USE OF EXTRACTS FROM WILD AXIHUITL IN TREATMENT OF PHYTOPATHOGENS

Jesús Canales\(^1\), Gabriel Rincon\(^2\), Erika Nava\(^3\), Anna Ilíná\(^1\), Jose Martinez\(^1,2\) \(^1\) Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila. Facultad de Ciencias Químicas. Blvd. V. Carranza S/N, Col. República, CP 25280, Saltillo, Coahuila, México. \(^2\) Centro de Investigación y Asistencia en Tecnología y Diseño del Estado de Jalisco, A.C. Av. Normalistas No. 800, Col. Colinas de la Normal, CP 44270, Guadalajara, Jalisco, México. E-mail: jose-martinez@uadec.edu.mx

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**Introduction.** Ornamental plants are mainly affected by phytopathogenic fungi and bacteria. The use of agrochemicals has permitted their control. However, its adverse effects are significantly impacted on the environment. Moreover, pathogenic microorganisms have developed resistance to chemical treatments (1, 2). Biological control is an alternative for treatment and prevention of plant diseases. Extracts or infusions from the plants leaves, seeds and flowers have been applied successfully for pathogenic fungi control (3,4). The empirical experience shows that the Axihuitl (Eupatorium aschembornianum Sch) has antimicrobial activity, although, according to our knowledge, are absent scientific reports regarding this property. The goal of the present study is to evaluate the antimicrobial activity of wild Axihuitl extracts against phytopathogenic fungi.

**Methods.** All the Axihuitl extracts were provided by the Center for Research and Technology and Design of the Jalisco State (CIATEJ). The extract was obtained using ketone. The solvent was evaporated to constant weight. Water solutions (at 250, 500 and 750 mg/ml) were applied in antifungal assay. The antifungal assay was carried out according conventional method in polystyrene microplates (4). Fusarium oxysporum, F. monyliforme and F. sporotrychum were used as phytopathogenic fungi model.

**Results.** Different concentrations of Axihuitl extract was applied in antifungal assays against three phytopathogenic fungi (Fig. 1 and Table 1). Partial inhibition of fungi growth was detected in the presence of different concentrations of Axihuitl extract in most of the microplates, indication to fungistatic effect (Fig. 1). Total inhibition was observed in the case of F. oxysporum in the presence of 750 mg/ml extract, indicating its fungicidal effect (Table 1). Fungal growth was significantly reduced with the increase of Axihuitl extract concentration. Lujan et al. (5) demonstrated, in a similar assay, the antifungal or fungistatic capacity of extracts from Conyza sumatrensis, a bush of the same family that Axihuitl, comparable to that observed for Axihuitl extract.

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