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Plants as Future Source of Anti-Mycobacterial Molecules and Armour for Fighting Drug Resistance

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ABSTRACT

Mycobacteria are dreadful human and animal pathogens causing range of mycobacterioses in different tissues. Due to their cell wall composition and their adaptability mycobacteria can survive in different habitats for years. Emergence of Multi-drug Resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) strains has complicated the problem of mycobacterial disease control. Therefore new drugs should evolve to fight drug resistance. Medicinal plants may offer a new hope as source of bioactive molecules for developing alternative medicines for the mycobacterial diseases. Presently used anti-mycobacterial medicines produce serious side-effects and cannot be used in animals because of risk of entry into food chain. Plant derived medicines may help solving this problem and fighting the drug resistance. The present study reviews the literature available on anti- mycobacterial plants and their bioactive molecules with hope that this effort will expedite the research on development of a novel plant derived drugs against mycobacterial diseases.

Key words: Tuberculosis, leprosy, paratuberculosis, bovine tuberculosis, Johne's disease, herbal drugs, bioactive plant metabolites

INTRODUCTION

World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that 80% of the world's population depends on traditional medicine for primary health care (Hiremath and Taranath, 2013). Rising cases of resistant pathogenic strains has caused a focus to develop plant derived antibiotics. Plant derived medicines are supposed to absorb easily in the body and cause less or no side effects (Sibanda and Okoh, 2007). Though Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MICs) of plant based antimicrobials is generally higher than antimicrobials obtained from microorganisms, but they have resistance modifying properties (Sibanda and Okoh, 2007). Venkitanarayana (2014) has stated that the plant

derived antimicrobials contain different functional groups, hence, their antimicrobial activity is attributed to multiple mechanisms, thereby limiting the development of bacterial resistance against these compounds. Therefore, plants provide a great hope for fighting against antimicrobial resistance.

Plant secondary metabolites can affect the microbial cell in several ways; the disruption of membrane function and structure, interference with DNA replication, interference with RNA transcription and protein synthesis, coagulation of cytoplasmic contents, interruption of quorum sensing, interference with metabolic processes, interference in gene regulation and inhibition of cell wall synthesis enzymes etc (Radulovic *et al.*, 2013). However, literature on the antimicrobial action of plant metabolites shows that cell membrane is their primary target (Ahmad *et al.*, 2011; Deva, 2010). They may affect its structural integrity, permeability or functionality. It has been shown that the action of plant metabolites as antibacterial agents increases with their increasing lipophilicity, which may be attributed to fact of their increased ability to interact with the cell membrane (Sikkema *et al.*, 1995).

Antimicrobial potential of plant metabolites is influenced and dependent on factors like; type of target cell (bacterial/fungal cell, gram-positive/gram-negative bacteria) and also the environment conditions-hydrophilicity (i.e., solubility in water), concentration, temperature and pH (Denyer and Stewart, 1998). Therefore, it may be predicted that action of plant metabolites is expected to be similar for gram-positive bacteria and fungal organisms, where the main target is the cell envelope, whose disintegration or changes in permeability are followed by an efflux of the intracellular compounds and coagulation of cytoplasm (Kalemba and Kunicka, 2003). Plant metabolites can also reduce the production of bacterial and fungal toxins (Rammanee and Hongpattarakere, 2011; Filgueiras and Vanetti, 2006; Daifas *et al.*, 2004). One of the very important features of the plant metabolites in fighting microbial diseases is inhibition of quorum sensing. It has been shown that many plant metabolites are inhibitors of quorum sensing (Koh and Tham, 2011; Pan and Ren, 2009). Quorum sensing is the important tool employed by microbial pathogens during virulence like production of toxins, biofilm formation etc.

Interesting observation is that many plant extracts are reported to enhance the activity of several available antibiotics (Adwan and Mhanna, 2008; Braga *et al.*, 2005). Therefore, many plant-derived compounds have been evaluated not only for their antimicrobial activity, but also for their action as potentiators of antibiotics and as reversal antibiotic resistance. Hence, plant extracts or metabolites can also be used as antibiotic adjuvants to enhance their activity as well as reverse the antibiotic resistance. Plant extracts are supposed to enhance the antibiotic activity due to multi-target effect (Ulrich-Merzenich *et al.*, 2009). Majority of thoroughly studied medicinal plants contain broad spectrum of bioactive compounds (Efferth and Koch, 2011) with each phytochemicals have different antimicrobial mode (Simoes *et al.*, 2009). Multitarget effects of phytochemicals include alteration in structure and function of proteins, interference with synthesis of DNA or RNA or proteins, disruption of the cell membrane and change in its function, inhibition of cytochrome P450 or enhanced absorption and thus bioavailability of active metabolites (Efferth and Koch, 2011; Wink, 2008).

