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Evaluation of the histopathological and biochemical effects of fenoxycarb in the ovaries of *Spodoptera mauritia* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

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Abstract

Insect development is disrupted by juvenile hormone (JH) and their mimics in several ways. Many of them have been thoroughly investigated and are already being used to manage pest insects with commercially available agents. This research aims to explore the potentials of juvenile hormone analogue fenoxycarb on morphological, histopathological, and biochemical danges in the ovary of *Spodoptera mauritia*. Newly emerged female pupae were treated topically with sublethal doses (LD_{10} , LD_{25}) of fenoxycarb to determine their effects on reproduction. The results reveal that this juvenile hormone analogue affects the normal development of the ovary tissue by reducing the number of oocytes and oogonia in the ovaries of *S. mauritia*. Fenoxycarb treated pupae showed a substantial decrease in the reclaimed adultoids ovaries development and reduction in length of ovarioles, area of basal oocytes and the total number of eggs laid. A microscopic examination exhibited reduced pulsating movements, tumour-like bulbous masses and the germarium region exhibited hypertrophy. Histological investigation of ovaries indicated a degeneration of ovarian follicle cells, deformed oocytes with deteriorated trophocytes, malformed egg chamber, vacuolated ooplasm and defective vitellogenesis in malformed adult female's ovarioles. The effect of fenoxycarb could be correlated with quantitative depletion of proteins, lipids, and carbohydrates in gonads of the treated groups and there were no significant changes in sodium dodecyl sulphate(SDS)- protein pattern. This study forms baseline data suggesting that fenoxycarb respond considerably for the control of the lepidopteran pest of paddy (*S. mauritia*) effectively.

Keywords Juvenile hormone analogue · Fenoxycarb · Spodoptera mauritia · Ovarian biochemistry · Ovarian histology · SDS-protein pattern

Introduction

Insect juvenile hormones (JH) are essential for development and reproduction. The hormone retains larval characteristics of the insects that make it possible for the larval form's continued growth (Wigglesworth 1964). Further, it can also act like an adult gonadotropin (Dahm et al. 1976). JH plays a prominent role in coordinating the different tissues activities

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to produce the gametes and behaviours related to mating and oviposition occurring at the appropriate time. This involves JH responses in the fat body, nervous system, muscles, gonads and reproductive accessory glands. Juvenile hormone prevents significant morphological and physiological changes from the larva to the adult. It has entirely different adult female functions, regulating oocyte growth and maturation, including vitellogenin production and its uptake by developing oocytes (Tobe and Stay 1985).

Insects treated with exogenous JH during low endogenous JH titer disrupt metamorphosis and ovaries development. Additional doses of either juvenile hormones or juvenoids administered to larvae and pupae cause severe abnormalities in the ovaries (Metwally et al. 1972; Rohdendorf and Sehnal 1972). Synthetic formulations of Juvenile hormone, fenoxycarb is a potent juvenile hormone analogue (JHA) that prevents insects from attaining the reproductive stage. The destructive effect of juvenoids overpowers the homeostatic

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A study on medicinal properties of *Coccinia grandis*

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Abstract

Coccinia grandis is used as a vegetable in south Asian countries. All parts of this plant is considered to have medicinal properties and are used to treat various diseases *viz.*, skin diseases, jaundice, diabetes etc..The present study dearly established that *Coccinia grandis* is antimicrobial against both gram positive and gram negative bacteriae and also antiamylolytic.

Key wors: antiamylolytic, antibacterial, *Coccinia grandis*, diabetes, jaundice, medicinal plant swarming motility

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes, a chronic, metabolic disease that leads to high blood sugar and over time it leads to damage to various organs such as eyes, kidneys, nerves etc., It occurs in three stages, such as prediabetic, where the level of blood sugar is higher than normal level which cannot be diagnosed. Similarly, Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease and Type 2 diabetes occurs when pancreas produces little or no insulin., Globally 422 million people are diabetic and majority of them are from developing and under developed countries and annual death rate due to diabetes are 1.6 million . Number of new cases and prevalence of the diabetes increases for the past 10 years (WHO 2021).

The *Coccinia grandis* commonly called as Ivy guard, is used as vegetable and grown in South Asia. It is a creeping plant. All the parts of the plant are edible and have got various medicinal uses such as antibruises and anti-itching from insect bites, treatment against cataract, skin diseases such as leprosy, fever, jaundice, mastcell-stabilizing,

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²Department of Botany, Sree Narayana College, Alathur, Palakkad, Kerala - 678682 antianaphylatic and antihistaminic potential, urinary tract infections, respiratory tract infections, ulcerations etc., Similary it is used as an antioxidative, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial agent(Ramachandran et al., 2014). Very limited information is available on its anti diabetic effect so the present study aimed to analyse the antidiabetic activities *in vitro*. In addition to this its antimicrobial activities were also studied using the two different extracts such as ethanolic and isopropyl alcohol extracts of *Coccinia grandis*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preparation of Plant Extracts

The collected leaf samples were washed air dried and grinded into powder. The powder was suspended in both acetone and isopropyl alcohol solution at a concentration of 20%. The mouth of the test tubes were covered with aluminium foil and was kept at room temperature for 3 days. After that, it was placed on a platform shaker for 1 day. Then the mixture were transferred to tubes and centrifuged for 10 minutes at 4000rpm at 25°C. The supernatant was collected and dried at 50°C, the dried powder was mixed with distilled water in eppendorf tube and stored at 4°C.

Detection of Phytochemicals

Detection of Glycoside: Concentrated Sulphuric acid test

To one ml of the extract one ml of concentrated sulphuric acid was added and allowed to stand for two minutes. A reddish color precipitate indicates the presence of glycosides.

Detection of Phenols: Ferric Chloride Test

To 3-4 drops of ferric chloride solution, add two ml of plant extract was added. Bluish black colour confirms the presence of phenol.

Detection of Terpenoids: Salkowski test

Extract (5ml) was mixed with chloroform (2ml) and concentrated sulphuric acid (3ml) was carefully added to form a layer. A reddish brown coloration formed at

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Post Flood Water pollution and its impact on rural health; A microbiological analysis on waterbodies of Alathur grampanchayat, Kerala, India - After Flood - 2018

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Article History Received: 25.06.2021 Revised and Accepted : 10.10.2021 Published: 15.12.2021

Abstract

There was a clear contamination of drinking water bodies of Alathur Block panchayat, Kerala, India. The Physico chemical changes were observed. There is a clear indication of microbiological contamination by total coliforms, with an indication of formation of gas in most of the MPN tubes but few non lactose fermenting non-pathogenic organisms like klebsiella sp. were detected from the well water and no fecal coliforms were observed in the completed test. Similarly when the well water samples were inoculated in specific media to detect the presence of other pathogenic Total coliforms such as Salmonella sp., shigella sp., cholera, etc., it was clear that no pathogenic organisms were isolated from the above mentioned samples. This clearly indicates that the Health department has taken proper preventive measures such as repeated chlorination of all the drinking water bodies immediately after the flood to prevent the outbreak of above mentioned threatening diseases, which is a good initiative.

Key words: Flood Water, microbial contamination, pollution, rural health, water quality.

INTRODUCTION

Kerala, India, is well known as GOD'S OWN COUNTRY for its Beauty of Greenery and rich water resources. The state has 44 rivers, 27 backwaters (mostly in the form of lakes and ocean inlets), 7 lagoons, 18681 ponds and over 30 lakh wells. Palakkad of kerala is said to be the gateway to Kerala due to the presence of the Palakkad Gap, in the Western Ghats. It has many small and medium rivers, which are tributaries of the Bharathapuzha River. So there are many dams in Palakkad district, the largest one is Malampuzha dam (Qureshimatva and Maurya *et al.*, 2015)

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²Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, Sree Narayana College, Alathur, Kerala, India Gayathri River Basin, one among the major tributaries of river Bharathapuzha spread over 980.38 sqkm, 67 microwater sheds traversing the boundaries of 31 Gramapanchayaths, 5 Block panchayaths and 2 districts. It is one among the two tributaries sustaining the life of River Bharathapuzha with its origin from portions of Western Ghats, south of Palakkad gap, catchment of four major reservoirs Mangalam, Pothundy, Meenkara and Chulliyar serving the irrigation requirements of the extensive paddy tracts of Alathur, Nenmara and Kollengode blocks of Palakkad district, still rich in its traditional farming and water harvesting systems. The Climate of Palakkad is a tropical wet and dry. Temperatures remain moderate throughout the year, with exception in March and April being the hottest months. A very high amount of precipitation is received in Palakkad, mainly due to the South-West monsoon. July is the wettest month, and the total annual rainfall is around 83 inches (211 cm).

Rainfall over Kerala during southwest monsoon season 2018 (1 June to 19 August, 2018) has been exceptionally high. Kerala received more than 2346.6 mm against normal of 1649.5 mm (above normal by 42%). Studies indicate that the second highest excess rainfall is recorded in Palakkad district (72% above normal) just next to Idukki District (92% above normal) (Governtment of India 2018).

Well water is the main source of drinking water in many places of Alathur Grama Panchayat, Kerala, India. Many people depend on Grama Panchayat water supply for their drinking and domestic purpose. Since there was a sudden flood in these areas due to Monsoon change during August 2018, there was floods and contamination of the drinking water supplies as indicated by an observable change in the colour, taste and hardness of the water.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to analyze the impacts of flood on the potable water bodies with respect to physico-

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RESEARCH ARTICLE



Bioactivity and Plant Growth Stimulation Studies using *Mangifera indica* L. Gum

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Abstract

The potential of plant gum as bioactive agent and plant growth enhancer have not been exploited well and plant gums are suitable for such purposes as they are non-toxic and biodegradable. Therefore, the aim of this study was to verify the potential of *Mangifera indica* (MI) gum as bioactive agent and plant growth enhancer. Plant gum was collected from the bark of MI and polysaccharides were extracted, purified and characterized with ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) spectroscopic, Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy and gas chromatography (GC) analyses. Crude and purified polysaccharides were tested for their antibacterial and antioxidant activity. The crude gum was subjected to plant growth stimulation study like germination percentage, shoot length, root length and wet weight of chili (*Capsicum frutescens*). The effect of MI gum on soil porosity and water holding capacity (WHC) was also tested. UV-Vis and GC analyses of gum polysaccharide showed the presence of several types of monosaccharides in MI gum. The plant gum did not show any antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas sp., Bacillus sp.* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, but was found to exhibit low antioxidant activity. The gum was found to enhance the seed germination and seedling growth *in-vitro* and *in-vivo*.

