



Study of antimicrobial activity from plant extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia*

Hitesh Kothari, Pushpendra Singh Naruka

Faculty of Pharmacy, Bhupal Nobles' University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India 313001

Email: mail.hiteshkothari@gmail.com

Abstract *Grewia abutilifolia* is a threatened medicinal plant having immense unexplored therapeutic activities. Four different types of extracts (Ethanol extract, Petroleum ether soluble fraction, Chloroform soluble fraction and aqueous soluble fraction) of *Grewia abutilifolia* plant were prepared and evaluated for Preliminary phytochemical constituents. All the extracts were screened for antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus cereus*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus niger*. Ethanol extract of *Grewia abutilifolia* showed potent antimicrobial activity against *Enterococcus faecalis* pathogen whereas petroleum extract of *Grewia abutilifolia* showed potent antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella enteritidis*.

Keywords *Grewia abutilifolia*, antimicrobial activity, antifungal, antibacterial activity

Introduction

Microbial strains that are multi-drug resistant and those that have decreased sensitivity to antibiotics are both on the rise [1-6]. For several kinds of antibiotics, the development of bacterial resistance has turned into a very important clinical issue [7-10]. The mortality, morbidity, and expense of protracted treatments all significantly rise when infections are brought on by bacteria that are resistant to medication [11-16]. The indiscriminate use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, immunosuppressive drugs, intravenous catheters, organ transplantation, and continuous HIV infection outbreaks have all been linked to this rise [17-23]. Additionally, synthetic medications are frequently adulterated and have negative effects in underdeveloped nations in addition to being expensive and ineffective for the treatment of ailments [24-28]. Therefore, in order to manage microbial infections, it is necessary to look for novel infection-fighting techniques [29-31].

Due to its different climatic circumstances, India has long been known for its abundant variety of medicinal plants [32-33]. The Tiliaceae family plant *Grewia abutilifolia* is well-known for its many therapeutic benefits. Seasonal blooming and fruiting are characteristics of *Grewia abutilifolia*, which is found in wet deciduous forests in central and southern India [34-36]. Its many benefits, such as a cooling agent, refreshing drink, anti-inflammatory, anti-rheumatic, demulcent, and anti-diabetic, are revealed by ethnobotany investigations. The traditional uses of a plant genus as a fruit and a cooling beverage are being replaced with its expanded therapeutic capabilities over time. One of the vulnerable species listed by the Indian Biodiversity Organization is *Grewia abutilifolia* [34-40].

The aim of this study was to evaluate the antimicrobial activity of extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia* against microbial pathogens: *Bacillus cereus*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus niger*.



Experimental Work

Preliminary phytochemical evaluation of plant materials

The plant *Grewia abutilifolia* was collected and cleaned to remove dust using tap water then dried in shade for a few weeks. The dried plant was then mechanically ground to fine powder. Four different types of extracts (Ethanol extract, Petroleum ether soluble fraction, Chloroform soluble fraction and aqueous soluble fraction) were prepared. These four extracts were screened for the presence of phytochemical constituents such as carbohydrates, tannins, flavonoids, saponins, cardiac glycosides, alkaloids etc. and phytochemical constituents have been detected qualitatively by the characteristic colour changes and precipitation occurring upon treatment with specific reagents as mentioned below:

Test for Carbohydrate

- Molisch test- 2ml of extract was subjected to Molisch's reagent in a test tube. Observed that violet ring was formed.
- Fehling's test- 1ml of extract was treated with Fehling A and Fehling B solutions. The mixture was heated for 5 minutes observed that red precipitate was formed.
- Benedict's test- To 1ml of extract and 1ml of Benedict's reagent was added in a test tube. This mixture was heated at water bath for 7 minutes observed that red colour was formed.
- Barfoed's test- 2ml of extract was added to 1ml of Barfoed's reagent, observed that a red precipitate was formed.

Test for Protein and Amino Acids

- Biuret's test- 1ml of extract was mixed with 1ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution in a test tube and heated. Further 0.7% copper sulphate solution was added to above solution. Observed that formation of violet colour, that indicated presence of protein.
- Millon's test- 3ml of extract was treated with 5ml of Millon's reagent. A white precipitate was formed. On heating the solution, it was turned to brick red colour that indicated presence of protein.
- Ninhydrin test- 2ml of extract was treated with 4-5 drops of 5% ninhydrin solution and heated. Observed that formation of blue colour. Concluded the presence of amino acid.