It has been shown that extracts of different plants contain inhibitors of efflux pumps in bacteria (Garvey *et al.*, 2011; Hsieh *et al.*, 1998), therefore can help fighting multidrug resistance by inhibiting the action of efflux pumps. Another strategy to overcome resistance is to improve the delivery or enhance the accessibility of antibiotics to their sites of action. Many plant metabolites have been reported to affect membrane permeability of a diverse range of microorganisms

(Helander *et al.*, 1998), mainly due to the disturbances in lipids of the cell membrane. Also, because of their lipophilic nature, they can increase membrane permeability (Trombetta *et al.*, 2005). Therefore, plant metabolites can enhance the permeability of bacterial cells to exogenous products, including antimicrobial agents and hence potentiate the antibacterial activity of antibiotics (Simoes *et al.*, 2009). Potentiation of antibiotic action by plant metabolites may also be done by inhibition of biofilm formation. It is well known that bacteria in biofilms are more resistant compared to individual cells. Biofilms constitute a major threat in the clinical environment by acting as reservoirs of multidrug resistant bacteria. As mentioned in previous paras, quorum sensing regulates the formation of biofilms, as plant metabolites can inhibit the quorum sensing therefore will inhibit the formation of biofilm and thereby help in fighting drug resistance.

Plant materials have been used to promote the animal/ human health by strengthening the host defenses. Therefore besides antimicrobial properties, plants are also fascinating to scientists for their immune-modulatory effects on host. A number of plants have immune modifying properties. These immune modifying properties can help clearing infections by boosting the host innate defenses and promoting immune reactions against pathogens. Plants have been shown to have various immune-modulatory effects including; enhancing phagocytosis, enhancing lysosomal activity, stimulating release of cytokines, enhanced antibody production, stimulation of immune cells (CD4, CD8, macrophages etc), enhance expression of MHC molecules, increases activity of NK cells, enhances NO and superoxide production in macrophages etc (Mahima *et al.*, 2012; Dhama *et al.*, 2014; Mukherjee *et al.*, 2014). Therefore, plant materials not only exert antimicrobial effects but also boost the immune system for clearing the infection.

Mycobacterial infections are chronic (like leprosy, tuberculosis, bovine tuberculosis, paratuberculosis, etc) diseases and control of these diseases is a daunting task in several ways (Singh *et al.*, 2014a). Firstly, there are no specific clinical symptoms in affected individuals. Secondly, lack of sensitive and specific diagnostic tests to identify mycobacterial infection in sub-clinical stage. Thirdly, lack of effective vaccines for preventing these diseases. At present, the chemo-therapeutic options for mycobacterial diseases are extremely few and cannot be used in animals due to concern of entry of these drugs in food chain through milk and meat (Ayele *et al.*, 2001). Therefore, phytomedicine based approach if implemented in modern anti-mycobacterial therapies can be helpful in reducing the incidence of mycobacterial infections both in humans and animals, especially in current era of emerging antibiotic resistance (Tiwari *et al.*, 2013). The present review is a compilation on the data available on testing of plants for the anti-mycobacterial activity as wells as ethno-medicinal data with an objective to raise awareness for treating human and animal mycobacterial diseases with plant derived drugs.

MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASES

Tuberculosis: Tuberculosis (TB) is a fearful disease in developing nations especially in the Asian and African continents, mainly due to insufficient means of disease management. Globally nine million people get tuberculosis and two million people die from it (Anonymous, 2014). These numbers are likely to increase because the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is knotted with tuberculosis and also due to the evolution of multidrug-resistant strains. India alone account for 24% of total tuberculosis cases worldwide. It is scary to note there are estimated 2,10,000 deaths from MDR-TB annually. On average, an estimated 9% of people with MDR-TB have extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) (Anonymous, 2014). Though tuberculosis mortality decreased considerably from 1990-2013, but the number of MDR-TB cases tripled from 2009-2013 (Anonymous, 2014). Recent studies report approximately 50,000 XDR (extensively drug resistant) cases of tuberculosis occur annually and are on the rise (Llamas-Gonzalez and Flores-Valdez, 2013).

