

Original Research Article

STUDIES ON THE EFFECTS OF ETHANOLIC STEM BARK EXTRACT OF *Parkia biglobosa* (LOCUS BEAN) ON SOME PATHOGENIC FUNGI

ABSTRACT:

Parkia biglobosa is used in folk medicine for treatment of ailments such cough, pneumonia, diarrhea, otitis, conjunctivitis, leprocy, violent colic, hermorrhoids, wounds, hookworms. The aim of this study is to investigate the antimicrobial attributes of the stem bark extract of *Parkia biglobosa*. The research was conducted at the Department Plant Science, Modibbo Adama University, Yola. Pure cultures of fungal isolates used for the *in vitro* antimicrobial assay were obtained from the Laboratory of the Department of Microbiology, Modibbo Adama University, Yola. The fungal isolates used were *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Aspergillus niger*. The stem bark of *P. biglobosa* used in this study was collected from the Botanical Garden of the Modibbo Adama University, Yola. Identification was at the Plant science department of same university. The method of Parveen et al (2011) was adapted to obtain the plant extract. Phytochemical screening was carried out according to Sofowora (2008). The ethanolic plant extract was tested for antimicrobial activity according to Fawole and Oso, (2004) using agar well diffusion technique. The diameter of clearance was measured and regarded as being directly proportional to efficacy of extract. Experimental studies were carried out in replicates. Data obtained were subjected to one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20, USA. Results were presented as mean \pm standard deviation (SD). Phytochemical screening of the ethanolic stem bark extract of *P. biglobosa* revealed the presence of alkaloids, saponins, terpenoids, steroids, flavonoids and tannins. While polysaccharides were absent. The mean zone of inhibition obtained for the ethanolic stem bark extract of *P. biglobosa* against *Aspergillus niger* was highest at 60% concentration with a value of 70.61 mm and lowest at 20% concentration with a value of 33.11 mm for *Aspergillus fumigatus*, the highest zone observed at 60% concentration was 66.89 mm and least at 20% concentration was 29.39 mm. The higher the concentration of plant extracts the higher the antimicrobial action. However, only the least concentration as well as the highest concentration were statistically significant for both isolates.

Keywords: [Plant Extract, Antifungal activity, Mycelial Growth Inhibition, Phytochemical screening]

1. INTRODUCTION

Plant represents diverse species with antimicrobial and medicinal properties that constitute abundant source of pharmaceuticals worldwide [1]. *Parkia biglobosa* is used in folk medicine for treatment of ailments such cough, pneumonia, diarrhea, otitis, conjunctivitis, leprocy, violent colic, hermorrhoids, wounds, hookworms [2].

Parkia plants have been established to be source of tannins, saponins and amino acids. Phytochemical analysis reveals high proportion of flavonoids and phenols [3]. They have exhibited wide range of pharmacological and biological activities which include antimicrobial, anti-allergic, anticancer and anti-inflammatory activities [4]. The plant is a subdivision of angiosperms belonging to the family Fabaceae (subfamily, Mimosoideae) with wide tropical distribution [5]. The growing adverse effects of synthetic drugs on humans and their contributions on the development of resistant microbial strains ingendered research into plant resources and their derivatives as good apparent therapeutics [6].

Plant extract has been exploited for antimicrobial activity due persistent resistant of pathogenic microorganism to synthetic drugs [2]. Microorganisms develop resistant genes to support their natural adaptation to antimicrobial agents [7]. The aim of this research is to study the effect of ethanolic bark extract of *Parkia biglobosa* on some pathogenic fungi.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Study area

The research was conducted at the Department Plant Science, Modibbo Adama University, Yola. The university is located along Yola to Mubi road, Girei Local Government Area, which lies between Latitude 9.3°N and Longitude 12.5°E with an average altitude 175m above mean sea level covering a total area of 1700ha [8].

2.2 Test organisms

Pure cultures of fungal isolates used for the in vitro antimicrobial assay were obtained from the Laboratory of the Department of Microbiology, Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Nigeria. The fungal isolates used were *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Aspergillus niger*.

2.3 Plant material collection

The stem bark of *P. biglobosa* used in this study was collected from the Botanical Garden of the Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Nigeria. Identification was at the Department of plant science, modibbo Adama University, Yola.

