

# Antibacterial activity of *Saponaria officinalis* and *Zanthoxylum aramatum*

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## Abstract

The present study was carried out to evaluate the antimicrobial properties of two traditional medicinal plant species *Saponaria officinalis* and *Zanthoxylum aramatum* belonging to the families Raryophyllaceae and Rutaceae. The root part was selected for the antibacterial activity, and extracts were prepared using soxhlet extraction procedure using different solvents successively. Different extracts of selected plants tested their anti-microbial property using agar well diffusion method at different concentration on standard human pathogenic bacterial strains. The selected plants extracts concentrated dependent bactericidal activity on tested standard bacterial strains. The zones of inhibitions were measured for each concentration of various extracts on each bacterial strain tested in a millimeter (mm). All concentrations of extracts showed minimum zone of inhibition (8mm). The chloroform extracts at 5mg/100 $\mu$ L showed less activity. But, as the concentration increases the bactericidal activity was increased. The extracts showed more activity at 40mg/100 $\mu$ L. Among two plants *S. officinalis* showed more antibacterial activity. In these, methanol extracts of two plants more competent results along with ciprofloxacin on tested bacterial strains. The extracts also showed more activity on gram-negative organisms compared to gram-positive organisms. The extracts showed more activity on *E. coli* and *S. typhimurium* and lower activity on *C. sporogenes* and *S. pneumoniae*. The results of the present study provide the evidence on antibacterial property of selected medicinal plants and there is a scope to further studies on isolation of antimicrobial compounds from these species.

**Keywords:** *Saponaria Officinalis*; *Zanthoxylum Aramatum*; Roots and Antimicrobial Activity.

## 1. Introduction

Antibiotics are the drugs used in the treatment of bacterial infections. They may take life or reduce the bacterial growth by different mechanism of actions. The antibiotics play an important role in medicine from early mid of 20<sup>th</sup> century (Aminov, 2010; Claudi et al., 2010). They help in the treatment of different diseases and almost eradication of some diseases like tuberculosis. However, as time passes the handling of antibiotics in treatments of diseases increased, and the over usage provoked the development of resistance in bacteria (Siang Yong and Yvonne, 2015; Aminov, 2009). The development of resistance in microorganisms against antibiotics outpaced the development of new drugs (Gootz, 1990; Sum et al., 1999; Eliopolus, 2004; Jaswanthrai et al., 2013). The naturally occurring products are the main source for the identifying and development of new antibiotics (Habich and Von Nussbaum, 2006). These natural occurring compounds are many times starting materials for synthesis of new antibiotics, and they are less toxic. Because, It may be natural products are not suitable for human therapy as their existing forms. However, the identification of natural origin antibiotics is so important against multidrug resistant bacteria. Plants are the best source for different chemical compounds having various bioactive molecules (Schelz et al., 2010; Jatin Srivastava et al., 2014). But, there are more medicinal plants are not identified for their biological activities, including antibiotic activity. In this point of view, we selected the two medic-

inal plants, i.e. *Saponaria officinalis* and *Zanthoxylum aramatum* for the present study.

*Saponaria officinalis* is a perennial plant belongs to caryophyllaceae family, commonly called as soapwort. The different parts of *S. officinalis* plant has been used in traditional medicine in various diseases like roots as blood purifier, diuretic, diaphoretic, cholagogue; roots and leaves for scrofula and skin diseases; sap for scabies, hepatic eruptions, to increase bile flow and plant for respiratory disorders since ancient times (Khare, 2007; Wolff et al., 2006). The recent studies show it contains different phytochemicals like saponins and suporbic acid.

*Zanthoxylum aramatum* commonly known as Indian prikly ash belongs to the Rutaceae family. The plants part of the *Z. aramatum* used in medicine as carminative, stomachic and anthelmintic. The fruits and seeds used for fever, scabies, dyspepsia, snake bite remedy, pains rheumatism, cholera and diabetes (Singh and Singh, 2011; Negi et al., 2011; Rajbhandari, 2001).

The selected plants *Saponaria officinalis* and *Zanthoxylum aramatum* are using in traditional medicine in the treatment of different illnesses. But, there very less scientific evidence present on their biological activities. So, we selected the roots part of the *S. officinalis* and *Z. aramatum* for the antimicrobial activity.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Chemicals and drugs

The chemicals used in the present study were analytical grade from Merk. The standard drug ciprofloxacin was purchased from Apollo pharmacy (Made Dr. Reddy's).

