



THE ANTIMICROBIAL PROPERTIES OF EXTRACTS OBTAINED FROM *BEGONIA GOEGOENSIS* N.E.BR. LEAF AGAINST *PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA* ISOLATES

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The present study was designed to evaluate the antibacterial property of crude extracts of the leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* N.E.Br. prepared in different solvent systems against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27583) and β -lactamases producing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (MBL-positive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) strains. Therefore, five kinds of solvents were used to extract the active ingredients from the leaves of *Begonia goegoensis*: ethanol, methanol, ethyl acetate, hexane, and dichloromethane. The testing of antibacterial activity of the plant extracts was carried out *in vitro* by Kirby-Bauer disc diffusion technique. Subsequently, the present study has shown that ethanolic extract from the leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* exhibited strong activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (inhibition zone diameter ranged from 12 mm to 13 mm), while methanolic leaf extract screened revealed less profound activity (within 11–12.5 mm). Moreover, it has been observed that ethyl acetate, hexane and dichloromethane extracts obtained from leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* revealed no antibacterial activity against *P. aeruginosa* and MBL-positive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strains. MBL-positive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was also susceptible to ethanolic and methanolic extracts (inhibition zone diameter ranged from 12.5 mm to 15.5 mm). Thus, the spectrum of activity observed in the present study indicate that the alcoholic leaf extract of *Begonia goegoensis* could be a possible source to obtain new and effective herbal medicines to treat various infectious diseases, including infections, caused by drug resistant microorganisms.

Keywords: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; *Begonia goegoensis*; leaf extract; antimicrobial activity ; Kirby-Bauer disc diffusion technique

Introduction

Pseudomonas aeruginosa is an infectious bacterial species, capable to infecting and promoting disease in different tissues, and responsible for remarkable morbidity and mortality rates in humans (Doosti et al., 2013). Several mechanisms are involved in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* resistance to antimicrobial agents, such as chromosomal expression of resistance encoding genes, β -lactamase production, efflux pumps and a decrease in membrane permeability (Rodrigues et al., 2011; Doosti et al. 2013). One of the mechanisms of resistance to carbapenem antibiotics in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is metallo- β -lactamases (MBL) production that hydrolyzes all carbapenems (Lepsanovic et al., 2008; Chin et al., 2011; Doosti et al., 2013).

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In the past years, the pharmaceutical industry has been focused mainly on libraries of synthetic compounds as drug discovery source. However, at the same time a declining trend in the number of new drugs reaching the market has been observed, raising renewed scientific interest in drug discovery from natural sources despite its known advantages and benefits, e.g. cost-effectiveness and global availability as well as their safety compared to other medicinal products and the lack of major side-effects (Atanasov et al., 2015; Yamani et al., 2016).

Medicinal plants have a great potential as antimicrobial compounds sources against microorganisms for providing novel drug leads with the proven mechanism of action (Singh et al., 2012; Venkatadri et al., 2015). Moreover, plant extracts can be used in the treatment of infectious diseases caused by drug resistant microorganisms (Venkatadri et al., 2015).

Begonia L. is one of the most species-rich angiosperm genera with approximately 1500 species currently recognized (Frodin, 2004). Within the genus *Begonia*, there is a large range of morphological diversity, particularly in vegetative form, and this is linked to adaptation to a variety of ecological conditions. Vegetative adaptations such as the evolution of perennial rhizomes, leaf micromorphology optimized for low, scattered light; or stomatal clustering may underlie their ability to thrive in diverse niches (Dewitte et al., 2011).

Begonia species are globally important ornamental plants widely used in cultivation. However, in their native environments, many *Begonia* species are rare and threatened by deforestation (Chan et al., 2015). Since *Begonia* genus is widespread in tropical regions of the world, its species have been used by local people as folk or traditional herbal medicines. Moreover, phytochemical investigations of *Begonia* species have revealed that many compounds, isolated from this genus are highly bioactive (Tsybulya et al., 2010; Karpova et al., 2011).

Consequently, in the present work, extracts prepared in different solvent systems obtained from crude leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* N.E.Br. were evaluated for its antibacterial property against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27583) and β -lactamases producing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (MBL-positive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*). This *Begonia* species belonging to Begoniaceae family has been selected, because the antimicrobial activity of *Begonia* species has been well studied (Tsybulya et al., 2010; Karpova et al., 2011).

Materials and methodology

Collection of Plant Material

The leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* (Figure 1) plants, cultivated under glasshouse conditions, were sampled at M.M. Gryshko National Botanical Garden, National Academy of Science of Ukraine.

Preparation of Plant Extracts

Freshly sampled leaves were washed, weighted, crushed, and homogenized in 96% ethanol, methanol, ethyl acetate, hexane, and dichloromethane (in ratio 1 : 19) at room temperature. All extracts were stored at 4 °C until use.

