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In Vitro Evaluation of Botanicals Against *Fusarium Oxysporum* Causing Wilt of Cumin

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Abstract

Cumin (Cuminum cyminum L.), known as Zeera or Jill, belongs to the Apiaceae family. Cumin is an essential seed herb in India. The most feared disease of cumin plants is Fusarium wilt caused by Fusarium oxysporum, and it is a significant production constraint for growing cumin crops in Gujarat as in India. Seven different plant species have been used for the environmentally friendly treatment of this disease. Crude plant extracts were prepared with water, acetone, and cow urine as solvents at different concentrations (5%, 10%, and 15%). The in vitro antifungal activity of these plant extracts was determined by the poisoned food method. The highest inhibition was recorded with plant extracts prepared in acetone followed by cow urine. All plants showed significant antifungal activity. The highest inhibition was found with Senna alexandrina (85.53%) extract with acetone followed by Azadirachtaindic (82.72%) extract with acetone and 77.70% by Psidium guajava prepared with cow urine (at $p \le 0.01$). The lowest inhibition was recorded for Aloe barbadensis miller (35.49%) and Asparagus racemosus 48.74% with water extract. This study might be the first report of Fusarium oxysporum as a causal agent of cumin wilt in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat in India. A plant extract prepared with cow urine may be the first report of this study

Introduction

Plants are a major source of food, fiber, fodder, medicines, and many other valuable products for humans. Individual parts of plants such as roots stem, leaves, fruits, flowers, and seeds are used for people's daily needs. A variety of insects, bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other pests invade plants at various stages of development, reducing productivity and causing great loss to humankind. More than 800 million people in developing countries

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Keywords

Medicinal plant, Antifungal activity, Poison food technique, LPCB test, PGI lack adequate food supplies, with plant diseases causing at least 10% of their food loss.

Plant Description

Cumin seeds are mainly used as a spice in the form of essential ingredients in all mixed spices and curry powders for flavoring vegetables, pickles, soups, sausages, cheeses, and other dishes, bread, cakes, and biscuits. The chemical composition includes 2.5- 4.5% volatile oils, 10% fixed oils, and proteins. Volatile oils are mainly composed of 30- 50% cumin aldehyde, minor amounts of b-pinene, phellandrene, cumin alcohol, hydrated aldehydes, and hydrocumin, which are suitable for medicinal purposes. The aromatic oil of cumin seeds is also used as a flavoring in curries, liqueurs, and liqueurs and has excellent uses in the perfume industry. The residue left after precious oil extraction contains 17.2% protein and Fat. It is a seasonal crop grown during the Rabi period. It is also grown as a cover crop under rain-fed and irrigated conditions after caliph crops such as jowar, green gram, cowpea, and maize. Cumin is mainly grown in the two states of India, namely Gujarat, and Rajasthan.²

Scenario and Status of Cumin Production in India

India is the world's leading producer (70% of global production), consumer, and exporter of cumin. Almost 80% of crops are grown in India.³ In 2021-2022, the cumin planted area was 151,849 hectares, with production and productivity of 81,700 tons and 6,700 tons/ha respectively. Cumin is only grown in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Gujarat was the leading state for cumin production in India from 2010 to 2019. Gujarat had the highest productivity in 2018 where he was 1.04 MT/ha.⁴ West Bengal, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh contribute to India's production. Gujarat's core cumin-producing districts are Surendranagar, Banaskantha, Jamnagar, and Patan. Bama, Jalore, Jodhpur, and Nagpur in Rajasthan are major cumin-producing areas.⁵

Cumin Diseases

Cumin is an important rabbi crop in parts of Saurashtra and parts of northern Gujarat and is mainly affected by three major diseases, blight (*Alternaria burnsii*) and wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum f. Sp. cumini*), and powdery mildew (*Erysiphe polygoni*). Cumin is an important rabi crop in the part of Saurashtra and North Gujarat and is affected mainly by three important diseases viz., blight (Alternaria burnsii), wilt (Fusarium oxysporum f. Sp. cumini), and powdery mildew (Erysiphe polygoni). Wilt is the most destructive disease of cumin plants. Gaur (1949) first reported the existence of wilt disease caused by Fusarium species in Rajasthan, India. Plants are affected at all stages of growth, but the severity of wilting increases with plant age. When the plant height reaches 2.5cm to 5.0cm, it will die. In older plants, the leaf color changes from green to vellow, starting with the oldest leaves and moving to the younger leaves. In severe stages, the tops and leaves of the plant fall off, leading to complete plant death. Such plants are easy to pull out of the ground. The roots of diseased plants have dark brown spots. Sometimes only partial wilting is observed. If plants become infected during flowering, they remain sterile.6 The present study was conducted to evaluate the antifungal activity of selected plants against the growth of Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. Cumini causes cumin wilting.

