

Research Article

Antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of essential oils from seven species of *Amaryllidaceae* and *Brassicaceae*

Zahra Ebrahimnezhad¹, Nafiseh Mahdinezhad¹, Hamid Beyzaei^{2,*}, Mehdi Dehghani³, Alireza Dolatyari⁴

¹Department of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zabol, Zabol, Iran

²Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Zabol, Zabol, Iran

³Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Zabol, Zabol, Iran

⁴Plant Bank, Iranian Biological Resource Center (IBRC), ACECR, Karaj, Iran

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Allium
Antibacterial agents
Antifungal agents
Antioxidants
Essential oils
Fortuynia garcinii

ABSTRACT

Background: Essential oils have been utilized for various purposes throughout history. These aromatic substances have become increasingly popular in alternative medicine, aromatherapy, and personal care products. **Objective:** In this study, essential oils from the aerial parts of four *Allium* species and three *Brassicaceae* members, namely *Fortuynia garcinii*, *Draba verna*, and *Thlaspi arvense* were evaluated for their antioxidant, antibacterial, and antifungal properties. **Methods:** The radical-scavenging properties were tested using DPPH assay. Antimicrobial activities were examined on nine standard pathogens: three Gram-positive bacteria including *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, three Gram-negative bacteria including *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella enterica subsp. enterica* and two fungi *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Fusarium oxysporum* as well as the yeast *Candida albicans*. **Results:** The IC₅₀ values of antioxidant assay ranged from 124.66 to 155.04 µg/ml. *Allium zagricum* showed the best antioxidant effects with IC₅₀ of 124.66 µg/ml compared to standard vitamin E (IC₅₀ = 10.40 µg/ml). Similarly, the MIC values of 25-400 µg/ml with *Fortuynia garcinii* fruits-Zahedan were assessed as the best antimicrobial effects, while they were higher than the MIC values recorded for positive controls (0.06-16 for amikacin and 32-256 for clotrimazole). **Conclusion:** Essential oils extracted from *Allium zagricum* and *Fortuynia garcinii* can be prescribed for the treatment of oxidative stress-related and infectious diseases.

Abbreviations: FFH, *Fortuynia garcinii* Fruits-Zahedan; FFB, *Fortuynia garcinii* Fruits-Zabol; FLB, *Fortuynia garcinii* Leaves- Zabol; DVL, *Draba verna* L.; TAL, *Thlaspi arvense* L.; AIR, *Allium iranshahrii*; AAR, *Allium alamutense* Razyfard, Zarre; ACH, *Allium chrysantherum*; AZA, *Allium zagricum*; VIE, Vitamin E; AMK, Amikacin; CLT, Clotrimazole; DPPH, 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl; MIC, Minimum Inhibitory Concentration; MBC, Minimum Bactericidal Concentration; MFC, Minimum Fungicidal Concentration; PTCC, Persian Type Culture Collection; IBRC, Iranian Biological Resource Centre; UOZH, University of Zabol Herbarium; SD, Standard deviation; GC-MS, Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry; EE, The essential oil extraction efficiency; DMSO, Dimethyl sulfoxide; ABTS, 2,2'-Azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid)

*Corresponding author: hbeyzaei@uoz.ac.ir

doi:

Received 22 February 2024; Received in revised form 20 May 2024; Accepted 21 May 2024

© 2023. Open access. This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License [<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>]

1. Introduction

For many centuries, herbal products were the only available option for the prevention and treatment of many diseases in humans and animals. Plant extracts and essential oils contain valuable chemical compounds that have shown promising potential in the fields of medicine, food, cosmetics, and agriculture [1]. Essential oils are intricate combinations of fragrant substances that occur naturally in various parts of aromatic plants. They are typically colorless or light yellow liquids, soluble in lipid and organic solvents, and with molecular weights less than 300 Da [2, 3].

Developing synthetic preservatives and fragrances in various industries is more expensive compared to natural, plant-based essential oils while the latter could be valueless and even unsafe for human applications. Some chemicals found in manufactured fragrances include endocrine-disrupting activities like phenol and phthalates, and carcinogenic ingredients such as benzene derivatives [4, 5]. In addition, the increasing global tendency towards natural fragrances and additives, due to their safety and health benefits, has boosted the efforts to find natural options to replace synthetic fragrances and preservatives.

The antioxidant, antimicrobial, and antiparasitic activities of essential oils have been well documented and are thought to come from the presence of phenolic functional groups [6]. The essential oils exert their antimicrobial activity through different mechanisms with more efficacy on Gram-positive bacteria than Gram-negative ones [7]. The researchers put a lot of effort into discovering plant-based antioxidant and antimicrobial components all around the world. The antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of a huge number of plants have been investigated worldwide, but there is still a long

way to investigate many other valuable plant resources. Endemic plants that are found in limited phytogeographical, ecological, or political ranges are of critical importance. These invaluable plants are often unknown or inaccessible to many researchers. In addition, they are unique genetic pools of specific geographical regions and could be very important in different aspects. They may contain unique ingredients or characteristics but due to the small population size are prone to extinction, leading to the loss of all possible information and potentials.

The genus *Allium* L. (derived from the Greek word also meaning to avoid, due to the smell of garlic) was described by Carl Linnaeus in 1753 [8]. *Allium* (Amaryllidaceae) with around 1000 species is one of the largest genera in the monocotyledons distributed predominantly in the northern hemisphere [9]. Some of these species have been cultivated and used for centuries, not only as culinary ingredients but also for their medicinal properties. *Allium* is also the largest genus of petaloid monocots in Iran with around 153 species allocated to eight subgenera and 32 sections [10]. Members of this genus occupy many different habitats from sea shores, and the vicinity of salt lakes to montane and even subalpine areas [11]. A few *Allium* species such as *A. cepa*, *A. sativum*, and *A. tenuissimum* have been studied extensively for their chemical composition and antioxidant and antimicrobial properties [12-14]. However, there is no information regarding the biological properties of many endemic species of *Allium* from Iran. Four *Allium* species investigated in this study (*A. alamutense* Razyfard, *A. chrysantherum* Zarre & R.M.Fritsch, *A. iranshahrii* R.M.Fritsch, and *A. zagricum* R.M.Fritsch) are narrow endemics with very limited distribution ranges in West and North West of Iran while distribution range of *A.*

chrysantherum stretches from West of Iran to adjacent countries of Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan.

