



GREEN SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GOLD NANOPARTICLES USING EPIPHYTIC PLANTS *ACAMPE PRAEMORSA* LEAVES EXTRACT AND EVALUATION OF THEIR ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITIES.

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ABSTRACT:

The biosynthesis, characterization and application of biologically synthesized gold nanoparticles are the important aspects of nanotechnology. Nanotechnology deals with the nanoparticles having size from 1-100nm in one dimension. In this investigation green synthesis of gold nanoparticles obtained from HAuCl₄ (1mM) solution through the aqueous leaves extract of *Acampe praemorsa*. The aqueous Au³⁺ ions reacted with the broth of leaf extracts, which were reduced and resulted as gold nanoparticles Au⁰ and the colour change proves the first indication of the formation of nanoparticles. Further the characterization of bio reduced nanoparticles observed by UV-Vis absorption spectroscopy, FTIR [Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy] and SEM [Scanning Electron Microscopy]. The gold nanoparticles synthesized via green route are highly toxic to multidrug resistant pathogens, hence it has a great potential in biomedical applications. Later these biologically synthesized nanoparticles exhibited for antibacterial activity. The antibacterial activities were carried out against *E.coli* strain by using well diffusion methods.

Keywords: Gold nanoparticles, *Acampe praemorsa* leaves extract, UV-vis spectroscopy, FTIR, SEM, Antibacterial activity.

INTRODUCTION:

Nanotechnology is an escalating field of Modern Research with desired application in electronics and medicine. Nanotechnology involves the synthesis of nanoparticles of size ranging from 1 to 100nm. Nanotechnology represents an economic alternative for chemical and physical method of nanoparticles formation. The physical and chemical synthesis of nanoparticles can be toxic and highly reactive posing a risk to the environment and human or the procedures are too expensive to be feasible at an industrial scale. Therefore there has been a search for inexpensive, reliable, safe and “green” approach to synthesize stable metal nanoparticles with controlled size and shape. Plant mediated biological synthesis of nanoparticles is gaining importance due to its simplicity and eco-friendliness. The biosynthesis of nanoparticles by plants such as *Terminalia catappa* [Ankamwar B *et al.*, 2010], *Camelia sinensis* [Nune S K *et al.*, 2009], *Lemon grass* [Shiv S S *et al.*, 2004], *Allium cepa* [Umesh kumar parida *et al.*, 2011] has been reported. Biological approaches using microorganisms and

plants or plant extracts for metal nanoparticles synthesis have been suggested as valuable alternative to chemical methods [Sastry M. *et al.*, 2004]. Nano crystalline gold particles have found tremendous applications in the field of highly sensitivity bio molecular detection and diagnostics [Vaidyanathan R *et al.*, 2009]. This is because of the unique physiochemical characteristics of nanoparticles including catalytic activity, optical properties, electronic properties, antibacterial and magnetic properties [Rajasulochana P *et al.*, 2010]. The rapid formation of stable Au nanoparticles has been found using *Galaxaura elongata* aqueous medium at normal atmospheric condition TEM analysis revealed that the particles are spherical in shape along with a few triangular, truncated, hexagonal shape nanoparticles. FTIR showed that nanoparticles were capped by algal compounds [Singaravelu *et al.*, 2013]. *Amaranthus spinosus* investigated for toxicity of the synthesized gold nanoparticles and found non toxic to the cancer cell lines and could be used for bio medical applications [Ratul Kumar Das *et al.*, 2012]. Biological approach

is the most suitable way for the synthesis of gold nanoparticles [Ahmad *et al.*, 2003]. This work discusses about the extraction of gold nanoparticles from epiphytic plant; *Acampe praemorsa* and their antimicrobial activity. These plants have medicinal uses and significant anti-inflammatory activities. The aim of the present work is- To biosynthesize gold nanoparticles using aqueous leaves extract of *Acampe praemorsa*. To characterize the gold nanoparticles by using UV-Vis spectroscopy, FTIR and SEM, To analyze antibacterial properties of *Acampe praemorsa* against *E.coli* bacteria.

