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Présentée Par :

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**Screening phytochimique et activité antifongique et
antibactérienne des substances bioactives de plantes
médicinales et d'actinomycètes prélevées des sols
sahariens.**

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*« If you think that education is too expensive
... try ignorance, it may be less expensive »*

In Loving Memory Of My Dear Grandmother.

Dedicated To :

To My Beloved Parents.

To My Dear Sisters.

To My Friends.

Without Them None Of My Successes Would Be Possible.



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Mohamed Amine GACEM

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Screening phytochimique et activités antifongique et antibactérienne des substances bioactives de plantes médicinales et d'actinomycètes prélevées des sols sahariens.

Résumé

L'objectif de ce travail est de mettre en évidence l'intérêt biologique de trois plantes médicinales et d'un isolat d'actinobactérie dans le contrôle de quelques souches bactériennes et fongiques ainsi que l'inhibition de la synthèse de quelques mycotoxines.

Pistacia lentiscus, *Citrullus colocynthis*, *Artemisia herba-alba* et un isolat d'actinobactérie forestière ont été sélectionnés pour évaluer leur activités antibactérienne, antifongique, antimycotoxinogène et antioxydante. Les trois plantes sont prélevées des régions steppique et saharienne de l'Algérie. Les résultats du screening phytochimique ont révélé la richesse des trois espèces végétales en substances bioactives. Les résultats des tests biologiques suggèrent que les extraits méthanolique et aqueux d'*A. herba alba* sont dotés d'une excellente activité antifongique contre *F. graminearum* CECT 2150, *A. ochraceus* NRRL 3174 et *P. expansum* CECT 2278. La synthèse d'ochratoxine est significativement inhibée par les extraits méthanoliques d'*A. herba alba* et des graines de *C. colocynthis*. L'activité antioxydante des extraits organiques des trois plantes est démontrée.

L'actinobactérie est isolée d'un sol forestier de la région de Saida. L'identification moléculaire à base d'ARNr 16S a révélé que l'isolat d'actinobactérie désigné V₀₀₂ appartient au genre *Streptomyces*. Cette souche est considérée comme nouvelle espèce productrice de spectinabiline, d'undecylprodigiosine et de metacycloprodigiosine. La souche *Streptomyces sp.* V₀₀₂ est considérée comme un producteur prometteur de prodigiosine. Elle est également considérée comme agent antimicrobien efficace en raison de son rôle important dans l'inhibition des bactéries à Gram positif. Les métabolites secondaires de cette souche ont une puissante capacité antioxydante dans l'inhibition d'ABTS et le piégeage de DPPH.

Les métabolites secondaires de *P. lentiscus*, *C. colocynthis*, *A. herba alba* et de la souche V₀₀₂ représentent une alternative prometteuse pour éliminer certains microbes pathogènes. Ils sont aussi considérés comme agents détoxifiant permettant d'éliminer certaines mycotoxines. L'excellente activité antioxydante des extraits leur confère une place importante dans le traitement des maladies causées par le stress oxydatif.

Mots-clés : *Pistacia lentiscus*; *Citrullus colocynthis*; *Artemisia herba-alba*; Actinobactérie; Activité antioxydante; Activité antibactérienne; Activité antifongique; Spectinabiline. Undecylprodigiosine. Metacycloprodigiosine.

Phytochemical screening and antifungal and antibacterial activity of bioactive substances from medicinal plants and actinomycetes collected from Saharan soils.

Abstract

The aim of this work is to demonstrate the biological interest of three medicinal plants and an isolate of actinobacteria in the control of certain bacterial and fungal strains as well as the inhibition of the synthesis of certain mycotoxins.

Pistacia lentiscus, *Citrullus colocynthis*, *Artemisia herba-alba* and a forest actinobacterium were selected to assess their antibacterial, antifungal, antimycotoxin and antioxidant activities. The three plants are collected from the steppes and the Saharan regions of Algeria. The results of the phytochemical screening revealed the richness of the three medicinal plant species in bioactive substances. The results of biological tests suggest that the methanolic and aqueous extracts of *A. herba-alba* have a significant antifungal activity against *F. graminearum* CECT 2150, *A. ochraceus* NRRL 3174 and *P. expansum* CECT 2278. Ochratoxin synthesis is significantly inhibited by methanolic extracts from *A. herba-alba* and *C. colocynthis* seeds. The antioxidant activity of organic extracts from the three plants has been demonstrated.

The actinobacterium is isolated from forest soil in the Saida region. Molecular identification using 16S rRNA revealed that the actinobacterium isolate designated V₀₀₂ belongs to the genus *Streptomyces*. This strain is considered to be a new species producing spectinabilin, undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin. The strain *Streptomyces* sp. V₀₀₂ is considered as a promising producer of prodigiosin. It is also considered to be an effective antimicrobial agent due to its important role in inhibiting Gram-positive bacteria. The secondary metabolites of this strain have a potent antioxidant capacity to inhibit ABTS and scavenge DPPH.

The secondary metabolites of *P. lentiscus*, *C. colocynthis*, *A. herba alba* and strain V₀₀₂ represent a promising alternative to eliminate certain pathogenic microbes. They are also considered to be detoxifying agents which eliminate certain mycotoxins. The excellent antioxidant activity of the extracts gives them an important place in the treatment of diseases caused by oxidative stress.

Keywords: *Pistacia lentiscus*; *Citrullus colocynthis*; *Artemisia herba-alba*; Actinobacterium; Antioxidant activity; Antibacterial activity; Antifungal activity; Spectinabilin; Undecylprodigiosin; Metacycloprodigiosin.

تشخيص المكونات الكيميائية النباتية والنشاطات الحيوية المضادة للفطريات والبكتيريا لبعض المواد الحيوية المستخلصة من النباتات الطبية ونوع من بكتيريا التربة (الأكتينوبكتيريا) المأخوذة من تربة الصحراء.

الملخص

الهدف من إنجاز هذا العمل هو إظهار الفوائد البيولوجية لثلاث أنواع من النباتات الطبية وكذا عزل الأكتينوبكتيريا وذلك من أجل مكافحة بعض السلالات البكتيرية والفطرية الضارة وكذلك تثبيط بعض السموم الفطرية.

تم اختيار شجرة الضرو، فاكهة الحنظل وعشبة الشيح إضافة الى عزل الأكتينوبكتيريا وذلك من أجل دراسة وتقييم أنشطتها المضادة للبكتيريا، للفطريات، لسموم بعض الفطريات وكذلك لتقييم نشاطها الحيوي المضاد للأكسدة. تم جمع النباتات الطبية الثلاث من مناطق السهوب والصحراء الجزائرية. أظهرت نتائج الفحص الكيميائي النباتي ثراء النباتات الطبية بالمواد البيوكيميائية النشطة، كما تشير نتائج الاختبارات البيولوجية إلى أن المستخلصات الميثانولية والمائية لنبات الشيح ان لها نشاط بيولوجي كبير مضاد للفطر *F. graminirium* CECT 2150, *A. ochraceus* NRRL 3174, *P. expansum* CECT 2278

تشير نتائج الاختبارات البيولوجية أيضا ان المستخلصات الميثانولية لبذور الحنظل وعشبة الشيح لها القدرة على تثبيط السموم الفطرية (الأكراتوكسين)، كما تم إثبات النشاطات المضادة للأكسدة للمستخلصات العضوية للنباتات الطبية الثلاثة.

تم عزل الأكتينوبكتيريا من تربة غابة العقبان لولاية سعيدة حيث كشف التحديد الجيني باستخدام ARNr 16s الى ان الأكتينوبكتيريا V002 المعزولة تنتمي الى سلالة *Streptomyces*. تعتبر هذه البكتيريا كمنتج جديد لسبيكتينابالين، وندسيل بروديجيوسين وميتاسيكلوبروديجيوسين. كما تعتبر أيضا عاملاً فعالاً مضاداً للميكروبات نظراً لدورها المهم في تثبيط البكتيريا Gram+. تحتوي المستقلبات الثانوية لهذه البكتيريا مضادات للأكسدة.

تمثل المستقلبات الثانوية للنباتات الطبية الثلاث وكذا المستقلبات الثانوية للأكتينوبكتيريا المعزولة بديلاً واعدًا للقضاء على بعض الميكروبات المسببة للأمراض، كما تعتبر أيضاً عوامل محفزة للقضاء على الفطريات او تثبيط سمومها. يمنح النشاط الممتاز المضاد للأكسدة للمستخلصات مكاناً مهماً في علاج الأمراض الناتجة عن الإجهاد التأكسدي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: شجرة الضرو، فاكهة الحنظل، عشبة الشيح، الأكتينوبكتيريا، مضاد للفطر، مضادة للبكتيريا، مضاد للأكسدة، سبيكتينابالين، نديسيل بروديجيوسين، ميتاسيكلوبروديجيوسين.

Introduction

Introduction

Les mycotoxines sont des métabolites secondaires fongiques très toxique pour l'Homme. Certains de ces métabolites fongiques possèdent des activités pharmacologiques, ils sont utilisés dans la production d'antibiotiques, d'autres sont introduits dans le développement des armes biologiques et chimiques (Sava et al. 2006).

La plupart des mycotoxines sont d'origine polycétide (Huffman et al. 2010). Elles sont produites par six genres fongiques à savoir *Aspergillus*, *Alternaria*, *Claviceps*, *Fusarium*, *Penicillium* et *Stachybotrys* (Greco et al. 2012). Ces métabolites se produisent couramment dans les denrées alimentaires et induisent des pathologies chez les consommateurs. Ils sont détectés dans une large variété d'aliments et sont repérées dans les champs agricoles avant et après la récolte, et même durant les longues périodes de stockage ou pendant la transformation industrielle des aliments (Almeida-Ferreira et al. 2013 ; Perši et al. 2014 ; Pizzolato Montanha et al. 2018). Leurs détections est aussi possible dans l'eau et les boissons (De Jesus et al. 2018 ; Mata et al. 2015).

Les mycotoxines constituent un groupe très diversifié de composés chimiques. Leur toxicité est alarmante pour l'Homme, les animaux et les végétaux (Peraica et al. 1999). Elles sont capables d'induire une néphrotoxicité (Palabiyik et al. 2013 ; Limonciel et Jennings 2014), une génotoxicité (Adgigitov et al. 1984 ; Bárta et al. 1984 ; Theumer et al. 2018), une tératogénicité (Celik et al. 2000 ; Sur et Celik 2003), une neurotoxicité (Ikegwonu 1983 ; Mehrzad et al. 2017), une hépatotoxicité (Gagliano et al. 2006 ; Gayathri et al. 2015), une immunotoxicité (Al-Anati et Petzinger 2006 ; Thuvander et al. 1995), une altération des membranes (Ciacci-Zanella et al. 1998), une toxicité gastrointestinale (Bouhet et al. 2004 ; Loiseau et al. 2007), une cardiotoxicité (Constable et al. 2000), une toxicité pulmonaire (Smith et al. 1999), et conduisant parfois au développement des cancers (Barrett et al. 2005 ; Wu et Santella 2012 ; Magnussen et Parsi 2013).

Afin de limiter la diffusion et le développement des moisissures toxigènes et leurs mycotoxicoses dans les denrées alimentaires, une politique de contrôle est appliquée ces dernières années. Cette politique est basée sur la prévention de la contamination, la décontamination et la protection contre les toxicités des mycotoxines par application de plusieurs techniques physiques, chimiques et biologiques (Varga et al., 2010). Cependant, il est très difficile de détruire les mycotoxines par les techniques physiques sans altéré la qualité des aliments (Calado et al. 2018). Par ailleurs, l'utilisation des procédés chimiques ont aussi des effets indésirables, car elles

participent dans la génération des radicaux libres et par conséquent, une induction d'un stress oxydatif (**Štikarová et al., 2013 ; Fatokun et al., 2006**).

Malgré l'utilisation contrôlée des antibiotiques, et la mise en place de plusieurs plans correctifs par les services de santé, l'antibiorésistance continue de se développer et de se disséminer en installant des impacts négatifs chez les patients et le système de santé (**Friedman et al. 2016**).

Devant l'impuissance des plans correctifs établis par les organisations de santé dans le but de stopper l'antibiorésistance, les chercheurs ont quitté les plateformes classiques vers la recherche de nouvelles stratégies de lutte et de prévention. L'une des plateformes suivies par les scientifiques est l'extraction des métabolites secondaires des plantes, leur caractérisation et la recherche de leurs activités biologiques (**Njoki et al., 2017**).

Les actinobactéries sont des aérobies, sporogènes, Gram positif et produisant un mycélium aérien. Dans le sol, elles jouent un rôle dans le cyclisme de la matière organique et la dégradation des débris organiques, inhibent les agents pathogènes par production des métabolites secondaires et participent à la bio-dépollution des sols pollués par les hydrocarbures (**Bhatti et al. 2017**).

La recherche de nouvelles souches d'actinobactéries productrices de nouveaux antibiotiques est considérée comme une autre stratégie suivie par les chercheurs pour combattre les germes pathogènes (**Mahajan et Balachandran 2012**).

Les actinobactéries extrêmophiles isolées du désert correspondent à des bactéries alcalithermophiles, thermophiles, thermoacidophiles, thermophiles radiotolérantes, thermophiles alcalitolérantes, halophiles et haloalcalophiles (**Kurapova et al. 2012**). Les polyextrémophiles et les polyextrémotolérantes existent également dans les environnements avec des conditions extrêmes et peuvent s'adapter à des environnements à contraintes multiples (**Gupta et al. 2014**).

Plusieurs recherches ont révélé le rôle, l'importance écologique et l'intérêt médical des actinobactéries (**Goudjal et al. 2013 ; Shirokikh et Shirokikh 2017 ; Baoune et al. 2018**), mais peu d'études se sont intéressées au rôle et l'importance des actinobactéries isolées des environnements extrêmes (**Mohammadipanah et Wink 2015**).

L'utilisation des substances naturelles dans la lutte contre les microbes pathogènes et toxigènes, et la détermination de leur activité antiradicalaire est à l'origine du choix de notre thème qui consiste en l'extraction de quelques métabolites de *Pistacia. lentiscus*, *Artemisia herba-alba*, et les graines de *Citrullus colocynthis*. Un isolat d'actinobactérie a aussi fait l'objet de cette

étude. Les métabolites secondaires des plantes et de l'isolat d'actinobactérie sont soumis à une série de tests afin de déterminer leurs activités biologiques.

Le manuscrit de la thèse est structuré de huit chapitres et d'une annexe. Il est ainsi organisé comme suit :

Introduction générale ; qui consiste en une brève présentation de la thèse. Les objectifs et les contributions originales de la thèse sont aussi précisés dans cette introduction.

Le manuscrit est composé d'une partie bibliographique qui traite essentiellement cinq chapitres publiés sous forme d'articles ou de chapitres dans différents livres à savoir :

Chapitre I : dans lequel l'occurrence des mycotoxines dans les denrées alimentaires et les liquides biologiques humain est dévoilée, les facteurs qui contrôlent leurs biosynthèses sont aussi discutés. Le chapitre s'achève par un aperçu général sur méthodes de détection des mycotoxines.

Chapitre II : consacré à discuter les toxicités de quatre mycotoxines très abondantes dans les denrées alimentaires. La génotoxicité, la tératogénicité, l'immunotoxicité, la néphrotoxicité, l'hépatotoxicité et la neurotoxicité de l'aflatoxine, l'ochratoxine, la fumonisine et la zéaralénone sont expliquées d'une manière approfondie.

Chapitre III : restitue les techniques appliquées dans les champs afin de prévenir la contamination des cultures agricoles par les moisissures et/ou leurs mycotoxines. Les méthodes de décontamination et de détoxification biologiques, chimique et physiques sont discutées dans cette partie. Le chapitre s'achève par une présentation de la nouvelle approche nanométrique et son mode d'action dans le contrôle des mycotoxines et/ou leurs moisissures.

Chapitre IV : rapporte la composition phytochimique et les activités pharmacologiques de trois plantes médicinales à savoir *Artemisia herba-alba*, *Citrullus colocynthis*, et *Pistacia lentiscus*. La toxicité des plantes est également discutée.

Chapitre V : se concentre principalement sur certains sites inexploités du désert algérien. Il divulgue les principaux sites géologiques jamais étudiés par les microbiologistes. Le chapitre discute d'une manière approfondie les mécanismes d'adaptation des actinobactéries des sols désertiques et les facteurs biotiques et abiotiques impliqués dans cette adaptation. Le chapitre se termine par des arguments garantissant que ces niches hébergent de nouvelles souches d'actinobactéries capables de synthétiser de nouveaux métabolites secondaires.

La seconde partie est consacrée à l'expérimentation et la discussion des résultats obtenues durant la réalisation de l'étude, elle est structurée en deux parties :

I. Plan expérimental : présente les différents dispositifs expérimentaux adoptés lors de la réalisation des différentes parties de cette étude.

II. Résultats et discussion : organisée en trois chapitres :

Chapitre VI : dans lequel sont présentés les résultats et les discussions des travaux de recherche déterminant la composition phytochimique, l'activité antimicrobienne et antioxydante des trois plantes médicinales récoltées dans la steppe et le Sahara algérienne.

Chapitre VII : consacré à l'identification et à l'évaluation de la capacité antimicrobienne et antioxydante de l'isolat d'actinobactérie forestière V₀₀₂. Les métabolites secondaire produits par l'isolat V₀₀₂ sont aussi déterminés

Chapitre VIII : rapporte les résultats et les discussions de l'efficacité des extraits de plantes et de l'isolat V₀₀₂ à inhiber la biosynthèse de l'aflatoxine et de l'ochratoxine.

Conclusion générale et perspective ; permettant de clôturer le travail réalisé et annoncer les perspectives envisagées à l'échelle du laboratoire et à l'échelle du terrain pour une meilleure compréhension de la thématique entreprise.

Il est à noter que la présente thèse est sous forme de thèse-Articles. Elle commence par une introduction en Français suivie d'une partie bibliographique et une partie expérimentale. Chaque partie est représentée par des chapitres ou des articles parus dans des livres ou dans des revues scientifiques. Une conclusion générale des travaux réalisés est également présentée en Français.

Partie bibliographique

*I. Occurrence, toxicité et méthodes de
détection des mycotoxines.*

I. Occurrence, toxicité et méthodes de détection des mycotoxines.

«Mycotoxins occurrence, toxicity and detection methods»

*(Chapitre publié en Février 2020 dans la série de livre : Sustainable Agriculture Reviews—
Springer Nature).*

Les mycotoxines sont des métabolites secondaires toxiques d'origine polykétides synthétisées par des microorganismes filamenteux appartenant à six genres fongiques. Malgré que certaines d'entre elles possèdent des aptitudes pharmaceutiques, la majorité des mycotoxines sont considérées comme des poisons.

Ces composés très diversifiés dans leur nature, leur structure, et leur toxicité sont abondants dans une large gamme de produits alimentaires d'origines végétale et animale tels que le blé, le maïs, le riz, les légumes, les fruits, le lait, les viandes, les poissons et les œufs.

Les mycotoxines sont produites durant les différents stades de la croissance d'une plante. Elles sont élaborées au niveau du champs, durant la récolte, au-cours du séchage, pendant les longues périodes de stockage, pendant le transport, en particulier le transport maritime et durant les processus de transformation. Ces métabolites peuvent aussi être élaborés au cours des procédures de fermentation alimentaires, notamment, la production des boissons alcoolisés et les légumes fermentés.

L'occurrence des mycotoxines ou de leurs sous-produits dans les produits carnés et/ou le lait résulte d'une alimentation animale contaminée. Leur détection dans les liquides et/ou les tissus biologiques est le résultat d'une bio-détoxification incomplète établie dans les cellules hépatiques et/ou dans les glomérules des reins. Les mycotoxines sont aussi détectées dans l'eau potable résultant de l'endommagement des conduites, ces atteintes négligées forment une véritable source de contamination fongique.

La synthèse des mycotoxines est sous le contrôle de plusieurs facteurs tels que les conditions biotique et abiotique adéquates qui sont la force motrice recommandée pour la biosynthèse. En effet, lorsque les conditions sont favorables, la production des mycotoxines est exponentielle. La connaissance de ces facteurs est un point crucial dans la suppression ou l'expression des gènes requis dans la biosynthèse des toxines. L'état de la grappe des gènes, la

présence d'une source de carbone et d'azote, la température et l'humidité optimales sont parmi les plus importants facteurs impliqués dans la biosynthèse des mycotoxines.

Par leur richesse en azote, les acides aminés jouent un rôle primordial dans l'élaboration des aflatoxines, alors que chez d'autres espèces de moisissure, la présence du tryptophane bloque la synthèse des toxines. Par ailleurs, les acides aminés, la présence des nitrites et/ou des nitrates peut aussi bloquer la grappe de gènes de biosynthèse par la liaison de ces composés au régulateur de l'expression des gènes (aflR).

Chez certaines espèces fongiques, l'humidité n'est pas un facteur limitant, vu que la synthèse des mycotoxines est possible dans des atmosphères peu humides. Quant au pH, l'environnement acide est favorable pour la biosynthèse des mycotoxines. Chez certaines espèces fongiques, l'obscurité et la luminosité influencent considérablement le taux de production des mycotoxines.

Le mécanisme par lequel les conditions environnementales contrôlent l'expression ou la répression de la grappe des gènes de biosynthèse des mycotoxines est très compliqué. Les facteurs abiotiques sont convertis sous forme de signaux chimiques puis transmis à l'intérieur de la cellule fongique, où ils sont reçus par les gènes régulateurs portés par le génome. La modification de la transcription et/ou la traduction des gènes impliqués dans la réception et la transmission des signaux réceptionnés du milieu extracellulaire, ou les gènes impliqués dans le métabolisme affecte négativement la biosynthèse des mycotoxines. Par ailleurs, les mutations au niveau de la grappe des gènes de biosynthèse des mycotoxines conduisent à la baisse de leur synthèse.

L'exposition permanente des organismes vivants supérieurs à de fortes concentrations de mycotoxines supérieures à l'apport quotidien tolérable cause l'apparition de plusieurs mycotoxicoses caractérisées dans la majorité des cas par des mutations génomiques irréversibles et de sérieux dommages cellulaires. Les pathologies résultantes sont principalement dues au stress oxydatif imposé par les toxines franchissant les cellules des tissus cibles. Les mycotoxicoses causées sont très nombreuses, elles dépendent d'une part des types de mycotoxines, et d'autre part, de leurs cibles tissulaires.

Afin d'empêcher la persistance de la toxicité menant au développement d'une maladie, la détection précoce des toxines dans les aliments, les liquides biologiques, et même dans les tissus est une approche recommandée. Cette voie permet de limiter les dommages cellulaires et permet également de gérer les situations avant l'induction de la maladie. L'occurrence des mycotoxines

ou de leurs résidus dans le sang et les tissus biologiques est due à la décomposition incomplète des toxines lors des processus de détoxification. En outre, l'abondance des toxines dans le sang dépend fortement de leur demi-vie biologique et de leur affinité aux composants sanguins. Les mycotoxines peuvent se lier aux récepteurs cellulaires membranaires avec des affinités variables. Plusieurs types de mycotoxines ou de leurs sous-produits se lient à l'albumine sérique formant un complexe caractérisé par une faible toxicité et une incapacité d'être absorbés par les cellules.

Suite aux appels alarmants des organisations mondiales, en particulier l'OMS et la FAO signalant les risques et les maladies induites par les toxines, la détection des mycotoxines dans les produits destinés à l'alimentation de l'Homme et l'animal est devenue une nécessité. Cependant, le contrôle de ces poisons est loin d'être appliqué dans les pays sous-développés, alors que pour d'autres pays, il est complètement négligé.

Les méthodes analytiques de contrôle et de détection ont subi une importante innovation et progression ces dernières années. Ces méthodes sont actuellement divisées en deux classes à savoir les méthodes conventionnelles et les méthodes de détection basées sur les nanoparticules. La différence entre les deux réside dans le temps de réponse, la limite de détection, la qualification du personnel, le coût de la détection et la préparation des échantillons qui précède l'analyse.

La chromatographie est l'une des techniques les plus utilisées dans la révélation et la quantification des mycotoxines après leur extraction des matrices alimentaires. C'est une technique de séparation des molécules basée sur leur poids. Afin d'éviter les interférences avec d'autres composés organiques, la chromatographie nécessite une bonne préparation des échantillons. Parmi les chromatographies utilisées pour la détection des mycotoxines, on cite la chromatographie sur couche mince (CCM) et chromatographie liquide à haute performance (HPLC).

Les puces à ADN sont une autre approche capable de révéler directement les espèces fongiques productrices de mycotoxines. La technique nécessite tout d'abord une amplification de l'ADN fongique par PCR. Les produits de l'amplification obtenus subissent par la suite une hybridation avec les oligonucléotides immobilisés sur la puce.

La technique ELISA est aussi une technique recommandée dans les tests analytiques qualitatif et/ou quantitatif. Elle est basée sur l'immobilisation des anticorps ou des antigènes spécifiques sur les surfaces des microplaques. Les mycotoxines sont détectées avec une sensibilité

élevée après une seconde réaction avec des anticorps marqués par une enzyme chromogène. Les résultats sont révélés par le lecteur de microplaque.

La Radio immuno assay (RIA) est une nouvelle approche qui permet de détecter les mycotoxines dans les tissus biologiques, elle permet la détection de certains types de mycotoxines sans passer par l'étape d'extraction.

La deuxième classe des méthodes de détection des mycotoxines est basée sur les nanoparticules. Ces nanostructures sont devenues une technologie à part, franchissant presque tous les domaines. Les nanoparticules inorganiques à base d'or, d'argent, de cuivre, de carbone et de zinc sont les plus utilisées dans la conception des nanocomposites. Les techniques basées sur les nanoparticules sont capables de détecter et de quantifier plusieurs mycotoxines en même temps avec une sélectivité et une sensibilité très élevée.

Chapter 1

Mycotoxins Occurrence, Toxicity and Detection Methods



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Abstract Mycotoxins and their derivatives constitute a toxic group of bioproducts for human and animals' health, they induce economic losses in cereals and stored food products. The knowledge of the biosynthetic mechanisms of mycotoxins are important to improve food quality. Polyketides are the first precursors, they are synthesized by a variety of multifunctional enzymes named polyketide synthases. This review discusses the occurrence of mycotoxin in food and human biological fluids, the toxicities caused *in vitro* and *in vivo* in human and animals' organs, and finally, some conventional and recent detection methods for their detection and quantification.

Keywords Mycotoxins · Occurrence of mycotoxin · Toxicities · Detection methods

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1.1 Introduction

Mycotoxins are fungal secondary metabolites, some of which have pharmacological activities and they are used in antibiotics production, growth promoters, or in other classes of drugs (Sava et al. 2006). The majority of mycotoxins are polyketide origin (Huffman et al. 2010), polyketides (PK) are natural metabolites found in several compounds and sometimes have important biological activities (Gomes et al. 2013), their enzymatic mechanisms of biosynthesis is similar to fatty acids synthesis (Huffman et al. 2010).

Mycotoxins are produced by several fungal genera (Greco et al. 2012) and are present in a wide variety of foods, either before harvest or after industrial processing (Almeida-Ferreira et al. 2013; Schaafsma and Hooker 2007; Perši et al. 2014; Pizzolato Montanha et al. 2018). Their detections are also possible in water, drinks and wine (De Jesus et al. 2018; Mata et al. 2015). They are a very diverse chemicals group with a high toxicity for humans, animals and even plants (Peraica et al. 1999). Their toxicities may be manifested in all vital human or animal organs inducing nephrotoxicity (Palabiyik et al. 2013; Limonciel and Jennings 2014), genotoxicity (Adgigitov et al. 1984; Bárta et al. 1984; Theumer et al. 2018), teratogenicity (Celik et al. 2000; Sur and Celik 2003), neurotoxicity (Ikegwuonu 1983; Mehrzad et al. 2017), hepatotoxicity (Gagliano et al. 2006; Gayathri et al. 2015), immunotoxicity (Al-Anati and Petzinger 2006; Thuvander et al. 1995), membrane damage (Ciacci-Zanella et al. 1998), gastrointestinal toxicity (Bouhet et al. 2004; Loiseau et al. 2007), cardiotoxicity (Constable et al. 2000), pulmonary toxicity (Smith et al. 1999), and sometimes leading to cancer development (Barrett 2005; Wu and Santella 2012; Magnussen and Parsi 2013).

The destruction of these mycotoxins is very difficult because of their crystallization state or their high resistance under gamma radiation and high temperatures (Calado et al. 2018), whereas, chemical products detoxifying cause other health problems. The researchers have left the classic platforms of struggle, towards a new strategy using lactic acid bacteria (Khanafari et al. 2007), yeasts (Armando et al. 2012), actinobacteria (El Khoury et al. 2017, 2018), medicinal plants (Brinda et al. 2013). New research in progress aims to develop a new nanoparticles and nanomaterials to fight against these mycotoxins and their production sources (Hernández-Meléndez et al. 2018).

This review provides an overview of mycotoxins occurrence in food and biological fluids, the toxicities of some mycotoxins studied *in vivo* and *in vitro*, and the last section deals with the conventional and nanotechnological methods applied in the detection.

1.2 Occurrence of Mycotoxin in Food

Ochratoxin, aflatoxin, fumonisin, zearalenone and other mycotoxins are present in wheat and maize (Taheri et al. 2012; Almeida-Ferreira et al. 2013; Schaafsma and Hooker 2007; Shephard et al. 2005), they are also present in fruit, oil seeds and animal feeds that subsequently render them contaminated (Minervini and Dell'Aquila 2008), the biotransformation of mycotoxins in the animal body makes them present in cow's milk (Dehghan et al. 2014; Flores-Flores et al. 2015), meat (Perši et al. 2014; Pizzolato Montanha et al. 2018) and even eggs (Giancarlo et al. 2011).

Many drinks like wine and beer (De Jesus et al. 2018; Mateo et al. 2007), coffee and tea (García-Moraleja et al. 2015; Malir et al. 2014; Haas et al. 2013) are contaminated with mycotoxins. They are also present in bread produced from corn and wheat (Juan et al. 2008), and fermented food products (Kaymak et al. 2018; Adekoya et al. 2017). A recent study done on 84 samples identified the presence of mycotoxins in 99% of medicinal and aromatic plants, the percentage of damage depends on the toxin itself and the plant species (Santos et al. 2009). Mycotoxins are also present in herbal medicaments (Zhang et al. 2018). In bottle water, aflatoxin B2 was the most frequently detected mycotoxin with a concentration followed by aflatoxin B1, aflatoxin G1 and ochratoxin A (Mata et al. 2015). Table 1.1 shows some variety of food contaminated by mycotoxins in different countries.

1.3 Factors Controlling Mycotoxins Genesis

Mycotoxins require factors and precursors stimulating their biosynthesis, aflatoxin biosynthesis factors include nutritional factors such as nitrogen and carbon sources, and environmental factors such as pH, temperature, water activity, osmotic pressure ... etc. the knowledge of these factors is very important in order to combat these poisons and their production sources. In culture medium, carbon and nitrogen are the most prominent nutritional factors for the synthesis of aflatoxin or one of their metabolites, carbon is abundant in sugars such as glucose, sucrose, maltose, fructose, amino acids and proteins (Bennett et al. 1979). Plants, cereals and meats are also rich in these compounds in a complex form and favouring the biosynthesis of aflatoxins (Woloshuk et al. 1997). In *A. parasiticus*, researchers identified a group of genes near to aflatoxin synthesis genes, and these genes able to degrade and use sugars (Yu et al. 2000). Another gene named lipA produces substrates for aflatoxin biosynthesis, to determine its activity, this gene is cloned in *A. parasiticus* and *A. flavus*, the expression of this gene is induced by lipid substrates (Yu et al. 2003).

Table 1.1 Examples of food contamination by mycotoxins in the world

Food category	Feed type	Country	Mycotoxins	Limits of the legislation ($\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$)	Range or mean	References
Milk and dairy products	Cattle milk	Japan	AFM ₁		0.005 to 0.011 ng.g ⁻¹	Sugiyama et al. (2008)
	Cow milk	Iran		500 ng.l ⁻¹	60.1 ± 57.4 ng.l ⁻¹	Rahimi et al. (2010)
	Camel milk				19.0 ± 7.5 ng.l ⁻¹	
	Sheep milk				28.1 ± 13.7 ng.l ⁻¹	
	Goat milk			30.1 ± 18.3 ng.l ⁻¹		
	Milk from traditional dairies	Cameroon		0,05 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$	0.006 to 0.527 $\mu\text{g.l}^{-1}$	Tchana et al. (2010)
	Milk	Morocco		0,05 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$	10 and 100 ng.l ⁻¹	El Mammisi et al. (2012)
	Milk	Algeria		0,05 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$	9 à 103 ng.l ⁻¹	Redouane-Salah et al. (2015)
	Milk	Brazil			50-240 ng.l ⁻¹	Garrido et al. (2003)
	Milk	Jordan			9,71 à 288,68 ng.kg ⁻¹	Omar (2016)
Fresh cheese	Costa Rica			31 to 276 ng.l ⁻¹	Chavarría et al. (2015)	
Alcoholic beverages and juice	Raw bulk milk	France		50 ng.l ⁻¹	26 ng.l ⁻¹ or less	Boudra et al. (2007)
	Milk	Taiwan			1.17 to 54.7 ng.l ⁻¹	Peng and Chen (2009)
	Milk	Pakistan		50 ng.l ⁻¹	20 to 3090 ng.l ⁻¹	Asgar et al. (2018)
	Apple juice	South Africa	PAT	50 ng.ml ⁻¹	<10 to 75.2 ng.ml ⁻¹	Katerere et al. (2007)
	Apple juice	Turkey			7 to 375 $\mu\text{g.l}^{-1}$	Gökmen and Acar (1998)
	Apple juice	Iran		50 $\mu\text{g.ml}^{-1}$	>3 $\mu\text{g.l}^{-1}$	Poostforoushfarid et al. (2017)
	Maize based opaque beers	Malawi	FB ₁		1522 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$	Matumba et al. (2014)
			FB ₂		251 $\mu\text{g/kg}^{-1}$	
			FB ₃		229 $\mu\text{g/kg}^{-1}$	

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	South African	AFB ₁	36 µg/kg ⁻¹	Adekoya et al. (2018)
		AFB ₂	4 µg/kg ⁻¹	
		AFG ₁	55 µg/kg ⁻¹	
		AFG ₂	8 µg/kg ⁻¹	
		Deoxynivalenol (mean)	47 µg.l ⁻¹	
		Neosolaniol (mean)	21	
		Fusarenon-X (mean)	167	
		AFB ₁ (mean)	6	
		AFG ₂ (mean)	5	
		Alternariol (mean)	47	
		Alternariol methyl ether (mean)	41	
		FB ₁ (mean)	151	
		FB ₂ (mean)	96	
		FB ₃ (mean)	36	
		Sterigmatocystin (mean)	18	
		Roquefortine C (mean)	3	
		Enniatin B (mean)	17	
Meat, egg and fish	Traditional beer	Zearalenone	20-201 µg.l ⁻¹	Nkwe et al. (2005)
	Egg	Aflatoxine B ₁ , B ₂ , B _{2a} , G ₁ and M ₁	0.002 to 7.604 ppb	Tchana et al. (2010)
	Mozambique Gizzards	AFB ₁	1.73 µg.kg ⁻¹	Sineque et al. (2017)
			1.07 µg.kg ⁻¹	

(continued)

Table 1.1 (continued)

Food category	Feed type	Country	Mycotoxins	Limits of the legislation ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)	Range or mean	References	
Fruits and vegetables fresh and processed	Fermented sausage 'slavonski kulen	Croatia	AFB ₁		Nd to 14.46 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	Pleadin et al. (2017)	
			OTA		Nd to 19.84 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$		
			OTA		3 to 18 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$		
	Artisanal and industrial dry sausages	Italy	Zambia	AFS	10 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	2.9 to 36.8 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ 0 to 20.4 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	Kachapulula et al. (2018)
	Dried insects	Fish	Argentina	T-2 toxin		Median 70.08 ppb	Greco et al. (2015)
				ZEAs		Median 87.97 ppb	
				Aflatoxins		Median 2.82 ppb	
	Fruits and vegetables fresh and processed	Date palm fruits	Egypt	AFB ₁		14.4 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	Abdallah et al. (2018)
				AFB ₂		2.44 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	
				OTA		1.48 to 6070 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	
				OTB		0.28 to 692 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	
FB ₁					4.99 to 16.2 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$		
AFB ₁					0.05 to 0.1 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$		
OTA					5.5 to 101.5 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$		
OTA					<0.07 to 12.83 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$		
OTA					Nd to 15.99 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$		
OTA					0.28 to 15.34 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$		
Dried vine fruits	China	United States	AFB ₁		45 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	Ghali et al. (2010)	
			AFB ₂		40 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$		
			AFG ₂		5 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$		

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Cereals and cereal-based products	Peanut butter	Zambia	AFB ₁ (2012, 2013 and 2014)		>20 to 130 µg.kg ⁻¹ >20 to 10,740 µg.kg ⁻¹ >20 to 1000 µg.kg ⁻¹	Njoroge et al. (2016)	
		Zimbabwe	AFS		6.1 to 247 ng.g ⁻¹	Mupunga et al. (2014)	
	Maize	India	AFB ₁		48 to 8 µg.kg ⁻¹	Mudili et al. (2014)	
			FB1		76 to 123 µg.kg ⁻¹		
			T-2		38 to 50 µg.kg ⁻¹		
		Croatia	DON			72 to 94 µg.kg ⁻¹	
			FB ₁			196.8 to 1377.6 µg.kg ⁻¹	Domijan et al. (2005)
			FB2			68.4 to 3084 µg.kg ⁻¹	
		Pakistan	ZEA			0.62 to 3.22 µg.kg ⁻¹	
			OTA			0.73-2.54 µg.kg ⁻¹	
			AFB ₁			0 to 30.92 µg.kg ⁻¹	Shah et al. (2010)
		Brazil	OTA			<0.001 to 7.32 µg.kg ⁻¹	
			AFB ₁			0.2 to 129 µg.kg ⁻¹	Vargas et al. (2001)
			ZEA			36.8 to 719 µg.kg ⁻¹	
			FB ₁			200 to 6100 µg.kg ⁻¹	
Rice	Pakistan	AFB ₁			1.07 to 24.65 µg.kg ⁻¹	Asgar et al. (2014)	
		AFB ₂			0.52 to 2.62 µg.kg ⁻¹		
	Nigeria	AF			28-372 µg.kg ⁻¹	Makun et al. (2011)	
		OTA			134-341 µg.kg ⁻¹		
	Côte d'Ivoire	AFB ₁			<1.5 to 10 µg.kg ⁻¹	Sangare-Tigori et al. (2006)	
		OTA			0.16 to 0.92 µg.kg ⁻¹		
Sweden	ZEA			20 to 200 µg.kg ⁻¹			
	AFB ₁			Nd to 46.2 µg.kg ⁻¹	Fredlund et al. (2009)		
					Nd to 4.5 µg.kg ⁻¹		

(continued)

Table 1.1 (continued)

Food category	Feed type	Country	Mycotoxins	Limits of the legislation ($\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$)	Range or mean	References	
	Wheat and by-product wheat	Romania	OTA		3.88 to 11.3 ppb	Alexa et al. (2013)	
			DON		294 to 3390 ppb		
			FB		960 to 1180 ppb		
		Morocco (Wheat semolina couscous)	DON		20.6 to 106.6 ng.g^{-1}		Zinedine et al. (2017)
			AFG ₁		1.0 to 2.5 ng.g^{-1}		
			AFG ₂		1.6 to 5.5 ng.g^{-1}		
			ENA		2.6 to 651.7 ng.g^{-1}		
		Thailand (Noodles and breads)	DON		0.14 to 1.13 $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$		Poapolathep et al. (2008)
		Barley	Swiss (2013)	DON		239.8 \pm 56.2 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$	Schöneberg et al. (2016)
				NIV		12.5 \pm 4.3 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$	
ZEA				3.7 \pm 1.0 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$			
Sorghum	Ethiopia	AFB ₁		<LOD to 33.10 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$	Taye et al. (2016)		
		AFB ₁		1 to 14 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$			
		FB		533 to 933 $\mu\text{g.kg}^{-1}$	Del Palacio et al. (2016)		

Nd not determined

*AFB*₁ Aflatoxin B₁, *AFB*₂ Aflatoxin B₂, *OTA* Ochratoxin A, *AFG*₁ Aflatoxin G₁, *OTB* Ochratoxin B, *AFG*₂ Aflatoxin G₂, *OTC* Ochratoxin C, *AFM* Aflatoxin M₁, *AF*₅ Aflatoxin, *FB* Fumonisin, *FB*₁ Fumonisin B₁, *FB*₂ Fumonisin B₂, *FB*₃ Fumonisin B₃, *ZEA* Zearalenone, *FB*₄ Fumonisin B₄

The synthesis of aflatoxins is related also to the presence of nitrogen, this compound is present in a wide variety of compounds such as aspartate, alanine, ammonium sulfate, glutamate, glutamine, asparagine, yeast extract, casein, peptone, ammonium nitrate, ammonium nitrite (Reddy et al. 1971, 1979). Despite the presence of nitrogen in nitrates, their presence suppresses the biosynthesis of aflatoxins (Niehaus and Jiang 1989) by increasing the expression of a protein encoded by aflR gene which subsequently binds to DNA and inhibits the biosynthesis (Chang et al. 1995), tryptophan also inhibits aflatoxin formation in *A. flavus* (Wilkinson et al. 2007). Some nitrogen regulatory genes are known such as nitrate reductase gene *niaD*, *niiA* gene for nitrite reductase, and *areA* gene responsible for assimilation (Chang et al. 1996).

