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Nanobiotechnology

Biogenic synthesis of silver nanoparticles and investigation of antibacterial activity from leaves of Duranta erecta

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ABSTRACT

The scientific topic of nanobiotechnology is one that is expanding quickly and has potential applications in the life sciences and human healthcare. Nanomedicine and biomedical nanotechnology both heavily rely on silver nanoparticles. Silver is a precious metal that naturally occurs, most frequently as part of a mineral resource in combination with other elements. With regard to various diseases, including bacteria, fungi, viruses, and yeast, silver nanoparticles have a natural antibacterial action. In the current investigation, Duranta erecta leaves were used in the manufacture of silver nanoparticles. The produced silver nanoparticles were studied using UV-VIS spectra, Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), X-ray Diffraction (XRD), and Fourier Transfer Infrared Spectra (FTIR). The produced silver nanoparticles from Duranta erecta leaves were tested using the nutrient agar disk diffusion technique by four bacterial species: E. coli, Streptococcus aureus, Bacillus subtilis, and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. UV-VIS Spectra were utilized to analyze the reduced silver ions and revealed a large resonance band at 410 nm. Through XRD, intense peaks and crystalline nanoparticle production were seen. TEM interpretation revealed spherical AgNPs in a range of diameters from 6 to 16 nm. All these gram-positive(S. aureus and B. subtilis) and gram-negative (E. Coli and P. aeruginosa) bacteria produce positive findings in the current investigation. Keywords: Plant-Mediated Silver Nanoparticles, Duranta erecta, TEM, XRD, Antibacterial

INTRODUCTION

Nanotechnology is a vast branch of science that deals with the synthesis, characterisation, and application of diverse nanoscale materials. It has applications in a number of fields, including chemistry, physics, material science, biology, etc. (Siddiqi et al., 2018) and It is assumed that the essential elements of nanotechnology are nanoparticles (Jouyban & Rahimpour, 2020). In general, the term "nanoscale" refers to a scale between 1 and 100 nm that displays entirely new or improved properties in comparison to the bulk material that was collected based on precise features including distribution, size, form, and morphology (Yang et al., 2018). In comparison to physicochemical approaches, formation of silver NPs offers advantages such as cost-effectiveness, environmental friendliness, ease of scaling up, and lack of need for toxic chemicals, high energy, or temperatures (Nie et al., 2018).

Latent building blocks for electronic, optoelectronic, pharmaceutical, and other products, including solar cells, have been produced by recent advances in nanotechnology and nanoscience (Tortella et al., 2020). Shampoos, soaps, detergents, cosmetics, and toothpaste are just a few examples of goods where expensive metal NPs like gold(Au), silver(Ag), platinum(Pt), and copper(Cu) are frequently utilized, in addition to applications in medicine and pharmaceuticals. Based on their capabilities in electromagnetic, photonic, chemical, and mechanical sectors, nanoparticles are currently used in a variety of fields, including the medical field for drug delivery, antimicrobial technology, and diagnosis, and also the electronic and optoelectronic industries (Teodoro et al., 2019; Panáček et al., 2018) in the chemical sector for catalysis (Ananthi et al., 2020) for environmental protection (Zannotti et al., 2020) and energy adaptation (Anwar et al., 2018). The most of physicochemical processes used to produce nanoparticles particular nanoparticles, such as pyrolysis, chemical or physical vapor deposition, lithography electro-deposition, etc., are not ecologically friendly (Zhang et al., 2020). There have been various cases of the creation of nanoparticles such ZnO, CdO, NiO, and Sm2O3 (Vorobyev et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2020; Torras et al., 2020). Commercial approaches have been demonstrated to be useful tools for synthesis, But given the use of potentially toxic substances and the possibility for the development of toxic byproducts in some situations, prolonged use of these methods could be detrimental to both the environment and human well-being (Blanco-Formoso et al., 2020).