The XDR cases do not response to any treatment. These data alarm for the development of new drugs especially to fight MDR and XDR cases.

Paratuberculosis: Paratuberculosis or Johne's Disease (JD) is an economically devastating non-treatable chronic intestinal inflammatory condition of domestic ruminants caused by *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP) and is characterized by un-thriftiness, reduced productivity, loss in body weight with or without diarrhea (Singh *et al.*, 2014b). Economic losses due paratuberculosis in US dairy herds exceeds annually over \$1.5 billion (Stabel, 1998). In US burden of disease increased from 21.6% infected dairy cattle herds in 1999-68.1% infected dairy herds in 2007 (Pillars *et al.*, 2009). Therefore losses might have increased over the years. In India also burden of the disease has increased to a great extent in domestic ruminants over a period of last 28 years (Singh *et al.*, 2014a). Besides paratuberculosis being economically important disease also has serious zoonotic concerns with humans Crohn's disease (Singh *et al.*, 2010). Milk has been considered as the major source of infection transmission to humans. Therefore, it is critical to control this infection in animals to secure animal productivity and restrict human exposure to this pathogen. Unfortunately, vaccines are not completely efficacious in controlling this disease and chemotherapy is not practiced due to risk to entrance of antibiotics in food chain through meat and milk. Therefore, plant derived medicines may prove safer option for controlling of this disease in animals.

PLANTS OF ANTI-MYCOBACTERIAL NATURE

Traditionally plant based medicines/plant extracts have been extensively used in different parts of the world for treating mycobacterial diseases. In recent past, efforts have been done to rediscover the traditional knowledge of plant based therapeutics used to treat mycobacterial diseases with plant species in different parts of the world including India. Surveys have been undertaken to collect this traditional knowledge. A questionnaire based interview of Traditional Medicine Practitioners (TMPs) of Mpigi and Butambala regions of Uganda reported 90 plant species used to cure tuberculosis traditionally (Bunalema *et al.*, 2014). In this survey, *Zanthoxylum leprieurii*, *Piptadeniastrum africanum*, *Albizia coriaria* and *Rubia cordifolia* were most common species used to treat tuberculosis by TMPs (Bunalema *et al.*, 2014). This survey also highlighted that leaves were the most commonly used plant part to cure the diseases. Survey done by Semanya and Maroyi (2013) showed that Bapedi tribes of Limpopo province of South Africa are dependent on traditional medicines for treating tuberculosis and are using about 21 plant species. Ethnobotanical survey in Eastern Cape province, South Africa reported about 30 plants used to treat tuberculosis by TMPs (Lawal *et al.*, 2014). This survey reported that *Clausena anisata*, *Haemanthus albiflos* and *Artemisia afra* were most commonly used plant to tuberculosis treatment (Lawal *et al.*, 2014). Reports from India also exit on traditional use of plants in mycobacterial infections. A survey of tribal population of Bankura district (West Bengal, India) reported use of plants like *Andrographis paniculata*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Commelina benghalensis*, *Evolvulus alsinoides* and *Mussaenda frondosa* for treatment of leprosy (Sinhababu and Banerjee, 2013). Another survey from South India, reported traditional use of *Anacardium occidentale*, *Corallocarpus epigaeus*, *Indigofera aspalathoides* and *Trichosanthes lobata* plants in treatment of leprosy (Kingston *et al.*, 2009). Table 1 and 2 highlight surveys conducted in India and other parts of the world to list plants used to cure mycobacterial diseases in traditional medicine. Recently, there has been increased interest in testing of plants for anti-mycobacterial activity and a number of plants have been reported to have this activity. Table 3 summarizes the studies conducted in different plants of the world to identify plants with anti-mycobacterial activity.

Table 1: Ethno-medicine surveys for identification of plants used to treat mycobacterial diseases in India

