

Reducing Biofilm in *Listeria monocytogenes* by Some Plant Extracts

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Abstract: The results of reducing biofilm were determined by using methanol extract for 32 different types of plant extracts. Determined the minimum inhibition concentration of these plant extracts, (1 -10) folds it means (100-1000) µg/ml of plant extracts according the plant activity adjusted minimum inhibition concentration (MIC) and then determined Sub minimum inhibition concentration (sub MIC) and used it as reducing biofilm agents by two methods: planktonic cells was treated with these extracts and sessile cells or biofilm was treated by these extracts. Quantification of biofilm reducing was carried out by using a microtiter plate assay and a spectrophotometric method. The result of methanol extracts of {*nthemistinctoria* (*Matricaria chamomilla*), and Clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*), *Salix candida*, leaves of *Quercus brantii* Oak, leaves of pomegranate (*Punicagranatum* and *Sumac Rhusanacardiaceae*)} were showed good antibiofilm activity against (*Listeria monocytogenes*) in both methods, while the majority of the extracts enhanced biofilm development. Combination extracts with antimicrobial agents showed mainly synergism and interaction was observed on inhibition of the biofilm while biofilm that produced by *L. monocytogenes* was resistance to most of the eight antimicrobial agents ((ampicillin (AMP), naldixic acid (NAL), neomycin (N), streptomycin (STR), chloramphenicol (CHL), rifampin (RIF), tetracyclin (TET), and carbincillin (CAR) at final concentration used in this study.

Keywords: Biofilm, *Eugenia caryophyllata*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *nthemistinctoria*, *Salix candida*

I. Introduction

Biofilms occur on a wide variety of surfaces, including living tissues, industrial equipment and food processing surfaces, such as conveyer belts, plastic and stainless steel equipment. Since bacterial cells can be easily transferred from biofilms to food products, biofilms formed by pathogens, such as *Listeria monocytogenes* are of particular concern for food industries. It has been demonstrated that *Listeria monocytogenes* can grow and form biofilms on several food processing surfaces including rubber, plastics, glass and stainless steel. Biofilms of *Listeria* protect cells from the action of antimicrobials and sanitizers, potentially allowing long term persistence of the microorganism in the food processing environment. This evidence suggests that *Listeria monocytogenes* biofilms represent a threat to food safety as bacteria can be transferred to food products when they come into contact with biofilms. For this reason it appears critical to detect and remove *L. monocytogenes* biofilms in food processing environments in order to improve food safety [1]. In nature, micro-organisms exist as both planktonic, free-floating cells or in a community commonly referred to as a biofilm. A biofilm is a community of cells attached to either a biotic or abiotic surface enclosed in a complex exopolymetric substance (EPS) [2] [3].

Several efficient qualitative and quantitative techniques have been described for rapid and efficient detection of biofilms [4,5] and simultaneous screening of different natural agents for their anti-biofilm potential [6], where, many of these anti-biofilm agents reported are synthetic or of chemical origin [7,8].

II. Material And Methods

Thirty two local plants used in this study. They were obtained some of them from Koya Haebatsulta Mountain and others from local market in Sulaimanya city in Kurdistan. Most of these plants daily uses in our society like tea or for boosting meals taste and flavor. In this study, the antimicrobial properties of some commonly used plants (in the form of extracts) that are reported to be of medicinal value were investigated against the planktonic and biofilm form of *Listeria monocytogenes*.

II.1 Preparation of methanol crude extracts

The plant samples were collected, and 32 plant extracts were prepared by using absolute methanol; all plants without washing were put in the freezer for one week, then grinded by grinding machine. Add 10g of grinded plants to conical flask. Then 25 ml of absolute methanol was added to the flask then placed in the refrigerator for three days [9]. After 72 hours the extracts were filtered through a Whatmann filter paper No. 42 (125 mm)

and it concentrated by using a rotary evaporator (Laborota 4000, SN 090816862, Germany) with the water bath set at 40°C [10]. At the final step the extracted were transferred into vials and stored at 4°C.

