

# Antimycotic Activity of Leaf Extracts of Medicinal Plants Against Dermatophytes

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## Abstract

Plant products have been used as medicines against fungal infectious diseases. In this research antimycotic activity of the leaf extracts of five medicinal plants (*Nerium indicum*, *Catheranthus roseus*, *Lantana camera*, *Ziziphus mauritiana*) were tested against three dermatophytes (*Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, *Trichophyton rubrum* and *Microsporum. gypseum*). Development of more effective and less toxic antimycotic agents is required for the treatment of dermatophytosis. The plant materials were extracted with methanol, ethanol and diethyl ether solvent to investigate their antimycotic activities in Vitro. Ethanol and methanol extracts of all selected medicinal plants were showed the positive activity against all tested dermatophytes. Diethyl ether extract was showed lowest activity against *T. mentagrophytes* and *T. rubrum* and showed moderate activity against *M. gypseum*. The three dermatophytes differed with regard to their susceptibility to plant extracts.

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## Introduction

Plants have been considered a valuable source of natural products for maintaining human health. Plants have a long history of antibiotic usage for the cure of infectious disease, caused by pathogenic micro-organisms. Plant and their product have been used since ancient times for medicinal purpose. Much attention has been refocused on plant origin of antimicrobial and anti dermatophytic agents, after the discovery of penicillin. This is considered to be one of the most important life-saving Phyto-drugs.

Plants are a primary source of new natural medicinal products [1]. The antimicrobial activities of plant extracts have formed the basis of many applications, including raw and processed food preservation, pharmaceuticals, alternative medicine and natural therapies [2]. Medicinal plants represent a rich source of secondary metabolites, many of which possess antimicrobial properties. Secondary metabolites enhance the overall capacity of it to survive and prepare to face challenges by giving them ability to interact with their environment [3]. Thus, screening of medicinal plants provides another alternative for producing chemical fungicides that are relatively non-toxic and cost-effective.

Natural products are generally harmless or have minimum side effects as compared to synthetic drugs. Plant products are safe to humans and the ecosystems than the chemical antimicrobial components, and can easily be used by the people have used medicinal plants for thousands of years to enhance flavour and aroma of foods as well as its economic value [4,5].

A number of reports are available in vitro and in vivo efficacy of plant extract against plant and human pathogens causing fungal infections [6]. The activity of plant extract against dermatophytosis i.e. the fungal infections of skin or keratinized tissue of human beings can be very well visualized from the reports of Venugopal [7].

The antifungal activity of plant essential oils extracted by steam distillation from seven different plant species including Cinnamon, Anise, Clove, Citronella, Peppermint, pepper, and Camphor was investigated by Fei hue [8].

According to a research Mo-CBP<sub>4</sub> (chitin-binding protein) is purified from *Moringa oleifera* seeds showed anti-dermatophytic activity [9].

There are few different classes of effective antifungal drugs available for the treatment of fungal diseases of plants, animals and humans. Thus, it is important to develop new sources of antifungal agents.

In the present study, four medicinal plants viz. *Nerium indicum*, *Catheranthus roseus*, *Lantana camera*, *Ziziphus mauritiana* have been chosen for the investigation of in vitro antimycotic activity against selected dermatophytes. All selected medicinal plants are used as traditional medicine in different parts of the world. *C. roseus* possesses known antibacterial, antifungal, antidiabetic, anticancer and antiviral activity.

## Material & Methods

### Fungal Material

Three dermatophytes selected for antimycotic activity. All three cultures were isolated from soil samples by Hair Baiting Technique.

### Culture Media

The isolated fungus culture was maintained on Sabouraud's Dextrose Agar Media.

### Plant Material

The leaves of four medicinal plants viz., *Nerium indicum*, *Ziziphus mauritiana*, *Catheranthus roseus* and *Lantana camera* were collected from spring and summer seasons in the local area of Ajmer district, Rajasthan. Plant material authenticated by Department of Botany, Samrat Prithviraj Chouhan, Govt. College, Ajmer, Rajasthan. The collected leaves were washed in running tap water to remove dust, blotted with filter paper and dried in the shade. After then dried leaf material was ground into powder and sealed in polythene bags for further use.

