Isolation, Characterization and Antimicrobial Activity of *Butea monosperma* (Lam.)

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ABSTRACT

The root and flowers of *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) were extracted with methanol. Extensive chromatographic separation and purification with the organic solvents was done. Four phytochemicals were separated and their structures were established based on various spectroscopic techniques. Isolated crude extract was subjected for antibacterial activity against gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria like *Bacillus megatarium*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* using standard protocols with MIC (Bacterial) in range of 7.5 to 25 µg/ml. The antifungal activity was also carried out against strains of *Alternaria*, *Fusarium* and *Aspergillus flavus* within the range between 10 µg/ml to 300 µg/ml MIC (Fungal). The results of antibacterial activity were compared with a standard antibiotic disc of ciprofloxacin and norfloxacin (5 to 30 µg/disc) against the same microbial strains. The results of antifungal activity were compared with nystatin (100 to 200 µg/disc) against the same microbial strains.

Keywords: *Butea monosperma*, Flavonoids, Phenolic acid, Structure elucidation, Antimicrobial

The study of medicinal plants opened the door to the development of purified and defined chemical compounds as dose-control players in the treatment of disease and in the understanding of disease mechanisms. Compounds, which emerged from the study of ethnomedicinal extracts became important as medicines and were enabling pharmacologic tools in the elucidation of disease mechanisms [1]. The plant of *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) is very widely distributed in India and is used extensively in the folk medicine. The modern pharmacological study demonstrated that the plant has been used for many diseases. Methanol extract of *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) seeds, tested in-vitro showed significant anthelmintic activity [2], anticonvulsive [3], hepatoprotective [4], antiestrogenic potential [5], antifertility activity [6], anti-diarrhoeal activity [7] and antifungal activity [8]. Isolation and in-vitro antimicrobial efficiency of *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) seed oil is also observed [9-10]. "Pippali Rasayana", the mixture of Palash (*Butea monosperma* (Lam.)) and Pippali (Piper longum), is found useful in Giardiasis. *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) has been also evaluated for anti-stress activity and antifertility activity [11-13]. Most of pharmacological effects of *Butea monosperma* roots and flowers were attributed to its flavonoids and phenolic components. The chemical components of *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) have been widely investigated; flavonoids and triterpenoids were the main secondary metabolites. The effect of oral administration of the aqueous and alcoholic extracts of the leaves is assessed on stress, cognitive function and anxiety in albino rats [16-18]. The present paper deals with isolation and structural elucidation of three flavonoids and one phenolic acid. Four phytochemicals were isolated from the flowers and roots of *Butea monosperma* (Lam.), their antimicrobial activities of extracted components were investigated, and results were compared with standards.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

General experimental procedures

Melting points were determined using the Scientific MP-D Melting point apparatus. IR spectra were determined on a Thermo Nicolet IR –200 spectrometer (νmax in cm⁻¹). NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AMX 200 MHz instrument. ¹H NMR spectra were measured at 200 MHz and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured at 200 MHz. The samples were prepared in deuterated DMSO and methanol. The chemical shift were given on δ (ppm) scale with tetramethylsilane as...
Antimicrobial Activity of *Butea monosperma*

an internal standard and coupling constant (J) were in Hz. The GC-EI-MS data were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Auto system XL GC+ with Elite - 5 (30 M x 0.25 mm x 0.50 µm) coloum. CC: Silica gel (S. D. fine chemicals limited India 60-120 mesh). Spots on TLC were visualized by UV (254 and 390 nm) and Potassium hydroxide as a spraying reagent, purchased from Molychem ltd. India.

**Plant material**

Roots and flowers of *Butea monosperma (Lam.)* were collected from campus of the Junagadh Agricultural University, India. An expert in the field of Botany authenticated the plant. *Butea monosperma (Lam.)* is native to tropical Southern Asia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and western Indonesia. It may be found throughout India up to a height of 1250 m, except in the arid zones.

