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Research Article

Production of Value Added Oyster Mushrooms

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ABSTRACT

Mushrooms are ironic in nutrimental resources and have converted into one of the common foods in the previous twenty years globally. The types of edible mushrooms are button, milky and oyster mushrooms. The research aimed at the value addition of oyster mushrooms by rising on paddy substrate complemented with two concentrations of four different medicinal plants. The plant parts selected were flowers of *Butea monosperma*, leaves of *Moringa olifera*, bark of *Cinnamonom zeylanicum*, fruits of *Corindrum sativum* at 5 and 10% concentration. Different species of oyster mushrooms are available. In the present study, *Pleurotus florida* was selected for value addition. Maximum mycelium running rate was detected in Cinnamon bark (5%) and paddy straw (95%) accompanied group and lowermost running rate of mycelium was observed in moringa leaf (5%) and paddy straw (95%). The primordial arrival was fast with cinnamon bark (5%) supplemented group and slowest in moringa leaf (5%) supplemented group. The mushrooms grown-up on coriander fruit (5%) produced more, but the growth was slow. Mushrooms supplemented with Butea flower (5%) exhibited slow growth, and yield was next to coriander fruit supplemented mushrooms. The produced mushrooms were subjected to physical evaluation, preliminary phytochemical testing, and tested to estimate total flavonoids, total phenols, total tannins, and total cinnamaldehyde contents. The value addition of oyster mushrooms was successful with cinnamon bark as cinnamaldehyde was noticed in the cinnamon bark supplemented group and with Moringa leaves flavonoids was observed in more concentration in moringa leaf supplemented mushroom group.

INTRODUCTION

Mushrooms are ideal as a source of minerals, high amount of protein, vitamins, and essential amino acids.^[1] At present, mushroom cultivation has been an attractive commercial occupation as people are extensively consuming mushrooms in their diet for nutrients, taste and flavor.^[2] Mushrooms can be effortlessly cultivated, grown in a wide range of temperatures on paddy straw, wheat straw and sugarcane bagasse. The lignocellulose content of the paddy straw favors the growth of mushrooms.^[3-6] *Pleurotus* genus has about 40–50 species available among which more acquainted and generally used are *P. florida*, *Pleurotus ostreatus* (*P. ostreatus*) and *Pleurotus sajor-caju* (*P. sajorcaju*).^[7-9] This study was focused on *P. florida*, which is commonly known as "Oyster mushroom." The species can be grown easily and at a faster rate compared to button

and milky mushrooms as it does not require casing for the growth of mushrooms which is the hardest part in the growth. Production of value-added mushrooms by adding medicinal plant parts to a substrate is the first of its kind globally. Development of oyster mushroom on cotton waste modified with maize and banana leaves was reported by Waqas Ahmad *et al.*, 2011.^[10,11] Their results report that 100% cotton waste and 50% cotton waste + 50% banana leaves are appropriate for the farming of mushrooms as compared to other growth media. Our study is unique of its kind in incorporating medicinal plant extracts for the growth of mushrooms. The selected medicinal plant parts for value addition of mushrooms were flowers of *Butea monosperma*, leaves of *M. olifera*, bark of *C. zeylanicum*, and fruits of *C. sativum*; the selection was based on their chemical constituents and biological activities.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

Collection of Plant Materials

The present work was carried out in the lab of Vaageswari College of Pharmacy, in Karimnagar, Telangana, in the month of November 2019. The fresh spawn is procured from 'S' Mushroom Agritech from Kukatpally, Hyderabad.

