

Research Article

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PREPARATION OF ANTIBACTERIAL DISCS FROM AYURVEDIC DRUGS

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ABSTRACT

In clinical practice of Ayurveda various compound preparations are in use to treat infectious diseases, out of which few single herb powders and compound preparations were tested against human pathogenic bacteria like *Escherichia coli, Proteus vulgaris, Enterococcus faecalis, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pyogens, Pneumococcal pneumonia* isolated from human body fluids. Antimicrobial susceptibility of these bacteria against Ampicillin (10mcg) antibiotics was conducted to determine antibiotic pattern in all the isolates. It was observed that the Nimbadiguggulu, Kaishoraguggulu, Arogyavardhini, Chandraprabhavati, Bilvadigulika, Kadhiradivati, Triphalaguggulu, Lakshadiguggulu; and churna of Chandana, Maricha, Harithaki, Jathiphala, Pippali, Shunti, Raktachandana, Madhuyasti, Guduchi, Vacha, Vidanga, Chitraka shown significant susceptibility against the standard drug Ampicillin (10mcg). These observations support the use of these drugs in preventing as well as in controlling the infections in clinical practices of Ayurveda.

Keywords: Churna, Vati, Antibiotic, Susceptibility, Herbal Disc

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda explains microorganisms as external agents for the causation of diseases. However, the explanations are rudimentary and scattered throughout the Ayurveda literature. However, there is elaborate description of treatment protocol for various infectious diseases like vidradi (abscess), vruna (wound) etc in the texts, which highlights that Ayurveda was well equipped to face such diseases. With this background in this research antimicrobial discs were prepared with well-known and frequently used medicines in Ayurveda practice1. Treatment of microbes were emphasised for strengthening the internal environment there by to prevent from getting disease and to fight against the external causes. The benefits of using plant-derived medicine are relatively safer than synthetic drugs. As these medicines have diverse range of bioactive molecules and play an important role in the maintenance of health.² Adding these formulation as co medication may increase the antimicrobial spectrum and action potency. Recently, it has been demonstrated that many human pathogenic bacteria have developed resistance against several synthetic drugs. So, it is time to find alternatives with Ayurveda formulations or with single drugs. Microbiologists and other researchers had many successes in learning how microbes cause certain infectious diseases and how to combat those microbes. Unfortunately, microbes are much better at adapting to new environments than people. Having existed on Earth for billions of years, microbes are constantly challenging human newcomers with ingenious new survival tactics. Many microbes are developing new properties to resist drug treatments that once effectively destroyed them. Drug resistance has become a serious problem worldwide. Changes in the environment have put certain human populations in contact with newly identified microbes that cause diseases have never seen before, or that previously occurred only in isolated populations. Time has come to find effective remedy to the present scenario. Hence an attempt

was made to screen the antibacterial potential of herbal preparations in the control and prevention of enteric bacterial infections with the objective of preparing the antimicrobial disc from Ayurveda drugs and determining the antimicrobial susceptibility of Ayurveda Drugs (Vati and Churna) against various pathogenic Bacterial species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of sample: Escherichia coli, Proteus vulgaris, Enterococcus faecalis, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pyogens, Pneumococcal pneumonia, isolated from pus and urine samples were collected from IPD and OPD patients of Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara college of Ayurveda—and hospital B M Road, Hassan, India.

Collection drug: It was procured from Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Ayurveda pharmacy (GMP-ISO 9001:2008 Certified) Lakshminarayana Nagar, Udupi. Karnataka, India.

Ethical clearance was obtained for carrying out this research No: SDMCAH/IEC/104/12-13 and study was carried out as per the good ethical practice guidelines

Materials used: Mac Conkey agar, Mueller Hinton Agar, Sterile swabs, what's man Number 1 filter paper, Distilled water, weighing balance, pestle and Mortar, Punching machine Standard antibiotic disc (Ampicillin-10μg), ethanol, forceps, 0.5 McFarland test standard McFarland reference card, Sterilized vials Hot air oven.

Preparation of Ayurvedic disc cartridges

Ayurveda discs were prepared from 10gms of drugs. The compound formulations used for the purpose were Nimbadi

guggulu, Kaishora guggulu, Arogyavardhini, Chandraprabha vati, Bilvadi gulika, Kadhiradi vati, Triphala guggulu, and Lakshadi vati and the powders used were Chandana, Maricha, Harithaki, Jathiphala, Pippali, Shunti, Raktachandana, Madhuyasti, Guduchi, Vacha, Vidanga, and Chitraka.

