

## Antimicrobialactivity of Aqueous – Chloroform Extract of *Swieteniamahagoni*SEEDS AGAINST Disease Causing Bacterial Strains Found In Foods

A.Sheela<sup>1</sup>, T.M. Vijayalakshmi<sup>1\*</sup> and R.Murali<sup>2</sup>

1. Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Madras, Taramani Campus, Chennai 600113, Tamilnadu, India
2. Department of Botany, Government Arts College for Men, Nandanam, Chennai 600035, Tamilnadu, India

---

### Abstract

Medicinal plants are natural resources that produce valuable phytochemical that are frequently used in the treatment of various diseases. A substantial part of the population in developing countries, use folk medicines for their daily healthcare. For this reason, research is carried out, to determine the toxicity of medicinal plants, the aim being to develop effective new drug that are non-toxic and inexpensive. The phytochemical screening of an aqueous seed extract of *Swietenia Mahagoni* shows the presence of all metabolites except glycosides and tannin. The phenolic content in alkaloid rich fraction of *S. mahagoni* seed extract was highest yield in chloroform. The antibacterial activity is carried out using disc diffusion method the maximum activity was shown against gram positive and gram negative bacteria was *E. coli* and *S. aureus*. In MIC method the plant extract shows maximum activity against *B. subtilis* and *S. aureus*. Antimicrobial mode of action using leakage of membrane and biofilm inhibition method maximum in *P. aeruginosa* and in *E. coli*

### Objective

Antibacterial agents are important for fighting against pathogens that caused diseases. Exploration of such substances from natural sources is the need of the day. With this objective Extracts were prepared from aqueous and the chloroform of the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* were tested for their antibacterial activity.

---

Date of Submission: 24-06-2021

Date of Acceptance: 07-07-2021

---

### I. Introduction

Herbal extracts are made by contacting the plant part needed with a suitable solvent at optimum conditions for a specified time, for transferring most of the plant active ingredients to the solvent. The solvent can be removed get the concentrated final product. Most commonly used solvents include methanol, ethanol, water, acetic acid, chloroform, carbon-di-oxide and alcohol mixtures.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 80% of the world's population rely on traditional medicine for their primary healthcare needs. This has captured the interest of many researchers to explore local medicinal plants for valuable medicinal traits. Medicinal plants are natural resources yielding valuable phytochemical products, which are often used in the treatment of various diseases. A substantial part of the population in developing countries, use folk medicines for their daily healthcare. For this reason, research is carried out, to determine the toxicity of medicinal plants. Herbal medicines are often used to stimulate the immune system in an attempt to prevent disease, as well as to stimulate the immune system in an attempt to prevent disease, as well as to induce specific cures.

The use of phyto-medicines is becoming more scientifically based, with increasing emphasis placed on proven products safety and efficacy. The use of plant-based medications has become extremely popular in the United States and Europe, with the botanical industry in the US earning \$1.5 billion per annum and the European market nearly three times as much (Ernst E et al., 1998). *mahagoni* was brought to India by the British. In 1795, for the first time, several *mahogany* trees were introduced as seedlings from Jamaica into the Botanic Gardens in Calcutta. By 1799, the plant got established in India. The trees continued to flourish, but several trees were destroyed in the great cyclone of 1864. The trees were about 71 years of age, about 12 feet in girth at 4 ft above the ground.

### Botanical Classification (Taxonomy)

Kingdom: Plantae  
Order: Sapindales  
Family: Meliaceae  
Genus: Swietenia  
Species: *Swietenia mahagoni*

### Common Names

*Mahaagoni*, *Seemainukku* *Theenkaavedhai*- (Tamil), *Hiribevu*, *Davala*, *Mahaagani*, *Maaghani*- (Telugu), *Mehgoni*- (Bengali), *Hebbevu*- (Kannada), *Peruvian mahogany* tree, *Spanish mahogany* tree, West Indian *mahogany* (England). (Ernst E *et al.*, 1998) (Falah S *et al.*, 2008)

### Different Species

*Swietenia humilis*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Swietenia mahagoni*, *Swietenia aubrevilleana* among these, the first 3 species in the genus *Swietenia* are said to be important. They occur from Mexico to Brazil, and in the Caribbean region.

