

## Plants-derived bioactives: Novel utilization as antimicrobial, antioxidant and phyto-reducing agents for the biosynthesis of metallic nanoparticles

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### ABSTRACT

Medicinal and aromatic higher plants are sustainable resources for natural product compounds, including essential oils, phenolics, flavonoids, alkaloids, glycosides, and saponins. Extractives and essential oils as well as their bioactive compounds have many uses due to their antimicrobial, anticancer, and antioxidant properties as well as application in food preservation. These natural compounds have been reported in many works, for instance biofungicide with phenolic and flavonoid compounds being effective against mold that causes discoloration of wood. Additionally, the natural extracts from higher plants can be used to mediate the synthesis of nanoparticle materials. Therefore, in this review, we aim to promote and declare the use of natural products as environmentally eco-friendly bio-agents against certain pathogenic microbes and make recommendations to overcome the extensive uses of conventional pesticides and other preservatives.

### 1. Introduction

The search for new sources of bioactive compounds for use as natural biocide agents against microbes has been widely reported in several studies [1–6]. However, conventional pesticides are highly toxic to pathogens; however, they have a potential risk for public health, and consequently the phytochemical compounds isolated and identified from medicinal plants are recommended as bioactive ingredients in commercial bio-agent formulations to treat several diseases in humans, plants, and animals [7–9].

Forestry trees and shrubs are a primary source for secondary metabolites, which include several bioactive chemical compounds, such as phenolics, glycosides, lignans, flavonoids, saponins, alkaloids, essential oils (EOs), fixed oils (FOs), fatty acids, organic acids, and others. These natural products are not essential for the survival of the plant, and they play vital roles in the ethno-pharmacology industry as wood bio-preservatives against attacks by fungi and insects and as antimicrobial agents against plant, animal, and human pathogens [4–6,10,11]. They

are defensive compounds against competitors, insects, and pathogens [12].

Different plant EOs and extracts were evaluated and recommended for their bioactivities against certain human bacterial pathogens [13]. In the animal nutrition field, EOs and extracts were found to have great effects on improving the growth performance, nutrient digestibility, ruminal fermentation, anthelmintic agent and control of methane and carbon dioxide mitigation of ruminants [12,14,15].

Conventional chemical preservative-treated wood and wood-based panels, such as chromated copper arsenate (CCA) and acid copper chromate (ACC) have been observed to be acutely toxic to predators that attack them, such as fungi, insects, bacteria, marine borers, and others; however, researchers observed toxic effects on the environment and public health [16,17]. Recently, several studies have observed the benefits of using extracts and EOs as wood or papersheets biofungicide agents and recommended them as alternatives to conventional pesticides [3,4,18–25]. *Melia azedarach* wood treated at 2 % and 3 % with *Withania somnifera* fruit extract show no growth of *Agrobacterium*

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**Table 1**  
Some famous bioactive chemical compounds and their antimicrobial and anti-oxidant activities.

Chemical compound	Bioactivity	References
Caffeic acid	Potent antibacterial activity (AA) against clinical strains of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , with MIC ranged from 256 µg/mL to 1024 µg/mL.	[31]
Quinone	Derivatives of quinone such as - des-F (6)-quinolone showed highly active against <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , <i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i> , and <i>Legionella</i> sp., with MIC ranged from 0.0125 to 0.1 µg/mL.	[32]
	<i>N</i> -aminoquinoline-2-one 1, 1-(4-hydroxy-6-methyl-2-oxo-2H-pyran-3-yl)methyleneamino)quinolin-2(1H)-one and 1,1'-(1E,1'E)-(1,4-phenylenebis(methan-1-yl-1-ylidene))bis(azan-1-yl-1-ylidene)diquinolin-2(1H)-one showed good anticancer activity against HEP-2 cell line and microbes.	[33]
Catechol	Antimicrobial activity against <i>Pseudomonas putida</i> , <i>P. pyocyanea</i> , <i>Corynebacterium xerosis</i> , <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> , and <i>Penicillium italicum</i> .	[34]
Catechin	AA against <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> with MIC of 6–50 mg/mL.	[35]
	Potential activity against <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> isolated from red meat.	[36]
Hypericin	Potential efficiently to kill <i>S. aureus</i> , methicillin-resistant <i>S. aureus</i> (MRSA), and <i>Candida albicans</i> .	[37]
	Without light, hypericin inhibited the growth of <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>S. epidermidis</i> .	[38]
Eugenol	Excellent and broadly antimicrobial activities against a wide range of bacteria and fungi.	[39]
Coumarin	Coumarin and its derivatives have been observed good antimicrobial and antioxidant properties.	[40–44]
Gallic acid	Potential antioxidant activity in terms of radical scavenging activity and ability to inhibit lipid peroxidation.	[45]
kaempferol	Gear ability to inhibit reactive oxygen species (ROS)-generating enzymes and increases the expression of antioxidant enzymes.	[46,47]
Quercetin	Potential effects on glutathione (GSH), signal transduction pathways, enzymatic activity, and ROS caused by environmental and toxicological factors.	[48]
Apigenin	antioxidant properties, anti-hyperglycemic, anti-inflammatory, and (in myocardial ischemia) anti-apoptotic effects.	[49–51]
Taxol	Taxol (Paclitaxel), the alkaloid compound found in <i>Taxus brevifolia</i> wood with antileukemic, anticancer and antitumor agent.	[52–55]

*tumefaciens*, *Erwinia amylovora* and *Pseudomonas cichorii*, while the extract at 3 % inhibited *Fusarium culmorum* and *Rhizoctonia solani* growth by 84.07 % and 67.03 %, respectively [4]. Papersheets manufactured from pulp treated with *Pinus rigida* heartwood extract (PRWE) at 2 % or 4 % and with 4 % *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* var. *obtusata* aerial parts (ECL) suppressed *Aspergillus niger* growth on the paper disc; pulp treated with 2 % or 4 % PRWE, 4 % ECL and with 2 % or 4 % *Eucalyptus* flower buds (ECF) were completely suppressed *A. terreus* growth [24], also, inhibition of *A. terreus* growth was achieved as papersheets produced from *E. camaldulensis* wood-branch pulp paper and *Meryta Sinclairii* wood pulp treated with hexane extracts from *Melia azedarach*, *Sinapis alba*, and *Magnolia grandiflora* at 3 % and 5 % [26].

Natural extracts have been extensively used for the synthesis of metal nanoparticles (NPs), e.g., Ag, Au, Ag–Au, and TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs with promising applications such as antioxidant, antimicrobial, anticancer, thrombolytic, antidiabetic, anticoagulant, anti-inflammatory, and larvicidal properties. AgNPs synthesized using cocoa pod extract showed enhancing in *Corchorus olitorius* plants in terms of physiological tolerance indices, hepatoprotective potentials and antioxidant activity and strengthening its controlling soil phytopathogens [27]. Avocado (*Persea americana*) fruit peel aqueous extracts was used to synthesize AgNPs

AuNPs, and Ag–AuNPs, which effectively inhibited the growth of the tested bacteria in the following order Ag–AuNPs > AgNPs > AuNPs [28]. Phytosynthesis of AgNPs was achieved by leaf extract of *Petiveria alliacea*, where with 100 % inhibition, AgNPs was active against bacteria (*E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *S. aureus*), and fungi (*A. fumigatus* and *A. flavus*) [29]. AgNPs synthesized using aqueous extract of wonderful kola (*Buchholzia coriacea*) showed potent antifungal activity against *A. niger*, *A. flavus*, and *A. fumigatus* and antibacterial activity against *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus*, *E. coli* and *S. typhi* [30].

Plant extracts, and their derivative compounds, such as alkaloids, saponins, phenolic compounds, flavonoid compounds, and other compounds (Table 1), are known to be active against a wide variety of microorganisms and as antioxidants.

The increase in the development of new antimicrobial agents against microorganism (bacterial and fungal) infections of humans, plants, and animals has become a major challenge in past years [56–58]. Different botanical parts from medicinal and aromatic shrubs and trees, such as the leaves, fruits, wood, branches, seeds, roots, and bark, are a great source for natural products with potential antibacterial, antifungal, anticancer, antioxidant, and biopesticide properties [59–62]. Many works have documented the bioactivity and chemical composition of natural products from trees and shrubs; for example, extracts from the bark, fruits, leaves, roots, latex, and seeds of *Ficus* species (Family Moraceae) have been studied for their biochemical properties and bioactivities [63] as well as from *Callistemon viminalis* [64].

## 2. Bioactivity of natural products

### 2.1. Bioactivities of natural products from coniferous trees

The chemical byproducts from Coniferous trees have broad-spectrum uses in different applications, such as antimicrobials and in pharmaceutical industries, for example pinosylvin from pine [65] and Rosins (resins) from Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) [66]. Resins are natural products of coniferous trees, and the purified rosin from the trunk of Norway spruce required a minimum concentration of 10 % (w/w) to prevent the preservation of microbes in rosin-salve media [66]. In the rosin of *Pinus* species, the presence of an hydroperoxide, 15-hydroperoxydehydroabietic acid, with contact allergenic properties was detected [67].

Resin acids with different functional groups, such as hydroxyls, aldehydes, and ketones, and *cis* or *trans* configurations, like *cis*-7-oxo-deisopropyldehydroabietate, cover a spectrum of antimicrobial activities against several microorganisms, such as the fungi *Botrytis cinerea* and *Lophodermium seditiosum* [68]. The oils from the leaves of fir species were found to have sesquiterpenes, triterpenes, organic acid diterpenes, flavonoids, condensed tannins, lignans, and waxes [69]. *Cedrus libani* produces a kind of tar from its resinous roots and stemwood and is used for treating the skin complaints of animals and for killing parasites, e.g., aphids, insects, and ticks [70].

