

***In vitro* antimicrobial activity of crude extracts of *Jatropha* species**

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Abstract

Leaf extracts, stem extract, roots extract, latex and oil of *Jatropha curcas*, *J. glandulifera*, *J. integerrima* and *J. gossypifolia* were screened in order to study their effect on plant pathogenic fungi *Alternaria alternata*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, and *Rhizoctonia solani* and plant pathogenic bacteria *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *Carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Citri* and *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *mangiferaeindicae*. Degree of variation of antifungal and antibacterial activity of different parts of *Jatropha* sp. was observed.

Keywords: *Jatropha curcas*, *J. glandulifera*, *J. integerrima* and *J. gossypifolia*, plant pathogenic bacteria and plant pathogenic fungi.

INTRODUCTION

India possesses a variety of medicinal plants and it is one of the richest countries in the world in regard to genetic resources of medicinal plants. India exhibits a wide range in topography and climate, which bears varietal emporium of vegetation and floristic composition [1]. Historically plants have provided a good source of anti-infective agents with compounds which are highly effective instruments in the fight against microbial infections. Infectious diseases are the leading cause of death world-wide. Phytochemicals derived from plants have shown great promise in the treatment of obstinate infectious diseases. Natural products, either as pure compounds or as standardized plant extracts, provide unlimited opportunities for new drug leads because of the unmatched availability of chemical diversity. Now a day's antibiotic resistance has become a global concern [2] as the clinical efficacy of many existing antibiotics is being threatened by the emergence of multidrug-resistant pathogens [3]. Many infectious diseases have been known to be treated with herbal remedies throughout the history of mankind [4]. Therefore, researchers are increasingly turning their attention to folk medicine and looking for new leads day by day to develop better drugs against microbial infections [5]. In recent years, secondary plant metabolites (phytochemicals), previously with unknown pharmacological activities, have been extensively investigated as a source of medicinal agents [6]. Thus, it is anticipated that phytochemicals with adequate antibacterial efficacy will be used for the treatment of bacterial infections [7] in near future. *Jatropha curcas* is a medicinal crop that belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae and has a long history of cultivation in tropical America, Africa, and Asia [8]. The seed kernels contain a high

amount of oil (58-60%) [9] and serve as a potential source of biodiesel currently being used in India. The inhibitory activity of plant extracts is generally depends upon the concentration, type of parts used and microbes tested [10]. The accumulation and concentration of secondary metabolites which are responsible for inhibitory activity is varied according the plant parts [11 and 12]. It may be a reason for the variation in the inhibitory activity of extracts of *J. curcas*. Extracts from various parts of *Jatropha curcas*, such as seeds and leaves, have shown molluscicidal, insecticidal, and fungicidal properties [13, 14, 15, 16 and 17]. *Jatropha curcas* seed extracts were found to inhibit the mycelial growth of *Colletotrichum musae* that causes anthracnose disease in bananas [18]. Its leaf extract was effective in controlling the fungal pathogen *Sclerotium* sp., which causes *Azolla* disease [19]. *J. gossypifolia* is used as a therapeutic agent in different ways. The leaf decoction of this is used for bathing wounds [20]. The leaf bath is used for sores, sprains, rash and bewitchment in Latin America and the Caribbean [21, 22].

Several studies have confirmed the antimicrobial efficacy of different *Jatropha* species; however, there is insufficient information regarding the antimicrobial activities of *J. curcas* Linn. Whatever limited information available on the medicinal properties of *J. curcas* is mostly on the leaf extracts of the plant. In this paper, the antimicrobial property of crude extracts of the stem bark extract, root extract, latex and oil of *Jatropha* sp. has been studied as part of the exploration for new and novel bio-active compounds.

