SYNERGISTIC EFFECT OF VOLATILE OILS AND ANTIBIOTICS AGAINST SOME GRAM POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE PATHOGENIC BACTERIA

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ABSTRACT

Eight most currently used antibiotics were examined for their antibacterial properties against Gram-ve bacteria as Pseudomonas aeuroginosa, E. coli, Proteus vulgari and Gram+ve as Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pneumonia. Nitrofurantoin was the most effective against the tested bacteria, the inhibition zones ranged between 16-20mm and the MIC between 65-85ug/ml followed by ampicillin (11-18mm), ciprofloxacin (9-12mm) and gentamicin (6-9mm). The erythromycin was the lowest effective against the tested bacteria. Also, seven volatile oils were applied by contact and fumigation methods to study their effect on the tested bacterial strains. The fumigation method gave the highest inhibitory effect more than contact method and the thyme oil gave maximum inhibitory action (inhibition zone 20-28mm) against all the tested bacteria, and the MIC ranged between 0.1-0.15mg/ml followed by marjoram oil (19-25mm) and the MIC between 0.1-0.2mg/ml, cinnamon oil (12-16mm) and the MIC between 0.2-0.3mg/ml. Anise and chamomile oils did not gave any response against all the tested bacteria. The combination between thyme and other tested oils gave a synergistic effect for inhibitory action against all the tested bacteria, if compared with thyme oil alone. The combination between thyme and marjoram oil gave the maximum inhibition zones (20-29mm), followed by thyme with cinnamon oil (20-27mm), thyme with geranium gave (18-27mm), thyme with peppermint (17-27mm), thyme with chamomile (16-27mm) and thyme with anise oil (15-26mm). The combination of thyme oil with different tested antibiotics gave the lowest inhibitory effect than combination between thyme and other volatile oils against all the tested bacteria. The protein and DNA content of treated bacteria with thyme oil were increased by 38.46-47.37% and 34.26-46.94% respectivily, if compared by non-treated bacteria.

Keywords: Pseudomonas aeuroginosa, E. coli, Proteus vulgaris, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pneumonia, Antibiotics, Plant extract, Volatile oils

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INTRODUCTION

Resistance of bacteria to antimicrobial agents has become a worldwide problem, both in hospitals and in the community (Molstad and Otto, 1999). Essential oil extracts of various plants have been reported to have inhibitory effect against diverse types of microorganisms including Gram-positive and Gramnegative bacteria, fungi and virsuses (Sue et al 2000). The development of antimicrobial agents has advanced significantly in recent years and a large number of new drugs are available for clinical practice, yet the use of these drugs has caused changes in the bacteria that cause infection resulting in the appearance of drugs-resistant strains (Ooishi and Miyao, 1997).

Numerous studies have also shown that many of these oil exert potent antimicrobial effects on a wide variety of human pathogens and food spoilage microorganisms (Abo-Ghalia *et al* 2004). Diab *et al* (2004) reported that, the treatment of urinary tract infection by *Pseudomonas aeruginosae* was completely treated by imipenem and cefotoxime antibiotics.

This study aimed to differentiate between the inhibitory effect of volatile oils, antibiotics either used separetely or in combination between each of them against some pathogenic bacterial (Gram +ve and Gram –ve) strains.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Bacterial strains

All bacterial isolates were provided by Prof. Dr. Hosam Ibrahim El-Sharkawy Prof.of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Zagazig University. Identification of bacterial isolates were carried out by typical colonial morphology and Gram stain then biochemical tests according to **Cheesbrough (1985).**

Volatile oils used

Seven volatile oils were used in this study purchased from Sekem company, Egypt. These oils used for testing their antimicrobial activities against bacterial strains. The testing oils were as follows: marjoram (Margorana hortensis), thyme (Thymus vulgaris), geranium (Pelargonium graveolens), peppermint (Mentha piperata), anise (Pimpinella anisum), cinnamon (Cinnamomum zylanicum) and chamomile (Martricaria recutica)

Antimicrobial assay

Seeded agar plates were prepared using 25ml of molten Muller-Hinton agar for bacterial growth as described by **Bauer**, *et al* (1966). A well of 5mm in diameter was made in solidified agar and 10ul of tested oil or combined with antibiotics was added to the well, plates were incubated at 28-30°C for 24 h. Oils were mixed with 1-2drops of tween 80 for emulsified before using. Inhibition zones were measured in mm. MIC is recorded as the lowest concentration of

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the antibiotics that inhibites the growth of tested organisms.

