



Research Journal of
Botany

ISSN 1816-4919



Academic
Journals Inc.

www.academicjournals.com

Antifungal Bryophytes: A Possible Role Against Human Pathogens and in Plant Protection

¹Abhijit Dey and ²Jitendra Nath De

¹Department of Botany, Presidency College (now Presidency University), 86/1, College Street, Kolkata-700073, West Bengal, India

²Department of Botany, Retired Reader and HOD, Charuchandra College, Kolkata. Flat No. -C-103, Sunrise Estate, 14C, Radhanath Chaudhuri Road, Kolkata-700015, West Bengal, India

Corresponding Author: Abhijit Dey, Department of Botany, Presidency College (now Presidency University), 86/1, College Street, Kolkata-700073, West Bengal, India Tel: +919903214237

ABSTRACT

Fungi are associated with a number of plant and human diseases. Plant extracts have been used as efficient fungicides inhibiting the growth of many fungal pathogens. Bryophytes, a small group of lower plants, evolutionarily placed between the algae and the pteridophytes, have been reported to store a number of compounds having antifungal efficacy. This review includes a list of bryophytes investigated against a number of plant and human pathogenic fungi with special reference to the compounds, nature of the compounds, name of the fungi and mode of action on the basis of available information. Bisbibenzyl was found to be the predominant antifungal active principle present in the bryophytes showing efficacy by inhibiting different types of biological activities of the pathogens.

Key words: Antifungal, human pathogen, plant protection, bisbibenzyl, hepatic

INTRODUCTION

Different plant groups have been reported to possess antifungal efficacy against a number of plant and human pathogens (Zafar *et al.*, 2002; Sibtain *et al.*, 2002; Saadabi, 2006). Members of lichen (Halama and Van Haluwin, 2004), pteridophyta (Sahayaraj *et al.*, 2009), gymnosperms (Krauze-Baranowska *et al.*, 2002), monocots (Wannissorn *et al.*, 1996) and dicots (Dey, 2011a,b; Dey and De, 2011) have been investigated against various fungi, either pathogenic or non pathogenic.

Bryophyta are the most primitive and simplest member of the Embryophyta. This small and inconspicuous group of plants is placed between the algae and the pteridophyta in the line of evolution. The group is divided into three classes such as Hepaticopsida (Hepatics), Anthocerotopsida (Hornworts) and Bryopsida (Mosses). Bryophyta houses a number of secondary metabolites with diverse pharmacological significance.

Pharmacological importance of bryophytes: Bryophytes are able to produce diverse secondary metabolites to cope up with a number of biotic and abiotic stresses such as predation, ultraviolet radiation, extreme temperature and microbial decomposition (Xie and Lou, 2009). This

comparatively unexplored group of medicinal plants contains a number of unique and valuable secondary metabolites having therapeutic potential (Krzaczkowski *et al.*, 2008). Bryophytes are known to produce a number of medicinally important compounds (Asakawa, 2008). A number of hepatics and mosses have been investigated for antibacterial (Kang *et al.*, 2007), antioxidative (Dey and De, 2012), cytotoxic (Perry *et al.*, 1996), anti snake venom (Pereanez *et al.*, 2010), anti-inflammatory and anti-ulcer (Nakagawara *et al.*, 1992) activities. Use of bryophytes in traditional system of medicine has also been recorded (Harris, 2008).

Potential as alternative fungicide: Bryophytes have been reported as antibiotic (Banerjee and Sen, 1979; Banerjee, 2000; Singh *et al.*, 2007; Shirzadian *et al.*, 2009; Savaroglu *et al.*, 2011a). They have shown antibiosis against a number of plant pathogenic fungi (Mekuria *et al.*, 2005). Compounds isolated from bryophytes have shown reversal of conventional antibiotic resistance developed in human pathogenic fungi (Xie and Lou, 2008). The problem of drug resistance development in pathogenic fungi (Vanden Bossche *et al.*, 1998) can be solved by using novel biomolecules derived from unique natural sources like bryophytes. Development of antifungal drug resistance in human pathogenic *Candida* sp. is a major concern and many of the experiments in the present review have been performed with the bryophyte derived crude extracts or isolated compounds against *C. albicans*.

In the present study, the role of certain bryophytes extracted in different solvents or the purified isolated compounds having antifungal efficacy on plant, animal pathogenic and mild/non pathogenic fungi have been recorded. In different experiments, antifungal (fungicidal and/or fungistatic) activity has been measured in terms of disc diffusion assay and/or microdilution method. Different plant parts such as gametophytes and sporophytes have shown variation in their antifungal efficacy (Wolters, 1964). Fungicidal effect of the group was found to be mediated by inhibiting a number of pathways present in the fungi at cellular, genetic or metabolic level. Development of drug resistance in pathogenic fungi due to the use of conventional antibiotics could be dealt with the natural and novel antibiotics with diverse mechanisms of action from some unique sources like bryophytes.