Pinosylvin (3,5-dihydroxy-trans-stilbene), a constituent identified in the extracts of pine, exhibited more potent growth inhibitory activity against *Candida albicans* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* compared with resveratrol (3,5,4'-trihydroxy-trans-stilbene) [65]. Several species of *Juniperus*, such as *J. foetidissima*, were used as a urine increaser, sweating antiseptic, in the treatment of certain skin ailments, or as a tar resource, as they contain triterpene etheric oils (resin cadinene) and phenols (guaiacol and creosol derivatives) [70]. The leaves of certain pine species (*Pinus nigra*, *P. sylvestris*, *P. brutia*, *P. pinnae*, and *P. halepensis*) can be used as a mucus remover and as an antiseptic. *P. brutia* and *P. nigra* species contain compounds, such as  $\alpha$ -pinene,  $\beta$ -pinene,  $\beta$ -caryophyllene, and gemacrene [71].

*P. resinosa* and *P. ponderosa* in comparison to *P. strobus* have been characterized by the higher content of  $\beta$ -pinene (42.4 % and 45.7 % vs. 7.9 %, respectively), while,  $\alpha$ -pinene (17.7 %) and gemacrene D (12.2 %) were found to be the dominant compounds of *P. strobus* [72], and

**Table 2**  
Some extracted bioactive chemical compounds and their antimicrobial activities from coniferous trees.

Coniferous Tree/s	Part used	Extract/compound	Test method	Bioactivity	Reference
<i>Picea abies</i>	Trunk.	Rosins (resins).	DDM.	Reduced the colonization of <i>S. aureus</i> , and methicillin-resistant <i>S. aureus</i> (MRSA), within 24 h and <i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , and <i>C. albicans</i> within 4 days.	[66]
<i>Picea abies</i>	Trunk.	Acetone extract from resins with coumaric acid, resin acids (abietic acid, pimaric acid, neoabietic acid, palustric acid, levopimaric acid, and their hydroxy derivatives); and lignans (matairesinol, isolaricresinol, pinoresinol, laricresinol, and isolaricresinol).	DDM.	Potential activity against <i>Candida</i> yeasts and <i>Trichophyton mentagrophytes</i> .	[77]
<i>Pinus brutia</i> , <i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> , <i>Abies cilicia</i> , <i>Cedrus libani</i> and <i>P. nigra</i>	Leaves, resins, barks, cones and fruits.	Chloroform, acetone and methanol extracts.	DDM.	All the plant extracts inhibited <i>B. megaterium</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>B. cereus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> , <i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>Mycobacterium smegmatis</i> , <i>Proteus vulgaris</i> , <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> , <i>Candida tropicalis</i> , and <i>Penicillium italicum</i> .	[78]
<i>P. roxburghii</i>	Wood, bark, and needles.	The main compounds of EOs from wood were caryophyllene, thunbergol, 3-carene, cembrene, $\alpha$ -thujene, and terpinolen, from bark were $\alpha$ -pinene and 3-carene, and in needles were $\alpha$ -pinene and 3-carene.	DDM.	All EOs were active against <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>Sarcina lutea</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> , <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> , and <i>Pectobacterium carotovorum</i> subsp. <i>Carotovorum</i> .	[79]
<i>P. roxburghii</i>	Stem, leaves, bark, female cone, and male cone	Aqueous and alcoholic extracts.	DDM.	Inhibitory activity against <i>A. tumefaciens</i> , while all the extracts except the stem extract showed inhibitory activity against <i>E. coli</i> .	[80]
<i>P. roxburghii</i>	Wood.	EOs, methanol, and chloroform extracts.	DDM.	Significant biological activities against <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. pyogenes</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> , <i>A. niger</i> , and <i>A. clavatus</i> for EOs rather than the methanolic and chloroform extracts.	[81]
<i>P. roxburghii</i>	Trunk.	Pine rosin ( <i>cis</i> -7-oxodeisopropyldehydroabietate and methyl <i>trans</i> -7-oxo-deisopropyldehydroabietate were the major compounds).	Solid medium in Multi-well plates.	Completely or partially inhibited spore germination of <i>Mucor racemosus</i> , <i>Syncephalastrum racemosum</i> , <i>Rhizopus stolonifera</i> , and <i>R. arrhizus</i> and growth of bacteria <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>E. faecalis</i> was found.	[82]
<i>P. roxburghii</i>	Stem.	EOs ( $\alpha$ -pinene followed by 3-carene, caryophyllene, <i>p</i> -cymene, terpinenol, and limonene were the most abundant compounds).	Well diffusion method.	AA against <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>B. subtilis</i> , while no activity against <i>E. coli</i> and <i>E. aerogenes</i> . Antifungal activity against <i>A. terreus</i> , <i>A. flavus</i> , <i>A. candidus</i> , <i>A. vesicolor</i> , <i>A. niger</i> , and <i>Trichoderma viride</i> .	[83]
<i>P. roxburghii</i>	Needles.	EOs ( $\alpha$ -pinene, caryophyllene, 3-carene, $\alpha$ -terpineol, caryophyllene oxide, and borneol acetate as major compounds).	Well/cup plate method.	Maximum activity against <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>B. subtilis</i> , while no activity was observed against <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Salmonella typhi</i> , and <i>E. aerogenes</i> .	[84]
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Needles.	EOs ( $\alpha$ -pinene and sabinene as major compounds).	DDM.	EOs inhibited the growth of all bacteria ( <i>B. cereus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , <i>Corynebacterium</i> sp., <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , and <i>S. aureus</i> ), yeast ( <i>C. albicans</i> ), and fungi ( <i>Alternaria</i> sp., <i>A. nidulans</i> , and <i>A. niger</i> ).	[85]
<i>P. ponderosa</i> , <i>P. resinosa</i> and <i>P. strobus</i>	Needles.	EOs.	Growth inhibition.	The strongest activity was observed for the EOs from <i>P. ponderosa</i> , which fully inhibited the growth of <i>Fusarium culmorum</i> , <i>F. solani</i> at 2 %, and <i>F. poae</i> at 5 %.	[72]
<i>Pinus nigra</i> (ssp. <i>nigra</i> , ssp. <i>pallasian</i> , and var. <i>banatica</i> )	Needles.	EOs.	DPPH and ABTS scavenging assays and MIC.	Weak antioxidative properties. Good activity against <i>A. niger</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>Bacillus cereus</i> .	[73]
<i>P. patula</i>	Needles.	The EOs major compounds were $\beta$ -phellandrene, $\alpha$ -pinene, bornyl acetate, $\beta$ -caryophyllene, and limonene.	Broth macrodilution and DDM.	Strong activity against <i>S. pyogenes</i> , <i>P. solanacearum</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>Pycularia oryzae</i> , with the exception of <i>Colletotrichum coffeanum</i> .	[86]
<i>P. densiflora</i> , <i>Pinus koraiensis</i> , and <i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i>	Needles.	The major compounds of EOs were $\beta$ -thujene in <i>P. densiflora</i> ; $\alpha$ -pinene in <i>P. koraiensis</i> ; bornyl acetate in <i>C. obtusa</i> .	DDM.	<i>P. densiflora</i> and <i>C. obtusa</i> EOs have AA, whereas EOs from <i>P. koraiensis</i> and <i>C. obtusa</i> have antifungal effects.	[87]
<i>P. densiflora</i> , <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> ,		The EOs major compounds were $\beta$ -phellandrene and $\alpha$ -pinene in <i>P. densiflora</i> ; kaur-16-ene and sabinene in	DDM.	<i>C. obtusa</i> EOs at 2.2 $\mu$ g inhibited <i>E. coli</i> and <i>K. oxytoca</i> , whereas the <i>C. japonica</i> EOs gave weak AA. <i>P. densiflora</i> oil	[88]

(continued on next page)

Table 2 (continued)

Coniferous Tree/s	Part used	Extract/compound	Test method	Bioactivity	Reference
and <i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i>		<i>C. japonica</i> ; and bicyclo [1,2,2] heptan-2-ol and 2-carene in <i>Ch. Obtusa</i> ).		showed the most effective antifungal activity. MIC values for <i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i> and <i>C. glabrata</i> were as low as 0.54 and 2.18 mg/mL, respectively.	
<i>P. halepensis</i>	Cones.	EOs (caryophyllene, $\alpha$ -pinene, and caryophyllene oxide and n-butanol extract (3,4-dimethyldihydrofuran-2,5-dione, and 2-methylenecholestan-3-ol.	DDM.	Moderate AA against <i>D. solani</i> , <i>P. atrosepticum</i> , <i>R. solanacearum</i> , <i>A. tumefaciens</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>Sarcina lutea</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , and <i>S. aureus</i> .	[58]
<i>P. peuce</i>	- Twigs with needles (T+N). - Twigs without needles (T-N).	The major components of EOs in T+N and T-N were: $\alpha$ -pinene, camphene, $\beta$ -pinene, myrcene, limonene+ $\beta$ -phellandrene, bornyl acetate, <i>trans</i> -( <i>E</i> )-caryophyllene, germacrene D, and $\delta$ -cadinene.	DDM and broth dilution method.	T-N EOs showed antimicrobial activity against <i>S. pneumoniae</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. epidermidis</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> , <i>S. agalactiae</i> , <i>Acinetobacter</i> spp., and <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> . T+N EOs showed the greatest activity against <i>S. agalactiae</i> , <i>S. pyogenes</i> , <i>Enterococcus</i> , and <i>C. albicans</i> , followed by <i>H. influenzae</i> , <i>Acinetobacter</i> spp., <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. enteritidis</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>S. Epidermidis</i> (Karapandzova et al., 2014).	[89]
<i>P. wallichiana</i>	Leaves.	<i>n</i> -Hexane, ethyl acetate, chloroform, aqueous and residue.	DDM and MIC. % Mortality of insects.	<i>n</i> -hexane showed MIC at 25 $\mu$ g/mL against <i>Microsporium canis</i> , ethyl acetate against <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> , <i>Rhyzopertha dominica</i> , and <i>Callosobruchus analis</i> . The other fraction showed activities against <i>R. dominica</i> , <i>T. castaneum</i> , and <i>C. analis</i> .	[90]
<i>P. pinea</i>	Nuts.	<i>n</i> -Hexane oils.	MIC.	Good activity against <i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>P. mirabilis</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>A. baumannii</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>E. faecalis</i> .	[91]

EOs: Essential oils; DDM: Disc diffusion method; DPPH: 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl; ABTS: 2,2'-azinobis(3-ethylbenzothiaziline-6-sulfonate); MIC.