It is well known that aflatoxin biosynthesis occurs in high water activities, but the biosynthesis is also possible during drought or in the areas with low water activity (Cotty and Jaime-Garcia 2007). In the biosynthetic mechanism, temperature has a direct influence, optimal production is localized between 28 °C and 30 °C, above 37 °C, the biosynthesis is almost inhibited (O'Brian et al. 2007), the increase in the temperature affects negatively the production by refusing the transcription of transcriptional regulator gene (*aflR*) (Yu et al. 2011). Oxidative stress is another factor that induces the formation and production of aflatoxin in *A. parasiticus* (Jayashree and Subramanyam 2000). Regarding pH, the production of aflatoxin is optimal in acidic environments whereas in alkaline media, the biosynthesis is inhibited. The *pacC* gene is a factor responsible for pH homeostasis and transcription (Tilburn et al. 1995), in alkaline media, it is possible that this *pacC* gene binds to aflatoxin transcriptional genes and inhibits the synthesis (Espeso and Arst 2000).

It should be noted that ochratoxins biosynthesis is linked to biotic and abiotic stress. The production of these mycotoxins is sensitive to environmental factors, such as carbon and nitrogen levels (Medina et al. 2008; Hashem et al. 2015), in *A. nidulans*, the *AreA* factor is necessary for permeases expression and catabolic enzymes of nitrogen (Wong et al. 2007). Nutrients can also stimulate Ochratoxin A (OTA) production such as bee pollen (Medina et al. 2004). Temperature, water activity and pH also affect ochratoxin synthesis, for example, OTA production by *A. ochraceus* and *A. carbonarius* in culture medium, is affected by water activity and not by changes in pH (Kapetanakou et al. 2009), for *A. niger*, the aggregate of cells allows them to grow over a wide range of pH (Esteban et al. 2006), another study confirms that optimal conditions for OTA production differ between strains (Passamani et al. 2014).

Few studies described the role of regulators in the transmission of environmental signals to the genome in order to activate or inhibit the expression of mycotoxin biosynthesis genes. In some fungal strains such as *P. verrucosum*, *P. nordicum*, and *A. carbonarius*, difficult osmotic conditions activate the signal cascade of HOG MAP kinase, which in turn activates various osmoregulatory genes (Stoll et al. 2013). OTA biosynthesis is also affected by oxidative stress (Moye-Rowley 2003), under conditions of high oxidative stress, evoked by increasing concentrations of Cu^{2+} in the medium; *P. verrucosum* produces citrinin, the latter normalizes the oxi-

ductive status of fungal cells leading to an adaptation in these environmental conditions, the biosynthesis of citrinin is regulated by a cAMP/PKA signalling pathway (Schmidt-Heydt et al. 2015).

The suppression of *hdaA*, encoding a histone deacetylase in *A. nidulans* (HDAC), causes a subsequent increase in toxin production levels (Shwab et al. 2007). The LaeA, VeA and VelB complex is studied in fungal strains to clarify the relationship between light-dependent fungal morphology and sexual development for secondary metabolism production, the complex is functional in the dark, in addition, the deletion of *laeA* and *veA* in *A. carbonarius* caused a sharp reduction in conidial production and a decrease in OTA production, correlated with a downregulation of PKS-AcOTAnrps gene (Crespo-Sempere et al. 2013). In *A. niger*, OTA production was strongly inhibited by red and blue light compared with dark incubation, with an average reduction about 40-fold (Fanelli et al. 2012).

In addition to the proteins regulating genes transcription, other regulators are involved in the regulation of secondary metabolism, among these, the most studied are; *pacC*, the key factor for pH regulation in *A. nidulans* (Peñalva et al. 2008), deletion of the entire *pacC* coding region leads to poor growth and conidiation (Tilburn et al. 1995); *CBC*, which regulates the response to oxidation-reduction and iron stress; *CreA*, involved in the regulation of carbon metabolism; *AreA* and *AreB*, involved in nitrogen metabolism (Gallo et al. 2017).

Carbohydrates are an important source of carbon required for fumonisins biosynthesis. In *F. verticillioides*, the *ZFR1* gene controls the biosynthesis of FB_1 by regulating the genes involved in the perception or absorption of carbohydrates (Bluhm et al. 2008), nitrogen is also necessary for the growth of *F. verticillioides* to synthesize proteins and other compounds, the *SGE1* gene increases and decreases the expression of certain genes including many effector genes encoding cell surface and transcription activator of fumonisin genes group (Brown et al. 2014).

Fumonisin production by *F. verticillioides* is dependent on water activity in the substrate (Medina et al. 2013). The optimum temperature for fumonisin production is 30 °C (Samapundo et al. 2005), but this temperature depends essentially on the species and can change (Mogensen et al. 2009). Oxidative stress also plays an important role in the modulation of fumonisin biosynthesis (Ferrigo et al. 2015). The pH significantly influences the production of FB_1 , at a pH above 5, *F. proliferatum* develops normally but FB_1 is little produced. At a pH below 5, there is less growth but much more FB_1 produced. Below pH 2.5, growth and metabolism are slower with very little FB_1 produced (Keller and Hohn 1997).

Some genes are involved in the regulation of fumonisin biosynthesis and they are affected by environmental conditions. In *F. verticillioides*, the *FST1* gene seems to be linked to the expression of several gene networks, particularly those involved in secondary metabolism, cell wall structure, production of conidia, virulence and ROS resistance (Niu et al. 2015), the *FUG1* gene represents a new class of fungal transcription factors or genes that are otherwise involved in signal transduction, and play a role in the pathogenicity and fumonisins biosynthesis (Ridenour and Bluhm 2017).

Carbon and nitrogen are essential for the biosynthesis of zearalenone, in *G. zeae*, GzSNF1 gene is responsible for the use of carbon, it grants other biological functions in the sexual and asexual development of the species (Lee et al. 2009), while areA gene is a factor of nitrogen use in the same species (Min et al. 2012). Some mutant strain do not have Nit gene to assimilate nitrate but they are able to use nitrite (Robert et al. 1992). The temperature and water activity affect directly the synthesis of zearalenone, a large production by *F. graminearum* is observed at 25 °C with a water activity equal to 0.97 (Montani et al. 1988), above 37 °C the production of zearalenone is weakened (Jiménez et al. 1996). Under laboratory conditions, the desirable yield of mycotoxins from *F. graminearum* is obtained at an average pH of 6.86 and an incubation temperature of 17.76 °C during 28 days (Wu et al. 2017). In *F. graminearum*, the *pac1* gene is responsible for the regulation of metabolite synthesis in the case of pH variations (Merhej et al. 2011), *FgLaeA* gene is a factor controlling metabolism, virulence and reproduction (Kim et al. 2013), *FgVELB* gene is a factor developing resistance under osmotic stress conditions (Jiang et al. 2012a).

1.4 Occurrence of Mycotoxins in Humans and Associated Diseases

Mycotoxin-producing fungi are almost ubiquitous in agricultural products before, during and/or after harvest, and may even be present during food processing processes. Various diets taken by humans can be contaminated by a wide range of mycotoxins, and following multiple studies in different countries of the world, these mycotoxins are the cause of several diseases, other studies have even demonstrated, *in vitro* and *in vivo*, the cytotoxicity mechanisms of these poisons.

The frequency and levels exposure of human to mycotoxins may be estimated by measuring the levels of biomarker in urine (Solfrizzo et al. 2011). During the realization of the Swedish National Nutrition Survey, the analysis done in 252 adult participants, simultaneously exposed to mycotoxins, using LC-MS/MS-based multi-biomarker approaches, demonstrated that 69% of studied population was exposed to more than one toxin (Wallin et al. 2015). The detection of mycotoxins in biological fluids and human tissues is possible, a study done in patients exposed to mycotoxins with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) demonstrated that from 104 urine samples taken from patients, 93% were positive for at least one mycotoxin. The most frequently detected mycotoxin was OTA (83%), followed by macrocyclic trichothecenes. The results of this study demonstrated that 90% of patients were exposed to water-damaged buildings (WDB) (Brewer et al. 2013). Another study done in patients exposed to mycotoxin-producing fungi in their environment demonstrated that the levels of trichothecene in urine, sputum, biological tissues of the lung, liver and brain, after biopsy, varies from undetectable to 18 ppb. In the same tissue, aflatoxin and ochratoxin ranged from 1 to 5 ppb and from 2 to >10 ppb respectively (Hooper et al. 2009).

Application of multi-mycotoxin LC-MS/MS method for human urine analysis in the study conducted in Transkei region in South Africa, known by the high rate of esophageal cancer, demonstrated that morning urine of farmers participating in this survey contained fumonisin B₁, deoxynivalenol-15-glucuronide, zearalenone, α -zearalenol, deoxynivalenol, β -zearalenol and OTA (Shephard et al. 2013), another study with the same objective, carried out in a German population, was able to determine six mycotoxins in their urine, namely; deoxynivalenol, DON-3-glucuronide, zearalenone-14-O-glucuronide, toxin T-2, enniatin B and dihydrocitrinone, with an average daily intake of 0.52 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ (bw) for DON, which is greater than the tolerable daily intake (Gerding et al. 2014). The study conducted by Gerding and his team in 2015 approved the previous result, this latest study also demonstrated that AFM₁ is detected in urine samples in a population of Bangladesh and Haiti with a higher rate of OTA and dihydrocitrinone in Bangladesh samples (Gerding et al. 2015). In Belgium, biomarker analysis showed a clear exposure of a large segment of the Belgian population to DON, OTA and CIT (Heyndrickx et al. 2015). A more serious situation is observed, the detection of multiple mycotoxins is recorded among HIV-positive people in Cameroon, demonstrating that this situation is very serious for cases of very low immunity (Abia et al. 2013). The detection of mycotoxins or their metabolites in the blood or blood serum is also possible by the fast-multi-mycotoxin approach, the study of Osteresch and its collaborators detected enniatin B, OTA and 2'R-OTA in dried blood and serum spots (Osteresch et al. 2017).

The detection of OTA and 2'R-OTA in the blood of drinkers and non-coffee drinkers demonstrated the presence of OTA in both groups with an average concentration of 0.21 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$, whereas, 2'R-OTA was present only in coffee drinkers with a maximum concentration of 0.414 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$, this result is explained by the formation of 2'R-OTA from OTA during roasting process (Cramer et al. 2015), in human blood, 2'R-OTA has a biological half-life seven times higher in comparison with OTA (Sueck et al. 2018a), this long period of life in human blood is explained by the affinity of both toxins to human serum albumin (HSA), which attenuates or even suppresses the acute cellular toxicity of mycotoxins (Faisal et al. 2018a), however, another study demonstrated that OTA has more binding affinity to ASH than 2'R-OTA with binding percentages of 99.6% and 97.2% respectively, suggesting that another human blood protein with a very high affinity for 2'R-OTA is responsible for its accumulation in the blood, or the high bioavailability of 2'R-OTA compared to OTA, or differences in the metabolism of this metabolite and its transport in tissues (Sueck et al. 2018b).

Citrinin and its metabolite dihydrocitrinone are also detected in human urine, a study done in a German population showed that the levels of these two metabolites varied between 0.02 to 0.08 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ and 0.05 to 0.51 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ respectively (Ali et al. 2015a), the both mycotoxins are also detected in two populations in Bangladesh (Ali et al. 2015b). Citrinin can also bind to human serum albumin, its main binding site is in sub-domain IIA (Sudlow's Site I), this binding forming the CIT-albumin complex, it has beneficial effects by decreasing the cellular absorption of CIT and consequently, the decrease of its toxicity (Poór et al. 2015).

Zearalenone can also form with human serum albumin a complex of great biological interest (Poór et al. 2017a), the both metabolites α -zearalenol and β -zearalenol can also bind to ASH but with a lower affinity in comparison to zearalenone, this low affinity may be due to the difference in position or binding site (Faisal et al. 2018b). Citreoviridine can also bind with ASH through hydrophobic bonds (Hou et al. 2015), AFB₁ also forms stable bonds with ASH, the high affinity binding site is Sudlow's Site I of subdomain IIA, furthermore, the reactive epoxide metabolite of AFB₁ forms covalent adducts with ASH (Poór et al. 2017b), a recent study done in calf using multispectroscopic techniques, DNA fusion, viscosity measurements, and molecular Docking techniques demonstrated that AFB₁ and AFG₁ can bind with thymic DNA (Ma et al. 2017). A study done in Malawi in 230 persons from a rural population living in three districts (Kasungu, Mchinji, and Nkhhotakota), receiving a diet rich in groundnuts and maize, detected AFB₁-lys adducts in 67% of blood, with an average concentration of 20.5 ± 23.4 pg.mg⁻¹ of albumin (Seetha et al. 2018).

This bioaccumulation in liquids, organs and tissues is reported worldwide, and most mycotoxins have toxic effects at low concentrations (Escrivá et al. 2017), mycotoxicosis is among the adverse effects of mycotoxins, the exposure to these fungal metabolites is mainly by ingestion, or also dermal and inhalation pathway (Peraica et al. 1999), the diseases caused by mycotoxins are varied and affect a wide range of animal species and human (Richard 2007), among proven diseases *in vitro*, caused by exposure to mycotoxins; cutaneous toxicity and skin tumorigenesis in several rodent models induced by oxidative stress (Doi and Uetsuka 2014). Fumonisin also causes several diseases with variable toxicities by interference with the sphingolipids biosynthesis in several organs (Bucci et al. 1998). Aflatoxin induces hepatotoxicity, in addition, acute exposure to AFB₁ increases plasma and hepatic cholesterol, triglyceride and phospholipid levels (Rotimi et al. 2017). The Table 1.2 below shows the different toxicities caused by mycotoxins, its target organs and the mode of action.

1.5 Conventional Methods for Mycotoxins Detection

Mycotoxin detection techniques classified as conventional techniques are very expensive analytical methods and require qualified personnel for each method to achieve the analyses, analytical instruments and products used in these techniques are also expensive and very complicated without neglected their detection limits, the samples analysed must be prepared beforehand in order to extract their contents in mycotoxins. Food safety is a challenge which is not yet achieved in the world, and following this crucial point, several official methods used in laboratories are validated by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists (AOAC) to improve detection techniques. Protect the consumer and to ensure a good quality of food.

Table 1.2 Examples of mycotoxin toxicity

Toxicity	Mycotoxin	Target organ or cells lines	Mode of action	References
Hepato-gastrointestinal toxicity	ZEA	Intestines of pregnant sows	It caused changes in the structure of jejunum with oxidative stress and an inflammatory response.	Liu et al. (2018)
	ZEA	Intestine of pregnant Sprague-Dawley.	Alterations of the bacterial numbers in cecal digesta are noted.	Liu et al. (2014b)
	ZEA	Rats liver	It induced oxidative stress, affected the villous structure and reduced the expression of junction proteins claudin-4, occludin and connexin43 (Cx43)	Zhou et al. (2015) and Jiang et al. (2012b)
	T-2 toxin	Hela, Bel-7402, and Chang liver cells	It induced an increase on the transcription of cytochrome P450 2E1 (CYP2E1).	Zhuang et al. (2013)
	FA	Porcine stomach and duodenum	It induced an increase of liver enzymes.	Makowska et al. (2018)
	HT-2 toxin	Female genital organs (animals).	It induced apoptosis.	Schoevers et al. (2012)
	FB	Oesophageal SNO cells	It caused an increase of VIP-LI nerve cells and nerve fibers in both fragments of gastrointestinal tract.	Devnarain et al. (2017)
	ENN	Liver	Decreased in follicle integrity.	Yang et al. (2016, 2017, 2019)
		Intestine	Reduced in the quantity of healthy follicles, which may lead to premature oocyte depletion in adulthood.	Bouhet and Oswald (2007)
		Intestinal cell line IPEC1 and jejunal explants	It induced an increase in cells apoptosis.	Kolf-Clauw et al. (2013)
		IPEC-J2 cells	It induced oxidative stress and cell damage.	Fraeyman et al. (2018)
			It induced changes in mRNA, protein expression and apoptosis.	

CB	Rat liver	It caused a decrease in albumin synthesis, glucosamine, and minimally affected glycoprotein secretion	Kaufman et al. (1988)
MPA	LS180 cell	It affected intracellular nucleotide levels, expression of structural proteins, fatty acid and lipid metabolism.	Heischmann et al. (2017)
RB	Mouse hepatic microsomes	It inhibited an enzyme activity located in the endoplasmic reticulum.	Watson and Hayes (1981)
	Dog	It is suggested as a primary etiological factor for hepatitis X.	Hayes and Williams (1978)
VIM	Mice liver	It caused necrosis, periductal fibrosis, and hypertrophy and hyperplasia of biliary epithelium.	Carlton et al. (1976)
CPA	Rat liver	It caused cells lysis and affected the endoplasmic reticulum.	Hinton et al. (1985)
	Monkey liver	It caused mild pathological changes in hepatocyte rough endoplasmic reticulum, small vessels and myocardium	Jaskiewicz et al. (1988)
AF	Rat liver	It caused an increase levels of plasma and liver cholesterol, triglycerides and phospholipids.	Rotimi et al. (2017)
	Male broiler chicks	It caused an alteration in gene expression.	Yarru et al. (2009)
	Hy-Line W36 hens	It affected the functionality of the gastrointestinal tract.	Applegate et al. (2009)
	Female genital organs (animals).	20 mg.kg ⁻¹ ZEA diets increased follicle-stimulating hormone concentrations and decreased oestradiol.	Gao et al. (2017)
Reproductive and developmental toxicity	Male genital organs (animals).	20 mg.kg ⁻¹ ZEA caused a follicular atresia and a thinning uterine layer.	
		It inhibited mRNA and protein levels of oestrogen receptor-alpha (Esr1) and 3β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (HSD).	
		Neonatal exposure to ZEA could negatively influence male fertility and his spermatogenesis by the exposure of testis to ABC transporter substrates.	Koraichi et al. (2013)

(continued)

Table 1.2 (continued)

Toxicity	Mycotoxin	Target organ or cells lines	Mode of action	References
	ZEA	Mouse TM4 Sertoli cells	It caused damage to the cytoskeletal by autophagy stimulated through PI3K-AKT-mTOR and MAPK signaling pathways via elevated oxidative stress.	Zheng et al. (2018a)
	ZEA	Murine ES cells cardiac differentiation	It caused an inhibition of cardiac differentiation with ROS accumulated in murine ES cells.	Fang et al. (2016)
	T-2 toxin	Embryonic stem cells (ES cells D3) and fibroblast 3 T3 cells,	It induced cell cycle arrest and apoptosis. It caused the release of cytochrome C from mitochondria with the upregulation of p53, caspase-9, caspase-3 expression.	Fang et al. (2012)
		Zebrfish embryos.	It induced oxidative damage and apoptosis in the cells. It increased the mortality and malformation rate in early developmental stages of zebrafish.	Yuan et al. (2014)
		Sertoli cells	It inhibited the cell proliferation and through ATP/AMPK pathway induced by ROS generation, the toxin induced cell apoptosis.	Zheng et al. (2018b)
	DAS	Mouse	It induced a reduction in fetal body weight and a variety of fetal malformations.	Mayura et al. (1987)
		Pig	It induced a development of multifocal, proliferative, gingival, buccal and lingual lesions.	Weaver et al. (1981)
	FB	Chicken embryos	It induced embryonic mortality.	Henry and Wyatt (2001)
	VIM	Chicken embryos	It was mildly toxic and teratogenic	Anthony et al. (1982)
	CTN		It is embryocidal and fetotoxic	Fiajs and Peraita (2009)
	PAT	Growing male rats	It caused an increase in testosterone levels and a decrease in T4 levels. It caused an increase of TLR4 protein expression and inflammatory cytokines.	Selmanoglu and Koçkaya (2004)
	AF	Rabbits	AFB ₁ was found teratogenic for fetal development in rabbits.	Wangikar et al. (2005)

Renal toxicity	OTA	Kidney and other organs (Spleen (rate), thymus, bursa of Fabricius)	It caused a developmental and reproductive toxicity	Malir et al. (2014)
	ZEA		It caused a histopathological damage in the spleen and a decrease viability of splenocytes and T-cell proliferation.	Yin et al. (2014)
Immunomodulatory and immunopathological effects	AF	HEK 293 cells model and CD-1 mice model	It reduced the level of anti-Newcastle disease virus antibody.	Xue et al. (2010)
			It reduced the concentrations of interleukin-2 and interferon-gamma in serum.	
			It caused a histological abnormality.	
	OTA	Pig kidney	It caused kidney toxicity through oxidative stress and induced downstream apoptosis.	Li et al. (2018)
			It affected genes expression in kidney.	Marin et al. (2017)
	MPA	Renal transplant	Toxicity is caused by an increase of free MPA concentration.	Mudge et al. (2004)
			It caused a decrease of spleen, thymus, and bursa of Fabricius weight.	Wang et al. (2009)
	OTA+ T-2 toxin	Spleen, thymus, and bursa of Fabricius (yellow-feathered broiler chickens)	It caused a diminution of the mitogenic responses of peripheral blood lymphocytes.	
			It caused a decrease in number of lymphocytes in the thymic cortex and splenic follicles.	Shinozuka et al. (1997)
			It caused a pyknosis or karyorrhexis in lymphocytes nuclei.	
BT-2 toxin	Bone marrow and splenic red pulp of mice	It caused a hypocellularity with a decrease in the number of myelocytes due to the loss of immature granulocytes, erythroblasts, and lymphocytes.	Shinozuka et al. (1998)	
		It induced an apoptosis in TM3 cells by inhibiting mTORC2/AKT and promoting Ca ²⁺ production.	Wang et al. (2018)	

(continued)

Table 1.2 (continued)

Toxicity	Mycotoxin	Target organ or cells lines	Mode of action	References
	GT	Immune cells	It removed immune cells responsible for tissue rejection.	Waring and Beaver (1996)
			It induced degranulation, leukotriene C4 secretion, and TNF-alpha and IL-13 production.	Niide et al. (2006)
			It induced intracellular production of superoxide.	
	ENN	Immune organ Jurkat T-cell RAW 267.4 murine macrophages	It induced apoptosis in cells.	Sutton et al. (1994)
			It caused a mitochondrial alteration.	Manyes et al. (2018)
			It caused an accumulation of cells in the G0/G1-phase.	Gammelsrud et al. (2012)
	MPA	T-lymphoblast cell line	It caused lysosomal damage.	
			It caused an apoptotic and necrotic cell.	Heller et al. (2009)
	PNT	Human neutrophil granulocytes	It can modulate Rho GDI 2 levels in T lymphocytes and disrupt cell signalling pathways.	Berntsen et al. (2017)
	CPA	CD34+, monocytes, THP-1 and Caco-2)	It caused an increase in ROS production by the activation of several MAPK-sigalling pathways.	Hymery et al. (2014)
	PA	Rat alveolar macrophages	It disturbed human monocytes differentiation into macrophages.	Sorenson and Simpson (1986)
	PAT	Thymus of growing male rats	It caused an inhibition of phagocytosis	Arzu Koçkaya et al. (2009)
The thymus showed haemorrhage, and alteration of tissue.			Ozsoy et al. (2008)	
		Dendritic cells (IDCs) of rat thymus	It caused cell apoptosis.	

Cytotoxicity	T-2 toxin	HepG2 and HEK293T cells	It induced an increase in the levels of mitochondrial biogenesis and ROS, by upregulation of SIRT1, which is controlled by miR-449a, whose expression was inhibited by toxin.	Ma et al. (2018)
		HeLa cells	It caused generation of ROS and increased lipid peroxidation. An apoptotic morphology with condensed chromatin and nuclear fragmentation are also noted.	Chaudhari et al. (2009)
		Human chondrocytes	It caused a decrease in chondrocytes viabilities.	Liu et al. (2014a)
	FA	Hepatocellular carcinoma (HepG2) cells	It induced apoptosis and necrosis by increasing activity of caspases.	Sheik Abdul et al. (2016)
			It induced mitochondrial stress.	
			It caused DNA damage and post-translational modifications of p53.	Ghazi et al. (2017)
			It induced NRF2 as a cytoprotective response to prevent NLRP3 (activator protein inflammasome).	Sheik Abdul et al. (2019)
	FB	U-118MG glioblastoma cells	It induced an oxidative stress, apoptosis and internucleosomal DNA fragmentation.	Stockmann-Juvala et al. (2004a)
	BEA	Chinese hamster ovary (CHO-K1) cells	It induced a disruption in mitochondrial enzymatic activity and cell proliferation and lead to the cell death.	Mallebrera et al. (2016)
		Caco-2 cells	It caused cytotoxicity and apoptosis via ROS production and mitochondrial damage	Prosperini et al. (2013)
	ENN	Balb 3 T3 and HepG2 cells	It altered cellular energy metabolism and reduced cell proliferation.	Jonsson et al. (2016)
			It caused necrotic cell death.	
			It caused a lysosomal membrane permeabilization	Ivanova et al. (2012)
		It caused cell cycle arrest in the G2/M phase leading to the apoptosis or necrosis.		
		It caused an apoptosis and necrosis.	Juan-García et al. (2013 2015)	

(continued)

Table 1.2 (continued)

Toxicity	Mycotoxin	Target organ or cells lines	Mode of action	References	
Neurotoxicity	NIV	Human erythroleukemia cell line	It caused DNA damage and apoptosis.	Minervini et al. (2004)	
		HepaRG human hepatocyte cell line	It caused hepatotoxicity.	Smith et al. (2017)	
	CB	Cells lines	It induced cellular DNA fragmentation.	Kolber et al. (1990)	
		Human umbilical vein endothelial cells	It inhibited the lymphocyte proliferation and decreased the expression of adhesion molecules on endothelial cells.	Raab et al. (2001)	
	MPA	Human peripheral blood mononuclear cells	It induced a decrease in GTP levels and an increase of UTP.	Daxecker et al. (2001)	
		Porcine kidney PK15 cells	It stimulated Hsps expressions.	Segvić Klarić et al. (2014)	
	CTN	HepG2 cell	It caused alterations in cellular redox status.	Gayathri et al. (2015)	
			It caused a production of ROS, DNA damage and mitochondria-mediated intrinsic apoptosis.		
	OTA	HepG2 and KK-1 cells	It caused a disturbance of Ca ²⁺ homeostasis, cell genotoxicity and death.	Klarić et al. (2012)	
			It caused a production of ROS.	Li et al. (2014)	
	ZEA	Destruction of cytoskeletal structure in kidney	It caused an alteration of the barrier and absorption functions of the intestinal epithelium	Maresca et al. (2001)	
			It caused kidney dysfunction and damage.	Jia et al. (2014)	
	FA	Swine	Cell cycle arrest and apoptosis in kidney and spleen (rate)	It induced a degenerative change in the kidney and an increase of the biochemical parameters and inflammatory cytokines.	Jia et al. (2015)
			Brain and pineal gland of rats.	It caused vomiting and neurochemical changes.	Smith and MacDonald (1991)
Pineal cell cultures			It caused an increase in brain serotonin, 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid, tyrosine and dopamine, and a decrease in norepinephrine.	Porter et al. (1995)	
			It caused an increase in melatonin levels.	Rimando and Porter (1997)	

FB	Human SH-SY5Y neuroblastoma, rat C6 glioblastoma and mouse GT1-7 hypothalamic cells	It induced an oxidative stress characterised by the production of reactive oxygen species, lipid peroxidation and necrotic cell death.	Stockmann-Juvala et al. (2004b)
RB	Mouse brain	It induced a toxicity in specific brain regions by altering SOD and OGG1 activities.	Sava et al. (2018)
PNT	Rat cerebellar granule neurons	ROS production and the GABA receptor are the causes of neuronal death.	Berntsen et al. (2013)
CPA	Rabbit	10 mg CPA.kg ⁻¹ (bw) produced tachycardia, tachypnoea and sedation.	Nishie et al. (1985)
AF	Zebrafish embryos and larvae	It affected the behaviors and neurodevelopment	Wu et al. (2019)
OTA	Mouse brain	It altered the proliferation and differentiation in subventricular zone.	Paradells et al. (2015)
CIV	Rat brain	It inhibited brain synaptosomal and altered the enzymatic activities.	Datta and Ghosh (1981)
FB	Swine	It caused pulmonary edema and death.	Oswieiler et al. (1992)
RQF	Dog	It caused a development of aspiration pneumonia	Young et al. (2003)
OTA	RAT	It caused a damage in tissue like alveolar congestion, alveolar cell hyperplasia, and respiratory epithelial proliferation.	Okutan et al. (2004)
AF	Mousse lung	It caused a development of tumorigenesis.	Massey et al. (2000)
CIV	Rabbit	It caused respiratory arrest and death.	Nishie et al. (1988)

Some toxicity induced (in vivo and in vitro) by the different mycotoxins

AF aflatoxin, BEA beauvericin, CIV citreoviridin, CTN citrinin, CPA cyclopiiazonic acid, CB cytochalasin, DAS diacetoxyscirpenol, ENN enniatin, FRE frequentin, FB fumonisins, FA fusaric acid, GT gliotoxin, HT-2 toxin, T-2 Toxin, MPA mycophenolic acid, NIV nivalenol, OTA ochratoxin A, PAT patulin, PA penicillic acid, PNT penitrem A, RQF roquefortine, RB rubratoxin B, VIM viomellein, ZEA zearalenone
bw body weigh

1.5.1 Chromatographic-Based Techniques

1.5.1.1 Thin-Layer Chromatography

Thin layer chromatography can detect a wide range of mycotoxins after extraction with different solvents and at different pH, it is applicable in different types of food, after mycotoxin extraction (Gimeno 1979). In order to limit interference with lipids, pigments and other food compound, this chromatographic screening technique has undergone improvements, by using membrane cleaning (Roberts and Patterson 1975). Toluene, ethyl acetate and formic acid are the three solvents used for the separation. The revelation of the chromatogram is carried out by exposing the plate to pyridine or acetic anhydride vapors, or a mixture of both, the spots of the mycotoxins appear fluorescent under UV light at 365 nm (Goliński and Grabarkiewicz-Szczesna 1984). AFB₁ is detected at concentrations ranging from 0.1 to 0.3 µg.kg⁻¹ (Patterson and Roberts 1979), while for others, such as diacetoxyscirpenol, ochratoxin A, patulin, penitrem A, sterigmatocystin, toxin T-2 and zearalenone are detected in a less reliable manner (Roberts and Patterson 1975).

1.5.1.2 High-Performance Thin-Layer Chromatography

After determining the role and toxicity of mycotoxins in human and animal organism, the chromatography technique has developed with more performance, high-performance thin-layer chromatography (HPLC) and Reversed-phase liquid chromatography (RPLC) coupled with a fluorescence detector are the two most used instruments for mycotoxins detection (Orti et al. 1986), other machines are currently running with wavelength variation, a fluorescence detector, and require an extraction and immunoaffinity column (IAC) for clean-up (Pena et al. 2006; Chen et al. 2017). Liquid chromatographic-tandem mass spectrometric method (LC-MS/MS) is another instrument developed for the determination of mycotoxins biomarkers in human or animal urine, the sample preparation requires several steps of clean-up (Solfrizzo et al. 2011), the latter technique is recommended for mycotoxin biomarkers analysis in biological fluids (Gerding et al. 2014). Other technique are developed such as liquid chromatography combined with heated electrospray ionization triple quadrupole tandem mass spectrometry (LC-h-ESI-MS/MS) which has been developed for the multiple detection of mycotoxin in plasma with LOD ranging from <0.01 to 0.5 ng.ml⁻¹ (Devreese et al. 2012) and et Ultrasound-assisted solid-liquid extraction and immunoaffinity column clean-up coupled with high performance liquid chromatography and on-line post-column photochemical derivatization-fluorescence detection (USLE-IAC-HPLC-PCD-FLD) (Kong et al. 2013).

1.5.2 *Microarrays for Mycotoxin Detection*

Bio-analytical technology based on DNA microarrays are used for the detection and selection of fungal mycotoxin-producing strains, this transcriptomic technique based on hybridization is very effective for the identification of mycotoxin expression genes in complete sequences of fungal DNA (Emri et al. 2017), Several microarray oligonucleotides are developed to determine the pathogens in a single reaction, the fungal DNA must be amplified by universal primers and the PCR product after clean-up will undergo hybridization with the microarray oligonucleotide (Huang et al. 2006), there are microarray containing oligonucleotides of the biosynthetic pathways of fumonisin, aflatoxin, ochratoxin and others, even recently identified biosynthetic genes can be added to these chips (Schmidt-Heydt and Geisen 2007). These DNA microarrays reveal high specificity and stability for pathogen detection (Bouchara et al. 2009).

1.5.3 *Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent*

This technique is based on the antigen-antibody immune reaction, the ELISA technique allows a highly sensitive and selective quantitative and/or qualitative analysis. For the assay, an antigen or antibody is labelled with an enzyme, hence his name comes from. The antigen is immobilized in a solid phase such as a microplate. In the immunological reaction, the antigen reacted with the antibody which will subsequently be detected by a secondary antibody labelled with an enzyme developing a color (chromogenic), the reaction time is estimated between 30 min and 1 h, at the end of the reaction, the colored products are detected using a microplate reader (Sakamoto et al. 2017). This assay technique has proved its effectiveness in detecting and measuring mycotoxins even in foods (Liu et al. 1985; Gao et al. 2012).

1.5.4 *Radioimmunoassay*

This technique is applicable for the detection of mycotoxins such as toxin T-2 in the liver, spleen and kidney (Hewetson et al. 1987), it can also detect T-2 toxin in biological fluids such as serum and urine with elimination of the extraction step that preceded the analysis, the sensitivity of the technique was 1 ng per analysis or 10 ng.ml⁻¹ with a significant reaction (10.3%) of the toxin (Fontelo et al. 1983). RIA can also be applied for the detection of T-2 toxin in milk with a sensitivity of 2.5 ppb (Lee and Chu 1981). This radioimmunoassay (RIA), with the tracer [3H] AFB₁ has proven effective for detecting AFB₁, AFM₁ and a major urinary metabolite of AFB₁ in several species (Sizaret et al. 1982).

1.6 Nanotechnology-Based Techniques for Mycotoxin Detection

The manufacture of nanomaterials based on carbon or gold or other materials has recognized in recent years an exponential progress, by the technological development known in these nanomaterials, and their applications in different fields. Developed nanoparticles can bind to different antibodies types, which are considered as molecular recognition receptors and can trap mycotoxins due to their specificity and sensitivity. Aptamers based on synthetic oligonucleotides also have a specific affinity for mycotoxins detection. Some new methods are demonstrated in the following paragraphs.

1.6.1 Quartz Crystal Microbalance Immunosensor (QCMI)

Quartz Crystal Microbalance Immunosensor (QCMI) are widely used in the biological field, the principle of the method is based on the piezoelectric properties of quartz crystals that are used in their manufacture. These AT-cut crystals used in the QCM transducers resonate at a fixed frequency when applying an electric current, this frequency is relative to changes in the contact conditions with the surface of the crystals due to an increase in mass during the immunoreaction with anti-mycotoxin antibodies. This technique is able to detect mycotoxins by their direct immobilizations on sensor surfaces containing, for example -ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodiimide (EDC)/N-Hydroxysuccinimide (NHS), this surface is able of be regenerated 13 times after each analysis (Pirinçi et al. 2018), quartz crystals can also be covered by gold nanoparticles (Vidal et al. 2009).

1.6.2 Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR)

Surface plasmon resonance is one of the methods that provide rapid quantitative and qualitative detection of mycotoxins with a detection limit of about 200 Da, this method became popular in the 1990s following the commercialization of biosensors. The principle of the method is based on the phenomenon of surface plasmon resonance, the latter occurs between a very thin metal film (formed in gold) deposited between two transparent support (prism) having a different refractive index, a polarized incident light undergoes internal refraction in the prism which induces the components of the electromagnetic field of light to penetrate the gold film, the interaction of this field with free oscillating electrons on the gold film will cause the excitation of the plasmons and will cause the decrease of the intensity of the light received by an optical detector, this system detects the changes in the refraction of the surface layer in contact with the solution which is related to the molecules

binding to the film (Hodnik and Anderluh 2009). The thin layer may contain gold nanoparticles, as demonstrated in the study of Hossain and his group, in the latter, the team was able to determine the T-2 toxin and T-2 toxin-3-glucoside in wheat after their extractions, on a device containing antibodies conjugated with gold nanoparticles (Hossain et al. 2018). SPR containing nanostructured films are called imaging nanoplasmonics, they can even detect several mycotoxins in same times, with regeneration surfaces after analysis (Joshi et al. 2016; Hossain and Maragos 2018). The technique undergone modifications and perfections such as indirect competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ic-ELISA) which demonstrated its reliability (Dong et al. 2018).

1.6.3 Electrochemical Immuno-Sensor Based on Nanoparticle

Different Electrochemical Immunosensors are developed to determine a type of mycotoxin, such as electrochemical Immunosensor based on polythionine/gold nanoparticles for the determination of AFB₁ (Owino et al. 2008), but following the multi-presence of mycotoxins in foods, a design of an electrochemical immunosensor is carried out for the simultaneous detection, during a single test, of two mycotoxins namely; fumonisin B₁ (FB₁) and deoxynivalenol (DON), two electrodes were functionalized with gold nanoparticles and anti-FB₁ and anti-DON antibodies. After incubation of the electrodes in the sample solution, the immunocomplex formation generates an electrochemical signal which is then compared with the control signal to quantify and calculate the concentration of mycotoxins, the LODs were 97 pg.ml⁻¹ and 35 pg.ml⁻¹, respectively for FB₁ and DON. The stability of the electrodes is marked good (Lu and Gunasekaran 2019). Another indirect competition enzyme immunoassay technique is developed to determine the presence of AFB₁ in Palm kernel cake, modified electrodes prepared from multi-walled carbon nanotubes and chitosan are prepared, the attachment of AFB₁-BSA antigens on the composites surface is activated by N-ethyl-N'-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide (EDC) and N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS). A competitive reaction takes place between AFB₁ and the fixation site with producing a signal, the detection range of the electrochemical immunosensor was between 0.0001 and 10 ng.ml⁻¹ with an LOD of 0.1 pg.ml⁻¹ (Azri et al. 2017). The application of these ultrasensitive methods requires improvement and optimization of several parameters such as antigens concentration, blocking agents, incubation time, temperature and reagents pH, this optimization is performed on the microplates by ELISA test (Azri et al. 2018). This detection technique is a promising approach for mycotoxin screening because it is simple, fast, extremely sensitive, specific and does not require pre-concentration of sample, it can be applied for the detection of mycotoxins in a wide variety of foods (Tan et al. 2009; Wang et al. 2017).