In Indonesia, this seed extract has also been used to treat malaria. The crushed seeds mixed with Attalea phalerata seed oil can be used to treat the skin problem such as allergy and to heal wounds. It is also reported that the seeds of the plant also use as an abortion medicine in the ethnic group of Bolivian Amazonian (Moghadamtousi *et al.*, 2013). Meanwhile, the bark of the plant has been used to treat diarrhea and fevers in Mexico. It is also used as astringent for wound (Moghadamtousi *et al.*, 2013).

### Antioxidant Activity

Falah Set *al.*, (2008) had reported the findings of a new compound, *swietenia macrophyllanin* together with two known compounds catechin and epicatechin from the bark of *Swietenia macrophylla*. The antioxidant activities of these compounds were evaluated using the DPPH (1, 1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl) free radical scavenging assay, and they found that *swietenia macrophyllanin* had the strongest antioxidant activity with an IC<sub>50</sub> value of 56 µg/mL compared with Trolox (standard reference).

The antimicrobial activity of the leaf extracts in methanol, dichloromethane and hexane were tested against four bacteria, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and 13 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and fungus, *Candida albicans* (Tan *et al.*, 2009). As a result, the methanol extract showed significant antifungal properties as well as found to be active against the Gram-positive bacteria tested.

## II. Materials and Methods

### Preparation plant extraction

The aqueous decoction of the *Swietenia mahagoni* seed (10 g) was extracted exhaustively with 100% aqueous solution by combining maceration (24h) with subsequent extraction at 60°C. The aqueous and chloroform extracts were also simultaneously prepared and evaporated in a vacuum to a thick residue and left for 10–12 hrs at 5–10°C. The dark green resinous solid was separated by filtration, treated with hot water, cooled, and filtered. The extracted samples were subjected to phytochemical screening.

Fig-1 Seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni*



Fig- 2 Preparation of the aqueous extract

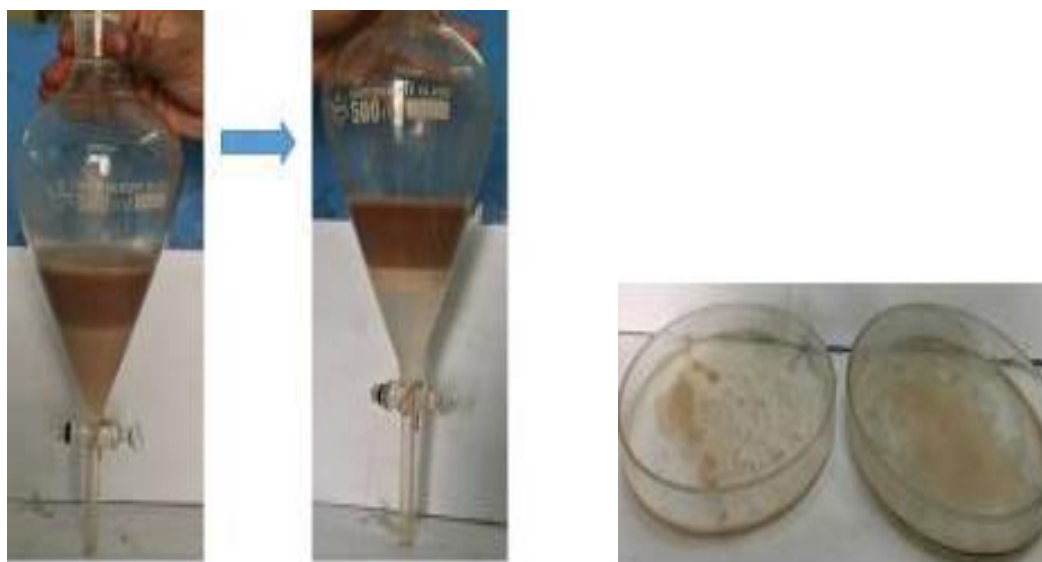
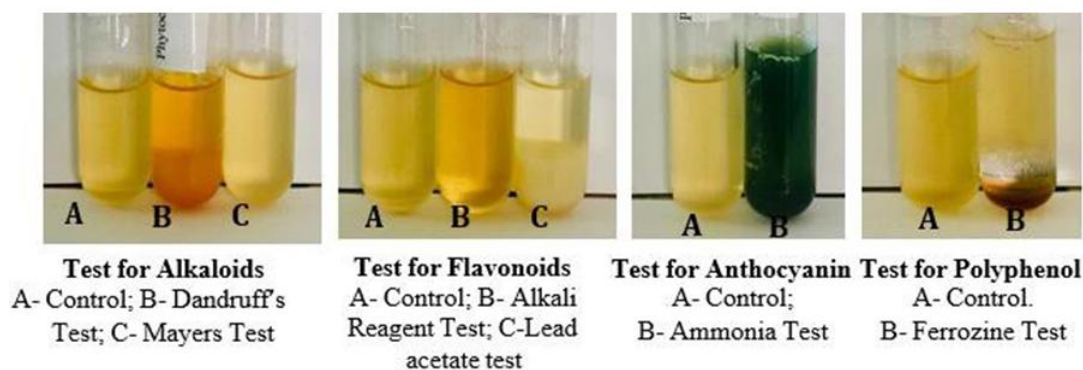


