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Molecular Characterization of Medicinal Plant – Cassia Fistula L by Matk Gene

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Abstract-The studies on taxonomy, ethnobotany and antimicrobial potential are imperative for plants with traditional medicinal value. Two important reasons for plant barcoding is to identity unknown specimens to known species and to share it with the community resource of sequences to establish its taxonomical clarification. MaturaseK gene (matK) of chloroplast is highly conserved in plants which is associated in Group II intron RNA splicing. This reputed gene product matK is the only maturase present in chloroplasts making its presence unique. DNA barcoding by plastid coding matK markers involves sequencing of a standard region of DNA as a tool for angiosperm identification. In this study, leaf samples of Cassia fistula L were collected from Chennai and Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed to amplify the matK gene and molecular characterization was performed.
Keywords-DNA Barcoding, matK, PCR and NCBI- KY978892.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Traditional Herbal Medicine*

By definition, 'traditional' use of herbal medicines implies substantial historical use, and this is certainly true for many products that are available as 'traditional herbal medicines' the pharmacological treatment of disease began long ago with the use of herbs [17]. Methods of folk healing throughout the world commonly used herbs as part of their tradition.

B. *Dna Barcoding*

In effect, barcoding in its modern form was popularized in a paper by [9], who proposed to use the mitochondrial gene CO1 as the standard barcode for all animals. This was readily adopted by the scientific community, and assessments have since shown that CO1 can be used to distinguish over 90% of species in most animal groups [14]. In recent years the barcoding movement has grown substantially, and worldwide efforts coordinated by CBOL (the Consortium for the Barcode of Life) are now being put into retrieving barcode sequences from all organisms [2].

DNA barcoding has been applied to a broad range of subjects, including taxonomic studies of "cryptic" taxa or species complexes, e.g. skipper butterflies [1]. Barcoding has also been used in ecological studies to survey animal diets through the analysis of plant remains in feces and in identifying smoked fish products sold under ambiguous product names [18].

C. *Megakaryocyte-associated tyrosine kinase (matK)*

The rapidly evolving and highly variable gene maturase K [10] has been recommended as a locus for DNA barcoding by the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) Plant Working Group [11]. Amplification and sequencing of the matK barcoding region is difficult due to high sequence variability in the primer binding sites [12]. Currently, there are three popular matK primer pairs available to amplify approximately the same region of the gene: 390F and 1326R [19] and [3], XF and 5R [8] and 1R_KIM and 3F_KIM ([11], [13] and [15]) used these three primer pairs to amplify DNA barcodes from 296 shrub and tree species. Disclosing evolutionary descents of different plant species with matK gene could be supreme for constructing a systematic phylogenetic tree. Comparing a molecular sequence data is indispensable to acquire knowledge of biodiversity and to provide insights into the selective force that occurred during evolution of different species [5] and [20].

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. *Sample Collection*

Fresh, disease free healthy leaves of the Indian medicinal plant Cassia fistula L. were collected from the city of Chennai during December 2016. The collected plant was authenticated by Plant Anatomy Research Centre (**PARC/2016/3323**). The samples were

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transferred to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection, washed and stored till further use.

B. Genomic Dna Isolation [7]

Fresh-leaf tissue (0.5 g) was ground in a 1.5-mL centrifuge tube with a mortar and pestle and 4mL of preheated, freshly prepared CTAB extraction buffer (0.1 M Tris-Cl (pH 8.0), 20 mM EDTA (pH 8.0), 1.4 M NaCl, CTAB (3%, w/v), b-mercaptoethanol (0.2%, v/v), PVP (2% w/v) was immediately added to the tube. The tubes were incubated at 65°C for 60min, with inversion during incubation. An equal volume of chloroform: isoamyl alcohol (24:1, v/v) was added and then the tubes were inverted 8-10 times. The tubes were centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 15 min. The supernatant was transferred to a new centrifuge tube. An equal volume of absolute ice-cold isopropanol was added. The tubes were centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 min. The supernatant was discarded and the pellet was washed with 70% (v/v) ethanol. The pellet was air-dried at room temperature and then dissolved in 50 µL TE buffer. The DNA samples were stored at -20°C until further use.

C. Quantitative Determination Of Dna By Spectrophotomeric Method

A solution of nucleic acids strongly absorbs UV with an absorbance maximum of 260nm and proteins at 280nm which is linearly related with the concentration of DNA and RNA and the amount of contamination in the solution. The intense absorption is primarily due to the presence of aromatic rings in the purine, pyrimidine. The concentration of nucleic acid in a solution can be calculated if one knows the value of A260 of the solution.