1.6.4 Optical Waveguide Lightmode Spectroscopy

The OWLS technique is based on the precise calculation of the resonance angle of a polarized laser light beam (632.8 nm), diffracted by a grating and coupled to a thin waveguide. Determination of the thickness of the adsorbed or bonded material layer is performed with great sensitivity from the effective refractive index determined from the coupling angle of the resonance (Székács et al. 2009). This technique is also applied for mycotoxins detection in a competitive and direct immunoassay format. The improvement of the detection signal is relative to the surface of the immune sensor formed by immobilization of gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) containing the conjugated antibodies or antigens, after fixation of the mycotoxins, an immunodetection method has been developed for the analysis (Adányi et al. 2018). Comparison of the detection results of this method with the ELISA and HPLC test demonstrated an excellent correlation indicating that the OWLS immunosensor has a good potential for the rapid determination of mycotoxins (Majer-Baranyi et al. 2016).

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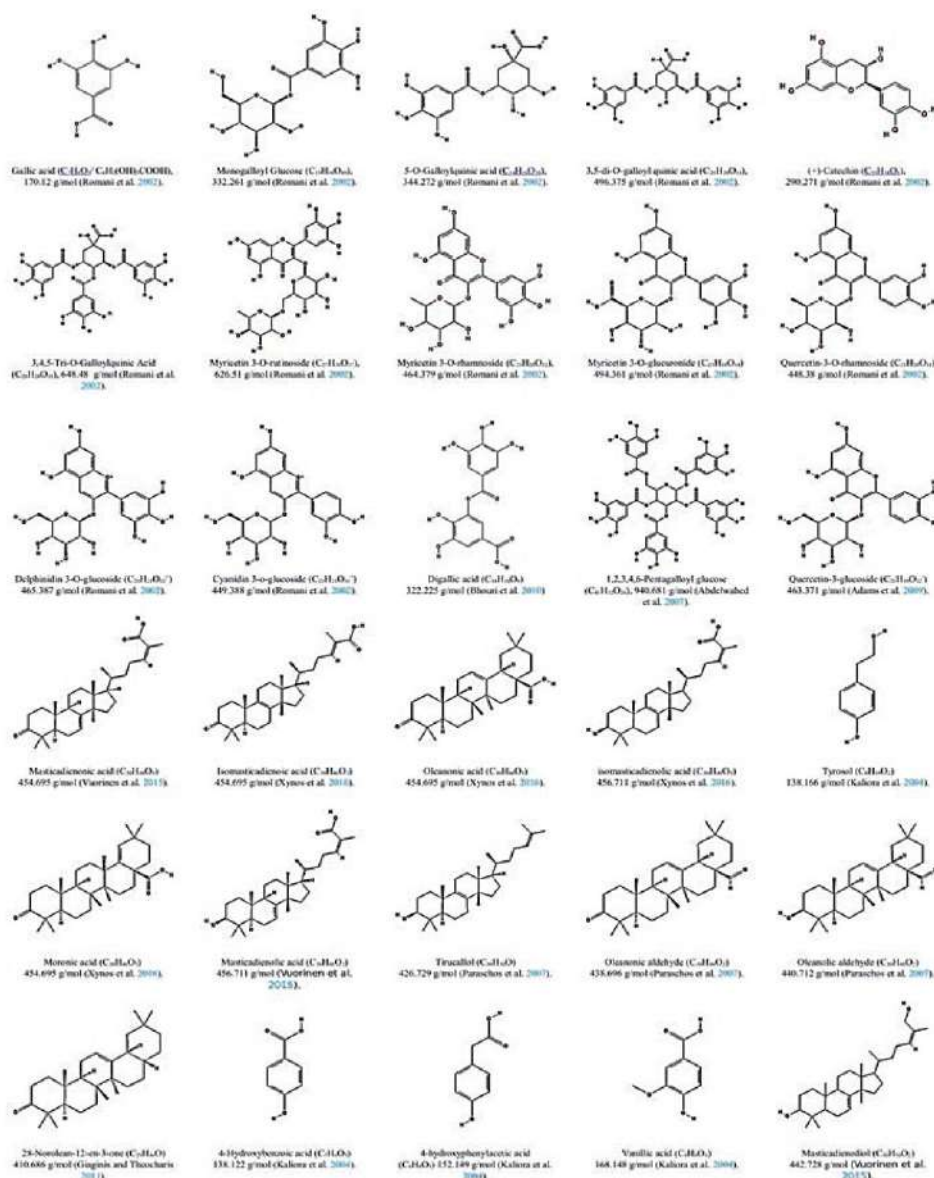


Fig. 3.6 Main isolated and identified compounds from *Pistacia lentiscus*. Chemical studies of *P. lentiscus* revealed diverse secondary metabolites and high levels of vitamins and minerals. Monoterpenoids, sesquiterpenoids, and essential oil are the main compounds reported in different parts of *P. lentiscus*. α -pinene are reported as the main compound following by limonene, myrcene, sabinene, and teroinen-4-ol. The plant contains phenolic compounds like gallic acid, digallic acid, catechin, epicatechin, and gallic acid methyl. The leaf is a rich with galloyl derivatives like mono, di, and tri-O-galloyl quinic acid and monogalloyl glucose. Quercetin-3-glucoside are reported as the most abundant flavonoid compound. Oleic acid and linoleic acid are detected in the fruit of this plant. (The structures of the compounds are download from <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>)

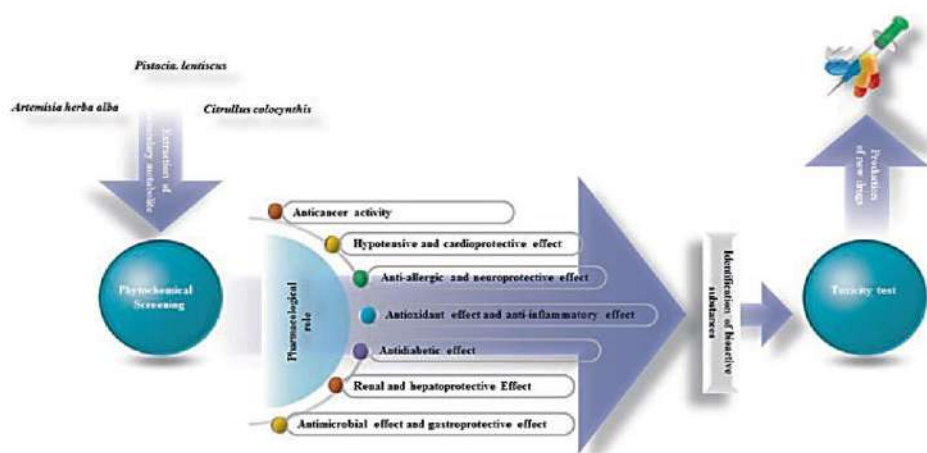


Fig. 3.7 Pharmacological role of the extracts and essential oils obtained from *A. herba-alba*, *C. colocynthis* and *P. lentiscus*. Selected described Plants are recommended in traditional medicine as a cure for various diseases, current researches try through different technique and methods to prove these biological activities and its origins. All medicinal plants must undergo a chemical extraction or a hydro-distillation to obtain an organic extract or an essential oil, these latter are tested in order to check its anti-cancer, hypotensive, cardioprotective, neuroprotective, antiallergic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, hepatoprotective, gastroprotective and antimicrobial activities. When the biological activities are proven, the fractionation, isolation and identification of bioactive compounds are performed to obtain pure compounds. If the latter are biologically active (in vitro and in vivo), the toxicity must be determined before any pharmaceutical reproduction

pressure and heart rate, as well as an increase in sodium and potassium levels in urine (Zeggwagh et al. 2014). Evaluation of the vasorelaxant effect of the aqueous extract in the rat aorta, demonstrated that this plant records another important effect, the result revealed that *A. herba-alba* extract produced an endothelium-dependent relaxation in the rat aorta (Skiker et al. 2010). Table 3.3 presents some cardioprotective and hypotensive effects of some substances isolate from these plants.

3.6.3 Anti-allergic and Neuroprotective Effect

The use *P. lentiscus* essential oils increased the protection of brain tissue against ischemia, which causes inflammation and an oxidative stress that strongly damages membranes and polyunsaturated fatty acids, and finally inducing a neuronal death (Quartu et al. 2012). Some studies have indicated an allergic effect of *P. lentiscus* gum, contact dermatitis was observed following the use of an orthopaedic solution containing in its composition a quantity of gum (Lee and Lam 1993; Wakelin 2001). In the mouse ear, a concentration of 100 and 125 mg.kg⁻¹, cucurbitacin E 2-O-b-D-glucopyranoside and cucurbitacin E from *C. colocynthis* exhibited an antiallergic activity against passive cutaneous anaphylactic reactions (Yoshikawa et al. 2007).

Table 3.2 Anticancer activity of *P. lentiscus*, *C. colocynthis*, and *A. herba-alba*

Plant	Type of extract	Type of cancer	Dose	Molecule	References
<i>P. lentiscus</i>	Gum mastic	Prostate cancer cell line LNCaP ^a .	6–12 µg/mL		He et al. (2006)
		Androgen-independent prostate cancer PC-3 cells ^b .	20–60 µg/mL	Masticadienonic acid	He et al. (2007)
		Promyelocytic leukemia HL-60 cells.	0–200 µg/mL (solid mastic) or 0–2 (v/v)% of liquid mastic	Masticadienonic acid, oleanonic acid	Sakagami et al. (2009), Chávez et al. (2005) and Nguyen et al. (2005)
		Mmyeloblastic leukemia (ML-1, KG-1) cells.			
		Erythroleukemia K-562.			
		Oral squamous cell carcinoma (HSC-2, HSC-3, HSC-4).			
		Hepatocellular carcinoma (HepG2) cells.			
	Glioblastoma (T98G, U87MG) cells ^c .				
Gemcitabine in combination with gum mastic	Pancreatic cancer cells (BxPC-3 and COLO 357) ^d .	Gemcitabine (10 µg/mL) and gum mastic (40 µg/mL)		Huang et al. (2010)	
Mastic oil	Lewis Lung Carcinoma (LLC) cells ^e .	45 mg/kg 0.01–0.02% v/v		Magkouta et al. (2009) and Moulos et al. (2009)	
Hexane extracts of mastic gum	Human HCT116 colon cancer cells ^f .	100–220 mg/kg		Dimas et al. (2009)	

(continued)

Table 3.2 (continued)

Plant	Type of extract	Type of cancer	Dose	Molecule	References
<i>C. colocynthis</i>		SH-SY5Y human neuroblastoma ^g .	0–128 μ M	Cucurbitacin B	Zheng et al. (2014)
		A549 lung cancer cell line ^h .	0.02–62.5 μ mol/L		Zhang et al. (2014)
		Human pancreatic cancer cells PANC-1 ⁱ .	0.1–10-Kmol/L		Zhang et al. (2010)
		Human laryngeal cancer Hep-2 cells ⁱ .			Liu et al. (2008, 2010)
		BEL-7402 human hepatocellular carcinoma cells ^k .	0.01–1000 μ M		Chan et al. (2010)
		Osteosarcoma cells ^l .	20–100 μ M		Zhang et al. (2017)
		HT-29 and HCT-116 cell lines ^m .	CuB (0.0125–80 μ M) and Gef (0.1–80 μ M)	Cucurbitacin B in combination with Gefitinib	Yar Saglam et al. (2016)
		Human pancreatic cancer cells PANC-1 ⁿ .	0.01–100 μ M	Cucurbitacin E	Sun et al. (2010)
		Bcap37 and MDA-MB-231 cancer cells ^o .	0.1–100 μ M		Lan et al. (2013)
		MCF7/ADR breast cancer cells ^p .	0.125–16 μ g/mL	Cucurbitacin D	Ku et al. (2015)
Essential Oils	P815 and BSR cancer cell lines ^q .		Sesquiterpene compounds	Tilaoui et al. (2015)	

The table below illustrates the anticancer activity and lethal doses of the main bioactive compound of *P. lentiscus*, *C. colocynthis* and *A. herba-alba* in several cell lines. ^gMastic gum tested in LNCaP prostate cancer cell line demonstrated that the mastic gum inhibits the transcriptional AR expression and reduces the NKX3.1 and PSA expression. ^hIn PC-3 cells, mastic gum inhibits the cell growth, blocks the cell cycle in G1 phase and suppresses the activity of NF-kappaB. ⁱPromyelocytic leukemia HL-60 was the most sensitive to the cytotoxicity of mastic, followed by myeloblastic leukemia (ML-1, KG-1), erythroleukemia (K-562), oral squamous cell carcinoma (HSC-2, HSC-3, HSC-4, hepatocellular carcinoma (HepG2) and glioblastoma (T98G, U87MG). ^qIn pancreatic cancer cells, the combination of gemcitabine and mastic gum demonstrated an increase of the (continued)

Table 3.2 (continued)

antiproliferative and apoptotic effects, an increase in the level of I κ B α and Bax protein, and an inhibition of NF- κ B activation. ^eIn lewis lung carcinoma (LLC) cells, mastic oil demonstrated an increase of apoptosis, a decrease of neovascularization, and an inhibition of chemokine expression. ^fHexane extracts of mastic demonstrated a decrease of tumor growth with approximately 35% of inhibition. ^gIn SH-SY5Y human neuroblastoma cells, CuB induced cell cycle arrest at G2/M phase followed by apoptosis, the same compound altered the expression of gene products that mediated cell proliferation (Cyclin B1 and cyclin-dependent kinase 1), cell survival (B-cell lymphoma 2, Bcl2-associated X protein) and increased the expression of p53 and p21. ^hCuB induced an apoptosis in A549 cells and inhibited lung cancer cell proliferation. ⁱCuB inhibited the growth of PANC-1 cells, through the accumulation of G2/M phase cells and apoptosis. ^jIn Hep-2 cells, combination of CuB and cisplatin displayed synergistic effects of growth inhibition. ^kIn BEL-7402 human hepatocellular carcinoma cells, treatment with CuB induced S phase arrest. ^lCuB reduced cell viability in osteosarcoma cells, and induced an effective inhibition of MAPK signalling and JAK2/STAT3 cascades. ^mCuB with gefitinib treatment caused a growth inhibition, induced apoptosis in HT-29 and HCT-116 cell lines and decreased the expression levels of B-Cell CLL/Lymphoma 2 (Bcl-2), BCL2-like 1 (BCL2L1), cyclin D1, pSTAT3, and pEGFR. ⁿCuE inhibited the growth of PANC-1 cells and caused accumulation of cells at the G(2)/M phase. ^oCuE inhibited the growth in human breast cancer cells and induced G2/M phase arrest. ^pCuD caused more than 60% cell death in MCF7/ADR breast cancer cells, the combination of CuD and doxorubicin induced apoptosis and cell cycle arrest. ^qEssential oil tested for its antitumor activity in P815 and BSR cancer cell lines showed that P815 cells are the most sensitive to the cytotoxic effect

Table 3.3 Hypotensive and cardioprotective activity of *P. lentiscus* and *C. colocynthis*

Plant	Activity	Molecule	References
<i>P. lentiscus</i>	Hypotensive activity ⁽¹⁾	Polymeric procyanidin fraction α -pinene, β -pinene	Sanz et al. (1992) and Menezes et al. (2010)
<i>C. colocynthis</i>	The vasodilator responses, protecting cardiomyocytes and protective effects against chronic DOX cardiotoxicity ⁽²⁾	Quercetin kaempférol	Pérez-Vizcaíno et al. (2002), Chen et al. (2013), and Matouk et al. (2013)

(1): α -pinene and β -pinene induced an hypotension. (2): Quercetin and kaempférol showed vasodilator effects with selectivity toward the resistance vessels. In H9C2 cells, quercetin blocks the H₂O₂-induced inflammatory response and contributes to prevent ischemia/reperfusion injury in cardiomyocytes. Quercetin can also increase the cardioprotective effect of losartan against chronic cardiotoxicity induced by doxorubicin which produced leukocyte infiltration and myocardial lesions

3.6.4 Antioxidant Effect

P. lentiscus oil attenuated a lipid peroxidation, superoxide dismutase, and catalase in the liver (Saidi et al. 2017), rat lungs (Abidi et al. 2017), and human skin (Ben Khedir et al. 2016), it showed a good antioxidant effect (Barra et al. 2007), with a radical scavenging activity between 21% and 35% against DPPH radicals (Negro et al. 2015). Ethyl acetate and methanolic leaves extract showed a high antioxidant

capacity against DPPH radicals with $IC_{50} = 0.0068 \text{ mg.ml}^{-1}$ for the first extract (Yemmen et al. 2017). A high scavenging activity are also noted for ethanolic extract against DPPH and ABTS radicals (Belhachat et al. 2017; Beghlal et al. 2016). The polar extract inhibited the release of nitric oxide and reactive oxygen species in RAW 264.7 macrophage cells (Grace et al. 2016). Pre-treatment of THP-1 cells with $100 \text{ }\mu\text{g.ml}^{-1}$ of *P. lentiscus* extract caused an inhibition of H_2O_2 cytotoxicity through increasing cell viability to 108.25% (Remila et al. 2015). Methanolic extracts of the leaves and fruits added to pork sausage at 300 mg.kg^{-1} significantly inhibited the oxidation (Botsaris et al. 2015). Oleanolic acid and ursolic acid showed a high antioxidant activity (Assimopoulou et al. 2015).

Organic extracts of *C. colocynthis* leaves demonstrated that methanolic extract exerts a high antioxidant activity followed in descending order by hydro-methanol, chloroformic and hexanoic extract (Nessa and Khan 2014). In another study, ethyl acetate seed extract recorded a percentage reduction of 88.8% against DPPH radicals followed by hydro-methanolic extract with a percentage reduction of 74.5% (Benariba et al. 2013a, b). Butanolic fruits extract exercised a high antioxidant activity with an $IC_{50} = 61 \text{ }\mu\text{g.ml}^{-1}$ in comparison with aqueous extract which demonstrated an $IC_{50} = 241.25 \text{ }\mu\text{g.ml}^{-1}$ (Chekroun et al. 2015). At a concentration of $800 \text{ }\mu\text{g.ml}^{-1}$, methanolic fruits extract showed a percentage inhibition of 76% against DPPH radicals (Vakiloddin et al. 2015). Oil extracted from mature seeds reduced cadmium-induced damage with an increase of activity levels of antioxidant enzymes (Amamou et al. 2015). In rat testes, *C. colocynthis* pulp increased catalase and peroxidase activities, and decreased malondialdehyde (Ostovan et al. 2017).

Essential oil of *A. herba-alba* tested with various methods demonstrated a remarkable antioxidant activity (Mighri et al. 2010; Rafiq et al. 2016), another study demonstrated that the essential oil had a high potency to reduce and eliminate radicals in comparison to rosemary essential oil (Aouadi et al. 2014), it recorded an IC_{50} of 9.1 mg.ml^{-1} and $2.97 \text{ mg eq EDTA.g}^{-1}$ respectively with DPPH and FRAP test (Aloui et al. 2016). In rats, an oral administration of 50 mg.kg^{-1} (bw) of essential oil can overcome the deleterious effects of Malathion (neurotoxic pesticide) by reducing lipid peroxidation and hydrogen peroxide (Selmi et al. 2016), in the blood of rats, tea and *A. herba-alba* decoction demonstrated an increase of the antioxidant status and activities of glutathione peroxidase with levels ranging from 83.5–111% to 23–38%, respectively (Abid et al. 2007). Table 3.4 presents some antioxidant substances isolate from these plants with their IC_{50} .

3.6.5 Antidiabetic Effect

In healthy individuals, *P. lentiscus* caused a remarkable decrease in blood glucose (Kartalis et al. 2016), in the diabetic rat induced by streptozotocin, *P. lentiscus* has a very good antidiabetic effect (Mehenni et al. 2016), another study confirmed that

Table 3.4 Antioxidant activity of *P. lentiscus* and *C. colocynthis* and *A. herba-alba*

Plant	Measurement method	Molecule or plant organ with its IC ₅₀	References
<i>P. lentiscus</i>	DPPH ^a	Gallic acid IC ₅₀ = 2 µg/ml. 1,2,3,4,6-pentagalloylglucose with IC ₅₀ = 1 µg/ml	Abdelwahed et al. (2007)
	DPPH ^b	5-O-galloyl IC ₅₀ = 18.7 µM 3,5-di-O-galloyl IC ₅₀ = 7.1 µM 3,4,5-tri-O-galloyl IC ₅₀ = 3.9 µM	Baratto et al. (2003)
	O ₂ ⁻ Radical (KOH/Acetone) ^b	5-O-galloyl IC ₅₀ = 25.4 µM 3,5-di-O-galloyl IC ₅₀ = 22.6 µM 3,4,5-tri-O-galloyl with IC ₅₀ = 11.5 µM	
	OH Radical ^b	5-O-galloyl IC ₅₀ = 71.3 µM 3,5-di-O-galloyl IC ₅₀ = 16.0 µM 3,4,5-tri-O-galloyl IC ₅₀ = 26.6 µM	
	ABTS ^c	Cucurbitacin B glucoside and cucurbitacin E glucoside.	Tannin-Spitz et al. (2007)
<i>C. colocynthis</i>	Ethanol, hexane and methanol extract of the root, leave and fruit.	Ferulic acid, vanillic acid, p-coumaric acid, gallic acid, p-hydroxy benzoic acid, chlorogenic acid, quercetin, myricetin and catechin.	Hussain et al. (2013)
	Methanol extract (70%) Water extract	Seeds 10 mg/ml of Artemisinin with 91% radical scavenging activity	Yasir et al. (2016) Kim et al. (2015)

^a1,2,3,4,6-pentagalloylglucose is effective to scavenge DPPH* radical and protect against lipid peroxidation. ^bThe scavenger activities of gallic acid, 5-O-galloyl, 3,5-O-digalloyl, 3,4,5-O-trigalloyl, estimated against DPPH, superoxide radical, and hydroxyl (OH) radical, demonstrated a good antioxidant potential. ^cThe combination of cucurbitacin B+E demonstrated an antioxidant activity, probably through the scavenging of several free radicals. ^dEthanol extract of the leaves possesses a radical scavenging activity against DPPH followed by ethanolic extracts root and fruit. ^eAntioxidant properties of aqueous extract demonstrated an activity of 91.0 ± 3.2%, which is similar to α-tocopherol (92.6%)

100 mg.kg⁻¹ of crude gum of *P. lentiscus* reduced blood glucose (Rehman et al. 2015), the contribution of the antidiabetic activity of the gum is suggested to the inhibition of 11 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, exercised by two compound, those are masticadienonic acid and isomasticadienonic acid with IC₅₀ = 2.51 μ M and IC₅₀ = 1.94 μ M, respectively (Vuorinen et al. 2015).

According to an ethnopharmacological survey carried out in the region of Ouargla (Algeria), *A. Herba-alba* and *C. colocynthis* are the most common herbs used to fight diabetes (Telli et al. 2016). All studies performed on different parts of *C. colocynthis* confirmed that ethanolic, methanolic and aqueous extracts of the seeds, roots, fruits, and leaves have an hypoglycemic activity at a dose ranging from 10 to 500 mg.kg⁻¹ (bw) (Shi et al. 2014; Chekroun et al. 2017). Root aqueous extract showed a percentage reduction of 58.7% in blood glucose in comparison to chloroformic and ethanolic extract with improvement of biochemical blood parameters (Agarwal et al. 2012). Aqueous extracts and other bioactive substances like saponins and alkaloids from the seeds showed a good hypoglycemic effect (Lahfa et al. 2017; Amin et al. 2017). In vitro study performed in pancreatic cells isolated from rat demonstrated that seed extracts obtained by various solvents exert a positive insulinotropic action in the presence of 8.3 mM of D-glucose (Nmila et al. 2000; Benariba et al. 2012, 2013a, b). In rats, the use of 300 mg.kg⁻¹ of water-ethanolic extract of seeds for 3 days demonstrated a decrease in alloxan-induced blood glucose (Oryan et al. 2014). The hydroalcoholic extract of *C. colocynthis* leaves showed a potential effect in insulin secretion from islets of Langerhans (Ebrahimi et al. 2016). In streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats, other relevant results are obtained; colocynthis oil demonstrated a beneficial effect through retaining or restoring pancreatic beta-cell mass (Sebbagh et al. 2009). Another study, carried out in diabetic patients receiving a treatment of 100 mg of *C. colocynthis* over a period of 2 months, showed a positive effect on glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) and fasting blood glucose, leading to their decrease without any change in other blood parameters (Huseini et al. 2009).

In diabetic rat induced by alloxan, an oral administration of 0.39 g.kg⁻¹ (bw) of aqueous solution of *A. Herba-alba* showed a decrease in blood glucose (Twajj and Al-Badr 1988; Al-Shamaony et al. 1994; Taştekin et al. 2006). Another study confirmed the previous result demonstrating that 0.3 g.kg⁻¹ (bw) prepared by aqueous infusion, reduces the blood glucose more effectively in comparison to glibenclamide (an antidiabetic drug used against type 2 diabetes), due to the presence of mono- and di-cinnamoylquinic acids, 5-caffeoylquinic acid, 3,5-dicaffeoylquinic acid, and vicenin-2 (apigenin 6,8-di-C-glucoside) (Boudjelal et al. 2015). Hepatic steatosis caused by a high-fat diet leading to diabetes is weakly reduced by the extract of this plant (Hamza et al. 2015).

3.6.6 Renal and Hepatoprotective Effect

Medicinal plants with a hepatoprotective effect are accompanied with a protective effect for the stomach; *P. lentiscus* is among these plants (Shamsi-Baghbanan et al. 2014). Arsenic is a highly hepatotoxic metal, however, administration of *P. lentiscus* oil with sodium arsenite decreased the damage and disruption of the pro-oxidant/antioxidant status in the liver (Klibet et al. 2016), it reduces liver damage caused by intestinal ischemia-reperfusion-induced in rats (Saidi et al. 2017). Following the presence of phenolic compounds, *P. lentiscus* possessed a high effect against hepatic necrosis resulting an overdose of paracetamol (Mehenni et al. 2016), its aqueous extract showed an anti-hepatotoxic effect against carbon tetrachloride by reducing bilirubin, SGTO, SGPT and ALP levels (Janakat and Al-Merie 2002), otherwise, in human kidney cells (HK-cells), its fruit ethanolic extract incubated in vitro with calcium oxalate monohydrate crystals was effective in reducing the size, concentration and adherence of crystals, which makes this plant effective in preventing kidney stones (Cheraft-Bahloul et al. 2017).

Methanolic extract of *C. colocynthis* demonstrated its protective effect against toxicity following an overdose of paracetamol, pre-treatment of rats with 300 mg.kg⁻¹ of this extract reduces hepatic enzymes, and total bilirubin levels (Vakiloddin et al. 2015), ethanolic extract from fruit demonstrated a high hepatoprotective and nephroprotective activities in hepatic and renal organs against damage caused by cisplatin in cancer therapy (Adeyemi et al. 2017). The co-treatment of colocynth extract and the gentamicin against the nephrotoxicity of the antibiotic did not succeed to protect the kidneys against the lesions (Ullah et al. 2013). The use of colocynth oil can reduce the harmful effect of Cadmium in the liver by reducing oxidative stress and increasing antioxidant activity (Amamou et al. 2015).

The use of *A. herba alba* extract reduced hepatic steatosis induced experimentally in mice by high-fat food and characterized by the accumulation of fat in the liver cells (Hamza et al. 2015).

3.6.7 Anti-inflammatory Effect

In laboratory experiments, the organic extracts of *P. lentiscus* are known by their anti-inflammatory activity against carrageenan induced inflammation (Dellai et al. 2013; Remila et al. 2015), oil extracted from fruit demonstrated also a high anti-inflammatory activity against carrageenan induced inflammation, the percentage inhibition was 70% in comparison to Inflocin activity, which had only 51.5% (Ben Khedir et al. 2016). Another study done on the resin revealed an inflammation inhibition of 100% at 800 mg.kg⁻¹ (bw) without any toxicity recorded until 3 g.kg⁻¹ (Mahmoudi et al. 2010). First study done on the oil against the experimental inflammations in Wistar rats, showed after 8 days of therapy that the oil has a high healing effect against CO₂ laser induced burns (Khedir et al. 2017), another study showed

an excellent healing of virgin fatty oil from *P. lentiscus* tested for its anti-inflammatory effect on rabbits burned on the skin by metal immersed in boiling water and held on the skin, after 28 days of therapy in comparison to Madicassol and Vaseline (Djerrou et al. 2010). *P. lentiscus* essential oil decreased carrageenan-induced paw edema, inhibited cotton pellet-induced granuloma and also reduced serum tumor necrosis factor (TNF- α) and interleukin-6 (IL-6) (Maxia et al. 2011), in normal tissues, IL-6 and TNF- α can cause damage, *P. lentiscus* ethanolic extract with LPS (inducing the synthesis of IL-6 and TNF- α), tested on polymorphonuclear cells obtained from fresh blood and cultured in RPMI medium supplemented with streptomycin, penicillin, and bovine serum, showed that gallic acid and p-coumaric acid present in plant extract reduced the expression of IL-6 and TNF- α (Qabaha et al. 2016).

Organic extracts of *C. colocynthis* seeds and mature fruits revealed a high anti-inflammatory activity in rats (Marzouk et al. 2010a, b, 2011), among its active compounds, cucurbitacins triterpenes are known for its anti-inflammatory activities (Kaushik et al. 2015), in mice macrophage, cucurbitacin B attained the expression of CD40, CD54, and CD80, blocked the release of LPS-activated pro-inflammatory mediators, and reduce the expression levels of pro-inflammatory enzymes induced by LPS (Kim et al. 2015), another study done in LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells reported that cucurbitacin E inhibits the production of TNF- α and IL-1 β , probably mediated by the suppression of NF- κ B nuclear translocation (Qiao et al. 2013). A new cucurbitacin, namely; 11-deoxocucurbitacin-I-2-O- β -d-glucoside isolated from *C. colocynthis* seeds showed a remarkable anti-inflammatory activity (Marzouk et al. 2013).

At doses of 400, 200 and 100 mg.kg⁻¹, *A. Herba-alba* ethanolic extract showed edema percentage inhibition of 46.8%, 35.0% and 62.5%, respectively (Jaleel et al. 2016), astragalin and eupatilin are among compounds that revealed a high effect against carrageenan inflammation (Qnais et al. 2014). in male mice, hydro-ethanolic extract of *A. herba-alba* demonstrated a low activity against hepatic steatosis induced by a diet rich in fat (Hamza et al. 2015). In macrophages and in microglia, at concentrations of 1.25 μ l.ml⁻¹ and 0.32 μ l.ml⁻¹, respectively, essential oil inhibited nitric oxide production without cytotoxicity (Abu-Darwish et al. 2015).

3.6.8 Antimicrobial Effect

Since a long time, *P. lentiscus* is known by its antimicrobial effects (Iauk et al. 1996), *H. pylori* infection became a serious illness because of its complications leading to gastric cancer, a literature review indicates that *P. lentiscus* decreases the growth capacity of this pathogen (Bonifácio et al. 2014; Sharif Sharifi and Hazell 2009), at a concentration of 0.75 mg per day during 3 months, tested in vivo, total mastic extract showed approximately 30-fold reduction in *H. pylori* colonization, isomasticadienolic acid was the most active compound with MBC of 0.202 mg.ml⁻¹ (Paraschos et al. 2007), α -terpineol and (E)-methyl isoeugenol isolated from mastic

gum essential oil showed also a high anti-*H. pylori* activity (Miyamoto et al. 2014). Essential oil tested against *L. monocytogenes* serovar 4b CECT 935 presents a less effect (Djenane et al. 2011). Oil extracted from *P. lentiscus* fruits exerts an average antimicrobial activity against *A. niger* and *S. aureus* (Mezni et al. 2015). Mastic gum methanolic extract showed a moderate antimicrobial activity against *Porphyromonas gingivalis* with inhibition zones of 10.5 to 13.7 mm at 0.5% to 4% (wt/vol) (Sterer 2006). Methanolic extract from fruits and leaves used as ingredient in pork sausage reduce microbial spoilage (Botsaris et al. 2015).

Some studies state that the organic extract from *C. colocynthis* is more active in comparison to the aqueous extract (Benariba et al. 2013a, b), the hydromethanolic extract was less toxic against *F. oxysporum* and its enzymes (CMCase, pectinase, and protease) (Mohamed et al. 2017), hydroethanolic extract revealed a moderate antifungal activity against *A. fumigatus* DSM₇₉₀ and *A. niger* DSM₁₉₈₈ (Eidi et al. 2015), the crude acetone extract of the leaves showed an antibacterial activity against *P. aeruginosa* with an inhibition diameter of 14 mm (Gowri et al. 2009), hydroacetic extract from seeds demonstrated its effects against several *Candida* species (*C. albicans* ATCC₉₀₀₂₈, *C. glabrata* ATCC₉₀₀₃₀, *C. krusei* ATCC₆₂₅₈ and *C. parapsilosis* ATCC₂₂₀₁₉) (Marzouk et al. 2010a, b). Otherwise, ursolic acid and cucurbitacin E 2-0- β -d-glucopyranoside obtained from seeds methanolic extract are identified as the main active biomarkers against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Rv with MIC of 50 and 25 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ respectively (Mehta et al. 2013). The lectin extracted from *C. colocynthis* affects the digestive enzymes activities and the intermediate metabolism of *E. ceratoniae* larvae through the reduction of the α -amylase, protease and perturbation of hepatic transaminase activities (Ramzi et al. 2014). The oil of this plant has medium antifungal activity (Sahua et al. 2017).

Essential oil of *A. herba alba* showed a good antimicrobial activity against several fungi and bacteria (Younsi et al. 2016; Chaftar et al. 2016), the most sensitive unveiled microorganisms are *S. aureus* ATCC₂₅₉₂₃, *M. luteus* NCIMB₈₁₆₆, *B. cereus* ATCC₁₁₇₇₈, *E. faecalis* ATCC₂₉₂₁₂, *E. coli* ATCC₃₅₂₁₈, *S. typhimurium* NRLB₄₄₂₀ (Mighri et al. 2010), *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Epidermophyton floccosum* and *Cryptococcus neoformans* (Abu-Darwish et al. 2015). The essential oil tested with an efflux pump inhibitor (Pa β N: phenylalanine arginyl β -naphthylamide) against several microorganisms revealed that MIC enhanced in the presence of PABN (Fadli et al. 2016).

3.6.9 Gastroprotective Effect

Gastric ulcer also called stomach ulcer, if located in the stomach, and called duodenal ulcer when formed in the duodenum. Erosion can form many wounds; these wounds can penetrate deeply in the walls and the membrane of the digestive tissues. *P. lentiscus* has a good effect against gastric and duodenal ulcer and also against gastrointestinal disorders (Paraschos et al. 2012), for functional dyspepsia, a good result is observed in patients received an oral dose of 350 mg for three times per day during 3 weeks, the percentage of therapy was significant in 77% of patients with a

decrease in burns and stomach pain (Dabos et al. 2010), otherwise, organic extracts of *P. lentiscus* leaves inhibit gastric lesions caused by HCl (Dellai et al. 2013). *P. lentiscus* oil possesses a protective effect against colitis and intestinal inflammation (Naouar et al. 2016). In rats, *A. Herba-alba* extract showed its effectiveness to be a gastro-protective agent against alcohol-induced gastric ulcers (Jaleel et al. 2016).

3.7 Plant Toxicity

The toxicity of plants to human body should be studied before any consumption or use, according to their composition in chemical and bioactive substances, which can cause irreversible reactions in human organs. A study done in rabbits showed that the rectally use of *P. lentiscus* oil has no adverse effect on hepatic and renal function (Djerrou et al. 2011), another study done in mice showed that the oral administration of the oil at doses varying between 10 and 100 ml.kg⁻¹ causes death with LD₅₀ of 37 ± 1 ml.kg⁻¹ (Boukeloua et al. 2012). *P. lentiscus* oil targets the hepatic cytochrome P450 activity with a decrease activity of 42% for CYP2E1, and 40–80% for CYP3A4, CYP1A1, and CYP1A2, which requires vigilance when this oil is used in combination with other drugs (Attoub et al. 2014). Otherwise, the measurements made from mRNA through RT-PCR demonstrated that an administration of chios mastic gum with recommended doses does not cause any change in CYP1A1 and CYP1A2 (Katsanou et al. 2014). However, a long-term administration of aqueous extract in healthy rats induces inflammation with appearance of liver fibrosis and mild cholestasis (Ljubuncic et al. 2005). Study conducted in rabbits to determine the irritating effect of oil on skin and eyes showed that *P. lentiscus* oil is slightly irritating to skin (PII = 1.037) and eyes (OII = 5.33), prolonged use may cause irritant contact dermatitis (Djerrou et al. 2013).

C. colocynthis seeds must be controlled before any use, according to recent study showing the presence of mycotoxins (aflatoxin, ochratoxin, and citrinin) known by their toxicities (Somorin et al. 2016). A study performed on pulp methanolic extract demonstrated its lethal effect in mice, accompanied by histological changes in liver and kidneys (Shaikh et al. 2016), in mice, another study demonstrated that severe histopathological changes assessment of *C. colocynthis* in small intestine, liver, and kidney revealed a median lethal dose (LD50) of saponin equal to 200 mg.kg⁻¹ (Diwan et al. 2000).

Little studies revealed the toxicity of *A. Herba-alba*. Treatment at a doses of 375 and 500 µg.ml⁻¹ of *A. herba-alba* extract induced a reduction in bone marrow cells division with induction of chromatid exchanges and micronucleus formation (Abderrahman and Shbailat 2014), other recent survey reported that *A. herba-alba* causes acute renal failure (Brown 2017). In female rats, prolonged exposure to *A. herba-alba* causes an adverse effect on sexual function and fertility (Almasad et al. 2007).

3.8 Discussion

Medicinal plants have been described for a very long time, according to the symptoms of patient as remedies against many infections and pathologies. The current development of advanced isolation and identification techniques explained and argued the importance of these plants compared to others in the ancient populations, and despite the evolution and discovery of new antibiotics and bioactive molecules from various origins, current research does not stop to explore medicinal plants following to their richness in bioactive substances.

These miracles remedies described in this review by three medicinal plants don't mean that the plants are safe and without side effects, this last point is the crucial point neglected by consumers and herbalists as a result of their abuse during therapy or treatment regime (Brown 2017). On the other hand, conditions and duration of medicinal plants storage must be controlled and respected, according to their composition in primary metabolites, which make them easily altered and damaged by mycotoxins, and finally, inedible. Collectors should also consider the harvesting location of these plants as they play a key role in their quality and chemical composition (Nedjimi and Beladel 2015).

The comparison of the composition of each species selected in this review with the same species identified in other regions, shows a slight difference in the percentage of substances, they can also be characterized by one or more unidentified molecules. This difference in the composition of plants in the same species can be explained by the difference in the region and harvest season and even, environmental stress conditions (Cirak et al. 2014; Belhattab et al. 2014; Sivaci and Duman 2014).

Pharmacological information obtained during this deepening reveal that selected medicinal plants have high remedies. These remedies published in various databases are the result of biological effects of bioactive substances, and their synergistic effects that characterize these plants. One of these miracles is their effect against the most monstrous disease in the world as a result of the activities of their extracts or pure compounds tested in different cancer cell lines (Chávez et al. 2005; Zhang et al. 2010, 2014; Tilaoui et al. 2015). Experts should appreciate these results to include these compounds, if possible, in chemotherapy. The plants have also proved their high effects to establish metabolic disorders such as hyperlipidaemia and hyperglycaemia, leading to serious problems with irreversible or even fatal complications affecting the heart and kidneys (Mohana et al. 2012). Tannins, alkaloids, flavonoids, and polyphenols disclose the importance of these plants by their anti-hyperglycaemic action (Kartalis et al. 2016; Lahfa et al. 2017; Boudjelal et al. 2015). The mode of action of these compounds is explained by the increase of insulin secretion and glucose absorption in muscle and adipose tissue, prevention of lipid peroxidation and radicals elimination, prevention of glucose absorption in the intestine and its production in the liver.

