



Anticancer and Antimicrobial Activity of *Jatropha*'s Leaves Extracts

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THE GENUS *Jatropha* holds great promise as a potential novel drug source because it has many useful activities and phytochemical constituents. This study evaluated the phytochemical composition, anticancer effects against HepG2 (Hepatocellular carcinoma cell line), and antimicrobial efficiency of methanol leaf extracts from *Jatropha curcas* L., *Jatropha gossypifolia* L., and *Jatropha multifida* L. in vitro. Flavonoids, tannins, alkaloids, saponins, terpenes and sterols were detected in the methanol extracts of both *J. curcas* and *J. gossypifolia*. The leaf extract from *J. curcas* exhibited high effectiveness against the HepG2 cell line, with a selective index of 2.04, as well as effective against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. Two fractions (JCF1 and JCF2) were collected after the crude methanol extract was purified from *J. curcas* using a silica gel column. Gram (+ve) bacteria were the only ones susceptible to JCF1, but Gram (+ve) and Gram (-ve) bacteria were both susceptible to JCF2. Hexadecanoic acid (18.43%), anethole (18.28%), estragol (18.28%), oleic acid (13.67%), phytol (10.84%), and carvacrol (7.56%) were found to be the most abundant components of JCF1 in a Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrum (GC-MS) analysis. In contrast, the most abundant chemical components of JCF2 were hexadecanoic acid (18.05 %), hexadecanoic acid methyl ester (9.50 %), octadecanoic acid methyl ester (3.29 %), anethole (3.1 %), estragole (3.1 %), thymol (1.61%), and carvacrol (1.61%).

Keywords: Anticancer, Antimicrobial, Carvacrol, GC-MS analysis, *Jatropha* spp., Thymol.

Introduction

Many active compounds are found in medicinal plants, providing a prosperous resource food industry, cosmetics and medical purposes (Ahmed et al., 2016). The Euphorbiaceae family is regarded as one of the most prominent families of angiosperms. About 7,800 species are found in the Euphorbiaceae, divided into 300 genera and 5 subfamilies. *Jatropha* L. is one of the main genera in this family, which belongs to the

Crotonoidea subfamily and the Jatropeae tribe. It has about two hundred species spread across tropical and subtropical zones (Webster, 1994; Félix-Silva et al., 2014a).

Because of the therapeutic potential of *Jatropha* L., the plant was given the name "*Jatropha*" which comes from the Greek roots "jatos," meaning "doctor," and "trophe," meaning "food" (Sabandar et al., 2013). The medicinal properties, chemical structure, and

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biological activity of several *Jatropha* species including *J. curcas*, *J. integerrima*, *J. elliptica*, *J. gossypifolia*, and *J. multifida* have been widely reported (Cavalcante et al., 2020).

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria have emerged as a global health crisis, contributing to high yearly mortality. Antibiotic resistance can be attributed to improper use of antibiotics. Natural constituents, such as plant-based active compounds, are one approach to solving these issues (Akhtar & Mirza, 2018; Prastiyanto et al., 2020b). A number of extracts from *Jatropha* plants have been reported to have antimicrobial activity, including *J. curcas* (Félix-Silva et al., 2018b), *J. gossypifolia* (Prastiyanto et al., 2020a), and *J. multifida* (Rahu et al., 2021).

Cancer is a significant global health issue; drug side effects and the high cost of treatments remain the considerable limitations of conventional therapy. Nowadays, it is crucial to develop innovative therapeutic approaches. Consequently, medicinal plants could be used as novel, safe and effective anticancer drugs through their natural constituents (Merrouni & Elachouri, 2021).

Jatropha curcas has been studied in detail due to its potential pharmacological effects, such as antiviral, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and anticancer properties due to the presence of active constituents in its extracts (Dahake et al., 2013; Ahmed et al., 2020; Solesi et al., 2020; Bastos et al., 2021).

The present study aimed to evaluate the anticancer and antimicrobial activity of the leaves of different *Jatropha* species.

Materials and Methods

Collection and identification of samples

Jatropha curcas, *Jatropha gossypifolia*, and *Jatropha multifida* fresh leaves were obtained from the National Genetic Resources Bank (Gene Bank), Agricultural Research Center, Giza, Egypt, in June 2021. Prof. Abd Elmigid Ali Abd Elmigid kindly provided identification of three species. He is Professor of Flora and Plant Taxonomy, Department of Flora Research and Plant Taxonomy, Horticultural Institute, Agricultural Research Center. After 7-10 days of drying in the shade of a well-ventilated

room, the leaves of the three tested species were crushed into a fine powder and used in various investigations.

Plant material extraction and preparation

Two hundred grams of powdered leaves were extracted with methanol HPLC grade (ADVET CHEMBIO PVT.LTD, India) for 24h while the mixture was continuously shaken. Whitman's filter paper (No.1) was used to filter the extracts. The rotary evaporator was used to concentrate the filtrate at 46°C. Finally, at 4 °C, the crude extracts were stored for further experiments (Omorieg & Folashade, 2013).

Phytochemicals analysis

Methanol leaf extracts were screened for their phytochemical constituents (tannins, saponins, terpenes, sterols, flavonoids, and alkaloids) as described by Wall et al. (1954), Woo et al. (1977), Balbaa (1986) and Tiwari et al. (2011).

