



ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF CLOVE EXTRACTS AGAINST FOOD BORNE PATHOGENS *ESCHERICHIA.COLI*, *SALMONELLA.TYHIMURIUM*, *STAPHYLOCOCCUS.AUREUS* AND *LISTERAI.MONOCYTOGENES* AND GC-MS ANALYSIS OF EXTRACTS

BHARATH M R^{1*}, M.A.AZEEM², KEERTHAN H V³

^{*1,3}Research Scholar, Research and development centre, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

²Professor, Department of Pharmacognosy, Al-Ameen College of Pharmacy, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT

The essential oil of flower buds (clove) of *Syzygium aromaticum* was obtained by soxhlet extraction with water, petroleum ether and ethyl acetate. The extracts were tested for the antimicrobial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria such as *Escherichia coli* (MTCC433), *Salmonella typhimurium* (MTCC98), *Staphylococcus aureus* (MTCC96), and *Listeria monocytogenes* (MTCC1143). Clove extracts showed antibacterial activity against all tested bacteria with zone inhibition ranged from 10mm-30mm. Antibacterial activity of clove is attributed to high eugenol, caryophyllene and farnesol content. Many components were identified by Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry, major constituents were eugenol, vanillin, humulene, ledol, adamantane derivative, caryophyllene, farnesol, alizarin and these compounds could be used as therapeutic, medicinal and preservative agents. It is concluded that this plant material can be indispensable source for secondary metabolites.

KEYWORDS: Antimicrobial activity, cloves, essential oils, GC-MS, soxhlet extraction, zone of inhibition.



BHARATH M R*

Research Scholar, Research and development centre, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

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INTRODUCTION

Food infection and intoxication are considered as the most common causes of food borne diseases worldwide. Food borne pathogens causing these diseases find their way in foods through cross contamination, improper handling and temperature abuse. *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella sp.* and are among the common food borne microorganisms that cause infection and intoxication. Food spoilage microorganisms such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Lactobacillus sp.*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, on the other hand, cause products to lose their quality which renders them unacceptable for consumption. Short shelf-life of food products because of spoilage is one of the major problems of the food industry.¹⁻² New alternatives to control these microorganisms are being explored. Recent reports indicate that *Salmonella sp.*, *Escherichia coli* and *Listeria monocytogenes* are responsible for economic losses amounting to 5.9 billion dollars each year. Moreover, in last two decades, antibiotic resistance is an emerging problem worldwide. Tremendous use of antibiotics has developed multiple drug resistance (MDR) in many bacterial pathogens. At the same time, there is a growing demand among consumers for natural preservatives or additives in processed foods.³⁻⁵ In comparison to chemical or synthetic additives herbal additives are preferred as these are safer, flavor enhancer and without any side effects. Herbal extracts are fast becoming popular as natural antimicrobial preservatives or additives.⁶⁻⁸ This has led to the search for new, safe and effective antimicrobial agents from alternative natural resources like plant products. Traditionally the people of India have a long standing practice of using extensive diversity of plant products in treatment of diseases. Spices are essential components of Indian cuisines since ancient times. These are used in minute amounts to impart flavor, taste and aroma in food preparation to improve their palatability.⁹⁻¹⁰ They are used for stabilizing several food items from deterioration.¹¹ Spices are considered as rich sources of bio-active antimicrobial compounds.¹² Several studies have confirmed the antimicrobial activity of spices such as clove, cinnamon, mustard seed, mint, garlic, ginger, sage, thyme, rosemary, ajowan, pepper extracts against different types of microbes, including food borne pathogens are due to specific phytochemicals or essential oils.¹³⁻¹⁶ The use of spices or herbs is gradually increasing not only in developing countries but also in developed countries. Spices offer a promising alternative for food safety.¹⁷ However, there is limited information regarding its antimicrobial activity against food borne pathogens is available. The objective of the study is to evaluate the phytochemical properties and antimicrobial activity of the clove extract against food borne pathogens.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Test microorganisms

Food borne pathogenic bacteria were procured from the Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh, India, and the cultures were sub cultured and preserved under paraffin oil. *Escherichia coli*

(MTCC433), *Salmonella typhimurium* (MTCC98), *Staphylococcus aureus* (MTCC96), *Listeria monocytogenes*, (MTCC1143) were used in the study.