Inflammation is a defensive biological response of vascular tissue, this response involves the release of mediators acting as a gravity marker (Bozkurt et al. 2010; Ferrero-Miliani et al. 2007). During this review, selected plants and their extracts

show a high effect inhibition of pro-inflammatory cytokines inducing NF- κ B, which is a crucial transcription factor in the orchestration of immune and inflammatory responses (Loizou et al. 2009; Qiao et al. 2013). Cytokines participate in the activation of phospholipase A2, which can cause chronic pain in older Persons. Other anti-inflammatory mechanisms are also possible, and depend on bioactive compounds of plants, for example, linolenic acid may block the pathways of arachidonate metabolism involved in inflammation (Adegbola et al. 2017).

In recent years, research in antioxidant activities progressed more with the appearance of different revelation techniques (Alam et al. 2013; Nile et al. 2012). In this review, the antioxidant activity of selected plants is considered high in comparison to synthetic antioxidants or other plants, following the existence of a high content of non-enzymatic secondary metabolites (Krishnaiah et al. 2011), such as quercetin, kaempferol, myricetin, and ferulic acid (Adegbola et al. 2017), these compounds are formed in response to biotic and abiotic stress conditions (Morkhade 2017). Classification of selected plants according to their antioxidant activities is difficult following to the different experimental tests applied.

3.9 Conclusion

Herbs and medicinal plants are known by their primary metabolites containing proteins, lipids, and carbohydrates, and secondary metabolites covering polyphenols, alkaloids, steroids ...etc. In this bibliographical review, we presented the phytochemical composition and the pharmacological role of three medicinal plants (*Citrullus colocynthis*, *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Artemisia herba-alba*) obtained from results of extensive research recently published. The synthesis of the phytochemical part allowed to know the origin of the biological activities and the remedies concluded after the use of the plants. The different pharmacological role illustrated in the second part have been known in traditional medicine and approve that the extracts and compounds of these plants possess important and valuable biological activities, making these species among the most used medicinal plants in traditional medicine. While for others compounds, they are not yet unveiled by scientists and can be considered as topical research subjects. As future prospects concluded from this review:

- Following long-term treatment exposure for chronic cases; the long-term toxicity is far from being evaluated, which requires a great care and caution. Consequently, the study of the toxicity of these plants should be carried out mainly on the aqueous extracts, herbal teas, oils, essential oils, and infusions because they are the most practiced preparations. Doses described must be relative to body weight and health status of the consumer to avoid any complications, especially in the liver and kidneys.
- Few studies are interested to study the biological actions of the pure compounds isolated from these three selected plants, while the majority focuses to study the

biological activities of crude extracts (organic and aqueous) and whole essential oils. Whereas, now we must think to find a new strategy based on the last results and begin to characterize and study in depth each pure compound alone or in synergy with another compound (Morkhade 2017) and even publish the negative results. The primary objective of this strategy is to build a strong and diverse database for medical research and for the pharmaceutical, chemical, and biotechnological industry.

- Despite the potent antioxidant activity, few studies have published the *in vivo* results, so that these plants can be introduced into food and preventive medicine (Kasote et al. 2015).

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V. Actinobactéries des niches microbiennes étonnantes et non exploitables du désert algérien : Importance biotechnologique et environnementale.

V. Actinobactéries des niches microbiennes étonnantes et non exploitables du désert algérien : Importance biotechnologique et environnementale.

« Actinobacteria from amazing and non-exploitable microbial niches in the Algerian desert: Biotechnological and environmental importance »

*(Article en cours de révision dans la revue *Biologia - Springer Nature*).*

En plus de la nanotechnologie, les techniques de CRISPR/Cas et l'ARNi utilisées pour éradiquer les microorganismes résistants, la recherche de nouvelles espèces d'actinobactéries productrices de nouvelles substances bioactives peut aussi constituer une alternative prometteuse. Cette approche a connu un progrès remarquable suite au développement des instruments analytiques et de la biologie moléculaire. Actuellement, les espèces bactériennes des sols des zones arides, des sols glaciers, des sédiments et des caves des anciens volcans sont recherchées. Ces zones sont plus visées pour des études approfondies en comparaison avec d'autres régions du globe terrestre en raison de leurs conditions abiotiques et biotiques extrêmes, à savoir les hautes températures, la sécheresse, la faible humidité relative, l'UV élevé, le manque de nutriment et le manque de couverture végétale. Par ailleurs, ces milieux extrêmes participent fortement dans la sélection de communautés microbiennes et favorisent le développement des communautés les plus résistantes.

Les nouvelles techniques de biologie moléculaire, en particulier la métagénomique et le séquençage à haut débit ont permis de mettre en évidence la richesse des zones extrêmement arides en taxons microbiens dont le phylum *Actinobacteria*. Certains taxons de ce phylum sont rares et nouvellement classés.

Les nouvelles espèces d'actinomycètes identifiées sont considérées comme une nouvelle source de composés éventuellement dotés d'activités biologiques. Durant ces dernières années, plusieurs substances bioactives additionnées au dictionnaire des produits naturels sont synthétisées par des actinobactéries, dont certaines sont produites par des espèces rares isolées des zones extrêmes.

Le Sahara algérien est l'un des plus chauds déserts au monde. Il est caractérisé par des systèmes oasiens s'étalant sur de vastes surfaces agricoles en formant des niches écologiques avec

des microclimats particuliers. Il héberge également d'importantes familles de plantes médicinales spontanées dont certaines, endémiques et connu pour leurs vertus thérapeutiques, elles sont utilisées en médecine traditionnelle locale.

Par ailleurs, la géologie du Sahara algérien le transforme en mosaïque exceptionnelle hébergeant des niches écologiques microbiennes jamais exploitées. Le massif d'Atakor situé au sud algérien est l'une des régions désertiques superficiellement étudiée. Ce massif formé d'immenses roches volcaniques a dévoilé par le peu d'études effectuées ces dernières années, sa richesse en de nouveaux taxons appartenant au phylum des actinobactéries. Les roches et les sols sédimentaires du Tassili n'ont fait l'objet d'aucune étude pouvant dévoiler leurs communautés microbiennes. D'autre part, de nouveaux taxons d'actinobactéries producteurs de nouveaux composés bioactifs ont été détectés dans les sols de Béchar et d'Adrar. Il a été démontré que les cratères d'impacts renferment aussi des taxons d'actinobactéries radio-tolérantes. Les cartes géographiques satellitaires ont révélé que le Sahara algérien renferme d'importants cratères d'impact dont les plus connus sont ceux de Tindouf et de Tamanrasset.

Mise à part l'importance biotechnologique et pharmaceutique des substances bioactives des actinobactéries, les streptomycètes isolés des sols pollués par les hydrocarbures ont montré un excellent pouvoir dépolluant. Ceux isolés des Oasis ont de grands intérêts en agriculture. Les actinobactéries endophytes des plantes médicinales spontanées possédant un grand intérêt pour la plante ont aussi des intérêts biotechnologiques.

Partie expérimentale.

I. Plan expérimental.

I. Plan expérimental

Les méthodes expérimentales utilisées dans ce travail sont résumées dans les Figure 1-10. Trois espèces végétales à savoir *P. lentiscus*, *A. heba-alba* et *C. colocynthis* poussant dans trois différentes régions du pays à savoir la région de Tifrit (34° 56' 04.2" N, 0° 22' 48.9" E), la région de Maamoura (34° 42' 06.7" N, 0° 28' 58.7" E) situé à Saida et la région de Oued N'sa (32° 48' 13.7" N, 3° 48' 13.6" E) situé à Ouargla font le premier objectif de cette étude. La sélection des plantes est basée sur leurs vertus médicinales. L'identification botanique des espèces végétales est effectuée au niveau du laboratoire de physiologie végétale de l'Université de Saida par Pr. Hasnaoui en se basant sur une documentation relative à la taxonomie de ces espèces au sein du règne végétal.

Les échantillons de sol utilisés pour l'isolement des actinobactéries sont prélevés de deux sites ; le premier est localisé dans la forêt d'El-Ogbane (34° 49' 04.9" N 0° 09' 26.5" E) située à l'ouest de l'Algérie dans les zones steppiques de la wilaya de Saida, le deuxième est situé à la wilaya de Ouargla ; précisément dans la région d'oued N'sa (32° 48' 13.7" N, 3° 48' 13.6" E). Tous les échantillons sont prélevés durant le mois de Janvier 2016. La situation géographique des différents sites de prélèvement est représentée dans la figure 01.

Afin d'extraire les métabolites secondaires des plantes, les parties utilisées sont lavées puis séchées à l'air libre. Un protocole bien précis est adopté pour l'extraction des composés phytochimiques brutes (Figure 02). Le choix du méthanol et l'eau distillé comme solvant d'extraction est basé sur leur forte polarité permettant un bon rendement d'extraction.

L'isolement des actinobactéries est précédé d'un traitement des échantillons de sols. L'isolement est effectué par la méthode de dilution sur deux milieux de cultures différents (Figure 05). L'ensemble des boîtes sont incubées à 30°C pendant 7 jours.

Les propagules fongiques des flores de contamination interne et externe des graines de blé tendre sont isolées selon la méthode indirecte. Trois milieux de culture spécifiques des moisissures sont requis pour cette étape. L'ensemble des boîtes sont incubées à 27°C pendant 7 jours (Figure 03).

Les extraits de plantes sont évaporés à sec puis soumis à des tests phytochimiques afin d'évaluer leur richesse en substances bioactives (Figure 02). Les isolats d'actinobactéries obtenus des sols sahariens et steppiques ont tout d'abord été purifiés puis conservés. Les isolats sélectionnés sont soumis à une série de tests. Ces isolats d'actinobactéries sélectionnées sont identifiés génétiquement par un séquençage complet de leur séquence nucléotidique (ARNr 16s). L'analyse phylogénétique est réalisée avec le logiciel MEGA 7 (Figure 06). Les isolats bactériens sont ensuite identifiés sur la base de leurs caractères biochimiques, morphologiques, microscopiques et physiologiques (Figure 05).

Afin de pouvoir tester la capacité antagoniste des isolats, les métabolites secondaires sont extraits après avoir cultivé les souches dans deux milieux de cultures liquides durant une période de 10 jours (Figure 07). Il est à noter qu'une seule souche est sélectionnée pour cette étude.

Les isolats fongiques obtenus du blé tendre local sont identifiés phénotypiquement (Figure 03). Les espèces du genre *Aspergillus* ayant révélé des caractères toxigènes sur la chromatographie sur couche mince sont sélectionnées pour cette étude (Figure 04).

Tous les extraits obtenus des plantes et d'actinobactéries sont examinés pour déterminer leurs activités biologiques. L'activité antioxydante de ces extraits est évaluée selon trois tests différents à savoir l'inhibition du radical cation ABTS⁺, le piégeage du radical DPPH' et le pouvoir réducteur du fer (FRAP : Ferric Reducing Ability of Plasma) (Figure 09-10). L'activité antifongique des extraits est testée sur des souches de référence et celles isolées du blé tendre par la méthode de micro-dilution sur milieu solide (Figure 08). La capacité antimycotoxigène est déterminée pour tous les extraits (Figure 08). Les activités antibactérienne et antifongique sont évaluées par micro-dilution sur les microplaques de 96 puits (Figure 09). Les extraits ayant révélé une excellente activité antimicrobienne sont fractionnés par HPLC et les fractions obtenues sont testées. L'extrait de l'isolats V₀₀₂ est soumis à une LC-MS afin de déterminer sa composition en substances bioactives.

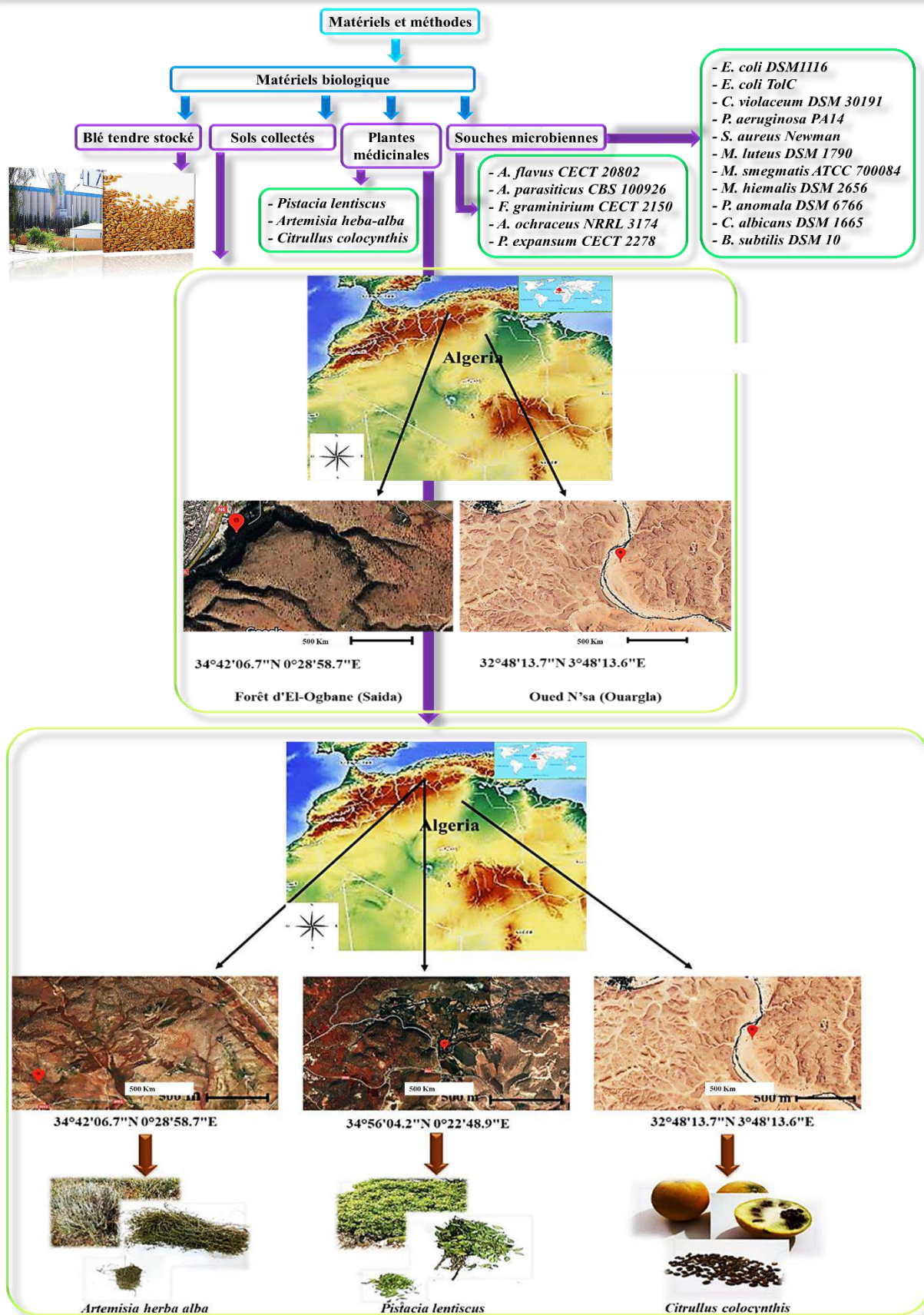


Figure 01. Localisation géographique des stations de récolte de plantes médicinales et des échantillons de sol.

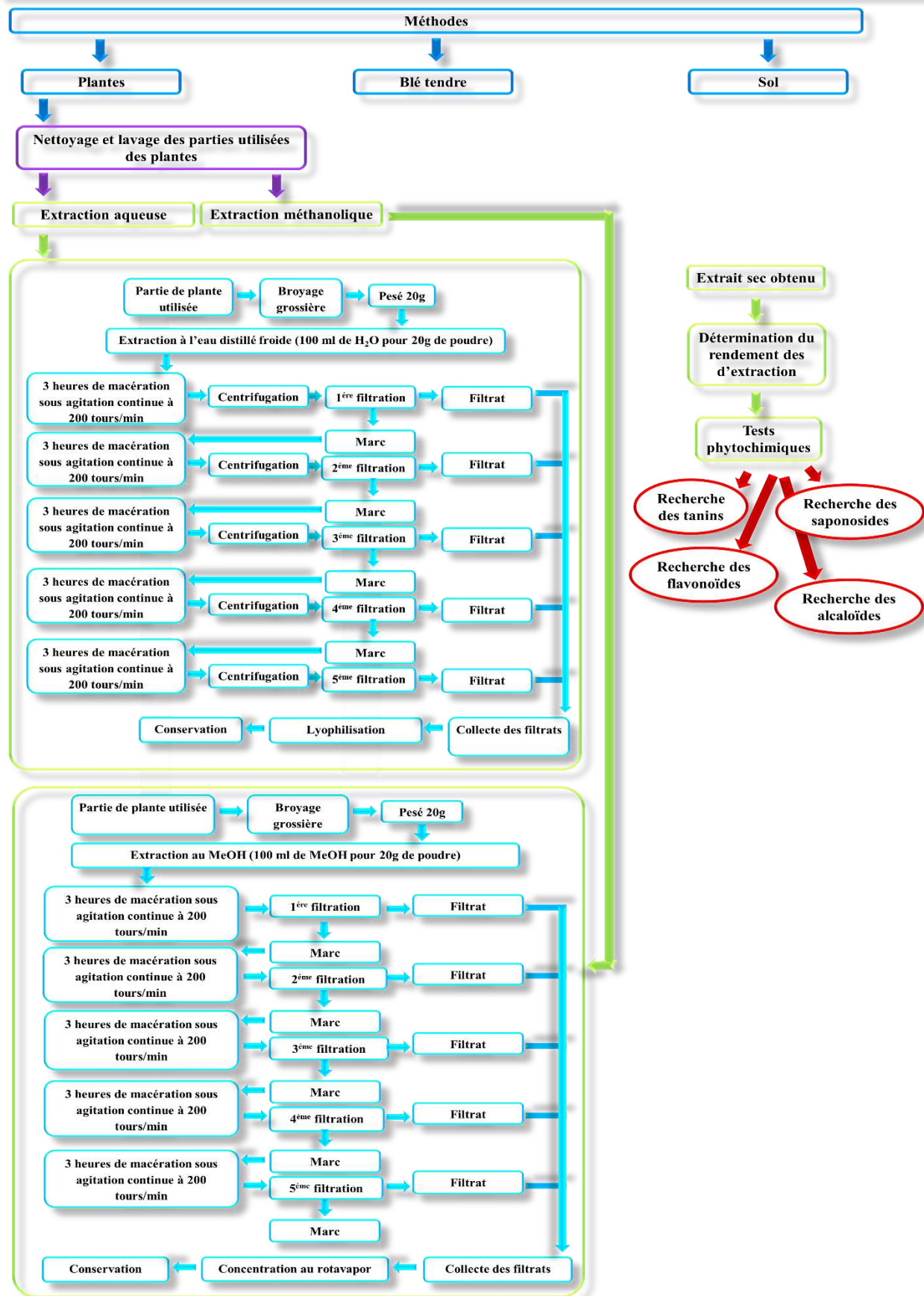


Figure 02. Préparation des extraits organiques et étude phytochimique.

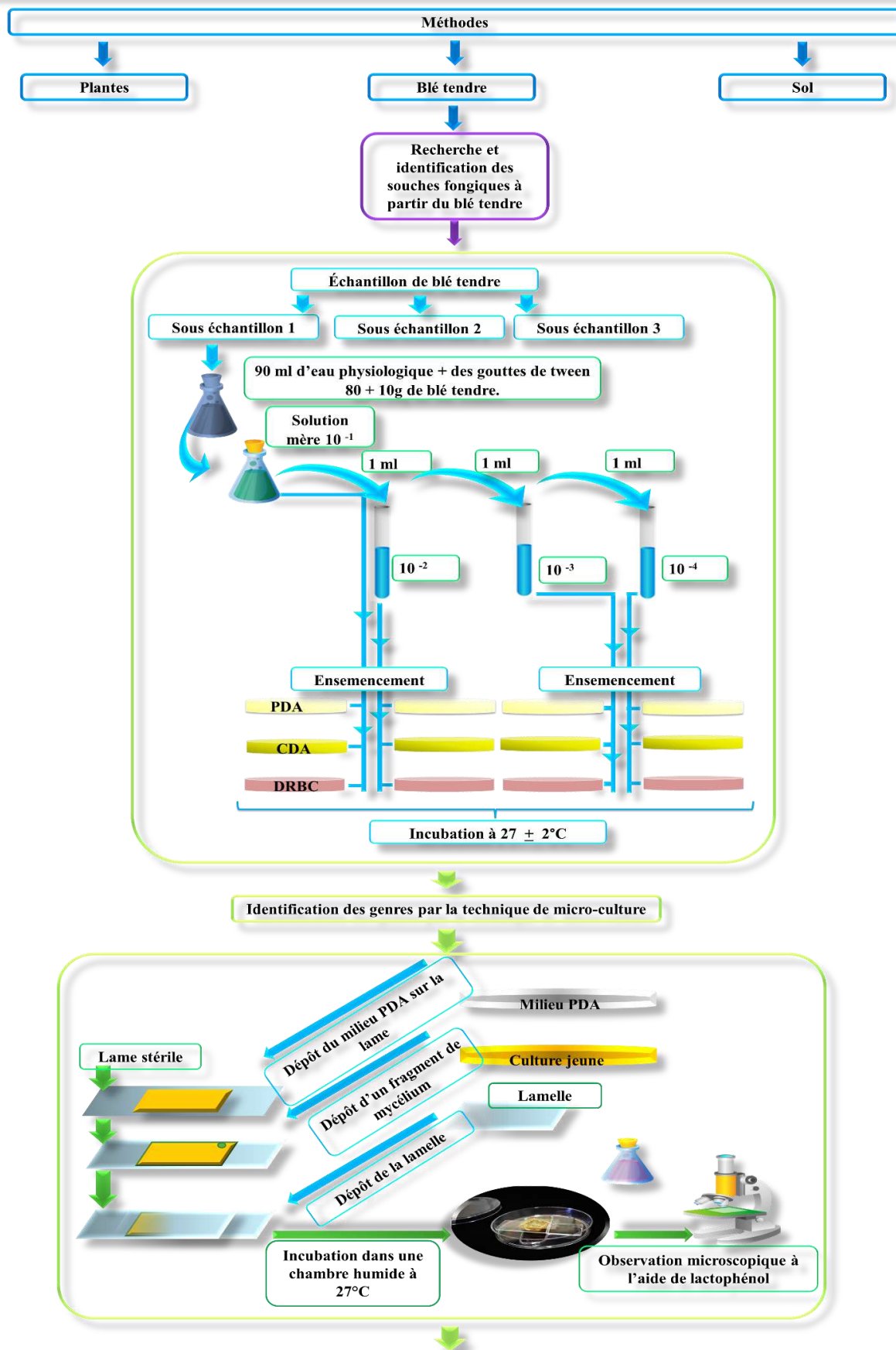


Figure 03. Techniques d'isolement et d'identification des genres fongiques.

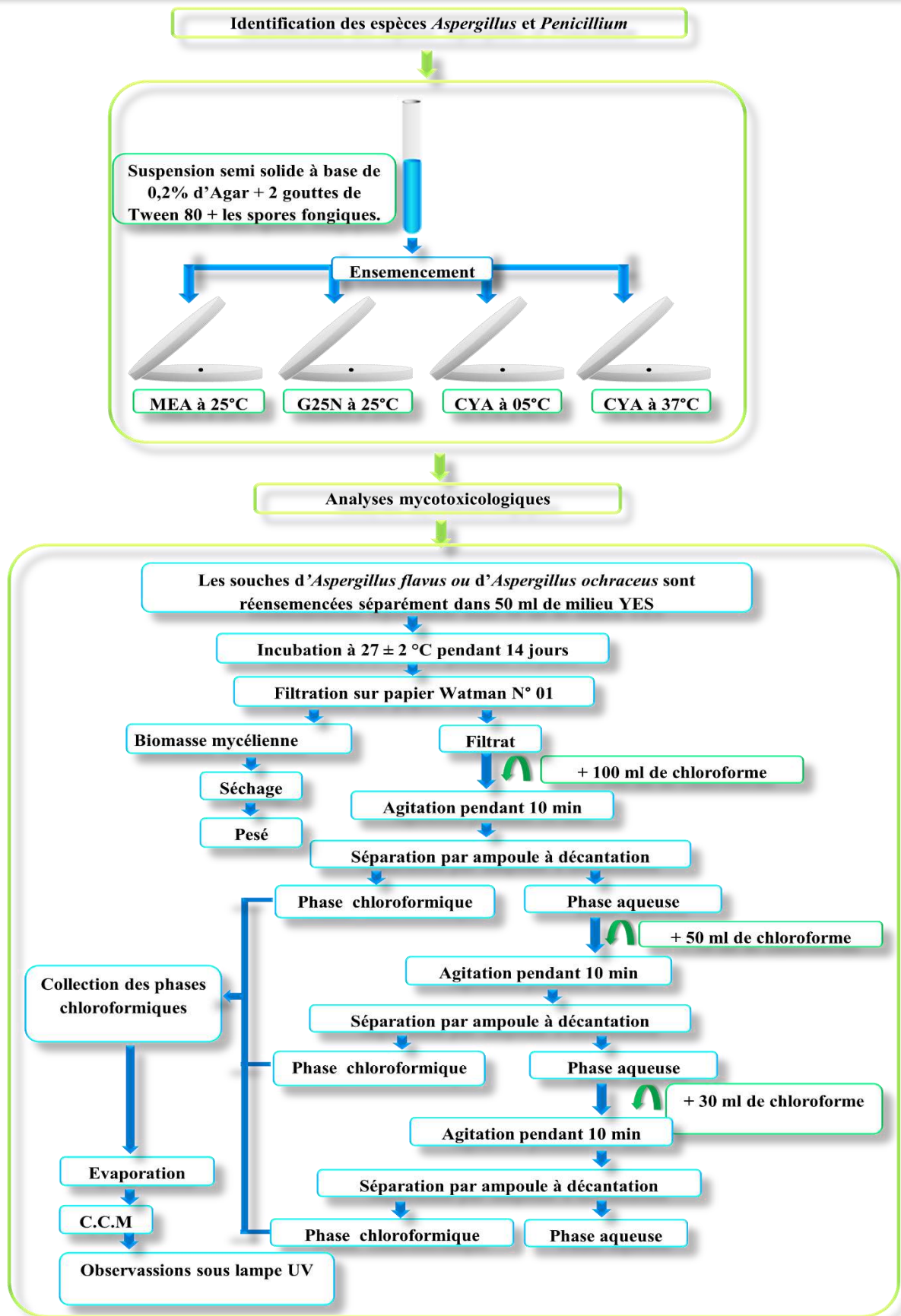


Figure 04. Détermination des espèces fongiques et identification des espèces productrices de mycotoxine.

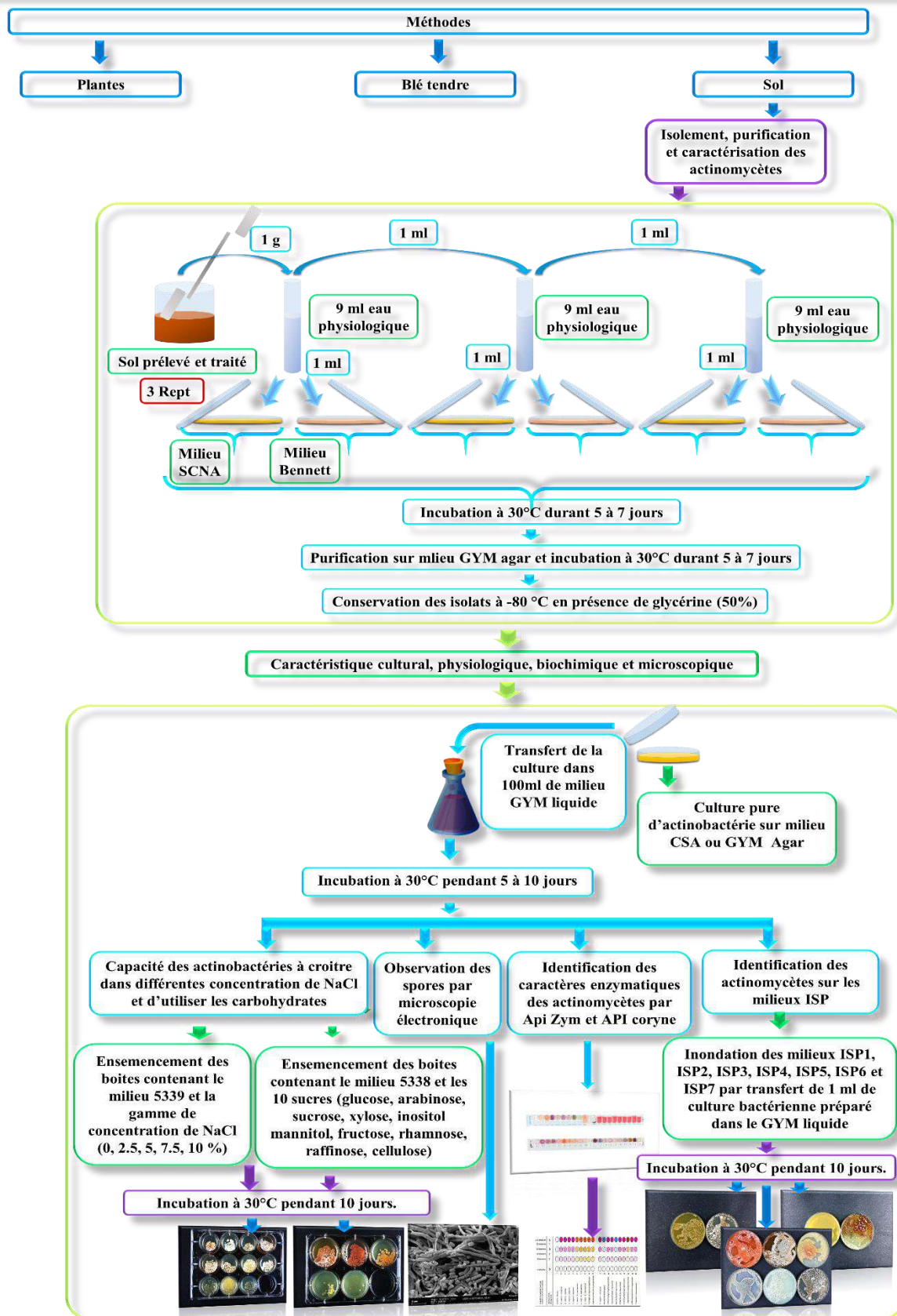


Figure 05. Technique d'isolement et d'identification phénotypique des actinobactéries.

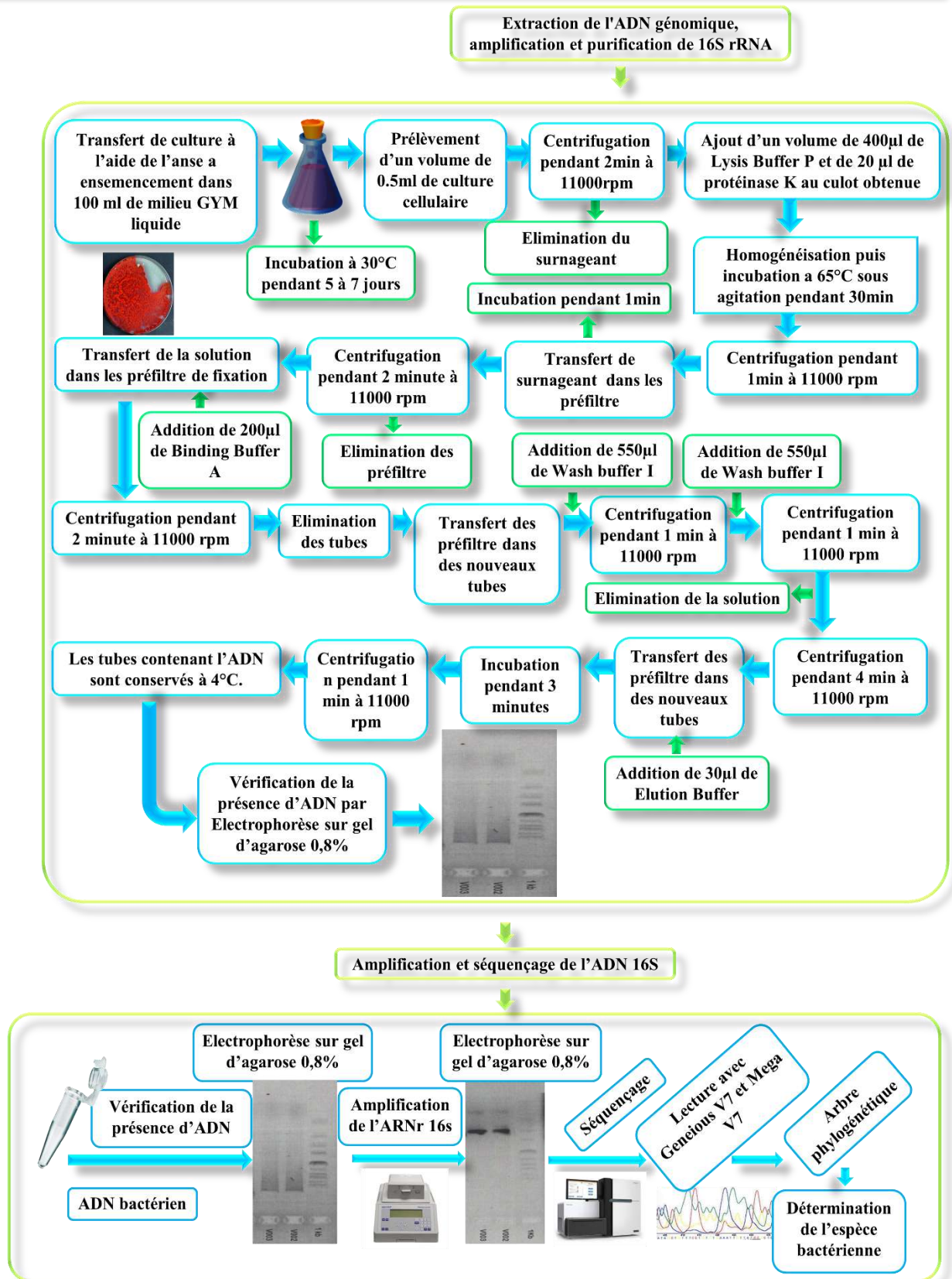


Figure 06. Technique d'extraction, d'amplification d'ADN 16S et d'identification phylogénétique des espèces d'actinobactéries.

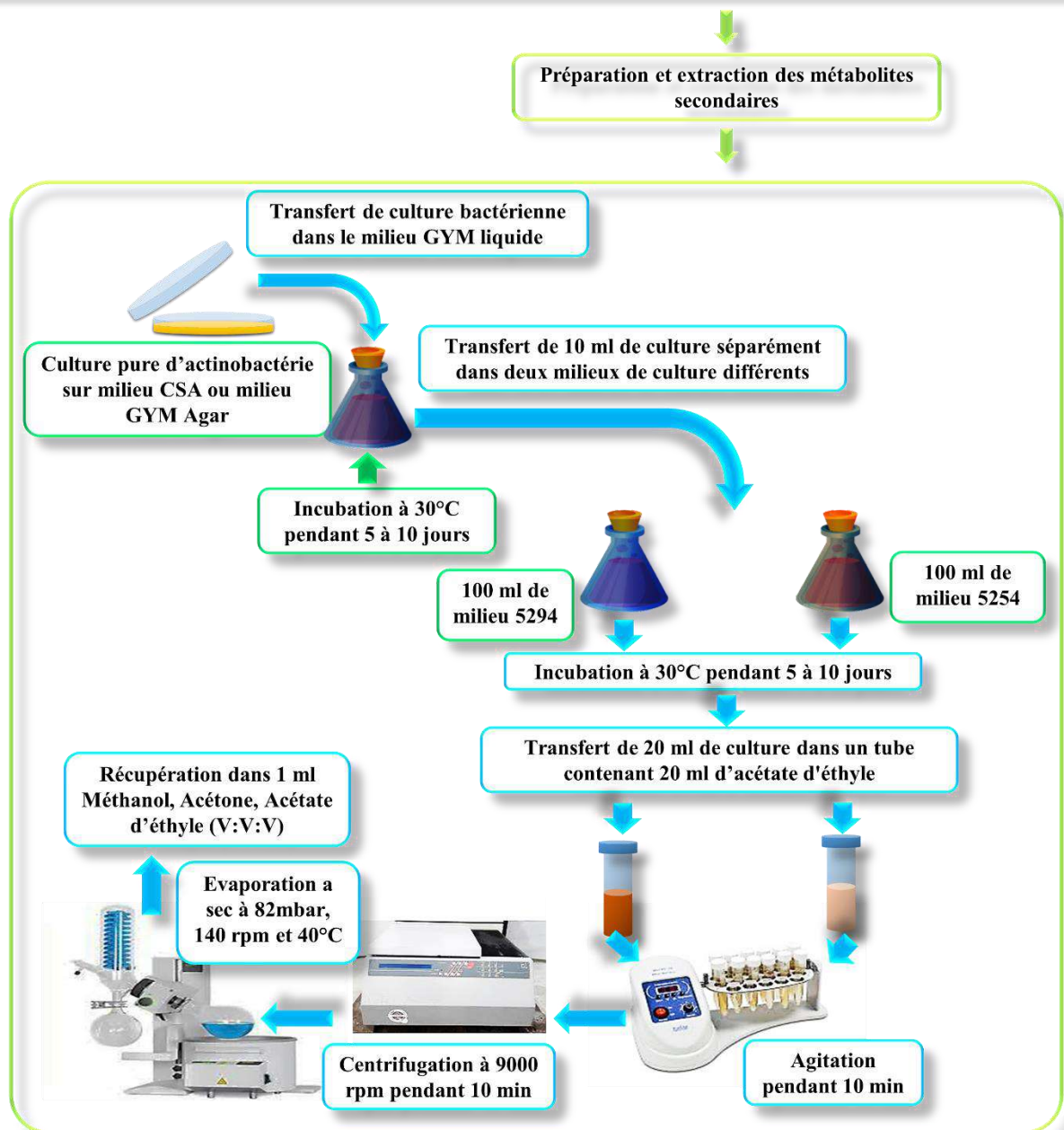


Figure 07. Technique d'extraction des métabolites secondaires à partir des espèces d'actinobactéries cultivées dans les milieux de cultures liquides.

