



## **Evaluation of Antibacterial Activity of *Bryopsis pennata* and *Chaetomorpha antennina* against Multidrug Resistant *Morganella morganii* and *Salmonella* species Isolated from Healthy Individuals**

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### **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. Author FAD designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol, wrote the first draft of the manuscript and managed the literature searches. Authors AB and IA managed the analyses of the study. Authors AA and DB managed methodology and supervisory role. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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### **ABSTRACT**

The problem of antibiotic resistance is fast becoming a pandemic which has necessitated the need for new drugs discovery. This study was carried out to screen two green algal species- *Bryopsis pennata* and *Chaetomorpha antennina* for antibacterial activity against multidrug resistant pathogenic enteric organisms (*Morganella morganii* and *Salmonella* species) obtained from healthy individuals. Algal samples were obtained and processed. Crude extraction was carried out with

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dichloromethane/methanol (2:1) while the antibacterial screening was done by agar-well diffusion method. Results revealed that *M. morganii* was 3.37% of the total isolates recovered while *Salmonella* species was 6.74%. Result also showed that *C. antennina* was active against all the strains of *Salmonella* species with inhibitory zones ranging from 10 mm to 17 mm and the *M. morganii* with inhibitory zone of 11 mm while *B. pennata* showed inhibitory activities against only *S. pullorum* and *S. enterica* subspecies *diarizonae* with inhibitory zones of 12 mm and 7 mm respectively as well as the *M. morganii* strain with 14 mm. The antibacterial activities observed from these green algae showed that *Bryopsis pennata* and *Chaetomorpha antennina* from the West African coast are promising in the quest for new drugs with potentials against multidrug resistant strains of bacteria and therefore should be intensely researched into.

**Keywords:** *Bryopsis pennata*; *Chaetomorpha antennina*; *Morganella morganii*; *Salmonella* species.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Human anatomical sites harbour a variety of microorganisms both in health and disease state. Although many are regarded as commensals but could become pathogenic under certain conditions [1]. Diseases and disease agents that were once controlled by antibiotics are returning in new leagues resistant to these therapies [2]. Zafar et al. [3] revealed that microbial susceptibility to the commonly prescribed antibiotics had drastically decreased in the last decade. This resistance to antimicrobials has led to increased morbidity, mortality and high cost of health care [4]. The physical and chemical conditions in the marine environment had been attributed to the exhibition of a variety of molecules with unique structural features by almost every class of marine organism [5]. Reports had shown that an emerging source of new bio-actives might result from the many recent studies of microbial diversity in the marine environment [6]. The marine environment harbors bacteria with antagonistic traits and marine microorganisms are a potential source of novel antimicrobials [7]. Many of the secondary metabolites produced by marine organisms are halogenated, reflecting the availability of chloride and bromide ions in seawater [8].

Marine macroalgae are considered as an excellent source of bioactive compounds which has a broad range of biological activities including antibacterial [9,10], antifungal [11] antiviral [10], anti-tumor [12], antioxidant [13,14], and anti-inflammatories [15,16]. The production of antimicrobial activities was considered to be an indicator of the seaweeds to synthesize bioactive secondary metabolites [17,18]. Some algal substances have bacteriostatic and bactericidal activity, they have been extensively studied by several researchers [17,19,20,21]. The importance of macroalgae as a supply for

new bioactive substances has been growing very rapidly in recent years according to Smit [22] and Mohamed et al. [23] due to their capacity to produce metabolites that exhibit various biological activities.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Sample Site

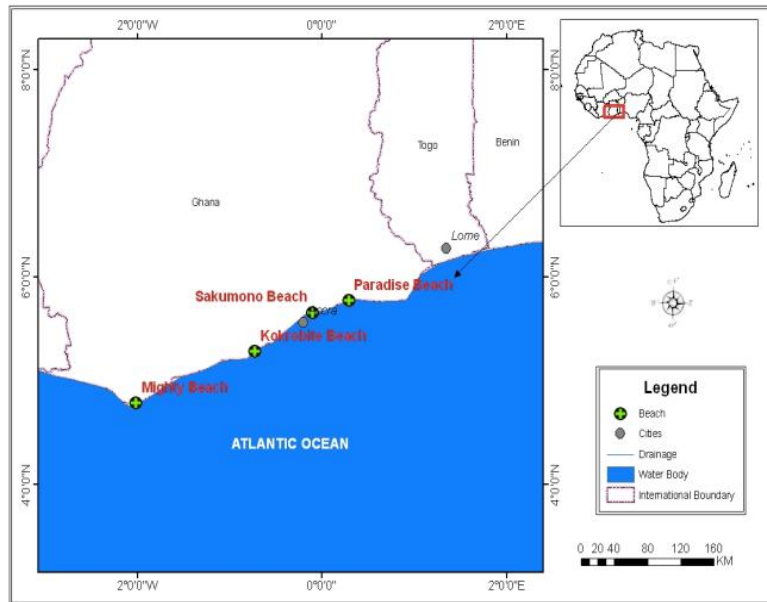
Samples were collected from the paradise and Sakumono beaches in Accra, Ghana.

