

Phytochemical analysis of *Andrographis paniculata* and *Euphorbia hirta* crude extracts

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ABSTRACT

Increase of antibacterial resistance is a global growing problem. Isolation of microbial agents less susceptible to regular antibiotics and recovery of increasing resistant isolates during antibacterial therapy is rising throughout the world which highlights the need for new principles. Plants produce a diverse range of bioactive molecules making them a rich resource of different types of medicines. Higher plants as sources of medicinal compounds have continued to play a dominant role in the maintenance of human health care since ancient times. Over 50% of all modern clinical drugs are of natural product origin and natural products play a vital role in modern drug development in the pharmaceutical industry. In siddha system of medicine the herb Nilavembu (*Andrographis paniculata* "king of bitters") and Amman paccarici (*Euphorbia hirta* "cats hair") were used to treat various ailments including infectious diseases. The phytochemical screening of *Andrographis paniculata* and *Euphorbia hirta* methanol crude extract revealed the presence of phytochemicals such as starch, alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, reducing sugars, amino acids and lignin's. The phytochemical analysis and biochemical assays are very important aspects in pharmacognostic evaluation of medical plants. Through the chemical tests in the methanolic extracts of leaves of the two investigated plants, it is found that the important phytochemical groups are present and confirms their medicinal properties.