

Antimicrobial Activity of *Rauwolfia Serpentina*

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ABSTRACT The disc diffusion method confirmed the antimicrobial activity of *Rauwolfia serpentina* at concentrations ranging from 50-1000 µg against 7.0×10^8 cells of *S. aureus*, *Y. enterocolitica*, *S. typhi*, *S. typhimurium*, *E. coli* and *C. albicans*. The minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) of *R. serpentina* crude extract was 250 µg/ml as determined by tube dilution method against *S. aureus* and *Y. enterocolitica*. It was found that the MIC of *R. serpentina* against *E. coli*, *S. typhi*, *S. typhimurium* and *C. albicans* was 500 µg/ml indicating that *R. serpentina* was more effective against *S. aureus* and *Y. enterocolitica*, than other pathogens tested. But the zone of inhibition formed at 1000 µg concentration suggests that this herbal extract was much more effective against *Y. enterocolitica* (29 mm). These results indicate that *R. serpentina* has a potent broad spectral antimicrobial activity.