ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITIES OF CASSIA ITALICA (MILL.) SPRENG. AND PLUCHEA WALLICHIANA DC.

Sadia Khan and Mehdi Hassan Kazmi

Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

Methanolic extract of Cassia italica and Pluchea wallichiana have shown antimicrobial activity against ten different species of microorganisms.

Keywords: Antimicrobial activity, Cassia italica, Pluchea wallichiana

INTRODUCTION

Since time immemorial, indigenous plant materials have been explored, processed and utilized for medicinal purposes. The use of medicinal plants can be traced back to the beginning of mankind. The available historical references show that the art of healing was known to mankind even 5000 years ago. People in China (Ledderhose, 1876) and Egypt (Horton, 1969) were well aware of a large number of poisons and drugs, some of which like opium, aconite and croton are still in use both in modern and traditional system of medicine. The plants contain compounds which have potential to be used in modern medicine for treatment of many diseases. Currently many people in the developed countries have begun to turn to alternative or complementary therapies, including medicine herbs.

Cassia italica is one of the most important genera of Caesalpiniaceae. It consists of 600 species mostly distributed in tropic and subtropics. In Pakistan 24 species are found. Most of the species are cultivated in Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab (Ali and Nasir 1977; Baquer, 1889). It is used in indigenous system of medicine for the treatment of constipation, biliousness, gout and ring worm and other parasites of skin disease (Perry and Metzar, 1980; Krishna and Murhi, 1969).

The Pluchea wallichiana belongs to the Family Compositae which is widely distributed in Pakistan. The family composite contains sesquiterpene, chlorogenic acid, lactones, orange yellow pigment, sitosterol glycoside which are known to posses cytotoxic, antitumor and mutagenic properties (Therdore, 1908; Jafri, 1966; Krishna and Murhi, 2003; Jayawera, 1980). Several species have shown antifungal, antibacterial and anti inflammatory activities against number of microorganisms (Perry and Metzgar, 1980; Jayawera, 1980). The plant is traditionally used in the treatment of peptic, Ulcer burns, abdominal pain and bacterial diseases (Mhaskar et al., 2002).

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The plant material Cassia italica and Pluchea wallichiana (25kg) of each collected from Karachi region and were identified by plant Taxonomist Prof. Dr. Surriya Khatoo, Department of Botany, University of Karachi. A voucher specimen have been deposited in the Herbarium of the department of Botany university of Karachi.

The whole plant material (25kg) was dried under shade; the material was chopped in small pieces and soaked in methanol for two weeks. The combined methanolic extract of each plant was evaporated under reduced pressure at room temperature to obtain the (200g) of each plant concentrated extract.

ANTIBACTERIAL ASSAY

The antibacterial activity of both plant extracts was determined by agar well diffusion method proposed by (Jaffer et al., 1988), one loop full of 24h old culture of selected bacteria was spread on the surface of Mueller Hinton agar plates wells were dug in the medium with the help of sterile borer. A stock solution of extract 2mg/ml was prepared in DMSO and dilution of the stock solution containing hundred micro liter of each dilution was added to their respective wells and after 24h-growth inhibition of bacteria was observed.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The extract of Cassia italica and Pluchea wallichiana was tested against number of organisms (Table 1). It was found to be active against Bacillus anthracis, Coryne bacterium, Pseudo diphthericum, Salmonella typhi, Shigella...
Aspergillus flavus was only active against Pluchea wallichiana. On the other hand Alternaria alterata, Curvilaria lunata, Aspergillus niger and Shigella somiei were not active in both plant extracts.

Cassia italica and Pluchea wallichiana showed significant antibacterial activity and thus they are capable to be used in cure of infectious diseases caused by Bacillus anthracis, Coryne bacterium, Pseudo diphthericum, Salmonella typhi and Shigella dysenteriae. The presence of phytochemical constituents, like steroids, terpenoids and flavonoids were likely to be responsible for the observed antimicrobial activity.

The present antibacterial studies were in accordance with the finding of Fransworth (1961).

### Table 1. Antimicrobial activity of Cassia italica and Pluchea Wallichiana.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organism</th>
<th>Zone of inhibition (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cassia italica Extract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 100 150 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 100 150 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacillus anthracis</td>
<td>+ 8 10 12 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coryne bacterium</td>
<td>+ 6 8 9 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudodiphthericum</td>
<td>+ 2 3 6 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternaria alterata</td>
<td>- - - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curvilaria lunata</td>
<td>- - - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspergillus niger</td>
<td>- - - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspergillus flavus</td>
<td>- - - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella typhi</td>
<td>+ 4 7 10 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shigella dysenteriae</td>
<td>+ 2 5 8 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shigella somiei</td>
<td>- - - -</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES**


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