Keywords: Mangifera indica L, Gum, Bioactivity, plant growth

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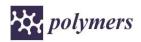
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The Synthesis, Characterization and Applications of Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) and PHA-Based Nanoparticles

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Abstract: Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) are storage granules found in bacteria that are essentially hydroxy fatty acid polyesters. PHA molecules appear in variety of structures, and amongst all types of PHAs, polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB) is used in versatile fields as it is a biodegradable, biocompatible, and ecologically safe thermoplastic. The unique physicochemical characteristics of these PHAs have made them applicable in nanotechnology, tissue engineering, and other biomedical applications. In this review, the optimization, extraction, and characterization of PHAs are described. Their production and application in nanotechnology are also portrayed in this review, and the precise and various production methods of PHA-based nanoparticles, such as emulsion solvent diffusion, nanoprecipitation, and dialysis are discussed. The characterization techniques such as UV-Vis, FTIR, SEM, Zeta Potential, and XRD are also elaborated.

Keywords: polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs); nanoparticles; extraction; synthesis; applications

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1. Introduction

Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) are polyesters that contain a characteristic bond of esters, which are accumulated as carbon and energy reserve along with limited nitrogen source and assist in providing energy [1–5]. The structure of PHAs is composed of 3-hydroxy fatty acid monomers [6–8]. They are believed to be biodegradable and biocompatible in nature [9]. PHAs are divided into groups based on the number of carbon atoms present in the monomer units produced by them: Short Chain Length (scl-PHAs)—these contain three to five carbon atoms in a monomer; Medium Chain Length (lcl-PHAs)—these these contain 6 to 14 carbon atoms in a monomer [10]; Long Chain Length (lcl-PHAs)—these divided in the second structure of the s



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Evaluation Of Bioactivities Of Annona Squomosa Linn

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Abstract

Diabetes is a disorder in which blood glucose levels rise as a result of the body's cell's inability to adequately utilize glucose. Several drugs are used to lower the blood glucose level. *Annona squamosa* is an important plant that is used as an antidiabetic, antioxidant, and antimicrobial agent. In the present study, acetone and isopropyl alcohol extract of *Annona squamosa* have been used to find out its biological property and found that it has potential antimicrobial property which was identified by using Agar well diffusion assay and confirmed by using Minimal inhibitory concentration. Effect of extract on swarming motility of the test pathogens were also tested. The extract of the leaves was tested for amylase inhibition activity using plate assay method with crude amylase enzyme isolated from *Bacillus* sp. From the findings, it was clear that *Annona squamosa* L is an effective bioactive agent which has antimicrobial and antimicylolytic properties.

Keywords: Annona squamosa L; antibacterial activity; amylase inhibition activity.

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes is a metabolic disease caused by a combination of hereditary and lifestyle factors and is becoming more common in both rural and urban populations around the world¹. Hyperglycemia, blindness, heart attack, stroke, kidney and liver failure, gangrene, and neuropathy are its possible effects². It mainly occurs due to the destruction of beta cells in the pancreas. Type 2 diabetes has more complications than Type 1 diabetes³. Food choices and hormonal changes are major factors that affect insulin production. Diabetes can be managed with regular blood glucose monitoring, medications, a nutritious diet, regular exercise, insulin treatment, or a lifestyle change^{4.5}. Many of these medications have adverse effects that might cause hypoglycemia, nausea, vomiting, hyponatremia, diarrhea, and other health issues⁶.

Phytochemicals are abundant in plants, conferring a wide range of bioactivities with majority of ailments being treated with medicinal herbs7-11. It is well known that administering several herb extracts can reverse alterations in serum enzyme activity such as alkaline phosphatase, acid phosphatase, and transaminases, and others¹². Many herbal plants are utilized in India to prevent diabetes. Annona squamosa Linn. is a multi-purpose tree with edible fruits that is used to make medicinal and industrial products. It is a member of the Annonaceae family and is popularly called as "Sugar-apple", "Custard apple", "Sitaphal", "Cherimova", native to West Indies and South America¹³⁻¹⁴. It's a fruit-bearing tropical tree which starts off as a young sapling, growing to a height of 3 to 8 m, with big, randomly spaced branches, brownish or light brownish bark, and thin leaves¹⁵. Based on the various literature studies, Annona squamosa L. carries various phytochemicals such as phenols, alkaloids, saponins, foam etc., which are bioactive in nature which can be estimated using the standard phytochemical procedures. Due to the presence of many phytochemicals such as tannins, fixed oils, carbohydrates, alkaloids, and phenolic compounds, various parts of the plant have antioxidant, anti-diabetic, hepatoprotective, cytotoxic, antibacterial, antifungal, and anti-tumor activities¹⁵⁻¹⁶. Annona squamosa L's young leaves are commonly used by tribes in Uttar Pradesh, India, to treat diabetes¹⁷. Dysentery, epilepsy, bleeding, fever, soothe boils, heal ulcers, and tumors have all been reported to be treated with extracts obtained from various sections of the Annona squamosa plant¹⁸. When the leaves are bruised, they can be used to extract guinea worms, and when processed to powder, they can be used to kill cattle lice¹⁹. Supplementing with its aqueous extract helps manage blood glucose levels, lipid metabolism, enhances insulin in plasma, and protects against the side effects of diabetics¹. The focus of

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Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (Spions) As Antibacterial Agent And For Biomedical Applications

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Abstract

Nanotechnology has become a significant aspect of cutting-edge medical research in the last two decades. In this study, SPIONs were synthesized and characterized using UV-Vis spectroscopy, FTIR and Scanning electron microscopic analysis. The produced SPIONS were found to be 30 - 40 nm. It was then used subjected various bioactive compounds for antibacterial activity, antioxidant activity and for contaminants removal. It was found to have antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, but it was less only. It was found to have network violet to an extend.

Keywords: SPIONs, antibacterial, antioxidant, gum

INTRODUCTION

Nanotechnology has drawn a lot of interest in recent times because it permits for the production, identification and application of designed adaptable nanomaterials¹. Development in nanoscience has improved the capacity to adjust the physicochemical characteristics of nanomaterials, making them more ideal for intended applications as compared to the related bulk materials. Iron oxide magnetic nanoparticles have peaked the scientific majority's interest in this regarddue to its specific structural, visual, electrical and magnetic features. Iron oxide nanoparticles can have a variety of crystalline phases depending on their stoichiometry, including wüstite (FeO), goethite [FeO(OH)], ferrihydrite [Fe₃HO₈(4H₂O)], magnetite (Fe₃O₄), hematite (a-Fe₂O₃) and maghemite (Fe₂O₃). Fe₃O₄ and/or Fe₂O₃ are extensively used in Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (SPIONs)². SPIONs are cutting-edge drug-delivery vehicles. SPIONs are miniscule synthetic particles with an average diameter ranging from 10 to 100 nm3. These magnetic particles are coated with polymers like dextran or polyethylene glycol that has been accepted by the living tissue (biocompatible), which operate the chemical handles for the ligation of medicinal drugs and optimize their blood distribution profile⁴. SPIONs with suitable outermost layer have been broadly studied inside of the body (in-vivo) applications including contrast enhancement magnetic resonance imaging, regenerating tissue, assay, purification of biofluids, drug administration and cell isolation. One of the most actively studied research areas in the developmentof cancer therapy techniques is the administration of anticancer drugs to their specified location by pairing with nanostructured SPIONs⁵. SPIONs are shown to be effective as non- viral gene vectors, allowing plasmids to be introduced into the nucleus at rates that are several substantially faster than current technologies. SPION-induced hyperthermia is also used to eliminate malignant cells effectively⁵. Considering their promising biomedical application, several SPION-related toxicity issues that should be addressed including changes in gene coding sequences, disruption in metabolism, imbalance in antioxidant ability and abnormal cellular responses. SPION, which is specific to nanoparticles is vital for their usage as drug-delivery vehicles because thesenanoparticles may practically pull drug molecules to their intended site in the body once subjected to a strong electric field is applied. Furthermore, after the applied magnetic field is withdrawn, the magnetic particles maintain zero magnetic force⁶. Sol-gel method and micro-emulsion aremost often utilized techniques for synthesizing a homogenous iron-based nanoparticle core in solution⁷. Coating these nanoparticles with adequate polymers lends them several parameters that are necessary as drug- delivery vehicles 8,9,10. The antibacterial activity of SPIONs are



Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (Spions) As Antibacterial Agent And For Biomedical Applications

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Abstract

Nanotechnology has become a significant aspect of cutting-edge medical research in the last two decades. In this study, SPIONs were synthesized and characterized using UV-Vis spectroscopy, FTIR and Scanning electron microscopic analysis. The produced SPIONS were found to be 30 - 40 nm. It was then used subjected various bioactive compounds for antibacterial activity, antioxidant activity and for contaminants removal. It was found to have antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, but it was less only. It was found to have lesser antioxidant activity. It was found to remove crystal violet to an extend.

