

Original Research Article

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Evaluation of Antimicrobial Activity of Selected Green Extracts

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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Antimicrobial activity of five (5) different green(plant) extracts from Kharpat (*Cassia alata Linn*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Tulsi (*Ocimum basilicum*), Dhatura (*Datura fastuosa*) and Gu phool (*Lantana camera L.*) were evaluated against two human pathogens i.e. *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Proteus vulgaris* through the agar-well diffusion method. The purpose of the study was to calculate the Total Phenolic Content (TPC), evaluation of the antimicrobial activity to provide information for further use of the plant extracts in antimicrobial textile finishing which is one of the important aspects in terms of textile finishing in present scenario.

Introduction

Antimicrobial finishing of textile fabrics have a great interest in scientific researches during recent years. People are very much conscious about hygiene and cleanliness in every aspect and there is necessity and expectation for a wide range of textile products finished with antimicrobial treatments. The textile materials and clothing items not only plays the role as carriers of microorganism but also as a good media for microbial growth. The growth of microbes on textiles during use and storage remarkably affects the wearer as well as the textile itself. The microbial attack on textile material results in detrimental effects on the

consumer and the fabric itself in terms of odour formation, strength reduction, risk of contamination along with loss of quality of the textile material. Therefore, the antimicrobial treatment for textile material is became necessary to avoid cross infection by pathogenic micro-organism, to control the infestation by microbes, arrest metabolism in microbes in order and to safeguard the textile products from staining, discolour and quality deterioration. This finish prevents the growth of microbes and the antimicrobial finished products have been proved environment friendly, health protecting and preventing diseases. Odour as well as skin problems caused by microbial growth can be reduced by

emphasizing the hygiene nature of the treated product. This antimicrobial finishes inhibits the growth of microorganisms, such as bacteria, fungi, viruses algae, mold and mildew. Micro-organism growth is another important factor that has resulted in development of antimicrobial textile finish.

Plants are rich in a wide range of secondary metabolites, such as phenols, alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, tannins and terpenoids which have been found to have antimicrobial properties. Due to the potential toxicological effects of synthetic antioxidants, natural antioxidants such as phenols and flavonoid compounds from plant origin are gaining popularity these days.

An anti-oxidant is a substance that inhibit or delays oxidative damage to the cells of the organisms by scavenging the free radicals such as peroxide or hydroperoxide and thus reducing the risk of degenerative diseases. The aim of present study was to calculate the Total Phenolic Content (TPC) and evaluation of its antimicrobial activity.

Materials and Methods

Plant sources

For evaluation of antimicrobial activity, 5 different plants were selected based on their various properties like anti-microbial, anti-itching, anti-allergic, anti-septic UV protection, mosquito repellency etc. Leaves of Tulsi (*Ocimum basilicum*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Gu phool (*Lantana camera L.*), Dhatura, (*Datura fastuosa*) and Kharpat (*Cassia alata Linn*) were collected from the local area of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. The leaves were washed, shade dried and ground into powder in laboratory mixer/blender. The fine powder was obtained by passing the substrate through sieve to separate the unwanted residues.

Preparation of extract

A well known quantity of leaf powder was mixed in 70% ethanol and distilled water and incubated for 24 hours at room temperature. The extract was centrifuged at room temperature 10,000 rpm and supernatant was filtered using whatman filter paper. The extracts were stored at 8^oC for further experiments.

Total Phenolic content (TPC)

TPC was determined by Folin-Ciocalteu colorimetric method using Gallic acid as standard. All the solvent extracts were mixed with 2 ml of 10% Na₂CO₃ solution. 100 µl of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent was added to the mixture after incubated for 3 min at room temperature. The resulting solution was incubated at room temperature for 90 min under dark. The absorbance was measured at 750 nm using the UV-Vis Spectrophotometer. The TPC was expressed as Gallic acid equivalent (GAE) in milligrams per gram of fresh leaf.

Bioassay of plant extracts

To assess the antimicrobial activity of the plant extracts, Bioassay was carried out by Agar-well diffusion method. The bacteria species viz., *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 11632) and *Proteus vulgaris* (MTCC 426) were used for the study.

The plant extracts were coded as Kharpaat-1, Neem-2, Tulsi-3, Dhatura-4 and Guphool-5 for assessment of antimicrobial activity using Agar-well diffusion method. the study.

For the assessment, nutrient media and nutrient broth was prepared separately in distilled water and autoclaved for 15 min at 120^oC at a pressure of 15lb. A loopful of bacterial cultures (*S.aureus* and *P.vulgaris*)

was mixed separately in the nutrient broth and kept for 24 hours under shaking condition. The bacterial inoculum was uniformly spread on sterile Petri plates and allowed to solidify. After solidification, six wells were created using a cork borer (10mm diameter) putting one at the centre for the control sample. The ethanol extracts of selected plant sources were added to each of the respective five wells. The Petri plates were incubated for 24 hours for observation of bacterial growth. Zone of inhibition of the bacterial growth was measured in nm. Concentration of the extracts was taken constant.