II.2 Determination of minimum inhibition concentration

The minimum inhibitory concentration of medicinal plant extracts under studying were determined by turbidity method (spectrophotometric method) at 600nm, and the following dilution were prepared for each extract (100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 1000) µg/ml [11], (1 -10) folds of plant extracts according to plant activity adjusted minimum inhibition concentration (MIC) and then determined Sub minimum inhibition concentration (sub MIC). A stock solution of the extracts directly used without dilution with bacterial suspension prepared by obtain a few colonies from the overnight culture of blood agar of *L. monocytogenes* by using (1-42) folds of bacterial suspension according to the plants bioactive compounds by two method one time mixed bacterial suspension with the plant extracts. It means with planktonic cell directly. Another method put the bacterial suspension in the incubator for (8-10) hours to allow set the sessile or biofilm formation and then mix with the plant extracts at sub MIC for each of the 33 extracts. Compared each tests well with control prepared by transferring a few colonies from the overnight culture of blood agar (Difco U.S.A.) were transferred into 5ml nutrient broth (Mast diagnostic U.K) medium turbidity of suspension which was adjusted to (1-1.5) through the optical density reading at 600nm by spectrophotometer. The MIC of methanol extracts of medicinal plants is determined through standard curve which prepared previously by reading the optical density of blank and converted to bacterial number [12]. Cell attachment was indirectly assessed using the modified crystal violet assay [13].

II.3 Susceptibility test

The antibiotic susceptibility test conducted for biofilm that produce by *L. monocytogenes* used eight extra HPLC (sigma) antimicrobials powder that have 100% activity. Tryptic soy broth was used as growth medium, after sterilization and cooling at 45°C, inoculate the bacterial strains and incubate for 24 hour at 37°C to allow forming biofilm then final concentration of antimicrobial agents were added to micro wells after discard the bacterial suspension. Final concentration of antimicrobial agents were ampicillin (AMP) 50 µg / ml, chloramphenicol (CHL) 10 µg / ml, nalidixic acid (NAL) 30 µg / ml, Rifampin (RIF) 20 µg / ml, Tetracycline (TET) 15 µg / ml, carbincillin (CAR) 50 µg / ml, Streptomycin (STR) 10 µg/ml, and neomycin (N) 100 µg/ml [14].

Determined the effect of mixed antimicrobials with four of the plant extracts at final concentration of both of them. Prepared bacterial suspension and put in the wells for 24 hr. incubation at 37°C then discard the suspension and add mixed antimicrobial agents and plant extracts separately in each well.

II.3 Statistical Analyses

Zscore was done for double OD before 10hrs incubation and after 10hrs incubation. The result was 1.58 from z score and P value was 0.11. the result shows that P value > from 0.05 [15]

III. Result And Discussion

Some research reports show that most spices have antimicrobial properties some suggest that spices provide supportive media for the growth of some bacteria and fungi [16]. In the present study also showed that some of these extracts have antimicrobial properties while the others we can use it such as supportive media for bacteria.

III.1 Reducing or elimination biofilm in *L. monocytogenes* by 32 different types of plant extracts

A strain of *Listeria monocytogenes* that produce biofilm and the optical density reading was 0.195 obtained from [17]. Producing biofilm by most of the bacterial strains is a big problem because antibiotic sometimes cannot remove the biofilm although cause to kill the bacterial strain. Biofilm remain on the surface of this infected place as a biomass, especially with those patients that have plastic heart valve or kidney plantation or those who put cannula to take drugs [18]. In this study to reduce these problems thirty three different types of plant were used as shown in Table 1 by two methods: Plant extracts were screened for their antimicrobial activities against both planktonic and sessile bacteria.

First method: Table (1) shows the effect of 32 different types of plant extracts used for curing or reducing biofilm in tested isolate. The MIC was determined for plant extract, which inhibited bacterial growth. The test is compared to the control sample that consists of 5 ml of nutrient broth and 0.1 ml of overnight culture of bacterial suspension, and then incubated at 37°C for 24 hours by using 1 fold to 40 fold from the bacterial control suspension mix with 1 fold to 10 fold (100-1000) µg/ml to each methanol plants extract according to the ability of the plants to inhabit the bacterial activity or to reach the point of minimum inhibition concentration, then

determined sub MIC and used as curing agents by streaking method for *L. monocytogenes* isolate on nutrient agar. The extracts were initially tested on planktonic micro-organisms by using the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) assay.

