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Antimicrobial Activities of Two Edible Bivalves *M. meretrix* and *M. casta*

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Abstract: The marine invertebrates become one of hot spot for the lead of antimicrobial compounds. Two species of commercially available and edible bivalves (*M. meretrix* and *M. casta*) were assayed for antimicrobial activity against 10 bacterial pathogens and 6 fungal pathogens and its biochemical composition. The bivalves were extracted with three different solvent systems respectively methanol, ethanol and acetic acid. All the three extracts of both the species *M. meretrix* and *M. casta* showed highest antibacterial activities against *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *B. subtilis*, *K. pneumonia*, *P. fluorescens* and *V. cholera*. In present investigation the methanolic extract of the two bivalve species of *M. meretrix* and *M. casta* was showed inhibition activities against all pathogenic fungal forms. The two bivalve extracts showed high amounts of protein content, which made the variation up to 160-180 $\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$ (wet weight). Both samples had low amount of carbohydrates 4.77-5.77 $\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$ and lipids 0.11-0.17 $\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$, respectively. The results of thin layer chromatography were revealed that presence of pink color spots it clearly indicates the presence of amino acid or peptides in bivalve's samples. Presuming that the antimicrobial compounds were proteins or peptides. In SDS-PAGE on 12% gel, the crude proteins *M. meretrix* and *M. casta* showed 5-6 bands ranging from 45-223 kDa. They represent potential pharmacological leads perhaps possessing novel and uncharacterized mechanisms of action that might ultimately benefit the ongoing global search for clinically useful antimicrobial agents.

Key words: Molluscs, bivalves, antibacterial activity, antifungal activity

INTRODUCTION

The ocean have a great biodiversity of flora and fauna estimated to over 5,00,000 species, more than double of the terrestrial species (Kamboj, 1999). The richness of the diversity offers a vast potential of novel chemicals that may be useful for finding new bioactive compounds with greater efficiency and specificity for treatment of many dread full human diseases (Bergmann and Feeney, 1951; Faulkner, 2000a, b; Da Rocha *et al.*, 2001). Among the marine phylum, the invertebrates are the most potential sources for the pharmaceutical industry. Because of the sessile (sponges, tunicates, soft corals, etc.) animals which have lack of physical defenses, produce toxic chemicals to protect themselves in a very hostile environment and the chemical defenses have been developing in the oceans for thousands of years and resulted in nature's most toxic chemicals (Kathiresan *et al.*, 2008).

The emergence of multiple-drug-resistant strains of microbial forms and the indiscriminate use of antibiotics highlight the urgent need for development of novel strategies to treat microbial infections. Marine organisms are the potential source for producing new innovative drugs. Recently, the marine invertebrates become one of

hot spot for the lead of antimicrobial compounds. Bryostatin-1, a kind of macrocyclic lactone isolated from marine bryozoa *Bugula neritina* has already been in the secondary clinical trials and it found to be an excellent control over several types of cancers especially non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia and acute lymphocytic leukemia (Kraft *et al.*, 1996; Mohammad *et al.*, 1998).

The discovery of new classes of antibiotic is necessary due to the increased incidence of multiple resistances among the pathogenic microorganisms to drugs that are currently in clinical use (Burgess *et al.*, 1999). Peptides from marine invertebrates are promising candidates as new antibacterial agents due to their broad antimicrobial spectrum, highly selective toxicities and their difficulty for bacteria to develop resistant (Jimeno and Hidalgo, 2006; Tincu and Taylor, 2004). In the present study, two bivalve species (*M. meretrix* and *M. casta*) was screened to evaluate antimicrobial activities, already high percentage of bioactivities has been reported in marine bivalves (Chatterji *et al.*, 2002, Lixin *et al.*, 2005; Sumita *et al.*, 2009). Two species of commercially available, edible bivalves (*M. meretrix* and *M. casta*) were assayed for antimicrobial activity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of specimens: The bivalves (*M. meretrix* and *M. casta*) were collected from Jan. 2009 to June 2010 in the mouth region of Vellar estuary and they were identified by using standard references (Satyamurthi, 1952) and also confirmed with zoological survey of India, Calcutta. The animals were not collected during the summer months to avoid stress related to diseases.

