

## Screening And Characterization Of Antibacterial And Antifungal Activity Of Marine Seaweed

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### ABSTRACT

To study the antimicrobial activity of different species from the group of islands in Rameshwaram Mandapam, India to study their potential for bioactivity . *Ulva reticulata*, *Gracilaria corticata* and *Sargassum tenerimum* algae were selected. *Ulva reticulata* act as dietary food and food ingredient, *Gracilaria corticata* marked as Natural or industrial agar and *Sargassum tenerimum* has nutritious rich source of bioactive compounds like Carotenoids, proteins, vitamins and minerals. Extraction was prepared by using chloroform, methanol, ethanol for evaluating the antimicrobial activity of *Streptococcus mutans*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Mucor racemous* strains were selected. In the current study antimicrobial activity of seaweed extraction can be used for the production of remodelling drugs for mankind.

**Key words:** *Green, Red, brown algae, Anti microbial activity, Solvent extraction.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Seaweeds algae are non-flowering plants and it's not having true root stem and leaves. Microalgae belong to three different major groups. They are *Ulva reticulata* (green algae), *Gracilaria corticata* (red algae) and *Sargassum tenerimum* (brown algae). These three algae differ in their nutrient contents and chemical composition. [1] Commonly marine algae has non-starch polysaccharides, vitamins and minerals [2, 3]. Extracted seaweeds supply very little energy. On utilization of marine algae it can expand the dietary fiber intake and it decreases the risk of some chronic infections [4]. Sea weed algae in common produces bioactive metabolites and different compounds obtained from them has progress of newer drugs by the Pharmaceutical Industries [5]. Marine macro algae are found to be bioactive as it produces a broad spectrum of microbiological activity. Nowadays Sea weed algae extractions are used to treat the antifungal, antiviral and antibacterial activities [6]. The *Ulva* groups are edible algae widely distributed worldwide in the oceans [7]. Broad varieties of bioactive compounds are derived from seaweed microalgae. Seaweeds have wide variety of secondary metabolites and has many spectrums of biological activities. Red, green and brown algae having cytostatic, and antimicrobial activity [8,9]. Red seaweeds basically having pigments are phycoerythrin and phycocyanin is mainly used for agar preparation and preservatives [10]. In brown seaweeds they act as food feed, fertilizer and healthcare benefits [11, 12]. Marine seaweeds have medicinal properties,

bacteriostatic and bactericidal properties [13]. Antibiotics from marine sources that act as therapeutic agents. Marine compounds have high commercial value [14]. Some microalgae having specific bio-active components kill the bacterial germs and some pathogenic bacteria. In clinical and hospitalized patients having health issue for antibiotic resistance and multi-resistant bacteria, treating is difficult [15]. Higher valuable medicinal effect is achieved from powder seaweed samples and its microbial activity is highert when compared to fresh algae extraction. Plants and seaweeds are used to reduce the risk of chronic diseases and cancer. An attempt was made to study the in-vitro antibacterial and anti fungal properties from seaweed extraction.

## **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Seaweed collection**

Fresh seaweed samples *Ulva reticulata*, *Gracilaria corticata* and *Sargassum tenerimum* were obtained from the group of islands in Rameshwaram Mandapam. Blooming and matured grown plants were collected with seawater in specific polythene packs. After collection impurities, debris and sand particles were removed with the help of purified sea water. Again it was washed with double distilled water, dried and powdered. Antimicrobial activity was studied after the solvent extraction.

### **Extract preparation of seaweeds**

Well powdered different species of seaweeds were mixed with different solvents. Chloroform, Ethanol, Methanol solvents were used. These three solvent extractions were done in Soxhlet apparatus for 24 hrs evaporation. Then it's marked properly and the extracted samples were stored at -20°C .

### **Evolution of Antibacterial and Antifungal activity**

For antibacterial activity mainly three Gram positive organisms were selected. They are *Streptococcus mutans*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* strains. For antifungal activity candida albicans, Mucor racemous and Aspergillus niger were selected.

### **Antimicrobial Activity**

Antimicrobial activity of the seaweeds were studied using the pathogenic organisms by agar plate diffusion method. Sample having three different solvent extracts were tested by 100mg/ml. The basal nutrient agar medium was used for the agar diffusion method. Selected three bacterial strains were grown in the nutrient broth medium at 37°C for 24 hrs incubation. Nutrient agar plates prepared and the purified stains were done by spread plate method. After 24 hrs of incubation, 6mm diameter having four extracted sterile filter paper samples were placed in the agar plates. One disc was set as a control for all the plates. For Each and every strain the same procedure was followed in different plates. Every disc was kept in aseptic condition and followed by respective distance. Antifungal activity was carried out by Potato Dextrose Agar medium and the same procedure was followed. Bacterial strain plates were kept at 37°C for 24

hrs Incubation. Fungal strain plates were maintained in room temperature at 25°C for 48 hrs. Antibiotic, standard Chloramphenicol (100mg/ml) and solvents were used as control [16].