The results show in “fig. 1” *L. monocytogenes* that obtained from [17] has high ability to produce biofilm the optical density reading by ELIZA (0.19) as shown in table (1). “Fig. 1” (E11, F8, G4, H6, and H7) shows {*nthemistinctoria* (*Matricaria chamomilla*), Clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*), *Salix candida*, leaves *Pistacia terebinthus*, Sumac *Rhusanacardiaceae*} crude extract were effected on biofilm produced by *L. monocytogenes* by mixing one fold of the plants with (11, 42, 6, 1 and 1) folds respectively of the bacterial control suspension put it in the incubator under 37°C for 24 hours then biofilm test was done and reading OD of biofilm were (0.080, 0.107, 0.114, 0.100, and 0.102) respectively, and the effect of (leaves *Quercus brantii* Oak F9, leaves of pomegranate (*Punicagranatum*) F12, Seed *glycyrrhizaglabra* G1, and leaves *glycyrrhizaglabra* G3) were observed by mixing (3, 2, 4 and 4) folds of methanol plant extracts with one fold of bacterial control suspension and reading optical density were (0.066, 0.068, 0.066, and 0.122) respectively. It means these plants act as curing agent for prevention of cell attachment and biofilm development by using a little amount of the extracts as demonstrate in table (1). While some of the plants caused to increase or enhance biofilm or bacterial activity as demonstrate in “fig. 1” such as [Eggplant leaf (*Solanum melongena* L.) F4, root of wolfbane *Aconitum* F7, tolaka H8] were observed by mixing (5, 10, and 6) folds of methanol plant extracts with one fold of bacterial control suspension and reading optical density were (0.413, 0.506 and 0.806) respectively as shown in table (1).

Table (1) the effect of 33 different types of plant and herb extracts on *L. monocytogenes*

No. of wells	Concentration of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> No.7	OD of biofilm after treating with plants	Plants scientific name	Sub MIC of plants (fold)
E7	Listeria suspension	0.386	-	-
E8	1	0.210	Apple leaves (<i>Malus Domestica</i>)	3
E9	1	0.203	pine needles (<i>Pinus palustris</i>),,,	3
E10	1	0.368	<i>Portulaca Aleracea</i>	4
E11	11	0.080	<i>nthemistinctoria</i> (<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>)	1
E12	1	0.397	<i>Prosopis farcta</i>	4
F2	1	0.238	Okra –leaves (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> L)	4
F3	1	0.302	(<i>Quercus infectoria</i> olive leaves	4
F4	1	0.413	Eggplant leaf (<i>Solanum melongena</i> L.)	5
F5	1	0.222	leaf of wolfbane <i>Aconitum</i>	6
F6	1	0.190	Leaf of Bitter Vetch ... <i>Lathyrus montanus</i> Leguminosae	4
F7	1	0.506	root of wolfbane <i>Aconitum</i>	10
F8	42	0.107	Clove (<i>Eugenia caryophyllata</i>)	1
F9	1	0.066	<i>Quercus brantii</i> Oak	3
F10	1	0.362	Bushy broom grass (<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>)	4
F11	1	0.147	Okra –trunk (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> L.)	4
F12	1	0.068	pomegranate (<i>Punicagranatum</i>)	2
G1	1	0.066	Seed <i>glycyrrhizaglabra</i>	4
G2	1	0.196	<i>Prunus persica</i> Peach	5
G3	1	0.122	Leaves <i>glycyrrhizaglabra</i>	4
G4	6	0.114	<i>Salix candida</i>	1
G5	1	0.475	Rose of Bitter Vetch ... <i>Lathyrus montanus</i> Leguminosae	7
G6	1	0.358	Seed of (<i>Quercus infectoria</i> olive)	1
G7	1	0.195	<i>Cinnamomum zeylanicum</i>	7
G9	1	0.259	<i>Vitis vinifera</i> leaves	5
G10	1	0.229	<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i>)	6
G11	1	0.136	<i>Ficus carica</i>	4
G12	1	0.173	Sewak	6
H2	1	0.492	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	5
H3	1	0.644	<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	4
H6	1	0.100	<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	1
H7	1	0.102	Sumac <i>Rhusanacardiaceae</i>	1
H8	1	0.804	Tolaka	6
H10	1	0.281	Control	3
				Methanol

