Antibacterial and Antifungal Activity of Ethanolic and Methanolic Extract of Dried Seeds of *Buchhlozia Coriacea*

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**ARTICLE INFO**

| Article No. | DOI        |
|-------------|------------|
| 100912103   | 10.15580/GJAS.2013.6.100912103 |

**Submitted:** 10/09/2012  
**Accepted:** 22/06/2013  
**Published:** 29/06/2013

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**ABSTRACT**

The antibacterial activities of the ethanol and methanol extract of the dried seeds of *B. coriacea* against clinically significant bacterial isolates were determined using the agar well diffusion method. It showed *Staphylococcus aureus* was the most susceptible while *Bacillus cereus* was the least susceptible to the extracts with methanol extract being more effective against the clinical bacterial isolates. The extracts inhibited the growth of the bacterial isolates in a concentration dependent manner. The antifungal activity of the extracts on radial mycelial growth of the test fungi showed that *Aspergillus niger* was the most susceptible while *Rhizopus spp* was the least susceptible.

**Keywords:** Antibacterial, Antifungal, Extract, Seeds, Buchhlozia coriacea
INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants are plants which contain substances that could be used for therapeutic purposes or which are precursors for the synthesis of useful drugs (Sofowora, 2008a). In recent years, there has been a gradual renewal of interest in the use of medicinal plants in developing countries because herbal medicines have been reported to be safe and work out any adverse side effect especially when compared with synthetic drugs and because of the low income of majority of the populace (Sofowora, 2008a). Thus a search for new drugs with better and cheaper substitute of plant origin is a natural choice. The importance of higher plants to human existence cannot be over-emphasized, it’s importance cut across all aspects of life and economy of man which include health care delivery and supply of drugs (Bringman et al; 1999). The search for newer sources of antibiotics is a global challenge preoccupying research institutions, pharmaceutical companies and academics since many infection agents are becoming resistance to synthetic drugs (Latha and Kanabiran, 2006). Plants have the major advantage of still being the most effective and cheaper alternative source of drugs. The local use of material plants as primary health remedies due to their pharmacological properties is quite common in Asia, Latin America and Africa (Bibitha et al, 2002). The development of medicinal chemistry, as a major note for the discovery of novel and more active therapeutic agents is further invitation that investigations into the chemical and biological activities of the plants needs to be carried out (Rao and Raja, 2007). Plants are the best sources of active secondary metabolites which are beneficial to mankind. Many plant origin drugs have been reported to contain biological properties like analgesic, anti inflammatory antioxidant, hypoglycemic, antibacterial and antifungal agents (Sindhu, 2009). Plants generally produce secondary metabolites which constitute an important source of microbicides, pesticides and many pharmaceutical drugs (Doughari et al;2008). Plant products still remain the principal source of pharmaceutical agents used in traditional medicine. The effects of plant extracts on bacterial have been studied by a very large number of researchers in different parts of the world. The potential for developing antimicrobials from higher plants appear rewarding as it will lead to the development of a phytomedicine to act against microbes (Sofowora, 2008). Plant based antimicrobials have enormous therapeutic potentials as they can serve the purpose with lesser side effects that are often associate with synthetic antimicrobials (Rao and Raja,2007).

Buchholzia coriacea was named after R.W. Buchholzia who collected plants in Cameroon in the late 19th century (Keay et al; 1989). It belongs to the Capparaceae family. The seed of B. Coriacea has medicinal values.

These seeds gave the plants its common name of “wonderful kola” because of its usage in traditional medicine. The seeds are covered in a purple aril which is chewed in Ivory Coast and has a sharp pungent taste. As a result of its supported broad-spectrum affinity, there is need to conduct studies on potential utilization of wonderful kola in foods. This work was aimed at evaluating the antimicrobial potentials of ethanol and methanol extracts of B. coriacea.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of B. Coriacea Seeds: Seeds of B. coriacea were brought from Oba market, Post Office in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State and were identified by the herbarium section of the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

Processing of the Seeds: The seeds were washed, chopped into pieces and air dried for 21 days. After drying, the seeds were ground into powder using a mortar and pestle and stored in well labeled air tight containers for the antibacterial and antifungal activity of the ethanolic and methanolic extracts of the seed.

