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RESEARCH ARTICLE



Antibacterial Activity and Time-kill Assay of *Terminalia catappa* L. and *Nigella sativa* L. against Selected Human Pathogenic Bacteria

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Abstract

The current investigation aims to test the susceptibility of human pathogenic clinical isolates and MTCC strains to leaf and seed extracts of Terminalia catappa and Nigella sativa. Disc diffusion assay, micro dilution assay and minimum Bactericidal Concentration investigated the susceptibility of bacteria to the test extracts. The active extract was subjected to phytochemical screening, separation of the phytochemicals by Thin Layer Chromatography, bioactivity guided assay and Time- kill assay. Acetone and methanol extracts of T.catappa revealed, significant inhibition of clinical origin Staphylococcus aureus followed by Proteus vulgaris and the MTCC strains Staphylococcus aureus, Salmonella typhi, Pseudomonas aeroginosa and Bacillus subtilis. Nigella sativa inhibited the growth of clinical origin Staph.aureus and MTCC strain of Staph.aureus, Salmonella typhi and B.subtilis. Minimum inhibitory concentration for all the test bacteria was reported in the range of 5000µg/ml to 9 µg/ml in T. catappa extract. Most sensitive being the clinical isolate Staph. aureus and Proteus vulgaris. The bactericidal concentration for the test bacteria was found to be between 5000µg/ml and 625µg/ml. Phyto-chemical analysis of leaf extracts of T. catappa found to have dominated by polyphenols (Terpenoids, steroids, flavonoids, flavones, saponins and tannins) and N.sativa extracts recorded the presence of alkaloids, proteins and oils and fats. TLC profiling of the acetone extract revealed many antibacterial active bands. Bands having Retention factor 0.47 and 0.52 were active against the test bacteria. Time kill assay of the acetone extract of T. catappa were carried out for the first time. The extract exhibited dose dependent bactericidal and bacteriostatic activity against the clinical isolates.

Keywords: Combretaceae, Terpenoids, Polyphenols, Thymoquinone, Bioautography, Time- kill assay

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INTRODUCTION

Recently there has been increase in the spread of untreatable microbial infections and bacteria cause 90% of the infections^{1.} World Health Organization reports that infectious diseases cause 50% deaths. The non-selective use of synthetically originated antibiotics, microorganisms have led to the development of multidrug resistance, which poses a serious health concern². The resistance to drug may be caused mostly by the unregulated use of antibiotics and poor hygienic conditions and affects severely in every aspect of life ³. The escalating resistance in microorganisms is due to the phenomenon of genetic mutations or acquired antibiotic resistant genes influenced by ill-suited use of antibiotics¹. Additionally antibiotics are associated with unfavorable consequences on the host including hypersensitivity, allergic reactions and immune- suppression⁴. The multiple drug resistance has enforced researchers in search of new drugs with antimicrobial property from different sources like medicinal plants, which serve as acceptable source of novel antimicrobial agents⁵. Rational localization of biologically active components from folk medicines and systemic evaluation will result in finding of novel efficacious drugs, which are potentially active against pathogens^{6.} Antimicrobial drugs with efficacious mode of action should be developed in order to surpass the downside of current antimicrobial drugs⁷. A large number of medicinal plants are reported to exhibit antimicrobial activity². Reports of WHO states that medicinal plants would be the best root to acquire diverse of drugs¹. In this context, plants promise a source of natural antimicrobial agents⁸. Antimicrobial activities of plants are ascribed to the presence of phytochemicals like tannins, phenols, alkaloids, terpenoids and flavonoids⁹. The application of plant based drugs in the treatment against pathogens is obtaining great acceptance because of scientific interest and non toxicity properties ¹⁰.

Approximately 119 drugs isolated from plants are used in treating infectious diseases worldwide¹¹. Not less than 50% of the drugs which are used in treating clinically infectious diseases accounts to have originated from natural and natural product derivatives¹². Since phytochemicals have the ability to inhibit the growth of infectious microbes, many plants are still being used for their antimicrobial properties and many other biological activities. Inspite of existence of vigorous antimicrobial drugs, the emergence of resistance microbes has created an immense interest in the exploration and the outcome of efficacious drugs¹³.

