



Phytochemical analysis and antimicrobial activity of *Muntingia calabura*

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to demonstrate phytochemical screening and antimicrobial activity of *Muntingia calabura* plant extracts. Methanol was used to prepare the extracts from plant parts like the Leaf, Fruit and Root. The Methanolic extracts had comparable efficacy to that of the standard, against *Staphylococcus aureus* (MTCC-3160), *Escherichia coli* (MTCC- 443), and fungal cultures of *Aspergillus niger* (MTCC-961), *Aspergillus flavus* (MTCC-3396). Phenolics, tannins, saponins, and flavonoids were found in large quantities in Root extract. The current study demonstrates that the solvent extract of *M.calabura* contains bioactive compounds that are useful in medicine, which supports the use of plant species as traditional medicine to treat a variety of diseases. Similarly, the zone of inhibition with the fungus was greater in the root extract of *Muntingia calabura*. This demonstrates its antiseptic property, which may have been caused by the components present.

1. Introduction

Medicinal plants are major sources for many therapeutic solutions that are helpful to humans. Approximately 80% of people worldwide are using traditional medicine for primary health-care, this is due to 85% of plant extract is used as traditional medicine for many diseases. due to these interesting reasons research on phytomedicine has been increased since 20 years (Mahmood et al.,2014). In recent studies *Muntingia calabura* gained important status as medicinal plant. *Muntingia calabura* (Jamaica cherry) belong to family muntingiaceae. The plant grows in tropics and subtropics worldwide which have an important role in medical field (Mahmood et al., 2014). So this plant is taken to as a novel discovery against different clinical applications, (i.e against many diseases) (Barza et al., 2002). The Jamaica cherry is used to reduce pain from gastric ulcer and also some other diseases. In earlier days this plant is used ayurvedic medicine against many diseases. The development of various types of diseases, both infectious and non-infectious. It is proven to have

many pharmacological activities like anti-microbial activity, anti-fungal activity, anti-ulcer activity, anti-bacterial activity, and anti-diabetic activity (Mohini Upadhye et al., 2021).

The current study, on the other hand, was designed to evaluate the secondary metabolic compounds by using crude extracts of *Muntingia calabura*, based on the literature review and the lack of research on this plant.

2. Material and Methods

The Roots, flowers and fruits of *Muntingia Calabura* were collected at the Vikrama Simhapuri University campus, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India (Herbarium Voucher No- YVUH 5304) in the month of August, 2022. The roots, fruits and flowers of *Muntingia calabura* were cleaned, shade dried, and mechanically grinded. Finally, the coarse powders of selected plant materials were separated by sieving and stored in an air tight container for further use.



Preparations of Extracts

Accurately weighed 50 gm of *Muntingia calabura* powdered roots, fruits and flowers were extracted with 250 ml of methanol by stirring at 50° C for 3 hr. The extracts were then filtered through What man filter paper and the filtrate was concentrated with a vacuum rotary evaporator under low pressure and temperature and stored in desiccator.

Evaluation of Phytochemicals

Estimation of total phenolics

The Folin-Ciocalteu method (Javanmardi et al.,2003) was used to estimate the amount of total phenolics in the extracts. 2003). Tests (200 µl) were brought into test tubes. 0.8 ml of sodium carbonate (7.5 percent) and one millilitre of Folin Ciocalteu reagent were added. After being mixed, the tubes were left to stand for 30 minutes. At 765 nm, absorption was measured. The standard gallic acid graph was used to calculate the total phenolic content, which was expressed as micrograms of gallic acid equivalents (GAE) per gram of extract.

Estimation of total flavonoids

A modified colorimetric method was used to estimate the total flavonoid content of the extract (Bao et al., 2005). A 5% NaNO₂ solution and 1.0 ml of test extract were combined with 1 ml of distilled water and 75 ml. 75 l of a 10% AlCl₃.H₂O solution was added after 5 minutes. 0.5 ml of 1M sodium hydroxide was added after 5 minutes. The solution was thoroughly mixed and kept for 15 minutes. A UV-Visible spectrophotometer was utilized for the 510 nm measurement of the rise in absorbance. The standard quercetin calibration curve was used to calculate the total flavonoid content. Micrograms of quercetin equivalents (QE) per gram of extract were used to represent the outcomes.

