

**A Study of Chemical
Composition of some
Medicinal Plants Available
in the Eastern Ghats and
nearby forests**



Antibacterial activity of different crude extracts of *Dodonaea viscosa*

R. Mrutyunjaya Rao¹, K. Ramakrishna¹ and M. Ashapriya²

¹Department of Chemistry V. S. M. College, Ramachandrapuram, India

²Department of Pharmacy, B. V. C. College of Pharmacy, Ramachandrapuram, India

ABSTRACT

The present study of antimicrobial activities of various crude solvent extracts of *Dodonaea viscosa* were determined against a wide variety of pathogenic bacteria. Crude extracts of *Dodonaea viscosa* shows mild to significant activities for most of the treated bacteria. Crude extracts of n-hexane, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate and methanol showed antibacterial effect against most of the tested organisms. It has been expected that the present work on antimicrobial screening of the plant materials will help researchers who wish to work in designing clinical drugs concerning the killer diseases.

Key words: Antibacterial activity, Mueller-Hinton Agar (MHA), *Dodonaea viscosa*

INTRUDUCTION

Many organisms can cause several diseases and now, in this world of modern science, man can face any challenge against any disease. But in spite of the tremendous advancement of medical science and technology, diseases are the leading health problem particularly in the under privileged population in the remote rural areas in the developing countries. Nature has been a source of medicinal agents for thousands of years and an impressive number of modern drugs have been isolated from natural sources, many based on their use in traditional medicine. Various medicinal plants have been used for years in daily life to treat disease all over the world. They have been used as a source of medicine. The wide spread use of herbal remedies and health care preparations, such as those described in ancient texts like Vedas and the Bible, has been traced to the occurrence of natural products with medicinal-properties. In fact, plants produce a diverse range of bioactive-molecules, making them a rich source of different types of medicines. Plants with possible antibacterial activities should be tested against an appropriate microbial model.

The plant *Dodonaea viscosa* belonging to the family Sapindaceae is distributed as a weed from coast to the elevation of more than 2000 meters. The weed is distributed in tropical as well as subtropical regions of the world.

Dodonaea viscosa has many medicinal properties and has been used by native peoples from all regions where it is found. It is a traditional medicine worldwide, administered orally or as poultice to treat a great variety of ailments. Stem or leaf infusions are used to treat sore throats; root infusions to treat colds. The stems and leaves are used to treat fever, and seeds (in combination with those of other plants and coated in honey) to treat malaria. The stems are used as fumigants to treat rheumatism. The leaves are used to relieve itching, fevers swellings, aches and can be used as a antispasmodic agent leaves and roots as a painkiller to soothe toothaches and headaches and a lotion made from unspecified plant parts to treat sprains, bruises, burns and wounds.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

PLANT MATERIAL: The plant material *Dodonaea viscosa* was obtained from Maredumelli forest area, Andhra Pradesh, India.

PREPARATION OF EXTRACT:

The dried powdered leaf was defatted using petroleum ether later the defatted material was subjected to maceration using distilled water as a solvent. By using Methanol, N-hexane, Di-chloromethane and Ethyl acetate soxhlet extraction had been performed. Each extract was concentrated at 37° C temperature. Those obtained extracts were screened to identify the chemical constituents present; they are stored in Desiccator for further uses.

PREPARATION OF THE TESTED ORGANISMS:

The lyophilized forms of different strains of microorganisms like *Escherichia coli* [MTCC-2126], *Staphylococcus aureus* [MTCC-3160], were obtained from the Microbial Type Culture Collection and Gene bank (MTCC), Chandigarh, India and the bacterial Strains *Streptococcus faecalis* [NCIM-2603] and *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Bacillus subtilis* [NCIM-2655] were obtained from National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (NCIM), Pune India. The bacterial cultures were maintained on Mueller-Hinton Agar (MHA) and were sub cultured periodically. The average number of viable organisms per ml organ stock suspension was about 10⁹ colony forming units (CFU) per ml which was maintained by following McFarland Standardization^[6] Each time fresh stock suspension had been prepared; constant experimental conditions were maintained to obtain close viable counts.

INOCULATION:

Single loopful of an overnight grown nutrient broth culture of each test organism served as inoculum for the antimicrobial activity determination. The average size of inoculum was about 1×10⁸ cells contained in 3mm diameter of standard loop.

DETERMINATION OF MINIMUM INHIBITORY CONCENTRATION [MIC]:

The solution of nutrient agar medium [250 mL] was prepared and sterilized. 25mL of media was dispersed in each of 5 conical flask, and they were autoclaved after plugged with cotton. Stock solution of *Dodonaea viscosa* bearing concentration of 4 mg/ml in Dimethyl sulphoxide [DMSO] was prepared. Each Petri dish was equally filled with nutrient agar about 20 mL/petri dish. The petri dishes were marked. One sterile nutrient agar plate without extract but with equal volumes of solvent served as the control plate. All plates were allowed to refrigerate overnight for uniform diffusion of the extract through the media. Those plates were dried at 37° C. A loop of an overnight grown peptone water culture of each test organism was placed in petri dish and they were marked. The spot inoculated plate was also incubated at 37° C, for 24h and the MIC values were obtained^[7-8]. The experiment was repeated and the values were given in table number 01.