Discs of 10mm Diameter were prepared by punching what's man No 1 filter paper and preserved in the sterilized vials. Under the sterilized condition 2 gm of drug was weighed with the help of electronic weighing balance and made into fine powder with help of pestle and mortar. By adding 8 ml of distilled water the fine powder of drugs was made into a thick paste so that it could firmly stick on what's man no 1 filter paper discs. In a hot air oven, the discs coated with drugs were placed for drying at 40-45°C for 2 hours; the prepared discs were stored in sterilized vials with label of medicine.

Antimicrobial susceptibility of Ayurveda Drugs

The Bacterial species taken for the study were from the subjects suffering from various infectious diseases like UTI, Fever, Wound infection, Gastro Intestinal Tract infection. Urine and pus sample were collected and culture was done after 24 hours of incubation. The colonies obtained were used for the study.

A loop full of colony was transferred into tube of sterile saline. Turbidity thus obtained was diluted equivalent to the 0.5 McFarland test standard. The diluted tube and the 0.5 McFarland test standards were held to-gather against the black-lined McFarland reference card to accurately rate the turbidity.

Within 15 minutes of diluting, a sterile swab was dipped into the properly adjusted inoculums, so that the suspension was slightly lifted out and swab was firmly rotated several times against wall of the tube to express excess fluid. To obtain an even inoculation entire surface of glass plate with the swab was turned with stroking in 60 degree. Then lid was Closed and waited for 3-5 minutes before applying the drug impregnated discs. Using aseptic technique by means of a dispenser discs were applied on inoculation plates such that ayurvedic drug discs and standard Antibiotic disc were side by side, then discs were pressed firmly by sterile swab to make contact with the surface. Inoculated plate was incubated in incubator at 37°C for 24 hours in an inverted position. The plates were examined after 16-24 hours incubation. Zone showing complete inhibition by gross visual inspection were measured in millimetre, by holding the ruler behind the inverted plate over a black non-reflective surface. Results obtained were tabulated (Table 1,2).

RESULTS

The Vati and churna that were studied shown zone of inhibition against both gram positive and gram negative microorganisms (Figure 1). The test organisms were isolated from the patients suffering from various infectious diseases like UTI, Fever, Wound infection, Gastro Intestinal Tract infection. Isolated organisms include *Escherichia coli, Proteus vulgaris, Enterococcus faecalis, Staphylococcus aureus, and Streptococcus pyogens* and *Pneumococcal pneumonia*. The standard drug used as control was Ampicillin (10mcg).

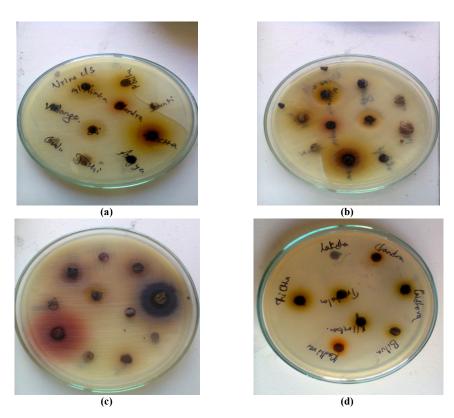


Figure 1: (a-d) Nutrient Agar plates of antimicrobial disc showing zone of inhibition

Table 1: Zone of inhibition of different vati and churna against bacterial species

Ayurvedic drug	Organisms												
		Escheri	chia coli			Protei	ıs vulgaris		Enterococcus faecalis				
	S	Ms	R	Std	S	Ms	R	Std	S	Ms	R	Std	
Nimbadi guggulu	22	-	-	22	-	18	-	17	-	16	-	17	
Kaishora guggulu	26	-	-	22	24	-	-	17	20	-	-	17	
Arogyavardhini vati	-	18	-	22	-	-	14	17	-	18	-	17	
Chandraprabha vati	-	18	-	22	-	16	-	17	-	18	-	17	
Bilvadhi gulika	-	16	-	22	-	18	-	17	20	-	-	17	
Kadhiradi vati	20	-	-	22	20	-	-	17	-	18	-	17	
Triphala guggulu	-	18	-	22	-	18	-	17	22	-	-	17	
Lakshadi guggulu	-	-	12	22	-	-	10	17	-	-	12	17	
Chandana churna	-	-	10	22	-	18	-	17	-	16	-	17	
Maricha,	-	18	-	22	-	-	10	17	-	-	08	17	
Harithaki	-	18	-	22	-	16	-	17	-	18	-	17	
Jathiphala	-	-	10	22	-	16	-	17	-	16	-	17	
Pippali	-	16	6	22	-	18	-	17	-	-	10	17	
Shunti	-	-	08	22	-	-	08	17	-	14	-	17	
Rakthachandana	-	14	-	22	-	18	-	17	-	-	08	17	
Guduchi	-	16	-	22	-	16	-	17	-	-	08	17	
Vacha	-	-	12	22	-	-	10	17	-	-	10	17	
Vidanga	20	-	-	22	-	18	-	17	-	18	-	17	
Chitraka churna	20	-	-	22	-	18	-	17	20	-	-	17	

