

Evaluation of the Anti-Microbial and Anti-Inflammatory Properties of True Frangipani (*Plumeria Rubra*) for the Prevention and Treatment of Diseases in Animal Agriculture

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ABSTRACT

To study detailed the evaluation of frangipani (*Plumeria rubra*) leaves and flowers as anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory agents for the prevention and treatment of diseases in animal agriculture. *Plumeria rubra* commonly known as Temple tree belongs to the family Apocynaceae. The leaves of *Plumeria rubra* issued traditionally for the treatment of ulcer, leprosy, inflammation, rheumatism, bronchitis, cholera, rubifacient, cold cough, sedative and analgesic. Leaf powder of *Plumeria rubra* was subjected to physico-chemical and phyto-chemical analysis. Preliminary phytochemical screening showed the presence of sterols, carbohydrates, flavonoids, protein, alkaloids, cyanogenic glycosides, tannins, saponins, mucilage and volatile oils. The results of the study can serve as a valuable source of information and provide suitable standards for the prevention and treatment of diseases in animal agriculture.

Keywords: *Plumeria rubra*, Anti-microbial, Anti-inflammatory, Diseases, Physio-chemical, Phyto-chemical evaluation.

INTRODUCTION

Plumeria rubra L. a member of family Apocyanaceae is a common ornamental plant. Distributed throughout the tropics and cultivated near gardens. A deciduous fleshy stemmed tree grows up to 15 meters in height. This plant is well known for their religious value, cosmetic importance and tremendous potential to be used as medicinal agents to cure infections, digestive diseases, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic action, anti-tumor potential, anti-oxidant properties. The plant is also mainly grown for its ornamental and fragrant flowers.

The plant material is widely used as a purgative, febrifuge and remedy for diarrhoea and cure for itch. The leaves were reported to have analgesic-antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant properties. Odoemelam *et al.*, (2020) indicated that 10kg of *Plumeria rubra* leaf meal added to the diet of Hy-line brown birds favours hen day production, egg weight, shell weight and feed efficiency of the tested animals. Uduji *et al.*, (2020) however reported that the appreciable level of fat in the *Plumeria rubra* flower meal based diets as additives might

have accounted for the egg weight of birds fed these diets. The flowers have been reported to be useful as antioxidant and hypolipidemic. Leaves simple, arranged in a whorl, with prominent veins, crowded at the end of branches. In traditional medicinal system different parts of the plant have been mentioned to be useful in a variety of diseases.

Flowers are white, reddish pink and bluish with fragrance (Rupali and Alka, 2014). The Pink flowers of *Plumeria* is due to phenolic compound and is found to be a good source of natural dye for cloth (Kalam *et al.*, 2014). The fruit is edible, latex is applied to ulcers, herpes and scabies and seeds possess haemostatic properties. Root is bitter, carminative, and thermogenic (Ilyaset *et al.*, 2016). Leaves are useful in inflammation, rheumatism, antibacterial, antifungal, bronchitis and antipyretic (Gunja *et al.*, 2017). Extract of leaves of *Plumeria rubra* (L.) showed significant antibacterial activity against *Streptococcus. Epidermidis* and *Escherischia strains* (Singh, 2010). Methanolic extract showed antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus*

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anthracis, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The plant is reported to contain amyriacetate, mixture of amyriins, β - sitosterol, scopotetin, the iriddoids isoplumericin, plumieride, plumieride coumerate and plumieride coumerate glucoside (Egwaikhide *et al.*, 2009).

The fruit is reported to be eaten in West Indies. In India, however, it has been used as an abortifacient. The flowers are aromatic and bechic and widely used in pectoral syrups. The essential oils from the flowers used for perfumery and aromatherapy purposes. Pod has abortifacient and hepatoprotective effects (Dawada, 2015). Bark is antinociceptive and anti-inflammatory. Leaves are found to have antiulcer activity, whereas flowers have profound antioxidant effects (Ogunwande *et al.*, 2015). Flower of *Plumeria* was found to be a good source of natural dye for producing various green, ivory and brown shades on silk cloth.

The importance of medicinal and aromatic crops in the national economy and their potential for the rapid growth of phyto pharmaceuticals, perfumery and allied industries in Nigeria has been emphasized from time to time. Medicinal plants belong to the oldest known health care products that have been used by mankind all over the world in the form of folklore medicines or traditional or ethnic medicine (Santhi, 2010). The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about 4 billion people, 80% of the world population presently use herbal medicine for some aspect of primary health care (Reddy *et al.*, 1999). In almost all the traditional medicine, the medicinal plants play a major role and constitute the backbone of the traditional medicine.