DETERMINATION OF ZONE OF INHIBITION:

Agar Well Assay Method: In Agar Well Assay Method 20 ml nutrient agar medium was poured in sterilized Petri plates (100 X15 mm) and allowed to solidify at room temperature. 24 h broth culture of test bacteria was used as inoculum under sterile conditions. The freshly prepared 100µl or 0.1ml (1×10⁹ cells/ml) of organisms was set to 0.5 optical density spread with a sterile L shaped. Using cork borer several wells of 6mm in diameter were punched. To each well 100µl extract three sets of two dilutions (2mg/ml, 4mg/ml) of *C. Dodonaea viscosa* extracts of methanol, n-hexane, dichloro methane and ethyl acetate extracts prepared in double distilled water, were poured into wells. The Petri dishes were incubated at 37 °C for 24hrs and the diameter of the zone of inhibition were measured in mm. Similar procedure was adopted for the pure ciprofloxacin and the corresponding zone diameter were compared accordingly. The experiment was repeated in triplicate and average values were written in the Table no 01.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results for the antibacterial activity of *Dodonaea viscosa* extracts of n-hexane Di-chloromethane and ethyl acetate extracts are shown in table given before. MIC and zone of inhibition of both extracts are carried out by using five bacterial strains the MIC of test compound have been compared with standard drug. From the results zone of inhibition values all the extracts have their activity on Gram positive bacteria when compared with Gram negative bacteria. According to the zone of inhibition *Bacillus subtilis* showed very less sensitivity to the aqueous extracts. The remaining four bacterial strains effectively inhibited by the ethanolic and aqueous extracts at various

concentration levels. From the above observations various extracts of *Dodonaea viscosa* can be selected for the further antibacterial studies against gram positive bacteria and eve pathogenic strains can be studied to know the potency of these extracts. Fascinatingly *E.coli* and *Bacillus subtilis* shown slight resistant to the standard drug ciprofloxacin. *Streptococcus faecalis* [NCIM-2603] shows similar sensitivity to all extracts extracts of *Dodonaea viscosa* at the same concentration levels.

Table number 01: Determination of MIC of various extracts of *Dodonaea viscosa*

S.No.	Name of the bacteria	Conc. of methanolic		Conc. of n-hexane		Conc. of Dichloro methane		Conc. of ethyl acetate	
		2mg/mL	4mg/mL	2mg/mL	4mg/mL	2mg/mL	4mg/mL	2mg/mL	4mg/mL
1.	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2.	<i>Bacilli subtilis</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
3.	<i>Staphylococcus faecalis</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
4.	<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
5.	<i>E.coli</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table number 02: Determination of zone of inhibition of methanolic and n-hexane extracts of *Dodonaea viscosa*

S.No.	Name of the bacteria	Concentration of methanolic extract		Concentration of n-Hexane extract		Ciprofloxacin ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)			
		2mg/mL	4mg/mL	2mg/mL	4mg/mL	10	20	30	40
1.	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	10±0.11	13±0.15	13±1.23	16±1.2	20±0.14	23±0.24	25±0.35	28±0.25
2.	<i>Bacilli subtilis</i>	07±0.34	10±0.16	10±1.25	13±1.43	-	-	-	-
3.	<i>Staphylococcus faecalis</i>	10±0.26	13±0.24	12±1.26	13±1.24	10±0.41	15±0.25	18±0.34	20±0.35
4.	<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	15±0.31	20±0.31	10±1.24	15±1.24	13±0.26	15±0.24	20±0.24	23±0.42
5.	<i>E.coli</i>	1±0.12	1±0.24	1±0.24	1±0.38	09±0.24	11±0.26	13±0.34	15±0.41

*All values are mean of triplicate readings; - Absent, values ± Standard deviation

Table number 03: Determination of zone of inhibition of Dichloro methane and ethyl acetate of *Dodonaea viscosa*

S.No.	Name of the bacteria	Concentration of di chloro methane extract		Concentration of ethyl acetate extract		Ciprofloxacin ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)			
		2mg/mL	4mg/mL	2mg/mL	4mg/mL	10	20	30	40
1.	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	10±0.11	13±0.15	14±1.23	18±1.2	20±0.14	23±0.24	25±0.35	28±0.25
2.	<i>Bacilli subtilis</i>	09±0.34	11±0.16	10±1.25	13±1.43	-	-	-	-
3.	<i>Staphylococcus faecalis</i>	11±0.26	13±0.24	13±1.26	14±1.24	10±0.41	15±0.25	18±0.34	20±0.35
4.	<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	16±0.31	22±0.31	10±1.24	15±1.24	13±0.26	15±0.24	20±0.24	23±0.42
5.	<i>E.coli</i>	1±0.12	1±0.24	1±0.24	1±0.38	09±0.24	11±0.26	13±0.34	15±0.41

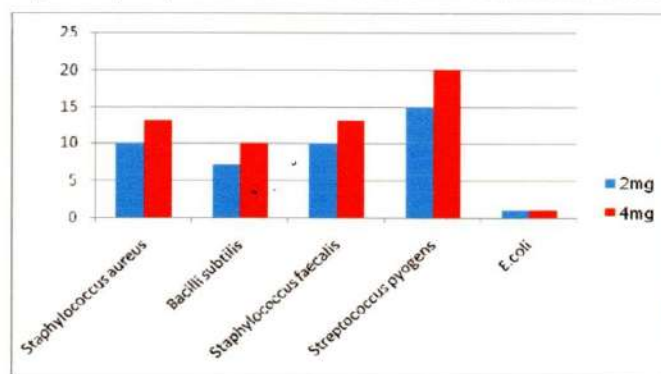
Fig. no. 1: Graphical representation for the obtained results of methanolic extract of *Dodonaea viscosa*

Fig. no. 2: Graphical representation for the obtained results of n-hexane extract of *Dodonaea viscosa*

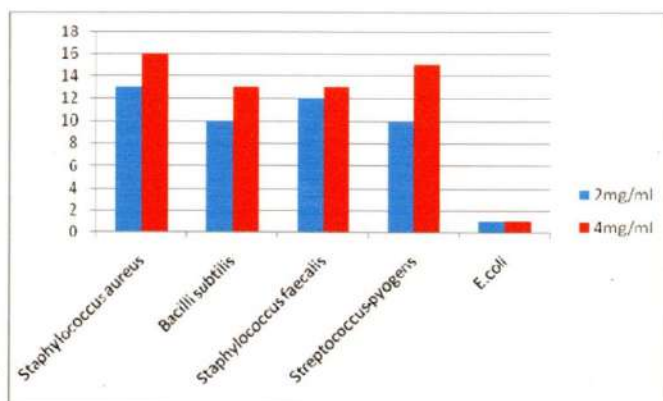


Fig. no. 3: Graphical representation for the obtained results of dichloro methane extract of *Dodonaea viscosa*

