**In Vitro Studies on the Antimicrobial Effect of Different Solvent Extracts of *Dodonaea angustifolia* L. and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* L. Against Some Pathogenic Bacteria**

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**Abstract**

Infectious disease caused by bacteria such as *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus* is a major public health problem in many developing countries. In recent years drug resistance to human pathogenic bacteria has been commonly reported from all over the world. Plants have been used for centuries to treat infectious diseases and are considered as an important source of new antimicrobial agents.

The anti-microbial activity of different solvent extracts of *Dodonaea angustifolia* and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus* was studied. *Dodonaea angustifolia* and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* were collected from the surroundings of Piranmalai hills. The shade dried plants leaves were pulverized to get a coarse powder. Since the solubility of the powdered extract is not known, its solubility was checked in different solvents with varying polarities. The evaluation of antibacterial activity for different solvent extracts of *Dodonaea angustifolia* and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* was carried out using the agar well diffusion method. Results revealed that the ethanol extract of *Dodonaea angustifolia* and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* showed maximum zone of inhibition compare to other solvent extracts. Antibacterial activity of different solvent extracts of *Dodonaea angustifolia* and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* were statistically significantly (P<0.05). The present investigation thus elucidated the anti-microbial potential of *Dodonaea angustifolia* and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* which could be used to combat microbial infections in mankind.

**Keywords:** *Dodonaea angustifolia; Clerodendrum phlomidis; Bacillus subtilis; Escherichia coli; Pseudomonas aeruginosa; Staphylococcus aureus; Anti-microbial activity*

**Introduction**

From time immemorial it is the plants that served as therapeutic agents to cure the diseases which invaded human beings. At present the utilization of phytochemicals from various plants for medicinal purposes has steadily increased in numerous countries. As indicated by World Health Organization (WHO) therapeutic plants would be the best source to acquire an assortment of medicines. About 80% of people from all over the World utilize customary prescriptions, which has compounds derived from therapeutic plants. Medicinal plants are rich source anti-microbial compounds. An extensive variety of therapeutic plant separates are utilized to treat several diseases as they have potential antimicrobial action. A portion of these bioactive compounds are screened and exchanged in markets as crude material for numerous pharmaceutical industries [1].

The screening of plants for antimicrobial properties has demonstrated that the higher plants represent a potential source of novel antibiotic prototypes. There has been an increasing frequency of resistance in human pathogenic microorganisms, lately, to a great extent because of aimless utilization of synthetic antimicrobial medications often used in the treatment of infectious diseases. This has constrained researcher to seek for new antimicrobial substances from the therapeutic plants [2,3].

Specialists turned their focus back towards acquiring points of interest from therapeutic plants after observing more side effects of synthetic drugs contrasted with their advantages [4]. Today the pharmacologically active ingredients of many ayurvedic medicines have been distinguished, and their value in drug therapy is being resolved. It is generally evaluated that of the found 17,000 species, about 3,000 species are utilized in the therapeutic field in India. The utilization of plant concentrates and phytochemicals, both with known antimicrobial properties, can be of extraordinary noteworthiness in remedial medicines. Over the most recent couple of years, examinations have led in various countries to demonstrate such proficiency. Numerous plants have been utilized due to their antimicrobial properties. In the present study, antibacterial effects of medicinal plants *Dodonaea angustifolia* (L) and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* (L) against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus* were studied.

*Dodonaea angustifolia* (L) is commonly called Viraali belongs to the family Sapindaceae. It is a shrub or small tree with narrow shiny pale green leaves with a distinctive small winged fruit. *Dodonaea angustifolia* contains secondary metabolites such as quinines, saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids, terpenoids, diterpenoids, phenols and essential oils. It possesses biological activities like analgesic, anti-bacterial, anthelmintic, anti-malarial, antipyretic effect and anti plasmodial activity. It is used to treat skin diseases, fever, sore throat, rhinitis, sinusitis and influenza [5-7].

*Clerodendrum phlomidis* (L) is commonly called Thaluthalai, Arani, belongs to the family Lamiaceae. A shrub widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of the world Shrubs. It is used to treat dysentery, dyspepsia, postnatal fever, stomachache, cholera, colic, muscles, rheumatism, asthma and nervous debility, astrigent and debility. The phytochemical screening of *Clerodendrum phlomidis* had shown the presence of terpenoids, phytosterols, flavonoids, phenols and tannins. It exhibits some biological activities such as anti-
inflammatory, antidiabetic, antihypertensive and anticancer [8-10].
Keeping in this view the present study was undertaken to elucidate
the antimicrobial activities of Dodonaea angustifolia and Clerodendrum
phlomidis on Bacillus subtilis, Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa,
and Staphylococcus aureus were studied in vitro.

