



Antimicrobial Activity of Selected Plant Extracts

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Abstract

This paper survey the antimicrobial activity of selected plant extracts from the Guyanese flora. Those described here are the extracts of *Artocarpusaltilis* (breadfruit), *Brassica rapaChinensis* (pakchoi), *Passifloraedulis* (passion fruit) and leaves of *Terminaliacatappa*. These extracts were assayed via the disc diffusion assay at three different concentrations of 0.001g/ml, 0.05g/ml and 0.1g/ml. At 0.01g/ml, *Brassica rapachinensis* induces the highest AZOI of 106.9mm² against *S. aureus*. *A.altilis* showed 0.0 AZOI against all pathogens. At 0.1g/ml, *A. altilis* showed highest AZOI of 89.2mm². Zero AZOI was obtained against all pathogens, with exception *S. aureus*. The CH₂Cl₂ extract of *A. altilis*, showed the highest AZOI of 59.0mm² against *B.subtilis*. For the ethanolic extract, *Brassica rapachinensis* at 0.01g/ml showed highest AZOI of 209.3mm², whereas the ethanolic extract at 0.1g/ml showed the highest AZOI of 126.0mm². Antimicrobial activity of the combined fruit extracts of *Brassica rapachinensis* and *A. altilis* revealed that at 0.01g/ml, there was an augmentation of antimicrobial activity for *S. aureus* (153.9mm²) and *C. albicans* (168.9mm²). For passion fruit, the highest AZOI of 153.9mm² was observed against *C. albicans* (AZOI = 153.9mm²), whereas the lowest against *K. pneumoniae* (AZOI = 15.9mm²). In all cases, antimicrobial potency was less than that of the reference compound. Also, small antimicrobial selectivity was observed. Antimicrobial activity of the aqueous extract of *Terminaliacatappa*, revealed that the highest AZOI of 254.71mm² was induced against *K. pneumoniae* and least of 80.08mm² against *C. albicans*. *K. pneumoniae* showing a selectivity factor of over *C. albicans*. The AZOI induced by the aqueous extracts were greater than the AZOI induced by reference compounds Ampicillin and Nystatin.

Keywords: Aqueous and Ethanolic extract; Passion fruit (*Passifloraedulis*); Aseptic conditions; Susceptible; Standard antibiotics; Selective antimicrobial activity; Transition metal salts; DZOI and AZO

Introduction

Research in the design and synthesis of antimicrobials will continue to be problematic on our planet, considering that bacteria and fungi develop resistance to antimicrobials over a period of time [1-5]. This results from indiscriminate use of commercial antimicrobial drugs for the treatment of infectious diseases and the current global antibiotic resistance [1-5]. Bacteria develop

resistance to antibiotics via several means. These include the production of enzymes such as b-lactamase, which usually destroy the b-lactam ring of penicillin, thus rendering the drug inactive [6]. Figure 1 In another mode of antimicrobial resistance, transferases produced by enterococci can inactivate amikacin, gentamicin, and tobramycin (aminoglycosides) but not streptomycin.

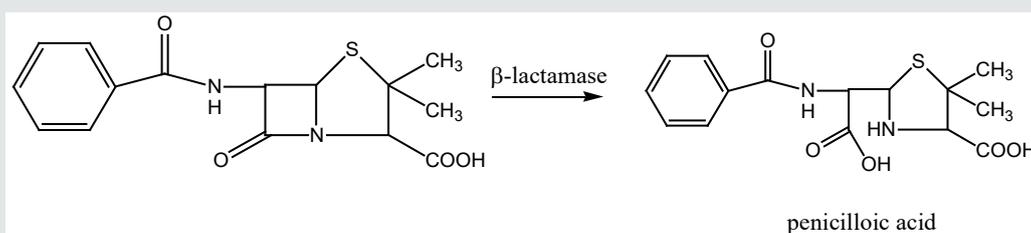


Figure 1: Deactivation of penicillin by b-lactamase.

Tetracyclines, also suffer antimicrobial resistance via [1] impaired influx or increased efflux by an active transport protein pump; [2] ribosome protection, due to production of proteins, that interfere with tetracyclines, binding to the ribosome and [3]. enzymatic inactivation. Many synthetic drugs have several adverse side effects which are usually irreversible when administered and the cost of synthesizing drugs in most cases is an expensive endeavour [1-6]. Plants have a long therapeutic history over thousands of years and still considered to be promising source of medicine in the traditional health care system [7]. Plants also have a wide variety of secondary metabolites some of which are antimicrobial [8-10]. Crude plants extracts have also demonstrated antimicrobial activity [11-18].

Guyana flora is richly bio-diversified and its organic and aqueous extracts have been shown to possess potent and

selective antimicrobial activity to date, compared with standard antibiotics: penicillin, nystatin and ampicillin [14-18]. In search of antimicrobials that have nutritional values (neutraceuticals), the use of the solventless extracts of leaves of *Brassica rapachinensis*, *Artocarpusaltilis* (*Moraceae*), *Terminaliacatappa* and passion fruit (*passifloraedulis*) against *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *K. pneumoniae*, *B. subtilis* and *C. albicansare* discussed here.

Morphological Description and Scientific Classification of the Plant

Brassica rapachinensis (*Brassicaceae*) is a type of Chinese cabbage. They do not form heads and have green leaf blades with lighter bulbous bottoms, forming a cluster reminiscent of mustard greens. They are popularly grown in Guyana and flood markets, super makets. They are used as vegetables and are a rich source of vitamins (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Brassica rapachinensis.

Artocarpusaltilis (*Moraceae*) bread fruit tree usually grows to a height of 15m or more, with large incised leaves. The twigs are marked with the ring-scars of *spathaceous stipules*. The male flowers are borne in spike and female in spherical heads on the same plant [19]. The receptacle bearing the female flowers enlarges to a spherical stalked fruit, 20-30cm in diameter, at maturity [Figure 3]. The tree produces a fruit Called breadfruit.



Figure 3: A breadfruit tree with fruit.

Terminaliacatappa (*Combretaceae*) is a large tropical tree in the Leadwood tree family, *Combretaceae*. It grows to 35 metres (115ft) tall, with an upright, symmetrical crown and horizontal branches, [Figure 3]. It has corky, light fruit that is dispersed by water. The nut

within the fruit is edible when fully ripe, tasting almost like almond. The leaves are large, 15-25cm long and 10-14cm broad, ovoid, glossy dark green and leathery. They are dry-season deciduous, before falling, they turn pinkish-reddish or yellow-brown, due to pigments such as violaxanthin, lutein, and zeaxanthin (Figure 4). The flowers are monoecious, with distinct male and female flowers on the same tree. Both are 1cm in diameter, white to greenish, inconspicuous with no petals. They are produced on axillary or terminal spikes [20,21]. Passion fruit, *Passifloraedulis* (*Passifloraceae*) is cultivated mostly in the tropics. The fruit is round to oval and usually yellow at maturity, with a soft to firm, juicy interior filled with numerous seeds, [Figure 5]. The fruit is both eaten and juiced or blended with other fruit juice to enhance aroma [19, 22].



Figure 4: Terminaliacatappa leaves.



