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# COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITY ON HYDRO-ALCOHOLIC LEAVES EXTRACT OF Psidium guajava AND Thespesia populnea USING PATHOGENIC ORGANISMS

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# **ABSTRACT**

In Humans, fungal infections are one of the most increasingly common diseases in both systemic as well as topical. The present study was performed to compare the antifungal activity of Psidium guajava and Thespesia populnea using pathogenic organisms and to determine its synergistic effect by combining these extracts. Amphotericin B and Clotrimazole were used as standard drugs to compare the systemic and topical fungal infections respectively. The Hydro-alcoholic extracts of Psidium guajava and Thespesia populnea were obtained by maceration method using water: ethanol (70:30). The antifungal activity of crude extracts was tested by Agar disc diffusion method and the zone of inhibition was measured. The extract of Psidium guajava shows the efficient antifungal activity as compared to the *Thespesia populnea* and there was no synergistic activity was seen.

KEYWORDS: Psidium guajava, Thespesia populnea, Pathogenic organisms, Antifungal activity.

# INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants also called as medicinal herbs, have been discovered and used in traditional practices since in prehistoric times. In the current situation the efficiency of conventional medicines decreases as the resistance of micro organism increases, it becomes the need to develop new antifungal agents. Present time medicinal plants being the effective source of medicine. The most common reasons for using herbal plants are that it is more affordable, more closely corresponds to the patient's ideology, and allays concerns about the adverse effects of chemical medicine. The major use of herbal medicine is for health promotion and therapy for chronic diseases.

Psidium guajava [Guava] belongs to the family Myrtaceae and is commonly known as koyyapalam or perakka or jamapandu. It is a phytotherapic plant used in folk medicine that is believed to have active components that help to treat and manage various infectious diseases. It has been useful in treating ulcers, sore throat, bleeding gums, malaria and the number of other conditions. These plants contains the enormous amount of phytoconstituents like alkaloids, phenols, tannins, flavonoids, triterpenes, saponins, steroids, carotenoids, vitamins, fiber and fatty acids.

Thespesia poulnea [Indian tulip tree] belongs to the family Malvaceae and is commonly known as Portia tree or Indian tulip tree. It leaves are simple and heart-shaped. The plant is traditionally claimed to possess useful medicinal properties such as antifertility, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, purgative and hepatoprotective activities. These plants contains the enormous amount of phytoconstituents like tannins, alkaloids, flavonoids, phytosterols, saponins, amino acids etc.

The purpose of the present study was to compare the antifungal activity of *Psidium guajava* and *Thespesia populnea* and to determine its synergistic effect.

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

# Plant collection and Authentication

The fresh leaves of the plants *Psidium guajava* and *Thespesia populnea* were collected from, in and around near Sothupakkam, Melmaruvathur, Chengalpattu district, Tamilnadu, India. These plants was authenticated by **Dr.K.DHANDAYUTHAPANI**, **Ph.D.**, **PGDBI**Assistant professor(SG), PG and Research Dept. Of Botany, Aringar Anna Govt. Arts College, Cheyyar. The Reg. no of the Certificate: **AAGAC/BOT/007**.

The fresh leaves were collected in the month of November-2022. The collected leaves were further cleaned to remove the dust and the adhering particles, dried under the shade. The dried material was coarsely powdered by means of mechanical grinder and passed through sieve No.40 and the powdered material was used for further study.

# **Preparation of extract**

Extraction refers to the processes for the isolation of active ingredients from drug material. This may be physical means or by dissolving in a suitable menstruum (liquid solvent e.g., water or alcohol). Extraction is the preliminary step involved in the phytochemical studies. It brings out the primary and secondary metabolites into the extracting solvent depending upon its polarity.

# **Maceration method**

Maceration is the process of softening the tissue and breaking them into pieces using liquids. During maceration, the tissue gets soften and the compound present inside the tissue gets leached out into the liquid(extract). Maceration process involves the separation of medicinally active portions of the crude drugs. It is based on the immersion of the crude drugs in a bulk solvent or menstruum.

