



Panacea Journal of  
Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical  
Sciences  
**ISSN: 2349 7025**

Review Article

Volume 6 Issue 1

## INDIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS AS AN EFFECTIVE ANTIMICROBIAL AGENT

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### Article history:

Received: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Received in revised form:  
17<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Accepted: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Available online:  
30<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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These authors have no  
conflict of interest to declare.

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### Abstract:

India is a great country that is recognised for its rich culture and medicinal plants. Most of the people in India is reliant on herbal plant for their therapeutic needs. The present review will focus on Therapeutic plants from India along with its medicinal use.

Various medicinal plants have already proved their significance with curing diseases including bacteriological infections and some life threatening serious diseases. Medicinal plants are rich in antioxidant and proved best as antimicrobial agents. Herbal drugs are achieving popularity as compared to allopathic drugs the reasons includes adverse effects of man-made antibiotics, prompt surge in contagious diseases, resistance of drug in microbes. Herbal plants shows slow recovery, still a great population is using it because it showed no side effects and low resistance in microbes. Antimicrobial status of various herbal plants has been reported. Therapeutic plants work as a potent antimicrobial. Herbal plants are used for its medicinal purpose throughout the world as herbal plants provide base material for various effective drugs. A great number of herbal plants has been used as drug in the form of crude extracts and extensively used for their therapeutic possessions. Huge number of plants has been examined for antimicrobial possessions, but still majority of plants have not been examined adequately.

So, the present review will focus on some of the selected medicinal plant along with its antimicrobial status.

**Key words:** Medicinal plants, antimicrobial agent, infections, herbal drugs, antifungal.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The medical plants were in use since ages, Indian subcontinent uses plants for curing diseases and the stream of science which deals with plants and its therapeutic effects were governed by Ayurveda. Ayurveda remains an important system of medicine and drug therapy in India. Today the pharmacologically active ingredients of many Ayurvedic medicines have been identified and their usefulness in drug therapy is being determined. It is roughly estimated that of the discovered 17,000 species, nearly 3,000 species are used in medicinal field.

As believed that Ayurveda exists in India since thousands of years. It employs various techniques to cure diseases. Ayurveda is totally dependent on herbal plants and its derivatives. According to World Health Organization, medicinal plants are the best source to obtain newer herbal drugs. About 80% of individuals from developed countries use traditional medicine, which has compounds derived from medicinal plants. Therefore, such plants should be investigated for better understanding of their properties, safety and efficacy.

The use of plant extracts and phytochemicals, both with known antimicrobial properties, can be of great significance in therapeutic treatments. In the last few years, a number of studies have been conducted in different countries to prove such efficiency. Many plants have been used because of their antimicrobial traits.

In the present review we have tried to include some of the antibacterial and antifungal effects of medicinal plants, the methanol leaf extracts of *Tinosporacordifolia*, *Ziziphusmauritiana*, *Sidacordifolia*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Withaniasomnifer* have showed potent antibacterial activity against *Bacillus subtilis*, *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Staphalococcus aureus* and *Xanthomonas axonopodis* and antifungal activity against *Aspergillus flavus*, *Dreschleraturcica* and *Fusarium verticillioides*. *Withaniasomniferis* recognized as strong antibacterial, Methanol extract of *Withania somnifer* is effective against *Candidaalbicans*[1]. Organic extracts of *Cassia fistula* and *Acacia aroma* shows potent antibacterial and antifungal activities against various gram positive bacteria.

*Azadirachtaindica* popularly known as neem is effective against various infections and diseases, Neem shows antibacterial activity strongly against *Vibrio cholera* [2] Essential oil and organic extracts of *Ziziphoraclino podioides* shows antibacterial activity against a

huge class of bacteria including *Acidovoraxfacilis*, *Bacillusflexus*, *Bacillusphaericus*, *Brevibacillusbrevis*, *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes*, *Enterobacter sakazakii*, *Moraxella catarrhalis* and *Xanthomonas*[3]. *Argemonemexicanais* reported to reduces bacterial infections of *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* when used as crude extract with chloroform,[4]. As reported *Nepheliumlappaceum* methanolic extracts is effective against *streptococcus epidermidis*[5]. *Punicagranatum* is used as an effective agent against various antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and anti-allergic reactions against *Streptococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus epidermidis* [6].

In Asia people use plant extract of *Rutagraveolens* and *Zingiberofficinale* and it inhibits the growth of *Bacillus cereus* species [7]. Oil extracted from *Achilleamillefolium*'s leaves and stem represents higher antimicrobial activity compared to its organic extracts. Essential oil from the plant inhibits the growth of *Streptococcus pneumonia*, *Clostridium perfringes* and *Candida albicans* and it inhibit *Mycobacterium smegmatis*, *Acinetobacter lwoffii* and *Candida krusei*[8]

70% methanol extract from leaves of *Mikaniaglomerata* ("guaco"), guava, *Baccharis trimera* (carqueja), *Menthapiperita* (peppermint) and *Cymbopogon citratus* (lemongrass), and *A. sativum* (garlic), *Syzygium aromaticum* (clove) and *Zingiberofficinale* (ginger) worked as an antimicrobial, all showed action against *Staphylococcus aureus* and satisfactory result in clove at the concentration of 0.36 mg/mL and guava at 0.56 mg/mL. According to a study the hydroalcoholic extracts from *Vernonia polyanthes* ("assa-peixe"), *Aristolochia triangularis* ("cipó mil-homens"), *Tabebuia avellanedae* (purple trumpet tree) and *Stryphnodendron adstringens* ("barbatimão") shows anti mycobacterial activity [9]