(S- Sensitive, MS-Moderately sensitive, R-Resistance, Diameter of Zone of Inhibition in mm)

Table 2: Zone of inhibition of different vati and churna against bacterial species

Ayurvedic drug	Organisms												
		Staphyloco	ccus aureu	S	S	treptoco	ccus pyoge	ns	Pneumococcal pneumonia				
	S	Ms	R	Std	S	Ms	R	Std	S	Ms	R	Std	
Nimbadi guggulu	22	-	-	28	22	-	-	-	20	-	-	26	
Kaishora guggulu		-	08	28	-	16	-	-	20	-	-	26	
Arogyavardhini vati	-	-	08	28	-	-	08	-	-	16	-	26	
Chandraprabha vati	-	-	08	28	-	-	10	-	-	-	08	26	
Bilvadhi gulika	22	-	-	28	-	18		-	-	16	-	26	
Kadhiradi vati	22	-	-	28	24	-	-	-	-	18	-	26	
Triphala guggulu	24	-	-	28	22	-	-	-	22	-	-	26	
Lakshadi vati	-	-	08	28	-	-	08	-	-	10	-	26	
Chandana churna	-	-	10	28	-	-	08	-	-	-	08	26	
Maricha,	-	16	-	28	20	-	-	-	-	18	-	26	
Harithaki	-	-	08	28	-	18	-	-	-	18	-	26	
Jathiphala	-	-	08	28	-	-	10	-	-	18	-	26	
Pippali	-	-	08	28	-	16		-	-	18	-	26	
Shunti	20	-	-	28	-	16	-	-	-	16	-	26	
Rakthachandana	-	18	-	28	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	26	
Guduchi	-	-	08	28	-	16	-	-	-	16	-	26	
Vacha	-	-	10	28	-	16	-	-	-	18	-	26	
Vidanga	24	-	-	28	22	-	-	-	22	-	-	26	
Chitrakachurna	24	-	-	28	20	-	-	-	20	-	-	26	

(S- Sensitive, MS-Moderately sensitive, R-Resistance. Diameter of Zone of Inhibition in mm)

DISCUSSION

In the present study Nimbadi guggulu had shown 22mm of zone of inhibition for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22),18mm for *Proteus vulgaris* (Std-17), 16mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 20mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 22mm for *Streptococcus pyogens*, and 20mm of zone of inhibition for *Pneumococcal pneumonia* (Std-26). Previous works on Leaf and bark of Nimba (*Azadirachta indica*) showed inhibition zone against Vibrio cholerae and Bacillus subtilis, while *Escherichia coli* and *S.typhi* are less susceptible to neem extract^{7,8}. Nimbadi guggulu as a combination had shown sensitivity towards *Escherichia coli* this may be due to the combined action of drugs in the compound than independent action of the Nimba (*Azadirachta indica*).

Kaishora guggulu⁹ used in various skin manifestation had shown better Zone of inhibitions for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22), 20mm for

Proteus vulgaris (Std-17), 18mm for Enterococcus faecalis (Std-17), 22mm for Staphylococcus aureus (Std-28), 24mm for Streptococcus pyogens, and 18mm for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). kaishore guggulu has Triphala and guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia) as the main ingredient. Yogesh S. Biradar et al found that Triphala inhibits the strains Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, and other bacteria. According to their published report, the aqueous and ethanol extracts of Triphala and Triphala Mashi exhibited a broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity against all the microorganisms from human secretions and from pathology lab with prior diagnosis. ¹⁰ Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia) found protective in rats against mixed bacterial abdominal sepsis ¹¹ and in mice against Escherichia coli induced peritonitis ¹².