Enumeration of Bryophytes active against fungi/fungal pathogens: The names of the bryophytes are listed alphabetically along with their family, antifungal extract/fraction/compound, mode of action and reference(s). Authors have included a few mild pathogenic fungi in the pathogenic categories although very few reports are available on their pathogenicity. Species such as *Aspergillus flavus* is included as both human and plant pathogen while *A. fumigatus* is a common human pathogen. *A. parasiticus* is being included as human pathogenic fungi as a producer of aflatoxin. Different strains of species like *Fusarium oxysporum* have a very broad host range from animals to plants. The antifungal bryophytes, in this review, are enumerated in two sections. Table 1 includes the reports of antifungal bryophytes reported or investigated against human pathogens mentioning the active extract and/or the isolated compounds while Table 2 represents the reports on mode of antifungal action. Table 3 denotes bryophyte extracts and/or isolated compounds against plant pathogenic fungi.

Table 1: Reports on bryophytes showing activity and/or investigated against human pathogenic fungi

Bryophyte	Family	Extract/ fraction/ isolated compound	Active/investigated against	Reference
<i>Asterella angusta</i>	Aytoniaceae	Asterelin A, asterelin B, 11-O-demethyl marchantinin I and dihydroptychantonol Adibenzofuran [bis(bibenzy)]s	<i>Candida albicans</i>	Qu <i>et al.</i> (2007)
<i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	Polytrichaceae	Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) extract	<i>Aspergillus versicolor</i> , <i>A. fumigatus</i>	Sabovljevic <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Bryum argenteum</i>	Bryaceae	Ethanollic extract	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Penicillium ochrochloron</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> , <i>Trichophyton mentagrophytes</i>	Sabovljevic <i>et al.</i> (2006)
<i>Dumortiera hirsuta</i>	Marchantiaceae	Riocardin D [macrocyelic bisbibenzyl]	<i>C. albicans</i>	Cheng <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>Fontinalis anizyretica</i>	Fontinalaceae	various organic solvent extracts	<i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i> , <i>A. flavus</i> , <i>A. fumigatus</i>	Savaroglu <i>et al.</i> (2011b)
<i>Frullania muscicola</i>	Jubulaceae	3-Hydroxy-4'-methoxylbibenzyl, 7,4'-Dimethoxyl-apigenin	<i>C. albicans</i> , <i>Trichophyton gypseum</i> , <i>T. rubrum</i> , <i>Microsporium lanosum</i> , <i>M. gypseum</i> , <i>Epidermophyton floccorum</i>	Lou <i>et al.</i> (2002)
<i>F. muscicola</i>	Jubulaceae	Palyonol (bisbibenzyl)	<i>T. gypseum</i> , <i>M. gypseum</i> , <i>E. floccorum</i>	Lou <i>et al.</i> (2002)
<i>Homalia trichomanoides</i>	Neckeraceae	3 beta-methoxyserrat-14-en-21beta-ol astranorin, methyl 2,4-dihydroxy-3, 6-dimethylbenzoate	<i>C. albicans</i>	Wang <i>et al.</i> (2005)
<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>	Marchantiaceae	Plagiochin E, 13,13'-O-isopropylidemeriocardin D, riccardin H, marchantin E, neomarchantin A, marchantin A and marchantin B (macrocyelic bisbibenzyls)	<i>C. albicans</i>	Niu <i>et al.</i> (2006)
<i>M. polymorpha</i>	Marchantiaceae	Plagiochin E [macrocyelic bis(bibenzy)]	<i>C. albicans</i>	Sun <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>M. polymorpha</i>	Marchantiaceae	Plagiochin E	<i>C. albicans</i>	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2008)
<i>M. polymorpha</i>	Marchantiaceae	Plagiochin E	<i>C. albicans</i>	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>M. polymorpha</i>	Marchantiaceae	Plagiochin E	<i>C. albicans</i>	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>M. polymorpha</i> ssp. <i>ruderalis</i>	Marchantiaceae	DMSO extract	<i>A. versicolor</i> , <i>A. fumigatus</i> ,	Sabovljevic <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Orthotrichum rupestre</i>	Orthotrichaceae	various organic and inorganic solvents	<i>C. albicans</i>	McCleary <i>et al.</i> (1960)
<i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i>	Pallaviciniaceae	water, alcohol and hexane extracts; steroid	<i>A. fumigatus</i> , <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> , <i>C. albicans</i>	Subbisha and Subramoniam (2005)
<i>P. lyellii</i>	Pallaviciniaceae	n-hexane fraction of alcohol extract	<i>A. fumigatus</i>	Subbisha and Subramoniam (2006)