*Vernonia Polyanthes* extract shows potent inhibitory activity against Leishmania strains. In the same way under same condition *Baccharis dracunculifolia* oil ("alecrim-do-campo") at a concentration of 10-µL inhibits the microbial growth of *E coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *P. aeruginosa*. [10] Alkaloid extract of *Phyllanthus discoideus* inhibits the growth of many pathogenic bacteria including *E. coli*, *E. faecium*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus* and *M. smegmatis*. [11]

Leaves of some medicinal plants including *Achyranthes aspera*, *Artemisia parviflora*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Lawsonia inermis*, *Mimosa pudica*,

*Ixoracoccinea*, *Partheniumhysterophorus* and *Chromolaenaodorata* were examined for antimicrobial activity against various bacteria in different solvents and they show their maximum inhibition against *E.coli*, *S. aureus*, *X. vesicatoria*. Chloroform extract of *Curcuma amada* was effective against *bacillus cereus* and *bacillus subtilis* bacteria [12], a novel product named amadannulen from *curcuma amada* inhibits the bacterial growth. Crude methanolic extract of *Mallotuspeltatus* is reported to be effective against the bacterial growth of *Staphylococcus*, *Streptococcus*, *Bacillus* species. [13]

*Embllica officinalis* and *Nymphaeodorata* extract together is used to suppress the bacterial growth of *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Gallium Sativum*[14], commonly known as garlicis useful against various disease, it is rich in anti-oxidant. *Eucalyptus Globulusis* also known as eucalyptus is used to treat disorders of urinary and respiratory tract, it shows high level of antibacterial and anti-fungal properties.

*Bidenspilosa*L extract is used as antihelminthic and protozoaide agent, used for its antiseptic properties[15] ,It is rich in flavonoid[16],The ethanol leaf extract of *Bixaorellana*L shows antimicrobial activity against gram positive bacteria[17] *Candida albicansis* also used against malaria and leishmaniasis [18], Its seed contain carotenoids [19].The ethanol leaf extract of *Cecropiapeltata*L was effective as anti-bilious, cardio tonic and diuretic agent [20] and leaves are valuable as medicine against lenorrhoea and warts[21][22]

Decoction of Leafs from *Cinchona officinalis* is found effective againstamebiasis. Dried bark is used to treat diseases caused by pathogenic strain of *P. falciparum*, and herpes [23].This extract is a rich source of quinoline alkaloid [24].Medicinal plant *Gliricidiasepiumis* rich in antioxidant, Its branches and leafs are effective against fever ,employed against infections caused by *Microsporiumcanis*, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* [25. Aqueous extract of *Jacaranda mimosifoliais* effective against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, the flowersof the plant contain flavones and flavonoids [27].The leafs of the plants are known to have triterpenes, flavones, and steroids [26]

*Justiciasecundais* used as a disinfectant to treat scorpion wounds [27] while *Piper pulchrumis* found effective against snake bite [28]. Flowers from medicinal plant *Spilanthes Americana* is effective against infections of mouth and variety of herpes, they possess spilantol [29]

Carbazole alkaloid extracted from stem bark of *clausenaanisata* contain antibacterial and antifungal properties [30]. Alcoholic and acetonic leaf extract of *Cassia alata* is reported with antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, coagulase positive *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Salmonella dysenteriae* while the alcoholic leaf extract of the same inhibits the growth of *Klebsiella pneumonia* and acetone extract inhibits the growth of *Vibrio cholerae*. [31]

Dry nuts of *semecarpusanacardium* is effective against various bacteria including 3 gram negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhi* and *proteusvulgeris* and gram positive strain (*Staphylococcus aureus* and *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*) [32]. Medicinal plant *amomumglabrum* show potent antibacterial, antifungal, insecticidal, sporicidal and cytotoxic activity. Hexane extract of the plant is used for the procedure. [33]

Antibacterial activity of plants like *Eugenia caryophyllus*, *Thymus vulgaris*, *Cinnamomumzeylanicum* and *Cuminumcyminum*, hexane extract of these plants were examined on various gram negative and gram positive bacteria and *Thymus vulgaris* shows best antibacterial activity among all. [34]

*CuminumCuminum* popularly known as cumin reported to show high antibacterial and antifungal properties. Extracts from the bark of Walnut are effective against *pseudomonas* and *candida* microorganisms, it is active against all microbial infections. *Thymus Vulgaris* used against antibacterial activity, because it is rich in phenol, *AchilleaMillefolium* reported to show effectiveness in healing properties against antibacterial and antifungal infections, commonly it is used to cure wound, it is used as an extract in organic solvent. *PinusSilvestris* commonly known as pine used widely for its antiseptic activities, because of the presence of turpentine it is widely used against urinary tract infections and can be used against fungal infections.

Organic extract from *Peumusboldus*, *Agathosmabetulina*, *Echinacea angustifolia*, *Humuluslupulus*, *Glycyrrhizaglabra*, *Mahoniaaquifolium*, *Usneabarbata* and *Anemopsis californica* show activity against various microbial and fungal infections.

### **Discussion:**

The above mentioned review clearly shows that medicinal plants are important link between diseases and drugs, they play active role in curing all disease and infections.

Almost all plants have medicinal belongings; the main aim of the article was to consider few therapeutic plants of Indian origin.

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**How to cite this article:**

**Tyagi R, Sharma G, Jasuja ND, Menghani E. Indian medicinal plants as an effective antimicrobial agent. *Panacea Journal of Pharmacy and Pharm. Sci.* 2017:6(1); 113-120.**