Terminalia catappa is a large tropical tree of the family Combretaceae¹. Different parts of the plant are used in folklore medicine and studies have revealed various medicinal properties¹⁵. Various research disclose the medicinal uses like microbial inhibition of leaf aqueous and methanolic extract of the plant¹⁶. Bacterial inhibitory activity of leaf aqueous extract¹⁷, anti-inflammatory property of leaf ethanolic extract¹⁸, wound healing activity of bark, antioxidant and radical scavenging activity of leaf aqueous extract, anticancer and antiaging activity of ethanol and aqueous extract of leaves have also been reported¹⁹. Anti-methicillin potential of phytochemicals of T.catappa have also been evident²⁰. Insilico studies of compounds from T. catappa are responsible for hepatoprotective and hepatotoxic properties²¹. Extracts of the leaves of the plant also possess anticancer, anti-HIV reverse transcriptase, hepatoprotective, Anti-inflamatory, Anti-hepatitis and Aphrodisiac effects²². Phytochemicals include tannins (Punicalagin, Punicalin, Chebulagic acid, geranin, granitin B), flavonoids (Vitexin, Rutin, Isovitexin), and Terpenoids (Ursolic acid, Asiatic acid) which are responsible for therapeutic activity²³.

Nigella sativa, belongs to the family Rananculaceae²⁴. It is native to Mediterranian regions such as South west Asia, Southern Europe and North Africa²⁵. Seeds contain yellowish volatile oil, fixed oil, alkaloids, saponins, minerals and vitamins²⁶. The reported studies related to *Nigella sativa* have illustrated wide range of biological activities such as antioxidant²⁷, anti-inflamatory²⁸, antidiabetic²⁹, anti prostate cancer effects³⁰, antibacterial³¹, immunomodulatory effect³², and hepatoprotective³³.

Secondary metabolite analysis found that seeds contain two types of alkaloids, isoquinone alkaloids (Nigellimine – N oxide) and pyrazole alkaloids (Nigellicine and Nigellidine)³⁴. Essential phytoconstituents also include thymoquinone, P-cymene, 4- Terpineol, carvacrol, t- anethol, longifoline, thymol, thymohydroquinone and dithymoquinone addtionaly they have a water soluble pentacyclic triterpene, alpha- hedarin and saponins as anticancer agents ³⁵.

MATERIALS AND METHODS Preparation of the plant extract

Mature leaf material was collected from fields in and around Mysuru, Karnataka. The leaves were shade dried and powdered using laboratory blender. *N. sativa* seeds were collected from the local market, powdered and used for successive solvent extraction by soxhlet extractor using polar and non-polar solvents. After extraction the solvents were evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and preserved the extracts at 4°C for future analysis.

Microorganisms and growth conditions:

Human pathogenic bacteria were obtained from MTCC Chandigarh, Viz, *B.subtilis* (MTCC 121), *B.cereus* (MTCC 1272), *Pseudo.aeruginosa*, (MTCC424) *Salm. typhi* (MTCC 733), *Escherichia coli* (MTCC 7410) and *Staph.aureus* (MTCC 7443). Human pathogenic clinical isolates were provided by Microbiology department, Government Medical College, Mysuru, Viz, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus aureus and Salmonella typhi*. The pathogens were maintained on Muller Hinton agar in glass tubes. Bacteria were resuscitated by sub culturing from stock onto Muller Hinton agar plates followed by incubation overnight for their optimum growth. **Antibacterial activity of the plant extracts**

Antibacterial susceptibility test by Disc diffusion assay

Antibacterial potency of the test plant extracts were done by disc diffusion method employing the CLSI M02-A document³⁶. Inoculums were prepared and adjusted to McFarland standard with cell density of 1 to 1-2 X10⁸ CFU/ ml. Standardized inoculum (0.1ml) was swabbed to the previously solidified MH agar plate. Sterile discs were loaded with test plant extract (100mg/ ml) and impregnated onto the plates followed by incubation for 18-24 hours at 35 \pm 2°C. Standard antibiotics and solvents were employed as positive and negative control. All experiments were carried out in triplicates. Zone of inhibition (ZOI) around the disc was measured in mm.

Microbroth dilution method for determining Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and Minimum Bactericidal Concentration (MBC)

MIC was established by employing 96 well microtiter plate according to the CLSI M07-A9 document³⁷. The test plant extract, which showed the inhibitory activity, were selected for determining MIC and MBC. The test plant extract were serially diluted two fold to obtain concentration of 5000-9µg/ml. The experimental set up included reference drug controls and solvent as positive and negative controls respectively. Aliquot of standardized inoculum (1.5 X 10⁸ colony forming units/ml) was added to all the wells. The micro dilution plate was covered to avoid drying followed by incubation. Inhibition of bacterial growth was confirmed by addition of 20µl of aqueous solution of 2, 3,5-Triphenyl tertrazolium chloride (TTC) and re-incubated for 4-5h. The colorless well was designated as the MIC, which inhibited the growth of bacteria. Change of colour from colourless to pink indicated the presence of viable cells. MBC was ascertained by sub culturing 10µl of test dilution from the lowest concentration well by streaking on the previously sterilized and solidified MH agar with overnight incubation at optimum temperature. The well, which gave no bacterial colony on the agar medium, was designated as MBC.

