

Effect of aqueous and alcoholic plant extracts on inhibition of some types of microbes and causing spoilage of food

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ABSTRACT

The current study was conducted to evaluate the antimicrobial potential of different aqueous and alcoholic extracts of leaves *Ziziphus* (*Ziziphus spina-christi*), *Eucalyptus* (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) against reference strains of bacteria and mold. The chemical compound detection of *Ziziphus* plant leaves findings showed that aqueous and alcoholic extracts contain effective compounds that have been detected except composite resins in aqueous extract and resins in the alcoholic extract. The leaves of *Eucalyptus* plant aqueous and alcohol extracts contained resins, tannins, phenols. It tested the effectiveness of inhibitory extract plant against five isolates bacterial and five isolates of molds. The concentration of 50 and 100 mg / mL of extract revealed zone of inhibition and efficiency increased with increasing concentration.

Keyword: *Ziziphus*, *Eucalyptus*, Ethanolic extracts , Molds, Bacteria

INTRODUCTION

Plants are the fundamental to existence on globe as they directly or indirectly resource around 70-80% of human energy and protein consumption, the rest being resulting from visceral products. They are sparingly significant to man due to their numerous applications, such as antibiotics, analgesic, flavors, perfumes, insecticides, dyes, food additives, poisons etc (Zamin *et al.*, 2014). Medicinal plants are gifts of nature to cure a number of diseases among human beings. A large number of plants in different location around the world have been extracted, semi-purified to investigate individually their antimicrobial activity. However, very little information is available on such activity of medicinal plants and out of the 400,000 plant species on earth, only a small amount has been systematically investigated for their antimicrobial activities (Varahalarao and Chandrashekar 2010). Their extracts have gained importance as potential antibacterial agents. Secondary metabolites of plants, including the tannins, flavonoids and alkaloids have been found to possess antimicrobial properties in vitro (Dahanukar *et al.*, 2000).

The *Ziziphus* and *Eucalyptus* plants that have received wide attention in the field of folk medicine since the *Ziziphus* goes back to the plant family *Cedria Rhamanaceae* and spreads widely in areas with moderate temperatures and dry land areas Hemisphere

warm climates, including Iraq (Sudharsan and Hussain, 2003). *Eucalyptus* is one of such medicinal plants belonging to *Myrtaceae* family, native of Australia. It's spread in many countries, including Iraq. The present study aimed to know the chemical components in plant extracts as well as evaluating the antimicrobial activity of plant extracts including *Ziziphus* and *Eucalyptus* against some pathogenic bacteria and molds.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample collection

The Fresh leaves of the Plant (*Ziziphus* and *Eucalyptus* leaves) were collected from Altnoma and Abu Kasib in Basrah province of Iraq - Basra at January - November 2014 and placed in polyethylene bags and transported to the Biotechnology laboratory of the Food Science department /Faculty of Agriculture.

Plants Grind

Ziziphus and *Eucalyptus* leaves were carefully washed using tap water, The dried leaves were milled separately in a small electric mill (High-Speed Grinder , China) , The powdered leaves of these plants were transferred to a glass sealed cans and placed in the refrigerator before the extraction process .

Extract Preparation

The aqueous extract of dried plant leaves was made in the distilled water. About 5 grams of each plant leaves powder (Ziziphus and Eucalyptus) were taken and mixed in 50 ml of distilled water. The mixture was taken into 250 ml sterile conical flasks, plugged with sterile cotton and kept in Shaking Incubator (Kottermann, Germany) with the 200 rpm for 24 hours. The solution was filtered through muslin cloth, This process was repeated three times after which a clear aqueous extract of the plant was taken. **Hot water extract:** 10 g of the weighed plant leaves powder was soaked in 100ml of boiled hot water. That mixture was boiled for thirty minutes into a conical flask and put for 24hrs. The extract was filtered using filter paper and evaporated. **Ethanol Extract:** The ethanol extract of dried plant leaves was also prepared. The ethanol extract was prepared through the same protocol followed for that of cold water extraction.(Zamin *et al.* 2014).

Detection and chemical solutions used in the study

Wagner reagent

Prepare by the method of_ Harborn, (1984) were dissolved 2 g of KI in 5 ml of distilled water and add a 1.27 g of iodine and blend until completely soluble then complete the volume with distilled water up to 100 ml

Fehling reagent

Prepare the detector by the method of_ Harborn (1984) and through the preparation of solutions , (a) dissolving 35 grams of copper sulphate in the amount of distilled water and dilute the solution with distilled water up to 500 ml (b) The solution was attended by dissolving 7 grams of NaOH and 175 grams of Rochelle's Salt in distilled water and he finished size with distilled water to 500 ml and when to use mixed in equal volumes of two solutions.

Ferric chloride 1% solution

Prepare the solution according to Harborn (1984) as the weight of 1 g of ferric chloride and put into a volumetric flask and completed the volume to 100 ml.

Lead acetate 1% solution

Prepare the weight of 1 g of lead acetate and placed in a glass beaker and he finished size of 100 ml (Harborn, 1984).

