effective therapy for postprandial hyperglycemia with minimal side effects (Grover et al. 2002; Gyemant et al. 2003; Cheng and Fantus 2005).

The genus *Ficus* (Moraceae) constitutes one of the largest genera of angiosperms, and includes more than 800 species and 2000 varieties. The genus *Ficus* occurs in the most tropical and subtropical forests; this plant is more commonly known as the fig (Hamed 2011). Sirisha et al. (2010) reported that all *Ficus* species possess latex-like material within their vasculatures that provide protection and self-healing from physical assaults. Various studies indicated that *Ficus* species are widely used in the management of various types of diseases like respiratory diseases, sexual disorders, central nervous system diseases (CNS), cardiovascular disorders (CVS), gastric problems, skin infections and diabetics etc. (Sirisha et al. 2010).

Fig fruits hold the highest levels of polyphenols, flavonoids, anthocyanins and exhibited the highest antioxidant capacity, which can be free of side effects versus those of synthetic antioxidants (Joseph and Raj 2011). Shukla et al. (2004) revealed the significant antioxidant effect of *F. bengalensis*. In addition, Duduku et al. (2007) reported that *F. microcarpa* bark contains highest free radical scavenging activity. Further, epidemiological studies have shown that many of these antioxidant compounds possess anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antimutagenic, anticarcinogenic, antibacterial and antiviral activities to a greater extent (Owen et al. 2000).

A large number of plants, plant extracts, decoctions or pastes are equally used by tribes and carried on in the folklore traditions in India for treatment of cuts, wounds and burns (Kumar et al. 2007). Besides, in Ayurvedic medicine, *F. racemosa* L. is used as a wound healing agent (Biswas and Mukherjee 2003) whereas, the aqueous extract of *F. deltoidea* was reported to have wound healing activity (Abdulla et al. 2010).

Medicinal plants play an important role in the cure of diabetes mellitus all over the world. A variety of ingredients present in medicinal plants are thought to act on a variety of targets by various modes and mechanisms. They have the potential to impart therapeutic effects in complex disorders like diabetes and its complications (Tiwari and Rao 2002). According to the Ayurvedic system of medicine, *F. bengalensis, F. carica, F. glomerata* (Rashid 2008; Singh et al. 2009), *F. exasperate* Vahl and *F. arnottiana* Miq. (Sonibare et al. 2006; Mazumdar et al. 2009; Sharma et al. 2010) are well-known in the treatment of diabetes. *F. carica* (Joseph and Raj 2011), *F. bengalensis* bark (Patil and Patil 2010) and *F. glomerata* were reported to have hypoglycemic effects.

Ficus amplissima Smith., commonly known as kal-itchchi, is endemic to India and commonly occurs in foothills of the Himalayas, Assam, Sikkim, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The ethnobotanical views on *F. amplissima* suggest that fruits are chewed for mouth ulcers, whereas leaf juice is applied externally for old chronic wounds. Bark is used against diabetes, which is reported in indigenous herbal formulations in India. In addition, some other reports on the medicinal properties of bark shows that, *F. amplissima* bark has been used for the ailments of the throat (Pankaj Oudhia 2012). Pulliah (2002) reported that boiled rice water and bark boiled with salt in equal proportions is used to treat colic. Leaves are used for jaundice, fruit is used to cure mental illness and latex is applied to wounds (Singh and Himadri 2005). Based on this ethnobotanical information, this study