Journal of Research in Biology

ISSN No: Print: 2231 –6280; Online: 2231- 6299

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION OF AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY (NCAT 2015)

January 22 - 24, 2015

Screening of some traditionally used medicinal plants for potential antibacterial activity

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In the present work an attempt has been made to carry out screening for the preliminary antibacterial activity of different traditionally used medicinal plants in Indian medicine. Our ability to effectively treat diseases is dependent on the development of new pharmaceuticals and one potential source of novel drugs in traditional medicine. Now-a-days, plants have been exploited as a powerful and potential source for medicinal drugs. Herbal drugs are mainly focused as an alternative source against manifestations caused by various micro-organisms due to the increasing resistance of existing antibacterial agents. The present study attempts to evaluate the antimicrobial efficacy of the crude water, acetone, chloroform and ethanol extracts of *Alpinia calcarata roscoe* (root), *Spilanthes calva* (root), *Acorus calamus* (root) and *Piper longum* (fruit) against four bacterial strains. The tested bacterial strains were *Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Streptococcus pyogenes.* The preliminary screening experiment revealed that water extracts were more potent than the other extracts. The plant extracts were more active against tested bacterial strains. Amongst the plant species screened, extracts of *Spilanthes calva* (root) showed best antibacterial activity.

KEY WORDS:
Medicinal plants, Bacterial strains, Diffusion method and antibacterial activity