Antibiotics susceptibility test

Antibiotics susceptibility test was done by the disc-diffusion technique using commercially available antibiotic disc as recommended by **Bauer**, *et al* (1966).

Effect of combined between thyme and marjoram oils on protein and DNA content.

Each bacterial strains was treated with lowest MIC concentration of thyme with marjoram oils and incubated at 28-30°C for 24h., centrifuged and washed several times with sterile distilled water. The pellet was dried at 55-60°C then collected for extraction and measuring the protein and DNA content colo urimetrically.

Extraction and measurement of protein

The dried pellets of the tested bacteria were extracted with 1N (NaOH) solution at 70°C for 30 min as recommended by **Peiterson, (1977).** The extracted protein was determined as described by **Lowry,** *et al* (1951) using bovine albumin as a standard protein in concentrations ranging from $10\mu g$ to $100\mu g/ml$.

Extraction and measurement of DNA

DNA was extracted according to **Boom, et al (1990).** Dried pellets were transferred to epindorff tubes containing 1ml of TE buffer (10mM Tris-HCl and 1mM EDTA pH 8). The samples were boiled at 100°C for10 min and cetrifuged at 14000 rpm for 5 min. the supernatant containing DNA was transferred to a new tube and applied to measurement according to **Burton**, (1968) where it depends on measuring the color developed after treating the extracted DNA with diphenylamine reagent. The absorbance was measured at 600 nm.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Eight antibiotics namely ampicillin (30 ug, Am), nitrofurantoin (300 ug, Nt) ciprofloxacin (5 ug,Cp), amikacin (3 ug, Am), cephradine (30 ug, Ce), gentamycin (30 ug, Gm), impenem (10 ug. Im) and erythromycin (30 ug. Er) were used as illustrated in Table (1) with standard disc diffusion method. The presented data revealed that the highest effective antibiotic was obtained by nitrofurantoin against either Gram-ve or Gram+ve bacteria, resulted to inhibition zone ranged between 16-20 mm. Ampicillin represent the second inhibitory effect antibiotic against either Gram-ve or Gram+ve of the tested strain except Staphylococcus aureus.since amikacin gave the same inhibion zone as nitrofurantoin being 16 mm. It is also interesting to mention that, all the tested strain were resistance to erythromycin except Streptococcus pneumonia and Proteus vulgaris.

Gentamycin gave the lowest inhibion zones against Gram-ve bacteria which ranged between 6-8 mm. These results were agreement with **Gupta** *et al* (1999) who showed that the susceptibility of Gram-negative bacteria *E.coli* to nitrfurantoin reach to 70%. **David** *et al* (2000) found that 63%of *E. coli* isolates were resistant to gentamicin, also **Fawzy** (2004) reported that 34% of *E.coli* isolates from diarrhea were sensitive to gentamycin. **Diab** *et al* (2004) revealed

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that 90% of *Pseudomonas aeuroginosa* isolates from out patient was sensitive to ciprofloxacin antibiotic. The results in Table (2) illustrated that the MIC values of ampicillin and nitrofurantoin differe according to bacterial isolates, in generally the MIC of nitrofurantoin

higher than ampicillin on all the tested bacterial strains.

The efficacy of seven volatile oils on bacterial strains were illustrated by contact method in Table (3) and by fumigation method in Table (4). These results indicated that, the thyme oil with contact

Bacterial strains		Inhibition zones (mm)						
	Am	NT	Ср	Ak	Ce	Gm	Im	Er
Gram -ve								
Pseudomonas aeuroginosa	18	20	10	17	12	8	15	-ve
E.coli	16	18	11	15	10	6	12	-ve
Proteus vulgaris	15	16	9	15	11	8	11	6
Gram+ve								
Staphylococcus aureus	11	16	12	16	14	13	13	-ve
Streptococcus pneumonia	18	18	14	15	12	14	14	7

Table 1. Antibiotics susceptibility test against the tested bacterial strains

Gm = gentamicin Im = imipenem

Am = ampicillin Nt = nitrofurantoin Cp = ciprofloxacin Ak = amikacin Ce = cephradine $\hat{Er} = erythromycin$.

