

ANTIBACTERIAL AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITIES OF CRUDE EXTRACTS OF THREE TOGOLESE MEDICINAL PLANTS AGAINST ESBL *KLEBSIELLA PNEUMONIAE* STRAINS

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Abstract

Background: *Pithecellobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth., *Securidaca longepedunculata* Fresn and *Cryptolepis sanguinolenta* (Lindl.) Schltr are three plants widely used in the Togolese traditional medicine to treat microbial infections. Some studies reported their antibacterial activity alone but until now there is no data concerning their possible interaction with conventional antibiotics. The main objective of this study was to investigate the antibacterial activity of the association of the crude extracts of the three plants with some conventional antibiotics. We further evaluate the antioxidant and the anti-inflammatory activities of the extracts on rat's model.

Materials and methods: The antimicrobial activity was evaluated by the broth microdilution assay and the Fractional inhibitory concentrations (FIC) determined by the checkerboard method. The anti-inflammatory activity was evaluated using the Carrageenan-induced rat paw edema model. The antioxidant activities and the phenol contents were determined by spectrophotometry.

Results: The MICs of hydroethanolic extract of plants ranged from 3.125 to 100 mg/mL on *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains. Synergistic action was observed only with the combination of Imipenem/*P. dulce*, imipenem/*C. sanguinolenta*, amikacin/*P. dulce* and amikacin/*C. sanguinolenta* against the ESBL negative *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strain. Of the 21 associations, 15 were antagonistic on the ESBL-producing strains. The indifference effect was observed with the combination of the extract of *Securidaca longepedunculata* and the following antibiotics imipenem, amikacin, tetracyclin, ciprofloxacin, Cefotaxim; and Sulfametoxazol+Trimethoprim. The *in vitro* anti-inflammatory with Lipoxigenase inhibition activity was best with *C. sanguinolenta* extract while the *in vivo* paw edema model revealed that *S. longepedunculata* was the highest reducer of paw edema. In addition white blood cells count and biochemical parameters such as total proteins and immunoglobulins were significantly affected by the administration of plant extracts.

Conclusion: This study revealed that the three plants although they may inhibit the bacterial growth by themselves, but there is also a possible synergistic action with the commercial antibiotics. Further investigations are needed to identify the active compounds and their mechanism of action.

Keywords: antibiotics, extended-spectrum beta lactamase, plant extract, bacteria, Togo

Introduction

The discovery of antibiotics marked the advent of a new era in the modern medicine and many lives were saved. Unfortunately, the inadequate use of these drugs has been accompanied by the rapid emergence of resistant strains (Davies and Davies, 2010). The development of resistance in microbes has become a major public health problem requiring considerable effort to find a solution (Barbosa and Levy, 2000; N'Guessan *et al.*, 2007; Demain and Sanchez, 2009).

Beta-lactams remain the most common agents prescribed for the treatment of bacterial infections so they are the main object of resistance among Gram-negative bacteria worldwide (Shaikh *et al.*, 2015). However, because of their lower cost, oral use, lesser side effects and availability in the market, their use continues unabated (Adwan *et al.*, 2010). Clinically, the continuous emergence of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase producing bacteria (ESBL) has considerably reduced the effectiveness of the antibiotic arsenal and, therefore, increased the rate of therapeutic failures (Bradley and Arrieta, 2001). Some previous studies pointed out *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* as the leading Enterobacteriaceae producing beta-lactamase and then responsible for chronic infections (Delgado-Valverde *et al.*, 2013).

Pathogen invasion involves reactive local changes. The neighboring cells release antimicrobial agents to defend the host, leading to acute or chronic inflammation (Serhan *et al.*, 2005). Acute inflammation is a short-term process that is characterized by the classic signs of swelling, redness, pain, heat and loss of function - due to tissue infiltration by plasma and leukocytes (Kumar *et al.*, 2004). Polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNL) are essential innate immune cells that determine the resistance of the host to various bacterial and fungal infections. In the persistent state as infections caused by ESBLs, chronic inflammatory pathological conditions are established, and there is a continuous inflow of PMNLs (Porth *et al.*, 2011). Activated PMNL may alter serum proteins by producing cytolytic enzymes, oxygen free radicals and inflammatory mediators that cause extensive collateral damage to host tissues (Chen *et al.*, 2009; Rani *et al.*, 2013). Chronic inflammation leading to the production of reactive oxygen species and reactive nitrogen species may mediate diseases such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular, neurological and pulmonary disease (Reuter *et al.*, 2010, Brooker 2011).

During inflammatory reactions, pro- and anti-inflammatory mediators are produced. Some literature reports demonstrate a key regulatory role for lipoxygenases and their metabolites in many physiological processes, placing them at the center of many disease models (Wisastra and Dekker, 2014). Lipoxygenases are a group of oxidative enzymes with non-heme iron atom in their active site, involved in the regulation of inflammatory responses by generation of pro-inflammatory mediators known as leukotrienes or anti-inflammatory mediators known as lipoxins. These enzymes catalyze the insertion of oxygen in polyunsaturated fatty acids such as linoleic acid, linolenic acid and arachidonic acid to give hydroperoxides (Meriles *et al.*, 2000; Azila and Don, 2012; Chedea and Jisaka, 2013). Lipoxygenases are widely distributed in plants, fungi and animal tissues (Alfadda and Sallam, 2012; Kye and Huh, 2015).

Herbal medicines are being used increasingly and plants have become the focus of intense study in terms of alternatives for antimicrobial resistance and inflammatory pathological challenges (Adwan *et al.*, 2010). In Togo, traditional healers often use plant species such as *Pithecellobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth., *Securidaca longepedunculata* Fresn and *Cryptolepis sanguinolenta* (Lindl.) Schltdl for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, wounds, ears, malaria and many other health problems. The main objective of this study was to investigate the antibacterial activity of the association of the crude extracts of the three plants with some conventional antibiotics. We further evaluate the antioxidant and the anti-inflammatory activities of the extracts on rat's model.

Materials and Methods

Plants materials and extraction

The stem bark of *Pithecellobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth. (Mimosaceae) was collected around the University of Lomé. The roots of *Securidaca longepedunculata* Fres. (Polygalaceae) and *Cryptolepis sanguinolenta* (Lindl.) Schltdl (Periplocaceae/Asclepiadaceae) were purchased in the herbal market "Atikpodzi" of Lomé in November 2015. The plant materials were botanically authenticated at the department of plant science and ecology of the University of Lomé (Togo) where specimens were deposited (numbers: 7521FDS/UL, 9491 FDS/UL and TG201546 respectively). Plants samples were dried in laboratory at room temperature reduced into powder and submitted to percolation with ethanol-water (70:30, V/V) for 72 h. The extract was filtered through Whatman paper filter and evaporated to dryness under vacuum with an evaporator type Heidorph.

Animals

Wistar rats of both sexes weighing between 200 and 250g were provided by "Laboratoire de Microbiologie de Contrôle de Qualité des Denrées Alimentaires", University of Lomé. The animals were fed with standard pellets. They were kept under alternative cycle of 12 hours of light and darkness (Baker *et al.*, 1979). The Institutional Animal Ethical Committee approved the protocol of the study.

Chemicals and media

Folin Ciocalteu-reagent, NaH_2PO_4 , Na_2HPO_4 , sodium carbonate, aluminum trichloride (AlCl_3), gallic acid and quercetin were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Chemie (Steinheim, Germany). 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), trichloroacetic acid, methanol, ethyl acetate and n-butanol were supplied by Fluka Chemie (Buchs, Switzerland). Potassium hexacyanoferrate [$\text{K}_3\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6$] was from Prolabo (Paris, France); ascorbic acid and iron trichloride (FeCl_3) were supplied by Labosi (Paris, France). All solvents and drugs used in this study were of analytical grade. All culture media were from BioRad or Bio Mérieux (France). Commercial antibiotics were from Bio Rad.