Table 1: Continued

Bryophyte	Family	Extract/fraction/ isolated compound	Active/investigated against	Reference
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	Funariaceae	DMSO extract	<i>A. versicolor</i> , <i>A. fumigatus</i>	Sabovljevic <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Plagiochasma intermedium</i>	Aytoniaceae	Pakyonol, neomarchantin A, isoriccardin C, marchantin H, riccardin F and riccardin C [macrocyclic bis(bibenzyl)]	<i>C. albicans</i>	Xie <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Plagiochila banksiana</i>	Plagiochilaceae	bibenzyl	<i>C. albicans</i> , <i>T. mentagrophytes</i>	Lorimer <i>et al.</i> (1993)
<i>P. deltoidea</i>	Plagiochilaceae	4-hydroxy-3'-methoxybibenzyl	<i>C. albicans</i>	Lorimer <i>et al.</i> (1993)
<i>P. fasciculata</i>	Plagiochilaceae	bibenzyl	<i>T. mentagrophytes</i>	Lorimer <i>et al.</i> (1993)
<i>P. fasciculata</i>	Plagiochilaceae	2-hydroxy-4,6-dimethoxyacetophenone,		
		2-hydroxy-3,4,6-trimethoxyacetopheno	<i>T. mentagrophytes</i> , <i>Cladosporium resinae</i>	Lorimer and Perry (1994)
<i>P. stephensoniana</i>	Plagiochilaceae	4-hydroxy-3'-methoxybibenzyl	<i>C. albicans</i> , <i>T. mentagrophytes</i>	Lorimer <i>et al.</i> (1993)
<i>P. suborbiculata</i>	Plagiochilaceae	bibenzyl	<i>C. albicans</i>	Lorimer <i>et al.</i> (1993)
<i>Ptilidium pulcherrimum</i>	Ptilidiaceae	methanolic extract	<i>A. versicolor</i> , <i>A. ochraceus</i>	Veljic <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Riccardia marginata</i>	Aneuraceae	chlorinated bibenzyls	<i>C. albicans</i> , <i>T. mentagrophytes</i>	Baek <i>et al.</i> (2004)
<i>Scapania verrucosa</i>	Scapaniaceae	ether extract; essential oil	<i>C. albicans</i> , <i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i> , <i>Trichophyton rubrum</i> , <i>A. fumigatus</i>	Guo <i>et al.</i> (2008)
<i>Tortella tortuosa</i>	Pottiaceae	acetone extract	<i>C. albicans</i>	Elilbol <i>et al.</i> (2011)

Table 2: Mode of action of some antifungal bryophytes

Bryophyte	Active/investigated against	Mode of action	Reference
<i>Dumortiera hirsuta</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	Biofilm formation	Cheng <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>M. polymorpha</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	Ergosterol biosynthesis	Sun <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>M. polymorpha</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	Cell wall chitin synthesis	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2008)
<i>M. polymorpha</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	Mitochondrial dysfunction-induced Reactive oxygen species accumulation	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2009)
<i>M. polymorpha</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	Induction of apoptotic pathway	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Plagiochasma intermedium</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	Reduction of minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of antibiotic fluconazole when combined with riccardin C	Xie <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Dumortiera hirsuta</i>	<i>Alternaria alternata</i> , <i>A. niger</i> , <i>B. cinerea</i> , <i>Botryodiplodia</i> <i>theobromae</i> , <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>gladioli</i> , <i>Penicillium</i> <i>expansum</i> , <i>P. chrysogenum</i>	Spore germination inhibition, anomalies in the hyphae, flaccid cell wall, granulated cytoplasm	Alan <i>et al.</i> (2011)

Antifungal extracts/compounds: Most of these reports were found to involve the crude extracts in different solvents, some were able to purify and isolate the actual active compound with specific mode of inhibition. Siddiqui *et al.* (2005) was able to synthesize fungicidal bibenzyls by acetylation of bibenzyl compound derived from Bryophyta. However, bibenzyls from *Scorzonera humilis*, an angiosperm, were unable to show fungicidal activity (Zidorn *et al.*, 2002). Apart from the macrocyclic bisbibenzyls, some other constituents from bryophytes such as steroids, sesquiterpenoids, acetophenones, stilbenes and essential oil have exhibited antagonism to fungal pathogens. (E)-4-hydroxylated stilbenes and related bibenzyls were analyzed against the brown rot fungi *Gloeophyllum trabeum* and *Poria placenta* for antifungal activity. Other bibenzyls were also found to be effective against the white rot fungus *Coriolus versicolor* (Schultz *et al.*, 1991). Although the experiments were performed mostly *in vitro*, some of the antifungal fractions have been evaluated *in vivo* (Subhisha and Subramoniam, 2006). However, *Palustriella commutata* extracts did not exhibit any activity against yeast and mould strains. Lack of activity was ascribed to low concentration of active substances in the extracts. In addition, the acetone extract of *Lunularia cruciata* did not show activity against *C. albicans* and *A. niger*. Absence of antifungal activity could be due to inability of the molecule(s) present in the extract to cross the fungal cell wall (Basile *et al.*, 1998). Interestingly, *Sphagnum* associated bacteria have been reported to produce some antifungal compounds (Opelt and Berg, 2004). Antagonistic effect of bacteria isolated from *Sphagnum* has shown antifungal potential against *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Verticillium dahlia*. The plant and the associated bacteria could be used as a natural fungicide (Opelt *et al.*, 2007). In addition to that generation specific variation of antifungal activity has also been noted in certain bryophytes (Wolters, 1964). The degree of antifungal activity of a particular bryophyte species is said to be dependent on the age of the gametophyte (Banerjee and Sen, 1979). It could be an exciting aspect of study if the seasonal, altitudinal, age, generation and tissue specific variation of secondary metabolites of bryophytes are analyzed and their pharmacological potential is determined.