Arogyavardhini Vati had shown 18mm of zone of inhibition for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22), 14 mm for *Proteus vulgaris* (Std-17), 18mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 08mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 08mm for *Streptococcus*

pyogens, and 16mm of zone of inhibition for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). Physico-chemical analysis and evaluation of antibacterial and antifungal activity of 5ml of 100% Arogyavardhini vati solution conducted by Savanur et.al showed 30mm of Zone of inhibition for Staphylococcus aureus and 28mm for Escherichia coli against the standard control Benzathine penicillin. other study it was observed that Arogyavardhini vati was having antibacterial activity against both gram positive and gram negative bacterial species 13. Picrorhiza kurroa is the main ingredient of arogyavardhini proved for its antimicrobial activities. 14

Chandraprabha vati which was in use for diseases of urinary tract, had shown 18mm of zone of inhibition for Escherichia coli (Std-22),16mm for Proteus vulgaris (Std-17), 18mm for Enterococcus faecalis (Std-17), 08mm for Staphylococcus aureus (Std-28), 10mm for Streptococcus pyogens, and 08mm of zone of inhibition for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). Shilajit is one of the ingredients of this compound; the anti-microbial study of shilajit showed that among gram positive organism; Streptococcus pneumonia and B. subtilis showed greater zone of inhibition (20mm). While Staphylococcus aureus showed a zone of (17mm) and S.saprophyticus showed a zone of (15mm). Among gram negative organism, Shigella dysenteriae and Salmonella paratyphi A showed greater zone of (17mm) inhibition. Escherichia coli showed a zone of (16mm), P.florescense and Klebsiella oxytoca showed a zone of (16mm), Salmonella typhi showed a zone of (14mm) and Citrobacter showed a zone of (13mm)¹⁵.

Bilvadhigulika had shown 16mm of zone of inhibition for Escherichia coli (Std-22),18mm for Proteus vulgaris (Std-17), 20mm for Enterococcus faecalis (Std-17), 22mm for Staphylococcus aureus (Std-28), 18mm for Streptococcus pyogens, and 16mm of zone of inhibition for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). Bilvadigulika which is commonly used in the treatment of poison and skin manifestations; 16the crude ethanolic extract of Bilva (Aegle marmelos) had proved antimicrobial activity against gram positive and negative at different concentrations. It was observed that at 2.5 mg/ml concentration, it exhibits about 25.7mm of zone inhibition for Escherichia coli , 19.9mm for Pseudomonas aeruginosa; gram positive Staphylococcus aureus 29.0 mm; and Bacillus subtilis, a maximum zone of inhibition about 28.1 mm was recorded but Staphylococcus aureus doesn't exhibit zone of inhibition¹⁷.Even fixed oil from seeds of Aegle marmelos and its unsaponifiable portion were also found to be active against various strains of gram positive and gram negative bacteria¹⁸.

Khadiradivati which is having khadira (*Acacia catechu*) as ingredient had shown 20mm sensitivity for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22),20mm for *Proteus vulgaris* (Std-17), 18mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 22mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 24mm for *Streptococcus pyogens*, and 18mm of zone of inhibition for *Pneumococcal pneumonia* (Std-26). In a study of the ethanolic bark extract of *Acacia catechu* Wild it was found more effective against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Shigella dysentriae* and *Escherichia coli* with a zone of inhibition of 22mm, 20mm and 19 mm diameter (at conc300 µg.) respectively¹⁹.

In the present study Triphala guggulu had shown 18mm of zone of inhibition for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22),18mm for *Proteus vulgaris* (Std-17), 22mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 24mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 22mm for *Streptococcus pyogens*, and 22mm of zone of inhibition for *Pneumococcal pneumonia* (Std-26). This compound formulation is a combination of triphala and guggulu as its ingredient²⁰. Rani

and Khullar et al screened for plants to treat enteric diseases and reported antibacterial activity of triphala against multidrug resistant enteric Salmonellae typhi; Tambekar and Saratkar et al showed that Terminalia bellirica and Terminalia. chebula were strong antimicrobial agents against enteric pathogens whereas Emblica officinalis was moderate²¹; Panthi and Chaudhary recorded potent antibacterial activity against Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Escherichia coli by Terminalia chebula (Haritaki) ²²; Jagtap and Karkera reported that the extract of Terminalia chebula inhibited the salivary bacteria and potential as an anti-caries agent²³.