Materials and Methods

Collection of Native Plants in and Around Rajkot District

Seven plant species were used in this study to evaluate antifungal activity (Table 1). Native plants were selected based on their antibacterial properties and abundant arable land. Nominated plants are well adapted to climatic conditions and popular with local residents for their medicinal properties.⁷ Selected plant leaves/flowers were collected from different villages in the Rajkot district.

Fungal Strains

Pure culture of *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cumini* was acquired from the Plant pathology department of Agriculture University, Junagadh (Figure 1).

Preparation of Aqueous Extract

Fresh Leaves/flowers of each plant were washed theory with tap water followed by sterilized distilled water. 100gm of these Leaves/ flowers were crushed in 100 ml of distilled water in a grinder. The extracts were strained through a muslin cloth to remove plant debris. The filtrate thus obtained was designated as stock solution. 5%, 10%, and 15% plant extract were prepared from the stock solution of each plant.⁸ Similarly, each plant extract was prepared in acetone (95%) and cow urine(untreated).

Antifungal Activity Assay of Botanical Extracts by using Poison Food Technique

1 ml of each plant extract at different concentrations of 5%, 10%, and 15% was added to 15 ml of sterile molten potato dextrose agar in a sterile Petri dish. *Fusarium oxysporum* has grown at 7 days of age. A 5 mm diameter mycelial disc of the culture was placed in the center of the petri dish containing the extract of each plant. A plate without plant extract served as a negative control. Plates were incubated at 27±2°C. Triplicates were maintained for each treatment in this assay. Radial mycelial growth was measured after 6 days of incubation (Figure 2). Results were compared to negative controls.⁹

Statistical Analysis

Experiments were repeated three times and the average of the three measurements was used for calculations. Percentage inhibition was determined using the average colony diameter and calculated using the following formula proposed by Vincent (1947).

 $L = [(C - T)/C] \times 100$

where L is the inhibition rate, C is the colony radius of the control plate, and T is the radial growth of *Fusarium oxysporum* in the presence of plant extracts.¹⁰

Statistical analysis of results was performed using R language version 4.1.1.1. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) at values of $p \le 0.001$, followed by Tukey's post hoc test at $p \le 0.05$, was used to determine significant differences between results obtained in each experiment.

Result

Extracts from seven different plants were tested for antifungal activity at concentrations of 5%, 10%, and 15%. Radial growth of *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp.* is measured, and the percent inhibition is calculated for each plant. (Tables 2, 3, and 4).

Antifungal Activity Test of Aquatic Plant Extracts Using the Poison Food Method.

The highest inhibition of mycelial growth was recorded with 15% aqueous extract from *Senna alexandrina* (84.54%), followed by *Azadirachta indica* (73.35%). At the same concentrations, extracts of *Psidium guajava*, *Asparagus racemosus*,

Triumfetta Pilosa, and *Ocimumtenuiflorum* inhibited mycelial growth in the range of 68.01% to 60.45%, while *Aloe barbadensis* miller showed minimal inhibition. (39.22%)

At a concentration of 10% in water, the most effective extracts to inhibit mycelial growth were *Senna alexandrina* (78.05%), followed by *Psidium guajava* (61.47%). Other extracts tested showed potency from 58.00 % to 46.64 % against *Azadirachta indica, Asparagus racemosus, Triumfetta Pilosa* and *Ocimumtenuiflorum. Aloe barbadensis* miller extract showed the lowest potency (34.94%).

At a concentration of 5% in water, the most effective extract to inhibit mycelial growth was *Senna alexandrina* (75.28%) followed by *Psidium guajava* (55.43%). Other tested extracts such as *Azadirachta indica*, *TriumfettaPilosa*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Senna alexandrina* and *Ocimumtenuiflorum* showed potency between 53.78% and 36.54%. The least effective was *Aloe barbadensis* miller 59.57% (Figure 3).

Antifungal Activity Test of Plant Extracts in Acetone Using Poison Food Method

For plant extracts prepared with acetone, the highest inhibition of mycelial growth was recorded by *Azadirachtaindic* (89.88%) at a concentration of 15%, followed by *Senna alexandrina* (88.56%). Other tested extracts showed potencies of 78.38% to 64.15% against *Psidium guajava*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Triumfettapilosa* and *Ocimumtenuiflorum*. The lowest efficacy was recorded by *Aloe barbadensis* miller (58.17%).