Microbial strains and culture media

The study microorganisms included fifty ESBL *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains and one strain of non ESBL *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolated from pathologic specimens notably urine pus and blood at the Polyclinique Wossinu-Gbogbo of Lomé, following the methods in force in the center. Briefly, urine and pus samples were directly seeded on the Eosin methylene Bleu agar (Biorad, France). The blood samples were used to inoculate vials of blood culture hemoline (Bio Mérieux, France) for at least seven days to detect the bacterial growth. Afterwards, the Gram staining was performed on the subcultures prior to the identification with the API 20E System (Bio Mérieux, France).

Susceptibility testing and detection of beta lactamases production on agar diffusion

The susceptibility to antibiotics was performed by agar disk diffusion and the results interpreted following the recommendations of the Antimicrobial susceptibility Committee of the French Society for Microbiology (SFM, 2015). The categorization criteria are defined as sensitive (S), intermediate (I) and resistant (R) for each antibiotic used. However, all intermediate strains were considered as resistant in this study. A total of 19 antibiotics : Amoxicillin+clavulanate (AMC), Cefalotin (CF), Cefotaxim (CTX), ceftazidim (CAZ) trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (SXT), gentamicin (GM), nalidixic acid (NA), Tobramycin (TM), Norfloxacin (NOR), ciprofloxacin (CIP), Netilmycin (NET), Imipenem (IPM), ceftiofloxacin (FOX), amikacin (AMK), Chloramphenicol (C), Kanamycin (K), Doxycyclin (DO), levofloxacin (LEV), Colistin (CL) were tested.

The production of ESBL was assayed by the double disk synergy technique described by Jarlier et al. (1988). The Amoxicillin+clavulanic acid disk (AMC) was deposited between third generation cephalosporins (C3G) disks namely ceftazidime, cefotaxime or ceftriaxone at a distance of 2 to 3 cm on Muller Hinton agar plate. After 18 to 24 hours incubation, the production of ESBL was revealed by the appearance of a characteristically inhibition zone between the AMC disk and those of C3G referred to as a “champagne-cork”.

Determination of MICs and MBCs

The minimum inhibitory concentration (MICs) and the minimum bactericidal concentration (MBCs) were determined using the 96 wells plate broth microdilution method recommended by National Committee for Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (NCCLS, 2002). Overnight colonies from bacterial strains were suspended in 0.9% NaCl to 0.5 Mac Farland standards (10^8 cfu/mL). These suspensions were diluted with Müller Hinton broth to a final bacterial load of 10^5 cfu/mL in the wells, containing ranges of concentrations of antibiotics or plant extracts. Imipenem (IMP), amikacin (AN), chloramphenicol (C), tetracycline (TE), ciprofloxacin (CIP) and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (SXT) were the tested antibiotics. After incubation of plates at 37°C during 24 hours, MICs were determined as the lowest concentration that inhibited visible bacterial growth in wells. Subculture was made from wells with no visible growth on nutrient agar and incubated under the same conditions to determine the MBC. This was defined as the lowest concentration that yielded no growth after subculturing. The ratio MBC/MIC was used to qualify the activity as bacteriostatic for $MBC > MIC$ and bactericide for equal values of MIC and MBC.

Fractional inhibitory concentration (FIC)

Effects of combination of plants extracts with antibiotics were assessed by the checkerboard test according to Fankam et al. 2011 on ESBL *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and non ESBL strains. The antibacterial combination concerned the MICs of each extract and “Imipenem (IPM), Chloramphenicol (C), Amikacin (AN), Tetracycline (TE), Cefotaxim (CTX), Sulfamethoxazole-Trimethoprim (SXT), Ciprofloxacin (CIP). Fractional inhibitory concentration (FIC) was then calculated by adding the FIC values of extracts and antibiotic ($FIC_E + FIC_A$). FIC_E and FIC_A values correspond to lowest concentrations of extracts and antibiotic presenting no growth.

Antioxidant activities

DPPH radical scavenging activity

The antioxidant activity of the extracts was assessed through their ability of scavenging stable radicals 2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH). This activity was determined using the stable radical DPPH, according to the method described by Velazquez et al. (2003). The assay was performed in triplicate using 96 micro-well plates (Nalge Nunc International, NY, USA). Aliquots of serial dilutions were made from extracts solution (10 mg/mL) in methanol by mixing 100 μ L of each specimen with 200 μ L of DPPH (20 mg/L in methanol). After 15 min of incubation in darkness at ambient temperature, the resultant absorbance was recorded at 517 nm with a spectrophotometer (EPOCH 251465, Biotek instruments USA Micro well plate Reader) against a blank well with 100 μ L methanol and 200 μ L of DPPH. The concentrations scavenging 50% of free radicals (IC_{50}) were determined by radicals scavenging activity percentage curves plotted from each extract by GraphPad Prism 6. Quercetin and Gallic acid were used as reference products. The percentage of absorbance inhibition was calculated according to the equation:

$$\%Inhibition = \frac{A_{control} - A_{sample}}{A_{control}} \times 100$$

FRAP: Fire Reducing Assay Power

The reducing power of extracts was determined according to method as described by Compaore *et al.* (2011). A reaction mixture consisting of 0.5 mL of extract, 1.25 mL of phosphate buffer (0.2 mol/L, pH 6.6) and 1.25 mL of aqueous potassium hexacyanoferrate (1%) was incubated for 30 min before the addition of TCA and centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes. In 96 micro-wells, the upper layer solution (125 μ L) was mixed with 125 μ L of H₂O and 25 μ L of FeCl₃ fresh solution. Ascorbic acid was used to produce the calibration curve by reading the absorbencies at 700 nm ($Y = 105.90 X - 8.71$; $r^2 > 0.99$; $P < 0.0001$). The iron (III) reducing activity of each sample was obtained from 2 independent triplet determinations and expressed in mgAAE/g of extract.

Deoxyribose degradation inhibitory assay

The extracts power to scavenge the hydroxyl radical was evaluated using the deoxyribose inhibition degradation test as described by Perjesi *et al.* (2011). The hydroxyl radical is produced *in situ* by iron sulfate which decomposes the hydrogen peroxide to hydroxyl radical attacking the deoxyribose (component of DNA) at 2' and causes the opening of the cycle with production of malonylaldehyde. This product forms with the thiobarbituric acid a pink complex.

A mixture was prepared with the sample (100 μ L, 1mg/mL) in phosphate buffer (50nM, pH 7.4), EDTA (100 μ L, 1.04 mM), ferrous sulfate (100 μ L, 100 mM); deoxyribose (100 μ L, 60 mM) and hydrogen peroxide (100 μ L, 10 mM). The volume was completed to 1 mL with phosphate buffer. The mixture was incubated at 37°C for 1 hour and 1 mL of trichloroacetic acid (15%), 1 mL of thiobarbituric acid (0.675% in 25 mMNaOH) were added and heat at 100°C for 15 min. After cooling in an ice bath for 5 minutes, the tubes were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min, then the supernatant (200 μ L) was introduced into 96 micro-well plates to measure the absorbance. This was accessed at 532 nm against a blank containing neither hydrogen peroxide nor iron sulfate. Quercetin was used as reference. The experiment was performed in triplicate and deoxyribose degradation inhibition was expressed as a percentage compared to the control without extract.

