
ANTIMICROBIAL PROPERTY OF AQUEOUS AND ETHANOL LEAF EXTRACT OF CELOSIA ISERTII

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ABSTRACT

Studies on the aqueous and ethanolic extracts of medicinal and traditional plants/herbs has become a major focus of recent biochemical researches; in order to propose better models for manufacturing of modern drugs and design of microbes inhibition. This present study investigated the antimicrobial property of the aqueous and ethanolic leaf extract of *Celosia isertii* against micro-organisms: *E.coli*, *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, *B. subtilis*, *S. typhi* and *K. pneumoniae*, using antibiotics; Ampiclox and Erythromycin as control. The disc diffusion techniques was used to test the sensitivity of the micro-organism to the extracts of *C.isertii* and the results obtained show mean zones of inhibition between ($7 \pm 0.2\text{mm}$) to ($10 \pm 0.3\text{mm}$) for coldwater (aqueous) and ($10 \pm 0.5\text{mm}$) to ($13 \pm 0.8\text{mm}$) for ethanol extract. Micro-organisms showed sensitivity in the order: *E.coli*; ($10 \pm 0.3\text{mm}$) and ($12 \pm 0.8\text{mm}$), *S.aureus*; ($8 \pm 0.2\text{mm}$) and ($11 \pm 0.6\text{mm}$) and *P.aeruginosa*; ($10 \pm 0.4\text{mm}$) and ($13 \pm 0.8\text{mm}$), *B.subtilis*; ($10 \pm 0.1\text{mm}$) and ($11 \pm 0.7\text{mm}$), *S.typhi* ($8 \pm 0.2\text{mm}$) and ($10 \pm 0.6\text{mm}$) and *K.pneumoniae*; ($7 \pm 0.2\text{mm}$) and ($10 \pm 0.5\text{mm}$) for aqueous and ethanolic extracts respectively. The minimum inhibition concentration (MIC) ranged from 0.2 to 0.5mg/mL for ethanol extract while aqueous extracts appeared less effective. This result thus suggest the potency of *Celosia isertii* as an antimicrobial agent especially its extraction with ethanol at 0.5mg/ml although, further studies are recommended for its phytochemical screening/analysis.

Keywords: *Antimicrobial Property, Leaf Extracts, Celosia Isertii*

INTRODUCTION

For many generations, several plants were used for their therapeutic virtues, and this was before knowing the exact origin of their benefits. In fact, they were used for treating infections (Bussmann and Sharon, 2006), malaria (Willcox et al., 2005), burns, edema, allergies and prevent several diseases (Bussmann and Sharon, 2006). Since the last decades, researchers have began to explain these virtues by the ability of plants to limit infections (Ulanowska et al., 2006; Kuster et al., 2009), prevent lipid peroxidations (Yamanaka et al., 1996), prevent some cancers (Ames et al., 1995), cure allergies (Park et al., 2008) and many other associated diseases (Rein et al., 2000; Martin and Andriantsitohaina, 2002). Among all these virtues, the anti-infectious activity was considered as one of the most important activities (Park et al., 2008). *Celosia* is a small genus of edible and ornamental plants in the Amaranthaceae family (Rabes, et al., 1997). The generic name is derived from the Greek word "Kelos" meaning "burned" and refers to the flower-heads species. *Celosia* are commonly refer to as wool flowers or cockscombs and is well known

among the East Africans as 'Mfungu' and other West-Africa Countries (such as Nigeria), where it is called "Fulfulde" or "bokangida" (Edeoga et al., 2005). Though still in controversy, the *C. isertii* is claimed to have originated from Africa notwithstanding its abundance in Indonesia and India (Janarj, et al., 1999). It has been shown to be well-cultivated in Nigeria due to the humid weather found in this west African country, Nigeria and the presence of wet season seem to be an advantage in its cultivation (Diallo, et al., 1999). *Celosia isertii* (Amaranthaceae) grows as a weed during rainy season throughout India and other tropical regions of the world such as Sri Lanka, South Asia, Africa and America (Thangarasu et al., 2002). The leaves are used for the treatment of inflammations, fever and itching. The seeds are bitter, useful in blood diseases and mouth sores (Thangarasu et al., 2002). They are an efficacious remedy in diarrhea (Kirtikar and Basu, 1935). Based on ethno botanical practice, the plant has been investigated for anti-inflammatory (Patil et al., 2003), anti-pyretic, anti-diabetic, antibacterial and diuretic properties (Bhujbal et al., 2006; Park et al., 2008), and with the increased interest shown by researcher in folk medicine for new leads to develop better drugs against microbial infection, (Benkebia, 2004), there is a need therefore, for a study on the determination of possible antimicrobial properties of extract of *Celosia isertii*. Although the antimicrobial activity of some medicinal plants is documented, their antimicrobial activities vary widely, depending on the type of spice or herb, test medium and micro-organism (Synder, 1997). The aim of this study was to investigate the antimicrobial property of aqueous and ethanol leaf extract of *Celosia isertii* on some selected microorganisms such as *Bacillus sp.*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Pseudomonas sp.*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Salmonella typhi*.

