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The diversity of antibacterial compounds of Terminalia species (Combretaceae).

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Abstract

The antibacterial activity of acetone, hexane, dichloromethane leaf extract of five Terminalia species (*Terminalia alata* Heyne ex Roth., *Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb.) Wt. and Am., *Terminalia bellerica* (Gaertn.) Roxb., *Terminalia catappa* L. and *Terminalia chebula* Retz.) were tested by Agar-well-diffusion method against human pathogens *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. The Rf values and relative activities of separated compounds were tested. Hexane and dichloromethane extracts have shown more antibacterial components than the acetone extract indicating the non-polar character of the antibacterial compounds. The non-polar character of the antibacterial compounds was confirmed from the Rf values. It indicated that the antibacterial activity was not due to tannins. *Terminalia catappa* found to possess the compounds which are more antibacterial. *Terminalia arjuna* and *T. catappa* plants were found most promising for isolating antibacterial compounds.

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