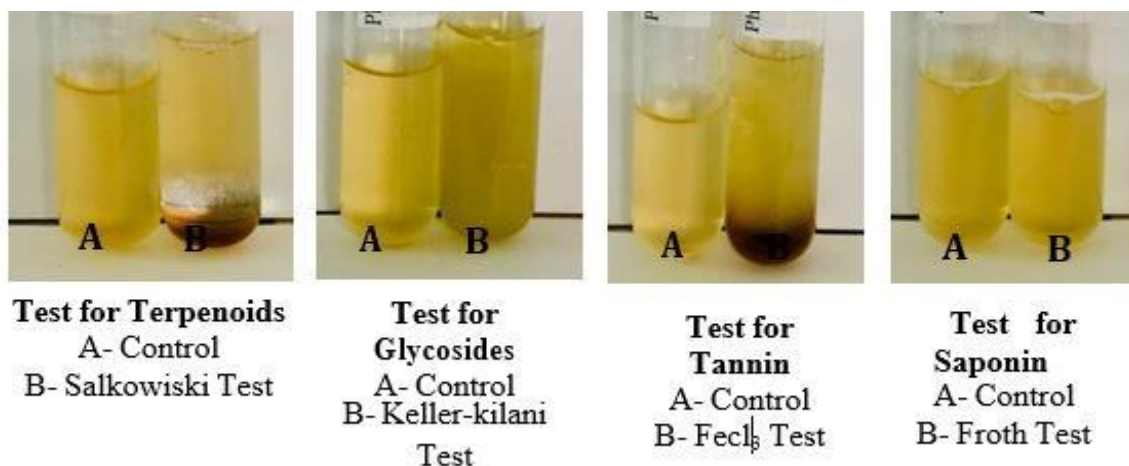
Table-1 Phytochemical screening of aqueous decoction from the seeds of *Swieteniamahagoni*

Sl. No.	Phytochemical Constituents	Observation	Aqueous decoction from the seeds of <i>Swieteniamahagoni</i>
1	<b>Alkaloids</b>		
	-Dragendorff's test	Orange/red precipitate	+
	-Mayer's test	Cream precipitate	+
2.	<b>Flavonoids</b>		
	-Alkali Reagent	Intense yellow colour	+
	-Lead acetate test	Precipitate formed	+
3.	<b>Glycosides</b>		
-Keller-Killiani test	Pink colour (Ammonia layers)	-	
4.	<b>Tannin</b>		
-FeCl <sub>3</sub> test	Blue-black colour	-	
5.	<b>Saponins</b>		
-Frothing test	Foam	+	
6.	<b>Terpenoids</b>		
-Salkowski test	Reddish brown colour ring formed in the interface	+	
7.	<b>Polyphenols</b>		
-Ferrozine test	Reddish blue	+	
8.	<b>Anthocyanin</b>		
-Ammonia test	Pink color in ammonia layer	+	

