EFFICIENCY AND CHARACTERIZATION OF AN ANTIBACTERIAL SECONDARY METABOLITE FROM ZINGBER OFFICINALE AGAINST AEROMONAS HYDROPHILA CAUSING AEROMONAS SEPTICEMIA IN TILAPIA NILOTICA (OREOCHROMIS NILOTICUS).

Bakry M. Haroun*, Esam H. Abd El – Shakour*, Mohmed E. Abou El – Atta**, Ahlam E. abd latif***, Fathy I. Abd Allah, El – Sayed M. Abd El-Hamid***

Botany and Microbiology Dep*t.– Al Azhar University (Boys) Cairo. Chief Researcher of fish Health. **. Animal Health Institute Zagazig***. Pharmaceutics and Industrial Pharmacy Dept., Faculty of Pharmacy (Boys), Al-Azhar University.****

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to isolate and identify *Aeromonas hydrophila* which is the causative agent of motile Aeromonas septicemia MAS in freshwater fish (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and to study the efficacy and characterization of an antibacterial agent from *Zingber officinale* against *Aeromonas hydrophila* in vitro which is causative agent of MAS.

This study was carried out using 100 *O. niloticus* weighting 80 ± 5 g *Oreochromis niloticus* were suffering from lose of appetite, lethargic, swim near the water surface, hemorrhage at the fins bases ulcer behind the head, roughness of scales (bristle out), slight distended abdomen and redness of anal opening. Internally the fish exhibited congestion of gills, liver, spleen, kidney and hemorrhage in peritoneal cavity, distended gall bladder, enlarged kidney and accumulation of serious fluid in abdominal cavity.

The bacteriological examination of the samples taken from clinically affected fish revealed the isolation of *Aeromonas hydrophila*. The incidence of infection in O. *niloticus* reach 58%.

The experimental infection with the isolated *Aeromonas hydrophila* intraperitoneally resulted in 90% mortality in *O. niloticus*. The antibiogram sensitivity test revealed that ciprofloxacin in a dose of 5mg was highly effective in control of *Aeromonas hydrophila*. The separation of the active ingredient and its purification was performed using both thin layer (TLC) and column chromatography techniques. The physico-chemical characteristics of the purified antibacterial agent viz. color, melting point, solubility, elemental analysis, spectroscopic characteristics and assay of total phenolics have been investigated.

An imperical formula of *Zingber officinale* a suggested empirical formula of C11 H19 O8N which was evaluated as an antibacterial agent against *A. hydrophila* organism.

INTRODUCTION

Diseases pose a serious problem for the development of aquaculture especially for bacterial diseases that cause massive fish mortalities. Motile Aeromonas septicemia (MAS) cause 13 – 22% mortalities in catfish (Duarte *et al.*, 1983) and cause 80% mortalities in Tilapia (Plumb 1999 and Shoemaker *et al.*, 2000). MAS. affects fresh- water, occasionally brackish water and marine (*Azad et al.*, 2001). Aeromonas hydrophila is a common water borne bacterium, which may be present in the tissues of apparently normal fish (Bullock and Sniesko,1996). Aeromonas hydrophila is considered as an opportunistic pathogen for human causing soft tissue wound and diarrhea (Altwegg and Geiss, 1989). The risk associated with use of chemical and antibacterial agent may lead to increase antibiotic resistant bacteria, increase human infection and increase of residue, which may cause toxic and allergic

reactions (**Dixon,1994**). Herbs can be used in treatment of bacterial diseases in aquatic animals. They contain natural products, which are usually safe for consumers. Many kinds of herbs may be used, including "Zingber officinale". The antimicrobial substances extracted from herbs are newly used for the treatment of bacterial diseases of fish. Consequently, interest has been focused on alternatives to chemicals particularly for best and disease control. The use of natural products from medicinal plant extracts for disease control are considered as one of the strategies available but much experimental work is being carried out to assess their commercial applicability (Kosar *et al.*, 2005).

