

PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING, ANTIMICROBIAL AND ANTI-OXIDANT ACTIVITIES OF SALVADORA PERSICA AND CALOTROPIS GIGANTEA EXTRACTS AGAINST SELECTED PATHOGENS

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Abstract: *Multiple diseases are treated using medicinal plants nowadays. Salvadora persica and Calotropis Gigantea are beneficial herbs for traditional herbal medicine. The aim of the study was to Screen phytochemicals, antibacterial and antioxidant properties of Salvadora persica and Calotropis Gigantea against Staph. Aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Escherichia coli, and Salmonella typhimurium. Methods: Phytochemicals of both Salvadora persica and Calotropis Gigantea were screened by GC-MS analyzer. Antibacterial and antioxidant activity of ethnolic and Methonolic extracts of screened phytochemicals was tested using Agar Well Diffusion and DPPH assay respectively. Salvadora persica leaf extracts (100g/ml) inhibited Staph. Aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Escherichia coli, and Salmonella typhimurium. Density was used to establish the minimal inhibitory concentration of Salvadora persica and Calotropis Gigantea extracts. Results: Both plant extracts were rich in over 250 detected chemicals via GC-MS analyzer, with 52.5% of these having antibacterial and antioxidant properties Salvadora persica extracts were characterized by 1, 8-Cineole polyphenols (45%) and cyclic ethylene mercaptole (55%), demonstrating antibacterial and antioxidant effects. Meanwhile, Calotropis Gigantea extracts contained major components Campestrol (69%) and β-tocopherol (4%). Salvadora persica and Calotropis Gigantea extracts exhibited inhibition against Pseudomonas aeruginosa at 3.12 mg/ml. Antioxidant activity, assessed via the DPPH test, revealed 35% activity with 200μl of Methanolic extracts. Both Salvadora persica and Calotropis Gigantea leaf extracts exhibited antibacterial activity against Salmonella typhimurium, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staphylococcus aureus, and Escherichia coli. Notably, Calotropis Gigantea was effective against all chosen pathogens, while Salvadora persica exclusively targeted Staphylococcus aureus. Although Calotropis Gigantea had fewer antioxidants compared to Salvadora persica, the latter's extracts held potential for mitigating oxidative stress, aging, and related disorders. Previous studies highlighted 1, 8-Cineole polyphenols (45%) and cyclic ethylene mercaptole (55%) as antibacterial and antifungal agents against Klebsiella pneumonia and Aspergillus nigar. Conclusion: These findings underscore the promising applications of Salvadora persica and Calotropis Gigantea extracts in both antimicrobial and antioxidant interventions. And can be effected against different diseases such as Typhoid, skin diseases, and disease caused by Escherichia coli and staphylococcus aureus. Further exploration of their specific mechanisms of action and potential therapeutic applications of different metabolites and chemical compounds are warranted to harness the benefits offered by these natural extracts.*

Keywords: Phytochemicals, Extracts, Antimicrobial and antioxidant activity

Introduction

In recent years, antibiotic resistance has become a global concern. Resistant microorganisms produce new illnesses, which increase mortality and toxicity(1, 2). In 2003, 3.5 billion health-related fatalities were reported in European Union, causing 50,000 deaths(3). Microbial fatal diseases are still a global public problem which are caused by different bacterial strains acquiring and spreading resistance genes. These Gene spread and microbial strain acquisition cause health crises(4).

In recent years, excessive use of antimicrobial medicines and vaccinations has improved control and treatment of deadly illnesses (5). So, a solution must be found. Plants' composition and elements make them an alternative drug. Bioactive substances, natural products, primary and secondary metabolites are found in plant extracts. These metabolites and chemicals treat body infections (5)

80% of the world's population uses medicinal plants, including plant extracts, for basic health care (6) . Many plant species with biological uses remain undiscovered.

Traditional remedies are more compatible with the body, more culturally acceptable, and have fewer negative effects. More than 35,000 plant species are used for medicinal purposes worldwide. Plants have been used to treat a wide spectrum of illnesses for thousands of years (7).