Phytochemical composition of the active test extracts

The test extracts were subjected to qualitative phytochemical analysis according to the established procedures to determine the presence of different class of secondary phytochemicals^{38,39}. **Thin layer chromatography (TLC) of the active extracts**

The active extracts were subjected for separation of phytochemicals. Based on the review of literature and slight modification, EMW (Ethyl acetate: methanol: water) with 40:5.4:4 ratio showed better separation of the compounds and it was best-suited eluent system for the separation of phytocompounds from members of Combretaceae. The retention factor (Rf) of the separated phytochemicals was calculated⁴⁰.

TLC bioautography

Agar overlay technique⁴¹ was adopted with minor modifications to locate the antibacterial bands. The TLC plates (silica gel G f_{254} , Merk) were spotted with test plant extract(acetone extract) and developed in the pre saturated developing chamber using EMW as eluent system. After the solvent front reached the optimum distance the chromatogram was removed and visualized under long and short UV to locate the separated compounds. The chromatogram was dried overnight and subjected to overlay bioautography. One milliliter of standardized test inoculum was mixed with 10ml molten Muller Hinton agar. TLC chromatograms were placed in the sterilized plates and thin layer of media inoculated with the test bacteria was flooded on the chromatogram. Plates were incubated overnight at 37°C. ZOI around the separated phytochemicals can be seen as a clear area without the growth of the test bacteria. As

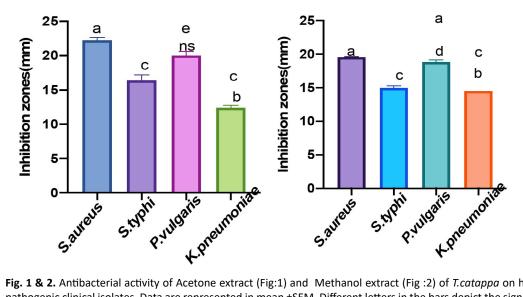


Fig. 1 & 2. Antibacterial activity of Acetone extract (Fig:1) and Methanol extract (Fig:2) of *T.catappa* on human pathogenic clinical isolates. Data are represented in mean ±SEM. Different letters in the bars depict the significant difference at P<0.05. Error bars signify standard error. Inhibition zones are presented in millimeter (mm).

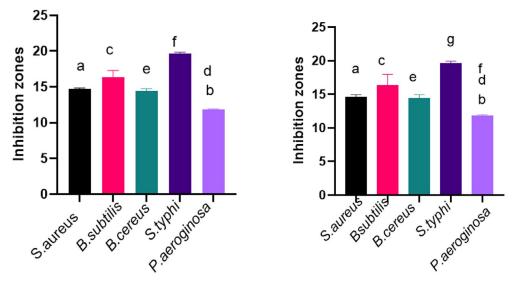


Fig. 3 & 4. Antibacterial activity of Methanol extract (Fig:3) and Acetone extracts (Fig :4) of *T.catappa* on human pathogenic bacteria (MTCC). Data are represented in mean ±SEM. Different letters in the bars indicate statistical difference (P<0.05). Error bars signify standard error. Inhibition zones are presented in millimeter (mm).

a confirmatory test the chromatograms were flooded with microbiological agar containing TTC and further incubates for 30 minutes for optimum colour development. The ZOI is seen as white zone against the pink background.

Time kill assay

Protocol of kill time assay was adopted⁴² with slight modifications. The active extract of *T. catappa* was set at a concentration of 4MIC and 8MIC. A control tube was maintained without the test extracts. Each tube was then inoculated with standardized suspension of clinical isolates of *S. aureus and P. vulgaris* At prefixed time points aliquots were withdrawn from each concentration diluted serially (10^{-1} to 10^{-4}) and aliquots were plated on agar plates. Colony counts were performed after overnight incubation at 37° C in ambient air. Colony counts were averaged and expressed as \log_{10} cfu/ml.

Satatitical analysis

Values are presented as Mean ±SEM. ANOVA was employed to determine the difference in specific means followed by tukey's post hoc test at P<0.05. Graphpad prism (version 8) and Microsoft excel 2007 was used in generating graphs and analyzing the data.