There is a continuous and urgent need to discover new antimicrobial compounds with diverse chemical structures and novel mechanisms of action for new and re-emerging infectious diseases. The aim of this study is to investigate the antimicrobial activity of *Jatropha* sp.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Antifungal activity

For evaluating antifungal activity of different extracts fungal broth assay [23] was used. Crude water extracts of root, stem and leaves of *Jatropha* sp. were prepared. 10gm of each sample was extracted with 100 ml of solvents. Allow the maturation of extracts for overnight. On the next day extracts were filtered then used as test

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samples. Extracts were used in the concentration 20 %. Similarly, latex and oil of *Jatropha* sp. were used as test samples. Latex and oil were used in percentage 5 to 30 %. Test organisms used were *Alternaria alternata*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Trichoderma viride*. All test organisms were inoculated in the Glucose Nitrate Broth containing 0.1 ml test sample and incubated at a room temperature for 72 hrs. After incubation period fungal mass was filtered and wet weight was taken. Fungal mass was dried and dry weight was taken.

Antibacterial activity

For evaluating antibacterial activity of different samples extracts, agar well diffusion assay [24] was used. Crude water extracts of root, stem and leaves of *Jatropha* sp. were prepared. 10 gm of each sample was extracted with 100 ml of solvents. Allow the maturation of extracts for overnight. On the next day extracts were filtered then used as test samples. Similarly latex and oil of *Jatropha* sp. were used as test samples. Test micro-organisms used are plant pathogenic bacteria like *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *Carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Citri*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Mangiferaeindicae* and human pathogenic bacteria like *Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Salmonella typhi*. First all test organisms were inoculated in a 10 ml of nutrient broth and incubated for overnight at 37°C. On the next day the 2 ml aliquot of inoculum mixed with nutrient agar and poured in sterile petriplates. The medium was allowed to cool. After solidification wells of 6mm diameter were prepared with cork borer. 50 µl and 100 µl of each test samples were added in the well. All procedures were carried out in sterile conditions. Then plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hrs. Water was used as negative control. Each sample was done in triplicate. Antibacterial activity was evaluated by quantifying zones of inhibition of bacterial growth after 24 hrs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* sp. leaf extracts against plant pathogenic fungi

In order to understand the fungal properties of leaf extract of different species of *Jatropha*, the extracts of four species of *Jatropha* at 20% concentration were tested against growth and sporulation of six plant pathogenic fungi. The results are given in table 1.

All the four species of *Jatropha* showed inhibitory nature for mycelial growth of all the fungi tested, however *Jatropha curcas* exhibited maximum inhibitory action as compared to *J. glandulifera*, *J. integerrima*, *J. gossypifolia* (Fig. 1).

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* sp. stem extracts against plant pathogenic fungi

In order to study the fungal properties of stem extracts of different *Jatropha* sp., the extract of four species of *Jatropha* at 20% concentration were tested against plant pathogenic fungi. The results are summarized on table 2.

All four species of *Jatropha* showed inhibitory nature for mycelial growth of all the six fungi tested. However stem extract of *Jatropha glandulifera* against *Alternaria alternata* showed stimulating nature. Stem extract of *Jatropha gossypifolia* against *Aspergillus*

flavus exhibited similar response as in control.

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species root extracts against plant pathogenic fungi

Fresh root extract of four *Jatropha* sp. at 20% concentration were tested against six different plants to know their effect of pathogens nutrient media without root extracts used as control. The results are given in table 3.

All four species of *Jatropha* showed inhibitory growth of mycelia of all the six plant pathogenic fungi tested. Only *Jatropha gossypifolia* showed stimulatory effect on *Aspergillus niger*.

Bioactivity of *Jatropha curcas* latex against plant pathogenic fungi

In order to study bioefficacy of latex against plant pathogenic fungi. The latex of four species of *Jatropha* was freshly collected and at a particular concentration was tested against growth of six pathogenic fungi and results are summarized in table 4.