A solution of double-stranded DNA at a concentration of 50ug/ml in a 1cm quartz cuvette will give A260 reading of 1.A solution of single-stranded DNA/RNA that has A260 of 1 in a cuvette with a 1cm path length has a concentration of 40ug/ml. Proteins are usually the major contaminants in nucleic acids extract and these have absorption maximum at 280nm. The ration of absorbance at 260 and 280nm hence provides a clear idea about the extent of contamination in the preparation. A ratio between 1.7 and 1.9 is indicative of fairly pure DNA preparation. But values less than 1.8 signify the presence of proteins as impurities. The values greater than 1.8 signify the presence of organic solvent in the DNA preparations. A ratio of 1.8 determines the pure DNA preparation.

The spectrophotometer and the UV lamp was switched on. The wavelength was set at 260nm and 280nm. The instrument is set at zero absorbance with T.E buffer or sterile water as blank. 5 or 7ul of the sample is taken in a quartz cuvette and made up to 3ml with TE buffer or sterile water. Absorbance of the solution with the sample was read. The concentration of DNA in the sample was calculated using the given formula:

Concentration of dsDNA = A260 * 50µg * dilution factor

Purity of the DNA = A260 : A280 ratio = A260 / A280

= 1.83; pure DNA

= 1.7 – 1.9; fairly pure DNA (acceptable ratio for PCR)

= less than 1.8; presence of proteins.

= greater than 1.8; presence of organic solvent

D. Polymerase Chain Reaction

PCR was carried out in Eppendorf Personnel Master Cycler (Germany). The PCR reaction constituents are the following

Optimized PCR condition: matK

□	Milli Q water	_	8.8µl
□	10x Buffer with 20mM Mgcl2	_	2.0µl (1x)
□	2mM DNTP's	_	2.0µl (0.2µM)
□	DNA	_	3.0 µl
□	3µM Forward Primer	_	2.0 (0.3µM)
□	3µM Reverse Primer	_	2.0µl (0.3µM)
□	Taq polymerase (5U/µl)	_	0.2µl (1Unit)

The Total Volume of the reaction is 20µl. The concentration of DNA was varied from 0.5 µl to 1 µl for optimization. The Whole reaction setup was carried out at 4°C.

E. Pcr Programme

Step 1 Initial denaturation -94°C for 3minutes

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Step 2	Denaturation	-94^{0}C for 45 seconds
Step 3	Primer annealing	-47^{0}C for 1minute
Step 4	Extension	-72^{0}C for 1minute 20 seconds
Step 5	Go to step 2 repeat 35 times	
Step 6	final extensions	-72^{0}C 7 minutes
Step 7	Hold	- 4^{0}C

F. Gel Electrophoresis Of Pcr Products

DNA quality was assessed on a 0.8% Agarose Gel (in Tris Acetate EDTA buffer) electrophoresis at 50 Volts. DNA was stained with ethidium bromide visualized on a UV transilluminator.

G. Dna Sequencing And Blast

The PCR products were subjected to sequencing by Sanger method in an AB Sequencer. The result obtained was analysed using BLAST.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

DNA barcoding is a method of recognizing an organism based on sequence data from one to several gene regions. Barcoding has several applications and has been used for ecological surveys [6], enigmatic taxon identification, and authentication of medicinal plant samples [21]. A number of chloroplast gene regions are characteristically used as plant barcodes, with maturase K (matK) considered core barcodes.

An ideal DNA barcode should be routinely retrievable with a single primer pair and amenable to bidirectional sequencing [4]. matK gene is one of the most rapidly evolving plastid coding regions consistently illustrating high levels of discrimination among angiosperm species. Studies have proved wholeness of matK primers assorting from successful identities to erratic resurgence with no impact on its constant usage [4]. Total genomic DNA was isolated from the collected plant samples and its purity (1.83) was found using a Spectrophotometer. Amplicons obtained after PCR were of 900bp visualized on a 0.8% agarose gel as shown in (Fig.1). Majority of Indian tribes still adhere to herbal medicines for treating infections and various outrageous diseases. This knowledge of potential use of medicinal plants are in a verge of extinction as they are of oral forms and also most of them are not taxonomically identified [16].