Estimation of total tannins

The Folin-Ciocalteu method (1927) was used to estimate total tannins. Briefly, 0.1 milliliters of test extract, 6.5 milliliters of water, 0.5 milliliters of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent, and 1.5 milliliters of overnight standard solution containing 20% sodium carbonate were added and incubated for one hour. The absorbance of the sample was measured using a spectrophotometer at 725 n The results were expressed as micrograms of tannic acid equivalents per gram of extract, and the standard tannic acid calibration curve was used to calculate the total tannin content.

Estimation of Saponins

Obadoni and Ochuko's (2001) method was used. Conical flasks containing 25 g, 50 g, and 100 g of powder samples each received 100 ml of aqueous ethanol containing 20%. At approximately 55°C, the samples were heated for four hours with constant stirring in a hot water bath. After the mixture was filtered, another 200 milliliters of 20% ethanol were used to extract the residue. At around 90°C, the combined extracts were reduced to 40 ml in a water bath. The gather was moved into a 250 ml isolating pipe and 20 ml of diethyl ether was added and shaken vivaciously. The fluid layer was recuperated while the ether layer was disposed of. The process of purification was repeated. N-butanol-60 milliliters was added. Ten milliliters of aqueous sodium chloride containing five percent was used to wash the combined n-butanol extracts twice. In a water bath, the remaining solution was heated. The saponin content was calculated as a percentage after the samples were dried to a constant weight in an oven following evaporation.

Infrared (IR) Spectroscopy

Infrared spectrum of the compound was measured using Nicolet iS10 Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, Massachusetts, United States) according to the manufacturer's protocol. IR spectra for the purified compounds were recorded on a Bruker series FTIR spectrometer using KBr pellets.

In-vitro Antimicrobial Activity

On nutrient agar medium, the disc diffusion technique and cup-plate method are used to stop the growth of bacteria in the study. The nutrient agar was weighed in a clean flask, autoclaved for 15 to 20 minutes at 121°C under 15 pounds of pressure, and then allowed to cool to room temperature. Before the nutrient agar media solidified, 100 l of test organisms were spread across the surface of the media in a sterile Petri dish. With the assistance of a sterile metal steel borer, wells were prepared. The wells were filled with plant extract at two different concentrations-20 g/ml and 40 g/ml-as well as a positive control and a negative control-DMSO at a concentration of 50 g/ml. For 14 hours, the plates were incubated aerobically at 37°C. According to (Bauer et al.,1966) the diameter of inhibition zones was measured in millimeters.

3. Results and Discussion

Evaluation of phytochemicals components



The high levels of phytochemicals found in the methanolic extracts of *Muntingia calabura* Fruits, Flowers and Roots suggest that these bioactive agents may have played a role in the folkloric use of the fractions in traditional medicine. The tests for flavonoids, phenols, tannins and saponins were performed with flowers, fruits and root powders. The results were recorded with the positive reports of certain phytochemicals.

Phenols

Phenolic acids and flavonoids are the most persistent group of plant phenolics that play significant role in plants, for human health and function as reducing agents and as free radicle scavengers (Mamta et al., 2012). The phenolic content present in the *Muntingia Calabura* roots was 130.66 ± 4.08 mg of gallic acid equivalents g⁻¹ of extract whereas for flowers 120.66 ± 4.08 mg, of gallic acid equivalents g⁻¹ of extract and for fruits 110.66 ± 4.08 mg of gallic acid equivalents/gm of extract. The levels of phytochemical constituents of analysis mentioned were at 100 mg/ml. All the above assays were carried out in triplicate and the results expressed as mean values \pm standard deviations. When compared to the above result, root has the highest total phenolics content in *Muntingia Calabura*.

