

IN VITRO ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF FUNGAL ENDOPHYTES ISOLATED FROM *PLUMBAGO INDICA*

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ABSTRACT: *Plumbago indica* is a useful medicinal plant used in skin diseases, rheumatism, paralytic affections, enlarged glands, etc. In the present study diversity of endophytic fungal flora inhabiting the leaves and bark of *P. indica* was studied, it also includes the role of endophytic fungi against some bacteria. A total of 8 morphologically different endophytic fungi have been isolated using surface sterilization method with HgCl₂ and EtOH in different combinations of concentrations. Ascomycetes fungi were dominated in all the plant parts. *Penicillium chrysogenum* was found to be the most dominant fungus in leaves and bark. Crude extracts of the endophytic fungi were tested against four bacteria, the endophytic fungus, *Cochliobolus* sp., showed highest zone of inhibition against *Bacillus subtilis*.

Keywords: *Endophytic fungi, surface sterilization, zone of inhibition*

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