Figure 5: Passion fruit (a) Front view Passion fruit (a) Horizontal dissected. Front view.

It has several medicinal uses. These include: It boosts the immune system, it protects against cancer, heart diseases and premature ageing. It keeps skin hydrated and glowing. It improves eye health, aids in blood circulation in the body. Its beneficial in improving heart health, increases bone mineral density and bone strength. It also provides relief from constipation, facilitates healthy digestion of food and regulation of bowel movements. It reduces the risk of macular degeneration, cataracts and night blindness [22-24].

Folklore and natural products constituents

Both *Brassicarapachinensis*, *Artocarpusaltilis* and their related species have medicinal uses and Natural Products/Phytochemicals with medicinal properties have been isolated from both plants and related species. *Brassica rapachinensis* and related species have antirheumatic, antiarthritic, antiscorbutic and resolvent properties [25]. *Brassica rapa* vegetables have been shown to possess glucosinolates with antioxidant properties [25,26]. The juice from the leaves of *Brassica rapa* species such as Turnip (*Brassica rapa L.*) have been shown to have hepatoprotective action through its antioxidative potentials [27].

Compounds isolated from related species of turnip (*Brassica rapa ssp. campestris (Brassicaceae)*) have been shown to exhibit high inhibitory activity against the growth of human cancer lines, HCT-116, MCF-7, and HeLa, with IC_{50} values ranging from 15.0 to 35.0 μ M and against LDL-oxidation with IC_{50} values ranging from 2.9 to 7.1 μ M [28]. Phenolic natural products were isolated from Pak choi (*Brassica rapachinensis*) and seven other vegetables. These compounds were found to be hydroxybenzoic acids, hydroxycinnamic acids and flavonoids. Salicylic acid was found to be the most common hydroxybenzoic acid, ranging from 4.40 to 117.36 μ g/g fresh frozen weight (ffw). Vanilic, gallic, caffeic, chlorogenic, p-coumaric, ferulic and m-coumaric acids were also found in all of these vegetables. Isoquercetin and Rutin, the most common flavonoids, ranged from 3.70 to 19.26 and 1.60 to 7.89 μ g/gffw, respectively [28-31].

Phytochemical, and spectroscopic investigations of related species of turnip (*Brassica rapa ssp. campestris (Brassicaceae)*) revealed the presence of a novel phenanthrene derivative, 6-methoxy-1-(10-methoxy-7-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) (phenanthren-3-yl) undecane-2,4-dione, brassica phenanthrene, along with two known diarylheptanoid compounds, 6-paradol and trans-6-shogaol. These compounds have been reported to have anticancer activity [32].

The breadfruit (*Artocarpusaltilis*) is edible. The leaves and the sap have been used for various medicinal purposes. The tea of breadfruit leaves is used to lower blood pressure and treat diabetes. The sap is applied to contagious skin ailments to prevent their spreading and promote healing [19]. *Artocarpusaltilis* leaf extracts have been shown to have cytoprotective, anti-inflammatory (leaves), cytotoxic, negative inotropic effect, anti-cancer, antitubercular and anti-plasmodial activities. An ethanol extract of the leaves showed potent ACE (Angiotensin-converting enzyme) inhibitory activity, supporting its use in folk medicine for the treatment of hypertension. The isolated compounds exhibited antitubercular and anti-plasmodial activities [33-35].

Artocarpusaltilis leaf extracts were investigated against angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) activity. Amongst the extracts tested, hot ethanol extract exhibited a potent ACE-inhibitory activity with an IC_{50} value of $54.08 \pm 0.29 \mu$ g mL⁻¹, followed by cold EtOAc extract (IC_{50} of $85.44 \pm 0.85 \mu$ g mL⁻¹). In contrast, the hot aqueous extracts showed minimum inhibition with the IC_{50} value of $765.52 \pm 11.97 \mu$ g mL⁻¹ at the maximum concentration tested. The high content of glycosidic and phenolic compounds could be involved in exerting ACE-inhibitory activity, supporting the utilisation of *A. altilis* leaf in the folk medicine for the better treatment of hypertension [36-37].

Phytochemical and spectroscopic studies of the methanol extract of *Artocarpusaltilis*, resulted in the isolation and spectroscopic characterization of a new prenylatedaurone, artocarpaurone, together with eight known compounds, including

two prenylatedchalcones, three prenylated flavanones, and three triterpenes. The structure of the new compound was elucidated as 6-hydroxy-2-[8-hydroxy-2-methyl-2-(4-methyl-3-pentenyl)-2H-1-benzopyran-5-ylmethylene]-3(2H)-benzofuranone. It showed

moderate nitric oxide radical scavenging activity, whereas two compounds had moderate 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl radical scavenging effect, compared with the positive control (+)-catechin [38].

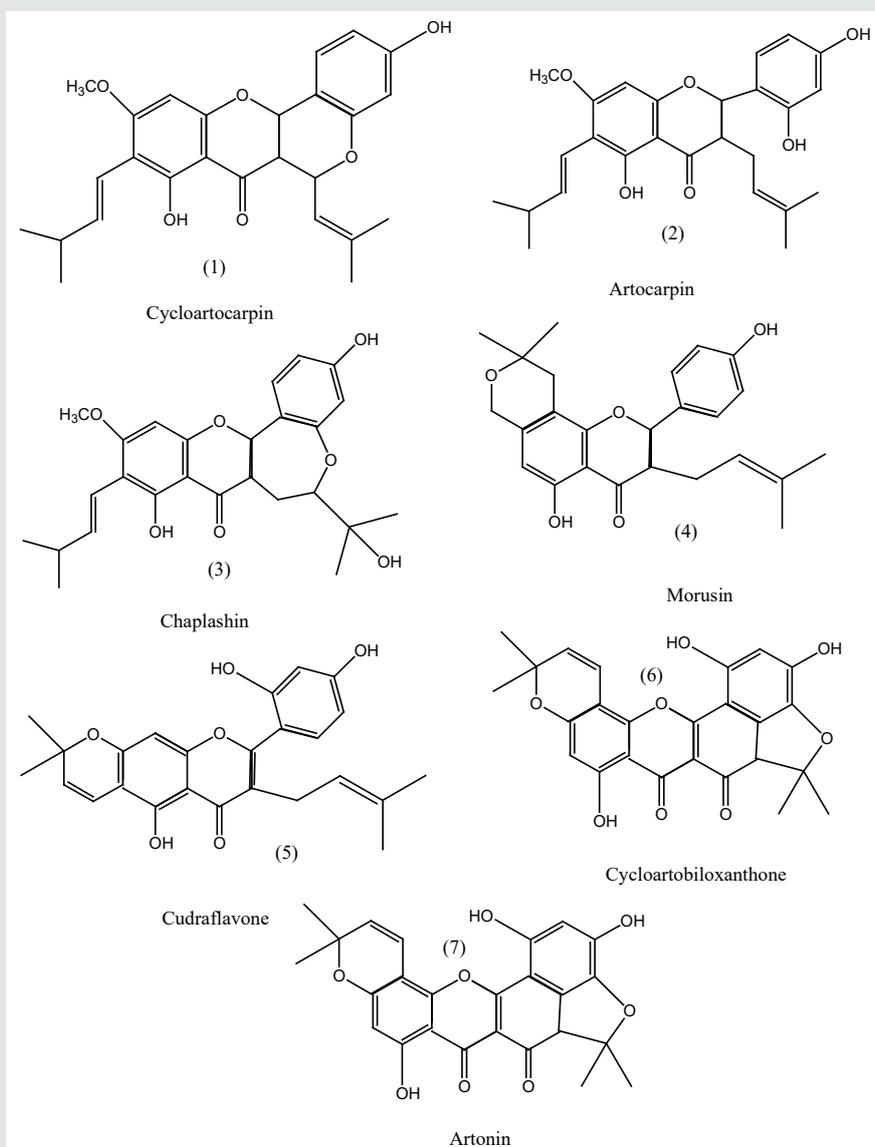


Figure 6: Natural products from the root of *Artocarpusaltilis*.