Fortuynia (Brassicaceae) contains only a single species, *F. garcinii* (Burm.f.) Shuttlew. which is endemic to Iran, Afghanistan, and western Pakistan (*Flora iranica*). the genus name and specific epithet refer to an Indonesian and a French botanist respectively. The plant is perennial, woody at base, glabrous, with simple, entire, ± fleshy leaves and biarticulated broadly winged Siliculae. *Draba verna* L. (*Draba* is Greek for bitter, referring to the taste of the plant and *verna* is Latin for springtime when the plant blooms) is a small annual member of the family Brassicaceae with basal leaves, bifid petals and leafless stems growing widely around the world. *Thlaspi arvense* L. is also a small glabrous annual plant in the family Brassicaceae native to the Mediterranean region but becoming widespread almost all around the world. The generic name comes from a Greek word for cress and *arvense* is derived from the Latin word "arvum" meaning ploughed, pertaining to the cultivated and disturbed lands where it grows [15].

The objective of this study was to gain a background information on antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of four species of the genus *Allium* namely *A. Iranshahrii*, *A. Alamutense*, *A. zagricum* and *A. chrysantherum* as well as three selected species from the Brassicaceae family including *Fortuynia garcinii*, *Draba verna* and *Thlaspi arvense*. Certainly, understanding the background knowledge and applicability of these unique

plants can provide valuable insights into their potential medicinal, nutritional or agricultural benefits.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Plant Material Collection

The wild plant species were collected from their natural habitats during flowering stage. The scientific names, geographical localities, herbarium codes, and characteristics of the examined plant species are provided in Table 1. The plant species were identified using botanical resources by the third and fourth authors, botanists at the Department of Biology, University of Zabol and the curator of the IBRC herbarium, respectively. A herbarium sample of each species was prepared and restored either at the UOZH in Zabol, Iran or IBRC herbarium located in Karaj, Iran (for details see Table 1). A photograph of each studied plant species, its habitat and detailed characteristics has been presented in Fig. 1. The targeted parts of the sampled plants were shade dried for a week, of which 100 g were converted to powder using an electronic machine.

2.2. Essential Oil Extraction

10 g of each powdered material was hydrodistilled for 4 h with 300 ml of distilled water, using a micro-clevenger type apparatus. The volatile fractions were extracted with 10 ml diethyl ether. The extract was dried with 1 g anhydrous magnesium sulfate. Finally, the resulting solution was condensed under a nitrogen stream.

Table 1. The scientific names, geographical distribution, localities, herbarium codes, and characteristics of the examined plant species

No	Species	Family	Herbarium code	Characteristics	Locality	Distribution range	Used part
1	<i>Allium iranshahrii</i> R.M.Fritsch	Amaryllidaceae	1824	Bulbous; Leaves 1-2, laminae broadly ovate to elliptic, upper side with deep furrows; tepals whitish to rose with a broad green to brown median vein, anthers carmine	W Azerbaijan: Piranshahr, Silveh, Mashkan, Chighidarreh mt. 2835m.	NW Iran	Aerial parts
2	<i>Allium alamutense</i> Razyfard, Zarre & R.M.Fritsch	Amaryllidaceae	1616	Bulbous; scape 2-5 cm long; leaves 2, laminae broadly canaliculate; Flowers ± broadly funnel-shaped	Zanjan: Zanjan towards Gilvan, 5 km before Khanchaei Rahdarkhaneh . 2435m	NNW Iran	Aerial parts
3	<i>Allium chrysantherum</i> Boiss. & Reut.	Amaryllidaceae	1630	Bulbous; scape 50-80 cm long; tepals yellow, narrowly linear-lanceolate, all flower parts of the innermost flowers often purple flushed to dark purple	Ilam: Ilam towards Eyvan, Chovar, Reno forest park, 1464m	W Iran to N Iraq, S Turkey and Jordan.	Aerial parts
4	<i>Allium zagricum</i> R.M.Fritsch	Amaryllidaceae	1673	Bulbous; leaf laminae up to 8 cm broad, leaves glossy yellowish-green; tepals lanceolate-triangular, pale lilac	Lorestan: N Khorramabad, Qalemorghi, Taf Mts. 2285m	W Iran (Zagros Mountains)	Aerial parts
5	<i>Fortuynia garcinii</i> (Burm.f.) Shuttlew.	Brassicaceae	UOZH 1505	Perennial with, entire, ± fleshy leaves and, winged Siliculae	Sistan and Baluchestan, Zabol, 25 km from Zabol towards Nehbandan 478m	Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan	Leaves Fruits
6	<i>Fortuynia garcinii</i> (Burm.f.) Shuttlew.	Brassicaceae	UOZH 1506	Perennial with, entire, ± fleshy leaves and, winged Siliculae	Sistan and Baluchestan, Zahedan 25 km from Zahedan towards Khash	Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan	Fruits
7	<i>Draba verna</i> L.	Brassicaceae	UOZH 1507	Small therophyte with basal leaves, bifid petals and leafless stems	Hamedan, Asadabad, Shamsabad village 1673m	Native to Eurasia	Whole plant
8	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i> L.	Brassicaceae	UOZH 1508	Small glabrous therophyte with narrow and toothed stem leaves	Hamedan, Asadabad, Shamsabad village 1673m	Cosmopolitan	Whole plant