Method of Preparation

Preparation of paddy straw substrate for bags and treatment of straw was done as described elsewhere.^[12,13] The present work deals growth of mushrooms on the paddy straw along with few medicinally active plant parts supplementary to the substrate to grow the value-added mushrooms. The plant parts are *B. monosperma* flowers, *M. olifera* leaves, *C. zeylanicum* bark, *C. sativum* fruits in 5% and 10% concentrations. Then inoculation of the straw was done as described by Daniel J.^[14] The inoculated bags were kept in an incubation room that is neat, clean and cool for whitish mycelium growth appeared at 10–32°C but effectively grew at 22–25°C. The relative humidity required for proper growth is 80% to 85%, and it is maintained by the spraying of water twice a day.^[15,16] Mycelium running rate in spawn packet, time required for completion of mycelium running, time required for primordia initiation, time required for harvesting was recorded. Stalk length, stalk diameter, pileus diameter, pileus thickness, average individual weight of fruiting body, biological yield, economic yield was also noted.^[16]

Biological Yield (g)

Biological yield is measured by taking the whole bunch of the mushroom without removing the lower hard and dirty portion.^[17]

Economic Yield

Economic yield is known by taking the weight of the mushroom bunch by removing the lower hard and dirty portion.^[17,18]

Drying of Mushrooms

The fully grown mushrooms are collected, and parameters are measured and then cut into small pieces, which help to dry the mushrooms faster and better.^[18]

Moisture Content

Generally mushroom contains an abundant amount of moisture, the moisture present in different mushrooms of the value-added substrate is calculated with the help of the hot air oven and the loss in weight of the fresh mushroom sample to the dry sample after 24 hours keeping in the oven and it is measured with the help of the formula^[19]

$$\text{Moisture content} = \frac{\text{Initial Weight} - \text{Final weight}}{\text{Initial Weight of sample}} \times 100$$

Biological Efficiency

The biological efficiency of oyster mushroom was determined by the following formula^[20]

$$\text{Biological efficiency} = \frac{\text{Total weight of the fresh mushroom fruiting bodies (g)}}{\text{Weight of dry substrate (g)}} \times 100$$

Extraction of Mushroom

All the Freshly collected value-added mushrooms of 10 gms weight is taken, and it is made into paste with the solvent 95% ethanol and keep for maceration for 1-week and the marc was filtered and the distillate is dried and used as the mushroom extract.^[20-21]

Identification Tests for the Mushroom Extracts

Preliminary biochemical tests for different extracts is performed for the carbohydrates, proteins, steroids, glycosides, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, alkaloids, tannins, phenols, saponins, terpenoids, volatile oils, resins and fixed oil was carried out on the ethanolic extract by using standard methods mentioned in standard books.^[21-23]

Extraction of Flavonoids from Crude Extract

The Moringa substituted mushrooms (5%) are extracted with alcohol to obtain the crude extract; the extract is further hydrolyzed to obtain the flavonoids. The hydrolysis method was used in this study. *M. oleifera* leaf substituted mushroom extracts (50 mg) were refluxed at 80°C for 2 hours with 1.2 M hydrochloric acid in 50% aqueous methanol (5 mL). Antioxidant (ascorbic acid ASA) was added to the hydrolysis reaction (10 mg) before refluxing. After refluxing, sample was allowed to cool to room temperature and keep for drying.^[22] The obtained extract is further confirmed for the presence of flavonoids by identification test (Ammonia test, Shinoda test, Lead acetate test), TLC, UV analysis.^[24]

TLC of Flavonoids

TLC plate was spotted with the extract obtained after the hydrolysis of ethanolic extract of Moringa substituted mushrooms, control mushroom extract, and standard quercetin. The solvent system used was Toluene: Ethyl acetate: Formic acid (6:4:1). The spots were detected under UV light.

Estimation of Total Flavonoid Content^[23-25]

Different concentration of 25, 50, 75, 100, 125 and 150 mcg/mL quercetin were prepared. To each of these 4 mL water was added, followed by 0.3 mL of 5% sodium nitrite. After 5min 0.3 mL of 10% aluminum chloride solution and at the 6th minute, 2 mL of 1 M Sodium hydroxide was added. The total volume was made up to 10 mL with distilled water. A blank was prepared without the addition of aluminum chloride solution. The solutions were mixed well, and the absorbance was measured against the blank

at 510 nm using UV spectrophotometer. A standard graph was plotted using various concentrations of quercetin and their corresponding absorbance.

