIG, they are mediated not only by upregulation of the Nrf2/HO-1 antioxidant signaling pathway and downregulation of NF-κB-induced inflammation, but also via TGFβ suppression. Treatments with citral, NGR1, OA, SAL, and silibinin have potency for anti-apoptotic effects with regulation of Bcl2/Bax and caspase3. The decrease in the NLRP3 inflammasome was also observed in treatments with baicalein, EGCG, and OL. L-mimosine activates HIF1α, which upregulates renoprotective HIF target genes, such as VEGF, HO-1, and GLUT1, and decreases fibrosis markers. AMP, ampelopsin; Antroq, antroquinonol; ASD, akebia saponin D; AST, astaxanthin; BA, betulinic acid; CGA, chlorogenic acid; CTS,

cryptotanshinone; EASM, ethyl acetate extract of *Salvia miltiorrhiza*; EGCG, Epigallocatechin gallate; ERG, ergone; GSK3β, glycogen synthase kinase 3β; HIFα, hypoxia-inducible factor α; ILQ, isoliquiritin; NGR1, notoginsenoside R1; OA, oleanolic acid; OB, obacunone; OL, oleuropein; PD, polydatin; PQQ, pyrroloquinoline quinone; RSV, resveratrol; SA, sinapic acid; SAA, salvianolic acid A; SAL, salidroside; SFN, sulforaphane; SIN, sinomenine; TRIG, trigonelline.

Table 1. Kidney protective effects provided by phenolic compounds of phytochemicals targeting the Nrf2-HO-1 signaling pathway.

No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
Phenolic compounds								
1	Ampelopsin	Flavonoid; <i>Ampelopsis grossedentata</i>	HG-stimulated hGMCs	OS	OS, ECM accumulation	Amelioration of OS and ECM accumulation	↓ROS, ↓MDA, ↑SOD, ↓Nox2, ↓Nox4, ↓NADPH, ↓FN, ↓Col IV, ↑n-Nrf2, ↑HO-1,	[36]
2	Apigenin	Flavonoid; common fruits and vegetables	HG-treated HK-2 cells	Oxidative damage	Oxidative damage	Decrease in apoptosis, inhibition of OS, and inflammatory response	↓LDH, ↓MDA, ↑SOD, ↑CAT, ↓TNFα, ↓IL-1β, ↓IL-6, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1	[37]
3	Astaxanthin	Xanthophyll carotenoid; algae, shrimp, lobster, crab, salmon, and other organisms	STZ-injected rat	DKD	ECM accumulation	Amelioration of kidney injury	↓FN, ↓TGFβ1, ↓ICAM-1	[38]
			HG-treated GMCs	Kidney fibrosis	OS	Increase in antioxidative capacity	↓FN, ↓TGFβ1, ↓ICAM-1, ↑SOD, ↓MDA, ↓ROS, ↓DHE, ↑n-Nrf2, ↓keap1, ↓SOD-1, ↓Nqo1, ↓HO-1	
			Adriamycin-treated BALB/c mice	FSGS	OS, inflammation	Anti-inflammation, antioxidation	↓TGFβ1, ↓collagen1, ↓α-SMA, ↓MDA, ↑GSH, ↑SOD, ↑CAT, (serum: ↓IL-1 β, IL-18), ↑Nrf2, ↓NLRP3	
4	Baicalein	Flavonoid; roots of <i>Scutellaria</i>	Pristine - injected BALB/c	LN	OS, inflammation	Attenuation of kidney	↓IL-1b, ↓IL-18, ↓O ₂ ^{•-} ,	[40]

