

Comparative *In vitro* Antimicrobial Activity Studies of *Sida rhombifolia* Linn Fruit Extracts

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ABSTRACT: The present research work is designed to investigate the *in vitro* anti-bacterial activity of fruit extracts of *Sida rhombifolia* L. The Petroleum ether ($C_2H_5-O-C_2H_5$), chloroform ($CHCl_3$) and methanol (CH_3OH) fruit extracts of *Sida rhombifolia* L. were evaluated for antibacterial activity against different species of bacterial strains by detecting minimum inhibitory concentration and zone of inhibition.. The minimum inhibitory concentration values were compared with control and zone of inhibitions were compared with standard ciprofloxacin. The test materials were found to have significant *in vitro* antibacterial activities, against most of the test bacteria. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) value for Methanolic extract was found to be within $100\mu g/ml$. The phytochemical screening indicates the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, and reducing sugars in methanolic extract of *Sida rhombifolia* L.

KEY WORDS: *Sida rhombifolia*, antibacterial activity, phytochemical screening.

INTRODUCTION

Indian climatic condition is rich in growing various plants having medicinal property. So Indian biodiversity has excellent research and development opportunity. The wider acceptability of herbal therapeutics by the society in relation to modern drugs in another driving force for rapidly ongoing research activities in the field of alternate medical systems. As a step in this direction we focused our attention on one of the selected medicinal plants i.e. *Sida rhombifolia*. Literature survey revealed that the plant *Sida rhombifolia* belonging to family *Malvaceae* possess insecticidal and antimicrobial¹ properties. *Malvaceae* is a cosmopolitan family of herbs, shrubs and trees. Modern research carried out on the *Malvaceae* plants revealed that most of the plants belonging to this family are medicinally important as they contain biologically active compounds. *Sida rhombifolia* locally known as Dholabadianla or Nalobadianla in the dist Ganjam of Orissa, India belongs to the family *Malvaceae*². It has considerable reputation for its medicinal value in traditional medicine.

The plant is much used for poulticing ulcers, boils, swellings, broken bones, cuts, herpes and styles and for a skin application in chicken pox³. The roots and stems are useful in fever, heart disease, piles and all kinds of inflammation⁴. An infusion of the root is given in dysentery⁵. It is applied to the abdomen for abdominal complaints⁶. The plant is also useful in tuberculosis^{7,8}. Leaves are used as a diuretic⁸ and also in treatment of skin rashes⁹. Stem is also employed as edemulescent and emollient¹⁰. Traditionally the plant was used for urinary tract infections and infected wounds¹¹. Although *Sida rhombifolia* is locally used for the above conditions, no antimicrobial study of fruit extracts of this plant has previously been reported. As a part of continuing search for novel antimicrobial principles from medicinal plants of Orissa, India, *Sida rhombifolia* fruit has been selected for studies and herein the results of *in vitro* antimicrobial investigations reported.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material

The plant was identified by the Department of Pharmacognosy, Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India (Authenticated identification No. BIT/ OS/ 1102/ 2008-09). After authentication, fresh fruits were collected in bulk from young matured plants at the rural belt of Ganjam district of Orissa in the month of August. The fruits were washed, shade dried and milled into coarse powder by a mechanical grinder. The powder materials were passed through sieve number 40 and used for further studies.

Preparation of extract

The dried fruits powder were successively extracted in Soxhlet apparatus by using different solvents (Petroleum Ether, Chloroform and Methanol) with increasing order of polarity in the ratio of drug to solvent (1:8) for 72 hours. Each extract was concentrated at reduced pressure using rotary evaporator and further subjected for antibacterial screening. The type and extractive yield of different extracts of *S. rhombifolia* fruits were observed and result of such observation are tabulated in Table 1.

Preparation of the tested organisms

The lyophilized forms of different strains of microorganisms like *Bacillus licheniformis* (MTCC 429), *Escherichia coli* (MTCC 40), *Proteus vulgaris* (MTCC 426), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (MTCC 424), *Shigella flexneri* (MTCC 1457), *Bacillus subtilis* (MTCC 441), *Staphylococcus aureus* (MTCC 87), *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (MTCC 2639) were obtained from the Microbial Type Culture Collection and Gene Bank (MTCC), Chandigarh, India. The bacterial cultures were maintained on Mueller-Hinton Agar (MHA) and were subcultured in the microbiology laboratory of the Royal College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Berhampur, Orissa, India. The average number of viable organisms per ml of the stock suspensions was determined by means of the surface viable counting technique¹². About (10^8 - 10^9) colony-forming units per ml was used. Each time, a fresh stock suspension was prepared; the experimental conditions were maintained constant so that suspensions with very close viable counts would be obtained.