Flavonoids

Flavonoids act as signal molecules to take preventive measures in order to save them from pathogenic microbial attacks (Shirley, 1998). Recent studies have reaffirmed the link between flavonoids and plant architecture by showing that flavonoid-defective mutants display a wide range of alterations to root and shoot development (Buer et al., 2009). Flavonoids have recently been implicated in the anti-venom protease activity of some Nigerian tropical plants (Ibrahim et al., 2011). The Flavonoids content present in the *Muntingia Calabura* roots was 219.59 ± 5.50 mg of gallic acid equivalents g⁻¹ of extract whereas for flowers 175.66 ± 5.50 mg, of gallic acid equivalents g⁻¹ of extract and for fruits 200.67 ± 5.50 mg of gallic acid equivalents/gm of extract. The levels of phytochemical constituents of analysis mentioned were at 100 mg/ml. All the above assays were carried out in triplicate and the results expressed as mean values \pm standard deviations. When compared to the above result, root has the highest total flavonoids content in *Muntingia Calabura*.

Tannins

Tannins are reported to exhibit antiviral, antibacterial and antitumor activities and also used as diuretic (Aiyelaagbe and Osamudiamen 2009). Parekh and Chanda (2007) reported that tannins are known to react with proteins to provide the typical tanning effect which is important for the treatment of inflamed or ulcerated tissues and also used for treating intestinal disorders such as diarrhoea and dysentery (Dharmananda, 2003). The Tannins content present in the *Muntingia Calabura* roots was 13.16 ± 1.04 mg of gallic acid equivalents g⁻¹ of extract whereas for flowers 17.16 ± 1.04 mg, of gallic acid equivalents g⁻¹ of extract and for fruits 10.16 ± 1.04 mg of gallic acid equivalents/gm of extract. The levels of phytochemical constituents of analysis mentioned were at 100 mg/ml. All the above assays were carried out in triplicate and the results expressed as mean values \pm standard deviations. When compared to the above result, Flowers has the highest total aTannins content in *Muntingia Calabura*.

Saponins

Saponins have been known to possess both beneficial and deleterious properties depending on its concentration in the sample (Seigler, 1998). Seigler (1998) reported that saponins have anticarcinogenic properties, immune modulation activities and regulation of cell proliferation as well as health benefits such as inhibition of growth of cancer cells and cholesterol lowering activity. Saponins have been found to be potentially useful for the treatment of hyperglycaemia (Olaleye, 2007). Saponins inhibit Na⁺ efflux by the lockage of the entrance of the Na⁺ out of the cell. This leads to higher Na⁺ concentration in the cells, activating a Na⁺- Ca²⁺ anti porter in cardiac muscle. The increase in Ca²⁺ influx through this anti porter strengthens the contractions of heart muscle (Schneider and Woliling, 2004). The Saponins content present in the *Muntingia Calabura* roots was 18.645 ± 0.5 mg of gallic acid equivalents g⁻¹ of extract whereas for flowers 12.6 ± 0.5 mg, of gallic acid equivalents g⁻¹ of extract and for fruits 9.4 ± 0.5 mg of gallic acid equivalents/gm of extract. The levels of phytochemical constituents of analysis mentioned were at 100 mg/ml. All the above assays were carried out in triplicate and the results expressed as mean values \pm standard deviations. When compared to the above result, Roots has the highest total aTannins content in *Muntingia Calabura*.

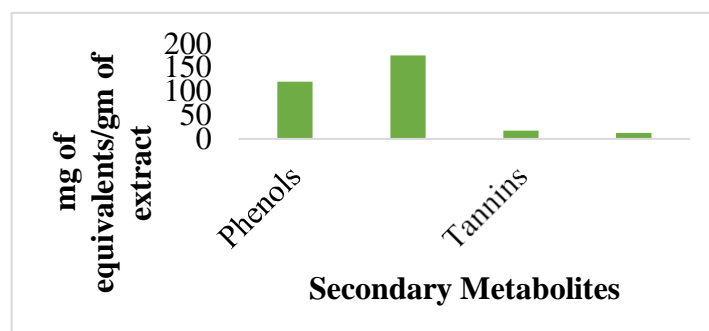


Fig.1. Quantitative analysis of flower extract of M. Calabura.