Keywords: SPIONs, antibacterial, antioxidant, gum

INTRODUCTION

Nanotechnology has drawn a lot of interest in recent times because it permits for the production, identification and application of designed adaptable nanomaterials¹. Development in nanoscience has improved the capacity to adjust the physicochemical characteristics ofnanomaterials, making them more ideal for intended applications as compared to the related bulk materials. Iron oxide magnetic nanoparticles have peaked the scientific majority's interest in this regarddue to its specific structural, visual, electrical and magnetic features. Iron oxide nanoparticles can have a variety of crystalline phases depending on their stoichiometry, including wüstite (FeO), goethite [FeO(OH)], ferrihydrite [Fe₃HO₈(4H₂O)], magnetite (Fe₃O₄), hematite (a-Fe₂O₃) and maghemite (Fe₂O₃). Fe₃O₄ and/or Fe₂O₃ are extensively used in Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (SPIONs)². SPIONs are cutting-edge drug-delivery vehicles. SPIONs are miniscule synthetic particles with an average diameter ranging from 10 to 100 nm3. These magnetic particles are coated with polymers like dextran or polyethylene glycol that has been accepted by the living tissue (biocompatible), which operate the chemical handles for the ligation of medicinal drugs and optimize their blood distribution profile⁴. SPIONs with suitable outermost layer have been broadly studied inside of the body (in-vivo) applications including contrast enhancement magnetic resonance imaging, regenerating tissue, assay, purification of biofluids, drug administration and cell isolation. One of the most actively studied research areas in the developmentof cancer therapy techniques is the administration of anticancer drugs to their specified location by pairing with nanostructured SPIONs⁵. SPIONs are shown to be effective as non- viral gene vectors, allowing plasmids to be introduced into the nucleus at rates that are several substantially faster than current technologies. SPION-induced hyperthermia is also used to eliminate malignant cells effectively⁵. Considering their promising biomedical application, several SPION-related toxicity issues that should be addressed including changes in gene coding sequences, disruption in metabolism, imbalance in antioxidant ability and abnormal cellular responses. SPION, which is specific to nanoparticles is vital for their usage as drug-delivery vehicles because thesenanoparticles may practically pull drug molecules to their intended site in the body once subjected to a strong electric field is applied. Furthermore, after the applied magnetic field is withdrawn, the magneticparticles maintain zero magnetic force⁶. Sol-gel method and micro-emulsion aremost often utilized techniques for synthesizing a homogenous iron-based nanoparticle core in solution⁷. Coating these nanoparticles with adequate polymers lends them several parameters that are necessary as drug- delivery vehicles ^{8,9,10}. The antibacterial activity of SPIONs are

713



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Cardio protective activity of *Sargassum wightii* on isoproterenol induced myocardial stress in rats

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The aim of this investigation is to determine whether the methanolic extracts of *Sargassum wightii* can protect rats against isoproterenol-induced myocardial infarction. Four different groups of rats (6 rats in each group) were taken; where group 1 comprised of normal untreated rats, group 2 was injected with Isoproterenol (synthetic catecholamine), group 3 was considered as standard and hence, was injected with Isoproterenol + Simvastatin and group 4 was treated with Isoproterenol + *Sargassum wightii*'s extract. Cardioprotective effects of *Sargassum wightii* was observed via the changes in the lipid profile, cardio marker enzymes and through histopathological studies. Rats treated with the extract of *S. wightii* showed a significant reduction in total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, serum triglycerides and increase in HDL- cholesterol level indicating an undamaged myocardial membrane. Likewise, low enzyme activity in *Sargassum wightii* treated rats clearly indicated the cardioprotective effects of *Sargassum wightii*. Histopathological studies studies were also done to observe the changes on the rats at the tissue level and no pathological changes were observed in *Sargassum wightii* treated rats. Hence, methanolic extract of *Sargassum wightii* is evidenced to posses cardioprotective activity against myocardial infarction.

[Keywords: Acute myocardial infarction, Cardioprotective activity, Isoproterenol, Marine algae, Sargassum wightii]

Introduction

Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI), also known as 'heart attack' happens when the blood supply to the heart and heart muscle is compromised, which is mostly caused by the deposit of unstable cholesterol/fat, white blood cell, etc. in the blood vessels¹. The occurrence of AMI is the initial indication of heart diseases and is found in approximately 50 to 70 % people and is one of the common causes for hospitalization. However, 64 % of the people with AMI do not experience any chest pain and it is described as 'silent' myocardial infarctions². High levels of LDL (low-density lipoprotein), cholesterol, triglycerides, low levels of HDL highdensity lipoprotein (HDL), obesity, alcohol intake, cigarette smoking, and other risk factors are significant contributors to the condition³. Hence, there

is a continued interest in developing different forms of strategies to combat the risks associated with AMI.

As a result of increased demand for efficient screening and therapeutic treatment of AMI, there is great interest in the investigation of cardioprotective effects of marine algae species where it has been reported to have cardioprotective activities^{4,5}. The presence of high protein content along with the essential amino acids and minerals in the marine algae species are said to be a main factor in cardioprotective activity^{6,7}. Among the marine algae species, *Sargassum* sp. are known to various metabolites like sterol, glycolipids, phycocolloids etc which responsible for various bioactivities including antimicrobial, antioxidant, anticancer etc⁸. *Sargassum wightii*, linear ovate and macroscopic algae present in large quantities in Tamil Nadu, India⁹. There are few

Bioactivity and Characterization of Karaya Gum

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Abstract

Natural Biopolymers has much applications and do possess various bioactivity. In this study, karaya gum was collected and used for bioactivity studies. Gum was subjected for phytochemical screening and characterized using thin layer chromatography (TLC), UV-Vis Spectrophotometer, FTIR. It was also subjected for bioactivity studies like antibacterial against E.coli and S.aureus and antioxidant activity. Karaya gum showed a good antioxidant and antibacterial activity against Ecoli and S.aureus. UV-VIS spectroscopy analysis showed the presence of sugars like sucrose, glucose, xylose etc. FTIR analysis showed the presence of functional groups like alcohol, phenols, aldehydes, ketones.

Keywords: Karaya gum, bioactivity

INTRODUCTION

Plant gums have been used widely in several medical applications, as it is the cheapest and most available raw material for polysaccharide production¹. These gums are usually formed after a wound in a superior plant as a result of their protection mechanisms. The ability of these materials to be bio-safe and biodegradable, makes it perfect to create a drug delivery system to enhance drug-delivery matrix due to their elevated water-produced swelling, dispersible in tablets, availability, low cost, and thickening characteristics in oral-administered liquids²⁻⁵. But, the chemical composition of the gum is important since it can affect the extraction technique and also can define the uses of the gum⁶.

The karaya gum is an exudate from a big bushy tree known as Sterculia urens, this tree is originated from the family Sterculiaceae, that can be found in a dry forest located at the central and northern part of India. Another source for karay a gum is from S.setigera in Senegal and Mali, and minorsup-pliesform S. villosa in Sudan, India and Pakistan⁷⁻⁸. The production of these gums is so critical, the exudation will only begin after tapping the trunks by a manpower and then it continues for several days, the large exudes is dried in hot and dry weather, broken, cleaned to take out the unwanted materials and the bark, Then it will be categorized based on the quality and stored. The Gums harvested during the hot climate (April, May and June) are the one characterized with the highest quality and they are exported internationally as grade one. Grade one gum is usually found as a powder or granules and used in pharmaceutical and food industries since they have food solubility, high viscosity, moisture retention, and transparent color. World production is around 3000 tons a year, half of it originated from India and the rest originated from NorthAfrica⁷. It has an acetic flavor and odor; it can create a soft film when it's plastified with glycols. The chemical structure has been found to contain D-glucuronic acid, D-galacturonic acid, D-galactose and L-

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Extraction, Characterization and Applications of Latex of Manilkara zapota

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Abstract

In this study, bioactivity and application of plant latex of Manilkara zapota in agriculture fields had been studied. Latex was collected, extracted and characterized with TLC, UV-Vis and GCMS analyses. Latex was also subjected for seed germination study, pot study and insecticidal activity. This latex was found to increase water holding capacity and soil porosity and soil structure was improved by latex. It was also inducing the root formation and enhances crop yields. It also shown insecticidal activity against mealy bugs.

Keywords: Manilkara zapota; latex; bioactivity; insecticidal activity.

INTRODUCTION

Laticifers are highly specialized elongated secretory plant cell distributed over the whole plant. It is in charge of secreting and storing the plant latex1. Plant latex is a secondary metabolite of plant which normally in milky white, yellow or orange. Roots, stem, leaves, unripe fruits and barks are typically the part with high amount of latex ². In order response to turgor pressure in laticifers, latex is secreted only when the plant is suffering from mechanical injury such as insect bites or an incision on it. Various bioactive compounds can be detected in plant latex such as alkaloids, terpenoids, tannins, proteins, sugar, saponins, starches, resins, and gums. This is because it consists of content from vacuoles of laticifers and emulsion are formed from it. Hence, the plant latex acts as defence system of the plant. Latex normally will coagulate in a short time and cover the damaged tissue to protect the plant from attack by insect again during its recovery period ³

Manilkara zapota (sapodilla) is a latex bearing plant from the genus Manilkara which belongs to Sapotaceae family. It is also known as sapodilla, naseberry, chicku and chikoo. M. zapota is a tropical tree which mostly is found in India, Malaysia and South America ⁴. Its latex, fruits and timber are commercially used. The latex produced by *M. zapota* is milky white colour. Traditionally, latex of it is used to manufacture the chewing gum which is chicle-based and acts as filling for tooth cavities. Latex of M. zapota mainly contain tannins, flavonoids, alkaloids, saponins, polysaccharide and polyphenolic compounds. These components contributed to different bioactivities.

Fertilizers are one of the factors which largely influenced the growth of plants. It increased the crop yields by enhancing and sustaining the soil quality. Agriculture fields employ insecticides to prevent their plantations from being destroyed by insects as well as microorganisms⁵ Massive usage of inorganic fertilizer and synthetic chemical insecticides resulting air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution 6.7. Chemical insecticides also impact via food commodities. Apart from that, the health of workers in manufacturing chemical insecticides as well as agricultural farm workers are significantly affected since they longterms exposed to toxic chemicals. Hence, latex from M. zapota had been used as fertilizer to determine whether it promotes the growth of the plant and natural insecticides to protect the attack from insects 8.9. This study was done to determine the bioactivity of latex of sapodilla and its role in agriculture such as its ability to enhance the growth of plants and its potential as insecticides.

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Evaluation Of Bioactivity Of Chloroform Extract Of Syzygium Aqueum Leaves

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Abstract

Urinary tract infection (UTI) in immunologically compromised persons is threatening millions of people's life worldwide. The synthetic drugs are slowly not effective and also causing more side effects. Bio-derived agents are known to be less toxic and effective in treating UTI. In this study, chloroform extract of *Syzygium aqueum* was subjected for antimicrobial, antioxidant, antidiabetic and antiproliferative activities. Due to the presence of numerous bioactive compounds, it showed excellent bioactivity.