Mode of antifungal action: Bryophytes extracts or the isolated active compounds have exhibited activity by inhibiting biofilm formation, ergosterol biosynthesis, cell wall chitin synthesis, reactive

Table 3: Reports on bryophytes showing activity and/or investigated against plant pathogenic fungi

Bryophyte	Family	Extract/ fraction/ isolated compound	Active or investigated against	Reference
<i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	Polytrichaceae	solvent extracts	<i>Botrytis allii</i> , <i>Coniophora cerebella</i> , <i>Polyporus versicolor</i> , <i>Fusarium bulbigenum</i> , <i>Pyricularia oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>A. undulatum</i>	Polytrichaceae	DMSO extract	<i>Penicillium funiculosum</i> , <i>Trichoderma viride</i>	Sabovljevic et al. (2011)
<i>Balantiopsis cancellata</i>	Balantiopsaceae	<i>Trans</i> - β -methylthioacrylate	<i>Cladosporium herbarum</i>	Labbe et al. (2005)
<i>Bazzania trilobata</i>	Lepidoziaceae	Dichloromethane and a methanol extract; 5- and 7-hydroxycalamenene, drimenol, drimenal, viridiflorol, gymnomitrol and three bisbenzyls: 6',8'-dichloroisoplagiochin C, isoplagiochin D and 6'-chloroisoplagiochin D (sesquiterpenes)	<i>Botrytis cinerea</i> , <i>Cladosporium cucumerinum</i> , <i>Phytophthora infestans</i> , <i>Pyricularia oryzae</i> , <i>Septoria tritici</i>	Scher et al. (2004)
<i>Bryum argenteum</i>	Bryaceae	Acetone, ethanolic, chloroform and aqueous extracts	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia bataticola</i> , <i>Fusarium moniliformae</i>	Bodade et al. (2008)
<i>B. cellulare</i>	Bryaceae	Acetone, ethanolic, chloroform and aqueous extracts	<i>A. niger</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia bataticola</i> , <i>F. moniliformae</i>	Bodade et al. (2008)
<i>B. pallens</i>	Bryaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>C. cerebella</i> , <i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>F. bulbigenum</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Ctenidium molluscum</i>	Hypnaceae	Methanolic extract	<i>Trichoderma viride</i> , <i>A. niger</i> , <i>A. flavus</i> , <i>P. funiculosum</i>	Veljic et al. (2009)
<i>Dicranella heteromalla</i>	Dicranaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Diobelon squarrosom</i>	Dicranaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>C. cerebella</i> , <i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>B. allii</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Diplophyllum albicans</i>	Scapaniaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>C. cerebella</i> , <i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>B. allii</i> , <i>F. bulbigenum</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Dumontiera hirsuta</i>	Marchantiaceae	Aqueous extract	<i>Alternaria alternata</i> , <i>A. niger</i> , <i>B. cinerea</i> , <i>Botryodiplodia theobromae</i> , <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>gladioli</i> , <i>Penicillium expansum</i> , <i>P. chrysogenum</i>	Alam et al. (2011)
<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	Fontinalaceae	Methanolic extract	<i>T. viride</i> , <i>A. niger</i> , <i>A. flavus</i> , <i>P. funiculosum</i>	Veljic et al. (2009)
<i>F. antipyretica</i>	Fontinalaceae	Different organic solvent extracts	<i>A. flavus</i> , <i>Fusarium solani</i> , <i>F. graminearum</i> , <i>Geotrichum candidum</i>	Savaroglu et al. (2011b)
<i>Herberta adunca</i>	Herbertaceae	α -Herbertenol, β -Herbertenol, α -Formylherbertenol, β -Bromoherbertenol (herbertane sesquiterpenoids)	<i>Botrytis cinerea</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	Matsuo et al. (1986)
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	Hypnaceae	Methanolic extract	<i>T. viride</i> , <i>A. niger</i> , <i>A. flavus</i> , <i>P. funiculosum</i>	Veljic et al. (2009)
<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>	Marchantiaceae	Methanol and chloroform extracts	<i>Tilletia indica</i> , <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> , <i>Sclerotium rolfsii</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	Gahtori and Chaturvedi (2011)
<i>M. polymorpha</i> ssp. <i>ruderalis</i>	Marchantiaceae	DMSO extract	<i>P. funiculosum</i> , <i>T. viride</i>	Sabovljevic et al. (2011)
<i>Mniobryum carneum</i>	Bryaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>F. bulbigenum</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)