The total Flavonoids content of moringa substituted mushroom extract was estimated by a method described by Zhishen *et al.*^[25,26]

Estimation of Total Phenolic Content^[26-29]

The total phenolic content of extracts was studied with Folin-Ciocalteu assay. 1 mL of mushroom extract (1 mg/mL) was mixed with 1-mL of Folin-Ciocalteu's phenol reagent. Keep aside for 5 minutes. The above solution 10 mL of 7% sodium carbonate solution was added to the Folin-Ciocalteu's added mixture, followed by 13 mL of deionized distilled water and mixed thoroughly. The prepared mixture was kept in the dark for 90 minutes at 23°C; after the completion of 90 minutes, the absorbance was measured at 760 nm. The total phenolic content was determined from slope of the calibration curve, which was made by preparing a Gallic acid solution (100, 200, 300, 400, 500 µg/mL). The total Phenolic content was expressed as mg of Gallic acid equivalents (GAE)/g of dried sample.

Estimation of Total Tannin Content^[23,30]

The Total Tannin Content was estimated by the Folin-Ciocalteu method. About 0.1 mL of the sample from (1 mg/mL) was added to a volumetric flask (10 mL) which was with 7.5 mL of distilled water and 0.5 mL of Folin-Ciocalteu phenol reagent, 1 mL of 35% sodium carbonate solution and made to 10 mL with distilled water. The mixture was mixed well and kept at room temperature for 30 minutes. Standard solutions of tannic acid (100, 200, 300, 400, 500 µg/mL) were prepared in the same manner as described earlier. Absorbance for extract samples and standard solutions were measured against the blank at 700 nm with a UV-visible spectrophotometer. The tannin content was expressed in terms of mg of tannic acid equivalents/g of dried sample.

Extraction of Cinnamon Substituted Mushrooms

All the Freshly collected Cinnamon substituted mushrooms of 10 gms weight were taken, and it was made into a paste with the solvent 95% ethanol and kept for maceration about 1-week marc was filtered and the distillate was dried and used as the mushroom extract.^[21] The obtained extract is further confirmed for the presence of Volatile oils by identification test for cinnamaldehyde (Tollen's test and Ferric chloride test) and Eugenol (Ferric chloride test and Bayer's test) TLC, UV-visible spectroscopic analysis.

Thin Layer Chromatography of Cinnamaldehyde

Thin layer chromatography (TLC) plate was spotted with the ethanolic extract of Cinnamon substituted mushrooms, control mushroom extract and standard Cinnamaldehyde, we can observe the spot parallel to the standard spot that indicate it may contain Cinnamaldehyde. Solvent system

used was Toluene: ethyl acetate in the ratio 93:7, detected under UV light.

Preparation Curve Calibration of Cinnamaldehyde

Cinnamaldehyde was weighed and dissolved in ethanol to obtain a stock standard (1.0 mg/mL). Cinnamaldehyde solutions were prepared in concentration 20–100 µg/mL for the calibration curve. The absorbance was measured at 287 nm.^[31]

Preparation and Determination of Cinnamaldehyde from Extract

The dried extract was prepared 1-mg/mL concentration with ethanol. The tube was stirred thoroughly for about 15 minutes. Then the obtained solution was filtered, and the filtrate solution was measured absorbance at the maximum wavelength of 290 nm. Cinnamaldehyde levels were determined using a calibration curve.^[32,33]

RESULTS

Mycelium Running Rate

Mycelium running rate (MRR) in spawn bag ranged from 0.4056-0.8757 cm/day (Table 1). The highest mycelium running rate was observed in Cinnamon bark pieces (5%) + paddy straw (95%).

Time required for primordia initiation, mushroom appearance, harvesting and for maturity and the results were represented in Table 2.

Dimensions of Fruiting Body (pileus and stripe)

Length of pileus (cm), thickness of pileus (cm) and length of stripe (cm) of three randomly selected fruiting bodies was measured using a slide calipers and tabulated in the Table 3 and Fig. 1.

Identification Tests for the Mushroom Extracts

The value-added mushroom extracts are tested for identification tests for different phytochemical constituents, and the results are in Table 4.