METHOD AND MATERIAL:

Fresh leaves of the plants were collected from the campus of S.V.R.N.S.S College, Vazhoor. The collected leaves were washed with sterile distilled water and used for extract preparation. About 10g of fresh leaves were weighed, cut in to small pieces and crushed in to 100ml distilled water with the help of mortar and pestle. Then the mixture is filtered through Whatman No.1 filter paper. 1 mM aqueous solution of HAuCl₄ was prepared and used for the synthesis of gold nanoparticles. HAuCl₄ was obtained from Sigma Aldrich and used as without further purification. 10ml of aqueous leaves extract was added in to 90ml aqueous solution of 1mM HAuCl₄ [1:9] for bio reduction in to gold ions [Au³⁺ → Au⁰] allow to react at ambient conditions. Characterization of gold nanoparticles monitored through UV-vis spectra analysis. The chemical composition and bio reduced gold ions in aqueous solution was monitored by periodic sampling of 3-5ml solution and subsequently measuring UV-vis spectra of the solution at 300-700nm. The FTIR spectrum was used to analyze the functional group present in the epiphytic plant leaves extract. The samples for FTIR analysis was prepared by mixing plant extracts with 1mM HAuCl₄. The samples were scanned using infrared in range of 4000-1000cm⁻¹ using FTIR. The SEM images provided information about the morphology and size of the bio

synthesized gold nanoparticles. The gold nanoparticles found to be oval or spherical in shape. Antibacterial activity carried out by agar- well diffusion method. Petri plates containing 20ml Muller Hinton medium were seeded with 24hr culture of bacterial strains such as *E.coli*. wells of approximately 10mm was bored using a well cutter and sample of 50 µl and 100µl Concentration were added. The plates were then incubated at 37°C for 24hr. The antibacterial activity was assayed by measuring the diameter of the inhibitions zone formed around the well (NCCLS, 1993). Streptomycin was used as a positive control.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The green synthesis of gold nanoparticles occurred during the exposure of epiphytic leaves extract to 1mM HAuCl₄ aqueous solution. The complete reduction of gold ions was observed after 2-3 hours. The colour change in the reaction mixture was observed during the incubation period, because the formation of gold nanoparticles is able to produce a particular colour in the reaction mixture due to their specific properties.

Visual observation of gold nanoparticles confirmed through the development of greenish aqueous suspension to ruby red colour due to the reduction of gold ions (fig2). This is the visual indication of formation of gold nanoparticles.

The periodic scan of optical absorbance between 300-700nm with a UV-Vis spectrophotometer at resolution of 1nm were performed to investigate the reduction rate of gold ions by *Acampe praemorsa* leaves extract. The reduction mixture was used for UV-Vis analysis, so the UV-Vis spectroscopy revealed the presence of gold nanoparticles. Absorption spectra of gold nanoparticles formed in *Acampe praemorsa* extract had absorbance peak at 555nm (fig.3).

FTIR analysis confirmed that the bio reduction of gold ions to gold nanoparticles is due to the reduction by capping materials of plant extract. The synthesized gold nanoparticles were confirmed by

changes that occurred in the FTIR spectra after synthesis. In *Acampe praemorsa* FTIR absorption spectra of bio reduction of gold ions observed by the absorption bands of the region of 4000-1000cm⁻¹ are 4411.2, 4220.25, 3716.83, 3057.17, 2956.87, 2924.09, 2852.72, 2374.37, 1905.67, 1745.58 & 725.23cm⁻¹ (fig. 4). The bio reduced nanoparticles are the result of the bio reduction of plant extract and the capping agent which is present in the extract.

The SEM images provided information about the morphology and size of the bio synthesized gold nanoparticles. The gold nanoparticles found to be spherical and cubic in shape, the diameter of gold nanoparticles was identified by SEM analysis. Further the SEM images showed the high density gold nanoparticles synthesized by *Acampe praemorsa* leaves extract. In *Acampe praemorsa* the SEM images showing the size of gold nanoparticles between the range from 5μ-10μ under the magnification range of 3000. (Fig.- 5).