Table 3: Continued

Bryophyte	Family	Extract/ fraction/ isolated compound	Active or investigated against	Reference
<i>Mnium hornum</i>	Mniaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>C. cerebella</i> , <i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>B. alii</i> , <i>R. solani</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Oligotrichum hercynicum</i>	Polytrichaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>F. bulbigenum</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i>	Pallaviciniaceae	Water, alcohol and hexane extracts; steroid	<i>A. niger</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i>	Subhisha and Subramoniam (2005)
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	Funariaceae	DMSO extract	<i>P. funiculosus</i> , <i>T. viride</i>	Sabovljevic <i>et al.</i> (2011)
<i>Plagiochasma appendiculatum</i>	Aytoniaceae	Aqueous extract	<i>Alternaria solani</i>	Deora and Jain, 2008
<i>P. appendiculatum</i>	Aytoniaceae	Acetone, ethanolic, chloroform and aqueous extracts	<i>A. niger</i>	Bodade <i>et al.</i> (2008)
<i>Plagiothecium</i>	Plagiotheciaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>B. alii</i> , <i>R. solani</i> , <i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>F. bulbigenum</i> ,	Wolters, <i>denticulatum</i> (1964)
<i>Pogonatum aloides</i>	Polytrichaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>P. oryzae</i> , <i>C. cerebella</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>P. urnigerum</i>	Polytrichaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>B. alii</i> , <i>F. bulbigenum</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	Polytrichaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>B. alii</i> , <i>F. bulbigenum</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>P. formosum</i>	Polytrichaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>R. solani</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Plitidium pulcherrimum</i>	Plitidiaceae	Methanolic extract	<i>A. flavus</i> , <i>A. niger</i> , <i>T. viride</i> , <i>P. funiculosus</i>	Veljic <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>Riccardia marginata</i>	Aneuraceae	Polychlorinated bibenzyls	<i>C. herbarum</i>	Labbe <i>et al.</i> (2007)
<i>Riccia gangetica</i>	Ricciaceae	Cold and boiling water extract	<i>F. moniliforme</i>	Deora and Subhalka (2010)
<i>Scapania verrucosa</i>	Scapaniaceae	Ether extract; essential oil	<i>P. oryzae</i>	Guo <i>et al.</i> (2008)
<i>Scleropodium purum</i>	Brachythecaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>C. cerebella</i> , <i>B. alii</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Sphagnum fimbriatum</i>	Sphagnaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>C. cerebella</i> , <i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>F. bulbigenum</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>S. nemoreum</i>	Sphagnaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>C. cerebella</i> , <i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>F. bulbigenum</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>S. subsecundum</i>	Sphagnaceae	Solvent extracts	<i>C. cerebella</i> , <i>P. versicolor</i> , <i>F. bulbigenum</i> , <i>P. oryzae</i>	Wolters (1964)
<i>Thuidium cymbifolium</i>	Thuidiaceae	Acetone, ethanolic, chloroform and distilled water extracts	<i>A. niger</i> , <i>Rhizoctonia bataticola</i> , <i>F. moniliforme</i>	Bodade <i>et al.</i> (2008)
<i>T. delicatulum</i>	Thuidiaceae	Acetone, ethanolic, chloroform and distilled water extracts	<i>A. niger</i> , <i>R. bataticola</i> , <i>F. moniliforme</i>	Bodade <i>et al.</i> (2008)

oxygen species accumulation, apoptotic pathway induction etc. Aqueous extract of the liverwort *Dumortiera hirsuta* was found to inhibit a number of phytopathogenic fungi mediated by different modes of action such as spore germination inhibition, development of anomalies in the hyphae, formation of flaccid cell wall and granulated cytoplasm etc. (Alam *et al.*, 2011). A number of biologically active macrocyclic bis (bibenzyl) have shown antagonistic effect against the conventional antibiotic resistant human pathogen *Candida albicans*. Expression of m-RNA specific genes responsible for hyphae and later biofilm formation in *C. albicans* was found to be inhibited by riccardin D (Cheng *et al.*, 2009). When fluconazole sensitive and fluconazole resistant strains of *C. albicans* were treated with another macrocyclic bisbibenzyl plagiochin E alone and in combination with fluconazole, ergosterol pathway gene was found to be transcribed at a lower rate (Sun *et al.*, 2009). In another experiment, the same compound has exhibited *in vitro* and *in situ* inhibition of cell wall chitin synthetase genes in *C. albicans* at the post transcriptional or at the enzymatic level (Wu *et al.*, 2008). In addition to that, Wu *et al.* (2009) have reported the same compound affecting the same pathogen by inducing the accumulation of Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) associated with mitochondrial dysfunction. Moreover, plagiochin E, in another case, was found to activate the apoptotic pathway in *C. albicans* while showing antifungal efficacy. G (2)/M cell cycle arrest and activation of metacaspase were found to be related with the apoptotic induction (Wu *et al.*, 2010). Therefore, different bryophytes were found to follow various modes of action to inhibit fungi *in vitro*. The mechanism of activity was not only dependent on the compound but was also pathogen specific. Same compound was reported to follow different mode of action while inhibiting the same or different fungi.

Bryotechnology as a tool: Lack of enough plant material and problems regarding the chemistry and isolation of compounds are the major constrains in the phytochemistry and pharmacology of bryophyte research. However, some *in vitro* techniques have been utilized in this group for large scale production of active constituents (Sabovljevic *et al.*, 2009). In addition, Sabovljevic *et al.* (2011) have shown that some of the bryophytes grown axenically *in vitro* with greater antifungal potential than that of their natural counterparts. *In vitro* techniques not only save space but also generate microbe free plants. Tissue culture of bryophyte may generate higher amount of plant body and active compounds which can be utilized in a bioreactor for large scale production of secondary metabolites.

CONCLUSION

Use of medicinal plants has been popularized due to low cost and lesser side effects. Herbal drugs have been used successfully in the treatment of various ailments. Development of drug resistance in pathogens is one of the major problems in medicine. Natural products derived from the botanicals can be used as a substitute to solve the problem. A number of herbal compounds have been discovered with immense therapeutic potential. Bryophyte, a small and apparently insignificant group of plants may serve as a source of some unique biologically active molecules. Antifungal efficacy of certain liverworts and mosses can substitute the conventional synthetic fungicides used in crop protection especially in the countries where fungal invasion in the crop fields is a common phenomenon. Similarly, development of drug resistance in common human pathogenic fungi can be regulated by using antifungal compounds harvested from uncommon sources like bryophytes. Cost effectiveness and less or no side effects of the natural compounds may be used as an alternative to the conventional biocidal chemicals especially in the poor and underprivileged

third world countries. Although researches involving pharmacological properties of bryophytes are mostly done *in vitro* but *in vivo* analyses and clinical trials may lead to the novel drug discovery programs in future. Lack of reports on antifungal activity from the group of hornworts is another lacuna in this field. Authors did not find any report on biological activity of the group antagonist to fungi. The group is thought to be evolutionary placed between hepatics and mosses and supposed to possess some compounds with novel therapeutic value.