Apocynaceae comprises six Calotropis Gigantea species(8). C. gigantea is a non-cultivable plant found in Africa and Asia. Hindi calls it " Madar" Wasteland plant with thick oblong leaves and odorless purple blossoms (9) (Fig-1). Incised or injured plant leaves or stalks exude milky white pungent fluid. The extracts of Calotropis Gigantea is used for the remedy of snack biting (10) , and Scorpian biting (11) . Calotroxin, uscharin, uschridin, and proceroside are glycosides, alkaloids, flavones, tannins, and other phytoconstituents of C. gigantea (9). Also detected are cardenolides, flavonoids, terpenes, pregnanes, and nonprotein amino $acids(12)$. Most sap, roots, and/or leaf components tested are cytotoxins (Kumar et al., 2013a). Before penicillin, the milky sap was thought to treat syphilis(13); the plant was called "vegetable mercury.

Ayurvedic, Chinese, and homoeopathic medicine employ Calotropis Gigantea to treat fever(14), indigestion(15), diarrhea(16), cold(17), dyspepsia (18), cough(17), asthma(17), antipyretic (19), rheumatism(17), eczema(15), leprosy(20), and leukoderma(15). 1-4 sap components have been studied for anti-inflammatory and anticancer properties (Kumar et al., 2013b). Pharmacological actions of Calotropis Gigantea includes antimalarial(21), antiinflammatory (22) , (23) , anti-diarrheal (24) , anticonvulsant (25) , hepatoprotective (26) , antitumor (27) , ant nociceptive[\(19\)](#page-7-0).

Miswak, or Salvadora persica, is a Salvadoraceae plant(28) (Fig-2). It grows in dry and subtropical Africa, the Middle East, Pakistan and India. Traditional herbal treatment uses fresh leaves, twigs, and roots to treat asthma (29), scurvy(30), cough(31), rheumatism(32), and dental hygiene(33). Furthermore *Salvadora persica* was used to clean teeth(34) and promote oral health(35) in Pre-Islamic and Islamic times. In addition to its pharmacological active components, SP's mechanical action when used for brushing contributes to tooth and oral health(35). Tannins inhibit glucosyltransferase to decrease plaque and gum disease, and resins prevent cavities (36). SP's antibacterial, antiinflammatory, and antioxidant qualities are linked to potassium, sodium chloride, *Salvadorian*, vitamin C, *Salvadorian,* silica, saponins, and other minerals in its natural extracts(35). Hence because of these minerals and compounds, it is antibacterial, anti-infectious, and antioxidant (36).Further pharmacological actions of *Salvadoran persica* includes anti-fungal (37),antiinflammatory (38), anti-cancerous(39), Analgesic (40) ,Anti-ulcer (41) , anti-convulsant (42) ,Antifertility($\frac{43}{3}$),anthelmintic($\frac{44}{3}$),wound healing($\frac{45}{3}$),antcoccoidal (46),antidepressant (34).

Methodology

Study Pathogens

Four Salmonella typhi. Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staph. Aureus and Escherichia coli Pathogens were collected from NESCOM Hospital Islamabad and transported to laboratory of microbiology university of Haripur.

Sample processing and Inoculation

Bacterial strains maintained at -20°C were activated by culturing in Nutrient broth for one day at 37°C. 0.5 McFarland bacterial turbidity was obtained from an overnight broth culture in distilled water (47).

Plant Collection **and Extraction Preparation**

Both Calotropis gigantea and Salvadora persica leaves were procured from the local Haripur region. The collected leaves were subsequently placed in sterilized bags for preservation within the laboratory premises, intended for subsequent applications as depicted in Figure 3. The preparation of plant extracts was conducted through the modification of a conventional procedure as referenced by [52]. To elaborate, 250g of dried plant powder for each species was immersed in distilled water or specific solvents such as Ethanol and Methanol. This immersion was sustained for a duration of 24 hours at ambient temperature. Following this period, filtration was carried out using No. 1 Whitman filter paper. Subsequent to filtration, the resulting extracts underwent evaporation and concentration processes conducted at 40°C. The concentrated solution was subjected to a one-hour duration at 40°C for drying purposes. The ensuing dried residue was then meticulously stored within glass vials, which were maintained at a temperature of 4°C, as visually indicated in Figure 01 [53].