Latex of all the four species of *Jatropha* showed inhibitory action with more or less degree with different fungi. Latex of *Jatropha curcas* proved to be highly inhibitory for mycelial growth of all the fungi tested. It was interesting to note that *Aspergillus niger* was found to be stimulated for growth in presence of latex of *J. gossypifolia* while it was inhibited by other three species of *Jatropha*.

Bioactivity of *Jatropha curcas* oil against plant pathogenic fungi

In order to study the antifungal activities of oil of four different *Jatropha* sp. oil at 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30% concentration were tested against growth and sporulation of four plant pathogenic fungi. The results are summarized in table 5.

Oil inhibits the growth of plant pathogenic fungi. The results also highlighted that as increased the oil concentration the fungi inhibited their growth with respect to increased concentrations of *Jatropha* oil.

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species leaf extracts against plant pathogenic bacteria

In order to study the bioactivity of leaf extract of different *Jatropha* species against plant pathogenic bacteria, the leaf extract of *J. curcas*, *J. gossypifolia*, *J. glandulifera* and *J. integerrima* at two different concentration i.e 50 µl and 100 µl were tested against the growth of four plant pathogenic bacteria namely *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *Carotovroa*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Citri*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Mangiferaeindicae*. The results are mentioned in table 6.

All the leaf extract of four *Jatropha* species at both concentration (50 µl and 100 µl) prove to be highly inhibitory for the growth of plant pathogenic bacteria tested along with control. *J. curcas* was found highly effective at 100µl concentration against *Erwinia carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Citri*, while it is less effective against *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *The leaf extract of J. gossypifolia at both the concentrations against all four plant pathogenic bacteria showed inhibition than other species of Jatropha (Fig. 2).*

Table 1. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species leaf extracts against plant pathogenic fungi

Fungi used		Species of <i>Jatropha</i>				Control (GN)
		<i>J. curcas</i>	<i>J. gossypifolia</i>	<i>J. glandulifera</i>	<i>J. integerrima</i>	
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.153	0.163	0.146	0.154	0.198
	Sporulation	++	++	++	++	+++
<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.115	0.179	0.132	0.148	0.223
	Sporulation	+	++	++	++	+++
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.133	0.162	0.135	0.138	0.187
	Sporulation	++	++	++	++	++
<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.113	0.193	0.168	0.169	0.250
	Sporulation	+	+++	++	++	+++
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.126	0.183	0.138	0.146	0.201
	Sporulation	+	++	++	++	+++
<i>Trichoderma viride</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.108	0.159	0.132	0.124	0.183
	Sporulation	+	++	++	+	++

Sporulation : - = Absent, + = minimum, ++ = moderate, +++ = maximum

Table 2. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species stem extracts against plant pathogenic fungi

Fungi used		Species of <i>Jatropha</i>				Control (GN)
		<i>J. curcas</i>	<i>J. gossypifolia</i>	<i>J. glandulifera</i>	<i>J. integerrima</i>	
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.137	0.163	0.205	0.158	0.183
	Sporulation	++	++	+++	++	++
<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.154	0.224	0.217	0.170	0.223
	Sporulation	++	+++	+++	++	+++
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.148	0.167	0.166	0.164	0.187
	Sporulation	++	++	++	++	++
<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.132	0.183	0.175	0.209	0.250
	Sporulation	++	++	++	+++	+++
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.121	0.181	0.120	0.188	0.201
	Sporulation	+	++	+	++	+++
<i>Trichoderma viride</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.148	0.169	0.124	0.103	0.198
	Sporulation	++	++	+	+	+++

Sporulation : - = Absent, + = minimum, ++ = moderate, +++ = maximum

Table 3. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species root extracts against plant pathogenic fungi