Table 2. MIC of ampicillin and nitrofurantoin antibiotics against the tested strains

Bacterial strains	Ampicillin (ug/ml) MIC	Nitrofurantoin (ug/ml) MI C
Gram-ve		
Pseudomonas aeuroginosa	14	80
E.coli	20	72
Proteus vulgaris	18	65
Gram+ve		
Staphylococcus aureus	16	85
Streptococcus pneumonia	18	82

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MIC = Minimum Inhibitory Concentration.

Table 3. Effect of different volatile oils against the tested strains by contact method

Volatile oils	Inhibition zones (mm)						
	Pseudomonas aeuroginosa	E. coli	Proteus vulgaris	Staphylococcus aureus	Streptococcus pneumonia		
Marjoram	20	19	18	20	18		
Thyme	22	22	20	18	17		
Geranium	0	12	0	10	9		
Peppermint	0	10	0	9	0		
Anise	0	0	0	0	0		
Cinnamon	16	15	14	15	13		
Chamomile	0	0	0	0	0		
Control	0	0	0	0	0		

Table 4. Effect of different volatile oils against the tested bacterial strains by fumigation method

Volatile oils	Inhibition zones (mm)					
	Pseudomonas aeuroginosa	E.coli	Proteus vulgaris	Staphylococcus aureus	Streptococcus pneumonia	

Marjoram	25	22	20	21	19
Thyme	27	28	23	20	20
Geranium	0	13	0	12	9
Peppermint	0	12	0	11	8
Anise	0	0	0	0	0
Cinnamon	16	14	14	13	12
Chamomile	0	0	0	0	0
Control	0	0	0	0	0

Synergistic effect against some bacteria

and fumigation methods was the highest effective against all Gram-negative bacteria followed by marjoram and cinnamon oils, the remaining oils have low or not effect on Gram negative and positive bacteria. On the other hand, marjoram oil was the highest effective against Gram positive followed by thyme and cinnamon oil There has been increasing interest in the use of natural substances with antimicrobial properties in preference to synthetic substances for controlling diseases (Dac-Vinh et al 2000; Hussain et al 2003; Dorman and Deans, 2004: and Abo-Ghalia et al **2004).** These results were agreement with Chao et al (2000) who reported that Gram-ve bacteria have a cell wall covered by an outer membrane composed of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and some proteins, this structure may prevent either the uptake of the oils or protect the peptidoglycan layer from the oils. The outer LPS membrane of Gram -ve bacteria present a permeability barrier to hydrophobic substances that can enter and inhibit the growth of Gram +ve bacteria (White, 1995). Gram +ve bacteria had not the outermembrane and the peptidoglycan layer is on the outside and more available to contact with the oils. On the other hand, Zambonelli et al (2004) suggested that the alterations caused by thymol are due to its ability to damage the cellular membranes and to interfere with the membrane enzymatic reactions which are fundamental for cellular membrane. Bacteriostatic (MIC) effect of thyme, marjoram and cinnamon which selective the most effective oils

(by contact method) were tested against selected strains. The results were reported in Table (5) which illustrated that the lowest MIC of the thyme followed by marjoram and cinnamon oils against Gram positive and negative bacteria. MIC of the thyme oil ranged between 0.1-0.15mg/ml, whereas marjoram from 0.1-0.2 and cinnamon oil from 0.2-0.3 mg/ml. Abo-Ghalia et al (2004).reported that the MIC of thyme oil 0.32 mg/ml against Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pygenes, E. coli and Proteus vulgaris, however Klebsiella sp. and Streptococcus faecalis were inhibited by 0.64 mg/ml. Thyme oil had a bacteriostatic concentrations against E. coli and S. enteridis at 0.05% and 0.04% respectively, as reported by Smith et al (1998).