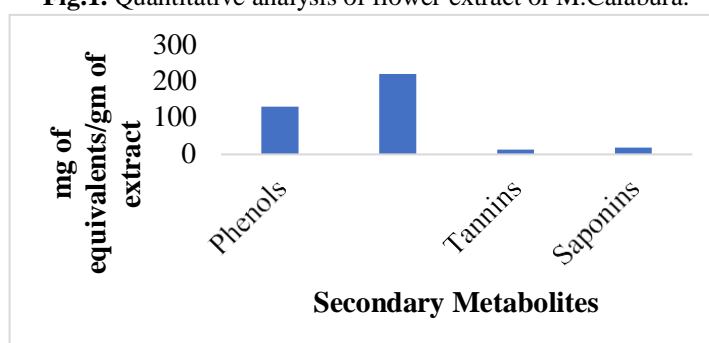


Fig. 2. Quantitative analysis of root extract of M. Calabura.

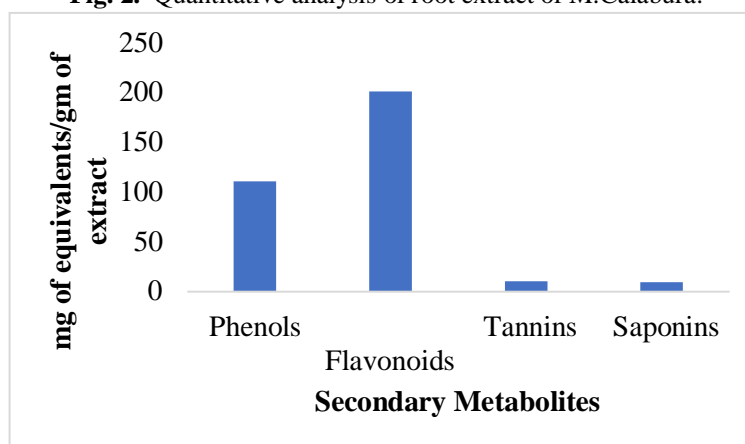


Fig.3. Quantitative analysis of fruit extract of M. Calabura.

Infra-Red Spectroscopy (FTIR) for Methanolic Flower Extract

These were recorded in KBr (AR) using Perkin Elmer Spectrum, FT-IR Spectrophotometer in the range $500\text{-}3500\text{cm}^{-1}$. A pinch of sample (extract flower) and 50mg KBr thoroughly grounded in an agate mortar and the mixture was put on the pallet holder and pressure was applied through the hydraulic machine to make a thin

film. IR spectrum of the isolated compound registered a broad band at 2739.69cm^{-1} and 1500cm^{-1} stretching band. This indicates the presence of OH group and carbonyl (C=O) group. The spectrum also shows peak at 1793.54cm^{-1} , which indicates the presence of C=C stretching, C-O stretching and OH bending. The aliphatic and aromatic CH stretching is 2058.24cm^{-1} and 2444.84cm^{-1} .

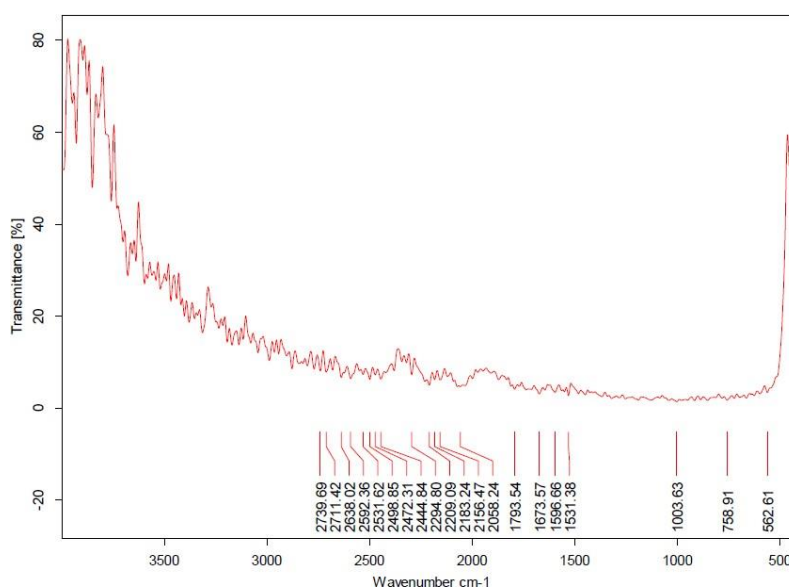


Fig.4. Infra-Red Spectroscopy (FTIR) for Methanolic Flower Extract.