Medicinal plants are inextricably inter-twined with the rich history, culture and culinary tradition of India. India has a rich and glorious ethno medical heritage. The endurance of herbal medicine may be explained often without side effects both on the illness and its symptoms. Various latest technological developments have led to increased accuracy in Estimation, Purification, Separation and Determination of principle and therapeutically active constituents in crude drugs. *Plumeria rubra* commonly known as Temple tree a small fugitive artistic tree belongs to the family Apocynaceae. It is a small deciduous tree with thick branches and copious milky juice; bark corky, fissured. Leaves 15-30 cm long,

oblanceolate, thick. Flowers have 5 cm across, white with yellow centre, in terminal peduncle cymes. Various parts of the plant are useful as medicine. In Ayurveda it is used in malarial fevers, antiseptic and stimulant (Kumar *et al.*, 2011). The leaves of *Plumeria rubra* Linn is used in the treatments of ulcer, leprosy, inflammation, rheumatism, bronchitis, cholera, rubifacient, cold and cough (Dhanapal *et al.*, 2018). *Plumeria rubra* Linn plant is traditionally used for the treatment of diarrhea, dysentery and typhoid.

The emergence of antimicrobial resistant bacteria pathogens has become a major public health concern. The use of antimicrobials in any area including disease treatment can potentially lead to widespread dissemination of antimicrobial resistant bacteria. The increasing prevalence of antimicrobial drug-resistant bacteria is a major concern to human and veterinary medicine. Resistant bacteria include both pathogens and commensal organism, with the later serving as a potential reservoir for mobile resistant elements. Since the plant kingdom still holds many species of plants containing substances of medicinal values, which are yet to be discovered. *Plumeria rubra* is one of the plants which have been used in traditional medicine for many years (Oladipupo *et al.*, 2015).

Therefore, this study is designed to evaluate the anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties of true frangipani (*Plumeria rubra*) for the prevention and treatment of diseases in animal agriculture, test for the activities of the hexane, ethyl acetate and methanol leaf and flower extracts of *Plumeria rubra* against four species of Gram negative and ten species of Gram positive bacteria strains. The results of the preliminary phytochemical analysis will provide suggestions as to the probable secondary metabolites responsible for the activities of the extracts.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection and Authentication

Plumeria rubra leaf was collected, from in and around the botany garden of the Forestry Department, Imo State Polytechnic Umuagwo, Nigeria and authenticated by taxonomist and the plant authenticated specimen is deposited in the Department of Science Laboratory Technology of the institution. Authentication specimens of the fresh leaves were kept for shade drying.

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Dried specimen was powdered using mechanical grinder and passed through 60 mesh sieve to get the powder of desired coarseness. Powdered material was preserved in an air tight container.

Extraction of Plant material

For preliminary phytochemical analysis, extract was prepared by weighing 1kg of the dried powdered leaf was subjected to hot successive continuous extraction with different solvents as per the polarity, petroleum ether, benzene, chloroform, ethanol and aqueous. The extracts were filtered in each step using Whatman filters paper. The filtrate was concentrated using rotary evaporator at low temperature (40-45°C) and pressure. The presence or absence of the primary and secondary Phyto-constituents was detected by usual prescribed methods (Dhanapal *et al.*, 2018).

Table1. Physico - Chemical Evaluation of the Crude Drug of Leaf of *Plumeria rubra*.

S/No	Physical Evaluation	%w/w
1.	Total Ash	6.03
2.	Acid Insoluble Ash	3.94
3.	Water Soluble Ash	2.42
4.	Loss on Drying	0.5

Table2. Preliminary Phytochemical Tests for Drug Powder and Various Extracts of Leaf of *Plumeria rubra*

S. No	Test Drug Powder	Petroleum	Ether Extract	Benzene Extract	Chloroform Extract	Ethanol Extract	Aqueous Extract
	Sterols	+	+	+	+	+	-
	Terpenoids	-	-	-	-	+	-
	Carbohydrates	+	-	-	-	+	+
	Flavonoids	+	-	-	-	+	+
	Proteins	+	-	-	-	+	+
	Alkaloids	+	-	-	-	+	+
	Glycosides	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Saponins	+	-	-	-	+	+
	Tannins	+	-	-	-	+	+
	Mucilages	+	-	-	-	+	+
	Volatile Oil	+	-	-	-	-	-

+ indicates positive reaction, -indicates negative reaction.

Antimicrobial Activities

These were done according to the disc diffusion method. For the test, 100 mg of the crude extract of *Plumeria rubra* was accurately measured by the electronic balance and taken into vial. Then one ml of ethanol was added and triturated in uni-directional manner. Both gram positive and gram negative bacteria were used. The bacteria used for the anti-microbial activity of Ethanolic crude extract of the *Plumeria rubra* were *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Salmonellaparatyphi*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcuspyogenes*. In this method, measured amount of the test

Preparation of Crude Extract

The flowers collected was dried under shade and then powdered with a mechanical grinder and stored in airtight container. The dried powder material of the flowers was defatted with n-hexane and allowed to dry. The product thus obtained was then extracted with methanol in a Soxhlet apparatus. The solvent was completely removed under reduced pressure and a semisolid mass was obtained.

Physico chemical features

The powdered drug was evaluated for its physico-chemical parameters like total ash values, acid insoluble ash, water soluble ash and loss on drying, and the results were tabulated (Table 1).

samples were dissolved in definite volumes of solvent to give solutions of known concentration ($\mu\text{g/ml}$). Then sterile Matricel (BBL, Cocksville, USA) filter paper discs are impregnated with known amount of test substances using micropipette and dried. Standard antibiotic discs and discs on which the solvent used to dissolve the samples is adsorbed and dried were used as positive and negative controls respectively.