Lipid peroxidation inhibitory assay

The extracts ability to inhibit lipid peroxidation using lecithin was evaluated according to the method described by Compaore *et al.* (2011). The reaction mixture contained 100 μ L of sample (1mg/mL) in phosphate buffer (10mM, pH 7.4), 100 μ L of ferrous sulphate (100mM), 100 μ L of EDTA (1,04mM), 100 μ L of hydrogen peroxide 10mM and 100 μ L of an opalescent suspension of lecithin (10mg/mL) in phosphate buffer and the volume was made up to 1 mL with phosphate buffer. The resulting solution was incubated for an hour at 37°C before adding 1mL of acid (15% trichloroacetic acid and 0.675% thiobarbituric acid). The tubes were then heated to 100°C for 15min and cooled in an ice bath for 5 minutes. After centrifugation at 3000rpm for 10min, the absorbance was measured at 532 nm against a blank neither iron sulphate nor hydrogen peroxide. Quercetin was used as reference substance.

Inhibition of 15-lipoxygenase (15-LOX) enzyme

The principle is based on the reaction between oxygen and the unsaturated fatty acids of 1-4 diene structure. Linoleic acid serves as a substrate (Adebayor *et al.*, 2015). The 15-LOX (Sigma) was made up to a working solution of 200 units/mL and kept on ice. Test sample or control (3.75 μ L in DMSO) was added to 142.5 μ L of 15-LOX in a 96 micro-well plate. After 5 min incubation at room temperature, 150 μ L substrate solutions (10 μ L linoleic acid dissolved in 30 μ L ethanol, made up to 120 mL with 2M borate buffer at pH 9) were added to the solution. The absorbance was immediately measured at 234 nm. Zileuton was used as a positive control, while DMSO was used as the negative control (100% enzyme activity or no enzyme inhibition). Enzyme inhibition percentage of extract compared with negative control (100% enzyme activity) was calculated as follows:

$$\%Inhibition = \frac{A_{sample} - A_{blank}}{A_{negative\ control} - A_{blank}} \times 100$$

The results were expressed as IC₅₀, i.e. concentration of the extracts and controls that resulted in 50% 15-LOX inhibition plotted on a graph by GraphPad Prism 6

In vivo Anti-inflammatory activity by Carrageenan- induced rat paw edema model

The method of Winter *et al.* (1962) was used to evaluate the anti-inflammatory activity with some minor modifications. Rats were randomly allocated into four groups of five. Group I served as control and received distilled

water. Group II of animals received indomethacin (10 mg/kg). Group III and IV were given hydroethanolic extract of *S. longepedunculata*, *C. sanguinolenta* and *P. dulce* respectively at doses of 400 and 800mg/kg, p.o. After 30min, 0.1mL of 1% W/V carrageenan freshly prepared in normal saline was injected into the sub plantar of left hind paw of rat. The paw volumes were then measured by the dislocation of water column in a plethsmometer at 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 hours after carrageenan injection (Olajide *et al.*, 2000; Dosseh *et al.*, 2014). The percentage of anti-inflammatory activity was calculated by using the formula below:

$$\% = \left(1 - \frac{V_{test}}{V_{control}}\right) \times 100$$

Where: $V_{control}$ is the mean volume of the control group; V_{test} the mean volume of the test group

Blood analysis and total protein electrophoresis

Group II to V were collected at the late phase of inflammation. Blood was collected by retro-orbital puncture in dry and EDTA tubes and was treated according to the statutorily accepted procedures in the medical laboratory bioassays. White cells, red cells and platelets counted were performed using hematology analyzer KX 21N. Total proteins were assayed by spectrophotometry using spectrometer Erba Chem 6. Total serum proteins electrophoresis of rats was carried out using the Minicap instrument and the Minicap Protein (E) 6 kit which enables the separation of serum proteins into five major fractions: Albumin, Alpha-1 globulin, Alpha-2 globulin, Beta globulin and Gamma globulin.

Phytochemical investigations

Total phenolic contents determination

The total phenols content was evaluated using Folin–Ciocalteu colorimetric assay described by Compaoré *et al.* (2011) with minor modifications. Mixture consisting of 25 μ L of extracts, 125mL of Folin–Ciocalteu reagent (0.2 mol/L) was incubated for 5 min before adding 100mL of sodium carbonate (75 g/L). After one hour incubation in dark, absorbance was recorded at 760 nm with microplate reader. Gallic acid was used as standard ($y = 221.7x$; $R^2 = 0.9996$). The results were expressed in milligrams of Gallic Acid Equivalent for 100mg dry extract (mgEAG/100mg).

Total Flavonoids Contents determination

Total Flavonoids Content was determined according to previous method described by Compaoré *et al.* (2011). One hundred microliters of sample and 100 μ L of $AlCl_3$ (2%) were mixed in 96 micro-well plate and incubated for 10 min. The absorbance was measured at 415 nm with microplate reader. The standard curve was generated with variable concentration of quercetin at 415 nm ($y = 0.01686X + 0.05917$ $r^2 = 0.9986$ $p < 0.0001$) and the results were expressed as mgQE/g of sample.

The proanthocyanidin content determination

The method of acid / butanol described by Chamorro *et al.*, (2012) was used with a slight modification to evaluate the proanthocyanidin. Two grams of $NH_4(Fe)SO_4$ were dissolved with 200 ml 190/10 (v/v) of 1-butanol / HCl mixture. In a test tube, 7 ml of the prepared solution and 200 μ L of the extract at 1 mg / ml (dissolved in ethanol and water) were mixed. The test tubes were heated at 95 ° C for 90 minutes. After the reaction time, tubes were cooled in an ice bath and the absorbance of various solutions was assessed at 565 nm. The presence of proanthocyanidins was revealed by the red color in reaction tubes. The blank of the reaction is carried out under the same conditions without extract. The condensed tannins (CT) were expressed in micrograms of equivalents of Gallic Acid per milligram of dry matter (μ gEGA/mg). The standard curve was generated with variable concentration of this compound comprised between 0 and 200 mg/L $Y = 97,27X + 4,153$ $r^2 = 0,9949$; $p < 0,0001$. Assays were carried out in triplicate and the results expressed as mean.

Statistical Analysis

The results were represented as a mean \pm SEM of the indicated number of experiments. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Dennett's test or by ANOVA by Bonferroni's test were used to find the statistical differences between control and tested groups. All statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prisms Version 6.1 and SYSTAT11.

Results

Antibiotic susceptibility

A total of 50 ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains were tested for their susceptibility to commercial antibiotics. Figure 1 indicates the resistance rates for each antibiotic. Antibiotics such as AMC, CF, CTX, CAZ, SXT were totally inactive against all the tested strains, while IMP and CL showed 100% of inhibition. For the rest of antibiotics, the percentages of resistant strains were above 60%, except FOX and AN for which the rates were did not reach 10%.