RESULTS

Disc diffusion assay

The test organisms exhibited different sensitivity for the extracts tested which is shown in Fig. 1 to 4. All the test pathogens exhibited significant sensitivity towards acetone and methanol extracts of *T.catappa*. Acetone extract had good inhibitory activity against the test organisms in contrast with the methanol extract. Significant inhibition was observed against the clinical isolate *Staph.aureus* (22.5mm) followed

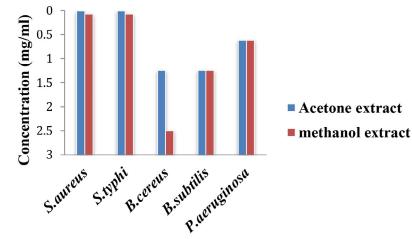
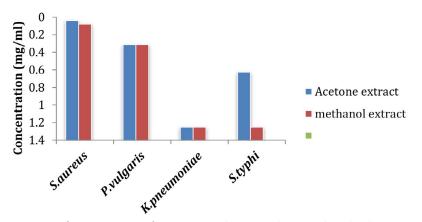
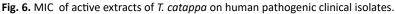


Fig. 5. MIC of active extracts of T. catappa on human pathogenic bacteria.





by *P.vulgaris* (20.5mm), *Salm.typhi* and *Kleb. pneumoniae* with inhibition zone 16.4mm and 12.4mm respectively. The MTCC strains also exhibited sensitivity towards the acetone and methanol extracts with zone of inhibition ranging between 11.7mm and 23.3mm. Hexane extract of *N.sativa* inhibited the growth of clinical isolate of *Staph.aureus* with inhibition zone 19.08mm,

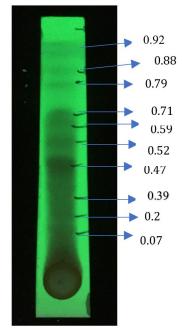


Fig. 7. Chromatogram of acetone extract of *T.catappa* leaf eluted wih Ethyl acetate, Methanol and Water solvent system (40:5.4:4) showing clear seperation of phytocompounds.

Table 1. Minimum Inhibitory and MinimumBactericidal Concentration and of acetoneand methanol extract of *T.catappa* on humanpathogenic bacteria (MTCC)

MTCC strains		tone ract	Methanol extract			
	MIC	MBC	MIC	MBC		
S.aureus	9	*	78	*		
S.typhi	9	625	78	5000		
B.cereus	1250	2500	2500	5000		
B.subtilis	1250	*	1250	*		
P.aeruginosa	625	5000	625	5000		

FN: Values presented in $\mu g/ml;$ *: Indicates no MBC established

Staph.aureus (MTCC 7443) and Salm.typhi (MTCC 733) with zone inhibition 11.25mm and 15.9mm respectively.

Micro dilution assay

Considering the results obtained from disc diffusion assay, deducing the lowest inhibitory concentration (MIC) of active extracts was considered necessary and the results are shown in Fig. 5 and 6.

Of all the organisms tested, the clinical isolate *Staph.aureus* and *P. vulgaris* was the

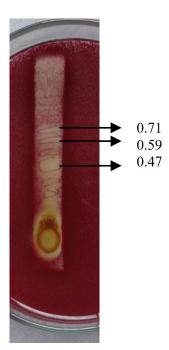


Fig. 8. Agar overlay bioautography of acetone extract of *T.catappa* leaf showing inhibition of *P. vulgaris*(Clinical isolate) at Rf values 0.71. 0.59 and 0.47.

 Table 2. Minimum Inhibitory and Minimum Bactericidal

 Concentration of acetone and methanol extract of

 T.catappa on human pathogenic clinical isolates

Clinical	Aceto		Methanol			
isolates	extra		extract			
	MIC	MBC	MIC	MBC		
S.aureus	39	1250	78	5000		
P.vulgaris	312	5000	312	5000		
K.pneumoniae	1250	5000	1250	5000		
S.typhi	625	5000	1250	5000		

FN: Values presented in µg/ml

most sensitive to the acetone extract with lowest concentration of 39µg/ml and 312µg/ml respectively, *Kleb.pneumoniae* and *Salm.typhi* were less susceptible with concentration 1250µg/ ml and 625µg/ml respectively. The acetone extract also exhibited inhibitory effect at the lowest concentration against all the MTCC strains tested except *E.coli* with concentrations between 1250µg/ml and 9µg/ml.