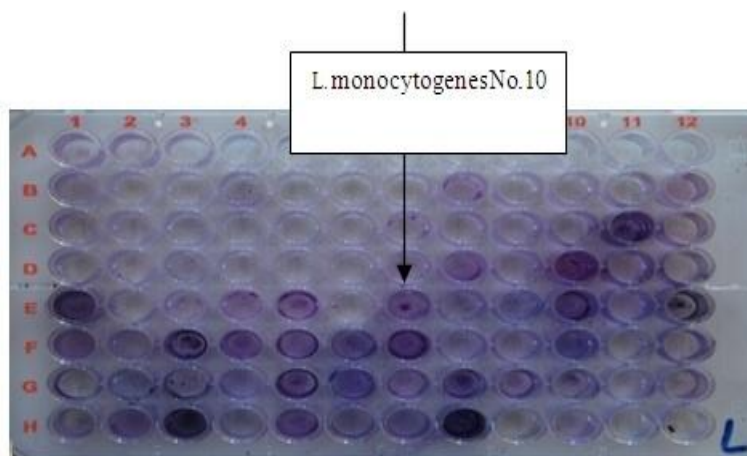
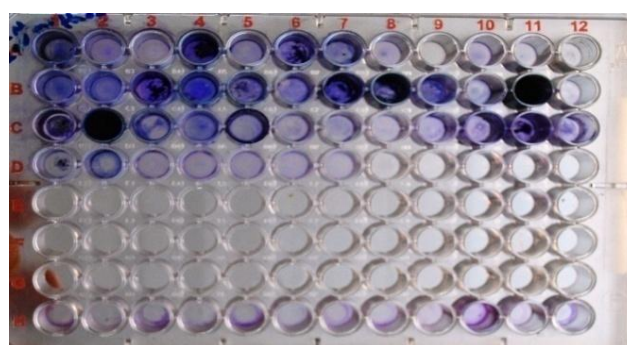


Figure (1) Treating Biofilm that was formed by *L. monocytogenes* with 32 plant extracts

Second method: Treating *L. monocytogenes* that produce biofilm with 32 different types of plant extract were tested on sessile cells or biofilm formation after 8 hour by using the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) as demonstrate in “fig. 2”.



Figure(2) Treating *L. monocytogenes* that produce biofilm with 32 types of plant extract after set eight hour in incubator

Table (2) the effect of 33 different types of plant extracts on biofilm that produce by *L. monocytogenes* after incubation for 8hour

No. of wells	Concentration of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> No.7	OD of biofilm after treating with plants	Plants scientific name	Sub MIC of plants (fold)
D1	<i>Listeria</i> suspension	0.195	-	-
A1	1	0.691	Apple leaves (<i>Malus Domestica</i>)	3
A2	1	0.255	pine needles (<i>Pinus palustris</i>)...	3
A3	11	0.102	<i>nthemistinctoria</i> (<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>)	1
A4	1	0.821	<i>Portulaca Aleracea</i>	4
A5	1	0.353	<i>Prosopis farcta</i>	4
A7	1	0.194	Okra –leaves (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> L)	4
A8	1	0.121	(<i>Quercus infectoria</i> olive leaves	4
A9	1	0.081	Eggplant leave (<i>Solanum melongena</i> L.)	5
A10	1	0.167	leaf of wolfbane <i>Aconitum</i>	6
A11	1	0.084	Leaf of Bitter Vetch ... <i>Lathyrus montanus</i> Leguminosae	4
A12	1	0.208	root of wolfbane <i>Aconitum</i>	10
B1	42	0.122	Clove (<i>Eugenia caryophyllata</i>)	1
B2	1	0.101	<i>Quercus brantii</i>) Oak	3
B3	1	1.172	Bushy broom grass (<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>)	4
B4	1	0.515	Okra –truck (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> L))	4
B5	1	0.151	pomegranate (<i>Punicagranatum</i>)	2

B6	1	0.141	Seed glycyrrhizaglabra	4
B7	1	0.560	Prunuspersica Peach	5
B8	1	0.416	Leaves glycyrrhizaglabra	4
B9	6	0.632	Salix candida	1
B10	1	0.335	Rose of Bitter Vetch ...LathyrusmontanusLeguminosae	7
B12	1	0.180	Cinnamomumzeylanicum	7
C1	1	1.269	Vitisvinifera leaves	5
C2	1	1.902	Citrullus colocynthis)	6
C3	1	0.179	Ficuscarica	4
C4	1	0.304	Sewak	6
C5	1	0.082	Linumusatissimum	5
C6	1	0.483	Althaeaofficinalis	4
C7	1	0.388	Pistaciaterebinthus	1
C8	1	0.078	Sumac Rhusanacardiaceae	1
C9	1	0.181	Tolaka	6
C10	1	0.178	Control	3
				Methanol

