



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Evaluation of Antibacterial Potential of Different Extracts of *Moringa oleifera*

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ABSTRACT

The antibacterial potential of different extracts of *Moringa oleifera* was screened against four bacteria using disc diffusion assay. Lowest concentration of the extract, which inhibits any visual microbial growth after treatment with p-iodonitrotetrazolium violet, was considered to be minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC). Methanol extract of *Moringa oleifera* exhibited good activity against all the bacteria tested and the MIC was recorded in range of 9.375-37.5 µg/ml. The other extracts of *Moringa oleifera* showed antimicrobial activity in a range of 75-1200 µg/ml.

Key words: Antibacterial Potential, Different Extracts, *Moringa oleifera*

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INTRODUCTION

The number of multi-drug resistant microbial strains and the appearance of strains with reduced susceptibility to antibiotics are continuously increasing. This increase has been attributed to indiscriminate use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, immunosuppressive agent, intravenous catheters, organ transplantation and ongoing epidemics of HIV infection (Graybill, 1988; Ng, 1994; Dean and Burchard, 1996; Gonzalez *et al*, 1996). In addition, in developing countries, synthetic drugs are not only expensive and inadequate for the treatment of diseases but also often with adulterations and side effects. Therefore, there is need to search new infection-fighting strategies to control microbial infections (Sieradzki *et al*, 1999).

A number of higher plants have been used for centuries as remedies for human diseases. This has encouraged scientists to screen higher plants for various biological activities including antibacterial and antifungal effects (Eilert *et al*, 1980; 1981; Omer and Elnima, 2003; Saadabi, 2006; Saadabi *et al*, 2006; 2007; 2009). The acceptance of traditional medicine as an alternate form of health care and the development of microbial resistance to the available antibiotics has led researchers to investigate the antimicrobial activity of medicinal plants (Hemmer *et al*, 1999).

M. oleifera tree is also known as a 'Miracle tree' as almost every part of this tree possess products useful for humans. The leaves and pods are eaten. The plant is also reported to be medicinally important and almost all parts of the *M. oleifera* tree are considered to possess medicinal properties and are used in the treatment of ascites, rheumatism and venomous bites and as cardiac and circulatory stimulant (Shindano and Kasase, 2009). Leaves are also known to have anti-oxidant properties and are known to cures hallucinations, dry tumors, hiccups and asthma (Mehta and Agrawal, 2008). The root and bark are useful in treatment of heart complaints, eye diseases, inflammation, dyspepsia,

and enlargement of spleen. The flowers are known to cure inflammations and muscle diseases. Seed oil is known to be useful in treatment of leprosy ulcers Fahey (2005). During recent years, considerable work has been done to investigate the pharmacological actions of the leaves and seeds of *Moringaoleifera* on scientific lines. But only limited work has been reported so far on antibacterial activity of *Moringaoleifera* leaves and bark. Therefore, it was considered worthy to investigate the antibacterial activity of *Moringaoleifera* leaves bark.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

PLANT MATERIALS

For conducting the present study, the plant material was collected from different locations of Agra and Plant parts (bark) devoid of contaminant parts were carefully collected and kept in polythene bags which were then subsequently sealed. The stored specimens were thoroughly washed with tap water. They were shade dried and ground with grinder to obtain coarse particle.

PREPARATION OF PLANT EXTRACTS

- 1. Aqueous Extract:** For aqueous extract bark powder was separately homogenized with sterile distilled water at 1:8 w/v ratio in a pestle and mortar and filtered through muslin cloth. The filtrate thus obtained was further strained through Whatman No. 1 filter paper (Zore *et al.*, 2004). The extraction was carried out at room temperature.
- 2. Organic Extract:** Organic extract was prepared by Soxhlet extraction method following (Okeke *et al.*, 2001). A thimble was prepared by using a 0.5mm Whatman filter paper. About 50 gm of powder material was uniformly packed in a thimble and run in soxhlet extractor. It was run upto 48 hour or 22 cycles until the solvent in the siphon table of an extractor become colourless. After that, extracts were filtered with the help of filter paper and solvent was evaporated from extract with the help of rotary evaporator to get the syrupy consistency. The extract was then stored in refrigerator at 4°C.