Preparation of Clove extract

The plant material cloves (*Syzygium aromaticum*) were collected from southern India, by observing its physical characters, like shape, smell (Kerala, India). It was dried in the laboratory for 4 to 5 days. Dried sample was then grounded by using motor and pestle. Soxhlet extraction method was followed for the essential oil extracts from the solvents³³ and water extracts prepared by shaking the sample with the water, overnight (Table 5). Cold aqueous extraction: Ten grams of the powder was soaked in 100ml cold sterile distilled water in a conical flask and left undisturbed for 24h, then filtered off using a sterile Whatman filter paper no1³⁴ (Ogundiya et al., 2006). The filtered extract was concentrated under vacuum below 40°C using a rota-evaporator

Extraction of essential oils (Soxhlet extraction)

Sample of 15-20gm is weighed and packed in a cellulose thimble. Meanwhile, round bottom flask either of 500ml with solvent is prepared. Thimble with sample was placed in a soxhlet extractor and round bottom flask was filled with the ethyl acetate & petroleum ether separately. Extraction was carried out for minimum 8 hrs to maximum requirement within limit of boiling point temperature of solvent (ethyl acetate 75-80°C and petroleum ether 40-60°C, both the extracts were used separately). Finally, solvent was evaporated in a rotavaporator at 40°C.¹⁸ (Table 5)

Antimicrobial sensitivity testing

The antimicrobial activity of the clove (*Syzygium aromaticum*) extract was determined according to the method of Bauer.¹⁹ Eight mm sterile discs (code DD036) were procured from the HiMedia, Laboratory Pvt.Ltd., Mumbai, India and were impregnated with 50µl of different concentration of each clove extracts before being placed on the inoculated agar plates. The inoculums of the test organisms were prepared by transferring a loopful of culture into 9 ml of sterilized nutrient broth (HiMedia) and incubated at 37°C for 5 to 6 hrs. The bacterial culture was compared with McFarland Standard 1 (MacFarland standard 1 is equal to 3.0x10⁸ cells²⁰). One hundred microlitres bacterial culture was spread on pre dried agar plates with the help of glass spreader. After the inocula dried, the impregnated discs were placed on the agar surface using forceps dipped in 70% IPA and flamed, and were gently pressed down to ensure contact. Plates were kept at 4°C for 30 to 60 min for better absorption, during this time microorganisms will not grow, but absorption of the extracts will take place. The inoculated plates containing the impregnated discs were incubated in an upright position at 37°C for 24 to 48 hrs. The results were expressed as the zone of inhibition around the 8mm discs. All the analyses were applied in triplicate.

GC-MS analysis

The Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis using Trace GC-MSD (Agilent) was performed with a gas chromatograph ultra-Trace equipped with HP-5MS capillary column (30mx0.25mm; coating

thickness 0.25 μ m) and mass detector.²¹ Temperatures of the transfer line and the ionic source were 150 $^{\circ}$ C and 230 $^{\circ}$ C, respectively; scan range, 50-500 amu; 3.9 scans/s. Oven temperature programmed from 120 $^{\circ}$ C and 280 $^{\circ}$ C ramp of 50 $^{\circ}$ C /min; injector temperature was 280 $^{\circ}$ C; carrier gas helium at 1 ml/min; injection of 1 μ l split less mode. Identification of the constituents was based on comparison of the retention times with those of authentic samples, comparing their linear retention indices relative to the series to C-C alkanes, and on computer matching against commercial (NIST-MS) and laboratory-developed library mass spectra built up from pure substances and components of known oils and MS literature data, GC-MS (Graph 1-3).