Anti-tubercular and anti-malarial activity-guided study of the roots of *Artocarpusaltilis* led to the isolation of nine prenylated flavones, Figure 6. Cycloartocarpin (1), Artocarpin (2), and Chaplashin (3) were isolated from the CH₂Cl₂ extract of the root stems, whereas Morusin (4), Cudraflavone (5), Cycloartobiloxanthone (6), Artonin(7), Cudraflavone(8) and Artobiloxanthone (9) were found in the root barks. The isolated compounds exhibited antitubercular and antiplasmodial activities, and also showed moderate cytotoxicity against KB (human oral epidermoid carcinoma) and BC (human breast cancer) cell lines [39].

The cytoprotective effects of various solvent extracts of *Artocarpusaltilis* (Parkinson) Fosberg were evaluated. These effects were determined in human U937 cells incubated with oxidized LDL (OxLDL) using the 4-[3-(4-iodophenyl)-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-2H-5-tetrazolio]-1, 3-benzenedisulfonate (WST-1) assay. Results demonstrated that the EtOAc extract showed cytoprotective activities. To identify the main cytoprotective components, a bioassay guided isolation of the ethyl acetate extract afforded b-sitosterol and six flavonoids. Their chemical structures were established on the basis of spectroscopic evidence and comparison with literature data. One of these compounds was obtained from

A. altilis for the first time. The cytoprotective effect offers good prospects for the medicinal applications of *A. Altalis* [40].

Flavonoids 10-oxoartogomezianone, 8-geranyl-3-(hydroxy-prenyl) isoetin, hydroxyartoflavone, isocycloartobiloxanthone, and furanocyclocommunin, together with 12 known compounds, were isolated from heartwood and cortex of *Artocarpusaltilis*, and were spectroscopically characterized. The flavonoids isolated from *A. altilis* may be suspected candidate antioxidants and/or skin-whitening agents [40].

Leaves of *Terminaliacatappa* contain several flavonoids such as kaempferol or quercetin), Figure 7 *Terminaliacatappa* contains hydrolysed tannins such as punicalagan as a major component, punicalin, terflavins A and B, tergallagin, tercatatin, chebulagic acid, geranin, granato B, corilagin, flavanoids (isovitexin, vitexin, rutin, triterpenoids (ursolic acid, 2, 3, 23-trihydroxyurs, 12-en-28 oic acid, Asiatic acid), squalene but no caffeine [41-45]. The leaves and also the bark are used in different traditional medicines for various purposes. In Taiwan, fallen leaves are used as an herb to treat liver diseases. In Suriname, a tea made from the leaves is prescribed against dysentery and diarrhea. The leaves are thought to contain agents for prevention of cancers, although they have not demonstrated anti-carcinogenic properties and antioxidant as well as anti-clastogenic characteristics. The leaves kept in an aquarium is said to lower the pH and heavy metal content of the water. It's also believed that it helps prevent fungus forming on the eggs of the fish [46]. The essential oil from the leaves of *Terminaliacatappa L.* was analyzed by gas chromatography and mass spectrometry (GC-MS). The leaf oil was dominated by (Z)-phytol (41.2%), palmitic acid

(11.0%), and (E)-nerolidol (4.7%). Alkane hydrocarbons (25.5%) made up a significant portion of the leaf oil composition [42].

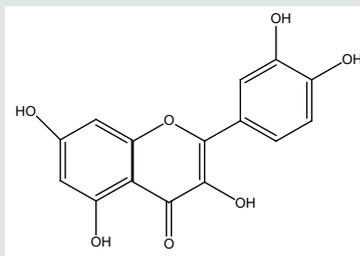


Figure 7: Quercetin.

A study was done to quantify the majority compounds of the hydroalcoholic extract (7:3, v/v) of the leaves from *T. catappaby* HPLC-PDA, chemically characterize by hyphenated techniques (HPLC-ESI-IT-MSn) and NMR. The quantification of analytes was performed using an external calibration standard. Punicalagin is the most abundant polyphenol found in the leaves [43]. The presence of this compound as a mixture of anomers was confirmed using HPLC-PDA and ¹H and ¹³C NMR [43].

Passion fruit is rich in polyphenols [22,44]. The fruit also contain prunasin and other cyanogenic glycosides in the peel and juice [45]. Passion fruit oil is composed mainly of linoleic acid (77%) with smaller amounts of oleic acid (15%) and palmitic acid (10%). It also contains vitamin C (36%), dietary fiber (42%), B vitamins riboflavin (11%) niacin (10%), iron (12%) and phosphorus (10%) in significant percentages of the daily value [45]. The structure of some of these natural products are shown in Figure 8.

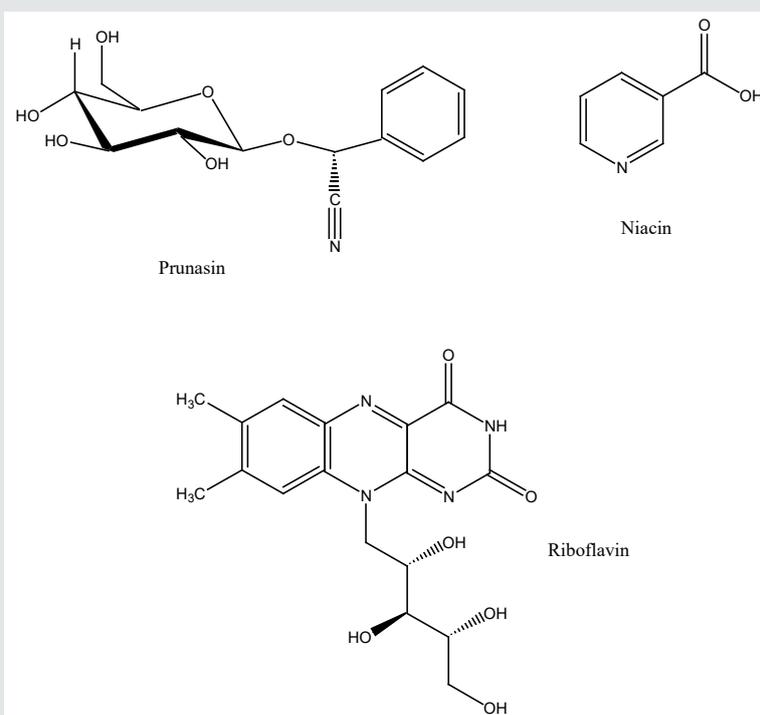


Figure 8: Some of the natural products constituents of Passion Fruit, *Passifloraedulis*.