Table 1: Days for spawn running

| Substrate | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100% |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| B 1 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 15 |
| B 2 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 15 |
| M 1 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 17 |
| M 2 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 14 |
| CN 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| CN 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 12 |
| CO 1 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 15 |
| CO 2 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 13 |
| C | 4 | 6 | 10 | 12 |

B1- *Butea monosperma* 5%; B2- *Butea monosperma* 10%; M1- *Moringa olifera* 5%; M2- *Moringa olifera* 10%; CN1- *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* 5%; CN2- *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* 10%; CO1- *Coriandrum sativum* 5%; CO2- *Coriandrum sativum* 10%; C- Control



Table 2: Days for appearance of pin heads and maturity

| Substrate | Average number of days for primordial appearance | Average number of days for mushroom appearance | Average number of days for primordial to harvesting | Average number of days for maturity |
|-----------|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| B 1 | 17 | 19 | 22 | 3 |
| B 2 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 3 |
| M 1 | 18 | 20 | 23 | 3 |
| M 2 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 3 |
| CN 1 | 11 | 12 | 15 | 3 |
| CN 2 | 13 | 14 | 16 | 2 |
| CO 1 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 2 |
| CO 2 | 14 | 15 | 18 | 3 |
| C | 13 | 14 | 17 | 3 |

Table 3: Effect of different substrates on some yield attributes of oyster mushroom

| Substrate | Pilus length (cm) | Pilus thickness (cm) | Stalk length (cm) | Fresh weight/ biological yield (gm) | Economic yield(gm) | Dry weight (gm) | Moisture content | Biological efficiency |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| B 1 | 5 | 0.3 | 5.5 | 36 | 34.8 | 6 | 83.3 | 7.2 |
| B 2 | 8.5 | 0.5 | 9.2 | 73 | 72.2 | 13 | 82.1 | 14.6 |
| M 1 | 7.5 | 0.5 | 8 | 72 | 70.3 | 10 | 86.1 | 14.4 |
| M 2 | 9 | 0.5 | 5 | 26 | 25.1 | 6 | 76.9 | 5.2 |
| CN 1 | 15 | 0.5 | 15 | 38 | 37.5 | 10 | 73.6 | 7.6 |
| CN 2 | 6.6 | 0.5 | 8.5 | 78 | 76.9 | 16 | 79.4 | 15.4 |
| CO 1 | 10 | 0.5 | 7.5 | 72 | 71.3 | 11 | 84.7 | 14.4 |
| CO 2 | 8.2 | 0.5 | 7.5 | 84 | 82.8 | 21 | 75.0 | 16.8 |
| C | 7.5 | 0.6 | 8.5 | 67.6 | 66.3 | 11 | 83.7 | 13.5 |

*Each bag weight is 500 g

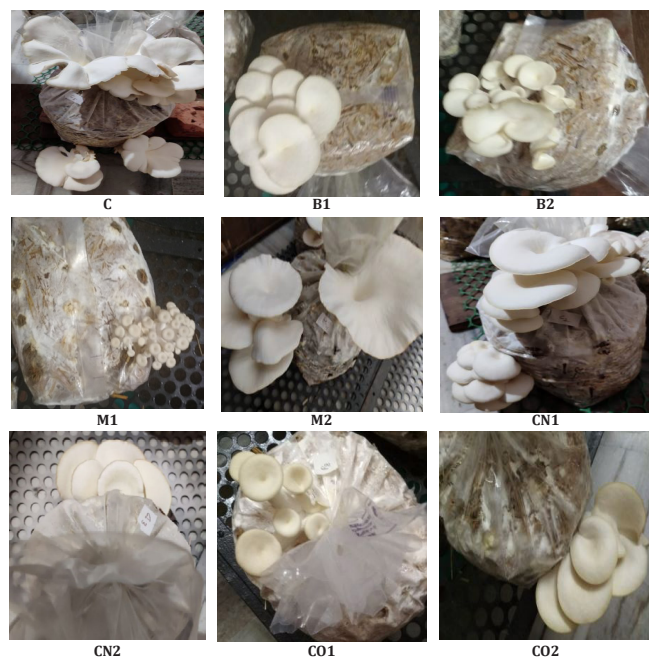


Fig.1: Effect of different substrates on Oyster mushroom

Identification Tests of Flavonoids

The value-added mushroom extracts are further hydrolyzed to get the flavonoids; the obtained extracts are tested for the presence of flavonoids and are represented in Table 5.