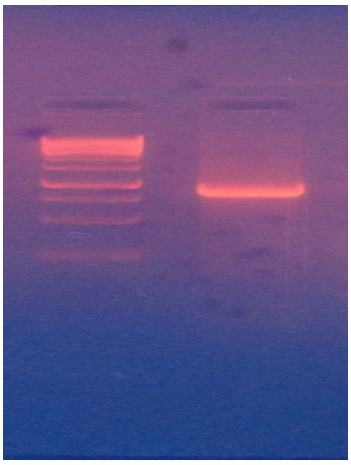

Fig. 1: PCR matK
Lane 1: 1 KB Ladder
Lane 2: S1 900bp
Agarose gel (0.8 %) for genomic DNA of Plants

A. Dna Quantification By Spectrophotometric Method Dna Quantification

The isolated DNA was quantified by spectrophotometer at two different wavelengths 260 nm and 280 nm. A260/A280 ratio gives

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purity of the DNA as proteins absorb at 280 nm due to tyrosine and tryptophan residues. The ratios were in the range of 1.83 which indicated a pure DNA. DNA concentrations are given in (Table. 1)

Table 1: Concentration Blank and Sample

Sample	OD at 260nm	OD at 280nm	Concentration (ng/µl)	Purity
Blank	0.000	0.000	--	--
Sample	0.198	0.108	9900	1.83

In plants, several candidate DNA barcode regions have been proposed. Among them, the matK gene has been accepted as an important candidate barcode by many researchers. In addition, the CBOL (Consortium for the Barcode of Life) Plant Working Group [2] recommended the matK region as a plant barcode. The chloroplast gene matK is about 900 bp in length and is located within the trnK intron. It encodes a maturase-like protein that is involved in group II intron splicing. The gene exhibits a high rate of substitutions and is thus emerging as an important gene for the study of plant systematic and evolution.

The PCR products were subjected to sequencing by Sanger method in the AB Sequencer.The obtained sequence from the purified PCR product was compared with nucleotide database and was found to have maximum identity to Cassia fistula L, a weed found mostly on in around Chennai and in agricultural farms. Sequence was submitted to NCBI Genbank and its accession number generated KY978892. The sequence so obtained was about 900 bp and when analysed using NCBI-BLAST Tool and the sample was found to be 100% congeneric to *Cassia fistula* L. FASTA sequence thus obtained with Graphical Representation, Tabular representation and Alignment representation Fig. 2- Fig. 5. FASTA Sequence 1 (matK) >BRT_CF_matK

AAAGTCTTTGATAAGGATTTTCCGTCCACCCTATGGTTCTTCAAGGACCCTTTCATTCATTATGTTAGATATCAAGGAA
AATCCATTCTGGCTTCAAAGAATACGCCCTTTTTGATGAATAAATGGAAATACTATCTTATCCATTTATGGCAATGTC
ATTTTTATGTTTGGTCTCAACCAGGAAAGATCCATATAAACCAATTATCCGAGCATTCATTTTACTTTTTGGGCTATTT
TTCAAATGTGCGGCTAAATCCTTCAGTGGTACGGAGTCAAATGCTGGAAAATTCATTTCTAATTGAAAATGTTATGAA
AAAGCTTGATACAATAATTCCAATTATTCCACTAATTAGATCATTGGCTAAAGCGAAATTTTGTAATGTATTAGGGCA
TCCCATTAGTAAGCCGGTCTGGGCCGATTCATCCGATTTGGATATTATTGACCGATTTTTGCGGAGATGCAGAAATCT
TTCTCATTATTACAATGGATCCTCAACAAAAAGGAGTTTGTATCGAATCAAATATATACTTCGGCTTTCTTGTATTAAA
ACTTTGG

