

Comparison of the antimicrobial activities of *Syzygium jambos* (L.) extracts with other tannin containing plant extracts

Djado Djipa C.¹, Stévigny C.¹, Delmée M.², Quetin-Leclercq J.¹

1. Laboratory of Pharmacognosy, CHAM Unit, Université Catholique de Louvain, UCL 72.30 Av. E. Mounier, 72 1200 Brussels (Belgium) Email: leclercq@cham.ucl.ac.be.

2. Microbiology Unit, Université Catholique de Louvain, UCL 54.90 Av. Hippocrate, 54 1200 Brussels (Belgium)

Abstract

Syzygium jambos (L.) Alston (Myrtaceae) is a widespread medicinal plant traditionally used in sub-Saharan Africa to treat infectious diseases. Acetone and aqueous extracts from the bark of *Syzygium jambos* were tested for antimicrobial activity in vitro by the agar dilution method in petri dishes. Both extracts showed some activity against the tested micro-organisms. They proved to be particularly effective on *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Yersinia enterocolitica* and coagulase negative staphylococci among which *Staphylococcus hominis*, *Staphylococcus cohnii* and *Staphylococcus warneri*. These pro-

perties seem to be related to the high tannin content of *S. jambos* extracts (respectively 77 and 83% for the aqueous and acetone extracts determined according to the European Pharmacopoeia method) which were generally more active than *Hamamelis virginiana*, *Krameria triandra*, *Alchemilla vulgaris* and *Rubus fruticosus* extracts containing respectively 48, 44, 46 and 28% tannins. Furthermore, elimination of tannins totally suppressed these antimicrobial activities.

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