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In vitro antimicrobial activity of olive leaves.

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Abstract

We investigated the **antimicrobial** effect of **olive** leaves against bacteria and fungi. The microorganisms tested were inoculated in various concentrations of **olive** leaf water extract. **Olive** leaf 0.6% (w/v) water extract killed almost all bacteria tested, within 3 h. Dermatophytes were inhibited by 1.25% (w/v) plant extract following a 3-day exposure whereas *Candida albicans* was killed following a 24 h incubation in the presence of 15% (w/v) plant extract. **Olive** leaf extract fractions, obtained by dialysis, that showed **antimicrobial activity** consisted of particles smaller than 1000 molecular weight cutoffs. Scanning electron microscopic observations of *C. albicans*, exposed to 40% (w/v) **olive** leaf extract, showed invaginated and amorphous cells. *Escherichia coli* cells, subjected to a similar treatment but exposed to only 0.6% (w/v) **olive** leaf extract showed complete destruction. These findings suggest an **antimicrobial** potential for **olive** leaves.

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 **MeSH Terms, Substances**

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