Preparation of bivalve extracts: The collected live animals were brought to the laboratory and the shells were broken and soft body, mantle fluid was removed. The extraction method was followed by Sumita *et al.* (2009). The collected materials were extracted in three different solvents such as ethanol, methanol and acetic acid (1:1). The extracts were homogenized at 15000 rpm for 15 min and the supernatant was filtered through No.2 filter paper. The filtrate was lyophilized to a powdered and used for antimicrobial studies.

Antimicrobial assay: The following bacterial and fungal pathogens were used for the antimicrobial assay: *E. coli*, *Salmonella typhi*, *S. paratyphi*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *P. fluorescens*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *S. pyogenes*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Vibrio cholera* fungal pathogens are *Aspergillus flavus*, *A. fumigatus*, *Candida albicans*, *Mucor* sp., *Penicillium* sp. and *Cryptococcus neoformans* and these pathogenic forms were isolated from HIV+ve patients from Raja Muthiah Medical College, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Chidambaram. In vitro antimicrobial activity was determined by using the technique of Bauer *et al.* (1966).

Biochemical composition

Estimation of proteins: Proteins were estimated following the modified method of Bergmann and Feeney (1951) described by Peterson (1977). This method is applicable to soluble, membrane and conjugated proteins in dilute solutions, eliminating most interfering substances.

Estimation of carbohydrates: Carbohydrates were estimated following method of DuBois *et al.* (1956) was adapted.

Estimation of lipid: The chloroform-methanol extraction procedure of Folch *et al.* (1957) was used for extracting lipid from the soft body.

Thin layer chromatography and SDS-page: TLC profiling was done with both bivalve extracts with using two different solvent systems I and II. The solvent system I

consist of methanol and chloroform (1:9) and solvent system II consist of combination of butanol, acetic acid and water (B:A:W) in the proportion of 5:1:4. The plates were showed pink color spots in both solvent systems when sprayed with ninhydrin solution. SDS-page was performed in 12% separating gels, according to the method of Laemmli (1970).

RESULTS

Antibacterial activities: The methanolic extract of bivalve *M. meretrix* showed maximum inhibition zone against *S. aureus* (10 mm), *E. coli* (10 mm) (Fig. 1) and minimum inhibition zone against *K. pneumoniae* (2 mm). In ethanolic extract highest inhibition zone was observed in *E. coli* (12 mm), Likewise acetic acid extract of *M. meretrix* was showed maximum activities against *E. coli* (12 mm) and it showed minimum activities against *P. vulgaris*, *K. pneumoniae* (3 mm).

In the crude methanolic extract of *M. casta* showed highest inhibition of zone against *S. typhi* (12 mm). The *P. fluorescens*, *B. substillus* were showed highly resistant to crude methanolic extract. Ethanol extract of showed maximum zone of inhibition against *B. substillus*, *K. pneumoniae* (12 mm). Acetic acid extract of *M. casta* was showed maximum activities against *E. coli* (13 mm), *Salmonella typhi* and *S. paratyphi* were showed resistant towards the acetic acid extract of *M. casta* (Fig. 2).