+Positive result; -Negative result

Fig-3 Screening of Phytochemicals





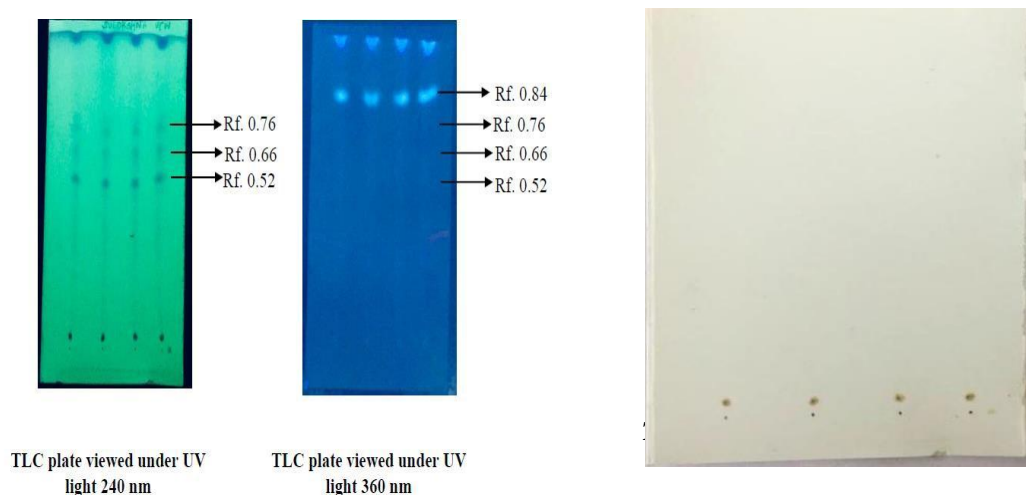
**The partial characterization of alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swieteniamahagoni* by TLC**  
The alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swieteniamahagoni* loaded on Pre-coated TLC plates (60 F254 Merck) and developed with a solvent system of ratio of 1:0.5:0.1 (Hexane, Chloroform and Methanol) were efficient to extract the antibacterial compound it is used for further studies. The developed plate was viewed under UV 240nm and 360nm (Table-2)

**Table-2 Partial characterization of alkaloid rich fraction from these seeds of *Swieteniamahagoni* by TLC**

S.No	Alkaloid rich fraction from these seeds of <i>Swieteniamahagoni</i>		
	UV240nm	UV360nm	Visible
1.	-	0.84	-
2.	0.76	0.76	-
3.	0.66	0.66	-
4.	0.52	0.52	-

$$R_f = \frac{\text{Distance moved by the solute (component)}}{\text{Distance moved by the solvent front}}$$

**Fig-4 Partial characterization of alkaloid rich fraction from these seeds of *Swieteniamahagoni* by TLC**



**Antibacterial activity of *Swietenia mahagoni*-Disc diffusion method**

The disc diffusion test showed that alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* were reactive on all tested microorganisms, including Gram-positive, and Gram-negative bacteria. *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Bacillus subtilis* in the ranges of concentration of extract 25, 50, 75 and 100 µg/ml respectively (Table-3 and Fig- 5). Alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* showed the moderate activities against both Gram-positive, and Gram-negative bacteria *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* with inhibition zones of  $12.5 \pm 1.3$  mm and  $14.6 \pm 2.1$  mm respectively. In contrast, the alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* showed resistant-activity on Gram negative bacteria's *Bacillus subtilis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ( $16.3 \pm 1.8$  and  $15. \pm 1.7$  mm) respectively.

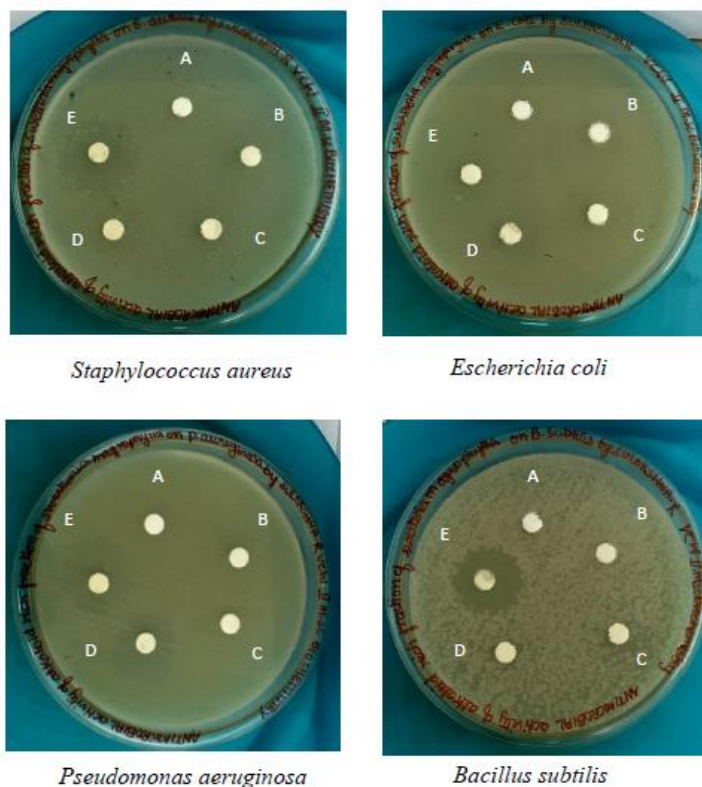
**Table-3 Antibacterial activity of the plant extract**