### Preparation of Leaf Extracts

Plant extract was prepared by Soxhlet extraction method. About 10gm of dried and powdered plant sample (*Lantana camera*, *Ziziphus mauritiana*, *Nerium indicum* and *Catharanthus roseus*) was uniformly packed in to a thimble and run in Soxhlet extractor with ethanol/ methanol/ ethyl ether (100ml)

for 48h. The extract was then filtered with the help of filter paper and solvent was evaporated from extract and dried in pre-weight petri-plates. After dried plant material again measured weight of petri-plates. The extracts were kept in refrigerator at 40°C for further experiments.

### Antimycotic Activity

Antimycotic activity of the experimental plants were investigated by Agar well diffusion assay with slight modification [10]. The fungal cultures were sub-cultured onto Sabouraud's Dextrose Agar, SDA (Merck, Germany) and respectively incubated at 30°C for 24 h. Suspensions of fungal spores were prepared in PBS and adjusted to a concentration of 10<sup>6</sup> cells/ml. Inoculate test fungus into sterilised 10ml medium in tubes, mix well by rolling it gently between the palms. Pour it to the surface of the base agar and the plates were dried at room temperature for 15 min in LAF. Wells of 10 mm in diameter and about 7 mm apart were punctured in the culture media using sterile glass tube. 30, 60, 90 and 120 µl of several dilutions of fresh extracts made in methanol, diethyl ether and ethanol were administered to respective for each well and 40 µl ketoconazole antifungal drug was used as standard. Plates were incubated at 30°C. After incubation of 24 h bioactivities were determined by measuring the diameter of inhibition zone (in mm). All experiments were made in triplicate and means were calculated.

### Control Experiment

The presence of inhibition of the treated fungus was calculated using Ketoconazole as standard.

### Result

In the present study the antimycotic activity of leaf extracts were investigated. The data on selected dermatophyte isolated from soils of Ajmer district (Rajasthan). Antimycotic activity of different leaf extracts against human pathogenic fungi (*T. mentagrophytes*, *T. rubrum* and *M. gypseum*) was evaluated by the Agar well diffusion method. The results and screening of antimycotic activity of leaf extracts of selected medicinal plants (*Lantana camera*, *Ziziphus mauritiana*, *Nerium indicum* and *Catheranthus roseus*) are summarized in Tables 1-4. All the leaf extracts tested exhibited different degrees of antimycotic activity against *T. mentagrophytes*, *T.*

*rubrum* and *M. gypseum*. The ethanol extract exhibited highest antimycotic activity and diethyl ether showed the lowest antimycotic activity against all three dermatophytes used in this study.

### Antimycotic Activity of Different Leaf Extracts

#### *Catheranthus Roseus*

Ethanol extract was showed the good activity and diethyl ether was showed moderated activity against all selected dermatophytes. *Methanol extract showed good activity against T. rubrum and moderate activity against T. mentagrophytes and M. gypseum.* Ethanol extract was showed highest % inhibition (76) against *M. gypseum* compared to standard.

#### *Lantana Camera*

Diethyl ether extract was not found effective against *T. mentagrophytes* and *T. rubrum* and was showed moderated activity against *M. gypseum* inhibition zones were of each 14mm(120µl). Both methanol and ethanol extracts were showed effective activity against all three dermatophytes. The highest activity was measured in ethanol extract and inhibition zone of 25, 20, and 24mm were recorded for *T. mentagrophytes*, *T. rubrum* and *M. gypseum*. Ethanol extract was showed highest % inhibition (96) against *M. gypseum* compared to standard.

#### *Nerium Indicum*

Diethyl ether showed negative activity against *T. rubrum* and moderator activity showed against *M. gypseum* and *T. mentagrophytes*. Ethanol extract exhibited best activity against *T. mentagrophytes* and inhibition zone of 22mm. Methanol extract moderate activity against all three dermatophytes. Ethanol extract was showed highest % inhibition (73) against *T. mentagrophytes* compared to standard.

#### *Ziziphus Mauritiana*

Both ethanol and methanol extract exhibited antimycotic activity against all three dermatophytes. Diethyl ether extract showed positive activity against only *M. gypseum* and showed negative activity against *T. mentagrophytes* and *T. rubrum*. Both ethanol and methanol extracts were showed highest % inhibition 80,80 against *M. gypseum* compared to standard. Fig 1 and 2.