No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
5	Calycosin	Isoflavone; root of <i>Astragalus membranaceus</i>	LPS-primed spleen-derived MDSCs	OS, inflammation		dysfunction, antioxidation, anti-inflammation, inhibition of MDSC expansion	↑ GPx, ↑ Nrf2, ↑ HO-1, ↓ NLRP3, ↓ Casp-1, ↓ mL-1 β, ↓ p-NF-kB	
							↓ ROS, ↓ IL-1β, ↓ IL-18, ↑ Nrf2, ↑ HO-1, ↓ NLRP3, ↓ mL-1β/pro-IL-1β, ↓ Casp-1-p20/pro-casp-1-p45, ↓ p-NF-kB/NF-kB, ↓ Ang-1, ↓ p47phox, ↓ GP91phox, ↓ iNOS	
							↓ IL-33, ↓ ST2, ↓ NF-kB p65, ↓ TNFα, ↓ IL-1 β, ↓ IL-6, ↑ Nrf2, ↓ MDA, ↓ TGFβ	
6	Chlorogenic acid	Cinnamate ester; coffee, fruits, and vegetables	STZ-injected and HFD-fed SD rat	DKD	OS, inflammation	Relieve kidney injury, mitigation of OS, inflammation	↓ MDA, ↑ SOD, ↑ GSH-Px, ↑ n-Nrf2, ↑ HO-1, ↓ IL-6, ↓ TNFα, ↓ IL-1 β, ↑ c-NF-kB, ↓ n-NF-kB, ↑ IkBα, ↓ p-IkBα,	[41]
			HG-treated rat mesangial cell line (HBZY-1)			Mitigation of OS, inflammation, increase in cell proliferation	↑ n-Nrf2, ↑ HO-1, ↑ c-NF-kB, ↓ n-NF-kB, ↑ IkBα, ↓ p-IkBα, ↓ IL-6, ↓ TNFα, ↓ IL-1 β	
7	Cryptotanshinone	Quinoid diterpene; <i>Salvia miltiorrhiza bunge</i>	UUO-operated mice	Kidney fibrosis	OS, inflammation	Attenuation of OS and inflammation	↓ collagen-1, ↓ FN, ↓ CD68, ↓ CD3, ↑ IkBα, ↓ NF-kB p65, ↑ SOD2, ↑ CAT, ↑ GSH, ↓ MDA, ↑ Nuclear Nrf2, ↓ cytosolic Nrf2, ↑ HO-1	[43]

No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
8	Curcumin	Curcuminoid; turmeric (<i>Curcuma longa</i>)	5/6 nephrectomy Wistar rat	CKD	OS, inflammation	Protection of kidney function, antioxidant, anti-inflammation	↓Nox4, ↑eNOS, ↓nitrotyrosine, ↓MCP-1, ↓Keap-1, ↑Nrf2, ↑GPx-1, ↑CAT, ↑SOD-1, ↓phosphoserine D1R	[44]
			0.25% Adenine-diet rat	CKD	OS, inflammation	Amelioration of kidney function and OS	↓IL-1 β, ↓IL-6, ↓TNFα, ↑cycstatin C, ↓adiponecitn, ↑sclerostin, ↑SOD, ↑Nrf2, ↑GSH reductase, ↓caspase3	[45]
			HG-treated NRK-52E cells	OS	OS	Increase in cell viability, inhibition of EMT	↑E-cadherin, ↓α-SMA, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1	[46]
9	Epigallocatechin-3 - Gallate	Polyphenol; Dried leaves of tea plant (<i>Camellia sinensis</i>)	STZ-injected mice	DKD	Oxidative damage, inflammation,	Anti-OS	↓TGFβ1, ↓PAI-1, ↓ICAM-1, ↓VCAM-1, ↓MDA, ↓iNOS, ↓3-NT, ↑Nqo1, ↑HO-1, ↑t-Nrf2, ↑c-Nrf2, ↑n-Nrf2, ↑n-Nrf2/t-Nrf2	[47]
			HG-cultured MMC				↑t-Nrf2, ↑c-Nrf2, ↑n-Nrf2, ↑Nqo1, ↑HO-1, ↓MDA, ↓iNOS, ↓VCAM-1, ↓ICAM-1, ↓COL4, ↓FN	
			NZB/W F1 lupus-prone mice	LN	OS	Antioxidant and anti-inflammation	↑Nrf2, ↓p47phox, ↑Nqo1, ↑HO-1, ↑GPx, ↓CD3, ↓F4/80, ↓NF-kB, ↓NLRP3, ↓IL-1	[48]