Bactericidal effect seen on Hospital strain *E.coli* of Gold nanoparticles synthesized by *Acampe praemorsa* leaf extracts and showed synergetic effect with Streptomycin. Synthesized Gold nanoparticle shows zone of inhibition against the entire tasked microorganism. Zone of inhibition for *Acampe praemorsa* was found from the range of 8mm and 12mm with 50μl and 100μl concentrations respectively against *E.coli* and its zone was 20mm. Synergetic effect of Gold nanoparticles concentration against *E.coli* was found prominent than the effect of antibiotic alone. (Fig.- 6).

CONCLUSION:

It is an economic alternative for chemical and physical method of nanoparticles formation by biological approach using plant extract. In this work epiphytic plant leaves extract were effectively used in the synthesis of gold nanoparticles as a greener route. The reduction of gold ions led to the formation of gold nanoparticles of fairly well defined

dimensions using *Acampe praemorsa* leaves extract. Further the bio synthesized gold nanoparticles revealed to possess an effective anti bacterial property against *E.coli*. The present study emphasizes the use of these plants for the synthesis and characterization of gold nanoparticles with potent antibacterial effect. The green synthesis method is eco friendly, cost effective and easily scaled up to large scale synthesis. Following the addition of epiphytic leaf extracts to aqueous HAuCl₄ solution, gold nanoparticles began to form within 10 minutes and the reaction neared completion at 2-3 hours. Observation of gold nanoparticles confirmed through the development of greenish aqueous suspension to ruby red colour due to the reduction of gold ions. UV-Vis spectroscopy revealed the presence of gold nanoparticles. Absorption spectra of gold nanoparticles formed in the reaction medium which had absorbance peak at 555nm in *Acampe praemorsa* . The FTIR value showed the reduction and capping agent of gold ions from 4411.2 to 725.23cm⁻¹. The SEM images showing the size of gold nanoparticles between the range from 5μ-10μ under the magnification range of 3000 in *Acampe praemorsa*. The bactericidal effect were also seen on Hospital strain *E.coli* of Gold nanoparticles synthesized by *Acampe praemorsa* leaf extracts. Zone of inhibition for *Acampe praemorsa* was found from the range of 8mm and 12mm with 50μl and 100μl concentrations.

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Fig.1. *Acampe praemorsa*- Family: Orchidaceae



Fig.2. *Acampe praemorsa* leaves extract as control and bio reduction of gold nanoparticles as ruby red colour.

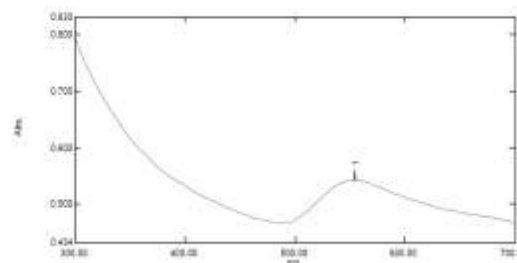


Fig.3. UV-Vis analysis *Acampe praemorsa* leaves extract

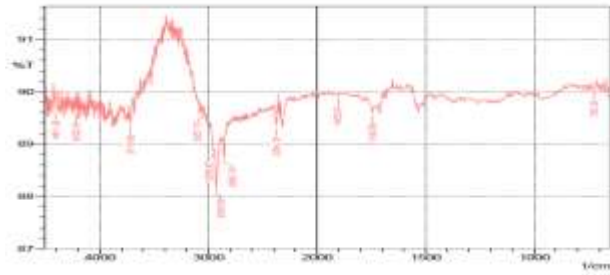


Fig-4. FTIR analysis of *Acampe praemorsa* leaves extract

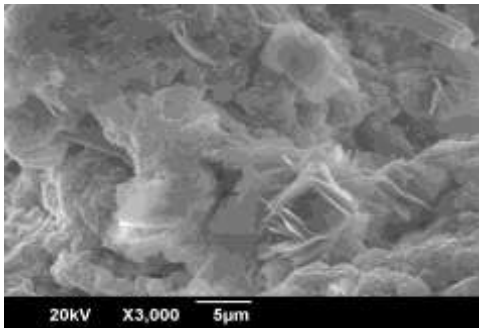


Fig-5. SEM images of *Acampe praemorsa*.

Fig-6. Antibacterial activity of *Acampe praemorsa* Gold nanoparticles against *E.coli*