Test for Glycoside

- Borntrager's test- Dilute sulphuric acid was added to 3ml of extract, boiled for 5-6 minutes and filtered. Filtrate was cooled and 3ml of benzene was added and stirred the solution. Few ml of dilute ammonia solution was added. Observed that a pink to red coloured layer was formed indicated the presence of anthraquinone glycosides.
- Keller-Kiliani test- 2ml of extract was mixed with 3ml of glacial acetic acid and a drop of 5% ferric chloride in a test tube, followed by addition of 2-5 drops of concentrated sulphuric acid at the side of test tube, observed that blue colour was formed in acetic layers. Result that cardiac glycoside is present.

Test for Saponin

- Froth test- 1ml of extract diluted with distilled water and shake regularly in graduated cylinder for 20 minutes. No change observed in this extract. Result that forth tests is negative.

Test for Alkaloids

- Mayer's test- Few drops of Mayer's reagent were added to 2ml of extract. A white creamy precipitate formed.
- Dragendorff's test- Few drops of Dragendorff's reagent were added to 2ml of extract added in a test tube. Red precipitate formed.
- Hager's test- To 3ml of extract, few drops of Hager reagent were added in a test tube. Yellow precipitate was formed. Result that alkaloid is present.
- Wagner's test- Few drops of Wagner's reagent were added to 2ml of extract in a test tube. A reddish-brown precipitate was formed. Result that alkaloid is present.



Test for Flavonoids

- Shinoda's test- 1 ml of extract was dissolved in ethanol, warmed and then filtered. Three pieces of magnesium chips were added to the filtrate followed by introducing few drops of conc. HCl. A pink, orange, or red to purple colouration indicates the presence of flavonoids.
- Alkaline reagent test- 2 ml of extract was treated with few drops of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) in test tube yellow colour is formed. In this mixture few drops of Conc. H₂SO₄ were added if the mixture becomes colourless. Results indicated that flavonoids are present.

Test for Triterpenoid and terpenoids

- Salkowski's test- 2ml of extract was treated with chloroform and filtered. To this filtrate, few drops of Conc. H₂SO₄ were added by shaking and allow to stand for few minutes. The upper layer in the test tube was turns into red and sulphuric acid layer showed yellow with green fluorescence. It showed the presence of steroids. In bottom yellow colour resulted that Triterpenoid are present.
- Liebermann-Burchard Test-2ml of extract was treated with chloroform and filtered. To this filtrate, few drops of acetic anhydride were added, boiled and cooled. Few drops of concentrated sulphuric acid were added through side of test tube. Observe that brown ring at junction of two layers was turned green indicating that a steroid is present. Another layer red colour showed resulted that Triterpenoid are present.

Test for Tannins and phenolic compounds

- Ferric chloride test- 2ml of extract was dissolved in distilled water. To this solution, 2ml of 5% ferric chloride was added. Violet colour was observed. Results revealed that phenolic compound is present.
- Lead acetate test- 2ml of extract was dissolved in distilled water. Then few drop of lead acetate solution were added. White precipitate was observed. Result that phenolic compound is present.
- Dilute iodine test- To 2ml of extract, dilute iodine solution was added. Red colour was observed. Result that phenolic compound is present.

Test for Coumarins: 1ml of extract was taken in a test tube. The mouth of the tube was covered with filter paper treated with 1 N NaOH solution. Test tube was placed for few minutes in boiling water and then the filter paper was removed and examined under the UV light for yellow fluorescence indicated the presence of coumarins.

Test for Quinones: 1ml of the extract was treated with alcoholic potassium hydroxide solution. Quinines give coloration ranging from red to blue.

Test for Anthocyanins: 2 mL of the extract was treated with 2 ml of 2N HCl. The appearance of a pink-red color that turns purplish blue after addition of ammonia indicates the presence anthocyanins [41-50].

Extraction of *Capparis decidua*

Four different types of extracts were prepared using dried fine powder of *Grewia abutilifolia* and different solvents viz: ethanol, petroleum ether, chloroform and water so as to get 250µg/ml.