## 2.2. Collection of plant materials and preparation of extracts

The plant materials *Saponaria officinalis* (Voucher number: 1221) and *Zanthoxylum aramatum* (Voucher number: 1765) were collected from Tirupati region, Andhra Pradesh and authenticated by the taxonomist Dr. K. MadhavaChetty, Depart of Botany, Sri Venkateswara University. Freshly collected root plant material was dried under shade, and the dried material was milled to obtain a coarse powder. The powdered material was separately extracted in a Soxhlet apparatus for 6 hrs successively with ethyl acetate, chloroform and methanol successively. Finally, the collected solution through soxhlet extraction was concentrated to dryness under vacuum by using Rota-vapor to get the dry extract and stored in desiccators.

## 2.3. Test organisms

The bacterial species were collected from National collection of industrial micro organisms (NCIM), National chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune. The Bacterial species were maintained in the nutrient broth medium on placing shaker in separate culture tubes for each species separately. Out of eight, four are Gram-positive organisms *Clostridium sporogenes* (NCIM 5125), *Listeria monocytogenes* (NCIM 5260), *Staphylococcus aureus* (NCIM 2127), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (NCIM 5281) and four are Gram Negative *Escherichia coli* (NCIM 2931), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (NCIM 5029), *Yersinia enterocolitica* (NCIM 5263), *Salmonella typhimurium* (NCIM 2501).

## 2.4. Antibacterial activity

The selected plants extracts were tested for their antibacterial activity on different pathogenic bacterial strains using agar well diffusion method (Ganga Rao et al., 2012). The concentration extracts were prepared 50, 100, 200 and 400 mg/ml in Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), finally added 100µl to each well in dried agar plate. The method briefly is; nutrient agar media was prepared and sterilized using an autoclave. After sterilization cooled to room temperature and agar, nutrient medium separated equally as per requirements and each part was inoculated with 200µL of testing bacterial strains in aseptic conditions. After inoculation the agar nutrient medium was transferred to 6" Petri-dishes allowed to solidification. After solidification wells/cups were made with sterile borer (5mm). Then, wells/cups were filled with the standard drug, different concentration of extracts and extract vehicle/control (DMSO) and allowed the samples to diffusion into the medium for 30min without disturbing the plates. After diffusion plates were incubated for 24hrs at 37±2°C. After 24hrs, the plates were examined for extracts' antibacterial activity by measuring the zone of inhibitions (in a millimeter (mm)) around the wells/cups. The experiment was done thrice, and results were expressed in mean ± S.E.M.

## 3. Results and discussion

The selected plants extracts showed different zones of inhibitions of tested bacterial strains, it conforms that they contain antibacterial activity. These results could be important for the researchers working on isolation of natural compounds from medicinal plants. The selected plants extracts concentrated dependent bactericidal activity on tested standard bacterial strains. The results showed in Tables 1 and 2, zones of inhibitions were measured for each concentration of various extracts on each bacterial strain tested in mm. All concentrations of extracts showed a minimum zone of inhibition (8mm).

Table 1: Zones of Inhibitions of Different Extracts of *Saponaria officinalis* Root Part

Name of the extract	Concentration of extracts (mg/100µL)	Name of the microorganisms							
		C. s	L. m	S. a	S. p	E. c	P. a	Y. e	S. t
Ethyl acetate	5	8.33±	7.33±	6.67±	7.00±	8.33±	6.67±	7.67±	9.00±
		0.33	0.3	0.3	0.00	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.00
	10	10.3±	8.67±	9.00±	8.33±	11.33±	9.33±	8.00±	12.00±
		0.33	0.33	0.00	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.00
	20	12.67±	10.67±	11.33±	10.3±	14.00±	11.33±	10.00±	14.33±
		0.3	0.33	0.3	0.3	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.33
	40	15.33±	12.67±	14.00±	12.3±	16.00±	13.67±	13.33±	15.67±
		0.33	0.33	0.00	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33
Chloroform	5	6.00±	6.33±	7.33±	7.00±	7.67±	7.33±	7.00±	7.33±
		0.00	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.3	0.33	0.00	0.3
	10	8.33±	8.33±	9.00±	8.67±	9.00±	8.67±	9.00±	9.33±
		0.33	0.3	0.00	0.3	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.33
	20	10.33±	9.67±	11.33±	10.67±	11.33±	10.33±	11.00±	11.67±
		0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.58	0.33
	40	12.33±	11.67±	13.67±	13.3±	13.67±	13.33±	13.67±	14.33±
		0.3	0.33	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33
Methanol	5	7.67±	7.33±	7.67±	8.00±	8.33±	8.67±	9.00±	8.00±
		0.33	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.3	0.33	0.00	0.00
	10	10.33±	9.33±	9.67±	10.67±	11.67±	10.67±	11.67±	11.33±
		0.33	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.3
	20	12.67±	11.00±	11.67±	13.3±	15.67±	13.33±	14.67±	15.33±
		0.3	0.00	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33
	40	15.67±	13.33±	14.33±	16.0±	19.67±	16.33±	17.67±	18.67±
		0.33	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.33
Ciprofloxacin	(100µg/100µL)	19.97±	18.67±	23.67±	25.00±	22.33±	21.67±	23.00±	21.33±
DMSO	100 µL	0.09	0.33	0.33	0.58	0.33	0.33	1.00	0.67

