Anti Bacterial and Anti Inflammatory efficacy of Zingiber officinale and Decalepis hamiltonii – In Vitro Study

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Abstract:

Aim: To evaluate the in vitro anti bacterial and anti inflammatory potential of Zingiber Officinale and Decalepis Hamiltonii against E. faecalis.

Materials and Methods: Ethanolic extract of Zingiber and Decalepis was subjected to microbiological assay to determine its Maximum zone of inhibition using Agar disk diffusion test, minimum inhibitory concentration using serial broth dilution method and anti inflammatory potential using protein denaturation assay against E. faecalis.

Results: Ethanolic extract of Zingiber and Decalepis showed: (a) Maximum zone of inhibition of 20 mm and 24 mm respectively, (b) MIC of 5% and 2.5% respectively, (c) Protein denaturation assay value (IC_{50}) of 115 and 80 respectively.

Conclusion: Ethanolic extract of Zingiber and Decalepis was found to possess both anti bacterial and anti-inflammatory potential against E. faecalis.

Keywords: Anti bacterial, Anti-inflammatory, Decalepis Hamiltonii, E. faecalis, Zingiber Officinale.

Introduction:

Medicinal plants are nature’s hidden and to an extent-unexplored treasure. They have been used as a source of safe and effective medicine since time immemorial, as they are less toxic, cheap and suitable for use over a prolonged period. As the Enterococcus stand alone in many cases of failed root canal treatment, it is the time to find out an effective means to minimize the failure rate and an alternate material to over come the anti bacterial resistance and side effects of the currents synthetic materials.

A rekindled interest in the pharmaceutical importance of plants has led to the discovery and adaptation of plant extract which were commonly used in traditional medicine as alternative source of remedy. Ginger (Zingiber officinale) one such medicinal plant is having antimicrobial property against various human pathogens; however, less data is available on its antimicrobial potential against oral pathogens.

Decalepis Hamiltonii, popularly known as swallow root in English, belongs to the family Asclepiadaceae. Though many researchers establish the anti oxidant and anti ulcerogenic role of the root extract of D. hamiltonii, very few have explored the anti-inflammatory and anti bacterial potential.

Hence present study is an attempt to explore the Anti bacterial and Anti-inflammatory potentials of Zingiber Officinale and Decalepis Hamiltonii against E. faecalis.

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**Materials and Methods:**

(A). Test extract.

Ethanolic extracts of *Zingiber officinale* and *Decalepis hamiltonii* was obtained from “Green Chem” laboratory, Bangalore.

(B). Microbiological Tests.

Various concentrations of ethanolic extracts of *Zingiber officinale* and *Decalepis hamiltonii* was subjected to microbiological tests namely Agar well diffusion test (to determine the maximum zone of inhibition), Serial broth dilution test (to determine minimum inhibitory concentration [MIC]) and protein denaturation assay (to determine the anti inflammatory potential [IC$_{50}$]) against *E. faecalis*.

The standard strains of the organisms used in the study were *E. faecalis* (ATCC 35550).

(C). Standardization of isolates:

A standard stock of the bacteria isolates was prepared by suspending a loop full of each microbial growth in about 10 mL of nutrient broth. After incubation at 37°C for 12 hours, the turbidity was adjusted to be visually comparable with a 0.5 McFarland’s standard giving a bacterial load of about 1-2 x10$^8$ cfu/mL.

(D). Agar well Diffusion Test:

Lawn culture of *E. faecalis* was prepared on a TSA plate. Wells of 4mm depth were prepared, which were filled with 100 µl of various concentrations of the extracts. 0.2% chlorhexedine was used as the positive control. Plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. Interpretation of diffusion results was carried out by noting the presence or absence of zone of inhibition around the wells.

(E). Minimum Inhibitory Concentration:

Serial dilutions of 20mg, 10mg, 5mg, 2.5mg, 1.25 and 0.62mg per 1 ml were prepared in sterile test tubes containing 1 ml of *E. faecalis* suspension in TSB having 0.5 McFarland standard. Tubes were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. After the incubation, the MIC values were determined by visual inspection of the tubes. In each series of tubes, the last tube with clear supernatant was considered to be without any growth and taken as MIC value. Turbidity in the MIC tube indicated growth of bacterial strain implying that the organisms were resistant to ethanolic extract.

(F). Protein denaturation Assay:

The reaction mixture (5 ml) consisted of 0.2 ml of egg albumin (from fresh hen’s egg), 2.8 ml of phosphate buffered saline (PBS, pH 6.4) and 2 ml of varying concentrations of the test extracts, so that final concentrations become 31.25, 62.5, 125, 250, 500, 1000 µg/ml. Similar volume of double-distilled water served as control. Then the mixtures were incubated at 37±2°C in a BOD incubator for 15 minutes and then heated at 70°C for 5 minutes. After cooling, their absorbance was measured at 660 nm by using vehicle as blank. Diclofenac sodium at the final concentration of (78.125, 156.25, 312.5, 625, 1250, 2500 µg/ml) was used as reference drug and treated similarly for determination of absorbance.

The percentage inhibition of protein denaturation was calculated by using the following formula:

\[
\text{% Inhibition} = 100 \times \left( \frac{V_t}{V_c} - 1 \right) \%
\]

Where, $V_t =$ absorbance of test sample, $V_c =$ absorbance of control.