States	Plants	Plant parts	References
Amravati District, Maharashtra	<i>Sida acuta</i>	Leaf powder	Jagtap <i>et al.</i> (2006)
Terai Arc Landscape	<i>Acacia concinna</i>	Leaves powder	Poonam and Singh (2009)
	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Whole plant	
	<i>Clerodendron infortunatum</i>	Flowers infusion	
	<i>Datura metel</i>	Root paste	
	<i>Drypetes roxburghii</i>	Leaves, fruits decoction	
	<i>Feronia limonia</i>	Fruits	
	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Stem, bark decoction	
	<i>Mallotus philippinensis</i>	Seeds	
Eastern Sikkim Himalayan region	<i>Abies wabbiana</i>	Leaves	Das <i>et al.</i> (2012)
	<i>Stephania glabra</i>	Root bulb	
Chhatarpur District, Madhya Pradesh	<i>Adhatoda visica</i>	Leaf	Chaturvedi and Saxena (2014)
	<i>Sansevieria roxburghiana</i>	Root	
	<i>Withania somnifera</i>	Seed	
	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i>	Root	
	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Bulb	
	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Rhizome	
	<i>Enicostemma littorale</i>	Whole plant	
	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Stem	
	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	Root	
	<i>Cissampelos pareira</i>	Root	
	<i>Argyrea speciosa</i>	Root	
Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>	Leaf decoction	Murthy (2012)
Gadchiroli District, Maharashtra	<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i>	Culms	Chavhan and Margonwar (2015)
Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh	<i>Acacia leucocephala</i>	Bark	Krishna <i>et al.</i> (2011)
	<i>Ficus hispida</i>	Latex	
Western Ghats in Hassan district, Karnataka	<i>Kingiodendron pinnatum</i>	ND	Kumar <i>et al.</i> (2015)
	<i>Humboldtia brunonis</i>	ND	
	<i>Ceasalpinia mimosiodes</i>	ND	
	<i>Derris scandens</i>	ND	
	<i>Indigofera cassiodes</i>	ND	
Banda District, Uttar Pradesh	<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Whole plant	Maheshwari and Singh (1987)
ND	<i>Cissampelos pareira</i>	Leaf stem	Jain <i>et al.</i> (1973)
Punjab	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Seeds	Kaur (2015)
	<i>Ziziphus jujube</i>	Fruit	
	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Bark, leaf, root, flowers and fruits	
ND	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Flower, leaf	Gautam <i>et al.</i> (2007)
	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Leaf	

*Not Described

Table 2: Ethno-medicine surveys for identification of plants used to treat mycobacterial diseases in other parts of the world

Country name (Place)	Plants	Plant parts	References
Uganda (Mpigi and Butambala Districts)	<i>Zanthoxylum lepreurii</i>	Leaves	Bunalema <i>et al.</i> (2014)
	<i>Piptadeniastrum africanum</i>	Stem bark	
	<i>Albizia coriaria</i>	Root bark	
	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>	Root bark	
South Africa (Eastern Cape Province)	<i>Acacia karroo</i>	Bark and leaf	Lawal <i>et al.</i> (2014)
	<i>Ptaeroxylon</i>		
	<i>Obliquum</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Prunus africana</i>	Bark and leaf	
	<i>Clausena africana</i>	Bark and leaf	
	<i>Haemanthus albiflos</i>	Leaf and root	
	<i>Hypoxis argentea</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Ficus sur</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Hippobromus pauciflorus</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Araujia sericifera</i>	Rhizome and leaf	
	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Leaf	

Table 2: Continue

Country name (Place)	Plants	Plant parts	References
	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Leaf and fruit	
	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Leaf and bark	
	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Ziziphus mucronata</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i>	Fruit and leaf	
	<i>Withania somnifera</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Silene undulate</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Scabiosa albanensis</i>	Leaf and root	
	<i>Rubia petiolaris</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Tulbaghia acutiloba</i>	Rhizome	
	<i>Asparagus africanus</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Centella coriacea</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Leaf	
	<i>Eucalyptus camadulensis</i>	Leaf and bark	
Limpopo Province, South Africa	<i>Agapanthus inapertus</i>	Tuber	Semenya and Maroyi (2013)
	<i>Artemisia afra</i>	Shrub	
	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Leaves	
	<i>Carica papaya</i>	Leaves	
	<i>Combretum hereroense</i>	Bark and seeds	
	<i>Chironia baccifera</i>	Roots	
	<i>Eucomis pallidiflora</i>	Bulb	
	<i>Merwillia plumbea</i>	Bulb	
	<i>Hypoxis hemerocallidea</i>	Tuber	
	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Bark	
	<i>Ficus platypoda</i>	Roots	
	<i>Myrothamnus flabellifolius</i>	Whole plant	
	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Leaves and root	
	<i>Pellaea calomelanos</i>	Root	
	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Root	
	<i>Citrus lemon</i>	Leaves	
	<i>Zanthoxylum capense</i>	Root	
	<i>Salix mucronata</i>	Seeds	
	<i>Lippia javanica</i>	Leaves	
	<i>Aframomum melegueta</i>	Roots	
Lesotho	<i>Ajuga ophrydis</i>	-	Kose <i>et al.</i> (2015)
	<i>Buddleja salviifolia</i>	-	
	<i>Clematis brachiata</i>	-	
	<i>Dianthus basuticus</i>	-	
	<i>Dicoma anomala</i> subsp. <i>anomala</i>	-	
	<i>Drimia depressa</i>	-	
	<i>Elephantorrhiza elephantina</i>	-	
	<i>Eragrostis plana</i>	-	
	<i>Gazania krebsiana</i> subsp. <i>krebsiana</i>	-	
	<i>Helichrysum caespititium</i>	-	
	<i>Helichrysum odoratissimum</i>	-	
	<i>Helichrysum pallidum</i>	-	
	<i>Hypoxis hemerocallidea</i>	-	
	<i>Leobordea lanceolata</i>	-	
	<i>Malva parviflora</i> var. <i>parviflora</i>	-	
	<i>Metalasia muricata</i>	-	
	<i>Morella serrata</i>	-	
	<i>Othonna natalensis</i>	-	
	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	-	
	<i>Pentanisia prunelloides</i>	-	
	<i>Senecio asperulus</i>	-	
	<i>Trifolium burchellianum</i> subsp. <i>burchellianum</i>	-	
	<i>Withania somnifera</i>	-	
	<i>Xysmalobium undulatum</i>	-	
	<i>Zantedeschia albomaculata</i> subsp. <i>albomaculata</i>	-	

