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In-vitro analysis of the susceptibility of *Salmonella typhi* to Chloramphenicol and leaf extracts of *Cassia occidentalis*

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Abstract

In-vitro analysis of the susceptibility of Salmonella typhi to Chloramphenicol and leaf extracts of Cassia occidentalis was conducted using ethanol, ether, hot and cold water extracts. Of these leaf extracts, Salmonella typhi was only found to be sensitive to the ether extracts at a concentration of 40, 60, 80, 100, and 120mg/ml with zones of inhibition (mm) of 4.0, 3.0, 5.0, 4.0, and 4.0 respectively. It was however sensitive to two brands of chloramphenicol A and B with zones of inhibition 15.0, 13.0, 14.0, 23.0, and 25.0. 20.0, 18.0, 16.0, 21.0 and 20.0 respectively at various concentrations. The result of this study showed that chloramphenicol had higher in vitro activity against Salmonella typhi compared to the leaf extract regardless of the extraction method employed.

Keywords: *Cassia occidentalis, Chloramphenicol, Salmonella typhi, Susceptibility, Leaf extracts*

Introduction

Salmonella typhi is a gram negative rod shaped motile non spore forming bacterium that causes typhoid fever, humans become infected by ingesting food or untreated water containing the organism. Once ingested they are taken up by the mononuclear phagocytes whose job it is to engulf and destroy the invading bacteria. However, in some cases the bacteria evade the phagocytes and multiply within the cells and spill into the blood stream where they produce symptoms of the disease. Drugs such as Chloramphenicol, Ampicillin, ciprofloxacin and ceftriaxone are being used for the treatment of this condition. Worthy of note is the fact that Chloramphenicol has been the drug of choice for typhoid fever for more than 40 years in regions of the world where *Salmonella typhi* remains susceptible to the drug. (Butler 1999)

Cassia occidentalis is an erect, shrubby medicinal plant belonging to the family Leguminosae and Genus *Cassia* (Feng 1962). Since the advent of the 19th century, the flowers, leaves, seeds and roots of *Cassia occidentalis* have been used in traditional medicine in the rain forest and other areas where the plant grows. This plant is widely used in the treatment of malaria, poultice, and typhoid fever in the northern parts of Nigeria especially Sokoto located in the North western part of the country. According to Odikamnoro et al. (2015), the use of local herbs in the form of concoction and decoction in treatment of various infections has been a common practice and about 75% of the people living in the rural areas depend on this practice.

As a result of the increasing cases of resistance to chloramphenicol and the fatal side effect especially bone marrow depression and fatal blood dyscrasias posed by the administration of the drug and the reports of promising results obtained by traditional and alternative medical practitioners using extracts from the plant it became necessary to carry out this research on *Cassia occidentalis*.

Materials and method

The samples were collected as described by Deeni and Aishatu (1994) and Cheesbrough (2000).

Sample collection

Plant materials were collected from local farms in Dundaye village near the permanent site of the Usmanu Danfodio University Sokoto, Nigeria. The plant was identified in the Botany unit of the Usmanu Danfodio University Sokoto. The leaves were plucked and sundried for two days and later grounded into powder using pestle and mortar. The powder was sieved with an eighty micron sized aperture. The chloramphenicol capsules were obtained from Freedom Pharmacy and French Afrique Pharmacy Sokoto

Test organism

The test organism (clinical isolates) were obtained from Microbiology laboratory of Usman Danfodio University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto.

Processing of plant leaves

Extraction procedure

Cold water extract: two gram of the powder was weighed using a weighing balance and put into a beaker containing one hundred milliliters (100ml) of distilled water left overnight. Similarly procedure was repeated for 3g, 5g, 10g, and 15g of the powder the suspension was then filtered with funnel and cotton wool to obtain the extract. The extract was allowed to stand until the volume reduced to 10ml.

Hot water extract

Two grams of the powder was weighed using a weighing balance and put into a beaker containing one hundred milliliters (100ml) of distilled water and boiled on a hot plate. The boiled suspension was then left overnight. The same procedure was carried out using 3g, 5g, 10g, and 15g of the powder, the suspension was then filtered using cotton wool and funnel. The extract was then concentrated to 10ml by boiling.

Ethanol extract

Ten gram of powder was weighed using a weighing balance. The powder was then dispense into thimble which was place in the soxhlet extractor containing two hundred millilitres of the solvent (Ethanol).

