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RESEARCH ARTICLE

NATURAL ACID CATALYZED SYNTHESIS OF SCHIFF BASE FROM SALICYLALDEHYDE AND P-TOLUIDINE AND ITS ANTIMICROBIAL POTENTIAL.

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Abstract

One of the major category of compounds in medicinal chemistry related to Schiff base, which are known for their versatile pharmacological activity and well known drugs are isoniazid and pyrazinamid. Schiff bases have been synthesized by the condensation of primary amine with aldehyde under organic solvent free condition. Nowadays the solvent-free approach to the synthesis of molecules becomes an attractive one since the majority of solvents are either toxic or flammable and adds considerably to the cost of overall synthesis. In many cases, the solvent-free approach improves selectivity, reduces reaction time, and simplifies separation and purification of products than the conventional methods. Natural acid is non-polluting and does not employ any lethal materials, quantifying it as a green approach for the synthesis of Schiff bases. Thus, the presents study uses kaffir lime as a natural acid catalyst for the synthesis of Schiff base from salicylaldehyde and p-toluidine. The synthesized product was characterized by UV-Visible, FT-IR, ¹H-NMR spectral techniques. The antimicrobial potential of this Schiff base is tested against bacteria and fungi. This eco-friendly reaction has many advantages like economical, environmental, mild reaction conditions and simple work-up with high product yield.

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Introduction:-

The beginning of green chemistry is frequently considered as a response to the need to reduce the damage of the environment by man-made materials and the processes used to produce them. A quick view of green chemistry issues in the past decade demonstrates many methodologies that protect human health and the environment in an economically beneficial manner [1]. Green Chemistry is not different from traditional chemistry in as much as it embraces the same creativity and innovation than has always been central to classical chemistry [2,3]. According to the principles of green chemistry, a threat can be eliminated in a simpler way, by applying safe raw materials for production process [4]. Organic synthetic procedures use organic solvents like benzene and chlorinated hydrocarbons, which have created havoc to the environment because of their toxic and volatile nature [5]. Solvent-free reactions usually need shorter reaction times, simpler reactors, resulting simpler and more efficient work up procedures, more improved selectivities and easier separations and purifications than conventional solvents [6,7]. The role of naturally available fruit juice in organic synthesis has attracted the interest of chemists, particularly from

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the view of green chemistry. This shows versatile synthetic applications of fruit juice as a biocatalyst in chemical transformation [7].

The class of organic compounds containing the azomethine (-HC=N-) group in their structure is called imine compounds or alternatively a Schiff base [8]. It was first prepared by German Hugo Schiff, these compounds were prepared by condensation reactions of carbonyl (aldehyde or ketone) with primary amines accompanied with the elimination of water molecule [9]. The common structural feature of these compounds is the azomethine group with a general formula RHC=N-R_1 , where R and R_1 are alkyl, aryl, cyclo alkyl or heterocyclic groups which may be variously substituted [10]. Aromatic Schiff bases are more stable and more easily synthesized than alkyl substituted compound [11]. Carbon-nitrogen double bond provides a significant contribution in various progresses of chemical sciences. Schiff-base compounds have been potentially used as fine chemicals and medical substrates [12]. They have been reported to exhibit antimicrobial, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antimalarial, antioxidant, antiproliferative, antiviral, antipyretic, antifungal, antitumor, analgesic, anticonvulsant, urease inhibitory, and anticancer activities [13,14].

Most organic reactions utilized organic solvents and acids in which some are curse for environment because of this reason we did not use any organic solvent and acid [15]. In this method salicylaldehyde is reacted with *p*-toluidine in the presence of natural acid extracted from kaffir lime to give Schiff base. The kaffir lime (*Citrus hystrix* DC, Rutaceae) is also known as combava, kieffer lime, limau purut, jeruk purut or makrut lime, Kabuyao (Cabuyao). Kaffir lime has great potential in research and commercialization for aromatherapy and spa practices, solution for insect repellent, making shampoo, antioxidants compound and beauty product [16]. The chemical constituents found in this plant are alkaloids, flavonoids, phenolics and tannins. Coumarins and glycosides were also isolated and identified [17]. The Schiff base synthesised from kaffir lime is identified by various spectroscopic techniques such as UV-Visible, FT-IR and $^1\text{H-NMR}$. The synthesised products also showed significant antibacterial, antifungal activities.

