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Comparative Study of the Antimicrobial Efficacy of Three Medicinal Plants against Dermatophytic Pathogens

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Original Research Article

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ABSTRACT

Bixa orellana, Jatropha curcas and *Cassia alata are* three of the prominent plants used for traditional medicine in Nigeria. Dermatophytosis also known as tinea or ringworm is the most frequent superficial fungal infections in Nigeria.

Objective: In this Present Study, We Aimed at Comparing The Phytochemical Components and the Antifungal Efficacy of these Medicinal against Selected Dermatophytes.

Study Design: Cross Sectional Study among a Particular Population.

Place and Duration of Study: Department of Microbiology, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State. Between March 2019 and September 2019.

Methods: The phytochemical contents of the plants were determined and the in-vitro antifungal activities of Bixa orellana, Jatropha curcas and Cassia alata were screened against seven species

of Trichophyton (T. ajelloi, T. mentagrophytes, T. rubrum, M.gypseum T. soudenensis, T. tonsurans and T. verrucosum) using agar dilution method.

Results: The phytochemical screening revealed the presence of flavonoid, saponin, phenol, steroids, glycoside, phytosteroids, alkaloids, terpenoid, tannin, and cardiac glycoside in various quantities. The findings from our study showed that the ethanol extracts of these medicinal plants have more antifungal activities than other solvents. However, the hexane and ethanol extracts of *Jatropha curcas* was observed to be significantly higher than other extracts. The zone of inhibition recorded ranges from 22 mm-32 mm and the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 12.5 mg/ml was recorded.

Conclusion: The ethanolic extract of Jatropha curcas showed broad effectiveness against the tested pathogens when compared to other plants and we conclude that the plants antifungal property is concentration dependent. However, we recommend further studies on these plants extracts using a large number of different isolates and solvents.

Keywords: Phytochemical screening; antimicrobial efficacy; medicinal plants and dermatophytes.

1. INTRODUCTION

The hunt for bioactive compounds from medicinal plants have been sponsored with persistent microbial resistance to existing chemotherapeutics agents. Medicinal plants are widely used in management of diseases all over the world [1]. In Nigeria, several thousands of plants species have been claimed to possess medicinal properties and employed in the treatment of many ailments [2] Plants can svnthesize a wide varietv of chemical compounds that are used to perform important biological functions. Bixa orellana, Jatropha curcas and Cassia alata are three of the prominent plants used for traditional medicine in Nigeria.

Bixa orellana is a perennial, tall shrub that can reach 6-10m (20-33ft) high. It bears clusters of 5 cm (2 in) bright white or pink flowers, resembling single wild roses that appear at the tips of the branches [3]. Bixa orellana (Achiote) is a shrub native to a region between northern South America and Mexico but it became cultivated in tropical regions of Asia, such as India, Sri Lanka, and Java mainly for the dye which the seeds yield [4]. The nickname, "lipstick tree", was derived from use of the dye as a cosmetic [5]. The fruits of the Bixa orellana are globular, ovoid capsules arranged in clusters resembling spiky looking red-brown seed pods covered in soft spines. Each capsule, or pod, contains 30-45 cone shaped seeds covered in a thin waxy blood-red aril. When fully mature, the pod dries, hardens, and splits open, exposing the seeds [4].

Bixa orellana is used in traditional medicine [6]. The tree has been used in Ayurveda, the folk

medicine practices of India, where different parts of the plant are thought to be useful as therapy. The ethanolic extracts of the leaves and seeds of *B. orellana* showed activity against all the Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria and the yeast-like fungus C. albicans. The activity appears to be more pronounced in the leaf extract [7]. The leaf extracts of B. orellana were reported to exhibit dose dependent antimicrobial against the activity tested pathogens from literatures. The antimicrobial properties of Bixa orellana various extracts is probably due to the presence of different phytochemicals compounds in varving proportion.

Jatropha curcas is another plant with a notable ethno-medicinal use. Jatropha curcas commonly called physic nut, purging nut or pig nut belong to the family Euphorbiaceae used in traditional folklore medicine to cure various ailments in Africa, Asia and Latin America. All parts of the plant: roots, stems, leaves seeds and fruits have been widely used in traditional folk medicine in many parts of West Africa [8].

J. curcas and their extracts are used in traditional medicine, such as antimicrobial [9], antiviral [10], acaricidal activity [11], insecticidal properties [12,13], coagulant and anticoagulant activities [14], antimolluscicidal [15] and anti-inflammatory [16]. Previous researchers have also reported that leaf extract of Jatropha curcas has significant wound healing activity [17], antidiabetic [18], and Immunomodulatory effect [19] among others. The potency of J. curcas extracts have been heavily linked to the presence of certain phytochemicals in different part of the plant body.

Cassia alata Linn commonly called Ringworm weed belongs to the family *Caesalpiniaceae*. It is an annual or biannual shrub with a nasty smell, 1–4m tall, preferring sunny and moist areas. The leaves are yellowish-green, broad, with 5–14 leaflet pairs, the distal ones often larger and with a notched apex [20].