Keywords: Leaf extract, Chloroform, Antimicrobial, Antioxidant, Anticancer activities.

INTRODUCTION

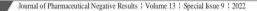
From early days till now people in search of remedy for their disease, looked for drugs in nature. An impressive number of modern drugs have been isolated or derived from natural source^{1,2,3}. Traditionally, the crude extracts of different parts of medicinal plants were widely used for treating some human diseases⁴ as they have therapeutically effective metabolites^{5,6}. Emergence of drug resistant in bacteria have created several questions on effectiveness of existing antibacterial therapy^{7,8}. Various developing countries have been known to use plant-derived medicine mostly crude preparation for treating infectious diseases⁹. UTI – Urinary tract infections commonly caused by *E. coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Proteus mirabilis* etc¹⁰. Improper use of antibiotics created drug resistance in these organisms and makes the disease untreatable^{11,12} and paving way for higher morbidity and mortality⁵. Medicinal plants are good choice to treat this ailment¹³. *Syzygium aqueum*, a member of family Mysteraceae, seen in Asian countries like India, Indonesia and other tropical countries. This plant has been used to treat oxidative stress related ailments^{14,15} and it is being stated that it can be used to treat UTI by the Central India tribals of Mahakoshal region. Thus, it could be a good choice for treating this infections¹⁶ as it is rich of various phytochemicals including tannins, alkaloids etc. and they are responsible for various bioactivities¹⁷. Having understand about the drug resistance and its importance of finding a new drug to treat multidrug resistant UTI causing organisms, this work was done to exploit *Syzygium aqueum* for its antimicrobial activity against UTI causative agents.

Materials And Method

1.Collection of samples

1. Collection and extraction of S.aqueum leaves

Leaves of Syzygium aqueum was collected from Rajakkamangalam, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu, India, After collection of Saqueum leaves, it was washed with distilled water, shade dried and blended to powder. 10g of powdered Saqueum leaves were soaked in 100 ml of chloroform for 3 days, centrifuged at 5000 rpm and supernatant was collected and left for evaporation. The remained extract in the container was dissolved with DMSO (dimethylsulfoxide) and used in the study.



719





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| INDIAN IMMIGRANT EXPOSURE IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF JHUMPA LAHIRI Mrs.P.Kiruthika Cultural Conflict in Arun Joshi's The Strange Case of Billy Biswas | 125-128 |
|---|--|
| Cultural Conflict in Arun Joshi's The Strange Case of Billy Biswas | |
| Mrs. P.PRASHANTHI | 129-134 |
| A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON LEVEL OF STRESS AMONG MOTHER HAVING CHILDREN WITH MODERATE AND SEVERE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY Ghousia Farheen, Dr sarita Gupta | 135-146 |
| POST PANDEMIC SCENARIO OF HIGHER EDUCATION: AN ANALYSIS WITH REFERENCE TO TEACHERS OF ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES IN KERALA Mrs.Archana K M | 147-162 |
| CASE STUDY ON CRYPTOCURRENCY Yogita Shinde | 163-174 |
| THE INCESSANT WAR FOR GENDER JUSTICE: AN APPRAISAL ON TRANS IN JULIA SERANO'S EXCLUDED MONISHA M. | 175-180 |
| The character Nina's Identity In Manju kapur's The Immigrant <i>G.VIJAYALAKSHMI</i> | 181-186 |
| TPACK into Practice: Merging Theory into Classroom practices - The Theory of Constructivism in Virtual Station Rotation Model | 187-196 |
| | AMONG MOTHER HAVING CHILDREN WITH MODERATE AND SEVERE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY Ghousia Farheen, Dr sarita Gupta POST PANDEMIC SCENARIO OF HIGHER EDUCATION: AN ANALYSIS WITH REFERENCE TO TEACHERS OF ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES IN KERALA Mrs.Archana K M CASE STUDY ON CRYPTOCURRENCY Yogita Shinde THE INCESSANT WAR FOR GENDER JUSTICE: AN APPRAISAL ON TRANS IN JULIA SERANO'S EXCLUDED MONISHA M. The character Nina's Identity In Manju kapur's The Immigrant G.VIJAYALAKSHMI TPACK into Practice: Merging Theory into Classroom practices - The Theory of Constructivism in Virtual |

POST PANDEMIC SCENARIO OF HIGHER EDUCATION: AN ANALYSIS WITH REFERENCE TO TEACHERS OF ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES IN KERALA

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Abstract

The paper discusses the attitude of teachers in Higher Educational Institutions(HEIs) towards the remote digitalised classroom teaching-learning activities in the post pandemic scenario of our country. As the pandemic crisis has seriously affected almost all the sectors of our socio-economic system, higher education is a key sector which has far reaching implications for the development of our country. The traditional classroom teaching has shifted rapidly to remote online classes and has serious drawbacks and issues including the cultural and social development of students and hence it seeks more attention and discussion. The study is held among the teachers from the Arts and Science Colleges of Kerala spread mainly across the districts of Thrissur and Palakkad. Non-parametric tests of hypothesis are conducted to test the attributes under study. The study would help develop a better adaptive system of education to survive the contingency period.

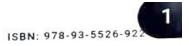
Introduction

Beginning from early 2020, we all witnessed how the COVID-19 (caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus) pandemic shocked the world, almost bringing it to an abrupt stop. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 a pandemic. By 31 July 2020, COVID-19 had spread across 217+ countries and territories, with almost 17.1 million confirmed casesand 668,073 deaths. The threats and challenges put forth by this pandemic situation will affect and is continuing to affect all of our lives irrespective of our nationalities.(Aristovnik et al., 2020)

As far my study is concerned the focus is on Higher Education Sector and our education sector has been seriously impaired by the crisis set forth by the pandemic situation. As per the records of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, 14.04 lakhs teachers are engaged in 53,620 institutions in the field of higher education in India. Also, 3.74 Crore students were registered for higher education in India in 2018-19. Studies reveal that the number of employable students are steadily decreasing in proportion ,it is still more adversely affecting our education sector as physical real-time classes are continuously being stopped due to Covid -19. Besides the drawbacks



Economics of Happiness and Welfare



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Disquisitions on Economics of Happiness

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| A STUDY ON INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES AND WAY TO THE HAPPIEST SOCIETY | RESHMA M | 76 - 80 |
|---|---|---|
| PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING AS A KEY FACTOR TO GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS | SREELAKSHMI K DR VINEETH K M | 81 - 87 |
| CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE AS A KEY FACTOR TO GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS | SULFIYA K S DR VINEETH K M | 88 - 94 |
| THE GREAT INDIAN HAPPINESS TRAGEDY; AN EGALITARIAN SOCIETY IS THE ONLY PANACEA | KRISHNAPRIYA R | 95 - 103 |
| CONSTRUCTION OF HAPPINESS: AN ENQUIRY INTO ADVERTISEMENTS | SONIA KUMARI | 104 - 115 |
| COMPARISON BETWEEN THE HAPPINESS OF WORKING WOMAN AND NON-WORKING WOMAN | ANJANA JOSEPH RAJY RAMAKRISHNAN | 116 - 120 |
| SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: AVENUE FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION | ANALAR BE | 121 - 129 |
| UNPAID CARE WORK AND ECONOMY OF HAPPINESS | ARCHANA. A | 130 - 134 |
| RAMIFICATIONS OF COVID 19 ON THE EDUCATIONAL SPHERE IN KERALA | JUBY THOMAS PREETHA THOMAS | 135 - 146 |
| BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE INVESTING IN SCOPUS Proceedings of the International Confer | SHABNA BABU DR VINEETH K M | 147 - 154 |
| | AND WAY TO THE HAPPIEST SOCIETY PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING AS A KEY FACTOR TO GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE AS A KEY FACTOR TO GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS THE GREAT INDIAN HAPPINESS TRAGEDY; AN EGALITARIAN SOCIETY IS THE ONLY PANACEA CONSTRUCTION OF HAPPINESS: AN ENQUIRY INTO ADVERTISEMENTS COMPARISON BETWEEN THE HAPPINESS OF WORKING WOMAN AND NON-WORKING WOMAN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: AVENUE FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNPAID CARE WORK AND ECONOMY OF HAPPINESS RAMIFICATIONS OF COVID 19 ON THE EDUCATIONAL SPHERE IN KERALA BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE INVESTING IN | AND WAY TO THE HAPPIEST SOCIETYRESHMA MPSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING AS A KEY FACTOR TO GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESSSREELAKSHMI K DR VINEETH K MCULTURAL DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE AS A KEY FACTOR TO GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS THE GREAT INDIAN HAPPINESS TRAGEDY; AN EGALITARIAN SOCIETY IS THE ONLY PANACEASULFIYA K S DR VINEETH K MCONSTRUCTION OF HAPPINESS: TRAGEDY; AN EGALITARIAN SOCIETY IS THE ONLY PANACEASONIA KUMARI RAIYCOMPARISON BETWEEN THE HAPPINESS OF WORKING WOMAN AND NON-WORKING WOMAN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: AVENUE FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONSONIA KUMARI RAMAKRISHNANUNPAID CARE WORK AND ECONOMY OF HAPPINESSSANJANARAMIFICATIONS OF COVID 19 ON THE EDUCATIONAL SPHERE IN KERALAJUBY THOMAS PREETHA THOMAS PREETHA THOMAS DR VINEETH K M |