Pathogenic bacteria	Alkaloid rich fraction exhibited the Zone of inhibition (mm) <sup>a</sup>				
	Positive control 10 µl Ampicillin	Different concentrations sample-1 (µl/ml)			
		25 µl	50 µl	75 µl	100 µl
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	13mm	7.6±2.4	9.3±1.6	12.3±1.7	14.6±2.1
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	12mm	6.6±2.4	8.3±2.4	10.4±1.4	12.5±1.3
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	12mm	8.1±1.0	10.4±2.7	12.3±1.7	15.3±1.7
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	11mm	7.9±2.1	11.2±1.7	13.4±0.5	16.3±1.8

**Minimum Inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the plant extract**

The alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* showed inhibitory activities against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* & *Bacillus subtilis* strains but their effectiveness varied. The MIC concentrations were mostly very high and ranged from 25 to 100 µg/ml. The sample (extract) was most active against *Bacillus subtilis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* were moderately resistant to all tested samples. This will be of substantial advantage in fighting the menace of antibiotic refractive pathogens that are so prevalent in recent years

**Fig-5 Antibacterial activity of the plant extract**

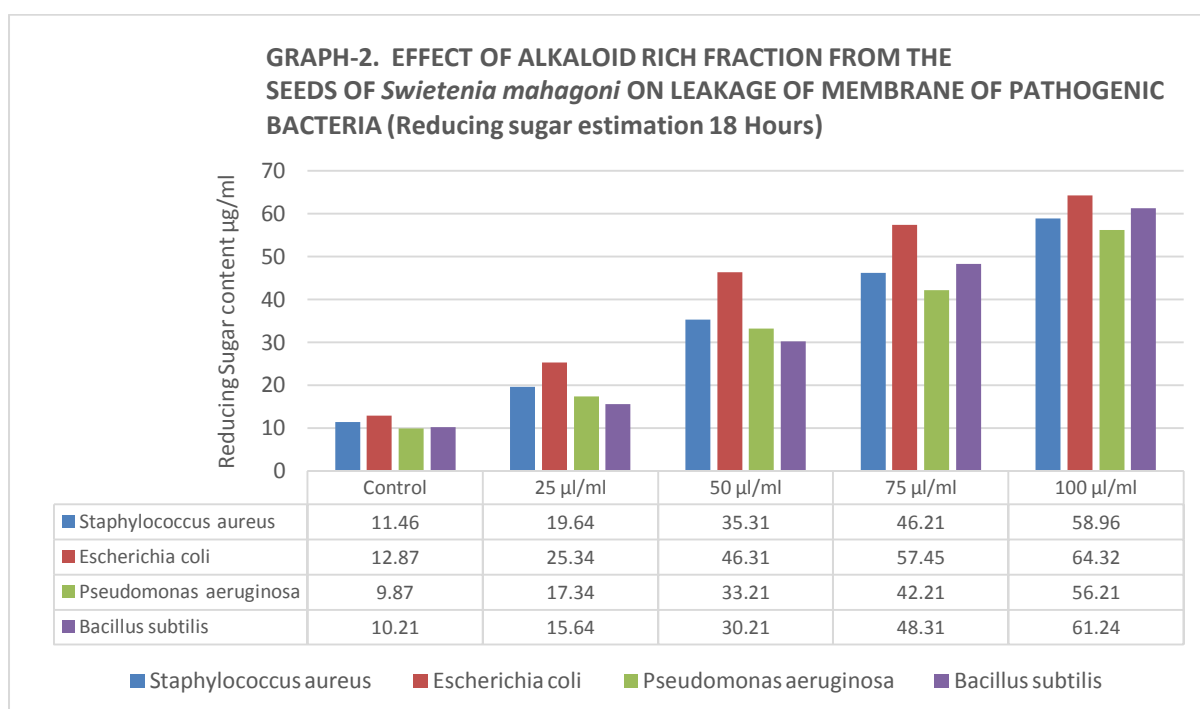
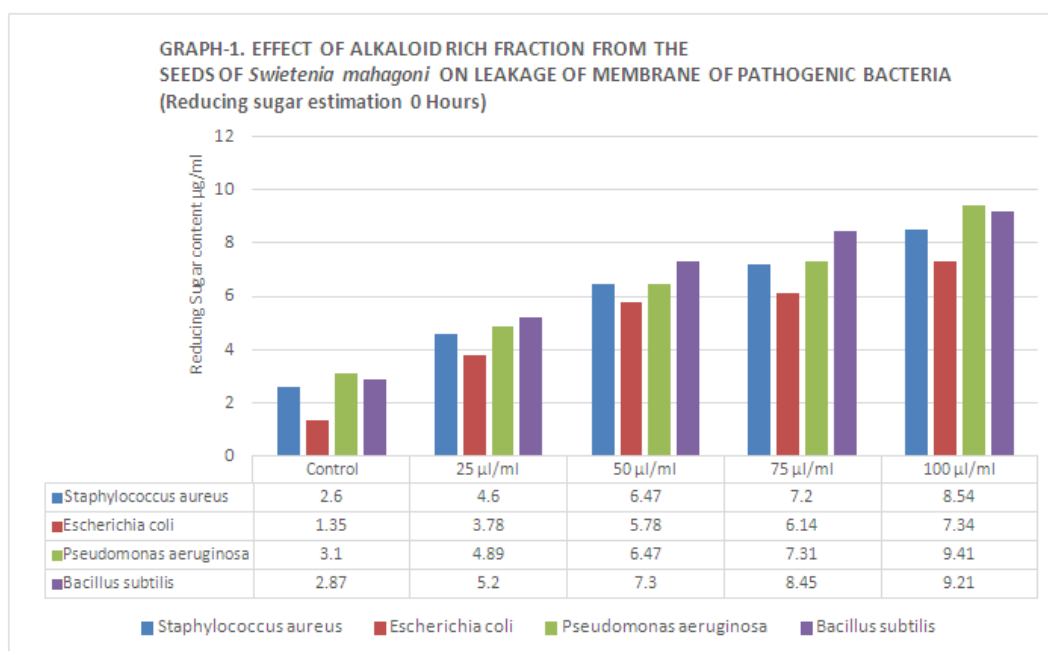