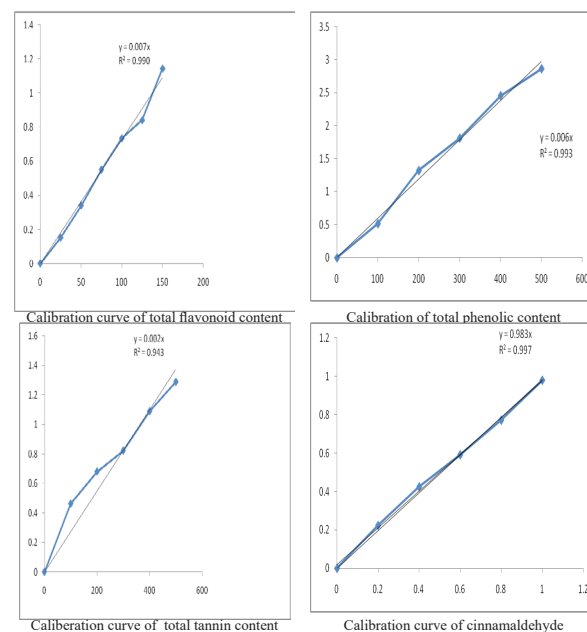


Fig.2: Calibration curve of total flavonoid content, total phenolic content, total tannin content and cinnamaldehyde.

Estimation of Total Flavonoid Content

The results of absorbance of the standard quercetin, standard gallic acid, standard tannic acid, Moringa substituted mushroom extract or cinnamon substituted

Table 4: Identification tests for the mushroom extracts

| Constituents | Butea5% | Butea10% | Mor5% | Mor10% | Cinn5% | Cinn10% | Cor5% | Cor10% | Con |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|-----|
| Carbohydrates | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.Molisch test | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Proteins | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.Biuret test | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| 2.Xanthoprotein test | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| 3.Test for 'S' proteins | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Steroids | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.Salkowski test | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| 2.Liebermann-Buchard test | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Glycosides | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.Keller Killiani test | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Flavanoids | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.Shinoda test | + | + | ++ | ++ | + | + | + | + | + |
| 2.sulphuric acid | + | + | ++ | ++ | + | + | + | + | + |
| 3.NH ₃ test | + | + | ++ | ++ | + | + | + | + | + |
| Alkaloids | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.Dragendroff's test | ++ | ++ | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| 2.Mayers test | ++ | ++ | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Tannins and Phenolic Compounds | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5% FeCl ₃ | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| 2.Lead acetate | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Saponins | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.Foam test | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2.Haemolytic test | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Volatile Oils | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.FeCl ₃ test | + | + | + | + | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ | + |

Table 5: Identification tests of flavonoids

| Test | Moringa substituted mushroom hydrolyzed sample | Control |
|-------------------|--|---------|
| Ammonia test | ++ | + |
| Shinoda test | ++ | + |
| Lead acetate test | ++ | + |

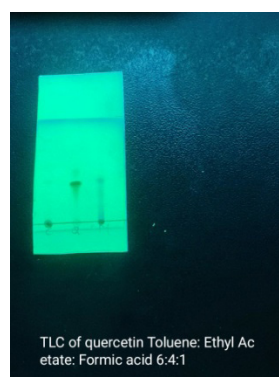
mushroom extract and Control was shown in the Table 6 and the standard curve was plotted which was shown in Fig. 2.