Materials and Methods

Collection and preparation of leaf extracts using solvent
extraction method

Dodonaea angustifolia (Figure 1) and Clerodendrum phlomidis
(Figure 2) were collected from the surroundings of Piranmalai hills.
Various extracts were prepared according to the methodology of Indian
Pharmacopoeia and were used for the studies. The shade dried plants,
leaves were pulverized to get a coarse powder. Since the solubility of
the powdered extract is not known, its solubility was checked in different
solvents with varying polarities [11]. 100 g of powder was dissolved in
solvents like methanol, ethanol, hexane and Ethyl acetate. Depending
on the solubility, the extraction was carried out in the respective solvents
and allowed to stand for two to three days. It was then filtered and
allowed to settle. This extract was then used for anti-microbial studies.

Anti-bacterial activity

The anti-bacterial activity of Dodonaea angustifolia and Clerodendrum phlomidis
were determined by agar well diffusion method. The extracts were applied to cultures of different bacterial
strains including Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Bacillus subtilis. Muller Hinton Agar (MHA) containing
2.0 g beef extract; 17.5 g casein hydrolysate; 1.5 g starch; 17.0 g agar was
dissolved in 1 liter of distilled water. The pH was adjusted to 7.3 and was
prepared and sterilized by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15
minutes. The plates were prepared and after cooling, the test organisms
containing 1.5 x 10^6 cfu/mL were inoculated. The culture was evenly
spread on the plate and five wells were made using a cork borer. Each
well was loaded respectively with 150 µg, 300 µg, 450 µg and 600 µg
sample and 330 µg of Tetracycline dissolved in 1 ml of 10% DMSO was
used as the positive control. The plates were incubated for 24 h at 37°C.
The development of inhibition zone around the well was measured
(diameter) and recorded [12-14].

Statistical analysis

All the data obtained in the present study were statistically analyzed
using the statistical software SPSS version 16.0. Statistical analysis of
the data were carried out using Student’s t-test and the results were
considered significant when P<0.05. Values are expressed as mean ±
SD of triplicates.

Results and Discussion

The antimicrobial activity of plant extracts have been perceived
for long time and this property has shaped the premise of numerous
applications including crude and processed food preservation,
pharmaceuticals, alternative medicine and natural therapies.
Traditional systems of medicines in developing countries utilize a wide
assortment of natural products in the combat of common infections
[15]. Secondary metabolites in plant products are responsible for several
biological activities in living systems. Antimicrobial properties of
several plant extracts have been attributed to the secondary metabolites.
Pharmaceutical and scientific communities have recently received
the attention of the medicinal plants, and various publications have
documented the therapeutic worth of natural compounds to validate
the claims of their biological activity [16].

In the present study antimicrobial activities of Dodonaea angustifolia
and Clerodendrum phlomidis on Bacillus subtilis, Escherichia coli,
Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Staphylococcus aureus were studied using
agar well diffusion method. From the anti-microbial activities, it was
found that the different solvent extracts of Dodonaea angustifolia and
Clerodendrum phlomidis showed a varied level of anti-microbial activity.

Hexane extract of D. angustifolia showed inhibitory effects for all
the microbes at all the concentrations. Zone of inhibition was observed
for all the microbes in this study. Ethyl acetate, ethanol and methanol
dissolution of D. angustifolia showed the antibacterial activity against E. coli,
S. aureus, P. aeruginosa and B. subtilis. Maximum zone of inhibition
was observed at 450 µg and 600 µg (Tables 1-4 and Figures 3-8).
Antibacterial activity of Dodonaea viscosa leaf extracts of methanolic,
n-hexane, dichloro methane and ethyl acetate are effective against
Staphylococcus aureus, Bacillus subtilis, Staphylococcus faecalis, and
Streptococcus pyogens and E. coli were reported by Rao [17]. Similarly,
Dodonaea viscosa ethanol extracts exhibited anti-bacterial activity
against some pathogenic bacteria was recorded by Orpin et al. [18].
Crude extracts of Ergenia ciliata, Jasminum officinale and Santalum
album showed anti-bacterial activity on Staphylococcus aureus, Bacillus
subtilis, Proteus vulgaris, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Escherichia coli
using agar well diffusion method was reported by Khan et al. [19]. The hexane extract of Clerodendrum phlomidis showed inhibitory activity in all different concentrations in the present study against all the four microbes. The maximum zone of inhibition was for P. aeruginosa (20 mm) followed by the other three microbes (18 mm) each. Similarly, ethyl acetate extract of Clerodendrum phlomidis inhibited the activity of E. coli (18 mm), S. aureus (19 mm), P. aeruginosa (18 mm) and B. subtilis (19 mm) at different concentrations. Likewise, the Ethanolic extract of Clerodendrum phlomidis showed inhibitory activity against all the four bacteria under study in all different concentrations except for B. subtilis in the lowest concentration 150 µg. The methanolic extracts of Clerodendrum phlomidis have no inhibitory effects at any concentration on any of test organisms (Tables 5-8 and Figures 9 and 10). Antibacterial activity of different solvent extracts of Dodonaea angustifolia and Clerodendrum phlomidis were statistically significant (P<0.05). Likewise, Sathish [20] reported Clerodendrum phlomidis is important medicinal plant as its ethanol, petroleum ether, ethyl acetate and chloroform root extracts showed good antimicrobial
activity against some pathogenic bacteria. Ethanolic root extract of *Clerodendrum infortunatum* showed maximum zone of inhibition against *Staphylococcus aureus* was observed [21]. Also the ethylacetate and ethanol root extracts of *Clerodendrum phlomidis* exhibited the anti-bacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *B. subtilis*. Samy and Ignacimuthu [22] tested 30 Indian folklore medicinal plants used by traditional healers for antimicrobial activity. Our results were in accordance with Duraipandian et al. [23] assessed antimicrobial activity of eighteen Indian plant extracts that are used in folkloremedicine in the treatment of skin diseases, venereal diseases, respiratory problems and nervous disorders against nine bacterial strains (*Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Proteus vulgaris*).