Cassia alata is one of the most important species in the genus of *Cassia* [21] the potential of the plant has been exploited in medicinal system because of the presence of wide range of bioactive molecules, developing the rich resource of different types of medicines. *C. alata* contains rich amount of anthraquinones and polyphenols [22].

Ethnomedically, the leaves are specific for the treatment of ringworm and eczema, scabies, and athlete's foot [23]. Various extracts and different parts of *Cassia alata* have been reported to own many pharmacological activities such as laxative, antifungal [22,24], wound healing [25], antibacterial [26], antihelmintic [27], anti-inflammatory [28], abortifacient [29] and Anti-lipogenic activity [30].

Antimicrobial activity of the plant is associated with the presence of other phytochemical components such as phenols, tannis, saponins, alkaloids, steroids, flavonoids and carbohydrates [31].

Crushed leaves of this plant are effective in treating various skin diseases like ringworm, eczema, pruritis, itching, and scabies in humans [32]. Moreover, leaves were used to prepare herbal tea, herbal soaps, shampoos and skin care cosmetic products to cure dermatological skin diseases [33].

Dermatophytosis also known as tinea or ringworm is an infection caused by a group of keratinophilic fungi called dermatophytes. The genera three major causing tinea are Trichophyton, Microsporum and Epidermophyton [34]. Dermatophytes colonize the skin, nails, and hair of the humans. Majorly, it affects the keratinous tissues of humans and other vertebrates leading to superficial infections. Antimicrobial hunt from plants to cure infectious diseases is not a new concept as it is old as mankind. Herbal medicines have minimal side effects when compared to synthetic drugs. The alarming increase in dermatophyte infection, drug resistance, frequent remissions and relapses and the hepatotoxicity caused by some oral synthetic antifungal agents are the matter of deep concern [34].

Dermatophytic infection is the most frequent superficial fungal infections in Nigeria. These fungal infections are not only causing primary diseases, but also responsible for various secondary ailments due to many predisposing factors. A widespread use of broad-spectrum antibiotics and immunosuppressive drugs for these ailments has led to an increase in the incidence of systemic fungal infections due to development of resistant strains of some of the fungi. The dermatophytes included in this study are seven species of Trichophyton which are *T. ajelloi, T. mentagrophytes, T. rubrum, M. gypseum, T. soudenensis, T.tonsurans* and *T. verrucosum.*

The medicinal plants included in this study have independently reported to possess been antifungal activities against some of these dermatophytes several pathogenic and organisms, but no study has directly compared the antifungal efficacy of B. orellana, Casia alata and Jatropha curcas extracts against the same selected isolates. Hence, in this present study, we compared the phytochemical components, antifungal efficacy and the minimum inhibitory concentration/ minimum fungicidal concentration of B. orellana, Casia alata and Jatropha curcas from various extracts with the aim to indicate the more potent plant between the three against the studied fungal isolates.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The plants materials were collected from different locations in Akungba Akoko between 7:00am and 11:00 am and authenticated at the Herbarium of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko, Ondo state.

Selected fresh plants materials collected were cleaned with 70% ethanol. They were air dried at 28°C for 10 to 15 days and grinded to powder form by grinder (Atlas, UK). 400grams of the leaf part of the plant was grounded into a 1.2 liters of ethanol solvents and covered in air-tight container with a cork, mixed together and left on the shaker at 37°C for 216hrs after which the filtrate was then evaporated with rotary evaporator at 77/78 revolution per minute (rpm) for 5 minute after which it was decanted. The extracts yielded a dark greenish residual mass. The extracts were then kept in sterile bottles until further experiment.

2.1 Collection of Clinical Samples

The nails, skin scrappings and hair samples were collected randomly from individuals suspected to have the symptoms of dematophytosis of skin, nails and hair. The infected areas of the body were swabbed with cotton wool moistened with 70% ethanol to remove any dirt and bacteria contaminants.

Samples consisting of epidermal scales and infected hairs were scrapped from the scalp of lesions using a sterile blade or new hair brush. Also swab sticks moistened with sterile peptone water was used to collect pus from inflammatory lesions. The scrapings were collected on a piece of sterile brown envelope and labelled appropriately and kept in a black polythene bag. These samples were transported immediately to the Laboratory for microscopic and cultural examination after collection.

2.2 Preparation Of Culture Media

Glass Petri dishes and other glassware used were sterilized in the oven using dry air sterilization method at 160 °C for 1 h. All the media (Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (SDA) Oxoid, UK product, Dermasel Agar oxoid product and Christensen's Urea Agar Merck product) used in this study were prepared aseptically according to manufacturer's specification.

2.3 Direct Microscopic Examination

Each treated slide was examined microscopically under low (x10) and high (x40) objective for the presence of hyphae and chains of arthrospores. Microscopic examination was done according to [35].

2.4 Isolation of Dermatophytes from the Samples

The samples were inoculated on Sabouraud Dextrose Agar (SDA) containing antibiotics. Each sample was inoculated and incubated at 28 °C for four weeks; this was examined daily for fungal growth at 2-3- day intervals. Identification was done based on the growth characteristics and morphology of the fungal isolates. The macroscopic examination was performed for the rate of growth, colonial morphology, colour, presence of pigmentation in the medium and surface texture that is raised, folded, flat cotton, velvety.

