3.0 OBJECTIVES:
According to WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION asthma attacks all age groups but often starts in childhood. It is a disease characterized by recurrent attacks of breathlessness and wheezing, which vary in severity and frequency from person to person. In an individual, they may occur from hour to hour and day to day \(^1\). Asthma is very commonly occurring condition that is most difficult in chronic stage \(^2\). It affects 155 million people worldwide \(^3\). India alone has an estimated 15-20 million asthmatics, whereas in united states the population is around 17 million, and this is 75% increase in the last 20 years. This means that about 1 out of every 20 adults and close to 1 out of 13 children today have asthma \(^4, 5\). The currently used drugs for the treatment of this disease in modern medicine are Anti-cholinergics, Sympathomimetics, Mast Cell Stabilizers, Histamine H\(_1\) receptor antagonist, Anti-inflammatory agents, Phosphodiesterase inhibitors and Leukotrine receptor antagonist. But these drugs are so far from satisfactory as they provide only symptomatic relief, produce several adverse effects and may lose effectiveness on continued use \(^2, 6, 7\).

Hence, Ayurveda an ancient system of Indian medicine, has recommended a number of drugs from indigenous plant sources for the treatment of asthma and allergic disorder, and have been successful in controlling the disease as well \(^8\). The traditional medicine program (TMP) was established by World Health Organization in 1977. The herbal medicines are the major remedy in traditional medicinal practice for thousands of years. These have made a great contribution in maintaining human health \(^9\).

Madhavilata (Hiptagebenghalensis), native from India to the Philippines, is a vine like plant that is often cultivated in the tropics for its attractive and fragrant flowers. This plant can be trimmed as a bush, and can be crown in container, too. It is used medicinally in India. The bark, leaves and flowers are aromatic, bitter, acrid, astringent, refrigerant, vulnerary, expectorant, cardiotonic, anti-inflammatory and insecticidal. They are useful in burning sensation, wounds, ulcers, cough, and asthma \(^10\).

Aqueous extracts showed more potent anthelmintic Compound-2(3, 4-dihydroxyphenyl)-3(4, 6-dihydroxy-3 ‐methoxytetrahydro-2H-pyran-2carbaldehyde)-5-hydroxy, 7methoxy-4H-chromen-4one \(^11\).

In the present study, I will isolate, characterize, formulate and evaluate various extracts of leaves of hiptagebenghalensis (l) kurz for its anti-asthmatic activity.