Ethanol extract of *Dodonaea angustifolia* and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* showed maximum zone of inhibition compare to other solvent extracts. Antibacterial activity of different solvent extracts of *Dodonaea angustifolia* and *Clerodendrum phlomidis* were statistically significantly (P<0.05).

Several studies indicated that extracts from different plant species exhibited better activities on Gram-positive bacteria than on Gram-negative bacteria while some studies reported that *P. aeruginosa* and *E. coli* were also sensitive to extracts of some medicinal plants. These sensitivity differences between Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria to the extract of different medicinal plants might be due to the structural and compositional differences in membranes between the two groups. Indeed, Gram-negative bacteria are more resistant to antibiotics because they possess impermeable outer membrane; consequently, the levels of antibiotics in the cell are reduced [24-26]. Calsamiglia et al. [27] opined that the cell membrane of Gram-positive bacteria, which can interact directly with hydrophobic compounds of essential oils whereas, the external cell wall around the cell membrane of Gram-negative bacteria is hydrophilic and blocks the penetration of hydrophobic oil and avoids the accumulation of essential oils in target cell membrane. Also, this medicinal plant *Dodonaea angustifolia* possesses some phytochemicals like alkaloid, **Table 1: Anti-bacterial activity of Hexane extract of *D. angustifolia on E. coli, S. aureus, B. subtilis and P. aeruginosa.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the pathogens</th>
<th>Hexane extract of <em>D. angustifolia</em> (µg)</th>
<th>Tetracycline (300 µg)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zone of Inhibition (mm)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>150</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>E. coli</em></td>
<td>13 ± 0.12</td>
<td>14 ± 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. aureus</em></td>
<td>13 ± 0.04</td>
<td>14 ± 0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>B. subtilis</em></td>
<td>13 ± 0.07</td>
<td>15 ± 0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. aeruginosa</em></td>
<td>14 ± 0.08</td>
<td>16 ± 0.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2: Anti-bacterial activity of ethyl acetate extract of *D. angustifolia on E. coli, S. aureus, B. subtilis and P. aeruginosa.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the pathogens</th>
<th>Ethyl acetate extract of <em>D. angustifolia</em> (µg)</th>
<th>Tetracycline (300 µg)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Zone of Inhibition (mm)</td>
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Further work is needed to understand the cytoplasmic membrane, increases bacterial staining with the cell membrane and causes leakage of cytoplasmic contents [28-30]. The possible reason for the highest antibacterial activities due to the presence of phytochemicals and their synergistic effects in medicinal plants against pathogenic bacteria [31]. This study has revealed that the medicinal plants Dodonaea angustifolia and Clerodendrum phlomidis possess potentially antimicrobial properties against Bacillus subtilis, Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Staphylococcus aureus. Further work is needed to isolate the active compounds and could be used in the development of novel antibacterial agents.

**Conclusion**

The results obtained in the present study, medicinal plants Dodonaea angustifolia and Clerodendrum phlomidis possess antimicrobial properties. Therefore, there is a need for further evaluation of the purified bioactive components of the plant extracts that can be exploited as new potent raw materials for the manufacture of herbal drugs and antimicrobial agent's productions.

**References**