2.5 Sub-Culturing of Fungal Isolates

Sterile Sabouraud Dextrose Agar was prepared and sub-culturing done according to [36]. Fungal isolates were identified using conventional and molecular techniques

2.5.1 Fungi DNA extraction protocol

The DNA extraction was done using the protocol reported by [37]. The supernatant from the procedure was discarded carefully with the DNA pellets intact. Trace of ethanol was removed by drying the pellets at 55°C for 1 minute. The dried pellets were then suspended in 50µl of Tris-EDTA (TE) buffer and stored at -20°C for further analysis.

2.5.2 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) analysis

Polymerase chain reaction was done according to [37]. PCR was carried out in a GeneAmp 9700 PCR System Thermocycler (Applied Biosystem Inc., USA). The ITS gene for characterization of fungi, ITS universal primer set which flank the ITS1 (5.8S) and ITS2 region was used; ITS1: 5'TCC GTA GGT GAA CCT GCG G3'and ITS4: 5'TCC TCC GCT

TGA TAT GC3'. PCR TAT sequencing preparation cocktail consisted of 10µl of 5x GoTaq colourless reaction, 3µl of 25mM MgCl₂, 1µl of 10mM of dNTPs mix, 1µl of 10 pmol each of the ITS1 and ITS4 primers and 0.3 units of Taq DNA polymerase (Promega,USA) made up to 42µl with sterile distilled water, 8µl DNA template. The conditions for amplification were as follows; initial denaturation at 94°C for 5min; followed by a 30 cycles consisting of 94°C for 30s, 30secs annealing of primer at 55°C and 72°C for 1 minute 30seconds; and a final termination at 72°C for 10minutes and chill at 4°C.

2.5.3 Phytochemical analysis

Phytochemical analysis; both quantitative and qualitative was carried out on the leaf extracts of the plants in order to determine the presence of secondary metabolites. Plant filtrates were prepared by boiling 20grams of the fresh plant in distilled water. The solution was filtered through a vacuum pump. The freshly prepared crude extracts were qualitatively tested for the presence of secondary metabolites such as carbohydrates, alkaloids, glycosides, coumarins, tannins, phenols, flavonoids, saponins, and proteins by following the methods described in previous literature according to [38,39].

2.6 Antifungal Analysis of the Plant Extracts against the Isolated Dermatophyte

Muller-Hinton agar was sterilized and allowed to set. then the isolated organisms were incorporated into sterile 9.9 ml of sterile peptone water contained in bijoule bottles. Serial dilution of the inoculum was done up to 104 from which 0.1ml of isolated organism was inoculated onto the agar; the inoculum was introduced unto the solidified sterile Mueller Hinton agar by spread plate method in triplicate. Wells were bored on the inoculated plates using a sterilized stainlesssteel cork borer of size 6mm diameter. The prepared extracts were inoculated into the bored wells while the control experiments were also carried out where the wells were filled with 30% Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and distilled water. The plates were incubated at 25°C for 72 h after which the results were read by measuring the diameters of zones of inhibition around the wells with the aid of a metric ruler and recorded. A larger zone of inhibition indicated that the test substances were active against the fungi, a small or no inhibition zone may mean no activity. The susceptibility resistance of the various isolates against each plant extract was determined by the Clinical Laboratory Standard Institutoe [40]

2.7 Determination of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) and Minimum Fungicidal Concentration (MFC)

The MIC value of the plant extracts was determined as the lowest concentration that completely inhibited fungal growth after 72h of incubation at 28 ± 2°C. For the determination of the MIC, 200 mg of the plant extracts each were mixed with 2000 µl of DMSO for complete dissolution of the extract. The test-tubes were filled with 1.0 ml of Potato dextrose broth. 200 mg/1.0 ml, 100 mg/0.5 ml, 50 mg/0.25 ml, 25 mg/0.125 ml and 12.5 mg/0.0625 ml of the plant extracts was added to the test-tubes respectively and the last test tube without extract was used as negative control of the growth of the fungal in the medium. The MIC estimation of the crude extract was determined using the methods of [41,42,43]. Two-fold dilutions of the crude extract was prepared and 2 ml aliquots of different concentrations of the solution were added to 18 ml of pre-sterilized molten SDA for fungi at 40°C

to give final concentration regimes of 0.050 and 10 mg/ml. The medium was then poured into sterile Petri dishes and allowed to set. The surface of the medium was allowed to dry under laminar flow before streaking with 18 h old fungal cultures. The plates were later incubated at 25°C for up to 72 h for fungi, after which they were examined for the presence or absence of growth. The test tubes were incubated at 28 ± 2°C in an incubator for 48h. The lowest concentration that revealed no visible fungal growth after sub-culturing were taken as MFC (Minimum fungicidal concentration) values while the lowest concentration that prevented the growth of the tested fungus was taken as the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC).