The soxhlet extractor was then operated until colour change became visible indicating that the extraction process has commenced this continued until no further change in the colour of the solvent was visible and thus marked the end of the extraction process.

The ethanol was separated from the extract by heating and condensation of the ethanol into the extractor and collection of the extract in a 10ml beaker. The same procedure was repeated for 15g, 20g, 25g, and 30g.

Ether extract

Ten (10) grams of the powder was weighed using a weighing balance. The powder was then dispensed into the thimble, which was then placed in the soxhlet extractor containing two hundred milliliters (200ml) of the solvent (ether). The soxhlet extractor was then operated until colour change became visible indicating the commencement of the extraction process.

This continued until there was no further change in colour of the solvent, which marked the end of the extraction process.

The ether was then separated from the extract by heating and condensation of ether into extractor and the collection of the extract in a (10ml) beaker.

The same procedure was repeated for 15g, 20g, 25g and 30g.

Preparation of media

The media were prepared according to manufacturer's specifications

Preparation of disc

Disc of about 6.0mm in diameter were punched from what man filter paper No. 1 and sterilized in a hot air oven at 160oc for 1 hour.

The antibiotics solutions were made using sterile distilled water. The disc were then put into the varying concentrations of the antibiotic solution and extract and allowed to soak all the liquid after which they were air dried.

Sensitivity test

Discs diffusion techniques was employed as described by chees borough (2000), Edward (1979), Lacey (1984), Deeni and Aishatu (1994).

Results

The cold water, hot water and ethanol extracts of *Cassia occidentalis* showed no activity in-vitro on clinical isolates.

Tables 1. Shows the susceptibility of *Salmonella typhi* in zones of inhibition (mm) obtained against different concentrations of ether extract of *Cassia Occidentalis*.

Concentration (mg/ml)	Zones of inhibition (mm)
40mg/ml	4.0
60mg/ml	3.0
80 mg/ml	5.0
100 mg/ml	4.0
120 mg/ml	4.0

250mg/25ml of chloramphenicol was used as control

The clinical isolates were highly susceptible to the antibiotic (chloramphenicol).

Table 2. Shows the susceptibility of *Salmonella typhi* in zones of inhibition (mm) obtained against different concentration of brand A of chloramphenicol.

Concentration (mg/ml)	Zones of inhibition (mm)
250mg/10ml	15.0
250mg/20ml	13.0
250mg/30ml	14.0
250mg/40ml	23.0
250mg/50ml	25.0

The clinical isolates were also susceptible to Brand B of the antibiotic

Table 3. Shows the susceptibility of *Salmonella typhi* (zones of inhibition) (mm) obtained against different concentration of brand B of chloramphenicol

Concentration (mg/ml)	Zones of inhibition (mm)
280mg/10ml	20.0
250mg/20ml	18.0
250mg/30ml	16.0
250mg/40ml	21.0
250mg/50ml	20.0

Discussion

The result of the susceptibility patterns of chloramphenicol antibiotic showed that the antibiotic is still more active than the plant extract indicated by the 25 millimeter (mm) zone of inhibition. This agrees with the set standards according to the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards, NCCLS (1997) which sets ≥ 21 mm for susceptibility.

The higher zone of inhibition observed in the chloramphenicol indicates that despite the emergence of resistant strains the antibiotic is still useful in the treatment of typhoid fever and other complications due to *Salmonella* (Harold and Fu, 1980). The report by Deeni and Aishatu (1994) supported the emergence of resistant strains of the microorganisms to chloramphenicol in which most of the bacteria isolated in Murtala Muhammed teaching hospital, Kano, showed high susceptibility to chloramphenicol when compared to other drugs.

On the other hand, the inactivity of the 3 extracts cold : water, hot water and ethanol extracts on the clinical isolates can be attributed to many factors one of which may be that the plant could only be active *In vivo* when conjugated with other biomolecules, but not *In vitro* where it is in direct contact with the test organism as reported by Roman et al. (1995) and Koh et al. (2002) in which it was report that cineole obtained from a tree *Melaleuca alternafolia* showed no activity in vitro against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* And *Propionibacterium acnes* although it was reported that same cineoles was active in vivo in treatment of acne and other complication due to these organisms.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is clear from the results obtained that although the ether leaf extract of *Cassia occidentalis* showed little activity against *Salmonella typhi* comparatively chloramphenicol had a higher in-vitro activity against the organism as evidenced by the wider zone of inhibition recorded.

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