Fungi used		Species of <i>Jatropha</i>				Control (GN)
		<i>J. curcas</i>	<i>J. gossypifolia</i>	<i>J. glandulifera</i>	<i>J. integerrima</i>	
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.105	0.117	0.128	0.166	0.181
	Sporulation	+	+	+	++	++
<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.138	0.129	0.142	0.133	0.173
	Sporulation	++	+	++	++	++
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.138	0.174	0.157	0.145	0.165
	Sporulation	++	++	++	++	++
<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.154	0.147	0.178	0.148	0.191
	Sporulation	++	++	++	++	+++
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.172	0.124	0.133	0.122	0.187
	Sporulation	++	+	+	+	++
<i>Trichoderma viride</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.119	0.126	0.139	0.127	0.184
	Sporulation	+	+	++	+	++

Sporulation : - = Absent, + = minimum, ++ = moderate, +++ = maximum

Table 4. Bioactivity of *Jatropha curcas* latex against plant pathogenic fungi

Fungi used		<i>Jatropha curcas</i>						Control (GN)
		5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.158	0.143	0.115	0.99	0.83	0.72	0.192
	Sporulation	++	++	+	+	+	+	++
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.179	0.165	0.148	0.121	0.98	0.81	0.212
	Sporulation	++	++	++	+	+	+	+++
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.162	0.152	0.143	0.119	0.109	0.97	0.199
	Sporulation	++	++	++	+	+	+	+++
<i>Trichoderma viride</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.170	0.154	0.139	0.116	0.95	0.89	0.218
	Sporulation	++	++	++	++	+	+	+++

Sporulation : - = Absent, + = minimum, ++ = moderate, +++ = maximum

Table 5. Bioactivity of *Jatropha curcas* oil against plant pathogenic fungi

Fungi used		<i>Jatropha curcas</i>						Control (GN)
		5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.162	0.151	0.139	0.119	0.104	0.92	0.182
	Sporulation	++	++	++	+	++	+	++
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.189	0.176	0.159	0.144	0.124	0.112	0.200
	Sporulation	+++	++	++	++	+	++	+++
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.146	0.134	0.123	0.110	0.90	0.83	0.198
	Sporulation	++	++	++	+	+	+	+++
<i>Trichoderma viride</i>	Mycelial growth (mg)	0.162	0.147	0.136	0.128	0.111	0.95	0.196
	Sporulation	++	++	++	+	++	++	+++

Sporulation : - = Absent, + = minimum, ++ = moderate, +++ = maximum

Table 6. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species leaf extracts against plant pathogenic bacteria

Plant pathogenic bacteria	Leaf extract of <i>Jatropha</i> species								Control (GN)
	<i>J. curcas</i>		<i>J. gossypifolia</i>		<i>J. glandulifera</i>		<i>J. integerrima</i>		
	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	
	Zone of inhibition in mm								
<i>Erwinia carotovora</i> pv. <i>carotovora</i>	11	14	09	10	00	00	00	00	00
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	09	16	11	14	12	16	11	14	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>citri</i>	11	13	10	12	00	00	00	10	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>mangiferaeindicae</i>	00	00	11	15	10	13	00	13	00

Table 7. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species stem extracts against plant pathogenic bacteria

Plant pathogenic bacteria	Stem extracts of <i>Jatropha</i> species								Control (GN)
	<i>J. curcas</i>		<i>J. gossypifolia</i>		<i>J. glandulifera</i>		<i>J. integerrima</i>		
	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	
	Zone of inhibition in mm								
<i>Erwinia carotovora</i> pv. <i>carotovora</i>	00	00	09	11	00	00	00	00	00
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	13	14	14	18	09	11	10	13	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>citri</i>	00	00	00	09	00	00	00	00	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>mangiferaeindicae</i>	11	15	11	14	00	09	09	11	00

Table 8. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species root extracts against plant pathogenic bacteria

Plant pathogenic bacteria	Root extracts of <i>Jatropha</i> species								Control (GN)
	<i>J. curcas</i>		<i>J. gossypifolia</i>		<i>J. glandulifera</i>		<i>J. integerrima</i>		
	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	
Zone of inhibition in mm									
<i>Erwinia carotovora</i> pv. <i>carotovora</i>	11	14	10	12	11	13	10	13	00
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	13	16	11	12	13	14	09	11	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>citri</i>	09	11	09	11	00	10	09	10	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>mangiferaeindicae</i>	09	13	09	10	00	09	00	09	00

