



Natural products as potential sources of inhibitors of bacterial quorum-sensing

Vijay Kothari, Haren Gosai, Shreya Raval, Vimla Chaudhary

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Scientific Study from the year 2014 in the subject Biology - Micro- and Molecular Biology, grade: A, Nirma University (Institute of Science), course: M.Sc., language: English, abstract: Objective: To investigate the effect of (i) seed extracts of *Pongamia pinnata*, *Pyrus pyrifolia*, and *Manilkara hexandra*, (ii) bacterial pigment prodigiosin, and (iii) three organic solvents (ethanol, methanol, and DMSO), on quorum sensing (QS) in *Chromobacterium violaceum*.

Methods: *C. violaceum* was challenged with plant extracts prepared by microwave assisted extraction (MAE) method, prodigiosin, and organic solvents. Effect of these test substances on *C. violaceum* growth, and quorum sensing regulated pigment (violacein) production was studied by broth dilution assay. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was also applied to generate chromatographic fingerprint of the active extracts. Effect of sub-MIC level of the antibiotic streptomycin on quorum sensing regulated pigment production was also studied.

Results: *P. pinnata* seed extracts and prodigiosin were found to possess anti-QS, and *M. hexandra* and *P. pyrifolia* seed extracts to possess QS-enhancing effect in *C. violaceum*. DMSO was found to enhance violacein production, whereas ethanol and methanol reduced violacein production in *C. violaceum*. Streptomycin at sub-MIC level was able to significantly arrest QS-regulated pigment production in *C. violaceum* and *S. marcescens*.

Conclusion: Prodigiosin and the seed extracts used in this study could affect quorum sensing in *C. violaceum* to a notable extent. Results of this study also emphasizes the importance of inclusion of appropriate solvent controls (negative controls) in bioassays designed for screening of antimicrobial and/or anti-QS compounds. Antipathogenic potential of low concentrations of streptomycin was also demonstrated.

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