Título: ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF CITRONELLA (Cymbopogon nardus) ETHANOLIC EXTRACT AGAINST BACTERIA OF MEDICAL INTEREST

Autores: Santos Junior, A. A. ¹, Barbosa, R. N. ¹, Silva, K. A. ¹, Pinheiro, M. R. A. ³, Melo, R. G. ², Souza, K. M. S. ², Souza, A. T. V. ², Souza-Motta, C. M. ¹, Severo Gomes, B. ¹

Instituição: ¹UFPE – Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Departamento de Micologia (Rua Professor Nelson Chaves s/n – Cidade Universitária, Recife), ²UFRPE – Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco, Centro de Apoio a Pesquisa – CENAPESQ (Rua Dom Manoel de Medeiros s/n, Recife), ³IFPE – Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia do Estado de Pernambuco (Recife)

Resumo:

The clinical importance of bacterial infections has stimulated the development of research in order to identify and control its occurrence. Among the species, the main causes of human diseases are Enterococcus faecalis that is 85% to 90% of enterococcal isolates in clinical, Staphylococcus aureus causing fatal systemic infections in immunocompromised and Pseudomonas aeruginosa that is a common opportunistic pathogen in hospital infections. The plants potential as source of new drugs still offers great field for scientific research because of the approximately 250,000 to 500,000 known species, a small percentage has been investigated with phytochemical studies and only a fraction of these has been evaluated for pharmacological potential. Previous studies with citronella (Cymbopogon nardus) had showed that this plant has insecticidal, antimicrobial place, acaricide and antilisterial activities. Thus, the present study proposed to evaluate the antibacterial activity in vitro of citronella ethanolic extract against bacteria of medical interest. Initially, five strains from Culture Collection of the Department of Antibiotics UFPE were chosen, belonging to species: UFPEDA02 Staphylococcus aureus, UFPEDA138 Enterococcus faecalis, UFPEDA416 Pseudomonas aeruginosa, UFPEDA224 Escherichia coli and UFPEDA71 Mycobacterium smegmatis. The antibacterial activity was verified in vitro by paper disc diffusion method. The test was standardized by turbidity equivalent to 0.5 of McFarland’s Scale in physiological solution, corresponding to a concentration of approximately $10^8$ CFU/mL. On inoculated Mueller Hinton Agar, sterile paper discs (6 mm) were placed and soaked with 10 μL of extract. After disks placement, plates were incubated for 24h and 48h at 28°C and 37°C. At the same time the positive control was carried out with discs containing the standard antibacterial agent chosen, Norfloxacin and the negative control was carried out with disks containing Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) at 95%. Equal halos or greater than 8mm were considered significant antibacterial activity. It was observed that the citronella ethanolic extract had significant antimicrobial activity on the strains S. aureus, E. faecalis, E. coli and M. smegmatis at 28°C and 37°C. Citronella ethanolic extract showed antimicrobial effect, suggesting that these plant can be useful for the development of new antibacterial agents.

Palavras-chave: antibacterial, pathogenic bacteria, plant extract

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