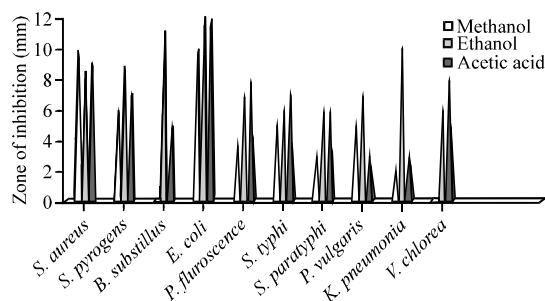


Fig. 1: Antibacterial activities of *M. meretrix*

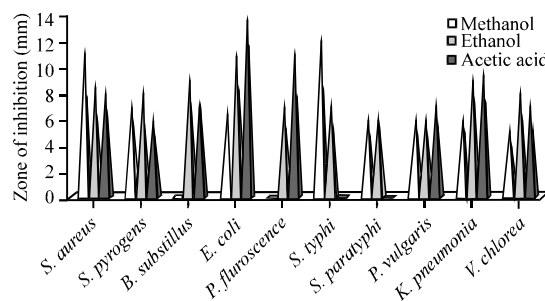


Fig. 2: Antibacterial activities of *M. casta*

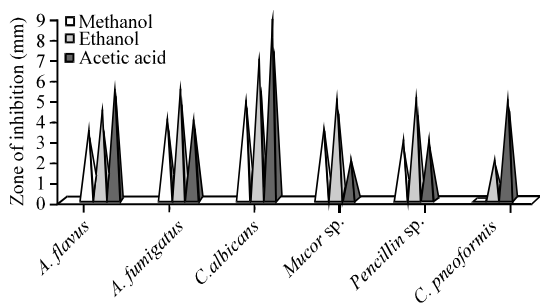


Fig. 3: Antifungal activities of *M. meretrix*

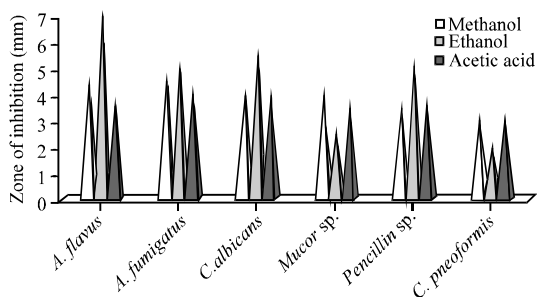


Fig. 4: Antifungal activities of *M. casta*

Table 1: Biochemical composition of marine bivalves

Test organism	Biochemical composition		
	Protein ($\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$)	Carbohydrates ($\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$)	Lipids ($\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$)
<i>M. meretrix</i>	165.4	4.77	0.11
<i>M. casta</i>	180	5.77	0.17

Antifungal activities: The methanolic extract of *M. meretrix* was showed maximum zone of inhibition against *C. albicans* (5 mm). *C. pneoformis* was highly resistant to the methanolic extract of *M. meretrix*. In ethanolic extract highest zone of inhibition was observed against *C. albicans* (7 mm) and the lowest activity against *Penicillium* sp. (2 mm). The acetic acid extract of *M. meretrix* was revealed that maximum zone of inhibition against *C. albicans* (9 mm) and it minimum activity against *Mucor* sp. (Fig. 3).

In crude methanolic extract of *M. casta* maximum zone of inhibition was observed against *A. flavus*, *A. fumigatus* (4.5 mm). The crude ethanolic extract of *M. casta* was showed highest zone of inhibition against *A. flavus* (5 mm) and it minimum activity against *Mucor* sp. (2.5 mm). The crude acetic acid extract of *M. casta* was showed maximum zone of clearance in *A. fumigates*, *C. albicans* (Fig. 4).

Biochemical composition: The results of bivalve species (protein, carbohydrates and lipid) were given in the Table 1. The bivalve *M. meretrix* were exhibited $165.4 \mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$ protein, $4.77 \mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$ carbohydrates and $0.11 \mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$ lipid. The *M. casta* was showed $180 \mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$.

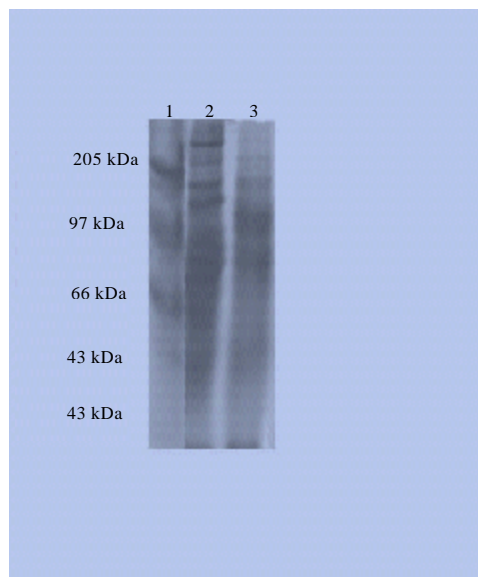


Fig. 5: SDS-page showed molecular weight of crude proteins, Lane 1: Standard markers, Lane 2: Crude extract of *M. meretrix*, Lane 3: Crude extract of *M. casta*