#### 2.1.1 Sample collection

Species of fresh algae were collected by detaching them from rock surfaces at low tides. Other samples were collected using a knife to pull off from rocks at low tides to avoid heavy wave action in March 2014 between the hours of 9.00 am and 1pm. These samples were immediately kept under ice in an ice-box and transported to the laboratory where they were sorted out and thoroughly washed with fresh water. These samples were properly identified and authenticated by a marine Botanist in the University of Ghana. They were kept frozen until extraction period.

#### 2.1.2 Crude extraction

The crude extract was obtained by Maceration of algal sample for 30 mins at 40°C according to Afolayan et al. [24]. A mass of 50 g of the sample was macerated in 300 ml of Dichloromethane: methanol (2:1) and the temperature was raised to about 40°C for 30 mins. After 30 mins, the supernatant was filtered and the process repeated two more times. The supernatant was dried en vacuo using rotary evaporator (Buchi 200, Germany) at 40°C. Extract concentrate was kept frozen until needed.



**Map 1. Map showing the sampling sites**

### **2.1.3 Antibacterial screening of extract**

Fresh cultures of the different species of *Salmonella* species and *Morganella morganii* obtained from healthy individuals were obtained from the Microbiology laboratory, Crawford University, Igbesa, Ogun State. Using the agar well diffusion method to enumerate the antibiotic susceptibility pattern of the test bacteria. The test isolates were screened against the commonly prescribed antibiotics. Plates containing 20 ml of Mueller-Hinton agar were seeded with cotton applicator dipped in bacterial suspension standardized with 0.5 McFarland standard. Wells were bored with borer of 6 mm in diameter on the plates where 0.1 ml i.e. 200 mg/ml of the extract were introduced into the wells, and was allowed to diffuse for some minutes before incubation at 37°C for 48 hours. The diameters of inhibition were measured. Antibiotic resistance profile was obtained by using the disc diffusion method of Bauer et al. [25] and NCCLS [26].

### **3. RESULTS**

Result shows the sensitivity profile of *Morganella morganii*, *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *diarizonae*, *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *houtenae* and *Salmonella pullorum*.

*Morganella morganii* was resistance to all the antibiotics while some of the *Salmonella* species were resistance and some sensitive to the

antibiotics. Table 1 shows the antibiotic resistance profile of test isolates.

The antibacterial screening of *Bryopsis pennata* against the isolates revealed that all tested isolates were inhibited except a strain of *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *diarizonae* and *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *houtenae*. The zone of inhibition was highest in *M. morganii* (14 mm) and lowest in another strain of *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *diarizonae* (7 mm). This is shown below in Table 2.

The result for *Chaetomorpha antennina* antimicrobial screening revealed that all test isolated were inhibited by the alga with zones of inhibition ranging from 10 mm (in *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *houtenae*, *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *diarizonae* and *S. pullorum*) to 17 mm (*Salmonella enterica* subspecies *diarizonae*). (Table 3).

### **4. DISCUSSION**

The search for new antimicrobial agents has been on the rise due to the resistance of some pathogenic microorganisms to commonly prescribed antimicrobial drugs. High antimicrobial resistance had been previously reported amongst enteric organisms. The seaweeds are a promising source of natural products because they produce varieties of bioactive compounds [27].