ANTIBACTERIAL SCREENING

Antibacterial activities of the extracts were determined by the microbroth dilution assay as described by Buwa and Staden (2006). The water and ethanol plant extracts were dissolved in corresponding extracting solvents at a concentration of 2400 µg/ml. Acetone extracts were also dissolved in ethanol while the other extracts were dissolved in DMSO. Proper controls were kept for each experiment. The bacterial strains used as inocula were grown at 37°C to get OD 0.6 at 600 nm and used for susceptibility testing. Lowest concentration, which inhibited any visual growth, was considered to be minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Antimicrobial activity of *M. oleifera* methanol bark extract against different test microorganisms

Pathogens	Zone of inhibition in (mm)							Drug
	200mg/ml	100mg/ml	50mg/ml	25mg/ml	12.5mg/ml	6.25mg/ml	3.125mg/ml	
<i>S.aureus</i>	13.00±1.52	12.67±1.53	10.33±0.57	8.66±1.53	8.00±1.00	7.00±0.58	-	20
<i>C.freundii</i>	14.00±2.05	12.00±2.60	11.33±1.73	10.66±1.15	10.00±1.00	9.66±0.58	8.66±0.57	18
<i>B.megaterium</i>	9.66±1.52	8.67±0.58	8.00±1.00	7.00±2.00	6.67±0.58	6.33±0.57	-	18
<i>P.fluorescens</i>	13.67±1.15	11.66±1.53	10.66±1.52	9.67±1.15	9.33±0.58	8.00±1.00	7.33±0.57	16

Table 2: Antimicrobial activity of *M. oleifera* aqueous bark extract against different test microorganisms

Pathogens	Zone of inhibition in (mm)							Drug
	200mg/ml	100mg/ml	50mg/ml	25mg/ml	12.5mg/ml	6.25mg/ml	3.125mg/ml	
<i>S.aureus</i>	9.00±1.15	8.67±0.58	7.67±1.00	7.00±0.57	6.33±0.58	-	-	17
<i>C.freundii</i>	11.33±0.58	10.66±1.15	9.66±0.58	8.66±1.00	8.33±1.15	7.33±0.57	-	16
<i>B.megaterium</i>	9.66±0.58	8.67±1.15	8.00±1.00	7.66±1.15	7.33±0.57	6.67±0.58	-	18
<i>P.fluorescens</i>	9.00±1.00	8.67±0.58	8.33±0.57	8.00±1.00	7.67±0.58	7.00±1.00	7.66±0.58	13

Plants are important source of potentially useful structures for the development of new chemotherapeutic agents. The first step towards this goal is the *in vitro* antibacterial activity assay (Tona *et al.*1998) Previous studies have reported that various parts of *Moringa* roots, flowers, bark, and stem including seeds possess antimicrobial properties (Lockett *et al.*, 2000; Anwar and Rashid, 2007).

The various extracts of *Moringa oleifera* namely ethyl acetate, methanol, aqueous and chloroform extracts of its leaves and bark were tested against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Citro freundii*, *Bacillus megetarian*, *pseudomonas flouresence*, for their antibacterial activity and against *R. stlonifer* and *M.gypseum* for their antifungal activity. The extracts of methanol and water of *Moringa oleifera* leaves and bark were found to be active against all the test organisms.

Results obtained from *in vitro* antimicrobial activity of *Moringa oleifera* it was observed that the methanol extract of *Moringa oleifera* bark were found to be most active against *Citro freundii* and *pseudomonas flouresence* showing zone of inhibition up to dilution of 3.125mg/ml while it was observed that methanol extract of bark was slightly less active against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus megetarian* showing zone of inhibition up to dilution of 6.25mg/ml. by Similar result was observed in the study of Rao *et al.*, (2011) who investigated antibacterial activity of methanolic extract of *M.oleifera* by using well diffusion technique and reported that the most significant activity was seen against *S. aureus*, while Devi *et al.*, (2011) investigate the antibacterial activity of methanolic extracts of *Moringa oleifera* bark by agar well diffusion method against *Bacillus*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* that frequently cause enteric infections in humans. The methanol extracts of *Moringa oleifera* bark, have shown strong antibacterial activity against the organisms tested.

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