Detection of groups and effective compounds found plant leaves extracts under study

Resins

According to method Mason and Wasserman (1987) add 5 ml of ethyl alcohol concentration (95%) to 0.5 g of leaves extracts after leaving in a water bath to a boil for two minutes nominated and then add to the filtrate 10 ml of distilled water acidified hydrochloric acid concentrate, where inferred the existence of resin materials emergence of turbidity.

Tannins

According to Mason and Wasserman (1987) included a boiling 0.5 g of leaves extracts in 2.5 ml of distilled water and was filtered mix, then filtrate divides after the cold into two parts first section of it was added to 1% lead acetate solution. This is indicated by the presence of white sediment gelatinous textures on the existence of dragons either the second section was added to a concentration of ferric chloride solution (1%), the appearance of bluish green colour proof of the positive test.

Phenols

According to Harborne (1984) by adding 0.1 ml of the leaves extracts to 0.06 ml of 1% ferric chloride solution, the appearance of bluish green colour indicates the presence of phenols.

Alkaloids

Add several drops of Wagner reagent to 1.00 ml of an aqueous extract and alcohol and that the appearance of brown precipitate a sign of positive detection.

Glycosides

10 ml of 50% H₂SO₄ was added to 1 ml of the leaves extracts and the mixture heated in boiling water for 15 min. 10 ml of Fehling's solution was then added and the mixture boiled. A brick - red precipitate was confirmed in the presence of glycosides.

pH determination

The pH was measured by Electronic digital(Sartorius , Germany) , It has been taking 1 gram of plant leaves powder and blending with 10 ml of distilled water and left in a magnetic stirrer for 10 minutes.

Preparation concentrations of plant extract

For the purpose of preparation of the solution inventories (Stock solution) of aqueous extracts taken 1 gram of the leaves powder extract (Ziziphus and

Eucalyptus separately) and dissolved in 10 ml sterile distilled water became our stock solution concentration of 100 mg / ml. The solution sterility by filtration using membrane filters (Millipore filters) especially with a diameter of 0.22 µm. This solution, as a source of work concentrations (50,100) mg / ml. Alcoholic extract may take 1 gram to 3 ml ethyl alcohol and completed the volume to 10 ml with distilled water. The concentration of the solution was 100 mg / ml and used (50 ,100) mg /ml in microbial inhibition.

Bacterial isolates

Bacterial isolates: *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas erogenous*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus* sp. were obtained from Food Science Dept., Agriculture college, Basrah University and grow on Nutrient broth (Himedia Labs.) 37°C for 18 hours. The turbidity of actively growing bacterial suspension was adjusted to match the turbidity standard of 0.5 McFarland units prepared by mixing 0.5 ml of 1.75% (w/v) barium chloride dehydrate with 99.5 ml 1% (v/v) sulphuric acid. This turbidity was equivalent to approximately 1×10^7 (cfu/ml). The grown suspension was used for further testing.

Fungal isolates

Five mold isolates were obtained from Microscopic Biology laboratory in the Marine Science center, Basrah university. It's *Aspergillus niger*, *A. flavus*, *Penicillium notatum*, *Mucor* sp. and *Geotrichum* sp. were grow in the center of Potato Dextrose Agar and incubated at 30°C for 3-5 days.

Assay for antimicrobial activity

Bacterial activity was determined using the agar well diffusion method (Gupta ,1994) , 5 wells (0.6 cm) made into previously seeded Mueller Hinton agar plates containing 1×10^7 cfu/ml of each of the test organism were filled with 0.1 ml of each extract , The concentration of extracts employed was 50 and 100 mg/ml . Ethanol (70% v/v) and sterile distilled water were used as controls . The plates left in the refrigerator for two hours and incubated at 37 °C for 24-48 h. After incubation the diameter of inhibitory zones formed around each wells was measured in mm and recorded. The test was carried out by triplicate. Molds activity was determined according to Dixit *et al.* (1976) to add 1ml from leaves extracts (concentration of 50 and 100 mg / ml) to Potato Dextrose Agar media (45°C) and take 0.5 cm of old molds disc in the center of media. The dishes were

incubated at 25 °C for 4-6 days with a control sample without extracts. Percent mold inhibition was measured after growth by by the formula:

$$\text{Growth Inhibition (\%)} = [Dc-De/Dc] \times 100$$

Where, Dc: Diameter of colony in the control (mm),
De: Diameter of the colony with extracts (mm).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemical detection initial for effective compounds of aqueous and alcoholic extracts Ziziphus and Eucalyptus in the light of the results of our study have bio- efficacy groups on some fungal and bacterial isolates. Water and alcohol extracts of Ziziphus and Eucalyptus were in nature characterized as strength viscous green, dark color and aromatic smell. Table (1) occurs the effective chemical groups in leaves extracts of Ziziphus and Eucalyptus plants. pH values of extracts were 4.34-5.91.

