

IN VITRO DETERMINATION OF EFFICACY OF EXTRACTS OF SELECTED MEDICINAL PLANTS AGAINST *Alternaria alternata* ISOLATED FROM LEAF SPOT OF Bael (*Aegle marmelos*)

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ABSTRACT

Alternaria alternata was isolated from leaf spots of Bael (*Aegle marmelos*). The fungus was maintained as pure culture in the laboratory. Experiments were done to determine the efficacy of antifungal activity of extracts of selected medicinal plants *in vitro*. Chirchiri, (*Achyranthes aspera*), Garlic (*Allium sativa*), Datura (*Datura metal*), *Lippia nodiflora*, Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*) were used for the extraction from leaves and cloves etc. Three different concentrations 5, 10 and 15% were used in the culture. The fungitoxic capability was determined by measuring the radial growth among the treated cultures as well as in the control. In the present study, it was observed that extract of clove of garlic at its all the three concentrations viz., 5, 10 and 15 % could inhibit the radial growth of the fungus which was 78.95, 85.05, and 88.54% respectively that was the maximum. This was followed by the extract of neem leaves that was 75.77, 82.35 and 87.12% respectively. It was further observed that leaf extract of Chirchiri had the minimum inhibitory activity at all the concentrations used, that was 63.73, 68.14 and 72.52% only. It was further observed that leaf extract of *Ocimum sanctum* inhibited the radial growth at all its three concentrations which was next to neem leaf extract that was 75.32, 81.07, and 85.48% respectively. This was followed by leaf extract of *Lippia* that was 74.53, 80.62 and 84.46 respectively. Therefore, leaf and clove extracts of different medicinal plants revealed, antifungal activities at different concentrations with different quantum of action.

KEYWORDS: Medicinal Plants, Antifungal, Radial Growth, Efficacy, Quantum, *Alternaria alternata*, Bael (*Aegle marmelos*)

Aegle marmelos is an important medicinal plant of family *Rutaceae*. The tree is thorny, much branched and deciduous. In addition its leaves are used for the worship of Lord Shiva. Both unripe and ripe fruits are used for the treatment of different diseases. Unripe fruit is roasted and the shell is removed. The seeds from the pulp are also removed. The roasted pulp is taken to cure all types of digestive problems. Ripe fruits are used similarly. The shell and seeds are removed while the pulp is taken for the treatment of dysentery, piles, peptic ulcer. It is also used to cure the hair loss, hepatitis, to glow the skin. Even flowers are roasted in ghee and used to cure diarrhea. Its regular use may help to cure tuberculosis. It is also beneficial in case of different gynecological problems. Similarly, it cures urinary diseases. Its regular use helps to control blood sugar. Juice of leaves with honey is given to cure fever. Similarly, roasted flowers in ghee help in epilepsy. It is best treatment for piles. Here extract of unripe fruit is given to the person suffering from piles.

However, different pathogen causes disease to this medicinally important plant among which the fruit rot and leaf blight both caused by fungal pathogens are common. These diseases are controlled by spraying fungicides, but

there are reports that fungal pathogens are being controlled by the use of extracts taken from roots, leaves, bark etc. of the commonly used medicinal plants. We get several references related with this. Some of them may be mentioned here such as; Rana *et al.*, 1999; Sindham *et al.*, 1999; Lal and Upadhyay, 2002; Samuel *et al.*, 2000; Abdul *et al.*, 2001; Singh and Mazumdar, 2001; Srinivasan *et al.*, 2001; Prabha *et al.*, 2002; Chaudhary *et al.*, 2003; Sharma and Tripathi, 2006; Mathivana and Pravathy, 2007; Saha *et al.*, 2008; Raja and Reddy, 2008; Elumalai *et al.*, 2009; Mishra *et al.*, 2009; Saba *et al.*, 2010; Raja, 2010; Balai and Ahir, 2011; Gahukar, 2012; Pareek *et al.*, 2012; Kantwa *et al.*, 2014; Manilal and Idhayadhulla, 2014; Showkat *et al.*, 2015; Maria *et al.*, 2018; Rani *et al.*, 2018.