Fig. 1. Photographs of the studied plant species and their habitat and some morphological details. A) *Allium chrysantherum*, with a close up of the inflorescence; B) *Allium alamutense*; C) *Allium iranshahrii*; D) *Allium zagricum*; E) *Draba verna*; F) *Thlaspi arvense*, with details of fruiting inflorescence; G) *Fortuynia garcinia*, showing also details of fruits and the sampling for this study

2.3. Antimicrobial Activity

Six Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, two fungal strains and a yeast were tested for their susceptibility to the essential oils extracted from four species of *Allium* and three species of *Brassicaceae*. The standard strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 10145), *Salmonella enterica subsp. enterica* (ATCC 19585), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922), *Staphylococcus aureus* (NCTC 7445), *Streptococcus pyogenes* (ATCC 12204), *Bacillus cereus* (ATCC 14579), *Aspergillus fumigatus* (PTCC 5009), *Fusarium oxysporum* (CBS 620.87) and *Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231) were used in this *in vitro* antimicrobial assay. All microbial strains were brought from the PTCC, Karaj, Iran. The MIC, MBC and MFC values of the essential oils were quantified in sterile 96-well plates by employing microdilution method [16]. The stock solutions of each essential oil were prepared using DMSO as solvent at initial concentrations of 80000, 40000, 20000, 10000, 8000, 4000, 2000, 1000, 500, 250, 125, and 62.5 µg/ml. 20 µl of each stock solution was respectively added to the 1st to 12th wells in each row of the 96-well plate. Then, 100 µl of microbial suspensions and 80 µl of liquid medium were added to all wells. The final concentrations of 8000, 4000, 2000, 1000, 800, 400, 200, 100, 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25 µg/ml of each sample were obtained in each row. The 96-well plates were incubated in 37 °C for 24 h. Amikacin and clotrimazole were applied as positive controls in this study. DMSO was also used as a negative control. While its final concentration was 10% (v/v) in each well, no inhibitory activity was observed with it. Finally, the wells with the least concentration that showed no visual turbidity were identified as the MIC. The MBC and MFC were determined by reculturing the contents of the transparent wells

in MIC phase with the lowest concentration where all microorganisms were disappeared.

2.4. Antioxidant Capacity and IC₅₀ Determination

The antioxidant capacity of essential oils was estimated according to their capacity to scavenge DPPH stable free radicals, as outlined in our previous publications [17, 18]. Initially, methanolic solutions of 50, 100, 200, and 400 µg/ml were created using each essential oil. Then, 3 ml of a fresh DPPH solution (0.004 % w/v) was added to 1 ml of each methanolic solution. The mixture was allowed to rest for 30 minutes in dark at ambient temperature to complete the reaction and discolor DPPH. Finally, a UV spectrophotometer (UV-2100 RAY Leigh) was used to determine the absorbance of each solution at 517 nm. The absorbance of the DPPH solution was read as blank. The equation $I\% = [(A_0 - A_s)/(A_0)] \times 100$ was employed to detect the DPPH scavenging effect in which I % is inhibition percentage, A₀ is the absorbance of the blank and A_s is the absorbance of the test sample. Finally, the antioxidant activity was reported as IC₅₀ values (µg/ml), indicating the required concentration of essential oil to exert 50 % inhibition. A similar procedure was followed for vitamin E which was used as a positive control in this study.

2.5. Statistical Analyses

The tests were performed three times to ensure the validity of the results, with the reported values representing the mean of these three independent trials ± SD. No SD was observed in susceptibility antimicrobial tests. Graphs were constructed using EXCEL software, and the data were statistically analyzed using version 16 of the SPSS software.

3. Results

Volatile oils of all seven species were extracted using steam distillation. The essential oil extraction efficiency was calculated according to the following formula:

$$EE (\%) = [m_o (\text{g}) / m_p (\text{g})] \times 100$$

Where m_o and m_p are the mass of the obtained essential oil and the plant organ. The oil extraction yields were reported in Table 2.

All plants were evaluated for their possible antioxidant and antimicrobial properties. For this purpose, hydrogen-donating ability of essential

oils were investigated against DPPH free radicals, as shown in the Fig. 2. Moderate antioxidant effects were observed with them. *Allium* species were more successful in inhibiting radicals than *Fortuynia*, *Draba* and *Thlaspi* species. The IC_{50} values of *Allium* species were in the limited range of 124.66-128.73 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. In *F. garcinii* samples, Zabol fruit had better effects than its Zahedianian counterpart. DVL and TAL had intermediate antioxidant effects. The IC_{50} values of essential oils were higher than those of vitamin E as standard (10.40 $\mu\text{g/ml}$).