REFERENCES

- Alam, A., A. Tripathi, S. Vats, K.K. Behera and V. Sharma, 2011. *In vitro* antifungal efficacies of aqueous extract of *Dumortiera hirsuta* (Swaegr.) Nees against sporulation and growth of postharvest phytopathogenic fungi. Arch. Bryology, 103: 1-9.
- Asakawa, Y., 2008. Liverworts-potential source of medicinal compounds. Curr. Pharm. Des., 14: 3067-3088.
- Baek, S.H., R.K. Phipps and N.B. Perry, 2004. Antimicrobial chlorinated bibenzyls from the liverwort *Riccardia marginata*. J. Nat. Prod., 67: 718-720.
- Banerjee, R.D. and S.P. Sen, 1979. Antibiotic activity of bryophytes. Bryologist, 82: 141-153.
- Banerjee, R.D., 2000. Antimicrobial Activities of Bryophytes a Review. In: Perspective in Indian Bryology, Nath, V. and A.K. Asthana (Eds.). Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehradun, pp: 55-74.
- Basile, A., S. Giordano, S. Sorbo, M.L. Vuotto, M.T.L. Ielpo and R. Castaldo Cobianchi, 1998. Antibiotic effects of *Lunularia cruciata* (Bryophyta) extract. Pharmaceut. Biol., 36: 25-28.
- Bodade, R.G., P.S. Borkar, Arfeen, M.S. and C.N. Khobragade, 2008. *In vitro* screening of bryophytes for antimicrobial activity. J. Med. Plants, 7: 23-28.
- Cheng, A., L. Sun, X. Wu and H. Lou, 2009. The inhibitory effect of a macrocyclic bisbibenzyl riccardin D on the biofilms of *Candida albicans*. Biol. Pharm. Bull., 32: 1417-1421.
- Deora, G.S. and D. Suhalka, 2010. Effect of *Riccia gangetica* (A liverwort) extract against *Fusarium moniliforme*. J. Curr. Sci., 15: 87-90.
- Deora, G.S. and N. S. Jain, 2008. *In vitro* antifungal activity of *Plagiochasma appendiculatum* against *Alternaria solani*. J. Pure Appl. Microbiol., 2: 569-572.
- Dey, A., 2011a. *Achyranthes aspera* L.: Phytochemical and pharmacological aspects: A review. Int. J. Pharmaceut. Sci. Rev. Res., 9: 72-82.
- Dey, A., 2011b. *Alstonia scholaris* R.Br. (Apocynaceae): Phytochemistry and Pharmacology: A concise Review. J. Applied Pharm. Sci., 1: 51-57.
- Dey, A. and J.N. De, 2011. *Aristolochia indica* L.: A review. Asian J. Plant Sci., 10: 108-116.
- Dey, A. and J.N. De, 2012. Antioxidative potential of Bryophytes: Stress tolerance and commercial perspectives: A review. Pharmacologia, 3: 151-159.
- Elibol, B., T. Ezer, R. Kara, C. Yuvalý and E. Colak, 2011. Antifungal and antibacterial effects of some acrocarpic mosses. Afr. J. Biotechnol., 10: 986-989.
- Gahtori, D. and P. Chaturvedi, 2011. Antifungal and antibacterial potential of methanol and chloroform extracts of *Marchantia polymorpha* L. Arch. Phytopathology Plant Protect., 44: 736-731.
- Guo, L., J.Z. Wu, T. Han, T. Cao, K. Rahman and L.P. Qin, 2008. Chemical composition, antifungal and antitumor properties of ether extracts of *Scapania verrucosa* Heeg. and its endophytic fungus *Chaetomium fusiforme*. Mol., 13: 2114-2125.
- Halama, P. and C. Van Haluwin, 2004. Antifungal activity of lichen extracts and lichenic acids. Biocontrol, 49: 95-107.