Lakshadhi vati had shown 12mm of zone of inhibition for Escherichia coli (Std-22),10mm for Proteus vulgaris (Std-17), 12mm for Enterococcus faecalis (Std-17), 08mm for Staphylococcus aureus (Std-28), 08mm for Streptococcus pyogens, and 10mm of zone of inhibition for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). Laksha (Laccifer lacca), Asthisamhrut (Cissus quadrangularis), kakubha (Terminalia arjuna), Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera), Nagabala (Grewia populifolia), Guggulu (Purified Commiphora mukul) are the ingredient of lakshadi guggulu²⁴. Acetone extract of Laccifer lacca showed antimicrobial activity against five microbes i.e. Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, Bacillus subtilis, Xanthomon ascitri and Erwinia carotovora the highest being against Escherichia coli²⁵. The ethyl acetate extract and methanol extract of both fresh and dry stem of Cissus quadrangularis exhibited antimicrobial activity against gram-positive bacteria including Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus cereus, Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus species26. This preparation is used in fracture healing; anti-microbial activity supports the usage of drug even to protect the wound by infection²⁷

All the compound formulation studied indicated those formulations can be a choice in treating the diseases with microbial manifestations.

Single Herbs (churna)

Maricha (Piper nigrum Linn) had shown 18mm of zone of inhibition for Escherichia coli (Std-22), 10mm for Proteus vulgaris (Std-17), 08mm for Enterococcus faecalis (Std-17), 16mm for Staphylococcus aureus (Std-28), 20mm for Streptococcus pyogens, and 18mm of zone of inhibition for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). The acetone extract of Piper nigrum Linn (Maricha) was strong antibacterial against S. epidermidis and Staphylococcus aureus, while moderate against Proteus vulgaris, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Salmonella typhi, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, S. typhimurium and Enterobacter aerogenes.

Shunti (Zingiber officinale) had shown 08mm of zone of inhibition for Escherichia coli (Std-22), 08mm for Proteus vulgaris (Std-17), 14mm for Enterococcus faecalis (Std-17), 20mm for Staphylococcus aureus (Std-28), 18mm for Streptococcus pyogens, and 16mm of zone of inhibition for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). Zingiber officinale has been showed to have antimicrobial activity Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, S. typhimurium, whereas aqueous and ethanol extract was mild antibacterial against S. epidermidis, Proteus vulgaris, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Salmonella typhi, Escherichia coli, Klebsielia pneumoniae, Enterobacter aerogenes.

Pippali churna (*Piper longum*) had shown 16mm of zone of inhibition for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22), 18mm for *P.vulgaries* (Std-17), 10mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 08mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 16mm for *Streptococcus*

pyogens, and 18mm of zone of inhibition for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). Methanol extract of Piper longum (pippali) was strong antibacterial against S. epidermidis while acetone extract was strong antibacterial against S. epidermidis, Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli and Enterobacter aerogenes. ²⁸

Ethanol extract of Trikatu churna showed moderate antibacterial against all the bacterial pathogens while methanol extract was strong antibacterial against *S. epidermidis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* It is the common ingredient in most of the Ayurveda formulation as it increases the bioavailability of drug. However along with its anti-microbial action enhances its utility in various diseases.

Chitraka churna (*Plumbago zeylanica*) had shown 20mm of zone of inhibition for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22),18mm for *Proteus vulgaris* (Std-17), 20mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 24mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 20mm for *Streptococcus pyogens*, and 20mm of zone of inhibition for *Pneumococcal pneumonia* (Std-26). A study revealed that root extracts of chitraka possess potential antibacterial activity against *Bacillus subtilis, Staphylococus aureus, Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, <i>Proteus vulgaris* and highest against *Helicobacter pylori*²⁹. Chitraka known for its tikshna and ushna guna is commonly used in gastrointestinal tract manifestations.

Chandana (Santalum album) had shown 10mm of zone of inhibition for Escherichia coli (Std-22), 18mm for Proteus vulgaris (Std-17), 16mm for Enterococcus faecalis (Std-17), 10mm for Staphylococcus aureus (Std-28), 08mm for Streptococcus pyogens, and 08mm of zone of inhibition for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). The study revealed that Santala album has antibacterial activity in leaf, bark and seed methanol extract against Bacillus subtilis, Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Escherichia coli³⁰.