Results and Discussion

Yield of plant extracts

Yield of plant extracts were measured in ml. From the Table 2 it was found that maximum yield of extract showed in ethanol extract compared to aqueous extract in all five sources of green extracts. Maximum yield of extract were found in *Ocimum basilicum* and *Lantana camera L* in case of ethanol extract whereas in aqueous extract highest yield of extract noticed in *Ocimum basilicum* extract (46ml).

Total Phenolic Content (TPC)

The Folin-Ciocalteu reagent is reduced to blue oxides of tungstene and molybdene during phenol oxidation. This reaction occurs due to the presence of sodium carbonate provided under alkaline condition. The presence of quantity of phenolic compounds in the green extracts can be identified by the intensity of blue colour, which can be measured using spectrophotometer. From the table 3, it was revealed that TPC concentration of all the extracts was found to be high in ethanol extract. TPC concentration of *Cassia alata*

Linn was found to be high in ethanol extracts (51.98) followed by *Azadirachta indica* (49.93), *Ocimum basilicum* (34.60), *Datura fastuosa* (30.91) and *Lantana camera L.* (23.39) respectively. On the other hand, in aqueous extract, *Cassia alata Linn* (50.97) was found to be high in TPC concentration followed by *Azadirachta indica* (32.39), *Datura fastuosa* (23.33), *Ocimum basilicum* (20.03) and *Lantana camera L.* (14.10) respectively.

Antimicrobial Effect of plant extracts

All five green extracts (Ethanol) showed different degrees of inhibition zones against both the test organism. The result of antimicrobial activity is shown in the Plate 1 and 2 and summarized in Table 4.

From table 4, it was observed that, among all the plant extracts, the *Cassia alata Linn* and *Ocimum basilicum* (11) leaf extracts showed maximum zone of inhibition against *Staphylococcus aureus* followed by *Azadirachta indica* (10) and *Lantana camera L.* (10). In case of *Proteus vulgaris*, no such antimicrobial activity has observed in all the extracts.

The results obtained from the present study provide a basis idea about the presence of antimicrobial activity of selected green extracts, i.e. Kharpat (*Cassia alata Linn*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Tulsi (*Ocimum basilicum*), Dhatura (*Datura fastuosa*) and Gu phool (*Lantana camera L.*). From the study, was observed that there was antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, on Kharpat (*Cassia alata Linn*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Tulsi (*Ocimum basilicum*), and Gu phool (*Lantana camera L.*) with a range of (10-11) mm Zone of inhibition.

Table.1 Sample coding

Name of the plant extracts	Sample Code
Kharpat (<i>Cassia alata</i> Linn)	1
Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>)	2
Tulsi (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>)	3
Dhatura (<i>Datura fastuosa</i>)	4
Gu phool (<i>Lantana camera</i> L.)	5

Table.2 Yield of plant extracts

Sample code	Plant Source	Yield of extracts (ml/50ml)	
		Ethanol	Aqueous
1	Kharpat (<i>Cassia alata</i> Linn)	47 ml	42ml
2	Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>)	46 ml	43ml
3	Tulsi (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>)	48ml	46ml
4	Dhatura (<i>Datura fastuosa</i>)	45 ml	42ml
5	Gu phool (<i>Lantana camera</i> L.)	48 ml	45ml

Table.3 Phenolic contents of plant extracts

Name of the plant extracts	Total Phenolic Content (GAE* mg/g)	
	Ethanol	Aqueous
Kharpat (<i>Cassia alata</i> Linn)	51.98	50.97
Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>)	49.93	32.39
Tulsi (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>)	34.60	20.03
Dhatura, (<i>Datura fastuosa</i>)	30.91	23.33
Gu phool (<i>Lantana camera</i> L.)	23.39	14.10

Table.4 Antimicrobial activity of plant extracts by Agar Well diffusion method

Sl.No.	Green extracts	Concentration %	Zone of inhibition(mm)	
			<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>
1	Kharpat (<i>Cassia alata</i> Linn)	10	11	NI
2	Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>)	10	10	NI
3	Tulsi (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>)	10	11	NI
4	Dhatura, (<i>Datura fastuosa</i>)	10	NI	NI
5	Gu phool (<i>Lantana camera</i> L.)	10	10	NI

Plate.1 Antimicrobial effect on plant extracts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 against *S.aureus*

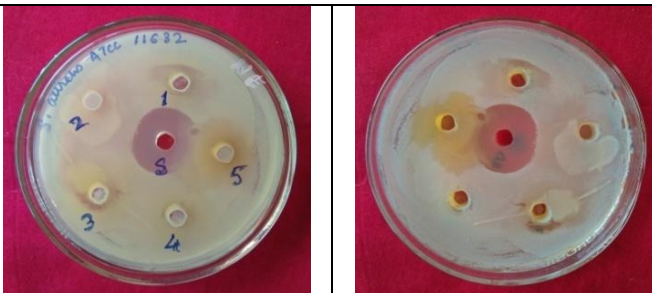


Plate.2 Antimicrobial effect on plant extracts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 against *P.vulgaris*



On the other hand, it was observed that, there was no antibacterial activity on all the selected green extracts against *Proteus vulgaris*. Further research is encouraged on the extraction process, assessment of antimicrobial activity imparting different extraction media and concentration respectively.

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