Table 2. The essential oil extraction efficiency of samples

Oils	FFH	FFB	FLB	DVL	TAL	AIR	AAR	ACH	AZA
EE (%)	0.040	0.745	0.208	0.559	0.526	0.161	0.040	0.140	0.035

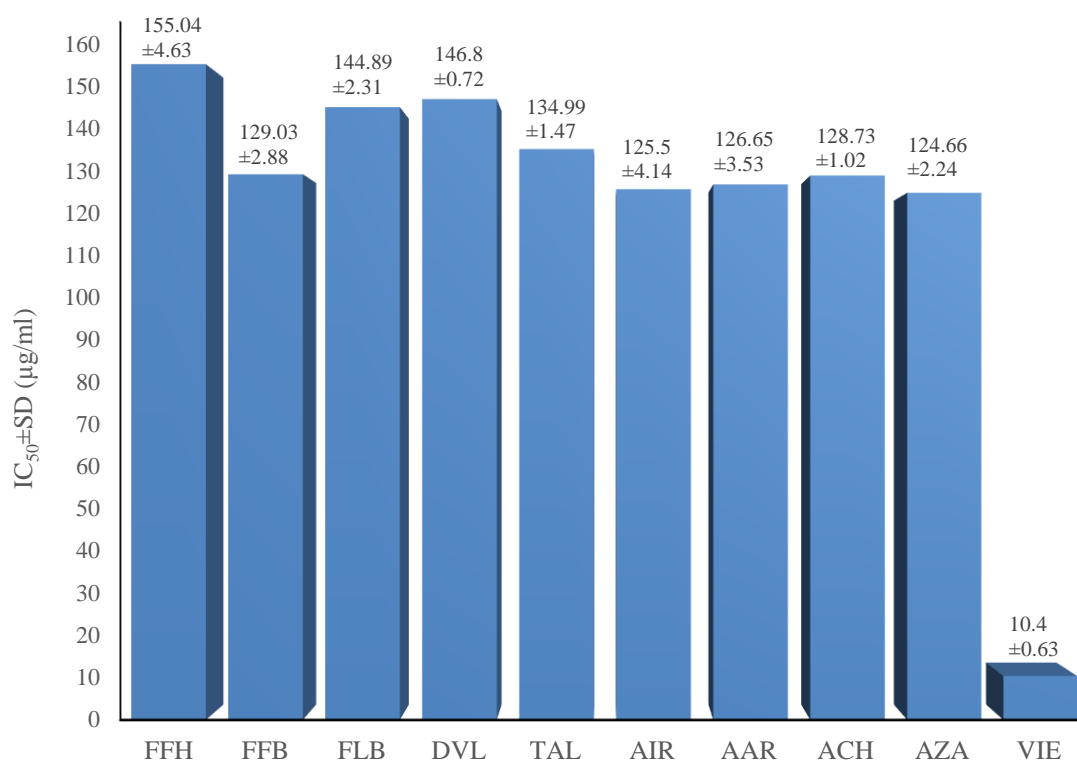


Fig. 2. DPPH free radical scavenging activity of essential oils

Antimicrobial potential of all essential oils was assessed against nine pathogenic bacterial and fungal strains from different genera. The MIC, MBC and MFC values of effective samples were recorded in the range of 25-8000 µg/ml. As shown in Table 3, no inhibitory activity was observed at the highest selective concentration (8 mg/ml) against *B. cereus* and *C. albicans*. Essential oil of FLB was the only effective specie on *S. pyogenes*. All three samples of *Fortuynia*

could inhibit the growth of *S. aureus* strain. AZA and DVL affected only *P. aeruginosa* and *A. fumigatus*, respectively. No antibacterial activity was observed with TAL against tested pathogens. AMK and CLT as positive controls present better inhibitory effects than essential oils with MICs of 0.06-16 and 32-256 µg/ml, respectively. Major essential oils (6 out of 9) could inhibit the growth of *S. aureus* and *A. fumigatus* strains with MICs of 400-8000 and 200-8000 µg/ml, respectively.

Table 3. Antimicrobial properties of essential oils and standards

Strains		Essential oils								Standards		
		FFH	FFB	FLB	DVL	TAL	AIR	AAR	ACH	AZA	AMK	CLT
<i>S. aureus</i>	MIC ^a	400	2000	2000	ND	ND	2000	8000	2000	ND	0.5	-
	MBC ^a	800	2000	2000	ND	ND	2000	8000	2000	ND	1	-
<i>B. cereus</i>	MIC	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.5	-
	MBC	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.5	-
<i>S. pyogenes</i>	MIC	ND	ND	4000	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	1	-
	MBC	ND	ND	4000	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	4	-
<i>E. coli</i>	MIC	100	4000	ND	ND	ND	4000	ND	ND	ND	16	-
	MBC	100	4000	ND	ND	ND	4000	ND	ND	ND	16	-
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	MIC	25	ND	4000	ND	ND	4000	ND	4000	8000	0.06	-
	MBC	25	ND	4000	ND	ND	4000	ND	4000	8000	0.06	-
<i>S. enterica</i>	MIC	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	2000	ND	2000	ND	0.5	-
	MBC	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	2000	ND	4000	ND	1	-
<i>A. fumigatus</i>	MIC	200	ND	2000	2000	ND	1000	8000	2000	ND	-	32
	MFC	200	ND	2000	2000	ND	2000	8000	2000	ND	-	32
<i>F. oxysporum</i>	MIC	200	ND	4000	ND	ND	2000	ND	4000	ND	-	256
	MFC ^a	200	ND	4000	ND	ND	2000	ND	4000	ND	-	512
<i>C. albicans</i>	MIC	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	-	256
	MFC	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	-	512

4. Discussion

The primary treatment of diseases was mainly based on the use of medicinal plants, which is still thriving despite the development of synthetic drugs. For this purpose, the plant itself is

consumed directly or prescribed in the forms of extract and essential oil. These extracts and essential oils can be obtained from aerial and underground organs of plant such as flowers, fruits, leaves, peels, seeds, roots and bark. In this