These discs are then placed in petri-dishes (120 mm india meter) containing a suitable agar medium seeded with the test organisms using sterile transfer loop for anti-microbial evaluation. The plates are then kept at 40°C for

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facilitating maximum diffusion. The test material diffuses from the discs to the surrounding medium. The plates are then kept in an incubator for 18-24 hours to allow the growth of the microorganisms. The antibacterial activity of the test agent is determined by measuring the diameter of the zone of inhibition in term of millimeter. It is concluded that the plant possesses potent antimicrobial activity (Gupta *et al.*, 2008).

Anti-Inflammatory and Anthelmintic Activities

The methanolic extract of *Plumeria acuminata* exhibited significant anti-inflammatory activity on the tested experimental animal models. The extract (500 mg) exhibited maximum anti-inflammatory effect. Carrageenan-induced oedema has been commonly used as an experimental animal model for acute inflammation and is believed to be biphasic. The cotton pellet method is widely used to evaluate the proliferative components of the chronic inflammation. The results obtained in this study indicated that the methanol extract of *P. acuminata* possess potent anti-inflammatory activity in both acute and chronic models (Gupta *et al.*, 2006).

The saponins extract was used for testing anti-inflammatory and anthelmintic activity of *P. rubra* leaves. The anti-inflammatory activity was evaluated by determining the reduction in carrageenan induced hind paw edema in albino

mice. The result of the maximum dose of 200mg/kg *P. rubra* extract exhibited a significant reduction in the volume of inflammation. The anthelmintic effect of *P. rubra* extract of 25mg/ml concentration is comparable with that of the effect produced by reference standards piperazine citrate on Indian adult earthworms (*Pheretima posthuma*) (Kumar *et al.*, 2009).

The chloroform and ethanolic extract of *P. rubra* leaves shows antiulcer activity in albino rats.

DISCUSSION

All the extracts of the drug was subjected to different tests for detecting the presence of various phyto-constituents present in the drug, which revealed the presence of sterols, flavonoids, alkaloids, saponins, proteins, carbohydrate, volatile oil and tannins (Table 2). Preliminary phyto-chemical analysis indicated a high percentage of quercetin and flavonoids and this may be one of the reasons behind the sedative activity of the plant. These parameters, which are being reported for the first time in this plant, are significant towards establishing the Pharmacognostic standards for future identification and authentication of genuine plant material. Though *Plumeria rubra* is a temple tree, it is a highly reputed drug used for the prevention and treatment of diseases in animal agriculture.



Fig1a: Dorsal View of the leaf



Fig1b: Ventral view of the leaf



Fig1c: Flowers



Fig2: *Plumeria rubra* flower meal



Fig3: *Plumeria rubra* leaf meal

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The literature survey revealed that the various species of *Plumeria* is an important source of many pharmacologically and medicinally important chemicals such as *plumeride*, *isoplumeride*, *fluvoplumericin*, *irriod* glycoside and other various minor secondary metabolites. Study of pharmacological activities with different extracts obtained from different parts of the plant (Fig: 1, 2 and 3) with difference in vitro and in vivo model, which show that the compounds have beneficial effects against a number of diseases. The plant has been widely studied for its pharmacological activities and regarded as universal panacea in ethno - veterinary medicines and find its position as a versatile plant having a wide spectrum of medicinal activities. As the global scenario is now changing towards the use of non-toxic plant products, development of modern drugs from *Plumeria* species should be emphasized.

Clinical trials should be conducted to support its therapeutic use. It is also important to recognize that its extracts may be effective not only isolation, but may actually have a modulating effect when given in combination with others.

Plumeria rubra extracts were evaluated for antimicrobial activity using cup plate method and minimum inhibitory concentration against *Escheria Coli*, *Bacillussubtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Aspergillus niger*. It was observed that a methanol extract exhibited significant activity against bacterial strains. When compared with *Ciprtofloxacin* as a standard, aqueous extract was active against fungal strains as compared with standard *Flucanazole* (Surendra et al., 2012).

CONCLUSION

World Health Organization (WHO) has emphasized the need to ensure quality control of the raw materials used for ethno-veterinary medicines by using modern techniques, by applying suitable parameters and standards. In the present study various standardization parameters such as macroscopy, microscopy (histochemical and powder), physicochemical standards, preliminary phytochemical investigation, which are being reported for the first time in this plant could be helpful in authentication and preparation of a suitable monograph for the proper identification of *Plumeria rubra* for the future.

The prevention of oxidative damage to tissue could therefore be one of the mechanisms responsible for the anti-inflammatory effect shown by this plant. Confirmation of the anti-inflammatory activity in animal model further justifies the traditional use of this plant for inflammatory disorders. The ethno medical use of *P. rubra* as a useful remedy in inflammatory and arthritic disorders could possibly be because of its excellent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant potential.

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