

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.905.050>

Fractionation of Secondary Metabolites from Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*) and Aloe Vera (*Aloe barbadensis* Mill.) and their Antifungal Activity against *Aspergillus niger* and *Sclerotium rolfsii*

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Secondary metabolites, *Ocimum sanctum*, *Aloe barbadensis* Mill, *Aspergillus niger*, *Sclerotium rolfsii*,

Article Info

Accepted:
05 April 2020
Available Online:
10 May 2020

An investigation was undertaken on fractionation of secondary metabolites from *Ocimum sanctum* and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill to check their antifungal activity against *Aspergillus niger* and *Sclerotium rolfsii*. Isolation of secondary metabolites was done by cold percolation and soxhlet extraction method with Methanol. Cold percolation method was found effective to get more phytochemicals. Analysis was done to check the presence of phytochemicals like Alkaloids, Tannins, Saponins, Phenols, Flavonoids, Glycosides, Steroids and Terpenoids. Also qualitative tests viz. detection of Alkaloids was carried out by Wagner's reagent, Glycosides by Keller-killiani test, steroids by concentrated H₂SO₄, Tannins by 0.1N HCl, Saponins by distilled water, Phenol by Ferric chloride, Flavonoids by concentrated H₂SO₄. Except phenol all components were present in both *Ocimum sanctum* and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill leaves extract. Presence of these components was determined by colour change or foam development after adding reagents into extract. Thin layer chromatography was done for the separation of different chemical constituents present in methanolic extracts. During standardization of eight different solvent systems Chloroform: Ethyl acetate : Acetic acid (50:50:1 v/v) found effective for the separation of *Ocimum sanctum* and Toluene : Ethyl acetate (93:7 v/v) for *Aloe barbadensis* Mill for the separation of different components. scraping of desired bands on TLC of partially purified compound used to check the antifungal activity against *Aspergillus niger* and *Sclerotium rolfsii* using poisoned food method. Different concentrations i.e. 20 mg, 40 mg, and 60 mg were taken, amongst 60 mg showed significant growth inhibition as against 20 mg.

Introduction

Secondary metabolites like Tannins, Terpenoids, Alkaloids, Flavonoids play an important role in plant protection. Pharmaceuticals and pesticide industries are blessed with these economically important organic compounds (Patel and Jasrai, 2009; Wavare *et al.*, 2017). There are many

phytochemical available out of that nearly around ten thousand are plant secondary metabolites. These chemicals are having a defensive role and well established in the management of human diseases but their role in the management of plant diseases is still lacking (Satish *et al.*, 2007 and Taiga *et al.*, 2008). Phenols, Flavonoids, Quinones, Tannins, Alkaloids, Saponins, Sterols and

Terpenoids available in higher plants having a rich diversity of bioactive secondary substances giving the advantage to explore alternative sources to chemicals and supplementary benefit of their eco-friendly nature (Tripathi and Dubey, 2004, Wavare *et al.*, 2015; More *et al.*, 2017).

Aloe vera is rich in Vitamins, Minerals, Enzymes, Sugars, Phenolic compounds, Lignin, Saponins, Sterol and Amino acids. The inner gel of the leaves has many biological properties with the major secondary metabolites like Anthraquinones and tricyclic aromatic quinines (Maharjan *et al.*, 2015).

Similarly, the genus *Ocimum* is known as King of herbs and recognized for its therapeutic use having a lot of economic, nutritional, industrial and medicinal properties. Alkaloids are anti-oxidant and antimicrobial, Flavanoids and Phenolics are antimicrobial and antifungal, Tannins are anti-inflammatory and antioxidant (Simon *et al.*, 1990). *Aspergillus niger* and *Sclerotium rolfsii* caused enormous losses in Agriculture crops.

Therefore, the present investigation is an attempt to explore the possibility of utilizing such huge biological material against plant pathogens. The results will open a new horizon in the field of Agriculture. The present study was, therefore, aimed at evaluating the phytochemical potential and antifungal activity of *Ocimum sanctum* and *Aloe barbadensis* Millmethanolic leaf extracts against plant pathogens.

Materials and Methods

Isolation and maintenance of fungal pathogen cultures were done by using Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA). The pure culture of these isolates was maintained on slants for further studies.

Soxhlet extraction

The leaf samples were dried at a temperature of about 40-45°C. 40 g of fine powder of plant material was placed in a small size of muslin cloth bag in a soxhlet apparatus. The glycerin was kept at the joint of the extraction chamber and also at the mouth of the condenser to stop the leakage. The extraction chamber was filled with 250 ml of Methanol as a solvent through the open end so that the powder was properly dipped in it. The extraction was carried out until the extract was colourless. The extracts were filtered through Whatman filter paper no.1. The filtrate was then evaporated at 40°C and stored at 4°C for further analysis.

