***In vitro* antifungal potential of selected plant extracts against *Colletotrichum musae*, causing anthracnose disease in banana**

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The disease Anthracnose caused by Colletotrichum musae is one of the most common and  
destructive to bananas, especially during storage. The management of anthracnose is  
primarily accomplished by the application of synthetic fungicides. Thus, residual toxicity  
of synthetic fungicides becomes the major concern as bananas are consumed within a short  
time frame following harvest. Plant extract is becoming a more secure alternative to  
conventional fungicides to control plant diseases. The present investigation was conducted  
to screen the efficacy of several plant extracts against C. musae in in vitro condition. Plant  
extracts of Solanum torvum (Thibbatu), Emblica officinalis (Nelli), Lantana camara(Gadhapana), Ocimum tenuiflorum (Maduruthala), Mimosa pigra (Yoda nidikumba),  
Moringa oleifera( Moringa) were extracted by using methanol. Each plant extraction  
(150mg/ml) was screened in vitro by using “poison food technique”. The methanolic  
extraction of S. torvum showed the highest growth inhibition (77.59%) against the growth  
of C. musae, followed by L. camara and O. tenuiflorum showed 52.22% and 48.28%  
respectively. The extraction of S. torvum showed the highest effective in reducing fungal  
growth in in vitro condition. Further research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of  
plant extracts against the casual organism of anthracnose of bananas in vivo condition prior  
to make any recommendation.

**Key words**: *Colletotrichum musae, Fungicides, Plant extraction, Poison food technique*