

Antioxidant and Antimicrobial Activity of Different Extracts Obtained from Aerial Parts of *Urospermum picroides* (L.) F.W. from Egypt

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal plants are of great importance to the health of individuals and communities in general. The vital role of plants lies in some chemical substances that produce a definite physiological action on the human body. The different extracts of *Urospermum picroides* were tested against the following bacteria; six gram negative bacteria: *Proteus vulgaris*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Shigella*, *Escherichia coli*, *Erwinia carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and three gram positive bacteria; *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis*. The phytochemical analysis of the aerial parts of *U. picroides* indicated that the plant is rich in secondary compounds. Hexane extract had the highest scavenging activity (1.54 mg/mL). Methanol and ethyl acetate extracts of *U. picroides* showed the broad spectrum against the tested bacteria. Whereas, hexane extracts expressed an activity against *E. coli* and *Erwinia carotovora* (inhibition zone = 6.5 and 7 mm, respectively). Petroleum ether extract showed the inhibitory activities against *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Erwinia carotovora* and *Candida albicans* (inhibition zone = 7, 8, 6.5 and 6.5 mm, respectively). The pathogen *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis* were the most sensitive bacteria (inhibition zone=10 mm, each) in case of ethyl acetate extract. On the other hand, *Erwinia carotovora* and *Candida albicans* were the most sensitive organisms to different extracts.

1. Introduction

Plants have been described as the oldest friends of man due to their value as sources of food, shelter and medicines [1]. The use of plants and their extracts in treatment of diseases dates back to 460-370 BC when Hippocrates practiced the art of healing by the use of plant based drugs [2]. Medicinal plants are of great importance to the health of individuals and communities in general. The high cost of new antibiotics and their non-availability with limited effective span resulted in the increase in mortality and morbidity. Therefore, there is a need to search for new drugs from other biological sources with proven antimicrobial activity.

The medicinal value of plants lies in some chemical substances that produce a definite physiological action on the human body. The most important of these bioactive constituents of plants are alkaloids, tannins, flavonoids and phenolic compounds [3, 4]. The Nile Delta region is flourished by many weeds, which seem to be promising economically. Some weeds can be used as forages, and/or agro-industrial raw materials and in drug industry.

The genus *Urospermum* in Mediterranean is represented by two species *U. dalechampi* Schmidt and *U. picroides* (L.) Scop. ex F.W. Schmidt [5]. *Urospermum picroides* is annual herb of flowering plant in the family Asteraceae known by the common name prickly golden fleece, it is coated in long hairs and bristles. It is native to Eurasia and it is known as an introduced species in many other regions, including North and South America, Australia, and southern Africa. It grows as a common weed in disturbed habitat [6, 7].

Urospermum picroides has anti-inflammatory activity [8]. This species is a source of sesquiterpenen lactones and glycosides [9], a glucoside of urospermal A [10] and indole alkaloids [11], with many properties (angiogenic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory) [8]. In the current paper, we investigate the potential antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of aerial parts of *U. picroides* collected from Nile Delta of Egypt, in order to evaluate their medicinal potentiality and their future industrial uses.

2. Material and Methods

2.1 Plant Material and Preparation of the Extract

Urospermum picroides was collected from coastal desert (Deltaic Mediterranean coast) at the period of April 2015. The identification of species was done according to Boulos [7]. It was dried at room temperature (20-23 °C) and grinded into a powder using a blender. The dried plant powder (10g) was extracted using different solvents (Methanol, hexane, petroleum ether and ethyl acetate) by soaking overnight with periodical shaking. The solution was filtered and evaporated to dryness. The dried residue was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and kept at -20 °C for future use [12].

2.2 Phytochemical Analysis

Total phenolics, flavonoid and alkaloids were estimated according to the methods described by Harborne [13], Sadasivam and Manickam [14] and Bohm and Kocipai-Abyazan [15], respectively. Saponins content was determined by the method adopted by Obdoni and Ochuko [16], while tannins according to Van Burden and Robinson [17].

2.3 Determination of the Radical Scavenging Activity

The antioxidant activity was determined by using the free radical scavenging method (DPPH) described by Miguel [18]. Two mL of 0.15 mM DPPH was added to 2 mL of plant extracts in different concentrations (100, 200, 400, 600, 800 and 1000 ppm). A control was prepared by adding 2 mL solvent instead of sample. The mixture was incubated for 30 min in dark at the room temperature. The absorbance was measured at 517 nm and the IC₅₀ was calculated graphically. The antioxidant activity was calculated using the following equation:

$$\% \text{ Radical scavenging activity} = [1 - (A_{\text{sample}}/A_{\text{control}})] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

2.4 Antimicrobial Activity

The different extracts of *Urospermum picroides* were tested against six gram negative bacteria: *Proteus vulgaris*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Shigella*, *Escherichia coli*, *Erwinia carotovora*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and three

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gram positive bacteria; *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis* as well as *Candida albicans* is fungal strain employed in the screening using filter paper discs assay [19]. Standard antibiotic of ampicillin, clotrimazole and penicillin were used for comparison with the tested plant extracts.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Phytochemical Constituents

Drugs derived from natural products are usually secondary metabolites derived from living organisms and their derivatives must be pure and highly characterized compounds [20]. The phytochemical analysis of the aerial parts of *U. picroides* indicated that the plant is rich in secondary compounds. *U. picroides* exhibited the highest content of tannins and phenolics (17.11 ± 0.05 and 19.34 ± 0.04 , mg/g D.W., respectively), followed by saponins (11.28 ± 0.03 mg/g D.W.), flavonoids (8.28 ± 0.02 mg/g D.W.) and then alkaloids (5.01 ± 0.02 mg/g D.W.).