Methanol extract showed inhibitory activity towards the test pathogens but slightly less effective compared to the acetone extract having concentration between 5000µg/ml and 625µg/ml for clinical isolated bacteria. The minimum concentration of methanol extracts required against *B.subtilis* (MTCC 121) *Salm.typhi* (MTCC 733), *Staph.aureus* (MTCC 7443), *Pseudo. aeruginosa* (MTCC 424), and *B. cereus* (MTCC 1272) was in the range between 1250µg/ml and 78µg/ml.

Minimum Bactericidal Concentration

Acetone extract reported bactericidal effect at 1250µg/ml for clinical isolate *Staph. aureus* where as the bactericidal effect for *Kleb.*

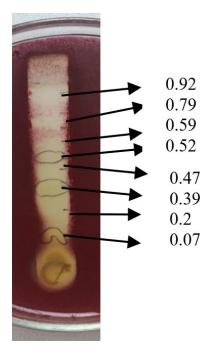


Fig. 10. Agar overlay bioautography of acetone extract of *T.catappa* leaf showing inhibition of *S.typhi* (MTCC 733) at Rf values 0.92, 0.79, 0.59, 0.52, 0.47, 0.39, 0.2 and 0.07.

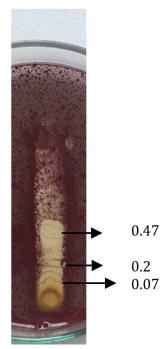


Fig. 9. Agar overlay bioautography of acetone extract of *T.catappa* leaf showing inhibition of *S.aureus* (MTCC 7443) at Rf values 0.47, 0.2 and 0.07.

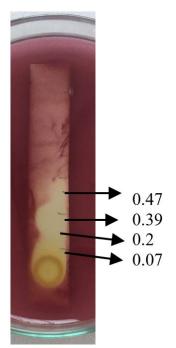


Fig. 11. Agar overlay bioautography of acetone extract of *T.catappa* leaf showing inhibition of *S.aureus* (clinical isolate) at Rf values 0.47, 0.39, 0.2 and 0.07.

pneumoniae, Salm.typhi and P. vulgaris was 5000 μ g/ml. MBC against Salm.typhi (MTCC 733), B.cereus (MTCC 1272) and Pseudo.aeroginosa (MTCC 424) was at the concentration of 625 μ g/ml, 2500 μ g/ml and 5000 μ g/ml respectively. On the contrast bactericidal action of methanol extract was 5000 μ g/ml for all the bacterial clinical isolates and the MTCC strains except Staph.aureus (MTCC 7443) and B.subtilis (MTCC 121), which did not show any bactericidal activity at the tested concentration.

Results of phytochemical analysis presented in Table 3. Broad group of phytochemicals were present in the acetone and methanol extract like terpenoids, flavonoids, saponins, cardiac glycosides, phenols and tannins. Hexane extract of *Nigella sativa* was dominated by alkaloids, oils and fats.

TLC profiling and bioautography

Thin layer chromatography of acetone extract using EMW solvent system was capable of eluting bands with Rf values 0.07, 0.20, 0.39, 0.47, 0.52, 0.59, 0.71, 0.79, 0.88 and 0.92.

Agar overlay bioautography of acetone extract of *T. catappa* showed clear zone of inhibition at Rf values 0.47, 0.2 and 0.07 against clinical isolate *S. aureus* (Fig. 11) and *Proteus vulgaris* (Fig. 8) was inhibited by the bands with Rf values 0.71, 0.59 and 0.47. *S.typhi* (MTCC 733) (Fig. 10) was also inhibited by the bands with Rf value 0.92, 0.79, 0.59, 0.52, 0.47, 0.39, 0.2 and 0.07. Bands with Rf value of 0.47, 0.2 and 0.07 strongly inhibited the *Staph.aureus* (MTCC 7443) (Fig. 9). Clear zone of inhibition around the separated bands was indicative of antibacterial property of the compounds present.

Colorless areas indicate inhibition of the test organisms by the separated phytocompounds. **Kill time assay**

The time kill profile for clinical isolates Staph. aureus and P.vulgaris are presented in Table 4 showing the reduction in viable cell counts at particular time intervals. For both bacterial strains a separate time kill profile was produced over a period of 24 hours of incubation following inoculation. Difference in the viable counts for both bacterial strains were more after 4h post inoculation. At concentration corresponding to 8MIC bactericidal activity as observed at time point of 2-4h for Staph.aureus (Fig. 13) after which regrowth of the bacteria was observed indicating concentration dependent killing of the test bacteria. However, 4MIC concentration did not kill the bacteria but slowed down the growth compared to initial control. For P. vulgaris (Fig. 12) maximum reduction of viable cell counts was seen after 24h of incubation at 8 MIC concentration with near bactericidal effect of 3.37 log₁₀ Cfu/ ml and 4MIC concentration reduced the viable cell counts after 8h of incubation with 3.9log10

