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Antifungal activity of water extracts of some common weed species

Most weed species are cosmopolitan and well adapted to a wide range of habitats. The important role that weeds play as a source of natural chemicals and their importance in controlling different agriculture pests is well documented. The water extracts of shoots from five weed species were tested against four fungal species by using standard techniques. One extract was filter sterilized to determine whether the antifungal compounds are thermolabile.

The results of this study revealed that, *Ageratum conyzoides* L. possessed certain antifungal compounds that can inhibit fungal growth. The inhibition of the fungal growth by the autoclaved *A. conyzoides* extract, was in the range of 71-86% against the fungi *Rhizoctonia solani* DC.ex Fr., *Aspergillus niger* van Tieghem and *Pestalotiopsis theae* steyaert after 3 days of incubation.

Amongst these *R. solani* showed the most vulnerability to the extract from *A. conyzoides*. The sterile filtered extract of *A. conyzoides* showed an equal mycelial inhibitory effect compared to the autoclaved extract, which indicated the thermo-stable nature of the antifungal compound.