Zingber plants belonging to different species and ecotypes (biotypes) are widely used in agriculture and the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries as a culinary herb, flavoring substances of food products, alcoholic beverages and perfumery for their spicy fragrance. It has been also used as a traditional remedy to treat various ailments such as a spasmodic, antimicrobial, expectorant, carminative and aromatic for whooping and convulsive coughs, digestive disorders and menstrual problems (Aligiannis et al., 2001). In previous studies, it has been demonstrated that the content of essential oil and extracts of medicinal plants like Zingber species containing antibacterial activities on many bacteria, namely (Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, (Sahin et al., 2004). Antioxidant and other biological activities may be changed based on the deference's in cultivation, origin, vegetative stage and growing seasons of the plants (Deans et al., 1992). The chemical compositions of Zingber officinale subspecies are caryophyllene, spathulenol, germacrene-D and a terpineol (Sahin et al., 2004). From the aforementioned data, this study was planned to study the effect of the pure extract of Zingber officinale as antimicrobial agent on the causative agent of Motile Aeromonas Septicaemia in freshwater fish.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Naturally infected fish: A total number of 100 *O. niloticus* weighting 80 ± 5 g were collected from ponds of Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research, Abbassa, Sharkia, Egypt. The collected samples were subjected to full clinical and postmortem examinations according to methods described by **Plumb and Bowser (1983)**.

Bacteriological examinations:-

The samples were collected under aseptic condition from the affected lesions (skin ulcer, tail and fins, gills, liver, kidney, spleen and ascitic fluid), then inoculated into tryptic soy broth (Difco) and incubated at 29°C for 24 hrs. The growing colors were then streaked on Aeromonas base agar with supplement (ampicillin) (Biolife). Pure colonies were inoculated on nutrient agar slant for further identification by standard microbiological procedures according to **Schaperclaus et al. (1992).**

Experimental infection:

A total of 30 apparently healthy *O. niloticus* were collected from Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research . Fish were acclimatized to laboratory condition for 2 weeks in glass aquaria. The *O. niloticus* were divided into 3 groups, each group contains 10 fish as shown in **Table (3).** The isolated *Aeromonas hydrophila* was injected I/P with a dose of 0.2 ml of 24 hr broth culture $(5x10^5 \text{ cfu})$ according to the methods described by **Schaperctaus et al. (1992).**

Antibiogram sensitivity:-

Antibiogram sensitivity was performed using different chemotherapeutic agents. The test was conducted according to method described with **Quinn** *et al.* (1999) using Amoxicillin. Ciprofloxacin, Tetracycline, Nalidixic acid, Ampicillin and streptomycin.

Plant materials:-

Rhizomes of *Zingber officinale* were collected from South Sinai. Rhizomes of *Zingber officinale* was dried at room temperature, powdered and kept in plastic bags until extraction.

Screening for antibacterial activity:

The antibacterial activity was determined according to Kavanagh (1972).

The extract of *Zingber officinale* was tested against standard Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria as follow:

1-Gram positive: Staphylococcus aureus.

2- Gram negative: Escherichia coli.

Also, the extract was tested as specific for fish pathogen *A. hydrophila*, which was locally from naturally infected freshwater fish .

Extraction of the plant organs :-

The coarsely powered shoot parts of *Zingber officinale* (200 gms) were extracted with distilled water, 95 % ethanol and then partitioned using ethyl acetate and chloroform for 6 hours in a Soxhlet, after which the extract was filtered using Whatman filter paper No. 1 after cooling. The excess solvent of crude and partition of aqueous and organic extract was removed under vacuum using rotary evaporator. Each extract was kept in refrigerator for further biological investigation.

Precipitation: -

The precipitation process of the antibacterial agent was carried out using petroleum ether. The compound precipitate was centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 15 min. The antibacterial agent powder was tested for its antibacterial activity by using tube dilution.

Separation:-

Separation of the antibacterial agent into its individual components has been carried out by thin layer chromatography using a solvent system composed of chloroform and methanol (24: 1, v/v).