Figure 01: Plant Collection and Extraction Preparation

Phytochemical Screening of Extracts (GC–MS) *Salvadora persica* and *Calotropis Gigantea* were studied using GC-MS Analyzer. The analyzer was set to 50°C for 0.5 minutes before being tuned to 300°C at 5°C/min up to 230°C. 220 and 250 °C were selected for the injectors. Injecting 100:1 split into 1 L of dilute sample (in chloroform). Helium is the carrier gas (2 mL/min). Individual compounds were identified by comparing their retention times and mass spectra to genuine reference compounds in the NIST library database. Chemical components in extracts were detected using GC–MS (48)

Antimicrobial activity assay:

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Extracts were evaluated against four *Salmonella typhi, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, S. aureus,* and *E. coli.* Antibacterial sensitivity was tested using agar well diffusion, and the lowest inhibitory concentration was determined using MH broth (49). Antibacterial activity of *Salvadora persica* and *Calotropis Gigantea* extracts was investigated using agar well diffusion. Extracts were evaluated against four Bacterial strains *Salmonella typhi, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, S. aureus,* and *E. coli.* Antibacterial sensitivity was tested using agar well diffusion, and the lowest inhibitory concentration was determined using MH broth (MIC). *Salvadora persica* and *Calotropis Gigantea* extracts were evaluated for antibacterial activity using agar well diffusion (50).

Antioxidant activity Assay:

DPPH free radical scavenging tested plant extracts' antioxidant properties (1,1-diphenyle-2-picrylehydrazyle). 0.004% DPPH was generated in 95% ethanol. 1000g/ml-3 g/ml dilution. Control: 5 ml DPPH in 5 ml solvent. Ascorbic acid was compared. Vertexing and holding at 37°C in the dark for 30 minutes. Antioxidant absorption was measured at $517 \text{ nm} (51)$.

DPPH Scavenging % inhibition= standard –sample $\times/100$ **Minimum Inhibitory Concentration:**

The Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MICs) were determined through a serial dilution technique in a broth medium. The MIC corresponds to the lowest concentration of an extract that effectively prevents the growth of microorganisms within a 24-hour period. Our approach involved using broth dilution to calculate the MIC. For this process, *Salmonella typhi, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staphylococcus aureus,* and *Escherichia coli* were cultured on nutritive agar at 37 degrees Celsius for 24 hours. A 0.5 McFarland standard was obtained by suspending the cultured samples in normal saline. The McFarland standard was then mixed with 9950 normal saline to create a diluted solution. The actual MIC determination was performed using 96-well microtiter plates. In these plates, the first column served as control for the extracts, while the second through twelfth columns contained Mueller Hinton broth. The eleventh column was designated for bacterial growth control, while the twelfth column assessed the sterility of the MH broth medium. The microtiter plate was subsequently placed in an incubator set at 37°C for a period of 24 hours, and the readings were taken the following day. Ensured the sterility of the medium and having a control for bacterial growth were vital components for the success of the experiment. The resulting MIC values indicate the lowest concentration of the extract at which bacterial growth in the broth was entirely inhibited. Further, for the determination of the extract's MICs, 20ml of the clear wells containing MICs were plated on Mueller-Hinton agar (49).

Results

Phytochemical Screening of Extracts by GC-MS:

More than 45 (27 *C*. Gigantea and 21 *in S. Persica*) different Compounds were detected during GC-MS analysis as shown in table 1 &2.