“Fig. 2” shows { *Matricaria chamomilla*, *Quercus infectoria* olive leaves, Eggplant leaf (*Solanum melongena* L.), Leaf of Bitter Vetch ...*Lathyrus montanus* Leguminosae, Clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*), *Quercus brantii* Oak, pomegranate (*Punica granatum*), Seed glycyrrhizaglabra, *Linum usitatissimum* and Sumac *Rhusanacardiaceae*. } crude methanol extracts have good effect on biofilm produced by *L. monocytogenes* but { Clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*) and *Matricaria chamomilla* } have more effectiveness on biofilm because one fold of the extract used with (42, 11) fold of bacterial suspension after incubating for 8 hr. at 37°C respectively then added the extracts on the bacterial suspension and incubation for 24 hr. at 37°C. And the other extracts don't have biofilm reducer activity as shown in table (2).

Table (3) OD reading of bacterial biofilm after treating with antibiotics

Isolate	Control	AMP		NAL		N		STR		CHL	RIF		TET	CAR	
<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	A9 0.195	A1 0.239	A2 0.233	A3 0.164	A4 0.144	A5 0.163	A6 0.171	A7 0.154	A8 0.092						

III.2 Susceptibility test

Susceptibility test was conducted for biofilm that produce by *L. monocytogenes*, eight widely antimicrobials used (AMP, NAL, N, STR, CHL, RIF, TET, and CAR) which demonstrated in table (3) and used at final concentrations by MIC. OD reading of biofilm that produce by *L. monocytogenes* was 0.195 but after treating with antimicrobial agents the optical density reading of biofilm were (0.239, 0.233, 0.164, 0.144, 0.163, 0.171, 0.154, and 0.092) respectively and “fig. 3” shows that biofilm resistance to most of the antimicrobial agents and some of them reduced biofilm in a few amount.

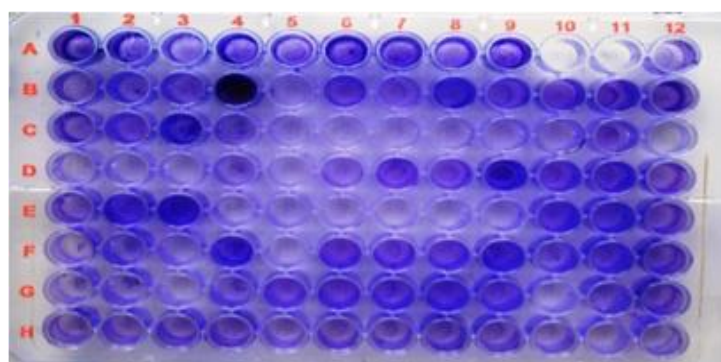


Figure (3) *L. monocytogenes* biofilm treated with antimicrobial agents and with mixed plants and antimicrobial agents

III.3 Inhibition of biofilm growth using antimicrobial agents with some effective plants in combinatio

“fig. 3” shows the result of four types of effective plant extracts mixed with five antimicrobial agents separately and shows most of them have good effect on reducing biofilm as demonstrated in table (4).

Table (4) the effect of mixed antibiotics and some effective plants on biofilm produced by *L. monocytogenes*

<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	RIF		TET		STR		N		AMP	
Clove	B1	0.055	B2	0.092	B3	0.068	B4	0.611	B11	0.079
Poamgranet	B6	0.131	B7	0.091	B8	0.106	B9	0.078	B10	0.124
Sumac	A12	0.053	B12	0.152	C1	0.118	C2	0.177	C3	0.112
<i>Rhusanacardiaceae</i>										
<i>Salix candida</i>	C6	0.075	C7	0.055	C8	0.056	C9	0.091	C5	0.065

In general *Matricaria chamomilla* (Matricariaceae) and Clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*) was the only two extracts that showed good antibiofilm activity and good antibacterial activity against *L. monocytogenes* while the majority of the extracts enhanced bacterial activity and biofilm development. Also Determined *Listeria* biofilm resistance to most of the antimicrobial agents but Combination extracts with antimicrobial agents showed mainly synergism activity on biofilm. There are few study about reducing biofilm by traditional herbs or plants while many researches now a day carried out about inhibition bacterial activity.

IV. Conclusion

The results show that the reduction of biofilm mass by use of plant extracts has good effective but using in combination plant and antibiotic together has more effect than using plant alone.

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