**Extraction and isolation**

Roots and flowers of *Butea monosperma (Lam.)* were collected, shade dried at room temperature and ground in a manual mill. The powder was extracted with methanol using soxhlet-extracted for period of 24 hrs. The extract was filtered through a Buchner funnel with Whatman filter paper No.1. The filtrated was evaporate to dryness under reduce pressure using rotary evaporator. After evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was dissolved in methanol followed by column chromatography to preform purification of the component. A column of 1707 mm height and 15 mm inner diameter packed with neutral silica gel of mesh size 60-120 was used for the separation. The column was allowed to stabilize in ethyl acetate with overnight waiting period. Each collected fraction was analyzed by TLC method to ascertain the purification.

**Antimicrobial Assay (disk diffusion method)**

The extracted components were screened for their antimicrobial activity (antibacterial and antifungal screening) to evaluate the biological potentiality of extracted ingredients [19]. The methanol extract from *Butea monosperma (Lam.)* roots and flowers were tested against gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria like *Bacillus megaturium, Bacillus subtilis, Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and the antifungal activity was also carried out against strains of *Alternaria, Fusarium* and *Aspergillus flavus*. Various methods have been used to evaluate the antimicrobial activity from time to time [20]. The evaluation can be done by the methods like turbidometric method; agar streak dilution method; serial dilution method; agar diffusion method; agar cup method; agar ditch method and paper disc method. The Broth Dilution method was used to evaluate the antimicrobial activity. Agar cultures of the test microorganisms were prepared according to Mackeen *et al.* [21]. Samples were dissolved in methanol (1 ml). The test samples (10 µL) were loaded onto each Whatman filter paper disks (0.6 mm) and evenly placed on the agar surface previously inoculated with the suspensions of microorganisms to be tested. Standard disk of streptomycin sulphate (10µg/disk) was used as the positive control and DMSO was used as the negative control. The plates were inverted and incubated for 24 hours at 37°C. Clear inhibition zones around the disk indicate the presence of antimicrobial activity.

The Broth Dilution Method [22] was then utilized the positive results for the determination of Minimum Inhibition Concentration (MIC). This test was performed in a sterile 96-well micro titer plates. Each active ingredient was diluted obtaining 1000 µg/mL concentration, as a stock solution. Each methanolic stock samples (10 µL) was transferred to micro titer plate well in duplicate at row. In primary screening, 500µg/mL, 250µg/mL and 125 µg/mL concentrations of the active ingredient were taken. The active ingredients found in this primary screening were further tested in a second set of dilution against all microorganisms.

The fractions found active in primary screening were similarly diluted to obtain 100 µg/mL, 50 µg/mL, 25 µg/mL, 12.5 µg/mL, 6.25 µg/mL, 3.12 µg/mL and 1.56 µg/mL concentrations. The highest dilution showing at least 99% zone of inhibition is taken as MIC. The result of this was much affected by the inoculum size. The test mixture should contain 10⁶ cells/mL (bacteria) or 10⁸ spores/mL (fungi).

The MIC values were confirmed by the determination of Minimal Bactericidal Concentration (MBC) values according to method developed by Arias *et al* [23]. All wells in the MIC study, which did not show any growth of bacteria after incubation period were first diluted in fresh nutrient broth (1:4) and then sub-cultured onto the surface of freshly prepared nutrient agar plates (0,15 mm). The plates were incubated for 24 hours at 37°C. The MBC were recorded as the lowest concentration of the sample that did not permit any visible bacteria colony growth on the appropriate agar plate after the incubation period [24,25].

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Structure elucidation**

Four phytochemicals have been isolated from the crude of *Butea monosperma* (*Lam.)* Out of four phytochemicals 2-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-3,5,7-trihydroxy-4H-chromen-4-one (querceitin); compound 2 was not reported earlier in the extracts of roots and flowers of *Butea monosperma (Lam.)* under the specified experimental conditions, while compound 1, compound 3 and compound 4 were reported earlier in several work [26]. But their proposed structures were depicted here.