Antimicrobial assay

Microbial strains

The American Type Culture Collection (ATCC; Rockville, MD, USA) procured the microbial strains. The assayed microorganisms included Gram-negative (*Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922) and Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 6538). Among fungal strains, *Aspergillus niger* NRRL 326 and *Candida albicans* ATCC 10231 were tested in this study.

The agar diffusion method assay determined the antimicrobial assay as described by (Valgas et al., 2007). An inoculum of a bacterial or fungal strain was spread on the surface of the cooled molten Muller Hinton Agar plate (MHA, for bacteria) or Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA, for fungi). The inoculum-containing plates were then drilled into wells using a sterile cork borer. Then, a solution containing plant extracts (50µL) was added to each well. The plates were then incubated at 37°C for 24 to 48h for bacteria, at 25°C for 3 to 5 days for fungus and at 25°C for 24-48h for yeast (*C. albicans*). After incubation, antimicrobial activity was determined by measuring the size of the inhibition zone around the well. DEMSO was used as a negative control. Conventional antibiotics (polymyxin, novobiocin, and nystatin) were used as positive controls to examine the treatments' effects on Gram-positive, and Gram-negative bacteria and fungi, respectively.

Cytotoxicity assay

Cell line and culture

Human Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cells (HepG2) and Human Amnion Normal Liver Cells (WISH) cell lines were obtained from the VACSERA Tissue Culture Unit. RPMI-1640 medium with 10% FBS (Fetal Bovine Serum) and antibiotics (gentamycin, 50 g/ml from Lonza) was used to culture the cell lines.

MTT assay

The MTT (3-(4, 5-dimethyl-thiazol-2-yl)-2, 5-diphenyl-tetrazolium bromide) assay was used to determine cell viability (Mosmann, 1983). Human cancer cells were seeded at a density of 5×10^4 cells/well in 96-well microtiter plates with 100 μ L of fresh culture RPMI-1640 medium. They were incubated at 37°C for 24h with 5% carbon dioxide in a humidified atmosphere to form a partial monolayer. The old growth medium was discarded before being replaced with a new medium containing the test compound at a different concentration (1000, 500, 250, 125, 62.5, 31.25, 15.6, 7.8, 3.9, 2, 1 and 0.5 μ g/mL). After incubation for 2 days at 37°C with 5% CO₂, the growth medium was removed and 10 μ L of the 12mM MTT stock solution (5mg of MTT in 1mL of PBS) was added to each well. After incubation at 37°C for 4h, the MTT reagent was removed and replaced with 50 μ L of DMSO, which was then thoroughly mixed with a pipette. Control wells contained only the incubation medium without the test compound. The percentage of viability was calculated as $[(OD_t/OD_c)] \times 100$, where OD_t is the mean optical density of wells treated sample and OD_c is the mean optical density of the untreated sample, using a microplate reader (SunRise, TECAN, Inc. USA). The positive control for this experiment is the standard anticancer drug, vinblastine.

Statistical analysis

The data were subjected to a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). The means of the treatments were compared to those of the controls using a two-tailed Student's t-test. We considered a $P < 0.05$ to be statistically significant. The concentration required to inhibit 50% of cancer cells "inhibitory concentration" (IC₅₀) and the concentration required to cause toxic effects on 50% of normal intact cells "cytotoxicity concentration" (CC₅₀) values were determined using GraphPad Prism software (San Diego, CA, USA).

Purification of the crude extract

TLC analysis

Thin layer chromatography (TLC) determines which solvent most effectively separates the compounds from *Jatropha curcas* crude extracts. Different mixtures of methanol and dichloromethane (in volumes of 10 ml) with different ratios (10:0), (5:5), (7.5:2.5), (5:7.5), and (0:10) were used to create the solvent systems in this investigation. Ultraviolet (UV) light was used to observe the purified compounds, and each spot's retardation factor (R_f value) was recorded.

Column chromatography

Jatropha curcas crude extract (4.6g) was purified by column chromatography (50cm long, 3cm in diameter) on silica gel (60-200 mesh, LOBA CHEMIE PVT.LTD, India). Fifty mL of dichloromethane was used to elute the compounds, followed by 50mL of methanol. In this experiment, HPLC-grade solvents were used.

TLC analysis for the collected fractions

Six different solvent systems were used as mobile phases to separate the fractions obtained from column fractionation. The first solvent system was a mixture of toluene: ethyl acetate: formic acid (7:2:1). Other systems included combination of different ratios of chloroform to methanol (v/v) 1:9, 2:8, 3:7, 4:6, and 5:5. Retardation factors (R_f values) were calculated by observing the compounds under UV irradiation light and with visualization reagents.

TLC Visualization reagents

- The Drangendorff's reagent was used to check the existence of alkaloids: Bismuth nitrate (0.4g) was dissolved in glacial acetic acid (5mL) to create a solution (A). The mixture was diluted with distilled water (25mL). Solution B consists of 10g of potassium iodide dissolved in 25mL of distilled water. Five mL of solutions A and B were pipetted into a 50mL volumetric flask, and the volume was adjusted with 10% (v/v) aqueous sulphuric acid solution. A volume of 30% H₂O₂ (0.2mL) was added to this mixture (Kokotkiewicz et al., 2017).
- Vanillin sulphuric acid: solution (1) is 1% vanillin ethanolic solution, and the second solution is 10% sulphuric acid in ethanol. Solution 1 was sprayed on the plate, and solution 2 was sprayed immediately. There

was a 5-10min heating period during which the TLC was heated to 110°C. For terpenoid, this reagent produces purple color for terpenoids (Wagner & Bladt, 1996).