Literature Review

Antimicrobial activity of *Brassica rapa L* (turnip) roots extracts (light petroleum ether, chloroform and ethylacetate and aqueous) was investigated against *C. albicans*, *P. aeruginosa* and *B. subtilis*. Light petroleum fraction of roots showed somewhat strong antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* with MIC calculated as 12.5mg/ml [46].

In vitro antimicrobial activity of *Artocarpusaltilis* was evaluated against six pathogenic microorganisms (two gram positive strains: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, the Gram negative strains *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and two fungal strains: *Candida albicans* and *Cryptococcus neoformans*, using the disc diffusion method at 2mg/disc, by indicating the presence of the clear inhibition zones around each disc, compared with the positive control (Streptomycin and Nystatin), while the MIC and MBC/MF ranged from (250-1000µg/ml). The extracts of hexane and DCM induced a moderate antimicrobial activity at (14.6±0.2mm) against *Bacillus cereus*, whereas 11.8±0.3mm and 11.5±0.2mm values for *C. albicans*, respectively. The least MIC of 250µg/ml was obtained by DCM extract against *S. aureus* for bacteria, *C. albicans* and *C. neoformans* for fungus, respectively. The results suggested that *Artocarpusaltilis* extracts have promising therapeutic potential against bacteria and fungi [47,48].

A study was conducted to determine whether the methanol extract of breadfruit leaves variations (*Artocarpusaltilis*) have activity on *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Propionibacterium acnes* and *Candida albicans* and determination of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC). The test results showed antibacterial and antifungal activity variations of fermented green gives effective results than other breadfruit leaf variations. MIC values for the bacterium *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Propionibacterium acnes*, and the Fungi *Candida albicans* in a row by fermented green extract 20mg/mL; 47, 5mg/mL; 15mg/mL; and 475mg/mL.

The extract of *P. edulis Sims var. edulis* seeds showed good antimicrobial effects on *P. acnes* and the inhibitory activity increased with concentration of the extract. Comparable inhibitory effects with clindamycin and erythromycin may support the application of this extract in the management of acne vulgaris. Further clinical trials on the use of *P. edulis Sims var. edulis* seeds extract are necessary to show its efficacy in acne vulgaris patients [49].

The methanol, acetone and N,N-dimethylformamide extracts of *Terminaliacatappa I.* leaves were evaluated for antibacterial and antifungal activity using the agar disc diffusion method. Piperacillin and gentamicin were used as standards for antibacterial assay, while nystatin and fluconazole were used as standards for antifungal assay. The antibacterial activity was more pronounced against bacteria than fungal strains. The Gram positive bacteria were more susceptible than Gram negative bacteria. The best

antibacterial activity was noted for the methanol extract. In addition, *Terminaliacatappa* leaf extracts showed better antibacterial activity than Piperacillin and gentamicin [50].

The effect against bacteria of petroleum ether (60-80, °C), chloroform and methanolic extract of dried root of *Terminaliacatappa Linn. (combretaceae)* was employed by cup plate agar diffusion method. The chloroform extract showed prominent antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus* and *E. coli*, as compared to other tested microorganisms, while petroleum ether extract was devoid of antimicrobial activity. The methanolic: extract exhibited MIC of 0.065mg/ml against *E. coli*. and chloroform extract exhibited MIC of 0.4mg/ml against *S. aureus*. The chloroform as well as methanolic extracts showed good antimicrobial activity against Gram positive and Gram-negative microorganisms [51].

Aqueous and methanol extract of the leaves of *Terminaliacatappa L.*, *Manilkarazapota L.* and *Piper betel L.* were evaluated for their antibacterial activity against ten (10) Gram positive, twelve (12) Gram negative bacteria and one fungal strain, *Candida tropicalis*. Piperacillin and gentamicin were used as standards for antibacterial assay, while fluconazole was used as standard for antifungal assay. The three plants showed different degree of antimicrobial activity against the microorganisms investigated. The methanolic extract was considerably more effective than aqueous extract in inhibiting the investigated microbial strains. The most active antimicrobial plant was Piper betel [52].

Methodology

The extracts of the above-mentioned plant parts were investigated for their antimicrobial activity against pathogens [52] using the disc diffusion approach. The description of these methods can also be found in standard Microbiological texts.

Collection of plant materials

Breadfruit and Pak choi leaves were collected from a local farm, whereas passion fruits in a semi-ripe state were purchased from a vendor at the Bourda market. *Terminaliacatappa* leaves were collected from the University of Guyana environment. Each fruit was washed, rinsed with distilled water and then subjected to aerial drying and were then weighed. The same was noted for *Terminaliacatappa* leaves. Both dried breadfruit and Pak Choi leaves were severed into small pieces, whereas each passion fruit was sliced in two halves. *Terminaliacatappa* leaves were ground to a fine material using a grinding mill. Each plant parts was then placed in extraction jars and extracted sequentially with solvents of varying polarity: n-C₆H₁₄, CH₂Cl₂ and CH₃CH₂OH. n-C₆H₁₄, CH₂Cl₂ and CH₃CH₂OH solvents were freshly distilled before use. After extraction, solvents were filtered and dried over Na₂SO₄. Solvents were removed in vacuo using the rotatory evaporator, resulting in viscous oils, solids and pastes. Figure 9 shows a typical solvent extraction of plant material.



Figure 9: Dried Plants parts been solvent extracted.

Preparation of extract solution for antimicrobial studies

A specified amount of dried crude extract of the plant material (fruit and leaves) was weighed and transferred to a 10 ml volumetric flask, such that the concentration was 0.01g/ml and 0.1 g/ml for n-hexane, dichloromethane, ethanol and aqueous.

Aseptic conditions

Antimicrobial assay was done under aseptic conditions. The aseptic chamber which consists of a wooden box (1m x 1m x 0.5m) with a door, was cleaned with 70% ethanol and irradiated with short wave UV light (from a lamp). A sterilized 6mm cork borer was used to cut agar discs in the plate for the Well-Diffusion method. All agar plates, sample vials etc were sterilized in an autoclave, prior to use.

Source of microorganisms

Pathogenic microorganisms: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *Candida albicans* were obtained from the Georgetown Public Hospital (GPHC) microbiology laboratory and were stored in a refrigerator at the University prior to the experiment.

Bacteria used were: *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923) *Escherichia coli* and *Candida albicans* (ATCC 1023) in nature. 3-5 colonies from an overnight plate was transferred to a tube containing 10ml of distilled water and mixed. The solution was compared with the 1.0 McFarland Standard and the density was adjusted either by adding more colonies or adding more distilled water to the tube. The choice of the agar used for bacterial and fungal growth was nutrient agar which accommodates non fastidious growth of microbes. All microorganisms obtained were cultured in a Luria-Bertani broth.