Materials and Methods:-

Fresh and ripened kaffir lime was obtained from the local market. Salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine used for the synthesis of Schiff base were procured from Merck.

Preparation of catalyst

Fresh kaffir lime was taken and washed it thoroughly with distilled water and cut by using a knife and then pieces were pressed manually. Then the extract was filtered through cotton cloth to remove solid material and to get clear extract which was used as a catalyst.

Characterization Techniques

The absorption spectrum of Schiff base in ethanol was carried out using Shimadzu UV-1800 spectrophotometer. FTIR analysis of the Schiff base in ethanol was carried out through the potassium bromide (KBr) pellet (FTIR grade) method in 1:100 ratio and spectrum was recorded using Shimadzu IR Affinity-1. Fourier transform infrared spectrophotometer with the range of $4000\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ at the resolution of 4 cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (nuclear magnetic resonance) spectra of Schiff base was recorded on a Bruker Avance III, 400 MHz spectrometer in the DMSO solvent using tetramethylsilane as an internal reference.

Synthesis of Schiff base from kaffir lime extract

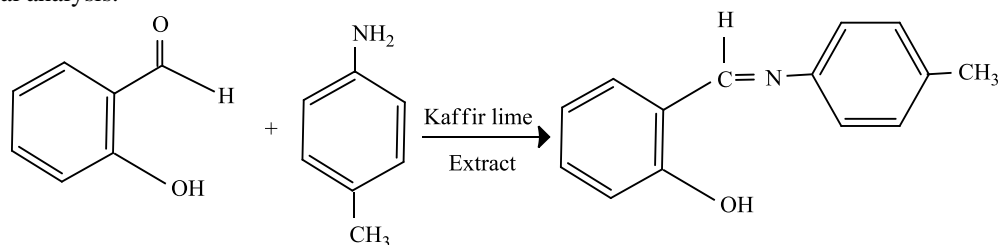
The equimolar amount of salicylaldehyde (0.1mol) with *p*-toluidine (0.1) was taken in a beaker. Add 1ml of kaffir lime extract to the mixture and then kept for 5-10 minutes. Then the mixture was stirred for 10 minutes at room temperature, pale yellow solid crude product was formed. After completion of the reaction, the product was washed with distilled water and purified by recrystallization with minimum amount of ethanol. The recrystallized sample was characterized by UV-Visible, FT-IR and $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectral techniques.

Biological Assay

The synthesized Schiff base is screened for antibacterial and antifungal activity. These antimicrobials were grown in LB broth for 24 hrs. Approximately 20 ml of molten and cooled Muller Hinton agar was poured into the Petri dishes. The tested organisms were swabbed over the agar medium and the Schiff base containing disks were kept over the medium using sterile forceps. Antimicrobial activity was evaluated by measuring the zone of inhibition for the test organisms. The diameters of zones were measured to the nearest millimetre with verniercalipers.

Results and Discussion:-

It was observed that Schiff base have been synthesized by the condensation of salicylaldehyde with *p*-toluidine in the presence of kaffir lime extract. The carbonyl group in the salicylaldehyde is electrophilic in nature whereas amino group in *p*-toluidine is nucleophilic. In the condensation reaction first step is the protonation of carbonyl oxygen. In this method natural acid found in kaffir lime extract was used as a catalyst to protonate carbonyl oxygen and under solvent free condition good yield was obtained. The product is characterized by UV-Visible, FT-IR and $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectral analysis.



Scheme 1:-Synthesis of Schiff base from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine

Analysis of UV-Visible Spectra

The formation of Schiff base using kaffir lime extract is preliminary confirmed by UV-Visible spectrophotometric analysis. The absorption spectrum of Schiff base is carried out in ethanol. The Schiff base shows an absorption maximum at 298 nm. The higher energy band appearing at 298 nm is attributed to π - π^* transition of the azomethine group. The UV-Visible spectrum of synthesised Schiff base is given in **Fig.1**.