2.8 Statistical Analysis

All statistical analyses were computed using the program R 3.2.2 (R Development Core Team, 2017), using agricolae and nlstools packages. Data were analysed independently using three-way ANOVA with Extract, fungi isolate, concentration and plant as fixed factors. Turkey HSD multiple post-hoc tests were used to evaluate the significance of the differences among the means.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Phytochemical Analysis

The results of the qualitative analysis of leave extracts from B. orellana, J.curcas and Cassia alata are presented in Table 1, 2, and 3. In this study, Phytochemical analysis of B. orellana leaf extracts revealed the presence of flavonoids, anthraquinones, terpenoid, phenol, steroids, saponin, phytosteroids and cardiac glycoside in varied quantity and absence of phlobatannins, proteins, fixed oil and phytosterons using various solvents (Table 1). Flavonoid was found to be significantly highest in ethanol and hexane extracts but not found in aqueous solvent. Tannin and phytosteroids were present in ethanolic extract but in low quality. Similar to this study, [44,45] reported that the aqueous extract of Bixa orellana contain aminoacids, carbohydrates, proteins, flavonoids, phlobatanins. steroids. terpenoids, cardiac glycosides and saponins while the ethanolic extract contained alkaloids, amino acids, carbohydrates, cardiac glycosides, steroids, proteins, and phlobatanins.

From this analysis, the phytochemical compounds present in the various extracts of

Casia alata extracts include flavonoid, saponin, phenol. steroids. glycoside, phytosteroids. terpenoid. alkaloids. tannin. and cardiac glycoside as presented in Table 2. However, [31] earlier reported that the antimicrobial activity of Cassia alata is associated with the presence of phytochemical components such as phenols, tannins, saponins, alkaloids, steroids, flavonoids and carbohydrates.

In comparison to the other plants studied, the ethanolic extract of J.curcas revealed a significant higher quantity of flavonoids and glycosides, moderate quantity of coumarin, guinones & anthraguinones, and low guantity of, phenol. tannins. terpenoids. steroids. phytosteroids, alkaloids, carbohydrates, & cardic glycoside. While phlobatannins, fixed protein, phyterols, and saponins were absent. Notably, the cold water extract of J.curcas showed large quantity of saponins [46] reported that saponin has antifungal properties. Its mode of action is by killing and inhibiting the excessive division of cells. Various researchers have previously reported the presence of these phytochemicals in similarity, with this study.

In a study by [47] the phytochemical screening of Jatropha curcas leaf revealed the presence of tannins, saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids, oxalates and cardiac glycosides while [48] reported that root and latex extracts of J.curcas plant contained phenolics, flavonoid and saponins. Other phytochemical screening reported by [49] indicated the presence of nine different phytochemicals form Jatropha curcas in varving degrees. The major phytochemical compounds from the methanolic and aqueous leaf extracts reported include phenols, flavonoids, and tannins. Significantly, the ethanolic extract of both plant (Bixa orellana and Jatropha curcas) showed a significant high quantity of flavonoid [50] opined that ethanol is a suitable solvent for the extraction process.

3.2 Antifungal Activities of Plant Extracts

The antifungal activity of the three plants (Bixa orellana,Cassia alata and Jatropha curcas) in varied concentration (12.5 mg/ml, 25 mg/ml, 50 mg/ml, 100 mg/ml and 200 mg/ml) are presented in Figs. (1, 2 and 3). However, the two most effective of the plants are Bixa orellana and Jatropha curcas. All the concentrations of *B. orellana* examined had significant effect against the isolates, the highest zone of inhibition was recorded with hexane extracts at 200 mg/ml against *T. verrucosum* while the same extract

had no significant effect on *M. gypseum* at 12.5 mg/ml (Fig. 3). The ethanolic extract obtained from B. orellana exhibited a zone of inhibition of 24 mm, 26 mm, and 22 mm on T. ajelloi at 12.5, 25.0 and 100mg/ml respectively. The B. orellana extract showed high zone of inhibition of 24mm, 26mm, 28 mm and 32 mm at 12.5 mg/ml, 50 mg/ml, 100 mg/ml and 200 mg/ml respectively against T. verrucosum while the least value 0.2mm at 50 mg/ml was recorded on T. tonsurans (Fig. 1, 2, 3). Bixa orellana extracts therefore had a zone of inhibition range of 22mm - 32mm against the tested dermatophytes. [51] Similarly, earlier reported an antidermatophytic activity of Bixa orellana against T. rubrum (12.66 ±1.15 mm), M. gypseum (10.33±1.15 mm), T. tonsurans (09.33±0.57 mm) and T. mentagrophytes (09.00±0.00 mm). Furthermore, [52] reported that the leaf extract of B. orellana at 1000 µg/ml concentration showed significant inhibition against all the tested bacteria and fungus, with highest inhibition zone (18±0.3 mm) against S. typhi, Acinetobacter sp., T. mentagrophytes and T. rubrum. Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of leaf extract was determined as 15.62 µg/ml - 31.25 µg/ml for the tested organism. Among the dermatophytes, 78.2% inhibition was reported for T. mentagrophytes & T. rubrum. Similar to our study, [52] reported that both leaf & seed extracts of B. orellana exhibited dose dependent antimicrobial activity against tested organism. From our study, B. orellana was found to contain saponins & steroids. It was reported that the mode of action of saponins against bacteria is due to its ability to cause leakage of proteins & certain enzymes from the cell [53].

