

ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITY OF *Moringa oleifera* LEAF
EXTRACT ON SELECTED
FUNGUS SPECIES

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ABSTRACT

Plants synthesize vast array of secondary metabolites that are gaining importance for their biotechnological applications. This resource is largely untapped for use as fungicides. The antifungal activity of organic solvent extract of *Moringa oleifera* leaf was used. Benomyl, a synthetic fungicide was tested, to compare the efficacy of *Moringa oleifera* leaf extract. The *Moringa oleifera* organic leaf extract screened against for five (5) plant pathogenic fungi such as *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Verticillium dahliae*, *Helminthosporium oryzae*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus flavus*. Agar plate assay were carried out for above 5 fungi.

Helminthosporium oryzae inhibited by *Moringa oleifera* ethanol leaf extract very well, *Rhizoctonia solani* considerably, but other three selected fungus species are inhibited moderately. In cases where the leaf extract was effective the control was on par with Benomyl.

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