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**Efficacy of selected plant extracts in the control of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *capsici* inciting chilli wilt**

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Chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.) is one of the most important cash crops of Sri Lanka. It is mainly affected by Fusarium wilt caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *capsici*. In this context, an eco-friendly approach that uses plant extracts to control the pathogen is being explored. The antifungal effects of the aqueous extracts of five plant species viz. *Azadirachta indica*, *Ocimum sanctum*, *Zingiber officinale*, *Allium sativum* and *Allium cepa* were tested *in vitro* against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *capsici* by the poisoned food technique. The results revealed that all plant extracts showed significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) reductions in the growth of the pathogen. Plant extracts at 10 % concentration were significantly higher in inhibitory effects than those at 5 % concentration. Among the different extracts at 10 % concentration, *Allium sativum* was found to be the most effective (53 %) in inhibiting mycelial growth of the fungus followed by *Azadirachta indica* (47.7%) and *Ocimum sanctum* (36.3%). The lowest inhibitory effect was in the crude extract of *Zingiber officinale*. Based on the above results, it could be stated that *Allium sativum* and *Azadirachta indica* extracts which are cheap and environmentally safe, exhibited considerable *in vitro* control of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *capsici* and may be considered a promising remedy for the protection of chilli plants against wilt pathogen which may result in the improvement of this economic crop.