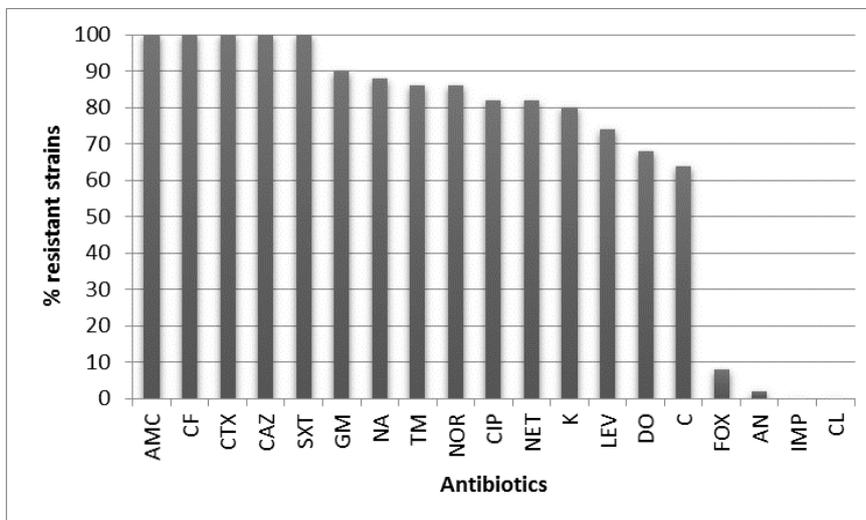


Figure 1: Antibiotic resistance pattern of the study strains

Antibacterial activity of the plants extracts alone

In total, 25 bacterial strains of *K. pneumoniae* isolated from the pathologic samples were tested with three extracts. Only one ESBL negative bacterial strain was used in the study, the bacterium was isolated from pus. The test with this strain yielded the following MBC/MIC values for the three extracts respectively: *S. longepedunculata*: 25/25 (Bactericidal effect); *P. dulce*: 25/12.5 (Bacteriostatic effect) and *C. sanguinolenta*: 12.5/3.12 (bacteriostatic effect). The remaining strains were ESBL producing bacteria. Table 1 displays the antibacterial activity of the extracts in relation with the source of isolation of these pathogens. According to the table, the MICs ranged between 6.25 and 100mg/mL while the MBCs ranged between 25 and 100 mg/mL for the susceptible strains. For other strains the MICs were above 100 mg/mL. The extract of *S. longepedunculata* exerted bactericidal effect on 7 strains that recorded equal values of MBC and MIC of 25mg/mL. Of these strains, 4 were isolated from urine, 1 from pus and 2 from blood. For *P. dulce*, the bactericidal effect was observed at a concentration of 50mg/mL on five strains, 2 isolated from urine, 1 from pus and 2 from blood. Finally, bactericidal effect was observed on one strain isolated from urine with 50mg/mL of *C. sanguinolenta* extract. For the rest, the extract was bacteriostatic.

Table 1: Distribution of bacterial strains in relation with the extracts MIC/MBC values and the source of isolation

MIC/MBC	Number of bacterial strains			Remark
	Urines/ Pus/ Blood			
	<i>S. longepedunculata</i>	<i>P. dulce</i>	<i>C. sanguinolenta</i>	
6.25/25	1/1/0	0/0/0	1/0/0	Bacteriostatic
12.5/25	0/1/1	0/1/0	1/1/0	Bacteriostatic
25/25	4/1/2	0/0/0	0/0/0	Bactericidal
25/50	0/0/0	0/1/1	1/0/0	Bacteriostatic
25/100	1/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0	Bacteriostatic
50/50	0/0/0	2/1/2	1/0/0	Bactericidal
50/100	0/1/0	1/0/1	0/2/0	Bacteriostatic
25/ND	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0	Bacteriostatic
50/ND	1/0/1	2/1/1	0/0/0	Bacteriostatic
100/ND	0/0/0	1/0/0	1/0/0	Bacteriostatic
ND	5/1/3	5/2/2	7/2/7	Bacteriostatic

Data in the table represent the number of strains isolated from a corresponding pathological product namely urine, pus and blood. MBC: minimum bactericidal concentration expressed in mg/mL, MIC: minimum inhibitory concentration expressed in mg/mL. ND for MBC and MIC values above 100mg/mL.

Antibacterial activity of the conventional antibiotics alone

The antibiotics were tested on the ESBL negative strain and on the ESBL positive strain that presented the highest values of MBC/MIC values with the plant extract. The results of these tests are presented in the table 2. According to the table the lowest values of MIC/MBC were recorded with the ESBL negative strain rather than the ESBL positive one. IPM, AN, TC and *S. longepedunculata* were bactericidal while C, CIP, SXT, CTX, PD and CS were bacteriostatic against the ESBL negative strain. The ESBL producing strain resisted highly to C, TE, CIP, CTX, SXT but IPM, AN, PD, SL were bactericidal.

Table 2: Antibiotic MIC/MBC values

Antibiotics	MIC/MBC			
	ESBL-	Remarks	ESBL+	Remarks
IPM	0.25/0.25	Bactericidal	1/1	Bactericidal
AN	3/3	Bactericidal	6/6	Bactericidal
C	6/ > 12	Bacteriostatic	>12/>12	ND
TE	3/3	Bactericidal	>24/>24	ND
CIP	0.5/1	Bacteriostatic	>8/>8	ND
CTX	0.75/1.5	Bacteriostatic	>24/>24	ND
SXT	2.5/5	Bacteriostatic	>20/>20	ND
PD*	12.5/25	Bacteriostatic	50/50	Bactericidal
SL*	25/25	Bactericidal	25/25	Bactericidal
CS*	3.125/12.5	Bacteriostatic	50/100	Bacteriostatic

MIC/MBC for antibiotics were expressed in µg/mL. *MIC/MBC for extracts were expressed in mg/mL. IPM: Imipenem; AN: Amikacin; C: Chloramphenicol; CIP: Ciprofloxacin; TE: Tetracyclin; CTX: Cefotaxim; SXT: Sulfametoazol+Trimethoprim. PD: *Pithecellobium dulce*. SL: *Securidaca longepedunculata*. CS: *Cryptolepis sanguinolenta*. ND: not determined

Antibacterial activity of the associations

The results of the combination of the plant extracts with antibiotics IPM, AN, C, TE, CIP, CTX, SXT and their isolated activity on ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strain and those of ESBL negative *Klebsiella Pneumoniae* are shown in Table 3. They were expressed as fractions of inhibitory concentrations for each antibiotic and for each extract.

Synergistic action was observed only with the combination of IPM/PD, IPM/CS, AN/PD and AN/CS against the ESBL negative *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strain. The trend was different for the ESBL producing strain. Antagonism was observed on the two strains with the combination of all extracts and chloramphenicol as well as *C. Sanguinolenta* extract combined with cefotaxim and tetracyclin. Particularly on the BLSE positive strain of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, the antagonistic effect was observed at several levels in addition to those already reported. Overall, there was more antagonism effect generated by this strain than that of the ESBL negative because of the 21 associations of extracts, 15 were antagonists on the ESBL-producing strains. The indifference effect was observed with the combination of the extract of *Securidaca longepedunculata* and the following antibiotics IPM, AN, TE, CIP, CTX, SXT.

Table 3: Antibacterial activity and FIC indices *Klebsiella pneumoniae* MIC value recorded $MIC_A/MIC_E (\sum FICI) FIC_A+FIC_E$

Combinations	ESBL-			ESBL+		
	MIC_A/MIC_E	$FIC_A+FIC_E(\sum FICI)$	Remarks	MIC_A/MIC_E	$FIC_A+FIC_E(\sum FICI)$	Remarks
IPM/PD	0.25/12.5	0.125+0.25(0.375)	Synergistic	1/50	2+0.5 (2.5)	Antagonism
IPM/SL	0.25/25	0.125+1(1.125)	Indifference	1/25	1+1(2)	Indifference
IPM/CS	0.25/3.125	0.125+0.125(0.25)	Synergistic	1/100	1+4 (5)	Antagonism
AN/PD	3/12.5	0.5+0.25(0.75)	Synergistic	6/50	1+1(2)	Indifference
AN/SL	3/25	1+0.5(1.5)	Indifference	6/25	1+1(2)	Indifference
AN/CS	3/3.125	0.25+0.125(0.375)	Synergistic	6/100	0.5+4(4.5)	Antagonism
C/PD	6/12.5	>4	Antagonism	>12/50	>5	Antagonism
C/SL	6/25	>5	Antagonism	>12/25	>5	Antagonism
C/CS	6/>3.125	>5	Antagonism	>12/100	>5	Antagonism
TE/PD	3/12.5	0.5+1(1.5)	Indifference	>24/50	1+1(2)	Indifference
TE/SL	3/25	1+1(2)	Indifference	>24/25	>4	Antagonism
TE/CS	3/3.125	>5	Antagonism	>24/3.125	>5	Antagonism
CIP/PD	0.5/12.5	1+0.5 (1.5)	Indifference	>8/50	1+1(2)	Indifference
CIP/SL	0.5/25	1+1(2)	Indifference	>8/25	2+1(3)	Antagonism
CIP/CS	0.5/3.125	1+1(2)	Indifference	>8/100	4+2(6)	Antagonism
CTX/PD	0.75/12.5	1+0.5 (1.5)	Indifference	>24/50	>5	Antagonism
CTX/SL	0.75/25	1+1(2)	Indifference	>24/25	>5	Antagonism
CTX/CS	0.75/3.125	2+1 (3)	Antagonism	>24/100	>5	Antagonism
SXT/PD	2.5/12.5	1+0.5 (1.5)	Indifference	>20/50	1+0.5(1.5)	Indifference
SXT/SL	2.5/25	1+1 (2)	Indifference	>20/25	1+2(3)	Antagonism
SXT/CS	2.5/3.125	1+1 (2)	Indifference	>20/100	>5	Antagonism