## 2. RESULTS

### **Antimicrobial activity of *Ulva reticulata***

*Ulva reticulata*, *Gracilaria corticata* and *Sargassum tenerimum* (Figure 2: a,b&c) sea weeds were selected for antimicrobial activity. In *Ulva reticulata*, (Figure 1: a) *Streptococcus mutans* organism show higher resistance value in chloroform compared to other two solvents. *Bacillus subtilis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* were highly resistance to methanol. In fungi *Candida albicans*, and *Mucor racemous* observed the higher resistance activity for methanol. *Aspergillus niger* showed resistance to ethanol.

### **Antimicrobial activity of *Gracilaria corticata***

In *Gracilaria corticata*, (Figure 1: b) *Streptococcus mutans*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* were highly resistance to methanol. In fungal activity *Candida albicans* shows equal resistance to ethanol and methanol. *Aspergillus niger* noted higher activity of ethanol. *Mucor racemous* showed resistance to chloroform. *Gracilaria corticata*, bacterial activity of the *Streptococcus mutans*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* were resistant to methanol.

### **Antimicrobial activity of *Sargassum tenerimum***

In *Sargassum tenerimum*, (Figure 1: c) *Streptococcus mutans*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Aspergillus niger* were resistant to methanol. *Candida albicans* showed higher activity to ethanol and the *Mucor racemous* was highly resistant to chloroform. Except *Candida albicans* and *Mucor racemous* others were highly resistant to methanol.

## 3. DISCUSSION

More than 1,50,000 microalgae species are found in the ocean worldwide and few of them only were identified and isolated. Secondary or primary metabolites of these microalgae having bioactive compounds are valuable for pharmacological industry. The extraction of active components having various algae were chosen to study the antibacterial activity. Seaweeds have potential source of bioactive natural products. In current study, anti-bacterial and anti-fungal activity of three solvents like chloroform, ethanol and methanol were evaluated against pathogenic organisms. In the current study solvent extractions were used to identify the activity of the pathogenic organisms. Three selected microalgae were treated by six different microorganisms. Both fungi and bacterial organisms were selected. In microorganisms having purified plates were placed by solvent extracted seaweeds and the incubation zone was noted in mm. In our study *Ulva reticulata* was more resistant to all the organisms for antimicrobial activity followed by methanol, chloroform and ethanol. *Gracilaria corticata*, antimicrobial activity was more resistant to methanol followed by ethanol and chloroform. In *Sargassum*

*tenerimum*, antimicrobial activity was more resistant to methanol followed by chloroform and ethanol. These three extracts having antimicrobial activity are more resistant to methanol. It was also concurrent with the earlier works [17]. Among three solvents extract tested, methanol showed the greatest inhibition diameters against bacteria and fungi isolation. In extraction with methanol seaweed preparation gives better results for seaweeds. In methanol extraction bacteria and fungi were found to be more susceptible for different seaweeds [18]. Due to difference in their polarity and solubility, solvents show different antimicrobial activity. Hence, three different solvents were used to extract these seaweeds. Further research can be done for isolation of active compounds and to study their activity.