RESULTS

The antibacterial activity of clove (*Syzygium*

aromaticum) extracts with distilled water, ethyl acetate and petroleum ether were tested using different bacteria with zone inhibition ranged from 10mm-30mm and are indicated in Table 1. It was found that the ethyl acetate extract of clove was potentially active against all the test organisms *E.coli*, *S. typhimurium*, *S. aureus* and *L. monocytogenes* with zones of inhibition ranging from 14mm to 20mm. Antibacterial activity with maximum zone of inhibition 20mm was obtained against *E.coli* and *L. monocytogenes*, followed by 18mm in *S.aureus* whereas, it was least 14mm in *S. typhimurium*. However, water extracts exhibited lower antibacterial activity against all bacterial strains tested. The petroleum ether extract of clove showed widest zone of inhibition for *S. aureus* (30mm), *L. monocytogenes* (22mm). *E. coli* and *S. typhimurium* were also showed maximum zone of inhibition 18mm with petroleum ether extract of clove.

Table 1
Antibacterial activity of clove extracts measured as diameter (mm) of zone of inhibition

| Extracts | Food Pathogens | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| | <i>E. coli</i> | <i>S. typhimurium</i> | <i>S. aureus</i> | <i>L. monocytogenes</i> |
| Distilled Water | 10 | 10 | 15 | 10 |
| Ethyl acetate | 20 | 14 | 18 | 20 |
| Petroleum ether | 18 | 18 | 30 | 22 |

Each value is the average of three independent replicates
Volume of extract/ oil in each well = 50 μ L