Phytochemical Screening of *Calotropis Gigantea* **Extracts:**

Ethyl acetate was employed as the solvent for the phytochemical screening of *Calotropis gigantea* extract. Through GCMS analysis, a total of twenty-seven (27) distinct peaks, each with varying percentages, were identified as shown in Fig-01. This analysis unveiled the presence of bioactive compounds with diverse medicinal properties. The chromatogram of the extract exhibited these peaks, providing insight into the assortment of functional groups and bioactive compounds within the *Calotropis gigantea* extract, as depicted in Fig-02. The outcomes of the GC-MS analysis culminated in the determination of the quantity and nature of bioactive compounds and secondary metabolites present in the ethyl acetate extract of *Calotropis gigantea*. Notably, Tocopherol and Campestrol emerged as the predominant chemical compounds, exhibiting the highest percentages (69% and 4%, respectively). Following closely were compounds such as Methyl 2-O-Benzyl-D-Arabinofuranoside at 1% concentration. This insight provides valuable information about the composition of the extract and its bioactive constituents as shown in table-01.

Phytochemical Screening of *Salvadora persica* **Extracts:** Phytochemical screening of *Salvadora persica* extract was performed in ethyl acetate solvent. Twenty-one (21) different peaks with different percentages were detected by GCMS Analysis which reveals about bioactive compounds with different medicinal properties. Chromatogram (Fig-03)

of *Salvadora persica* extract shows characteristic peaks at RT values varying from 3 to 20 which detects and reveals about the presence of different functional groups and bioactive compounds with different percentages, in the extract of *Salvadora persica* (table-2). Results of GC-MS finalized about number of bioactive compounds and secondary metabolites in ethyl acetate extract of *Salvadora persica.* 1, 8-cineole polyphenols and cyclic ethylene mercaptole were the chemical compounds that were detected with highest (45 % and 55 %) percentage followed by 4- ketopentanoic acid methyl ester (12%). According to previous study, *Paranthaman et al, 2020*, detected presence of 27 bioactive metabolites in Ethanolic extracts of *Salvadora persica* leaves by GC-MS analysis. Antimicrobial and antioxidant agents detected were 1-8 cineole polyphenols and cyclic ethylene mercaptole with some new constituents and metabolites as shown in table-02. Hence composition of extracts of *Salvadora persica* with different metabolites reveals uses of *Salvadora persica* by traditional herbalists and practitioners' treatment of different diseases.

Antimicrobial Activities of Extracts:

Antimicrobial activities of Methonolic extracts of *Calotropis Gigantea* (28 mm, 26 mm) showed the highest activity against *Escherichia coli and Staphs. aureus*, followed by Methanolic extracts of *Salvadora persica* (20 mm) against *Staph.aureus* as shown in table-03 and Fig-05. A= Zones of inhibition by Calotropis Gigantea (GC) and Salvadora persica (S p) against Salmonella typhi

B= Zones of inhibition by Calotropis Gigantea (GC) and Salvadora persica (S p) against Escherichia coli

C= Zones of inhibition by Calotropis Gigantea (GC) and Salvadora persica (S p) against Pseudomonas aeruginosa D= Zones of inhibition by Calotropis Gigantea (GC) and

Salvadora persica (S p) against Staphylococcus aureus.

Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC):

Each plant extract's minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) against all specified diseases *Staph.aureus Pseudomonas aeruginosa, E. coli and Salmonella were* also determined as shown in Table-4. Salvadora persica (Fig-05) has best inhibition than *Calotropis Gigantea* against *Staph.aureus* and *Salmonella typhi*. Highest inhibition was approximately at 12.5 ug/ml by Ethanolic extracts of *Salvadora persica* by Ethanolic and Methanolic extracts of *Calotropis gigantea* (Fig-06)

Salvadora persica against selected pathogens while Lowest MIC value observed was 0.78 ug/ml that is Methanolic extract of *Calotropis gigantea* against *Staphylococcus aureus.* Ethanolic and Methanolic extracts of *Salvadora persica* Shown almost same (12.5 µg/mL) values and inhibition against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella typhi* followed by Ethanolic extracts (12.5 µg/mL) of *Calotropis gigantea* against *Staphylococcus* as shown fig-05 and fig-06.

