SCREENING OF SOME HIGHER PLANTS FOR ANTI-BACTERIAL SUBSTANCES

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Screening of more than forty medicinal plants for their antibacterial effect is described in this paper.

Standard disc diffusion methods were employed to assess the effectiveness of aqueous and alcoholic extracts of plant materials against Gram positive and Gram negative human pathogenic bacteria. Tube dilution methods were employed in certain cases to determine the minimum inhibitory concentration. Some plant extract were fractionated and different fractions were used for testing.

The test organisms used were *Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pyogenes, Streptococcus pneu moniae, Shigella dysenteriae, Escherichia coli, salmonella tiphi, Proeus vulgaris* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa.*

Results show, that of the plants so far screened for antibacterial activity, 17 plants showed activity against Gram positive bacteria and 6 plants showed activity against Gram negative bacteria as well. However, the minimum inhibitory concentrations were high.

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