Cold percolation

The leaves samples were dried at the temperature of about 40-45°C for 3-4 days and made fine powder out of that 20 g powder was added into a conical flask containing 200 ml of Methanol as the solvent. This was kept at room temperature for about 72 hrs. The stirring of solution was done every 4-5 hrs. After that solution was filtered out by using Whatman filter paper. Finally, filtrate was transferred into an oven at the temperature of about 60-62°C which is the melting point of Methanol to evaporate the solvent and got solid extract. The extract was kept in a refrigerator at 4°C to be used for further studies. Noted down the weight of each Petri dish prior to drying of the extracts and after drying too. The calculated weight of the extracts from that difference. The yield of the extract was calculated in grams and converted into a percentage.

Thin layer chromatography

Thin layer chromatography was carried out to know the chemical profile of methanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* L. and *Aloe*

barbadensis Mill. TLC plates were prepared with 25 g of silica gel-G (Hi media, Manufactured India) mixed with 50 ml of distilled water and the slurry formed was uniformly spread with the use of spreader on TLC plates of 0.25 mm. The plates were allowed to dry at room temperature and heated in an oven at 100°C for 2 hrs.

Standardization of solvent system

Sample of the crude extract *Ocimum sanctum* L. and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill. Leaves extract were diluted in the respective solvent. The prepared TLC plates were marked 1 cm from bottom and 10 µl each sample was applied on TLC plates at equal distance with the help of capillary tubes. For separation of maximum bands on TLC plates, different solvent systems were used according to polarity and from that Chloroform: Ethyl acetate : Acetic acid (50:50:1) and Toluene : Ethyl acetate (93:7), for *Ocimum sanctum* L. and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill. respectively extract was selected as standard solvent system.

TLC plates were kept in chromatography chambers, containing Chloroform: Ethyl acetate : Acetic acid (50:50:1), Toluene : Ethyl acetate (93:7) as a solvent system for respective leaves extract and allowed to run so that it can reach to 3/4th position. The developed chromatogram on TLC plates was allowed to air dry and observed under visible UV light. The colour of the bands was noted and the R_f value (Relative front) of separated bands was calculated by measuring the distance traveled by solute and the solvent.

Preliminary phytochemical screening of leaves extracts

Preliminary phytochemical analysis of methanolic extracts from *Ocimum sanctum* L. and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill were performed for analysis of different phytochemical like

Cardio glycosides, Saponins, Alkaloids, Steroids, Terpenoids, Flavonoids, Tannins and Phenolic compounds by following the methods given by Trease and Evans (1978).

Test for detection of alkaloid

1 ml of extract was taken in a test tube, followed by the addition of 1 ml of Wagner's reagent. The appearance of brown flocculent and precipitation reveals the presence of Alkaloids.

Test for detection of tannins

1ml of the extract was taken in a test tube, and then 1 ml of 0.1% Ferric chloride-containing 0.1N HCL was added. The appearance of blue-black coloration indicates the presence of Tannins.

Test for detection of saponins

The extract was mixed with 5 ml distilled water and then agitated in a graduated cylinder for 15 min. The presence of Saponins confirmed with the presence of foam.

Test for phenols

Ferric chlorides were added to 1 ml of extract in a test tube. The development of a dark green color indicates the presence of phenols.

Test for flavonoids

In 1 ml of extract, 1 ml of dilute ammonia solution was added followed by the addition of concentrated H₂SO₄ dropwise. A yellow coloration observed indicates the presence of Flavonoids.

Test for glycosides (keller-kiliani test)

About 1ml of the extract was treated with 1 ml of Glacial acetic acid containing one drop

of Ferric chloride solution. This was underlaid with 1 ml of concentrated H₂SO₄. A brown ring at the interface indicates the presence of Glycosides.

Test for steroids

About 2 ml of Acetic anhydride was added to 1 ml crude extract of plant sample with 2 ml H₂SO₄. The presence of Steroids confirmed when colour change from violet to blue or green.

In vitro evaluation of plant extracts by poisoned food technique on PDA medium

The efficacy of Methanol extracts of *Ocimum sanctum L.* and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill whole plant extracts at 20, 40, and 60 mg/lit were tested against *Sclerotium rolfsii in vitro* under condition following poisoned food technique on PDA medium. The suspension of 20, 40, and 60 mg/lit of methanolic crude extracts were poured separately in Petri plates containing 20 ml sterilized PDA medium.