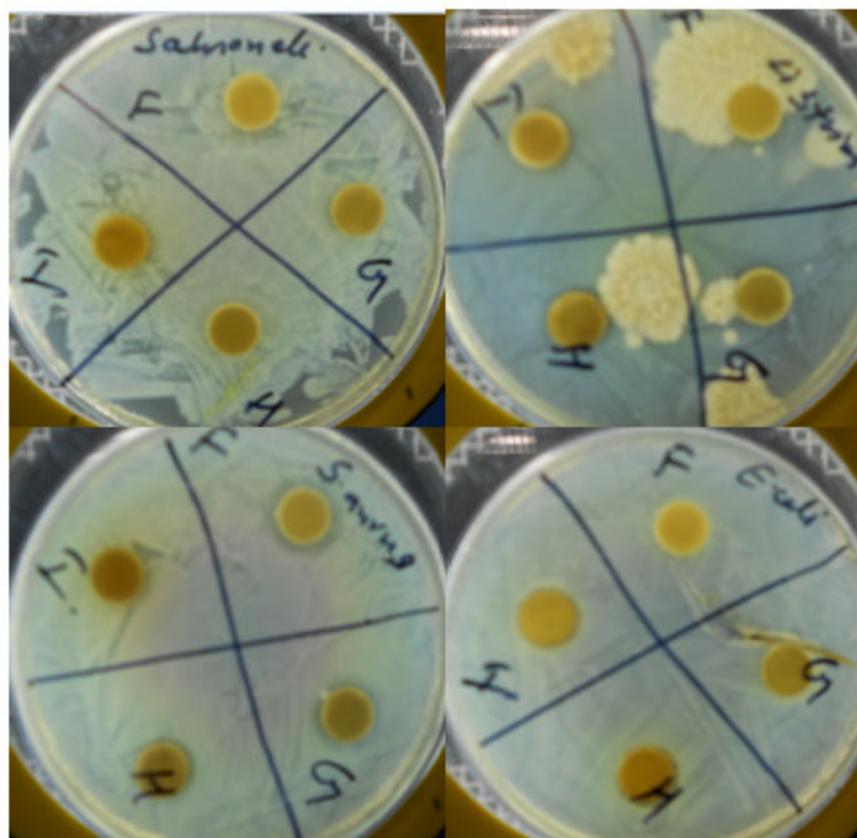


Figure 1
Antimicrobial images of water extracts, H—water extracts

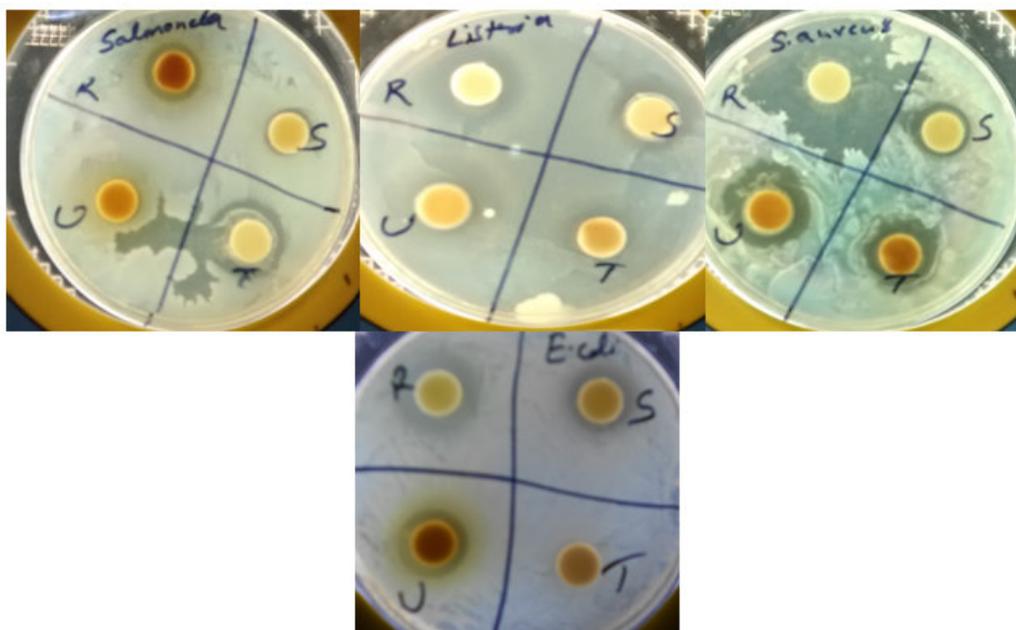


Figure 2
Antimicrobial images of water extracts, R—Petroleum ether extracts ,
S--Ethyl acetate extract

Cloves Extract

The GC-MS analyses (Graph 1-3) of the water, ethyl acetate and petroleum ether extracts of clove are presented in Table 2-4. Eugenol and caryophyllene are the major components are known to possess antibacterial and antifungal properties. The content of eugenol is high in ethyl acetate (34.08%) and petroleum ether (33.27%) extracts. Whereas, in water extract eugenol content is low (10.13%). In addition to eugenol in petroleum ether extract of clove, caryophyllene, farnesol and humulene significantly contributed additional antibacterial activity.

DISCUSSION

Antimicrobial properties of medicinal plants are being increasingly reported from different parts of the world. The World Health Organization estimates that plant extract or their active constituents are used as folk medicine in traditional therapies of 80% of the world's population. In the present work, ethyl acetate and petroleum ether extracts obtained from cloves showed strongest activity against all foodborne pathogens tested. Results obtained for clove extracts were found to be similar as also reported by several workers.²¹⁻²⁶ High eugenol content which is an antimicrobial compound having wide spectra of antimicrobial effects which may contribute to growth inhibition of enterobacteria.²⁷⁻²⁸ Hence the antibacterial and antifungal properties demonstrated by clove and clove oil can be attributed to the compounds reported.²⁹⁻³⁰ The components with phenolic structure such as eugenol are highly active against the test microorganisms. Members of this class are known to be either bactericidal or bacteriostatic agents, depending upon the concentration used. The modes of action by which microorganisms are inhibited by essential oil and their chemical compounds seem to involve different mechanisms. It has been hypothesized that the inhibition involves phenolic compounds, because these compounds sensitize the phospholipid