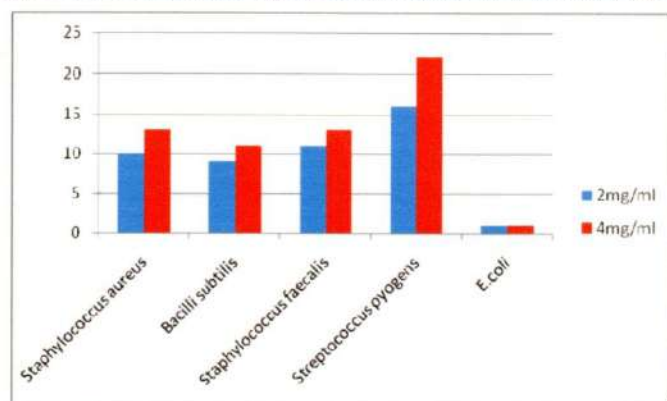


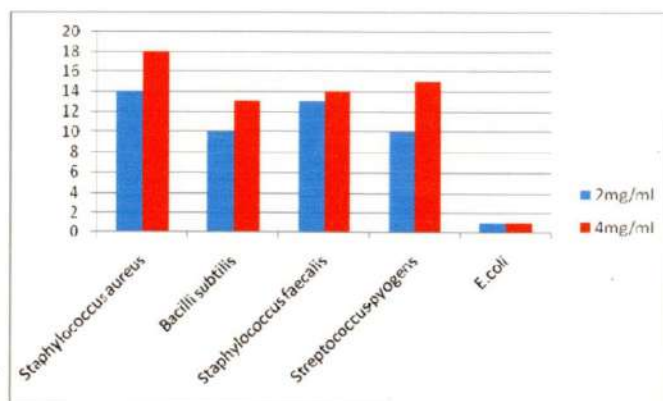
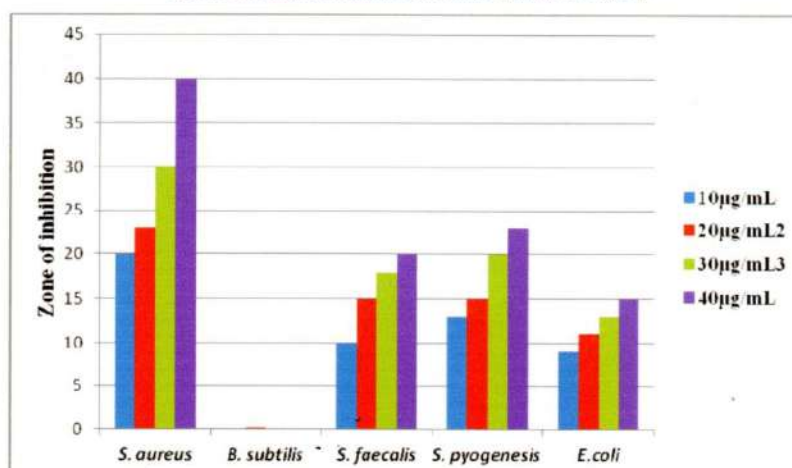
Fig. no. 4: Graphical representation for the obtained results of Ethyl acetate extract of *Dodonaea viscosa*

Fig. no. 5: Graphical representation for the obtained results of Ciprofloxacin



CONCLUSION

Plants are the natural sources to promote health, from the present study it can be concluded that the antibacterial activity of *Dodonaea viscosa* leaf extracts of methanolic, n-hexane, dichloro methane and ethyl acetate are effective against various gram positive organisms. And extensive studies are to be carried out to find out which of the chemical constituent might be responsible for antibacterial activity. Finally *Dodonaea viscosa* may be useful to various other diseases also; further investigation need to be done for this.

Acknowledgements

The author Dr. Mrutyunjaya Rao and K. Ramkrishna are grateful to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for awarding Major Research Project.

REFERENCES

- [1] C.K. Atal, K.L. Dhar and J. Singh, *Lloydia*, 38, 256 (1975).
- [2] Cribb AB and Cribb JW, Wild medicine in Australia, Collins, Sydney, 1981, 228.
- [3] Dixon RA (2001). *Nature*, 411: 843 - 847.
- [4] Forbes AB, Sahn FD, Weissfeld SA (2007). Mycology. In: Bailey & Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology. Mosby, Elsevier, St. Louis. pp. 696 -697.
- [5] Herborn, J.B. 1973. Phytochemical methods, A Guide to Modern Techniques of Plant Analysis, pp. 5-11, 2nd edition, Hall, New York.
- [6] Joshi, S.D., Badiger, A.M., Ashok, K., Veerapur, V.P. and Shastry, C.S. 2003. *Indian drugs*, 40: 549-552.
- [7] Kefale, T., Tsige, G.M., Asres K. and Engidawork, E. 2009. *Phytotherapy Res.*, 13:60-69. doi: 10.1002/ptr.2869.
- [8] Kirtikar, K.R., and Basu, B.D., 1993. *Indian Medicinal Plants*, 2nd ed., Vol. I, Dehradun: International Book Publisher, p. 641.
- [9] M.A. Ali, N.M. Alam, M.S. Yeasmin, A.M. Khan and M.A. Sayeed, *Res. J. Agric. Biol. Sci.*, 3, 852 (2007).
- [10] Rojas AS, Cruz H, Ponce-Monter, and Mata R *Planta medica*. 1996 ;62;154-159.
- [11] Subashini, HD, Malarvannan S, Renjith RP. *Current Science* 2004; 86 (1): 26-28
- [12] Suresh, K., Saravana Babu, S., and Harisaranraj, R., 2008. *Ethnobotanical Leaflets*, 12: 586-590.

