

**In vitro antibacterial activity of crude extracts of *Jatropha* species**

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**ABSTRACT**

Flower extracts and fruit extract of *Jatropha curcas*, *J. glandulifera*, *J. integerrima* and *J. gossypifolia* were screened in order to study their effect on plant pathogenic bacteria like *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *Carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Citri* and *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *mangiferaeindicae*. Degree of variation of antibacterial activity of different parts of *Jatropha* sp. was observed. It was found that flower and fruit extract of *Jatropha* sp. were significantly reduced the growth of bacteria. Only flower extract of *J. integerrima* at 50 µl was proved to inhibitory for growth of *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *Carotovora*. At 100 µl concentration flower extract of *J. integerrima* was found to be most inhibitory against all bacteria. *J. curcas* fruit extract at 50 µl and 100 µl concentrations was found to be most effective against plant pathogenic bacteria. Fruit extract of all *Jatropha* species at 50 µl and 100 µl concentration was found to be inhibitory for the growth of *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *Carotovora* and *Pseudomonas. Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *mangiferaeindicae* growth was only inhibited in fruit extract of all *Jatropha* species at 100 µl concentration, while, at 50 µl concentration it did not show inhibition.

**Key words:** Flower and fruit extract, *Jatropha* species, plant pathogenic bacteria and antimicrobial activity

**INTRODUCTION**

Plants are good source of anti-infective agents with compounds which are highly effective instruments in the fight against microbial infections. Infectious diseases are the leading cause of death world-wide. Phytochemicals of plant origin have treated infectious diseases. Natural products, either as pure compounds or as standardized plant extracts, provide unlimited opportunities for new drug leads because of the unmatched availability of chemical diversity. Now a day's antibiotic resistance has become a global concern as the clinical efficacy of many existing antibiotics is being threatened by the emergence of multidrug-resistant pathogens (Bandow *et al.*, 2003). Many infectious diseases have been known to be treated with herbal remedies throughout the history of mankind (Rojas *et al.*, 2003). Therefore, researchers are increasingly turning their attention to folk medicine and looking for new leads day by day to develop better drugs against microbial infections (Benkeblia, 2004). In recent years, secondary plant metabolites (phytochemicals), previously

with unknown pharmacological activities, have been extensively investigated as a source of medicinal agents (Krishnaraju, 2005). Thus, it is anticipated that phytochemicals with adequate antibacterial efficacy will be used for the treatment of bacterial infections (Balandrin *et al.*, 1985) in near future. Phytochemical is a natural bioactive compound found in plants, such as vegetables, fruits, medicinal plants, flowers, leaves and roots that work with nutrients and fibers to act as an defense system against disease or more accurately, to protect against disease (Mittal *et al.*, 2012).

*Jatropha curcas* is a medicinal crop that belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae and has a long history of cultivation in tropical America, Africa, and Asia (Ravindranath *et al.*, 2004). The inhibitory activity of plant extracts is generally depends upon the concentration, type of parts used and microbes tested (Balandrin *et al.*, 1985). The accumulation and concentration of secondary metabolites which are responsible for inhibitory activity is varied according the plant parts (Essawi and Srouns, 2000; Rekha Rajendran, 2010).

It may be a reason for the variation in the inhibitory activity of extracts of *J. curcas*. Extracts from various parts of *Jatropha curcas*, such as seeds and leaves, have shown molluscicidal, insecticidal, and fungicidal properties (Liu *et al.*, 1997, Meshram, 1996; Nwosu and Okafor, 1995, Rug and Ruppel, 2000; Solsoloy and Solsoloy, 1997). *Jatropha curcas* seed extracts were found to inhibit the mycelial growth of *Colletotrichum musae* that causes anthracnose disease in bananas (Thangavelu, 2004). Its leaf extract was effective in controlling the fungal pathogen *Sclerotium* sp., which causes Azolla disease (Garcia and Lawas, 1990). *J. gossypifolia* is used as a therapeutic agent in different ways. The leaf bath is used for sores, sprains, rash and bewitchment in Latin America and the Caribbean (Morton, 1981; Omoregbe, 1996).

Hrishikesh and Meena (2011) studied antimicrobial activity of *Acacia concinna*, *Chrysopogon zizanioides*, *Alardostachys jatamashi*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Curcuma zedoria*, *Santalum album* and *Aloe vera* against bacteria like *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* and reported that different concentrations of mixture of *Phyllanthus emblica* and *Cyperus rotundus* exhibited antimicrobial activity for all microorganisms. Patil and Jane (2013) reported the antibacterial effects of *Moringa oleifera* alone as well as in combination with *Cleome viscosa* against *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli*. Several studies have confirmed the antimicrobial efficacy of different *Jatropha* species; however, there is insufficient information regarding the antimicrobial activities of *J. curcas* Linn. Whatever limited information available on the medicinal properties of *J. curcas* is mostly on the leaf extracts of the plant. In this paper, the antimicrobial property of crude extracts of the stem bark extract, root extract, latex and oil of *Jatropha* sp. has been studied as part of the exploration for new and novel bio-active compounds. There is a continuous and urgent need to discover new antimicrobial compounds with diverse chemical structures and novel mechanisms of action for new and re-emerging infectious diseases. The aim of this study is to investigate the antimicrobial activity of *Jatropha* sp.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Antibacterial activity