No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
10	Ethyl acetate extract of <i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i>	Diterpenoids, phenolic compounds, flavonoids, triterpenoids; dried root of <i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> Bunge	UUO mice	CKD	OS, inflammation	Kidney function improvement, prevention of OS and inflammation	β, ↓IL-18, ↓casp1-p20, ↑SOD, ↑CAT, ↑GSH-Px, ↓MPO, ↓TNFα, ↓IL-6, ↓IL-1 β, ↑IκBα, ↓p-IκBα, ↓NF-κB, ↑n-Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↑t-bilirubin	[49]
			STZ-injected mice	DKD	Oxidative stress	Antioxidation, attenuation of kidney dysfunction	↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo1, ↓Keap1	[50]
			HG-treated SV40-MES-13 MMCs	hyperglycemia		Antioxidation	↓ROS, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo1, ↓Keap1	
11	Isoliquiritin	Flavonoid glycoside; Chinese licorice (<i>Glycyrrhiza uralensis</i>)	Cationic BSA-injected SD rat	MGN	Inflammation and OS	Antioxidative, anti-inflammatory activities	↓Keap1, ↑Nrf2, ↓n-Nrf2, ↑c-Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo1, ↓MDA, ↓NO, ↑SOD, ↑CAT, ↑GPx, ↑GSH, ↓NF-κB p65, ↓nuclear NF-κB p65, ↑cyclic NF-κB, ↓IKKb, ↓p-IKKb, ↓TNFα, ↓IL-1 β, ↓COX2, ↓iNOS, ↓p38 MAPK, ↓p-p38 MAPK	[51]
12	Oleuropein, peracetylatedoleuropein	Secoiridoid; olive leaves, roots, and unprocessed olive drupes	Pristine - injected BALB/c mice	LN	Inflammation and OS	Amelioration of kidney abnormalities, inhibition of proinflammation, antioxidation	↓MMP-3, ↓iNOS, ↓mPGES-1, ↓PGE2, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↓pSTAT3, ↓NF-κB-p65, ↑IκBα, ↓pp38, ↓pJNK, ↓pERK1/2, ↓NLRP3, ↓ASC, ↓IL-18, ↓	[52]

No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
							IL-1β, ↓cleaved caspase-1, ↓cleaved caspase 11	f2-HO-1
No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
Non-phenolic compounds								
1	Akebia Saponin D	triterpenoid saponin; <i>Dipsaci Radix</i>	STZ-injected mice HG-treated HK-2 cells	DKD	OS, inflammation	Amelioration of kidney damage, inflammation, OS, and apoptosis	↓TNFα, ↓IL-1β, ↓IL-6, ↓MCP-1, ↓ROS, ↓MDA, ↓LDH, ↑SOD, ↑Bcl2, ↓Bax, ↓cleaved caspase3/caspase3, ↓cleaved caspase9/caspase9, ↑n-Nrf2, ↓p-NF-kB/t-NF-kB, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo1, ↓p-IkBα/t-IkBα	[62]
2	Allicin	Diallyl thiosulfinate; garlic (<i>Allium sativum</i> L.)	5/6 nephrectomy Wistar rat	CKD	Fibrosis, OS	Antihypertensive and antioxidant effects	↑AT1R, ↑AT2R, ↑Nrf2, ↓Keap1, ↑CAT, ↑SOD, ↓HO-1, ↑eNOS	[63]
3	Antroquinonol	Enone; mushroom (<i>Antrodia camphorate</i>)	Adriamycin - injected BALB/c mice	FSGS	OS	Decrease in kidney dysfunction, anti-OS, anti-inflammation	↓desmin, ↓O ₂ ^{•-} , (serum, urine ↓O ₂ ^{•-} , ↓NO), ↓DHE, ↓p47phox, ↑Nrf2, ↑GPx, ↓NF-kB p65, ↓MCP-1, ↓IL-6, ↓CD3, ↓F4/80, ↓Col I, ↓Col III, ↓Col IV, ↓TGFβ1	[64]
4	Artemisinin	sesquiterpene lactones; <i>Asteraceae</i>	STZ-injected rat	DKD	OS	Amelioration of kidney	↓MDA, ↑t-SOD, ↑GPx, ↓TGFβ1, ↑t-	[65]