The data presented in Table (6) clearly show that the highest figures of synergistic inhibitory effect against all the tested strains, which express as inhibition zones (mm) were obtained in the treatment contained equal mixture of thyme and margoram (10ul) than other combination of rest oils. Cappelletty and Rvbak (1996) reported that the combinations of antimicrobial agents are considered to be synergistic if the effect of the combination is greater than the effect either agent alone or greater than the sum of the effect of the individual agents. Antagonism results occurred if the combination provides an effect more than the effect of either agent alone or more than the sum of the effects of the individual agents. The combination of thyme oil with different antibiotics were

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tested and the results in Table (7) revealed that the combination of thyme oil with nitrofuratoin gave the highest inhibitory effect against all tested bacterial strains and the action of thyme oil with all tested antibiotics increase the

synergistic inhibitory effect against resistant bacterial isolates with treated antibiotics only. The combination between amoxycillin and 10 μl anise oil gave a

Bacterial strains	Thyme oil (mg/ml)	Marjoram oil (mg/ml)	Cinnamon oil (mg/ml)
Gram-ve			
Pseudomonas aeuroginosa	0.10	0.15	0.25
E.coli	0.15	0.20	0.30
Proteus vulgaris	0.10	0.15	0.20
Gram+ve			
Staphylococcus aureus	0.10	0.10	0.20
Streptococcus pneumonia	0.15	0.10	0.25

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Table 5. MIC of thyme, marjoram and cinnamon oils against the tested strains

Table 6. Efficacy of combination between thyme oil and different volatile oils against the tested strains

Treatment	Inhibition zones (mm)					
	Pseudomonas aeuroginosa	E.coli	Proteus vulgaris	Staphylococcus aureus	Streptococcus pneumonia	
Thyme + marjoram	29	28	24	20	21	
Thyme + geranium	26	27	22	19	18	
Thyme +	27	26	23	20	17	
peppermint	27	27	22	20	20	
Thyme + cinnamon	26	26	23	18	15	
Thyme + anise	27	27	22	20	16	
Thyme +						
ahamamila						

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Table 7.	Effect	of combination	between	thyme	oil	and	different	antibiotics	against	the
	tested	strains								

Treatment	Inhibition zones (mm)						
	Pseudomonas aeuroginosa	E.coli	Proteus vulgaris	Staphylococcus aureus	Streptococcus pneumonia		
Thyme + ampicillin	22	20	20	18	17		
Thyme + nitrofurantoin	23	22	21	19	21		
Thyme + ceprofloxacin	20	20	18	17	17		
Thyme + amikin	21	20	19	18	18		
Thyme + cephradine	20	20	20	17	19		
Thyme + gentamicin	21	21	18	16	18		
Thyme + imipenem	22	20	19	16	17		
Thyme + erythromycin	20	21	20	15	17		

Table 8. Effect of thyme oil (10ul) on protein and DNA content of the tested Gram positive and negative bacteria

Bacterial strains	Protei	n content ((mg/gm)	DNA content (ug/gm)		
	Control	Treated % of increasing		Control	Treated	% of increasing
Gram-ve						
Pseudomonas						
aeuroginosa	40	58	45.00	110	148	34.55
E.coli	38	56	47.37	108	145	34.26
Proteus vulgaris	41	58	41.46	105	142	35.24
Gram+ve						
Staphylococcus						
aureus	38	54	42.10	98	144	46.94
Streptococcus	38	54	38.46	105	150	42.86

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pneumonia	
T % of increasing =	reated - Control

synergistic effect against the multiresistant isolates of *Ps. aeruginosa* where this combination increases the inhibition zone of the amoxycillin disc against all chosen multiresistant isolates of *Ps.aeruginosa*, **Zaid (2001). Fawzy (2004)** revealed that the combination between antibiotic and 10ul thyme oil gave a synergistic effect against *E. coli*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Shigella* sp.

The effect of thyme oil on protein and DNA content of the tested bacterial strains were reported in Table (8), these results indicated that the protein and DNA content of all the tested bacterial strains increased if compared with non treated chosen isolates, but the percentage of increasing different according to the treated bacterial isolates. The protein and DNA content of Pseudomonas aeuroginosa increased by ratio 45.0 and 34.55% respectively. The maximum increasing rate of protein and DNA content were attained at E. coli and Staphylococcus aureus by ratio 47.37 and 46.94%, respectively. Wesam, (1994) reported that the cephalosporins treatments were associated with inharmonious effect on the nitrogen metabolism of Bacillus megaterium and E. coli. It increased the protein-N of B. megaterium, on the contrary, the protein-N was decreased significantly in treated E. coli with cephalosporins. Such inharmonious behavior of cephalosporins can be explained at the basis of the low concentration that increased the protein synthesis through the acceleration of protein building, while the higher concentration decreased the protein