For Bixa orellana, no zone of inhibition was cold recorded against for water Т. mentagrophyte. In concentrations without antifungal activity, it could be that potent antifungal flavonoids didn't diffuse through the paper disc because of low diffusion rate [54,55]. It is desirable to note that the inhibitory activity of plant extract is largely dependent on the concentration, parts of the plant used and the microbes tested [56].

According to [57], researchers have extensively studied the biological properties of Jatropha curcas with evidence that the plant is ethnomedically valuable. The antifungal activity of Jatropha curcas extract using different solvents at a varied concentration (12.5 mg/ml, 25 mg/ml, 50 mg/ml, 100 mg/ml, and 200 mg/ml) is represented (Figs. 1, 2, and 3). In this study, ethanol extracts of Jatropha curcas was observed to be significantly higher than cold extracts. However, highest mean of zone of inhibition was observed by the said extracts against T. rubrum, T. soudenenses and T. tonsurans. Unlike the result obtained from our study, [58] reported T. rubrum was resistant to Jatropha methanolic extracts with no reported zone of inhibition. The difference in our result could be due to the difference in the solvent used extraction. Different for the biochemical compounds are present in plant extracts from various solvent. The plants extract test at the different concentrations on fungal isolates exhibited varied degree antifungal activities. T. soudaneses and T. verrucosum were highly susceptible to all extract of Jatropha curcas used with a different activity. Ethanol extract inhibited T. metagrophytes and M. gypseum at 12.5mg/ml concentration. The diameter zone of clearance of ethanolic extract at 200mg/ml was higher when compared to other concentrations used. Hence, it could be said that the antifungal activitv of the plant is concentration dependent. The high zones of inhibition (31mm and 30mm) of hexane and ethanolic extract against T. soudaneses and T. verrucosum were observed and recorded. Several previous studies are in agreement with this present study. [42] reported that the ethanolic extract of the stem bark of J. curcas inhibited B. subtilis, E. coli, P. vulgaris while [59] reported the inhibitory ability of the methanolic extract of in vivo leaves and in vitro derived callus (30 days old) of J. curcas. Furthermore, [60] showed that the latex of *Jatropha curcas* had good antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* and *Tricophyton sp.* [43] reported that the zones of inhibition exhibited by the extracts against the test fungal species ranged between 0 and 20mm. Relatively, [56] indicated that the ethanolic extracts of *Jatropha curcas* inhibited pathogenic bacteria with zones of inhibition ranging from 30.6 to 38.5 mm. In a study by [60] the diameter of zones of inhibition reported that the methanolic extracts of the *Jatropha curcas* seed kernel showed the maximum zone of inhibition of 25.5mm [57].

The inherent ability of the J. curcas extracts to inhibit the growth of several bacterial and fungal revealed the broad spectrum antimicrobial potential of J. curcas, which enlist the plant as candidate for bioprospecting for antibiotic and antifungal drugs [42,61].

Some factors could affect the inhibitory activity of plant extracts which include the concentration, the accumulation and concentration of secondary metabolites which are responsible for inhibitory activity is varied according the plant parts [62]. This may be causal for the variation in the inhibitory activity of extracts of *J. curcas* [59]. The susceptibility of these fungi to J. curcas extracts is significant, because fungi have recently been implicated in cases of immuno-compromised patients who frequently develop opportunistic infections [63].

Test	Ethanol	Hexane	Cold water	Hot water	
Flavonoids	+++	+++	-	-	
Tannins	+	-	-	-	
Saponins	+	+	+	+	
Quinones	+	++	-	-	
Anthraquinones	++	+	+	++	
Terpenoids	+	++	++	+	
Coumarin	-	+	-	+++	
Phenol	++	+	++	++	
Steroids	+	++	++	++	
Phytosteroids	+	-	-	-	
Phytosterons	-	-	-	-	
Glycosides	++	+	+	-	
Alkaloids	+	-	-	+	
Carbohydrates	+	-	+	-	
Phlobatannins	+	-	+	-	
Proteins	+	-	+	-	
Fixed oil	-	-	-	-	
Cardiac glycoside	+	-	+	++	

Table 1. Results of qualitative phytochemical analysis of Bixa orellana Leaves

- absent; + present in small quantity; ++ moderately present +++ present in large quantity

Test	Ethanol	Hexane	Cold water	Hot water	
Flavonoids	+++	++	+++	+++	
Tannins	+	-	-	-	
Saponins	+++	+	+	+	
Quinones	-	++	-	-	
Anthraquinones	+++	-	+	-	
Terpenoids	+	-	+	+++	
Coumarin	+++	-	++	+	
Phenol	+	+	+	-	
Steroids	+	+	+	-	
Phytosteroids	+	+	-	-	
Phytosterols	-	-	-	-	
Glycosides	+	++	+	-	
Alkaloids	+	-	+	+	
Carbohydrates	+	-	+	-	
Phlobatannins	-	-	-	-	
Proteins	-	-	-	-	
Fixed oil	-	-	-	-	
Cardiac glycoside	+	-	-	-	

