

**ZINGIBER OFFICINALE EXTRACT: ANTIMICROBIAL PROPERTIES  
PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING, DRUG LIKENESS AND PHYSICOCHEMICAL  
STUDIES**Mohammad Arshad<sup>1\*</sup> and Mohd Shadab<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>College of Medicine Al-Dawadmi, Shaqra University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.<sup>2</sup>All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India.**Corresponding Author: Dr. Mohammad Arshad**

College of Medicine Al-Dawadmi, Shaqra University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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**ABSTRACT**

The extract of *Zingiber officinale* rhizomes commonly known as ginger was obtained utilizing soxhlet extraction assembly with methanol and n-hexane as solvents. Both parts (methanol and n-hexanes) were subjected for antimicrobial screening employing disc diffusion method against *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *P. mirabilis* and *E. Coli* bacteria. Findings for antimicrobial activity portrayed that the methanol extract of ginger has more advantage over the hexane extract. The literature described that ginger extract is composed of gingerol, zingiberene,  $\beta$ -bisabolene,  $\alpha$ -farnesene, shogaol,  $\beta$ -sesquiphellandrene and  $\alpha$ -curcumene. The computational studies such as calculation of drug likeness and physicochemical properties were performed for all the components. The computational results showed that all the components have good bioactivity score except component-7, and out of all components, the component-2, 3, 4 and 7 were found against the Lipinski rule of five with respect to the partition coefficient. Molecular docking studies were carried out to support the experimental results which states that hydrogen bonding with the receptor is found only in case of gingerol and shogaol and both the components were found mainly in methanol extract.

**KEYWORDS** Ginger extract, antimicrobial activity, drug likeness, physicochemical and molecular docking studies.

**INTRODUCTION**

The development of resistance because of multidrug-resistant bacteria and fungi to the presently available antimicrobials is of great concern to health care.<sup>[1]</sup> The incomplete course of antibiotics, mutation and genetic exchange system conducted the antimicrobial resistance.<sup>[2]</sup> The methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) exhibited resistance to methicillin, cephalosporins, all beta lactams, gentamicin, erythromycin and trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole while vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE), represented resistant to vancomycin, ampicillin, and gentamicin.<sup>[3]</sup> Besides these many other organisms also developed resistance to the antimicrobials.<sup>[4]</sup> The pharmacological investigation of plant extract and plant derived compounds has been broadly studied and important globally affecting both world and international trade.<sup>[5-10]</sup> The traditional medicinal plants contributed as a centre for healthcare system for a big population.<sup>[5-10]</sup> Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*), a representative of the Zingiberaceae family, is everyday spice in many Asian countries.<sup>[11]</sup> It has been found to possess enormous pharmacological applications such as anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, fever, common cold,

diabetics, antioxidant, anti-lipid, analgesic, antipyretic, anti-tumor, immunomodulatory effects, antiviral, rheumatic and gastrointestinal disorders.<sup>[12-25]</sup> It has also been found to cure nausea by chemotherapy, sea and morning sickness.<sup>[26]</sup> The ginger rhizomes comprises of the components are as follows gingerol, zingiberene,  $\beta$ -bisabolene,  $\alpha$ -farnesene, shogaol,  $\beta$ -sesquiphellandrene and  $\alpha$ -curcumene, out of all gingerol and shogaol were found in majority.<sup>[27, 33]</sup> The ginger extract has been broadly evaluated against a lot of bacteria and fungi.<sup>[28-33]</sup> The versatile pharmacological importance of ginger prompting us to study the antimicrobial activity of ginger extract, its composition, drug likeness and physicochemical properties, so that it can be used as lead finding for antimicrobial agent.

**Experimental  
Extraction**

The extraction of the compounds from *Zingiber officinale* was produced on employment of Soxhlet extraction assembly, methanol and n-hexane solvent. The ginger rhizomes were grounded and kept inside a thimble loaded into the soxhlet extractor for 15 hr in the solvent (300 mL) with refluxing at the boiling temperature of

solvent. After completion of extraction the solvent was evaporated by vacuum rotary evaporator (Heidolph laborata/Germany).<sup>[27,33]</sup> The obtained extract was incubated at 40°C for 24 hr, after that stored at 4°C evaluation for antimicrobial activity.