FICI: Fraction Inhibition Concentration Index. $\sum FICI = FIC_A + FIC_E$, FIC_A (MIC_A in combination / MIC_A alone) FIC_E (MIC_E in combination / MIC_E alone). $\sum FICI < 1$ synergistic; = 1 additive; 1 to 2 indifferent (non-interactive); > 2 antagonistic; **IPM:** Imipenem; **AN:** Amikacin; **C:** Chloramphenicol; **CIP:** Ciprofloxacin; **TE:** Tetracyclin; **CTX:** Cefotaxim; **SXT:** Sulfamethoxazol+Trimethoprim. **PD:** *Pithecellobium dulce*. **SL:** *Securidaca longepedunculata*. **CS:** *Cryptolepis sanguinolenta*. **E:** extract; **A:** antibiotic; **ESBL:** Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase; + positive; - : negative.

Total phenolic, flavonoid and proanthocyanidin contents

Table 4 presents the phenol contents of the extracts. The total phenolic contents were 88.93 ± 2.44 , 18.06 ± 0.8 and 13.85 ± 0.78 mgGAE /100mg for *P. dulce*, *S. longepedunculata* and *C. sanguinolenta*, respectively. The total flavonoid contents were very low in the extracts, moreover, flavonoids was not detected in the extract of *C. sanguinolenta*. The extract of *P. dulce* exhibited the highest concentrations in proanthocyanidins (67.44 ± 0.80 μ gEAA/mg). The remaining extracts yielded amounts below 15 μ gEAA/mg.

Table4: Phenol contents of the extracts

Extracts	TPC (mgGAE /100mg)	TFC (μ gEQ/mg)	TPAC (μ gEAA/mg)
<i>P. dulce</i>	88.93 ± 2.44	0.74 ± 0.03	67.44 ± 0.80
<i>S. longepedunculata</i>	13.85 ± 0.78	0.34 ± 0.01	9.21 ± 0.39
<i>C. sanguinolenta</i>	18.06 ± 0.8	ND	11.22 ± 0.17

μ gEAA/g: μ g ascorbic acid equivalents/gram; mg GAE/100mg: mg gallic acid equivalent/100gram; μ gQE/mg: μ g quercetin equivalent/milligram. TPC: Total phenolic content; TFC: Total flavonoid content; TPAC : Total proanthocyanidin content. ND: Non detected

Antioxidant activity

The antioxidant activity of the plant extracts was evaluated by several methods and the results are shown in Table 5. According to DPPH assay, the IC₅₀ concentration was lower for *P. dulce* (11.3 μ g/mL) than the two other plants ($p < 0.001$). Reference products as gallic acid and quercétine yielded 1.23 and 8.54 μ g/mL IC₅₀ values respectively. The same trend was observed for the ferric reduction assay. Thus, the best power was found with *P. dulce* extract, 1.34 ± 0.03 mmolAAE/g, while gallic acid, a reference compound showed 8.74 mmol AAE/g. Lypoxigenase IC₅₀ were similar for *P. dulce* and *S. Longepedunculata*. The highest value was for *C. sanginolenta*, about 0.47 μ g/mL. Statistically, the difference between the reference compound zileuton activity with the plants extracts was significant. The deoxyribose degradation and lipid peroxidation inhibition activities expressed in percentage by the three plant extracts and quercetin at 100 μ g/mL are also presented in table 5. The two inhibition percentage activities for the three plants ranged from 52.92 to 77.39 while quercetin as reference product exhibited very high inhibition (90.40%)

Table5: Antioxidant activities

Specimen	DPPH %IC ₅₀ (μ g/mL)	FRAP (mmolAAE/g)	LOX %IC ₅₀ (μ g/mL)	I%DRB	I%LPO
<i>P. dulce</i>	11.33 ± 1.26	1.34 ± 0.03	0.79 ± 0.04	66.33 ± 3.31	70.95 ± 1.69
<i>S. longepedunculata</i>	985.33 ± 50.36	0.06 ± 0.01	0.78 ± 0.06	76.54 ± 2.58	60.88 ± 2.46
<i>C. sanguinolenta</i>	554.67 ± 79.43	0.18 ± 0.00	0.47 ± 0.03	77.39 ± 2.62	50.92 ± 1.91
Quercetin	8.54 ± 0.40	5.46 ± 0.17	ND	90.40	90.02
Gallicacid	1.23 ± 0.39	8.74 ± 0.11	ND	ND	ND
Ascobicacid	ND	4.20 ± 0.13	ND	ND	ND
Zileuton	ND	ND	0.083	ND	ND

DPPH: 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl ; FRAP: Ferric reducing antioxidant power; LOX: Lipoxigenase, I% LPO: Lipid peroxidation inhibition percentage; I% DRB: Deoxyribose degradation inhibition percentage.

Anti-inflammatory activities

The table 6 shows the inhibitory effect of the plant extracts and reference drug indomethacin on carrageenan-induced acute paw edema in rats compared to a control group. The difference in each group was statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) except de the second hour of treatment with carrageenan where de P value was equal to 0.061. The Maximum phlogistic response of carrageenan was observed at 3–5 h after the injection in the control animals. The inhibition in paw volumes of treated (*S. longepedunculata*, 400 mg/kg, p.o.) animals at 1st, 4th and 5th hours after induction of paw edema was significant (52.76, 59.24 and 72.25) as in indometacin treated animals (27.56, 63.04 and 67.02) at the similar time points. The inhibition in paw volume of treated (*S. longepedunculata*, 800 mg/kg, p.o.) animals at 1st 3rd 4th and 5th hour after injection of paw edema were significantly (62.20, 71.76, 82.61 and 96.86) highest followed by *C. sanguinolenta* treated animals at the same dose. The acute anti-inflammatory effect of *S. longepedunculata*, *C. sanguinolenta*, and *P. dulce* from the 3rd to 5th hour in rats was dose dependent. *P. dulce* treated animals of both dose showed the lowest % inhibition of paw edema.

Table 6: Effect of plant extracts on the inhibition of left hind paw edema on carrageenan-induced inflammation in rats.