Silver is preferred over other noble metals for nanoparticles because of its ability to catalyse antimicrobial reactions and because it is harmless to humans (Farooq et al., 2019) Unlike other metals, AgNPs have been created utilising a variety of methods, such as physicochemical and biological ones. Silver nanoparticles were previously produced via harmful processes that used dangerous chemicals. Thus, "bio synthesis" prefers to the utilize of environmentally acceptable technologies for the manufacture of silver nanoparticles. Because it can easily be upscaled for large-scale production and doesn't require dangerous chemicals, extreme pressure, extreme heat, or energy, biosynthesis is preferred to standard synthesis. It simply requires one step, costs less money, and respects the environment (Jiang et al., 2020). Numerous scientist have revealed the utilisation of materials such as plant extracts (Leaf, latex, stem, seed, root), fungus, bacteria and enzymes in order to generate silver nanoparticles, because they are antioxidants and can lower metallic constituents in the corresponding nanoparticles (Adhikary et al., 2018). Plant extracts are used to create a great capped component for stabilising AgNPs (Ahmed et al., 2016).

There are 35 different species of the Verbenaceae family plant Duranta. It is a native plant of Asia, Africa, and America (Kubasheva et al., 2020). Commonly referred to as "golden dewdrop," Duranta erecta (also known as D. repens) is an upright, writhing shrub that grows to a height of one to three metres. It is planted as a decorative or as a fence plant in several regions of Ghana. The genus Duranta has given rise to coumarinolignoids, cinnamic acid, lamiide, and pmethoxycinnamic acid as phytoconstituents (Jadhav et al., 2018; Mohanta et al., 2020). Numerous bioactive compounds like acetonide, raffinose, dextrose, and lamiide have now been successfully identified from Duranta repens (Singh et al., 2018). The plant's several parts can be used to heal a various of diseases. (Leaves and fruit are sometimes used as vermifuges or diuretics and are utilized in traditional folk medicine to treat abscesses, intestinal worms, and malaria. According to reports, D. erecta has potent antibacterial and anticancerous properties (Hemlata et al., 2020). One of its numerous natural uses is as an insecticide and antifungal (Ekenma et al., 2018). According to reports, Plasmodium falciparum isolates that were chloroquine-effective and resistant were strongly inhibited by ethyl acetate leaf extract. Aspergillus flavus, Rhizopus sp., Penicillium, Alternaria sp., and Trichoderma sp. were all resistant to the antifungal effects of methanolic extracts of D. erecta's various components, including the leaves, stem, seed and roots (Oluwafemi et al., 2019). There are numerous uses for the entire plant. For instance, the leaf is used to heal abscesses, while the fruits are utilized as a febrifuge to treat intestinal worms and malaria. The entire plant is used in Bangladesh by both the tribal and urban populations as an insect repellant and a remedy for itching, infertility, fever, and pneumonia. It was believed that flowers were stimulants. D. erecta is said to possess diuretic qualities that can be used to help the body drain kidney stones out (Vanti et al., 2019). To the aimed to contribute, no such in vitro or in vivo research have been conducted as of yet, according to a review of the literature. We worked on the formation of AgNPs and detailed them in the current work using UV-Visible spectroscopy, XRD, TEM, and FI-IR. In the current study, fresh D. erecta leaf extracts have been utilized to synthesise silver NPs, which were then investigated for their antibacterial properties against a variety of pathogenic microorganisms.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Sample collection:

Duranta erecta L. fresh leaves were collected from the Botanical garden of Sheth M.N. Science College located in Patan, Gujarat, India (Location: 23°86'12" N 72°13'03" E). Identification and authentification of *D.erecta* were done using e-flora of India.

Preparation of leaf extract:

Aqueous leaf extract from the sample's freshly harvested 5g of *D. erecta* leaves was created, and it was afterwards cleaned twice with water that had undergone double distillation. The leaves were then cooked for five minutes at 60° C with 100 milliliters of filtered water (Kathireswari *et al.*, 2014). Before being centrifuged for 25 minutes at 7,000 rpm, the mixture was filtered using Whatman filter paper no. 1. The leaf extract was placed in a cold storage at 4° C to be used later.