**Antimicrobial activity**

Organism culture and *in vitro* screening for antibacterial activity was done by the same procedure reported in our previous articles.<sup>[34-40]</sup> *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *P. mirabilis* and *E. coli* were subcultured in Nutrient Agar medium and incubated for 18 h at 37 °C. Following the incubation the bacterial cells were suspended, according to the McFarland protocol in saline solution to produce a suspension of about 10<sup>5</sup> CFU/mL. 10 mL of this suspension was mixed with 10 mL of sterile antibiotic agar at 40 °C and poured on to an agar plate in a laminar flow cabinet. Five paper disks (6.0 mm diameter) were fixed onto nutrient agar plate. One milligram of each extract was dissolved in 100 ml methanol/n-hexane to prepare stock solution. From the stock solution different dilutions of each test portions were prepared and poured over disk plate. Ciprofloxacin was used as a standard drug (positive control), methanol and hexane as negative control. The susceptibility of the bacteria to the test compounds was determined by the formation of an inhibitory zone after 18 h of incubation at 36 °C.

**Physicochemical properties**<sup>[41-48]</sup>

The drug likeness score was calculated by considering partition coefficient (log P), molar refractivity, molecular weight, number of heavy atoms, number of hydrogen donor, number of hydrogen acceptor and number of violation by the software available online at www.molinspiration.com.

**Bioactivity score**<sup>[41-48]</sup>

The components were also checked for the drug likeness by calculating the bioactivity score for GPCR ligand, ion channel modulator, kinase inhibitor, nuclear receptor ligand utilizing online available software (www.molinspiration.com).

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Antimicrobial activity**

Antibacterial activity was performed by the disk diffusion method with minor modifications. *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *P. mirabilis* and *E. coli* were subcultured in Nutrient Agar medium using ciprofloxacin was used as a standard drug, methanol and hexane as negative control. The susceptibility of the bacteria to the test portion was determined by the formation of an inhibitory zone after 18 h of incubation at 36 °C. **Table-1,2 and 3** shows the zone of inhibition of the methanol extract, hexane extract and ciprofloxacin.

**The phytochemical screening**

The phytochemical screening indicated the presence of the components gingerol, zingiberene, β-bisabolene, α-farnesene, shogaol, β-sesquiphellandrene and α-curcumene.<sup>[27, 33]</sup>

**Physicochemical properties**<sup>[41-48]</sup>

Lipinski's rule of five states that, in general, an orally active drug has not more than 5 hydrogen bond donors (OH and NH groups), not more than 10 hydrogen bond acceptors (notably N and O), molecular weight under 500 g/mol, partition coefficient log P less than 5, number of violation less than 4. Only the components one, five and six were found completely in compliance with the Lipinski's rule, rests are deviated because of the greater partition coefficient, tabled in Table-4.

**Bioactivity score.**<sup>[41-48]</sup>

The bioactivity score was calculated for GPCR ligand, ion channel modulator, kinase inhibitor, nuclear receptor ligand, protease inhibitor and enzyme inhibitor. For average organic molecule the probability of bioactivity score is more than 0.00 then it is active, -0.50 to 0.0 then moderately active and if less than -0.50 then inactive. The results for bioactivity score are presented in Table 5. All the components showed the good bioactivity score except component-7.