Figure : 1:a

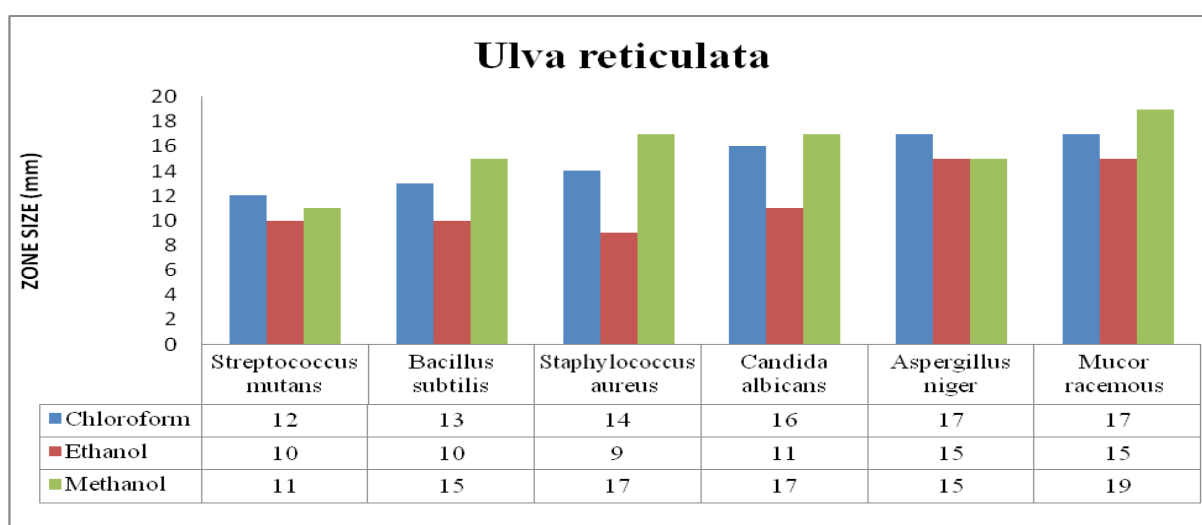


Figure: 1: b

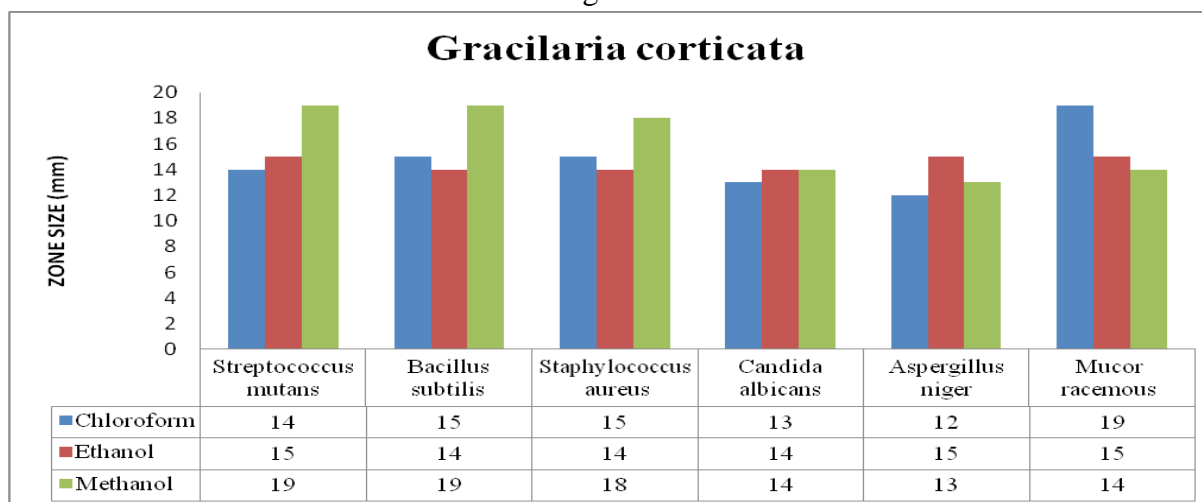




Figure : 1:c

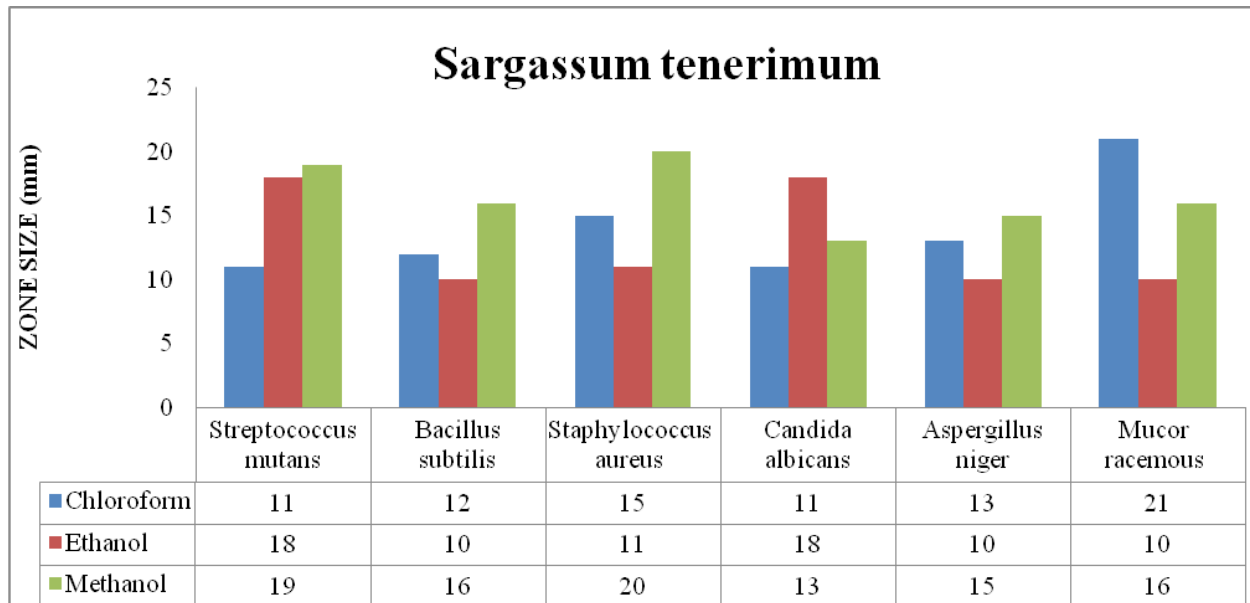


Figure : 2

(a) *Ulva reticulata* (Green Algae)



(b) *Gracilaria corticata* (Red algae)



(c) *Sargassum tenerimum* (Brown algae)



#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The results indicate methanol extracted microalgae has active compounds. This suppresses the growth of both bacteria and fungi. Results from methanol extracted seaweeds can be used to treat different pathogenic organisms.

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