



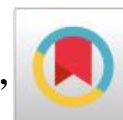
Science

## **ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY AND PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING OF MORINGA OLEIFERA LAM. LEAVES AND SEEDS EXTRACT ON STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS**

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### **Abstract**

The aim of this study was to investigate the antibacterial effect and identify the phytochemical constituents of *Moringa oleifera* leaves and seeds extract on *Staphylococcus aureus* (S. aureus) clinical isolates using agar well diffusion method. The samples were collected from the premises of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. The Seeds and Leaves were collected fresh. They were extracted using methanol and ethyl acetate. Various concentrations from 100mg/ml to 500mg/ml were prepared. The test bacteria used is *Staphylococcus aureus* obtained from Microbiology laboratory of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University. The bacteria were re-identified using biochemical tests. The bacterial inoculums were standardized to McFarland scale 0.5. Zone of inhibition were read after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C. The results of the antibacterial study revealed that the methanolic leaves extracts at 500 mg/ml had effect on S. aureus with zone of inhibition of 20mm. The methanolic seed extract have effect on S. aureus with zone of inhibition of 19.5mm. The MIC for the leave and seed extracts for *Staphylococcus aureus* was 250mg/ml. The MBC was 500mg/ml. The results of the phytochemical analysis revealed the presence of flavonoid, tannins, saponins, cardiac glycosides, alkaloids, volatile oil, saponin glycosides, and glycosides but anthraquinone and steroids were absent in the extracts. The zones of inhibition showed that both the methanolic and ethyl acetate extracts at 500mg/ml were active to all the tested bacteria. ANOVA and Duncan Multiple Mean Range test was used to analyze the data. Based on Duncan's grouping, there is significant difference between the solvents and the concentrations used.

**Keywords:** Antibacterial; Methanol; Ethylacetate; Extract; Leaves; Phytochemical.

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## 1. Introduction

Pathogenic bacteria had been considered as major cause of morbidity and mortality in humans. In recent years, multiple drug resistance among pathogenic microorganisms has been on the increase due to indiscriminate use of commercial antimicrobial drugs commonly used in the treatment of such diseases. Other reasons are the superbugs in the environment that pass resistant genes to susceptible bacteria and also the use of antibiotics in animal husbandary.

Plant families represent reservoir of effective chemotherapeutics and provide valuable sources of natural antimicrobials. Plant extracts have been used for a wide variety of purposes for thousands of years. They are used because of their antimicrobial potentials attributed to secondary metabolites they produced (Umamaheswari and Rama, 2014).

*Moringa oleifera* Lam. is a type of local medicinal Indian herb which has turn out to be a familiar plant in the tropical and subtropical countries. The other terms used to describe moringa are Horseradish tree, Mulangay, Mlonge, Benzolive, Drumstick tree, sajna, kelor, Saijihan, and Marango. *Moringa oleifera* has been identified in scientific division to have come from Kingdom: Plantae, Division: Magnoliophyta, Class: Magnoliopsida, Order: Brassicales, Family: Moringaceae, Genus: Moringa, Specie: *Moringa oleifera* (Ahmad *et al.*, 2014). In Nigeria, moringa is called by many tribes as; Zogale (Hausa), Gawara (Fulani), Ewe Igbale (Yoruba), and Okwe Oyibo (Igbo) (Nwachukwu *et al.*, 2014).

