

EFFECT OF ROASTED PLANTAIN FLOWER ON BLOOD LIPIDS,
**PRILIMINARY STUDIES ON THE ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF
 SELECTED PLANT EXTRACTS USED BY AYURVEDIC PHYSICIANS
 IN JAFFNA**

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Antibacterial action of eight common plants which are used in indigenous medicine in Jaffna were tested using disc diffusion method. Standard antibiotics such as Cefuroxime, Ampicillin and Penicillin were used as control. Crude extracts of five plants such as *Azadirachta indica* (Vempu), *Coriandrum sativum* (Kothamuli), *Ctenolepis garcini* (Musumusakai), *Hibiscus rosasinensis* (Sevarathai), *Zingiber officinale* (Inchi) showed very high antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, which commonly causes superficial and deep seated pyogenic infection and was Penicillin resistant. Extract of *C. sativum* showed high antibacterial activity while four plants such as *A. indica*, *Phyllanthus emblica* (Nelli), *H. rosasinensis* and *Z. officinale* showed moderate antibacterial activity against *Klebsiella* which commonly causes pneumonia, and was Penicillin resistant. Extract of the other two *Loranthus* (*Kuruvichai*) and *C. Sativum* showed antibacterial activity against *Pseudomonas* which commonly causes endogenous urinary tract infection and was Cefuroxime and Penicillin resistant. Extract of *A. indica*, *C. sativum*, *C. garcini*, *H. rosasinensis* and *Z. officinale* were highly effective against *Escherichia coli* which commonly causes infantile diarrhoea and urinary tract infection and was Penicillin resistant. These results show that the locally available natural resources could be developed into newer antibiotics.