Table 2. Results of phytochemical analysis of Casia alata leaves

- absent

+ present in small quantity

++ moderately present

+++ present in large quantity

Table 3. Results of qualitative phytochemical analysis of Jatropha curcas

Test	Ethanol	Hexane	Cold water	Hot water	
Flavonoids	+++	+	-		
Tannins	+	-	-	-	
Saponins	+	-	+++	+	
Quinones	++	+	+	+	
Anthraquinones	++	-	-	-	
Terpenoids	+	+	-	-	
Coumarin	++	-	+	+	
Phenol	+	-	+	+	
Steroids	+	++	+	+	
Phytosteroids	+	+	-	-	
Phytosterols	_	+	+	+	
Glycosides	+++	++	+	+	
Alkaloids	+	++	-	-	
Carbohydrates	+	+	+	+	
Phlobatannins	-	-	-	-	
Proteins	-	+	-	-	
Fixed oil	-	-	-	-	
Cardiac glycoside	+	+	-	-	

- absent

+ present in small quantity ++ moderately present

+++ resent in large quantity

M. gypseum was observed to be highly resistant to all the concentrations of J. curcas extracts, *T. mentagrophyte* was recorded to be susceptible to hot water and ethanol extracts in all concentration while all extracts at 200 mg/ml had the highest potency against *T. verrucosum* (Fig. 3). Thus, from the result from our study, *Jatropha curcas* is more potent against the majority of the tested organisms than *Bixa orellana* at similar concentration. It was evidently active against *T. rubrum, T. soudenenses, T.tonsurans, T. verucossum,* and *T. megatrophytes* which totally

resistant to Bixa orellana extracts with the highest zone of inhibition of 31mm. *T. ajellio* and *T. verrucossum* were the two mainly susceptible organisms to Bixa orellana extracts in this study with the highest zone of inhibition of 24mm.

For *Cassia alata*, various degree zone of inhibition was recorded on the fungal isolates using the plant extract at different concentrations. Hexane extract had the highest zone of inhibition against *T. soudenenses*, *M. gypseum*, *T. rubrum* and *T. tonsurans* while no zone of inhibition was recorded for ethanol and water extracts against *T. soudenenses*, *T. mentagrophyte* and *T. ajelloi*, respectively.

In agreement with our study, [64] reported that the ethanol extract of the Casia alata showed activity hiah against fungi: Trichophyton mentagrophytes var interdigitale. Т mentagrophytes var. mentographytes, and T. rubrum. Similarly, [65,66] also reported that the aqueous extract of C. alata had antifungal effect on A. flavus, A. parasiticus, F. oxysporum and C. albicans.

Furthermore, [67] observed that the ethanol extracts of *C. alata* leaves exhibited high activity against dermatophytic diseases caused by *Rhizopus* spp, *P. oxalicum*, *A. tamari*, *A. niger*, *F. oxysporum* and *F. vacitilus*. According to [68], all the crude methanol and aqueous extract of the leaves inhibited the growth of *C. albicans*, *T. mentagrophytes*, *A. niger* as indicated by the zones of inhibition but show no activity against Penicillium.

In concordance with our study, identified *Jatropha curcas* as the most effective among the extracts studied particularly against A. niger. Similarly, [41] reported that *J. curcas* leaf extract when compared to other plants was more active against isolated microbes and in particular *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* known to be resistant to most synthetic antibiotics. The higher microbial activity of *J. curcas* may be due to its phytochemical compositions. The difference in the antifungal activities of the studied plants could be due to the variation in the phytochemical compounds earlier reported above.

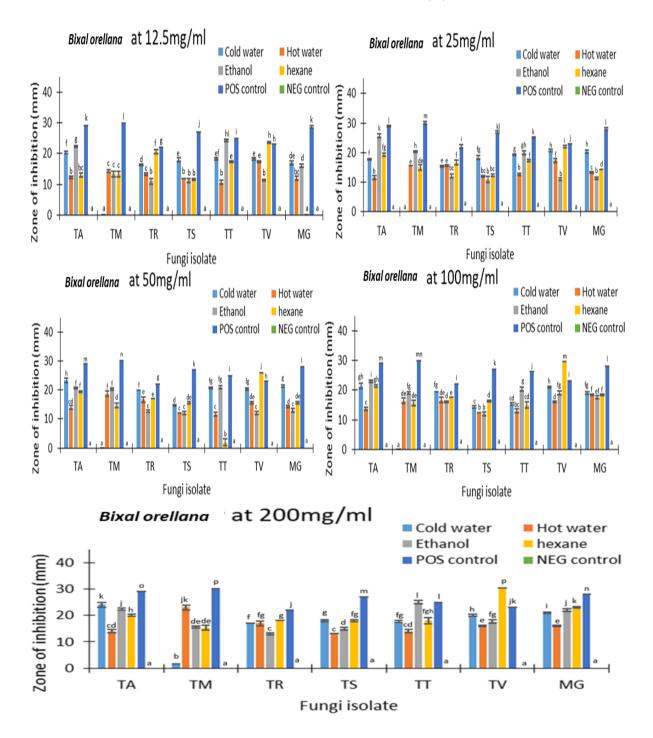
The Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) values of the Bixa orellana, Cassia alata and Jatropha curcas as shown in Fig. 4. The observed result on the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the extract agreed with

