



COMBINATION EXTRACT OF CALENDULA OFFICINALIS AND PSIDIUM GUAJAVA ON ANTIBACTERIAL AND ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITY

Abhilasha Sawant*, Madhuri Shinde and Pallavi Dhekale

Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Gourishankar Institute of Pharmaceutical and Education Research, Limb, Satara, 415015, Maharashtra, India

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to evaluate the antimicrobial and antifungal activity of combine ethanolic extracts of *Calendula officinalis* and *Psidium guajava* against two clinically important bacteria and fungi namely *Staphylococcus aureus*, *E. coli* and *Aspergillus flavus*, *Candida glabrata*. The antimicrobial and antifungal activity of combined extracts was done with agar well diffusion assay in plates containing nutrient agar media. The antimicrobial activity of ethanolic extracts showed that all the combinations of extracts were effective against the test microorganisms. The patterns of inhibition varied with the different plant part extracted as the tested microorganisms. The methanolic extract of *Psidium guajava* and *Calendula officinalis* showed effective antibacterial and antifungal activity. The combined extracts of *Calendula officinalis* (petals) and *Psidium guajava* (leaves) antibacterial and antifungal activity showed reduced zone of inhibition by 10 mm in *Aspergillus flavus*, 2 mm in *Candida glabrata*, 4 mm in *Staphylococcus aureus* and increased by 2 mm in *E. coli* while comparing with streptomycin and fluconazole.

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INTRODUCTION

Antibiotics provide the basis for the fungal and bacterial infections therapy. The discovery of antibiotics and making use of them as chemotherapeutic agents has made the medical fraternity to believe that they will eradicate various infectious diseases. However, indiscriminate use of antibiotics in human and veterinary healthcare systems has led to the emergence of multi-drug resistant (MDR) strains of different groups of microorganisms. The emergence and dissemination of MDR bacteria has made chemically synthesized antibiotics ineffective for the treatment of infectious diseases caused by such bacteria. These circumstances have propelled the researchers and scientists to explore new antimicrobial substances from various sources such as medicinal plants.^{22,23,24} There are many studies that have described different type of plants such as herbs, shrubs and trees with the aim of knowing their phytoconstituents and using them for the treatment of various diseases as possible alternatives to the synthetic drugs. The screening of plants for medicinal purposes represents a serious effort to discover newer, safer, and possibly more effective drugs with the potential of fighting pathogenic bacteria and fungi.^{6,7,8,9,10}

The green medicines are widely believed as safe and dependable in contrast with expensive synthetic drugs that have undesirable side effects along with beneficial effects. The plants have been in use in traditional medicine worldwide since long time but are still understudied, particularly in clinical microbiology. In past few decades, the curiosity to evaluate plants possessing antimicrobial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory activity for various diseases has grown many folds and a large number of biologically active compounds have been characterized. Several studies have established that many plants contain substances like peptides, tannins, alkaloids, essential oils, phenols, and flavonoids among others, which have antimicrobial properties.

Psidium guajava is member of the family Myrtaceae, which is very common in the tropical countries and known by the English name Guava.² The Guava is a phytotherapeutic plant, which contains active components that help to treat various diseases like malaria, gastroenteritis, vomiting, diarrhea, dysentery, wounds, ulcers, toothache, coughs, sore throat, inflamed gums, and a number of other conditions. The components present in Guava include lectins, phenols, tannins, flavonoids, essential oils, fatty acids, vitamins, etc. However, most of the medicinal properties of the Guava are attributed the presence of flavonoids.² The plant *Calendula officinalis* belongs to the family: Asteracea. Commonly known as English marigold or pot marigold, field marigold, garden marigold, gold bloom, holligold, maravilla and, marybud. The orange petals and the whole flower head are used medicinally.