bilayer of the microbial cytoplasmic membrane causing increased permeability, unavailability of vital intracellular constituents and impairment of bacterial enzymes systems.³¹ Identified compounds are having very good benefits to humans in many different ways, majorly eugenol, Eugenol has been classified as 'generally recognised as safe (GRAS)' by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Eugenol was evaluated in vivo for the prophylaxis and treatment of experimental vaginal candidiasis on immunosuppressed rats. The results indicated that prophylactic eugenol treatment after 10 days of inoculation reduced the number of colonies of *C. albicans* in the vaginas of infected rats by 98.9%.³⁵ Mequinol 2%/tretinoin 0.01% solution was found to be highly effective and well tolerated treatment for solar lentigines and related hyperpigmented lesions on the forearms and of similar efficacy for lesions on the face³⁶. Inhibition of the bacterial DNA or enzymes has been proposed to be the influential mechanism for the inhibitory action of the thiazole derivatives. Inhibition of the bacterial enzyme *ecKASIII* (or *FabH*) (that is essential for the synthesis of fatty acids in Gram negative and gram positive bacteria) and the enzyme DNA-gyrase (that is needed to replicate the bacterial DNA) have been studied in some research works^{37,38}. Isoquinolines find many applications, including anesthetics antihypertension agents, such as quinapril, quinaprilat, and debrisoquine (all derived from 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline. antifungal agents, such as 2,2'-hexadecamethylenediisoquinolinium dichloride, which is also used as a topical antiseptic. This derivative, shown below, is prepared by N-alkylation of isoquinoline with the appropriate dihalide. Disinfectants, like N-laurylisoquinolinium bromide, which is prepared by simple N-alkylation of isoquinoline. Brucine has been shown to have good anti-tumor effects, on both hepatocellular carcinoma and breast cancer, its narrow therapeutic window has limited its use as a treatment for cancer. Brucine is also used in traditional Chinese medicine as an anti-inflammatory

and analgesic agent, as well as in some Ayurveda and homeopathy drugs.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Mean and standard deviation of the antibacterial activity of different extracts

Mean and standard deviation³² of the antibacterial activity of the different extracts are shown in Table 2. In

the present investigation, the clove extracts showed inhibitory activity against all the four food associated bacteria in which the diameter of zone of growth inhibition varied between 5 and 18.7mm. The clove extract showed highest diameter of zone of inhibition of 18.7mm against *S.aureus* followed by *E,coli* (16mm) and *L. monocytogenes* (15.7mm) and *S. typhimurium*(13.3mm)

Table 2
Mean and standard deviation

| Extract | <i>E. coli</i> | <i>S. typhimurium</i> | <i>S. aureus</i> | <i>L. monocytogenes</i> |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Distilled Water | 10 | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Ethyl acetate | 20 | 14 | 18 | 20 |
| Petroleum ether | 18 | 18 | 30 | 22 |
| Average | 16.0 | 13.3 | 18.7 | 15.7 |
| Standard deviation | 4.32 | 4.11 | 8.99 | 7.58 |