TLC of Flavonoids

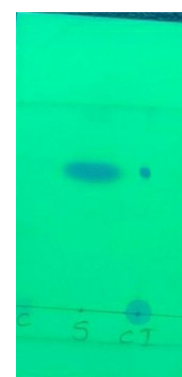
The extracted and hydrolyzed moringa substituted mushroom extracts are subjected to TLC analysis which shows the presence of flavonoids compared to the standard quercetin. The results and TLC plate were shown in the Table 7 and Fig. 3.

TLC of Cinnamaldehyde

The ethanolic extract of cinnamon substituted mushroom extracts are subjected to TLC analysis, which shows the presence of cinnamaldehyde compared to the standard



TLC of flavonoids



TLC of cinnamaldehyde

Fig.3: TLC of flavonoids and cinnamaldehyde

cinnamaldehyde. The results and TLC plate were shown in the Table 8.

The cinnamon bark substituted mushroom was extracted with ethanol and subjected to identification tests and the results are showed in the Table 9.



Table 6: Estimation of total flavonoid content, total phenolic content, total tannin content and total cinnamaldehyde content

| Drug | Concentration of tannic acid ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | Mean absorbance | Concentration of quercetin ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | Mean absorbance | Concentration of gallic acid ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | Mean absorbance | Concentration of cinnamom oil ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) | Mean absorbance |
|----------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| Standard | 100 | 0.463 ± 0.0004 | 25 | 0.152 ± 0.0002 | 100 | 0.517 ± 0.0003 | 20 | 0.223 ± 0.0001 |
| | 200 | 0.681 ± 0.0006 | 50 | 0.341 ± 0.0002 | 200 | 1.321 ± 0.0004 | 40 | 0.424 ± 0.0003 |
| | 300 | 0.824 ± 0.0002 | 75 | 0.552 ± 0.0003 | 300 | 1.812 ± 0.0002 | 60 | 0.591 ± 0.0005 |
| | 400 | 1.09 ± 0.0002 | 100 | 0.736 ± 0.0001 | 400 | 2.456 ± 0.0005 | 80 | 0.771 ± 0.0001 |
| | 500 | 1.29 ± 0.0003 | 125 | 0.842 ± 0.0005 | 500 | 2.863 ± 0.0001 | 100 | 0.979 ± 0.0005 |
| MSMHS | (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) | 0.036 ± 0.0004 | (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) | 1.146 ± 0.0002 | (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) | 0.111 ± 0.0002 | (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) CSMS | 0.257 ± 0.0004 |
| Control | (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) | 0.017 ± 0.0003 | (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) | 0.063 ± 0.0003 | (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) | 0.047 ± 0.0004 | (100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) | Zero absorbance |
| MSMHS | Tannic acid content (mcg/ml) is 18 ± 0.021 | | Flavonoid content Quercetin is 9 ± 0.035 | | Phenolic content GAE mcg/ml is 18.5 ± 0.043 | | Content of Cinnamaldehyde (mg/g dry extract) is 2.61 ± 0.061 | |
| Control | 8.5 ± 0.032 | | 1.57 ± 0.021 | | 7.83 ± 0.021 | | none | |

MSMHS- Moringa substituted mushroom hydrolyzed sample
CSMS- Cinnamom substituted mushroom sample

Table 7: TLC of flavonoids

| Solvent system | Rf value of sample |
|---|--------------------|
| Toluene: Ethyl acetate: Formic acid (6:4:1) | |
| Control | No spot |
| Flavonoid | 0.39 |
| Moringa | 0.39 |

Table 8: TLC of cinnamaldehyde

| Solvent system | Rf value |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Toluene:ethyl acetate =93:7 | |
| Sample | 0.57 |
| (standard) | 0.57 |
| Control | No spot |

Table 9: Identification tests of cinnamaldehyde

| Test | Cinnamom substituted ethanolic extract | Control |
|----------------------|--|---------|
| Cinnamaldehyde | | |
| Tollen's test | + | - |
| Ferric chloride | + | - |
| Eugenol | | |
| Ferric chloride test | + | - |
| Bayer's test | + | - |