study, antioxidant and antimicrobial potentials of essential oils of three *Brassicaceae* members and four *Allium* species were assessed against DPPH and a variety of microbial pathogens. No biological investigation was observed on *F. garcinii* despite its use in the treatment of spasm sedative, menstruation additive, and migraine in traditional medicine [19]. The water and ethyl acetate extracts of *D. tortuosa*, a plant closely related to *F. garcinii* and native to Pakistan, exhibited significantly greater antioxidant activity than that of *F. garcinii*. Moreover, its extracts were found to possess potent antibacterial properties effective against a wide range of bacteria and fungi [20]. Antimicrobial and antioxidant data from *D. verna*, *T. arvense*, *A. iranshahrii*, *A. chrysantherum*, *A. zagricum* and *A. alamutense* was also not found for comparison. While none of the investigated *Allium* species in this study have been subjected to antioxidant and antimicrobial examinations, several other species have been extensively studied for their biological activities. *A. rubellum* which is phylogenetically related to *A. iranshahi* [21] showed significant free radical scavenging activity in ABTS and DPPH assays and good antibacterial activity against *E. coli* and *S. aureus* using disc diffusion method [22]. This is in congruence with the results of this paper. The *Allium* species that are phylogenetically close to *A. zagricum*, *A. alamutensis*, and *A. chrysanthemum* have not been studied yet, however, the antimicrobial effect of the widely used *Allium* species such as *A. sativum*, *A. cepa*, and *A. stipitatum* has been demonstrated against various bacteria and fungi, showing wide spectra of bactericide and fungicide properties [23, 24]. The similar antioxidant effects were observed with tested *Allium* species, which was probably to extract similar components during the steam distillation process. Various antimicrobial effects

were observed with the tested species, it can be due to the difference in the species genetics and/or climatic conditions [25]. Plant organ, extraction method, extraction solvent, sensitivity of bacteria, concentration of the extract, and the growth medium are other variables influencing antimicrobial properties [26]. Satyal *et al.* evaluated the chemical compositions of *A. vineale* and *A. sativum* volatile oils [27]. Their GC-MS analysis proved the presence of a wide spectrum of sulfur-containing compounds (>90 %) such as disulfide, 3-methyl/2,4-dimethyl/3,4-dimethylthiophenes, 1,2-dithiolane/dithiolene, [1-propenyl] 2-thiopent-3-yl/propyl 4-thiohept-2-en-5-yl/dimethyl/diallyl sulfides/disulfides, allyl/allyl methyl/methyl propyl/methyl methylthiomethyl/allyl methylthiomethyl/1-propenyl/1-propenyl propyl sulfides/disulfides, diallyl/methyl propyl/methyl 1-propenyl/dimethyl/allyl methyl/allyl propyl/allyl 1-propenyl trisulfides, 4-methyl-1,2,3-trithiolane, 2/3-vinyl-4H-1,2/1,3-dithiines, 1,2,3-trithia-4-cyclohexene, allicin, methyl (methylsulfinyl)methyl sulfide, 5-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrathiane, 1,4-dihydro-2,3-benzoxathiin 3-oxide, diallyl/dimethyl/allyl methyl tetrasulfide, 4-methyl-1,2,3,5,6-pentathiepane and cyclooctasulfur. It appears that the antimicrobial properties of *Brassica* and *Allium* families originate from their volatile sulfur compounds [28, 29]. Blocking effects of diallyl trisulfide, diallyl disulfide, dimethyl trisulfide, diallyl tetrasulfide and allyl isothiocyanate, which are among the compounds present in *Allium* and *Brassica* species, have been proven against *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *E. aerogenes*, *L. mesenteroides*, *P. pentosaceus*, *L. plantarum*, *C. albicans*, *C. utilis*, *S. cerevisiae*, *P. membranifaciens*, *Z. bisporus* and *Z. rouxii* with MICs of from 1 to above 1000 ppm [30]. These components react with thiol (SH) groups of cell

wall proteins to inhibit the growth of microorganisms [31]. Antibacterial and antifungal potentials of ethanolic extracts of *Allium sativum* L. from China and Turkey were investigated on bacterial species including *Enterobacter*, *Bacillus*, *Listeria*, *Enterococcus*, *Salmonella*, *Klebsiella*, *Escherichia*, *Pseudomonas* and *Staphylococcus* as well as *C. albicans* yeast [32]. Inhibition zones were ranged from 7 to 30 mm; Turkish samples was more effective than Chinese samples in killing microorganisms. Antimicrobial effects of essential oils of an *A. sativum* and three *A. cepa* (red, yellow and green) in the concentration range of 50-500 ml/l were assessed on *S. Enteritidis*, *S. aureus*, *P. cyclopium*, *F. oxysporum* and *A. niger* strains [33]. *A. sativum* and green *A. cepa* were identified as the best and worst antimicrobial agents, respectively. The lowest sensitivities were observed with essential oils against *F. oxysporum* and *S. aureus*.

A direct relationship is usually observed between antimicrobial properties and antioxidant potentials of compounds. The antioxidant ability of plants is mainly dependent on their phenolic content. These phenolic compounds prevent oxidative stress via reduction and neutralization of free radicals, coordination to metal ions, and scavenging singlet and triplet oxygen [34]. Phenolic compounds play an important role in the antimicrobial properties of plants. They kill microorganisms by destroying cell walls and proteins, membrane and enzyme dysfunction, and disrupting DNA and RNA replication [35]. It is found that the antibacterial properties of essential oils can be caused by the following factors: 1) The hydrophobic property of the essential oil allows it to penetrate the bacterial cell membrane and causes the release of ions and other internal components of the cells; 2) Phenolic derivatives present in the essential oils such as carvacrol, eugenol, and thymol destroy the cytoplasmic membrane of the cell and interfere with the proton and electric current; 3) Some components

especially cinnamaldehyde can attach to cell proteins such as decarboxylase to prevent its vital function; 4) The presence of aliphatriptin and molecules containing SH group is effective in inhibiting the growth of many microorganisms [36].

5. Conclusion

The antioxidant capacity and antimicrobial activity of essential oils of four *Allium* species and *F. garcinia*, *D. verna*, and *Th. arvense* (Brassicaceae) from Iran were determined for the first time. Moderate antioxidant and moderate to excellent antimicrobial effects were observed with them. Although AZA showed the best antioxidant effects, no antimicrobial effect was observed with it on tested microbial strains. FFH showed more effective and broad-spectrum antimicrobial effects compared to others. Essential oil of FFH can be introduced as a potent antimicrobial agent, its inhibitory effects may be ameliorated by climate change.