- c) Aluminium chloride Reagent: one g of aluminium chloride was dissolved in 100mL of 95% ethanol. This reagent is for identifying flavonoids (Ghosh et al., 1987).

GC/MS analysis

The Trace GC1310-ISQ mass spectrometer examined the two fractions collected from *J. curcas* extract (Thermo Scientific, Austin, TX, USA). A TG-5MS capillary column (30m x 0.25mm x 0.25µm film thickness) was connected to the mass spectrometer. Helium maintained the carrier gas flow rate at 1mL/min. The temperature in the oven was set (at 50°C for 1min, then at a rate of 5°C per minute from 50 to 28°C) and then held isothermally for 20min. An injector port temperature of 260°C was maintained continuously. To automate the injection of the diluted 1µL samples, an autosampler AS1300 coupled with a GC operating in split mode was used. Full scan mode m/z 40–1000 EI, mass spectra were acquired at ionization voltages of 70eV. A temperature of 200°C was selected for the ion source. Components were determined by cross-referencing retention times and mass spectra with those in the WILEY 09 and NIST 11 mass spectral databases (Rao et al., 2017).

Results and Discussion

Preliminary screening of chemical constituents of *Jatropha* plants

The results of the phytochemical composition of methanol extract of tested *Jatropha* species showed the presence of flavonoids, alkaloids, saponins, tannins, terpenoids and sterols (Félix-Silva et al., 2014a; Evanjelene & Velu, 2021). Flavonoids were absent in the methanol extract of the leaf of *J. multifida*. Flavonoids have several biological functions, including antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant effects (Ahmad et al., 2015). Mondal et al. (2019) reported the anticancer activity of alkaloids. Terpenes are the most significant phytochemical group with several functions, including antibacterial, antiviral, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory (Cox-Georgian et al., 2019). These results support the idea that *Jatropha* species can be used as a medicinal plant for various medical conditions.

Antimicrobial activity of the crude extracts

The leaf methanol extracts from *J. curcas*, *J. gossypifolia*, and *J. multifida* were tested for their antimicrobial efficacy against Gram (-ve) *Escherichia coli*, Gram (+ve) *Staphylococcus aureus*, and the fungi *Aspergillus niger* and *Candida albicans* Table 1. Maximum antibacterial activity against *E. coli*, as measured by inhibition zone diameter ($19.33 \pm 1.15\text{mm}$) was observed in the methanol extract from *J. gossypifolia* leaves. The extract of *J. gossypifolia* was more active against *E. coli* than the control drug, Novobiocin (15mm). These findings corroborate with Gamal El-Din et al. (2022) that *J. gossypifolia* leaf oil was the most effective against *E. coli*. A number of active constituents, including caryophylline oxide and phytol, may be responsible for the antibacterial properties of *J. gossypifolia* leaves (Schmidt et al., 2010; Ghaneian et al., 2015). Only *J. curcas* leaves extract ($10.66 \pm 0.77\text{mm}$) suppressed the growth of *S. aureus*. This result was consistent with Sharma et al. (2012) experiment. The traditional medical application of *J. curcas* is supported because it contains secondary metabolites that contribute to antibacterial action (Mahesh & Kaushiki, 2018). *Jatropha* extracts showed more efficiency against *E. coli* than *S. aureus* in this investigation. However, Sokovic et al. (2008) reported that Gram-positive bacteria are more susceptible than Gram-negative bacteria. There was no antifungal activity against *Aspergillus niger*, and *Candida albicans* in methanol leaf extract from the three *Jatropha* species tested (Aiyelaagbe et al., 2007). However, the antifungal activity of *Jatropha* species was reported in previous studies (Gaikwad et al., 2012; Babahmad et al., 2018). The antibacterial efficiency of these extracts may explain the plant's many uses in ethnomedicine (Table 2).

Cytotoxicity activity of crude extracts of *Jatropha* species

The results of the cytotoxicity activity of *J. curcas*, *J. gossypifolia* and *J. multifida* leaf extracts were displayed in Fig. 1. The IC_{50} , CC_{50} , and SI values of extracts used in this study were listed in Table 2. The IC_{50} values for *J. curcas*, *J. gossypifolia*, and *J. multifida* extracts against HepG2 cell line were $47.2 \pm 2.48\mu\text{g/mL}$, $15.3 \pm 0.95\mu\text{g/mL}$ and $29.6 \pm 1.27\mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively. The cytotoxic effects (CC_{50}) of *J. curcas*, *J. gossypifolia*, and *J. multifida* against WISH cells were $96.5 \pm 3.17\text{g/mL}$, $22.7 \pm 1.84\text{g/mL}$, and $39.5 \pm 2.80\text{g/mL}$, respectively. The leaf extract of