DISCUSSION

Mycelium running rate (MRR) in spawn bag ranged from 0.4056-0.8757Cm/day. The highest mycelium running rate was observed in *Cinnamom* bark pieces (5%) + paddy straw (95%). The lowest mycelium rate is recorded in *Moringa* leaves (5%) + paddy straw (95%), Because of the presence of cellulose present in the bark of cinnamom, which helps to grow faster. The lowest growth rate is *Moringa* is may be due to the presence of antifungal properties of the plant, but it has very good medicinal values. For better mycelium growth, the C: N ratio is responsible, which is good in the paddy straw. Average number of days for complete growth of mycelium in a packet is between 10 to 17 days, depending on the different compositions of the value-added substrates. The least number of days for *Cinnamom* bark pieces (5%) + paddy straw (95 %) and highest number of days for *Moringa olifera* leaf powder (5%) + paddy straw (95 %). The difference in the mycelium growth in the bags is due to the variation in the chemical composition, C: N ratio, and may be due to the value-added substances.^[25] Previously reported that spawn took 16 to 25 days after inoculation.^[26,27] But in the present work it is completed in 17days may be because of the cellulose present in the value added products.The least time for primordial appearance is in *Cinnamom* bark pieces (5%)+ paddy straw (95 %), i.e., 11 days, which was followed by *Cinnamom* bark pieces (10%) + paddy straw (90%) and control (C), i.e., 13 days and the more time taken for primordial appearance is *M. olifera* leaf powder (5%)+ paddy straw

(95%), i.e., 18 days. Previously it was reported that the primordial initiation took about 6 days after complete growth of mycelium, but with the value-added substrates, the primordial initiation is fast.^[26-28] The minimum time required for the mushroom appearance is observed in cinnamon bark pieces (5%)+ paddy straw (95 %), i.e., in 12 days and more number of days taken for the mushroom appearance is *M. olifera* leaf powder (5%) + paddy straw (95%) i.e., 20 days. All the substrate bags are matured in almost in equal time, i.e., is 2 to 3 days may because the substrate is common in all the bags, i.e., rice straw. But the minimum time taken to get the mushrooms is in cinnamon bark pieces (5%) + paddy straw (95 %), i.e., in 15 days, and the maximum time is for *M. olifera* leaf powder (5%) + paddy straw (95%), i.e., 23 days^[29]. Mushrooms grown on cinnamon bark supplemented substrate showed the presence of cinnamaldehyde on TLC, identification, and Total cinnamaldehyde content. On preliminary phytochemical screening, mushrooms grown on four substrates and control group, when compared with the control group exhibited more concentrations of flavonoids, phenolic compounds, tannins, glycosides. In mushrooms grown with butea supplemented substrate shows more concentrations of alkaloids and equal concentration of flavonoids. Mushrooms grown on moringa showed more concentration of total flavonoids when compared to the control group. Flavonoid was also observed in the Moringa treated group, which was absent in the TLC control group and in quantitative estimation by UV-visible spectroscopy. Cinnamon substituted mushrooms show the presence of cinnamaldehyde and eugenol by identification tests, which are not found in control group. Coriander fruits substituted mushrooms show an equal amount of volatile oil compared to control. Flavonoids in moringa was observed by TLC, identification tests, total flavonoid content, total tannin content and total phenolic content. The presence of cinnamaldehyde in cinnamon substituted mushrooms was studied by identification tests, TLC, estimation of cinnamaldehyde content by UV-visible spectrophotometer.

CONCLUSION

Flowers of *Butea monosperma*, leaves of *M. olifera*, bark of *C. zeylanicum*, fruits of *C. sativum* at 5 and 10% concentrations were found to be the best one for the growth and yield of *Pleurotus florida*. These medicinal plants with the potent amounts of flavonoids, phenols, cinnamaldehyde and tannins are responsible for the growth of mushrooms. These plants are cost-bearing and poor farmers will be able to use them for the production of mushroom. They are easily available locally and can be used for the preparation of mushroom substrate as well. In this way, the selected phytochemicals will be fruitful to reduce the cost of production of mushrooms for ordinary mushroom growers.

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