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

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| SI. No. | Title of Research Paper/Article | Name/s of Author/s | Page No. |
|------------|--|--|-------------|
| 1 | A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF COVID- 19 IN THE PRESENT BUSINESS MILIEU | Diya Akbar | 1-9 |
| 2 | PERCEIVED EASE OF USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS ON MOBILE DURING LOCKDOWN | Sheena Mathew Dr. Vineeth K M | 10 - 21 |
| 3 | SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS | Jijish Elias | 22 - 28 |
| 4 | BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF BEHAVIOURAL FINANCE IN SCOPUS DURING 2018-2021 | Krishna Nambiar Dr Vineeth K M | 2 4/1 |
| 5 | INTERNET USAGE AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF INDIA USING AN ADRL APPROACH | Dr. Jayant Kumar Chakraborty Sudeshna Sarkar | 40 - 49 |
| 6 | BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBLE INVESTING IN SCOPUS | Shabna Babu Dr. Vineeth K M | 50 - 60 |
| 7 | THE INSTANT GRATIFICATION OF CONSUMERS THROUGH E- COMMERCE- A STUDY AMIDST COVID 19 | Seethu John Anish B Bhaskaran | 61 - 67 |
| 8 | BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF EVENT TOURISM IN SCOPUS DURING 2018- 2021 | Neena Merina Dr. Vineeth K M | 68 - 78 |
| 9 | FINANCIAL WELLBEING- GOAL OF FINANCIAL LITERACY | Anusha Ragesh Beneeta Benny | 79 - 87 |
| 10 | INFLUENCE OF PERCEIVED USEFULNESS AND PERCEIVED EASE OF USE ON SWITCHING INTENTION REGARDING MOBILE APPS | Aleena P .Z Dr. Vineeth K M | 88 - 93 |
| 11 | ENVISAGING THE REPERCUSSION OF SELF-HELP GROUPS IN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP: -WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KARUKACHAL PANCHAYAT | Preetha Thomas | 94 - 102 |

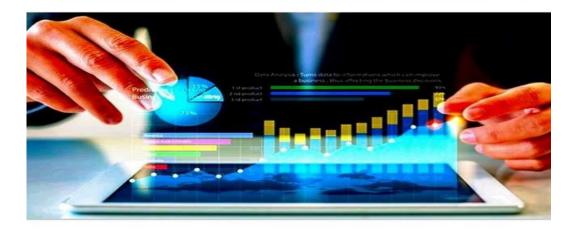
INDEX

VII

Economic Dimensions, 25" May 2021



Multidisciplinary Research Thoughts Dr Vineeth K.M



Multidisciplinary Research Thoughts [ISBN 978-93-5566-389-4] Dr Vineeth KM Editor-in-Chief Assistant Professor of Commerce



| MDRC 078 | Dr Jency Treesa Remya Madhu Silfa C R | A Study on the Effect of the Financial Performance on the Stock Prices of the Top Constituent Banks of BANKNIFTY | 472 – 480 |
|----------|---|--|-----------|
| MDRC 079 | Seenamol KK | A Study on Drifts in Urban Poverty in India | 481 - 487 |
| MDRC 080 | Bindu R Dr D Geetha | A Study on Factors Affecting Credit Management and Loan Performance of Microfinance Institutions | 488 - 494 |
| MDRC 081 | <mark>Shabna</mark> Babu Dr Vineeth K M | Bibliometric Analysis of ESG Investing in Scopus | 495 - 502 |
| MDRC 082 | Neena Merina Dr Vineeth K M | Bibliometric Analysis of Destination Image in Scopus | 503 - 510 |
| MDRC 083 | Mary Sruthy Melbin Dr Vineeth K M | Bibliometric Analysis of Ecotourism in Scopus | 511 – 517 |
| MDRC 084 | Sulfiya K S Dr Vineeth K M | Bibliometric Analysis of Emotional Intelligence in Scopus | 518 - 524 |
| MDRC 085 | Shiju C R Dr Vineeth K M | Bibliometric Analysis of Total Quality Management in Scopus | 525 - 532 |
| MDRC 086 | Sheena Mathew Dr Vineeth K M | Bibliometric Analysis of Destination Marketing in Scopus | 533 - 540 |
| MDRC 087 | Anupama K A Dr Vineeth K M | Association between Composition of Fund Portfolios and Fund Returns of Value Funds | 541 - 548 |
| MDRC 088 | Neha A S Dr Vineeth K M | Antecedents of Brand Equity | 549 - 558 |
| MDRC 089 | Gopika Jayachandran Dr Vineeth K M | Influence of Emotional Brand Attachment and Brand Love on Brand Loyalty in Beauty Soaps | 559 - 566 |
| MDRC 090 | Aleena P Z Dr Vineeth K M | Evaluating the Risk Ratios of Exchange Traded Funds | 567 - 572 |
| MDRC 091 | Divya John Dr Vineeth KM | Bibliometric Analysis of Brand Love in Scopus | 573 - 583 |
| MDRC 092 | Dr Mufliha S | Effectiveness Of Management And Individual Prevention Strategies Adopted By The Bank Employees To Get Rid Of Excessive lob Burnout | 584 - 597 |

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| S.NO | CHAPTER TITLE | PAGE NO |
|------|---|------------|
| 10. | Impact Of Covid-19 Pandemic On Mental Health Of Teenagers. Prasanna Mahantesh Pattan | 62-67 |
| 11. | Impact Of Covid-19 On Cyber World Varsha Prashant Desai | 68-74 |
| 12. | Measuring The Role Of Eco-Friendly Sustainability Of Green Supply Chain Management Practices On Corporate Image Of Top Branded Curry Powders In Kerala DrMufliha S | 75-85 |
| 13. | An Overview Of Health Insurance Policies Covering Covid 19 Krishna Nambiar | 86-90 |
| 14. | A Bibliometric Analysis Of Covid19 In Pubmed Mary SruthyMelbin | 91-97 |
| 15. | Emerging Home Entrepreneurs – A Wave Of Hope During Covid-19 Pandemic <i>Nayana B S</i> | 98-103 |
| 16. | Kochi Muziris Biennale - Millennialperception To Special Events NeenaMerina | 104-113 |
| 17. | Performance Evaluation Of Ethical Mutual Funds In India <i>ShabnaBabu</i> | 114-121 |



| Social Science Stream | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Article Tracking ID | Title of Article | Author (s) | Page Numbers |
| MDRC 1 | A Conceptual Review of e-Governance Initiatives of Grama Panchayats in Kerala | Raju Kurian M Dr. V. Ambilikumar Dr. Felice Joy | 1 - 4 |
| MDRC 2 | A Study on Bell and Brass Metal Industries in Kerala with Reference to Mannar Panchayat | Aparna S Divya Unnikrishnan Reshma Pillasi S | 5 - 12 |
| MDRC 3 | A Study on Customer Perception Towards Digital Marketing | Anjana S Arya Suresh | 13 - 21 |
| MDRC 4 | A Study on Stress Among College Teachers of Thrissur District. | Haritha C R Dr. Rinu V Antony | 22 - 27 |
| MDRC 5 | The Effectiveness of Instagram Marketing Techniques During Covid-19 with Special Reference to Beauty Products | Dhanasree S Rebecca Benoy | 28 - 38 |
| MDRC 6 | An Analysis on Investment Behaviour Among Teachers Working in Unaided Institutions Towards Post Office Investment in Thrissur District | Sreedevi M A Anagha Nandakumaran Ann Maria T R Anna Rose | 39 – 47 |
| MDRC 7 | Consumer Perception towards Organic Food Products with Special Reference to Changanacherry Taluk | Namitha Mohan Aparna Lekshmi S | 48 - 49 |
| MDRC 9 | Consumers' Perception Towards Social Media Advertisements with Special Reference to Thrissur | Sreeshna S Liyatt Mary Joshy Merin Thomas Sanitha K S | 50 – 57 |
| MDRC 10 | Different Types of Entrepreneurs in Kerala | Soorya Thankachan Dr Anitha M N | 58 - 62 |
| MDRC 11 | Ethical Investing | Shabna Babu Dr Vineeth K M | 63 - 66 |

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CHAPTER - 23

Entrepreneurial Aptitude of Female Commerce Students in Nattika Panchayath (Thrissur District)

Anila Balan Assistant Professor Dept. of Commerce Relation Professor Dept. International e-Conference on Bioengineering for Health & Environment (ICBHE - 2021)



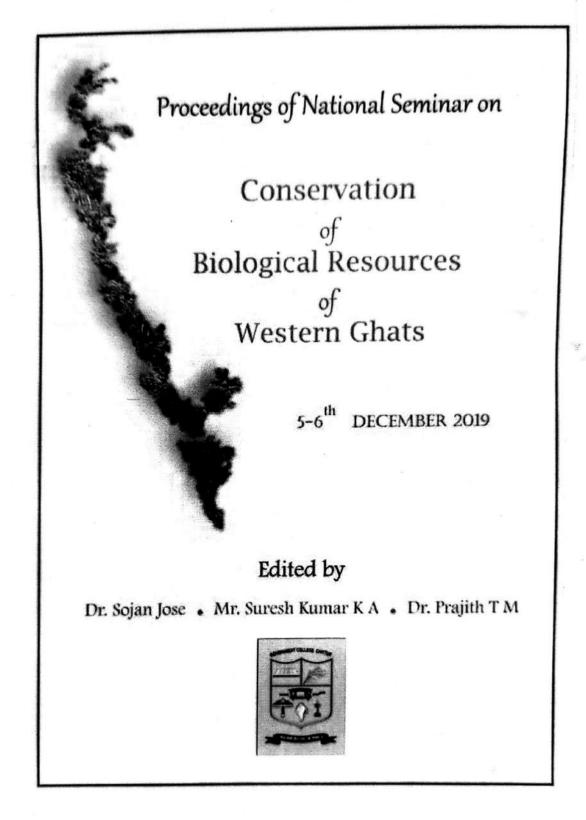
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Proceedings of National Seminar on **Conservation of Biological Resources of**



Comparison of physiological features of viable and non-viable recalcitrant seeds with special reference to Myristica malabarica Lam. and Myristica magnifica Bedd.

K. A. Suresh Kumar¹', C. Anilkumar², K. G. Ajithkumar³ and T. M. Prajith¹

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ABSTRACT

Palakkad is well known for agro biodiversity and agriculture based traditional knowledge. This paper deals with scientific analysis of traditional knowledge related to sorting viable seeds which are prevailed in various rural farming communities in Palakkad district of Kerala state. The present study was undertaken with the objective of documentation of traditional knowledge of farmers related to sorting of viable seeds, viz. floating seeds will never sprout and shaky seeds will never sprout. Another important objective was to pave the way for value addition to such traditional knowledge by giving logical and scientific interpretation. The seeds of various Myristica species (Myristicaceae) were taken for the scientific validation of the documented traditional knowledge because the distribution of these endemic and endangered tropical forest trees are restricted to a unique but highly fragile and fragmented fresh water ecosystem called Myristica swamps .The value added and validated traditional knowledge will be documented and made available as knowledge repository to farming as well as academic community .