Table 3: Summary of the plants with potential anti-mycobacterial activity

Plant names	Plant parts	Place/Country name	References
<i>Zanthoxylum capense</i>	Roots	Mozambique	Luo <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Sterculia setigera</i>	Leaves	Nigeria	Babalola <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Galenia Africana</i>	Leaves	South Africa	Mativandlela (2009)
<i>Dodonaea angustifolia</i>	Leaves	South Africa and Ethiopia	Mativandlela (2009) and Balcha <i>et al.</i> (2014)
<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Leaves	Tamil Nadu (India)	Muthuswamy <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Acalypha indica</i>	Leaves	India	Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2010) and Chidambaram and Swaminathan (2013)
<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>	Leaves	India	Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2010) and Chidambaram and Swaminathan (2013)
<i>Allium cepa</i>	Bulb	India	Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2010), Chidambaram and Swaminathan (2013) and Shivkumar and Jayaraman (2011)
<i>Allium sativum</i>	Bulb	India	Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2010), Chidambaram and Swaminathan (2013) and Shivkumar and Jayaraman (2011)
<i>Aloe vera</i>	Leaves	Punjab (India)	Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2010) and Pandey <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Calpurnia aurea</i>	Roots	Ethiopia	Gemechu <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Seeds	Ethiopia	
<i>Artemisia abyssinica</i>	Leaves	Ethiopia	
<i>Croton macrostachyus</i>	Leaves	Ethiopia	
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Leaves	Ethiopia	
<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Leaves	Tamil Nadu (India)	Muthuswamy <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Excoecaria agallocha</i>	-	Tamil Nadu (India)	Prabu <i>et al.</i> (2014)
<i>Aegiceras corniculatum</i>	-	Tamil Nadu (India)	
<i>Avicennia officinalis</i>	-	Tamil Nadu (India)	
<i>Achyrocline alata</i>	Leaves and stem	Colombia	Bueno-Sanchez <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>Swinglea glutinosa</i>	Fruit	Colombia	
<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Seeds	Maharashtra (India)	Birdi <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Leaves	Madhya Pradesh (India)	Shrivastava and Garg (2014)
<i>Uvaria rufa</i>	Leaves	Philippines	Macabeo <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Globularia alypum</i>	Leaves	Tunisia	Khelifi <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Calotropis gigantean</i>		India	Kumar <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i>	Roots	India	Saikia <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	Bark	Tamil Nadu (India)	Antony <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Pavetta corymbosa</i>	Leaves	Nigeria	Nvau <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Euphorbia scarlatica</i>	Stem	Kenya	Mariita <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>	Leaves	Uttaranchal (India)	Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Alpinia galanga</i>	Rhizomes	Uttaranchal (India)	
<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i>	Flower	Tamil Nadu (India)	Shivkumar and Jayaraman (2011)
<i>Cinnamomum verum</i>	Bark	Tamil Nadu (India)	
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	-	Colombia	Balcha <i>et al.</i> (2014)
<i>Calophyllum brasiliense</i>	Bark and leaf	Mexico	Gomez-Cansino <i>et al.</i> (2015)
<i>Vismia baccifera</i>	Bark and leaves	Mexico	
<i>Vismia maxicana</i>	Bark and leaves	Mexico	
<i>Dodonaea angustifolia</i>	-	Ethiopia	Balcha <i>et al.</i> (2014)
<i>Petrolobium stellatum</i>	-	Ethiopia	
<i>Crinum jagus</i>	Bulb	Nigeria	Akintola <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Scadoxus multiflorus</i>	-	Kenya	Mariita <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	-	Kenya	
<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Leaves, seeds	Punjab (India)	Arya (2011)
<i>Trichosanthes dioica</i>	Roots, fruits	Punjab (India)	
<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Stem, leaves	Punjab (India)	
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>	Leaves, flowers	Punjab (India)	
<i>Prunus Armeniaca</i>	-	Punjab (India)	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Fruits	Punjab (India)	
<i>Canscora decussate</i>	Roots	Punjab (India)	
<i>Piper species</i>	Fruits	Punjab (India)	
<i>Vitex trifolia</i>	Leaves, roots and fruits	Punjab (India)	
<i>Colebrookea oppositifolia</i>	Leaves, fruits and roots	Punjab (India)	
<i>Rumex hastatus</i>	Root and bark	Punjab (India)	