Extraction of Plant Materials: Ethanol and methanol solvents were used for extraction of the active components of the plant’s seed. The method of Alanis et al (2005) was used for both ethanolic and methanolic extraction of the seed active ingredients. Exactly 150g each of the powdered seeds were separately extracted in cold using 60% methanol and 95% ethanol and shaken at 150rpm for 4 days at ambient temperature. The mixture was then filtered. The filtrate was evaporated using vacuum rotary evaporator (BUCHL Rolavapour R200/205 model R205V800) and stored at 4°C in dark sample bottles prior to use.

Test microorganisms: Clinical isolates of Staphylococcus aureus, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Proteus vulgaris, Bacillus subtilis, Salmonella typhimurium, E. coli used for the work were collated from the medical Laboratory Department of Federal Medical Centre, Owo Ondo State while laboratory fungal cultures of Aspergillus nigers Trichoderma spp and Rhisopus Spp were collected from the Microbiology Department, University of Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State, the bacterial species were maintained on nutrient agar start while the fungal isolates were maintained on Potato dextrose agar (PDA) and kept at 4°C prior to use.
Table 1: Antibacterial activity of methanolic extract of *B. coriacea* seeds

| Concentration of extract (mg/ml) | Diameter of inhibition zone (mm) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| *50mg/ml*                        | *100mg/ml*                       | *150mg/ml* | *200mg/ml* |
| Staphylococcus aureus            | METH | ETH | METH | ETH | METH | ETH | METH | ETH |
| 10+0.04                          | 9+0.33 | 17+0.03 | 14+0.16 | 22+0.06 | 20+0.16 | 27+0.02 | 24+0.16 |
| Klebsiella pneumonia             | 8+0.02 | 6+0.04 | 12+0.10 | 10+0.23 | 16+0.07 | 15+0.01 | 18+0.05 | 16+0.17 |
| Pseudomonas aeruginosa           | 2 + 0.01 | 1+0.03 | 6+0.11 | 5+0.14 | 9+0.16 | 7+0.06 | 12+0.02 | 10+0.16 |
| Proteus vulgaris                 | 5 + 0.02 | 3+0.01 | 7+0.12 | 5+0.06 | 10+0.14 | 8+0.10 | 14+0.01 | 12+0.01 |
| Bacillus subtilis                | 1 +0.01 | 1.0+0.01 | 2+0.14 | 1+0.05 | 4+0.06 | 3+0.04 | 7+0.06 | 6+0.06 |
| E. coli                         | 2 +0.02 | 1.0+0.32 | 3+0.13 | 3+0.12 | 6+0.11 | 4+0.02 | 9+0.21 | 8+0.16 |
| Salmonella typhimurium           | 7 + 0.04 | 5.0±0.03 | 14+0.17 | 12+0.04 | 18+0.21 | 16+0.10 | 22+0.06 | 19+0.21 |

Values are means of duplicate results ± S. D  
METH = METHANOLIC EXTRACT,    ETH =Ethanolic extract

**Antibacterial Activity:** The antibacterial activity of the extract of *B. coriacea* was done with agar well diffusion method of Osadebe and Ukweeze (2004). Both culture of the test bacterial isolate (0.1ml) containing 10⁶ cells/ml (macfarland standard) of organism was aseptically inoculated by spreading evenly onto the surface of nutrient agar plates using a sterile spreader. Five wells (6.0 mm diameter) were made in the plate using a sterile cork borer and 0.5ml of the crude extracts were added and allowed to diffuse for about 2h. The plates were incubated at 370C for 18-24hr. Antibacterial activities of the extracts were determined by measuring the diameter of inhibitions zone (mm) against each test bacteria.