Author contributions

H. B. supervised the data collection and prepared the final version of the manuscript. M. D. and A. D. contributed to the plant sampling and identification as well as manuscript preparation. N. M. prepared the essential oils. Z. E. collected the laboratory data. All authors have approved the final version of the manuscript.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest associated with this manuscript. The authors alone are responsible for the content of the paper.

Acknowledgments

The University of Zabol is thanked due to providing financial support, grant numbers IR-UOZ-GR-4711 and IR-UOZ-GR-0331.

References

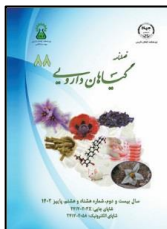
1. Bolouri P, Salami R, Kouhi S, Kordi M, Asgari Lajayer B, Hadian J and Astatkie T. Applications of essential oils and plant extracts in different industries. *Molecules* 2022; 27(24): 8999. doi: 10.3390/molecules27248999.
2. Tisserand R and Young R. Essential oil safety: a guide for health care professionals. Amsterdam: Elsevier Health Sciences; 2nd Ed. 2013.
3. Dreger M and Wielgus K. Application of essential oils as natural cosmetic preservatives. *Herba Pol.* 2013; 59(4): 142-156. doi: 10.2478/hepo-2013-0030.
4. Olujimi OO, Fatoki OS, Odendaal JP and Okonkwo JO. Endocrine disrupting chemicals (phenol and phthalates) in the South African environment: a need for more monitoring. *Water SA* 2010; 36(5): 671-682. doi: 10.4314/wsa.v36i5.62001.
5. Carson PA. Hazardous chemicals handbook. Amsterdam: Elsevier; 2nd Ed. 2002.
6. Vergis J, Gokulakrishnan P, Agarwal RK and Kumar A. Essential oils as natural food antimicrobial agents: a review. *Crit. Rev. Food Sci. Nutr.* 2015; 55(10): 1320-1323. doi: 10.1080/10408398.2012.692127.
7. Bhavaniramy S, Vishnupriya S, Al-Aboody MS, Vijayakumar R and Baskaran D. Role of essential oils in food safety: Antimicrobial and antioxidant applications. *Grain Oil Sci. Technol.* 2019; 2(2): 49-55. doi: 10.1016/j.gaost.2019.03.001.
8. Block E. Garlic other alliums. Cambridge: RSC publishing; 2010.
9. Li Q-Q, Zhou S-D, He X-J, Yu Y, Zhang Y-C and Wei X-Q. Phylogeny and biogeography of *Allium* (Amaryllidaceae: Alliaceae) based on nuclear ribosomal internal transcribed spacer and chloroplast rps16 sequences, focusing on the inclusion of species endemic to China. *Ann. Bot.* 2010; 106(5): 709-733. doi: 10.1093/aob/mcq177.
10. Dolatyari A, Moazzeni H and Fritsch RM. Karyological studies of Iranian *Allium* (Amaryllidaceae) species with a focus on sect. *Acanthoprason*. 2. Meiotic chromosomes. *Plant Biosyst.* 2023; 157(4): 821-834. doi: 10.1080/11263504.2023.2200779.
11. Dolatyari A, Saeidi Mehrvarz S, Shahzadeh Fazeli SA, Naghavi MR and Fritsch RM. Karyological studies of Iranian *Allium* L. (Amaryllidaceae) species with focus on sect. *Acanthoprason*. 1. Mitotic chromosomes. *Plant Syst. Evol.* 2018; 304(5): 583-606. doi: 10.1007/s00606-017-1489-5.
12. Ye C-L, Dai D-H and Hu W-L. Antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of the essential oil from onion (*Allium cepa* L.). *Food Control* 2013; 30(1): 48-53. doi: 10.1016/j.foodcont.2012.07.033.
13. Li M, Zhao X and Xu M. Chemical composition, antimicrobial and antioxidant activity of essential oil from *Allium tenuissimum* L. flowers. *Foods* 2022; 11(23): 3876. doi: 10.3390/foods11233876.
14. Yasin G, Jasim SA, Mahmudiono T, Al-Shawi SG, Shichiyakh RA, Shoukat S, Kadhim AJ, Iswanto AH, Saleh MM and Fenjan M. Investigating the effect of garlic (*Allium sativum*) essential oil on foodborne pathogenic microorganisms. *Food Sci. Technol.* 2022; 42: 1-6. doi: 10.1590/fst.03822.
15. Hedge IC and Rechinger KH. Cruciferae. In: Rechinger KH. Flora Iranica. Graz: Akademische Druck- u. Verlagsanstalt; 1968: 372-408.
16. Beyzaei H, Khosravi Z, Aryan R and Ghasemi B. A green one-pot synthesis of 3(5)-substituted 1,2,4-triazol-5(3)-amines as potential antimicrobial agents. *J. Iran. Chem. Soc.* 2019;