Infra-Red Spectroscopy (FTIR) for Methanolic Root Extract

These were recorded in KBr (AR) using Perkin Elmer Spectrum, FT-IR Spectrophotometer in the range 500-3500cm⁻¹. A pinch of sample (extract root) and 50mg KBr thoroughly grounded in an agate mortar and the mixture was put on the pallet holder and pressure was applied through the hydraulic machine to make a thin

film. IR spectrum of the isolated compound registered a broad band at 3537.01 cm⁻¹ and 1650 stretching band. This indicates the presence of OH group and carbonyl (C=O) group. The spectrum also shows peak at 2973.14 cm⁻¹, which indicates the presence of C=C stretching, C-O stretching and OH bending. The aliphatic and aromatic CH stretching is 3458.95.

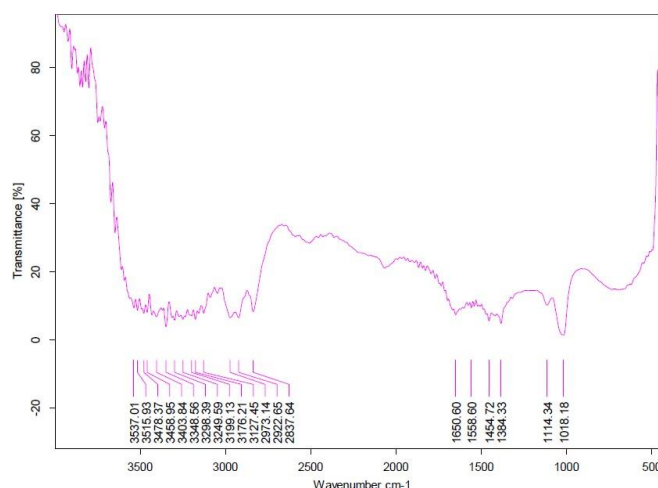


Fig.5. Infra-Red Spectroscopy (FTIR) for Methanolic Root Extract.

Antimicrobial Activity of Methanolic Extract - Flower, Root & Fruit of Muntingia Calabura

The antimicrobial activity of the different parts of the plant extracts were evaluated with the aim of

discovering novel bioactive compounds of biomedical importance. The results of antibacterial and antifungal activities of purified compound were presented in Tables 1 and 8. The antibacterial activity of Fruit, Flower and Root extracts showed



maximum zone of inhibition (15.3 ± 5.3 mm), (36.5 ± 0.45 mm), (29.4 ± 0.56 mm) against *Escherichia coli* (MTCC-443) and at the concentration of $800 \mu\text{g/mL}$. The antifungal activity of different plant extracts was evaluated by using different fungi. The highest antifungal activity flower extract (21.6 ± 0.55 mm) diameter of zone of inhibition against *A. niger* at the concentration of $800 \mu\text{g/mL}$, followed by fruit extract exhibit maximum zone of inhibition (19.2 ± 0.50) against *A. niger* at the concentration of $800 \mu\text{g/mL}$, root extract exhibits maximum zone of inhibition (10.6 ± 0.55) against *A. niger* at the concentration of $800 \mu\text{g/mL}$. When compared to the all the extracts, flower extract showed maximum antimicrobial activity.

The methanolic fruit extract of *F. auriculata* having capacity to control these bacterial infections. The antibacterial property was claimed to be conferred by phytochemicals present in the plant

(Rekha et al., 2014). Our results support this view as methanol extracts had comparatively more inhibition action than aqueous extracts (Hugo et al., 2005). Methanolic extract of stem bark of *F. auriculata* shown the maximum zone of inhibition against *E. coli* and hexane leaf extract shown the maximum inhibition zone against *S. aureus* (Gaire et al., 2011). Imran and co-workers (2014) have demonstrated that the extracts and fractions of stem, root and leaves exhibited considerable antimicrobial activity against four bacterial *P. aeruginosa* locally isolated, *E. coli* ATCC 25922, *Bacillus subtilis* JS 2004, *Bacillus cereus* locally isolated) and two fungal strains 358 (*Aspergillus niger* and *Candida albicans*). Similarly, the methanolic extracts of stem, roots and leaves of *F. benjamina* were reported to have antibacterial activity. The presence of phenolic compounds and flavonoids mainly contribute the antibacterial activity against different bacterial strains (Imran et al., 2014).

