

IN VITRO ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF *LANTANA CAMARA* (L.) AGAINST ISOLATED ORAL PATHOGENS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to investigate antimicrobial activity of *Lantana Camara* against isolated oral pathogen. Among the 50 samples collected from patients 26.75% were identified as *Staphylococcus* spp., 25% as *Micrococcus* spp., 23.75% *Streptococcus* spp., 15% *Corynebacterium* spp and 10% *Proteus* spp. Maximum antibacterial activity of methanolic extract found against *Streptococcus*, i.e. 13.2 ± 1.12 mm followed by *Micrococcus* sp, i.e. 13.0 ± 1.22 mm, and lowest activity was shown against *proteus* spp, i.e. 9.58 ± 1.10 mm.

Keywords: *Lantana camara*. Oral Pathogen.

INTRODUCTION

Dental caries is an infectious microbial disease that results in localized dissolution and destruction of the calcified tissues of teeth (Ross et al., 1994). Most of the investigators believe that development of caries of enamel is preceded by the formation of microbial plaque in the tooth (Gibbons et al., 1963). The human oral cavity is habitat for about 500 cultivable and non cultivable bacterial species (Paster et al., 2001) up to 100 species can be present in a particular oral cavity (Consensus, 1996) while the majority of these species are commensals, a subset is opportunistic pathogens. They have also been implicated in the etiology of a number of systemic diseases like infective endocarditis (Barrau et al., 2004) respiratory infections (Majon et al., 2003), cardiovascular diseases (Okuda et al., 2004) and brain abscess (Corson et al., 2001).

Oral bacterial isolates resistant to penicillin, metronidazole, tetracycline and

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