J. curcas appeared to significantly reduce the cell viabilities in the HepG2 cell lines, with the highest selective index (SI value) of 2.04 among the tested extracts. Therefore, this extract was selected for further investigation. This result was compared with vinblastine, which is an alkaloid substance used to treat various types of cancer, most notably Hodgkin's lymphoma, but also non-small cell lung cancer, brain cancer, testicular cancer, melanoma, bladder cancer, and other types of cancer (Cox-Georgian et al., 2019). Like paclitaxel, vinblastine interrupts the cell cycle of cancer cells. In contrast to paclitaxel, which inhibits microtubule assembly, vinblastine prevents microtubule formation (Long & Fairchild, 1994). Vinblastine showed a selective index of (4.4). The HepG2 cell line was more sensitive to *J. curcas* extract than *J. gossypifolia* and *J. multifida* extracts (Fig. 1, Table 3). The findings lined up with the previous study that reported the potential anticancer activity of methanolic extracts obtained from *J. curcas* root against HT-29 human colon adenocarcinoma and Chang liver cell lines (Ehsan et al., 2011). Zhang et al. (2012) isolated bioactive compounds Curcusone C, D and 4E-jatrogrossidentadion

from *J. curcas* root extract; these compounds were responsible for cytotoxic activity toward HepG2. Due to the cytotoxicity efficiency of leaf methanol extract of *J. curcas*, isolation and identification of active constituents were recommended.

TLC analysis

Seven bands with Rf values of 0.125, 0.25, 0.35, 0.475, 0.5, 0.625, and 0.7 cm were clearly separated in a TLC analysis of a methanol extract of *J. curcas* leaves using 100% dichloromethane as the mobile phase. Two fractions were collected by column chromatography. JCF1 was most effectively separated by TLC using toluene, ethyl acetate, and formic acid (7:2:1) as the mobile phase, yielding five bands at Rf values of 0.38, 0.44, 0.52, 0.7, and 0.74 cm. The most efficient separation for JCF2 was obtained using chloroform: methanol (1:1) as a mobile phase, where two bands were obtained at Rf values of 0.72 and 0.88 cm. The spray reagents showed the presence of terpenoids and flavonoids in JCF1, while terpenoids, alkaloids and flavonoids were detected in JCF2.

TABLE 1. Antimicrobial activity of the methanol leaves extract of *J. curcas*, *J. gossypifolia*, and *J. multifida*

Test strains	Diameter of Inhibition Zones in mm*						
	<i>J. curcas</i>	<i>J. gossypifolia</i>	<i>J. multifida</i>	Polymyxin	Novobiocin	Nystatin	DEMSO
<i>E. coli</i>	12.66 ± 0.57	19.33 ± 1.15	10	NT	15	NT	NA
<i>S. aureus</i>	10.66 ± 0.77	NA	NA	20	NT	NT	NA
<i>C. albicans</i>	NA	NA	NA	NT	NT	25	NA
<i>A. niger</i>	NA	NA	NA	NT	NT	10	NA

*The values represent average for triplicate analyses ± standard deviation, NA. not active, NT. not tested.

TABLE 2. CC₅₀, IC₅₀, and selective index (SI) for the *J. curcas*, *J. gossypifolia*, and *J. multifida* extracts as compared with vinblastine*

Treatment	CC ₅₀	IC ₅₀	SI
<i>J. curcas</i>	96.5 ± 3.17*	47.2 ± 2.48*	2.044
<i>J. gossypifolia</i>	22.7 ± 1.84	15.3 ± 0.95*	1.48
<i>J. multifida</i>	39.5 ± 2.86	29.6 ± 1.27*	1.33
Vinblastine	8.61 ± 0.39	1.94 ± 0.17	4.43

CC₅₀: the concentration required to cause toxic effects on 50% of intact normal cells "cytotoxicity concentration", IC₅₀: the concentration required to inhibit 50% of cancer cells "inhibitory concentration", IS: The selective index represents the ratio of CC₅₀/ IC₅₀. All values represent mean ± standard deviation, *P < 0.005 indicating a significant difference compared to the control (Vinblastine).