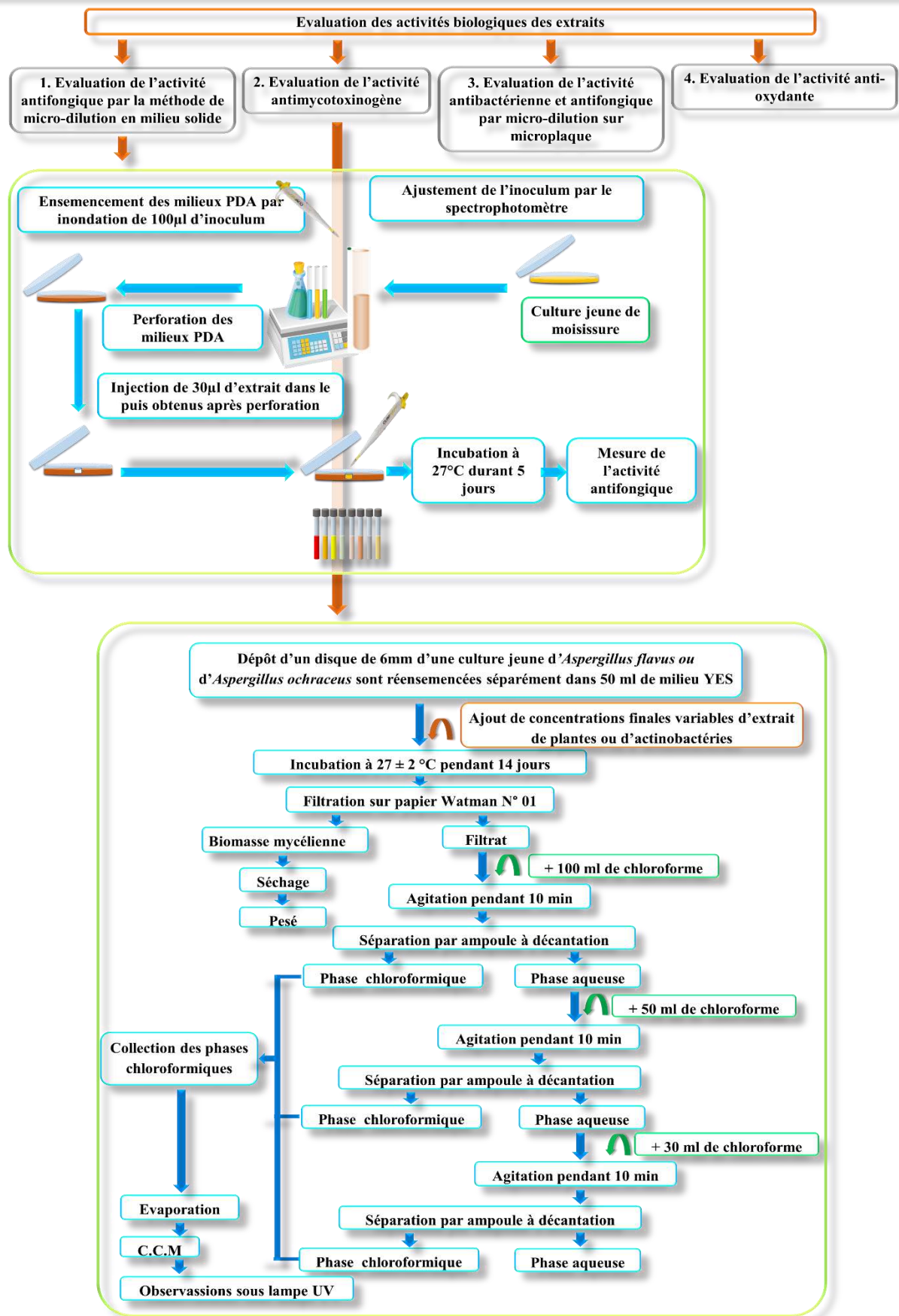


Figure 08. Détermination de l'activité antifongique et antimycotoxinogène des extraits organiques.

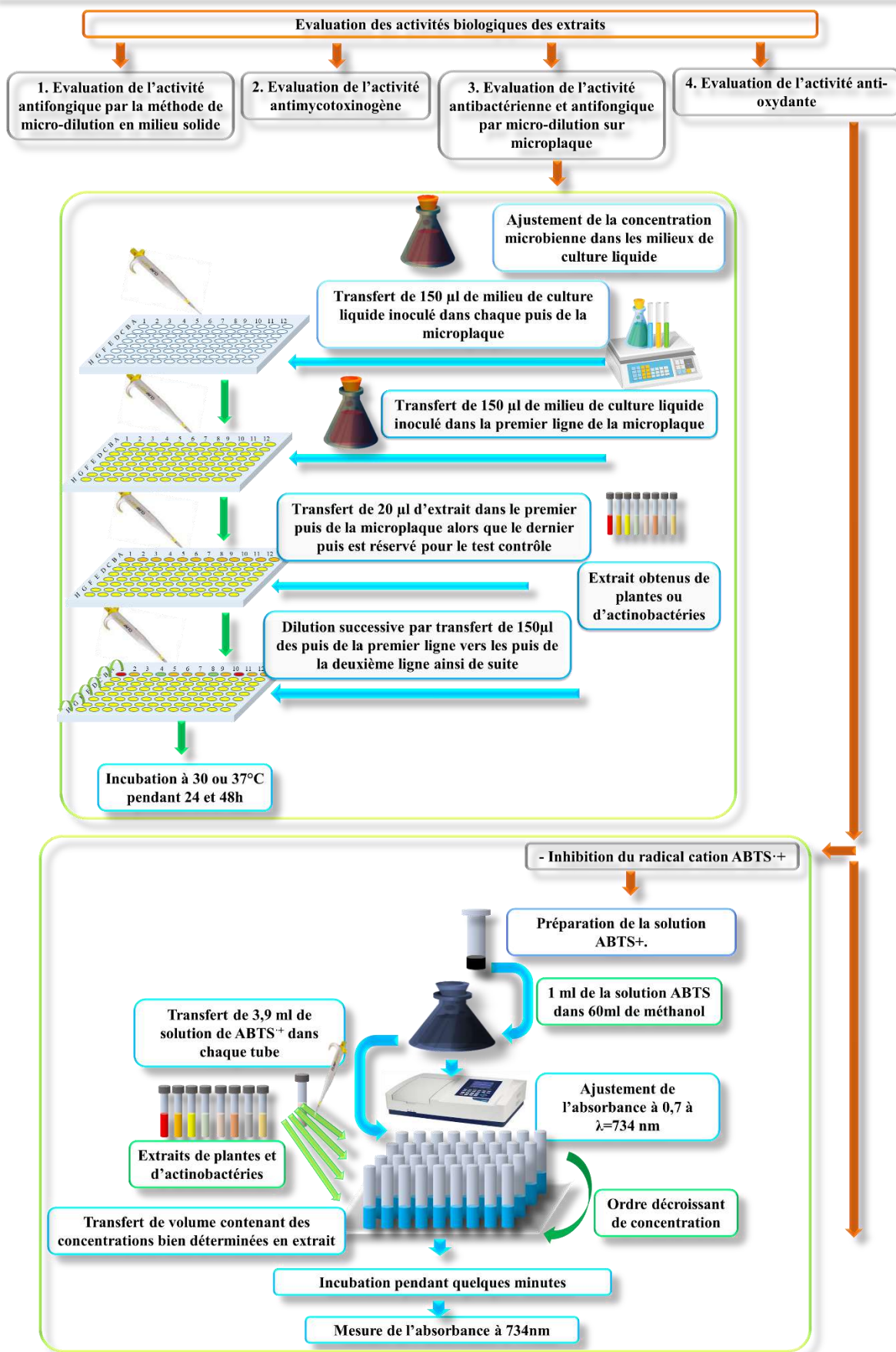


Figure 09. Détermination de l'activité antibactérienne et antioxydante des extraits organiques.

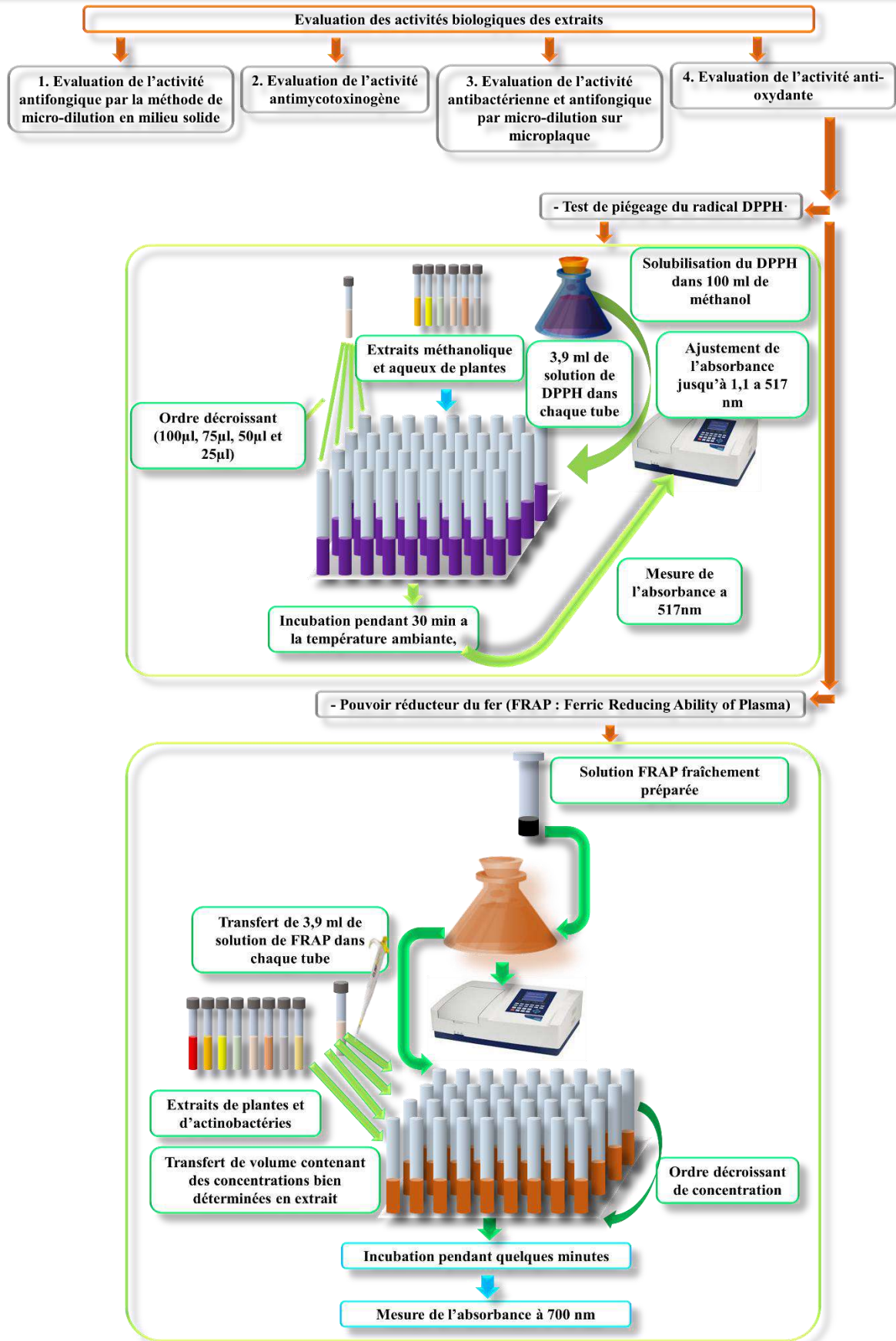


Figure 10. Détermination de l'activité antioxydante des extraits organiques.

II. Résultats et discussion.

II.1. Criblage phytochimique, activités antifongiques et antioxydantes de trois plantes médicinales de la steppe et du Sahara algériens (études préliminaires de criblage).

II.1. Criblage phytochimique, activités antifongiques et antioxydantes de trois plantes médicinales de la steppe et du Sahara algériens (études préliminaires de criblage).

« **Phytochemical screening, antifungal and antioxidant activities of three medicinal plants from Algerian steppe and Sahara (preliminary screening studies)** »

(Article publié en Novembre 2019 dans la revue SN Applied Sciences - Springer Nature).

Le présent chapitre est consacré à la détermination des activités antifongique et antioxydante de trois plantes médicinales récoltées de deux régions steppique et saharienne de l'Algérie.

Dans la présente partie du travail, les rendements en extraits secs obtenus après extraction méthanolique et aqueuse effectuée sur la partie aérienne de *P. lentiscus*, d'*A. heba-alba* et les graines de *C. colocynthis* sont évalués (**Tableau 1, Article1**).

Une différence remarquable en composés phytochimiques est constatée entre les trois plantes (**Tableau 1. Article1**). Cette différence dépend fortement de la méthode d'extraction, du solvant utilisé, des conditions expérimentales d'extraction, de la saison de la récolte, du climat de la région et de la composition du sol.

Les tests de l'activité antifongique ont montré que les extraits méthanoliques sont les plus actifs contre les souches fongiques de références sélectionnées. L'extrait méthanolique d'*A. heba-alba* est le plus actif. Les souches fongiques *P. expansum*, *A. ochraceus* et *F. graminearum* présentent une sensibilité remarquable aux extraits d'*A. heba-alba* (**Figure 4, 5, et 6, Tableau 2. Article 1**). Ces souches sont aussi considérées comme hautement productrices de patuline, citrinine et d'ochratoxine. *A. parasiticus* est l'espèce la plus résistante. La souche fongique *A. flavus* a montré une sensibilité moyenne aux extraits méthanolique et aqueux de *P. lentiscus* (**Figure 4 et 5, Tableau 2. Article1**).

Tous les extraits testés ont révélé une bonne activité antioxydante. L'extrait méthanolique et aqueux d'*A. heba-alba* a une excellente activité antioxydante évaluée par le test FRAP (**Figure 7, Article1**). La plus faible IC₅₀ de 0.91±0.92 mg.ml⁻¹ est déterminée par le test FRAP effectué sur

II.1. Criblage phytochimique, activités antifongiques et antioxydantes de trois plantes médicinales de la steppe et du Sahara algériens (études préliminaires de criblage).

L'extrait méthanolique d'*A. herba-alba*. (**Tableau 3. Article1**). Cependant, les IC₅₀ déterminées par les trois méthodes (ABTS, DPPH et FRAP) sont inférieures à celle de l'antioxydant standard (Trolox). Les différences observées entre les dosages semblent être dues à l'utilisation d'un mécanisme de réaction différent entre les tests.

Les extraits d'*A. herba-alba* possèdent l'activité antifongique la plus élevée par rapport à *C. colocynthis* et de *P. lentiscus*. D'autres recherches effectuées sur les mêmes espèces végétales ont rapporté que ces espèces sont dotées de cette aptitude antifongique.

La sensibilité des cellules fongiques aux extraits de plantes dépend fortement des interactions entre les composés bioactifs des plantes et les composants cellulaires fongiques. Ces composés bioactifs peuvent inhiber la formation de la paroi cellulaire, provoquer la rupture de la membrane cellulaire, le dysfonctionnement des mitochondries, l'inhibition de la division cellulaire, l'inhibition de la réplication de l'ADN, l'inhibition de la synthèse protéique et l'inhibition des pompes d'efflux.

La résistance des souches fongiques est essentiellement due à la dégradation des composés bioactifs par les enzymes fongiques ou à l'élimination des substances bioactives par les systèmes d'efflux. Elle est aussi due à l'insensibilité du site ciblé par la molécule. Les résultats des dosages d'activité antioxydante présentés dans cette étude sont cohérents avec d'autre étude réalisée dans d'autre région.

La résistance des moisissures mycotoxinogènes aux agents antifongiques est à l'origine de la recherche de l'aptitude des plantes médicinales à inhiber la croissance de ces espèces microscopiques à travers de nouvelles plateformes de recherche installées récemment dans ce domaine.

La capacité des extraits des espèces étudiées à inhiber la croissance de trois espèces fongiques réputées toxigènes est confirmée. Ces propriétés ouvrent des perspectives prometteuses pour leur application en tant qu'agents antimycotoxinogène contre certaines moisissures des denrées alimentaires.



Research Article

Phytochemical screening, antifungal and antioxidant activities of three medicinal plants from Algerian steppe and Sahara (preliminary screening studies)

Mohamed Amine Gacem^{1,2} · Alia Telli¹ · Hiba Gacem³ · Aminata Ould-El-Hadj-Khelil¹Received: 4 October 2019 / Accepted: 26 November 2019
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Abstract

The contamination of foodstuffs by fungi and their mycotoxins, emergence of resistance to fungicides and unwanted side effects of pesticides on human and animal health currently present a challenge for researchers to create and innovate new and better solutions to fight against mycotoxigenic fungi with less harmful effects on the consumer and the environment. In the context of the valorization of natural products, this study aimed, first, to determine the phytochemical composition of methanolic and aqueous extracts of *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Artemisia herba-alba* and *Citrullus colocynthis* and, second, to evaluate the antifungal potential and antioxidant capacity of these extracts. The extraction of crude active compounds from selected plant species was carried out by methanolic and aqueous maceration. Antifungal activity against five fungal strains (*Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus parasiticus*, *Fusarium graminearum*, *Aspergillus ochraceus* and *Penicillium expansum*) was evaluated by the dilution method in solid medium. Analysis of antioxidant activity was carried out by three tests, namely, the inhibition of ABTS^{•+} radical cation, trapping of DPPH[•] radical and reduction of Fe²⁺ (FRAP). The results show that the crude extracts were rich in bioactive compounds and that the crude methanolic and aqueous extracts of *A. herba-alba* were the most active against the tested fungal strains and had a percentage of inhibition exceeding 8%. Regarding antioxidant activity, all the extracts exhibited remarkable antioxidant potential in the tests used. The methanolic extract of *A. herba-alba* had the highest iron-reducing capacity. The results show that the studied medicinal plants could be a good alternative for protecting foodstuffs against toxigenic fungi.

Keywords *Pistacia lentiscus* · *Artemisia herba-alba* · *Citrullus colocynthis* · Antifungal activity · Antioxidant activity

1 Introduction

Mycotoxins are secondary metabolites produced by six fungal genera, namely, *Aspergillus*, *Alternaria*, *Claviceps*, *Fusarium*, *Penicillium* and *Stachybotrys*. These metabolites commonly occur in foodstuffs and cause diseases in consumers [1]. Depending on the administered dose, the toxicity can spread to all vital human and animal organs and cause oxidative stress [2], which leads to nephrotoxicity

[3], genotoxicity [4], neurotoxicity [5], hepatotoxicity [6], immunotoxicity [7], gastrointestinal toxicity [8], and cardiotoxicity [9]. Long periods of exposure to mycotoxins contribute to cancer development [10].

To limit the presence of mycotoxinogenic fungi in food and the mycotoxicoses caused by the consumption of contaminated foods, a control policy has been applied in recent years that is based on prevention of contamination, on decontamination and on protection against the

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II.1. Criblage phytochimique, activités antifongiques et antioxydantes de trois plantes médicinales de la steppe et du Sahara algériens (études préliminaires de criblage).

toxicities of mycotoxins by the application of several physical, chemical and biological techniques [11]. However, it is very difficult to destroy mycotoxins by physical techniques without altering food quality [12]; moreover, the use of chemical processes also has undesirable effects because chemical compounds participate in the generation of free radicals and, therefore, the induction of oxidative stress [13, 14]. At the same time, the massive use of antibiotics in agriculture is a cause for alarm with respect to public health [15] due to antibiotic-induced oxidative stress and to the emergence of multiresistant strains [16–18]. To resolve this problem, several studies investigated the use of essential oils and medicinal plant extracts as a safe alternative in the field of phytoprotection, which is the fight against toxigenic moulds and mycotoxicoses [19, 20]. Reddy et al. [21] showed that aqueous extracts of some plant species (*Allium cepa*, *Allium sativum*, *Curcuma longa*, *Ocimum sanctum*, *Syzygium aromaticum*, etc.) are rich in bioactive chemical compounds that inhibit the biosynthesis of aflatoxin. A study conducted by Elsherbiny et al. [22] demonstrated that the essential oils of *Ocimum basilicum* completely inhibited the growth of several species of *Bipolaris* and the germination of *Bipolaris hawaiiensis* spores. However, the use of medicinal plants from arid and semi-arid regions of Algeria as an alternative in the process of food product decontamination has not been extensively studied.

Many medicinal plant species from steppe and desert regions are known for their therapeutic virtues and are traditionally used by the local populations to treat various diseases. These steppe and Saharan species, which include *Pistacia lentiscus* (*Anacardiaceae*), *Artemisia herba-alba* (*Asteraceae*) and *Citrullus colocynthis* (*Cucurbitaceae*) have remarkable antidiabetic, antibacterial, anti-tumoural, anti-inflammatory and anticancer properties [23–29]. Therefore, the objective of this study was to determine the phytochemical composition of the aqueous and methanolic extracts of *P. lentiscus*, *A. herba-alba* and *C. colocynthis* and to evaluate their antifungal and antioxidant potency.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Harvest and preparation of medicinal plants

The plants that are the focus of this study are known for their therapeutic virtues in traditional Algerian medicine [30]. The leaves of *P. lentiscus* were harvested in the region of Tifrit (34° 56' 04.2" N, 0° 22' 48.9" E) in December 2017. For the second species, the aerial part of *A. herba-alba* was harvested in the region of Maamoura (34° 42' 06.7" N, 0° 28' 58.7" E) in March 2017. Regarding *C. colocynthis* species, fruit were harvested in December

2016 from the desert region of Oued N'sa (32° 48' 13.7" N, 3° 48' 13.6" E). The geographical location of harvesting sites is illustrated in Fig. 1. The botanical identification of plant species was carried out by botanists from the plant biology laboratory of Saida University (Algeria). To achieve the targeted aim of the study, the plant parts used were the leaves of *P. lentiscus* and *A. herba-alba* and the seeds of *C. colocynthis*.

2.2 Extraction and phytochemical screening

P. lentiscus and *A. herba-alba* leaves and *C. colocynthis* seeds were first washed with distilled water and disinfected for 30 min by immersion in a 2% solution of sodium hypochlorite. The plant material was then rinsed with distilled water to remove residual hypochlorite. After open air drying away from light, the plant material was crushed roughly using a grinder (Moulinex Grinder AR110027) [31], and the powders obtained from each species were divided into two quantities for subsequent methanolic and aqueous extractions.

A quantity of 20 g of each plant powder was mixed with 100 ml of solvent (methanol [Sigma-Aldrich-Germany] or water) for 3 h under continuous stirring (200 rpm) in MS Orbital Shaker at room temperature. The mixture was then filtered using Whatman filter paper (No 4). This operation was repeated four times with renewal of the solvent to deplete the marc and increase the yield. At the end of the extraction, the fractions of each extraction were collected, and the methanolic extracts were evaporated to dryness using a rotavapor (Heidolph-Germany) [32], while the aqueous extracts were lyophilized. Extract powders were kept in dark bottles at 4 °C until use. Figure 2 shows the methanolic and aqueous extraction steps followed in this study. The qualitative detection of alkaloids, saponins, flavonoids, and tannins was carried out following the protocols described in the study done by Al-Daihan et al. [33].

2.2.1 Test for alkaloids

Each dry extract powder (100 mg) was dissolved in 5 ml of methanol and then filtered. 5 ml of hydrochloric acid (1%) was mixed with 2 ml of the filtrate, and then 1 ml of the mixture was taken separately in two test tubes. Few drops of Dragendorff's reagent (potassium iodide-bismuth nitrate) were added in the tube and appearance of orange-red precipitate was taken as positive. Few drops of Mayer's reagent (composed of mercuric chloride and potassium iodide dissolved in distilled water) were added to the second tube and appearance of buff-colored precipitate designates the existence of alkaloids.

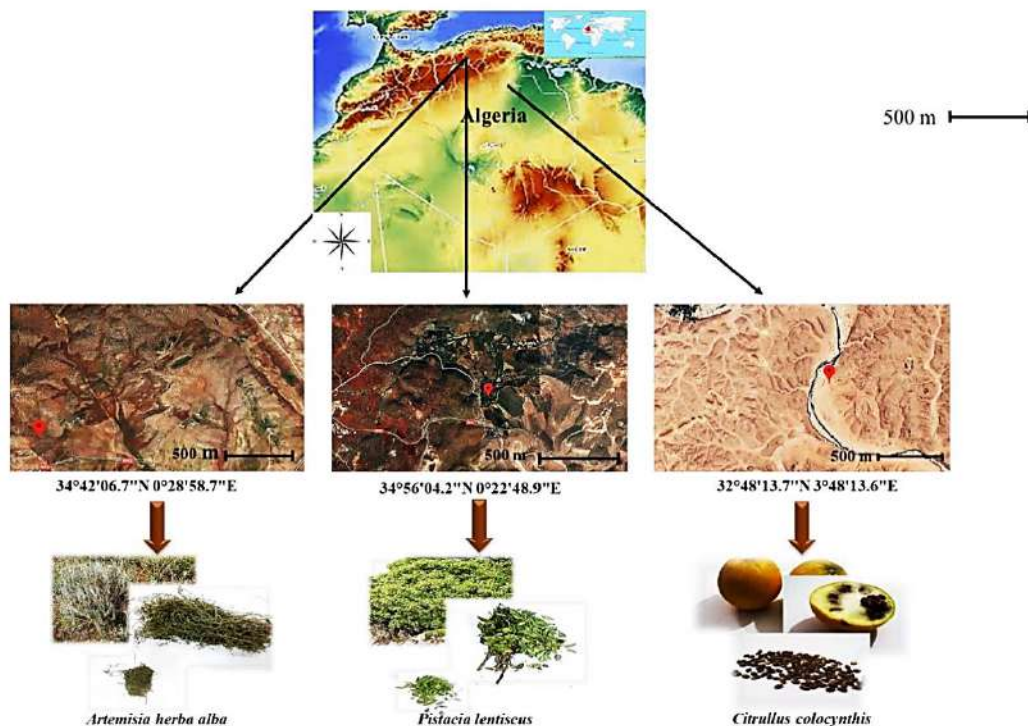


Fig. 1 Geographic location of medicinal plant harvesting stations

2.2.2 Test for saponins

10 ml of distilled water was mixed with 1 g of powdered dry extract and then boiled and filtered. The filtrate was mixed again with 3 ml of distilled water and shaken for 5 min. Appearance of foam after shaking designates the existence of saponins.

2.2.3 Shinoda's test for flavonoids

500 mg of powdered dry extract was added to 5 ml of ethanol, the mixture is slightly heated and then filtered. The filtrate was added to some pieces of magnesium chips, a few drops of concentrated HCl was then added to the mixture. Occurrence of a pink, orange, or red to purple coloration designates the existence of flavonoids.

2.2.4 Test for tannins

500 mg of powdered dry extract was added to 10 ml of distilled water, the mixture is then filtered and few drops of 1% ferric chloride solution are added to the filtrate.

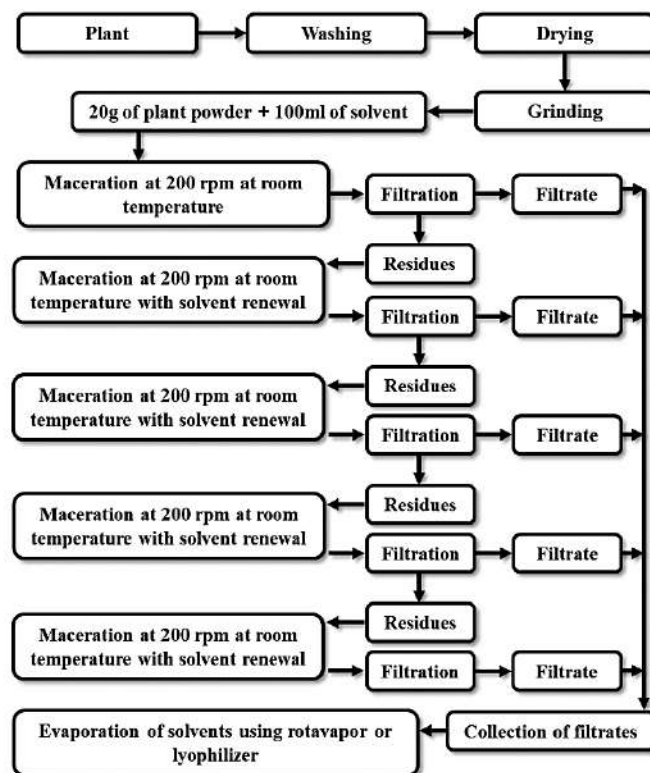
Occurrence of a blue-black, green or blue-green precipitate designates the existence of tannins.

2.3 Assessment of antifungal activity

Five fungal strains were selected to evaluate the antifungal activity of the different extracts: *A. flavus* CECT 20802 (producing aflatoxin B₁ (AFB₁), AFB₂, AFM₁ and AFM₂), *A. parasiticus* CBS 100926, *F. graminearum* CECT 2150, *A. ochraceus* NRRL 3174 (producing ochratoxin) and *P. expansum* CECT 2278 (producing patulin and citrinin). The purity of the strains was verified by the microculture chamber (slide culture) with some modifications [34], this technique takes place in a few steps; (1) using a sterile blade cut out the PDA medium (10×10 mm) to fit under a coverslip, (2) deposit the PDA block on a sterile blade, (3) inoculate the four sides of the PDA block with spores of the strain to be grown, (4) cover the PDA block with a flamed coverslip, (5) incubate the plate at 30 °C during 15 days, (6) transfer the coverslip on a new clean glass slide containing a small drop of lactophenol blue solution, (7) examine the slides under optical microscope.

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Fig. 2 Methanolic and aqueous extraction protocol carried out on the plants



Antifungal activity was measured by the protocol described by Magnusson and Schnürer [35] with some modifications. As described by Espinel-Ingroff and Cantón [36], spore solutions were prepared from seven-day-old cultures of each strain, and their concentrations were adjusted with a spectrophotometer (Jenway 6315- United Kingdom) set to 530 nm to obtain suspensions of 5×10^6 viable conidia or sporangiospores per milliliter. A volume of 100 μ l of each suspension (diluted to approximately 5×10^4 CFU.ml⁻¹) was used to flood-inoculate PDA medium that had been solidified in Petri dishes. A dilution series (25, 50, 75 and 100 mg ml⁻¹) was prepared for each plant extract, and 40 μ l of extract dilution was injected into the wells of inoculated PDA medium. The dishes were incubated for 5 days at 27 ± 2 °C. Antifungal activity was calculated by dividing the surface area of growth inhibition due to the extract by the total surface area of the petri dish and multiplying by 100% [35]. The results were categorized as follows:

- If the inhibition was between 0.1 and 3%, the antifungal activity was considered low.

- If the inhibition was between 3 and 8%, the antifungal activity was considered average.
- If the inhibition was greater than 8%, the antifungal activity was considered to be high.

2.4 Determination of antioxidant activity

2.4.1 ABTS radical scavenging assay

To measure the antioxidant capacity by monitoring inhibition of the ABTS⁺ radical cation, the method described by Surveswaran et al. [37] was followed. The generation of ABTS⁺ radical cation was carried out by a chemical reaction between a solution of ABTS (7 mM) and a solution of potassium persulfate (2.45 mM) incubated for 16 h in the dark at room temperature. The resulting ABTS⁺ solution was diluted with methanol (at a ratio of 1/50) in order to obtain an absorbance of 0.700 ± 0.005 at a wavelength of 734 nm. A volume of 100 μ l of plant extract solution prepared at different concentrations (10, 5, 2, 1, 0.66 or 0.4 mg ml⁻¹) was added to 3.9 ml of ABTS⁺ solution (absorbance equal to 0.700 ± 0.005). After 10 min of

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reaction, the absorbance was measured by a spectrophotometer (Jenway 6315-United Kingdom) set to 734 nm. Trolox (6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid) was used as standard antioxidant at a concentration range of 0–500 μM . The results were expressed in μM Trolox equivalent per gram of extract ($\mu\text{M TE g}^{-1}$).

2.4.2 DPPH radical scavenging assay

The antiradical activity of plant extracts was determined by the DPPH radical scavenging assay according to the method adopted by Orphanides et al. [38]. A volume of 3.9 ml of DPPH \cdot solution (0.3 mM) was mixed with 100 μl of plant extract prepared at different concentrations (10, 5, 2, 1, 0.66 or 0.4 mg ml^{-1}) and incubated for 30 min at room temperature. The absorbances were then measured by a spectrophotometer (Jenway 6315-United Kingdom) set to 517 nm. Trolox was used as a standard antioxidant at a concentration range of 0–500 μM . The results were expressed in $\mu\text{M TE g}^{-1}$.

2.4.3 Ferric reducing ability (FRAP)

The ability of the various extracts to reduce ferric iron (Fe^{+3}) to ferrous iron (Fe^{+2}) was determined according to the protocol described by Orphanides et al. [38]. Dilutions of plant extracts and Trolox were prepared at the same concentrations as used in the antioxidant assays above. A volume of 100 μl of extract was mixed with 3.9 ml of a freshly prepared FRAP solution [0.3 M acetate buffer, $\text{pH} = 3.6$, 10 mM TPTZ (2,4,6-tri-(2-pyridyl)-s-triazine) and 20 mM $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ at a ratio of 10:1:1 (v/v/v)]. The mixture was then incubated at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 4 min, and the absorbance was measured at a 593 nm. Trolox was used as a standard antioxidant at a concentration range of 0–800 μM . The results were expressed in $\mu\text{M TE g}^{-1}$.

2.4.4 Statistical analyses

Each experiment was performed in triplicate, and the results were expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation. Variance analysis was used to test the differences between extracts and selected plant species as well as among the various techniques used to evaluate the antioxidant

activity. Linear regression was used to determine the IC_{50} and CE_{50} . All analyses were done by XLSTAT 2009.

3 Results

3.1 Extraction yield and phytochemical analysis

Water and methanol are the most polar solvents used in phytochemical extraction methods. Both solvents are also recommended in the literature to extract a maximum of bioactive compounds from plants [39, 40]. According to the results presented in Table 1, the highest yields were recorded for the methanolic and aqueous extracts of *P. lentiscus* leaves, which were 22.30% and 17.44%, respectively, followed in descending order by the methanolic and aqueous extracts of *A. herba-alba* and *C. colocythis* seeds, which had the lowest yields with percentages of 8.14, 5.25, 3.20 and 2.26%, respectively. Concerning the phytochemical screening of the studied species, Table 1 indicates all sought bioactive substances (alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins and saponosides) were detected in *A. herba-alba*; however, saponosides were not detected in *C. colocythis* seeds, while alkaloids were not detected in *P. lentiscus* leaves.

3.2 Antifungal activity

The results confirming the purity of the selected fungal strains are shown in Fig. 3. An examination of micro-culture slides stained with lactophenol blue solution under an optical microscope clearly demonstrated that fungal strains were pure with no other microbial or fungal contamination.

In the assays measuring the antifungal effects of the plant extracts against five fungal strains, the aqueous and methanolic extracts of *A. herba-alba* were the most active (Figs. 4, 5, 6), and at concentrations greater than or equal to 50 mg ml^{-1} , growth inhibition exceeded 8% (Figs. 4, 5). The most sensitive fungal strains were *P. expansum* and *A. ochraceus* followed by *F. graminearum* (Figs. 4, 5). According to the same figures, aqueous and methanolic extracts of the selected plant species had no effect on the growth of *A. parasiticus* and *A. flavus* except for the aqueous and methanolic extracts of *P. lentiscus*, which had an average

Table 1 Extraction yield and phytochemical screening

Plant	Extraction yield %		Alkaloids	Flavonoids	Tannins	Saponins
	Met	Aq				
<i>P. lentiscus</i>	22.30	17.44	–	+	+	+
<i>A. herba-alba</i>	8.14	5.25	+	+	+	+
<i>C. colocythis</i>	3.20	2.26	+	+	+	–

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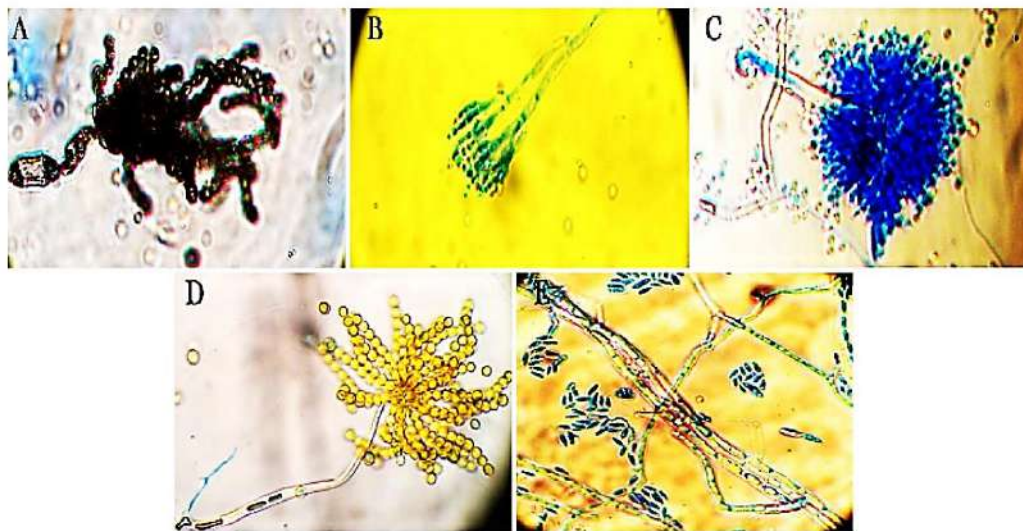


Fig. 3 Morphological appearance of fungal strains under optical microscope. a *A. flavus* CECT 20802, b *P. expansum* CECT 2278, c *A. parasiticus* CBS 100926, d *A. ochraceus* NRRL 3174, e *F. graminearum* CECT 2150

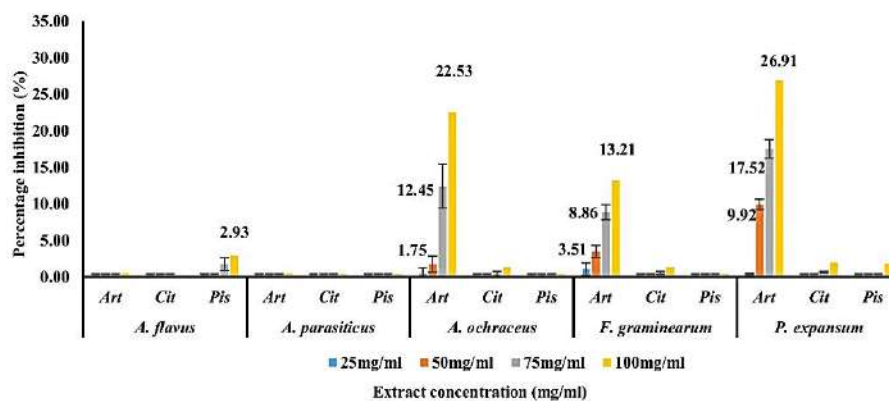


Fig. 4 Antifungal activity of aqueous extracts of the plant species. (Art: *A. herba-alba*, Cit: *C. colocynthis* and Pis: *P. lentiscus*)

inhibitory activity not exceeding 4% against *A. flavus*. A summary of the antifungal activity of plant extracts is shown in Table 2.