Purification: -

The purification of the antibacterial agent was carried out by using Silica Gel Column Chromatography. A column of 2.5 X 50 cm was used for this purpose. Chloroform and methanol 10:1 (v/v), was used as an eluting solvent. The column was left for over night until the silica gel (BDH – 60- 120 mesh) was completely settled. One-ml crude extract to be fractionated was added on the silica gel column surface and the extract was adsorbed on top of silica gel column. Fifty fractions were collected (each of 5 ml). Antibacterial activities were performed for each separate fraction.

Assay for total phenolics:-

Total phenolic constituent of the methanol extract of *Zingber officinale* was determined by employing the methods given in the literature of **Slinkard and Singleton** (**1997**) involving Folin – Ciocalteu reagent and gallic acid as standard.

Physico-chemical properties of antibacterial agent:-

1- Elemental analysis: The elemental analysis C, H, O, N, and S was carried out by the microanalytical center of Al-Azhar University, Egypt.

2- Spectroscopic analysis: The IR, UV, Mass spectrum, NMR-Spectrum and GC/mass were determined at the micro analytical mycology center of Al-Azhar University, Egypt.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of clinical examination of the moribund *O. niloticus* revealed loss of appetite, loss of balance, swimming near to the water surface, scales losses behind the head and roughed scales. As result of toxicamia, vasoconstriction in blood vessles .These results agree with those mentioned by Shoemaker *et al.* (2000); Cipriano, (2001); El-Ashram, (2002); Abou El-Atta, (2003) and Abou El-Atta and Wafeek, (2005). Also, hemorrhage at the fin bases and most parts of the body, slight exophthalmia (Photo.1) and fryed and sloughed tail and fins rot (Photo. 2) were recorded. Internally, enlarged liver, congested spleen and kidney, distended gallbladder with bile due to constriction of the bile ducts as a result of hepatomegaly were seen . These results accepted with those mentioned by Shoemaker *et al.* (2002); and Abou El-Atta, (2003). In addition, the intestine was free from any food particles, these lesions may be due to bacterial toxins which secreted by bacteria (Photo. 3).

Results of bacteriological examination:-

According to morphological and biochemical characters shown in **Table (1)**, the isolated bacteria was proved to be *Aeromonas hydrophila*. It is Gram –ve, short rods 0.3x1.0-3.54, rapid growth rate colonies within 24 hr at 29°C help its ubiquity .These results were almost similar to those described by **Enany** *et al.* (1985); Roberts, (1989); Plumb, (1999); **El-Ashram**, (2002) and Abou El-Atta, (2003). The prevalence and distribution of *Aeromonas hydrophila* in different organs and tissues of *O. niloticus* shown in **Table (2)** where the higher percentage of distributions in skin ulcer and tail and fins with 16.90% and 16.54% respectively while lowest percentage were recorded from spleen and ascitic fluid 10.21and12.32 % respectively . The higher prevalence of *A. hydrophila* could be attributed to its presence as a part of intestinal flora of healthy fresh water fish and marine water fish (*Newman, 1982*). The highest recovery rate of *A. hydrophila* from skin ulcer, fins and tail may be attributed to the primary entrance of systemic infection , these results agree with Enany *et al.* (1985); Azad *et al.* (2001); El-Ashram (2002) and Abou El-Atta (2003) and Enany *et al.* (2011).

Results of experimental infection:-

Injected fish showed nearly similar clinical signs and postmortem lesions to natural infected fish. The mortality rate among artificial infected fish showed in **Table (3)**. The intraperitoneal (I/P) route of injection appear to be more pathogenic than the intramuscular (I/M) route.

Test	Reaction
Motiliy	+
Gram staining	G -Ve
Gelatin liquefaction	+
Oxidase	+
O/F	F
Growth on 5% NaCl	-
Indole formation	+
V.P	+
Methyl red reaction	+
H2S production	-
Catalase formation	+
Nitrate reduction	+
Citrate utilization	+
Arginine hydrolysis	+
Fermentation of :-	
D-Glucose	+
Sucrose	+
Lactose	-
Maltose	+
D-Galactose	+
D-Fructose	+
Trehalose	+
+ positive	- Negative

Table (1): Important morphological and biochemical characters of A. hydrophila

Table (2): Distribution of Aeromonas hydrophila in different tissues and organs of clinically diseased Tilapia niloticus .