Table 3. Qualitative phytochemical analysis of the test plants

Secondary	Tests	T.cat	N.sativa	
metabolites		Acetone	Methanol	N-hexane
Terpenoids	Salkowski test	+	+	-
	Liebermann test	+	+	-
Alkaloids	Mayers test	-	-	+
	Wagners test	-	-	+
Flavonoids	Lead acetate test	+	+	-
	Shinoda test	+	+	-
	Alkaline test	+	+	-
Saponins	Froth test	+	+	-
Tannins	Gelatin test	+	+	-
Oils and fats	Oils and fats	-	-	+
Phenols	Fecl3 test	+	+	-
Cardiac glycosides	Killer-kellani test	+	+	-

FN: +: Present; --: Absent

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 Table 4. Time kill profile of acetone extract of Terminalia catappa showing reduction of viable cell counts at different time intervals.

Time intervals Test bacteria Concentration	0hr	2hr <i>S.aur</i>	4hr eus (Log	6hr g ₁₀ cfu/m	8hr I)	24hr	Ohr	2hr <i>P.v</i> a	4hr <i>Ilgaris</i> (I	6hr .og ₁₀ cfu,	8hr [/] ml)	24hr
Control	2.89	3.19	3.32	4.85	5.87	6.19	3.5	4.38	4.91	5.78	5.8	6.07
4MIC	2.82	3.20	2.1	3.38	3.74	6.24	3.21	4.2	4.02	4.07	3.9	5.76
8MIC	2.38	3.0	3.0	3.25	3.27	6.11	3.40	3.4	3.74	3.68	3.84	3.37

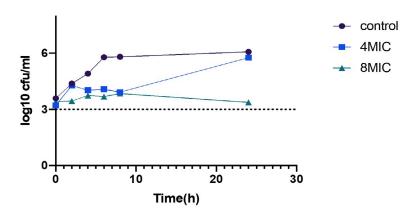


Fig. 12. Time kill curve of Acetone extract on P. vulgaris (Clinical isolate).

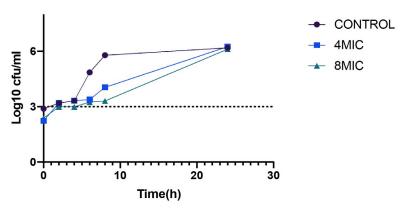


Fig. 13. Time kill curve of Acetone extract on Staph.aureus (Clinical isolate).

Cfu/ml exhibiting the bacteriostatic action of the extract. For both the bacteria tested the viable colonies were reduced post inoculation after which the colonies regrew until the end of time course. However, there was delay in the exponential growing phases of the test bacteria. 8MIC concentration was more effective than 4MIC for both the test bacteria indicating the extract is dose and time dependent killing effect irrespective of the bacteria.

DISCUSSION

The present investigation reports the acetone and methanol extract of *T.catappa* leaf and hexane extract of *N.sativa* seeds demonstrated the antibacterial activity against the human

pathogenic bacteria and clinical isolates. The preliminary method for evaluating the sensitivity of the test bacteria towards the plant extract is inhibition zone testing by disc and well diffusion assay. However, to test the efficacy of the extracts, broth dilution assays are also used preferably microbroth dilution assay⁴¹.

Acetone and methanol extract of *T.catappa* demonstrated varying level of activity with inhibition zones ranging between 11.66 and 23.33 mm for all the test bacteria.