In vitro* Anti-microbial activity*Strains of Bacteria and Fungus**

The antimicrobial study of various extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia* was assessed against three Gram positive, three Gram negative and three fungal species. The Gram-positive bacteria species used for the test were *Bacillus cereus* (ATCC 11778), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923) and *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 23521). The Gram-negative bacterial species used for the test were *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25762), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853) and *Salmonella enteritidis* (ATCC 24579). The fungal strains used were *Trichophyton rubrum* (MTCC 1889), *Aspergillus flavus* (ATCC 27541) and *Aspergillus niger* (ATCC 16412).

Preparation of Inoculums

For culturing bacterial stains Himedia's Nutrient agar were used and for effective culturing of fungal strains, Potato Dextrose Agar by Himedia, India was used. All bacterial species were cultured and inoculated in nutrient broth for



the time of 72 hours at 35°C temperature. Fungal inoculums were made by using PDA (Potato dextrose agar) plate for the period of 96 hours at optimum temperature (37°C) and then fungal spores were collected with the help of sterile cotton swab and conveyed to a sterile plate with fresh Potato dextrose solution (20ml).

Antibacterial activity of plant extracts

The antimicrobial activity of each plant extracts was evaluated by the Disk Diffusion method. The Plant extract was liquefied by Dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO) and sterilized by Millipore filter having size 0.22 µm and then disinfected paper discs (6mm size) were used to load the desired concentrations 250µg/ml of plant extracts. To achieve the required growth of all bacteria, the streaking method was followed after pouring 25ml of Muller-Hilton agar medium into disinfected dishes. Disinfected paper discs loaded along with plant extracts with various concentrations were positioned on the Agar Plate's top. To permit Plant extract's diffusion, it was incubated at 35°C for 24hrs. Vernier caliper measurements were used as record and were considered as a marker for the activity. All these experiments were done in triplicate.

Anti-fungal activity of plant extracts

The antifungal activity of each plant extract was evaluated by the Disk Diffusion method. The Plant extracts were liquified by Dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO) and sterilized by Millipore filter having size 0.22µm and then used sterile filter paper discs (6mm diameter) to get concentrations 250µg/ml of plant extracts. In petri dishes, it was repleted with (PDA) Potato dextrose agar and strewed by fungal spores. Filter paper disks of 6 mm size were implanted. The disc, drench concentrations (125µg/ml) of test compounds were investigated by liquifying in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). Zones of inhibition were measured after the time period 48 hrs at temperature 24°C. Vernier calliper measurement were used as record and considered as marker for the activity. All these experiments were done in triplicate [51-52].

Results and Discussion

All the four extracts were evaluated for the presence of the phytochemical constituents. The results showed that EEGA and AEGA contains Saponins, Tannins, Flavonoids, Terpenoids, Steroids, Phlobatannins, Carbohydrates, Coumarines, Alkaloids, Proteins and Emodins whereas PEGA and CFGA contains Saponins, Tannins, Flavonoids, Steroids, Coumarines, Alkaloids, Proteins and Emodins as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Phytochemical test results of different extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia*

Phytochemical tests	Ethanol Extract fraction	Petroleum ether soluble fraction	Chloroform soluble fraction	Aqueous soluble fraction
Saponins	++	-	++	+
Tannins	+++	+	+	++
Flavonoids	+	+	++	+
Terpenoids	+	-	-	+
Steroids	+++	+++	+++	++
Phlobatannins	++	-	-	++
Carbohydrates	+	-	-	-
Coumarines	+++	-	+	++
Alkaloids	+++	++	-	+
Proteins	+	+	-	-
Emodins	+	-	+++	++
Anthraquinones	-	-	-	-
Anthocyanins	-	-	-	-

- = Absent, + = Mildly present, ++ = Moderately present, +++ = Highly present

Anti-microbial activity

The antimicrobial study was measured as in terms of Zone of Inhibition of various extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia* was assessed against three Gram positive, three Gram negative and three fungal species. The Gram-positive bacterial species used for the test were *Bacillus cereus* (ATCC 11778), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923) and



Enterococcus faecalis (ATCC 23521). The Gram-negative bacterial species used for the test were *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25762), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853) and *Salmonella enteritidis* (ATCC 24579). The fungal strains used were *Trichophyton rubrum* (MTCC 1889), *Aspergillus flavus* (ATCC 27541) and *Aspergillus niger* (ATCC 16412) by Disk Diffusion method.