3.3 Antioxidant activity

The antioxidant activity of methanolic and aqueous extracts of the plants was determined in vitro by three techniques, namely, the ABTS, DPPH and FRAP assays. According to the results shown in Figs. 7, 8 and 9, the

plant extracts exhibited remarkable antioxidant activity expressed in $\mu\text{M TE g}^{-1}$. The methanolic and aqueous extracts of *A. herba-alba* showed the highest antioxidant activity in the FRAP assay; their reducing powers were $6080.67 \mu\text{M TE g}^{-1}$ and $5315.11 \mu\text{M TE g}^{-1}$, respectively. The antioxidant potentials of *P. lentiscus* leaves and *C. colocynthis* seeds measured by the same assay were lower in comparison with *A. herba-alba*, the values were $5300.48 \mu\text{M TE g}^{-1}$, $4123.33 \mu\text{M TE g}^{-1}$ and

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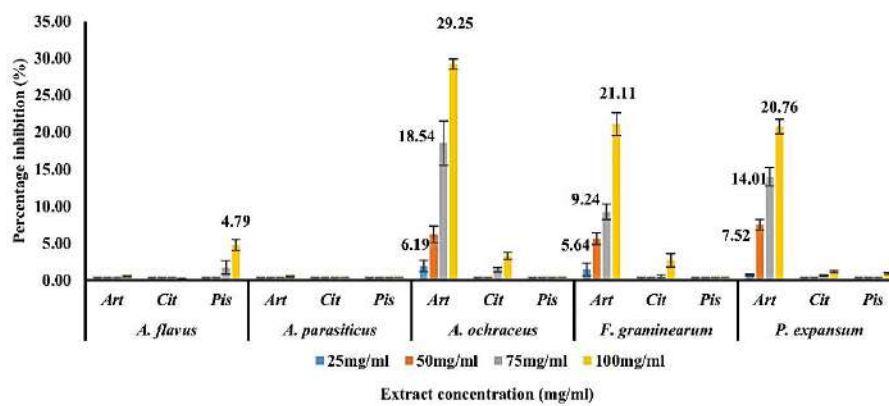
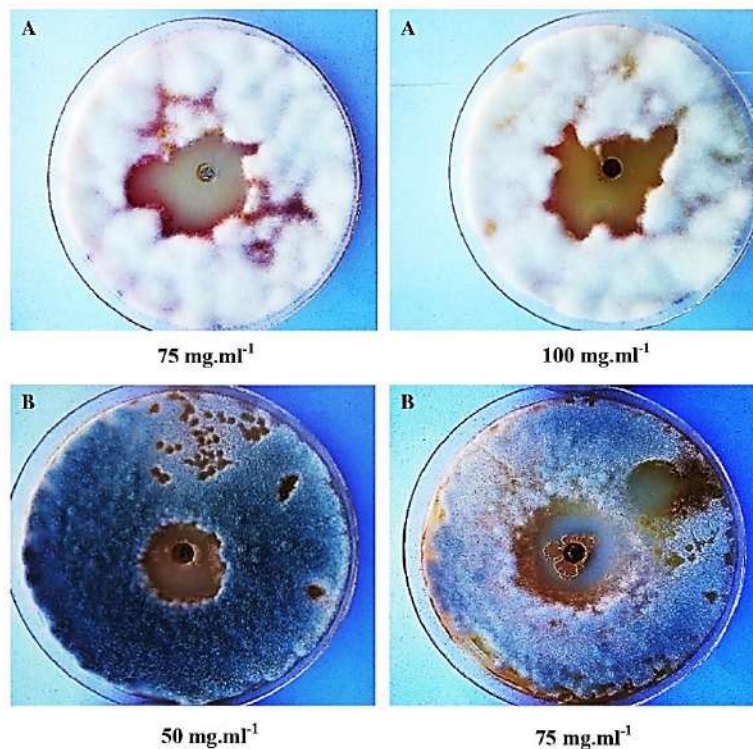


Fig. 5 Antifungal activity of methanolic extracts of the plant species. (Art: *A. herba-alba*, Cit: *C. colocythis* and Pis: *P. lentiscus*)

Fig. 6 Antifungal activity of *A. herba-alba* methanolic extract. a *F. graminearum* CECT 2150, b *P. expansum* CECT 2278



4150.22 $\mu\text{MTE g}^{-1}$, 3749.11 $\mu\text{MTE g}^{-1}$ for the methanolic and aqueous extracts, respectively in the FRAP assay.

For all extracts, the lowest IC_{50} were observed in the methanolic extracts of *A. herba-alba* in the FRAP assay, and

IC_{50} values was $0.91 \pm 0.92 \text{ mg ml}^{-1}$ followed by the methanolic extracts of *P. lentiscus* leaves with IC_{50} 2.12 ± 0.49 measured by FRAP assay. The methanolic extracts of *C. colocythis* seeds showed an IC_{50} values of 3.03 ± 0.51

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Table 2 Antifungal quality of methanolic and aqueous extracts

	Aqueous extracts concentration						Methanolic extracts concentration										
	25 mg		50 mg		75 mg		100 mg		25 mg		50 mg		75 mg		100 mg		
	Art	Col	Art	Col	Art	Col	Art	Col	Art	Col	Art	Col	Art	Col	Art	Col	
<i>A. flavus</i> NRRL 3251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>A. parasiticus</i> CBS 100926	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>F. graminearum</i> MUC1 53452	+	-	++	-	+++	-	+++	+	-	+++	-	+++	+++	-	+++	+	-
<i>P. expansum</i> MUC1 29192	-	-	+++	-	+++	-	+++	+	-	+++	-	+++	+++	-	+++	+	-
<i>A. ochraceus</i> NRRL 3174	-	-	+	-	+++	-	+++	+	-	+++	-	+++	+++	-	+++	++	-

- no activity, + low antifungal activity, ++ average antifungal activity, +++ high antifungal activity, Art: *A. herba-alba*, Col: *C. colocythis* and Pis: *P. lentiscus*

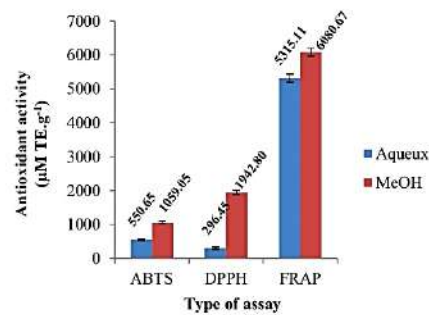


Fig. 7 Antioxidant activity of *Artemisia herba-alba* methanolic and aqueous extracts

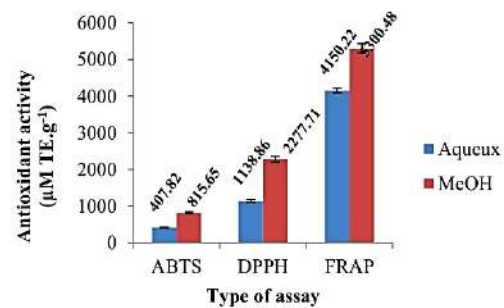


Fig. 8 Antioxidant activity of *P. lentiscus* methanolic and aqueous extracts

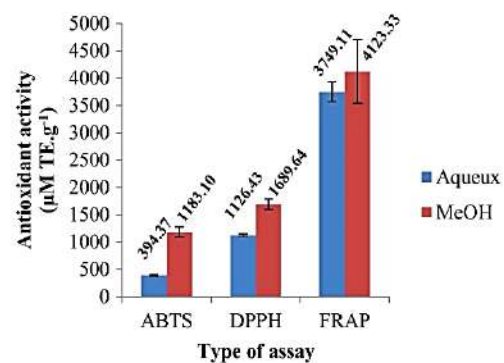


Fig. 9 Antioxidant activity of *C. colocythis* methanolic and aqueous extracts

determined by the ABTS radical scavenging assay. For aqueous extracts, *A. herba-alba* and *C. colocythis* seeds had the highest antioxidant potential with a lower IC₅₀

(2.42 ± 0.11 and 3.89 ± 0.44 , respectively) followed by *P. lentiscus* leaves with IC_{50} values of 4.48 ± 0.52 . However, the values of antioxidant activities evaluated by ABTS, DPPH and FRAP assays of all extracts were lower than the standard antioxidant used in this study (Trolox) (Table 3).

Variance analyses indicated that there are highly significant differences ($P < 0.01$) among the results of three antioxidant activity assays for the same species. Differences were also recorded among the three studied species ($P < 0.05$). The observed differences in the antioxidant activity among the different plant species is probably due to differences in their chemical composition. The differences among the assays seem to be due to the use of a different reaction mechanism by each assay.

4 Discussion

The fight against toxigenic fungi and mycotoxins is one of the difficulties of concern to scientists, and the results of extensive research in the field of mycotoxin toxicity are alarming and disturbing due to the health damage caused by mycotoxicosis and the economic losses caused by decreased food quality [41, 42]. As a result, researchers are abandoning conventional approaches and are exploring new biological control strategies against fungi and mycotoxicosis that include the use of medicinal plants [19, 20]. The three plants selected for this study were collected from semi-arid and arid regions of Algeria, which occupy more than 87% of the country's surface area. The desert regions are characterized by arid climates, in which rainfall is almost absent, with high temperatures, and in some areas of these desert regions, the climate is characterized by extreme aridity. In terms of flora, these arid and semi-arid areas are habitats for more than 2800 species [43], and this biodiversity is why these sites were chosen for plant sampling.

The study of the biological activities of aromatic and medicinal plants is based on extraction, and its principle, which is the crucial stage of any study, is that well-described precautions must be taken into consideration in order to avoid the loss, deformation or destruction of extracted molecules; in this case, the choice of solvent and extraction conditions depends on the targeted bioactive compound and its nature [44]. Regarding yield, the study of Barbouchi and his collaborators [45] demonstrated that the infusion extraction, or Soxhlet, method gave a higher yield without neglecting the nature of the solvent or the area where the leaves were harvested. Gupta and his team obtained a lower extraction yield compared to our yield for *C. colocythis* seeds [46].

The organic extractions of this study were carried out by maceration, and the two solvents used were of polar

Table 3 IC_{50} of *P. lentiscus*, *A. herba-alba* and *C. colocythis* methanolic and aqueous extracts obtained by FRAP, ABTS and DPPH assay

	ABTS			DPPH			FRAP					
	Art	Pis	Cit	Trolox*	Art	Pis	Cit	Trolox*	Art	Pis	Cit	Trolox
IC_{50} ($mg\ ml^{-1}$) of aqueous extract	6.74 ± 0.84	12.33 ± 1.29	5.33 ± 0.59	0.98 ± 0.1	7.58 ± 0.22	8.98 ± 1.34	3.89 ± 0.44	0.25 ± 0.03	2.42 ± 0.11	4.48 ± 0.52	5.12 ± 0.64	0.35 ± 0.04
IC_{50} ($mg\ ml^{-1}$) of methanolic extract	5.13 ± 0.63	9.78 ± 1.16	3.03 ± 0.51	3.27 ± 0.64	6.89 ± 0.88	3.23 ± 0.38	0.91 ± 0.92	2.12 ± 0.49	3.98 ± 0.5			

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nature; consequently, the metabolites identified were polar nature (alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins and saponins). In this context, Barbouchi's study demonstrated that organic extracts of *P. lentiscus* leaves are rich in catechic tannins, gallic tannins, flavonoids and saponins but not alkaloids [45]. Khlifi's study demonstrated that the hydro-methanolic extract of *A. herba-alba* is rich in compound phenolics, flavonoids, tannins and anthocyanins [27]. Regarding the seeds of *C. colocynthis*, Benariba et al. [47] revealed that catechic tannins and flavonoids are abundant in hydromethanol extracts, and according to Najafi et al. [48], the ethanolic extract contains tannins, alkaloids, flavonoids, and saponins. These differences in results may be attributed to differences in harvesting region, soil composition, climate, harvest season, solvents and experimental conditions of extraction.

In our assays, *A. herba-alba* exhibited the highest antifungal activity, followed in descending order by *C. colocynthis* seed and *P. lentiscus* leaf extracts. *F. graminearum*, *P. expansum* and *A. ochraceus* were the most sensitive moulds. *F. graminearum* is an opportunistic pathogen of cereals responsible for yield losses and contamination by its mycotoxins [49]. *P. expansum*, also known as blue mould, is responsible for the most important diseases of pome fruits and causes significant economic losses [50]. *A. ochraceus* is responsible for chronic granulomatous diseases [51]. *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* are known in mycology for their negative impact on health and for economic damage [41, 52]. In this study, these two fungi were the most resistant to the various prepared extracts.

Our results are in agreement with previous studies. *P. lentiscus* is considered to be an antimicrobial plant [53, 54], and ethanolic extracts of its fruits and leaves are used as ingredients in pork sausage to reduce microbial spoilage [55]. Some studies found that organic extracts of *C. colocynthis* are more active in comparison to aqueous extracts [47] and that hydromethanolic extracts are less toxic against *F. oxysporum* and its enzymes (CMCase, pectinase, and protease) [56] and exhibit a moderate antifungal activity against *A. fumigatus* DSM790 and *A. niger* DSM1988 [57].

The antifungal activities of the extracts are largely attributed to the solvent extraction capacity and the concentration of the active compounds in the crude extracts [58]. The sensitivity of microorganisms is due to the intolerance of cells to phytochemicals and their interactions with fungal cell components, which can cause, for example, the inhibition of cell wall formation, rupture of the cell membrane, mitochondria dysfunction, inhibition of cell division, inhibition of DNA replication, inhibition of protein synthesis or inhibition of efflux pumps [59]. However, the resistance of fungal strains may be due to degradation of bioactive compounds

by fungal enzymes, removal of bioactive substances by efflux systems, insensitivity of the site targeted by the molecule [60] or by mutations in the genes encoding fungicide targets [61]. Tannins due to their structure interact with ergosterol and damage cell membranes [62]. Flavonoids and alkaloids are also known for their antimicrobial and spasmolytic activities [63, 64].

The complexity and multifunctionality of phytochemicals make the use of a single test insufficient to evaluate the antioxidant activity [65, 66]. The antioxidant activity assays carried out in this study made it possible to measure the capacities of the various bioactive molecules present in the crude extracts to donate an electron to a radical or to an ion, which leads to the inhibition or reduction of oxidants. The plant extracts prepared in this study showed good antioxidant potential in the three assays, and the ability of these extracts to reduce free radicals can be attributed to their phenolic and flavonoid compounds [67, 68], whose chemical structures and concentrations determine the antioxidant activity [69].

The results of the antioxidant activity assays in this study are consistent with those of a recent study done on *A. herba-alba* from another region [70], and another study supports our results and demonstrates that this plant reduces the oxidative damage induced by alloxan [71]. Khlifi et al. [27] reported that the hydromethanolic extract had IC₅₀ values of 20.64 ± 0.84 mg ml⁻¹ and 36.60 ± 1.03 mg ml⁻¹ in the DPPH and ABTS assays, respectively.

Several other studies support our results and state that *P. lentiscus* has good antioxidant activity revealed by the DPPH and ABTS assays [72–75]. Barbouchi et al. [45] reported that the antioxidant activity of *P. lentiscus* leaves varies according to the location of harvest and observed IC₅₀ values ranging from 0.50 ± 0.00 to 0.09 ± 0.00 mg ml⁻¹ and from 0.57 ± 0.00 to 1.13 ± 0.00 mg ml⁻¹ for the aqueous and methanolic extracts, respectively. Botsaris et al. [55] demonstrated that the methanolic extracts prevent lipid oxidation. Some authors showed that this activity is strongly due to the presence of gallic acid, 1,2,3,4,6-pentagalloyl glucose, 5-O-galloyl, 3,5-di-O-galloyl and 3,4,5-tri-O-galloyl and observed an IC₅₀ equal to 3.9 μM [76, 77].

For *C. colocynthis*, several in vivo and in vitro studies reported good antioxidant activity in the fruits [47, 78]. Marzouk et al. [79] stated that the IC₅₀ of aqueous seed extracts is between 0.020 and 0.021 mg ml⁻¹ and attributed this difference to the different stages of fruit ripening. In contrast, Jayaraman and Christina [80] found that the maximum inhibition of DPPH radicals by the methanolic extract was approximately 62% at 0.8 mg ml⁻¹, whereas we observed only 57.11% of DPPH radical scavenging at 10 mg ml⁻¹ methanolic extract. Tannin-Spitz et al. [81] reported that cucurbitacin B glucoside and cucurbitacin

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E glucoside widely detected in *C. colocynthis* are powerful antioxidants.

5 Conclusion

Ethnopharmacological surveys based on scientific approaches and research oriented towards the exploitation of medicinal plants have been growing steadily in recent years due to pharmaceutical and medical interest in the bioactive substances isolated from these plants and characterized by less lethal side effects. These preliminary studies are of great importance in the development of plant-based pharmaceuticals and in the progression of green nanotechnology leading to the synthesis of new complex nanoparticles doped with bioactive substances active against multiresistant fungal strains. The results of the current study confirm that *Artemisia herba-alba*, *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Citrullus colocynthis* are potential sources of bioactive substances that could be used in the control of food contamination and of oxidative stress and the prevention of mycotoxicoses. Additional studies are in progress to characterize the structure of bioactive compounds and to elucidate their antifungal mechanisms in vitro by molecular docking.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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II.1. Criblage phytochimique, activités antifongiques et antioxydantes de trois plantes médicinales de la steppe et du Sahara algériens (études préliminaires de criblage).

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II.2. Effets antimicrobiens et antioxydants d'une actinobactérie forestière V₀₀₂ en tant que nouvelle productrice de spectinabiline, undécylprodigiosine et métacycloprodigiosine.

II.2. Effets antimicrobiens et antioxydants d'une actinobactérie forestière V₀₀₂ en tant que nouvelle productrice de spectinabiline, undécylprodigiosine et métacycloprodigiosine.

«Antimicrobial and Antioxidant Effects of a Forest Actinobacterium V₀₀₂ as New Producer of Spectinabilin, Undecylprodigiosin and Metacycloprodigiosin»

(Article publié en Mai 2020 dans la revue Current Microbiology - Springer Nature).

Le second chapitre se concentre sur l'identification des *Streptomyces* cultivables isolées de deux sites de prélèvement différents. Les sites d'échantillonnage choisis pour cette étude n'ont pas été étudiés précédemment. L'un des sites est situé dans la forêt d'El-Ogbane de la ville de Saida localisé dans la région steppique du pays, alors que le second site est situé en plein désert. En effet, l'adaptation des actinobactéries aux conditions environnementales biotiques et abiotiques sont les atouts à l'origine du choix des sites.

Dans cette partie du projet, au total, 110 isolats distincts ont été obtenus des sites de prélèvement. Les isolats sont sélectionnés sur la base des caractéristiques morphologiques et culturels des actinobactéries. Les isolats obtenus de la forêt d'El-Ogbane sont marqués de V₀₀₀ à V₀₅₃, cependant, ceux isolés de la région désertique sont marqués ON₀₀₀ à ON₀₅₅. Tous les isolats sont conservés à -80°C dans 50% de glycérol pour les tests ultérieurs.

Après le screening antimicrobien préliminaire, un seul isolat à savoir V₀₀₂ est sélectionné pour la poursuite de ce travail. La caractérisation phénotypique de l'isolat V₀₀₂ a démontré que ce dernier est Gram positive, aérobie avec un mycélium aérien et culturel. La microscopie électronique a démontré que le mycélium aérien de la souche désignée V₀₀₂ était différencié par des spores complètement mûres en longues chaînes droites et flexibles. Les spores étaient en forme de bâtonnet avec une surface rigoureuse et non mobile (**Figure 1. Matériel supplémentaire. Article 2**). L'identification phénotypique sur les milieux ISP a démontré que V₀₀₂ possède une bonne croissance sur les milieux GYM, ISP3, ISP4, ISP5, ISP7, SSM+T et SSM-T. Une croissance modérée est notée sur les milieux ISP2 et ISP6. L'aptitude de la croissance et la couleur des mycéliums aériens et de substrat de V₀₀₂ sur les milieux ISP sont décrites dans le tableau 1 et la figure 1 (**Matériel supplémentaire. Article 2**).

II.2. Effets antimicrobiens et antioxydants d'une actinobactérie forestière V₀₀₂ en tant que nouvelle productrice de spectinabiline, undécylprodigiosine et métacycloprodigiosine

L'isolat V₀₀₂ a démontré une tolérance significative à NaCl et une capacité enzymatique lui permettant de dégrader l'ensemble de la gamme de glucides sélectionnés (**Tableau 2, Figure 1. Matériel supplémentaire. Article 2**). La détermination de l'activité enzymatique par l'utilisation des plaques d'Api Zym® et d'Api Coryne® a dévoilé un potentiel enzymatique élevée chez V₀₀₂ (**Tableau 3, Figure 1. Matériel supplémentaire. Article 2**). La caractérisation génotypique par séquençage de l'ADN 16s de l'isolat V₀₀₂ a démontré que la souche appartenait au genre *Streptomyces* (**Figure 1, Article 2**). La séquence du gène de l'ARNr 16S de la souche V₀₀₂ est déposé dans la base NCBI sous le numéro d'accès MH298058.

L'évaluation de l'activité antimicrobienne des extraits brutes obtenus sur les microplaques a démontré que l'extrait obtenu à partir du milieu 5294 (Ext_{5294.V002}) était le plus active. Les souches pathogènes à Gram positive à savoir *Staphylococcus aureus* Newman et *Micrococcus luteus* étaient les plus sensibles (**Tableau 1. Article 2**). Le fractionnement par HPLC et l'analyse LC-MS a dévoilé que l'Extrait_{5294.V002} est formé de trois composés à savoir spectinabiline, undécylprodigiosine et métacycloprodigiosine, cependant, seul undécylprodigiosine et métacycloprodigiosine étaient les plus active (**Figure 2, Figure 3. Matériel supplémentaire. Article 2**).

L'analyse de l'activité antioxydant de l'Ext_{5294.V002} évalué par le test ABTS, DPPH et FRAP a démontré que l'extrait renferme un bon pouvoir antioxydant (**Tableau 2. Matériel supplémentaire. Article 2**). Les résultats du test de FRAP n'ont pas été obtenus.

Il est a noté que les extraits Ext_{5294.V002} et l'Ext_{5254.V002} non démontré aucune activité antifongique sur les deux souches fongiques (*Aspergillus flavus* et *Aspergillus ochraceus*) isolées du blé tendre. Par ailleurs, les mêmes extraits non démontré aucune activité antifongique sur les souches fongiques de références à savoir *Aspergillus flavus* CECT 20802, *Aspergillus parasiticus* CBS 100926, *Fusarium. graminearum* CECT 2150, *Aspergillus ochraceus* NRRL 3174 et *Penicillium expansum* CECT 2278.

Afin de combattre la résistance bactérienne aux antibiotiques, la recherche de l'aptitude des actinobactéries à synthétiser des composées bioactives est une excellente plateforme pour la recherche. Les résultats de notre travail ont confirmé la possibilité d'isoler des actinobactéries possédant des caractéristiques et des capacités à produire des substances bioactives rechercher. L'isolat V₀₀₂ est considéré comme nouveau producteur de la spectinabiline, undécylprodigiosine et métacycloprodigiosine ce qui confirme l'intérêt biotechnologique de la souche.



Antimicrobial and Antioxidant Effects of a Forest Actinobacterium V₀₀₂ as New Producer of Spectinabilin, Undecylprodigiosin and Metacycloprodigiosin

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Abstract

The aim of the study is the research and identification of a *Streptomyces* strain as a new producer of spectinabilin, undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin. Among 54 actinomycete isolates isolated from El-Ogbane forest soils in Algeria, only one isolate, designated V₀₀₂, was selected for its ability to produce prodigiosins. The selected strain was analysed for its ability to produce three different secondary metabolites as well as their biological activities. V₀₀₂ belongs to the *Streptomyces* genus and has significant antimicrobial and antioxidant activities. The taxonomic position of V₀₀₂ by 16S rRNA sequence analysis showed a similarity of 99.93% with *Streptomyces lasiacapitis* DSM 103124^T and 98.96% with *Streptomyces spectabilis* DSM 40512^T. Fractionation of crude secondary metabolites produced by the strain using HPLC–MS revealed the presence of spectinabilin, undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin, which demonstrated significant activity. Strain V₀₀₂ is considered a new producer of spectinabilin, undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin with significant antimicrobial and antioxidant activity.

Introduction

The identification of antibiotics was a wondrous innovation and discovery that humanity recognized upon its appearance, but the flame of this miracle was quickly extinguished just after the appearance of antimicrobial resistance in pathogens [1]; moreover, the phenomenon of bio-resistance has not ceased to develop and spread in microorganisms [2]. In confronting this serious problem, cancer constitutes another challenge that humanity has tried to conquer, although its pathology is perhaps more serious following the failure of

its eradication because of cytotoxicity of chemicals used during treatment against normal cells [3]. These disturbing situations have pushed researchers to leave classical research platforms to pursue other new strategies based on the detection of new microbial strains, in particular *Actinobacteria* strains producing new bioactive compounds [4]. New actinobacterial strains can be isolated from marine [5], desertic [6] and glacier soil ecosystems [7], or volcanic fumaroles [8]. Following this strategy, several new bioactive compounds have been discovered in recent years, citing for example α -pyrone [9], the polyhydroxyl macrolide lactones PM100117 and PM100118 [10], novonestmycins A and B [11] and venturicin C [12].

Other previously discovered substances, in particular spectinabilin, undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin, are well known for their biological activities. Spectinabilin is a rare polyketide metabolite, and its chemical structure is substituted by a nitrophenyl; spectinabilin was isolated for the first time from a crude streptovaricin complex produced by *Streptomyces spectabilis* [13]. Undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin are red pigments, belonging to the prodigiosins; these compounds are produced by certain species of the *Streptomyces* genus, such as *S. coelicolor* A3 and *S. longisporus ruber* M-3 [14, 15]. Given the importance and the attractive activities of these three compounds, some

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researchers tried to develop techniques using plug-and-play scaffolding in order to reactivate the silencing gene cluster for spectinabilin in *Streptomyces orinoci* [16].

Algeria is the largest country in Africa, and the Mediterranean Sea is the limit of the country in the north, while the Sahara Desert is the limit in the south. Between these two borders, the climate is complex and ranges from wet to arid. This study aims to isolate and identify strains belonging to the *Streptomyces* genus as new producers of spectinabilin, undécylprodigiosin and métacycloprodigiosin from forest soils located in a semi-arid zone in western Algeria.

Materials and Methods

Sampling Location

Soil samples were taken from El-Ogbane forest (34° 49' 04.9" N 0° 09' 26.5" E) located in the west of the country in Saida city. The samples were taken from sedimentary lands on the banks of the forest river. After removing stones, tree and root debris, the samples were dried in the open air, then crushed with a mortar and kept in plastic containers.

Isolation and Purification of Actinomycetes

Isolation of actinobacteria was performed by the standard dilution method [17]. First, one gram of soil sample was aseptically diluted in 9 ml of sterile distilled water (10^{-1}), followed by agitation of the liquid for a few minutes, and a series of decimal dilutions (10^{-2} , 10^{-3} and 10^{-4}) was then generated. An aliquot of 100 μ l was spread on the surface of starch casein nitrate agar medium (SCNA supplemented with nalidixic acid (20 mg l^{-1}) and nystatin (50 mg l^{-1})) at the rate of three plates for each dilution [18, 19]. The plates were finally incubated at 30 °C for 5 to 10 days. According to the morphological and cultural characteristics, typical colonies were selected and then sub-cultured on GYM agar medium and incubated at 30 °C for 5 to 10 days [20]. Once the aerial mycelium was formed, the isolates were labelled and stored at -80 °C in 50% glycerin.

Determination of Culture, Physiological, Biochemical and Microscopic Characteristics of Typical Strains

To identify and compare the isolates from different strains, a series of tests was carried out. Culture characteristics such as colony colour, aerial mycelium production and soluble pigment synthesis were revealed on ISP medium (International Streptomyces Project) by flooding GYM medium, yeast extract-malt extract agar (ISP₂), oatmeal agar (ISP₃), inorganic salt-starch agar (ISP₄), glycerol-asparagine agar

(ISP₅), peptone-yeast extract iron agar (ISP₆), tyrosine agar (ISP₇), SSM + T and SSM - T medium with two drops of a fresh culture of the selected isolates [20–22]. After growth, the ISCC-NBS colour chart was used to determine the colour of the colonies, aerial mycelium and soluble pigment. Growth at different temperatures (5 to 40 °C, with intervals of 5 °C) was resolved in ISP₃ agar over 15 days of incubation. Growth at different pH values was revealed in GYM broth (glucose 1%, yeast extract 1%, K₂HPO₄·3H₂O 0.05%, MgSO₄·7H₂O 0.05%, weight/volume) over a pH range from 4 to 12 (with intervals of 1.0 pH unit) followed by incubation at 20 °C for 15 days in a rotary shaker [23].

The use of carbohydrates (glucose, arabinose, sucrose, xylose, inositol, mannitol, fructose, raffinose, cellulose and rhamnose) as a single carbon source was determined on 5338 medium ((NH₄)₂SO₄, KH₂PO₄, K₂HPO₄, MgSO₄·7H₂O, agar and trace element solution 5342), which is a basic medium. Incubation was carried out at 30 °C for 10 to 15 days [20]. Growth on different concentrations of NaCl (0 to 10%, with intervals of 2.5%) was performed on 5339 medium (casein peptone, yeast extract and agar) as a basic medium. Incubation was carried out at 30 °C for 10 to 15 days. Enzymatic characteristics were revealed on Api Zym[®] and Api Coryne[®] plates [24–26] according to the protocol accompanying the kits. The preparation of the strains selected for scanning electron microscopy was carried out on agar containing a bacterial lawn fixed in glutaraldehyde using cultures after growth for 4 weeks at 30 °C on ISP₃ medium [27].

Genomic DNA Extraction, Amplification, Purification and Sequencing of the 16S rRNA Gene

Genomic DNA extraction was performed by using 0.5 ml of liquid culture using a DNA extraction kit (Stratec Molecular, Invisorb Spin plant, mini Kit, Berlin, Germany) according to the supplied protocol. Verification of the DNA extraction efficiency was performed by agarose gel electrophoresis (0.8% of agarose gel, 70 V, 400 mA, 40 min). Once the genomic DNA was extracted, amplification of 16S rRNA was carried out in a thermocycler (Eppendorf, Mastercycler gradient) using two universal primers (27F: 5'-AGT TTGATCCTGGCTCAG-3' and 1492R: 5'-ACGGCTACC TTGTTACGACTT-3') [28]. Cleanup was then carried out using a cleanup kit (Macherey-Nagel, Nucleo Spin, gel and PCR clean up, Düren, Germany). The cleanup of PCR products was confirmed by electrophoresis according to the same previous conditions. Sequencing of PCR products was performed using five primers, 27F, 518R, 1100F, 1100R and 1492R, at the DSMZ (Braunschweig, Germany). The obtained DNA sequences were viewed and edited by Geneious software V7. The 16S rRNA sequence similarities between the strains were calculated by pairwise

alignment using the EzTaxon-e server [29]. Phylogenetic trees were produced with the maximum likelihood [30] and neighbour-joining algorithms [31] using Mega software V7 [32]. The stability of the topology of the phylogenetic trees was evaluated by the 1000 repetition bootstrap method [33]. A distance matrix was generated using Kimura's model of two parameters [34]. All positions with gaps and missing data were eliminated.

Extraction of Secondary Metabolites and Screening of Biological Activities

Screening of Antimicrobial Activity of Crude Extracts

Screening of the antimicrobial activity of crude extracts was accomplished for several pathogenic bacteria and fungi, specifically three microscopic fungi, Gram-negative bacteria and Gram-positive bacteria. All selected pathogenic strains were obtained from the DSMZ (German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, Braunschweig, Germany) and ATCC (American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, VA 20110, USA).

To prepare the crude extracts, 20 ml of ethyl acetate (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) was mixed with 20 ml of bacterial

observation after 24 and 48 h of incubation at different temperatures [35].

Screening of the Antioxidant Activity of Crude Extracts

ABTS Radical Scavenging Assay To measure the antioxidant capacity of the crude active extract by ABTS⁺ radical cation inhibition, the method described by Surveswaran et al. [36] was applied. ABTS⁺ generation was carried out by a chemical reaction between ABTS solution (7 mM) and potassium persulfate solution (2.45 mM) for 16 h in obscurity and at room temperature. The resulting solution (ABTS⁺) was diluted in methanol (in a ratio of 1/50) in order to obtain an absorbance of 0.700 ± 0.005 at a wavelength of 734 nm. A concentration of $3.75 \mu\text{g } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$ of crude extract was prepared at different volumes (25, 50, 75, 100 μl) and was reacted with 3.9 ml of ABTS⁺ solution, and methanol was added to achieve the same volume for all prepared solutions (4 ml). After 10 min of reaction, the absorbance was measured by a spectrophotometer set at 734 nm. Trolox (6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid) was used as standard antioxidant at a concentration range of 0–500 μM . Neutralization of the ABTS⁺ was calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage of ABTS}^+ \text{ radical scavenging} = \frac{|\text{absorbance of control}| - |\text{absorbance of sample}|}{|\text{absorbance of control}|} \times 100.$$

culture from the previously prepared selected isolate (culture incubated under agitation for 10 days in two different liquid media, namely: 5294 and 5254). The mixtures were agitated for 12 min, and then the media were separated by centrifugation at 9000 rpm for 10 min. The solvent containing the metabolites was subsequently transferred to a rotavapor (Heidolph, Germany) in order to evaporate it completely. Once evaporation was completely achieved, the weight of the extract is calculated and then recovered in 1 ml of methanol.

The measurement of antimicrobial activity was carried out by microdilution in 96-well microplates. Three liquid culture media were used: Mueller–Hinton (MH), Mycosel

DPPH Radical Scavenging Assay The antiradical activity of the crude extracts was determined by a DPPH radical scavenging assay according to the method adopted by Orphanides et al. [37]. A volume of 3.9 ml of DPPH solution (0.3 mM) was mixed with $3.75 \mu\text{g } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$ of crude extract dissolved in methanol at different volumes (25, 50, 75, 100 μl) and incubated for 30 min in obscurity and at room temperature. Methanol volumes were added to achieve the same volume for all prepared solutions (4 ml). The absorbances were then measured by a spectrophotometer set at 517 nm. Trolox (6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid) was used as standard antioxidant at a concentration range of 0–500 μM . The neutralization of the DPPH radical was calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage of DPPH radical scavenging} = \frac{|\text{absorbance of control}| - |\text{absorbance of sample}|}{|\text{absorbance of control}|} \times 100.$$

Fractionation of Crude Extracts by HPLC and LC–MS

(Myc) and Middlebrook (Mid). The choice of medium was determined for each of the pathogenic strains, for which the concentration adjustment was set to 0.01 McFarland units. The dose of extract in the well (A) of the first line corresponded to 1 μl of extract from 14 μl of inoculated culture medium. By successive dilution, the concentration decreased twice in the wells (B–H). The results were obtained by visual

Only the extracts showing good antimicrobial potency were selected for HPLC fractionation. In this study, the HPLC used was an Agilent 1100, with an X-Bridge C18 3.5 μm , 2.1 \times 100 mm Column (Waters, Milford, USA) and a DAD detector (200–400 nm). Initial pressure was adjusted at 33 bar, and monitoring of the wavelength was

located between 210 and 360 nm. The liquid phase was composed of two elution buffers: A1 (950 ml of H₂O, 50 ml of C₂H₃N + 0.05 mM (385 mg l⁻¹) C₂H₇NO₂ + 40 µl of C₂H₄O₂) and B2 (50 ml of H₂O, 950 ml of C₂H₃N, 0.05 mM (385 mg l⁻¹) C₂H₇NO₂ + 40 µl of C₂H₄O₂). After 40 min, the fractions were recovered in a 96-well microplate at a rate of 150 µl per well. Once fractionation was completely achieved, a chromatogram showing the position of the fractions present in the extract was obtained from the HPLC. All obtained fractions were evaporated in a MiniVap (Porvair Sciences, UK) under heated nitrogen (40 °C). After drying the microplates, each well was filled with 150 µl of inoculum containing pathogen adjusted to 0.01 McFarland. After incubation for 24–48 h, the results were determined by visual observation.

To identify the active fractions, HPLC results were compared with those obtained from LC–MS; the instrument used was an LC–MS Agilent 1200 with a DAD detector (200–600 nm) combined with a maXis mass spectrometer (UHR-TOF, Bruker Daltonics, USA). The column was a Waters Acquity UPLC BEH C18 (2.1 × 50 mm, 1.7 µm). The mobile phase was composed of two solvents: A (H₂O with 0.1% CH₂O₂) and B (CH₃CN with 0.1% CH₂O₂) with a flow rate of 0.6 ml min⁻¹. The equilibration time between samples was 5 min [35].

Results

Selection of Isolated Strains

A total of approximately 54 distinct isolates, depending on the colony morphology and pigmentation characteristics of *Actinobacteria*, were isolated by the dilution method on SCNA medium supplemented with nalidixic acid and nystatin. All isolates were labelled from V₀₀₀ to V₀₅₃ and then stored at –80 °C in 50% glycerol. In the present study, only one isolate (V₀₀₂) was selected due to its particular cultural characteristics, indicating suspected production of prodigiosins.

Phenotypic Characterization of Isolates

The isolate V₀₀₂ was observed to be Gram positive, aerobic with abundant mycelium and well developed in the substrate. The aerial mycelium was typical of that of the *Streptomyces* genus. Scanning electron microscopy allowed visualization of the complex architecture of the isolate, and several morphological characteristics related to the colonies were observed: the aerial mycelia was differentiated by fully matured spores into long chains that were straight and flexible, and the spores were in stick form with a rigorous and non-motile surface. Complete septation of the air chains led to a collapse of mature spores (Fig. 1 in Supplementary Material).

The isolate V₀₀₂ showed good growth on GYM, ISP₃, ISP₄, ISP₅, ISP₇, SSM+T, and SSM-T medium. Moderate growth was observed on ISP₂ and ISP₆. The colour of the aerial mass varied between yellow orange and red violet. No diffusible pigment or melanin was observed in the medium. The growth and colour of the aerial and substrate mycelia of V₀₀₂ on ISP medium are described in Table 1 and Fig. 1 (Supplementary Material). The optimum temperature and pH for mycelial growth were 30 °C and 7.0, respectively. V₀₀₂ showed significant growth in the absence and presence of 2.5 and 5% NaCl, respectively, and possessed important genetic material that allowed the strain to degrade the whole range of carbohydrates as a single source of carbon (Table 2 and Fig. 1 Supplementary Material).

The enzymatic activity determined by the use of Api Zym[®] and Api Coryne[®] showed significant enzymatic potential; V₀₀₂ exhibited high enzymatic activities in the presence of leucine arylamidase, valine arylamidase, cystine arylamidase, trypsin, chymotrypsin, phosphatase acid, naphthyl-AS-BI-phosphohydrolase, phosphatase alcaline, beta galactosidase, alpha glucosidase, N-acetyl-beta-glucosamidase and alpha mannosidase. The enzymatic activity of nitrate reductase, pyrazinamidase, beta glucuronidase, esculin and urease was almost negative. V₀₀₂ was unable to ferment sugars; however, it was able to hydrolyse gelatine (Table 3 and Fig. 1 Supplementary Material).

Genotypic Characterization of V₀₀₂

EzTaxon-e analysis of 16S rRNA gene sequences demonstrated that the bacterial isolate labelled V₀₀₂ should be classified in the *Streptomyces* genus. The analysis also showed that the sequence of V₀₀₂ (1509 bp) had high similarity to *Streptomyces lasiocapitis* DSM 103124^T (99.93%, 1/1494) and *Streptomyces spectabilis* DSM 40512^T (98.96%, 15/1444). A phylogenetic analysis of maximum likelihood confirmed the results (Fig. 1). The 16S rRNA gene sequence of V₀₀₂ is deposited under accession number MH298058.

Evaluation of Antibacterial Activity and Determination of Bioactive Compounds

According to the results presented in Table 1, Ext_{5294,V002} presented low antimicrobial activity (A–B) against *C. violaceum*, *M. smegmatis* and *P. anomala*, minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) were 0.125, 0.125 and 0.25 µg µl⁻¹, respectively. An average antimicrobial activity (C–F) was registered against *B. subtilis*, whereas high activity was registered against *S. aureus* Newman and *M. luteus*. Minimum inhibitory concentrations were 0.781 × 10⁻², 0.195 × 10⁻² and 0.195 × 10⁻² µg µl⁻¹, respectively. Ext_{5254,V002} exhibited moderate activity against *B. subtilis*. The active extract (Ext_{5294,V002}) was subjected to HPLC fractionation and LC–MS analysis to determine which compounds were active.