The results are in accordance with the previous reports where in polar solvent (methanol and aqueous) extracts of T. catappa leaves in addition to twenty other plants were evaluated against bacteria (Gram positive and gram negative) and found that majority of the test strains were susceptible to methanol extract having inhibition zone 5-18mm¹⁶. The differences in the antibacterial activity can be due to the different chemical composition and the distinct mechanism of action of their bioactive constituents⁴³. The results can also be attributed with previous reports, which recorded the aqueous extracts of T.catappa exhibited inhibitory activity against Staph. aureus, Kleb.pneumoniae, E.coli and Candida albicans 44. Several other reports have revealed the antimicrobial activity of leaves and fruits of *T.catappa* on different gram positive and negative bacteria⁴⁵. The susceptibility results obtained by disc diffusion assay of leaf methanol extract of T. catappa against Staph.aureus, pseudo. aeroginosa, B.subtilis and a clinical isolate Staph.aureus demonstrated that gram-positive organisms were more susceptible⁴⁶. Polyphenols are reported to have antibacterial activity⁴⁷. Various polyphenols isolated from T.catappa like catappanin, geranin, gallantonic, leutolin, apigenin, orientin, isovitexin, catachien, kampferol, genistein, querccetin, ellagic acid, chlorogenic acid, ferulic acid, arjunetin,, ursolic acid, gallic acid, arjunoilc acid, betulinic acid and several compounds from T.catappa have been reported. The above isolated compounds from the plant could be acreditted to the invitro susceptibility of bacteria found in another study⁴⁸. Several other workers⁴⁹⁻⁵¹ have also reported the antibacterial properties of various other parts of T. catappa against human pathogenic bacteria. Our results exhibit a wide spectrum inhibitory activity towards both gram-positive and negative bacteria. We report strong antibacterial inhibition by polar solvent extracts (acetone and methanol) of *T.catappa* against clinical isolate *Staph.aureus* followed by *Salm.typhi* (MTCC 733) and clinical isolate *P.vulgaris.*

The hexane extract of *N.sativa* exhibited inhibitory activity against clinical isolate Staph. aureus, Salm. typhi (MTCC 733), Staph. aureus (MTCC 7443) and B. subtilis (MTCC 121). The hexane extract of N.sativa showed susceptibility against gram positive and negative bacteria indicating wide range inhibitory activity. The results are in agreement with other workers where methanol and N-hexane extract of N. sativa showed considerable good activity against the test pathogens showing varying zone of inhibition with varying dilutions. Gram-positive S.epidermidis was most sensitive to the extracts⁵². Aqueous and alcoholic extract of seeds of N.sativa against bacteria and fungi was reported and all the extracts posed different efficacy against the test organisms⁵³.

Evaluation of essential oil for antibacterial activity, which showed the suppression of test pathogens exhibiting varying zone of inhibition⁵⁴. The results can be related to other reports where the essential oil and oleoresins exhibited the significant inhibition of test organisms⁵⁵. N-hexane extract and seed oil of *N.sativa* on selected human pathogenic bacteria was evaluated and found that the test microbes were inhibited by both extract and oil⁵⁶. The results obtained in the study are in concordance with the previous studies. The methanol extracts obtained from the seeds were evaluated for antibacterial activity by and found that Staph. aureus and Pseudo.aeroginosa were sensitive to the extracts⁵⁷. N-hexane, methanol and aqueous seed extract of N.sativa was evaluated for their invitro susceptibility activity where methanol extract showed considerable inhibition of Staph. aureus, Escherichia coli and Salm. enterica⁵⁸. The efficacy of N.sativa oil is attributed to its guinone constitutes in the fixed and essential oil, which is, endowed with thymoguinone a significant bioactive constituent making up 30-48% of total constituents. Other functional constituents include p-cymeme, carvacrol, thymohydroquinone, dihydrothymoquinone, thymol, a-thujene,tanthole, β -pinene, α pinene and γ -terpinene⁵⁹.

The MIC values of *T.catappa* showed, that

acetone extract was more potent in inhibiting the test bacteria and methanol extract was slightly less potent than the acetone extract. However, hexane and chloroform extract had no activity against the test strains owing to the fact that polar component of the extract is posing the antibacterial action. The acetone extract showed strong inhibition of clinical isolate Staph. aureus (MIC; 39µg/mL) and P. vulgaris (MIC; 625µg/mL). MIC values of acetone extract for MTCC bacteria ranged between 9µg/ml and 1250µg/ml. Methanol extract posed the lowest inhibitory concentration (MIC) from 78µg/ml to 1250µg/ml for both clinical isolates and MTCC strains. However, the methanol extract exhibited moderate inhibitory activity compared to acetone extract. MBC values were more than the MIC. When higher concentration used there might result in bactericidal effect. Some researchers have reported the antimicrobial agents having MIC values between 1.60mg/ml to 8mg/ml as frail microbial inhibitors⁶⁰. None of the extracts showed MIC values greater than 8mg/ml. In agreement with our study the previous reports where the crude extracts of leaves of T. catappa and eight other plants were evaluated for MIC against human pathogenic bacteria and reported that pathogens were inhibited at the concentration from 16mg/ml to 0.015mg/ml⁶¹. The MIC of leaves of *T.catappa* was evaluated at concentration ranging from 100mg/ml to 350mg/ml against a panel of bacteria. Bacteria included Staph. aureus, Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus cereus, Pseudomonas aeroginosa, Proteus mirabilis, Salmonella typhi and Shigella dysentriae⁶². Comparative evaluation of leaf aqueous and methanol extracts of Combretum and Terminalia spp. of southern Africa were evaluated, which reported that both the species had broad spectrum antimicrobial activity inhibiting both bacteria and fungi. The MIC values inhibiting the test strains were less than 1000 µg/ml where in Bacillus subtilis had least MIC ranging from 124-578µg/ml Staphylococcus aureus (395-770 µg/ ml), K.pneumoniae (318-531µg/ml) P.aeroginosa (36-512µg/ml)⁶³. Our work reports that the test strains were inhibited at the lowest concentration with special reference to clinical isolate of Staph. aureus and Proteus vulgaris. Members of the Terminalia genus have a long history in traditional system of medicines and are used in