Table 3: Continue

Plant names	Plant parts	Place/Country name	References
<i>Kalanchoe Integra</i>	Leaves	Punjab (India)	
<i>Flacourtia ramontchii</i>	Leaves, roots, bark and fruits	Punjab (India)	
<i>Strophanthus wallichii</i>	-	North East India	Suhitha <i>et al.</i> (2015)
<i>Stephania hemandifolia</i>	-	North East India	
<i>Acacia senegal</i>	Stem, bark	Punjab (India)	Gautam <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Leaves	Punjab (India)	
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Root	Maharashtra (India)	Birdi <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>		Maharashtra (India)	
<i>Heliotropium Indicum</i>	Leaves	Tamil Nadu (India)	Rajiniraja and Jayaraman (2014)
Aloaceae	-	Tamil Nadu (India)	
<i>Albizia gummifera</i>	Leaves	South Africa	Mmushi <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Xanthocercis zambeziaca</i>	Leaves	South Africa	
<i>Barringtonia racemosa</i>	Leaves	South Africa	
<i>Milletia stuhlmannii</i>	Leaves	South Africa	
<i>Kirkia acuminata</i>	Leaves	South Africa	
<i>Borrichia frutescens</i>	-	United States	Cantrell <i>et al.</i> (1996)
<i>Ferula communis</i>	-	Italy	Appendino <i>et al.</i> (2004)
<i>Heracleum maxicum</i>	Root	-	Webster <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Leucas vokensii</i>	-	Kenya	Rajab <i>et al.</i> (1998)
<i>Moneses uniflora</i>	-	Canada	McCutcheon <i>et al.</i> (1997)
<i>Oplopanax horridus</i>	Bark	Canada	
<i>Salvia sp.</i>	-	China	Fu <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Strobilanthus cusia</i>	-	China	Ebadi (2007)
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Stem, leaves and flower	-	Serkani <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Stachys tmolea</i>	-	Turkey	Askun <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Stachys thirkei</i>	-	Turkey	
<i>Thymus sibthorpii</i>	-	Turkey	
<i>Micromeria juliana</i>	-	Turkey	
<i>Ballota acetabulosa</i>	-	Turkey	
<i>Peschiera affinis</i>	Leaves	Brazil	Ramos <i>et al.</i> (2008)
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Fruit	Iran	Ghaemi <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Allium ascalonicum</i>	Root	Iran	Amin <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>Peganum harmala</i>	Fruit	Iran	Ghaemi <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Khaya senegalensis</i>	Bark and leaves	Sudan	Abuzeid <i>et al.</i> (2014)
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Leaves	Sudan	
<i>Alpinia galanga</i>	Rhizome	Thailand	Phongpaichit <i>et al.</i> (2006)
<i>Piper chaba</i>	-	Thailand	
<i>Heracleum maximum</i>	Root	-	Webster <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Apodytes dimidiata</i>	Leaves	South Africa	Masoko and Nxumalo (2013)
<i>Apodytes afra</i>	Leaves	South Africa	
<i>Combretum hereroense</i>	Leaves	South Africa	
<i>Lippia javanica</i>	Leaves	South Africa	
<i>Scadoxus multiflorus</i>	-	Kenya	Mariita <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Eurphobia scarlatina</i>	Stem	Kenya	
<i>Cassia sophera</i>	-	Uttar Pradesh (India)	Singh <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Utrica dioica</i>	Leaves	Uttar Pradesh (India)	