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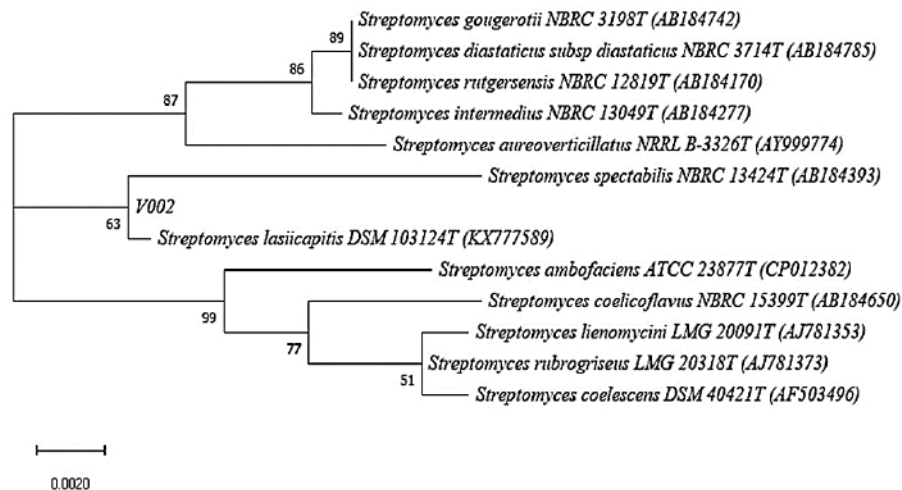
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Fig. 1 Neighbour-joining tree based on 16S rRNA gene sequences showing the relationship between strain V₀₀₂ and the related taxa. Numbers at nodes are bootstrap values (percentages of 1000 replica-

tions); only values >50% are shown. Asterisks indicate branches that were also recovered in the maximum likelihood tree. Bar, 0.0020 nucleotide substitutions per site

Table 1 Screening of the antimicrobial activity of crude extracts (Ext_{5254, V002} and Ext_{5294, V002})

	Dilution stages (A–H) ^a and MIC			
	Strain V ₀₀₂			
	Ext ₅₂₅₄	Ext ₅₂₉₄	MIC ₅₂₅₄ (μg μl ⁻¹)	MIC ₅₂₉₄ (μg μl ⁻¹)
<i>E. coli</i> DSM1116	–	–	–	–
<i>E. coli</i> TolC	–	–	–	–
<i>Chromobacterium violaceum</i> DSM 30191	–	B	–	0.125
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> PA14	–	–	–	–
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Newman	–	H	–	0.195 × 10 ⁻²
<i>Micrococcus luteus</i> DSM 1790	–	H	–	0.195 × 10 ⁻²
<i>Mycobacterium smegmatis</i> ATCC 700084	–	B	–	0.125
<i>Mucor hiemalis</i> DSM 2656	–	–	–	–
<i>Pichia anomala</i> DSM 6766	–	A	–	0.25
<i>Candida albicans</i> DSM 1665	–	–	–	–
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> DSM 10	D	F	0.312 × 10 ⁻¹	0.781 × 10 ⁻²

MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; –, no activity

^aThe dilution steps represent the successive dilution of crude extracts from well B until well H

The range of the inhibited wells after fractionation of Ext_{5294, V002} revealed that the fractions exerted strong antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus*, *M. luteus*, *B. subtilis* and *C. violaceum*. For *B. subtilis*, the correlation test between the peak activity of Ext_{5294, V002} after HPLC fractionation (Fig. 2 Supplementary Material) and the LC–MS chromatogram (Fig. 3 Supplementary Material) revealed that the active fractions were obtained between 21.5 and 34 min, and the LC–MS data suggested that the peaks correlated with spectinabilin, undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin. For

M. luteus and *S. aureus*, peak data from HPLC and LC–MS revealed that active fractions were located between retention time 26.5 and 33.5 min, which suggested that metacycloprodigiosin was the active fraction against these pathogens. For *C. violaceum*, peak data from HPLC and LC–MS revealed that the active fractions were obtained between 24 and 25 min, which suggested that spectinabilin was the active fraction.

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Table 2 Antioxidant activity of crude extracts obtained from Ext_{5294.V002}

Extract volume ($\mu\text{g } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$)	Antioxidant activity of Ext _{5294.V002}					
	DPPH [•] radical scavenging			ABTS ^{•+} radical scavenging		
	Antioxidant activity (%)	IC ₅₀ ($\mu\text{g } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$)	IC ₅₀ -trolox ($\mu\text{g } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$)	Antioxidant activity (%)	IC ₅₀ ($\mu\text{g } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$)	IC ₅₀ -trolox ($\mu\text{g } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$)
0.023	7.39 ± 0.41	0.834 ± 0.04	0.25 10 ⁻³ ± 0.03	71.48 ± 1.30	5.8 10 ⁻³ ± 0.001	0.98 10 ⁻³ ± 0.1
0.046	13.24 ± 1.43			96.25 ± 0.82		
0.070	18.06 ± 0.36			96.14 ± 0.25		
0.093	25.45 ± 0.29			97.43 ± 0.87		

IC₅₀, the half maximal inhibitory concentration

Antioxidant Activity of Crude Extracts

The antioxidant potential of Ext_{5294.V002} as revealed by DPPH[•] and ABTS^{•+} radical assays is presented in Table 2. The figure clearly shows that the volume range between 25 and 100 μl had significant antioxidant activity, which was visible by a change in the solution colour. The percentage of ABTS^{•+} radical scavenging ranged from 71.48 ± 1.30% to 97.43 ± 0.87%. The ABTS^{•+} radical assay showed consistent activity between 50 to 100 μl . The percentage of DPPH[•] radical scavenging ranged from 7.39 ± 0.41% to 25.45 ± 0.29%.

Discussion

Microorganisms of the genus *Streptomyces* are considered potential producers of secondary metabolites with interesting biological activities and beneficial effects on human health. The research and exploitation of *Streptomyces* from unexplored environments is one of the most effective approaches for discovering new bioactive metabolites [28]. *Streptomyces* sp. V_{002} was isolated from El-Ogbane forest, located in the semi-arid zone in Algeria; this forest contains plants and trees with muddy soils in winter and high temperatures in summer. The river that divides the forest creates a unique environment that contains a diversity of flora, freshwater sediments and microorganisms.

The search for new strains producing spectinabilin and prodigiosins requires reliable screening and identification. Despite the specificity of the 16S rRNA region, a dendrogram showed that *Streptomyces* sp. V_{002} had a high concordance with the grouping and topology of *S. lasiocapitis* and *S. spectabilis*; however, the comparison of cultural and biochemical characteristics revealed the dissimilarity of both types of strains. LC-MS results demonstrated that *Streptomyces* sp. V_{002} isolated from the sedimentary lands on the banks of the forest river was considered a new producer of spectinabilin, metacycloprodigiosin and undecylprodigiosin; however, *S. lasiocapitis* identified by Ye produced

kanchanamycin [38], and *S. spectabilis* produced spectinabilin and metacycloprodigiosin [13, 39].

Only a few compounds containing nitro groups are known and among them is spectinabilin which is a rare polyketide metabolite substituted with a nitrophenyl group; also, few studies have unveiled the antimicrobial activity of spectinabilin, metacycloprodigiosin and undecylprodigiosin [40]. Evaluation of the antimicrobial activity of secondary metabolites of crude and fractionated extracts revealed good inhibitory activity. Spectinabilin possesses significant biological activities against *P. falciparum* K1 [39], and this compound also has significant nematocidal activity against *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, with an LC₅₀ equal to 0.84 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ [41]. Spectinabilin isolated from *Streptomyces* sp. ZQ4BG demonstrated suppression of *C. albicans* with an MIC of 12.5 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ [42]. The antimicrobial activity of undecylprodigiosin was confirmed in the study of Stankovic and his team, in which the compound was able to inhibit the growth of *M. luteus* and *B. subtilis* at a concentration of 50 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$, while for *C. albicans* ATCC 10231 and *C. albicans* ATCC 10259, the inhibition concentrations were 100 and 200 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$, respectively [43]. In the study of Zainal Abidin et al., undecylprodigiosin demonstrated strong antibacterial activities against *S. aureus*, *B. subtilis* and *C. albicans*, with algicidal activity against *A. minutum* and *P. bahamense* [44]. Metacycloprodigiosin is known for its anti-malaria activity [39], and it also induces cell death in β -catenin-mutated tumour cells [45]. Metacycloprodigiosin and undecylprodigiosin possess anticancer activity against several human cancer cell lines (P388, HL60, A-549, BEL-7402 et SPCA4) [46].

The complexity and multifunctionality of bioactive compounds in an extract make it difficult to choose a single assay to detect antioxidant activity, although the analyses performed by DPPH[•] and ABTS^{•+} radical scavenging assays are robust and simple to perform [28]. In this study, both assays were used for a preliminary screening to determine the antioxidant capacity of the crude extract. The antioxidant reactions were measured by a hydrogen atom transfer or an electron transfer on probe molecules [47]. The most active crude extracts against selected

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microorganisms revealed good antioxidant potential, and these results may be pursued by further research to determine which compound is more active than the others and to develop important products. The radical scavenging activity of the extract was proportionally related to the compositions of secondary metabolites and the concentration of bioactive compounds, which was corroborated by Tan and his team, who said that antioxidant activity correlates with content for bioactive compounds [28].

Several studies reported that extracts from *Streptomyces* provided antioxidant potential; Raghava Rao and Raghava Rao [48] demonstrated that *Streptomyces* isolated from mangrove soil of the Visakhapatnam region was endowed with antioxidant activity, while another study confirmed our findings and stated that ethyl acetate extract obtained from *Streptomyces* sp. AM-S1 possessed antioxidant potential against DPPH[•] and ABTS^{•+} with IC₅₀ values of 90.2 and 13.2 μl ml⁻¹, respectively [49]. *Streptomyces V*₀₀₂ is recognized as a good source of antioxidants. With the results obtained, these antioxidants may prevent the progression of various disorders related to oxidative stress, and they have good potential to avoid cell damage resulting from a redox imbalance following the rise of O₂^{•-} products after exceeding the cell defence capacity [28]. Undecylprodigiosin has demonstrated its antioxidant activity against the oxidation of linoleic acid [43], and it can also exert gastroprotective effects and attenuate induced gastric lesions via antioxidant and anti-inflammatory mechanisms by decreasing the levels of inflammatory mediators and apoptotic markers [50].

Adaptation of microorganisms of the El-Ogbane forest to climatic and environmental conditions allows them to develop metabolic capacities and to synthesize prodigious compounds that allow them to survive in this forest ecosystem. In this study, the ability of *Streptomyces* sp. *V*₀₀₂ isolated from sedimentary lands on the banks of the forest river to produce spectinabilin, undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin was confirmed. Previously published results strongly suggest that the three substances could be selected as important lead molecules for the development of chemotherapy treatment. The present study has demonstrated the antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of the three molecules, which clarifies their importance with the producing strain. In-depth investigation of the underlying mechanism of the antimicrobial effect of spectinabilin, undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin would be valuable in the future.

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Author Contributions MAG carried out experimental work. MAG and BB co-wrote the manuscript. AOHK and JW conceived and designed

the study. All authors contributed to interpretation of results, read and approved the final draft.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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Supplementary material

Figure

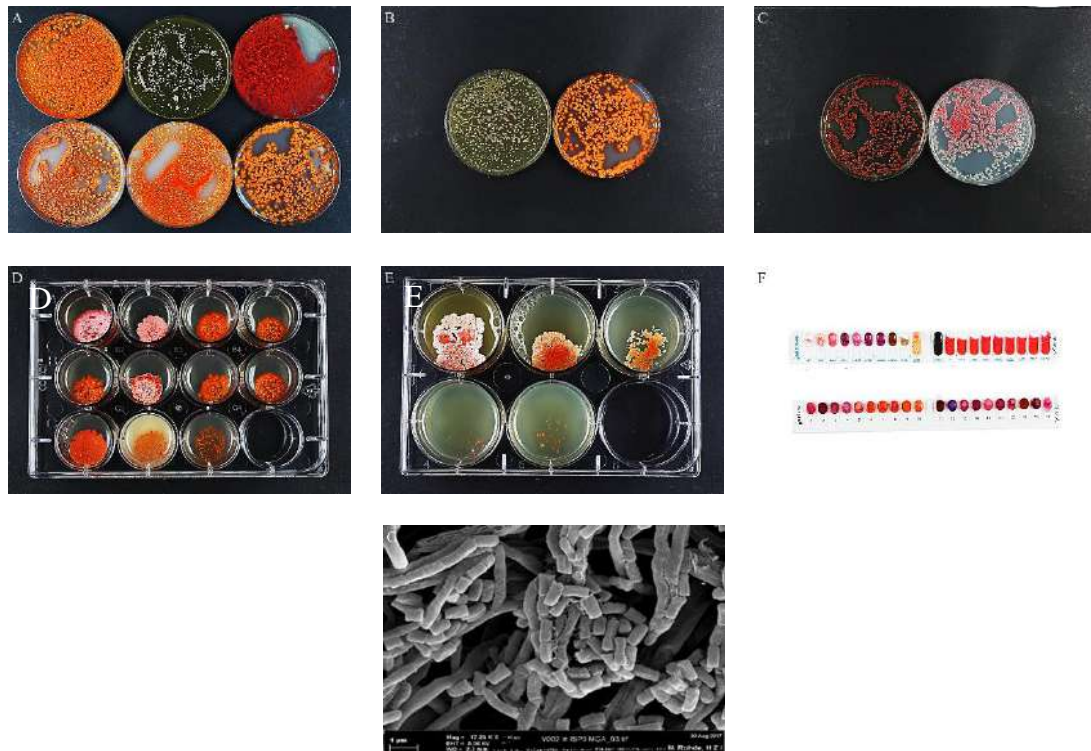


Fig 1. Culture, physiological and microscopic characteristics of V₀₀₂.

A: From top left to bottom right: GYM, ISP₂, ISP₃, ISP₄, ISP₅, ISP₇. **B:** From left to right: ISP₆, ISP₇. **C:** From left to right: SSM+T, SSM-T. **D:** Carbon utilization (from top left to bottom right: glucose, arabinose, sucrose, xylose, inositol, mannose, fructose, rhamnose, raffinose, cellulose). **E:** Sodium chloride tolerance test (from top left to bottom right: 0%, 2,5%, 5%, 7,5%, 10%). **F:** Enzymatic characteristics on Api Zym® and Api Coryne® plates. **G:** Microscopic appearance under scanning electron microscopy.

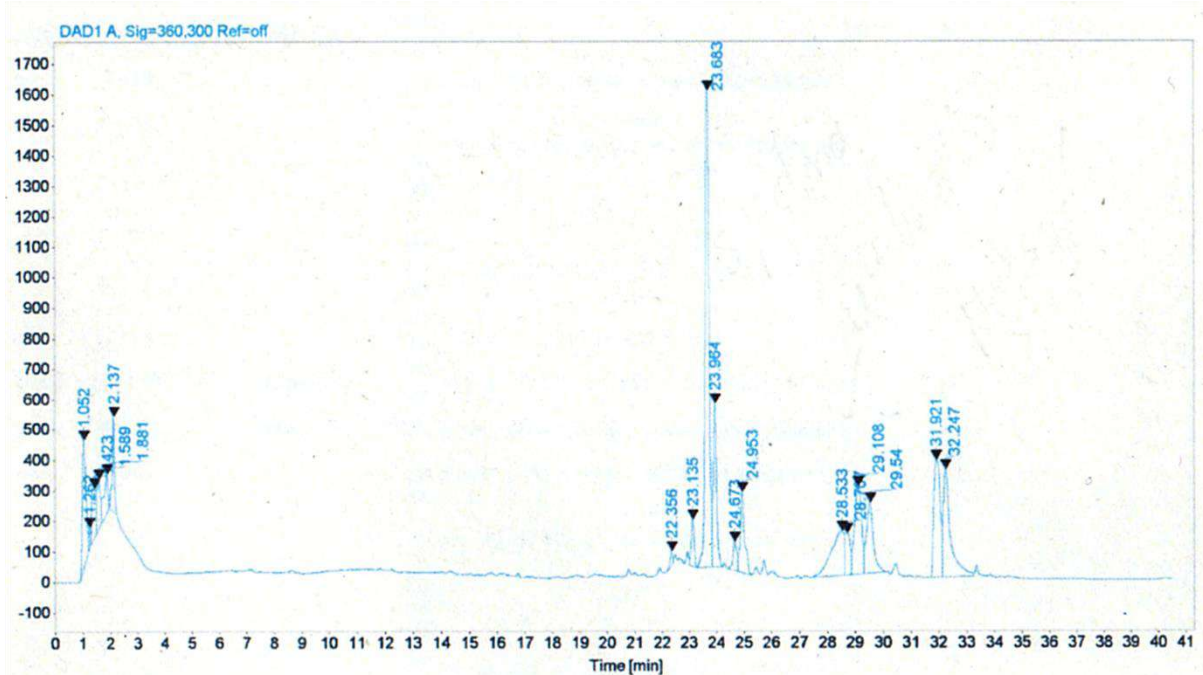


Fig 2. Chromatogram of HPLC fractionation of Ext_{5294.v002}.

The chromatogram obtained from the HPLC reveals that the extract contains different fractions characterized by distinct retention times.

II.2. Effets antimicrobiens et antioxydants d'une actinobactérie forestière V₀₀₂ en tant que nouvelle productrice de spectinabiline, undécylprodigiosine et métacycloprodigiosine

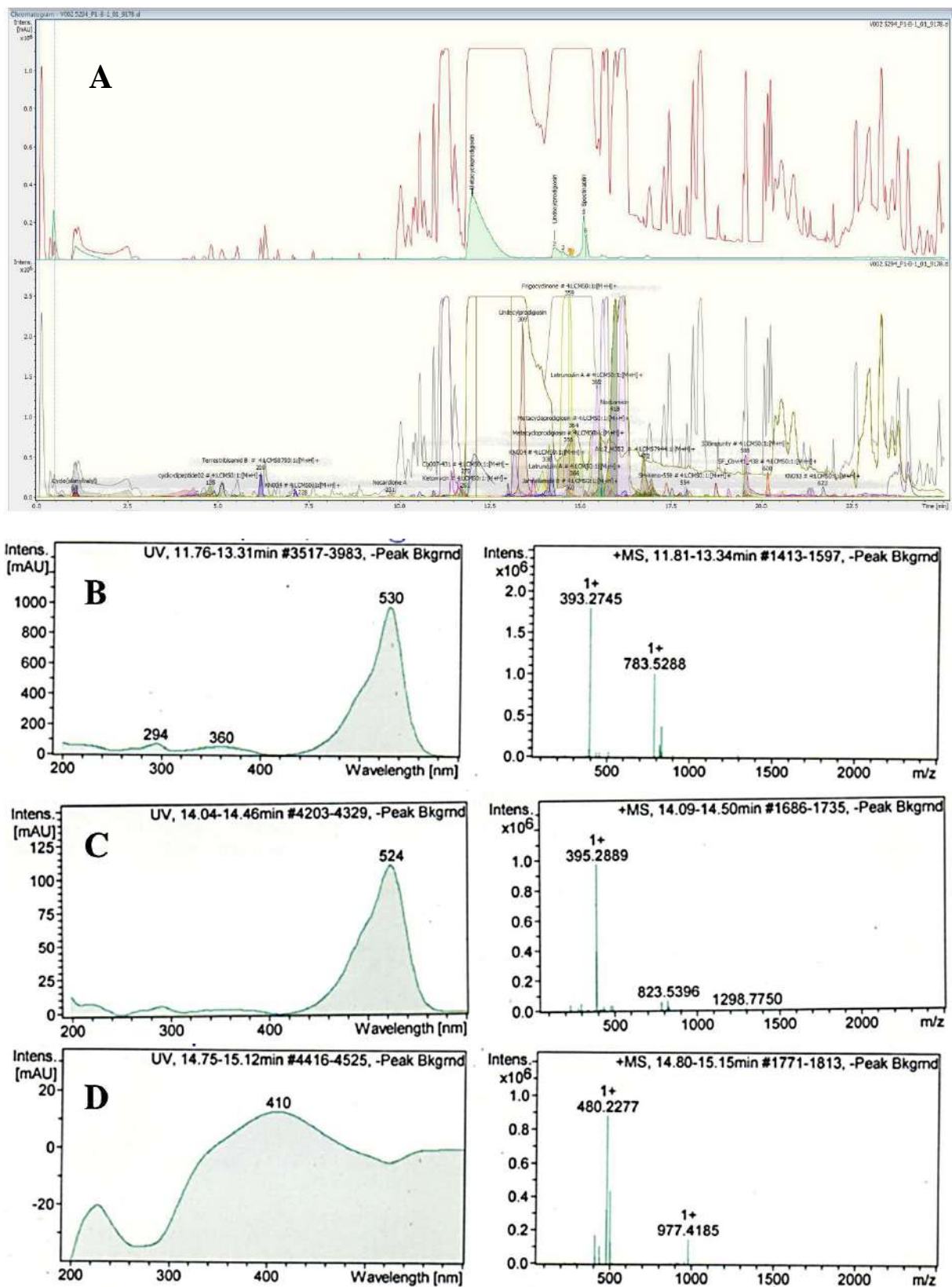


Fig 3. Determination of fractions using the dictionary of natural product.

II.2. Effets antimicrobiens et antioxydants d'une actinobactérie forestière V_{002} en tant que nouvelle productrice de spectinabiline, undécylprodigiosine et métacycloprodigiosine

A: Compound spectrum list rapport, B: compound-1, RT=12.02 min: Metacycloprodigiosin. C: compound-2, RT=14.30 min: Undecylprodigiosin. D: compound-3, RT=15.11 min: Spectinabilin.

Table

Table 1. Culture characteristics of V_{002} in ISP medium.

Medium		Strains		
		V_{002}	<i>S. lasiocapitis</i> DSM 103124T	<i>S. spectabilis</i> DSM 40512T
Agar	ISP 2 - G	Not good	Good	Good
Agar	ISP 2 - C	Beige red	Nd	Red
Agar	ISP 2 - A	Beige red, light pink	Light orange	White/red
Agar	ISP 2 - S	None	None	None
Agar	ISP 3 - G	Good	Good	Good
Agar	ISP 3 - R	Rose, strawberry red	Nd	Orange
Agar	ISP 3 - A	Strawberry red, traffic red	Light pink	Sparse/white
Agar	ISP 3 - S	None	None	None
Agar	ISP 4 - G	Good	Good	Good
Agar	ISP 4 - R	Salamon orange	Nd	Orange
Agar	ISP 4 - A	Deep orange, signal orange, traffic orange	Pinkish-white	White
Agar	ISP 4 - S	None	None	None
Agar	ISP 5 - G	Good	Moderate growth	Good
Agar	ISP 5 - R	Salamon orange	Nd	Red
Agar	ISP 5 - A	Pure orange, pastel orange, vermillion	None	White/red
Agar	ISP 5 - S	None	None	None
Agar	ISP 6 - G	Not good	Moderate growth	Good
Agar	ISP 6 - R	Saffron yellow	Nd	Yellow
Agar	ISP 6 - A	Sun yellow	Nd	None
Agar	ISP 6 - S	None	None	None
Agar	ISP 7 - G	Good	Good	Good
Agar	ISP 7 - R	Bright red orange, ruby red, strawberry red	Nd	Red
Agar	ISP 7 - A	Yellow orange	Light pink	White/red
Agar	ISP 7 - S	None	None	None
Agar	suter with tyrosine - G	Good	Nd	Nd
Agar	suter with tyrosine - R	Red violet	Nd	Nd
Agar	suter with tyrosine - A	Red violet, raspberry red	Nd	Nd
Agar	suter with tyrosine - S	None	Nd	Nd
Agar	suter without tyrosine - G	Good	Nd	Nd
Agar	suter without tyrosine - R	Heather violet	Nd	Nd
Agar	suter without tyrosine - A	Rose, heather violet	Nd	Nd
Agar	suter without tyrosine - S	None	Nd	Nd

Determination of the cultural characteristics of V_{002} on ISP medium and comparison of the results with the cultural characteristics of the type strains, namely: *S. lasiocapitis* DSM 103124^T and *S. spectabilis* DSM 40512^T

G: growth, **C:** colony, **A:** aerial mycelium, **S:** soluble pigment, **Nd:** not determined.

II.2. Effets antimicrobiens et antioxydants d'une actinobactérie forestière *V*₀₀₂ en tant que nouvelle productrice de spectinabiline, undécylprodigiosine et métacycloprodigiosine

Table 2. Biochemical characteristics of *V*₀₀₂.

Biochemical test	<i>V</i> ₀₀₂	<i>S. lasiocapitis</i> DSM 103124 ^T	<i>S. spectabilis</i> DSM 40512 ^T
Sodium chloride tolerance	0-5%	0-9%	0-5%
use of carbohydrates			
glucose	+	+	+
arabinose	+	+	+
sucrose	+	+	±
xylose	+	+	-
inositol	+	+	+
mannose	+	+	-
fructose	+	+	-
rhamnose	+	+	±
raffinose	+	+	+
cellulose	+	-	Nd

Tolerance to different concentrations of NaCl and use of carbohydrates by *V*₀₀₂, and comparison of the results to the types strains, namely *S. lasiocapitis* DSM 103124^T and *S. spectabilis* DSM 40512^T

+: good growth, ±: average growth, -: no growth, **Nd**: not determined.

Table 3. Enzymatic characteristics of *V*₀₀₂.

Biochemical test		<i>V</i> ₀₀₂
Api zym	Phosphatase alcaline	5
Api zym	Esterase (C4)	4
Api zym	Esterase Lipase (C8)	3
Api zym	Lipase (C14)	1
Api zym	Leucin arylamidase	5
Api zym	Valine arylamidase	5
Api zym	Cystine arylamidase	5
Api zym	Trypsin	5
Api zym	Chymotrypsin	5
Api zym	Phosphatase acid	5
Api zym	Naphtol-AS-BI-phosphohydrolase	5
Api zym	alpha galactosidase	2
Api zym	beta galactosidase	5
Api zym	beta glucuronidase	1
Api zym	alpha glucosidase	5
Api zym	beta glucosidase	1
Api zym	N-acetyl-beta-glucoseamidase	5
Api zym	alpha mannosidase	5
Api zym	alpha fucosidase	2
Api coryne	Nitrate reduction	-
Api coryne	Pyraziamidase	-
Api coryne	Pyrrolidonyl arylamidase	+
Api coryne	Alkaline phosphatase	+
Api coryne	beta glucuronidase	-
Api coryne	beta galactosidase	+
Api coryne	alpha glucosidase	+
Api coryne	N-acetyl -beta glucoseamidase	+
Api coryne	Esculin	-
Api coryne	Urease	-
Api coryne	Gelatine (hydrolysis)	+
Api coryne	Glucose fermentation	-
Api coryne	Ribose fermentation	-
Api coryne	Xylose fermentation	-
Api coryne	Mannitol fermentation	-
Api coryne	Maltose fermentation	-
Api coryne	Lactose fermentation	-
Api coryne	Sucrose fermentation	-
Api coryne	Glycogen fermentation	-

Determination of the enzymatic and fermentable capacities of *V*₀₀₂ by Api Zym® and Api Coryne®

0 to 5: level of enzymatic expression by the strain; from absence to excellence expression. +: presence of enzyme activity, -: no enzyme activity.

II.3. Activités antimycotoxinogène et antifongique des graines de Citrullus colocynthis contre Aspergillus flavus et Aspergillus ochraceus contaminant le blé tendre stocké.

II.3. Activités antimycotoxigène et antifongique des graines de *Citrullus colocynthis* contre *Aspergillus flavus* et *Aspergillus ochraceus* contaminant le blé tendre stocké.

«Antimycotoxigenic and antifungal activities of *Citrullus colocynthis* seeds against *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus ochraceus* contaminating stored wheat »

(Article publié en Novembre 2013 dans la revue *African Journal of Biotechnology-Academic Journals*).

Ce troisième chapitre est consacré à la détermination de la capacité des extraits des plantes et des extraits de la souche d'actinobactérie V₀₀₂ à inhiber la synthèse de l'aflatoxine et de l'ochratoxine produites par les moisissures isolées du blé tendre.

Les deux moisissures recherchées sont isolées du blé tendre stocké et identifiées, il s'agit d'*Aspergillus flavus* et *Aspergillus ochraceus*. Les deux souches sont identifiées selon leurs caractères microscopiques et macroscopiques en se référant aux clés d'identification (**Figure 1 et 2, Tableau 2. Article 3**). Les résultats de la chromatographie sur couche mince ont montré que les deux moisissures sont dotées d'un grand pouvoir toxigène. *A. flavus* synthétise l'aflatoxine B₁, alors que *A. ochraceus* produit de l'ochratoxine A.

La technique d'empoisonnement dans le milieu YES a révélé l'activité antifongique des extraits (aqueux et méthanolique) des graines de *Citrullus colocynthis* traduite par leur excellente activité biologique contre la souche *A. ochraceus*. Au-delà de 20 mg mL⁻¹, les extraits ont complètement inhibé la formation de biomasse mycélienne (**Figure 3. Article 3**). La souche *A. flavus* s'est avérée très résistante aux deux extraits des graines de *C. colocynthis* (**Figure 4. Article 3**).

A partir de 10 et 15 mg mL⁻¹ d'extrait de *C. colocynthis*, la CCM a révélé une réduction de la synthèse de l'ochratoxine A produite par *A. ochraceus*. Au-delà de 15 mg mL⁻¹, la synthèse de l'ochratoxine A est complètement inhibée par les extraits dans le milieu YES (**Tableau 3. Figure 5. Article 3**).

Les extraits d'*A. herba alba* présentent une forte inhibition de la biosynthèse de l'ochratoxine. A partir de 5 mg mL⁻¹ d'extrait organique ou aqueux, la CCM n'a dévoilé aucune

II.3. Activité antimycotoxinogène et antifongiques des graines de Citrullus colocynthis contre Aspergillus flavus et Aspergillus ochraceus contaminant le blé tendre stocké.

trace d'ochratoxine A produite par *A. ochraceus*. Les extraits organiques de *P. lentiscus* et les métabolites secondaires de l'isolat V₀₀₂ n'ont pas montré d'activité antimycotoxinogène.

Full Length Research Paper

Antimycotoxigenic and antifungal activities of *Citrullus colocynthis* seeds against *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus ochraceus* contaminating wheat storedGACEM Mohamed Amine^{1*}, OULD EL HADJ KHELIL Aminata¹, GACEMI Bouabdallah², HALLA Nouredine³, DJERBAOUI Amina Nesrine¹, BOUDERHEM Amel¹, HADEF Sawsen¹, BENREGUIEG Mokhtar^{2,4} and ADLI Djalal Eddine Houari⁴¹Laboratory of Protection of Ecosystems in Arid and Semi-arid Area, University of Kasdi Merbah, Ouargla (30000), Algeria.²Laboratory of Technology and Animal Production, University of Abdelhamid Ibn Badis, Mostaganem (27000), Algeria.³Laboratory of Antibiotics Antifungal, Physical Chemistry, Synthesis and Biological Activity, University of Abou Bekr Belkaïd, Tlemcen (13000), Algeria.⁴Departement of Biology, University of Tahar Moulay, Saida (20000), Algeria.

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Plant extracts and their constituents have a long history as antifungal agents, but their use in biotechnology as preservatives, due to the increasing resistance of fungi to fungicides, has been rarely reported. The aim of this study was to assess *in vitro* antifungal and antimycotoxigenic power of methanolic and aqueous extracts of *Citrullus colocynthis* seeds, an aromatic and medicinal plant, of Algerian flora, against two toxigenic species of the genera *Aspergillus* responsible of contamination of wheat stored. The antifungal and antimycotoxigenic activity of methanolic and aqueous extracts were screened against *Aspergillus ochraceus* and *Aspergillus flavus*. Dillution method was used to investigate the antimicrobial and antimycotoxigenic activity. These bioassays are preceded by a phytochemical screening. The phytochemical analysis of seeds extracts revealed the presence of some chemical groups (polyphenols, steroids and alkaloids) which can express the desired activities. The results suggest that the extracts showed a very good antifungal activity against *A. ochraceus*, but for *A. flavus* any antifungal activity was recorded. The extracts have good antiochratoxigenic power in liquid medium. This evaluation confirms that the extracts of *C. colocynthis* seeds used at low concentration may have significant potential for biological control of fungi and theirs toxins.

Key words: *Citrullus colocynthis*, methanolic extract, aqueous extract, phytochemical screening, antifungal activity, antimycotoxigenic activity, antiochratoxigenic activity.

INTRODUCTION

Fungi are the main infectious agents in plants, causing alterations during developmental stages including post-

harvest. In fruit and vegetables, there is a wide variety of fungal genera causing quality problems related to aspect,

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Abbreviations: AFs, Aflatoxins; OTA, ochratoxin A; TLC, thin-layer chromatography; DRBC, Dichloran Rose-Bengal chloramphenicol agar; CDA, Czapek dextrose agar; PDA, potatoes dextrose agar; YES, yeast extract sucrose; MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; MFC, minimum fungicidal concentration.

II.3. Activité antimycotoxinogène et antifongiques des graines de *Citrullus colocynthis* contre *Aspergillus flavus* et *Aspergillus ochraceus* contaminant le blé tendre stocké.

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nutritional value, organoleptic characteristics and limited shelf life (Yanes et al., 2012). In addition, fungi are responsible for allergic or toxic disorders among consumers because of the production of spores or mycotoxins (Dellavalle et al., 2011).

Mycotoxins are secondary metabolites produced by five fungal genera namely *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Fusarium*, *Alternaria* and *Claviceps*, they are synthesized under favorable conditions of temperature and humidity. They may be developed in several stages, in the field before harvest, during storage and even in the production chain (Petzinger and Weindenbach, 2002). These toxic substances are carcinogenic, nephrotoxic, hepatotoxic and immunosuppressive (Dellavalle et al., 2011; Korhonen et al., 2012). They are found in many food products such as coffee, cereals, wine and fermented products (Cynthia et al., 2012). Aflatoxins (AFs) are the most dangerous mycotoxins.

Five types of aflatoxins are known; AFB1, AFB2, AFG1, AFG2 and AFM, these toxins are produced by *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus parasiticus*, *Aspergillus nomius*, *Aspergillus pseudotamarii*, *Aspergillus bombycis*, *Aspergillus toxicarius*, *Aspergillus minisclerotigenes*, *Aspergillus parvisclerotigenus* and *Aspergillus arachidicola* (Samson et al., 2006; Pildain et al., 2008). *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus* are the major producers of AFB1 (Gourama and Bullerman, 1995). Ochratoxin A (OTA) is the second important mycotoxin with fumonisin, zearalenone and trichothecene. OTA is produced by *Penicillium verrucosum*, *Aspergillus ochraceus*, *Aspergillus alliaceus*, *Aspergillus carbonarius*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus melleus* (Da Rocha Rosa et al., 2002; Accensi et al., 2004; Bau et al., 2005; Bayman and Baker, 2006).

Fungi are generally controlled by synthetic fungicides; however, the use of these is increasingly restricted due to the harmful effects of pesticides on human health and the environment (Hermiche et al., 2012). The increased risk of high-level toxic residues in the products and the emergence of pathogens resistant to the products employed, justifies the search for novel active molecules and new control strategies. Thus, there is a growing interest on the research of possible use of the plant extracts for control of the pest and diseases in agriculture which is less harmful to the health and environment (Nwosu and Okafor, 2000; Logardia et al., 2012).

Several works have demonstrated in laboratory trials that plants tissues, such as roots, leaves, seeds and flowers possess inhibitory properties against bacteria, fungi and insects (Thembo et al., 2010; Benariba et al., 2013). In front these very serious health problems, use of medicinal plants in biomedical research received great interest. This is because herbs are an inexhaustible source of bioactive natural compounds and fewer side effects than drugs (Dramane et al., 2010; Satyavani et al., 2012). Medicinal plants are now an endless source of interesting molecules for scientists and industry, which occur as secondary metabolites (Lozoya and Lozoya,

1989; Karthikeyan et al., 2009). They are grouped as alkaloids, glycosides, flavonoids, saponins, tannins, carbohydrate and essential oils. Molecules from these plants have similar active ingredients which have specific properties giving them an intrinsic behavior (Evon, 2008). A wide spectrum of biological substances extracted from medicinal plants, including oils were tested to replace some of the ways to fight against fungi. In this section, several authors have confirmed the effectiveness of the oils on toxigenic fungi (Ziyada and El Hussein, 2008; Yingying et al., 2008).

Citrullus colocynthis (Schrad), belonging to the family of *Cucurbitaceae*, is an endemic in the south of Algeria. This medicinal plant popularly known as *Handhal*, *Hdaj* or *Dellaa El-Wad*, is widely used in Algerian folk medicine for treating many diseases such as rheumatism, hypertension, hyperglycemia and various contagious diseases, including dermatological problems and gynaecological, urinary and pulmonary infections (Le Flock, 1983; Boukef, 1986; Marzouk et al., 2009; Gurudeeban et al., 2010).

The objective of this work is to demonstrate the antifungal, antiaflatoxinogenic and antiochratoxinogenic effect of methanol and aqueous extracts of *C. colocynthis* seeds, after determining their chemical composition, against two toxigenic fungal strains namely: *A. flavus* and *A. ochraceus* isolated from wheat stored.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant

C. colocynthis Schrad. fruits were collected in December (2010) near Ouargla, Algeria in the area of Oued N'sa. The identification was performed according to the flora of Tunisia (Pottier-Alapetite, 1981) and the botanists of Faculty of Biology of Saida University (Algeria).

Extraction protocol

The extractions were performed on the seeds of *C. colocynthis*. Plant materials were washed with tap water, disinfected by immersion in 2% sodium hypochlorite solution for 30 min, rinsed with sterile distilled water to eliminate residual hypochlorite. Afterwards, the seeds are ready for extraction (Jasso de Rodriguez et al., 2005). In this study, water and methanol are the two solvents used for extraction. These two solvents are polar and they can extract the maximum of bioactive substances.

Methanol extract

Twenty grams of seeds were ground with a mixer and added to 100 ml of methanol. After 3 h of maceration with continuous stirring at 200 rev/min, the mixture was then filtered using filter paper (Whatman No 1). This operation is repeated four times after each filtration with renewal of the solvent in order to exhaust the marc and increase the yield. At the end of extraction, the fractions obtained were collected in a vial and then were evaporated by rotavapor at a specific temperature to the solvent (Senhaji et al., 2005).

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Aqueous extract

The aqueous extract is prepared by soaking 20 g of the ground seeds in 100 ml of cold distilled water for 3 h with continuous agitation. The mixture was then centrifuged at 3600 g for 30 min. The supernatant was recovered and then filtered through Whatman filter No. 1. This operation was repeated four times after each filtration with renewal of the solvent. At the end of extraction, the fractions obtained were collected in a vial, then, lyophilized or dried in the drying oven, giving the dry aqueous extract (Senhaji et al., 2005).

Determination of extraction yield

The yield is determined by the ratio of the weight of the dry extract after evaporation on the weight of the plant material used for extraction, multiplied by 100%.

$$\text{Rd \%} = (m_1 \times 100) / m_0$$

Where, m_1 is the Mass in grams of the dry extract; m_0 is the mass in grams of dry plant material; Rd is the yield.

Qualitative phytochemical screening

Tannins

One milliliter of extract was mixed with 10 ml of distilled water and filtered. Three drops of ferric chloride (FeCl_3) reagent (1% prepared in methanol) was added to the filtrate. A blue-black or green precipitate confirmed the presence of gallic tannins or catechol tannins, respectively (Karumi et al., 2004).

Saponins

Ten milliliters of extract were placed in a test tube shaken for 15 s and then deposited for 15 min. A persistent foam height greater than 1 cm indicates the presence of saponins (N'Guessan et al., 2009).

Steroids

After addition of 5 ml of acetic anhydride to 5 ml of hot extract, the mixture was added to 0.5 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid. After stirring, the appearance of a purple or violet ring turning blue to green indicates the presence of steroids (Edeoga et al., 2005).

Flavonoids

Flavonoids were detected by reaction with cyaniding. 2 ml of each extract were evaporated and the residue was taken in 5 ml of alcohol hydrochloric dilute 2 times. By adding 2 to 3 magnesium chips, there is a heat release and an orange-pink coloration or purplish. The addition of 3 drops of isoamyl alcohol has intensified this color which confirmed the presence of flavonoids (N'Guessan et al., 2009).

Alkaloids

Alkaloids have been characterized using reagents of Mayer. 10 milliliters of extract were evaporated until a volume of 0.2 ml was obtained on which, 1.5 ml of HCl (2%) was added. After stirring the acid solution, 1 to 2 drops of reagent were added, and the

appearance of a yellowish white precipitate indicates the presence of alkaloids (Mojab et al., 2003).

Antraquinones

The method cited by Trease and Evans (1996) was used for the detection of anthraquinones. The presence of violet colour in the ammoniacal (lower) phase indicated the presence of free hydroxy anthraquinones (Trease and Evans, 1996).