*P. resinosa* was richer in myrcene at 15.9%.  $\alpha$ -Pinene was observed at the percentages of 45.93%, 42.33%, and 50.83% in the essential oils (EOs) from *P. nigra* taxa of the ssp. *nigra*, ssp. *pallasiana*, and var. *banatica*, respectively [73]. In addition, researchers reported  $\alpha$ -pinene to be fungicidal, insecticidal, and antibacterial ([74,75]. Table 2 summarizes the bioactivity of extracts and EOs from the coniferous wood and bark oil extracts of *P. sylvestris*, *Abies alba*, *Picea abies*, and *Larix decidua*, which showed the presence of monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, diterpenoids, and resin acids [76].

## 2.2. Bioactivity of leaf extracts and essential oils

The leaves of trees and shrubs contain a greater number of secondary metabolites; e.g., steroids, tannin, anthocyanin, flavonoids, diterpenes, physterols, and phlobatannins were identified in the leaf extracts of teak [92]. Teak extracts showed great bioactivity against pathogenic fungi and insect pests [93–95]. Furthermore, teak leaf extract did not cause any apparent in vivo toxicity in an animal model [96].

*Syzygium cumini* leaves EOs found to have  $\alpha$ -pinene,  $\alpha$ -terpineol, alloocimene,  $\alpha$ -bornyl acetate, 2- $\beta$ -pinene, and caryophyllene as the main compounds [97], while other compounds, such as  $\alpha$ -pinene, *cis*-ocimin, *trans*-ocimine, and 2- $\beta$ -pinene, were also identified [98].

*Cupressus sempervirens* EOs showed cedrol, phenanthrene,  $\Delta$ 3-carene,  $\alpha$ -terpineolene, camphene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, 2- $\beta$ -pinene, limonene, and  $\alpha$ -terpineol as the main compounds [97]. Some of these components were found in plants of the same species [99] with a lower percentage of cedrol, while sabinene and  $\alpha$ -pinene were higher. Turkish cultivars were found to have camphene as a chemotaxonomic value [100].

*Leucaena leucocephala* leaf extract was identified with compounds of pentadecanoic acid-14-methyl-methyl ester, 2(H)-benzofuranone-5,6,7,7a-tetrahydro-4,4,7a-trimethyl, and 6,10,14-trimethyl-2-pentadecanone [101]. Extracts from leaves of *L. leucocephala* were shown to have quercetin [102]. Mimosine (leucenol), a non-protein amino acid, was isolated from the seeds of *L. leucocephala*, which is known to be toxic to ruminants [103]. From whole plants of *L. leucocephala*, squalene, ficaprenol-11 (polyprenol), coumaric acid, lupeol, *trans*-*cis*-coumaric acid, and  $\beta$ -sitostenone, were isolated [104].

Salicin, a salicylate compound, and phenolic glycosides were isolated

from *Salix babylonica* extracts [105]. Salicin, benzyl ester of gentisic acid, luteolin-4'-O-glucoside, trichocarpin, apigenin/kaempferol-7-O-galactoside, and esters of terephthalic acid have been isolated from the leaves [106]. Additionally, fatty acid esters of octadecenoic acid-1,2,3-propanetriyl ester, tritetracotane, and hexadecanoic were identified from leaf extracts [101].

*Tecoma stans* leaf extracts showed potential antibacterial activity [107]. Different groups of chemical compounds, such as EOs, saponins, resins, alkaloids, steroids, flavonoids, phenols, and anthraquinones, have been isolated from *T. stans* extracts [95,108,109], with antioxidant, antifungal, and antimicrobial activities [109,110]. The bioactive compounds iridoid glucoside and 5-deoxystansioside [111] as well as hyperoside, chrysoeriol, and luteolin [111] have been found in the leaf extracts.

The compounds of  $\alpha$ -pinene, *cis*-ocimene,  $\alpha$ -phellandrene, sabinene, adamantane, calarene, *cis*-caryophyllene,  $\beta$ -selinene,  $\alpha$ -muurolene, (+)-cycloisositivene, valencene,  $\beta$ -cubebene,  $\alpha$ -selinene,  $\Delta$ -cadinene, and  $\gamma$ -selinene were identified in *Schinus molle* leaf EOs of plants grown in Egypt with moderate antioxidant activity [112].  $\alpha$ -Phellandrene,  $\beta$ -phellandrene, limonene,  $\beta$ -myrcene, and elemol were the main compounds in *S. molle* plants grown Southeast Portugal [113].  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -phellandrene and limonene were found in leaf EOs of *S. molle* grown in Italy [114].  $\alpha$ -Pinene and  $\beta$ -pinene were found in the EOs of *S. molle* grown in Costa Rica [115]. *p*-Cymene with high efficacy against two stored product insects (*Tribolium castaneum* and *Trogoderma granarium*) was reported [116]. In Tunisian plants,  $\alpha$ -phellandrene followed by  $\beta$ -phellandrene were reported as the main constituents [117].

*Callistemon viminalis* leaf EOs showed that 1,8-cineole and  $\alpha$ -pinene, as the main compounds, had high antioxidant and antibacterial activities [118]. Additionally, the bioactivities of EOs from *C. viminalis* are summarized in a previous work [64].

The unsaponified terpene-rich extract of *Lantana camara* leaves showed considerable antioxidant activity [119]. Sabinene, (*Z*)-citral,  $\alpha$ -pinene, 1,8-cineole,  $\gamma$ -terpinene, (*E*)-citral, *trans*-caryophyllene, bicyclogermacrene,  $\alpha$ -humulene,  $\beta$ -caryophyllene,  $\alpha$ -curcumene, and germacrene D were the most prominent EOs compounds in the leaves [97, 120], with good antibacterial activity against some human and plant bacterial pathogens. Lantadene A, lantadene B, lantadene C,



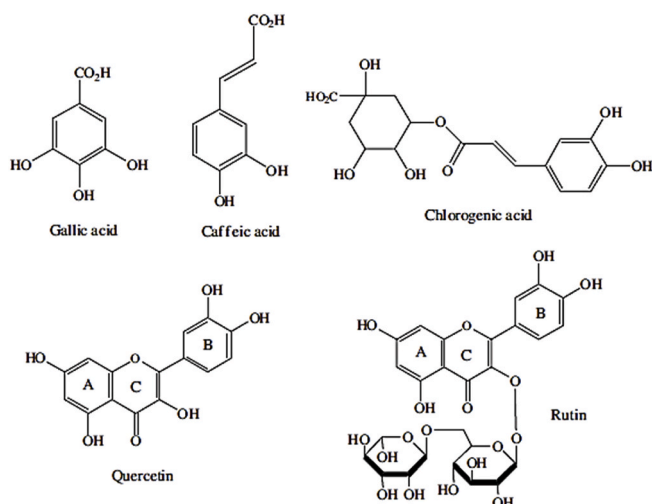


Fig. 1. Phenolic compounds structures detected in ethanolic extracts of *L. camara* and *L. montevidensis* of leaves and roots [126].

$\beta$ , $\beta$ -dimethylacryloyl ester of lantanilic acid, lantadene D, icterogenin, camarinic acid, lancamarolide, camaric acid, 3-methoxy quercetin,  $\beta$ -resorcylic acid, salicylic acid, gentisic acid, coumarin, ferulic acid, *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid, and 6-methyl coumarin were also found [121–125]. Fig. 1 presents the chemical structures of the phenolic compounds detected in the ethanolic extracts of leaves and roots from *L. montevidensis* and *L. camara* with good antioxidant activity [126].

The aqueous extracts from *Feronia limonia*, *Bauhinia racemosa*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Dalbeagia sissoo*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Ailanthus excelsa*, *Morinda tinctoria*, *Moringa oleifera*, and *Cordia dichotoma* demonstrated activity against *S. typhimurium*, *B. megaterium*, *P. aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Proteus vulgaris*, and *Aspergillus niger* [127]. Hydro-methanolic extracts of *Cistus monspeliensis*, *Berberis vulgaris*, *Punica granatum*, *Cassia angustifolia*, *Withania frutescens*, *Cinnamomum cassia*, *Nigella sativa*, *Rhus tripartata*, and *Zingiber officinale* showed good activity

against *S. aureus*, *E. faecalis*, *E. coli*, *E. cloacae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *P. aeruginosa* [128].