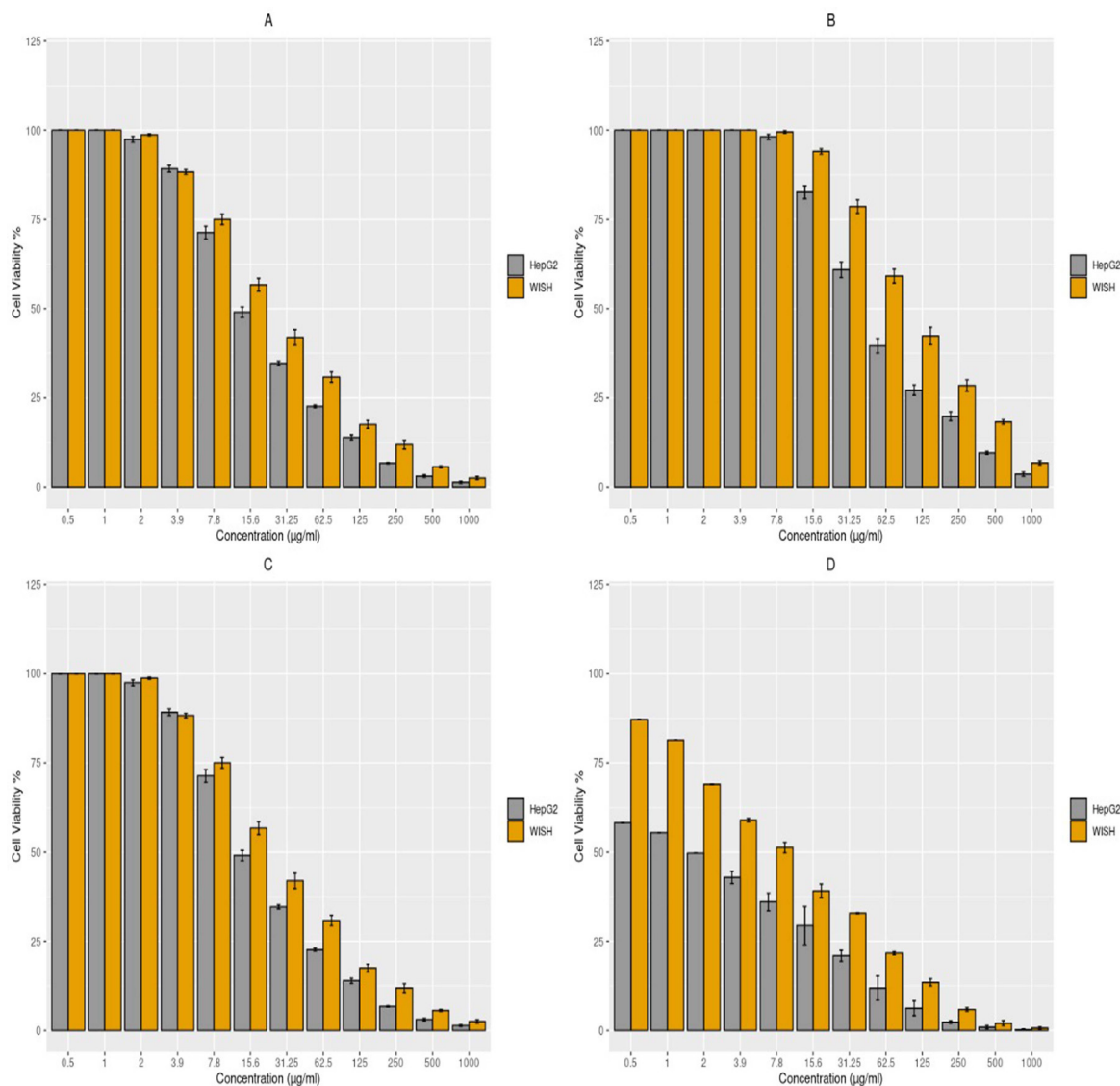


Fig. 1. Effect of methanol leaves extracts of *Jatropha* spp. against HepG2 and WISH cell lines viability: A) *J. gossypifolia*, B) *J. curcas*, C) *J. multifida* and D) Vinblastine

TABLE 3. Antimicrobial activity of the JCF1 and JCF2 fractions separated from *J. curcas* methanol leaves extract

Microbial strains	Diameter of inhibition zone mm*					
	JCF1	JCF2	Polymyxin	Novobiocin	Nystatin	DEMSEO
<i>E. coli</i>	NA	15	NT	15	NT	NA
<i>S. aureus</i>	15	14	20	NT	NT	NA
<i>C. albicans</i>	NA	NA	NT	NT	25	NA
<i>A. niger</i>	NA	NA	NT	NT	10	NA

*The values represent the average for triplicate analyses, NA: not active, NT: Not tested.

Antimicrobial activity of the fractions

The results of antimicrobial activities of JCF1 and JCF2 are displayed in Table 3. Both JCF1 and JCF2 showed antibacterial activity against *S. aureus* with an inhibition zone of 15mm and

14mm, respectively (Fig. 2). However, only JCF2 showed antibacterial activity against *E. coli* with an inhibition zone of 15mm. Our results are in agreement with previous literature that reported the methanolic fraction obtained from latex

and seed cake of *J. curcas* exhibited marked antibacterial activities against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria (Sharma et al., 2016). The findings can be explained by different bacterial strains exhibiting different resistance levels to compounds in the various solvent fractions (Bajpai et al., 2007).

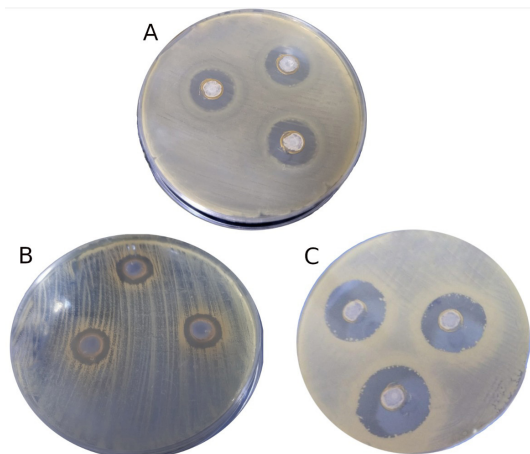


Fig. 2. Antibacterial activity of the fractions of *J. curcas* against *Staphylococcus aureus*, (A): JCF1, (B): JCF2, (C): Polymyxin (positive control)

Cytotoxicity activity of the fractions

The cytotoxicity results for the two fractions of *J. curcas* leaf extract are presented in Fig. 3. Both fractions demonstrated various anticancer effects on the studied cell lines. The cytotoxic activities (IC_{50}) of JCF1 and JCF2 fractions against HepG2 were $25.81 \pm 0.97 \mu\text{g/mL}$ and $119.71 \pm 2.46 \mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively. The cytotoxic effects (CC_{50}) against WISH cells of JCF1 and JCF2 fractions were $40.59 \pm 2.44 \mu\text{g/mL}$ and $208.7 \pm 6.63 \mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively (Table 4). Our findings were consistent with previous studies that reported the crude methanolic extract of *J. curcas* latex had cytotoxic effects against HepG2 with IC_{50} $19.11 \pm 1.21 \mu\text{g/mL}$ (Ahmed et al., 2020). The seed fractions of *J. curcas* had a growth-inhibiting effect on human hepatocellular carcinoma (HuH-7) and breast cancer (MCF-7) cell lines (Katagi et al., 2017). Nazeema & Girija (2013) reported that the crude methanolic fractions of *J. curcas* stem had antiproliferative activity against the HeLa cancer cell line with an IC_{50} value of $98.18 \mu\text{g/mL}$.