Fish species	$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{Organ} \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$	Skin ulcer	Tail &Fin	Gill	Liver	Kidney	Spleen	Ascitic fluid
Tilapia	No	48	47	39	41	45	29	35
nilotica	%	16.90	16.54	13.73	14.43	15.84	10.21	12.32

Table (3): Mortality rate among *Tilapia nilotica* inoculated with *Aeromonas hydrophila*.

Fish species	Group	Route of injection	Type and dose of injected material	No of injected fish	No of Dead fish	Mortality %
	Ι	I.P.	o.2ml of 5X10 ⁵ cfu of <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i>	10	9	90
Tilapia nilotica	II	I.M.	o.2ml of 5X10 ⁵ cfu of <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i>	10	8	80
	III	I.P.+I.M.	o.2 ml of sterile broth	5+5	0	0

Results of antibiogram sensitivity test:-

The antibiogram sensitivity test revealed that *Aeromonas hydrophila* was sensitive to ciprofloxacin (CIP₅) at a concentration of 5 mg as shown in Photo. (4). These results were reported also by Abou El-Atta and Wafeek (2005); Abou El Atta *et al.* (2010) and Enany *et al.* (2011).

Control of pathogenic bacterial growth using Zingber officinale:

The antibacterial substance produced by *Zingber officinale* exhibited various degrees on inhibitions of *A. hydrophila* growth (**Table 4**) and **Photo (5).**

Extraction, Precipitation and Purification of antibacterial activities:-

The coarsely powered rhizomes of *Zingber officinale* (200 g) were extracted with 95 % ethanol for 6 hours in a Soxhlet, then the extract was filtered using Whatman filter paper No. 1 after cooling. The excess of crude extract was evaporated under vacuum using rotary evaporator. The residual syrup was dissolved in a least amount of DMSO and filtered. The filtrates were tested for their antibacterial activity (**Table 5**). The coarsely powered rhizomes of *Zingber officinale* (200 g) were extracted with 95 % ethanol for 6 hours in a Soxhlet, then the extract was filtered using Whatman filter paper No. 1. Similar results were recorded by *Anna et al.*, (2004). Only one fraction was obtained with petroleum ether (b.p. 40-60°C) by centrifugation at 5000 rpm for 15 minute. Crude deep green powder was tested for their antibacterial activities by using cup diffusion method. Separation of the antibacterial agent into individual components has been carried out by thin layer chromatography (TLC).

The obtained results revealed two bands at R_f 0.76 and 0.76. One band at R_f 0.76 exhibited obvious inhibitory effects against the growth the used bacterial strains.

The purification of the antibacterial substance was carried out by using silica gel column chromatography. The active fractions were concentrated. The maximum activity was recorded at fraction No. 9&10 (**Table 6**). These results were similar that reported by **Tohamy** *et al.* (2006)

The excess of crude extract evaporated under vacuum using rotary evaporator. The extract was concentrated and treated with petroleum ether (b.p. 40-60°C) for precipitation process where only one fraction was obtained in the form of deep green ppt.

Separation of antibacterial substance into individual components has been tried by thinlayer chromatography using a solvent system composed of chloroform and methanol (24:1, v/v) as developing solvent. The band with R_f value of 0.76 there is one band at R_f 0.76 exhibited obvious inhibitory effects against the growth bacteria strains. For the purpose of purification process, the antibiotic were allowed to pass through a column chromatography packed with silica gel and eluting solvent was composed of chloroform and methanol (10:1, v/v), where fifty fractions were collected and tested for their activities. The maximum activity was recorded at fractions No. 9&10. Similarly, many workers used a column chromatography packed with silica gel and an eluting solvent composed of various ratios of chloroform and methanol. Similarly; (Yoko et al., 2001; Ueno *et al.*, 2002),

Physico-Chemical properties of the Secondary plant metabolites:

The physico-chemical characteristics of the purified antibacterial substance revealed that, the melting point are 175°C and soluble in, ethanol, water, chloroform, DMSO and methanol but insoluble in, petroleum ether, n-Butanol, hexane and benzene. Similar results were recorded by Ueno *et al.* (2002); Anna, *et al.* (2004); Sahin *et al.* (2004) and Kosar *et al.* (2005).