Inoculation:

One loopful of an overnight grown nutrient broth culture of each test organism served as the inoculum for such antimicrobial activity determination. The average size of inoculum was about 10^6 cells contained in 3mm diameter of standard loop.¹³

Determination of the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC)

Nutrient agar medium (250ml) was prepared and sterilized. Exactly 29 ml of media was dispersed in each of the 8 conical flasks, plugged with cotton and autoclaved. A stock solution of *Sida rhombifolia* extract of 9mg/ml in 1% di-methyl sulphoxide (DMSO) was prepared. Measured quantities of the stock solution of extract were poured to the molten nutrient agar media to prepare concentration of 50, 100, 200 and 300µg/ml and then poured in Petri dishes. The Petri dishes were marked accordingly. One sterile nutrient agar plate without extract but with equal volume of the solvent served as the control plate. These plates were refrigerated overnight for uniform diffusion of the extract throughout the media. The plates were dried at 37°C by keeping them in the incubator. One loopful (diameter-3mm) of an overnight grown peptone water culture of each test organism was placed in petridish marked by the checker board technique. The spot inoculated plate was incubated at 37°C for 24 hours and the MIC value obtained^{14, 15 & 16}. The experiment was repeated in triplicate and average values were disclosed in the Table 2, 3 and Table 4.

Determination of zone of inhibition

For the determination of zone of inhibition, pure ciprofloxacin was taken as a standard antibiotic for comparison of the results. Two sets of two dilutions (100 and 200 µg/ml) of *Sida rhombifolia* fruit extract and ciprofloxacin (100 and 200 µg/ml) were prepared in double distilled water in Mc Cartney bottles. Sterile nutrient agar plates were prepared and incubated at 37°C for 24hrs to check any sort of contamination. Two sterile filter paper discs (Whatmann no.1) of 6mm diameter were soaked in two different dilutions of crude extract and placed in appropriate position on the surface of the flooded plate, marked as quadrants at the back of the Petri dishes. The Petri dishes were incubated at 37 °C for 24 hrs 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 accordingly¹⁷. The experiment was repeated in triplicate and average values were written in the Table 5, 6 & 7.

Phytochemical analysis

Phytochemical analysis was carried out in all the evaporated solvent extracts by using standard procedure for detection of phytoconstituents^{18, 19}.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results regarding the antibacterial activity of the different solvent extracts prepared from fruits of *S. rhombifolia* are indicated in Table 2, 3 and 4. The minimum inhibitory concentration of methanolic extract against most of the test bacteria were within 100µg/ml. Of the different extracts, the methanol extract displayed the highest antibacterial activity, as was evidenced by it displaying the highest mean zone of inhibition against maximum of the test bacteria. The antibacterial activity found to increases in the different fruits extracts in order of petroleum ether extracts, chloroform extracts and methanol extracts.

. A review of the literature revealed that information on the antibacterial potential of *S.*

rhombifolia fruit is lacking. None of the earlier reports have demonstrated or reported the antibacterial potential of *S. rhombifolia* fruits. This report therefore is the first to demonstrate the antibacterial activity of the fruits of this plant. Preliminary phytochemical analysis of the methanol extract of fruits of *S. rhombifolia* revealed the presence of tannins, phenolics and flavonoids. Notably, both tannin and phenolics have been reported to possess antibacterial activity^{20, 21}. The above antibacterial activity of *S. rhombifolia* fruit may be due to the combined or individual effect of the present phytoconstituents, which can be further confirmed by the extensive studies.