Bacterial Growth Inhibition Test of Plant Extracts by the Disk Diffusion Method

The antimicrobial activity of the extract was evaluated by the agar disk diffusion assay (Bauer et al., 1966). Strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27583) and locally isolated MBL-positive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were suspended in sterile solution of 0.9% normal saline and the turbidity adjusted equivalent to that of a 0.5 McFarland standard. Culture was inoculated onto Mueller-Hinton

(MH) agar plates. Sterile filter paper discs impregnated with extracts were applied over each of the culture plates. Isolates of bacteria were then incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. The plates were then observed for the zone of inhibition produced by the antibacterial activity of extracts obtained from leaves of *Begonia goegoensis*. Negative control discs impregnated with sterile ethanol, methanol, ethyl acetate, hexane, and dichloromethane were used in each experiment. The antimicrobial activities of the extracts tested were evaluated at the end of the inoculated period. At the end of the incubation period, the diameters of zones of inhibition were measured and photographs were taken. All assays were repeated in six replicates and the mean zones of inhibition were recorded. All statistical calculations were performed on separate data from each bacterial strains and extracts. The following zone diameter criteria were used to assign susceptibility or resistance of bacteria to the phytochemicals tested: Susceptible (S) ≥ 15 mm, Intermediate (I) = 11–14 mm, and Resistant (R) ≤ 10 mm (Okoth et al., 2013).

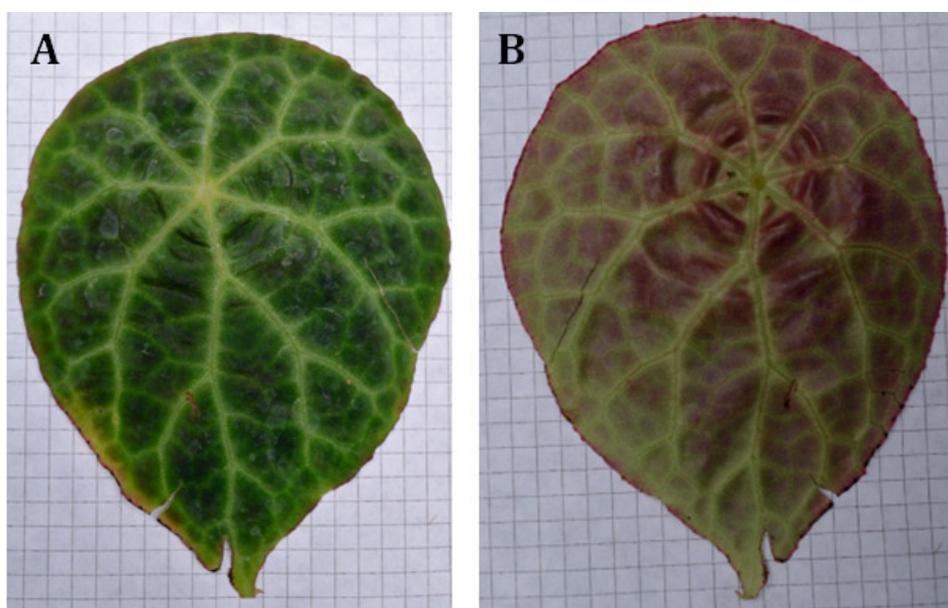


Figure 1 Leaf morphology of *Begonia goegoensis* N.E.Br.
A – adaxial leaf surface; B – abaxial leaf surface

Results and discussion

Antimicrobial activity of various extracts obtained from leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and MBL-positive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* measured as diameters of zones of inhibition was presented in Figure 2 and 3.

The present study has shown that ethanolic extract from the leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* exhibited strong activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (inhibition zone diameter ranged from 12 mm to 13 mm), while a methanolic extract from leaves revealed less activity (11 and 12.5 mm) (Figure 2 and 3).

Moreover, it has been observed that ethyl acetate, hexane and dichloromethane extracts obtained from leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* revealed no antibacterial activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and MBL-positive *P. aeruginosa*. MBL-positive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was also susceptible to

ethanolic and methanolic extracts (inhibition zone diameter ranged from 12.5 mm to 15.5 mm) (Figure 2 and 3).