*Moringa oleifera* is one of the most commonly and widely used plants in its crude form in Nigeria, and many parts of the world. It has been established that every part of the plant (Leaves, Flowers, Roots, pods, and seeds) are used for the treatment of various ailments such as toothache, common cold, diarrhea, and oedema. It is used as source of foods or medications since there have been no report of any toxicity from the use of the plant. It was on the basis of this that this research was aimed at determining the antimicrobial activity and phytochemical screening of Moringa leaves and seeds for new antimicrobial principles.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Sample Collection

*Moringa oleifera* Lam. leaves and seeds are the material used in this present study. Fresh leaves and seeds were obtained from Faculty of Science (close to general Chemistry Laboratory), Jatau Bridge area, Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto, Sokoto State. Both the seeds and the leaves were taken to Herbarium of the Botany Unit of Biological Sciences Department, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, for authentication. A voucher number UDUH/ANS/0102 was obtained. The leaves were washed thoroughly with sterile distilled water in order to remove any dirt or filthy particles present on the surface. It was then shade dried for one week (7 days) and was then ground into powder using a clean mortar and pestle. It was then packaged into a clean polythene bag and was later subjected to extraction process. The seeds were first de-shelled and were shade-dried as well for a period of seven (7 days) before it was ground into fine powder. It was then packaged in a clean polythene bag and was subjected to extraction process in the laboratory (Dike-Ndudimet *et al.*, 2016).

## 2.2. Test Bacteria

The test bacteria used was *Staphylococcus aureus* obtained from the Department of Microbiology of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. The bacteria were however confirmed by carrying out biochemical identification protocols.

## 2.3. Grams Staining and Microscopy

This was carried-out as described by Chesbrough, (2000); Oyeleke and Manga, (2008). A drop of water was placed on a clean grease free glass slide, and a colony of bacteria was taken from an overnight culture (24-hour culture) to make a thin smear. The smear was allowed to air dry and was flooded with crystal violet for 60 seconds before being washed with tap water. Lugol's iodine was added for 60 seconds and washed with tap water. It was decolorized with 95% ethanol for 15 seconds. The smear was finally flooded with safranin for 1 minutes and then washed with water and allow to air dry. It was viewed under oil immersion at (x100).

## 2.4. Serological Identification of Test Isolates (*Staphylococcus aureus*)

The test kit used was **BD BBL Staphyloslide** and was obtained from United State of America (USA). The test kit was removed from the refrigerator 10 minutes prior to use and the latex reagents were allowed to reach room temperature. It was then resuspended by inverting the dropper bottle several times. One drop of the **BD BBL Staphyloslide**. Test Latex was dropped into the test card circle. A sterile loop was used to transfer two colonies of the test isolate into the circle and was then mixed together and spread to cover the complete area of the circle. The card was then rocked, allowing the mixture to flow over the entire test ring area and observed for up to 20 seconds, agglutination was observed.

## 2.5. Extraction of *Moringa Oleifera* Leaves and Seeds

This was carried out according to the method described by Fadeyiet *al.*, (2015) with slight modification. Four hundred grams (400g) each of *Moringa oleifera* leaves and seeds powder were macerated separately with 1L each of methanol and ethylacetate in a one liter capacity flat bottom flasks for 72 hours. The extract was filtered and concentrated using rotary evaporator at 40°C. The extracts were placed in a clean evaporating dish and were stored in the refrigerator at 4°C for further analysis.

## 2.6. Preparation of McFarland Turbidity Standard

McFarland Turbidity Standards are set of tubes with increasing concentration of barium sulfate suspension. Zero point five percent (0.5) McFarland Standard was prepared by mixing 0.05 ml of 1% anhydrous barium chloride (BaCl<sub>2</sub>) with 9.95 ml of 1% sulfuric acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) which forms barium sulfate precipitate (turbid solution). The tubes were tightly sealed and kept for further used.

## **2.7. Standardization of The Inoculum**

The standardization of the inoculums was carried out in accordance with the methods of Oyeleke and Manga, (2008). The isolates were sub-cultured into fresh Nutrient Agar plates and incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. After the incubation period, 5ml of sterile distilled water was placed into different universal bottles and was used to prepare the size of the inoculums. The McFarland scale of 0.5 was used which is equivalent to  $1.5 \times 10^8$  cfu/ml.