the report that organisms varied widely in the degree of their susceptibility [69,70]. From our findings, J. curcas has the lowest MIC, followed by B. orellana while the MIC value in *C. alata* was found to be highest. Ethanol extract of *J. curas* had the lowest MIC value (12.5 mg/ml) for all the isolates with the exemption of *M. gypseum* which MIC value is 100 mg/ml.

[56] reported that the ethanolic extracts of Jatropha curcas inhibited pathogenic bacteria with the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) ranging from 2.2 to 10.0 mg/ml. In a study by [58], the minimum inhibitory concentration of 1.25-10 mg/ml and minimum fungicidal concentration of 2.5-20 mg/ml were reported from organisms which exhibited different degree of susceptibility to the inhibitory activity of the crude extracts. Similarly, [71] reported that the antibacterial activity of Jatropha curcas was also found to be effective at MIC value of 10mg/ml. Furthermore, [61] reported that the extracts of Jatropha curcas showed broad antifungal activity against the tested fungal isolates at a final concentration of 10 mg/ml. According to [56], the ability of the ethanolic extracts of the leaf and bark of J. curcas to inhibit growth of the test organisms is an indication of its antimicrobial potency which may be employed in treatment of microbial infections. Furthermore, [43] reported that the ethanolic extract of Jatropha curcas leaves have antidermatophytic activities with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) between 19.95 and 79.43 mg/ml. The minimum inhibitory concentration of 30.20mg/ml was reported against Trichophyton spp. However, [69] reported that the ethanolic extract of Jatropha curcas had the lowest concentration of 0.5ml that reduced mycelia growth, while the other extracts had reduction of mycelia growth at 1.0ml and 2.0 ml respectively.

The MIC readings for T. soudenenses and T. tonsurans exposed to cold water of B. orellana is 100 mg/ml; T. mentagrophyte and T. rubrum exposed to cold water extract of C. alata is 100 mg/ml; T. rubrum and M. gypseum exposed to ethanol extract of C. alata is 100 mg/ml (Fig. 4).

This study reviewed that ethanol extract of the Jatropha curcas showed high activity of 12.5 mg/ml against all the fungi isolate tested except in M. gyseum that as a 100mg/ml. This also is similar to a case of *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* var interdigitale, *T. mentagrophytes var. mentographytes, T. rubrum and Microsporum gypseum* activity of MIC 12.5 mg/ml according to [64].



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Data represents mean of the triplicate data and error bar represent standard error of the mean. (Different alphabet indicates significant difference, while p = 0.05). TA – T. ajelloi, TM - T. metagrophytes, TR - T. rubrum, TS - T. soudaneses, TT - T. tonsurans, TV - T. verrucosum, MG - M. gypseum

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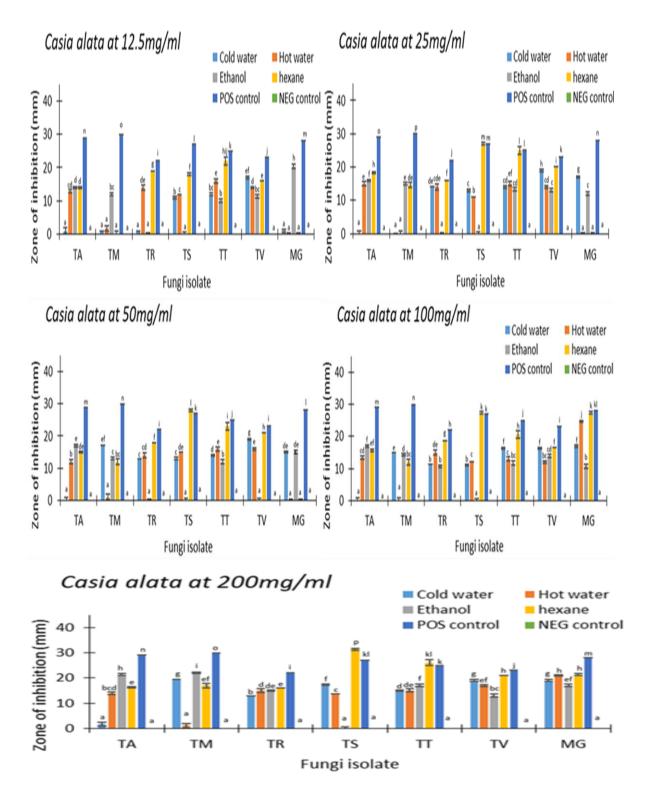


Fig. 2. Antifungal activity of Casia alata leaf extracts using different solvents at 12.5, 25, 50, 100 and 200 mg/ml

Data represents mean of the triplicate data and error bar represent standard error of the mean. (Different alphabet indicates significant difference, while p = 0.05).