The dried coarsely powdered plant leaves of *Psidium guajava* and *Thespesia populnea* were separately extracted by taken these leaves in a glass stoppered flask each weighed 20g and the hydroalcoholic solvent such as water and ethanol in the ratio of 70:30 was pouredinto the three fourth of the flaskand kept in a warm place for 7 days with frequent shaking. The mixture of the crude drug containing solvent was decanted until most of the liquid drains off. Then the resultant filtrate was stand for one day and it was filtered to remove the fine solid particles which are settled down in a flask. The resultant filtrate was evaporated in an electric water bath to obtain the solid residue of extracts. The resulted extracts were tested for further studies.

# **Phytochemical studies**

Phytochemical studies were used to determine the nature of phytoconstituents present in the plant by using suitable chemical tests. It is essenial to study for its pharmacological activities. It can be done by qualitative analysis using specific reagents followed by confirmation with different quantitative estimation and chromatographic techniques like TLC.

# A. Chemical Test

The qualitative analysis was very essential to identify the phytochemical constituents in the medicinal plants by using a chemical test such as alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, triterpenoids, carbohydrates, saponins, steroids and amino acids.

# B. TLC

Thin layer chromatography of extracts was done by using standard procedure and is mainly used for the detection of the nature of phytoconstituents presents. In this technique, the different components are separated by the differential migration of solute between two phases.

# ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITY

# **Principle**

The disc diffusion test also known as the Agar disc diffusion test, Kirby-Bauer test, disc-diffusion antibiotic susceptibility test, disc-diffusion antibiotic sensitivity test and KB test is a culture-based microbiology assay used in diagnostic and drug discovery laboratories. It is used to determine the susceptibility of microorganisms.

A pure fungal culture is suspended in saline, its turbidity is standardized, and it is swabbed uniformly across on agar plate. An antibiotic- or extract-impregnated filter paper disk is then placed on the surface of agar. The disc constituent(s) diffuse from the filter paper into the agar. The concentration of these constituents will be highest next to the disk and will decrease as the distance from the disk decreases. If the antibiotic or extract is affective against certain fungi at a certain concentration, no colonies will grow where the concentration in the agar is greater than or equal to the effective concentration. This is the **zone of inhibition.** In general, larger zones of inhibition correlate with lower minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of antibiotic or extract for that fungal strain.

# Media

The disc diffusion method is performed using Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (SDA) is used for the cultivation of fungi (yeasts, molds). This medium is also employed to determine microbial contamination in food, cosmetics, and clinical specimens. The pH is adjusted to approximately 5.6 in order to enhance the growth of fungi, especially dermatophytes.

Sabouraud Dextrose Agar contains digests of animal tissues (peptones) which provide a nutritious source of amino acids and nitrogenous compounds for the growth of fungi and yeasts. Dextrose is added as the energy and carbon source. Agar is the solidifying agent. High dextrose concentration and low pH favor fungal growth.

# **Composition of Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (SDA)**

Dextrose- 40.0 g/L

Peptone- 10.0 g/L

Agar- 15.0 g/L

Final pH (at 25°C) 5.6±0.2

# Preparation of Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (SDA)

- 1. Suspend 65g of the medium in one liter of distilled water or deionized water.
- 2. Heat with frequent agitation and boil to completely dissolve the medium.
- 3. Sterilize by autoclaving at 121° C for 15 minutes.
- 4. Check the pH of each preparation after it is sterilized, which should be between 7.2 and 7.4 at room temperature.
- 5. Cool the agar medium to 45 to 50°C.
- 6. Pour the agar into sterile glass petri dish on a flat surface to a uniform depth of 4 mm.
- 7. Allow to solidify.
- 8. Prior to use, dry plates at 30-37°C in an incubator, with lids partly a jar, for not more than 30 minutes or until excess surface moisture has evaporated. Media must be moist but free of water droplets on the surface. Presence of water droplets may result to swarming microbial growth, which could give inaccurate results. They are also easily contaminated.

# Preparation of inoculum

Stock culture were maintained at 4°C sabouraud dextrose agar slant. Active cultures for experiments were prepared by transferring the stock cultures into the test tubes containing sabouraud dextrose broth, that were incubated at 48 hrs at room temperature. The assay was performed by agar disc diffusion method.

