

**LANNEA HUMILIS (OLIV) LEAVE EXTRACTS INHIBITS BACTERIA, FUNGI AND MYCOBACTERIUM BOVIS**<sup>1</sup>\*Momoh H., <sup>2</sup>Dambata M.B., <sup>3</sup>B. Ibrahim and <sup>4</sup>Oladosu P.O.<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, Federal University Dutse Jigawa-Nigeria.<sup>2</sup>Department of Chemistry, Federal University Gusau Zamfara-Nigeria.<sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, Kaduna state University, Kaduna -Nigeria.<sup>4</sup>Department Microbiology & Biotechnology National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development Nigeria.**\*Corresponding Author: Momoh H.**

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**ABSTRACT**

Folkloric medicinal application of *Lannea humilis (Oliv)* in the treatment of tuberculosis was investigated. Phytochemical analysis revealed the presence of carbohydrates, cardiac glycosides, steroids, triterpenes, alkaloids, tannins and saponins. Hexane (HE), dichloromethane (DCM), ethyl acetate (EA) and methanol (ME) extracts of *L. Humilis* leaves were evaluated for antibacterial and antifungal activities, against ten pathogenic bacteria and two fungi; *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Corynebacterium ulcerans*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)*, *Streptococcus pyogens*, *Baccillus cereus*, *Escherichia coli* and *Enterobacter sp*, *Candida tropicalis*, and *Candida albicans*, using the agar-in-well diffusion method. Determination of zone of inhibition (ZI) showed inhibition ranging from 20-23 mm (HE), 25-30 mm (DCM), 30-33 mm (EA) and 22-25 mm (ME) against the entire test organisms except *Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Shigella dysenteriae* and *Candida albicans*. The results of the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) showed that EA fraction inhibited the growth of all test organisms at a low concentration of 5 mg/mL. Higher MIC values were observed for DCM (5-10 mg/mL), HE and ME fraction all showed MIC at 10 mg/mL. The microorganisms were completely killed at a higher concentration; EA (MBC/MFC; 10 mg/mL), DCM (MBC/MFC; 10-20 mg/mL), ME and HE (MBC/MFC; 20 mg/mL). Antituberculosis evaluation reveals that the HE extract had the highest activity with MIC of 0.675 mg/mL against *Mycobacterium bovis*, followed by DCM extract. The results clearly showed that the plant has potential that can be explored in the search for anti-TB drug. This is the first work reported on this plant specie.

**KEYWORDS:** *Lannea humilis*; Antituberculosis; *Mycobacterium bovis*; Antibacterial; Antifungal; Phytochemical screening.

**INTRODUCTION**

Medicinal plants represent a rich source of antimicrobial agents. Plants are used medicinally in different countries and are a source of many potent and powerful drugs (Chandra, 2013). For centuries, many plant compounds have an outstanding role in medicine. Their pharmacological and economical values have lost nothing to its importance until date. They are either used directly or after they have been subjected to certain chemical modification processes. These plants which are medicinal in nature however contain bio active compounds (Sasidharan et al., 2010) that over the years have been exploited in ayurvedic medicines for the treatment of various ailments. The prevalence of bioactive principles such as tannins, terpenoids, flavonoids, alkaloids, steroids etc. underscores the needs for continuous search for bioactive and active ingredients extracted from plant, though some of the active

ingredients of crude extracts become obsolete because of drug resistance (Ojiako, 2014). The prevalence of resistance calls for research in finding new and innovative antimicrobials.