*Corresponding author: **Abhilasha Sawant**

Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Gourishankar Institute of Pharmaceutical and Education Research, Limb, Satara, 415015, Maharashtra, India

Marigold flowers often used in food industry for their nutritive qualities as well as coloring of several culinary products, is well known of centuries in popular medicine because of their biologic activities. The major active constituents include saponins, triterpene diols and flavonoids including hyperoside and rutin, the orange flower contain a high content of carotenoids including flavoxanthin and auroxanthin. *Calendula* has antibacterial and antifungal activity¹, and it has been used for the treatment of burns, abrasions, skin inflammations, ulcers, wounds and eczema. It has been used internally for the treatment of gastritis, bleeding of duodenal ulcers and colitis.²¹ *Calendula officinalis* for its inhibitory effects on the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1), *calendula officinalis* extracts show anti-cancer effects in vitro studies on tumor cell lines, derive from Leukemias, melanomas, fibrosarcomas, breast, prostate, cervix, lung and pancreas. The aim of this study was to evaluate the antimicrobial activity of ethanol extracts of *Calendula officinalis* and *Psidium guajava* to establish if they are effective in inhibiting the growth of bacteria and fungi such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Candida glabrata*.^{12,15,17,18,19,20}

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample collection and extraction

Fresh leaves of *P. guajava* and flowers of *Calendula officinalis* were collected from the nurseries. Leaves and petals were washed gently under tap water and left to dry at room temperature for 2 days, the leaves of guava and petals of marigold were crushed separately to make powder.³ 50 gram of the powder of *P. guajava* and *Calendula officinalis* were mixed separately with 200 ml ethanol in conical flasks. The flasks containing extracts were heated on water bath for 1 h and placed at room temperature for 5 days. The flasks were manually shaken daily to obtain maximum extraction. After 5 days, each extract added to centrifuge tubes and centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 10 min to separate the supernatant. The supernatant containing extracts of *P. guajava* and *Calendula officinalis* were transferred into pre-weighed beakers and were left to dry completely on water bath at 60°C to obtain an ethanol free extract residue of *P. guajava* and *Calendula officinalis*.^{1,2,11,13,14,16}

Preparation of stock solutions

The dry powdered extracts of *P. guajava* and *Calendula officinalis* were dissolved separately in methanol to get the final concentration of 0.5 mg/ml for each extract.

Test organisms

Microbial strains were obtained from the microbiology laboratory of GIPER, Limb, Satara. In total four microorganisms were tested against the above mentioned plant extracts in which was Gram positive *Staphylococcus aureus*, Gram negative namely *Escherichia coli* and *Aspergillus flavus*, *Candida glabrata* fungal strains. The strains were maintained on nutrient agar slants at 4°C.⁵

Preparation of culture media

Nutrient Agar media was prepared by suspending 38 g in 1000 ml of distilled water. The media was sterilized by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 min and poured into sterile Petri plates at around 50°C. To observe the effect of pH on the growth of

tested bacteria, pH was adjusted by adding 0.1M HCL or 0.1M NaOH into the media.

Antibacterial assay^{1, 2, 11, 13, 14, 16}

The antimicrobial activity of ethanol extracts of *P. guajava* and *Calendula officinalis* was done using the agar well diffusion assay as described earlier. Petri plates of 90 mm diameter were poured with agar media and allowed to solidify to make a base layer. The agar plates were marked to divide into required parts and labelled for specific organism, extract name, and pH. A fresh bacterial culture of 100 µl containing approximately 1×10^6 CFU/ml. CFU/ml of test microorganism was inoculated onto nutrient agar media plates and spread homogeneously using a glass spreader; the plates were incubated for 15 min at 37°C to complete dryness of media surface. Wells of 6 mm in diameter were punched off with the help of sterile borer in agar plates. Wells were then filled with the plant extract solution (ranging 10 µl–25 µl) in the combinations. Petri plates were placed for 30 min in refrigerator for diffusion of extracts and then incubated at temperatures 37°C for 24 hours. At the end of the incubation period, the zone of inhibition (including well diameter) was measured. The experiment was carried out thrice independently in duplicate and the mean of all the readings is mentioned in the results. The combined extract of *P. guajava* and *Calendula officinalis* were tested antibacterial activity at concentration 25 mg/µl each. Streptomycin 5 µg/disc was used as positive control and DMSO (solvent) used as negative control. All tests were done in triplicate.