Synthesis of Silver nanoparticles:

Silver nanoparticles were formed by synthesizing silver nitrate ($AgNo_3$) in aqueous solution at a 1 mM concentration. 90 ml of an aqueous solution containing 1 mM silver nitrate ($AgNo_3$) and 10 ml of D. erecta leaf extract were used to convert Ag^0 to Ag^+ ions (Murugan and Shanmugasundaram, 2014). Through colour perception, the visual analysis of embedded silver nanoparticles was recorded. Centrifugation was used to collect the AgNPs for 15 min at 10,000 rpm. To get rid of the unconverted metal ions, distilled water was used to wash the collected pellet. The mixture was stored in a cold storage to be used for further spectral analysis and antibacterial activity.

Characterizations of AgNPs:

The UV-Vis spectra of AgNPs reaction mixture aliquots were observed dependent on SPR as a function of response time inside 190-1100 nm frequencies with a resolution of 1 nm using a UV-visible spectrophotometer (UV-1800 SHIMADZU, Double-beam Spectrophotometer). A powder X-ray diffractometer (X'pert Pro, PANalytical Netherlands) was used to record XRD for drop-covered air-dried samples on glass substrate at 5° to 140° 2q with Nickel beta filter and CuK radiation source on 1.54 A° wavelength in order to examine the crystalline structure of the purified AgNPs. Using a Perkin Elmer instrument, USA, plant extract and AgNPs FTIR spectra were obtained spanning the 4000-400 cm-1 range from 24 scans with a resolution at 0.4 cm-1. To evaluate the characteristics (size , morphology and shape) of AgNPs, H-7500 Hitachi, Japan, performed TEM with a 40-120 kV operating voltage and a 0.36 nm resolution.

Antibacterial activity of silver nanoparticles:

The antibacterial study changed into dictated by the agar well technique. As test organisms for the antibacterial activity, the gram-negative bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Escherichia coli*, and the gram-positive microorganisms *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilisis* were used. Nutrient agar slants had been used to cultivate the bacterial strains. Sub-culturing was used to maintain the cultures on a regular basis, and they were stored at 4°C until further usage. Antibacterial activity in opposition to the pathogenic bacterial strains made in different appositeness of antibacterial action with a concentration of 50 μ l, 60 μ l, and 70 μ l compared with the positive standard (Chloramphenicol-30 μ l) and negative control (distilled water). The widths of the inhibited zone surrounding each well were measured following a 24-hour incubation period at 37°C in a bacteriological incubator.

RESULTS

UV–Vis spectra analysis:

Metal nanoparticles' distinctive SPR imaging pattern is determined using UV-visible spectroscopy. The initial optical confirmation of the AgNPs synthesis came from the visible portion of the reaction mixture's colour change to brown. The yellow aqueous leaf extract (A) was combined with the silver nitrate solution and simmered for ten minutes at 60°C. The colour transformation to brown (C) defined that AgNPs had formed (Fig 1). This colour change was caused by a number of biomolecules in the leaf extract that converted Ag+ to Ag0. Figure 2 displays the Uv-vis spectra in *D. erecta* that were captured 30 minutes, 3 hours, and 24 hours after the response started. By lengthening the response time, the colour intensity was expanded. This colour change was caused by a number of biomolecules in the leaf extract that converted Ag+ to Ag0. The development of silver nanoparticles was periodically monitored using UV-Vis spectroscopy. In the instance of a *D. erecta* leaf, the steep peak of silver nanoparticles was seen at about 410 nm, as indicated in Fig 3.



Fig. 1. Visual observation (A) D. erecta Leaf extracts (B) AgNo₃ solution (C) AgNPs



Fig 2. Different time interval colour intensity of D. erecta leaf extract AgNPs



Fig 3. UV-visible spectra of D. erecta AgNPs obtained using leaf extract

X-ray diffraction Analysis:

To examine the crystallographic structure of the pure *D. erecta* AgNPs, the X-ray diffractometer (XRD) was employed to record 2 scans from 10° to 90° at 0.01° per min with such a time steady of 2s on glass substrate. Powder XRD was initially employed to analyze the crystalline structure of the D. erecta AgNPs, as shown in Fig. 4. At 2= 38.23°, 44.38°, 64.58°, and 77.46°, which correspond to the (111), (200), (220), and (311) planes of FCC structures, respectively, Bragg's reflections had been seen. The parameters that were established using the XRD analysis of AgNPs are shown in Table 1. This is confirmed by the common metallic silver XRD pattern JCPDS No. 04-0873. XRD also found a couple very strong peaks, however they were not labeled in Fig 4. According to this theory, the extra peaks are the result of the bioorganic phase crystallizing on the AgNPs-interface. The UV and FT-IR studies as well as the TEM clearly demonstrate this.



