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# Phytochemical and antimicrobial activity of *Barleria* prionitis leaves

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#### Abstract

Present investigation is focused on antibacterial activity of aqueous, petroleum ether, chloroform and acetone extract of leaves of *Barleria prionitis* (Family-Acanthaceae) against seven bacterial species (*Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Actinomyces viscosus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Streptococcus mutans*) which are known to cause oral diseases in human being. Similarly leaves of *Barleria prionitis* were evaluated for its phytochemical composition. Antibacterial activity of the extracts was determined by paper disc diffusion method using 200mg/ml concentration of extract and there % zone of diffusion was calculated. Result showed that almost all the test organism from the present study were found to be effected by all the four type of extract of *Barleria prionitis* leaves but pronounced inhibition of the four extract was observed for bacterial species, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*. Chloroform extract was found to be more effective against the entire test microorganism.

**Keywords:** Phytochemical, antibacterial activity, *Barleria prionitis*, medicinal plants

#### 1. Introduction

The use of medicinal plants to treat dental problem has been discussed from time to time by many researchers. The World Health Organization has recommended and encouraged the use of chewing sticks Almas and Al Lafi (1995) [2]. Studies by Danielsen *et al.* (1989) [5], Aderinokun *et al.* (1999) [1] and Almas and Al Zeid (2004) [3] have demonstrated chewing sticks are at least as effective as toothpaste in maintaining oral hygiene. Sathananthan *et al.* (1996) [12] reported that Africans that use chewing sticks have fever carious lesions than those that use toothbrushes. In a related development, Enwowu (1997) [7] reported that chewing sticks, in addition to providing mechanical stimulation of the gums, also destroy microbes; these advantages of the chewing sticks over the conventional toothpaste and brushes have been attributed to the strong teeth of Africans Ugoji *et al.* (2000) [13].

The vast biodiversity of Indian forest provides several plants which are mention in Ayurveda for dental care. Ganesan (2008) [8] reported root of plant species *Barleria prionitis* L. used against toothache and dentifrices. Hence in the present investigation antibacterial activity of aqueous, pet ether, chloroform and acetone extract of leaves of *Barleria prionitis* (Family-Acanthaceae) was carried out against seven bacterial species which are known to cause oral diseases in human being. *Barleria prionitis* L. is commonly known as Porcupine flower, Barleria, Vajradanti, Kundan, Mullu goranti, Pilikantashelio, etc. It is a herb common in India. *Barleria prionitis* has numerous medicinal properties including treating fever, respiratory diseases, toothache, joint pains and a variety of other ailments; and it has several cosmetic uses. A mouthwash made from root tissue is used to relieve toothache and treat bleeding gums. The leaves are used to promote healing of wounds and to relieve joint pains and toothache. Tribals of Vindhyan region use this plant species for medicinal purpose.

#### 2. Material and Methods

Leaves of *Barleria prionitis* L. was collected from Satna and Madhavgarh region. Authentication and identification was permed at department of Botany Govt. Girls P.G. College Satna. Collected material was shade dried and stored into airtight container.

Shade dried powdered extract of leaves was subjected to successive Sox let extraction using solvent of varying polarity such as water, petroleum ether, chloroform and acetone. After extraction solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Extracted material was stored in airtight container till use.

Correspondence Abha Khare Assistant Professor, of Botany, Govt. Girls P.G. College, Satna, Madhya Pradesh, India Antibacterial activity of 4 extracts i.e. aqueous, petroleum ether, chloroform and acetone were determine by paper disc diffusion method of Bauer *et al.* (1966) <sup>[4]</sup> as described by More G. *et al.*(2008) <sup>[9]</sup>. Sterilized Whatman filter paper no. 1 discs of 5 mm diameter were soaked in respective 200 mg/ml extract solution. 0.2 ml inoculums of test organism was spread on surface of respective bacterial agar plates. Previously soaked discs were placed on surface of

inoculated plates. Ciprofloxacin is used as positive control and water, DMSO was used as negative control. Bacterial plates were initially transferred to refrigerator for 40-45 min to allow diffusion and then transferred to incubator set at 370 c. and incubated for given incubation period. All the tests were performed in triplicates and under the sterile condition. Zone of inhibition in mm were measured from edge of disc after incubation.

Table 1: List of Bacterial Strains

S. No.	Bacterial strain	MTCC Code	Growth medium (Agar and Broth)	Incubation time in hours
1.	Lactobacillus rhamnosus	*1408	MRS agar	24
2.	Streptococcus mutans	890	Brain Heart Infusion(BHI)	48
3.	Staphylococcus aureus	3408	Soybean Casein Digest	24
4.	Actinomyces viscosus	3345	Pikovskaya's agar	24
5.	Staphylococcus epidermidis	3639	Nutrient agar and broth	24
6.	Escherichia coli	732	Nutrient agar and broth	24
7.	Bacillus subtilis	3160	Nutrient agar and broth	24

All the agars and broth medium are of HI-MEDIA Analysis of data

% Zone of inhibition in mm = Zone of inhibition of experimental plant extract in mm