- Harris, E.S.J., 2008. Ethnobotany: Traditional uses and folk classification of bryophytes. *Bryologist*, 111: 169-217.
- Kang, S.J., S.H. Kim, P. Liu, E. Jovel and G.H. Towers, 2007. Antibacterial activities of some mosses including *Hylocomium splendens* from South Western British Columbia. *Fitoterapia*, 78: 373-376.
- Krauze-Baranowska, M., M. Mardarowicz, M. Wiwart, L. Pob³ocka and M. Dynowska, 2002. Antifungal activity of the essential oils from some species of the genus *Pinus*. *Z. Naturforsch.*, 57: 478-482.
- Krzaczkowski, L., M. Wright and J.E. Gairin, 2008. Bryophytes, a potent source of drugs for tomorrow's medicine?. *Med. Sci.*, 24: 947-953.
- Labbe, C., F. Faini, C. Villagran, J. Coll and D.S. Rycroft, 2005. Antifungal and insect antifeedant 2-phenylethanol esters from the liverwort *Balantiopsis cancellata* from Chile. *J. Agric. Food Chem.*, 53: 247-249.
- Labbe, C., F. Faini, C. Villagran, J. Coll and D.S. Rycroft, 2007. Bioactive polychlorinated bibenzyls from the liverwort *Riccardia polyclada*. *J. Nat. Prod.*, 70: 2019-2021.
- Lorimer, S.D., N.B. Perry and R.S. Tangney, 1993. An antifungal bibenzyl from the New Zealand liverwort, *Plagiochila stephensoniana*. Bioactivity-directed isolation, synthesis, and analysis. *J. Nat. Prod.*, 56: 1444-1450.
- Lorimer, S.D. and N.B. Perry, 1994. Antifungal hydroxy-acetophenones from the New Zealand liverwort, *Plagiochila fasciculata*. *Planta Med.*, 60: 386-387.
- Lou, H.X., G.Y. Li and F.Q. Wang, 2002. A cytotoxic diterpenoid and antifungal phenolic compounds from *Frullania muscicola* Steph. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.*, 4: 87-94.
- Matsuo, A., S. Yuki and M. Nakayama, 1986. Structures of *ent*-herbertane sesquiterpenoids displaying antifungal properties from the liverwort *Herberta adunca*. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans.*, 1: 701-710.
- McCleary, J.A., P.S. Sypherd and D.L. Walkington, 1960. Mosses as possible sources of antibiotics. *Science*, 131: 108-108.
- Mekuria, T., U. Steiner, H. Hindorf, J.P. Frahm and H.W. Dehne, 2005. Bioactivity of bryophyte extracts against *Botrytis cinerea*, *Alternaria solani* and *Phytophthora infestans*. *J. Appl. Bot. Food Quality*, 79: 89-93.
- Nakagawara S., K. Katoh, T. Kusumi, J. Komura and K. Nomoto *et al.*, 1992. Two azulenes produced by the liverwort, *Calypogeia azurea*, during *In vitro* culture. *Phytochemistry*, 31: 1667-1670.
- Niu, C., J.B. Qu and H.X. Lou, 2006. Antifungal bis[bibenzyls] from the Chinese Liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha* L. *Chem. Biodivers.*, 3: 34-40.
- Opelt, K. and G. Berg, 2004. Diversity and antagonistic potential of bacteria associated with bryophytes from nutrient-poor habitats of the Baltic Sea Coast. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.*, 70: 6569-6579.
- Opelt, K., C. Berg and G. Berg, 2007. The bryophyte genus *Sphagnum* is a reservoir for powerful and extraordinary antagonists and potentially facultative human pathogens. *FEMS Microbiol. Ecol.*, 61: 38-53.
- Pereanez, J.A., T. Lobo-Echeverri, B. Rojano, L. Vargas, M. Fernandez, C.A. Gaviria and V. Nunez, 2010. Correlation of the inhibitory activity of phospholipase A2 snake venom and the antioxidant activity of Colombian plant extracts. *Braz. J. Pharmacog.*, 20: 910-916.