Arbitrary use of antibiotics has led to the evolution of Multi Drug Resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) strains of mycobacteria, thereby making the control of these diseases even more difficult. Emergence of MDR and XDR strains has necessitated the urgent development of anti-mycobacterial drugs. Recent reports described that approximately 30% of MDR cases present treatment failures (Brigden *et al.*, 2014). The MDR cases require two years of treatment with second-line drugs, which are more toxic and more expensive than first-line drugs (Zazueta-Beltran *et al.*, 2011). Therefore, newer effective and safer drugs are urgently needed in order to shorten the therapy of MDR and XDR cases. Plants can served as excellent source of molecules active against MDR and XDR strains. Reports suggest that extracts from plants are active against MDR strains (Table 4).

PLANT METABOLITES WITH ANTI-MYCOBACTERIAL ACTIVITY

Natural products are of great interest since can provide novel structures for the drug discovery particularly effective as antimicrobial agents. As plants have high biodiversity therefore can serve as main source of natural compounds because of their rich metabolite content. Plant secondary metabolites have anti-mycobacterial properties. Alkaloids, flavonoids, phytosterols, saponins, tannins etc have been extracted from different plants with anti-mycobacterial activity. Table 5 lists important metabolites from plants with anti-mycobacterial activity.

Table 4: Plants having activity against MDR mycobacterial strains

Plants	Country of study	References
<i>Aloe vera</i>	India	Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>		
<i>Allium sativum</i>		
<i>Pluchea indica</i>	Indonesia	Radji <i>et al.</i> (2015)
<i>Rhoeo spathacea</i>		
<i>Cassia sophera</i>	India	Singh <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Urtica dioica</i>		
<i>Aristolochia taliscana</i>	Mexico	Jimenez-Arellanes <i>et al.</i> (2014)
<i>Excoecaria agollacha</i>	India	Prabu <i>et al.</i> (2014)
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	India	Bernaitis <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Acalypha indica</i>		
<i>Crocus sativus</i>	India	Hussain <i>et al.</i> (2014)
<i>Aristolochia taliscana</i>	Mexico	Leon-Diaz <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Peganum harmala</i>	Iran	Davoodi <i>et al.</i> (2015)
<i>Dracocephalum kotschyi</i>	Iran	Asghari <i>et al.</i> (2015)
<i>Aristolochia brevipes</i>	Mexico	Navarro-Garcia <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Diospyros anisandra</i>	Mexico	Uc-Cachon <i>et al.</i> (2014)

MDR: Multi drug resistant

Table 5: Active anti-tuberculosis molecules of plant origin

Plants name	Plant parts	Plant metabolite(s)	References
<i>Galenia africana</i>	Leaves	(2S)- 5, 7, 2'-trihydroxy flavanone, (E)- 3, 2', 4'- trihydrochalcone, (E)- 2', 4'- dihydrochalcone and (E)- 3, 2', 4'- trihydroxy-3-methoxychalcone	Mativandlela (2009)
<i>Withania somnifera</i>	Leaves and roots	Ashwagandholin, withaferin A, Pterocarpin- hydroxy-tuberosin, hydroxyisoflavone, tuberostan, puerarone	Adaikkappan <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Zanthoxylum capense</i>	Roots	Benzophenanthridine, decarine, 6- acetyltydyhydronitidine, N-isobutyl-(2E,4E)-2,4-tetradecadienamide	Luo <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Bocconia arborea</i>	-	6-methoxydihydrochelerytrin, Pinostrobin, 1-hydroxy-benzoisochromanquinone, 23-hydroxy-5a-lanosta-7,9 and 24-triene-3-one	Camacho-Corona <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>Achyrocline alata</i>	Leaves and stem	Carvacrol	Bueno-Sanchez <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>Swinglea glutinosa</i>	Fruit peel	Thymol, p-cymene, p-cymene, 1,8-cineole, limonene and β -pinene	
<i>Aloe vera</i>	Leaves	Barbaloin	Pandey <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Leaves	Andrographolide	Shrivastava and Garg (2014)
<i>Cirtullus colosnthis</i>	Aerial parts and deseeded fruits	Ursolic acid, cucurbitacine E and cucurbitacin I	Mehta <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>	Leaves	Vasicine acetate, 2-acetyl benzylamine	Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Trichosanthes dioica</i>	Stem, leaves	Berberine, columbin, chasmanthin, palmarin, tinosporon, tinosporic acid and tinosporol	Arya (2011)
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>	Leaves, flowers	Myricitroside	
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	Leaves, flowers and seeds	Ursolic acid, apigenin, orientin, luteolin, apigenin-7-Oglucuronide and luteolin-7-Oglucuronide	Birdi <i>et al.</i> (2012)