Antibacterial and Antifungal Activity of Organic Solvent Extracts Of *Knoxia Corymbosa*

*R.Mrutyunjaya Rao¹ K.Ramakrishna², K.Pavaneemounika³, M.Ravikumar⁴
M.V.S.Murthy⁵ and G.Divya Ester⁶.

¹. Department of R&D centre S.R.K.R. Engineering College, Bhimavaram. India.

^{2,4,5} Department of Chemistry and Botany V.S.M College, Ramachandrapuram. India.

³. Department of Microbiology, Dr.B.V.Raju institute of computer Education. India.

⁵. Department of Biotechnology, Andhra University, Waltair. India.

Abstract

Objective: In this study the potency of antibacterial activities of crude organic solvent extracts ethyl acetate, dichloromethane, and methanol extracts of *Knoxia corymbosa* were tested on bacterial pathogens *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pneumonia*, *Bacillus subtilis* and the potency of antifungal activities of crude organic solvent extracts ethyl acetate and methanol extracts were tested on fungal pathogens *Aspergillus niger* and *Candida albicans*.

Key words: Anti-bacterial activity, Anti-fungal activity, Potato dextrose agar (PDA), Streptomycin sulphate.

I. Introduction

The ethno medical and ethno botanical uses of the plants are completely crude uses of plants parts like leaves, roots stem, bark etc. But the chemical analysis intended to find out to the chemical substances, which is responsible for the medicinal effect. So this is an interdisciplinary subject. A lot of work has been going on this way throughout the globe. In Andhra University a significant work has been going on. Ayurveda, the ancient healing system of India, flourished in the Vedic Era in India. According to historical facts, the classical texts of Ayurveda, Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita were written around 1000B.C. The Ayurvedic Materia Medica includes 600 medicinal plants along with therapeutics. Herbs like turmeric, fenugreek, ginger, garlic and holy basil are integral part of Ayurvedic formulations. The formulations incorporate single herb or more than two herbs (poly-herbal formulations). *Knoxia corymbosa* is an erect perennial herb Family Rubeacea mostly 40-90 cm tall. Stems are little-branched, velvety. Leaves are narrow-lance shaped to ovate, mostly 2.5-8 cm long, 0.8-3.5 cm wide, tip pointed to long-pointed, base wedge-shaped to flat, margins with fine hairs. Both surfaces of the leaves are velvety, and the leaf-stalk is 3-10 mm long. Flowers are borne in a dense, cyme up to 4 cm long, carried on a 0.2-2.5 cm long stalk, at the end of branches. Flowers stalks are 0.5-1 mm long. Flowers are usually 1.5-2 mm long, purplish blue or rarely white. Anthers protrude out. Fruit is ellipsoid about 1.5-2 mm long, crowned by sepals, usually falling entire. *Knoxia corymbosa* is found in Indo-Himalaya region, peninsular India and Sri Lanka. Flowering: September-October. *Knoxia corymbosa* is assumed to containing some medicinal values because some authors reported that they isolated some chromone glycosides. *Knoxia valerianoides* is a *Knoxia* species from which an herbal medicine and β -sitosterol is one of its main components was isolated by Je-Chuan Ye et al. β -sitosterol is known to control cholesterol levels, reduce the activity of cancer cell, promote prostate gland health enhance immunity in the human body.

II. Materials And Methods:

Collection Of Plant Material:

Fresh plants of *Knoxia corymbosa* free from disease were collected from Y.Ramavaram of Addatheegala, virgin forests of Bison hills of East Godavari District Andhra Pradesh India. Location coordinates of Y.Ramavaram are 17.48330N and 82.01670E. Plant identification was verified by M.Ravikumar of Department of Botany V.S.M college Ramachandrapuram. The plants were washed thoroughly 2-3 times with running water and finally once with sterile distilled water. The plant material was then air dried on sterile blotter under shade for 5 days and then powdered with the help of a blender.

Solvent Extraction:

25gm of shade dried powder was filled in the thimble and extracted successively with Methanol, Ethyl acetate, Dichloromethane solvents in soxhlet extractor for 48 hours. The solvent extracts were concentrated under pressure and preserved at 4°C in an airtight bottle for further use.

Growth and Maintenance of Bacterial and Fungal Cultures for Antimicrobial studies:

The lyophilized forms of different strains of microorganisms like *Escherichia coli* [MTCC-2126], *Staphylococcus aureus* [MTCC-3160], were obtained from the Microbial Type Culture Collection and Gene bank (MTCC), Chandigarh, India and the bacterial Strains *Streptococcus faecalis* [NCIM-2603] and *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Bacillus subtilis* [NCIM-2655] were obtained from National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (NCIM), Pune, India.

Preparation Of Inoculum For Anti Microbial Studies:

The Gram positive (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus pneumonia* and *Bacillus subtilis*) and Gram negative (*Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumonia*) bacteria were precultured in Nutrient Broth over night in a Rotary shaker Incubator at 37°C, the culture broth was centrifuged at 10,000rpm for 5 minutes, pellet was suspended in double distilled water and the cell density was standardized Spectrophotometrically (A_{610nm}). The fungal inoculum for *Aspergillus Niger* was prepared from 5-10 day old culture grown on Potato Dextrose Agar medium the petri dishes were flooded with 10ml of distilled water and the conidia were scraped with a sterile spatula. The spore density of each fungus was adjusted with spectrophotometer (A_{595nm}) to obtain final concentration of approximately 10⁵ spores per ml.

Method: Antibacterial activity of isolated crude organic solvent extracts ethyl acetate, dichloromethane and methanol extracts of *Knoxia corymbosa* was checked by agar well diffusion method.