Tuberculosis, also called TB, is currently a major health hazard due to multidrug-resistant forms of bacilli (Ramachandran et al., 2014). Global efforts are underway to eradicate TB using new drugs with new modes of action, higher activity, and fewer side effects in combination with vaccines. For this reason, unexplored new sources need be examined to develop drugs from these new sources. Since ancient times, different plant part extracts have been used as traditional medicines against diseases including tuberculosis. This knowledge may be useful in developing future powerful drugs. Plant natural products are again becoming important in this regard. In an effort to expand the spectrum of anti TB

and antibacterial agents from natural resources, *Lannea humilis* (Oliv) belongs to Anacardiaceae, a family composed of deciduous shrub growing up to 3 metres tall, occasionally becoming a tree of tropical and sub-tropical geographical distribution (Burkil, 1985) *Lannea humilis* has been wide implicated in traditional medicinal application in the treatment of tuberculosis, nausea, fever, cough and generalized body pains, (Burkil 1985, Ruffo et al 2002).

In the current investigation carried out, a screening of the methanol, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane and hexane extracts of leaves of *Lannea humilis* against pathogenic bacteria, fungi and *Mycobacterium bovis* is done in order to detect new sources of antimicrobial and antituberculosis agents.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Plant materials

The plant material was collected fresh from Zaria, Nigeria in September, 2013. Taxonomical identification was done at the Herbarium of the Biological Sciences Department, A.B.U, Zaria, Nigeria and its voucher specimen with number 3231 deposited there. The plant was air-dried under shade, segregated and pulverized by mechanical pounding using wooden mortar and pestle. The pulverized plant material was stored away from moisture until needed.

### Extraction of plant materials

The pulverized leaves of *Lannea humilis* (500 g) was carefully weighed and macerated with 95% methanol for one weeks. The extract was decanted, filtered and labeled. The process was repeated three times for exhaustive extraction. The three sets of extracts were combined on confirmation by TLC. The combined methanol extract was partitioned with hexane, dichloromethane and ethylacetate. The extracts were concentrated in vacuum at 40°C using rotator evaporator and later subjected to air drying to give dried crude extracts.

### Phytochemical screening

The hexane, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate and the methanol extracts of the plant was subjected to phytochemical screening using standard techniques (Harborne, 1973). The metabolites tested for included, carbohydrates, tannins, saponins, flavonoids, anthraquinones, cardiac glycosides, steroids, terpenes and alkaloids.

### Antimicrobial studies

The antimicrobial activities of the HE, DCM, EA and ME extracts and standard drugs (Ciprofloxacin, Sparfloxacin and Fluconazole) were determined using microbial strains and fungi obtained from the Department of Medical Microbiology, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, Nigeria (ABUTH). The test microorganisms used are *Shigelladysenteriae*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Corynebacteriumulcerans*,

*Klebsiellapneumonia*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Methicillin resistant Staphillococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pyogens*, *Baccilluscereus*, *Escherichia coli* *Enterobactersp*, *Candida tropicalis*, and *Candida albicans*. The well diffusion method of Preeti et al., (2014), was used to determine the antibacterial activity of the test extracts. Pure cultures of the bacterial organisms were inoculated on to Mueller Hinton Agar (MERCK) and incubated for 24 h at 38 °C. About 5 discrete colonies were aseptically transferred using sterile wire loops into tubes containing sterile normal saline (0.85% NaCl) and were adjusted to a turbidity of 0.5 Mac Farland Standard. The suspensions were then inoculated on the surface of sterile Mueller – Hinton Agar plates using sterile cotton swabs. A sterile 6 mm diameter Cork borer was used to make holes (wells) into the set of inoculated Mueller-Hinton Agar. The wells were filled with different concentration of the test extracts. The plates were incubated for 24h at 38 °C. All the tests were performed in triplicate and the antibacterial activities were determined as mean diameters of inhibition zone (mm) produced by the test compounds.

### Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC)

The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) were determined for the extracts using micro broth dilution method in accordance with (Vollekova et al., 2001). Serial dilution of the least concentration of the extracts that showed activity were prepared using test tubes containing 9 ml of double strength nutrient broth (OXOID). The test tubes were inoculated with the suspension of the standardized inocula and incubated at 38 °C for 18 h. Minimum Inhibition Concentrations (MIC) were recorded as the lowest concentrations of the compounds showing no visible growth (turbidity) in the broth.

