

## ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF *EPHEDRA FOLIATA* BOISS. EX C. A. MEY. EXTRACTS AGAINST HUMAN PATHOGENIC BACTERIA

---

*ABSTRACT* : The present investigation was undertaken to evaluate the antibacterial and antifungal activities of *Ephedra foliata* Boiss. ex C. A. Mey. whole plant. The *E. foliata* plant was powdered and successively extracted with dichloromethane, ethyl acetate, 1-butanol and water for 24 hours each using a Soxhlet extractor. The dried extracts were screened for in vitro antibacterial activity against eight human pathogenic bacteria. The ethyl acetate extract showed significant antibacterial activity against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Bacillus cereus* and *Shigella flexneri* whereas the dichloromethane extract demonstrated moderate activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Shigella sonnei*. The 1-butanol and aqueous extracts showed good activity against a few bacterial strains. The same extracts were also evaluated for in vitro antifungal activity against six plant pathogens. The dichloromethane and 1-butanol extracts also showed antifungal activity. The inhibitory effects of the extracts were comparable with the standard Ampicillin and Nystatin used.

---