During survey of medicinal plants in selected areas of Hajipur subdivision, it was noted that the leaves of Bael are infected by plant pathogenic fungi, *Alternaria alternata*. It causes early defoliation, if the infection is severe. In this case farmers suffer a considerable economic loss, because due to early defoliation, immature fruits also drop. The aim of this work was to evaluate *in vitro* the potential antifungal activity of selected medicinal plant extracts at different

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concentrations, against *Alternaria alternata* which was isolated from the infected leaf of Bael.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the present study, six different plants which are commonly used as medicinal plants were selected. They were *Achyranthes aspera*, *Allium sativa*, *Datura metal*, *Lippia nodiflora*, *Azadirachta indica*, and *Ocimum sanctum*. *Allium cepa*, bulbs were purchased where as the leaves of rest plants were collected from their natural population. All the plant materials were washed properly in the running tap water and then rinsed with sterilized distilled water. Leaves were dried properly to remove the surface water. 100 grams of leaves from each plant and 100 g of cloves of garlic was taken separately. These leaves were chopped and crushed in a pre-sterilized mortar with the help of pestle by adding 100 ml sterile water. The extract was filtered through two layered muslin cloth in a clean beaker. These extracts were centrifuged at 4000 rpm to remove any extra residues. They were stored in a bottle with proper stopper and used as stock solution. To determine the antifungal activity of these extracts method used by Singh & Majumdar (2001) with slight modification was used. Five, ten and fifteen ml of stock solution of the above plants was mixed with 95, 90 and 85 ml of pre-sterilized molted Potato, Dextrose Agar Medium, respectively. Thus for each extract the concentration became 5, 10 and 15 percent. Manually the culture flasks were shaken to make the solution, homogeneous. Pre-sterilized Petri plates were taken. 20 ml of above medium was poured into it. Medium without extract was used as control. Three replications were maintained for each treatment.

Pure culture of *Alternaria alternata* was used for inoculation. 8 days old cultures was used for the inoculum. The pre-sterilized cork borer was used for cutting a disc of 5 mm mycelial mat from the periphery of the culture. All the experiments were done in the sterilized area of Laminar Flow Air Chamber. The disc was placed in the middle of the culture plate and it was placed upside down so that the mycelial mat was in direct contact with the culture medium. Inoculation was also done in culture plate having no extract.

The inoculated Petri plates were incubated in the culture room at $26 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$. These cultures were observed on an alternate day and cultures showing any contamination was replaced and disposed after autoclaving. The colony

diameter was measured on 8 days of incubation. Percent inhibition of the extract at different concentration was calculated by applying the formula as proposed by Vincet (1947).

$$\% \text{ growth inhibition} = \frac{C-T}{C} \times 100$$

Where,

C= diameter of the colony in the control.

T = diameter of the colony in the treated cultures.

Inoculation for each concentration was done in 15 plates and mean of the data obtained, was tabulated for discussion. Here they are represented by the graphs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fungitoxic efficacy of six medicinal plant's extract was tested at different concentrations as mentioned in the Materials and Methods, against radial mycelial growth of the phytopathogenic fungus *Alternaria alternata*, isolated from leaf spot of *Aegle marmelos*. Perusal of the data represented by the graph clearly revealed that extracts taken from six different medicinal plants at different concentrations inhibited the mycelial growth with different intensity. Here extract of cloves of garlic at its all three concentrations viz., 5, 10 and 15% inhibited the radial mycelial growth which was the maximum that was 78.95, 85.05 and 88.21 per cent respectively. At the similar concentration extract of Neem leaves inhibited the radial growth which was 75.77, 82.35 and 87.12% respectively. This was followed by the leaf extract of *Ocimum sanctum*, Tulsi that was, 75.32, 81.07 and 85.46 respectively. It may be further noted that leaf extract of *Achyranthes aspera* at its all three different concentrations inhibited the radial growth of the mycelium of *Alternaria alternata* which was 63.73, 68.14 and 72.52 per cent respectively. However, this was the lowest in comparison to the extracts of other medicinal plants at the aforesaid concentrations. It may be noted that at the similar concentrations, the radial growth of the mycelium of *A. alternata* was inhibited more by the leaf extract of *Datura metal* in comparison to *Lippia nodiflora*.