### 2.3. Bioactivity of essential oils and extracts from bark

The extracts and essential oils from bark of the genus *Cinnamomum* are commonly used for their antibacterial, antioxidant, antifungal, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, nematocidal, insecticidal, and anti-cancer effects [129–132]. These compounds include cinnamaldehyde, cinnamate, and cinnamic acid [133]. *trans*-Cinnamaldehyde, eugenol, camphor,  $\beta$ -caryophyllene, L-borneol, cinnamyl acetate, and other compounds have also been identified [134,135]. The chemical structures of the most commonly identified compounds in extracts and essential oils from *Cinnamomum* bark are shown in Fig. 2.

The methanolic extract of stem bark from *Schinus terebinthifolius* showed moderate antibacterial activity [136], which was reported to be rich in tannins, phenols, anthraquinones, and triterpenes [137]. *Terminalia brownie* stem bark and wood extracts showed the presence of a quercetin-7-O-diglucoside isolate, which possessed significant activity against *Aspergillus* and *Fusarium* strains [138].

Stem bark methanolic extracts of *Delonix regia* and *Erythrina humeana* were observed to have moderate to weak activity against *D. dianthicola*, *P. carotovorum* subsp. *wasabiae*, *P. carotovorum* subsp. *carotovorum*, *P. carotovorum* subsp. *Atrosepticum*, and *D. chrysanthemi* [139]. Compounds of *p*-methoxybenzaldehyde,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, lupeol, epilupeol, and stigmasterol were isolated from stem bark extract of *D. regia* [140]. *D. regia* bark contains carotene,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, and alkaloids, along with other compounds [141,142].

The bark EOs of *P. roxburghii* showed  $\alpha$ -pinene, 3-carene, cembrene, longifolene, thunbergol,  $\beta$ -pinene, sylvestrene, terpineol, and terpinolen as the main compounds [79], with good activity against *E. coli* and *R. solanacearum*. From the methanolic extract of the bark of *P. roxburghii*, 1,5-dihydroxy-3,6,7-trimethoxy-8-dimethylallyloxy-xanthone and 1-hydroxy-3,6-dimethoxy-2- $\beta$ -dglucopyranoxanthone were isolated as xanthone compounds [143]. Ferulic acid, *p*-coumaric acid, and pinoresinol were also isolated [144].

Ferulic acid and catechin were detected in *Catalpa speciosa* bark

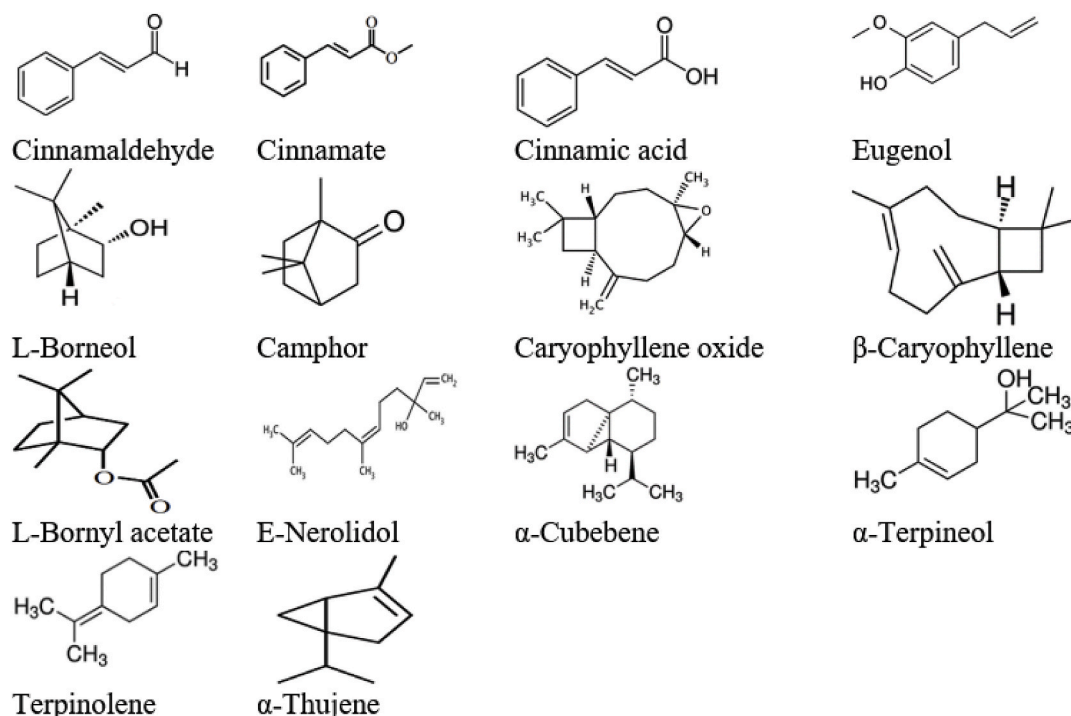


Fig. 2. Extracts and essential oils compounds from *Cinnamomum* bark.

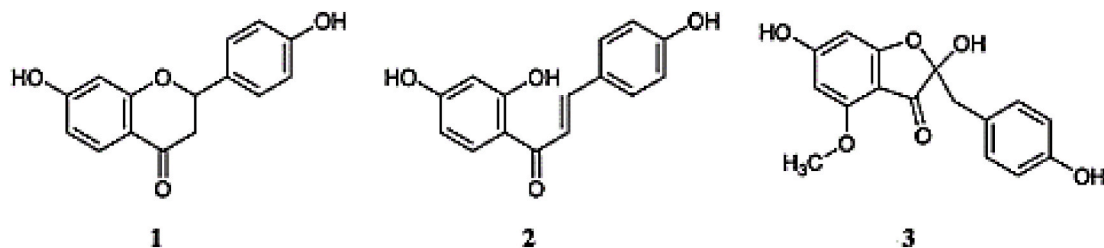


Fig. 3. Chemical structures of liquiritigenin (1), isoliquiritigenin (2), and marsupsin (3) isolated from *Pterocarpus marsupium* heartwood [151].

extract, while hydroxycaffeic and protocatechuic acids were found in *Taxus cuspidate*, and catechin was found in *Magnolia acuminata* [145]. The three species exerted clear anticancer activity especially from the phenolic compounds from *M. acuminata* [145]. In addition, the barks of *Quercus robur* (ellagic acid), *Q. macrocarpa* (caffeic acid), and *Q. acutissima* (ellagic acid) were identified to have potential antibacterial activity [146]. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* bark extract with its main polyphenolic compounds benzoic acid, quinol, salicylic acid, myricetin, and rutin by demonstrated using HPLC was observed as a good antiviral against Tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) MG264, as an antifungal against *Fusarium culmorum*, *Rhizoctonia solani*, and *Botrytis cinerea* colonized wood blocks of chinaberry, and as an insecticide against *Tribolium castaneum* (Herbst) and *Sitophilus oryzae* [147]. The stem-bark of *Dalbergia sissoo* stem bark showed the presence of compounds dalberginone, dalbergin and methyl dalbergin, and dalbergichromene [148].

#### 2.4. Bioactivity of extracts and essential oils from wood

Extracts dissolved in methanol, ethyl acetate, and chloroform from *Brachychiton diversifolius* wood branches had antibacterial activity against certain human or plant pathogens [149,150]. The bioactive compounds marsupsin, liquiritigenin, and isoliquiritigenin (Fig. 3) were isolated from *Pterocarpus marsupium* heartwood [151]. Flavone nor-artocarpotin, and  $\beta$ -amyrin,  $\beta$ -sitosterol and stigmasterol were isolated from the green branches of *D. sissoo* Roxb [152], and neoflavonoid

dalbergiphenol from heartwood of *D. sissoo* [148].

Schinol and biphenyl 4'-ethyl-4-methyl-2,2',6,6'-tetrahydroxy[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylate were isolated from *Schinus terebinthifolius* stems with good antifungal activity [140]. EOs from the fruits showed the presence of bioactive compounds, such as caryophyllene, thunbergol,  $\alpha$ -caryophyllene, verticilol, 3-carene, cembrene,  $\alpha$ -thujene, terpinolene, and  $\alpha$ -pinene [153]. In the stems, 3-carene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, and caryophyllene [83] were found to have good antibacterial activity.

Morin, 1,3,6,7-tetrahydroxyxanthone, and oxyresveratrol were isolated from *Maclura pomifera* wood extract with remarkable fungicidal and termiticidal agents [154]. 3,4',5-trihydroxystilbene and 2,4,3',5'-tetrahydroxystilbene were isolated from *Maclura pomifera* wood [155]. In addition, heartwood has been reported to have nontoxic antibiotic effects making it useful as a food preservative and antifungal agent [154]. Research reported that the 5,7,4',20-tetrahydroxy-6-[30-methyl-but-30-enyl]-flavone, 5,4'-dihydroxy-20-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-30-methoxyfurano(40,50(6,7) isoflavone, and 5,4'-dihydroxy-20-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-30-methoxyfurano(40,50(6,7) flavone isolated from stem and leaf extracts had antibacterial activity [156].

*D. regia* wood essential oil showed effective activity against *B. subtilis*, *S. lutea*, and *S. aureus* [157], with the presence of 1,6,7-trimethyl-naphthalene, 1,7-dimethyl-naphthalene, heptadecane, heneicosane, hexadecane, octadecane, pentadecane, and eicosane in EOs compounds.

