Antibacterial Potential of Silver Nanoparticles Synthesized using Aqueous Flower Extract of
*Lantana camara* L.

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**ABSTRACT**

Though silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) biosynthesized and mediated by plant extracts, they have seen to possess several pharmacological activities. They are widely used as medicine in pharmaceutical industries. The current investigation aimed and designed to evaluate antibacterial potential of biosynthesized silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) of flower extract of *Lantana camara* L. The AgNPs were biosynthesized using silver nitrate (1mM) solution and treated with flower extract. Yellow brown color indicating the formation of AgNPs. These particles were characterized by Ultraviolet-Visible (UV-Vis) spectroscopy and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). An anti-bacterial study using an agar well diffusion technique was employed for the biosynthesized AgNPs on *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*).

**Keywords:** Antibacterial, Silver Nanoparticles (AgNPs), *Lantana camara*, Spectral analysis.

**INTRODUCTION**

In the fast-growing field of science and biotechnology, formation of remarkable and revolutionized material known as Nanomaterial. These nanoparticles of 1-100nm range has the diverse application in medicine, drug delivery, imaging & diagnosis. The synthesis and characterization of novel metal nanoparticles such as silver, gold, and platinum is emerging field. Such material have vital role in different activities due to their unique size that are more influenced than their own metal ions. Biosynthesis of these metallic nanoparticles characterized by high ratio of surface area to mass as compared to that bulk material. NPs are conjugated with a variety of functionalized biomolecules and therefore having application in diagnosing, targeting, delivering and treating the drug in various ailments. Medicinal use of silver has been documented since ancient times. In Ayurveda and Chinese medicinal system, it has been reported to have antimicrobial activities. AgNPs are also used to treat open wound infections, chronic ulcers, textile industries, water purification systems, medical and diagnostic devise, household appliances and electronics, cosmetics & medicines. NPs have been synthesized by several methods. Physical or chemical methods are expensive and needs reductants or radiation which is harmful to humans as well as environment. However, as compared to expenditure, less energy, eco-friendly natural method is biological synthesis from plants, microbes and enzymes. Among all biological systems, plant extract mediated synthesis is faster and NPs so synthesized are more stable.

*Lantana camara* L. (*Verbanaceae*) is a flowering and ornamental herb found in tropical and sub-tropical countries commonly known as wild or red sage. It has wide traditional claims for treatment of various illness. The stems and branches are sometimes thorny. Flower heads contain 20-40 flowers, usually 2.5 cm across; the color of flowers varies from white, cream or yellow to orange pink, purple and red with small, rounded heads, often in two colors.

**MATERIALS AND METHOD**

**Chemicals**

Sigma-Aldrich (Germany) remained the chief supplier of silver nitrate. The reagents employed in the study were of analytical grade and purchased from HiMedia (India). Double distilled water was employed during the experiment (Borosil, India). Aqueous extract was prepared. 15g of powdered *Lantana camara* was dissolved in 200ml of distilled water. The mixture was heated on hot plate with continuous stirring at 30 – 40 °c for 20 minutes. Then, the water extract was filtered through filter paper. The filtrate was kept in a...
Preparation of Silver Nitrate solution

1mM aqueous solution of silver nitrate (AgNO₃) was prepared and used for synthesis of nanoparticles. To prepare 100 ml of 1mM solution, 0.01698g of AgNO₃ was added to 100 ml of distilled water.

Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles

The fabrication of the silver nanomaterials involved a reaction of fresh fruit flesh extract (1 mL) with 9 mL of 1mM aqueous solution of AgNO₃ and further incubation of the content for 24 hours at 37°C. The change in the color of the mixture was checked, since it is an indicator of nanoparticles formation.

Characterization of silver nanoparticles

UV-Vis spectroscopic study

The UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu® UV-1800) was employed in studying the reduction of pure silver ions. For this study, the samples (pure AgNO₃ solution and the prepared AgNP solution) in small aliquots with double distilled water were scanned in the wavelength range of 200-800 nm after 24 hours.

Scanning electron microscopic study

The scanning electron microscopy (SEM) technique (JOEL-JSM 6390 SEM) was employed comprehensively studying the morphology of the prepared nanomaterial. The samples were analyzed by initially sprinkling the content over the double tape hold to the aluminium stub, followed by installing in the SEM chamber and subsequently scanning at the acceleration voltage of 10 kV. The scanned photomicrographs were recorded and saved.

Antibacterial activity

The potential of the fabricated silver nanoparticles in exhibiting bactericidal activity against pathogenic Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus, MTCC 3160) were evaluated suitably. The in-vitro antibacterial study was executed by disc diffusion method using the Muller Hinton Agar medium. Initially, the microbes were cultured in the nutrient broth and further incubated at 37±1°C for 24 hr. Subsequently, the cultured cells were multiplied in the Muller Hinton agar plates. The AgNPs containing discs were screened against S. aureus and compared with ciprofloxacin (positive control). The zone of inhibition (ZOI) was measured in millimetres (mm). The experiment was performed in triplicate manner. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was performed by the agar streak dilution method. The MIC value was determined and the average was taken.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study revealed that, with the addition of plant extract to the aqueous silver nitrate solution, a change in color of the content was observed after few hours. This certainly indicated the formation of AgNPs in the medium by the reduction of ionic silver to elemental silver form.

UV-Vis spectroscopic study

The reduced sample displayed an optical absorption band peak at 335 nm, which was due to absorption attributes of metallic Ag as a result of Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR). An increase in intensity was noticed which may be due to the formation of AgNPs in a time-dependent manner. The absorption peak at 335 nm reflects that abundant organic molecules interacted with the silver ions in the solution. In contrast, the absorption band at 250 to 300 nm specified that capping occurred after the formation of AgNPs. Figure 1 depicts the UV spectra of Lantana camara mediated synthesized AgNP sample.

Antibacterial activity

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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Anti-microbial activity

The biosynthesized AgNPs exhibited anti-microbial activity against S. aureus where it displayed a noteworthy ZOI of 25.3±1.14 mm at MIC of 25μg/mL. In contrast to the standard drug ciprofloxacin, which demonstrated 33.4±1.03 mm ZOI at MIC of 6.25μg/mL, it may be concluded that the biosynthesized AgNPs have striking bactericidal potentials.

CONCLUSION

The present study is a milestone in the history of silver nanomaterial synthesis via green synthesis i.e., nature inspired or using plant extract for their antibacterial potential. Lantana camara is a important member for the biosynthesis of the nanomaterials. The flower extract of Lantana camara exhibited preparation of AgNPs of range 15-45 nm which were bacilli-like long, somewhat elliptical, and double-stacked morphology. The UV-spectral studies also confirmed the formation of the silver nanomaterials from flower extract by optical absorption band peak at 259 nm. The bactericidal potential screening against S. aureus demonstrated noteworthy activity (ZOI of 25.3±1.14 mm at MIC of 25μg/mL) as compared with the standard drug, ciprofloxacin. This study will certainly promote more eco-friendly less toxic synthesis of nanomaterials.

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