Table 1 Types and % yield of different extracts of *S. rhombifolia* fruits

SI. No.	Plant Part	Solvent Used for extraction	Colour of extract	Physical Appearance of the extract	% yield (W/W)
1	Fruits	Petroleum Ether	Blackish	Oily sticky mass	2.02
2	Fruits	Chloroform	Greenish Black	Solid sticky mass	1.03
3	Fruits	Methanol	Reddish black	Solid sticky mass	6.13

Table 2 Determination of M.I.C of the Petroleum Ether Extract of *Sida Rhombifolia* L.Fruit

Sl.No.	Name of the Bacteria	Concentration of extract in nutrient agar (µg/ml)				
		0	50	100	200	300
1	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> (MTCC 429)	+	+	+	+	—
2	<i>E.coli</i> (MTCC 40)	+	+	+	+	—
3	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> (MTCC 426)	+	+	+	+	—
4	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (MTCC 424)	+	+	+	—	—
5	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> (MTCC 1457)	+	+	+	—	—
6	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (MTCC441)	+	+	+	+	—
7	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MTCC 87)	+	+	+	+	—
8	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> (MTCC 2639)	+	+	+	+	—

‘O’ = Control, ‘+’ = Growth, ‘—’ = No Growth

Table 3 Determination of M.I.C of the Chloroform Extract of *Sida Rhombifolia* L. Fruit

Sl.No.	Name of the Bacteria	Conc. of extract in nutrient agar (µg/ml)				
		0	50	100	200	300
1	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> (MTCC 429)	+	+	+	—	—
2	<i>E.coli</i> (MTCC 40)	+	+	+	—	—
3	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> (MTCC 426)	+	+	+	—	—
4	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (MTCC 424)	+	—	—	—	—
5	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> (MTCC 1457)	+	+	+	—	—
6	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (MTCC441)	+	+	+	—	—
7	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MTCC 87)	+	+	+	—	—
8	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> (MTCC 2639)	+	+	—	—	—

‘O’ = Control, ‘+’ = Growth, ‘—’ = No Growth

Table 4 Determination of M.I.C of the Methanolic Extract of *Sida Rhombifolia* L. Fruit

Sl.No.	Name of the Bacteria	Conc. of extract in nutrient agar (µg/ml)				
		0	50	100	200	300
1	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> (MTCC 429)	+	+	—	—	—
2	<i>E.coli</i> (MTCC 40)	+	+	+	—	—
3	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> (MTCC 426)	+	+	—	—	—
4	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (MTCC 424)	+	+	—	—	—
5	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> (MTCC 1457)	+	+	+	—	—
6	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (MTCC441)	+	+	+	—	—
7	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MTCC 87)	+	+	—	—	—
8	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> (MTCC 2639)	+	+	—	—	—

‘O’ = Control, ‘+’ = Growth, ‘—’ = No Growth

Table 5. Determinations of zone of inhibition of petroleum ether extract of *sida rhombifolia* L. fruit.

Sl no.	Name of the Bacteria	petroleum ether extract (µg/ml)		Ciprofloxacin (µg/ml)	
		100	200	100	200
1	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> (MTCC 429)	08	10	19	24
2	<i>E.coli</i> (MTCC 40)	09	11	21	24
3	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> (MTCC 426)	11	12	19	23
4	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (MTCC 424)	13	18	18	20
5	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> (MTCC 1457)	12	22	20	24
6	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (MTCC441)	10	12	19	23
7	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MTCC 87)	11	14	20	24
8	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> (MTCC 2639)	09	13	19	22

Values are average of triplicates in mm.

Table 6. Determination of zone of inhibition of Chloroform extracts of *sida rhombifolia* L. fruit.

Sl no.	Name of the Bacteria	Chloroform extract µg/ml)		Ciprofloxacin (µg/ml)	
		100	200	100	200
1	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> (MTCC 429)	10	21	19	24
2	<i>E.coli</i> (MTCC 40)	09	21	21	24
3	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> (MTCC 426)	11	20	19	23
4	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (MTCC 424)	16	18	18	20
5	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> (MTCC 1457)	12	21	20	24
6	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (MTCC441)	10	20	19	23
7	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MTCC 87)	11	21	20	24
8	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> (MTCC 2639)	17	19	19	22

Values are average of triplicates in mm.

Table 7. Determination of zone of inhibition of Methanolic extracts of *sida rhombifolia* L. fruit.

Sl no.	Name of the Bacteria	Methanol extract (µg/ml)		Ciprofloxacin (µg/ml)	
		100	200	100	200
1	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> (MTCC 429)	17	23	19	24
2	<i>E.coli</i> (MTCC 40)	14	21	21	24
3	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> (MTCC 426)	17	21	19	23
4	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (MTCC 424)	16	18	18	20
5	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> (MTCC 1457)	12	21	20	24
6	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (MTCC441)	10	21	19	23
7	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MTCC 87)	19	21	20	24
8	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> (MTCC 2639)	17	21	19	22

Values are average of triplicates in mm.

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