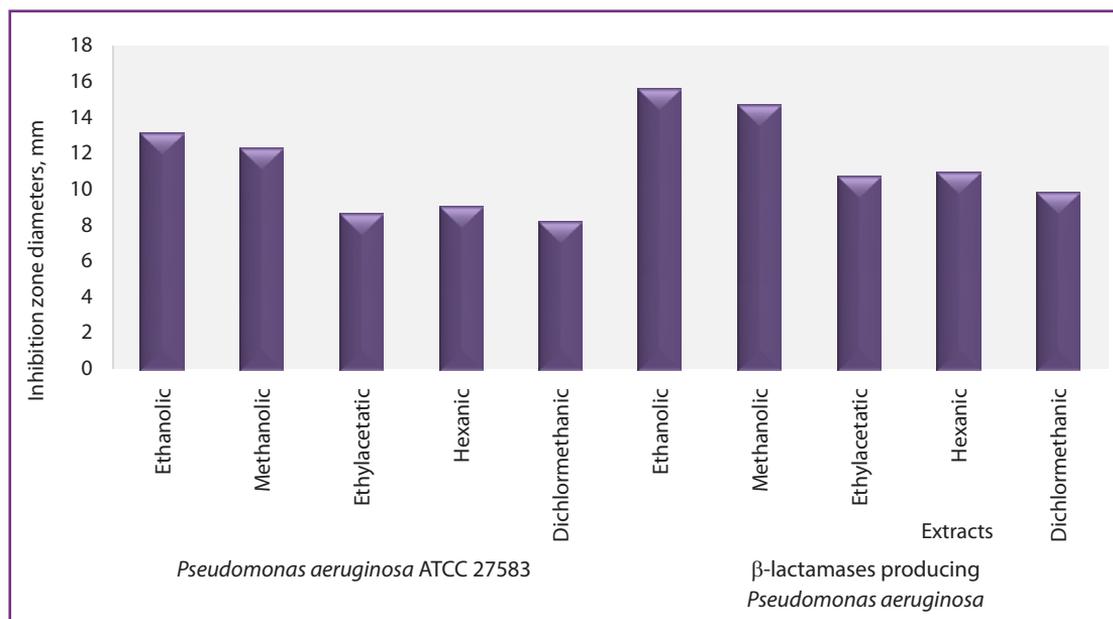


Figure 2 Antimicrobial activity of various extracts obtained from leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* N.E.Br. against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and MBL-positive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* measured as diameters of zones of inhibition

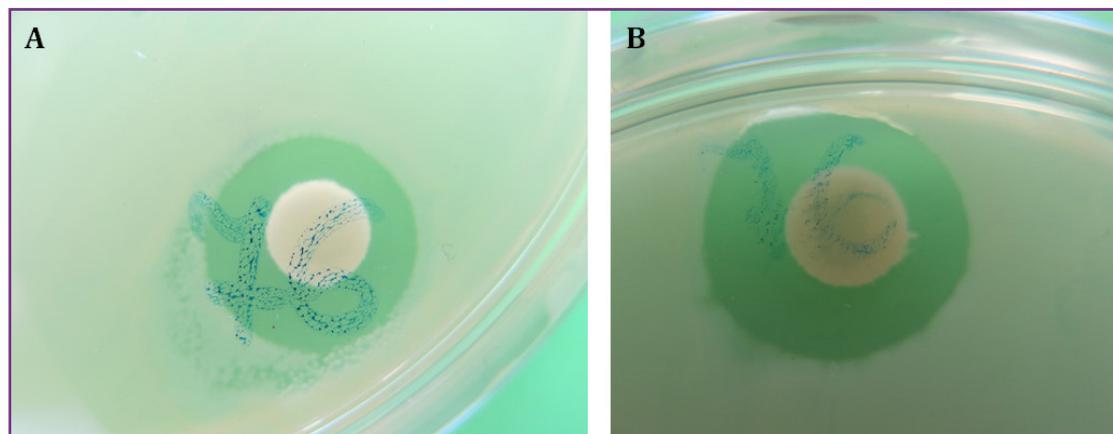


Figure 3 Antibacterial spectrum of ethanolic extracts obtained from leaves of *Begonia goegoensis* N.E.Br. against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (A) and MBL-positive *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (B)

These results are in line with findings of Suresh and Nagarajan (2009) who have found similar data due to a screening of antimicrobial efficacy of other *Begonia* species against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria as well as fungi. Aqueous extracts of *Begonia malabarica* Lam. leaves showed antimicrobial activity which is more profound against fungal strains than the bacterial strains. Moreover, the maximum activity was observed against *Vibrio cholerae*, whereas among

