



ISSN: 0976-3376

Available Online at <http://www.journalajst.com>

ASIAN JOURNAL OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Asian Journal of Science and Technology
Vol.06, Issue, 11, pp.1985-1986, November, 2015

RESEARCH ARTICLE

BIOASSAY FRACTIONATION BASED ANTIFUNGAL ASSAY OF STEMS OF *CISSUS QUADRANGULARIS* (LINN.)

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 19th August, 2015
Received in revised form
08th September, 2015
Accepted 19th October, 2015
Published online 30th November, 2015

Key words:

Cissus Quadrangularis,
Vitaceae,
Monoscus Ruber,
Clotrimazole.

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ABSTRACT

Cissus quadrangularis is a herb claimed to be used for the treatment of various diseases by common man. This plant possesses immense medicinal potential and since there are not many scientific studies carried out on the stem parts of this plant, the biological evaluation of the stems was taken up. The ethanol extract of stems of *cissus quadrangularis* was analyzed for its antifungal activity by disc diffusion method. The ethanol extract showed antifungal activity against *Monoscus ruber* comparable to that of standard *clotrimazole*.

INTRODUCTION

Cissus quadrangularis (family *Vitaceae*) is widely distributed throughout India and is a widespread evergreen plant commonly found in tropical and subtropical area. It is a fleshy cactus-like liana widely used as a common food item in India. The plant is prescribed in the ancient ayurvedic literature as a general tonic and analgesic, with specific bone fracture healing properties.

The plant is believed to be useful in the treatment of helminthiasis, anorexia, dyspepsia, colic, flatulence, skin diseases, leprosy, hemorrhage, epilepsy, convulsion, haemoptysis, tumors, chronic ulcers, swellings.

The antibacterial potential of various solvent extract of leaf, stem and whole plant of *Cissus quadrangularis* has been analysed. Table 1 lists the details of past work with reference to antibacterial activity.

There is only one report on antifungal activity of the ether and ethanol extracts of leaves (Merinal et al., 2012). The present study is the analysis of antifungal activity of stem extract of *C. quadrangularis* obtained by sequential extraction and liquid-liquid fractionation.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of plant material

The stems of *Cissus quadrangularis* were collected during October-December 2011 in the local areas of Palani, Tamilnadu, India. The identity of the plant material was confirmed by Dr. P. Sathyanarayana Scientist 'D' and Head Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore. The stems were dried in shade and cut in to small pieces and then used for the study.

Sequential Extraction of Stem

Air dried pieces of stems of *C. quadrangularis* were sequentially extracted with petroleum ether, ethyl acetate and ethanol for 6 hours at reflux temperature. Extracts were concentrated to one tenth volume under reduced pressure and designated as CQSP, CQSEA and CQSE.

Liquid-liquid Extraction (LLE)

The ethanol extract concentrate (CQSE) was macerated with equal volume of water and extracted with chloroform. The organic and aqueous layers were concentrated; designated as CQSC and CQSW1. The concentrate CQSC was dissolved in 10% aqueous ethanol for further extraction with pet-ether.

Table.1 Reports on Antimicrobial Activity of *C.quadrangularis*

Plant Part Analyzed	Extract Analyzed	Bacteria Tested	Fungi Tested	Method Adopted	References
Stem	Dichloromethane	1.S.aureus	-	micro dilution assay	Luseba et al.,2007
	Hydromethanol (90%)	2.E.coli			
		3.P.aeruginosa			
Leaf	Ethanol	1.E.coli	1.A.flavus	in-vitro agar well diffusion assay	Merinal et al.,2012
	Diethyl ether	2.K. pneumonia	2.C.albicans		
	Aqueous	3.S.aureus	3.Fusarium solani		
Stem	Methanol	1.B.subtilis	-	antimicrobial assay	Chidambara-murthy et al.,2003
	Ethylacetate	2.B.cereus			
	n-hexane	3.S.aureus			
		4.S.aureus			
Whole plant	n-hexane	1.E.coli	-	disc diffusion method	Garima Mishra et al.,2009
	Choloroform	2.B.subtilis			
	Ethylacetate	3.S.aureus			
	methanol	4.C.albicans			
	Water	5.S.cerivisiae			

Table .2 Antifungal Screening of Stem Extracts of *C.quadrangularis*

Extract code	Zone of Inhibition (mm)			
	Aspergillus niger	Aspergillus fumigates	Monascus Ruber	Candida albicans
CQSP	17	8	11	13
CQSEA	13	11	15	15
CQSE	14	11	16	17
CQSC	12	09	10	12
CQSW ₁	11	09	09	10
CQSP	11	09	10	08
CQSW ₂	07	14	10	08
Standard*	12	12	12	16

* Clotrimazole 10µg/disc mm

The LLE with pet-ether was continued until the organic layer was colourless. The organic and aqueous layers were concentrated under vacuum and the concentrates designated as CQSP1 and CQSW2.

The extract concentrates CQSP,CQEA, CQSE,CQSC,CQSW₁,CQSW₂ and CQSP1 were analyzed for their antifungal efficacy.

Anti fungal Assay

Antifungal assay was done by disc diffusion method. Species culture was grown on Sabouraud's dextrose agar (www.microbelibrary.org) at 28°C and each sample-impregnated disc was placed on the agar and incubated at 28°C for 48 h. The clear zone inhibition was measured.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Antifungal screening results for the various extracts are given in Table 2.The ethanol extract (CQSE) and the various fractionates showed varying degrees of inhibition against all the fungal strains. The pet-ether and ethanol extract exhibit anti-fungal activity against *Monascus ruber* higher than that of standard clotrimazole. This study revealed the potentially active fractions from which the active principles could be isolated.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women Coimbatore for providing necessary facilities. Authors are also thankful to KMCH College of Pharmacy, Coimbatore for the anti fungal assay.

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