GC/MS analysis of JCF1 fraction

Twelve compounds were detected in the GC/MS chromatogram of the JCF1 (Fig. 4).

Hexadecanoic acid (18.43%), Anethole (18.28%), Estragole (18.28%), Oleic acid (13.67%) and phytol (10.84%) were the major compounds identified in JCF1. Moreover, Carvacrol (7.56%), pentadecanoic acid, 14-methyl-, methyl ester (6.47%), Hexadecanoic acid methyl ester (6.47%), octadecanoic acid, methyl ester (3.42%), α -Amyrin (2.71%), 9-Eicosyne (2.88%) and elaidic acid (0.79%) were detected in JCF1 (Table. 5). Phytol was found previously as a major component of the *J. gossypifolia* and *J. roseae* leaves oil, representing 10.33%, and 15.25%, respectively (Gamal El-Din et al., 2022). Antimicrobial, antioxidant, and anticancer activities of phytol were reported (Song & Cho, 2015). Anethole and estragole are isomers of monoterpenes; they can be found in the essential oils of aromatic plants and have antimicrobial and anticancer properties (De Vincenzi et al., 2000; Kubo et al., 2008; Carvalho et al., 2015; Lashkari et al., 2020). This study is the first to report the detection of anethole in a methanol extract of *J. curcas* leaf. The hexane extract of *J. curcas* stem bark contained oleic acid as the major compound (Namuli et al., 2011). Carvacrol occurs naturally as a component of essential oils and aromatic plant materials. Carvacrol showed antiviral, antimicrobial and anticancer properties (De Vincenzi et al., 2004; Pilau et al., 2011; Lima et al., 2013; Fan et al., 2015). Several studies have reported antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of the methyl ester of octadecanoic acid and oleic acid (Meechaona et al., 2007; Chen et al., 2011).

GC/MS analysis of JCF2 fraction

GC/MS analysis of JCF2 revealed the presence of 9 compounds (Fig. 4). The compounds detected in JCF2; Hexadecanoic acid (18.05%), Hexadecanoic acid methyl ester (9.50%), Octadecanoic acid methyl ester (3.29%), Anethole (3.02%), Estragole (3.02%), Thymol (1.61%), Carvacrol (1.61%), Benzofuran, 6-ethenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3,6-dimethyl-5 isopropenyl-, trans (1.00%), 4,4'-Dimethyl-2,2'-dimethylenebicyc lohexyl-3,3'-diene (1.44%) (Table. 5). Previous literature reported that hexadecanoic acid methyl ester, 9-octadecanoic acid methyl ester and octadecanoic acid were the major volatile components in the hexane partition of *J. curcas* root (Othman et al., 2015). Thymol and carvacrol were the basic elements of thymus compounds and specific to certain genera of the Lamiaceae family (Kasrati et al., 2014), identified in our study in low concentrations.

This result is in agreement with an investigation by Babahmad et al. (2018) that reported the essential oil of *J. curcas* leaves contains thymol and carvacrol. Antimicrobial, anticancer, and antioxidant properties are just a few of thymol's and carvacrol's biological functions (Kumar & Rawat, 2013; Kang et al., 2016; Miladi et al., 2016). Estragole was previously detected in the

essential oil of betel leaf as the major compound (Madhumita et al., 2019), which was detected in our study in low concentration. Francis et al. (2021) reported that hexadecanoic acid, hexadecanoic acid methyl ester and phytol were major compounds identified in the leaf extract of *J. curcas* with antifungal activity.