several continents for treating numerous diseases including cardiovascular effects, wound healing, abdominal disorders, conjunctivitis, hypertension, pneumonia, gastric ulcers, jaundice, leprosy, edema and skin diseases⁶⁴. Various species of *Terminalia* have been utilized in treating infections caused microbes and many current researchers have documented their antibacterial potential. Indian and southern Asian *Terminalia* species have been particularly studied well. Antibacterial susceptibility of wide panel of organisms has been specifically documented in *Terminalia arjuna*, *Terminalia belllirica Terminalia catappa* and *Terminalia chebula*⁶⁵.

Qualitative secondary metabolite screening of active extracts (acetone and methanol) exhibited the dominance of terpenoids, phytosterols, flavonoids, flavones and saponins. These compounds have been previously reported by earlier workers^{66-69.} The leaves of *Terminalia catappa* contain chebulagic acid corilagin, gentisic acid, geranin, granatin B, kaempferol, punicalagin, punicalin, quercetin, terfavin A and terflavin B⁷⁰. The study is in agreement with the ⁷¹ wherein quercetin was identified in the leaves of *Terminalia catappa* along with other components like flavonoids, carotenoids and other phenolic compounds, which is responsible for the traditional use of the plant.

Hexane extract of *N. sativa* revealed the presence of alkaloid, which is the major component of the seeds. The results are in accordance with the earlier work⁷², which reported the occurrence of tannins, alkaloids, flavonoids and sterols.

TLC bioautography helps in locating the antibacterial active spots on the chromatogram. EMW solvent system was capable in eluting the antibacterial compound in acetone extract of with Rf value of 0.59, 0.52, 0.47 and 0.39. Bioautography studies revealed that most of the separated compounds had antibacterial potential, which can be due to the occurrence of polyphenols in the test plant extract, which is also confirmed from the qualitative phytochemical analysis. Time kill studies are important because they provide information about pharmacodynamics of the antibacterial agent⁷³. Extracts showed variable kinetics against test bacteria. Time kill findings displayed different levels of time dependent

and concentration dependent inhibition of the organisms. Bacteriostatic and bactericidal activity was displayed by the extract mainly against clinical isolates but regrowth of the test bacteria occurred after specific time interval which could be attributed to the use of lesser concentration of the extracts and also the gram positive and negative bacteria differ in cell wall and the membrane composition which regulate their susceptibilities to plant metabolites. At higher concentration bactericidal activity may be achieved invitro. Time kill kinetics of T.catappa against selected human pathogenic bacteria was carried out for the first time, however there are fewer reports related to time kill kinetics of fungi⁷⁴ but, reports on bacteria are scarce to the best of our knowledge.

CONCLUSION

The results achieved in this study indicate that T.catappa and N.sativa are potential sources of antibacterial agents against the bacterial clinical isolates in particular. The acetone extract of *T.catappa* exhibited wide spectrum activity against (gram-positive and gram-negative) MTCC and clinical isolates. The extracts also inhibited the test bacteria at a very minimal concentration. Bioautography profile of acetone extract resulted in potent antibacterial bands, which exhibited inhibition both MTCC and clinical isolates was observed. Time kill assays indicated time and concentration dependent activity. Both bacteriostatic and bactericidal activity was observed against clinical isolates. Use of higher concentrations could lead to bactericidal activity against the test bacteria. The extracts can be employed in improving human health in the prevention of treatment of infectious diseases and to Fight the emergence and spread of resistant organisms. Further pure compound isolation, structure elucidation and mechanism of action of the isolated molecule followed by invivo toxicity studies may lead to potential drug in the ongoing search for antimicrobial botanicals.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

All authors have made substantial, direct and intellectual contribution to the work and approved it for publication.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

All datasets analyzed during this study are included in the manuscript.

ETHICS STATEMENT

Not applicable.

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