Antifungal assay^{1,2,11,13,14,16}

Antifungal activity was measured using methods of disc diffusion plates on agar. In order to test the antifungal activity, the fractions of two extracts were dissolved in 70% ethanol. 20 mL of Agar was poured into each 90 mm Petri dish. *C. officinalis* and *P. guajava* were grown in agar at 27°C for 48 h. One hundred µL of suspension containing approximately 108 bacteria/mL was placed over agar in Petri dishes and dispersed. Then, sterile paper discs (6 mm diameter) were placed on agar to load 10 and 15 µL of each extract sample (1 mg/mL) and combined extract of *P. guajava* and *Calendula officinalis* were tested antibacterial activity at concentration 25 mg/µl each. One hundred units of fluconazole obtained from a local pharmacy, were used as a positive control and ethanol as a negative control. Inhibition zones were determined after incubation at 27°C for 48 h. All tests were done in triplicate.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION^{1, 2, 11, 13, 14, 16}

The ethanolic extracts of *P. guajava* and *Calendula officinalis* were tested for their antimicrobial activity in combinations of concentration. The tested plants have been in use as folk medicine and were familiar to the local people. The results of the antimicrobial activity of ethanolic extracts showed that all the concentrations were effective against tested microorganisms with varying zones of inhibition. The ethanolic extract of *P. guajava* was found to be inhibition against all bacteria and fungi. The diameter of zones of inhibition exhibited by *S. aureus* were 20 mm, *E. coli* 19 mm and *Aspergillus flavus* 25 mm and *Candida glabrata* 20 mm. The zone of inhibition for *C. officinalis* (petals) was observed inhibition against *Aspergillus flavus* 25 mm, *Candida glabrata* 20 mm, *S. aureus* 15 mm, *E. coli* 18 mm. The combined extract of *P. guajava* and *Calendula officinalis* when tested at concentration 25 mg/µl each, was found most inhibitory to *E.*

coli showing zone of inhibition of 20 mm (Table 1).⁴ This combination further inhibited growth of *Candida glabrata* fairly well (18 mm zone diameter); however, it was less effective in inhibiting the growth of *Aspergillus flavus* and *S. aureus* where zone diameter was observed only 15 mm and 16 mm respectively.

Table 1 Zone of inhibition: Antifungal and Antibacterial activity

Sr.no	Extracts	<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	<i>Candida glabrata</i>	<i>S.aureus</i>	<i>E.coil</i>
1	<i>P. guajava</i> (Leaves)	25 mm	20 mm	20 mm	19 mm
2	<i>C. officinalis</i> (petals)	25 mm	20 mm	15 mm	18 mm
3	Combine extracts(leaves and petals)	15 mm	18 mm	16 mm	20 mm

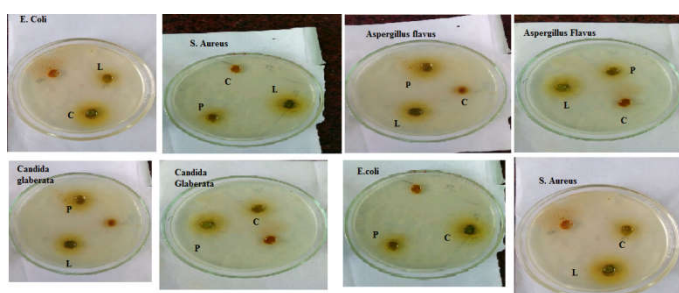


Figure 1 Typical agar plates showing the growth of inhibition zones by *C. officinalis* and *P. guajava*

Above figure shows P: *C. officinalis* petal extract, L: *P. guajava* leaves extract, C: combined extract of *C. officinalis* and *P. guajava*

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the synergistic therapeutic potentials of *Calendula officinalis* and *Psidium guajava* leaves ethanolic extracts in vitro against the clinically important strains of Gram-positive, Gram-negative bacteria and fungi. The ethanolic leaves extracts of *Calendula officinalis* and *P. guajava* exhibited clear zones of inhibition against the test bacteria and fungi indicating that the folk herbal drugs have great potentials as antimicrobial agents.^{26,27,28,29} The synergistic effect from the association of different plant extracts against pathogenic bacteria will lead to new choices for the treatment of infectious diseases. It would be advantageous to standardize methods of extraction and *in vitro* testing so that the search could be more systematic and interpretation of results would be facilitated.

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