The elemental analytical data of the antimicrobial agent indicated that: C=46.31; H=6.31; N=4.85; O=42.53 and S=0.0

This analysis indicate a suggested empirical formula of: $C_{11} H_{19} O_8 N_1$.

The spectroscopic characteristics of the antibacterial substance revealed the presence of the maximum absorption peak using UV. at 188 nm, infra-red absorption spectrum represented by 22 peaks and Mass-spectrum revealed that the molecular weight was 294 Dalton .

B- Spectroscopic characteristics:

The ultraviolet (UV) absorption spectrum of the antibacterial substance recorded a maximum absorption peak at 188 nm (**Fig.1**). The infrared (IR) spectrum of the antibacterial agent exhibited characteristic band corresponding to 22 peaks (**Fig.2**). The Mass spectrum of antibacterial agent revealed that the molecular weight at 294 (**Fig.3**) and NMR-spectrum has been also investigated (**Fig. 4**) and GC/mass (**Fig. 5**).

Total of phenolic compounds:

Based on the absorbance value of the methanol extract solution, reacted with Folin – Ciocalteu reagent an compared with the standard solutions of gallic acid equivalents as described above, the amount of total phenolics was estimated as 235 ug/ml dry extract (24%,w/w). The amount of total phenolics constituent of the methanol extract of *O.vulgare* was estimated as 235 ug/ml dry extract (24%, w/w). Similar results were recorded by **Sahin** *et al.* (2004).

C- Biological activities of the purified secondary plant metabolites :-

Data of the antibacterial spectrum of the secondary plant metabolites indicated that the antibacterial agent is fairly active against Gram-positive and Gram negative bacteria (**Table7**). The MIC of the antibacterial agent under study exhibited various activities against Gram positive and Gram-negative bacteria. Similar investigations and results were attained *by* Atta *et al.* (2003); Sahin *et al.* (2004) ; Kosar *et al.* (2005) and Tohamy *et al.* (2006).

CONCLUSION:

From the results mentioned above the antibacterial agent extracted from *Zingber* officinale can be used for control of bacterial diseases caused by Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria instead of the chemical antibiotics for their safety for human and environment.

Table (4): Mean diameters of inhibition zones (mm) caused by 100µl of the antibacterial activities from *Zingber officinale* in the agar plate diffusion assay

Test organism	*Mean diameters of inhibition zones (mm)
Aeromonas hydrophila	32

Extract Type	*Mean diameters of inhibition zones (mm)
	Aeromonas hydrophila
Crude aqueous extract	0.0
Ethyl Acetate	10
Ethyl Alcohol	33
Acetone	28
Chloroform	0.0

Table (5): Extraction of antibacterial substance of Zingber officinale :-.

* Mean values of 3 determinations.

 Table (6): Isolation, precipitation and purification steps of antibacterial substance from Zingber officinale:

Step	*Mean diameters of inhibition zones (mm)
	Aeromonas hydrophila
1-Isolation	32±0.15
2-Precipitation	31±0.20
3-Purification by Column	28+0.23
chromatography	20± 0.25

* Mean values of 3 determinations.

Table (7): Antibacterial spectrum of the Purified antibacterial substance:-

Organism	Code	MIC(µg/ml) concentration
1-Gram Positive Bacteria:		
Staphylococcus aureus,	NCTC 7447	11.7
2-Gram Negative Bacteria		
Escherichia coli	NCTC 10416	23.4
3-Bacteria isolated from Fish		
Aeromonas hydrophila		60.5



Photo (1): *O. niloticus* clinically showed scale losses behind the head, roughed scales, haemorrhage at the base of the fin and slight exophthalmia.



Photo (2): O. niloticus clinically showed fryed & Sloughed taill and fin rot.



Photo (3): *O*. *niloticus* internally showed enlarged liver , gall bladder , congested kidney and spleen .