Compound 1 was isolated as white, yellowish-white, or pale fawn-colored crystals (methanol) with the molecular formula C₇H₆O₅, as determine by a molecular ion M → M⁺ + 2e⁻ at m/z 170.021523 generated from GC-EI-MS. The UV spectrum showed five
characteristic bands at 212.1 nm, 267.5 nm, 353.2 nm, 367.3 nm and 380.5 nm. The FTIR spectrum displayed strong absorption bands at 2925.36 cm⁻¹, 2875 cm⁻¹, 3066.75 cm⁻¹, 1451.29 cm⁻¹, 1026.15 cm⁻¹, 701.62 cm⁻¹, 1703.08 cm⁻¹, 1245.44 cm⁻¹, 3287.22 cm⁻¹ and 3372.78 cm⁻¹ suggesting the presence of a flavonoid moiety. The ¹H NMR spectrum displayed signal at δH 12.24 (1H, s) with respect to TMS indicates the presence of two similar protons indicating presence of delocalization of electrons in the adjacent environment. This can be attributed to presence of –COOH group. A signal at δH 3.429 (1H, s) for the presence three protons of –OH group can be seen in the spectrum. Looking to the results of ¹H NMR, it is clear that the presence of aromatic ring with the three –OH and –COOH in the structure. A signal at δH 6.766 (1H, s) for the presence of aromatic hydrogen can also be seen. The proposed structure of compound 1 is shown in Fig 1.

Compound 2 was also isolated as white, yellowish-white crystals with molecular formula C₂₇H₃₂O₁₅, as determined by a molecular ion M → M⁺ + 2e⁻ at m/z 596.17412 generated from GC-EI-MS. The UV spectrum showed absorption maximum at 255.7 nm and 368.5 nm. The FTIR spectrum displayed strong absorption bands at 2936.97 cm⁻¹, 2859.73 cm⁻¹, 1492.40 cm⁻¹, 3040.24 cm⁻¹, 1580.72 cm⁻¹, 1014.83 cm⁻¹, 701.74 cm⁻¹, 1195.39 cm⁻¹, 1734.16 cm⁻¹ and 3413.88 cm⁻¹ suggesting the presence of a flavonoid moiety. In the ¹H NMR spectrum, signal at δH 3.108-3.607 (1H, m) relative number of 1H clearly indicates the presence of Ar –OH, Ar –H, and –CH₂ groups. Signal at δH 3.732-3.813 (1H, d, J=2) indicates presence of Ar –H. Two-protons’ singlet for Ar-OOH, appears at δH 5.465 (1H, s), two protons’ doublet for Ar-H at δH 5.895 (1H, d, J=3). The spectrum also suggests that a three protons’ multiplet for Ar-H, at δH 6.726 (1H, m) and one proton singlet indicates Ar-H at δH 7.015 (1H, s), one proton singlet indicates Ar-H at δH 7.187 (1H, d, J=9). ¹H NMR spectrum also showed two protons’ doublet for Ar-H, –CH, which appeared at δH 8.064 (1H, d, J=0.8). The results also suggest the chain compound with an aromatic skeleton occupied with –OH and two ketonic oxygen in the structure. The proposed structure of compound 2 is shown in Fig 2.

Compound 3 was isolated as white, yellowish-white crystals with the molecular formula C₁₅H₁₀O₇, as determined by a molecular ion M → M⁺ + 2e⁻ at m/z 302.236 generated from GC-EI-MS [19-20]. The UV spectrum showed absorption maximum at 272.3 nm and 373.3 nm. The FTIR spectrum displayed strong absorption bands at 2925.78 cm⁻¹, 2855.13 cm⁻¹, 3054.96 cm⁻¹, 1195.39 cm⁻¹, 1734.16 cm⁻¹ and 3413.88 cm⁻¹ suggesting the presence of a flavonoid moiety. In the ¹H NMR spectrum, signal at δH 3.108-3.607 (1H, m) relative number of 1H clearly indicates the presence of Ar –OH, Ar –H, and –CH₂ groups. Signal at δH 3.732-3.813 (1H, d, J=2) indicates presence of Ar –H. Two-protons’ singlet for Ar-OOH, appears at δH 5.465 (1H, s), two protons’ doublet for Ar-H at δH 5.895 (1H, d, J=3). The spectrum also suggests that a three protons’ multiplet for Ar-H, at δH 6.726 (1H, m) and one proton singlet indicates Ar-H at δH 7.015 (1H, s), one proton singlet indicates Ar-H at δH 7.187 (1H, d, J=9). ¹H NMR spectrum also showed two protons’ doublet for Ar-H, –CH, which appeared at δH 8.064 (1H, d, J=0.8). The results also suggest the chain compound with an aromatic skeleton occupied with –OH and two ketonic oxygen in the structure. The proposed structure of compound 3 is shown in Fig 2.