A- Control: B-25 µg/ml; C-50µg/ml; D-75µg/ml; E-100µg/ml

\*The inhibitory diameter was measured by means of calipers. All the assays were duplicated, and the mean values were recorded

**Antimicrobial mode of action of *Swietenia mahagoni* seed – Leakage of membrane method-Estimation of reducing sugar**

In alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia Mahagoni* the amount of reducing sugar, estimated at the 18th hour ranged from 9.87 to 56.21µg/ml and 12.87 to 64.32µg/ml of bacterial dry weight of 11.46 to 58.96 µg/ml in *Staphylococcus aureus*, 12.87 to 64.32 µg/ml in *E.coli* and 9.87 to 56.21mg/ml in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and 10.21 to 61.24 µg/ml in *Bacillus subtilis* of alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* treated of pathogenic bacterial cultures (Graph-1 and 2 ).



**Antimicrobial mode of action of *Swietenia mahagoni* seed – Leakage of membrane method-Estimation of protein**

The amount of protein in the alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* treated both cultures was estimated, and the OD value were referred with standard graph of BSA. The result on estimation of protein was higher than the control which inferred alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* was potent against the pathogen even in the initial stage. The amount of protein estimated at the 18th hour ranged from 7.5 to 56.3 µg/ml in *Staphylococcus aureus*, 10.2 to 61.2 µg/ml in *E. coli*, 8.7 to 63.21 µg/ml in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and 9.45 to 58.6 µg/ml in *Bacillus subtilis* of alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* treated cultures. Refer table 4 and 5

**Table-4 Estimation of protein -0 Hours - Control**

Microorganism	Control	25 µl/ml	50 µl/ml	75 µl/ml	100 µl/ml
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	1.8	3.51	4.89	5.64	6.46
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	2.1	4.89	6.87	7.31	8.45
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	1.78	2.87	6.45	7.12	7.89
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	2.4	3.7	5.1	6.45	7.78