Photo (4): Antibiogram sensitivity test showed zone of inhibition around the antibiotic discs

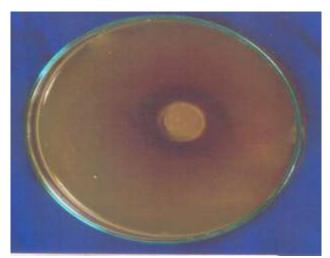


Photo (5) : The antibacterial substance produced from *Zingber officinale* exhibited various degree of inhibition on *A. hydrophila* growth .

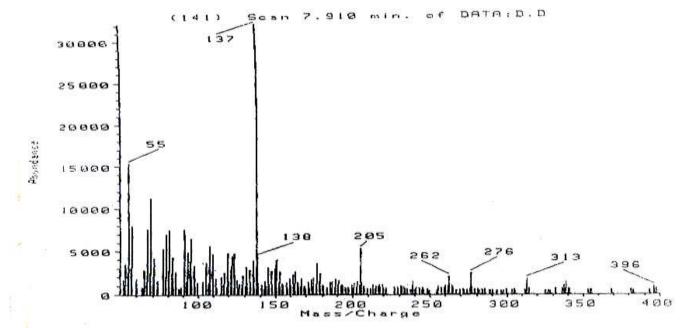


Fig. (1): The mass spectrum of the purified antimicrobial substance produced by *Zingebare* officienale.

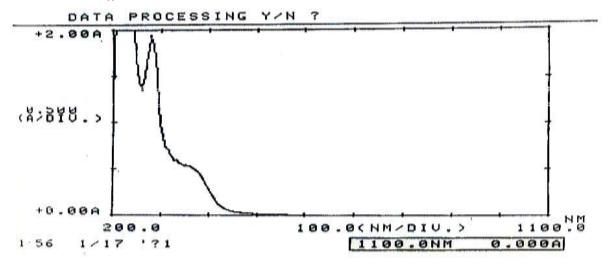


Fig. (2): The UV spectrum of the antimicrobial substance produced by Zingebare officinale.

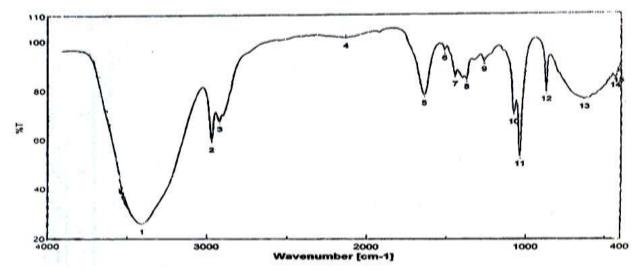


Fig. (3): The IR spectrum of the antimicrobial substance produced by Zingebare officinale.

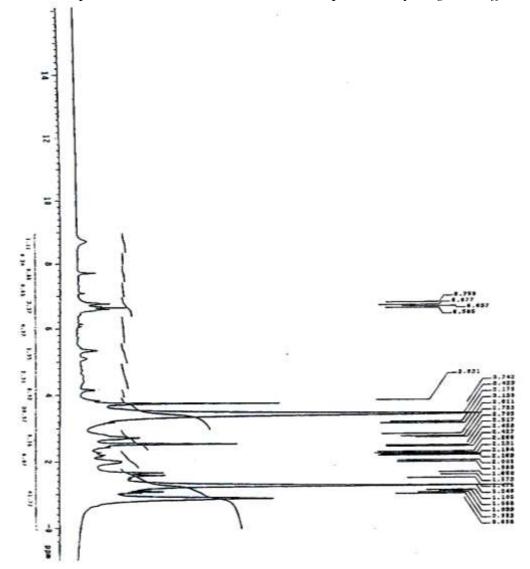


Fig. (4): The NMR spectrum of the antimicrobial substance produced by Zingebare officinale

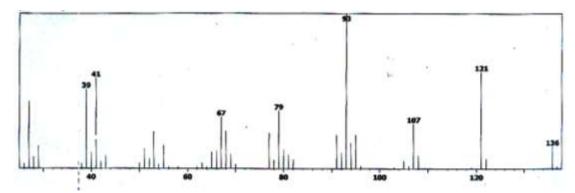


Fig. (5): The Gas Chromatography Mass Spectroscopy of the Antimicrobial Substance Produced by *Zingebare offivinale*

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كفاءة وصفات العامل المضاد للبكتريا المستخلص من نبات الزنجبيل ضد بكتريا إيروموناس هيدروفيلا المسبب للتسمم الدموي في أسماك البلطي النيلي .