Treatment	mg/kg	Edema volume (mL) (%)				
		1H*	2H	3H**	4H***	5H***
Distilled water		0.32±0.07**	0.33±0.08	0.43±0.05	0.46±0.05	0.48±0.04
Indometacin	10	0.23±0.10** (27.56)	0.18±0.07 (44.70)	0.17±0.07* (60.00)	0.17±0.07** (63.04)	0.16±0.06** (67.02)
<i>P. dulce</i>	400	0.28±0.10* (11.81)	0.24±0.10 (28.79)	0.34±0.06* (21.18)	0.30±0.07** (34.78)	0.30±0.07** (37.70)
	800	0.26±0.04 (18.11)	0.30±0.01* (9.85)	0.28±0.03** (35.29)	0.25±0.03*** (46.74)	0.20±0.02*** (58.12)
<i>S. longepedunculata</i>	400	0.15±0.06** (52.76)	0.17±0.09* (47.73)	0.21±0.11** (50.59)	0.19±0.09*** (59.24)	0.13±0.01*** (72.25)
	800	0.12±0.03** (62.20)	0.18±0.10* (44.70)	0.12±0.04*** (71.76)	0.08±0.05*** (82.61)	0.01±0.00*** (96.86)
<i>C. sanguinolenta</i>	400	0.17±0.05* (48.03)	0.29±0.07* (11.36)	0.30±0.06* (30.59)	0.28±0.07* (39.67)	0.27±0.07 (44.50)
	800	0.13±0.07* (59.06)	0.18±0.09 (45.45)	0.20±0.11* (53.53)	0.18±0.10** (61.96)	0.16±0.09** (67.54)

Values are expressed as mean±S.E.M. (n = 4) were analyzed by one-way ANOVA followed by post hoc Dunnett's test,* p < 0.05, ** P < 0.01,*** P < 0.001 when compared PD, SL, CS groups with control and each value in parenthesis indicates the percentage inhibition.

The effects of plant extracts on hematological parameters affected by carrageenan treatment were further investigated. The results are presented in table 7. Globally, there was an increase of the white blood cells count (p < 0.05) if compared to animal group without carrageenan treatment, however a slight decrease in the cell count was observed in the following treated groups: *C. sanguinolenta* 800 mg/kg, *S. longepedunculata* 400mg/kg and 800mg/kg. No change was observed for red blood cells, hemoglobin and hematocrit amounts. The Platelets level generally decreased in all carrageenan treated group except in *P. dulce* treated animal group if compared to carrageenan free animal group.

Table 7: Alterations in hematological parameters

Treatment	Dose mg/kg	Hematological and parameters				
		WBC×10 ³ (cells/mm ³)	RBC×10 ⁶ (cells/mm ³)	Hb (g/dL)	HT (%)	PT×10 ⁴ (cells/mm ³)
Carrageenan free		8.72±1.22	8.51±0.51	15.02±0.64	54.28±2.54	80.72±6.33*
Saline		13.58±1.11	8.57±0.33	15.28±0.23	53.84±1.69	65.8±5.73*
Indometacin	10	14.24±1.80	8.32±0.17	14.08±0.75	50.58±0.77	63.48±58.76
<i>P. dulce</i>	400	14.46±0.20	8.68±0.22	14.82±0.32	53.02±1.08	70.54±3.6*
	800	16.90±1.68	8.09±0.23	14.54±0.21	50.56±0.65	80.52±5.53*
<i>C. sanguinolenta</i>	400	13.80±1.05	8.65±0.29	15.35±0.44	53.05±1.20	62.6±5.39
	800	11.60±1.49	8.84±0.36	15.60±0.37	55.13±1.36	59.58±9.20*
<i>S. longepedunculata</i>	400	11.08±1.08	8.91±0.27	15.85±0.34	54.85±0.85	56.43±4.91
	800	11.53±2.23	8.64±0.68	16.47±1.85	53.40±5.06	22.03±6.66*

Data represented as mean ± S.E.M. (n = 4) analyzed by one way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post hoc test. **WBC:** white Blood Cell, **RBC:** Red Blood Cell, **Hb:** Hemoglobin, **HT:** Hematocrit, **PT:** Platelets.

Table 8 displays the electrophoretic profiles of the total serum proteins of wistar rats groups undergoing treatments six hours after the induction of inflammation. The total protein level significantly increased for the indomethacin-treated group (77.37 ± 2.80 g/L) compared to the control group (69.37 ± 2.42 g/L). The same was noted for the albumin level of the negative control group (25.72 ± 1.47 g/L) with those of the IND, SL4 and SL8 groups respectively equal to 31.31 ± 1.69 g/L, 31.71 ± 1.47 g/L 31.68 ± 1.47 g/L. A statistically significant difference was also found between the groups treated with extracts CS8 and SL4. Alpha1 globulins were 13.03 ± 0.97 g/L and 16.11 ± 0.97 g/L respectively for groups receiving CS8 and PD4 extracts (p < 0.05). There was a difference in the albumin ratio on Globulins (A / G) obtained in the SL4 groups (0.81 ± 0.07) and the negative control group 0.59 ± 0.07. The alpha2 and beta and gamma globulin parameters were not significantly influenced by either the extracts or the reference drug.

Table 8: Assessment of plants extracts effect in correcting proteins involved in inflammation

Electrophoretic profile of serum proteins (g/L)	DW	IND	CS4	CS8	PD4	PD8	SL4	SL8
Total protein	69.37±2.42	77.37±2.80*	72.82±2.42	71.67±2.42	69.80±2.42	70.81±2.42	71.47±2.42	75.32±2.42
Albumin	25.72±1.47	31.31±1.69*	28.65±1.47	27.38±1.47	27.44±1.47	28.79±1.47	31.71±1.47*	31.68±1.47*
α1 globulin	13.94±0.97	14.29±1.12	14.91±0.97	13.03±0.97	16.11±0.97	15.56±0.97	13.81±0.97	13.71±0.97
α2 globulin	5.14±0.38	5.69±0.44	4.84±0.38	4.76±0.38	5.70±0.38	5.17±0.38	4.74±0.38	5.45±0.38
β globulin	23.40±2.92	25.30±3.38	23.18±2.92	25.66±2.92	20.12±2.92	20.79±2.92	20.39±2.92	23.88±2.92
γ globulin	1.16±0.42	0.86±0.50	1.23±0.42	0.84±0.42	0.50±0.42	0.53±0.42	0.67±0.42	0.60±0.42
A/G Ratio	0.59±0.07	0.69±0.08	0.65±0.07	0.64±0.07	0.65±0.07	0.69±0.07	0.81±0.07*	0.75±0.07

Data are presented as mean ± SE. DW: Distilled water; IND: Indomethacin; PD4 and PD8: *Pithecellobium dulce* at 400 and 800 mg/kg; CS4 and CS8: *Cryptolepis sanguinolenta* at 400 and 800 mg/kg; SL4 and SL8: *Securidaca longepedunculata* at 400 and 800 mg/kg. * $P < 0.05$ significant difference when compared with negative control.

Discussion and Conclusions

Enterobacteria such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* producing extended spectrum beta-lactamases are known to exert high resistance against third generation cephalosporins and monobactams, therefore the choice of effective and safe antibiotic treatment is becoming restricted. Hence, alternative agents or extracts obtained from natural medicinal plants need to be introduced or combined with antibiotics for therapeutic use (Stermitz *et al.*, 2000; Ishaq *et al.*, 2015). In the the fight against ESBL bacterial according to their high resistance to classic antibiotics, the chronic inflammation situations they caused and disorders in the metabolism in which they are sometimes involved must be took into account. In Togo, as in the other low income African countries, people have an old tradition of plants use for health care (WHO, 2014). Continuously, scientists from Togo, focus their interest in improving traditional medicine. In this study, we investigated the resistance profiles of ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains to conventional antibiotics and determine the antibacterial activity of three plant extracts on the same strains.