## **2.8. Antibacterial Activity Tests of The Crude Methanolic and Ethylacetate Plant Extract**

Antibacterial screening was done using agar well diffusion method as described by Farina *et al.*, (2014) with some slight modifications. Twenty milliliter (20ml) of sterile Mueller Hinton Agar (Hi-Media) was prepared and poured into sterile petri plates. After solidification, it was placed into the incubator at 37°C for 24 hours to test for media sterility. Zero point two (0.2) ml of the standardized inoculum was dropped onto the media using a sterile syringe and emulsified using sterilized bent glass. Five (5) uniform wells were made using 6mm diameter cork-borer. Each well was filled with the various concentrations of both the methanolic and ethylacetate extracts (100, 200, 300, 400, 500 mg/ml) using sterile syringe respectively. They were then allowed to stand for 30 minutes, for diffusion of extracts into the medium. Ciprofloxacin (250 mg) was used as control drug for the test isolates. The plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. Zones of inhibitions were recorded in millimeter (mm).

## **2.9. Determination of Phytochemical Components of Methanolic and Ethylacetate Crude Extracts**

The phytochemical screening of the extracts was carried out according to the methods described by Treases and Evans (1989) and Harbone (1998). The component analyzed were flavonoid, tannin, saponin, glycoside, alkaloid, cardiac glycoside, steroids, saponin glycoside, balsams, anthraquinones, and volatile oils.

### **2.9.1. Test for Flavonoid**

Three (3ml) aliquot of the filtrate and 1ml of 10% NaOH sodium hydroxide were mixed, if a yellow colour is developed, it indicates the presence of flavonoid compounds (Harbone, 1998).

### **2.9.2. Tests for Tannins**

Ferric chloride solution 5% ferric chloride solution was added to 3ml of the extract and the coloured produced is noted. Condensed tannins usually give a dark green colour; hydrolysable tannins give blue-black colour (Trease and Evans, 1989, and Harbone, 1998,).

### **2.9.3. Tests for Saponin**

Five milliliter (5ml) of the extract was placed in a test tube with 5ml of water and shaken strongly. The whole tube will be filled front that lasts for several minutes (Harbone, 1998) which indicates the presence of saponin.

#### **2.9.4. Tests for Glycosides**

Two point five (2.5ml) of 50% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was added to 5cm<sup>3</sup> of the extract in a test tube. Cool and neutralize with 10% NaOH, 5ml of Fehling's solution was added and the mixture was boiled. A brick-red precipitate was observed which indicate the presence of glycosides (Harbone, 1998).

#### **2.9.5. Tests for Alkaloids**

About 2ml of each extract was stirred with 2ml of 10% aqueous hydrochloric acid. 1ml was treated with a few drops of Wagners reagent and the second 1ml portion was treated similarly with Mayers reagent. Turbidity or precipitation with either of these reagents was taken as preliminary evidence for the presence of alkaloids (Harbone, 1998).

#### **2.9.6. Test for Cardiac Glycosides (Keller-Killiani's test)**

To 5ml of the extract, 2ml of 3.5% ferric chloride solution was added and allowed to stand for one minutes. One ml of concentrated H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was carefully poured down the wall of the tube so as to form a lower layer. A reddish brown ring in the interface indicates the presence cardiac glycoside (Harborne, 1998).

#### **2.9.7. Tests for Steroids (Salkowski)**

This was carried out according to the method of Harbone, (1998), 0.5g of the extract was dissolved in 2ml of chloroform. Two milliliter (2ml) of sulphuric acid was carefully added to form lower layer. A reddish – brown colour at the interface indicate the presence of a steroidal ring.

#### **2.9.8. Test for Saponin glycosides**

To 2.5ml of the extract mixed with 2.5ml Fehling's solution A and B, a bluish green precipitate showed the presence of saponin glycosides (Treases and Evans, 1989).