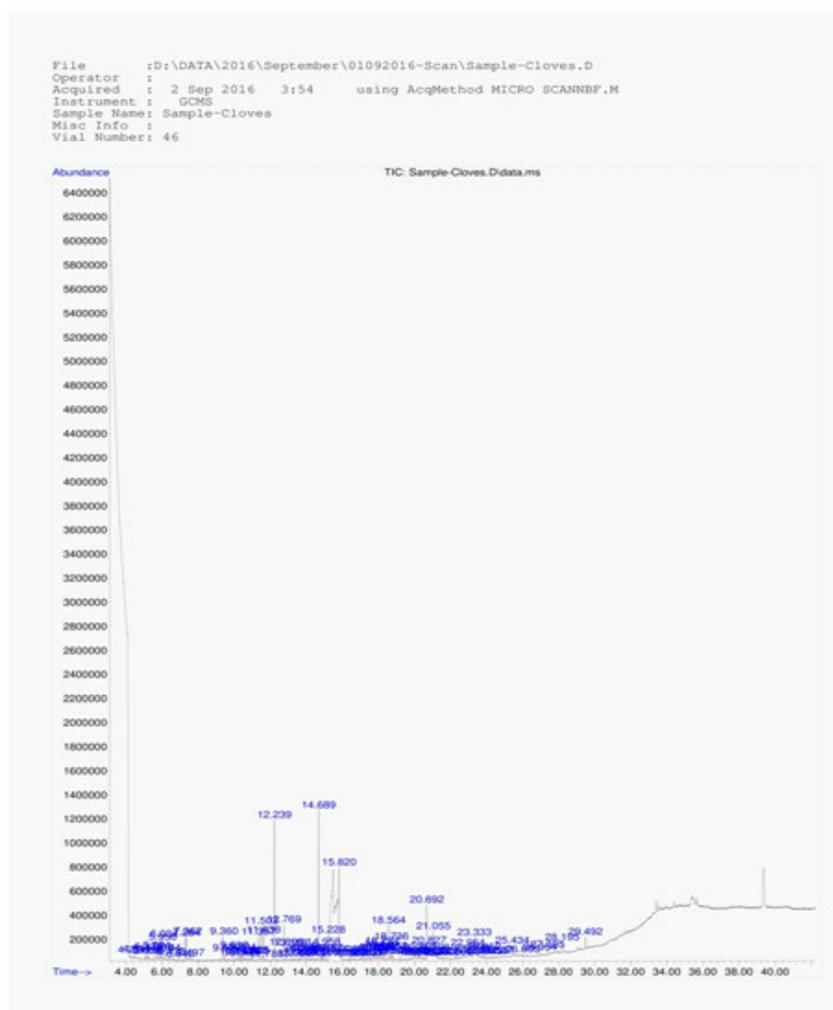


Figure 1
Chromatogram of Clove powder water extract

Table 3
Compounds found in the cloves water extract

| S.No. | Compound Name | RT | Area% |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 1 | 2H-Pyran, 3,4-dihydro- | 4.254 | 0.23 |
| 2 | 4-Piperidinone, 1-methyl- | 5.178 | 0.45 |
| 3 | Pyrrolidine, 1-(1-oxoheptadecyl)- | 5.178 | 0.45 |
| 4 | Propanamide, | 5.266 | 0.23 |
| 5 | Mequinol | 7.497 | 0.21 |
| 6 | Thiazole | 10.958 | 0.36 |
| 7 | Eugenol | 12.239 | 10.13 |
| 8 | Vanillin | 12.898 | 1.25 |
| 9 | Homovanillic acid | 13.874 | 0.77 |
| 10 | Pentasiloxane, dodecamethyl | 14.491 | 0.18 |
| 11 | Imidazolidinethione | 15.820 | 7.31 |
| 12 | Phytol | 16.380 | 0.31 |
| 13 | Caffeine | 19.249 | 0.32 |