Thin layer chromatography (TLC): TLC profiling was done with both bivalve extracts with using two different solvent systems I and II. The solvent system I consist of methanol and chloroform (1:9) and solvent system II consist of combination of butanol, acetic acid and water (B:A:W) in the proportion of 5:1:4. The plates were showed pink color spots in both solvent systems when sprayed with ninhydrin solution. The pink color spot in TLC plate was clearly indicating the presence of amino acids and peptides.

SDS-PAGE: The crude extracts of both bivalve species were showed antimicrobial activities was subjected to SDS-PAGE for the estimation of the molecular weight of proteins present in it. For the estimation of molecular weights on crude extract of bivalve species protein using different standards such as, α -Macroglobulin (170 KDa), β -Galactosidase (116 KDa), Fructose-6-phosphate kinase (85.2 KDa), Glutamate dehydrogenase (55.6 KDa), Aldotase (39.2 KDa), Trios phosphate isomerase (26.6 KDa) and Trypsin inhibitor (20.1 KDa). In this present context, it revealed that both bivalve species have similar molecular weight proteins. Crude protein of *M. meretrix* yielded 6 bands ranging from 45 to 261 KDa with well defined bands at 45, 104, 149, 185, 223 and 261 KDa and in *M. casta* was showed 5 bands ranging from 50-218 KDa with well defined bands at 50, 86, 98, 125 and 218 (Fig. 5).

DISCUSSION

Bivalves possess several types of defense molecules including agglutinins and glycoproteins that have bactericidal activities (Johnshon, 1964; Arimoto and Tripp, 1977; Mori *et al.*, 1980; Renwranz and Stahmerge, 1983; Renwranz *et al.*, 1998). Study of modern medicine and pharmacology also showed that the flesh of *M. meretrix* has showed effects of antimutation (Yu *et al.*, 1994), antitumor (Don *et al.*, 1999) and immune promotion (Luo *et al.*, 1996) activities. Several cystines rich AMPs were isolated from *M. galloprovincialis*, *M. edulis* (Mitta *et al.*, 1999a; Charlet *et al.*, 1996). The flesh of *M. meretrix* was used widely in India and China as a fisher folk medicine to treat the several liver diseases like Jaundice, Hepatitis-A and B (Wang *et al.*, 2006). Likewise, the steroid extract of *M. meretrix* was inhibiting the cell growth and induction of G1-phase cell cycle arrest in hepatoma cells (Wu *et al.*, 2006). Sumita *et al.* (2009) reported the antibacterial activities from edible bivalves *Perna viridis* and *M. casta*. The molluscan outer shells were found to have the ability to inhibit growth of pathogenic bacteria *E. coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Salmonella enteridis*, which cause food borne illness (Takama *et al.*, 1999).

All the three extracts of both the species *M. meretrix* and *M. casta* showed highest antibacterial activities against *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *B. substillus*, *K. pneumonia*, *P. fleuroscence* and *V. cholera*. The similar work made on other species of mollusc support of other workers, antibacterial activities of green mussel (*P. viridis*) and edible oyster (*Crassostrea madrasensis*) (Annamalai *et al.*, 2007). Rajaganapathi (2001) reported the antimicrobial activities of marine mollusc and purification of anti-HIV protein. Henry *et al.* (1991) reported hemocytes of *Pinna nobilis* exhibited the antibacterial activity. Lectin isolated from heamolymph of the horse muscle *Modiolus modiolus* exhibited strong antibacterial activities against *V. anguillarum*, *V. salmonicida*, *V. viscosus*, *V. wondanis* and *V. ordalii* (Tunkijjanukij and Olafsen, 1998). Anand *et al.* (1997) reported that hypobranchial glands of *Chicoreous virgineous* and egg capsules of *Rapana rapiformis* were showed wide and spectral antibacterial activities against dreadful human pathogens. In present investigation the methanolic extract of the two bivalve species of *M. meretrix* and *M. casta* was showed inhibition activities against all pathogenic fungal forms. This finds supported by Rajaganapathi (2001) reported that methanolic extract of *A. rhombea* inhibit the growth of *Mucor* sp., *Penicillium* sp. and *A. flavus*. Charlet *et al.* (1996) reported that a peptide (Containing 12 cystines,