Luria-Bertani broth (LB broth) is a rich medium used to culture bacteria such as *E. Coli* and *S. aureus*. To make it, tryptone (10g), yeast extract (5g) and sodium chloride (10g) were weighed and placed in a 1L cylinder. Distilled water was added to make up the 1L solution and the mixture was poured and re-poured until the contents were dissolved. The pH of the solution was adjusted to 7.4 using NaOH. 3mL each of LB broth was placed in 56 test tubes. The

tubes were plugged with cotton wool foil and wrapped over each top. The tubes were placed into a beaker and autoclaved at 121 °C for 2h. These tubes were used in the dilutions experiments.

Turbidity (opacity) standard

This is the barium chloride standard against which the turbidity of the test and control inocula can be compared. When matched with the standard, the inocula should give semi-confluent growth. The turbidity of the standard is equivalent to an overnight broth culture.

Preparation of turbidity standard (0.5 McFarland)

1% v/v sulphuric acid: 1ml of concentrated H_2SO_4 was added to 99ml of distilled water. **1.175% w/v of barium chloride solution:** 2.35g of barium chloride, $BaCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ was dissolved in 200ml of distilled water. To make the turbidity standard, 0.5ml of the barium chloride solution was added to 99.5ml of the sulphuric acid solution and thoroughly mixed. The standard solution was dispersed into screw cap tubes as the same type as those for the preparation of the test and control inocula. It was stored in the dark at room temperature.

Microbial medium: Two types of agar were used, nutrient agar to make up the medium for bacteria and PDA (Potato Dextrose Agar) to make up the medium for fungi [38-41]. The potato was peeled and 100g was measured, finely chopped and boiled to a mash in distilled water. Dextrose was weighed (12.5g) and placed in a 1L measuring cylinder. Agar was measured (12.5g) and added to the measuring cylinder (with the dextrose). The potato mash was stirred and strained into the cylinder. Hot distilled water was added to make up to 500mL. The contents was continuously poured and stirred until consistency was achieved. The content was then poured into a conical flask, plugged with cotton wool, over which aluminium foil was tightly wrapped. The flask was then autoclaved at 121 °C for 24hrs. The pH range was between 6.5-7.0.

For the preparation of the nutrient agar medium, 20g of nutrient agar was suspended in 500ml of distilled water in a 1L flask and stirred. The pH range was between 7.0-8.0. The conical flask was then plugged with cotton wool and wrapped in aluminum foil, then autoclaved at 121°C for 15 minutes. The sterilized medium was then poured into the sterilized 90mm sterilised petri-plates and allowed to cool to a depth of 4mm and solidify for two hours. These plates were allowed to cool and refrigerated for use the following day.

Ant microbiological susceptibility tests

Plant extracts were investigated for their antimicrobial activity using the Agar Disc diffusion 59-61 techniques under aseptic conditions or Stokes Disc diffusion sensitivity techniques. Using Stokes Disc diffusion sensitivity testing technique [38-41], an inoculum containing bacterial or yeast cells was applied onto

nutrient agar plates, prepared and stored overnight. On each plate, a reference antibiotic was also applied. The reference antibiotic disc contained 10mg of antibiotic/disc. The discs were made by cutting discs (5-6mm) from a filter paper with a perforator, placing 5 of these discs in a vial and adding 0.2mL of each extract solution. These were left to dry. Discs were also made for the controls: ampicillin for the bacteria and nystatin for the fungus. Each disc was impregnated with the anticipated antimicrobial plant extract at appropriate concentration of 200mg/ml using a microlitre syringe.

This was then placed on a plate of sensitivity testing nutrient agar which was then incubated with the test organism: Bacteria/fungi. Incubation was done at 37 °C for 24hr and 48hr for the bacteria and *Candida albicans* species respectively. The antimicrobial extract diffuses from the disc into the medium. Following overnight incubation, the culture was examined for areas of no growth around the disc (zone of inhibition). The radius of the inhibition zone was measured from the edge of the disc to the edge of the zone. The end point of inhibition is where growth starts. Larger the inhibition zone diameter, greater is the antimicrobial activities. It is anticipated through the antimicrobial activity of plant extract, no area of growth will be induced around the disc. Bacteria or fungal strains sensitive to the antimicrobial are inhibited at a distance from the disc whereas resistant strains grow up to the edge of the disc. Discs applied to the plates already streaked with bacteria and the fungus. It is anticipated through the antimicrobial activity of plant extract, no area of growth will be induced around the disc. Interpretation of susceptibility are made by comparing the sizes of

zones of inhibition to a standard reference table.

Reference and control

For both methods, the control experiment consists of solidified agar onto which was applied solvents: n-hexane, CH_2Cl_2 , ethanol and EtOAc. The reference experiment (positive control) consist of the application of Ampicillin disc or Nystatin disc on agar plates inoculated with microbial strains *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *K. pneumoniae* and *C. albicans* respectively. Ampicillin was used specifically for all bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escheria coli*, whereas Nystatin was used against fungal strains such as *Candida albicans*. The Control experiment consists of a plate of solidifying agar onto which was inoculated pure solvent with microorganism mixed in a 1:1 portion [38-41].

Thin layer chromatography (TLC)

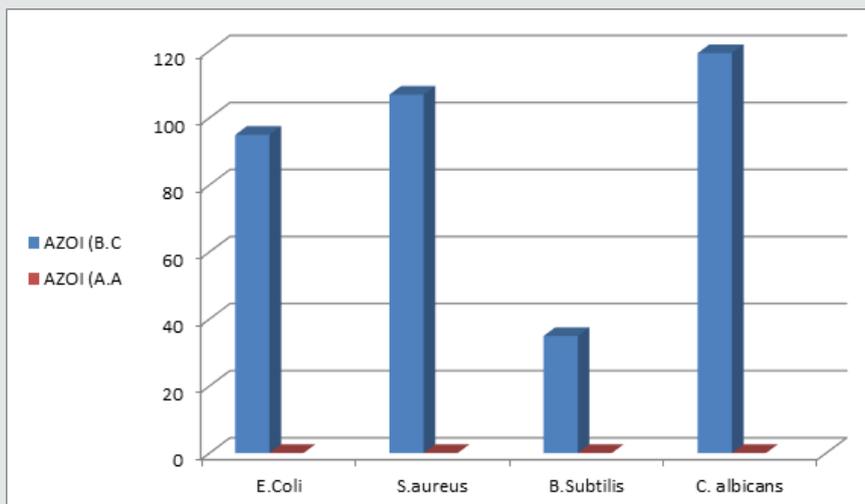
A baseline was drawn on the TLC plate. A spot of the plant extract was placed on the baseline with use of the pipette and allowed to dry. The plate was placed in the developing jar with the solvent. When taken out of the jar, the solvent front was drawn. The plates were then held in the iodine jar for a few seconds, shaken and taken out. They were examined under the UV/Vis lamp and the spots were circled with a pencil. The plate was further examined under UV lamp and any new spots were marked. The spots were labelled and their distances from the baseline were measured. The distance between the baseline and the solvent front was also measured. The Rf values were calculated in Figure 10 & 11, Graphs 1-5.