### Minimum Bactericidal Concentration (MBC/MFC)

The minimum bactericidal and minimum fungicidal concentration were determined by aseptically inoculating aliquots of culture, from the minimum inhibition concentration (MIC) tubes that showed no growth, on sterile nutrient Agar (OXOID) plates and incubated at 38°C for bacteria and 34°C for fungi for 48 h. The MBC/MFCs were recorded as the lowest concentration of extracts showing no bacterial growth at all.

### Antituberculosis studies

The microbroth dilution method in Sterile 96 microwell plate as described by Oladosu et al., (2013) was employed for the determination of antimycobacterial activity of the extracts. About 100 mg of each extract was transferred into a sterile bottle, dissolved with 0.5 ml dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO) and 0.5 ml distill water. The extracts were further diluted (1:10) in 7H9 Middlebrook broth to give 10 mg/ml concentration. Into each of the 96 microwell plate was transferred 50 µl of sterile 7H9 broth starting from well 2 to 12. To each of the first wells was added 100µl of 10% DMSO in sterile

media (prepared by dispensing 0.1 ml of DMSO into 9.9 ml of 7H9 broth as control), 100 µl of 25 µg/ml solution of rifampicin (standard) and 100 µl of each plant extract. Using a multi-channel pipette, 50µl was carefully removed from well 1 and added to well 2, mixed thoroughly by pipetting up and down four times, and the process continued to well 11 from which 50 µl was withdrawn and discarded.

### Organism preparation

Five hundred microliter of test organism *Mycobacterium bovis* (BCG) freshly thawed stock was inoculated into 50 ml of sterile Middlebrook 7H9/ADC broth medium and incubated at 30°C for 5-7 days. The optical density of resulting culture was measured using a uv/spectrophotometer. The optical density (OD) of resulting culture determined at 650 nm was approximately 0.2 which is equivalent to 10<sup>9</sup>cfu/ml.

**Inoculation:** The 5-7 day old culture of BCG monitored on UV spectrophotometer at 650 nm (OD 0.2-0.3) was diluted 1/1000 by adding 50 µl cell culture to 50 ml 7H9/ADC medium, where 50 µL of diluted culture was inoculated to all wells of the plate. The plates were incubated at 30 °C for 7 days and after incubation stained with tetrazolium dye for growth/inhibition of organisms. The column number of the row at which no apparent growth was seen was recorded as activity.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Phytochemical screening

Phytochemical screening (Table 1) of the crude methanol, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane and hexane extracts revealed the presence of carbohydrates, cardiac glycosides, alkaloids, tannin, flavonoids, Saponins, steroids and triterpenes. These phytochemicals could be responsible for the antimicrobial and antituberculosis activities exhibited by the extract and hence justify the ethnomedicinal uses of *L. humilis*.

### Antimicrobial screening

The antimicrobial activity of the extract showed that all the extracts exhibited moderate to good antibacterial and antifungal activity against all the pathogens tested *except* except *Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Shigelladysenteriae* and *Candida albicans* (Table2). The ethyl acetate extract exhibited the highest zone of inhibition (33 mm) against *Bacillus cereus* and *Salmonella typhi*. Whereas hexane extract exhibited the lowest zone of inhibition (20 mm) against *Corynebacterium ulcerans*, *Salmonella typhi* and *C. tropicalis* (Table 3). The ethyl acetate extracts exhibited minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) 5mg/ml against all the micro organism (Table4.) The MBC showed that the ethyl acetate extract was bactericidal at 10 mg/ml against all of the test microorganism (Table 5.)

### The anti-TB evaluation

The Antituberculosis activity of the extracts showed that the hexane and dichloromethane, extract were sensitive against *Mycobacterium bovis*, but ethyl acetate and methanol extracts were not. The hexane extract showed the highest activity with minimum inhibitory concentration of 0.625mg/ml, while dichloromethane extract showed activity with MIC at 1.25mg/ml (Table 6).