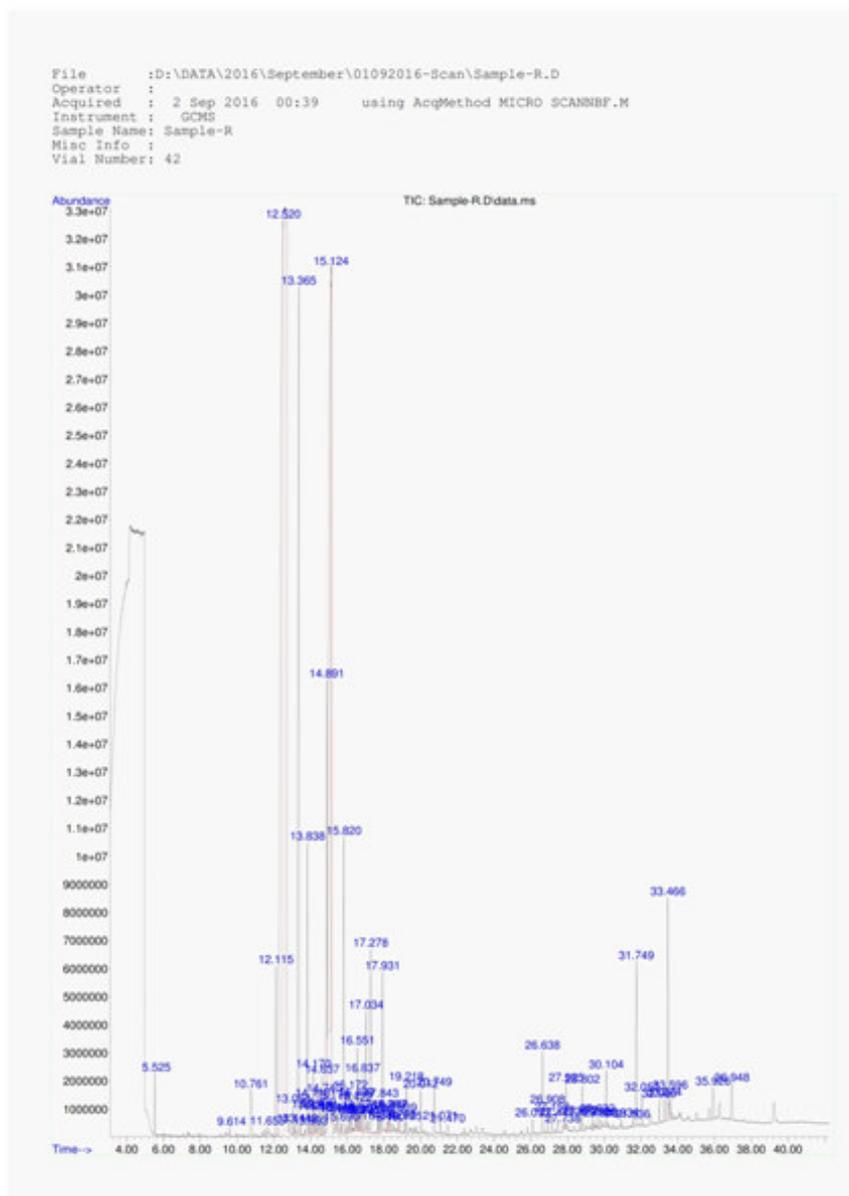


Figure 2
Chromatogram of Clove powder petroleum ether extract

Table 4
Compounds found in clove petroleum ether extract

| Sl.no. | Compound Name | RT | Area% |
|--------|----------------------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Eugenol | 12.520 | 33.27 |
| 2 | Vanillin | 13.064 | 0.18 |
| 3 | Caryophyllene | 13.365 | 11.51 |
| 4 | Humulene | 13.838 | 2.33 |
| 5 | Aromandendrene | 13.931 | 0.17 |
| 6 | Alloaromadendrene | 13.931 | 0.17 |
| 7 | Homovanillyl alcohol | 13.993 | 0.08 |
| 8 | Gamma Muurolene | 14.139 | 0.28 |
| 9 | Ledol | 16.089 | 0.15 |
| 10 | Adamantane | 16.551 | 0.55 |
| 11 | tau.-Muurolol | 16.795 | 0.10 |
| 12 | Farnesol, | 19.218 | 0.39 |
| 13 | Furan | 20.012 | 0.32 |
| 14 | Alizarin | 26.908 | 0.21 |
| 15 | Isoquinoline | 27.738 | 0.09 |
| 16 | Pivalamide | 27.738 | 0.09 |
| 17 | Brucine | 31.536 | 0.08 |