**Antifungal Activity:** Radial mycelia growth assay method of Okafor (1995) was used to test for the antifungal activity of the extracts. Different concentrations of the extracts (5ml) were aseptically added to sterile potato dextrose agar medium (15ml) in Petri dishes. The plates were gently swirled and allowed to solidify. The extract-amended medium in the Petri dishes were inoculated, each alone at the centre with mycelia discs (6mm) of the test fungus and incubated at 28°C for 5days. The radical mycelia growth was measured every 24hrs for 5days.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Table 1 showed the antibacterial activity of methanolic and ethanolic extract of air dried seeds of *B. coriacea* against selected clinical bacterial isolates. The diameter of inhibition zones (mm) of four different concentrations (50,100,150 and 200mg/ml) were presented. The higher the concentration the better the antibacterial activity of the extracts while methanolic extract showed better antibacterial than the ethanolic extract from the overall results. *Bacillus subtilis* was the most resistant of the isolates tested followed by *E. coli* while *Staphylococcus aureus* was the most susceptible.”
Table 2: Antifungal activity of methanolic extract of B. Coriacea seeds

| Test fungi          | Concentration of extract (mg/ml) | Radial mycelia growth (mm) |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                     | 50mg/ml                         | 100mg/ml                  | 150mg/ml                  | 200mg/ml                  |
|                     | METH ETH                        | METH ETH                  | METH ETH                  | METH ETH                  |
| Aspergillus niger   | 8+0.2 7+0.11                    | 14+0.16 10+0.01           | 22+0.15 22+0.07           | 34+0.02 28+0.01           |
| Trichoderma SPP     | 4+0.01 4+0.02                   | 8+0.06 7+0.06             | 18+0.23 15+0.16           | 26+0.05 22+0.16           |
| Rhizopus spp        | 4+0.16 3+0.45                   | 7+0.23 6+0.18             | 14+0.01 13+0.02           | 22+0.06 18+0.16           |

Values are means of duplicate results ± S.D

METH=METHANOLIC EXTRACT, ETH =Ethanolic extract

Aspergillus niger was the most susceptible followed by Rhizopus spp while T. viride was least susceptible to the extracts. Plants are the best sources of active secondary metabolites which are beneficial to mankind. Many plant origin drugs have been reported with biological properties like antibacterial, antifungal, antioxidants, anti inflammatory and hypoglycemic (Sindhu, 2009). According to WHO report 80% of the world population are taking interest in indigenous herbal medicines usually being seed in form of fruits, vegetables, drugs or their extracts for the treatment of the diseases and for maintenance of health (Sahito et al, 2003). The results of this work showed that the seeds extract of B. coriacea inhibited the growth of all the tested isolates at varying concentrations of 50, 100, 150 and 200mg/ml. The antimicrobial activity of extracts of medicinal materials has been attributed to the phytochemicals constituents present in them (Aboaba et al, 2006) and the extracts of B. coriacea wont be an exception. Antimicrobial properties of substances are desirable tools in the control of undesirable micro organisms especially in the treatment of infectious diseases and in food spoilage (Mohanta et al, 2007). The active components usually interfere with growth and metabolism of micro organisms in a negative manner (Aboaba et al, 2006). The antibacterial activity of ethanolic and methanolic extract of B. coriacea seeds at varying concentrations (50,100, 150, 200mg/ml) are given in table 1. The results showed that the higher the concentration the higher the diameter of inhibition zone, the better the bacterial activity of the extract while methanolic extract exhibited better activity than the ethanolic extract. This has been observed that the more polar the solvent, the better its extraction power (Chang et al, 1997). Methanol, although not a recommended food solvent because of its toxicity, gave a higher quantitative phytochemical. The results showed that the values obtained are quite higher for the methanolic extract than the ethanolic extract suggesting that extraction with methanol produces better active antimicrobial phytochemicals which are contained in the seed. The presence of phytochemicals in the seed extract showed that the extract possess antibacterial properties which are seen in results of the antimicrobial activities of the extracts. The antibacterial activity of crude extracts of the seeds at varying concentrations showed that the inhibition zones ranged between 1.00± 0.01 and 27.00± 0.02. The antibacterial activity of the extracts increases with the increase in the concentration. Staphylococcus aureus was the most susceptible with inhibition range between 9.00 ± 0.03 and 27.00 ± 0.02 for ethanolic extract at 50mg/ml and methanolic extract at 200mg/ml respectively. This was followed by Salmonella typhimurium with inhibition zone ranging between 2.0± 0.04 and 22.0± 0.06, Proteus vulgaris has inhibition zone ranging between 3.00± 0.01 and 14.0± 0.01. The most resistant to the extracts was Bacillus subtilis with inhibition zone range between 1.00 ± 0.01 and 7.00± 0.06 for ethanolic extract at 50 mg/ml and methanolic extract at 200mg/ml. This was followed by E. coli with inhibition range between 1.00± 0.32 and 9.00± 0.21.