#### **2.9.9. Test for Anthraquinones**

Zero point five (0.5g) of each plant extract was shaken with 10ml benzene, and 5ml of 10% ammonia solution was added. The mixture was shaken and the presence of a pink, red, or violet colour in the ammoniacal (lower) phase indicates the presence of anthraquinones (Evans, 1980).

#### **2.9.10. Tests for Volatile Oils**

One milliliter (1ml) of the fraction was mixed with diluted HCl. A white precipitate was formed which indicated the presence of volatile oils (Evans, 1998).

### **3. Results and Discussion**

The results of the antibacterial activity of *Moringa oleifera* leaves and seeds extract on *Staphylococcus aureus* is presented in **Table 1** below. The result reveals that both methanolic and

ethylacetate crude extracts of the leaf and seed of *Moringa oleifera* were active against *Staphylococcus aureus* at various concentrations. At concentrations of 100 mg/ml and 200 mg/ml, all the test organisms were not susceptible to all the extracts. However, all the tests isolates were susceptible to all the crude extracts at 500 mg/ml which is the highest concentration with the highest zone of inhibition of 20mm on *Staphylococcus aureus*. The tests organisms showed some level of resistance against the extracts at 300mg/ml and 400mg/ml concentrations.

Table 1: Antibacterial activity of *Moringa oleifera* leaves and seeds crude extracts against the test bacteria

Zones of inhibition in (mm)/ tested against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>				
Concentration of extracts (mg/ml)	Leaves		Seeds	
	Methanol	Ethylacetate	Methanol	Ethylacetate
100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
200	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
300	15±0.0	0.0	14±1.4	0.0
400	18.5±0.7	0.0	16±1.4	16±0.0
500	20±1.4	13±1.4	19.5±0.7	18±1.4
Control Drug (Ciprofloxacin)	27	27	28	27

**Key:** STA= *Staphylococcus aureus*

The results of the phytochemical screening of the crude extracts of *Moringa oleifera* leaves and seeds are presented in **Table 2** below. The result reveals the presence of flavonoids, tannins, saponins, cardiac glycosides, alkaloids, volatile oil, saponin glycosides and glycosides in crude methanolic leaf extract, while steroids and anthraquinone were absent in both the leaves and seeds. Methanolic leaves extract has shown to contain in abundance, more of the bioactive constituents when compared to the methanolic seeds extract shown in the **Table 2** while in the ethylacetate leaf extract despite the absence of some of the components, still had saponins more in abundance as compared to the seed ethylacetate extract.

Table 2: Phytochemical screening of the leaves and seeds of methanolic and ethylacetate extracts of *Moringa oleifera*

Bioactive compounds	Plant parts			
	Leaves		Seeds	
	Methanol	Ethylacetate	Methanol	Ethylacetate
Flavonoids	++	+	+	+
Tannins	+	+	+	+
Saponins	++	++	+	+
Cardiac glycosides	+	+	++	-
Steroids	-	-	-	-
Alkaloids	+++	-	+	+
Volatile oil	++	-	-	+
Anthraquinones	-	-	-	-
Saponin glycosides	+++	-	-	-
Glycosides	++	+	++	+