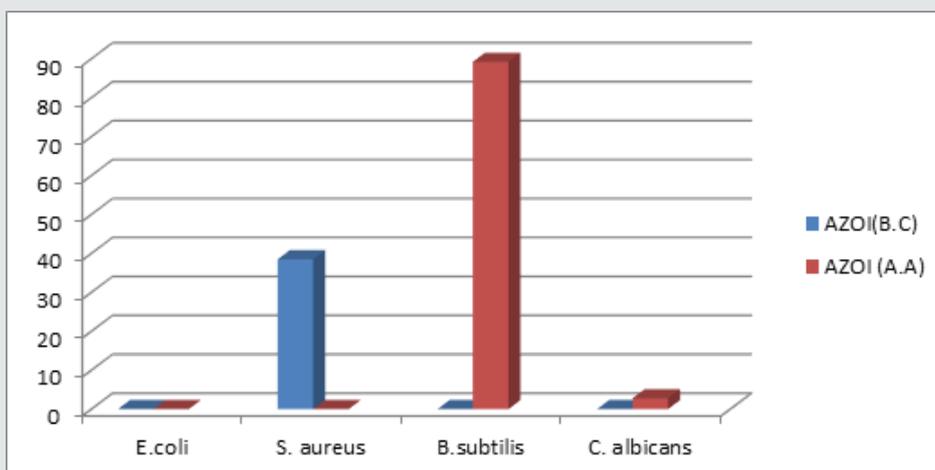
Figure 10: The effect of the administration of aqueous extract of *Terminaliacatappa* against (a) *Staphylococcus aureus* and (b) *Klebsiella pneumoniae* microbial strains.



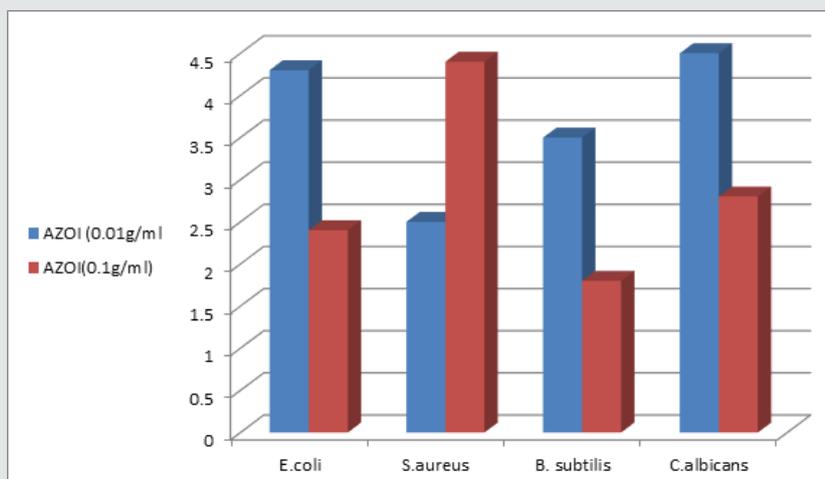
Figure 11: (a) *Staphylococcus aureus* (b) *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.



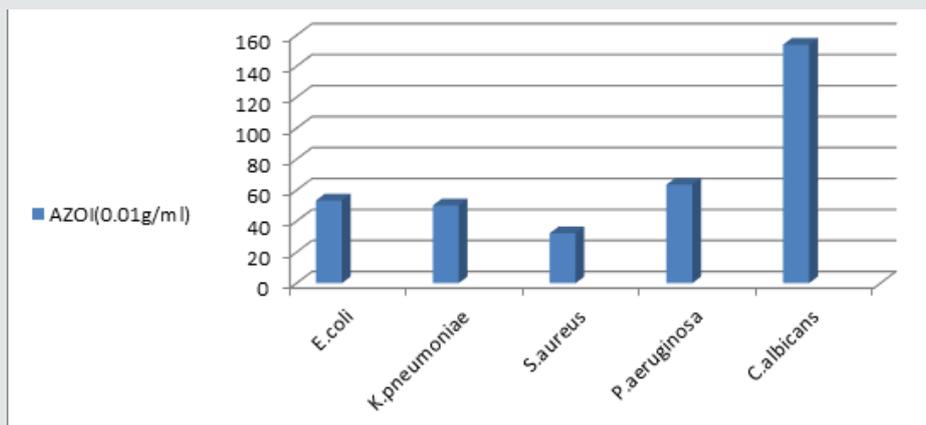
Graph 1: A Plot of AZOI induced by hexane extract of leaves of *B. chinensis* and *A. altilis* at 0.01g/ml.



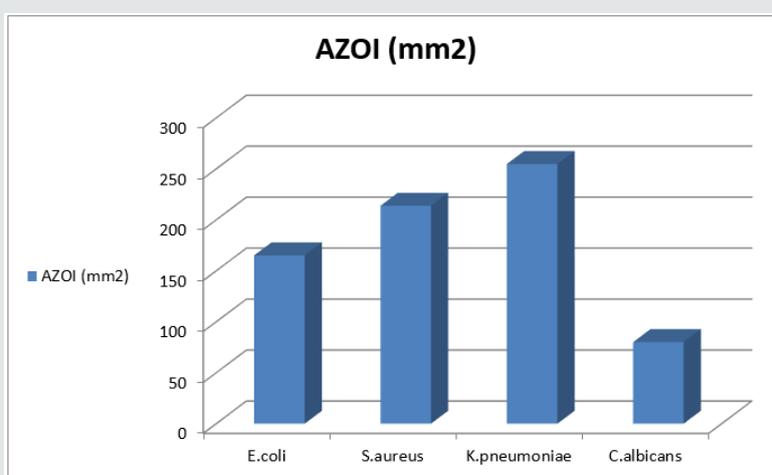
Graph 2: A Plot of AZOI induced by hexane extract of leaves of *B. chinensis* and *A. altilis* against selected pathogens at 0.1g/ml.



Graph 3: A Plot of AZOI induced by combined fruit extracts of leaves of *Brassica Chinensis* and *Artocarpusaltilis* at concentration of 0.01g/ml and 0.1g/ml.



Graph 4: A Plot of AZOI induced by ethanolic extract of passion fruit, *Passifloraedulis* at 0.01g/ml against selected pathogens.



Graph 5: A Plot of AZOI induced by aqueous extract of leaves of *Terminaliacatappa* against selected pathogens.

Results

Table 1 Antimicrobial activity of n-C₆H₁₄ extract of leaves of *Brassica rapachinensis* and *A. altilisat* 0.01g/ml and 0.1g/ml concentration.

Discussion

Results are shown in Table 1 to Table 11.

Table 1 shows the antimicrobial activity of the n-C₆H₁₄ extracts of leaves breadfruit and vegetable, pakchoi, *Brassica rapachinensis* at 0.01g/ml and 0.1g/ml concentration, against the various pathogens. At 0.01g/ml, *Artocarpusaltilis* wasn't antimicrobial (zero AZOI), whereas *Brassica rapachinensis* was antimicrobial, with AZOI, ranging from 34.9mm² to 119.3mm². As the hexane extract concentration was increased to 0.1g/ml, *Artocarpusaltilis* still display zero antimicrobial activity, with the exception against *Bacillus subtilis*, an AZOI of 89.2mm² was induced. Thus, at this concentration, the hexane extract display antimicrobial selectivity. For *Brassica rapachinensis*, non-antimicrobial activity was also induced against the pathogens, with an exception against *S. aureus*

(AZOI = 38.5mm²) and *C. albicans* (AZOI =73.4mm²).