TA – T. ajelloi, TM - T. metagrophytes, TR - T. rubrum, TS - T. soudaneses, TT - T. tonsurans, TV - T. verrucosum, MG - M. gypseum

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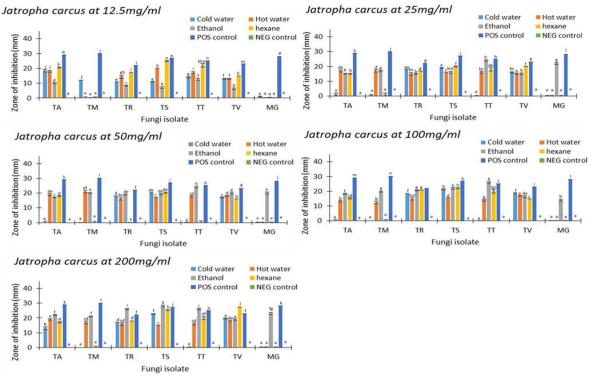
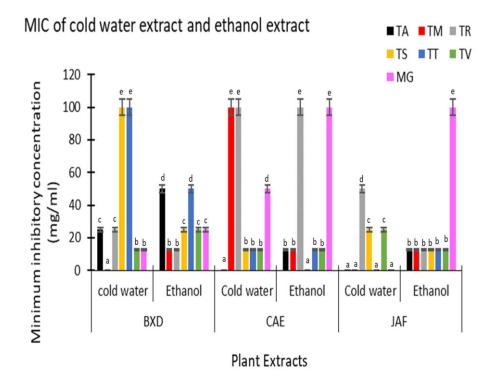


Fig. 3. Antifungal activity of J. curcas leaf extracts using different solvents at 12.5, 25, 50, 100 and 200mg/ml

Data represents mean of the triplicate data and error bar represent standard error of the mean. (Different alphabet indicates significant difference, while p = 0.05). TA – T. ajelloi, TM - T. metagrophytes, TR - T. rubrum, TS - T. soudaneses, TT - T. tonsurans, TV - T. verrucosum, MG - M. gypseum





	B. orellana		C. alata		J. curcas	
Isolates	CW (mg/ml)	ET	CW	ET	CW	ET
		(mg/ml)	(mg/ml)	(mg/ml)	(mg/ml)	(mg/ml)
T. ajelloi	50	50	-	50	25	25
T. mentagrophyte	-	25	100	50	25	200
T. rubrum	50	25	25	200	25	50
T. soudenenses	200	50	50	-	50	25
T. tonsurans	25	50	25	50	25	25
T. verrucosum	25	100	50	25	50	50
M. gypseum	100	25	50	200	50	50

Table 4. Minimum Fungicidal Concentration (MFC) of the Leaf Extracts on the fungal isolates

The result of the Minimum Fungicidal Concentration (MFC) is presented in Table 4. The two plants were screened for MFC against the isolates, cold water extract of B. orellana gave an averagely low MFC against T. tonsurans and T. verrucosum of 25 mg/ml and high MFC against M. gypseum and T. soudenenses of 100 and 200 mg/ml respectively. Ethanol extract of B. orellana had averagely strong MFC of 25 mg/ml against T. mentagrophyte, T. rubrum, M. gypseum and averagely weak against others. Cold water extract of J. curcas gave the better MFC results. These results were ranging between 25 mg/ml to 50 mg/ml with 4 isolates giving MFC of 25 mg/ml. Cold water extract of J. curcas was therefore the most potent and active extract amongst the tested extracts.

4. CONCLUSION

In our study, we determined and compared the phytochemical compounds. antimicrobial properties and the MIC/ MFC of Bixa orellana, Jatropha curcas and Cassia alata against seven dermatophytes. The phytochemical compounds present in the plants include anthraquinones, terpenoid, phenol, flavonoids, steroids, saponin, and others in different concentrations, the plant extracts were effective against at least three of the seven tested dermatophytes with a zone of inhibition range of 22mm-32mm. The ethanolic extracts Jatropha curcas showed broad effectiveness against the tested pathogens when compared to Bixa orellana and Cassia alata. The minimum inhibition concentration recorded for the plants extracts is 12.5mg/ml and we conclude antifungal property that the plants is concentration dependent. The comparative study of medicinal plants will provide evidence for the selective usage of these natural antidotes to pathogenic infection. Hence, we recommend that further studies should be done with these plants extracts using a large number of different

isolates. Also the ethanolic extract of the plants proved to be effective against all the isolate.

DISCLAIMER

The products used for this research are commonly and predominantly use products in our area of research and country.

CONSENT

All authors declare that 'written informed consent was obtained from the patient (or other approved parties) for publication of this case report and accompanying images.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

As per international standard or university standard written ethical approval has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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