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ANTIBACTERIAL PROPERTIES OF SOME PILLS USED IN INDIGENOUS MEDICINE

R. S. B. Wickremasinghe, L. B. de Silva

(Medical Research Institute, Colombo 8)

K. Sangara Iyer

(Institute of Indigenous Medicine, Colombo 8)

and

Tuley de Silva

(Sri Jayawardenapura University, Nugegoda)

There are several preparations in the form of pills in the Indigenous system of medicine which are claimed to be effective against cholera, dysentery and fevers. The pills are recommended to be taken orally with different juices or decoctions for different types of ailments.

SECTION A

This paper deals with *in vitro* antibacterial testing of three such pills namely, Seetharama, Ramapana and Madapatha athirasa guli. Aqueous suspensions and ethanolic extracts were tested against eight gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. Disc diffusion method, agar dilution method and tube dilution method were employed. Minimum inhibitory concentration values were also determined against the organisms on which the pills were active.

Though Seetharama pill was not found to inhibit any of the organisms tested, Madapatha athirasa guli and Ramapana pill were found to inhibit *Sh. dysenterise*, *S. typhi* and two strains of *V. Cholerae* Biotype Madapatha guli inhibited a strain of *Staph. aureus* also Ramapana pill inhibited *E. coli* as well. M. I. C. values were all in the range of 1000 micro g/ml.