- Perry, N.B., L.M. Foster, S.D. Lorimer, B.C. May and R.T. Weavers, 1996. Isoprenyl phenyl ethers from liverworts of the genus *Trichocolea*: cytotoxic activity, structural corrections and synthesis. *J. Nat. Prod.*, 59: 729-733.
- Qu, J., C. Xie, H. Guo, W. Yu and H. Lou, 2007. Antifungal dibenzofuran bis(bibenzyl)s from the liverwort *Asterella angusta*. *Phytochemistry*, 68: 1767-1774.
- Saadabi, A.M.A., 2006. Antifungal activity of some saudi plants used in traditional medicine. *Asian J. Plant Sci.*, 5: 907-909.
- Sabovljevic, A., M. Sokovic, M. Sabovljevic and D. Grubisic, 2006. Antimicrobial activity of *Bryum argenteum*. *Fitoterapia*, 77: 144-145.
- Sabovljevic, A., M. Sabovljevic and N. Jockovic, 2009. *In vitro* culture and secondary metabolite isolation in bryophytes. *Methods Mol. Biol.*, 547: 117-128.
- Sabovljevic, A., M. Sokovic, J. Glamoclija, A. Ciric, M. Vujicic, B. Pejin and M Sabovljevic, 2011. Bio-activities of extracts from some axenically farmed and naturally grown bryophytes. *J. Med. Plants Res.*, 5: 656-671.
- Sahayaraj, K., J.F. Borgio and G. Raju, 2009. Antifungal activity of three fern extracts on causative agents of groundnut early leaf spot and rust diseases. *J. Plant Prot.*, 49: 141-144.
- Savaroglu, F., C. Fylyk Iscen, P. Oztopcu-Vatan, S. Kabadere, S. Ilhan and R. Uyar, 2011a. Determination of antimicrobial and antiproliferative activities of the aquatic moss *fontinalis antipyretica* Hedw. *Turk. J. Biol.*, 35: 361-369.
- Savaroglu, F., S. Ilhan and C. Filik-Iscen, 2011b. An evaluation of the antimicrobial activity of some Turkish mosses. *J. Med. Plants Res.*, 5: 3286-3292.
- Scher, J.M., J.B. Speakman, J. Zapp and H. Becker, 2004. Bioactivity guided isolation of antifungal compounds from the liverwort *Bazzania trilobata* (L.) S.F. Gray. *Phytochemistry*, 65: 2583-2588.
- Schultz, T.P. , Q. Cheng, W.D. Boldin, T.F. Hubbard Jr, L. Jin, T.H. Fisher and D.D. Nicholas, 1991. Comparison of the fungicidal activities of (*E*)-4-hydroxylated stilbenes and related bibenzyls. *Phytochemistry*, 30: 2939-2945.
- Shirzadian, S., H. Afshari Azad, and J. Khalghani, 2009. Introductory study of antifungal activities of bryophyte extracts. *Iran. J. Plant Pest Dis.*, 77: 1-22.
- Sibtain, M., I.A. Khan, M.B. Illyas and S.S. Alam, 2002. Study of antifungal compounds in the roots and stems of different chickpea lines for resistance to *Fusarium* wilt. *Asian J. Plant Sci.*, 1: 193-194.
- Siddiqui, I.R., J. Singh, P.K. Singh and J. Singh, 2005. Synthesis of potential fungicidal bibenzyls from bio-renewable source. *Indian J. Chem.*, 44: 1460-1464.
- Singh, M., A.K. Rawat and R. Govindarajan, 2007. Antimicrobial activity of some Indian mosses. *Fitoterapia*, 78: 156-158.
- Subhisha, S. and A. Subramoniam, 2005. Antifungal activities of a steroid from *Pallavicinia lyellii*, a liverwort. *Indian J. Pharmacol.*, 37: 304-308.
- Subhisha, S. and A. Subramoniam, 2006. *In vivo* efficacy of an antifungal fraction from *Pallavicinia lyellii*, a liverwort. *Indian J. Pharmacol.*, 38: 211-212.
- Sun, L.M., B.B. Lv, A.X. Cheng, X.Z. Wu and H.X. Lou, 2009. The effect of plagiocin E alone and in combination with fluconazole on the ergosterol biosynthesis of *Candida albicans*. *Biol. Pharm. Bull.*, 32: 36-40.
- Vanden Bossche, H., F. Dromer, I. Improvisi, M. Lozano-Chiu, J.H. Rex and D. Sanglard, 1998. Antifungal drug resistance in pathogenic fungi. *Med. Mycol.*, 36: 119-128.

- Veljic, M., A. Duric, M. Sokovic, A. Ciric, J. Glamochja and P.D. Marin, 2009. Antimicrobial activity of methanol extracts of *Fontinalis antipyretica*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* and *Ctenidium molluscum*. *Arch. Biol. Sci.*, 61: 225-229.
- Wang, X.N., W.T. Yu and H.X. Lou, 2005. Antifungal constituents from the Chinese moss *Homalia trichomanoides*. *Chem. Biodivers.*, 2: 139-145.
- Wannissorn, B., S. Jarikasem and T. Soontornanasart, 1996. Antifungal activity of lemon grass oil and lemon grass oil cream. *Phytother. Res.*, 10: 551-554.
- Wu, X.Z., A.X. Cheng, L.M. Sun and H.X. Lou, 2008. Effect of plagiochin E, an antifungal macrocyclic bis(bibenzyl), on cell wall chitin synthesis in *Candida albicans*. *Acta Pharmacol. Sin.*, 29: 1478-1485.
- Wu, X.Z., A.X. Cheng, L.M. Sun, S.J. Sun and H.X. Lou, 2009. Plagiochin E, an antifungal bis(bibenzyl), exerts its antifungal activity through mitochondrial dysfunction-induced reactive oxygen species accumulation in *Candida albicans*. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 1790: 770-777.
- Wu, X.Z., W.Q. Chang, A.X. Cheng, L.M. Sun and H.X. Lou, 2010. Plagiochin E, an antifungal active macrocyclic bis(bibenzyl), induced apoptosis in *Candida albicans* through a metacaspase-dependent apoptotic pathway. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta Gen. Subj.*, 1800: 439-447.
- Xie, C.F. and H.X. Lou, 2008. Chemical constituents from the Chinese bryophytes and their reversal of fungal resistance. *Curr. Org. Chem.*, 12: 619-628.
- Xie, C.F. and H.X. Lou, 2009. Secondary metabolites in bryophytes: An ecological aspect. *Chem. Biodivers.*, 6: 303-312.
- Xie, C.F., J.B. Qu, X.Z. Wu, N. Liu, M. Ji and H.X. Lou, 2010. Antifungal macrocyclic bis(bibenzyls) from the Chinese liverwort *Ptagiochasma intermedlum* L. *Nat. Prod. Res.*, 24: 515-520.
- Zafar, I., S. Mussarat, H. Farrakh, B. Sheraz, I. Mohammad, Z. Shahida and A. Bashir, 2002. Antifungal properties of some indigenous plants from Peshawar valley. *Asian J. Plant Sci.*, 1: 708-709.
- Zidorn, C., R. Spitaler, E.P. Ellmerer-Muller, N.B. Perry, C. Gerhauser and H. Stuppner, 2002. Structure of *Tyrollobibenzyl* D and biological activity of Tyrollobibenzyls from *Scorzonera humili*. *Z. Naturforsch. C*, 57: 614-619.