Anti-oxidant activities of extracts:

Ethanolic and Methanolic extracts of *Salvadora persica* and *Calotropis Gigantea* were tested at four different concentrations (50ul, 100ul, and 200ul) and showed variable percentages of inhibition. Surprisingly, the scavenging activity of each extract increased with concentration. *Salvadora persica* showed comparatively strong antioxidant activity than Calotropis gigantea*.* The

200 ul extract of *showed* the best antioxidant activity as shown in Fig-07 and Fig-08.

where among them, the Methanolic extract of *Salvadora persica* has the highest (35%) anti-oxidant activity (Fig-08), followed by Ethanolic extract of *Calotropis gigantea (29%)* as shown in Fig-07. The lowest (3 %) antioxidant activity was showed by Methanolic extract of *Calotropis gigantea* followed by Ethanolic extract (3 %) of *Salvadora persica* at 50µl concentration. 200 µl Methanolic extracts of *Salvadora persica* showed the highest (30%) activity but it reduces to half (15%) in Methanolic extract of *Calotropis gigantea* at same concentration as shown in table-5..

Table-2: Phytochemical Screening of Extracts of Salvadora persica by GC-MS

Table-3: Zone of inhibitions by Extracts

Table-4; MIC Values ranges from of Ethanolic and Methonolic extracts of Calotropis gigantea and Salvadora persica

Table-05: Anti-oxidant activities of Ethanolic and Methanolic Extracts of Salvadora persica and Calotropis gigantea

Fig-03: Chromatogram of Extracts of Salvadora persica by GC-MS

Fig-04: Zone of inhibition by different extracts against selected Pathogens

Fig-5; MIC of Ethanolic and Methonolic extracts of Salvadora persica

Fig-6; MIC of Ethanolic and Methonolic extracts of Salvadora persica

Fig-07: Anti-oxidant activities of Ethanolic and Methanolic Extracts of Calotropis Gigantea

Fig-08:: Anti-oxidant activities of Ethanolic and Methanolic Extracts of Salvadora persica

Discussion

Medicinal plants have therapeutic properties due to the presence of different bioactive compounds. These bioactive compounds are responsible for antimicrobial and antioxidant properties. These plant-derived bioactive chemicals are employed in the pharmaceutical industry as a source of antibacterial characteristics. In phytochemical

screening of current study, GC-MS finalized about 21 number of bioactive compounds and secondary metabolites in ethyl acetate extract of *Calotropis gigantea* , TOCOPHEROLE and CAMPESTEROLE were the Chemical compounds that were detected with highest (69% ,4%) percentage followed by METHYL 2- O-BENZYL-D-ARABINOFUR (1 %) Similarly Phytochemical screening of *Salvadora persica* resulted (21) different compounds with different percentages by GCMS Analysis. Results of GC-MS finalized about 27 number of bioactive compounds and secondary metabolites in ethyl acetate extract of *Salvadora persica.* 1 , 8- Cineole Polyphenols And Cyclic Ethylene Mercaptole were the Chemical compounds that were detected with highest (45 % and 55%) percentage followed by 4- Ketopentanoic Acid Methyl Ester (12%). Current study is matching with (52), who reported that BENZYL ISOTHIOCYANATE (52%) is the predominant antibacterial component of *Salvadora persica* and antifungal agents against *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *Aspergillus niger.* Similar finding were also reported by (53) with little change in chemical percentage. There is difference in number and percentages of chemical compounds in current study in comparison to previous studies. These differences are due to solvent used as in current study solvent used is ethyl acetate for GC-MS Analysis and solvents used in others studies were chloroform, ethanol and methanol etc.