METHODS

Source and Collection of Plant Parts

The leaves of *Celosia isertii* plant sample used for the research was collected from Abraka and identified at the Department of Botany, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria. Samples were conveyed in black polythene bags to the Microbiology laboratory, where they are then washed with clean water.

Preparation of Plant Extracts

Plant extract was obtained as described by previous research (Doughari et al., 2007). To a volume of 1500ml of distilled water (for aqueous) and ethanol (for alcohol), was added 300g of the powdered plant extract. The suspension was allowed to stand in position for 3 days in the laboratory. The mixture was agitated at intervals on each day. On the third day, the extract was filtered out into a clean sterile flask with the aid of millipore filter and later concentrated to dryness in a rotatory evaporator in vacuum.

Standardization of Isolates

Test organisms were sub-cultured onto fresh plates of MacConkey agar and incubated aerobically at 37°C for 24 hours. Colonies from these plates were suspended in Mueller-Hinton broth (Oxoid, UK) to a turbidity matching 0.5 McFarland standard (10^8 cfu/ml).

Mueller-Hinton agar was then used for antimicrobial assay. All the broth cultures were incubated at 37°C (Aibinu et al., 2007).

Antimicrobial Assay

Suspensions of the bacteria obtained contained approximately 1×10^8 cfu/ml. Each labelled plate was uniformly seeded with a test organism by means of sterile swab stick rolled in the culture medium. Aliquots were dropped in each well to fullness (Shahidi, 2004). Each plate was kept in the refrigerator for 1 hour to allow the extracts to diffuse into the culture medium while the immediate growth of the organism was stopped from taking place. These plates were then incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. The zones of inhibition around the wells were measured in millimeter (mm). Control antibiotics and ethanol solvent were placed in a well on each plate along with the test extracts as control.

Determination of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration

The Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of the extracts was determined for each of the test organisms in triplicate in test tubes (Doughari et al., 2007). To 0.5 ml of varying concentrations of the extracts (0.5, 0.4, 0.3, 0.2 and 0.1 mg/ml) in test tubes, Nutrient broth (2 ml) was added and then a loopful of the test organism, previously diluted to 0.5 McFarland turbidity standard, was introduced. The procedure was repeated on the test organisms using the standard antibiotics (Ampiclox and Erythromycin). A tube containing Nutrient broth only was seeded with the test organisms, as described above, to serve as controls. The culture tubes were then incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. After incubation the tubes were then examined for microbial growth by observing for turbidity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The use of plants extract; water (aqueous) and other alcoholic concentrations has become a common practice among traditional medical practitioners (Goncalves, et al., 2008). Although, the active potential phytochemicals present in both aqueous and alcohol extracts of leaves and herbs are the same, there is always a variation in their inhibition potency especially at different concentrations (Androgan, et al., 2002). Therefore, the comparison of these aqueous and alcoholic extracts at their different concentrations serves to propose a model for the pharmacological studies of plants/herbs (Androgan, et al., 2002). In this present study, the levels of inhibition observed ranged between 5mm – 9mm Ampiclox, 6 – 10mm for erythromycin, 7 – 10mm for coldwater (aqueous) extract and 10 – 13mm for ethanolic extracts of *Celosia Iserti* (Table 1). For *E.coli*, the antibiotics (Ampiclox and Erythromycin) showed equal inhibition (8mm) while ethanol extract showed a greater inhibition (12mm) than aqueous (10mm) and the antibiotics. For *S.aureus*, ethanol showed greater inhibition (11mm) than aqueous (8mm) and the antibiotics. Also, ethanol and aqueous extract showed greater inhibition than antibiotics (Table 1) against *P.aeruginosa* while *S.typhis* resistant to Ampiclox (6mm) but inhibited by ethanol extract (10mm) and Erythromycin (10mm). *K.pneumoniae* also showed a greater resistance to Ampiclox but strongly inhibited by aqueous and ethanol extracts (Table 1). Comparison of aqueous and ethanolic extracts of