**Table: 1. Representing zone of inhibition for methanol extract of Zingiber Officinale against gram positive and gram negative bacteria.**

Extract (µg/ml)	Effect of methanol extract on Microorganism				
	Gram positive		Gram negative		
	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>S. epidermidis</i>	<i>P. mirabilis</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	
50	19.12±0.10	18.78±0.22	13.12±0.24	18.44±0.10	
25	14.32±0.08	13.08±0.14	10.42±0.32	14.14±0.16	
12.5	09.06±0.52	07.14±0.40	-	10.32±0.30	
6.25	-	-	-	08.14±0.32	
3.125	-	-	-	-	

**Table: 2. Representing zone of inhibition for n-hexane extract of Zingiber Officinale against gram positive and gram negative bacteria.**

Extract (µg/ml)	Effect of n-Hexane extract on Microorganism					
	Gram positive			Gram negative		
	<i>S. aureus</i>		<i>S. epidermidis</i>		<i>P. mirabilis</i>	<i>E. coli</i>
50	15.14±0.22		14.42±0.34		11.12±0.34	14.14±0.16
25	11.22±0.24		8.12±0.22		-	09.54±0.32
12.5	-		-		-	-
6.25	-		-		-	-
3.125	-		-		-	-

**Table: 3. Representing zone of inhibition for ciprofloxacin, methanol and hexane against gram positive and gram negative bacteria.**

Microorganism	Zone of Inhibition (mm)		
	Ciprofloxacin (10 µg/ml)	Methanol	Hexane
<i>S. aureus</i>	21.46 ±.31	-	-
<i>S. epidermidis</i>	22.64±.54	-	-
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	22.24±.30	-	-
<i>E. coli</i>	23.82±.47	-	-

**Table-4: Representing the physicochemical properties of all the components found and ciprofloxacin.**

Physicochemical property score	Components							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Standard
miLogP	3.22	5.12	5.46	5.82	4.35	4.90	5.82	-0.701
TPSA	66.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.53	0.00	0.00	74.569
Natoms	21	15	15	15	20	15	15	24.0
MW	294.39	204.36	204.36	204.36	276.38	204.36	202.34	331.347
nON	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	6
nOHNH	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Nviolations	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
Nrotb	10	4	4	6	9	4	4	3
Volume	295.61	234.35	234.88	239.27	281.38	234.90	228.14	285.46

**Table-5: Representing the bioactivity score of all the components found in and ciprofloxacin.**

Bioactivity score	Components							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Standard
GPCR ligand	0.16	-0.39	-0.32	-0.30	0.06	-0.38	-0.47	0.12
Ion channel modulator	0.03	-0.10	0.10	0.14	0.01	-0.14	-0.12	-0.04
Kinase inhibitor	-0.33	-0.84	-0.87	-0.62	-0.50	-0.95	-0.80	-0.07
Nuclear receptor ligand	0.20	0.23	0.15	0.17	0.21	0.33	-0.24	-0.19
Protease inhibitor	0.15	-0.71	-0.65	-0.63	-0.05	-0.70	-0.72	-0.21
Enzyme inhibitor	0.38	0.29	0.27	0.45	0.29	0.27	-0.14	0.28

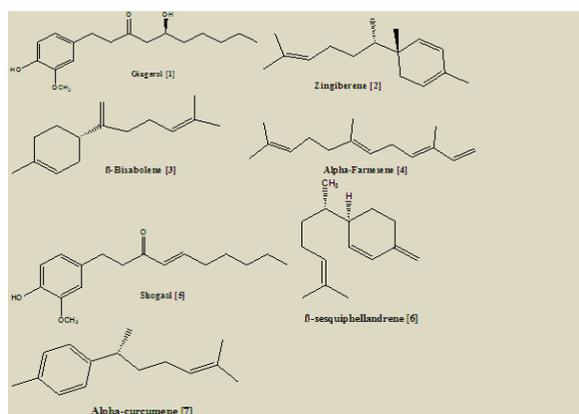


Figure-1- Exhibiting the structures of all the components found in Zingiber Officinale

**CONCLUSION**

The Zingiber officinale extract was achieved and subjected for antimicrobial screening that showed methanol extract has better potential than hexane. Phytochemical analysis to confirm the composition were obtained from the literature and all the components were evaluated for drug likeness, physicochemical, and molecular docking parameters. Drug likeness score revealed that all the components possess good score except component seven but in case of physicochemical parameter four components were found against the Lipinski rule. Molecular docking evaluation strongly recommended the results obtained experimentally.

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