Coumarins

Coumarins were found from 5 ml of extract placed in a tube brought to boiling until obtaining a volume of 1 ml, this volume is added to 1 ml of hot water. After stirring, the total volume is divided into two volumes, one as a control and the other is added to 0.5 ml of NH_4OH (10%) and examined under a UV lamp. The fluorescence emission indicates the presence of coumarins (Rizk, 1982).

Antifungal activity of plant extracts

Fungal isolation

Dilution plating was used as isolation technique (Pitt and Hocking, 2009). 10 g of the sample were added to 90 ml of 0.1% peptone water. This mixture was then shaken on a rotary shaker for approximately 15 min and diluted 10^2 , 10^3 and 10^4 fold. Aliquots composing of 0.1 ml of each dilution were spread (in triplicate) on the surface of the dichloran Rose-Bengal chloramphenicol agar (DRBC), Czapek dextrose agar (CDA) and potatoes dextrose agar (PDA). All plates were incubated for 5 to 7 days at 28°C in the dark and under normal atmosphere. The identification of fungal strain is realized on the basis of morphological characteristics, under the microscope (Barnett and Hunter, 1972; Pitt and Hocking, 2009), and single spore method by colony characteristics after their culture on different culture media (Pitt, 1973; Pitt and Hocking, 2009).

Identification of strains producing mycotoxins

The strains of *A. flavus* and *A. ochraceus* identified were reseeded separately on 50 ml of yeast extract sucrose (YES) medium. After 14 days of incubation at $27 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, the biomass formed is removed by filtering the medium through Whatman filter paper No. 01. The 50 ml of the filtrate are added to 100 ml of chloroform, the mixture is thoroughly stirred for 10 min and then allowed to settle by using a separating funnel. This operation is repeated by adding successively 50 and 30 ml of solvent to the aqueous phase recovered at each separation. The chloroform phase thus obtained is filtered through Whatman paper No. 01 and then concentrated by evaporation under vacuum using a rotary evaporator type (Heidolph efficient Laborota 4000) until a volume of 2 to 3 ml.

Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) is performed on a silica gel plate (silica gel 60 F254). The plate is then placed in a chromatographic tank dipped in a mixture of elution solvent consisting of toluene, ethyl acetate and formic acid with volume (5: 4: 1), respectively. After migration and evaporation of the elution product dry, the plate is examined under a UV lamp at a wavelength of 365 nm (Frayssinet and Cahagnier, 1982).

Evaluation of antifungal and antimycotoxigenic activity of organic extracts

The study of the antifungal and antimycotoxigenic activity of methanol and aqueous extracts were tested against two species *A. ochraceus* and *A. flavus* on YES medium in order to be able to extract the mycotoxins produced. On an individual basis, each of

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Table 1. Extraction yields (%) and phytochemical screening of *C. colocynthis* seeds.

Extract	Extraction yields (%)	Phytochemical substance						
		Flavonoid	Steroid	Alkaloid	Anthraquinon	Coumarin	Saponosid	Tannin
Methanol	4.89	+	+	+	-	-	+	+
Aqueous	2.72	+	+	+	-	-	-	+

+, Presence; -, absence.

Table 2. Identification of *Aspergillus ochraceus* and *Aspergillus flavus* by single spore method.

Genera species	Medium	Reading (Color)
<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	MEA 25°C	Pistachio green
	CYA 37°C	Dark brown
	G25N 25°C	Greenish yellow
	AFAP	Orange back
<i>Aspergillus ochraceus</i>	MEA 25°C	Yellow gold
	CYA 37°C	Yellow
	G25N 25°C	Yellow

the two extracts (*C. colocynthis* seeds) was added to 50 ml of YES medium but to varying final concentrations are in the order of 1 to 25 mg/ml. After rigorous agitation, different media are inoculated with discs of 0.6 cm of diameter containing youth cultures of 3 to 7 days of *A. ochraceus* and *A. flavus*. Control tests are made for strains and for each test series (Ezzat and Sarhan, 1991; Al-Rahmah et al., 2011). After an incubation period of 14 days at 27 ± 2°C, the same steps mentioned above for the extraction and the revelation of mycotoxins have been followed. The biomass of the filtered mycelium was determined after drying at 70°C for 4 days till their weights remains constant. The percentage inhibition is calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage of mycelial inhibition} = \left[\frac{C - T}{C} \right] \times 100$$

Where, C and T are the mycelial dry weight (mg) in control and treatment, respectively.

RESULTS

Extraction yield and phytochemical screening

The calculation of the chemical extractions yields relative to the total weight of the dry powder used displayed in Table 1 shows that the *C. colocynthis* seeds gave dry extracts masses greater than 1 g/100 g seed powder. From the point of view profitability by weight, methanolic extract gave the highest proportions by comparing it with the aqueous extract. On same Table 1, the qualitative chemical analysis tests that are designed to demonstrate the different phytochemical families existing in both extracts revealed a slight difference in the composition of the extracts. This difference is noticed by the lack of saponins which are absent in the aqueous extract while they are present in the methanol extract. Both extract

react negatively with tests revealing anthraquinons and coumarins, whereas for other photochemical tests, the two types of extracts reacted positively.

Identification of fungal strains

The different microscopic and macroscopic aspects of both fungal strains searched are demonstrated in Figures 1 and 2. The aspects of fungal colonies of the same strains by single spore method on different culture media are shown in Table 2. The results revealed strains producing mycotoxins on TLC which showed that the strain *A. flavus* is producing AFB1 and strain *A. ochraceus* is producing the OTA.

Antifungal and antimycotoxigenic activity of organic extracts

The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum fungicidal concentration (MFC) were employed by poisoned food technique to assess fungistatic and fungicidal properties of the effective plant extract. As illustrated in Figure 3, the inhibitory plant extracts showed that the fungal strain *A. ochraceus* is very sensitive to both types of extracts. Beyond 15 mg/ml of methanol extract and 20 mg/ml of aqueous extract, the latter did not develop biomass in YES medium. Transplanting these mycelial discs that could not grow in the presence of extracts on other PDA medium (without extracts) did not provide any radial growth after 14 days of incubation at 25 ± 2°C, which explains that CMF is 15 mg/ml for

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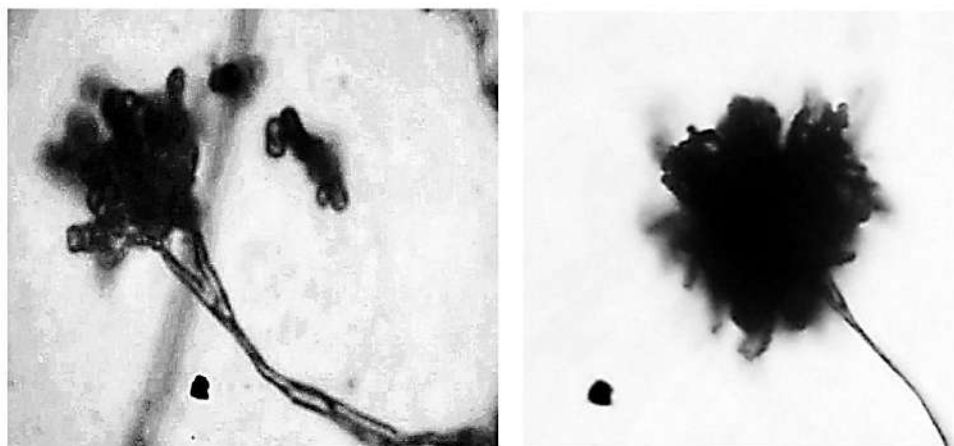


Figure 1. Identification of the genus *Aspergillus* by micro-culture method.

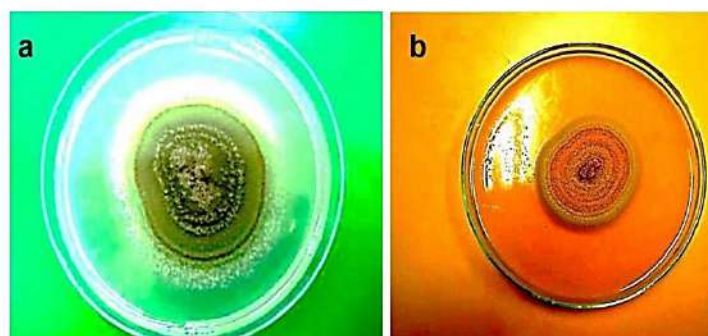


Figure 2. Identification of fungal species by Single Spore method. a, Colonies of *Aspergillus flavus* on PDA medium; b, colonies of *Aspergillus ochraceus* on PDA medium.

methanolic extract and 20 mg/ml for the aqueous extract. MICs are 10 mg/ml and 15 mg/ml for methanolic and aqueous extract, respectively. Below these two concentrations, the antifungal activity begins to decrease. Figure 4 showed that the strain *A. flavus* has proved highly resistant to two extracts of *C. colocynthis* seeds and no antifungal activity was recorded.

The results displayed in Table 3 achieve the last objective of this study by demonstrating that methanol and aqueous extracts tested against *A. flavus* to determine the power synthesis inhibitor of AFB1 showed no inhibitory activity against this toxin and TLC revealed the presence of a similar spot to the standard of pure AFB1 (Figure 5). For antiochratoxigenic activity (Table 3), methanol extract was able to reduce the synthesis of OTA produced by *A. ochraceus* from 10 mg/ml of extract in the YES medium explained by the reduction of the size

of the spot toxin on the TLC plate. For the aqueous extract, the TLC detected a reduction of the synthesis of the toxin produced from 15 mg/ml of extract in the medium. At 15 mg/ml of methanol extract and 20 mg/ml aqueous extract, OTA was not detected on the TLC plate (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

Fungi are ubiquitous in the environment, and infection due to fungal pathogens which has become more common. The genus *Aspergillus* is widely distributed in nature and its species are among the most common destroyers of foodstuffs and grains during storage. It includes species that may damage crops in the field or cause post-harvest decay (Sun et al., 2012). In addition, the

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Table 3. Antimycotoxigenic activities of methanol and aqueous extracts of *C. colocynthis* seeds.

Parameter	Concentrations (mg/ml)						
	0	1	5	10	15	20	25
Production of AFB ₁ in the presence of Me. E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Production of AFB ₁ in the presence of Aq. E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Production of OTA in the presence of Me. E	+	+	+	-/+	-	-	-
Production of OTA in the presence of Aq. E	+	+	+	+	-/+	-	-

AFB₁, Aflatoxine B₁, OTA, ochratoxine A; Me. E, methanol extract; Aq. E, aqueous extract; +, presence; -, absence.

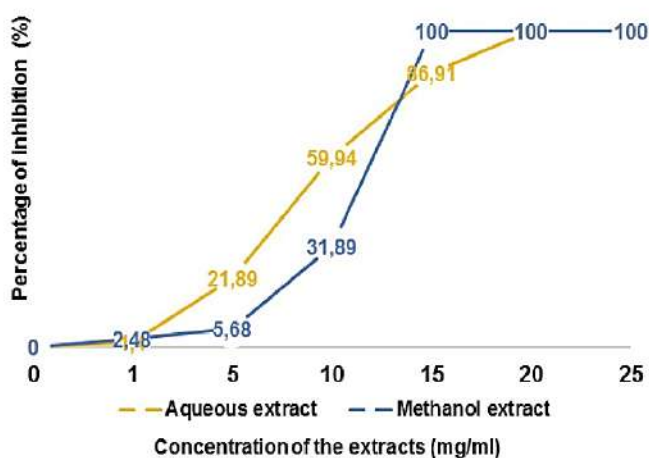


Figure 3. Antifungal activity of methanol and aqueous extracts against *Aspergillus ochraceus* on YES medium.

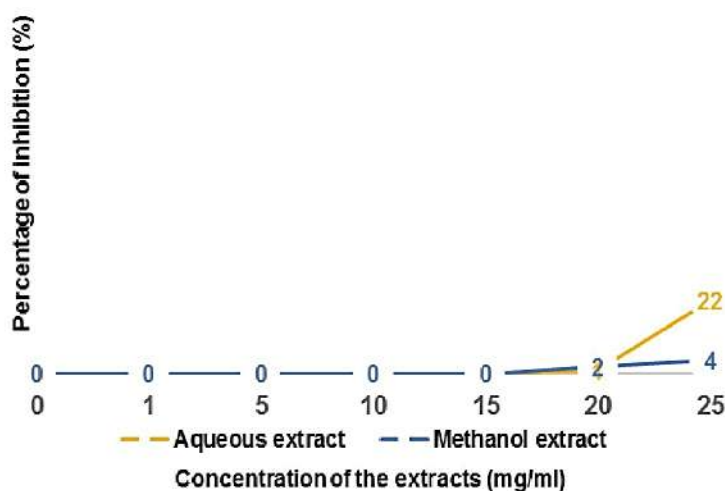


Figure 4. Antifungal activity of methanol and aqueous extracts against *Aspergillus flavus* on YES medium.

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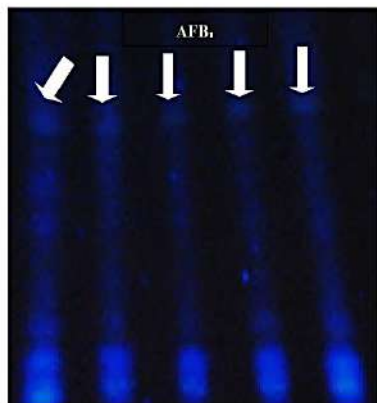


Figure 5. Antiaflatoxigenic activity of methanol extracts against *Aspergillus flavus*.

genus products mycotoxins and studies in the last decade have emphasized its toxicogenic properties. Indeed, the palette adverse effects of mycotoxins on the human and animal health is very extensive and sometimes unknown (Brochard and Le Bacle, 2009; Cynthia et al., 2012). Besides, acute toxic effects or chronic hemorrhagic, immunotoxic, hepatotoxic, nephrotoxic, neurotoxic and teratogenic, some mycotoxins have shown mutagenic and carcinogenic effects in laboratory animals and humans (Korhonen et al., 2012).

Over the last decades, concerns were expressed about the increasing prevalence of pathogenic fungi that are resistant and more precisely those producing mycotoxins. But the problem posed by the high cost and the increased toxic side effects of some synthetic substances coupled with their failure to be treated cannot be underestimated. For this reason, this last decade witnessed increased intensive studies of extracts and biologically active compounds isolated from natural plants (Mabrouk, 2012; Elamathi et al., 2012).

Despite numerous studies on the use of colocynth in the culinary field and that of traditional medicine, little work has been done on the antifungal effect of *C. colocynthis* seeds against fungal strains spoilage of the physicochemical and mycological quality of stored wheat (Gacem et al., 2013). Facing this situation, the aim of this work was to evaluate *in vitro* the antifungal and antimycotoxigenic potential of *C. colocynthis* seeds against toxigenic fungi producing mycotoxins namely *A. flavus* and *A. ochraceus* in order to check possible inhibition activity.

The extraction method performed on the powder of *C. colocynthis* seeds conducted at an ambient temperature can extract maximum compounds and prevent their denaturation or probable modification (Yagoub, 2008). The phytochemical screening of methanol and aqueous extracts reveal the richness of *C. colocynthis* seeds from

a qualitative point by secondary metabolites such as steroids, flavonoids, alkaloids and tannins. These compounds have been reported in the *C. colocynthis* by several studies (Gurudeeban et al., 2010; Adebayo-Tayo et al., 2010).

Outcomes related to phytochemical screening of the last class of secondary metabolites show that the alkaloids are present in both extracts from seeds of *C. colocynthis*. This result is confirmed by Sultan et al. (2010) and Benariba et al. (2013) who detected the alkaloids in seeds of this species and Marzouk et al. (2010) who showed that the seeds of *C. colocynthis* contain 1.64 mg of alkaloid per 100g of material dry. The absence of anthraquinones is cited in the study of Suman (2010).

Ethanol and aqueous extracts from *C. colocynthis* leaves and fruits contain alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides and saponosides (Najafi et al., 2010). Likewise, the entire *C. colocynthis* plants contain 1.39 mg flavonoids, 0.52 mg saponosides, 1.64 mg alkaloids, 1.64 mg phenolic compounds and 30.12 mg ascorbic acid per 100 g (Sultan et al., 2010). Another study by Gill et al. (2011) documented the presence of alkaloids, steroids, terpenoids, flavonoids, as well as coumarins, glycosides in methanolic and hydromethanolic extracts of *C. colocynthis* seeds. The polyphenol compounds, represented in majority by tannins and flavonoids, are presently a major axis of research, because they are considered as potent antioxidants, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, antiviral and anti-cancer agents (Oliver Chen and Blumberg, 2008).

For instance, Afifi et al. (1973) reported the presence in the whole plant of three alkaloids ($C_{10}H_{15}NO_3$, $C_{20}H_{32}NO$ and $C_{16}H_{24}NO_7$). Hatam et al. (1990) documented the presence of two sterols ($C_{29}H_{48}O$ and $C_{29}H_{50}O$) in a *C. colocynthis* fruits collected in Basra area in Iraq. Thus, *C. colocynthis* contain flavonoids such as quercetin, myricetin and kaemferol (Oliver Chen and Blumberg, 2008).

Several study identified cucurbitacins in a methanol extract of *C. colocynthis* fruits (Sonja and Hermann, 2000; Seger et al., 2005; Nayab et al., 2006). Such cucurbitacins are relevant to the bitterness and toxicity of the plants, as well as their anti-inflammatory, purgative and anti-cancer activities, such as the inhibition of cell adhesion resulting from the cytoskeleton destabilizing in cancer cells exposed to cucurbitacin E (Jian et al., 2005).

Incidentally, minor differences between the results of distinct studies could be related to differences in local climate and soil composition. The distribution of phytoconstituents such as saponins, tannins, flavonoids and alkaloids, may also vary in distinct parts of *C. colocynthis*, in leaves, fruits, roots and seeds. The study of Gacem et al. (2013) revealed a good activity against strains of *Aspergillus*. The tests of antifungal activities of colocynth in YES medium against strains *A. flavus* and *A. ochraceus* isolated from wheat stored revealed effective-

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ness of methanol extract of the seeds of this plant against *A. ochraceus*. The experiment revealed that the methanol extract has a more antagonistic effect than the aqueous extract. This effect is explained by the high yield of methanolic extraction, which is due to the presence of bioactive substances with high quantity. This strong antifungal activity of methanol extract was also reported by several authors (Hadizadeh et al., 2009; Gurudeeban et al., 2010; Gacem et al., 2013).

Chang et al. (2008) and Abdel Ghani et al. (2008) join the antifungal activity of extracts from *C. colocynthis* seeds with bioactive substances of the plant. The power of these phytochemicals compounds to exert higher activity is depending to their concentrations in the extracts (Yan et al., 2008). Among the phytochemicals compounds with antifungal activity, mainly cites alkaloids, polyphenols and steroids (Yan et al., 2008; Oliver Chen and Blumberg, 2008). The antifungal activity of the extracts of the plant depends on its composition, the plant organ to be tested, the nature of the extract and the fungal strains selected (Veldhuizen et al., 2006; Dan et al., 1998).

Several studies have been conducted to understand the mechanism action of plant extracts. Many researchers attribute this feature to phenolic compounds. These compounds can interfere with bio-membranes causing cell damage and causing leakage of cellular materials and finally the death of microorganisms (Veldhuizen et al., 2006; Abdel Ghani et al., 2008). This is a possible mechanism by which the mycelial growth can be reduced or completely inhibited by the effect of extracts acting on the function and structure of the cell membrane. Saponins are a special class of glycosides with a soapy characteristic and very good antifungal activity (Sikkema et al., 1995).

Flavonoids are also responsible for the inhibition of resistant microbes. They are responsible for the scavenging process or chelators and may disrupt microbial membranes. Furthermore, alkaloids contain a detoxifying effect and have a very good antifungal activity (Kessler et al., 2003). Terpens (steroids) affect not only the permeability but also other functions in cell membranes. These compounds can penetrate cell membranes, enter the interior of the cell, and interact with critical sites such as intracellular enzymes and proteins, leading to cell death (Omidbeygi et al., 2007).

The extracts obtained from the upper parts of plants have the ability to suppress the growth of toxigenic fungi and therefore toxin production (Thanaboripat et al., 1997). They can also completely block the biosynthesis of mycotoxins while fungal growth is not affected (Bhatnagar and McCormick, 1988). These seed extracts of *C. colocynthis* are less important relative to the extracts of *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Olea europea* and *Thymus vulgaris* described in the study of Al-Rahmah et al. (2011), which proved a complete inhibition of AFB1 synthesis and the study of El-Nagerabi et al. (2012) who

demonstrated the effect of *Hibiscus sabdariffa* extract and *Nigella sativa* oil for inhibiting the synthesis of AFB1. The phenolic compounds of *C. colocynthis* seeds cannot inhibit the biosynthesis steps of AFB1, explained by their absence in the lipids of the fungal cell wall membrane and mitochondria, disturbing their structure and rendering them more permeable. Leaking of ions and other cell contents can then occur (Cox et al., 2000; Burt, 2004).

Contrariwise, the methanolic extract of *C. colocynthis* seeds showed a very good inhibition of OTA and this extract is ranked higher than other extract as *Ferronia eluhantum*, *Lawsona innermis* and *Azadirachta indica* causing a reduction of the synthesis only (Warke et al., 2006). The use of this extract is best looked for other substances that have the same effect such as 4-hydroxy-3-(p-toluoyl)-6-(p-tolil)-2H-pyran-2-one (DHT) and 5-bromo-4-hydroxy-3-(p-toluoyl)-6-(p-tolil)-2H-pyran-2-one (BrDHT) (Durakovic et al., 1989). The advantage of herbal extracts is their bioactivity, a feature that makes them attractive for the protection of stored products such as cereals against fungal attack.

Conclusion

The results obtained are encouraging and confirm the value of the use of *C. colocynthis* seeds as an antifungal agent and in biotechnology as a preservative for the fight against toxigenic fungi and their mycotoxins. It is therefore interesting to continue this study in order to determine the mode of action of extracts on mold.

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II.3. Activité antimycotoxinogène et antifongiques des graines de *Citrullus colocynthis* contre *Aspergillus flavus* et *Aspergillus ochraceus* contaminant le blé tendre stocké.

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Conclusion générale et perspectives

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L'objectif de notre travail est la recherche des activités antifongique, antibactérienne, antioxydante et antimycotoxinogène des extraits méthanolique et aqueux de *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Artemisia herba alba*, des graines de *Citrullus colocynthis* et d'un isolat d'actinobactérie.

Les examens phytochimiques effectués ont permis de constater que les trois plantes médicinales sont une source privilégiée de molécules biologiquement actives. Parmi ces composés, les polyphénols sont représentés par les tanins hydrolysables, les flavonoïdes et les saponosides. Les stéroïdes et les alcaloïdes y sont aussi présents.

L'étude de l'activité antifongique des extraits des trois plantes étudiées a révélé une excellente activité antifongique des extraits méthanolique et aqueux de *C. colocynthis* et d'*A. herba-alba* liée à leur richesse en composés bioactifs largement répandus dans les plantes médicinales. L'extrait méthanolique possède une activité fongicide sur la majorité des souches fongiques sélectionnées à l'exception d'*A. flavus* et *A. parasiticus* qui se sont révélées résistantes. Une activité antiradicalaire remarquable des extraits organiques des trois plantes médicinales a été mise en évidence.

Selon les résultats de l'identification phénotypique et génotypique basé sur l'ARNr 16S, l'isolat d'actinobactérie désigné V₀₀₂ appartient au genre *Streptomyces*.

Les extraits bruts de la souches V₀₀₂ ont montré une importante activité antibactérienne contre les bactéries à Gram négatif. Ils ont aussi une excellente activité antioxydante.

Le fractionnement des extrait obtenus de l'isolat V₀₀₂ par HPLC et la détection des composés actifs par LC-MS laissent constater que la souche V₀₀₂ peut être considérée comme nouvelle productrice de spectinabiline, d'undecylprodigiosine et de metacycloprodigiosine.

Les extraits bruts d'*A. herba-alba* et des graines de *Citrullus colocynthis* testés montrent une activité antimycotoxinogène élevée puisqu'ils ont pu atteindre les sites de synthèse des toxines. Les extraits des deux plantes ont inhibé la synthèse d'ochratoxine A produite par *Aspergillus ochraceus* isolée du blé.

Les extraits des plantes médicinales et de l'isolat V₀₀₂ peuvent donc constituer une nouvelle stratégie de décontamination pour la lutte contre les mycotoxines.

Les résultats présentés dans cette thèse, ont permis de mieux comprendre l'importance des trois plantes et de la souche d'actinobactérie isolée dans la lutte contre les bactéries et des moisissures pathogènes.

Par ailleurs, l'étude réalisée a révélé le rôle des extraits organique en tant qu'agent antioxydant permettant de minimiser le stress oxydatif dans la cellule.

A l'issue de cette étude et afin d'élucider certains points restés peu claires, il apparaît nécessaire d'effectuer d'autres études approfondies qui se résument dans les points suivants :

- Identification moléculaire des souches fongiques isolées du blé tendre ;
- une étude *in vivo* pour obtenir une vue globale sur l'activité antifongique et antibactérienne des extraits testés ;
- extraction et caractérisation des composés actifs des trois plantes par des méthodes plus spécifiques ;
- réalisation d'une étude toxicologique avant toute application des extraits ;
- recherche de l'activité antioxydante de chaque fraction ;
- synthèse de nanoparticules vertes avec les molécules bioactives des extraits afin d'améliorer les activités biologiques des molécules bioactives.

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Annexe

Composition des milieux de culture

Milieu PDA (Potatoes Dextrose agar)

Pomme de terre (macération 500ml de filtrat)	200 g
Dextrose	10 g
Agar	15 g
Eau distillée	1000 ml

Milieu CDA (Czapek Dox Agar)

Sucrose	30 g
KH ₂ PO ₄	1 g
KCL	0.5 g
MgSO ₄	0.5 g
FeSO ₄	0.01 g
NaNO ₃	3 g
Agar	15 g
Eau distillée	1000 ml

(Czapek Concentre)

NaNO ₃	30 g
KCL	5 g
MgSO ₄	5 g
FeSO ₄	0.1 g
Eau distillée	100 ml

Milieu MEA (Malt Extract Agar)

Matière Sèche	50 g
Agar	5 g
Eau distillée	1000 ml

Milieu YES (Yeast Extract Sucrose)

Sucrose	40 g
Extrait de Levure	20 g
Eau distillée	1000 ml

Milieu CYA (Czapek Yeast Agar)

Czapek Concentre	10 ml
KH ₂ PO ₄	1 g
Extrait de levure	5 g
Sucrose	30 g
Agar	15 g
Eau distillée	1000 ml

Milieu G25N (25 % Glycérol Nitrate Agar)

KH ₂ PO ₄	0.75 g
Czapek Concentre	7.5 ml
Extrait de levure	3.7 g
glycerol	250 g
Agar	12 g
Eau distillée	750 ml

Milieu AFPA (Milieu Selectif pour *A. flavus* et *A. parasiticus*)

Extrait de levure	20 g
peptone	10 g
Citrate ferrique ammoniacal	0.5 g
chloramphenicol	0.1 g
Dichloran solution ethaolique à 0.2%	1 ml
Agar	15 g
Eau distillée	1000 ml

Eau physiologique

NaCl	9 g
Eau distillée	1000 ml

Lactophenol

Phénol pur cristallisé	20 g
Acide lactique	20 ml
Glycérol pur	20 ml
Eau distillée	40 ml

Rose Bengal

Rose bengal	1 g
Eau distillée	100 ml

Bleu de coton

Lactophénol bleu de méthylène	0,5 g
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Starch Casein Agar medium

Soluble starch	10.00 g
Casein	0.30 g
KNO ₃	2.00 g
MgSO ₄ .7H ₂ O	0.05 g
K ₂ HPO ₄	2.00 g
NaCl	2.00 g
CaCO ₃	0.02 g
FeSO ₄ .7H ₂ O	0.01 g
Agar	18.00 g
Eau distillée	1000 ml

GYM (Agar) medium

Glucose	4.0 g
Yeast extract	4.0 g
Malt extract	10.0 g
CaCO ₃	2.0 g
Agar	12.0 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml

GYM (Broth) medium

Glucose	4.0 g
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Yeast extract	4.0 g
Malt extract	10.0 g
CaCO ₃	2.0 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml

ISP2 medium

Yeast extract	4.0 g
Malt extract	10.0 g
Dextrose	4.0 g
Agar	20.0 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml

ISP3 medium

Oat Meal	20.00 g
Agar	18.000 g
Adjust pH to 7.2. Cook or steam 20.0 g in 1000.0 ml distilled water for 20 min. Filter through cheese cloth. Add 18.0 g agar and make up to 1000.0 ml.	
Add 1 ml of trace salts solution:	
FeSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	0.1 g/100ml
MnCl ₂ x 4 H ₂ O	0.1 g/100ml
ZnSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	0.1 g/100ml

ISP4 medium

Soluble starch	10.0 g
(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	1 g
CaCO ₃	2.0 g
K ₂ HPO ₄	1.0 g
MgSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	1.0 g
NaCl	1.0 g
Agar	20 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml

ISP5 medium

L-asparagine (anhydrous basis)	1.0 g
Agar 20.0 g	
Glycerol	10.0 g
K ₂ HPO ₄ (anhydrous basis)	1.0 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml
Trace salts solution:	1.0 ml
FeSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	1 g/100ml
MnCl ₂ x 4 H ₂ O	1 g/100ml
ZnSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	1 g/100ml
pH 7.2	

ISP6 medium

Peptone	15.00 g
Proteose Peptone	5.00 g
Ferric Ammonium Citrate	0.50 g
Dipotassium Phosphate	1.00 g
Sodium Thiosulfate	0.08 g

Yeast Extract	1.00 g
Agar	20.00 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml

ISP7 medium

L-Asparagine	1.00 g
L-Tyrosine	0.50 g
Glycerol	15 g
K ₂ HPO ₄	0.5 g
NaCl	0.5 g
FeSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	0.01 g
Trace salt solution:	1 ml
Distilled water	1000.0 ml
pH 7.3	

**Synthetically Sulter Medium (SST)
Production of melanoid pigment**

Glycerol	15 g
Tyrosine	1 g
L-arginine	5 g
L-glutamic acid	5 g
L-methionine	0.3 g
L-isoleucine	0.3 g
K ₂ HPO ₄	0.5 g
MgSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	0.2 g
Agar	20 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml
Trace element solution:	1.0 ml
CuSO ₄ x 5 H ₂ O	10 g
CaCl ₂ x 2 H ₂ O	10 g
FeSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	10 g
ZnSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	10 g
MnSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	40 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml
pH 7.2	

Control medium is prepared without tyrosine

Medium 5294 metabolite production

Soluble starch	10 g
Yeast extract	2 g
Glucose	10 g
Glycerol	10 g
Corn steep liquor	2.5 g
Peptone	2 g
NaCl	1 g
CaCO ₃	3 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml
pH 7.2	

Medium 5254 metabolite production

Glucose	15 g
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Soymeal	15 g
Corn steep	5 g
CaCO ₃	2 g
NaCl	5 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml
pH 7.2	

Basal medium for carbohydrate utilization

(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	2.64 g
K ₂ HPO ₄	4.31 g
KH ₂ PO ₄	2.38 g
MgSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	1 g
Agar	15 g

Trace element solution:

CuSO ₄ x 5 H ₂ O	0.64 g
FeSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	0.11 g
ZnSO ₄ x 7 H ₂ O	0.15 g
MnCl ₂ x 4 H ₂ O	0.79 g
Distilled water	1000.0 ml
pH 7.3	

- Carbohydrates solutions with 10% of the 10 carbohydrates (2.4) are prepared.
- After autoclaving, 100ml of one of the sterile filtrated carbohydrate solutions are added (2.4)

Sodium chlorite tolerance

Casein peptone	10 g
Yeast extract	5 g
Agar	20 g
Distilled water	
pH 7	

Screening phytochimique et activités antifongique et antibactérienne des substances bioactives de plantes médicinales et d'actinomyètes prélevées des sols sahariens.

Résumé

L'objectif de ce travail est de mettre en évidence l'intérêt biologique de trois plantes médicinales et d'un isolat d'actinobactérie dans le contrôle de quelques souches bactériennes et fongiques ainsi que l'inhibition de la synthèse de quelques mycotoxines.

Pistacia lentiscus, *Citrullus colocynthis*, *Artemisia herba-alba* et un isolat d'actinobactérie forestière ont été sélectionnés pour évaluer leur activités antibactérienne, antifongique, antimycotoxinogène et antioxydante. Les trois plantes sont prélevées des régions steppique et saharienne de l'Algérie. Les résultats du screening phytochimique ont révélé la richesse des trois espèces végétales en substances bioactives. Les résultats des tests biologiques suggèrent que les extraits méthanolique et aqueux d'*A. herba-alba* sont dotés d'une excellente activité antifongique contre *F. graminearum* CECT 2150, *A. ochraceus* NRRL 3174 et *P. expansum* CECT 2278. La synthèse d'ochratoxine est significativement inhibée par les extraits méthanoliques d'*A. herba-alba* et des graines de *C. colocynthis*. L'activité antioxydante des extraits organiques des trois plantes est démontrée.

L'actinobactérie est isolée d'un sol forestier de la région de Saida. L'identification moléculaire à base d'ARNr 16S a révélé que l'isolat d'actinobactérie désigné V₀₀₂ appartient au genre *Streptomyces*. Cette souche est considérée comme nouvelle espèce productrice de spectinabiline, d'undecylprodigiosine et de metacycloprodigiosine. La souche *Streptomyces* sp. V₀₀₂ est considérée comme un producteur prometteur de prodigiosine. Elle est également considérée comme agent antimicrobien efficace en raison de son rôle important dans l'inhibition des bactéries à Gram positif. Les métabolites secondaires de cette souche ont une puissante capacité antioxydante dans l'inhibition d'ABTS et le piégeage de DPPH.

Les métabolites secondaires de *P. lentiscus*, *C. colocynthis*, *A. herba-alba* et de la souche V₀₀₂ représentent une alternative prometteuse pour éliminer certains microbes pathogènes. Ils sont aussi considérés comme agents détoxifiant permettant d'éliminer certaines mycotoxines. L'excellente activité antioxydante des extraits leur confère une place importante dans le traitement des maladies causées par le stress oxydatif.

Mots-clés : *Pistacia lentiscus*; *Citrullus colocynthis*; *Artemisia herba-alba*; Actinobactérie; Activité antioxydante; Activité antibactérienne; Activité antifongique; Spectinabiline. Undecylprodigiosine. Metacycloprodigiosine.

Phytochemical screening and antifungal and antibacterial activity of bioactive substances from medicinal plants and actinomycetes collected from Saharan soils.

Abstract

The aim of this work is to demonstrate the biological interest of three medicinal plants and an isolate of actinobacteria in the control of certain bacterial and fungal strains as well as the inhibition of the synthesis of certain mycotoxins.

Pistacia lentiscus, *Citrullus colocynthis*, *Artemisia herba-alba* and a forest actinobacterium were selected to assess their antibacterial, antifungal, antimycotoxin and antioxidant activities. The three plants are collected from the steppes and the Saharan regions of Algeria. The results of the phytochemical screening revealed the richness of the three medicinal plant species in bioactive substances. The results of biological tests suggest that the methanolic and aqueous extracts of *A. herba-alba* have a significant antifungal activity against *F. graminearum* CECT 2150, *A. ochraceus* NRRL 3174 and *P. expansum* CECT 2278. Ochratoxin synthesis is significantly inhibited by methanolic extracts from *A. herba-alba* and *C. colocynthis* seeds. The antioxidant activity of organic extracts from the three plants has been demonstrated.

The actinobacterium is isolated from forest soil in the Saida region. Molecular identification using 16S rRNA revealed that the actinobacterium isolate designated V₀₀₂ belongs to the genus *Streptomyces*. This strain is considered to be a new species producing spectinabilin, undecylprodigiosin and metacycloprodigiosin. The strain *Streptomyces* sp. V₀₀₂ is considered as a promising producer of prodigiosin. It is also considered to be an effective antimicrobial agent due to its important role in inhibiting Gram-positive bacteria. The secondary metabolites of this strain have a potent antioxidant capacity to inhibit ABTS and scavenge DPPH.

The secondary metabolites of *P. lentiscus*, *C. colocynthis*, *A. herba-alba* and strain V₀₀₂ represent a promising alternative to eliminate certain pathogenic microbes. They are also considered to be detoxifying agents which eliminate certain mycotoxins. The excellent antioxidant activity of the extracts gives them an important place in the treatment of diseases caused by oxidative stress.

Keywords: *Pistacia lentiscus*; *Citrullus colocynthis*; *Artemisia herba-alba*; Actinobacterium; Antioxidant activity; Antibacterial activity; Antifungal activity; Spectinabilin; Undecylprodigiosin; Metacycloprodigiosin.

تشخيص المكونات الكيميائية النباتية والنشاطات الحيوية المضادة للفطريات والبكتيريا لبعض المواد الحيوية المستخلصة من النباتات الطبية ونوع من بكتيريا التربة (الأكثينوبكتيريا) المأخوذة من تربة الصحراء.

الملخص

الهدف من إنجاز هذا العمل هو إظهار الفوائد البيولوجية لثلاث أنواع من النباتات الطبية وكذا عزل الأكثينوبكتيريا وذلك من أجل مكافحة بعض السلالات البكتيرية والفطرية الضارة وكذلك تثبيط بعض السموم الفطرية.

تم اختيار شجرة الصنوبر، فاكهة الحنظل وعشبة الشبوح إضافة إلى عزل الأكثينوبكتيريا وذلك من أجل دراسة وتقييم أنشطتها المضادة للبكتيريا، للفطريات، لسموم بعض الفطريات وكذلك لتقييم نشاطها الحيوي المضاد للأكسدة. تم جمع النباتات الطبية الثلاث من مناطق السهوب والصحراء الجزائرية. أظهرت نتائج الفحص الكيميائي النباتي ثراء النباتات الطبية بالمواد البيوكيميائية النشطة، كما تشير نتائج الاختبارات البيولوجية إلى أن المستخلصات الميثانولية والمائية لنبات الشبوح لها نشاط بيولوجي كبير مضاد للفطر

F. graminearum CECT 2150, *A. ochraceus* NRRL 3174, *P. expansum* CECT 2278

تشير نتائج الاختبارات البيولوجية أيضا إلى أن المستخلصات الميثانولية لبذور الحنظل وعشبة الشبوح لها القدرة على تثبيط السموم الفطرية (الأكراتوكسين)، كما تم إثبات النشاطات المضادة للأكسدة للمستخلصات العضوية للنباتات الطبية الثلاثة.

تم عزل الأكثينوبكتيريا من تربة غابة العقبان لولاية سعيدة حيث كشف التحديد الجيني باستخدام ARNr 16S إلى أن الأكثينوبكتيريا المعزولة V₀₀₂ تنتمي إلى سلالة *Streptomyces* تعتبر هذه البكتيريا كمنتج جديد لسبيكتينابيلين، وندسيل وبروديجوسين وميتاسيكولوبروديجوسين. كما تعتبر أيضا عاملاً فعالاً مضاداً للميكروبات نظراً لدورها المهم في تثبيط البكتيريا Gram+. تحتوي المستخلصات الثانوية لهذه البكتيريا مضادات للأكسدة

تمثل المستخلصات الثانوية للنباتات الطبية الثلاث وكذا المستخلصات الثانوية للأكثينوبكتيريا المعزولة بديلاً واعداً للقضاء على بعض الميكروبات المسببة للأمراض، كما تعتبر أيضاً عوامل محفزة للقضاء على الفطريات أو تثبيط سمومها. يمنح النشاط الممتاز المضاد للأكسدة للمستخلصات مكافئاً مهماً في علاج الأمراض الناتجة عن الإجهاد التأكسدي.

الكلمات المفتاحية : شجرة الصنوبر، فاكهة الحنظل، عشبة الشبوح، الأكثينوبكتيريا، مضاد للفطر، مضاد للبكتيريا، مضاد للأكسدة، سبيكتينابيلين، نندسيل وبروديجوسين، ميتاسيكولوبروديجوسين.