Generally, fungal pathogens are controlled by the used of different chemical fungicides. These fungicides are being held responsible for water and soil pollution. Now a day there are attempting to develop ecofriendly control methods for the fungal pathogens. Use of extracts taken

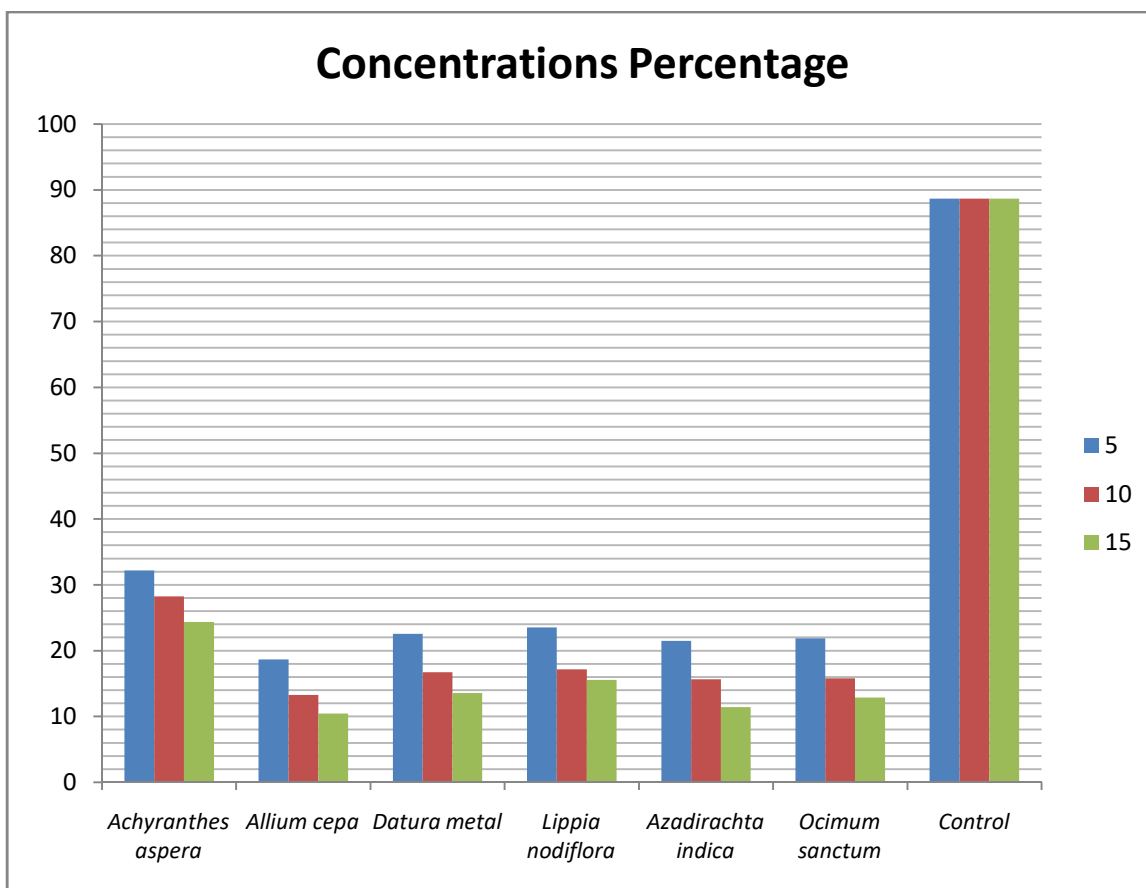
from different parts of plant is getting more popularity. Saha *et al.*; (2008) reported that extract of *Allium sativum*, *Datura metal* and *Zingiber officinale* could inhibit 100% spore germination and mycelial growth of *Pestalotiopsis thea*, *Curvularia eragrostidis* and *Colletotrichum camelliae*.