Fig 4. XRD pattern of synthesized AgNPs using the leaf extract of D. Erecta

2 0 (Degree)	FWHM	Diffraction plane (hk1)	Interplanar spacing "d"	Crystallite size (nm)
38.15°	0.41	111	2.35	21.42
44.38°	0.67	200	2.03	13.38
64.58°	0.47	220	1.44	14.66
77.46°	0.61	311	1.23	17.45

Table 1. Different parameters of the XRD analysis of AgNPs of D. erecta leaf extract

Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy Analysis:

The chemical components used to create *D. erecta* AgNPs are examined using FT-IR spectroscopy. In order to pinpoint the several functional groups involved for changing silver nitrate into silver nanoparticles, AgNPs were applied in powder form for the experiment. The leaf extract peak values in the FTIR spectrum were 3341.08 cm⁻¹, 2117.46 cm⁻¹, 1635.74 cm⁻¹, 611.95 cm⁻¹, and 523.43 cm⁻¹, as shown in Fig. 5. Alkyl halides' O-H stretching vibrations are represented by the band at 3341.08 cm⁻¹, alkynes are represented by the band at 2117.46 cm⁻¹, alkenes are represented by the band at 3341.08 cm⁻¹, alkynes are represented by the band at 2117.46 cm⁻¹, alkenes are represented by the band at 1635.74 cm⁻¹, and C-Br stretching vibrations are represented by the band at 611.95 cm⁻¹and 523.43 cm⁻¹, respectively. The FTIR spectrum, as shown in Fig. 6, has a number of distinct peaks. To understand the biomolecules for capping and effective stability of the generated metallic nanoparticles, FTIR analyses were conducted. The intensity peaks of 3912.31 cm⁻¹, 3760.10 cm⁻¹, 3459.17 cm⁻¹, 2424.42 cm⁻¹, and 2069.61 cm⁻¹ are somewhat raised throughout this time, whereas other intensity peaks, including 1633.06 cm⁻¹, 1121.21 cm⁻¹. and 579.15 cm⁻¹, are slightly decreased. The band in Fig. 6 corresponds to alcohol's O-H stretching vibrations at 3464.79 cm⁻¹. C-N alkenes are represented by the peak at 2424.42 cm⁻¹, C-E alkenes are represented by the peak at 1633.06 cm⁻¹. Alkyl halides' C-H, C-Br stretching vibrations account for the peak at 579.15 cm⁻¹.



Fig 5. FTIR spectra of D. erecta leaf extract



Fig 6. FTIR spectra of synthesized AgNPs of D. erecta leaf extract

TEM Analysis:

The size, morphology, and form of nanoparticles have all been determined utilizing transmission electron microscopy. Although some of the silver nanoparticles were found to have irregular shapes, as seen in Fig. 7, it shows that the silver nanoparticles are highly distributed and generally sphere-shaped. According to the form of the SPR band in the UV-visible spectrum, the nanoparticles are homogeneous and spherical. Figures also show a variation in particle size and size distribution. Particle size ranges from 6 to 8 nm, with an average measurement of 7 nm.