Key Words: Desiccation, Myristica sps, Myristica swamps, Traditional Knowledge, Viability.



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Proceedings of National Seminar on Conservation of Biological Resources of Western Ghats



Effect of Pre Sowing Cold Treatment on Seedling Vigor Index of Paddy

K.A. Suresh Kumar ', S. J. Swathy and T. M. Prajith

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ABSTRACT

Traditional seed treatments that have been practiced with ease and effectiveness is a key for sustainable development of agriculture. The traditional practice of subjecting paddy seeds to prechilling treatment has shown an increased performance of the crop. This long-established practice was tested under the artificial cold treatment and the outcomes were compared with the seeds treated in natural cold condition as per the traditional practice. *Oryza sativa* var. *CO-52*, *Oryza sativa* var. *jvothi*, *Oryza sativa* var. *mahamaya*, and *Oryza sativa* var. *uma* were the seed varieties selected for this. The seedling vigor index of the treated seeds showed a considerable increase in comparison with non-treated seeds. The seeds treated in artificial conditions and natural condition showed similar trend in results.

INTRODUCTION

Rice is a versatile crop; it can grow at an elevation of more than 3000m in the Himalayas and at sea level in the deltas of great rivers of Asia. It is one of the most important crop which is the major contributor to human food supply. Due to its origin in tropical and subtropical regions, rice is more suitable at a temperature between 20°C and 35°C. Palakkad, the granary of Kerala, has about 83,000 ha. under paddy cultivation, accounting for 40% of state's total paddy area. Traditional knowledge of farmers and local communities in paddy cultivation is paving to more production of rice. So this accumulated knowledge, skills and technology of local people, derived from direct interaction of human beings and their environment over centuries which has adapted to the local culture and environment should be documented and preserved.



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Women Entrepreneurship An Overview



Editors Dr. Liji K.T. • Ms. Deepa N.



Principal Sree Narayana College, Alathur Palakkad- 678 682, Kerala

An Overview

Before the 20th century, women were operating businesses as a way of supplementing income. In many cases, they were trying to avoid poverty or making up for the loss of a spouse. The ventures that these women undertook were not known as entrepreneurial at the time: many of them usually had to bow to their domestic responsibilities. Women became more involved in the business world only when the idea of women in business became palatable to the general public. However, this does not mean that there were no female entrepreneurs until that time. During the 18th and 19th centuries, more women came out from under the oppression of society's limits and began to emerge into the public eye. Despite the frowns of society, women flourished. In the 1900s, due to a more progressive way of thinking and the rise of feminism, female entrepreneurs began to be a widely accepted term and although these women entrepreneurs serviced mostly women consumers, they were making great strides. As each change in society happened, female entrepreneurs were there, becoming more influential. Despite all these advances, the female entrepreneurs still fell behind when compared to their male counterparts. Therefore an attempt has been made to understand the pros and corns of women entrepreneurship in Kerala. We hope that the readers will find this volume useful for further research, teaching policy, formulation and programme implementation.



Dr. Liji K.T. has completed M.A from Christ College, Irinjalakuda, M.Phil from Avinashilingam University for Women Coimbatore and Ph. D from M.G. University, Kottayam. Presently working as Head & Asst. Prof. in the Dept. of Economics, Mercy College, Palakkad, Kerala. She has an excellent academic background with 6 years of research experience and was a co-investigator and Principal investigator in the UGC funded minor projects. Also possess associateship with

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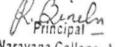
seminars, published research articles in national and international reputed peer reviewed journals and also in edited books.



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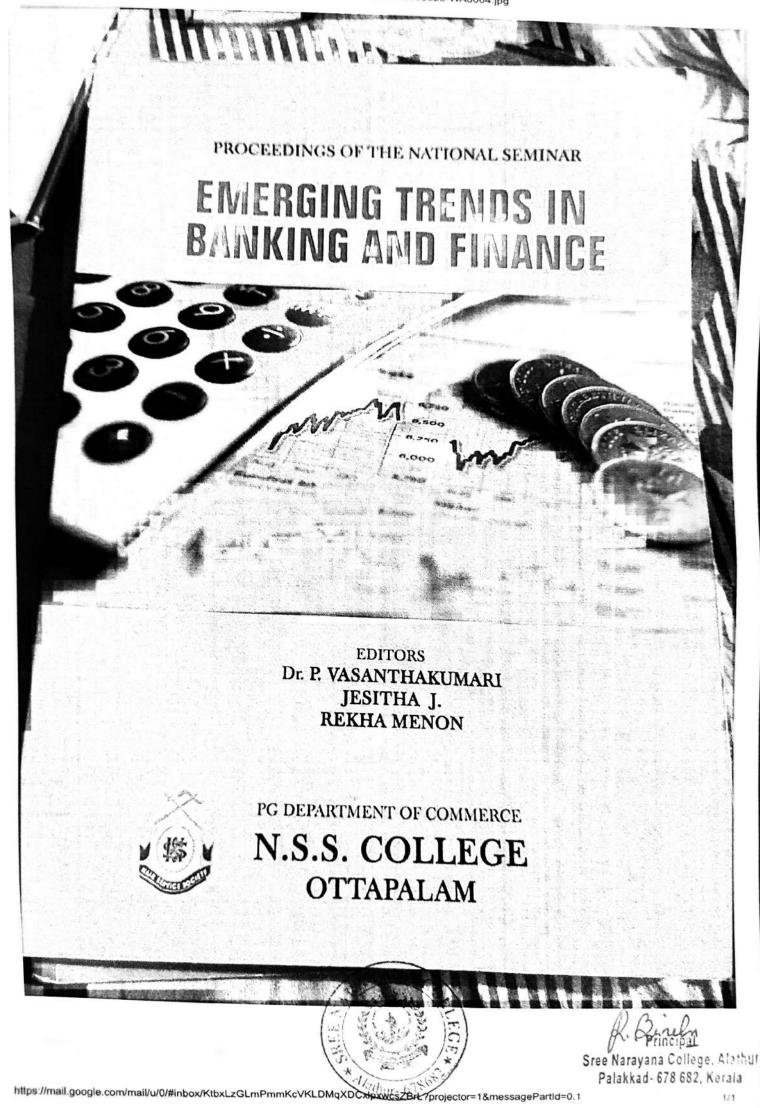




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CONTENTS

| - 1 | | | 1-5 |
|-----|-------|---|---------|
| | | Role of Tourson in Indian Iconomy Dr. Nisamedheen T | 6-10 |
| - 1 | | Instant and Challenges | |
| | | Binija George Date of Service Quality Factors Impacting Tourist's Satisfaction | 11-16 |
| 1 | | in Nelamber 1 Constant | |
| 1 | | n Schmisht Faynrus MLA, & Assorn K. Munivar Faynrus MLA, & Assorn K. Role of Kersla Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) in the Tourism | 17-21 |
| | | Role of Kersla Tourism Development Corporation | |
| | | Development of Kernin A bachacker Siddigue Kakkattichali | 22.30 |
| | | Mahammed Futani 1, convolution with special reference to Kerala A Study on Accessible Tourism - with special reference to Kerala | |
| | 4 | A Study on Accessible Tourism, which a sub- | |
| | | Sector in Poverty Allevienon and Componies | 31.36 |
| 1 | | special reference to Wayanad District of Kerala | |
| | | Muhammed Rafi N. | 37-41 |
| 1 | | Impact of Tourism on Economic Development of India | |
| 1 | | Genika S.S. | 42-44 |
| 1 | | Tourism and Regional Development in India | |
| 1 | | Surgena V.P. | 45-50 |
| 1 | | Lean Concept in Health Care Tourism | |
| | | Nakda T and Shynt P. & Dr. R. Priys | |
| 1 | 10. | The Role of Cruise Tourism in Sustainable Development of Tourism Industry | 51-55 |
| | | with special reference to Kernla | |
| | | Brilla Varghese, Maya K. & Gaugasree T. | 56-61 |
| | 11 | Perception Level of Tourists towards Tourist Attractions in Nilambur | |
| | | Mujechu Rahiman P. | 62-67 |
| | 12. | Mice Tourism in India: A Promising Propentition to Economic Growth | |
| | | Shameema V. & Sreekala T. | 68-72 |
| | | Adventure Tourism in Kerala Shana Shimla P, & Fousiya M.P, | |
| | H | Socio Economic Impact of Pilgrimage Tourism with special reference to | 73-78 |
| | 1 | Ubaranan 280Am | 13-16 |
| | | loicey Jose, Deeps Tes George & Sany Enumanuel | |
| | 15 1 | visitors Satisfaction towards A thirappilly Waterfall Tourism | 79-84 |
| | | lony V.M. & Siby Linson | |
| | 10 1 | adigenous Tourism: Best Practices for Eco-Friendly and Livable Society | 85-89 |
| | | alamuraly S.S. & Dr. R. Vasanthagopal | S |
| | 17. H | ealth Tourism: Potentials of Kerala | 90-98 |
| | Т | hahani K.T. | |
| 1 | 18. R | ole of Alternative Tourism in the Economic Development of Villages in Kerala | 99-105 |
| | D | haaya Babu V. & Nawal Mohammed | |
| 1 | 9. Ec | notourism: A Tool for Development of Society | 106-109 |
| | | jani P. & Dr. Vasanthakumari P. | 100-107 |
| | | blems and Prospects of Health Tourism in India | |
| - | EA | aisha M.A. & Rincy James | 110-115 |
| | | | |
| 21 | . En | ect of GST on Tourism and Hospitality Sector | 116-121 |
| | | iya V.V. & Sahla Aseena O. | |
| 22 | An | Analysis of E-Tourist Visa (E-TV) Scheme with special reference to | |
| | Lau | est Statistics | 122 120 |
| | Sha | meens Raiban P. & Farisa Abdul Ascen | 122-129 |
| 23 | | | |
| | K-m | ady on the Marketing Strategies of Tourist Bus Operators - | |
| | | n Balakrishnan & Dlana John | 130-134 |
| | 201 | outering of Dispa John | |