**Table 1: Phytochemical screening.**

Metabolites	HE	DCM	EA	ME
Carbohydrate	-	+	+	+
Cardiac glycoside	+	+	+	+
Tannins	-	+	+	+
Saponins	-	-	-	+
Flavonoids	-	+	+	+
Anthraquinones	-	-	-	-
Steroids	+	+	-	+
Triterpenes	+	+	-	+
Glycosides	+	+	+	+
Alkaloids	-	+	+	+

**Key:** + = present, - = absent, HE = hexane extract, DCM = dichloromethane extracts, EA = Ethyl acetate extracts, ME =Methanol extracts

**Table 2: Sensitivity test of extracts and standard drugs.**

Test Organisms	DCM	EA	ME	HEX	CFX	FCZ
<i>Methicillin Rest staph aureus</i>	R	R	R	R	S	R
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	S	S	S	S	S	R
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	S	S	S	S	S	R
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	S	S	S	S	S	R
<i>Corynebacteriumulcerans</i>	S	S	S	S	R	R
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	S	S	S	S	S	R
<i>Shigelladysenteriae</i>	R	R	R	R	S	R
<i>Klepsiellapneumoniae</i>	R	R	R	R	S	R
<i>Enterobactorsp</i>	S	S	S	S	R	R
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	S	S	S	S	S	R
<i>Candida albicans</i>	R	R	R	R	R	S
<i>Candida tropicalis</i>	S	S	S	S	R	S

Key: S= Sensitive, R = Resistance.

**Table 3: Zones of Inhibition (mm) of the extracts and standard drugs.**

Test Organisms	DCM	EA	ME	HEX	CFX	FCZ
<i>Methicillin Rest staph aureus</i>	0	0	0	0	35	0
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	28	32	24	22	37	0
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	27	30	24	23	35	0
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	30	33	25	21	40	0
<i>Corynebacteriumulcerans</i>	25	29	22	20	0	0
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	29	33	24	20	41	0
<i>Shigelladysenteriae</i>	0	0	0	0	39	0
<i>Klepsiellapneumoniae</i>	0	0	0	0	40	0
<i>Enterobactersp</i>	26	30	25	21	0	0
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	27	30	24	22	32	0
<i>Candida albicans</i>	0	0	0	0	0	35
<i>Candida tropicalis</i>	28	32	24	20	0	35

**Table 4: Result of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC).**

Test Organisms	DCM	EA	ME	HE
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
<i>Streptococcus pygenes</i>	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
<i>Corynebacterimulcerans</i>	10.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
<i>Enterobactersp</i>	10.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
<i>Candida tropicalis</i>	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0

Key: DCM – Dichloromethane, EA – Ethyl acetate, ME – Methanol, HE – Hexane.

**Table 5: Minimum bactericidal/fungicidal concentration (MBC/MFC) of the extracts in (mg/ml).**

Test Organisms	DCM	EA	ME	HE
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	10	10	20.0	20.0
<i>Streptococcus pygenes</i>	10.0	10.0	20.0	20.0
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	10.0	10.0	20.0	20.0
<i>Corynebacterimulcerans</i>	20.0	10.0	20.0	20.0
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	10.0	10.0	20.0	20.0
<i>Enterobactersp</i>	20.0	10.0	20.0	20.0
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	10.0	10.0	20.0	20.0
<i>Candida tropicalis</i>	10.0	10.0	20.0	20.0

Key: DCM = Dichloromethane, EA = Ethylacetate, ME =Methanol, HE =Hexane.

**Table 6: Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of the extracts against *Mycobacterium bovis*.**

Extract Concentration (mg/ml)	Hex	Dcm	EA	ME	Rifampicin
5	NA	+	+	NA	+
2.5	NA	+	+	NA	+
1.25	NA	+	+	NA	+
0.675	NA	+	+	NA	+
0.3125	NA	NA	NA	NA	+

Key:-= no inhibition; + = inhibition; +\* = MIC.