Anti Bacterial Activity Assay:

The Gram positive bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus pneumonia* and *Bacillus subtilis* and Gram negative bacteria *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumonia* were tested for their susceptibility to extracts of *Knoxia corymbosa* by disc diffusion method. Crude organic solvent extracts of *Knoxia corymbosa* were prepared for antimicrobial assays by reconstituting with the respective organic solvents. The test bacteria were seeded into Mueller Hinton agar medium Spread plate method 10⁶ cells/ml with overnight grown cultures of Bacteria in Nutrient broth, The Filter paper discs 5mm in diameter impregnated with 5 μ g/ml-1 of the crude organic solvent extracts were placed on test organism seeded plates were used for the antibacterial tests. Streptomycin sulphate (10 μ g/ml-1) was used as positive control and the organic solvents were used as negative control. The antibacterial assay plates in triplicates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hrs. The diameters of the inhibition Zones were measured in mm.

Anti Fungal Activity assay:

Aspergillus niger and *Candida albicans* were tested for their susceptibility to crude organic solvent extract of *Knoxia corymbosa*. The antifungal activity was tested by disc diffusion method. The Potato Dextrose Agar plates were inoculated with each fungal culture (10 days old) by point inoculation. The filter paper discs (5mm in diameter) impregnated with 5 μ g/ml-1 concentrations of the crude organic solvent extracts were placed on test organism seeded plates. The respective organic solvents were used to dissolve the extract and was completely evaporated before application on test organism seeded plates. A blank disc impregnated with the respective organic solvent followed by drying off was used as negative control and the fungicide Nystatin (10 μ g/ml-1) was used as positive control. The activity was determined after 72 hrs of incubation at 28°C. The diameters of the clear inhibition zones were measured in mm.

III. Results And Discussion:

Ethyl acetate extract showed antibacterial activity against a total of five bacterial strains *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pneumonia*, *Bacillus subtilis* and antifungal activity against a fungal species *Aspergillus niger*. dichloromethane extract doesn't show any antimicrobial and antifungal activity. Methanol extract showed antibacterial activity against three bacterial strains *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pneumonia*, *Escherichia coli* and antifungal activity against *Aspergillus niger*.

Table 1: Antibacterial activity of crude organic solvent extracts of *knoxia corymbosa* -5 μ l/50 μ l solvent concentration and antibiotic streptomycin sulphate (10 μ g/ml) against bacterial species tested by Disc Diffusion assay

Test organism	Diameter of zone of inhibition(mm)			
	EAE	DCME	MEE	SMS
Gram positive				
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	4	0.00	0.00	
<i>Streptococcus</i>	9	0.00	2	
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	23	0.00	4	15
Gram Negative				
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	20	0.00	2	18
<i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i>	18	0.00	0.00	0.

Antibacterial And Antifungal Activity Of Organic Solvent Extracts Of Knoxia Corymbosa

EAE = Ethyl acetate extract
 DCME = Dichloromethane extract
 MEE=Methanol extract; SMS = Streptomycin sulphate

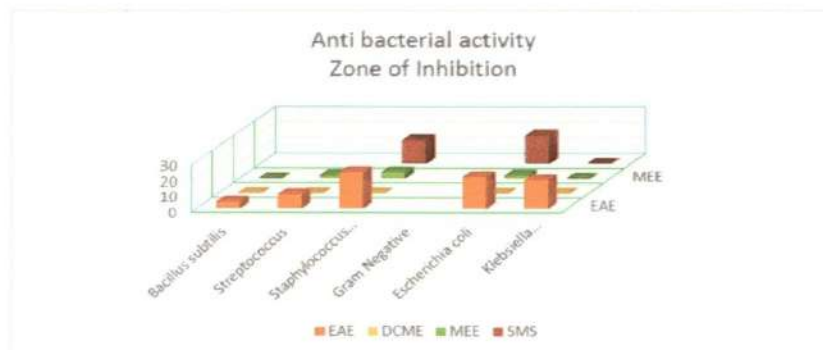
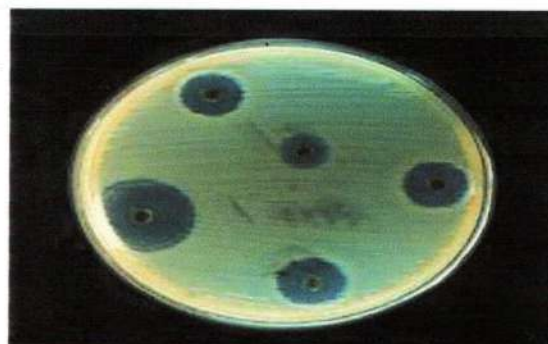
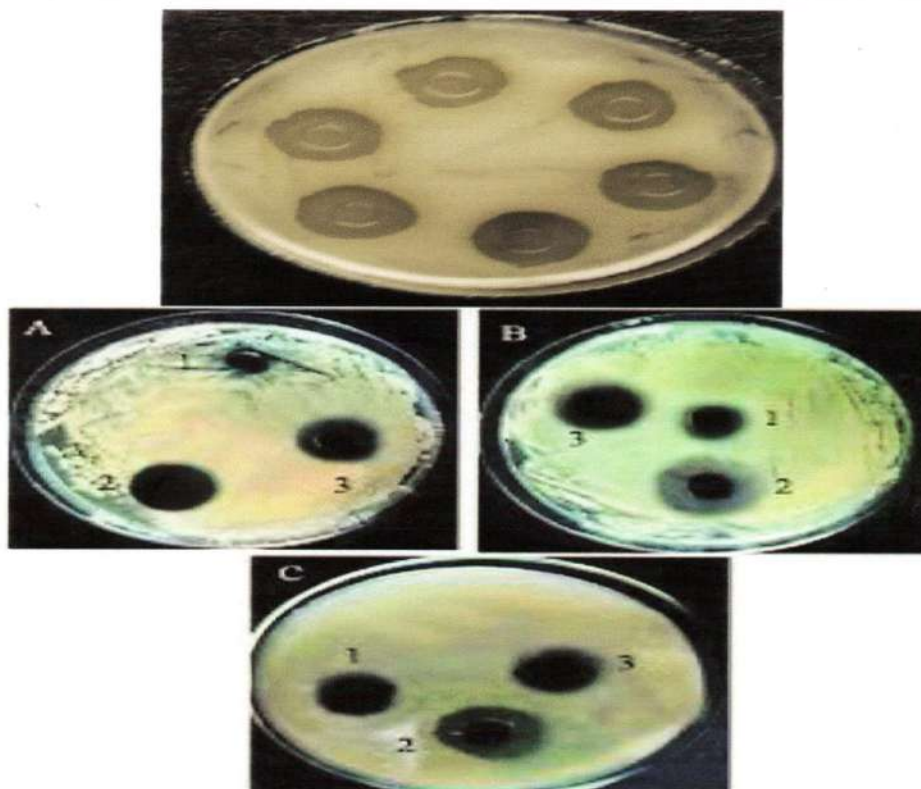