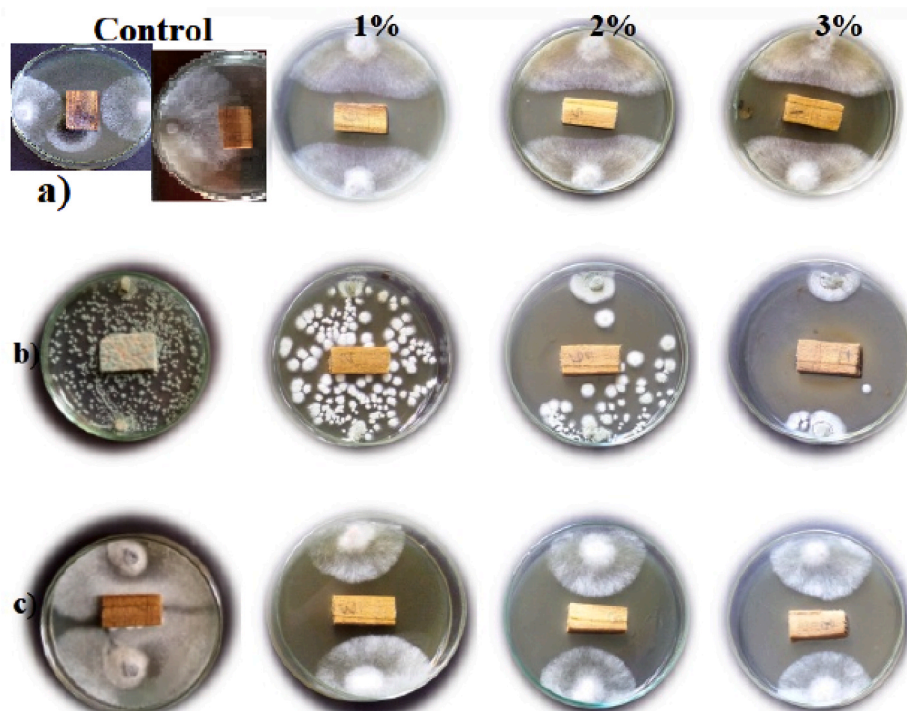


Fig. 4. Bioactivity of treated wood with *A. saligna* flower water extracts at the concentrations of 1, 2, and 3 % against three fungi: (a) *R. solani*; (b) *P. chrysogenum*; and (c) *F. culmorum* (Adapted from Al-Huqail et al. [173]).

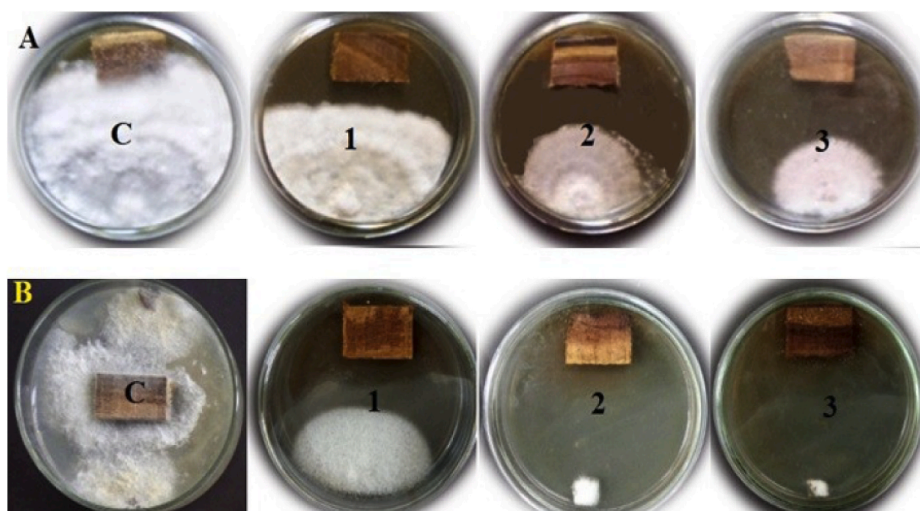


Fig. 5. Wood treated with the methanolic extract of *M. paradisiaca* peels. A: *F. culmorum*, and (B) *R. solani* (Adapted from Behiry et al. [21]). C: Control, where wood block received 100  $\mu$ L of 10 % DMSO; 1: extract concentration 1 %; 2: extract concentration 2 %; 3: extract concentration 3 %.

### 3. Role of natural products as wood biopreservatives

Some fungi are able to produce hydrolyzing enzymes, such as xylanase and *b*-xylosidases, and colonizing wood causes colored spores leading to the discoloration of different woods and wood-based products in humid conditions [158–161]. Although, fungal production of xylanases from *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *A. flavus*, *A. fumigatus*, *Fusarium solani*, *A. niger*, *Trichoderma longibrachiatum*, and *Botryodiplodia* sp. has biotechnological relevance [162,163], or for the biofabrication of metal nanoparticles by using of agro-wastes, enzymes and pigments with potent biomedical antimicrobial, antioxidant, anticoagulant and catalytic activities [164–166], the presence of xylanolytic fungi on wood promotes deterioration of wood.

Subsequently, natural products can be used against the infestation of molds in wood through surface applications [25,167–169]. *Myrtus*

*communis* hydro-alcoholic extract and *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* water extract showed good activity against *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *S. enteri* [170]. Extracts from *Capparis decidua*, *Ficus carica*, *Syzygium cumini*, and *Ziziphus jujuba* showed potential antibacterial activity against *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *S. typhi* and the fungi *Trichophyton longifusus* and *Candida albicans* [171].

In recent years, natural extracts have been used as wood preservatives not only because of the potential utility of decay-resistant wood sources but also because of the need for decay protection, especially for commercial antifungal products [4,172]. Wood samples of *Melia azedarach* treated with water extracts of the *Acacia saligna* flower (phenolic compounds of benzoic acid, caffeine, *o*-coumaric acid, naringenin, quercetin, and kaempferol were found) showed good antifungal activity against certain molds as shown in Fig. 4 [173], where with increase the extract concentration from 1 % to 3 %, the mycelial fungal

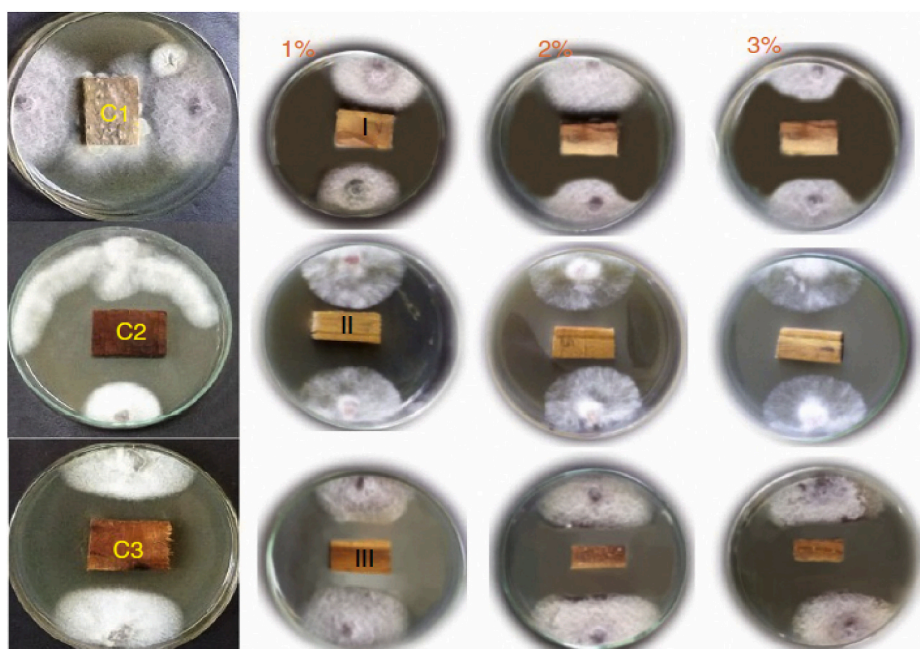


Fig. 6. Antifungal activities of wood treated with oils against *F. culmorum*. (C1) Wood treated with 10 % DMSO; (C2) wood treated with clotrimazole 1000 ppm; (C3) wood treated with thiophanate-methyl 1500 ppm; (I) wood treated with *E. camaldulensis* oil at 1, 2, and 3 %; (II) wood treated with *M. chamomilla* oil at 1, 2, and 3 %; and (III) wood treated with *V. agenus-castus* oil at 1, 2, and 3 % (Adapted from Salem et al. [19]).



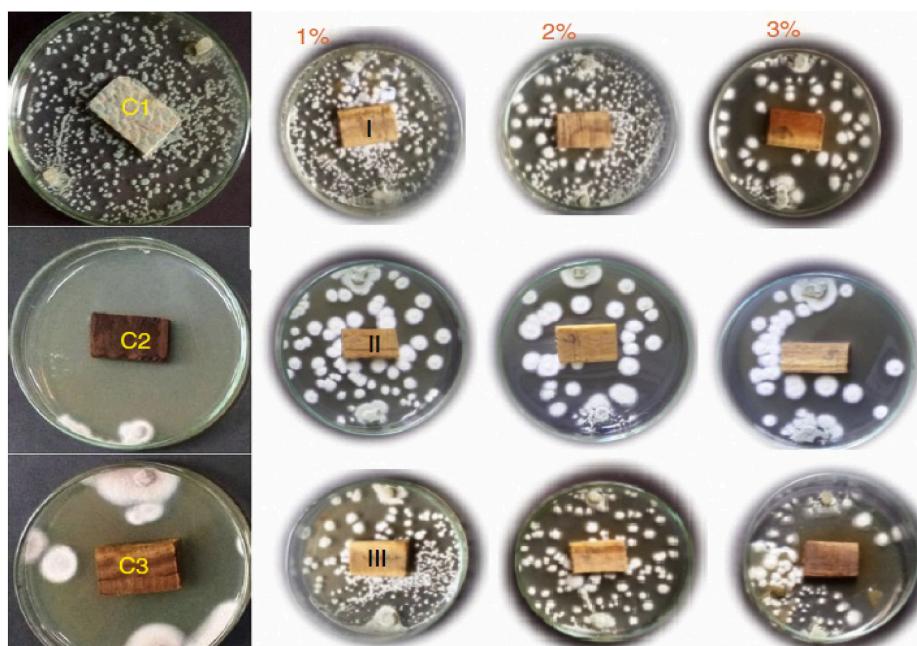


Fig. 7. Antifungal activities of wood treated with oils against the growth of *P. chrysogenum* (Adapted from Salem et al. [19]), for the legend, see Fig. 6.