Fig. 2 FASTA Sequence

Graphical Representation

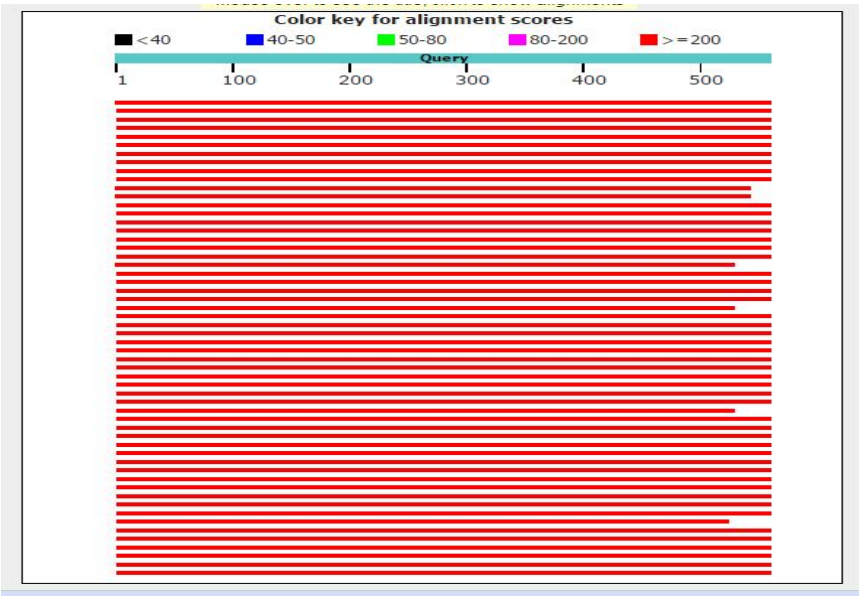

Fig. 3 Graphical Representation

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Tabular representation

Sequences producing significant alignments:

Select: All None Selected:0

Alignments Download GenBank Graphics Distance tree of results

Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
Cassia fistula maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	1027	1027	100%	0.0	100%	JQ301870.1
Cassia javanica chloroplast matK gene sequence	1026	1026	99%	0.0	100%	LC080887.1
Cassia javanica maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	1026	1026	99%	0.0	100%	JQ301871.1
Bauhinia bracteata voucher USF:Maxwell s.n. tRNA-Lys (trnK) gene, intron; and maturase K (matK) gene, complete cds; chloroplast	1026	1026	99%	0.0	100%	JN881434.1
Cassia javanica voucher Fougere-Danezan 6 (MT) tRNA-Lys (trnK) gene, partial sequence; and maturase K (matK) gene, complete cds; chloroplast	1020	1020	99%	0.0	99%	EU361910.1
Cassia javanica var. indochinensis voucher M dePompert 48 ASU maturase K (matK) gene, complete cds; chloroplast	1014	1014	99%	0.0	99%	JQ619983.1
Cassia grandis voucher Smith 2061 (MY) tRNA-Lys (trnK) gene, partial sequence; and maturase K (matK) gene, complete cds; chloroplast	1014	1014	99%	0.0	99%	EU361909.1
Senna alata maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	1003	1003	99%	0.0	99%	JQ301868.1
Vouacapoua macropetala voucher Breteler 13793 (WAG) tRNA-Lys (trnK) gene, partial sequence; and maturase K (matK) gene, complete cds; chloroplast	998	998	99%	0.0	99%	EU362063.1
Batesia floribunda voucher Grenand 3032 (CAY) tRNA-Lys (trnK) gene, partial sequence; and maturase K (matK) gene, complete cds; chloroplast	992	992	99%	0.0	99%	EU361869.1
Cassia fistula voucher ATREE101 maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	989	989	96%	0.0	99%	KJ638429.1
Cassia fistula voucher ATREE102 maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	983	983	96%	0.0	99%	KJ638430.1
Senna sophera maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	981	981	99%	0.0	99%	JQ301875.1
Andira aubletii voucher NH200006 maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	981	981	99%	0.0	99%	FJ037922.1
Senna candolleana tRNA-Lys (trnK) gene, intron; and maturase-like protein (matK) gene, complete cds; chloroplast	981	981	99%	0.0	99%	AY386848.2
Senna uniflora maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	976	976	99%	0.0	98%	JQ301887.1
Senna lindheimeriana voucher M F Wojciechowski 1275 (ASU) maturase K (matK) gene, complete cds; chloroplast	976	976	99%	0.0	98%	JQ619950.1
Senna bauhinioides maturase-like protein (matK) gene, complete cds; chloroplast	976	976	99%	0.0	98%	EU025911.1
Senna tora chloroplast, complete genome	970	970	99%	0.0	98%	KR136271.1
Cassia fistula voucher Hosam00042 maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	970	970	94%	0.0	100%	JX495682.1
Chamaecrista absus maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	970	970	99%	0.0	98%	JQ301883.1
Senna montana maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	970	970	99%	0.0	98%	JQ301874.1
Senna auriculata maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	970	970	99%	0.0	98%	JQ301878.1
Senna sulfurea maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	970	970	99%	0.0	98%	JQ301873.1
Cassia javanica subsp. nodosa voucher Hosam00046 maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	968	968	94%	0.0	100%	JX495683.1
Senna tora maturase K (matK) gene, partial cds; chloroplast	965	965	99%	0.0	98%	JQ301877.1

Fig. 4 Tabular representation

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Alignment representation

Fig. 5 Alignment representation

IV. CONCLUSION

It is clear that the DNA barcoding has great potential for enhancing ecological and evolutionary investigations if the right genetic markers are selected. In this study, molecular characterization of the collected plant was carefully studied and its evolutionary relationship was constructed. Sequence was submitted to NCBI Genbank and its accession number generated KY978892. Nucleotide BLAST (blastn) shows 100% congeneric to Cassia fistula L. FASTA sequence thus obtained.