Saba *et al.*, (2010) reported that extracts of selected medicinal plants such as *Majorana syriaca*, *Rosmarinus officinalis*, *Salvia fruticosa*, *Hibiscus sabdariffa* and *Santolina chamaecyparissus* suppressed mycelial growth *in vitro*. At 25% of concentrations the inhibition was up to 90%.

Pareek *et al.*, (2012) also reported that extract of selected medicinal plants could inhibit mycelial growth and sporulation in *Alternaria alternata* and the percentage of

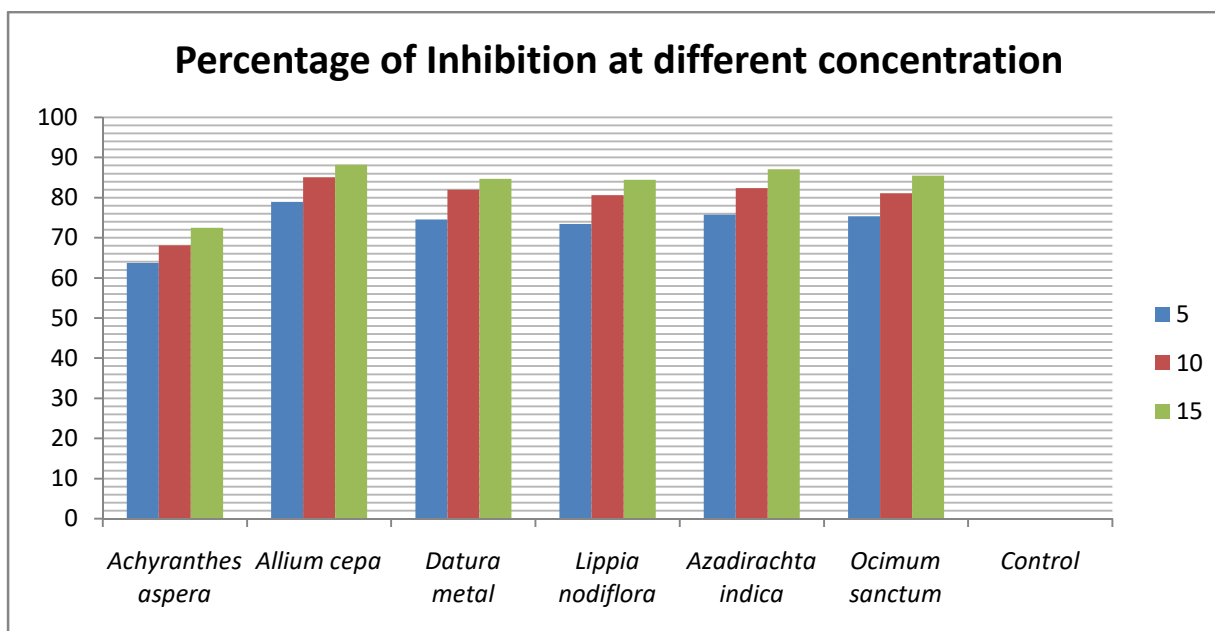
inhibition was equivalent to chemical fungicides. All these findings support the findings of present work as here also mycelial growth was reduced at different concentrations of extracts of selected medicinal plants. Kantwa *et al.*, (2014); Maria *et al.*, (2015); Showkat *et al.*, (2015); Jayapradha and Raja (2016); Nidhika Rani *et al.*, (2018) all have reported that extract taken from different medicinal plants have fungicidal activity. Therefore, findings of the present work corroborate with the above findings as here also extracts of six medicinal plants could reduce the radial growth of *Alternaria alternata*, *in vitro*. Here there is need of extensive research for the selection of best medicinal plant and suitable concentration to be used as fungicides. This would be beneficial for organic farming as it would be ecofriendly method of control of the fungal pathogens.

Graph 1: Showing impact of different concentrations of extracts of selected medicinal plants on mycelial growth of *Alternaria alternata*



Radial growth of *A. alternata* in (mm) in the treated and controlled cultures

Graph 2: Showing impact of different concentrations of extracts of selected medicinal plants on mycelial growth of *Alternaria alternata*



Radial growth in (mm). % of Inhibition. Percentage inhibition of radial growth of mycelium of *A. alternata* in the treated cultures

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