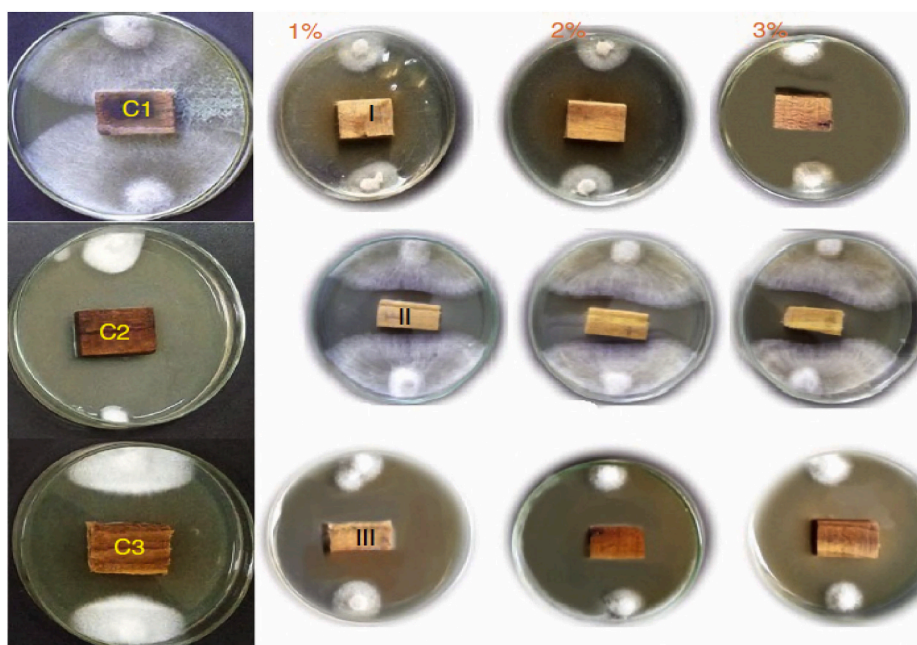


Fig. 8. The antifungal activity of wood treated with oils against the growth of *R. solani*. For the legend, see Fig. 6.

growth inhibition was increased.

The methanol extract of *Callistemon viminalis* bark was effective against *F. culmorum*, as were *Magnolia grandiflora* leaves against *A. tenuissima*, and, after three months, no fungal growth was found on the *Acacia saligna* wood surface treated with *M. pomifera* bark methanol extract [174]. Fig. 5 shows that the linear fungal growth of *F. culmorum* and *R. solani* was decreased with increased concentrations of the extract of *Musa paradisiaca*-peel-treated wood from 1 % to 3 % [21].

Oils extracted with *n*-hexane from *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Vitex agenus-castus* and the treated wood of *M. azedarach* (Figs. 6–8) showed promising antifungal activities, while the oil extracted from *Matricaria chamomilla* was observed to have the lowest activity [19]. In these Figures, each wood block had received 100  $\mu$ L from the prepared extracts at

the concentrations of 1, 2, and 3 %, and compared with the control wood block that received 100  $\mu$ L of 10 % dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). Also, it can be seen that, wood treated with oils from *E. camaldulensis*, *M. chamomilla* and *V. agenus-castus* showed potential antifungal activity against *F. culmorum* compared to the positive controls used (Fig. 6). Wood-treated with the studied oils showed weak antifungal activity against the growth of *P. chrysogenum* compared to the positive controls (Fig. 7), while those oils showed good antifungal activity against the growth of *R. solani* (Fig. 8).

*L. leucocephala* wood treated with a combination of extracts from *Acer saccharum* var. *saccharum* inner bark 0.25 %, outer bark 0.25 %, and citric acid 0.25 % produced the highest antifungal effects against the growth of *T. viride* [20]. *A. saligna* wood treated with Paraloid B-72 and



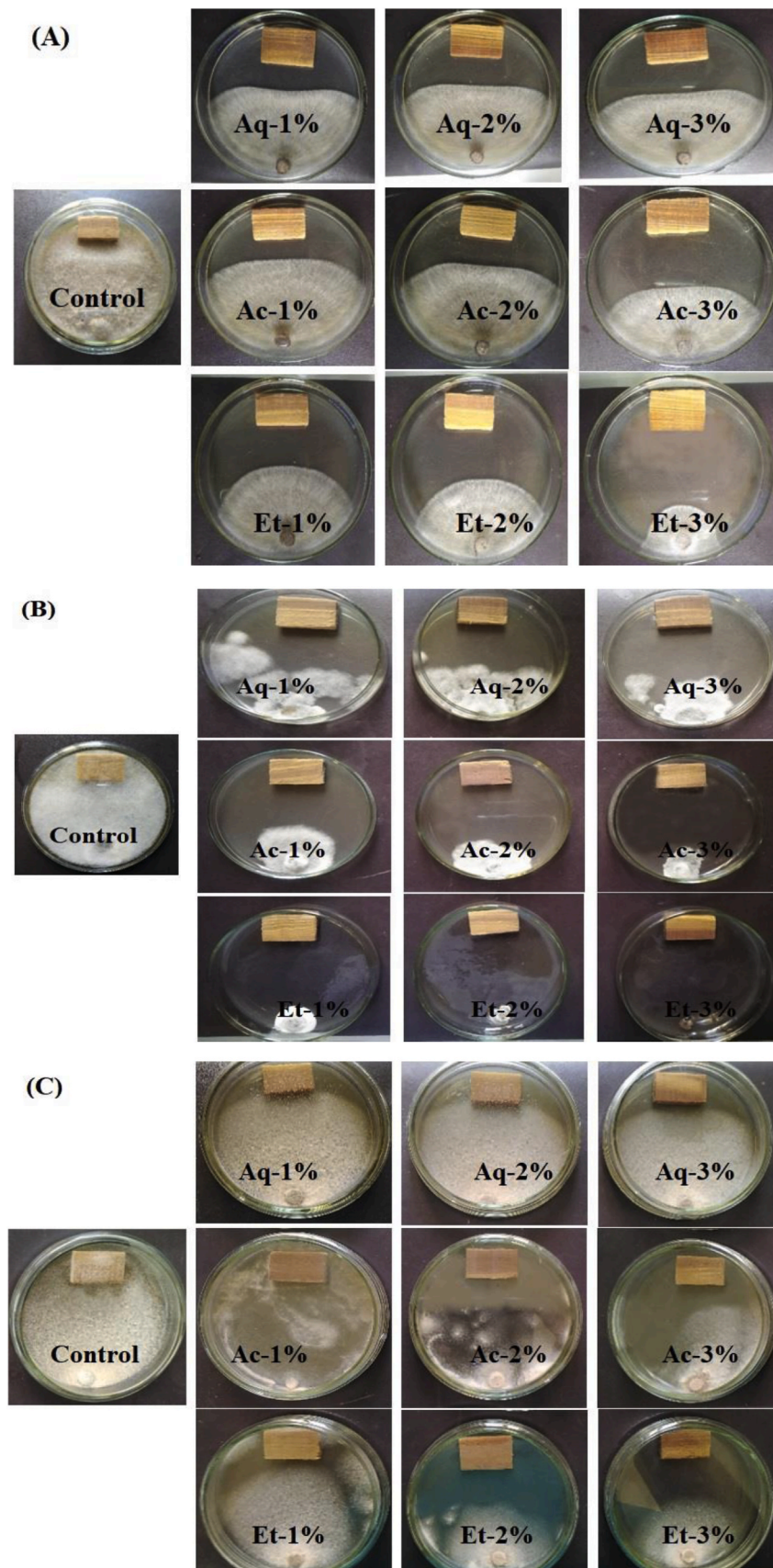


Fig. 9. Antifungal activities of wood treated with aqueous (Aq), acetone (Ac), and ethanol (Et) *C. uvifera* leaf extracts vs. *Rhizoctonia solani* (A), *Botrytis cinerea* (B), and *Fusarium culmorum* (C). (Adapted from Ashmawy et al. [2]).