C.isertii against microorganisms showed that ethanolic extract have greater inhibitory potency. Comparison of aqueous extract with antibiotics showed that aqueous extract have stronger inhibition with exception to *Staph. aureus* and *Salmonella.typhi* while equal inhibitory effect was observed against *K.pneumoniae*. Ethanolic extract showed a stronger inhibitory effect against all microorganisms when compared with the antibiotics (Ampiclox and Erythromycin). The minimum inhibitory inhibition (MIC) of the aqueous and ethanolic extracts show values indicating a possible adoption of *Celosia isertii* extract as an antibacterial agent. The MIC of ethanolic extracts against *E.coli*, *S.aureus*, *P.aeruginosa*, *B.subtilis*, *S.typhi* and *K.pneumoniae* were 0.3, 0.4, 0.3, 0.4, 0.3 and 0.2mg/mL respectively (Table 2). On the other hand, *E.coli*, *S.aureus*, *P.aeruginosa*, and *S.typhi* appeared to be resistant to the aqueous plant extract. *B.subtilis*, and *K.pneumoniae* which showed susceptibility, were inhibited at a concentration of 0.5 and 0.4 mg/mL respectively (Table 2). The results obtained from the study may not be unexpected as natural plants/herbs have been shown to possess various medicinal potency as well as their inhibitory effects on various human-disease causing microorganisms. Ethanolic leaf extract of *Aloe veraburm* have been shown to inhibit the growth of *E.coli*, *K.pneumoniae*, *P.aeruginosa*, *B.subtilis* and *S.aureus* (Thiruppathi et al., 2010). In 2009, Agatemor showed that *E.coli*, *B.subtilis*, *P.aeruginosa*, and *S.aureus* are strongly inhibited by nine Nigerian spices/herbs of which this result is consistent as all microorganisms were strongly inhibited by both the aqueous and ethanolic extract of *C.isertii* (table 4.1 and 4.3). Although not much work has been published on *C.isertii* especially its phytochemical constituents, it is suspected in this study, that the mechanism of its antimicrobial potency may not be unconnected to the presence of tannins, phlobatannins, saponins, flavanoids, steroids, terpenoids, glycosides and reducing sugars associated with the phytochemical screening/analysis of most Nigerian medicinal and traditional herbs (Egwaikhide, et al., 2007, Edeoga et al., 2005 and Shittu et al., 2007). From the results obtained in the study in which all micro-organism investigated were inhibited and highly sensitive to ethanolic leaf extract of *Celosia Isertii*, *Celosia Isertii* can be employed in the treatment of ailments and diseases caused by tested microbes at 0.5mg/ml of ethanolic extract. Further studies on animal toxicity are recommended.

Table 1: Mean zones of inhibition (mm) of extract and selected antibiotics on test isolates.

Group	Test Isolates	Antibiotics		Leaf extract of <i>C. isertii</i>	
		Ampiclox	Erythromycin	cold water	Ethanol
1	<i>E. coli</i>	8 ± 0.2	8 ± 0.2	10 ± 0.3	12 ± 0.8
2	<i>S. aureus</i>	9 ± 0.3	10 ± 0.4	8 ± 0.2	11 ± 0.1
3	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	8 ± 0.1	6 ± 0.3	10 ± 0.4	13 ± 0.8
4	<i>B. subtilis</i>	7 ± 0.6	7 ± 0.2	10 ± 0.1	11 ± 0.7
5	<i>S. typhil</i>	6 ± 0.4	10 ± 0.4	8 ± 0.2	10 ± 0.6
6	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	5 ± 0.1	7 ± 0.2	7 ± 0.2	10 ± 0.5

Table 2: Minimum inhibitory concentration of leaf extracts obtained from aqueous and ethanolic extracts on micro-organisms.

Group	Microorganism	Extracts	Concentrations (mg/ml)				
			0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
1	<i>E. coli</i>	CW	+	+	+	++	++
		E	-	-	-	+	+
2	<i>S. aureus</i>	CW	+	+	++	++	++
		E	-	-	+	+	+
3	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	CW	+	+	+	+	++
		E	-	-	-	+	+
4	<i>B. subtilis</i>	CW	-	+	++	++	++
		E	-	-	+	+	+
5	<i>S. typhi</i>	CW	++	++	++	++	++
		E	-	-	-	+	+
6	<i>K. pneumonia</i>	CW	-	-	+	++	++
		E	-	-	-	-	+

Note:

+ = Small growth

++ = major growth

- = No growth

E = Ethanol and CW; cold water

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