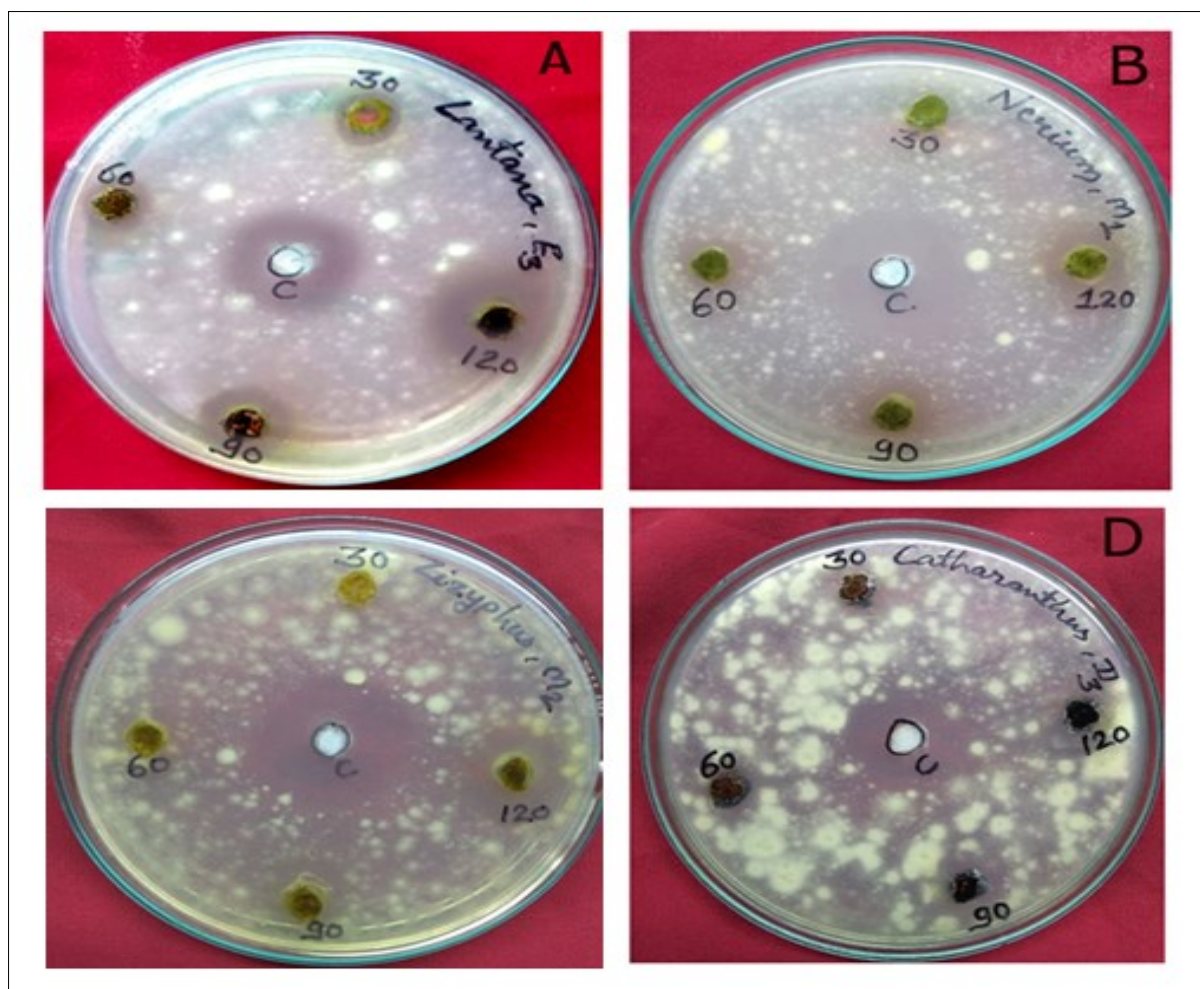


Figure 1. Antimycotic Activity of Different Leaf Extracts of Medicinal Plants. (A) Petridish showing activity of Ethanol extracted from *Lantana camera* against *M. gypseum*. (B) Activity of Methanol extracted from *Nerium indicum* against *T. mentagrophytes*. (C) Activity of Diethyl extracted from *Ziziphus mauritiana* against *M. gypseum*. (D) Activity of Diethyl ether extracted from *Catheranthus roseus* against *M. gypseum*.

Table 1. Antimycotic activity of leaf extracts of *Catheranthus roseus* against selected dermatophytes.