C. s= *Clostridium sporogenes*; L. m= *Listeria monocytogenes*; S. a= *Staphylococcus aureus*; S. p= *Streptococcus pneumoniae*; E. c= *Escherichia coli*; P. a= *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; Y. e= *Yersinia enterocolitica*; S. t= *Salmonella typhimurium*.

**Table 2:** Zones of Inhibitions of Different Extracts of *Zanthoxylum aramatum* Root Part

Name of the extract	Concentration of extracts (mg/100µL)	Name of the microorganisms							
		C.s	L. m	S. a	S. p	E. c	P. a	Y. e	S. t
Ethyl acetate	5	-	7	8.3± 0.3	-	8.67± 0.33	7.67± 0.33	8	9
	10	7	8.3± 0.33	10.3± 0.3	7.33± 0.33	10.67± 0.33	9.67± 0.33	10	11.33± 0.00
	20	9.33± 0.3	10.67± 0.33	13.3± 0.3	9.3± 0.3	13.67± 0.3	12.33± 0.33	12.67± 0.3	13.67± 0.33
	40	11.3± 0.33	13.67± 0.33	15.67± 0.3	11.67± 0.33	16.67± 0.00	14.33± 0.33	15± 0.57	17.0± 0.58
	5	-	7.33± 0.33	-	-	7.67± 0.3	6.67± 0.33	-	8
Chloroform	10	6.67± 0.33	8.0± 0.0	7.0± 0.0	6.33± 0.3	9.33± 0.3	7.67± 0.33	6.33± 0.33	9.67± 0.33
	20	7.67± 0.33	9.33± 0.33	8.33± 0.33	7.33± 0.33	10.67± 0.33	9.67± 0.33	7.67± 0.58	11.33± 0.33
	40	9.0± 0.57	11.33± 0.33	10.33± 0.3	8.67± 0.3	12.67± 0.3	11.67± 0.33	9.67± 0.3	13.67± 0.33
	5	7.33± 0.33	7	8	6.67± 0.00	7.33± 0.3	7.67± 0.33	8.33± 0.33	8.67± 0.3
	10	9.33± 0.33	8.67± 0.3	9.67± 0.33	9.33± 0.3	10.33± 0.33	9.67± 0.33	10.33± 0.33	11.33± 0.3
Methanol	20	11.67± 0.57	10.33± 0.33	11.67± 0.3	11	13.33± 0.3	12.0± 0.57	12.67± 0.3	13.67± 0.33
	40	13.33± 0.33	12.33± 0.33	14.0± 0.3	13.3± 0.3	15.67± 0.33	14.33± 0.33	15.67± 0.3	16.33± 0.67
	(100µg/100µL)	19.97± 0.09	18.67± 0.33	23.67± 0.33	25.00± 0.58	22.33± 0.33	21.67± 0.33	23.00± 1.00	21.33± 0.67
	DMSO	100 µL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

C. s= *Clostridium sporogenes*; L. m= *Listeria monocytogenes*; S. a= *Staphylococcus aureus*; S. p= *Streptococcus pneumoniae*; E. c= *Escherichia coli*; P. a= *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; Y. e= *Yersinia enterocolitica*; S. t= *Salmonella typhimurium*

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The results of the present study indicate that the scientific evidence of traditional use of selected medicinal plants in the treatment of different illnesses. To our knowledge, this is the first time reporting the antibacterial activity of the root parts of the *Saponaria officinalis* and *Z. aramatum*. Results could be point out that the extracts showed the comparable antibacterial activity along with the standard drug ciprofloxacin. Therefore, the selected plants extracts could be used for bacterial infections, and their mechanism of action was unknown. The selected plants extracts showed the antibacterial activity moderately compared to ciprofloxacin, which inhibits the bacterial growth by inhibiting the replication process in them (Gootz et al., 1990). Current results also supports the cytotoxicity of selected plants extracts against bacterial cells were may be associated with same as ciprofloxacin or the mechanism of action may vary. So, the study of the mechanism of action of selected plants on their bactericidal activity may be useful. In recent times, the microorganisms becoming resistant (Stuart B. Levy, 2002; Lee Ventola, 2015) to the drugs because of their excess usage and changes in the environmental conditions (Phillips, 1983).

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