Klebsiella pneumoniae is naturally susceptible to a large number of classic antibiotics except Ampicilline Penicillin G, oxacillin, piperacillin ticarcilline and all macrolides. Classically according to CA-SFM and EUCAST, these antibiotics are not chosen to perform antibiogram unless there is a need to achieve *Klebsiella* specie's identification. Our results showed that only Imipenem and colistin inhibited all ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains of the study. ESBLs are usually plasmid mediated. Since these plasmids are easily transmitted among different members of the Enterobacteriaceae, accumulation of resistance genes results in strains that contain multiresistant plasmids. For this reason, ESBL-producing isolates are resistant to a wide variety of antibiotics (Woldu, 2016). Moreover, the emergence of these multiply resistant *Klebsiella* strains is unfortunately accompanied by a relatively high stability of the plasmids encoding ESBLs (Podschn *et al.*, 1998). Several explanations are possible to clarify resistance to inhibitors. Illiaquer (2010) revealed the presence of genes encoding for porines OmpK35 and Omp K36 on the membrane of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* multidrug resistance species that can change conformation weakening free movement of molecules trough these porines. Currently, the available data suggest a further increase in the incidence of ESBL-producing *Klebsiella*. As a result, the therapeutic options are becoming limited, so that in the near future there will be an urgent need for hospital infection control measures that counter the spread of ESBL-producing bacteria. Imipenem is very expensive antibiotic and colistin is not usually used due to its high toxicity. The alternative solution is first to test plants extract and after, to combine them to synthetic antibiotics in order to identify possible synergistic effects.

According to recorded MIC and MBC values, *Cryptolepis sanguinolenta* hydroethanolic extract was the most active extract on the ESBL negative strain of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. This extract also showed interesting results on the ESBL producing strains. Several studies from the West African subregion have reported the potency of *C. sanguinolenta* against clinical malaria (Boye *et al.*, 1990, Bugyei *et al.*, 2010). According to Mills-Robertson *et al.*, (2012) the chloroform fraction exhibited bactericidal activity against *Klebsiella pneumoniae* with bacteriostatic effect. In our study, the inhibition rate was 8/24 (33%).

The extract of *Pithecellobium dulce* exhibited antibacterial activity (15/24) about 62.5 % against ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains with 66.7% of bacteriostatic effect. Pradeepa *et al.*, (2014) studied the pulp extract of the plant and showed significant zone of inhibition in a dose dependent manner. The MIC and MBC values of the pulp extract against both Gram positive and Gram negative bacterial strains varied from 1mg to 5mg. The results of the study indicated that *P. dulce* extract showed effective inhibitory activity against Gram negative bacteria.

Securidaca longepedunculata extract demonstrated the same rate of antibacterial activity against ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains about 62.5 % with 47.67% bactericidal effect. Karou *et al.*, (2012) showed that the hydroethanolic root extract of this plant exhibited MIC about 900µg/ml on *Klebsiella pneumoniae* CIP 52144 ESBL negative. According to Ndamitso *et al.* (2013), *E. coli* strains were susceptible to roots aqueous extracts. The plant leaves extracts were more active against several Gram negative strains.

From the three extracts, *S. longepedunculata* demonstrated the highest antibacterial activity and in terms of percentage of action, *C. sanguinolenta* had the lowest inhibition. The diversity observed in susceptibility of ESBL *Klebsiella pneumoniae* to extracts could be first explained by presence of capsule surrounding the bacteria as natural protection, porines almost damaged in its membrane which expression could extremely be modified enzymes harboring.

Consequently, the alternative could be the investigation for possible synergistic antibacterial combinations capable of improving empirical prescriptions. Thus, in vitro combination of plant extracts with different antibiotics was investigated against ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strains. As a result, several studies (Betoni *et al.*, 2006) showed that there are varied interactions between plant extracts and antibiotics. In agreement with these studies, our study demonstrated synergism, additivity/indifference and antagonism between antibiotics and plants extracts. There were synergistic effects against ESBL negative *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strain, but not on ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strain. Ishaq *et al.* (2015) through their work have demonstrated that *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strain free of ESBL was inhibited with synergistic effect between cefotaxim, meropenem, ofloxacin, ceftriaxone and methanolic extract of *Adiantum capillus-veneris*. Olajuyigbe, *et al.* (2012) studied interactions between methanolic extract of *Acacia mearnsii* and eight antibiotics. The synergistic interaction was most expressed by combining the extract with erythromycin, tetracycline, nalidixic acid and chloramphenicol against *K. pneumoniae* (ATCC 10031). Plants antimicrobials have been found to be synergistic enhancers in that though they may not have any antimicrobial properties alone, but when they are taken concurrently with standard drugs they enhance the effect of that drug (Kamatou *et al.*, 2006).

Chronic inflammation situation caused by infection in living systems (Spooner and Yilmaz, 2011), is the greatest origin of free radicals generated and they can cause extensive damage to tissues and bio-molecules leading to complication of disease conditions, especially degenerative diseases, and extensive lysis (Halliwell *et al.*, 1998). Main examples of these are poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis, acute rheumatic fever, or Bouillaud's disease, that is a delayed inflammatory complication of upper respiratory tract infections by Group A β -hemolytic *Streptococcus* (McDonald *et al.*, 2004) and Cerebritis caused by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in immune competent adults without predisposing factors such as neurosurgery or penetrating brain injury (Majumdar *et al.*, 2009)

Many synthetic drugs are used to protect against oxidative damage but they have adverse side effects. Products are not accepted as immunological by living organisms in the same way. Some develop allergies and explained by hypersensitivity to it. With a patient developing an allergy to a product, the prescriber simply changes another product of the same pharmacological class. For these reasons among many others, it is necessary to seek and manufacture many molecules to frame the immune system. Another important alternative solution to the problem is to consume natural antioxidants from, nutraceuticals and traditional medicines (Yazdanparast *et al.*, 2008).

In both DPPH and FRAP test, *P. dulce* bark extract expressed good scavenging of free radical and ferric reduction capacity and largely exceeded the two other plant extracts. The reference product as Gallic acid reduced more radicals than quercetin. *S. longepedunculata* and *C. sanguinolenta* extract were poor in reduction of free radicals.

According to lipid peroxidation and deoxyribose inhibition test, all plant extracts showed suitable results at almost the same rate with no significant statistically difference. The matter concentration did not linearly influence the inhibition percentage because the two results obtained from quercetin must be linked by Factor.

Therefore, it is clear that all the three extracts have good antioxidant activities in relation with the polyphenol contents. Hydroxyl radicals are the major active oxygen species causing lipid peroxidation and enormous biological damage (Katekhaye *et al.*, 2012). They were produced in this study by incubating ferric-EDTA with ascorbic acid and H_2O_2 at pH 7.4, and reacted with 2-deoxy-2-ribose to generate a malondialdehyde (MDA)-like product. This compound forms a pink chromogen upon heating with TBA at low pH (Katekhaye *et al.*, 2012). When *P. dulce*, *S. longepedunculata* and *C. sanguinolenta* extracts were added to the reaction mixture, they removed the hydroxyl radicals from the sugar and prevented the reaction. According to Katekhaye *et al.* (2012), the total antioxidant activity (IC₅₀ values) in DPPH assay by methanol and acetone *P. dulce* extract showed interesting results. Barku *et al.*, (2012) confirmed that cryptolepine and quindoline compounds were present in the roots and in the stem of *Cryptolepis sanguinolenta*. From Akinmoladun *et al.* (2010) study, the reductive potential was (0.26 \pm 0.00) in *S. longepedunculata*.