No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
5	Aucubin	<i>Artemisia annua</i>				dysfunction and OS	Nrf2, ↑n-Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo1	[66]
							↓FN, ↓collagen IV, ↓MDA, ↑SOD, ↑CAT, ↑GSH/T-GSH, ↓TNFα, ↓IL-6, ↓IL-1β, ↓p65, ↓IκBα, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo1, ↑FOXO3α, ↓p-FOXO3α/FOXO3α, ↑SIRT1, ↑SIRT3, ↓Ac-FOXO3α/FOXO3α	
		iridoid glycoside; leaf of <i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	HFD-fed and STZ-injected mice	DKD	OS, inflammation	Amelioration of kidney dysfunction, anti-inflammation, anti-OS		
6	Berberine		STZ-injected mice	DKD			↓α-SMA, ↓collagen-1, ↑Nrf2, ↑NQO1, ↑HO-1	[67]
		isoquinoline alkaloid; <i>Coptidis Rhizoma</i> and <i>Cortex Phellodendri</i>	HG-treated NRK 52E cells	EMT	OS	Anti-fibrosis	↓E-cadherin, ↓α-SMA, ↑n-Nrf2, ↑Nqo1, ↑HO-1, ↓p-Smad2, ↓p-Smad3	
7	Betulinic acid	pentacyclic triterpenoid; from the outer bark of white birch trees (<i>Betula alba</i>)	STZ-injected SD rat	DKD	OS	Anti-OS	↓IL-1 β, ↓IL-6, ↓MDA, ↑SOD, ↑CAT, ↑p-AMPK/AMPK, ↓p-IκBα/IκBα, ↓p-NF-kB/NF-kB, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1	[68]
8	Citral	Terpeonids; <i>Litsea cubeba</i>	Adriamycin - injected BALB/c mice	FSGS			↓O ₂ ⁻ , (serum, urine ↓O ₂ ⁻ , ↓NO), ↓DHE, ↓p47phox, ↑Nrf2, ↑Nqo1, ↑HO-1, ↓desmin, ↓TUNEL, ↓Casp-3p17, ↓Casp-9p37, ↓Bax/Bcl2, ↓pNF-kB p65, ↓MCP-1, ↓CD3, ↓F4/80	[69]
			LPS-treated RAW 264.7 macrophages	OS	OS	Amelioration of kidney dysfunction, anti-OS, anti-inflammation, anti-apoptosis	↓NO, ↓NF-kB, ↓IL-6, ↓TNFα, ↓IL-1β, ↓p-ERK1/2(10min), ↓p-JNK1/2(15,30min)	

No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
9	Dioscin	Steroid saponin; <i>Dioscoreae rhizoma</i>	10% fructose-fed mice	CKD	Oxidative damage, lipid metabolism, fibrosis	Inhibition of inflammation, lipid metabolism, OS, kidney fibrosis	↓MDA, ↑SOD, ↑GSH-Px, ↓α-SMA, ↑SIRT3, ↑SOD2, ↓IL-1β, ↓IL6, ↓TNFα, ↓NF-kB, ↓HMGB1, ↓COX2, ↓c-Jun, ↓c-Fos, ↓SREBP-1c, ↓SCD-1, ↓FASn, ↓p-Akt, ↓p-FoxO1A, ↓ACC, ↑CPT1, ↑Nrf2, ↓Keap1, ↑GST, ↓TGFβ1, ↓p-Smad3, ↑Smad7	[70]
10	Ergone (alisol B 23-acetate, pachymic acid B)	steroid; <i>Polyporus umbellatus</i> , surface layer of <i>Poria cocos</i> , <i>Alisma orientale</i>	AngII- treated HK-2 and conditionally immortalized MPC5 cells	CKD	OS, inflammation, impaired Nrf 2 activation	inhibition of the RAS/Wnt/b-catenin signaling cascade	(HK-2) ↓Snail1, ↓MMP-7, ↓Twist, ↓FSP-1, ↓Col I, ↓Col III, ↓α-SMA, ↓vimentin, ↑E-cadherin, ↓NF-kB, ↓MCP-1, ↓COX2, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1 (podocyte) ↓Snail1, ↓MMP-7, ↓Twist, ↓FSP-1, ↑podocin, ↑nephrin, ↑podocalyxin, ↑synaptopodin, ↓desmin, ↑WT1, ↓Akt2, ↓NF-kB, ↓MCP-1, ↓COX2, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1	[71]
11	L-mimosine	Amino acid; <i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Rats with remnant kidneys after subtotal nephrectomy (5/6 nephrectomy)	CKD	Fibrosis	Improvement of kidney function, inhibition of fibrosis	↑HIF-1α, ↑HIF-2α, ↑VEGF, ↑HO-1, ↑GLUT-1, ↓α-SMA, ↓collagen III	[72]
12	Melatonin	Endogenous indoleamine, coffee, walnut, etc.	Pristine - injected BALB/c mice	LN	OS, inflammation	Attenuation of OS, inflammation	↑SIRT1, ↑Nrf2, ↓TNFα, ↓NF-kB, ↓iNOS, ↓NLRP3, ↑CD31	[73]
13	Notoginsenoside R1	Saponin; <i>Panax notoginseng</i>	db/db mice	DKD	OS	Anti-OS, decrease in apoptosis	↓Collagen I, ↓TGFβ1, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↓Bax/Bcl2,	[74]