Ethanol extract of *Grewia abutilifolia* showed potent antimicrobial activity against *Enterococcus faecalis* pathogen. Petroleum extract of *Grewia abutilifolia* showed potent antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella enteritidis*.

Chloroform soluble fraction of *Grewia abutilifolia* showed potent antifungal activity against *Aspergillus flavus* pathogen. All the four extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia* showed mild to moderate antifungal activity against the fungal strains used for the study.

Table 2: Antibacterial activity of different extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia*

Bacterial Species	Diameter of inhibition zone (mm) (Mean \pm S.D)					DMSO
	Ethanol extract	Petroleum ether soluble fraction	Chloroform soluble fraction	Aqueous soluble fraction	Gentamycin	
<i>Bacillus cereus</i> (ATCC 11778)	10.8 \pm 0.45	12.7 \pm 0.49	12.0 \pm 0.56	9.2 \pm 0.63	13.8 \pm 0.78	NI
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (ATCC 25923)	9.3 \pm 0.14	22.3 \pm 1.23	14.1 \pm 0.45	13.6 \pm 0.56	25.7 \pm 0.45	NI
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> (ATCC 23521)	14.0 \pm 0.76	12.8 \pm 0.69	10.9 \pm 0.66	12.9 \pm 0.44	14.7 \pm 0.34	NI
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (ATCC 25762)	13.9 \pm 0.97	20.3 \pm 1.09	12.8 \pm	14.3 \pm	20.3 \pm 1.33	NI
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (ATCC 27853)	16.7 \pm 0.76	22.5 \pm 1.45	20.0 \pm 1.21	15.8 \pm	22.8 \pm 1.34	NI
<i>Salmonella enteritidis</i> (ATCC 24579)	11.7 \pm 0.45	15.3 \pm 0.33	10.8 \pm 0.65	13.7 \pm 0.57	15.5 \pm 0.64	NI

NI=No Inhibition, DMSO=Dimethylsulphoxide

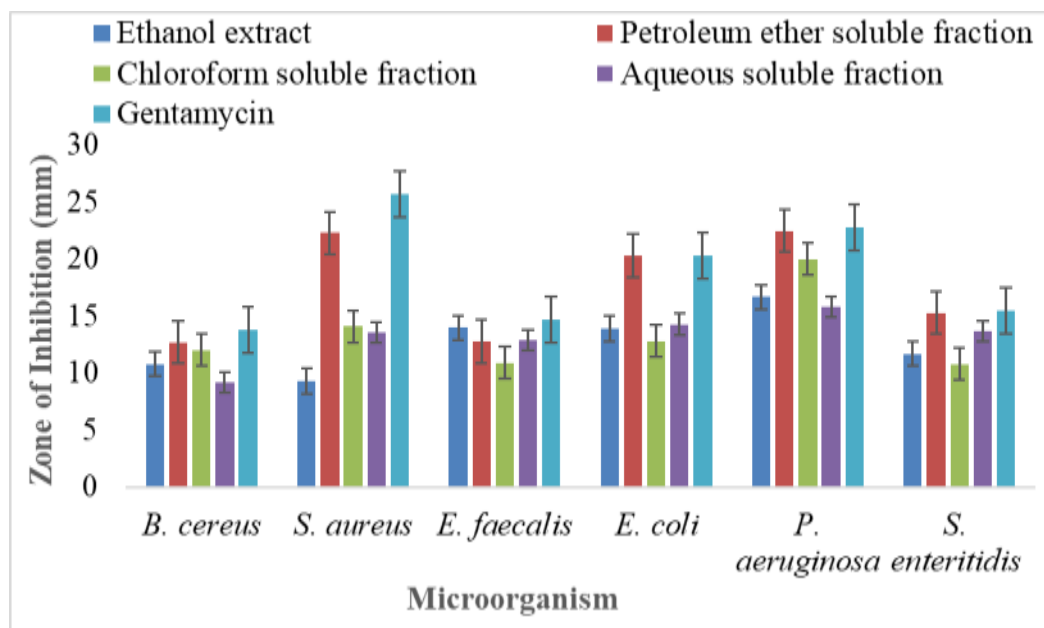


Figure 1: Graphical representation of Antibacterial activity of different extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia*