Table 9. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species latex against plant pathogenic bacteria

Plant pathogenic bacteria	Latex from								Control (GN)
	<i>J. curcas</i>		<i>J. gossypifolia</i>		<i>J. glandulifera</i>		<i>J. integerrima</i>		
	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	
	Zone of inhibition in mm								
<i>Erwinia carotovora</i> pv. <i>carotovora</i>	00	00	00	00	00	09	00	10	00
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	09	14	09	11	10	12	11	14	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>citri</i>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>mangiferaeindicae</i>	00	13	00	10	00	12	00	00	00

Table 10. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* species oil against plant pathogenic bacteria

Plant pathogenic bacteria	Oil from								Control (GN)
	<i>J. curcas</i>		<i>J. gossypifolia</i>		<i>J. glandulifera</i>		<i>J. integerrima</i>		
	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	50 µl	100 µl	
	Zone of inhibition in mm								
<i>Erwinia carotovora</i> pv. <i>carotovora</i>	10	13	09	12	10	12	09	12	00
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	12	16	12	14	11	14	09	10	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>citri</i>	09	10	09	12	09	09	09	00	00
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>mangiferaeindicae</i>	09	10	00	00	10	12	00	00	00

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* sp. stem extracts against plant pathogenic bacteria

In order to understand the effect of stem extract of all four *Jatropha* sp. against plant pathogenic bacteria, four different bacteria were tested at two different concentrations. The results are summarized in table 7.

Stem extract of all four *Jatropha* species at both the concentrations proved satisfactory inhibition of the growth of plant pathogenic bacteria tested along with the control. *J. gossypifolia* was found highly effective at 100 µl concentrations against all four

bacteria which are *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *citri*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Mangiferaeindicae*. On the other hand, the stem extracts of *J. glandulifera* was completely non-inhibitory at 50 µl concentration against *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *carotovora*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *citri*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *mangiferaeindicae* but it was inhibitory against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* at same concentration.

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* sp. root extracts plant pathogenic bacteria

In order to know the bioactivity of root extract against plant pathogenic bacteria root extract of all four *Jatropha* species were tested. The root extract at two different concentrations i.e 50 μ l and 100 μ l were used against the four plant pathogenic bacteria namely *Erwinia carotovora* pv *carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Citri*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Mangiferaeindicae*. The results are given in table 8.

The root extract of all four *Jatropha* sp. at both the concentrations showed highly inhibitory response against tested plant pathogenic bacteria. *J. curcas* was found highly effective against all four bacteria at both the concentrations similarly the root extract of *J. curcas* as compared to other three species of *Jatropha* proved more inhibitory. *J. glandulifera* at 50 μ l concentration against *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *citri*, *Xanthomonas* pv. *mangiferaeindicae* were completely non-inhibitory.

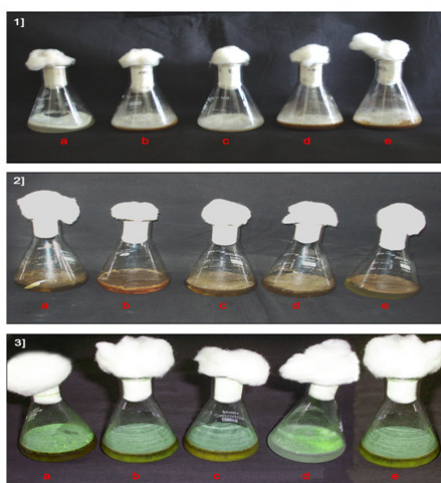


Fig 1. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* sp. leaf extracts against plant pathogenic fungi