about 6.2 kDa molecular weight) isolated from the blood of mussel (*M. edulis*) was showed antifungal activity. In the crude methanolic extract of *Cypraea errones* exhibited the antibacterial and antifungal activity against *S. aureus*, *S. pyogenes*, *A. niger* and *C. albicans* (Anand and Edward, 2002). Sumita *et al.* (2009) reported the antifungal activities two edible bivalve species *P. viridis* and *M. casta*. Gill tissue of the mussel of *M. edulis*: A new source of antimicrobial peptides. The saline extract of *M. meretrix* and *M. casta* was showed maximum zone of clearance against *A. fumigatus*, *A. flavus* and *C. albicans*. It was evidence by Jang *et al.* (2006) reported the antifungal activity of synthetic peptide derived from halocidin, from tunicate *Halocynthia aurantium* which showed the inhibition of *C. albicans*.

The two bivalve extracts showed high amount of protein content, which made the variation up 165 to 180 $\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$. Both samples had low amount of carbohydrates 4.77-5.77 $\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$ and lipids 0.11 to 0.17 $\mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$, respectively. These values are similar to those reports for mantle and tissues of *M. casta*, which contained 190 $\mu\text{g mg mL}^{-1}$ protein, 5.76 $\mu\text{g mg mL}^{-1}$ carbohydrates and 0.15 $\mu\text{g mg mL}^{-1}$ lipid respectively, (Sumita *et al.*, 2009). Gopalakrishnan and Vijayavel (2009) reported nutritional composition of three estuarine bivalve's *P. viridis*, *Donax caneatatus* and *M. meretrix*. Jayabal and Kalyani (1986) reported biochemical composition of *M. meretrix* from Bay of Bengal. Generally, bivalves are rich in nutrients, particularly proteins, fats and minerals. The Indian edible bivalves have protein (5-14%), fats (0.5-3%), calcium (0.04-1.84%) and phosphorus (0.1-0.2%) and iron (1-29 mg/100 g of the fresh weight).

The results of thin layer chromatography were revealed that presence of pink color spots it clearly indicating presence of amino acid or peptides in bivalve's samples. Presuming that the antimicrobial compounds was proteins or peptides. There are several reports are from the antimicrobial peptides has been reported from the hemocytes (Charlet *et al.*, 1996; Mitta *et al.*, 1999a, b), epithelial tissues (Marshall and Arenas, 2003; Iijima *et al.*, 2003) and tissues gut and respiratory organs (Tincu and Taylor, 2004) of bivalve molluscs.

In SDS-PAGE on 12% gel, the crude proteins *M. meretrix* and *M. casta* showed 5-6 bands ranging from 45-223 KDa. Sumita *et al.* (2009) observed that unclear bands ranging from 14 and 29 KDa in marine bivalves *M. casta* and *P. viridis*. This Similar result was from *Perna canaliculus* containing the protein with molecular weight of 35 KDa (Scotti *et al.*, 2001). Likewise. in *M. edulis* are containing histidine-rich glycoprotein (Nair and Robinson, 1999; Renwranz

sand Stahmerge, 1983). Chandren *et al.* (2009) observed 9.7 kDa proteins in gill of estuarine bivalve *P. viridis*.

CONCLUSION

The present investigation concluded that *M. meretrix* and *M. casta* contain several factors with antimicrobial activities, in various organs and tissues. Thin layer chromatography results were revealed that proteinaceous compounds are responsible for antimicrobial activities. They represent potential pharmacological leads perhaps possessing novel and uncharacterized mechanisms of action that might ultimately benefit the ongoing global search for clinically useful antimicrobial agents.

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