The phytochemical analysis of *U. picroides* in this study are relatively higher than those obtained by El-Amier et al. [21] on some wild Aizoaceae species (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum* and *M. nodiflorum*) and Ramez [22] on *Launaea mucronata* and *L. nudicaulis* (Asteraceae) growing in coastal desert (Deltaic Mediterranean coast), but lower than those reported by Abd El-Gawad et al. [23] on *Lactuca serriola* and *Reichardia tingitana* (Asteraceae).

3.2 Antioxidant Activity

Plant-based antioxidants are now preferred to the synthetic ones because of safety concerns [24]. Plants produce various ant oxidative, enzymes and non-enzymes, compounds to counteract and detoxify these reactive oxygen species (ROS) in order to survive. Hence, natural product possessing ant oxidative and anti-inflammatory properties appear to contribute to their chemo preventive or chemo protective activity [25] which in turn, has been used to the benefit of human beings.

The IC₅₀ values of the extracts of *U. picroides* were presented in Table 1, and Fig. 1. The free radicals of 2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) is used for detection of the antioxidant activity of the extracts. Hexane extract had the highest scavenging activity. The radical scavenging activity of the other extracts and standard decreased in the following order: catechol, petroleum ether, methanol, ethyl acetate.

Table 1 Antioxidant activity of the extracts of *Urospermum picroides* by DPPH

Extracts	IC ₅₀ mg/mL
Methanol	2.78
Hexane	1.54
Petroleum ether	2.16
Ethyl acetate	4.38
Catechol	0.18

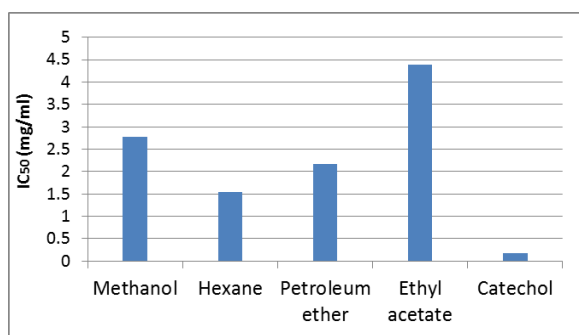


Fig. 1 IC₅₀ values (mg/mL) of *U. picroides* extracts and natural antioxidant catechol (standard)

3.3 Antimicrobial Activity Assessment

In the world medicinal plants are used for antifungal, antibacterial and antiviral activities. These plant extracts were used as a source of medicinal agents to cure urinary tract infections, cervicitis vaginitis, and gastrointestinal disorders [26].

U. picroides extracts exhibited different inhibitory activities against the tested bacterial strains with different degrees as demonstrated by measuring the diameters of inhibition zones developed by the extracts Table 2 methanol and ethyl acetate extracts of *U. picroides* showed the broad spectrum against the tested bacteria Fig. 2. Whereas, hexane extracts expressed an activity against *E. coli* and *Erwinia carotovora*, only.

Petroleum ether extract showed the inhibitory activities against *E. coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *E. carotovora* and *Candida albicans*.

U. picroides produced inhibition zones less than that of the standard antibiotic ampicillin, clotrimazole and penicillin against tested organisms. The pathogen *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis* were the most sensitive bacteria in case of ethyl acetate extract. On the other hand, *E. carotovora* and *C. albicans* were the most sensitive organisms to different extracts.

Ramdani et al [27] found similar results that the methanol extract of *Urospermum dalechampii* from Algeria was active against *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *P. aeruginosa*, *B. subtilis* and *S. aureus*. El-Amier et al [28] also reported that *Sencio glaucus* (Asteraceae, from coastal desert of Nile Delta) extract showed an inhibition zone against *E. carotovora*, *S. biogenesis* and *B. subtilis* but not against *S. aureus*, *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*.

Table 2 The inhibitory activity of the plant extract against the tested organisms as demonstrated by diameters of the inhibition zone (mm)*

Test microorganisms	Plant extracts				Standard antibiotic		
	Methanol	Hexane	Petroleum ether	Ethyl acetate	Ampicillin	Clotrimazole	Penicillin
Gram positive bacteria							
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	-	-	-	10	16	-	18
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	7	-	-	-	25	-	-
Gram negative bacteria							
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	7	-	-	-	10	-	8
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	-	6.5	7	-	14	-	16
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	8	-	-	-	16	-	10
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	7	-	8	-	27	-	-
<i>Shigella spp.</i>	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
<i>Erwinia carotovora</i>	-	7	6.5	8	-	-	-
Fungi							
<i>Candida albicans</i>	7	-	6.5	8.3	-	15	-

*The recorded value is mean value of 3 replicates

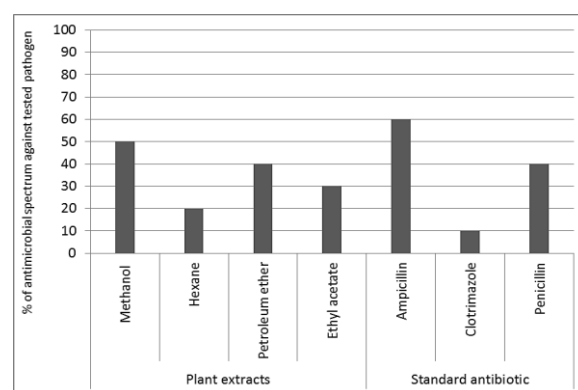


Fig. 2 % of antimicrobial spectrum of *U. picroides* extracts and standard antibiotic

4. Conclusion

A comparison of our results with those of previous studies shows that the locality of the plant material and the extraction procedure cause differences in the antimicrobial activity of the plants. The strong effect and broad spectrum of *U. picroides* can be used either in methanol or ethyl acetate solution for antimicrobial activity.

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