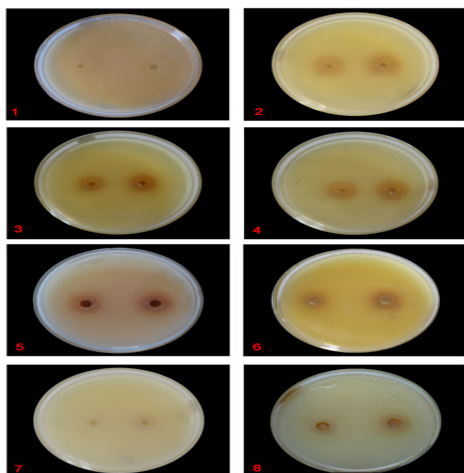


Fig 2. Bioactivity of *Jatropha* sp. leaf extracts against plant pathogenic bacteria

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* sp. latex against plant pathogenic bacteria

In order to study the bioactivity of latex of different *Jatropha* species against plant pathogenic bacteria, the latex of *J. curcas*, *J.*

gossypifolia, *J. glandulifera*, *J. integerrima* at two different concentrations were tested. The experiment was carried out against four different plant pathogenic bacteria namely *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *citri*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *mangiferaeindicae* along with nutrient medium without latex served as control. The results are summarized in table 9.

All four *Jatropha* sp. at both the concentrations showed inhibitory action against plant pathogenic bacteria. All four species of *Jatropha* were found highly effective against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. While they were moderate effective against *Xanthomonas campestris* pv *citri*. Similarly latex of *J. glandulifera* showed satisfactory inhibitory at 100 μ l concentration than other three species of *Jatropha*.

Bioactivity of *Jatropha* sp. oil against plant pathogenic bacteria

In order to know the effect of oil of *Jatropha* sp. against plant pathogenic bacteria, two different concentrations i.e 50 and 100 μ l of oil were used. The activity was tested against the growth of four plant pathogenic bacteria namely *Erwinia carotovora* pv *carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv *citri*, *Xanthomonas campestris* pv *Mangiferaeindicae*. The results are summarized in table 10.

Oil from *J. curcas*, *J. gossypifolia*, *J. glandulifera*, *J. integerrima* at both the concentrations showed highly inhibitory for the growth of plant pathogenic bacteria tested. *J. curcas* was found highly effective against all four bacteria similarly the oil of *J. curcas* as compared to the three species of *Jatropha* at both the concentrations proved more inhibitory. It was interesting to note that all four species of *Jatropha* at both the concentrations showed inhibitory effect against *Ersinia carotovora* pv *carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

The antifungal activities of some plants extracts in controlling different pathogens have been reported by several workers [25, 26 and 27]. The inhibition is due to the fungitoxic activities of the plant extracts which agreed with the report of other workers [28]. Antimicrobial activity of stem bark extracts from *Jatropha curcas* was also carried out against different bacteria and fungi [29]. *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus*, *B. cereus*, *B. megaterium* and *B. megaterium* were inhibited in crude extract of *Jatropha curcas*. On the contrary of that, *Salmonella typhi* was not inhibited by any of the crude extracts [30]. Castor oil seed crude extract lowers mycelia growth of *F. verticillioides* significantly at ($P \leq 0.05$) compared to other treatments. Similarly, castor seed oil (crude extracts) had the lowest mycelial growth on *A. flavus* in-vitro [31].

The extract of *Jatropha curcas* seed would serve as a natural phytochemicals against bacterial and fungal phytopathogens for agricultural applications at a low cost and safe practice. *Jatropha curcas* seed, a by - product generated in large quantities by the biodiesel fuel industry, could thus be utilized as a source of the antibacterial and antifungal agents.

Results of the present study support the folkloric usage of this studied plant and suggested that its extract posses compounds with antimicrobial properties that can be used as antimicrobial agents in new drugs for the therapy of infectious diseases caused by pathogens. It is thus also recommended that further studies under field condition should be done on these plants extracts to determine if their effect is fungicidal or fungistatic.

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