# Microorganisms chosen under the study

# **Fungi**

- 1. Aspergillus niger
- 2. Candida albicans
- 3. Mucor mycosis
- 4. Trichophyton rubrum

# Standard drugs chosen under the study

1. Amphotericin-B

# 2. Clotrimazole

Amphotericin-B was chosen as the standard drug under our study for the systemic fungal infections while as the Clotrimazole for the topical fungal infections in order to compare the effectiveness of the extracts in both systemic as well as topical.

# **Procedure**

Sabouraud Dextrose agar (SDA) medium is poured into the petri plate. After the medium was solidified, the inoculums were spread on the solid plates with sterile swab moistened with the fungal suspension. Samples were placed over the plate. Amphotericin-B is taken as positive control. The plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. Then antifungal activity was determined by measuring the diameter of zone of inhibition.

# **RESULTS**

Since the herbal medicines are prepared from the plant origin in the form of infusion, decoction or extraction, in such cases they are prone to contamination which leads to deterioration of phytoconstituents and variation in chemical composition. Hence, before proceeding to the pharmacological screening or clinical trials, the scientists or research scholars need to authenticate the phytoconstituents of herbal plants to detect their potency. The number of analytical techniques were developed for quality control of crude drugs.

Here the phytochemical investigation plays a major role in understand the dynamics of herbal plants and also to develop the quality parameters. In this study different phytoconstituents were extracted from the dried coarsely powdered leaves of *Psidium guajava* and *Thespesia populnea* by using solvents water and ethanol (70:30) by maceration method.

The percentage yield of hydro-alcoholic extracts of leaves of *Psidium guajava* was found to be **21.64%w/w** and *Thespesia populnea* was found to be **16.37%w/w**.

The hydro-alcoholic extracts of dried powdered leaves of *Psidium guajava* was showed that the extract was **dark brown** in colour with **semi-sticky** in nature and *Thespesia populnea* showed that **chocolate brown** in colour with **semi-solid** in nature.

S.No	Name of the drug	% yield	Consistency	Colour
1.	Psidium guajava	21.64% w/w	Semi-sticky	Dark brown
2.	Thespesia populnea	16.37% w/w	Semi-solid	Chocolate brown

Qualitative preliminary phytochemical analysis was performed initially with different chemical reagents to detect the presence of phytoconstituents in each extract.

The hydro-alcoholic extracts of leaves of *Psidium guajava* and *Thespesia populnea* showed the maximum number of primary and secondary metabolites as follows, Carbohydrates, Flavonoids, Tannins, Triterpenoids, Amino acids, Alkaloids, Triterpenoids and Steroids.

S.No	Chemical test	Psidium guajava dried leaf powder	Thespesia populnea dried leaf powder	Psidium guajava leaves extract	Thespesia populnea leaves extract
1.	Carbohydrate	+	+	+	+
2.	Alkaloids	+	+	+	+
3.	Tannins	+	+	+	+
4.	Triterpenoids & Steroids	+	+	+	+
5.	Flavonoids	+	+	+	+
6.	Amino acids	_	+	+	+
7.	Saponins	+	+	+	+

Qualitative chromatographic analysis for these extracts of plants by thin layer chromatography method was performed to separate and identify the single or mixture of phytoconstituents present in each extract.

The hydro-alcoholic extract of leaves of *Psidium guajava* was found to be the  $R_f$  Value for tannins, flavonoids, triterpenoids and phenolic compounds was found to be 0.22, **0.733,0.812 and 0.858** respectively.

The hydro-alcoholic extract of leaves of *Thespesia populnea* was found to be the  $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{f}}$  Value for tannins, flavonoids, triterpenoids and phenolic compounds was found to be 0.06, **0.470,0.76 and 0.47** respectively.