Fig 7. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images of AgNPs by D. erecta (A) 10 nm (B) 20 nm (C) 50 nm (D) 100 nm

Antibacterial activity

the silver nanoparticles' antibacterial properties, which were created using *D. erecta* leaf extracts. Through using the agar disk diffusion method, the antibacterial efficacy of green-generated AgNPs was examined against a variety of pathogenic species, including Gram-positive microbes (*B. subtilis & S. aureus*) and Gram-negative microbes (*P. aeruginosa & E. coli*). The triple of breadth's mean inhibition zone was identified and summarised (Fig. 8). *E. coli* was discovered to be the most effective pathogen examined, and the significant bacterial inhibitory action of *D. erecta* leaf extract-mediated AgNPs was identified concentration-dependently. As seen in Table 2, the zone of inhibition (ZOI) grew with increasing AgNP concentrations. Gram-negative microbe *Escherichia coli* exhibits the highest zone of inhibition (24.00±0.58mm) by AgNPs made from *D. erecta* leaf extracts, preceded by Gram-negative *P. aeruginosa* (21.00±28mm), Gram-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* (21.33±0.11mm), and Gram-positive *Bacillus subtilis* (20.17±0.28mm) at a concentration of 70 µl, as can be seen in table 2.



Fig 8. Antibacterial activity of *D. erecta* -AgNPs prepared by *D. erecta* leaf extract against (A) *Escherichia coli* (B) *Staphylococcus aureus* (C) *Bacillus subtilis* (D) *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Note: 1= Negative Control, 2= Plant extract, 3=AgNO₃, 4= AgNPs

Bacteria Class	Name of the organism	Concentrations (µl)	Zone of Inhibition(mm)		
			Plant extract	Silver nitrate (AgNO₃)	Silver nanoparticles DL
Gram negative	Escherichia coli	50 µl	15.33±0.33	15.31±0.33	17.23±0.33
		60 µl	16.33±0.33	18.13±0.33	19.20±0.33
		70 µl	18.00±0.58	21.11±0.58	24.20±0.58
	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	50 µl	13.63±0.44	14.83±0.44	17.03±0.44
		60 µl	14.87±0.20	16.07±0.20	19.37±0.20
		70 µl	15.00±0.28	17.05±0.28	21.00±0.28
Gram positive	Bacillus subtilis	50 μl	10.66±0.35	14.54±0.35	16.23±0.35
		60 µl	12.27±0.64	16.29±0.64	18.19±0.64
		70 µl	13.50±0.28	18.10±0.28	20.17±0.28
	Staphylococcus aureus	50 µl	14.19±0.34	16.63±0.34	18.50±0.34
		60 µl	15.12±0.06	17.09±0.06	19.42±0.06
		70 µl	16.00±0.11	19.09±0.11	21.33±0.11

(NOTE: Values are the mean of three replicates ± standard error.) **Table 2.** Antibacterial activity of AgNPs synthesized by using *D. erecta* leaf extract

DISCUSSION

The varied portions of plant extracts are eco-friendly, affordable, and nontoxic for the creation of NPs. The utilization of leaf extract for the formation of NPs has the added advantage of being ecologically beneficial. Since leaves are typically readily available in large quantities, it is a great idea to consider their potential for healing. The current research aimed to synthesize nanoparticles from *D. erecta* leaf extract. Standardization of the combination of extract amount and boiling duration for the production of plant extract was done for the production of silver NPs. The aqueous leaves extract of *D. erecta* was employed to make AgNPs, and as a result, the solution's colour changed from pale yellow to dark brown. At 410 nm, the surface plasma resonance (SPR) was monitored, which shows that AgNPs were produced. During an experimental period, the SPR peak was assumed to have been enhanced due to increased NP production. As more nanoparticles are created as a result of the phytochemical compounds in *D. erecta* leaf extract decreasing the silver ions in the aqueous solution, the intensity may have increased. Over a period of 2.5 months, the stability of produced AgNPs was observed and documented. AgNPs agglomeration or SPR changes weren't found during storage. The generation of AgNPs was also quite stable over the course of subsequent