TABLE 2: Antifungal activity of crude organic solvent extracts of knoxia corymbosa -5µl/50µl solvent concentration and fungicide Nystatin against fungal species tested by Disc Diffusion assay

Test organism	Diameter of zone of inhibition(mm)		
	EEE	MEE	NT
Candida albicans	0.00	0.00	
Aspergillus niger	23	0.00	20

EAE = Ethyl acetate extract
 MEE = Methane extract
 NT = Fungicide Nystatin





IV. Conclusion

Plants are the natural sources to promote health, from the present study it can be concluded that the antibacterial activity of *Knoxia corymbosa* leaf extracts of Ethyl acetate, dichloromethane, and methanol extracts are effective against various gram positive organisms and gram negative organisms and antifungal activity against fungal organism. Extensive studies are to be carried out to find out which of the chemical constituent might be responsible for antibacterial activity and antifungal activity. Finally *Knoxia corymbosa* may be useful to various other diseases also; further investigation need to be done for this.

Acknowledgments

The authors Dr. R.Mrutyunjaya Rao and K.Ramakrishna are grateful to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for awarding Major Research Project.

References

- [1]. Studies on the Chemical Constituents of *Knoxia Corymbosa* YB Wang et al. Yao Xue Xue Bao 39 (6), 439-441.(6) 2004.
- [2]. Y. B. Wang, J. X. Pu, H. Y. Ren et al., "New acetylated flavonolglycosides from *Knoxia corymbosa*," *Chinese Chemical Letters*, vol. 14, no. 12, pp. 1268-1270, 2003.
- [3]. Das S, Bhattacharya AK (1969). Chemical investigations on *Knoxia corymbosa*. J. Indian Chem. Soc. 1: 301-02.
- [4]. Je-Chiuan Ye1, Wei-Chun Chang 2, Dennis Jine-Yuan Hsieh3 and Meen-Woon Hsiao Extraction and analysis of β -sitosterol in Herbal Medicines *Journal of Medicinal Plants Research* Vol. 4(7), pp. 522-527, 4 April, 2010
- [5]. Feng Zhao, Shuai Zhao, Jing-Tian Han, Yuan-Fang Wang, Ya-Nan Wang, Chun-Hua Antiviral anthraquinones from the roots of *Knoxia valerianoides* *Photochemistry Letters* Volume 11, March 2015, Pages 57-60.
- [6]. Forbes AB, Sahm FD, Weissfeld SA (2007). Mycology. In: Bailey & Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology. Mosby, Elsevier, St. Louis pp. 696 -697.
- [7]. Herborn, J.B. 1973. Phytochemical methods, A Guide to Modern Techniques of Plant Analysis, pp. 5-11, 2nd edition, Hall, New York.
- [8]. Kirtikar, K.R., and Basu, B.D., 1993. Indian Medicinal Plants, 2nd ed., Vol. I, Dehradun: International Book Publisher; p. 641.



Isolation of Ursolic Acid from *Knoxia corymbosa*

Mrutyunjaya Rao R^{1*}, Ramakrishna K¹, Suresh Babu K² and Surya Kumar MV¹

¹Department of Chemistry, VSM College, Ramachandrapuram, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India

²Scientist, ICT, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

*Corresponding author: Mrutyunjaya Rao R, Department of Chemistry, VSM College, Ramachandrapuram, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India, Tel: 08985769830; E-mail: rmj.rao@rediffmail.com

Received: July 28, 2017; Accepted: August 22, 2017; Published: August 28, 2017

Copyright: © 2017 Mrutyunjaya Rao R, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Abstract

Air-dried, milled leaves of *Knoxia corymbosa* (220 gm) were extracted repeatedly with dichloromethane. After removal of solvent in vacuo, the CH₂Cl₂-solvent residue was fractionated by using hexane and ethyl acetate solvents. After fractionation, all fractions are submitted for NMR spectroscopy. Out of all fractions interesting fractions are subjected to column chromatography, so that we isolated one pure compound as Ursolic acid which is a known compound as it is characterized by using reference data. This is the first time to be isolated the above compound from this species. Ursolic acid is a five-membered cyclic triterpenoid compound. A structure of the isolated compound has been assigned on the basis of their analytical data. By surveying the literature, we came to understand that the compound ursolic acid is a cyclic five-member triterpenoid first to be isolated from *Knoxia corymbosa*. And also, it is first time to isolate the above compound from this species *Knoxia corymbosa*.

Keywords: *Knoxia corymbosa*; CH₂Cl₂; Ursolic acid; Column chromatography; Spectroscopy

indole alkaloids, terpenoids, anthraquinones and anti-tumors have been isolated from these plants.

Introduction

Pharmacological activities of plants and plant derived drugs necessitate for the search of new and useful drugs globally. India is the largest producer of medicinal herbs. These values are shown vast and tremendous biodiversity potential in India, which can be utilized in drug industry. *Knoxia corymbosa* is assumed to containing some medicinal values [1-6] because girijans of the forest area are using for fevers and skin diseases. Some authors reported that they isolated some chromone glycosides [7,8] from *Knoxia corymbosa*. *Knoxia* species reported to contain herbal medicine, β -sitosterol which is one of its main components was isolated. β -sitosterol is known to control cholesterol levels, reduce the activity of cancer cell, promote prostate gland health enhance immunity in the human body. The plants of family Rubiaceae is an important source of medicinal natural products, particularly alkaloids and triterpenes, quinovic acid glycosides, flavonoids and coumarins have been isolated from this family. Pharmacological studies are described according to cytotoxicity, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, immune stimulation, antioxidant, CNS-related response, vascular, hypertensive, mutagenicity and antibacterial properties. The compounds obtained from this family are used as immunomodulatory, anti-inflammatory and vascular-related conditions. The information summarized here is intended to serve as a reference tool to practitioners in the fields of ethno pharmacology and natural products chemistry.