Table 1: Antimicrobial activity of n-C₆H₁₄ extract of leaves of *Brassica rapachinensis* and *A. altilisat* 0.01g/ml and 0.1g/ml concentration.

Plant Extracts	Tested Microorganism	MDZOI (BRC)	MDZOI (AA)	AZOI (BRC)	AZOI (AA)
Hexane extract at concentration (0.01 g/ml)	<i>E. coli</i>	11± 2.65	No inhibition	94.9	0
	<i>S. aureus</i>	11.67± 3.22	No inhibition	106.9	0
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	6.67 ± 1.16	No inhibition	34.9	0
	<i>C. albicans</i>	12.33 ± 5.13	No inhibition	119.3	0
Hexane extract at concentration of 0.1g/ml	<i>E. coli</i>	No inhibition	No inhibition	0	0
	<i>S. aureus</i>	7 ± 4.16	No inhibition	38.5	0
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	No inhibition	10.67 ± 1.16	0	89.2
	<i>C. albicans</i>	9.67 ± 1.53	No inhibition	73.4	0.0

Only the antimicrobial activity of CH₂Cl₂ extract of *A. altilis* was investigated at the three concentrations of 0.01g/ml, 0.05g/ml and 0.1g/ml, Table 2. CH₂Cl₂ extract of *A. altilis* at 0.01g/ml and 0.05g/ml showed antimicrobial selectivity against *B. subtilis*, with AZOI

of 59.0mm² and 46.2mm², respectively. *A. altilis* extract at 0.1g/ml, showed antimicrobial selectivity against *S. aureus* (AZOI = 54.1mm²). At all other three concentrations, zero AZOI was induced against all the other pathogens.

Table 2: Antimicrobial activity of CH₂Cl₂ extract of leaves of *A. altilis* at 0.01g/ml, 0.05g/ml and 0.1g/ml concentration.

Plant Extracts	Tested Microorganism	MDZOI	Area of ZOI (mm ²)
Dichloromethane Extract of <i>A. altilis</i> At (0.01g/ml)	<i>E. coli</i>	8.67 ± 0.58	0
	<i>S. aureus</i>		0
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>		59.0
	<i>C. albicans</i>		0
Dichloromethane Extract of <i>A. altilis</i> at (0.05 g/ml)	<i>E. coli</i>	5.33 ± 4.73	0
	<i>S. aureus</i>		22.3
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>		46.2
	<i>C. albicans</i>		0
Dichloromethane Extract of <i>A. altilis</i> At 0.1g/ml	<i>E. coli</i>	8.3 ± 1.5	0
	<i>S. aureus</i>		54.1
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>		0
	<i>C. albicans</i>		0

Table 3 illustrates the antimicrobial activity of CH₃CH₂OH extract of leaves of *Brassica rapachinensis* and *A. altilis* at 0.01g/ml and 0.1g/ml concentration. At 0.01g/ml, the highest AZOI of 209.3mm² was induced by leaves of *Brassica rapachinensis* against *E. coli* and the lowest against *B. subtilis* (12.6mm²). The corresponding AZOI against *A. altilis* range from 0.0 to 94.9mm²,

with the highest of 94.9mm², induced against *S. aureus*. When the ethanolic extract concentration was increased to 0.1g/ml, it was noticeable that the highest AZOI of 126mm² was induced against *C. albicans*. Comparatively, *Artocarpus altilis* extract induced 0.0mm² AZOI against *E. coli*, *S. aureus* and *B. subtilis*. Only an AZOI of 59.00mm² was induced against *C. albicans*.

Table 3: Antimicrobial activity of CH₃CH₂OH extract of leaves of *Brassica rapachinensis* and leaves of *A. altilis* at 0.01g/ml and 0.1g/ml concentration.

Plant Extracts	Tested Microorganism	MDZOI (BRC)	MDZOI (AA)	AZOI (BRC) (mm ²)	AZOI (AA) (mm ²)
Ethanol extract at concentration of 0.01g/ml	<i>E. coli</i>	16.33 ± 2.7	8.67 ± 0.6	209.3	59.00
	<i>S. aureus</i>	13.67 ± 3.73	11 ± 2	146.7	94.9
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	4 ± 3.61	7.66 ± 1.5	12.6	46.7
	<i>C. albicans</i>	14 ± 2.6	0	153.9	0
Ethanol extract of at a concentration, 0.1g/ml	<i>E. coli</i>	8 ± 1	0	50.2	0
	<i>S. aureus</i>	12.33 ± 3.05	0	119.3	0
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	9.67 ± 5.03	0	73.4	0
	<i>C. albicans</i>	12.67 ± 3.27	8.67 ± 0.6	126	59

Table 4 shows the antimicrobial activity of combined ethanolic extracts of *Brassica rapachinensis* and *A. altilis* at a concentration of 0.01g/ml. For the 0.01g/ml concentration, the highest AZOI of 168.9mm² was induced against *C. albicans* and the lowest against *B. subtilis* (67.8mm²). The combined hexane extract of *A. altilis* and

Brassica rapachinensis at 0.01g/ml, showed an AZOI of 73.4mm² against *B. subtilis* and zero AZOI against *E. coli*, *S. aureus* and *C. albicans*. Hence, antimicrobial selectivity against *B. subtilis*, in comparison to *E. coli*, *S. aureus* and *C. albicans*.

Table 4: Antimicrobial Proficiency of Combined ethanolic and hexane fruit extracts of leaves of *A. altilis* and *Brassica rapachinensis*.

Plant Extracts	Tested Microorganism	Mean Diameter of ZOI	Area of ZOI
Ethanol extracts of <i>A. altilis</i> + <i>Brassica rapachinensis</i> at concentration of 0.01g/ml	<i>E. coli</i>	10.67 ± 0.58	89.4
	<i>S. aureus</i>	14	153.9
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	9.3 ± 1.16	67.8
	<i>C. albicans</i>	14.67 ± 5.78	168.9

Hexane extracts of <i>A. altilis</i> + <i>Brassica rapachinensis</i> at concentration of 0.01g/ml	<i>E. coli</i>		0
	<i>S. aureus</i>		0
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	9.67 ± 2	73.4
	<i>C. albicans</i>		0

Table 5 shows the antimicrobial activity of passion fruits against selected pathogens: *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *S. aureus*, *Paeruginosa* and *C. albicans* at three different concentrations. The highest AZOI

of 153.9mm² was induced against *C. albicans* at a concentration of 0.01g/ml. The lowest AZOI of 15.9mm² was induced against *K. pneumoniae* at a concentration of 0.1g/ml.

Table 5: Antimicrobial proficiency of passion fruits.