the fungal strains the most susceptible to plant extract screened was *Aspergillus niger* (Suresh and Nagarajan, 2009). In another study, aqueous leaves extract showed antimicrobial activity against the Gram-negative bacteria except for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. Nevertheless, the chloroform and methanol extracts showed minimum activity against all the tested bacteria (Ramesh et al., 2002). The antibacterial activity of methanolic extracts of *Begonia floccifera* Bedd. flowers against *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Serratia marcescens*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Streptococcus pyogenes* were investigated by Jeeva et al. (2012). In addition, the results of the phytochemical screening, conducted by these authors, revealed that extract of *Begonia floccifera* flowers screened contained phenol, tannins, xanthoproteins, steroids, tannins, steroids, phytosterols, triterpenoids, sapogenins, coumarins and carbohydrates. Interestingly, the bacteria tested have exhibited susceptibility to methanolic extracts of *Begonia floccifera* in varied degree. For example, the maximum zone of inhibition was 28 mm for *Bacillus cereus*, 25 mm for *Staphylococcus aureus*, 15 mm for *Escherichia coli*, 13 mm for *Proteus mirabilis*, 7 mm for *Klebsiella pneumonia*. Therefore, the antimicrobial activity of methanolic extracts of *B. floccifera* flowers against various bacteria tested is comparable and their potential as an alternative in the treatment of infections caused by these microorganisms is of great importance (Jeeva et al., 2012).

The preliminary phytochemical studies of *Begonia malabarica* by Ramesh and co-workers (2002) revealed the presence of flavone, sterol, triterpene in hexane, chloroform, and methanol extracts; phenol in chloroform and methanol extracts and quinone, saponin, tannin and starch in methanol extract. All the extracts did not answer for alkaloid. Flavones are becoming the subject of antimicrobial study and many groups have isolated and identified different flavones possessing antifungal, antiviral and antibacterial activity. Nitrogen containing flavones have been reported to have considerable antimicrobial activity. The compounds, bearing amino alkyl, cyano- or alkenyl alkyl group on piperazine are found to be the potent antibacterial and antifungal agents (Singh et al., 2014). Cushnie and Lamb (2005) revealed that flavonoids possess capabilities to form complexes with extracellular soluble protein and bacterial cells.

Catechins also posed antibacterial potential via DNA gyrase prohibition operations. It is also worth noting that catechins could enhance the sensitivity of bacterial antibiotic resistance to other kinds of antibiotics, such as tetracycline and β -lactam, by rehabilitating the repressors sensitivity (Stapleton et al., 2004).

Three new compounds: begononline, nantoamide and methyl (S)-glycerate, as well as forty-four known compounds have been isolated and characterized from the rhizomes of *Begonia nantoensis* by Wu and co-workers (2004). Some of them showed cytotoxicity against four human cancer cell lines and demonstrated significant activity against HIV replication in H9 lymphocyte cells (Wu et al., 2004).

Ramesh and co-workers (2002) have observed that hexane, chloroform and methanolic extracts of the leaves of *Begonia malabarica* did not exhibit of antifungal activity against the *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Candida albicans*. Moreover, the hexane extract did not show antibacterial activity also. The significant activity against *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* shown by chloroform and methanolic extracts implicates the use of the plant in respiratory tract diseases by the tribals. The activity of the same extracts against *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* suggests the use of the plant in diarrhea. The activity of the chloroform and aqueous extracts against *Chromobacterium violaceum* supports the use of plant against skin lesions and pyemia (Ramesh et al., 2002).

Moreover, we also investigated the anti-*Escherichia coli* activity of the ethanolic extracts from the leaves of *Begonia* species plants, cultivated under glasshouse conditions at M.M. Gryshko National Botanical Garden (NBG), National Academy of Science of Ukraine (Tkachenko et al., 2016). Our previous study has shown that ethanolic extracts obtained from leaves of *Begonia* species had moderate activity against *E. coli*. The diameters of inhibition zone for *Begonia solimutata* L.B.Sm. & Wassh. were 14 mm, 11.5 mm for *Begonia goegoensis* N.E. Br., 13 mm for *Begonia foliosa* Kunth, 13.5 mm for *Begonia* × *bunchii* L.H. Bailey 15 mm for *Begonia thiemei* C.DC., 19 mm for *Begonia peltata* Otto & Dietr., 12 mm for *Begonia heracleifolia* Cham. & Schltldl., 11.5 mm for *Begonia dregei* Otto & Dietr., and 16 mm for *Begonia mexicana* G. Karst ex Fotsch. The highest antimicrobial effect was recorded for *Begonia peltata*, *Begonia mexicana*, and *Begonia thiemei*. The most antimicrobially effective plant against *Escherichia coli* was *Begonia peltata*, being highly active with the ethanolic extract (diameter of inhibition zone was 19 mm). The highly active antimicrobial effects noted against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria are worthy of highlighting (Tkachenko et al., 2016).

Conclusions

This study emphasizes the importance of ethanolic extract of *Begonia goegoensis* as effective antimicrobial agents against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and β -lactamases producing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The plant studied here had shown that it is potentially rich in antimicrobial compounds. The use of *Begonia* species in medicine and veterinary suggests that they represent an economic and safe alternative for treatment of resistant microorganisms. Since this is a small study, a further and larger scale investigation of the efficacy of extracts prepared from other *Begonia* species as well as with various solvents, is necessary to confirm these results.

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