tests, and this stability may be useful in a variety of therapeutic applications. The SPR peak in the visible range at 404 nm in *D. erecta* formed after 30 minutes and became more apparent over time. The SPR peak grew stronger with longer reaction times, indicating the formation of metallic silver nanoparticles. In the production of AgNPs from the leaf of *D. erecta*, the SPR peak obtained approximately 410 nm (Raj *et al.*, 2018), and 423 nm peak value occurred in the *V.negundo* leaf portion (Feroze *et al.*, 2020), which was as comparable as in the current investigation. XRD measurement confirmed that silver nanoparticles were crystalline in form. In countless more investigations on the synthesis of AgNPs using various extracts, extra peaks were also found. For instance, AgNPs generated from *Azadirachta indica* leaf extract showed numerous distinct peaks in the diffractogram (Hamouda *et al.*, 2019). Similar works are done in various plants such; The XRD pattern was utilized to establish that the synthesized AgNPs are found to be very stable with the crystalline character. The XRD spectrum analysis found two separate diffraction peaks at 38.08°, and 43.47°; it has been indexed as (111), (200) in *Capparis* leaves extract (Samuel *et al.*, 2020).

Understanding the role of functional groups in the interaction between metallic particles and biomolecules is now possible due to the advancement of FTIR technology. It is utilized to identify the biomolecules required for capping and effective longevity of the metallic nanoparticles and examine the chemical elements of the surface of AgNPs. There were various functional groups present like Alkynes, Alkenes, Halides, which may have been responsible for the bio-reduction of Ag+ ions. Different bond strains can be seen in the FTIR analysis results at various peaks, including the 3432.94 for N-H stretch, 2777.28 for single aldehydes, 2676.19 for C-H, 2071.75 for CC, 1637.58 for C=C, and 1121.56 for C=O, which are assigned to OH stretching and aldehydes C-H stretching, respectively (Ibrahim et al., 2019). Assimilation bands were visible in the spectrum at 3419, 2927, 1625, 1383, 1069, and 602 cm-1. The peaks at 3419 cm⁻¹ matched to -OH stretching because of the phenolic compounds present in the extract of phlomis leaf (Vanlalveni et al., 2018). Using TEM, it was possible to see how big and how spherical the produced AgNPs were. These biosynthesized silver nanoparticles are almost the same size as previously reported biologically synthesized AgNPs made from Coleus leaf, 40-50 nm, living peanut seedling, 30-100 nm (Fouda et al., 2020), Petroselinum leaf extract, 30-32 nm (Cai et al., 2019) etc. The findings of the current investigation clearly revealed that antibacterial activity was stronger when antibiotics plus AgNPs were employed than when antibiotics plus acetone extract was utilized, as evidenced by increase in zone area. The AgNPs successfully suppressed Gram negative bacteria, even better than acetone extract. The mechanism of inhibitory actions of silver ions on microorganisms is relatively recognized. AgNPs biosynthesized from Bambusa vulgaris leaves also demonstrate excellent anti-microbial effects against sample bacteria cultures (Brito et al., 2020). The anti-microbial inhibitory action in Morinda citrifolia leaf extract and findings showed that Synthesized Silver nanoparticles against the human diseases such as S. aureus and P. aeruginosa strains suggested the development of pathogenic resistance (Saratale et al., 2020).

CONCLUSION

The leaf extract of *D. erecta* was successfully used to produce silver nanoparticles utilizing a plant-mediated, environmentally friendly method. It was discovered that the various biomolecules included in the leaf extract were in charge of producing and maintaining the NPs. UV-Vis spectroscopy, XRD, FTIR, and TEM were used to illustrate the size, shape, crystalline structure, and stability. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy was used to evaluate the FCC structure and functional groups present in the nanoparticles, while X-ray diffraction and TEM were used to confirm an average size of 6 to 16 nm (FTIR). It turns out to be an efficient, green synthesis method that is eco-friendly, providing a realistic and affordable method for the creation of AgNPs. The NPs created in the current work showed antibacterial activity against specific pathogens, which indicated that they may be involved in the creation of future medications. With the potential to be used in biomedical applications and expected to play a key role in optoelectronics and medical devices in the near future, this environmentally friendly approach may be a competitive alternative to the typical physical/chemical approaches used for the production of AgNPs.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Authors' contributions

S.P. conceived the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data and wrote the article. N.K. conceived the experiments, provided and facility supports, discussed the results. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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