**Key:** + = slightly abundant, ++ = moderately abundant, +++ = highly abundant, - = absent

#### 4. Discussion

Crude antibacterial activity of methanolic and ethylacetate Moringa leaves and seeds extract in this study showed that at concentration of 100 mg/ml and 200 mg/ml, all the test bacterial isolates were not susceptible to all the extracts. This suggest that susceptibility of all the test bacteria to both methanol and ethylacetate extract starts at concentration of 300mg/ml through 500mg/ml which showed that the higher the concentration of all the extract, the higher the antimicrobial activity, thus, this exhibit the concentration dependent activity of the test substance. This is similar with a concentration dependent nature of antibiotics in which the rate of bacterial eradication rises with increase in concentration of the drug or plant substance. This finding is in agreement with the work of Akinyeye *et al.*, (2014) which showed that all the test bacteria were not susceptible to all the leaves and seeds extracts of moringa plant at a concentration of 260mg/ml and 270mg/ml moringa leaves and 234.71mg/ml and 367mg/ml seed extracts. The highest zone of inhibition of *Staphylococcus aureus* in this study was found to be 20 mm at 500 mg/ml concentration in both the leaves and seeds extract. This result is in line with the findings of Emmanuel *et al.* (2014); and Namrata *et al.* (2014) which showed the highest zones of inhibition of 14.5mm and 15mm in both leaves and seeds methanol and ethylacetate extracts respectively. The result obtained for the concentrations of the extract 300 mg/ml, 400 mg/ml and 500 mg/ml at  $P < 0.05$  level of significance based on Duncan's multiple mean range test showed that there is a significant differences between the concentrations (300 mg/ml, 400 mg/ml, and 500 mg/ml) and the solvents used. This implies that the extracts showed a great concentration dependent inhibition, as it was observed that at concentration of 100mg/ml and 200mg/ml, no zone of inhibition was observed, but at higher concentrations (300, 400, and 500mg/ml), inhibition zones was observed and recorded.

The results of phytochemical screening of the leaves and seeds extracts revealed the presence of flavonoid, alkaloids, glycosides, volatile oil, cardiac glycosides, saponin glycosides, tannins, and saponins including the leaves methanol: acetone column fraction. The presence of flavonoids coincides with the work of Josephine *et al.*, (2010) which showed flavonoid to be effective antimicrobial substances *in vitro* against a wide array of microorganisms by inhibiting membrane bound enzymes.

The presence of alkaloids in this study is similar with the findings of Akinyeye *et al.* (2014) which demonstrated that alkaloids possess both antibacterial and anti-diabetic properties. The presence of tannins correlates well with the findings of Luet *et al.*, (2004) that tannins possess antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-parasitic substances. The presence of cardiac glycosides also coincides with the report of Auwal *et al.* (2013) that aqueous Moringa seed extract was found to have antibacterial potentials on many pathogenic bacteria. Cardiac glycosides was found to be absent in the seed ethylacetate extract. This is similar with the findings of Roopalatha and Vijay (2013) which showed the absence of cardiac glycosides in Moringa leaves aqueous extract and also the work of Anthonia, (2012) who reported the absence of cardiac glycosides in ethylacetate extract of *Moringa oleifera* leaves. Steroids and anthraquinones were absent in all the extracts including the active column fraction. This is in line with the findings of Anthonia, (2012) and Olufunmilayo *et al.*, (2012) which showed the absence of steroid and anthraquinone respectively. Absent of alkaloids in the ethylacetate extract is in consornance with the report of Bukaret *et al.*, (2010) which showed the absence of alkaloids. Volatile oil appeared to be absent in both Moringa leaves and seeds. This is similar with the work of Vinoth *et al.*, (2012) that showed absence of volatile oil in

Moringa plant. The presence of saponin glycosides is in concordance with the work of Fowoyo and Oladoja, (2015) which showed the presence of saponin glycosides in both seed and leaves of Moringa while the work of Abdulkadir *et al.*, (2015) showed the absence of saponin glycosides in the root extract of *Moringa oleifera* plant. The implication of these findings is that bioactive compounds are believed to be responsible for the observed antibacterial activity of the plant extracts.

## 5. Conclusion

The study showed that the leaves and seeds of *Moringa oleifera* Lam. have antibacterial effects on the test bacterial isolates by producing zones of inhibition of 20mm for both the leaves and seeds extracts at a concentration of 500 mg/ml. At the concentration of 100 mg/ml and 200 mg/ml, both methanol and ethyl acetate extracts shows no activity against the test bacteria. The phytochemical screening revealed lots of phytochemicals such as flavonoids, tannins, saponins, cardiadiac glycosides, alkaloids, volatile oil, saponin glycosides, and glycosides in the crude extracts.

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