At 10% concentration in acetone, *Senna alexandrina* (84.80%) was the most effective extract to inhibit mycelial growth, followed by *Triumfetta Pilosa* (82.71%). Other extracts tested showed potencies between 81.94 % and 62.76 % for *Azadirachta indica*, *Psidium guajava*, *Asparagus racemosus* and *Ocimumtenuiflorum*. The least effective was *Aloe barbadensis* miller (56.18%).

At a concentration of 5% in acetone, the most effective extract to inhibit mycelial growth was observed from *Senna alexandrina* (83.84%), followed by *Triumfettapilosa* (77.93%). Other tested extracts such as *Azadirachtaindic*, *Psidium guajava*, *Asparagus racemosus* and *Ocimumtenuiflorum*

showed potency from 76.36% to 56.85%. The least effective was *Aloe barbadensis* miller (46.08%) Figure:4.

Antifungal Activity Test of Plant Extracts in Cow Urine Using Poison Food Method.

In plant extracts prepared from cow urine, *Triumfettapilosa* recorded the highest inhibition (84.33%) at a concentration of 15%, followed by *Psidium guajava* (82.0%). At the same concentrations, extracts of *Azadirachta indica*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Senna alexandrina* and *Ocimumtenuiflorum* showed potencies between 74.95% and 67.77%. The least effective was *Aloe barbadensis* miller (30.48%).

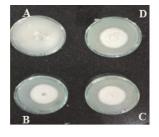
At concentrations of 10% with cow urine, the most effective extracts to inhibit mycelial growth were

Triumfetta Pilosa (77.91%) and *Psidium guajava* (77.34%). Other extracts tested included *Azadirachta indica*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Senna alexandrina* and *Ocimumtenuiflorum* showed efficiency ranging from 69.57% to 61.44%. The lowest effect was recorded by *Aloe barbadensis* miller (48.03%).

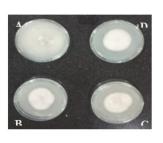
At 5% concentration of cow urine, the most effective extract to inhibit mycelial growth was *Psidium guajava* (73.74%) followed by *Triumfetta pilosa* (72.32%). Other tested extracts such as *Azadirachta indica, Asparagus racemosus, Senna alexandrina* and *Ocimumtenuiflorum* showed potencies between 66.05% and 59.57%. A decrease in potency was recorded by *Aloe barbadensis* miller (43.88%).



Fig. 1: Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cumini A: Growth of Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cumini on PDA B: Microscopic view of Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. Cumini







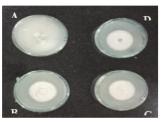




Fig. 2: Evaluation of plant extracts by poison food technique on PDA media

2.

1: Senna alexandrina with acetone (A: control, B: 5%, C:10% and D:15 % concentration)

2: Azadirachtaindic with acetone (A: control, B: 2:5%, C:10%, and D:15 % concentration)

3: Triumfetta Pilosa in cow urine (A: control, B 2:5%, C:10%, and D :15 % concentration)

Sr.No.	Comr	mon	name			ic nai			Family		Plant part used
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Neem Guava Shata Aelov Jipto Aaveo Tilak t	′a avari ∕era di		Ps As Ala Tri Se	idium parag pe bai umfet enna a	rbadei tapilo: ilexan	iva cemos nsis m sa		Aspara	reae or myrtle agaceae delaceae ceae eae	Leaves Leaves Leaves Leaves Leaves Flower Leaves
Average % Inhibition			58.60±1.06	61.64±0.72	48.74±0.30	35.49±036	57.37±0.63	79.29±.79	58.03±0.91 0.00		
		15%	73.35±0.9	68.01±1.34	62.22±0.55	39.22±0.1	60.45±1.0	84.54±0.6	63.5±1.00 0.00		
n* ± eviation		10%	57.94±1.52	61.47±0.64	46.64±0.08	34.94±0.6	57.88±0.1	78.05±0.92	58.00±0.68 0.00	t Hoc test	
% Inhibition* ± Standard Deviation		5%	44.5±0.72	55.43±0.18	36.54±0.28	32.30±0.34	53.78±0.7	75.28±0.79	52.60±1.06 0.00	Tukey's Pos	
m) *at conc Average % Inhibition* ± Ave Colony Standard Deviation % Ir Diamete	r (mm)		38.25±0.95	34.52±0.64	47.37±0.27	64.05±0.32	38.36±0.56	18.63±0.71	37.76±0.82 90.00±0.00	at p≤0.01 level according to Tukey's Post Hoc test	
at conc		15%	24.98±0.85	28.78±1.20	34.99±0.50	62.69±0.14	35.59±0.9	13.91±0.60	32.85±0.9 90.00±0.00	≤0.01 level a	
		10%	38.84±1.3	40.11±0.16 34.67±0.58	58.11±0.26 49.01±0.07	65.5±0.5	37.9±0.13	19.74±0.83	37.79±0.61 90.00±0.00		
t Colony Diameter(n		5%	50.95±0.65	40.11±0.16	58.11±0.26	65.92±0.30 65.5±0	41.59±0.65	22.24±0.71 19.74±0.	42.65±0.95 90.00±0.00	lications, Sig	
Treatment			Azadirachta indica	Psidium	guajava Asparagus	Aloe barbadensis	miner TriumfettaPilosa	Senna	arexanuma Ocimumtenuiflorum 42.65±0.95 Control 90.00±0.00	*Mean of three replications, Significant	