Sample	Organism	Mean Diameter of ZOI	AZOI (mm ²)
1	<i>E. coli</i>	8.25 ± 2.22	53.4
2	<i>E. coli</i>	8.5 ± 5.8 0	56.7
3	<i>E. coli</i>	9.5 ± 4.51	70.9
Reference	<i>E. coli</i>	29.33 ± 1.53	675.3
1	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	8 ± 6.78	50.2
2	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	9.25 ± 2.22	67.2
3	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	6.75 ± 2.69	15.9
Reference	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	31.33 ± 5.91	770.6
1	<i>S. aureus</i>	6.88 ± 1.95	32.2
2	<i>S. aureus</i>	8.5 ± 5.98	56.7
3	<i>S. aureus</i>	10.25 ± 2.87	82.5
Reference	<i>S. aureus</i>	30.33 ± 4.933	722.1
1	<i>Paeruginosa</i>	9.0 ± 2.58	63.6
2	<i>Paeruginosa</i>	9.75 ± 2.36	74.6
3	<i>Paeruginosa</i>	10 ± 4.08	78.5
Reference	<i>Paeruginosa</i>	16.67 ± 2.083	218.1
1	<i>C. albicans</i>	14.0 ± 7.39	153.9
2	<i>C. albicans</i>	9.5 ± 2.38	70.9
3	<i>C. albicans</i>	11 ± 4.32	94.9
Reference	<i>C. albicans</i>	26 ± 1.0	530.7

In comparison to reference compound, the highest AZOI of 153.9mm² induced against *C. albicans* was approximately 30%, [Table 6]. Increasing the ethanolic passion fruit concentration, resulted in an increase in antimicrobial potency in all cases, with

the exception against *C. albicans*. Exception being a decrease in antimicrobial potency at 0.1g/ml concentration against *K. pneumoniae* and *C. albicans* at 0.01g/ml concentration.

Table 6: A comparison of the antimicrobial potency of the fruit extract (*Passiflora edulis*) versus that of standard antibiotics.

Pathogenic Microorganisms	Reference Antibiotics	AZOI of Reference Antibiotics	Highest AZOI of Fruit extracts/isolate	% Potency of Fruit extracts/relative to standard antibiotics
<i>E. coli</i>	Ampicillin	675.3	70.9	10.4
<i>S. aureus</i>	Ampicillin	722.1	82.5	11.4
<i>C. albicans</i>	Nystatin	530.7	153.9	28.9
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	Ampicillin	226.9	149.5	15.2
<i>K.pneumoniae</i>	Ampicillin	770.6	67.2	8.7

Table 7 shows the AZOI induced by the aqueous extract of *Terminaliacatappa*. The largest AZOI of 254.71mm² was induced against *K. pneumoniae*, whereas the lowest AZOI of 80.08mm² was induced against *C. albicans*. The AZOI range from 80.08mm² to 254.71mm². Compared to the Reference compound, Ampicillin and

Nystatin, these AZOI were significantly higher Figure 8. For example, against *K. Pneumoniae*, aqueous extract of *Terminaliacatappa*, induced AZOI of 254.71mm² against *K. pneumoniae*, whereas the reference compound, Ampicillin induced a corresponding AZOI of 44.2mm². Figure 9 shows the effect of the administration of

ethanolic extract of passion fruit against *S. aureus* at increasing concentration. Figure 10 shows the effect of the administration of aqueous extract of *Terminaliacatappa* against selected pathogens.

TLC (Thinlayer chromatography of *Brassica rapachinensis* and *Artocarpusaltilis* hexane extracts revealed the presence of four and three spots respectively, whereas TLC analyses of the ethanolic extract, revealed the presence of two spots respectively. Each spot is presumably due to a pure natural product. Statistically, Two-

Factor ANOVA, with Replication can be used to analyse whether significant differences exist in the diameter of zone of inhibition between concentration of extracts and organisms 62-63. As an example, consider, passion fruit, Table 8 shows that differences between samples were significant throughout since the calculated p values is greater than 0.05 and that F value is greater than F critical. Table 9 shows that differences between samples were not significant throughout, since the calculated p-values is less than 0.05 (Table 10 & 11).

Table 7: AZOI induced by the aqueous extract of *Terminaliacatappa* (TC) at 0.01g/ml on selected pathogens.

Type of Extract	Microbial Strains	MDZOI (mm)	AZOI (mm ²)
Aqueous	<i>Klebsiellapneumoniae</i>	18	254.71
Aqueous	<i>Eshceria coli</i>	14.5	165.13
Aqueous	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	16.5	213.82
Aqueous	<i>Candida albicans</i>	10.1	80.08

Table 8: Area of Zone of Inhibition, induced by the reference compound, Ampicillin and Nystatin against the selected pathogens in comparison to *Terminaliacatappa* extract.

Type of Antibiotics	Pathogenic Microorganisms	Diameter of Zone of inhibition (mm)	Area of zone of Inhibition (mm ²)
Ampicillin	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	9	62.62
Ampicillin	<i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i>	7.5	44.18
Ampicillin	<i>Eshceria coli</i>	6.5	33.18
Nystatin	<i>Candida albicans</i>	7.5	44.18

Table 9: Comparison of zones of inhibition between organisms and samples using ANOVA Two Factor without Replication (p < 0.05 = insignificant).

Comparison	F value	F critical	p value	Significance
Between Samples	2.7	1.39	1.72	Significant
Between Organisms	6.5	2.41	5.78	Significant

Table 10: Shows comparison of zones of inhibition when different extracts are applied to microbial cultures using ANOVA single factor (p < 0.05 = insignificant).

Comparison	F value	F critical	p value	Significance
Between samples	4.13	2.24	0.001	Not significant

Table 11: TLC Profile of CH₃CH₂OH and C₆H₁₂ extract of *Brassica rapa Chinensis* and *Artocarpusaltilis* extract.

Solvent Extract	Brassica rapaChinensis Rf	Artocarpusaltilis Rf
CH ₃ CH ₂ OH	0.8, 1.88	0.8, 0.6
C ₆ H ₁₂	0.32, 0.44, 0.88, 0.96	0.30, 0.51, 0.63

Conclusion

Antimicrobial activity of leaves of *Brassica rapachinensis*, *Artocarpusaltilis*, *Passifloraedulis* and *Terminaliacatappa*, were investigated via the disc diffusion assay, where the diameter of zone of inhibition (DZOI) and the corresponding AZOI were used as indicator of plant extracts antimicrobial potency. The hexane and ethanolic extract of *Brassica rapachinensis*, *Artocarpusaltilis* and the ethanolic and aqueous extracts of passion fruit, *Passifloraedulis* and *Terminaliacatappa* were investigated respectively. Comparing the ethanolic extract, the highest AZOI of 209.3mm² was induced by the leaves extract of *Brassica rapachinensis* against *E. coli*. The lowest

of zero, was induced by the ethanolic extract of *Artocarpusaltilis* against all pathogens. Both the ethanolic and aqueous extract of passion fruit, *passifloraedulis* and *Terminaliacatappa* were antimicrobial against all pathogens. For the former, the AZOI ranges from 32.2mm² to 153.9mm². For the latter, AZOI, ranges from 80.08mm² to 254.71mm². Antimicrobial selectivity was also observed. Only *Terminaliacatappa* aqueous extract was found to be more antimicrobial than the reference compounds, Ampicillin and Nystatin. Thus, all plants species investigated can be utilized for their antimicrobial activity in addition to their nutritional value. Figure 11. The fact that the antimicrobial activity of *Terminaliacatappa* is

greater than standard antibiotics warrants its use as a potential topical bactericidal agent.

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