S.No	Isolates	Extracts	Control	Inhibition Zone(mm) at different conc.			
				30μl	60 μl	90 μl	120 μl
1.	<i>T. mentagrophytes</i>	Methanol	30	Nil	12	16	17
		Ethanol	30	10	13	14	24
		Diethyl ether	25	Nil	6	8	12
2.	<i>T. rubrum</i>	Methanol	30	Nil	12	16	22
		Ethanol	30	Nil	11	15	16
		Diethyl ether	27	Nil	8	14	14
3.	<i>M. gypseum</i>	Methanol	25	10	13	15	18
		Ethanol	25	11	14	16	19
		Diethyl ether	25	10	11	13	14

Table 2. Antimycotic activity of leaf extracts of *Lantana camera* against selected dermatophytes.

S.No	Isolates	Extracts	Control	Inhibition Zone(mm) at different conc.			
				30µl	60 µl	90 µl	120 µl
1.	<i>T. mentagrophytes</i>	Methanol	30	11	13	16	20
		Ethanol	30	10	15	20	25
		Diethyl ether	25	Nil	6	8	12
2.	<i>T. rubrum</i>	Methanol	30	Nil	13	11	18
		Ethanol	30	Nil	14	16	20
		Diethyl ether	27	Nil	8	12	15
3.	<i>M. gypseum</i>	Methanol	25	10	14	16	19
		Ethanol	25	11	13	15	24
		Diethyl ether	25	10	11	13	15

Table 3. Antimycotic activity of leaf extracts of *Nerium indicum* against selected dermatophytes.

S.No.	Isolates	Extracts	Control	Inhibition Zone(mm) at different conc.			
				30µl	60 µl	90 µl	120 µl
1.	<i>T. mentagrophytes</i>	Methanol	30	11	12	14	16
		Ethanol	30	Nil	12	18	22
		Diethyl ether	25	Nil	6	11	14
2.	<i>T. rubrum</i>	Methanol	30	Nil	8	15	18
		Ethanol	30	11	12	13	15
		Diethyl ether	27	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	<i>M. gypseum</i>	Methanol	25	Nil	11	15	17
		Ethanol	25	10	11	13	16
		Diethyl ether	25	11	12	14	16

Table 4. Antimycotic activity of leaf extracts of *Ziziphus mauritiana* against selected dermatophytes.

S.No.	Isolates	Extracts	Control	Inhibition Zone(mm) at different conc.			
				30µl	60 µl	90 µl	120 µl
1.	<i>T. mentagrophytes</i>	Methanol	30	Nil	12	16	18
		Ethanol	30	12	14	16	19
		Diethyl ether	25	Nil	6	8	10
2.	<i>T. rubrum</i>	Methanol	30	Nil	10	15	20
		Ethanol	30	11	13	16	17
		Diethyl ether	27	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	<i>M. gypseum</i>	Methanol	25	10	15	17	20
		Ethanol	25	11	13	16	20
		Diethyl ether	25	10	11	13	14

Table 5. The % inhibition of different leaf extracts compared to ketoconazole (100% inhibition) against tested dermatophytes.

S. No.	Isolates	Extracts	Control	Inhibition compared to ketoconazole in %			
				Catheranthus	Lantana	Nerium	Ziziphus
1.	<i>T. mentagrophytes</i>	Methanol	100	57	67	53	60
		Ethanol	100	70	83	73	63
		Diethyl ether	100	48	0	56	40
2.	<i>T. rubrum</i>	Methanol	100	73	60	60	67
		Ethanol	100	53	67	50	57
		Diethyl ether	100	52	56	0	0
3.	<i>M. gypseum</i>	Methanol	100	72	76	68	80
		Ethanol	100	76	96	64	80
		Diethyl ether	100	56	60	64	56