The plates were rotated for some time for uniform mixing of the crude extract with medium and then allowed for solidification. Three replications for each treatment were used. All the plates were inoculated individually with 5 mm diameter discs of the test fungal cultures and then incubated at 28±2°C until the control plates reached full growth. The percent of growth inhibition of test fungus was calculated by using a formula suggested by Vincent (1947).

Results and Discussion

Extraction yield

Extraction is the major step for obtaining phytochemicals from plants. Standardization of extraction and accurate use of solvent

information about the interfering substances are important in the process (Stalikas *et al.*, 2007). In this experiment *Ocimum sanctum L.* and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill extracts were obtained by using Methanol. The Methanol was the best solvent to give sufficient extraction yield and was the most capable to extract more substances that preferably dissolved in Methanol. Maximum extraction yield of *Ocimum sanctum L.* (15.99%) and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill. (16.38%) was obtained in Methanol (Ncube and Okoh, 2008., Gurjar *et al.*, 2012; Wavare *et al.*, 2016).

This indicates that the extraction yield of pure Methanol (15.99% and 16.38%) increases due to polarity of the solvent used in extraction. The solubility of proteins and carbohydrates in Methanol may be attributed to get more extraction yield (Zieliński, 2000). The results of this study are also in agreement with the extraction yields obtained from medicinal plants (Sultana, 2009).

Thin layer chromatography (TLC)

Each sample of the crude extracts of *Ocimum sanctum L.* and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill. was diluted in distilled water. The prepared TLC plates were marked 1 cm from the bottom and 10 µl each sample was applied on TLC plates at equal distance with the help of capillary tubes. For the separation of maximum bands on TLC plates, different solvent system were used according to polarity and from that Chloroform : Ethyl acetate : Acetic acid (50:50:1 v/v) and Toluene : Ethyl acetate (93:7 v/v) was selected as a standard solvent systems for *Ocimum sanctum L.* and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill. Thin layer chromatography was carried out for the efficient separation of different chemical constituents present in Methanol extracts and R_f values and colour of separated bands in different solvent systems under UV- transilluminator were noted.

Standardization of solvent system

Various solvent systems were screened for efficient separation of bands according to polarity. Total of 8 solvent systems were used in the present investigation to know most suitable solvent system for the separation of compounds in the methanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum L.* and *Aloe barbadensis Mill.* The Rf values and colour of the separated bands in different solvent systems under UV-transilluminator are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2. There were significant differences according to solvent system in the number of bands and their Rf values in methanolic extracts. Among all the tested solvent systems, the Rf values of the best solvent system for the methanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum L.* run under Chloroform : Ethyl acetate : Acetic acid (50:50:1 v/v) was found 0.78, 0.66, and 0.12 with separated and clear bands. These observations are in accordance with the findings of Shitole *et al.*, 2017 who carried out methanolic extraction of *P. corylifolia* seed using Toluene : Ethyl acetate : Methanol (20:04:02 v/v) solvent system. It is seen that Methanol not only best for extraction of polar compounds but some

of the non-polar compounds soluble at certain extent in methanol: chloroform in solvent system may boost the extraction yield if compound is strictly hydrophobic. Low boiling point may be the reason to get extraction and concentration of bioactive compounds in soxhlet extraction. For *Aloe barbadensis Mill.* Different solvent systems (Table 2) were standardized. Among all other solvent systems, found best for methanolic extracts of *Aloe barbadensis Mill.* was Toluene: Ethyl acetate (93:7 v/v). The RF values obtained for these solvent systems were 0.69, 0.25, 0.03 (Table 2). More *et al.*, 2016 observed the most promising solvent system for methanolic extracts of *A. marmelose* run under petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (02:01). The results are also in confirmation with the findings of Masduzzaman *et al.*, (2008) who observed separated compounds of all amanda leaf aqueous extract on TLC plate eluted with Hexane: Benzeen (1:1) and Benzene: Ethyl acetate, respectively. Polar solvent system used in the experiment may be the reason for the separation of maximum number of compounds from methanolic extracts.