Table 5: Continue

Plants name	Plant parts	Plant metabolite(s)	References
<i>Morinda citrifolia</i> ,	Leaves, roots and fruits	Anthraquinonesalazarin, nordamnacanthol, Ursolic acid; β -Sitosterol, asperuloside and caproic acid	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Fruits	Myricetin, kaempferol, α -pinene, cineole, myrtenol, nerol, geraniol and dipentene	
<i>Vitex trifolia</i>	Leaves, roots and fruits	Artemeti, luteolin, orientin, casticin, iridoid, aucubin, agnuside and vitricin	
<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Leaves, roots	Mimosine and turgorin	
<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Fruits	Piperine	
<i>Helichrysum melanacme</i>	Shoots	2,4,6-trihydroxy-3-prenylchalcone, 4,6,5-trihydroxy-6 and -dimethyldihydroxyoyrano[2,3-2,3]chalcone	Lall <i>et al.</i> (2006)
<i>Garcinia nobilis</i>	Stem bark	Smeathxanthone, 8-hydroxycudraxanthone, morisignin, 4-prenyl-2-(3,7-dimethyl-2-octadienyl)-1,3,5,8-tetrahydroxyvanthone	Fouotsa <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Garcinia polyantha</i>	Stem bark	1,5-dihydroxyxanthone, bangangxanthone, 1,3,5-trihydroxyxanthone and tetrahydroxyxanthone	Kuete <i>et al.</i> (2007)
<i>Garcinia livingstonei</i>		Amentoflavone and 4'-methoxyamentoflavone	Kaikabo and Eloff (2011)
<i>Terminalia avicennioides</i>	Root bark	Arjunolic acid, friedelin and friedelin-3 β -ol	Mann <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Combretum imberbe</i>	Leaves	hydroxyimberbic acid, glycosides of hydroxyimberbic acid	Katerere <i>et al.</i> (2003)
<i>Diospyros crassiflora</i>	Stem bark	Crassiflorone, diospyrone, plumbagin	Tangmouo <i>et al.</i> (2006)
<i>Euclea natalensis</i>	Roots	diospyrin, isodiospyrin, neodiospyrin, 7-methyljuglone, mamegakinone and Shinanolone	Van der Kooy <i>et al.</i> (2006)
<i>Thecacoris annobonae</i>	Stem bark	Aristolochic acid I	Kuete <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Ficus chlamydocarpa</i>	Stem bark	Alpinumisoflavone, genistein, laburnetin and luteolin	
<i>Ficus cordata</i>	Stem bark	β -sistosterol-3- β -glucopyranoside, catechin and Epiafzepelin	
<i>Balsamocritus camerunensis</i>	Stem bark	Kokusaginine	Fouotsa <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Oricia suaveolens</i>	Stem bark	Evoxanthine and 1-hydroxy-2,3-dimethoxy-10-methylacridone	
<i>Ajuga remota</i>	Whole plant	Ergosterol-5-8-endoperoxide	Cantrell <i>et al.</i> (1999)

CONCLUDING REMARKS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Review of both traditional knowledge and testing of plants for anti-mycobacterial activity suggests that plants can serve as excellent source for anti-mycobacterial drugs. Plants are sole treatment of leprosy and tuberculosis in some African countries. Though anti-mycobacterial MIC of plant materials is higher but they have resistance modifying properties. Therefore, plant derived drugs can help in fighting the drug resistance.

Unfortunately, there is no plant derived molecule either in market or under trial for treatment of mycobacterial infections. Majority of studies focused on identification of crude plant extracts with anti-mycobacterial properties and has not been extended to identification of bioactive plant metabolites. Therefore, an integrated approach of identification of plants with anti-mycobacterial activity followed by identification of bioactive molecule will speed up the research and development of plant derived drug molecules for mycobacterial infections.

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