synthesis (Egorov, 1985). As regards the effect of thyme oil treatment on DNA content, Fawzy, (2004) revealed that DNA content of treated isolates increased compared with controls. The data reported in this concern were linked with the effect of antibiotics on nucleic acid contents. Gottfredsson et al (1995) have shown that the post antibiotic effect (PAE) phase after ceprofloxacin exposure is characterized by a progressive increase in DNA synthesis, which could be due to an increase in DNA repair as a result of persistent antimicrobial action during the post antibiotic effect. Alternatively, the increase in DNA could be due to continued attempts at DNA replication, since DNA polymerase activity is not hampered, but this replication is abortive because the circular DNA cannot be separated as a result of gyrase inhibition.

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ة ي ض را وليات ك ب ل ض ع ب د ضوي و ي ح ل ت ا د ا ض م ل اور ا ي ط ل ت و ي ز ل ل ز آرتي ش أ ت م ار ج فيل ل اس ل اوق ب ج و م ل ا

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لى لما يقى وراف دم حم رصم ق ي زاق زل اقع ما جمول علي ك المساب ن لم سق - 1

ة عى التقوي وي حت اداض مين امتهاد ختس لمت اي ريتكبل ادخر امطاش نقس ار مؤلد ختس ال از ون ي جي يول ان و مو دي سرل شمم ار خل ل اس ل ا سر اجل يوفي اي تورب وى ال لولش ريش ال او سروي لي واك ولي فاتس ل شمم ار جاقب جوم ل او ف رغ نقل و زعلي ل و مولي في ك و تب رتس و ن ور تتن الو او يف و رتين ل ان ا در يو . تاي لم عل ا طاش ن ل ال صوت ي خرب تا مخ و ايتا ك المطي ب ثت ل م/م ار جور كيم 58-55 نوم ن اطليب شما

- كرابيكيم (لمجم 18-11)ن ي لي سبم العيالي (مم 15 - حياب) ي بمالاو , (مم 17 م في كابي ك الفور بسلاو (مم كوبي عين ك الفور بسلاو (مم كوبي عين عين ك الفور بسي حيال متو و ي حل ت اداض من لي قراي مور سي ريال متر ب تقيم و ي تحب التال السل الى لي عي ث أت متر اي طتو ي قرع بوسي ث أت مسار مت اي ر ت ك ب ل الراي ج ب ت لومس مال ماقاي رطب متر ي رط ن أ دجوت اي لم عل فر تي ت ب ت ل Arab Univ. J. Agric. Sci., Ain Shams Univ., Cairo, 14(1), 121-132, 2006

ناايقو بتالحط لتكب لادخر قس مال طقاي طب دخرطاش ن الته و عز إوا شكر ت عز ل ت عن - مال بابل عمو (مم 27-7 المان عن ا ، مم 28-0 طريب ث ر مظل على متكب . (مم 26- مالو) سن ي ل التي زعمو (مم 27 1-0.15 **الي ب**ت الحب الع مظلب شخ الي الك ر ت ل او -91) وقدر بالتعفى بلم مارجى ل 1-0.2 ومن اطب شنهای کر تل او ، (مم 25 مم16-16 قف رق لتى لىم/مارجى ل 2.0.3 بمعن اطب شراعاكر تال ى وون اضما يحل اي تورب اعادت مدا المستحط وباب الناوس في التي إلى م/مارجي ل م دجهةو بت الخط التكب الى الطب رشي الت ال ى خاله وى إلى عمت عز ل التى خال خار ةن اق و و ن لض ما حل %34.26-46.94 توى ث أت بن ر عق مي ت ك بدخ من الما أت الماش ن عمت عزل التى ظل خب وادر ف زيمت عزل ى يتاهضون الماش تفال اعف تنشن وقدربا

ةفر ق لتى عمة طلەخىل *عم*ث مم 29-20 يىل ا عمو , (مم22-18) طعل عمو , (مم22-20) عهت عزي لتى خط جي أاتن لا تر مطأو ريثأنتى طنخوي وي حل المسمي يت اداض مل ا لكافر اىطلها وىزل اعطلخل انطقطاب شم جي أات ن ات حفق أوي ت ك ب الما ال س ا بسن دبي زيت عزايتاي زبةل ماعط الكلكب ل ىنىتوربلىلوت-مەلل %38.46-47.37 يوپ لمرجح غلاب

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