- 16(12): 2565-2573. doi: 10.1007/s13738-019-01714-2.
- 17.** Ebrahimnezhad Z, Dehghani M and Beyzaei H. Assessment of phenolic and flavonoid contents, antioxidant properties, and antimicrobial activities of *Stocksia brahuica Benth.* *Int. J. Basic Sci. Med.* 2022; 7(1): 34-40. doi: 10.34172/ijbsm.2022.07.
- 18.** Beyzaei H, Kamali Deljoo M, Aryan R, Ghasemi B, Zahedi MM and Moghaddam-Manesh MR. Green multicomponent synthesis, antimicrobial and antioxidant evaluation of novel 5-amino-isoxazole-4-carbonitriles. *Chem. Cent. J.* 2018; 12(1): 1-8. doi: 10.1186/s13065-018-0488-0.
- 19.** Sadat-Hosseini M, Farajpour M, Boroomand N and Solaimani-Sardou F. Ethnopharmacological studies of indigenous medicinal plants in the south of Kerman, Iran. *J. Ethnopharmacol.* 2017; 199: 194-204. doi: 10.1016/j.jep.2017.02.006.
- 20.** Ullah I, Iqbal T, Ullah F, Aslam MM, Mehmood S, Khan M, Rehman SU and Hussain M. Phytochemical screening, antimicrobial and antioxidant properties of *Douepia tortuosa* Camb., a crucifer endemic to Pakistan. *Pak. J. Bot.* 2024; 56(3). doi: 10.30848/pjb2024-3(39).
- 21.** Zarei H, Fakheri BA, Naghavi MR and Mahdinezhad N. Phylogenetic relationships of Iranian *Allium* species using the matK (cpDNA gene) region. *J. Plant Biotechnol.* 2020; 47(1): 15-25. doi: 10.5010/JPB.2020.47.1.015.
- 22.** Thakur A, Singh S, Dulta K, Singh N, Ali B, Hafeez A, Vodnar DC and Marc RA. Nutritional evaluation, phytochemical makeup, antibacterial and antioxidant properties of wild plants utilized as food by the Gaddis-a tribal tribe in the Western Himalayas. *Front. Agron.* 2022; 4: 1010309. doi: 10.3389/fagro.2022.1010309.
- 23.** Barbu IA, Ciorîță A, Carpa R, Moț AC, Butiuc-Keul A and Pârvu M. Phytochemical characterization and antimicrobial activity of several *Allium* extracts. *Molecules* 2023; 28(10): 3980. doi: 10.3390/molecules28103980.
- 24.** Karunanidhi A, Ghaznavi-Rad E, Jeevajothi Nathan J, Abba Y, Belkum AV and Neela V. *Allium stipitatum* extract exhibits in vivo antibacterial activity against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and accelerates burn wound healing in a full-thickness murine burn model. *eCAM.* 2017; 2017: 1914732. doi: 10.1155/2017/1914732.
- 25.** Ncube NS, Afolayan AJ and Okoh AI. Assessment techniques of antimicrobial properties of natural compounds of plant origin: current methods and future trends. *Afr. J. Biotechnol.* 2008; 7(12): 1797-1806. doi: 10.5897/AJB07.613.
- 26.** Hadacek F and Greger H. Testing of antifungal natural products: methodologies, comparability of results and assay choice. *Phytochem. Anal.* 2000; 11(3): 137-147. doi: 10.1002/(SICI)1099-1565 (200005/06)11:3 <137::AID-PCA514>3.0.CO;2-I.
- 27.** Satyal P, Craft JD, Dosoky NS and Setzer WN. The chemical compositions of the volatile oils of garlic (*Allium sativum*) and wild garlic (*Allium vineale*). *Foods* 2017; 6(8): 63. doi: 10.3390/foods6080063.
- 28.** Kyung KH. Antimicrobial activity of volatile sulfur compounds in foods. In: Qian MC, Fan X and Mahattanatawee K. Volatile Sulfur Compounds in Food. Washington: American Chemical Society; 2011: 323-338. doi: 10.1021/bk-2011-1068.ch016.
- 29.** Kim S, Kubec R and Musah RA. Antibacterial and antifungal activity of sulfur-containing compounds from *Petiveria alliacea* L. *J. Ethnopharmacol.* 2006; 104(1-2): 188-192. doi: 10.1016/j.jep.2005.08.072.
- 30.** Kim JW, Kim YS and Kyung KH. Inhibitory activity of essential oils of garlic and onion

- against bacteria and yeasts. *J. Food Prot.* 2004; 67(3): 499-504. doi: 10.4315/0362-028X-67.3.499.
- 31.** Kyung KH. Antimicrobial properties of *Allium* species. *Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.* 2012; 23(2): 142-147. doi: 10.1016/j.copbio.2011.08.004.
- 32.** Yetgin A, Canlı K and Altuner EM. Comparison of antimicrobial activity of *Allium sativum* cloves from China and Taşköprü, Turkey. *Adv. Pharmacol. Pharmaceu. Sci.* 2018; 2018: 9302840. doi: 10.1155/2018/9302840.
- 33.** Benkeblia N. Antimicrobial activity of essential oil extracts of various onions (*Allium cepa*) and garlic (*Allium sativum*). *LWT-Food Sci. Technol.* 2004; 37(2): 263-268. doi: 10.1016/j.lwt.2003.09.001.
- 34.** Rudrapal M, Khairnar SJ, Khan J, Dukhyil AB, Ansari MA, Alomary MN, Alshabrmi FM, Palai S, Deb PK and Devi R. Dietary polyphenols and their role in oxidative stress-induced human diseases: insights into protective effects, antioxidant potentials and mechanism(s) of action. *Front. Pharmacol.* 2022; 13: 806470. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2022.806470.
- 35.** Foroughi A, Pournaghi P, Zhaleh M, Zangeneh A, Zangeneh MM and Moradi R. Antibacterial activity and phytochemical screening of essential oil of *Foeniculum vulgare*. *Int. J. Pharm. Clin. Res.* 2016; 8(11): 1505-1509.
- 36.** Swamy MK, Akhtar MS and Sinniah UR. Antimicrobial properties of plant essential oils against human pathogens and their mode of action: an updated review. *Evid. Based Complement. Alternat. Med.* 2016; 2016: 3012462. doi: 10.1155/2016/3012462.