**Table 1. Antibiotic resistance profile of test isolates**

	OFL	AUG	NIT	CPR	CAZ	CRX	GEN	CXM
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subspecies <i>diarizonae</i>	S	R	S	S	R	R	S	R
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subspecies <i>diarizonae</i>	S	R	S	R	R	R	S	R
<i>Salmonella pullorum</i>	S	R	S	S	R	R	R	R
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subspecies <i>houtenae</i>	S	R	R	S	R	R	S	R
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

Key: OFL- Ofloxacin, AUG- Augumetin, NIT- Nitrofurantoin, CPR-Ciprofloxacin, CAZ-Ceftazidime, CRX-Cefuroxime, GEN- Gentamicin, CXM- Ceftriaxone, R- Resistance (below 10 mm), S- Sensitive (16 mm and above)

**Table 2. The antibacterial screening of *Bryopsis pennata* against *Salmonella* species and *Morganella morganii* at 200 µg/ml**

Test Bacteria	Zone of inhibition (mm)
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subspecies <i>houtenae</i>	0.00 (N.A)
<i>Salmonella pullorum</i>	12.00
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subspecies <i>diarizonae</i>	7.00
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subspecies <i>diarizonae</i>	0.00 (N.A)
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	14.00

**Table 3. The antibacterial screening of *Chaetomorpha antennina* against *Salmonella* species and *Morganella morganii* at 200 µg/l**

Test bacteria	Zone of inhibition (mm)
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subspecies <i>houtenae</i>	10.00
<i>Salmonella pullorum</i>	10.00
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subspecies <i>diarizonae</i>	17.00
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> subspecies <i>diarizonae</i>	10.00
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	11.00

From this study, dichloromethane extract of *Chaetomorpha antennina* was active against different species of *Salmonella* (*Salmonella pullorum*, *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *diarizonae*, and *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *houtenae*) which gave a zone of inhibition ranging from 10.00 mm-17.00 mm, previous reports revealed that Dichloromethane (DCM) and methanolic crude extracts of some algae had biological activities [24], and it has also been

reported from phytochemical analysis of *Chaetomorpha antennina* crude extract that it contains glycosides, tannin, terpenoids and phenolics [28]. The inhibitory activities observed in this study would be credited to the presence of these biologically active metabolites. Terpenoids and phenolics had been previously reported as good antimicrobials [29] so also are glycosides and tannins [30].

This study revealed the inhibitory activity of *C. antennina* against *M. morganii*. The inhibitory activity of a green alga (*Caulerpa cupressoides*) against *M. morganii* had been previously reported [31]. The virulence of *M. morganii* could be attributed to the possession of resistance plasmid which had previously been reported by Cunha [32]. This agent has been reportedly implicated in nosocomial infections, sepsis and some other infections [33]. The involvement of this bacterium in such infections poses a health threat because of its multiple resistance to antimicrobial drugs as previously been reported and observed in this study. Also, *C. antennina* extract showed inhibitory activities against *Salmonella pullorum*, *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *diarizonae*, *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *houtenae* and *Morganella morganii*. *Salmonella pullorum* infection affects birds and poultry products and this could be easily transmitted to man through consumption of such food.

The antibacterial screening of *B. pennata* against the species of *Morganella* and *Salmonella* in this study revealed the inhibitory activities of this alga against the bacteria. The *B. pennata* crude extract was active against *M. morganii* and some of the strains of *Salmonella* species tested. Previous reports revealed the isolation of fatty acid and sterols [34] as well as depsipeptides [35] from this alga.

Fatty acids and sterols have previously been reported as good antimicrobial compounds. Depsipeptides' pharmacological activities had also been previously documented [36]. The inhibitory activities observed against these bacterial species may thus be attributed to these compounds. The crude extracts of the algae in this study inhibited multiple drug resistant enteric bacteria as observed in this study. This informs that if properly researched into, pure compounds from these algae could be really promising in the quest for new antimicrobial drugs against multiple-drug resistant pathogens.

## 5. CONCLUSION

These results provide good evidence that antimicrobial chemical defenses are wide spread among marine algae, they have shown that algae are promising organisms to furnish novel biochemically active compounds in pharmaceutical industry. Moreover, the activity profile of the algal extract suggests that antimicrobial secondary metabolites can be pathogen-selective or broad-spectrum effective. This result also buttresses the fact that marine algae from West African coasts if well explored may bring great therapeutic intervention against the problem of drug-resistance.

## CONSENT

It is not applicable.

## ETHICAL APPROVAL

It is not applicable.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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