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Antimicrobial compounds in bryophytes

Tomasz M. Karpiński ¹, Marcin Ożarowski ², Artur Adamczak ³

¹ Chair and Department of Medical Microbiology, Poznań University of Medical Sciences, Wieniawskiego 3, 61-712 Poznań, Poland
² Department of Biotechnology, Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants, Wojska Polskiego 71b, 60-630 Poznań, Poland
³ Department of Botany, Breeding and Agricultural Technology of Medicinal Plants, Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants, Kolejowa 2, 62-064 Plewiska, Poland
Email: tkarpin@ump.edu.pl

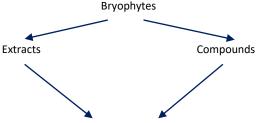
Bryophytes are a group of plants divided into three phyla: mosses (Bryophyta), liverworts (Marchantiophyta), and hornworts (Anthocerotophyta). Through ages, especially in Asia and North America, bryophytes were used as medicines. Antibiotic activity possess the following substances appearing in the bryophytes: bibenzyls, terpenoids, benzenoids, fatty acid derivatives, and polyphenols [1,2].

Bibenzyls isolated from liverworts, including some marchantins and riccardins showed antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* [3] and antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* [4]. Marchantin A obtained from many *Marchantia* species acted against bacteria *Bacillus* sp., *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *S. aureus*, and fungi *Aspergillus* sp., *C. albicans*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Sporothrix schenckii*, and *Trichophyton* sp. [5]. Sesquiterpenoids from liverworts (some herbertenols, herbertenes, mastigophorenes) possessed different activity against *S. aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* [6,7]. The antimicrobial activity also showed isolated mainly from liverworts terpenoids, such as α-pinene, β-pinene, camphor, sabiene, myrcene, α-terpinene, and limonene [8].

Polyphenolic compounds presented in mosses Atrichum, Dicranum, Mnium, Polytrichum, and Sphagnum spp. were considered to be antibiotically active substances [9]. Antimicrobial activity had isolated flavonoids: apigenin and vitexin from Plagiomnium affine, saponarine from P. cuspidatum, bartramiaflavone from Bartramia pomiformis, lucenin-2 from Hedwigia ciliata, apigenin-7-O-triglycoside and luteolin-7-O-neohesperidoside from Dicranum scoparium [10,11]. Hypnum cupressiforme contains several hypnogenols, biflavanoids, and dihydroflavanols, which acted antibacterial [12,13].

Additionally, activity against *Enterococcus faecalis*, *S. aureus*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae*, was confirmed for extracts of *Bryum argenteum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Dryptodon pulvinatus*, *Orthotrichum anomalum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, and *Schistidium crassipilum*. Whereas, *Polytrichum juniperinum* and *P. piliferum* acted only against Gram-positive strains [14].







Antimicrobial activity

References

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