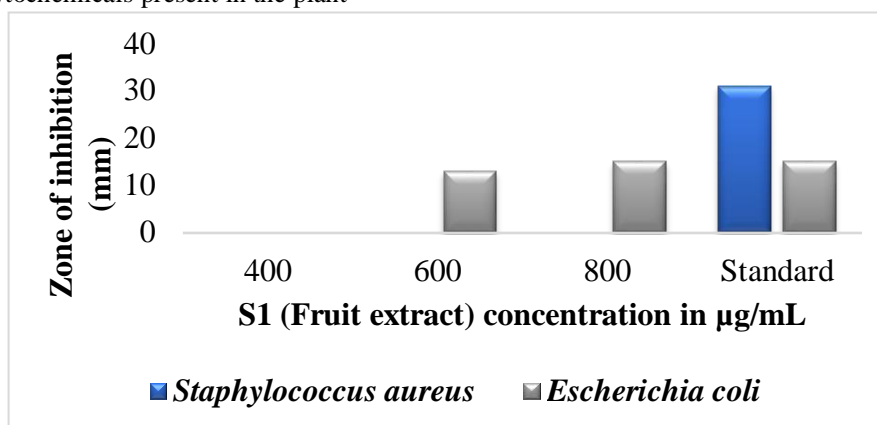


Fig.6. Antibacterial activity of S1 (Fruit extract) against selected bacteria.

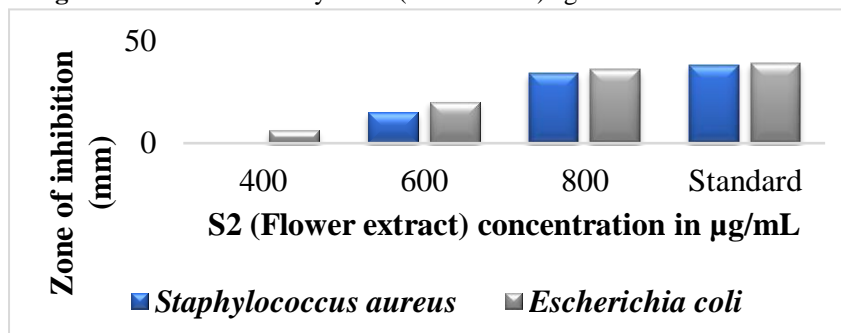


Fig.7. Antibacterial activity of S2 (Flower extract) against selected bacteria.

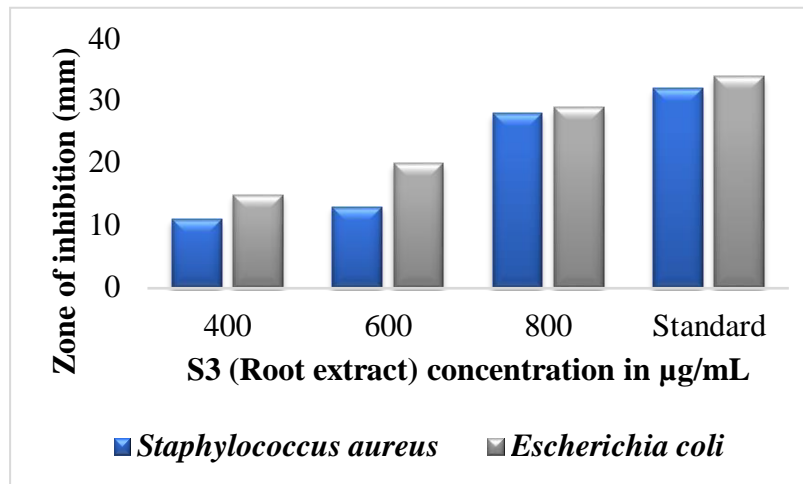


Fig.8. Antibacterial activity of S3 (Root extract) against selected bacteria.