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| Risting Tide Women Entrepreneurs in Fern the Resert R. Resert R. Resert R. Resert P. Resert P. Resert P. Resert P. Resert P. Resert P. | 24 Women |
| | Allied |
| nanger pacta a | Reduct |
| Re Charles Women Entrepretertation in India | |
| | an the lot |
| it. Stort Maker Var Entrepreneurs in Kerala: Socialise | Entre |
| Women to Overconne to | 26. 1 minut |
| 12 Municipal Instantial | 10 Ma |
| tor Difford two | A |
| 13 Norro Finance A Panacen to Many P. P. and P. R. Bosc Many P. P. and P. R. Bosc Many P. P. and P. R. Bosc | 27 Wom |
| Manju P. P. and P. K. Bosc Manju P. B. State Manual M | a era |
| | Ĺ |
| 14. Developmen K.T. Dr. Liji K.T. 15. Issues and Challenges among Women Entrepreneur | 28. Supt |
| and Chances | Won |
| IS Knutha C. | |
| Fducation for | 29. Wor |
| of the Hour Kumar and P.L. Maheswari | Wor |
| M. Daupaut - | |
| M. Dhiliphan Kumar under Empowerment through Self 125 IF. A Case Study on Women Empowerment through Self 125 IF. A Case Study on Women Empowerment through Self 125 Help Groups with Special Reference to Virudhunagar Help Groups with Special Reference to Virudhunagar | 30. Stu |
| HAD GIVERS STATES | Err Di |
| Help Group District, Tanil Nadu R. Krishna Priya and R. Ragugokulavaishnavi R. Krishna Priya and R. Ragugokulavaishnavi | 01 |
| R. Krishna Priva and Entrepreneurship | 31. In |
| R. Knishna Friga interesting 14 18. Kudumbashree as a Women Entrepreneurship | 51. 110 |
| | 32. R |
| the loss of the lo | 54. N |
| R Santhos Stoan and C. San atta | |
| A Big 5 Trait Approach | 33. E |
| M. Dhiliphan Kumar and R. Manoj Prakash | 33. 2 |
| Retrongeneurship among Women | 1 |
| 21. Mainstreaming Entrepreneurship among Women | - |
| in Sheryl Sandberg's Lean in: Women, Work and the | |
| Will to Lead Proto V | |
| Pooja. K | 25 |
| - Auguwerment of Women through Kudumonasiee. | 35. |
| With Reference to Pattencherry Panchayat in | |
| A MAILING District | |
| Sml. Ambill S. | |
| 23. Beauty Parlor: A Vehicle for Women | N |
| A Case Study | |
| | |
| S Praseetting V.P. | B: n |
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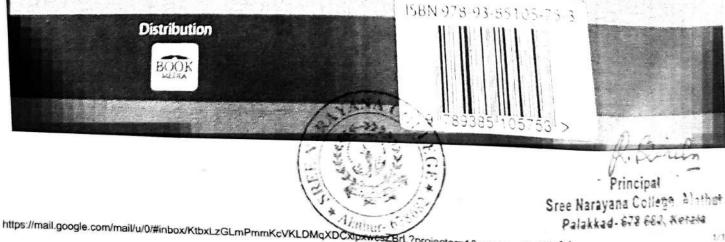
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PG DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE N.S.S. COLLEGE OTTAPALAM



Contents

| | vii |
|---|------|
| Foreword | xiii |
| Preface List of Contributors 1. Community Structure and Employment Programmes in Kudumbashree: A Case Study of Kudumbashree in Kudumbashree: A Case Study of Kudumbashree | 1 |
| in Kudumbashree: A Case one y in Kudumbashree: A Case one y Mission Kerala State Vijayalakshmi, K.K. 2. The Rise of Women Entrepreneurs in India 2. The Rise of Women Entrepreneurs in India | 14 |
| The Rise of Wolner Line 1 Dr. S. Suganya The Growth of Social Awakening among Women in Modern Kerala before State Formation | 20 |
| Modern Kerala before of the Suchitra. V Suchitra. V Women Entrepreneurs: Challenges and Opportunities Creat Latha, C | s 27 |
| Women Entreprotection Sree Latha. C Women Empowerment—Role of Micro Finance Women Empowerment—Role of Micro Finance | 32 |
| Institutions | 40 |
| 6 Women Entrepreneurship in India | 47 |
| 7. Problems and Prospects of Wolfield Land | |
| Sathyavathi. M 8. Role of Micro Credit in Women Empowerment with Special Reference to Alathur, Palakkad District | 59 |
| Rosini K. | |
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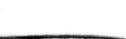
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medicional value and are the scenario teneror of various dring malecules as they contain active compounds and these endophytes isolated from them contributes to microscal buildwarmity

The selected forgal extract showed the presence of different phytochemicals like giveniades, tassnins and verpensis. Lansing exhibit antibacterial, antibleer and magiveniades, tassnins and verpensis. Lansing exhibit antibacterial, antibleer and magiveniades tassning and anticances activity. For separation and identification of the sween identified fives the OC-MS analysis were carry out 11 composing name and mass of them. FT-IR: OC-MS analysis were carry out 11 composing name and mass of them. FT-IR revealed the presence of carboxylic group ketogroup name and mass of them. FT-IR revealed the structure of the compound. The identified enter and alkane and also supported the structure of the compound. The identified composities. Out of the Heompounds 2.4-Di-t-butylphenol. I-Hexadecene, 1properties. Out of the Heompounds 2.4-Di-t-butylphenol. I-Hexadecene, 1properties and pharmaceutical importance(Eyob *et al.*, 2018)(Devanish *et antifungal properties and pharmaceutical importance*(Eyob *et al.*, 2018)(Devanish *et al.*, 2014).Hence the compounds extracted from the isolated endophytic fungue al., 2014).Hence the compounds extracted from the isolated endophytic fungue and, and the preparation of biocontrol formulations that has no side effect when compared to chemical pesticides.

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Key words - Endophyte. Biocontrol, Aspergillus flavus, Fusarium ayysporum

AMC 8

IN VITRO CULTURE OF MOSSES: BRACHYTHECIUM BUCHANANII (HOOK.) A. JAEGER AND THUIDIUM TAMARISCELLUM (C.MUELL.) BOSCH. & SANDE-LAC AND ISOLATION OF TERPENOIDS

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INTRODUCTION

Bryophytes are the oldest known land plants comprising of more than 22,000 species. Approximately, 3660 members were reported to possess medicinal properties. Several biologically active compounds were isolated from these plants such as phenolic acids.

Theme 4. Advances in Microbes and Livin Agon

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segative effects it is necessary to find an environmental friendly and easily obtainable and any present of the secondary metabolita. The aim of the present study was to extract and identify the secondary metabolites from the endophytic fungi isolated from the and saching plant Lawsonia incremis 1. which show an antifungal activity against the rice pathogen Fusarium oxysporum (ITCC 7739).

METHODOLOGY

perlation of endophytic fungi : The healthy fresh leaves of the medicinal plant ansonia mermix L were randomly selected and was collected from Sukhodhaya Hospital and Medicinal Garden in Kottayam district, Kerala, The leaves were washed under running tap water. Treated with 5% Tween 20 for 3 min and then with distilled water Leaves were cut into small pieces and treated with 70% ethanol for 30 sec and men with surface sterilizing agent 4% NaOCI for 5 min.Rinsed 3 times with sterile distilled water and blotted on sterile blotting paper. The last distilled water wash were cultured on Potato Dextrose Agar and incubated as control. For the isolation of endophytic fungi the surface sterilized samples were placed on PDA supplemented with chloromphenicol. Plates were incubated at room temperature for 5-7days and abserved for growth and emerged fungal colonies were transferred to fresh PDA plates. Colonization frequency was calculated.

invitro antagonistic activity of the isolate against phytopathogen F. oxyaporam: PDA plates were simultaneously inoculated with the discs of the pathogen as well as the test organism near the periphery at diametrically opposite ends and incubated at norm temperature for 5-7 days and observed at regular intervals on the linear growth (cm) of the antagonist colonizing the pathogen's growth The percentage of inhibition was calculated.

Extraction of secondary metabolites from endophytic fungus LIF1: Liquid state fermentation process was done for secondary metabolite production.7 days old fresh mycelia of the fungus were inoculated into 100 ml of PDB. Incubated at 28°C for 21-30 days with continuous shaking at 150 rpm in a shaking incubator Homogenized by aiding 10% methanol and filtered . The metabolite was extracted 3 times with equal volume of chloroform .Lower layer of the solvent containing the extracted compound were separated using separating funnel and evaporated in a rotary evaporator (at vaccum for a vapour temperature at 40°C for 474 pressures)(Bhardwai and Agarwal .2014)). The crude extract was then dissolved in Dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO) at 1mg/ml of concentration and kept at 4°C.

Antifungal activity of chloroform extract of LIF1: For determining antifungal activity of the LIF1,PDA plates supplemented with streptomycin was spotted with test pathogen F oxysporum. Wells of 8 mm diameter were made on the left and right side of the spot 100 µl of the fungal extract (5 mg/ml) dissolved in DMSO and DMSO (ve control) were loaded in each.Incubated at 27°C for 3-5 days.

Identification of LIF1: LIF1 were identified according to macroscopic features as well as microscopic features by Lactophenol cotton blue staining. Molecular level identification were done by using D1/D2 region of LSU 28S rDNA based molecular techniques at UniBiosys Biotech Research Labs, Cochin.