For evaluating antibacterial activity of different samples extracts, agar well diffusion assay (Navarro *et al.*, 1996) was used. Crude water extracts of flower and fruit of *Jatropha* sp. were prepared. 10 gm of each sample was extracted with 100 ml of solvents. Allow the maturation of extracts for overnight. On the next day extracts were filtered then used as test samples. Test microorganisms used were plant pathogenic bacteria like *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *Carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Citri*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Mangiferae indicae*. First all test organisms were inoculated in a 10 ml of nutrient broth and incubated for overnight at 37°C. On the next day the 2 ml aliquot of inoculum mixed with nutrient agar and poured in sterile petriplates. The medium was allowed to cool. After solidification wells of 6mm diameter were prepared with cork borer. 50 µl and 100 µl of each test samples were added in the well. All procedures were carried out in sterile conditions. Then plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hrs. Water was used as negative control. Each sample was done in triplicate. Antibacterial activity was evaluated by quantifying zones of inhibition of bacterial growth after 24 hrs.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species flower extract against plant pathogenic bacteria

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species flower extract was tested against plant pathogenic bacteria and results are summarized in Table 1. It has been found that, 100 µl concentration of all *Jatropha* species showed zone of inhibition against tested bacteria. Only flower extract of *J. integerrima* at 50 µl was proved to inhibitory for growth of *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *Carotovora*. Flower extract of *J. integerrima* at 100 µl concentration was found to be most effective against all bacteria as compared to other *Jatropha* species. *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Mangiferaeindicae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* showed zone of inhibition in flower extract of all *Jatropha* species.

### Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species fruit extract against plant pathogenic bacteria

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species fruit extract was screened against plant pathogenic bacteria and results are given in Table2.

As compared to other *Jatropha* species, fruit extract of *J. curcas* was found to be most effective against plant pathogenic bacteria at 50  $\mu$ l and 100  $\mu$ l concentration. Growth of *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *Carotovora* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was found to be inhibited in fruit

extract of all *Jatropha* species at 50  $\mu$ l and 100  $\mu$ l concentration. Growth of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *mangiferaeindicae* was only inhibited at 100  $\mu$ l concentration fruit extract of all *Jatropha* species, while, at 50  $\mu$ l concentration it did not show inhibition.

**Table 1: Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species flower extract against plant pathogenic bacteria**

Plant pathogenic bacteria	Flower extract of <i>Jatropha</i> species								Control (GN)
	<i>J. curcas</i>		<i>J. gossypifolia</i>		<i>J. glandulifera</i>		<i>J. integerrima</i>		
	50 $\mu$ l	100 $\mu$ l	50 $\mu$ l	100 $\mu$ l	50 $\mu$ l	100 $\mu$ l	50 $\mu$ l	100 $\mu$ l	
Zone of inhibition in mm									
<i>Erwinia carotovora</i> pv. <i>carotovora</i>	00	09	00	00	00	00	09	11	00
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	00	10	00	09	00	09	00	12	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>citri</i>	00	09	00	00	00	00	00	10	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>mangiferaeindicae</i>	00	11	00	09	00	10	00	09	00
S.E.	00	0.48	00	2.60	00	2.75	2.25	0.65	00
C.D.	00	1.23	00	6.68	00	7.07	5.78	1.66	00

**Table 2: Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species fruit extract against plant pathogenic bacteria**

Plant pathogenic bacteria	Fruit extract of <i>Jatropha</i> species								Control (GN)
	<i>J. curcas</i>		<i>J. gossypifolia</i>		<i>J. glandulifera</i>		<i>J. integerrima</i>		
	50 $\mu$ l	100 $\mu$ l	50 $\mu$ l	100 $\mu$ l	50 $\mu$ l	100 $\mu$ l	50 $\mu$ l	100 $\mu$ l	
Zone of inhibition in mm									
<i>Erwinia carotovora</i> pv. <i>carotovora</i>	12	14	09	13	10	13	09	11	00
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	12	18	10	14	10	12	09	12	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>citri</i>	09	13	11	12	09	10	00	10	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>mangiferaeindicae</i>	00	12	00	13	00	09	00	11	00
S.E.	2.84	1.31	0.48	0.41	2.43	2.98	2.60	0.41	00
C.D.	7.30	3.38	1.23	1.05	6.24	7.67	6.68	1.05	00

Fruit extract of *Jatropha* species was proved to more inhibitory than flower extract which indicate that fruit of *Jatropha* species contain more active principle than flower. These active principles might have inhibited the growth of plant pathogenic bacteria at both 50 µl and 100 µl concentration. Igbinsola *et al.*, (2009) investigated the in vitro antimicrobial activity of crude ethanolic, methanolic and water extracts of the stem bark of *Jatropha curcas* against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli* *Streptococcus faecalis*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Micrococcus kristinae*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Proteus vulgaris* and *Serratia marcescens*. Sriprang *et al.*, (2010) found that *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus*, *B. cereus*, *B. megaterium* and *B. megaterium* were inhibited in

crude extract of *Jatropha curcas*. On the contrary of that, *Salmonella typhi* was not inhibited by any of the crude extracts. Gaikwad *et al.*, (2012) tested leaf, stem, root extract, latex and oil of *Jatropha curcas*, *J. glandulifera*, *J. integerrima* and *J. gossypifolia* were screened against plant pathogenic bacteria like *Erwinia carotovora* *pv. Carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* *pv. Citri* and *Xanthomonas campestris* *pv. Mangiferaeindicae* and found that these extract were significantly affected the growth of plant pathogenic bacteria.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Author is grateful to the Principal and Head, Department of Botany, Swami Vivekanand Senior College Mantha, Dist. Jalna (M. S.) India for providing necessary facilities.

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#### How to Cite this Article:

**Deepmala A. Gaikwad, 2013.** In vitro antibacterial activity of crude extracts of *Jatropha* species. *Sci. Res. Rept.*, **3(2):** 159-163.