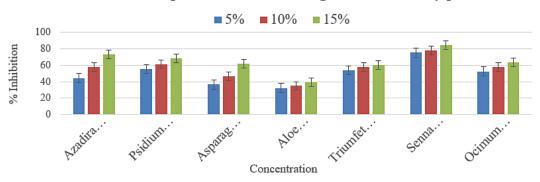
Table 1: List of Plant and parts used for evaluation

Plant extracts	Colony Dian	Colony Diameter (mm) *at conc.	conc.	Average Colony Diameter (mm)	% Inhibition	% Inhibition*	eviation	Average % Inhibitio n
	5%	10%	15%		5%	10%	15%	
Azadirachta indic	21.27±0.72	16.25±0.39	9.11±0.37	15.54±0.49		76.36±0.80 81.94±0.43 89.87±0.42 82.72±0.55	89.87±0.42	82.72±0.55
Psidium guajava	31.8±0.60	22.35±0.58	19.45±0.48	24.53±0.55	64.66±0.66	75.16±0.65	78.38±0.53 72.73±0.61	72.73±0.61
Asparagus racemosus	38.40±0.63	33.51±0.52	32.26±0.34	34.72±0.49	57.32±0.70	62.76±0.57	64.15±0.38 61.41±0.55	61.41±0.55
Aloe barbadensis miller	50.52±0.81	41.43±0.72	39.64±1.38	43.86±0.97	46.08±0.90	56.18±0.80	58.17±1.54	53.47±1.08
Triumfettapilosa	19.85±0.89	15.55±1.11	8.66±0.64	14.68±0.88	77.93±0.99	82.71±1.23	90.37±0.71	83.67±0.97
Senna alexandrina	15.08±0.81	13.67±0.37	10.29±0.84	13.01±0.67	83.24±0.90	84.80±0.41	88.56±0.94	85.53±0.75
Ocimumtenuiflorum	70.83±0.5	60.16±0.0	59.10±0.47	63.36±0.36	56.85±0.62	68.70±0.07	69.88±0.52	65.14±0.40
Control	90.0±00.06	90.0±00.06	90.0±0.00	90.00±0.00 90.00±0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 3: In vitro evaluation of plant extracts in Acetone against mycelial growth of Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cumini

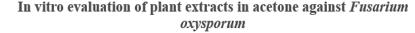
	•)			•
Treatment	Colony Diamet conc Mean±SD	Colony Diameter(mm) *at conc Mean±SD	t.	Average Colony Diamete r (mm)	% Inhibitior Deviation	% Inhibition* ±Standard Deviation		Average % Inhibiti-on
	5%	10%	15%		5%	10%	15%	
Azadirachta indica	36.51±0.59		32.25±0.92	34.52±0.63	61.64±0.65	34.52±0.63 61.64±0.65 63.53±0.42		63.85±0.69
Psidium guajava	23.62±0.76	20.38±0.67 16.19±0.34	16.19±0.34	20.06±0.59	73.74±0.85	77.34±0.74	82.00±0.37	77.70±0.65
Asparagus racemosus	39.88±0.46	36.70±0.55	31±0.51	35.86±0.50	57.90±0.51	61.44±0.61	67.77±0.56	62.37±0.56
Aloe barbadensis miller	54.50±0.26	52.56±0.71 58.56±0.24	58.56±0.24	55.20±0.40	43.88±0.29	48.03±0.78	30.48±0.26	40.80±0.44
Triumfettapilosa	24.90±0.37	18.82±1.03 14.1±0.27	14.1±0.27	19.27±0.55	72.32±0.41	77.91±0.86	84.33±0.30	78.19±0.52
Senna alexandrina	30.54±0.28	27.38±0.79 22.53±0.4	22.53±0.4	26.81±0.50	66.05±0.31	69.57±0.88	74.95±0.50	70.19±0.56
Ocimumtenuiflorum	36.38±0.84	34.16±1.11 24.81±0.75	24.81±0.75	31.37±0.9	59.57±0.37	59.57±0.37 62.03±1.23	72.42±0.83	64.68±0.82
Control	90.0±00.06	90.0±00.00 90.00±0.00	90.0±00.06	0 [.] 0∓00 [.] 06	0.00	00.00	0.00	0.00
*N 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Cianifi on			- Tuberlo Dee	1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2			
Wean of three replications, significant at p≤0.01 level according to Tukey's Post Hoc test.	ons, significan	t at p≤∪.∪⊺ lev	/el according	to Tukey's Pos	st hoc test			