**Table-5 Estimation of protein -18 hours - Test**

Microorganism	Control	25 µl/ml	50 µl/ml	75 µl/ml	100 µl/ml
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	7.5	15.4	31.4	42.3	56.3
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	10.2	18.45	42.3	54.2	61.2
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	8.7	16.31	37.56	50.4	63.21
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	9.45	17.31	34.12	47.31	58.6

**Effect of alkaloid rich fraction of *swietenia mahagoni* seed on inhibition of biofilm formation in pathogenic bacteria**

Effect of the alkaloid rich fraction of *Swietenia mahagoni* seed in different concentration on the inhibition of biofilm formation was studied by spectroscopic assay. The alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia Mahagoni* exhibited more toxicity on the biofilm formation of *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The potential of 100 µl/ml concentration of alkaloid rich fraction from the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni*, on inhibiting biofilm formation after 18 hours incubation was maximum in *Staphylococcus aureus* (69.96%), *Escherichia coli* (84%) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (67%) than the corresponding control.

The phytochemical screening of the aqueous-chloroform extracts showed the presence of alkaloids, phenols, saponins, terpenoids and flavonoids. The extract was found to be an alkaloid rich solution. In the partial characterization of the alkaloid rich fraction by chloroform extract of *S. mahagoni* seed using TLC-solvent (hexane, chloroform and methanol) and sample which showed four UV fluorescent compounds with Rf value (0.84, 0.76, 0.66, 0.52) respectively. The phenolic content in alkaloid rich fraction of *S. mahagoni* seed extract was found to be highest in the chloroform extract. Using the disc diffusion method, the maximum activity was shown against both gram positive and gram-negative bacteria such as *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *B. subtilis* and *P. aeruginosa*. The zone of inhibition of *S. aureus* and *E. coli* were found to be 12.5 ± 1.3 mm and 14.6 ± 2.1 mm, respectively. An appreciable result was not obtained with *B. subtilis* and *P. aeruginosa*. Highest MIC was shown against *B. subtilis* (0.223 µg/ml) and *S. aureus* (0.246 µg/ml) with significant antimicrobial activity than *P. aeruginosa* and *E. coli*. Estimation of reducing sugar using leakage of membrane method showed maximum activity in *E. coli* (64.32 µg/ml) and, in *B. subtilis* (61.24 µg/ml) than *S. aureus* and *P. aeruginosa* at 18 hour of the incubation period. The amount of protein estimated by leakage of membrane method at 18 hour of incubation period ranged maximum in *P. aeruginosa* (63.21 µg/ml) and in *E. coli* (61.2 µg/ml) than *B. subtilis* and *S. aureus*.

**III. Conclusion**

The alkaloid rich fraction from the seed of *S. mahagoni* was found to inhibit the biofilm formation after 18 hours incubation with a maximum in *S. aureus* (69.96 %) and in *E. coli* and showed potent anti-bacterial activity. The mode of action is by disruption of selected proteins and phosphate containing lipids to induce membrane disruption, and ultimately resulting in the cellular decomposition and death of the bacterium. Testing of the seeds of *Swietenia mahagoni* for their antibacterial activity has proven its antibacterial potency in the tested bacterial species

### References

- [1]. Ernst E. (1998). Harmless herbs? A review of the recent literature. *Am J Med* 104: 170–178.
- [2]. Falah, S., Suzuki, T. and Katayama, T., 2008. Chemical Constituents from *Swietenia macrophylla* bark and their antioxidant activity. *Pakistan of Biological Sciences*, 11, pp. 2007-20
- [3]. Moghadamtousi, S.Z., Goh, B.H., Chan, K.C., Shabab, T. and Abdul Kadir, H., 2013. Biological Activities and Phytochemicals of *Swietenia Macropylla* King. *Molecules*, 18(9), pp. 10465-10483.12.
- [4]. Tan, S.K., Osman, H., Wong, K.C. and Boey, P.L., 2009a. New Phragmalin-type Limonoids from *Swietenia macrophylla* King. *Food Chemistry*, 115, pp. 1279-1285.

A. Sheela, et. al "Antimicrobial activity of Aqueous – Chloroform Extract of *Swieteniamahagoni* SEEDS AGAINST Disease Causing Bacterial Strains Found In Foods." *IOSR Journal of Dental and Medical Sciences (IOSR-JDMS)*, 20(07), 2021, pp. 01-08.