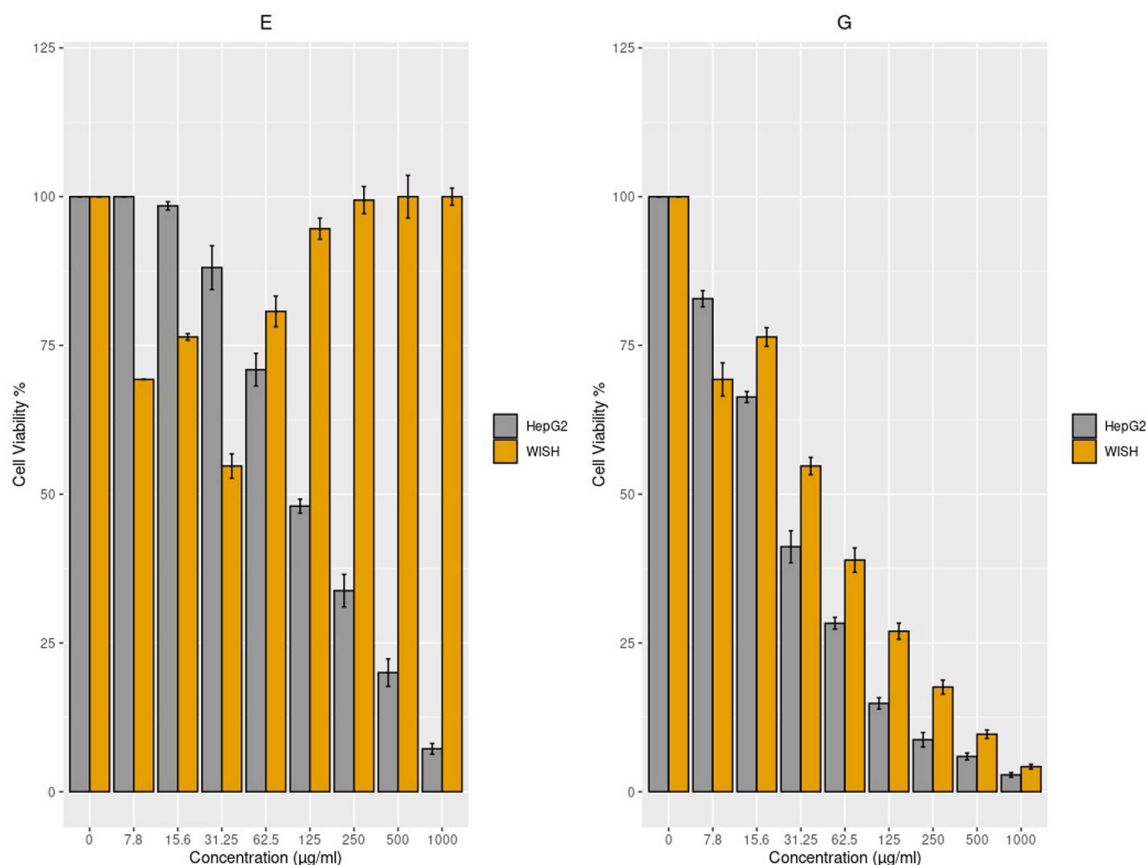


Fig. 3. Effect of fractions obtained from *J. curcas* on HepG2 and WISH cell lines viability. (G): JCF1, (E): JCF2

TABLE 4. CC₅₀, IC₅₀, and selective index (SI) for the JCF1 and JCF2 fractions obtained from *J. curcas* methanol extract as compared with vinblastine *

Treatment	CC ₅₀	IC ₅₀	SI
JCF1	40.59 ± 2.44	25.81 ± 0.97	1.57
JCF2	208.7 ± 6.63	119.71 ± 2.46	1.74
Vinblastine sulfate	8.61 ± 0.39	1.94 ± 0.17	4.43

CC₅₀: the concentration required to cause toxic effects on 50% of intact normal cells "cytotoxicity concentration", IC₅₀: the concentration required to inhibit 50% of cancer cells "inhibitory concentration", SI: The selective index, represents the ratio of CC₅₀/ IC₅₀. All values represent mean ± standard deviation, *P < 0.005 indicate significant difference compared to the control (Vinblastine sulfate).

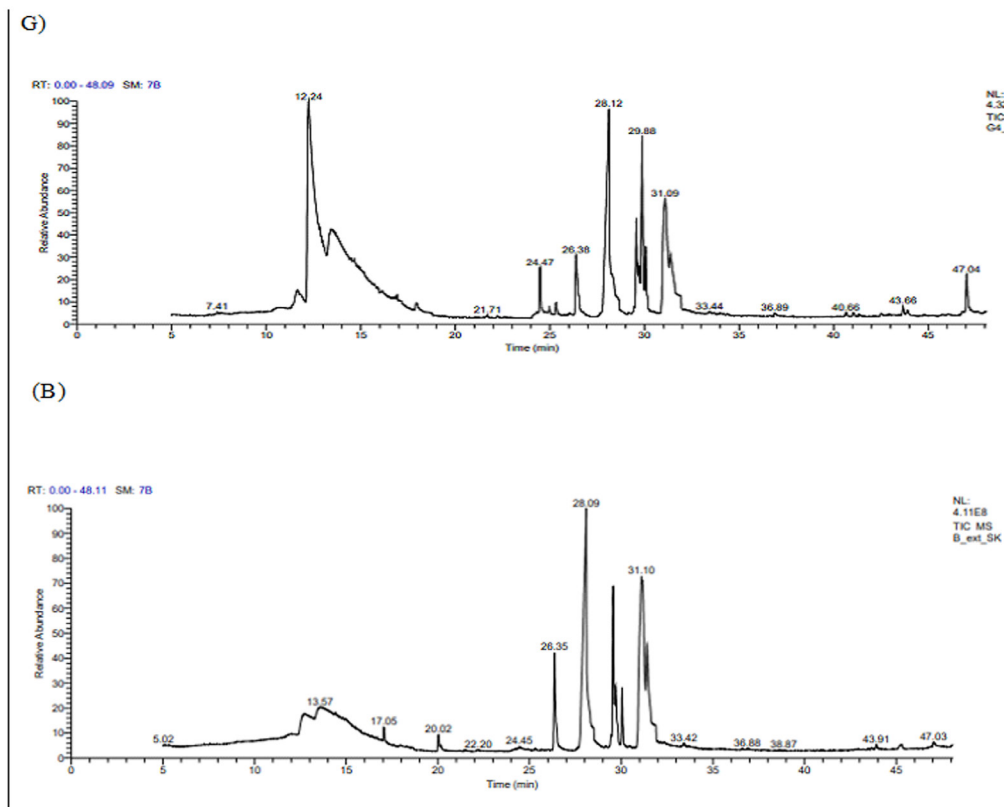


Fig. 4. GC-MS chromatogram of fractions obtained from *J. curcas* methanol leaf extract. (G): JCF1, (B): JCF2