Compound 3

Fig 3. Proposed structure of compound 3 based on spectral evidences
Antimicrobial Activity of *Butea monosperma*

Two fractions of roots and flowers of *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) viz. CVP-1 and CVP-2 were used for gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria like *Bacillus megatarium*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and similarly both fractions were also used for fungal strains of *Alternaria*, *Fusarium* and *Aspergillus flavus* to evaluate the zone of inhibition. The results were compared with standard streptomycin sulphate disc. Zone of inhibition produced by two extracts were between 10 mm to 21 mm. Fraction CVP-1 was found significant against *Bacillus megatarium* (10 mm), *Bacillus cereus* (11 mm), *Bacillus subtilis* (11 mm), *Alternaria* (15 mm), *Fusarium* (18 mm) and *Aspergillus flavus* (10 mm). Fraction CVP-1 was therefore, found excellent against fungi strain *Fusarium* with 18 mm zone of inhibition. This could be attributed to the fact that fraction CVP-1 was obtained from flowers, which contains less concentration of phytochemicals. Fraction CVP-2 was found significant against *Bacillus megatarium* (13 mm), *Bacillus cereus* (20 mm), *Bacillus subtilis* (12 mm),

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Plant name/ Part used</th>
<th>Concentration 1 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CVP-1</td>
<td>A: 10 mm, B: 11 mm, C: 11 mm, D: 15 mm, E: 18 mm, F: 10 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CVP-2</td>
<td>A: 13 mm, B: 20 mm, C: 12 mm, D: 21 mm, E: 20 mm, F: 11 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A: *Bacillus megatarium*, B: *Bacillus cereus*, C: *Bacillus subtilis*, D: *Alternaria*, E: *Fusarium*, F: *Aspergillus flavus*
Alternaria (21 mm), Fusarium (20 mm) and Aspergillus flavus (11 mm). Fraction CVP-2 was therefore, found excellent against fungi strains Alternaria and Fusarium with 21 mm and 20 mm zone of inhibition respectively. This could be attributed to fact that fraction CVP-2 was obtained from roots, which contain higher concentration of phytochemicals in comparison to flowers. The data of zone of inhibition were summarized in the Table 1. Antifungal activity of fraction CVP-1 and CVP-2 were also carried out for two gram-negative bacteria Bacillus megatarium MTCC–428 and Bacillus subtilis MTCC–441 strains and against two gram-positive bacteria Escherichia coli MTCC–442 and Pseudomonas aeruginosa MTCC–424 strains. The results were depicted here indicates that fraction CVP-1 was found excellent active against the bacterial strain Alternaria MTCC—149 with 50 µg/mL concentration. Similarly, fraction CVP-2 was found excellent active against the bacterial strain Bacillus subtilis MTCC–441 with 6.4 µg/mL concentration. Antifungal activity was also done using three fungi strains Alternaria, Fusarium and Aspergillus flavus and results were compared with standard of nystatin 100 to 200 µg/disc. Table 3 depicted here indicates that fraction CVP-1 was found excellent active against Alternaria MTCC—149 with 10 µg/mL concentration and fraction CVP-2 was found excellent active against Alternaria MTCC—149 with 50 µg/mL concentration.

### Table 2. Antibacterial activity of Butea monosperma (Lam.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Plant name/Part used</th>
<th>Minimal Bactericidal Concentration (MBC) (µg/mL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CVP-1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CVP-2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Table 3. Antifungal activity of Butea monosperma (Lam.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Plant name/Part used</th>
<th>Minimal Fungicidal Concentration (MFC) (µg/mL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CVP-1</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CVP-2</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### References

Antimicrobial Activity of Butea monosperma


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