Considering the rich diversity of plants, it is expected that screening and scientific evaluation of plant extracts for their anti-microbial activity may provide new anti-microbial substances hence the present investigation clearly reveals, the antibacterial nature of these seeds and suggests that these seeds could be exploited in the management of diseases caused by these bacteria in human systems. The results of the...
antibacterial activity showed that the plant seeds are rich reservoirs of antimicrobial as observed by other works such as Mbata et al; (2009), Ezekiel and Onyeoziri, (2009).The active components usually interfere with growth and metabolism of microorganisms in a negative manner (Aboaba et al; 2006). The varying degree of sensitivity of the bacterial isolates may be due to the intrinsic tolerance of the microbes and the nature and combination of phytochemicals present in the extracts. The test organisms used in this study are associated with various forms of human infections from a clinical point of view Klebsiella pneumoniae is the most important member of the Klebsiella genus and it is emerging as an important cause of neonatal nosocomial infections (Gupta et al; 1993). E. coli causes Septicemias and can infect the gall bladder, surgical wounds, skin lesions and the lungs especially in debilitate and immuno deficient patients (Black, 1996), proteus vulgaris is capable of causing inflammation of the bladder (Nester et al, 2004). Pseudomonas aeruginosa which is an opportunity pathogen that is widespread in the environment, a major cause of nosocomial infections and an occasional cause of community acquired infections (Nester et al; 2004). Staphylococcus aureus and Salmonella typhimurium had been associated with food poisoning and typhoid fever respectively (Nester et al; 2004) while Bacillus subtilis is capable of causing eye infection, food spoilage and food borne intoxication (Nester et al; 2004).

The antifungal activity of the B.coriacea seeds extracts as shown in table 2 indicates a significant antifungal activity on the fungi used. Many scientists, Anjum and Khan (2003), Acedokun et al (2002), Bajwa et al, (2006), Theo and Abro (2000), Pizada et al (2007) Sanjary and Ashok, (2006), Fardos, (2009) just to mention few have worked on the antifungal activities of medicinal plants from different regions of the world. Aspergillus niger was the most susceptible with inhibition zone between 7.00± 0.11 and 34.00± 0.02 (mm) followed by Trichoderma sp between 4.00± 0.01 and 26.00± 0.05 while Rhizopus sp showed the lowest susceptibility with inhibition zone between 3.00 ± 0.15 to 22.00± 0.06 (mm). Many investigations were carried out to discover plant products that inhibit the fungi like Aspergillus sp, Trichophyton sp (rubrum), Rhizopus sp. These fungi species causes infections in human which are difficult to control effectively and the pharmaceutical arsenal currently available organize than is rather limited (Gupta et al, 1991). Hence, plant products that inhibit their growth without harming the host represents potential therapeutic agent. The antifungal activities of the seed extracts were obtained using methanol and ethanol.

The trend in the activity followed the antibacterial activity earlier mentioned in which the methanolic extract showed better inhibition zones than the ethanolic extract in terms of radial mycelia growth of the fungal species used. Ezekiel and Onyeoziri (2009) also found out the hexane and methanolic extract of B. coriacea seeds inhibit the growth of Trichoderma viride Aspergillus niger.

CONCLUSION

The plant extracts have great potentials as antimicrobial compounds against microorganism, thus they can be used in the treatment of infections diseases caused by the tested isolates. The seeds could be sufficiently better when considering a natural food and feed additives to improve human and animal health.

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Cite this Article: Ibrahim TA and Fagbohun ED (2013). Antibacterial and Antifungal Activity of Ethanolic and Methanolic Extract of Dried Seeds of Buchholzia Coriacea. Greener Journal of Agricultural Sciences, 3(6): 458-463, http://doi.org/10.15580/GJAS.2013.6.100912103.