, chronic
acellular
; GMCs,
fat diet;
ric oxide
onocyte
braneous
P3, NLR
2-related
hibitor-1;
unilateral

No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
14	Obacunone	Triterpenoid limonoid; citrus and other plants of the Rutaceae family	HG-treated NRK-52E cells	OS	OS	Inhibition of OS, mitochondrial injury, and apoptosis	↓Caspase-3, ↓Caspase-9	[75]
							↓LDH, ↓ROS, ↑n-Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↓Bax/Bcl2, ↓Cspase-3, ↓Caspase-9, ↓TGFβ1, ↓collagen I	
							↑SOD, ↑GSH, ↑CAT, ↓ROS, ↓JC-1 monomer/aggregate, ↑p-GSK3β/GSK3β, ↓n-Fyn, ↑n-Nrf2, ↑Nqo1, ↑HO-1, ↑SOD, ↑GSH, ↑CAT, ↓c-CytC/m-CytC, ↓cleaved caspase3	
15	Oleanolic acid	Triterpenoid; olive oil, <i>Phytolacca Americana</i> , <i>Syzygium</i> spp, garlic, etc.	Cyclosporine-treated ICR mice	Chronic nephropathy	Inflammation, fibrosis	Antioxidation, anti-inflammation	↓α-SMA, ↑HO-1, ↑nuclear/total Nrf2, ↑SOD1, ↓MDA, ↓urinary 8-iso-PGF2α, ↓urine 8-oxo-dG, ↓Bax/Bcl2, ↓active caspase-3	[76]
16	Pyrroloquinoline quinone	In soil and foods such as kiwifruit and human breast milk	HG-treated HK-2 cells	OS	OS	Decrease in OS, inflammation and cellular senescence	↓IL-1β, ↓TNFα, ↓NF-κB, ↓p16, ↓p21, ↓ROS, ↑SOD2, ↑CAT, ↓keap1, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo1, ↑GST, ↑GPx3,	[77]
17	Sinomenine	Alkaloid; <i>Sinomenium acutum</i>	UUO-operated ICR mice	CKD	Fibrosis, OS	Anti-fibrosis, antioxidation	↑E-cadherin, ↓α-SMA, ↓FN, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo1, ↑Nrf2, ↑SOD, ↑GPx, ↑CAT, ↑SOD2, ↓p-Smad3, ↓β-catenin	[78]
			TGFβ-treated/H2O2-treated HEK293 cells, TGFβ-treated RAW264.7 cells				↑E-cadherin, ↓α-SMA, ↓FN, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo1, ↑Nrf2, ↑SOD, ↑GPx, ↑CAT, ↑SOD2, ↓p-Smad3, ↓β-catenin	

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No.	Modulator	Chemical Class and Natural Sources	Experimental Model	Disease Model	Pathobiology Involved	Major Research Outcomes	Molecular Markers	Ref.
18	Sulforaphane	Isothiocyanate (organosulfur compound); Cruciferous vegetables such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, and cabbages	STZ-injected and meglumine diatrizoate-injected Wistar rats Meglumine diatrizoate-treated NRK-52E cells F344 rat kidneys transplanted Lewis rat	DKD, CIN CRAD	OS OS	Renoprotective Cell viability OS alleviation, kidney functional and morphological improvements	↓MDA, ↓8-oxo-dG, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↓IL6, ↑Caspase3 ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↓IL6 ↓MDA, ↓8-isoprostane, ↓ox-LDL, ↓8-oxo-dG, ↑SOD, ↑CAT, ↑GPx, ↑GR, ↑γ-GCS, ↑Nrf2, ↑HO-1, ↑Nqo-1	[79] [80] [80]
19	Trigonelline	Alkaloid; traditional herbs (especially fenugreek), coffee bean, soybean, and other edible food plants	Oxalate-induced MDCK cells	EMT	Fibrosis	Attenuation of EMT, prevention of cell migration and ROS overproduction,	↓FN, ↓vimentin, ↓α-SMA, ↑E-cadherin, ↑ZO-1, ↓MMP9, ↓ROS, ↑Nrf2	[81]

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