Table 4: In vitro evaluation of plant extracts in Cow urine against mycelial growth of Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. Cumini



In vitro evaluation of plant extracts in water against Fusarium oxysporum

Fig. 3: In vitro evaluation of plant extracts in water at different concentration on PDA media Significant at p≤0.01 level according to Tukey's Post Hoc test



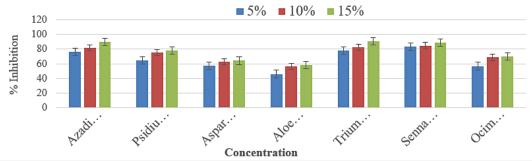


Fig. 4: In vitro evaluation of plant extracts in acetone at the different concentration on PDA media Significant at p≤0.01 level according to Tukey's Post Hoc test

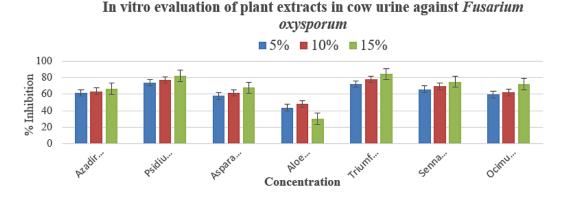


Fig. 5: In vitro evaluation of plant extracts in cow urine at the different concentrations on PDA media Significant at p≤0.01 level according to Tukey's Post Hoc test

Discussion

The antifungal activity of plant extracts may be due to the presence of some antifungal toxins. The presence of antifungal compounds in higher plants is well-known and valuable in controlling plant diseases.11 Management of Fusarium wilt in cumin is primarily based on the application of chemical fungicides, the use of pathogenresistant cultivars, and crop rotation. The application of chemical fungicides has been the traditional method of controlling wilt disease caused by Fusarium oxysporum. Cumin is a major health hazard for which new eco-friendly fungicides need to be found.¹² The results of this study showed that the plant extracts of Azadirachta indica, Psidium guajava, Senna alexandrina, and Triumfetta pilosa were most effective against Fusarium oxysporum causes cumin wilt. These results correlate with previous studies on the antifungal activity of different plant extracts, namely Azardiachta indicia, Artemessia Annua, Ocimum sanctum, and Rheum emodi, against the pathogen Fusarium solani at different concentrations, indicating a significant reduction in pathogen growth.¹³. Azardiachta indica was also shown to be effective against A. solani.¹⁴ Mycelial growth of different species of Fusarium was inhibited by different concentrations of Convolvulus arsinoides and C. plurlictis plant extracts¹⁵ Allium cepa¹⁶ Adhatodavasica Azadirachta indica Cinnamomum camphora and Ocimum sanctum¹⁷ Ocimumbasilicum, Eucalyptus amygdalina, Ailanthus Excels und Lantana camera.¹⁸ In this study, extracts of all plant species belonging to different families were found to have significant levels of antifungal activity against Fusarium oxysporum.

Conclusion

Results of the present study indicated that all selected plant extracts showed antifungal activity against

fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cumini. Extracts prepared with acetone and cow urine showed excellent antifungal activity and were able to inhibit the growth of Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. Cumini, which is responsible for cumin wilting. These preliminary results, obtained from in vitro experiments, may be supplemented by other more comprehensive studies in the open field (in vivo). From this research, it has been concluded that certain plant extracts are a good source of cost-effective and non-hazardous approach against Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cumini. Plant extracts such as Psidium guajavam, Triumfetta Pilosa, Senna alexandrina, and Azadirachta indica have good antifungal efficacy, which may be used for formulating new, safer, and eco-friendly natural fungicides. This work has allowed selecting the best plant which may be used as a Phyto fungicide to control crop diseases, with the ultimate goal of developing a green alternative to synthetic fungicides.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors do not have any conflict of interest.

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