بكري محمد هارون *؛ عصام حسين عبد الشكور * ، محمد السيد أبو العطا **؛ أحلام السيد عبد اللطيف ***؛فتحى ابراهيم عبد الله ****، السيد منصور عبد الحميد ***

كلية العلوم جامعة الأزهر – قسم الميكروبيولوجي ؛ معمل بحوث الأسماك بالعباسة ؛معهد صحة الحيوان بالزقازيق ، قسم الصيدلانيات والصيدلة الصناعية – كلية الصيدلة (بنين بالقاهرة) – جامعة الأزهر.

تم إجراء تلك الدراسة لعزل وتصنيف بكتريا إيروموناس هيدروفيلا المسبب لمرض التسمم الدموي المتحرك في أسماك البلطي وكذلك دراسة كفاءة وصفات العامل المضاد للبكتيريا المستخلص من نبات الزنجبيل ضد الميكروب المعزول معمليا.

تم في تلك الدراسة استخدام ١٠٠ سمكة من أسماك البلطي ٨٠ ± ٥جم كانت تعاني من أعراض التسمم الدموي وكانت تلك الأعراض الإكلينيكية فقدان الشهية ، بطء في الحركة ، والعوم قريبا من سطح الماء ووجود أنزفة وقرح على معظم أجزاء جسم السمكة وامتلاء الجيوب القشرية بالماء مما يجعل ملمس القشور خشن عند تحريك اليد في عكس اتجاه القشور ، وتآكل الذيل والزعانف وتساقط القشور خلف منطقة الرأس ، وتضخم حجم البطن ، وبهتان لون الخياشيم وتضخم حجم الكبد وشحوب لونه ، وتضخم حجم الحويصلة المرارية ، وتضخم في حجم الكلي ووجود سائل أوديمي في التخويف ألبطني.

ونتيجة للفحص البكتربولوجي للأسماك المصابة تم عزل وتصنيف ميكروب ايروموناس هيدروفيلا من نتائج الصفات المورفولوجية والبيوكيميائية.

ووجد أن نسبة الإصابة في أسماك البلطي ٤٨ بنسبة ١٦.٩٠% وكانت أعلى نسبة لعزل البكتريا من التقرحات الجلدية .

وتم إجراء العدوى الصناعية التجريبية باستخدام بكتريا إيروموناس المعزول حيث أثبتت النتائج أن الحقن في التجويف البطني أشد ضراوة من الحقن العضلي أدى إلى نفوق ٩٠% في البلطي بالمقارنة بالحقن العضلي الذي أدى إلى نفوق ٨٠% في البلطي .

وبإجراء اختبار الحساسية للكائن المعزول وجد أنه حساس للسيبر وفلوكساسين تركيز ⁰ملجم حيث أعطى منطقة تثبيط نمو حول قرص مضاد الأحياء قدرت بحوالي ٢٢مللميتر. وتم التحكم في نمو تلك العزلات البكتيرية عن طريق استخلاص درنات نبات الزنجبيل بإستخدام الكحول الايثيلى بنسبة ٩٠%. كما تم فصل المواد الفعالة وتنقيتها باستخدام الفصل اللوني. وقد تم أيضا دراسة الصفات الفيزيوكيميائية للمركب الناتج مثل اللون، الذوبانية، درجة الانصبهار، وكذا تحليل العناصر والصفات الطيفية والكمية (UV, IR, NMR, Mass Spectra GC/mass). حيث أفادت تلك التحايل إلى أن السيغة الجزئية هي.(C11H19O8N). كما تم قياس نسبة الفينولات الكلي للمركب وتحديد أقل تركيز مثبط لنمو البكتريا (MIC).