**Table 3**  
Green methods for the production of metal nanoparticles using natural extracts.

Plant species	Part and solvent extract	Synthesized nanoparticle/ biological activity	References
<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	SAE.	AgNPs demonstrated high inhibitory action against <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , and <i>P. aeruginosa</i> and good AoA.	[192]
<i>Annona muricata</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with strong AoA as measured by DPPH, ABTS, $\alpha$ -amylase and $\alpha$ -glucosidase.	[56]
<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	Seed powder extract.	AgNPs showed potent AA toward <i>B. cereus</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>P. aeruginosa</i> .	[193]
<i>A. hirsutus</i>	SAE.	AgNPs showed better AA against <i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i> with a maximum zone of inhibition than on <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> .	[194]
<i>Avicennia marina</i>	SAE.	AgNPs observed potential AA against <i>E. coli</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , and <i>P. aeruginosa</i> .	[195]
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with some AAs against <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>E. coli</i> .	[196]
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	ALE and root extract.	AgNPs with some AA against <i>E. coli</i> and <i>S. aureus</i> .	[197]
<i>Brucea javanica</i>	ALE.	AgNPs.	[198]
<i>Chasmanthera dependens</i>	Stem aqueous extract.	AgNPs displayed potent activity against <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> , scavenging activity of DPPH, high anticoagulant efficacy and larvicidal agents.	[59]
<i>Cassia fistula</i>	ALE.	ZnONPs showed excellent AA against <i>K. aerogenes</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Plasmodium desmolyticum</i> and <i>S. aureus</i> with significant AoA.	[199]
<i>C. auriculata</i>	ALE.	AuNPs with potential antidiabetic properties.	[200]
<i>Caesalpinia coriaria</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with potential AA against <i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> and <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , and a clinically isolated human pathogens <i>S. aureus</i> .	[201]
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with good AA.	[202]
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	ALE.	AuNPs.	[203]
		AuNPs with potent AA against <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> and <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> .	[204]
<i>C. viminalis</i>	AFE.	Sm <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> NPs.	[205]
<i>C. viminalis</i>	AFE (rich in flavonoids, saponins, steroids, alkaloids and triterpenoids).	$\alpha$ -Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> NPs.	[206]

**Table 3 (continued)**

Plant species	Part and solvent extract	Synthesized nanoparticle/ biological activity	References
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with AA toward <i>E. coli</i> .	[207]
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with low AA against <i>E. coli</i> .	[208]
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Mesocarp layer aqueous extract.	AgNPs with anti-larvicidal agent against <i>Anopheles stephensi</i> and <i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i> .	[209]
<i>C. nucifera</i>	Oil cake extract.	AgNPs with reduction the growth rate of multi-antibiotic-resistant bacteria such as <i>Aeromonas</i> sp., <i>Acinetobacter</i> sp. and <i>Citrobacter</i> sp. isolated from livestock wastewater.	[210]
<i>Eucalyptus urophylla</i> , <i>E. citriodora</i> and <i>E. robusta</i>	ALE.	AgNPs.	[211]
<i>E. globulus</i>	ALE.	AgNPs.	[212]
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	ALE.	FeNPs showed in situ remediation of eutrophic wastewater.	[213]
<i>E. chapmaniana</i>	ALE.	AgNPs inhibited various pathogenic microbes and reduced the viability of the HL-60 cells.	[214]
<i>Excoecaria agallocha</i>	ALE.	AgNPs exhibited an excellent cytotoxic effect against human breast carcinoma cell lines (MCF-7), with good AA against <i>S. typhi</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>B. cereus</i> .	[215]
<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with effective AA toward <i>E. coli</i> .	[216]
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with better AoA.	[217]
<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	SAE.	AgNPs.	[218]
<i>J. curcas</i>	Latex.	AgNPs.	[219]
<i>J. curcas</i>	Seed cake extract (carbohydrates, proteins, alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, tannins, phenols and terpenoids).	AgNPs with bacteriostatic effects against <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , and <i>P. aeruginosa</i> .	[220]
<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>	Peels boiled distilled water extract.	AgNPs with good AA against <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Candida albicans</i> .	[221]
<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i>	AFE.	ZnONPs with antifungal potential against <i>Alternaria alternata</i> , <i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Botrytis cinerea</i> , <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> and <i>Penicillium expansum</i> .	[222]
<i>Olea europaea</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with significant AA against <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , and <i>E. coli</i> .	[223]
<i>O. europaea</i>	SAE.	AgNPs.	[224]
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Spines aqueous extract.	Ag, Au and Ag-AuNPs with potential AA and AoA.	[225]
	ASE.		[226]

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Table 3 (continued)

Plant species	Part and solvent extract	Synthesized nanoparticle/ biological activity	References
<i>Pedilanthus tithymaloides</i>		AgNPs with controlling of mosquito vector <i>Aedes aegypti</i> .	
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	SAE.	AgNPs with AA against MRSA.	[227]
<i>Pistacia atlantica</i>	SAE.	AgNPs with AA against <i>S. aureus</i> .	[228]
<i>Protorhus longifolia</i>	SAE.	AgNPs and AuNPs.	[229]
<i>Prunus persica</i>	ALE (alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, and steroid compounds).	AgNPs with AA against <i>E. coli</i> , and <i>V. cholera</i> .	[230]
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	ALE.	AgNPs.	[231]
<i>Prunus japonica</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with AA against <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Proteus vulgaris</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>B. cereus</i> .	[232]
<i>Pulicha Indeca</i>	ASE.	AgNPs showed positive AA against <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> and negative against <i>P. mirabilis</i> .	[233]
<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>	ALE (steroids, saponins, tannins, phenols, triterpenoids, flavonoids, glycosides, and glycerides).	AgNPs with good AA against gram-positive and G <sup>-</sup> bacterial strains.	[234]
<i>Tectona grandis</i>	SAE.	AgNPs observed AA against <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>B. cereus</i> , and <i>E. coli</i> .	[235]
<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>	ALE.	AgNPs with AA against <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>E. coli</i> .	[236]
<i>Theobroma cacao</i>	Pod husk extract.	AgNPs inhibited <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. pyogenes</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>A. flavus</i> , <i>A. fumigatus</i> , and <i>A. niger</i> .	[237]

AA; antibacterial activity; ALE; aqueous leaf extract; AFE; aqueous red flowers extract; AoA: Antioxidant activity; ASE; aqueous stem extract; SAE; seed aqueous extract.

*Cupressus sempervirens* wood methanolic extract as a combination treatment showed potent biocide activity against *T. harzianum* [175].

More recently, *P. roxburghii* wood blocks treated with ethanol extract from *Coccoloba uvifera* leaf extracts at 3 % showed the highest inhibition of *R. solani* (64.4 %), *B. cinerea* (100 %), and *F. culmorum* (38.5 %) over the acetone and water extracts as shown in Fig. 9. In addition, moderate growth inhibition was found against the plant pathogenic bacteria *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, *Pectobacterium carotovorum* subsp. *carotovorum*, *Erwinia amylovora*, *Ralstonia solanacearum*, *Pectobacterium atrosepticum*, and *Dickeya solani* [2]. This bioactivity was related to phenolic acid compounds (benzoic, ellagic, gallic, and *o*-coumaric) or regarding flavonoids (rutin, myricetin, and quercetin).

#### 4. Natural extracts from trees and shrubs in the green synthesis of nanoparticles

Several plant materials have been used as sources of bioreducing, capping and stabilization agents in the phytofabrication of metallic nanoparticles under ambient conditions as shown in Table 3. *Moringa oleifera* flower aqueous extract has been used in the green synthesis of gold (Au) nanoparticles (NPs). The particles exhibited a distribution of

sizes in the range 3–5 nm with large gold NPs [176]. The Scanning electron microscope confirmed the AuNPs and nano size crystalline nature using the EDX pattern. *M. oleifera* leaf, flower, fruit, and bark extracts with their phytochemical compounds, such as the amino acids, carotenoids, minerals, vitamins, sterols, glycosides, flavonoids, alkaloids, and phenolics [177], were able to aid in the biosynthesis of NPs. CaNPs amended soil showed significant declines in the concentrations of some minerals in *M. oleifera* planted on it, but CaNPs the free radical scavenging ability, phenolic contents and flavonoid contents significantly improved, also reduction in oxidative stress biomarker was also recorded [178]. Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs), e.g., were synthesized by *L. camara* leaf extract with good antibacterial activity against *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas* sp, *Bacillus* spp., and *Staphylococcus* sp. [179]. Table 3 presents extracts from trees and shrubs that have been used for the green synthesis of metal NPs.

Other plants that have been used for the synthesis of metal nanoparticles (Ag, Au, Ag–Au, TiO<sub>2</sub> and CaNPs) with novel applications (antimicrobial, antioxidant, anticancer, anticoagulant, thrombolytic, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, larvicidal etc) were also reported. Leaf extract from *Annona muricata* was used for bio-fabrication of AgNPs, where it showed strong antioxidant activity with other biological activities such as anti-diabetic, antimicrobial, and cytotoxic [56]. The AgNPs synthesized with the application of stem extract from *Chasmanthera dependens* showed promising several biological activities [59].

*Ehretia cymosa*-AgNPs cream showed significant anti-inflammatory activity within 6 h as different extracts of the plant used in the following order; ethylacetate > methanol > *n*-hexane [180]. Phyto-synthesized AuNPs from aqueous extract of *Datura stramonium* seed was achieved was scavenging properties against 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl and nitric oxide, also, prevention of blood coagulation and thrombolytic potential by causing lysis of blood clot were found by the AuNPs [181], as well as with antidiabetic properties [182], which led to showing potential for biomedical applications [181]. AgNPs synthesized by *Carica papaya* seed extract observed LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub> lethal concentration on the *Aedes aegypti* larva at 14.56 and 33.89 µg/mL respectively after 12 h of exposure and zones of inhibition between 10 and 24 mm, against selected microorganisms [183]. Aqueous leaf extract of *Hyptis suaveolens* was used to synthesis AgNPs, which presented potent inhibition against multidrug resistant bacteria, and fungal growth with scavenged DPPH and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and was effectively inhibited coagulation of blood [184].