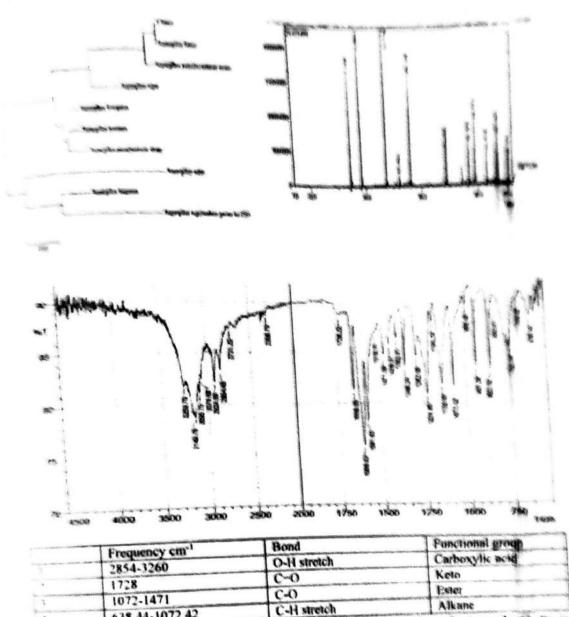
Phytochemical screening of fungal extracts

Theme 4. Advances in Microbes and Cryptograms

R. Binch Sree Narayana College, Alathon Palakkad- 678 682, Kerale



In CC-MS analysis the 1LC fraction of Aspergillus flavore charged variable of compounds and were identified by comparing the retention time of the consponded with known databases of the instruments. In the present study, the selected orders and provide partial extract showed the presence of different phytochemicals like Objectivities (another and Terpenes.



4 638.44-1072.42 [C-H stretch Descovering novel and effective microbial strains for increasing plant productivity is very important in the agriculture field.Endophytes have the ability to enhance bosivery important in the agriculture field.Endophytes have the ability to enhance bosiplant growth, protection diseases and producing commercially valued secondary metabolites.

In the present study, 5 different endophytic fungi were isolated from the medicinal plant Lawsonia inermits L and a novel potential endophytic fungus appear to be producing certain bioactive compounds that exhibited antifungal activity against the producing certain bioactive compounds that exhibited antifungal activity against the phytopathogen F oxysporum(ITCC 7739)), an important rice pathogen causing Basal phytopathogen F oxysporum(ITCC 7739)), an important rice pathogen causing Basal sole Rot in rice. The choloroform extract also the produced strain because of their against F oxysporum. Medicinal plants gaining global attention because of their

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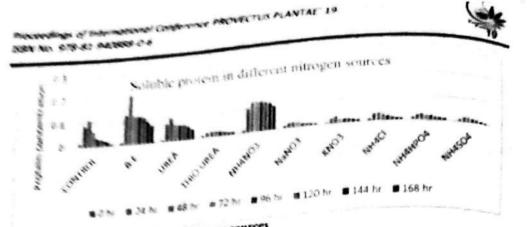


Fig S. Soluble protein in different attrogen sources

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AMC 7

BIOACTIVE POTENTIAL OF THE ENDOPHYTIC FUNGUS ASPERGILLUS FLAVUS ISOLATED FROM THE LEAF OF THE MEDICINAL PLANT LAWSONIA INERMIS L.

Bioactive potential of the endophytic fungus Aspergillus flavus isolated from the leaf of the medicinal plant Lawsonia inermis L.

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INTRODUCTION

Microbes that are present within the plant tissues that spend the whole or part of their life cycle and do not cause infection were called endophytes.Distribution of endophytic microorganisms differs within host plants. They are considered as the significant component of biodiversity. Medicinal plants are reported to harbour endophytes and are gaining global attention. In India yield of rice (Oryza sativa L) is at serious risk when threatened with various diseases. So in order to reduce these

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BIOACTIVE AND BIO CONTROL POTENTIAL OF ENDOPHYTIC FUNGI ASSOCIATED WITH LAWSONIA INERMIS L.

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Abstract

Endophytes are microorganisms which are present inside the tissues of plants without causing harmful effects to the host. Fungal endophytes are the highly diverse group. The bioactive compounds produced by endophytic microorganisms have antibacterial. antifungal, antiviral activity. They are considered as the significant component of biodiversity.Medicinal plants are reported to harbour endophytes and are gaining global attention. In India yield of rice (Oryza sativa L.) is at serious risk when threatened with various diseases. So in order to reduce these negative effects it is necessary to find an environmental friendly and easily obtainable substitute for chemical agents. Hence the aim of the present study was to extract and identify the secondary metabolites from the endophytic fungi isolated from the medicinal plant Lawsonia inermis L. which show an antifungal activity against the rice pathogen Fusarium oxysporum (ITCC 7739). The solvent extraction process showed the presence of secondary metabolites. The crude extract was screened for determining the antibacterial and antifungal activity against various tested pathogens. The MIC of the extract was determined for finding the least concentration of the extract that inhibits the growth of pathogens. The MIC were found to be 16-63 µg/ml.For separation and identification of the secondary metabolites TLC, FT-IR, GC-MS analysis were carry out. 11 compounds were identified from the chloroform extract.GC-MS analysis revealed their name and mass .FT-IR reveals the presence of carboxylic , keto groups, esters and alkanes. The identified compounds were reported to exhibit antibacterial, antifungal and pharmaceutical properties. Hence the compounds extracted from the endophytic fungus A.flavus that exhibited antifungal activity against F.oxysporum (rice pathogen causing root rot and basal node rot disease) can be used in the preparation of bioformulation .

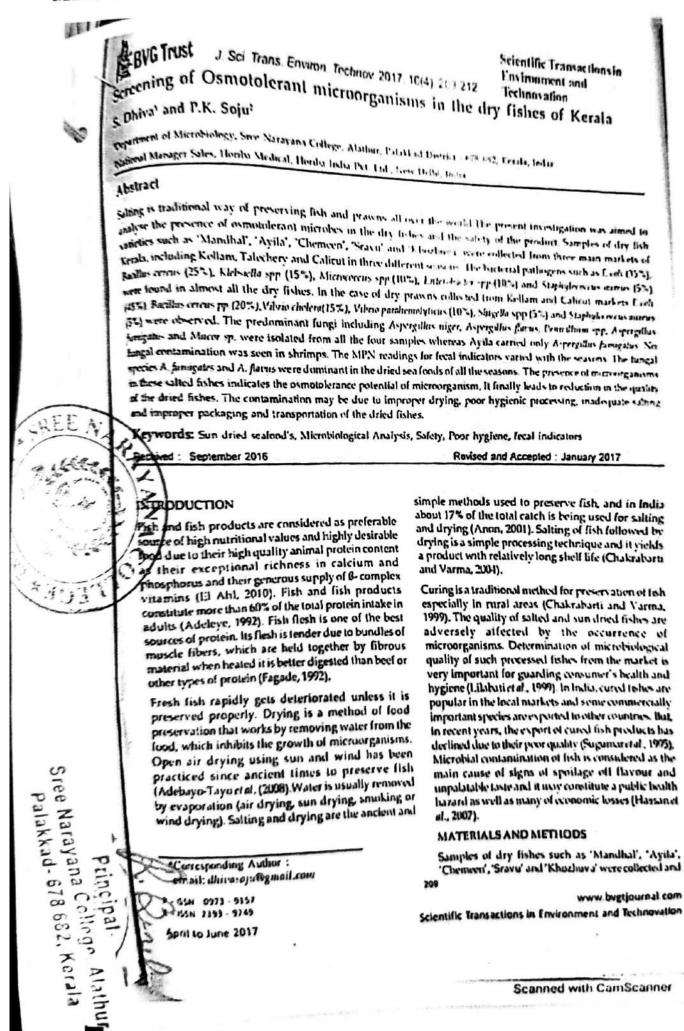
Key words: Bio control. Fusarium oxysporum, Root Rot, Basal Node Rot

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Fold thickness of graphs

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Abstract. The graph G' obtained from a graph G by identifying two nonadjacent vertices in G having at least one common neighbor and reducing the resulting multiple edges to simple edges is called a 1-fold of G. A uniform k-folding of a graph G is a sequence of graphs $G = G_0, G_1, G_2, \ldots, G_k$, where G_{i+1} is a 1-fold of G_i for $i = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, k - 1$ such that all graphs in the sequence are singular or all of them are nonsingular. The largest k for which there exists a uniform k-folding of G is called fold thickness of G and this concept was first introduced in [1]. In this paper, we determine fold thickness of lollipop graph, web graph, helm graph and rooted product of complete graphs and paths.

2020 AMS Subject Classification: 05C50, 05C76.

1. Introduction

The motivation for graph folding as defined by Gervacio *et al.* [5] is from the situation of folding a meter stick. Let a finite number of unit bars be joined together at ends in such a way that they are free to turn. There are some meter sticks with this structure as in Figure 1. This meter stick is a physical model of the path P_n on *n* vertices and can be folded to become a physical model of the complete graph K_2 .



Figure 1. Meter stick - Folded and unfolded

Let G be a graph that is not isomorphic to a complete graph. If x and y are nonadjacent vertices of G that have atleast one common neighbor, then identify x and y and reduce any resulting multiple edges to simple edges to form a new graph, G'. We call G', a 1-fold of G. Consider a sequence of graphs $G = G_0, G_1, G_2, \ldots, G_k$ where G_{i+1} is a 1-fold of G_i for $i = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, k - 1$. This sequence is called a k-folding of $G = G_0$. Let $\mathcal{A}(G_i)$ be the adjacency matrix of the graph G_i . A graph G_i is singular if $\mathcal{A}(G_i)$ is singular and nonsingular if $\mathcal{A}(G_i)$ is nonsingular. A graph G is said to have a uniform k-folding if there is a k-folding in which all graphs in the sequence are singular or all of them are nonsingular. The largest integer k for which there exists a uniform k-folding of G is called fold thickness of G, and is denoted by fold (G). If $G = G_0, G_1, G_2, \ldots, G_k$ is a k-folding of G, the graph G_k is referred as a k-fold of G. The fold thickness of a graph was first defined by F. J. H. Campeña and S.V. Gervacio in [1] and evaluated fold thickness of some special classes of graphs such as wheel graph, cycle graph, bipartite graphs etc.

2. Preliminaries

In this paper P_n , C_n and K_n denotes the path, cycle and complete graph on *n* vertices respectively. For vertex disjoint graphs *G* and *H*, the graph join, G + H is the graph with vertex set $V(G + H) = V(G) \cup V(H)$ and edge set