Effects of aqueous and alcoholic extract of plants against bacterial and fungal isolates

The observation of antibacterial activity alcoholic extracts of the tow plant extract on pathogenic bacteria using agar well diffusion method showed that the extract of Eucalyptus showed maximum zone of inhibition against *Bacillus subtilis* (19mm) , *Staphylococcus aureus* (17 mm) and *Pseudomonas* , E.coli (16 mm) . The ethanol extract of Ziziphus leaves showed the minimum rate of antibacterial activity on all the five pathogenic bacteria when compare to Eucalyptus extract activity . Effect of concentration on antimicrobial activity showed that the trend was similar for all extracts as higher concentrations (100 mg/ml) produced wider zone of inhibition. These results similar to the results of many who have studied the Eucalyptus and Ziziphus leaves extracts in inhibiting the growth of many microorganisms (Babayi *et al.*, 2004; Mahesh and Satish, 2008). The effectiveness of plant extracts sometimes change after separation and purification process so that it can be said that the effectiveness of Eucalyptus and Ziziphus extracts a nature of the active compounds were obtained according to the user solvent type and method of extraction of the fact that mostly phenolic compounds in the first class and then alkaloids second class differ and that the increase the effectiveness of the aqueous and alcoholic extract of Eucalyptus and Ziziphus may return to the extract on the permeability of the cell membrane and the work of the bacterial cell effect (Harborne ,1984).

Percent inhibition of molds results is shown in the table (3) the alcoholic extract of both plants were preceded in the susceptibility inhibitor of molds and alcoholic extract of Eucalyptus leaves was more influential than with Ziziphus leaves. The alcoholic and water extract of Eucalyptus leaves high inhibitory against *Aspergillus niger*, the diameter growth was 22 mm and 28.5 mm, respectively, the growth diameter of control sample was 85 mm. The alcoholic and water extracts had a lower effect on *Aspergillus flavus*. The superiority of the alcoholic extract than that of the aqueous one was due to the presence of phenol compound and the absence of this compound in the

aqueous solution. This property leads to the decomposition of the membrane of microbes (Cowan, 1999) .

Newman and Cragg (2012) found that Eucalyptus leaves contain flavone as well as contain phenolic compounds which have an important role to discourage the growth of bacteria that work on the inhibition of the enzymes responsible for the metabolic basic interfere interactions in a specialist with proteins leading to the metamorphosis of protein

Table 1. Some active groups of Eucalyptus and Ziziphus leaves extracts

Active substances	Aqueous extract of Ziziphus	Alcoholic extract of Ziziphus	Aqueous extract of Eucalyptus	Alcoholic extract of Eucalyptus
Resins	-	-	+	+
Tannins	+	+	+	+
Alkaloids	+	+	-	-
Phenols	+	+	+	+
Glycosides	+	+	+	-
pH	5.91	4.73	5.30	4.34

(-)Negative detection

(+)Positive detected

Table 2. Effect of alcohol and aqueous extract of Eucalyptus and Ziziphus leaves against bacteria test (diameter inhibition mm)

Bacteria test	Aqueous extract of Ziziphus		Aqueous extract of eucalyptus		Alcoholic extract of Ziziphus		Alcoholic extract of eucalyptus	
	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	10	12	9	12	13	14	14	16
<i>Streptococcus</i>	11	14	11	14	15	18	11	15
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	8	11	13	16	12	17	14	17
<i>E.coli</i>	12	15	10	13	10	12	12	16
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	11	13	12	16	13	16	16	19

Table 3. Effect of alcohol and aqueous extract of Eucalyptus and Ziziphus leaves against mold test (growth inhibition %)

Molds Test	Diameter growth for control (mm)	Ziziphus Aqueous extract		Eucalyptus Aqueous Extract		Ziziphus Alcoholic extract		Eucalyptus Alcoholic Extract	
		50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	85	49.41	64.35	52.70	66.47	59.76	70.70	56.70	74.11
<i>A. flavus</i>	80	24.75	41.62	30.12	42.25	29.87	47.25	44.25	51.75
<i>Penicillium notatum</i>	85	47.64	59.41	38.70	52.94	46.94	64.23	52.94	62.23
<i>Mucor</i> sp.	76	33.81	48.81	41.71	60.52	45.65	57.8	42.63	59.60
<i>Geotrichum</i> sp.	75	28	45.2	34.93	54.13	30.13	49.06	48.66	56.93

and then the in ability of bacteria to continue While observed both Mason, and Wasserman (1987) that several phenolic compound like tannins present in the cells of plants are potent inhibitors of many hydrolytic enzymes such as pectolytic macerating enzymes. The reason for Ziziphus leaves extracts inhibition was content with the existence of phenolic compound types as well as due to the low acid function, which have been instrumental in increasing the effectiveness and these results are consistent with a study Bukar *et al.* (2015) which shows that the high acid works to change the nature of living material, in particular proteins in the cell membrane through the process and deformed proteins that lose their function leading to a crash in the cell membrane of bacteria.

Conclusion

The results of this study have shown that the aqueous and alcoholic of Ziziphus and eucalyptus leaf extracts have great potential as antimicrobial agents in the treatment of infectious organisms. Further detailed investigation of the active components of the plant for the exact mechanism of action will contribute greatly to the development new alternative and satisfactory artificial preservatives used in the food industry today.

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