Zone of inhibition of positive control (standard drug) in mm

**Statistical analysis -** Data obtained was subjected to two way ANOVA test.

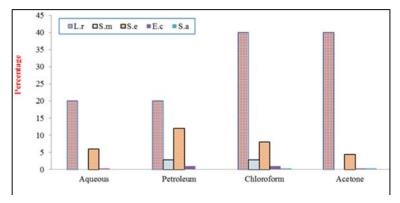
#### 3. Observation

The results for zone of inhibition against test organisms (oral bacteria) were observed for all the four extracts of

leaves of *Barleria prionitis* L. (aqueous, pet. ether, chloroform and acetone extract). Percent zone of inhibition was calculated by comparing zone of inhibition of plant extract with the zone of inhibition of standard drug used. (Ciprofloxacin)

Table 2: Zone of inhibition of 4 extract of Barleria prionitis L. leaves against test microorganisms

Part and control	L.r	S.m	S.e	E.c	S.a
Aqueous extract zone of inhibition in mm					
Barleria prionitis	5	0	1.5	0.1	0
Standard drug (Ciprofloxacin )	25	18	25	28	30
% zone of inhibition	20%	0%	6%	0.35%	0%
Petroleum extract zone of inhibition in mm					
Barleria prionitis	5	0.5	3	0.3	0
Standard drug (Ciprofloxacin )	25	18	25	28	30
% zone of inhibition	20%	2.77%	12%	1.07%	0%
Chloroform extract zone of inhibition in mm					
Barleria prionitis	10	0.5	2	0.3	0.5
Standard drug (Ciprofloxacin )	25	18	25	28	30
% zone of inhibition	40%	2.77%	8%	1.07%	0.33%
Acetone extract zone of inhibition in mm					
Barleria prionitis	10	0	1.1	1.1	0.1
Standard drug (Ciprofloxacin )	25	18	25	28	30
% zone of inhibition	40%	0%	4.4%	0.35%	0.33%



Graph 1: Graphics analysis of Zone of inhibition of 4 extract of Barleria prionitis L. leaves against test microorganisms

<sup>%</sup> Zone of inhibition % Zone of inhibition of 4 extracts of *Barleria prionitis* L. plant leaves against seven bacterial strains were calculated by formula-

Table 2 depicts the result of Zone of inhibition of 4 extract of Barleria prionitis L. leaves against test microorganisms. From the results, it is observed that chloroform extract showed maximum inhibitory action against the test microorganism i.e. 40% for against Lactobacillus rhamnosus, 8% for Staphylococcus epidermidis, 2.77% for against Streptococcus mutans, 1.07% for Escherichia coli and 0.33% for Staphylococcus aureus. Although all test organism from the present study were found to be affected by the four types of extract of Barleria prionitis L leaves but pronounced inhibition of all the extract was observed for bacterial species Lactobacillus rhamnosus. Minimum inhibitory action of all extracts was found against Staphylococcus aureus and no antibacterial effect was found against Bacillus subtilis and Actinomyces viscosus. Two way ANOVA test applied to the present data, revealed that four extracts of Barleria prionitis L. leaves are equally effective whereas bacterial strains showed varied zone of inhibition at 5% level of significance.

Table 3: Phytochemical analysis of Barleria prionitis L. leaves

S. No.	Test	Inference		
1.	Alkaloid	++		
2.	Anthraquinones	-		
3.	Flavonoids	++		
4.	Simple Phenols	+		
5.	Steroid	+++		
6.	Tanine	+		
7.	Saponins	++		

Table 3 depicts the result of phytochemical analysis of *Barleria prionitis* L. leaves which shows the presence of Alkaloid, Flavonoids, Simple Phenols, Steroid, Tanine, and Saponins.

#### 4. Discussion

Numerous antibacterial screening has been performed with respect to location of microorganism such as skin infections, uterine infections etc. As oral bacterial infection are linked with various chronic diseases, screening of antibacterial activity of medicinally important plant against bacteria found in oral cavity are also important. Various plants have being already evaluated for its efficacy in oral hygiene. Deshpande *et al.* (2011) <sup>[6]</sup> evaluated antibacterial activity of different extract of *Juglans regia* against oral micro flora and found that acetone extract was found to be more effective against oral microflora. Similar results were observed in the present investigation where chloroform extract of *Barleria prionitis* L. leaves was found to be more effective.

Ogundiya *et al.* (2009) [11] carried out antimicrobial activity of acetone and ethanol extract of stem, root of *Terminalia glaucescens* and reported that ethanol extract exhibited significantly higher effect. Antibacterial potential of aqueous decoction of *Piper nigrum* L., *Laurus nobilis* L., *Pimpinella anisum* L. and *Coriandrum sativum* L. against 176 bacteria isolated from oral cavity of 200 individuals has been carried out by Nazia *et al.* (2006) [10]. More *et al.* (2008) [9] studied ethanol extract of eight plant species used traditionally in South Africa were investigated against oral pathogens such as Actinomyces and Candida species and got resistance activity.

This study has confirmed antimicrobial potential of the plant *Barleria prionitis* L., thus supporting its folklore application

as preventive remedy against oral microbial diseases. The present investigation is an attempt to give herbal products against the drugs used today.

### 5. Acknowledgements

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