**Results:**
Table 1: Agar well diffusion Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extract</th>
<th>Conc – mg/ml</th>
<th>Zone – mm dmt.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zingiber</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decalepis</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chlorhexidine</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1, shows the zone of inhibition of ethanolic extract of Zingiber and Decalepis against E. faecalis. For Zingiber, maximum zone of inhibition was 20 mm at 15mg/ml and minimum zone of inhibition was 10 mm at 5 mg/ml. For Decalepis, maximum zone of inhibition was 24 mm at 15mg/ml and minimum zone of inhibition was 12 mm at 5mg/ml when compared to positive control (0.2% Chlorhexidine), which had zone of inhibition of 28 mm.

Table 2: Minimum Inhibitory Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conc – mg/ml</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>1.25</th>
<th>0.62</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zingiber</td>
<td>NG</td>
<td>NG</td>
<td>NG</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decalepis</td>
<td>NG</td>
<td>NG</td>
<td>NG</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* NG – No Growth, G – Growth

Table 2 shows MIC of ethanolic extract of Zingiber and Decalepis against E. faecalis. MIC of ethanolic Zingiber extract for was established at 5%, and Decalepis at 2.5%.

Table 3: Protein denaturation assay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conc – ug/ml</th>
<th>1000</th>
<th>500</th>
<th>250</th>
<th>125</th>
<th>62.5</th>
<th>31.25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zingiber</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decalepis</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC50</td>
<td>Diclo - 625</td>
<td>Zingiber - 115</td>
<td>Decalepis - 80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3, shows the protein denaturation assay of ethanolic extract of Zingiber and Decalepis against E. faecalis. IC50 values of Zingiber and Decalepis were 115 and 80 respectively. When compared to positive control (Diclofenac Sodium), which had an IC50 value of 625.

Discussion:

Members of the Zingiberaceae family are important components in traditional medicine for the treatment of many diseases. Ginger’s pungent components offer powerful anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities, making it useful in arthritis, Alzheimer’s, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. The active compound responsible for this effect is zingibain, an enzyme that counteracts inflammation[3]. The active compounds contained in ginger are divided into two groups: volatile essential oils and fragrant or harsh phenol compounds[4]. Among these volatile essential components, which constitute gingerol and shagelol have been accounted for antimicrobial activity of ginger.

Although the roots of D. hamiltonii have been used for their alleged health benefits, scientific investigation in this regard need to be done. Earlier works have shown that the D. hamiltonii roots contain aldehydes, amyrins, lupeols and volatile flavour compounds such as 2-hydroxy-4methoxybenzaldehyde, vanillin etc and essential oil like methylresorcylaldehyde, atlantone, terpinene, geraniol etc. A combinational molecule containing pectic polysaccharide with bound phenolics identified in the root of D. hamiltonii and their break down products have been known to have health beneficial properties. Enterococcus faecalis (causative agent for secondary root canal infection) have been considered very difficult to control as they have developed tolerance against various antimicrobial agents in routine use[3]. This calls for an urgent need to explore novel bioactive
compounds, which are safer and biodegradable. In this present study ethanolic extracts of *Zingiber officinale* and *Decalepis hamiltonii* were tested against *E. faecalis*.

In the present study, ethanolic extract of ginger showed antibacterial activity against *E. faecalis* exhibiting maximum zone of inhibition of 20 mm at 15 mg/ml and minimum zone of inhibition was 10 mm at 5 mg/ml. Study conducted by Rahman et al. showed a zone of inhibition of 12 mm. The difference observed could be attributed to variations in the quality of ginger used, differences in the microbiological techniques used, variation in temperature and solvent used to prepare ginger extract. MIC of ethanolic *Zingiber* extract for was established at 5%, and had an IC₅₀ value of 115.

In the present study, ethanolic extract of *Decalepis* showed antibacterial activity against *E. faecalis* exhibiting maximum zone of inhibition of 24 mm at 15 mg/ml and minimum zone of inhibition was 11 mm at 5 mg/ml. Minimum Inhibitory Concentration of ethanolic *Decalepis* extract for was established at 2.5%, and had an IC₅₀ value of 115. Study done by Mohua et al showed that *Decalepis* possessed anti-inflammatory potential at a concentration of 250 mg/kg body weight.

In the present study, positive control was used in order to compare the antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory efficacy of ethanolic extracts of *Zingiber* and *Decalepis*. This study was first of its kind where ethanolic extracts of *Zingiber* and *Decalepis* along with positive control was used *E. faecalis* in order to compare their antibacterial and anti-inflammatory efficacy.

**Conclusion:**

Within the limitations of this study it may be concluded that *Zingiber officinale* and *Decalepis hamiltonii* which are used as edible roots in Indian cuisine can be applied as an irrigant or intracanal medicament against *E. faecalis* in endodontic practice.

**Acknowledgements:**

Authors would like to acknowledge:
1. Mr. Rajendran.R, CEO & Founder, GREEN CHEM (100% EOU) 5-BDA, 2nd stage, 3rd phase, Domlur, BANGALORE-560071, India, Green Chem Laboratory, Bangalore, for providing us with the extract for the study.
2. Dr. Murali, Professor and Head, Dr. Geetha, Professor, Department of Microbiology, Saveetha Dental College and Hospital, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, for their assistance in Microbiological procedures during the study.
3. Dr. Anitha, Professor and Head, Dr. Lakshmi, Professor, Department of Pharmacognancy, Saveetha Dental College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, for their assistance in preparation of extract.

**References:**

3) Anjan Giriraju, GY Yunus. Assessment of antimicrobial potential of 10% ginger extract against *Streptococcus mutans*, *Candida*


Article History: ------------------------
Date of Submission: 28-08-2014
Date of Acceptance: 10-09-2014
Conflict of Interest: NIL
Source of Support: NONE