Table.1 Standardization of solvent system for methanol extract of *Ocimum sanctum L.*

Sr. No	Solvent System	Proportion	Methanolic Extract Of <i>Ocimum sanctum L.</i>	
			Rf	Colour
1	Toluene : Ethyl acetate : Formic acid	7:2.7:0.3	0.97	Green
2	Chloroform : Hexane : Acetic acid	50:50:1	0.91	Green
3	Ethyl acetate : Acetone	4:6	0.89 0.68	Pink Dark Blue
4	Toluene : Ethyl acetate : Methanol	24:5:2	0.88	Dark Pink
5	Chloroform : Glacial acetic acid : Methanol : Water	16:8:3:2	0.87	Light Yellow
6	Ethyl acetate : Acetic acid : Petroleum ether	20:6:4	0.82	Green Yellow
7	Chloroform : Ethyl acetate : Acetic acid	50:50:1	0.78 0.66 0.12	Green Yellow Pink

8	Toluene : Ethyl acetate	93:7	0.79	Light Pink
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Table.2 Standardization of solvent system for methanolic extract of *Aloe barbadensis* Mill

Sr. No	Solvent System	Proportion	Methanolic Extract Of <i>Aloe barbadensis</i> Mill.	
			Rf	Colour
1	Ethyl acetate : Toluene : Formic acid	22:11:1	0.79	Yellow
2	Chloroform : Glacial acetic acid : Methanol : Water	16:8:3:2	0.87 0.70	Red Yellow
3	Chloroform : Hexane : Acetic acid	50:50:1	0.78	Yellow
4	Toluene : Ethyl acetate	9:2	0.86 0.47	Pink Blue
5	Ethyl acetate : Acetic acid : Petroleum ether	19:1:5	0.76 0.59	Yellow Blue
6	Ethyl acetate : Acetone	4:6	0.84	Green
7	Toluene : Ethyl acetate	93:7	0.69 0.25 0.03	Pink Yellow Green
8	Petroleum ether : Toluene : Ethyl acetate	3:1:1	0.85	Blue

Table.3 Preliminary phytochemical analysis of methanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum L.* and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill

Test	<i>Ocimum sanctum L.</i>	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> Mill.
Alkaloids	+	+
Tannins	+	+
Saponins	+	+
Phenols	+	-
Flavonoids	+	+
Glycosides	+	+
Steroid/ Terpenoids	+(Terpenoids)	+(Steroids)

Table.4 Growth inhibition of *Ocimum sanctum L.* and *Aloe barbadensis* Mill

Growth inhibition (%)					
Concentration (mg/ml)	Control (mm)	<i>Ocimum sanctum L</i>		<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> Mill.	
		Cold percolation	Soxhlet extraction	Cold percolation	Soxhlet extraction
20 mg	00	21.55	10.55	10.40	10.2
40 mg	00	33.33	32.44	22.22	21.22

60 mg	00	54.55	43.55	33.33	22.10
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Preliminary phytochemical analysis

Preliminary phytochemicals present in methanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum L.* and *Aloe barbadensis Mill.* were analyzed by standard procedure explained under the Materials and method. Observations on presence or absence of phytochemicals namely Cardio glycosides, Saponins, Fixed oils and Fats, Alkaloids, Steroids and Sterols, Flavonoids, Tannins and Phenolic compounds were noted as + for presence and - sign for absence and are presented in Table 3. The methanolic extract of *Aloe barbadensis Mill.* subjected to preliminary phytochemical screening by using standard procedures of Trease and Evans (1978). The results corroborate with the findings of Reddy *et al.*, (2004) who analysed phytochemical and showed antimicrobial activity of *Ocimum santum L.*

Efficacy of plant extracts on growth inhibition of *Sclerotium rolfisii*. by posion food method

Data presented in Table 4. represents that, at highest concentration (60 mg/ml) maximum inhibition of mycelial growth of test fungus was recorded. Lowest growth inhibition of test fungus was recorded at the 20 mg/ml concentration of the methanolic extracts of *Ocimum sanctum L.* and *Aloe barbadensis Mill.* Similar results were observed by shitole *et al.*, 2017 who screened the antimicrobial activity of methanolic extracts of *P. corylifolia* seeds against *S. rolfisii* where they found that 500 ul (57.48 to 98.23%) inhibits the mycelia growth. This broad spectrum antifungal activity of plant species was observed to be related to the presence of saponins, tannins and alkaloids. Although active components have not been identified but phenols, sterols, flavonoids, tannins and terpenoids supposed to have these anti-fungal

properties.

As there was growth inhibition of fungi indicates its broad spectrum antimicrobial activity, which may further utilize to develop new antimicrobial agents. By using the waste medicinal plant as raw material for plant derived fungicides, one could manage the disease, and at the same time might create economic uses for these unwanted waste materials.

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to Associate Dean, VNCAB Yavatmal and University authorities for providing necessary facilities to carry out this research work

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How to cite this article:

Chinche. A. V., R. M. Gade, A. N. Shinde, M. T. Vairagade and Kendhale. K. V. 2020. Fractionation of Secondary Metabolites from Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*) and Aloe Vera (*Aloe barbadensis* Mill.) and their Antifungal Activity against *Aspergillus niger* and *Sclerotium rolfsii*. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 9(05): 445-452.

doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijemas.2020.905.050>