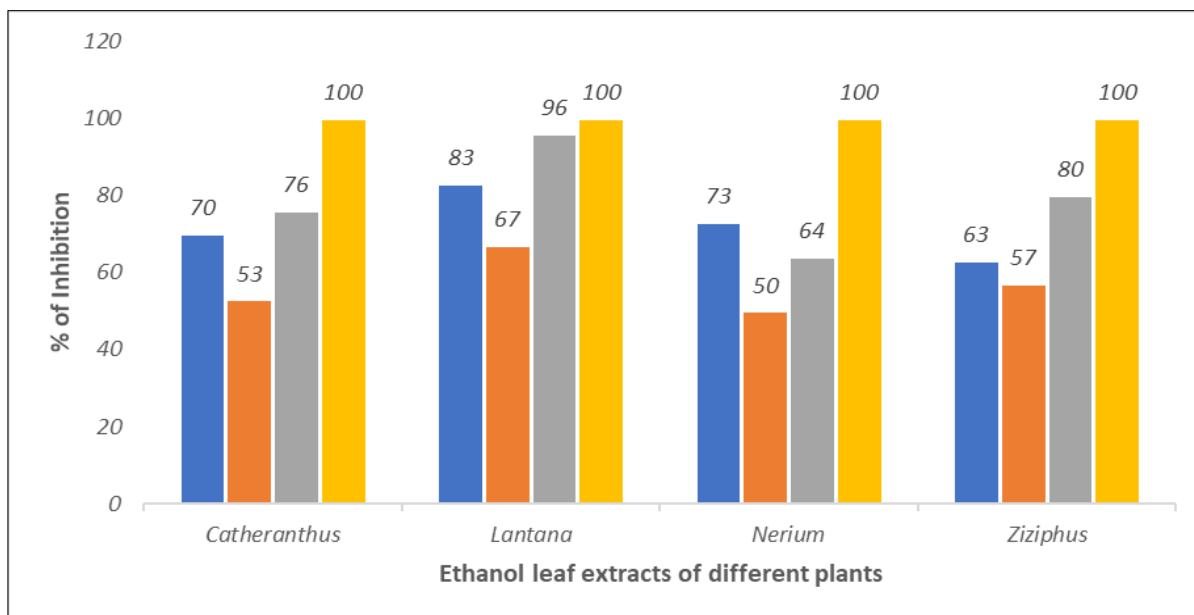


Figure 2. The % inhibition of different leaf extracts compared to ketoconazole (100% inhibition) against tested dermatophytes.

## Discussion

Plant are important source of natural products for the development of new therapeutic agents. Many reports are available on the antiviral, antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties of plants. Some of these observations have helped in developing drugs for the therapeutic use in human beings.

In present study the methanol, ethanol and diethyl extracts of selected medicinal plants (*Nerium indicum*, *Catheranthus roseus*, *Lantana camera*, *Ziziphus mauritiana*) showed the activity against selected dermatophytes. The extract from leaves of *C. roseus* was showed significant antimicrobial potential against fungi and bacterial strains as well astwo human cancer cell lines [11]. Taoubi reported antiseptic, antitumoural, and antimicrobial potential in Leaf extracts of *Lantana camera*. There are numerous antifungal agents used clinically to treat fungal infections [12]. The methanol leaf extracts of *Sida cordifolia*, *Ziziphus mauritiana*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Tinospora cordifolia*, and *Withania somnifer* showed significant antibacterial activity against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Xanthomonas axonopodis malvacearum* and antifungal activity against *Aspergillus flavus*, *Dreschlera turcica* and *Fusarium verticillioide* [13]. *N. indicum* is one such plant which is used extensively in ethnomedicinal practices all over the world for the treatment of dermatitis, skin cancer, ringworm, scabies, epilepsy, asthma, malaria, and heart disease etc. In Iloilo, Philippines, the plant is used as ethnomedicine to treat fever, headache, and dermatological problems. [14].

Plant based products have been effectively proven for their utilization as source for antifungal and antibacterial compounds. It is important to investigate scientifically those plant products which have been used in drugs as potential sources of antimycotic compounds [15]. Research on new antimycotic substances should be continued and small molecules from medicinal chemistry as well as plant products are still major sources of innovative therapeutic agents for infectious fungal diseases [16].

The results of present investigation clearly indicate that antimycotic activity vary with the species

of plants. All the extracts tested exhibited different degrees of antimycotic activity. Ethanol and Methanol both extracts showed effective inhibitory activity and diethyl ether showed moderated activity against selected dermatophytes in this study. Thus, the study ascertains the importance of plant products used in Ayurveda, when could be of considerable interest to the development of new drugs.

## Conclusion

At present fungal infections have become an important clinical threat which is due to the development of fungal resistance to the existing antifungal agents. The conclusion of this study aspects the traditional medicine use of various plant extracts in treating different infectious diseases caused by fungus. It also suggests that a great attention to medicinal plants which are found plenty of pharmacological properties. Thus, Medicinal plants were the best source of various novel pharmaceutical products which effect on the human beings and improve human and animal health.

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## Author's Profile

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