Rakthachandana (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) had shown14mm of zone of inhibition for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22), 18mm for *Proteus vulgaris* (Std-17), 08mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 18mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 10mm for *Streptococcus pyogens*, and 10mm of zone of inhibition for *Pneumococcal pneumonia* (Std-26).Other study showed Raktachandana (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) Stem bark extract having maximum activity against *Enterobacter aerogenes* (21.5 mm), *Alcaligenes faecalis* (20.0 mm), *Escherichia coli* (18.5 mm), *Pseudomonas eruginosa* (18.0 mm), *Proteus vulgaris* (18.0 mm), *Bacillus cereus* (17.5 mm), *Bacillus subtilis* (17.0 mm) and *Staphylococcus aureus* (16.5 mm), whereas the leaf extract showed maximum activity against *Escherichia coli* (19.5 mm), *Alcaligenes faecalis* (18.0 mm), *Enterobacter aerogenes* (17.5 mm) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (16.5 mm)³¹.

Vidanga (*Embelia ribes*) had shown 20mm of zone of inhibition for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22), 18mm *for Proteus vulgaris* (Std-17), 18mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 24mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 22mm for *Streptococcus pyogens*, and 22mm of zone of inhibition for *Pneumococcal pneumonia* (Std-26). Embelin, the principal constituent of the fruit of *Embelia ribes was* proved to have antibacterial property against both gram positive and gram-negative bacteria. Even at very high doses (100 mg/disc) embelin did not exhibit any antibacterial property on *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsielia pneumoniae*. At 25 mg/disc dose the zone of inhibition is not observed when experimented, at high doses (50 mg/disc and 100 mg/disc) mild antibacterial property was observed on *Streptococcus faecalis*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Vibrio cholarae* organisms³², other study revealed aqueous and ethanol extracts of

Embelia ribes exhibited significant antibacterial activity against gram-positive and gram-negative strains with minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) ranging from 1.5 to 100 mg/ml. The most susceptible organism to the ethanolic extract was Bacillus subtilis and Pseudomonas eruginosa ³³.

Jathiphala (*Myristica fragrans*) had shown 10mm of zone of inhibition for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22), 16mm for *Proteus vulgaris* (Std-17), 16mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 08mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 10mm for *Streptococcus pyogens*, and 18mm of zone of inhibition for *Pneumococcal pneumonia* (Std-26). Various extracts and the essential oil of nutmeg seeds have presented strong antimicrobial activity against gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, as well as a variety of fungi. Some important antimicrobial compounds reported in nutmeg seeds are a-pinene, b-pinene, p-cymene, carvacrol, and b-caryophyllene³⁴.

Vacha (Acorus calamus) had shown 12mm of zone of inhibition for Escherichia coli (Std-22), 10mm for Proteus vulgaris (Std-17), 10mm for Enterococcus faecalis (Std-17), 10mm for Staphylococcus aureus(Std-28), 18mm for Streptococcus pyogens, and 18mm of zone of inhibition for Pneumococcal pneumonia (Std-26). Alcohol extract of Acorus calamus showed antibacterial activity against Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Bacillus subtilis, Staphylococcus citrus, Bacillus megaterium, Salmonella paratyphi. A and B, Salmonella marcescens, Proteus vulgaris and Shigella dysomei³⁵.

Guduchi (*Tinospora cordifolia*) had shown 16mm of zone of inhibition for *Escherichia coli* (Std-22), 16mm for *Proteus vulgaris* (Std-17), 08mm for *Enterococcus faecalis* (Std-17), 08mm for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Std-28), 16mm for *Streptococcus pyogens*, and 16mm of zone of inhibition for *Pneumococcal pneumonia* (Std-26). Maximum antibacterial activity was observed against *S. sanguinis* (23 mm) and lowest antimicrobial activity against *S. salivarius* (17 mm) by agar well diffusion ³⁶.

CONCLUSION

The present study revealed that single herb powder and compound formulations were showing sensitivity against pathogenic bacteria which have been isolated from human samples. In compound formulation Nimbadi guggulu and in single herb powder chitraka (*Plumbago zeylanica*) had shown the sensitivity towards all microbes viz *Escherichia coli, Proteus vulgaris, Enterococcus faecalis, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pyogens, Pneumococcal pneumonia.* All compound formulations exert antimicrobial effect by phytochemical attack on the bacterial cell wall e.g. carvacrol - a phenol in organ and thyme breaches defensive cell membrane enabling the bacteria to be destroyed. Hence there is need of further in vitro researches to understand the mechanism of antimicrobial effect of Ayurveda herbs. As new microbes emerge, and old microbes re-emerge there is a need for finding safe, cost effective drug, which may be an ideal replacement in certain bacterial infections.

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