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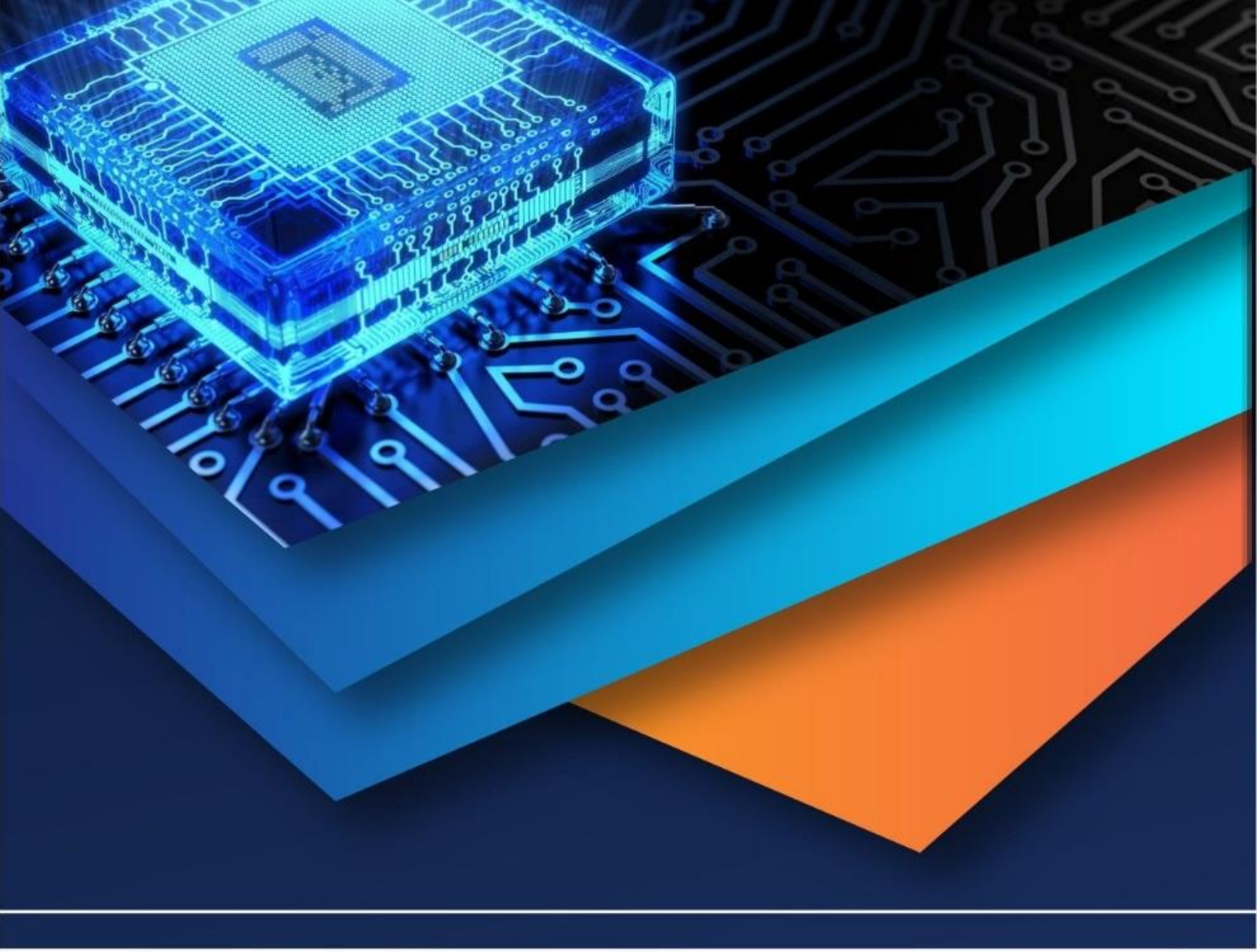

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