TABLE 5. The phytochemical compounds detected in the JCF1 and JCF2 fractions were obtained from the methanol extract of *J. curcas* using GC/MS Chromatography

Compounds	% Peak area		RT	
	F1	F2	F1	F2
Hexadecanoic acid	18.43	18.05	28.12	27.82
Anethole	18.28	3.02	12.21	12.65
Estragole	18.28	3.02	12.21	12.65
Oleic Acid	13.67	—	31.93	—
Phytol	10.84	—	29.88	—
Carvacrol	7.56	1.61	13.43	13.50
Pentadecanoic acid, 14-methyl-, methyl ester	6.47	—	26.38	—
Octadecanoic acid, methyl ester	3.42	3.29	30.06	30.04
α' -Amyrin	2.71	—	47.04	—
9-Eicosyne	2.88	—	24.47	—
Elaidic acid	0.79	—	31.93	—
Hexadecanoic acid methyl ester	6.47	9.50	26.38	26.35
Thymol	—	1.61	—	13.50
Benzofuran,6-ethenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3,6-dimethyl-	—	1.00	—	17.05
Sisopropenyl-, trans 4,4'-Dimethyl-2,2'-dimethylenebicyclohexyl-3,3'-diene	—	1.44	—	20.02

A dash (—) indicated no detected, RT: retention time.

Conclusion

The highest anticancer activity was obtained from the methanol extract of *Jatropha curcas* leaves with a selective index of 2.04. This extract also showed the most increased antimicrobial activities. GC/MS analysis of this extract showed the presence of anethole, estragole, phytol, and some fatty acids. Also, it detected the presence of thymol and carvacrol, which were basic elements specific to certain genera of the Lamiaceae family, not the Euphorbiaceae family. Hence, it is necessary to separate the active ingredients from the leaves of *J. curcas* and test each compound for antimicrobial and anticancer activity. The present study suggests using *Jatropha curcas* leaves as a source of antimicrobial and anticancer agents and can be tested as a preservative food source in further investigations.

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Authors' contributions: Zeinab A.S. El-Swaify proposed the idea and the study plan and participated in the data interpretation, manuscript writing and revision. Zeinab M. Saleh participated in all experiments performance, data interpretation, manuscript writing, revision and submission process. Ahmed Z. Abdel Azeiz participated in the chemical analysis of the plants extracts, data interpretation, manuscript writing and revision. Ahmed B.M. Mehany participated in the study plan proposal and the manuscript writing and revision.

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النشاط المضاد للسرطان و الميكروبات من مستخلص اوراق نبات *Jatropha*

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يعتبر نبات الجاتروفا مصدراً هاماً للعديد من المركبات ذات الأنشطة البيولوجية المتنوعة. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى معرفة التركيب الكيميائي وإلى اختبار النشاط المضاد للسرطان والميكروبات لمستخلص الميثانول لاوراق ثلاث انواع من نبات الجاتروفا *Jatropha curcas* L., *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. and *Jatropha multifida*. وأظهرت النتائج أن مستخلص أوراق نباتات *J. curcas* and *J. gossypifolia* كانت تحتوي على مركبات تانين، صابونين، فلويدات، فلافونيدات، تربينات وستيرولات. مستخلص أوراق *J. curcas* أظهر أعلى نشاط مضاد لسرطان الكبد وكان معامل الإختبار 2.04 وكذلك نشاط مضاد للبكتريا الموجبة والسالبة لصبغة جرام. تم تنقية هذا المستخلص بواسطة عمود الكروماتوجرافي وتم فصل مستخلصين وتم إختبار النشاط المضاد للسرطان والمضاد للبكتريا لكلا المستخلصين. أظهر كلا من المستخلصين نشاط مضاد للسرطان حيث كان معامل الإختبار 1.74 و 1.57 للمستخلص الأول والثاني على التوالي، بينما أظهر المستخلص الأول نشاط مضاد للبكتريا الموجبة فقط، وأظهر المستخلص الثاني نشاط مضاد للبكتريا الموجبة والسالبة. تم إجراء عمليات الفصل الكروماتوجرافي لمستخلصين باستخدام GCMS. اتضح في المستخلص الأول وجود المركبات التالية: حمض هكساديانويك (18.43%)، أنيثول (18.28%)، إستراجول (18.28%)، حمض أوليك (13.67%)، فيتول (10.84%)، كارفاكول (7.56%)، كمرينات رئيسية. بينما المستخلص الثاني كان يحتوي على: حمض هكساديانويك (18.05%)، هكساديانويك ميثيل إستر (9.50%)، أوكتاديانويك ميثيل إستر (3.29%)، أنيثول (3.02%)، إستراجول (3.02%)، ثيمول (1.61%)، كارفاكول (1.61%)، كمرينات رئيسية.