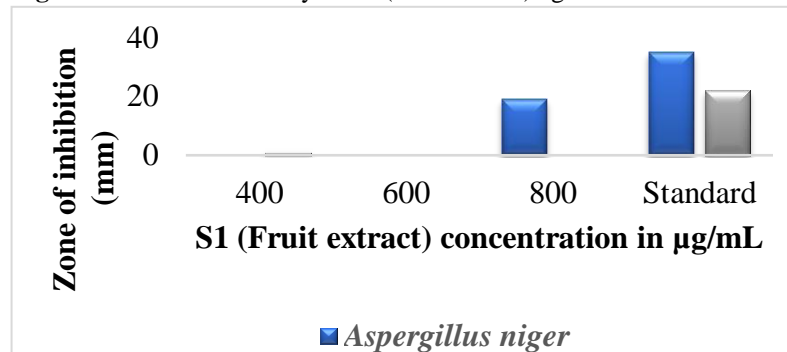


Fig.9. Antifungal activity of S1 (Fruit extract) against selected Fungi.

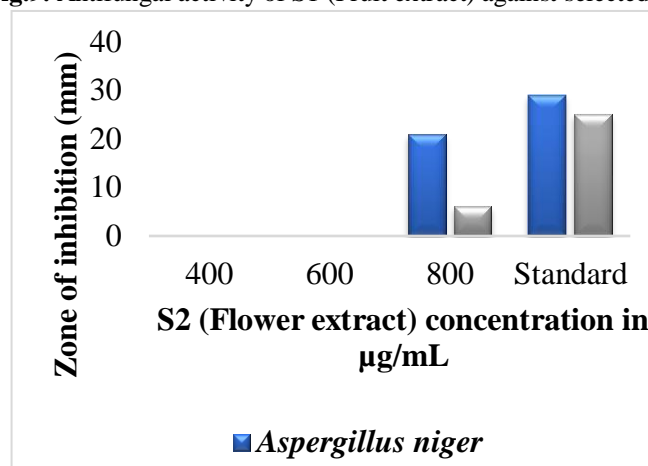


Fig.10. Antifungal activity of S2 (Flower extract) against selected Fungi.

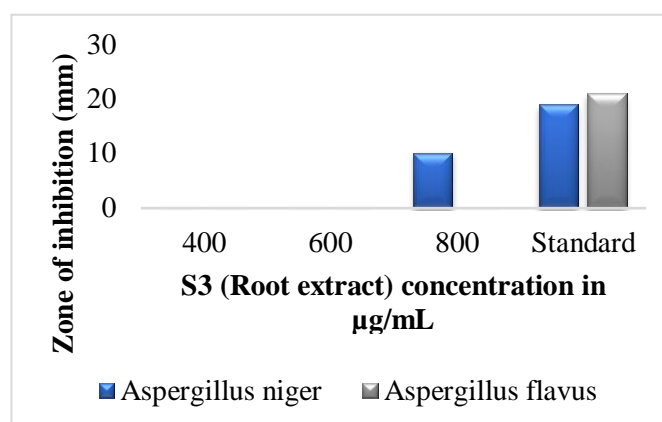


Fig.11. Antifungal activity of S3 (Root extract) against selected Fungi.

Statistical analysis

All the experiments were performed in triplicates and the results were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation calculated using Microsoft Excel.

4. Conclusion

From the present study the quantitative analysis of secondary metabolites was analysed using standard methods. From the results obtained it can be concluded that the *M. Calabura* extract possesses significant secondary metabolites such as Flavonoids, Phenols, Tannins and Saponins. Quantitative screening revealed the presence of rich amount of Phenols (130.66 ± 4.08 mg of gallic acid equivalents/gm of extract), Flavonoids (219.59 ± 5.50 mg of gallic acid equivalents/gm of extract), and Saponins (18.645 ± 0.5 mg of equivalents/gm of extract) in roots of *Muntingia calabura* whereas Tannins (17.16 ± 1.04 mg of tannic acid equivalents/ gram of extract) the highest content is present in flowers. The identified secondary metabolites may also have properties such as antioxidant, antimicrobial, antidiabetic and anticancer etc. Further studies are needed to isolate, characterize and elucidate the structure of bioactive compounds.

5. Conflict of Interest: No

6. References

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