Phytosynthesis TiO<sub>2</sub>NPs was achieved by using the leaf, pod, seed and seed shell extracts of kola nut tree (*Cola nitida*), which inhibited MDR bacteria and toxigenic fungi with good antioxidant activity [185]. AgNPs synthesized by seed and seed shell extracts of *C. nitida* showed antibacterial activity [186], while by the pod extract it showed Antibacterial/antioxidant activities with applicative as a paint additive [187]. AgNPs synthesized by pod extract of *C. nitida* enhanced the antioxidant activity and phenolic/flavonoid contents of *Amaranthus caudatus* plants [188]. Also, the hybrid Ag-AuNPs produced with using Kolanut (*C. nitida*) extract showed some applications such as antifungal, catalytic, larvicidal and thrombolytic [189]. Cocoa bean extract was used to synthesize AgNPs, with pronounced antimicrobial activities [190]. Phytosynthesis of AgNPs mediated by *Synsepalum dulcificum* leaf and seed extracts inhibited the growth of *P. aeruginosa* and *K. granulomatis* with zone of inhibition of 11–24 mm and completely inhibited the growth of *A. flavus* and *A. niger* [191].

#### 5. Antioxidant properties of extracts from trees and shrubs

Researchers have studied the antioxidant of extracts and their bioavailability, which include phenolic and flavonoid compounds, such as quercetin, rutin, benzoic acid, quercetin, *p*-hydroxy benzoic acid, ellagic acid, myricetin, *o*-coumaric acid, *p*-coumaric acid, gallic acid, syringic acid, vanillin, ferulic acid, salicylic acid, rosmarinic acid kaempferol, cinnamic acid, naringenin, caffeic acid, vanillic acid, and



**Table 4**  
The antioxidant activity (AoA) of extracts and bioactive compounds from trees and shrubs.

Plant	Part used for Extraction	Method used	Bioactivity	References
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> , and <i>A. Juss</i> var. <i>siamensis</i> Valeto	Leaves, fruits, flowers and stem bark.	DPPH.	ALE, flower, and stem bark (ethanol extracts) exhibited higher free AoA..	[242]
		TBARS.	The ethanol flower extract and ALE decreased MDA levels (46.0 and 50.6 %, respectively) at 100 µg/mL.	[242]
<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Leaves, pods and bark extracts (High TPC, TVC and proteins).	DPPH.	Potential AoA.	[245]
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Shell.	FRAP.	TPC, 50.7 g GAE/100 g extract), with AoA = 3808 nmol AAE/mg extract.	[246]
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Bark.	FRAP	Total phenols 20.1 g GAE/100 g extract with AoA = 2199 nmol AAE/mg extract.	[246]
<i>E. grandis</i> , <i>E. urograndis</i> ( <i>E. grandis</i> × <i>E. urophylla</i> ), and <i>E. maidenii</i>	Bark extract- Epicatechin and quercetin-glucuronide in <i>E. grandis</i> and <i>E. urograndis</i> . ellagic acid-rhamnoside and ellagic acid in <i>E. grandis</i> . galloyl-bis-hexahydroxydiphenoyl (HHDP)-glucose and gallic acid in <i>E. urograndis</i> . Catechin, chlorogenic acid and methyl-ellagic acid-pentose in <i>E. maidenii</i> bark.	DPPH.	TPC of the three extracts demonstrated positive correlation with their AoA, evaluated by DPPH with values between the obtained from ascorbic acid and BHT.	[247]
<i>E. camaldulensis</i> var. <i>brevirostris</i>	Fruit EO (aromadendrene (17.99 %), α-pinene (12.68 %), cubenol (9.23 %), α-gurjunene (6.65 %), and p-cymenene (5.39 %). ethanol extract (ellagic acid).	LAO.	Ethanol extract showed considerable AoA compared with BHA and TBHQ.	[248]
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> , <i>Terminalia arjuna</i> , <i>Acacia nilotica</i> , and <i>Eugenia jambolana</i>	Bark.	LAO and DPPH.	The extracts exhibited TPC of 7.8–16.5 GAE and TV, 1.59–4.93 CAE. Reducing power at 10 mg/mL extract concentration ranged from 1.34 to 1.87. Extracts inhibited LAO by 44–90 %. DPPH radical scavenging activity ranged from 49 % to 87 %.	[244]
<i>Camellia sinensis</i> , <i>Ficus bengalensis</i> and <i>F. racemosa</i>	Methanol and 70 % acetone stem bark and fruit extracts.	Reducing power assay, DPPH, ABTS, OH radical scavenging capacities, LAO, antihemolytic assay by a hydrogen peroxide-induced method, and metal ion chelating ability.	Methanol extracts of <i>C. sinensis</i> and <i>F. bengalensis</i> and 70 % acetone extract of <i>F. racemosa</i> contained higher TPC with high AoA.	[249]
<i>Cassia fistula</i>	70 % Methanol extract from bark, stem, leaf, and root.	DPPH.	Bark extract demonstrated high TPC, TTC, and AA with IC50 values of 0.04 g/mL.	[250]
<i>Garcinia atroviridis</i>	Methanol extracts of leaves, fruits, roots, stems, and trunk bark.	FTC. TBARS.	The root, leaf, trunk, and stem bark extracts demonstrated strong antioxidant activity more than α-tocopherol.	[251]
<i>Maclura tinctoria</i>	Wood and bark.	DPPH	The AoA of wood extract (IC <sub>50</sub> = 18.7 µg/mL) was more effective than bark extract (IC <sub>50</sub> = 20.9 µg/mL).	[252]
<i>Morinda citrifolia</i>	Methanol and ethyl acetate extracts from leaf, fruit, and root.	FTC TBARS	The methanol extract of root exhibited high AoA compared to α-tocopherol or BHT.	[253]
<i>Moringa oleifera</i> seeds, <i>Cassia fistula</i> fruits and <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> fruits	Oils from fruits and seeds.	DPPH	Moderate AoA.	[177]
<i>M. oleifera</i>	Extracts of freeze-dried leaves (water, aqueous methanol, and aqueous ethanol). Quercetin and Kaempferol as the main compounds.	DPPH and β-carotene–linoleic acid.	Methanol and ethanol extracts showed good AoA with 65.1 % and 66.8 %, respectively.	[254]
<i>Pinus pinaster</i> and <i>P. radiata</i>	Procyanidins from the bark. <i>P. radiata</i> bark was richer procyanidins and catechin, while epicatechin was richer in <i>P. pinaster</i> .	DPPH.	Both extracts had specific antiradical activity.	[255]
<i>P. pinaster</i> subsp. <i>atlantica</i>	Water, water/ethanol (1/1), and just ethanol, bark extracts.	DPPH.	High AoA as follows; water/ethanol > ethanol > water.	[256]
<i>Quercus robur</i> , <i>Q. macrocarpa</i> , and <i>Q. acutissima</i>	Bark extracts.	DPPH, β-carotene–linoleic acid and FRAP.	High AoA in <i>Q. robur</i> (ellagic acid) (Elansary et al., 2019b).	[257]

ALE: aqueous leaf extract; AoA: Antioxidant activity; TPC: total phenolic content, TTC: total tannin content; BHT: butylated hydroxytoluene; TBHQ: tertiary butylated hydroquinone; LAO: Linoleic acid oxidation; FTC: Ferric thiocyanate; DPPH: 1,1-diphenyl-2-picryl hydrazyl; TBARS: Thiobarbituric acid reactive substances; and MDA: malondialdehyde.

quercetin [1,2,4,61].

Ethanol and aqueous Bark extract from *P. halepensis*, rich in phenolic compounds, showed a significant reducing power towards the radicals tested by DPPH and ABTS radical scavenging capacity, and FRAP [238]. Willow bark, pine bark and cork, spruce needles, willow herb, meadowsweet and birch phloem with their rich in phenolic content were observed potential antioxidant activity [239]. Methanol and

ethylacetate extracts from root bark *Chionanthus virginicus* L. were observed good antioxidant activity as measured by ABTS, DPPH, and superoxide anion (O<sub>2</sub>•-) radical scavenging, where both extract showed 69.4, 79.3, 72.3 and 83.7 % inhibition on lipid peroxidation of linoleic acid emulsion, respectively, at the 10 and 20 µg/mL concentrations [240]. Chloroform/methanol extracted oils from tree nut possessed higher antioxidant activities than hexane extracted counterparts as



measured by ABTS, DPPH,  $\beta$ -carotene bleaching test, oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC) and photochemiluminescence inhibition assays [241]. Aqueous extract from leaves, and ethanol extracts from flowers and stem bark of neem tree were exhibited higher free radical scavenging effect on the DPPH assay  $IC_{50}$  at 26.5, 27.9 and 30.6  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively [242]. Knotwood extracts from commercially important wood species had a high antioxidative potency and radical scavenging that were related to the pure wood-derived lignans and taxifolin [243]. Bark extracts from *Eugenia jambolana*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Terminalia arjuna*, and *Acacia nilotica* trees exhibited wide range of total phenolic, 7.8–16.5 GAE and total flavonoid contents, 1.59–4.93 CAE, and inhibited oxidation of linoleic acid by 44–90 % while DPPH ranged from 49 % to 87 % [244]. In this regards, Table 4 presents the antioxidant activity of different extracts from trees and shrubs using different analytical methods.

## 6. Conclusions

The potential uses of natural chemical compounds identified in different botanical parts from trees and shrubs were summarized in this review. These bioactive compounds have demonstrated several activities, such as antimicrobial, anticancer, and antioxidant properties and as biofungicides as well as in the mediation for the production of nanoparticles. The current work highlights the potential of tropical plants with antifungal activity to control a number of plant fungal diseases and identifies the compounds responsible for such antifungal activity. In addition, we indicate the extracts with good results in the biosynthesis of metallic nanoparticles for potential antimicrobials and antioxidants.

## Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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