Various natural products occur in Rubiaceae plants. Extensive phytochemical investigation has been realized regarding the natural occurrence of triterpenoids [10-16], anthraquinones and indole alkaloids [17-20] in the family. Rubiaceae family plants exhibited antimalarial, antimicrobial, antihypertension, antidiabetic, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory activities. Bioactive compounds including

Materials and Methods

220 gms of shade dried powder leaves of *Knoxia corymbosa* were filled in the thimble and extracted successively with n-hexane, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate and methanol solvents in soxhlet extractor for 48 hours intervals. The solvent extracts were concentrated under pressure and preserved at 40°C in an airtight bottle for further use. After fractionation, all fractions are submitted to NMR Spectroscopy. Out of all fractions dichloromethane fraction is subjected to column chromatography. By thin layer chromatography (TLC) method Dichloromethane extract seems to be containing more compounds. So, the extract from dichloromethane is subjected to column chromatography with n-hexane and ethyl acetate solvents. The purity of fractions was tested with the help of TLC.

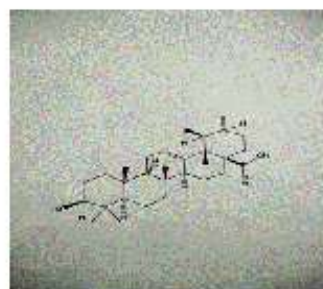


Figure 1: Structure of Ursolic acid. IUPAC Name of ursolic acid is: 3-beta-3-hydroxy-urs-12-ene-28-oic acid, or 3- β -hydroxy-urs-12-ene-28-oic acid, urson, pranol or malol.

Out of all fractions, the fractions having similar R_f values were combined together and isolated three samples. The obtained samples were submitted to UV, IR, NMR and Mass Spectroscopy. The obtained data is compared with reference data and confirmed that, out of three samples one sample i.e., sample-3 (sample-1 and sample-2 are not pure so rejected), seems to be pure one and confirmed the structure. The obtained data is compared with reference data and confirmed the structures and the compound is identified and confirmed as ursolic acid (Figure 1).

Spectral data of *Knoxia corymbosa*

UV spectral data is at 474, 442 and 422.

FT-IR KB Absorption bands assigned to the compound are C-O stretching is (1036.04 cm^{-1}) olefinic system (C=C) (1458.48 cm^{-1} and 2860.52 cm^{-1}), carboxylic acid stretching is (2928.24 cm^{-1}), carbonyl system (1690.38 cm^{-1}), and hydroxyl group (3444.99 cm^{-1}).

$^1\text{H NMR}$: (400 MHz, CD_3OD): $\delta\text{H}=0.728$ (3H, s, CH_3 , H-27), 0.768 (3H, s, CH_3 , 25), 0.884 (3H, CH_3 , H-30), 1.05 (3H, s, CH_3 , H-26), 0.965 (3H, d, CH_3 , H-29), 1.28 (3H, s, CH_3 , H-23), 1.106 (3H, s, CH_3 , H-24), 1.352-2.025 (13H, m, [1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 19-22]), 2.178 (1H, d, H-18), 3.303 (1H, d, H-3) and 5.217 (1H, m, olefinic proton, H-12).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$: (400 MHz, CD_3OD): $\delta\text{C}=38.14$ (C-1), 27.88 (C-2), 79.69 (C-3), 38.14 (C-4), 54.40 (C-5), 17.83 (C-6), 31.8 (C-7), 39.83 (C-8), 48.14 (C-9), 34.33 (C-10), 21.60 (C-11), 126.80 (C-12), 139.71 (C-13), 40.76 (C-14), 28.7 (C-15), 24.08 (C-16), 43.24 (C-17), 54.40 (C-18), 39.83 (C-19), 39.99 (C-20), 30.76 (C-21), 34.33 (C-22), 27.88 (C-23), 16.06 (C-24), 16.38 (C-25), 17.66 (C-26), 24.08 (C-27), 181.98 (C-28), 17.83 (C-29), 21.60 (C-30).

Mass spectrum: $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_5$; Molecular weight-456.5 (m/z 457 (M^+), 389, 300, 248, 207, 203, 189, 147, 133, 119, 105, 44).

Results and Discussion

Dichloromethane extract to column chromatography with n-hexane and ethyl acetate as eluting solvent mixture and obtained 198 fractions. One pure compound obtained from fractions of 159 to 176. The fractions are subject to thin layer chromatography TLC. The fractions having same R_f values are combined together [23]. The sample sent to IICT Hyderabad for spectral data. The data obtained is compared with the existing data and concluded the results and confirmed the structure and name of the is confirmed.

Modern man is confronted with increasing incidences of cancer and cancer deaths annually. Statistics indicate that men are largely plagued by lung, colon, rectal and prostate cancer, while women increasingly suffer from breast, colon, rectal, and stomach cancer [24]. The literature indicates that many natural products are available as chemo protective agents against commonly occurring cancer types [25]. Species of Rubiaceae as well as their isolated compounds possess diverse biological activities, including anti-inflammatory, antitumor, antimicrobial, larvicidal, antioxidant, gastrointestinal, anti-ulcer, and hepato protective, with alkaloids and iridoids as the major active principles. Crude leaf extracts of *Knoxia corymbosa* is proved to having antibacterial and antifungal activity [26].