How to cite this article: Ebrahimnezhad Z, Mahdinezhad N, Beyzaei H, Dehghani M, Dolatyari AR. Antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of essential oils from seven species of *Amaryllidaceae* and *Brassicaceae*. *Journal of Medicinal Plants* 2023; 22(88): 36-48.

doi:



فصلنامه گیاهان دارویی

Journal homepage: www.jmp.irپژوهشکده گیاهان دارویی
جهاد دانشگاهی

مقاله تحقیقاتی

فعالیت‌های ضد میکروبی و آنتی‌اکسیدانی اسانس‌هایی از هفت گونه نرگسیان و شب بویان

زهر ابراهیم نژاد^۱، نفیسه مهدی نژاد^۱، حمید بیضائی^{۲*}، مهدی دهقانی^۳، علیرضا دولتیار^۴^۱گروه اصلاح نباتات و بیوتکنولوژی، دانشکده کشاورزی، دانشگاه زابل، زابل، ایران^۲گروه شیمی، دانشکده علوم، دانشگاه زابل، زابل، ایران^۳گروه زیست، دانشکده علوم، دانشگاه زابل، زابل، ایران^۴بانک گیاهی، مرکز منابع زیستی ایران، مجتمع تحقیقاتی جهاد دانشگاهی، کرج، ایران

چکیده

اطلاعات مقاله

گل‌واژگان:

Allium

عوامل ضدباکتریایی

عوامل ضدقارچی

آنتی‌اکسیدان‌ها

اسانس‌ها

Fortuynia garcinia

مقدمه: اسانس‌ها در طول تاریخ جهت مصارف مختلفی مورد استفاده قرار گرفته‌اند. این مواد معطر در طب جایگزین، رایحه درمانی و محصولات مراقبت شخصی به طور فزاینده‌ای محبوب شده‌اند. **هدف:** در این مطالعه، اسانس‌هایی از اندام‌های هوایی چهار گونه *Allium* و سه گونه *Brassicaceae* شامل *Fortuynia garcinii*، *Draba verna* و *Thlaspi arvense* از نظر خواص آنتی‌اکسیدانی، ضدباکتریایی و ضدقارچی مورد ارزیابی قرار گرفتند. **روش بررسی:** خواص مهارکنندگی رادیکالی با استفاده از آزمون DPPH مورد آزمایش قرار گرفت. فعالیت ضد میکروبی اسانس‌ها علیه نه عامل بیماری‌زای استاندارد: سه باکتری گرم-مثبت شامل *استافیلوکوکوس اورئوس*، *باسیلوس سرئوس*، *استرپتوکوکوس پیوژنز*، سه باکتری گرم-منفی شامل *شریشیا کلی*، *سودوموناس آنروژینوزا*، *سالمونلا انتریکا* زیرگونه *انتریکا* و دو قارچ *آسپرژیلوس فومیگاتوس*، *فوساریوم آکسی پروم* و همچنین مخمر *کاندیدا آلبیکنس* مورد بررسی قرار گرفت. **نتایج:** مقادیر IC_{50} سنجش آنتی‌اکسیدانی در گستره ۱۲۴/۶۶ تا ۱۵۵/۰۴ میکروگرم بر میلی‌لیتر بودند. *Allium zagricum* با IC_{50} ۱۲۴/۶۶ میکروگرم بر میلی‌لیتر بهترین اثرات آنتی‌اکسیدانی را در برابر ویتامین E استاندارد (با IC_{50} ۱۰/۴۰ میکروگرم بر میلی‌لیتر) نشان داد. به همین ترتیب، مقادیر MIC ۲۰۰-۴۰۰ میکروگرم بر میلی‌لیتر به عنوان بهترین اثرات ضد میکروبی از میوه‌های *Fortuynia garcinii*-زاهدان کسب گردید، درحالی‌که از مقادیر MIC ثبت شده برای کنترل‌های مثبت (۱۶-۰/۰۶) برای آمیکاسین و ۲۵۶-۳۲ برای کلوتریمازول) بالاتر بودند. به ترتیب بهترین اثر آنتی‌اکسیدانی و ضد میکروبی را نشان دادند. **نتیجه‌گیری:** اسانس‌های مستخرج از *Allium zagricum* و *Fortuynia garcinii* را می‌توان در درمان بیماری‌های عفونی و مرتبط با استرس اکسایشی تجویز کرد.

مخفف‌ها: FFH: میوه‌های *Fortuynia garcinii*-زاهدان؛ FFB: میوه‌های *Fortuynia garcinii*-زابل؛ FLB: برگ‌های *Fortuynia garcinii*-زابل؛ DVL: *Draba verna* L.؛ TAL: *Thlaspi arvense* L.؛ AIR: *Allium iranshahrii*؛ AAR: *Allium alamutense* Razafard, Zarre؛ ACH: *Allium chrysantherum*؛ AZA: *Allium zagricum*؛ VIE: ویتامین E؛ AMK: آمیکاسین؛ CLT: کلوتریمازول؛ DPPH: ۲،۲-دی فنیل-۱-پیکریل هیدرازیل؛ MIC: حداقل غلظت بازدارندگی؛ MBC: حداقل غلظت کشندگی باکتریایی؛ MFC: حداقل غلظت کشندگی قارچی؛ PTCC: مرکز منطقه‌ای میکروارگانیسم‌های ایران؛ IBRC: مرکز منابع زیستی ایران؛ UOZH: هرباریوم دانشگاه زابل؛ SD: انحراف استاندارد؛ GC-MS: کروماتوگرافی گازی-طیف سنجی جرمی؛ EE: راندمان استخراج اسانس؛ DMSO: دی‌متیل سولفوکسید؛ ABTS: ۲،۲-آزینو-بیس(اتیل بنزوتیازولین-۶-سولفونیک اسید)

* نویسنده مسؤول: hbeyzaei@uoz.ac.ir

تاریخ دریافت: ۳ اسفند ۱۴۰۲؛ تاریخ دریافت اصلاحات: ۳۱ اردیبهشت ۱۴۰۳؛ تاریخ پذیرش: ۱ خرداد ۱۴۰۳

doi:

© 2023. Open access. This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License [<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>]