Carrageenan-induced rat paw oedema is a suitable experimental animal model to evaluate the anti-oedematous effect of natural products and is believed to be biphasic (Vinegar *et al.*, 1969). The initial first phase occurs within an hour of carrageenan paw edema mediated by histamine and serotonin (Kumar and Jain, 2014), while the mediators in the later phase are suspected to be arachidonate metabolites (prostaglandins, leukotrienes) producing an oedema depending on mobilization of neutrophils (Hwang *et al.*, 2003). Oedema induced by carrageenan after 2nd hour of injection indicates the second phase of applying acute inflammatory model which is mediated by prostaglandins, the cyclooxygenase products and lipoxygenase products (Vinegar *et al.*, 1969). Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents inhibit cyclooxygenase (COX-2) enzymes involved in prostaglandin synthesis (Dosseh *et al.*, 2014). Based on these reports it is possible that the inhibitory effect of the plants organs extract on carrageenan-induced inflammation in rats could be due to inhibition of cyclooxygenase leading to inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis. Although the cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase pathways are both involved in the inflammatory process inhibitors of cyclooxygenase are more effective in inhibiting carrageenan-induced inflammation than lipoxygenase inhibitors (Shaheen *et al.*, 2013). In our experiment, rats pre-treated with *P. dulce* stem bark, *S. longepedunculata* root bark and *C. sanguinolenta* root bark hydroethanolic extract showed a significant oedema inhibitory response after first, third and fifth hour following carrageenan injection. In the results of second hour, the most suitable inhibition of oedema was found with *S. longepedunculata* extract. This result suggests that all the three plant extract may act by suppressing the later phase of the inflammatory process by the inhibition of cyclooxygenase. So, inhibition of carrageenan induced paw oedema by hydroethanolic extract could be due to its inhibitory activity on the prostaglandins (Shaheen *et al.*, 2013). From the three plant extracts *S. longepedunculata* demonstrated the highest inhibition percentage. The anti-inflammatory activity of the plant was previously described by Ojewole (2008), but the test was conducted on streptozoncin diabetic rats. Muanda *et al.*, 2010 observed that *S. longepedunculata* extract had good anti-inflammatory properties in the *in vitro* nitrite assay by inhibiting NO production in activated macrophages. As Cryptolepine is the major alkaloid of the West African shrub, *Cryptolepis sanguinolenta*, it has been shown to inhibit nitric oxide production too.

For many *in vitro* studies LOXs has been postulated to play an important role in the pathophysiology of several inflammatory and allergic diseases (Sacan and Turhan 2014). Lipoxygenases are lipid-peroxidizing enzymes involved in the biosynthesis of leukotriene from arachidonic acid, mediators of inflammatory and allergic reactions. These enzymes catalyze the addition of molecular oxygen to unsaturated fatty acids such as linoleic and arachidonic acids (Porta *et al.*, 2002 Adebayo *et al.*, 2015). There are four main iso-enzymes already described, namely, 5-LOX, 8-LOX, 12-LOX and 15-LOX, depending on the site of oxidation in the unsaturated fatty acids (Porta and Rocha-Sosa, 2002). The common substrates for LOX are linoleic and arachidonic acids. Reactive oxygen radicals (ROS) are well known to be produced during the inflammatory process (Trouillas *et al.*, 2003). In this study, the three plant extracts showed strong LOX inhibitory activity which was best with *C. sanguinolenta* extract with IC₅₀ = 0.47 \pm 0.03 μ g/ml. Werz (2007) stated that a plant extract power inhibition of LOX depends on its quantity of polyphenols.

Other researchers as Yoon and Baek (2005) have shown the role of antioxidants in the inhibition of inflammatory enzymes such as LOX enzymes (Yoon and Baek, 2005). These assessments were in disagreement with our findings; hence *P. dulce* possessed the highest quantity of polyphenolic compounds but was not the strongest in inhibiting LOX; another molecule or process must be involved in this mechanism. The anti-inflammatory reference product Zileuton had IC₅₀ of 0.083 µg/ml, about 9.39 times higher than *P. dulce* and *S. longepedunculata*, and 5.66 times that of *C. sanguinolenta*. Many other plant extracts and chemical compounds have been tested for LOX inhibition according to Sacan and Turhan (2014) and demonstrated good IC₅₀. Plant extracts, except garlic and grape extracts have inhibited LOX at a higher rate than quercetin. Celik Onar et al., (2012) have demonstrated that *Epilobium angustifolium* extract inhibited the activity of lipoxygenase; IC₅₀ value was found as 0.57 ± 0.06 µg/ml. Higher value of LOX activity IC₅₀ = 62.6 µg/ml with the bark of *F. rhynchophylla* has been found according to Huh et al. (2015). Therefore, the selective inhibition of LOX is an important therapeutic strategy for asthma (Shah et al., 2011; Schneider and Bucar, 2005). Medicinal plants may therefore be potential sources of inhibitors of COX-2/LOX that may have fewer side effects than NSAIDs (Schneider and Bucar, 2005). Inhibitors of LOX activities could provide potential therapies to manage many inflammatory and allergic responses and serve as ZYFLO 600 mg cp pellic made up with Zileuton.

Protein electrophoresis has been a proven diagnostic technique to examine proteins in plasma or serum in human (Ngure et al., 2008; Crivellente et al., 2008). The study carried out with the electrophoretic profiles has shown that the serum protein concentrations of wistar rats were different, whether they received or not plants extracts. Through osmotic pressure, serum protein is involved in the maintenance of normal distribution of water between blood and tissues (Marchi et al., 2009). Several fractions of serum vary independently and widely in diseases (Crivellente et al., 2008). The main idea was to assess the impact of these extracts on possible changes induced on these proteins six hours after the inflammation induction by the carrageenan. This molecule is a mixture of sulphated polysaccharides extracted from red algae, gelling and immunogenic equivalent to lipopolysaccharide (LPS) (Tobacman, 2001) of the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria including *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (Podschun, and Ullmann, 1998). It disrupted the total protein level by decreasing the concentration in negative control group but indomethacin, the reference anti-inflammatory drug has slightly corrected the diminution significantly. All extracts have acted in the same way but statistically unproved. Generally the inflammatory state is marked by the increase of alpha1, alpha2-globulin and the decrease of gamma-globulins. The gamma globulins produced by differentiated lymphocytes, the plasmocyte contain the IgG, IgM, IgA, IgE, and IgD immunoglobulins (Zaias et al., 2009). These are antibodies produced by the organism during intrusion of foreign agent. No change was observed with gamma globulin due probably to the short period of inflammation installation. Plant extracts such as *P. dulce* at 0.4 g/kg and *C. sanguinolenta* at 0.8 g/kg were more suitable for immunomodulating than indomethacin because they have suppressed the effect induced by carrageenan on immunoglobulins. The potentiating of the immunosuppressive effects created was observed with the extract of *P. dulce* and *S. longepedunculata* at 0.8 g/kg and at a dose of 0.4 g/kg for the extracts of *C. sanguinolenta* and *S. longepedunculata*.

During inflammation process, generally the number of WBC is increased at a short period of time (Porth, 2011). This was effective because animal group treated with carrageenan had a high number of leucocytes ($13.58 \pm 1.11 \cdot 10^3$ cells/mm³) if compared to group without carrageenan ($8.72 \pm 1.22 \cdot 10^3$ cells/mm³). The corrective action we were looking for from plant extracts was only found with *C. Sanguinolenta* at dose 0.8g/kg ($11.60 \pm 1.49 \cdot 10^3$ cells/mm³) and with *S. longepedunculata* at doses of 0.4 and 0.8 g/kg with approximately the same value. The number of platelets was also very influenced by carrageenan during our experiment. Only *P. dulce* extract at 0.8g/kg protected platelets from lowering effect induced by inflammation caused by carrageenan injection. Negative effect was observed mainly with the *S. longepedunculata* extract; the mechanism is not understood. Inflammation can also affect number of red blood cells and haemoglobin meaning inflammatory anemia (Berger, 2007; Lee et al., 2014). That effect was not been observed in our study probably due to the impact delay on those parameters. Further investigations on this way must be performed to better understand the mechanisms.

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