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ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF ACHYRANTHES ASPERA LINN.

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ABSTRACT

The Plants are known for their diverse pharmacological activities including antimicrobial activity. In the present work an attempt has been made to find out the antibacterial activity of various solvent extracts of *Achyranthes aspera Linn.* (*Amaranthaceae*). The Diethyl ether, Ethyl acetate and Acetone solvent extracts of leaves of the plant were screened for anti bacterial activity. The screening was done by agar well diffusion method against *Bacillus Subtilis, Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Enterobacter cloacae*. The present study revealed that Diethyl ether extracts showed significant antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Enterobacter cloacae*. Among the all bacteria screened *Enterobacter cloacae* was found to be more susceptible and *Bacillus subtilis* more resistant. This study concludes that the plant extracts were active against some gram negative bacteria.

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INTRODUCTION

Infectious diseases are one of the leading causes of death in many countries [1]. Due to the development of antibiotic resistance in harmful bacteria, there is a continuous need for the search of new antibacterial compounds. The plants are the best source of remedies for curing various infectious diseases [2-4]. *Achyranthes aspera* Linn. (Amaranthaceae) is one of the plants used for medicinal purposes. The plant has been known to possess hypoglycemic activity[5], analgesic and antipyretic activity [6], anti-oxidant activity [7], anti-tumor activity [8], cardiac stimulant activity [9], anti asthmatic [10], diuretic [11], anti microbial [12], antihelminthic [13], antiviral [14], antiplasmodial[15], hepatoprotective [16], nephroprotective[17], wound healing[18], anxiolytic [19], and antidepressant activity[20]. The main purpose of this study is to know the antibacterial activity of various solvent extracts of *Achyranthes aspera* Linn. leaves.

Achyranthes aspera Linn.

Taxonomic classification[21]

Kingdom - Plantae

Class - Mangoliophsida Order - Caryophyllales Family - Amaranthaceae Genus - Achyranthes Species - Aspera

Botanical description:

Synonyms

Latin - Achyranthes aspera
Sanskrit - Aghata, Apaamaarga
Hindi - Latjira, Chirchira
Tamil - Shiru-kadaladi
Telugu - Uttaraeni
Malayalam - Kadaladi
Arabian - Atkumah

Distributional range:[22]

It is distributed throughout the tropical world. It can be found in many places including India growing as a common weed along the roadsides.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Habitat:

The plant can grow in absence of shade or in semi-shade (light woodland). It requires moist soil but prefers light sandy, medium loamy, heavy clay soils for its growth [23]. It grows as wasteland herb everywhere. Flowers appear from July to September and seeds ripe in the month of October.

Botanical description [24-25]:

Achyranthus aspera is a small tree that grows a height of 0.2-2.0 m. Its Stem is yellowish-brown, branched, hairy, erect, cylindrical, solid, and hollow when dry. Leaf is Simple, subsessile, slightly acuminate estipulate, wavy margin ovate, petiolate or elliptic, ovate and pubescent. Flowers are arranged in long spikes form in inflorescences, greenish-white, numerous, sessile, bracteate with two bracteoles, one spine lipped, actinomorphic and hypogynous. Seeds are round at the base, sub-cylindric, truncate at the apex, endospermic and brown coloured.



Figure 1: Achyranthes aspera Linn. Plant.

Plant material:

Achyranthes aspera Linn. plants were collected from the region of Nizamabad, Telangana, India, in the month of October. The plant was authenticated by Dr. Vidya vardini, HOD, Department of Botany, Telangana University.

Preparation of extracts:

Achyranthes aspera Linn. leaves were washed in water, shade dried, broken into coarse powder, grinded to fine powder using mechanical grinder and stored in air tight containers at room temperature. The powdered plant material was then sequentially extracted with Diethyl ether, Ethyl acetate and Acetone solvents according to their increasing order of polarity. Each solvent extract was prepared by soaking 100 g of dried fine leaf powder in 200 ml of the solvent (Diethyl ether, Ethyl acetate and Acetone) successively for 4 days at room temperature with occasional shaking. The extracts were filtered using Whatman filter paper and then concentrated. The residual extracts were stored in refrigerator till further use.

Anti bacterial Activity Test by Agar well Diffusion Method:

In this study, one gram positive(*Bacillus subtilis*) and three gram negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Enterobacter cloacae*) were tested. The Anti antimicrobial assay was performed by agar well diffusion method [26-27]. The sterilized nutrient agar (HiMedia) was inoculated with 200 µl of the bacterial inoculum and poured into the sterilized Petri plates. Three wells of 6 mm diameter were made on sterilized nutrient agar with a sterile borer. The prepared concentration of 100 mg/ml of each solvent extracts were transferred into the wells. The plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C. Anti bacterial agent Gentamicin and amoxycillin (10 µg) were used as positive control and DMSO solvent as negative control. The diameter of clear zone of inhibition was measured.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The antibacterial activity of plant extracts is shown in Table 1. Among all the tested plant extracts Diethyl ether extract was found to be most effective. All the solvent extracts were inactive against gram positive bacteria (*Bacillus Subtilis*). Among the all the bacteria screened *Enterobacter cloacae* was found to be more susceptible and *Bacillus Subtilis* more resistant.

Table.1 Antibacterial activity of leaves extracts of Cassia occidentalis Linn. zone of inhibition in mm diameter.

Extract	Bacillus subtilis	Escherichia coli	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	Enterobacter cloacae
Diethyl ether	=	11	9	20
Ethyl acetate	-	-	-	18
Acetone	-	-	-	20
+ve ctrl	40	38	38	31
-ve ctrl	-	-	-	-

DMSO 50μ l/disc taken as negative control; Amoxycillin 10mcg/disc taken as positive control for *Enterobacter cloacae* and Gentamicin 10mcg/disc taken as positive control for the remaining three bacteria.

Each solvent extract concentration at 100 mg/ml

(-) Value indicates no activity.



- a) Bacillus subtilis
- b) Escherichia coli
- c) Pseudomonas aeruginosa
- d) Enterobacter cloacae
- 1. Diethyl ether extract. 2. Ethyl acetate extract. 3. Acetone extract.

Figure.2: Antibacterial activity of leaves extracts of Achyranthes aspera Linn.

CONCLUSION

The present study reveals the antibacterial property of Diethyl ether, Ethyl acetate and Acetone solvent extracts of *Achyranthes aspera Linn*. leaves. The data of this study may just enrich the existing comprehensive data of antimicrobial activity of *Achyranthes aspera Linn*. leaves. This study paves the pathway for future research to identify the active chemical constituents responsible for the antibacterial activity.

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Declaration

There is no conflict of interest.

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