2.4 Plant extraction

The method [9] was adapted to obtain the plant extract. The bark of the of *P. biglobosa* was dried at room temperature and milled into powder, it was weighed and dissolved in a solvent and allowed to soak for 72 hours at room temperature but stirred regularly every 12 hours. The solvents used were ethanol (70%). The resultant suspension was filtered into a 500ml beaker using muslin cloth reinforced with Whatman's No 1 filter paper. The extracts was then concentrated using a rotary evaporator for 4 hours. This was then used for analysis. The excess extract stored in the refrigerator for further study.

2.5 Phytochemical screening

Phytochemical screening for Alkaloids, Saponins, Terpnoids, Steriods, Flavonoids, Tannins and Polysaccharides (Reducing sugar) was carried out according to [10].

2.6 Antimicrobial assay

The ethanolic plant extract was tested for antimicrobial activity according to [11] using agar well diffusion technique. The diameter of clearance was measured and regarded as being directly proportional to efficacy of extract.

2.7 Statistical analysis

Experimental studies were carried out in replicates. Data obtained were subjected to one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20, USA. Results were presented as mean \pm standard deviation (SD).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Phytochemical screening of the ethanolic stem bark extract of *P. biglobosa* revealed the presence of alkaloids, saponins, terpenoids, steroids, flavonoids and tannins. While polysaccharides (reducing sugars) are absent. As shown in table 1 below.

Table 1. Qualitative Phytochemical Constituent of Ethanolic Stem Bark Extract of *Parkia biglobosa* carried out.

Phytochemical Constituent	Ethanolic Extract (Bark)
Alkaloids	+
Saponin (Frothing)	+++
Terpenoids	++
Steroids	+
Flavonoid	+
Tannin	+
Polysaccharides (Reducing Sugar)	-

Note: (+++) = Highly Present, (++) = Present, (+) = Slightly Present, (-) = Absent

The absence of polysaccharides in ethanolic stem bark extract of *p. Bigobosa* is in line with the study of [12]. This is also in agreement with the work of [10], shows that, phytochemical analysis of stem bark extract of *P. biglobosa* is rich in steroids, terpenoids, saponins and tannins reducing compounds. Phytochemicals are specifically latent in antimicrobial actions of various medicinal plants as supported by different researchers. [12] reported that, phytochemicals are subordinate components of plants which are responsible for biological actions and some have also been reported to possess anti oxidative potentials.

Antimicrobial activity of *Parkia biglobosa* stem bark extract on the mycelial growth of some pathogenic fungi shows that increasing the concentration tends to increase the mean zone of inhibition as shown in table 2. The mean zone of inhibition obtained for the ethanolic stem bark extract of *P. biglobosa* against *Aspergillus niger* was highest at 60% concentration with a value of 70.61 mm and lowest at 20% concentration with a value of 33.11 mm for *Aspergillus fumigatus*, the highest zone observed at 60% concentration was 66.89 mm and least at 20% concentration was 29.39 mm.

Table 2: effect of *parkia biglobosa* bark extract on the mycelia growth of *aspergillus niger* and *aspergillus fumigates*

Extract concentration (%)	fungal spp. Mycelia inhibition rate	
	<i>aspergillus niger</i>	<i>aspergillus fumigatus</i>
20	33.11 ^c	29.39 ^b
40	68.97 ^{ab}	31.03 ^{cb}
60	70.6 ^{1a}	66.89 ^A
0	1.43 ^c	4.57 ^d

Mean with different superscript along the column are statistically significantly different at $p < 0.05$.

These results are in agreement with the study conducted by [13] which opined that, the higher the higher the concentration of plant extracts the higher the antimicrobial action. However, only the least concentration as well as the highest concentration was statistically significant for both isolates. This may be due to the fact that, the ethanolic stem bark extracts contains phytochemicals such as tannins, alkaloids, saponins and flavonoids which may be responsible for this effect. This result agrees with the work of [14]. Who reported that, the aqueous stem bark extract of *P. biglobosa* had inhibitory effect on some clinical pathogens. This shows that, the extract contains some active phytochemicals which when purified could serve as a suitable drug to tackle some resistant microbes.

4. CONCLUSION

From this study, the growth inhibition influence by ethanolic stem bark extract of *Parkia biglobosa* on *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus fumigatus* suggest that, *P. biglobosa* has antimicrobial activity which may be as a result of active

phytochemicals present in the extract. This suggest that, the extract when purified can serve as a suitable remedy against stubborn microbial agents.

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