S.No	Active constituents	Solvents	Psidium guajava	Thespesia populnea
1.	Flavonoids	Ethyl acetae:Formic acid:Water (24:3:3)	0.73	0.76
2.	Tannins	Chloroform:Ethyl acetate:Methanol (5:3:2)	0.22	0.06
3.	Triterpenoids	Chloroform:Methanol (20:10)	0.81	0.56
4.	Phenol	Chloroform:Ethyl aceate (30:3)	0.85	0.47

# IN-VITROSTUDY OF ANTI-FUNGAL ACTIVITY OF HYDRO-ALCOHOLIC LEAVES EXTRACTS OF Psidium guajava AND Thespesia populnea.

Table no.: Antifungal activity of Hydroalcoholic extract of *Psidium guajava* for different pathogens.

	zone of inhibition in mm						
S.No	Organism	500μg/ml	750 μg/ml	1000 μg/ml	Amphotericin B	Clorimazole	
1	Aspergillus niger	6mm	7mm	8mm	10mm	8mm	
2	Candila albicans	4mm	6mm	8mm	9mm	8mm	
3	Mucor mycosis	5 mm	6 mm	7 mm	9 mm	6mm	
4	Trichophyton rubrum	4 mm	7 mm	8 mm	8 mm	6mm	

Table no.: Antifungal activity of Hydroalcoholic extract of *Thespesia populnea* for differentpathogens.

	Zone of inhibition in mm								
S.No	S.No Organism 500μg/ml 750μg/ml 1000μg/ml Amphotericin B Clotrimaze								
1	Aspergillus niger	6 mm	8 mm	9 mm	8 mm	8 mm			
2	Candida albicans	-	-	-	9 mm	7 mm			
3	Mucor mycosis	-	-	-	7 mm	7 mm			
4	Trichophyton rubrum	-	-	-	8 mm	6 mm			

Table no.: Antifungal activity of Hydroalcoholic extracts of *Psidium guajava* and *Thespesia populnea* for different pathogens.

Zone of inhibition in mm							
S.No	Organism	500μg/ml	750μg/ml	1000μg/ml	Amphotericin B	Clotrimazole	
1.	Aspergillus niger	6 mm	7 mm	8 mm	10 mm	9 mm	
2.	Candida albicans	-	-	-	10 mm	7 mm	
3.	Mucor mycosis	5 mm	6 mm	7 mm	9 mm	7 mm	
4.	Trichophyton rubrum	5 mm	7 mm	8 mm	8 mm	6 mm	

# DISCUSSION

The project entitled "Comparative Study of Antifungal Activity on Hydro-Alcoholic Leaves Extract of *Psidium guajava* and *Thespesia populnea Using Pathogenic Organisms*" has been achieved by the following results.

The literature review has been showed the adequate information in relating to the *Psidium guajava* and *Thespesia populnea* extracts. It revealed that the leaves of these plants showed the maximum amount of Flavonoid, Tannins, Triterpenoid, Alkaloids and Phenolic content. It was reported that the plant flavonoids and tannins may contribute to several anti-fungal

mechanisms. Flavonoids, anti-fungal activity is probably due to their ability to complex irreversibly with nucleophilic aminoacids in proteins, often leading to inactivation of the protein and loss of function. This information on individual plant extracts gave a clue to carry out this study.

The qualitative phytochemical studies in the extracts of the plants showed the maximum number of phytoconstituents. Their presence was further confirmed by TLC profiling of each plant extract, which shows different spots representing various constituents of flavonoids, tannins, triterpenoids and phenolic acids.

The extracts exhibit a significant antifungal activity against pathogenic fungi including the resistant microorganisms, the zone of inhibition increases with increase in concentration.

# **CONCLUSION**

This research work shows that *Psidium guajava*, *Thespesia populnea* has the potential bioactive phytochemicals that are responsible for the anifungal activity. It also proven that *Psidium guajava* has more potent than *Thespesia populnea*. From the above study it was concluded that the extracts shows the significant antifungal activity against pathogenic micro organisms including resistant micro organisms, the zone of inhibition increases with increase in concentration. The individual extracts shows the significant antifungal activity but there was no synergistic activity was seen. In future further investigation are required on isolation of bioactive compounds from the above extracts to study the pharmacological action. The above information creates an interest for the research scholars to carry out the work in future.

# Compliance with ethical standards

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