Conclusion

Ursolic acid is the important constituent of leaves of *Knoxia corymbosa* which are proved to be having very effective medicinal

value. Researches proved that ursolic acid having potency of curing tumors and killing cancer cells, induces eryptosis, reduces muscle atrophy, shows potential cardio protection, induces neural regeneration after sciatic nerve injury, liver disorders etc., So, it is necessary to do much more work on the above plant as the above mentioned diseases are challenging to the health sciences. Utilization of natural products as drugs is not only good for human health but also no side effects. In fact, plants produce a diverse range of bioactive molecules, making them a rich source of different types of medicines. Plants with possible antibacterial activities should be tested against an appropriate microbial model to confirm the activity and to ascertain the parameters associated with it.

Acknowledgement

The authors (Dr. R. Mrutyunjaya Rao and K. Ramakrishna) are grateful to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for the award of Major Research Project. And also to Dr. K. Suresh Babu who assisted me in structural elucidation and identification of the compound.

References

1. Kirtikar KR, Basu BD (1987) Indian medicinal plants. International book distributors, Dehradun, India 3: 2128-2129.
2. CSIR (1989) The Wealth of India: A Dictionary of Indian Raw Materials and Industrial products. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi 8: 96-99.
3. Abbas Ali M, Mahabbub Alam N, Yeasmin S, Mohal Khan A, Abu Sayeed M (2007) Antimicrobial Screening of Different Extracts of Piper longum Linn. Res J Agric Biol Sci 3: 852-857.
4. Kirtikar KR, Basu BD (1993) Indian Medicinal Plants. (2nd edn), Dehradun: International Book Publisher, p: 641.
5. Herborn JB (1973) Phytochemical methods-A Guide to Modern Techniques of Plant Analysis. (2nd edn), Hall, New York, pp: 5-11.
6. Das S, Bhattacharya AK (1969) Chemical investigations on *Knoxia corymbosa*. J Indian Chem Soc 1: 301-302.
7. Wang YB, Pu JX, Ren HY (2003) New acetylated flavonolglycosides from *Knoxia corymbosa*. Chinese Chem Lett 14: 1268-1270.
8. Wang YB, Zhao JF, Li GP, Yang JH, Li L (2004) Studies on the chemical constituents of *Knoxia corymbosa*. Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica 39: 439-441.
9. Ye JC, Chang WC, Hsieh DJ, Hsiao MW (2010) Extraction and analysis of sitosterol in herbal medicines. J Med Plants Res 4: 522-527.
10. Zhao F, Zhao S, Han JT, Wang YF, Wang YN, et al. (2015) Antiviral anthraquinones from the roots of *Knoxia valerianoides*. Phytochem Lett 11: 57-60.
11. Huang PL, Wang LW, Lin CN (1990) New triterpenoids of *Mallotus repandus*. J Nat Prod 62: 891-892.
12. Sun HX, Zhang JX, Ye YP, Shen YA (2003) Cytotoxic pentacyclic triterpenoids from the rhizome of *Astilbe chinensis*. Helv Chim Acta 86: 2414-2423.
13. Song QY, Qi WY, Li ZM, Zhao J, Chen JJ, et al. (2011) Antifungal activities of triterpenoids from the roots of *Astilbe myriantha* Diels. Food Chem 128: 495-499.
14. Calabria LM, Piacente S, Kapusta I, Dharmawardhane SF, Segarra FM, et al. (2008) Triterpene saponins from *Silphium radula*. Phytochem 69: 961-972.
15. Song YL, Wang YH, Lu Q, Qiao HJ, Cheng YX (2008) Triterpenoids from the edible leaves of *Photinia serrulata*. Helv Chim Acta 91: 665-672.
16. Chan WR, Sheppard V, Medford KA, Tinto WF, Reynolds WF, et al. (1992) Triterpenes from *Miconia stenostachya*. J Natur Prod 55: 963-966.
17. Singh DN, Verma N, Raghuvanshi S, Shukla PK, Kulshreshtha DK (2006) Antifungal anthraquinones from *Saprosma fragrans*. Bioorg Medic Chem Lett 16: 4512-4514.

18. Ling SK, Komorita A, Tanaka T, Fujioka T, Mihashi K, et al. (2002) Iridoids and anthraquinones from the Malaysian medicinal plant, *Saprosma scortechinii* (Rubiaceae). *Chem Pharma Bulle* 50: 1035-1040.
19. Singh DN, Verma N (2012) Iridoidglucosides and anthraquinone from the aerial parts of *Saprosma fragrans*. *J Ind Chem Soc* 89: 429-431.
20. Wang L, Chen GY, Han CR, Yuan Y, Yang B, et al. (2011) Two novel alkaloids from the stem of *Saprosma hainanense* and their cytotoxic activities in vitro. *Chem Pharma Bulle* 59: 338-340.
21. Dai CY, Yang B, Zhang DS, Chen GY, Han CR (2012) Antitumor activities of extracts from *Trigonostemon xylophyloides* and *Saprosma merrillii*. *J Hainan Normal Univ (Nat Sci)* 25: 184-187.
22. Wang Q, Lin HW, Shen Y, Jin CY (2000) Ankesu capsule of antitumor effect. *J Hainan Normal Univ (Nat Sci)* 23: 634-636.
23. Abdulla M, Gruber P (2000) Role of diet modification in cancer prevention. *Biofactors* 12: 45-51.
24. Reddy I, Odhav B, Bhoola KD (2003) Natural products for cancer prevention: a global perspective. *Pharmacol and Therapeu* 99: 1-3.
25. Conserva LM, Jesu Costa Ferreira J (2012) *Borreria* and *Spermacoce* species (Rubiaceae): A review of their ethnomedicinal properties, chemical constituents, and biological activities. *Pharmacog Rev* 6: 46.
26. Mrutyunjaya Rao R, Ramakrishna K, Pavanee Mounika K, Ravikumar M, Murthy MVS, et al. (2017) Antibacterial and Antifungal Activity of Organic Solvent Extracts of *Knoxia Corymbosa*. *IOSR J Pharm Biol Sci* 12: 01-04.