Recently there has been considerable interest in the use of plant material as an alternative method to control pathogenic microorganism (Aqil et. al., 2005) and many components of plants products have been shown to be specially targeted against resistant pathogenic bacteria (Nostro et. al., 2006). The emergence of multidrug resistant strain of many pathogens is a serious threat and makes chemotherapy more difficult. Moreover, the current cost of most of the chemotherapeutic agents is unbearable to the public especially in developing countries (Chandra, 2013). Therefore attempts must be made towards the development of effective natural, non-toxic drug for treatment. The present work was done to explore the antimicrobial and antituberculosis property of *Lannea humilis*, a medicinal plant used in Nigeria for various purposes including nausea, fever, cough generalized body pains and tuberculosis.

Phytochemical analysis carried out on the plant extracts revealed the presence of constituents which are known to demonstrate medicinal as well as physiological activities (Jain and Bari 2010).Phytochemical screening of the plant extracts revealed the presence of phytochemicals such as carbohydrates, tannins, saponins, cardiac glycosides, steroid, triterpenes and alkaloids. These could be responsible for high antimicrobial activity and antituberculosis activity demonstrated by the plant extracts. Tannins, saponins and alkaloids have been reported to have pronounced physiological effect particularly on the nervous system (Simkin et al 2008).Tannins encompass a heterogeneous group of compounds and polymers (polyphenols). In general their non-specific activity has been ascribe to their ability to complex metal ions, scavenge radicals and reduce active oxygen species and form tight complexes with a wide array of proteins and polysaccharides (Haslam 1996). Hence, they have antioxidative properties. Saponins are known to produce inhibitory effect on inflammation (Just et al 1998) Steroid and Triterpenes have been reported to have antibacterial properties (Raquel 2007).

Alkaloids have been reported for their cytotoxic, analgesic, antispasmodic and antibacterial (Okwu 2004) properties. Glycosides are known to lower the blood

pressure according to many reports (Nyarko and Addy). The presence of these phytochemicals in *Lannea humilis* extracts validates the claim by the traditional healers in the treatment of several ailments. The antimicrobial sensitivity test of the leave extracts of *Lannea humilis* showed that the extracts have moderate to good activity. The Determination of zone of inhibition (ZI) showed inhibition ranging from 20-23 mm (HE), 25-30 mm (DCM), 30-33 mm (EA) and 22-25 mm (ME) against the entire test organisms except *Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Shigelladysenteriae* and *Candida albicans*. The ethyl acetate extract had the highest zone of inhibition of 33mm against *Bacillus cereus* and *salmonella typhi*. The results of the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) showed that EA fraction inhibited the growth of all test organisms at a low concentration of 5 mg/mL. Higher MIC values were observed for DCM (5-10 mg/mL), HE and ME fraction all showed MIC at 10 mg/mL. The microorganisms were completely killed at a higher concentration; EA (MBC/MFC; 10 mg/mL), DCM (MBC/MFC; 10-20 mg/mL), ME and HE (MBC/MFC; 20 mg/mL). Antituberculosis evaluation reveals that the hexane extract had the highest activity with MIC of 0.675 mg/mL against *Mycobacterium bovis*, the dichloromethane extract was also active at MIC of 1.25mg/ml while other extracts were not active. The results clearly showed that the plant had potential that can be explored in the search for anti-TB drug.

## CONCLUSION

This is the first report of a phytochemical and pharmacological investigation of the specie *Lannea humilis*.

The finding of anti tuberculosis activity in this plant is unique as it has not been reported before. The extracts of *Lannea humilis* were found to be active on *micobacteriumbovis* and most of the clinically isolated microorganism and fungi. The present study justified the claimed uses of leaves of this plant in the traditional system of medicine to treat tuberculosis and various infectious disease caused by tested microbes. However, further studies are needed to better evaluate the potential effectiveness of the crude extracts as the antituberculosis and antimicrobial agents. The present results will form the basis for selection of the plant species for further investigation in the potential discovery of new natural bioactive compounds.

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