In Antibacterial activities, Current study investigated the different zones of inhibitions (ZOI) by Ethanolic and Methanolic extracts of both *Salvadora persica* and *Calotropis gigantea*. Among both selected plants, Methanolic extracts of *Calotropis gigantea* showed the highest (28mm, 26mm) zones of inhibitions against *E. coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* followed by Ethanolic extract of *Calotropis gigantea* that is 25 mm against *Staph. Aureus.* But Ethanolic extracts of *Calotropis gigantea* was more effective than their Methanolic extracts, against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella typhimurium* with 23 mm and 22 mm zones of inhibitions. Similarly in *Salvadora persica* both Ethanolic and Methanolic extracts were effective only against *Staphylococcus aureus* with 22 mm and 18.3 mm zones of inhibitions. They were found a little bit resistant with lower 8 mm, 9.5 mm and 13mm zones of inhibitions against others pathogens like *E. Coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella typhimurium.* Similar results were (52) reported in 2018 with some exceptions that *Salvadora persica* extracts have no antibacterial impact *on Staphylococcus aureus*. Current investigations are consistent with the findings of (54) who reported that the diameter of zones of growth inhibition in Jordanian *Salvadora persica* extract was approximately 13 mm for Escherichia coli, 12 mm for *Staphylococcus aureus,* 3 mm for *Bacillus subtilis*, and 3.8 mm for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strain. There is great difference in our study according to (55) who reported that *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* resisted Methanolic extract of *Salvadora persica*, however in the current investigation, *Salvadora persica* inhibited *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* with a 9.5mm zone of inhibition. So in brief there is a little difference in current results due to use of different methods of agar

well diffusion method, solvents and extracts for finding antimicrobial activities against different pathogens.

In antioxidant activities, increase in concentrations of extracts increases scavenging activity. Among both Ethanolic and Methanolic extracts of both selected plants, the Methanolic extract of *Salvadora persica* has highest (35%) scavenging activity than Ethanolic extract *Calotropis gigantea (29%)* at 200µg/ml concentration of extract *s (table-5)* . While Ethanolic and Methanolic extracts of both selected plants have lower scavenging activity (3% and 6%) at lower concentration of 50 µg/ml. Current investigations of regarding antioxidant activities of both selected plants are in accordance with (56) who reported that leaves extract of *Calotropis gigantea* showed 45% and 40% free-radical scavenging (table-5) with some exceptions. Results and outcomes are different with little differences because of differences in polarity between solvents, type of DPPH assay (0.005%) method used, and varying (50 µg/ml) ,100 µg/ml and 200 µg/ml) concentration of extracts. Different findings were based on different methods used. Hence based on presented results, it was observed that both *Salvadora persica* and *Calotropis gigantea* extracts has antimicrobial and antioxidant activities against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* , *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli due* to the presence of antimicrobial and antioxidant bioactive compounds. Future studies are needed to know the mechanism action and toxicity of *Salvadora persica* and *Calotropis gigantea extracts* against parasites. There is a need to check the antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of new discovered bioactive compounds in this current study.

Conclusion

Based on the obtained results, it can be concluded that both Calotropis gigantea and Salvadora persica exhibit antimicrobial activity against Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Salmonella typhimurium, and Escherichia coli. Notably, Calotropis gigantea demonstrated the most substantial zone of inhibition against Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa when compared to Salvadora persica. Among the various extracts evaluated, the Methanolic extracts of Salvadora persica and Calotropis gigantea displayed the most potent antimicrobial activity. Moving on to antioxidant activity, it was observed that both plant extracts exhibited levels of antioxidant activity classified as strong, intermediate, and lower. Salvadora persica and Calotropis gigantea particularly demonstrated the highest levels of antioxidant activity. In the context of GC-MS analysis, the most prominent compounds identified were MONOTERPENES, 1-Butyl (Dimethyl) Silyloxypropa, and Octadecadienoic Acid. Salvadora persica extract contained the highest percentage of MONOTERPENES and 1-Butyl (Dimethyl) Silyloxypropa, while Calotropis gigantea extract contained the highest percentage of Octadecadienoic Acid. These findings collectively shed light on the antimicrobial, antioxidant, and chemical composition aspects of Calotropis gigantea and Salvadora persica extracts.

Declarations

Data Availability statement

All data generated or analyzed during the study are included in the manuscript.

Ethics approval and consent to participate Approved by the department Concerned.

Consent for publication

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Conflict of interest

The authors declared absence of conflict of interest.

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