Table 3: Antifungal activity of different extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia*

Fungal Species	Diameter of inhibition zone (mm) (Mean \pm S.D)					DMSO
	Ethanol extract	Petroleum ether soluble fraction	Chloroform soluble fraction	Aqueous soluble fraction	Fluconazole	
<i>Trichophyton rubrum</i> (MTCC 1889)	10.3 \pm 0.35	11.6 \pm 0.67	13.1 \pm 0.34	9.83 \pm 0.84	15.9 \pm 0.45	NI
<i>Aspergillus flavus</i> (ATCC 27541)	9.7 \pm 0.29	16.3 \pm 0.34	21.7 \pm 0.44	17.7 \pm 0.76	19.7 \pm 0.48	NI
<i>Aspergillus niger</i> (ATCC 16412)	10.4 \pm 0.75	12.9 \pm 0.86	12.3 \pm 0.57	11.5 \pm 0.34	14.3 \pm 0.56	NI

NI=No Inhibition, DMSO=Dimethylsulphoxide

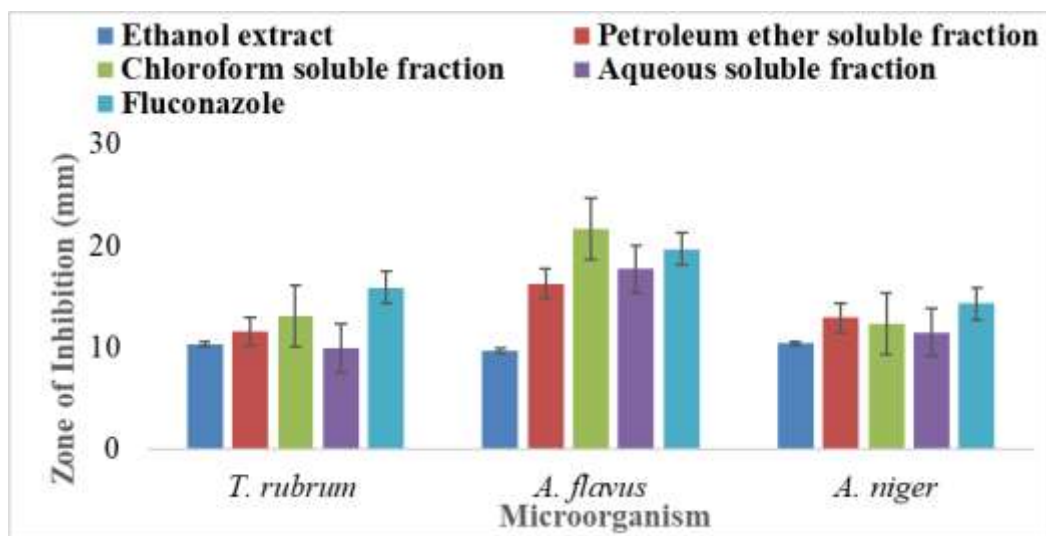


Figure 3: Graphical representation of Antifungal activity of different extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia*

Conclusion

All the four extracts i.e. ethanol extract fraction, petroleum ether soluble fraction, chloroform soluble fraction and aqueous soluble fraction of *Grewia abutilifolia* were evaluated for the antimicrobial activity against three Gram positive, three Gram negative and three fungal species. The Gram-positive bacterial species used for the test were *Bacillus cereus*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus faecalis*. The Gram-negative bacterial species used for the test were *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella enteritidis*. The fungal strains used were *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus niger*.

Ethanol extract of *Capparis decidua* showed potent antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus cereus* whereas significant activity was observed against *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella enteritidis* pathogens. Petroleum extract of *Capparis decidua* was found to potent antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella enteritidis*. All the four extracts of *Capparis decidua* showed mild to moderate antifungal activity against the fungal strains used for the study.

Ethanol extract of *Grewia abutilifolia* showed potent antimicrobial activity against *Enterococcus faecalis* pathogen whereas petroleum extract of *Grewia abutilifolia* showed potent antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella enteritidis*. All the four extracts of *Grewia abutilifolia* showed mild to moderate antifungal activity against the fungal strains used for the study.



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