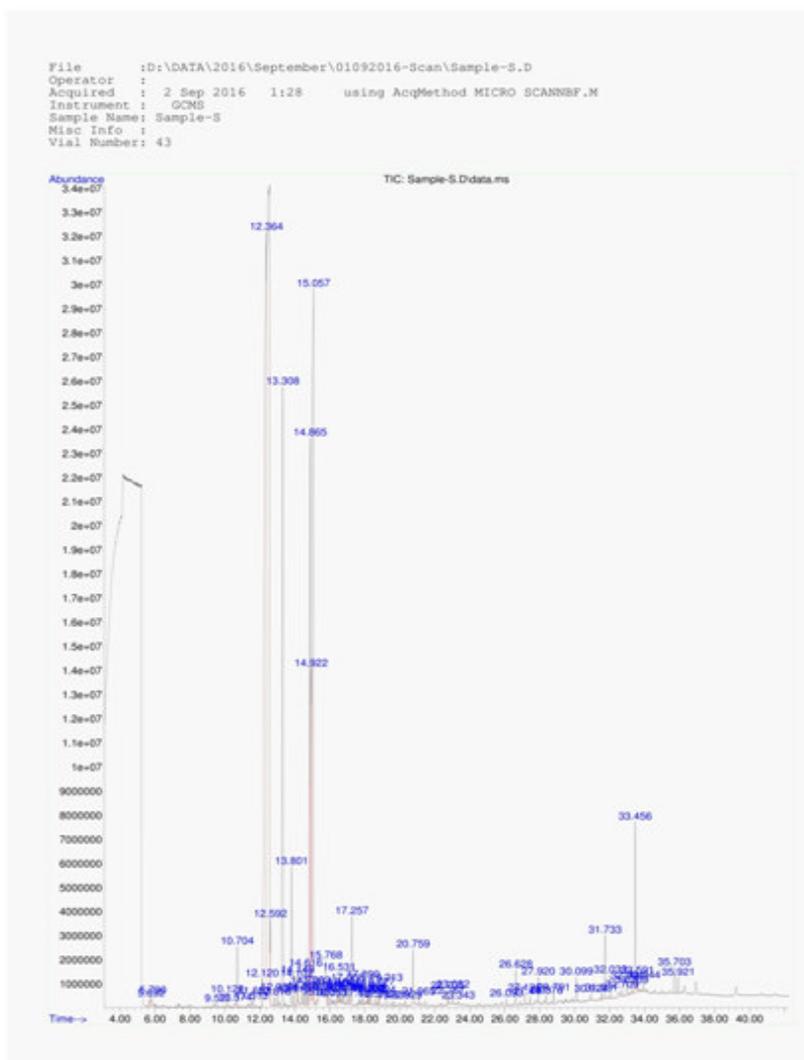


Figure 3
Chromatogram of Clove powder ethyl acetate extract.

Table 5
Compounds found in the cloves ethyl acetate extract

| S. No. | Compound Name | RT | Area% |
|--------|------------------------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Aspirin methyl ester | 9.521 | 0.09 |
| 2 | Eugenol | 12.364 | 34.08 |
| 3 | 6-Methylnicotinic acid | 17.890 | 0.27 |
| 4 | photocitral | 18.824 | 0.08 |
| 5 | Cycloeicosane | 21.065 | 0.12 |

Table 6
Total yield obtained from the Extract this yield refers to the extracts which retained after drying in rotavapour

| Solvent | Yield in gms |
|-----------------|--------------|
| petroleum ether | 2.80 |
| ethyl acetate | 1.73 |
| Water | 0.50 |

CONCLUSION

Plants have been extensively studied in terms of pharmacological activity of its major components. In recent years, emphasis of research has been on utilizing traditional medicines that have long and proven history of treating various diseases. From the above observation and results In the current investigation, clove extract has been selected after study of such a selected plant with water extracts, petroleum ether extracts and ethyl acetate extract gave higher yield of chemical constituents like eugenol, brucine thymol, Isoquinolines, Humulene and many others ,Many studies were conducted on the medicinal uses of these compound, but availability of these compounds in the cloves were explored in this research. Our results signify the fact that natural products like spices can be seen as alternatives to chemical preservatives used in various food industries so as to minimize their side

effects and simultaneously improving the shelf life of the food products. However, further studies are needed to better evaluate the potential effectiveness of the crude extracts as the antimicrobial agents. The present results will form the basis for selection of plant species for further investigation in the potential discovery of new natural bioactive compounds.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

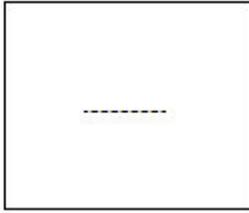
Conflict of interest declared none.

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