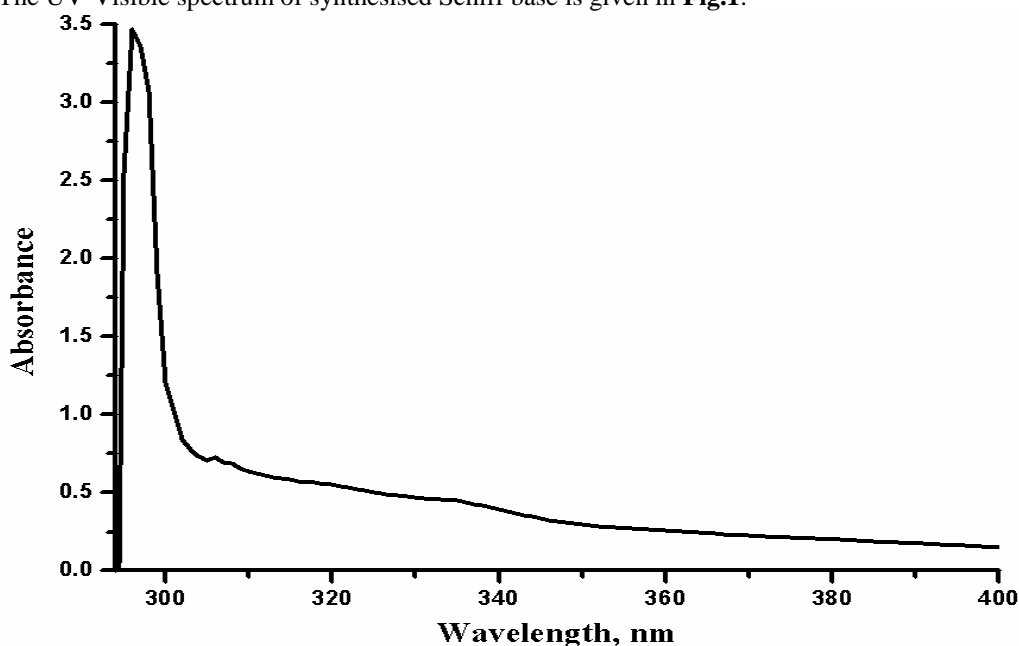


Fig 1:-UV-Visible spectrum of Schiff base from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine with kaffir lime

Analysis of FT-IR Spectra

The FT-IR spectrum of Schiff base synthesised from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine with kaffir lime extract shows bands at 3341, 3291, 2922, 2859, 2719, 2679, 2596, 1737, 1587, 1607, 1307, 1278, 970, 902, 844, 686 cm^{-1} respectively. The FT-IR spectrum of the synthesised Schiff base shows a band around 3341 cm^{-1} is due to the stretching vibration of O-H. The weak band at 3291 cm^{-1} is due to the C-H stretching of aromatic ring. Absorption bands at 2922, 2859 and 2719 cm^{-1} corresponds to the C-H stretching of methyl group. The presence of weak band at 2679, 2596 cm^{-1} corresponds to the aldehyde C-H stretching. The IR band at 1737 cm^{-1} is due to the presence of azomethine group, this confirms the formation of Schiff base. The IR band at 1607, 1587 cm^{-1} is due to the stretching vibration of aromatic C=C. The band around 1307 cm^{-1} is the C-H bending of alkyl group. Absorption bands at 1278 cm^{-1} is due to C-N stretching vibration. Aromatic C-H bending vibrations occur at 970, 902 and 844

Key labeled peaks (Wavenumber in cm⁻¹):

- 3407.1
- 3205.6
- 2922.16
- 2888.51
- 2810.63
- 2688.13
- 2566.19
- 2555.68
- 2330.51
- 2122.29
- 2088.38
- 2233.5
- 1738.81
- 1682.36
- 1565.39
- 1512.40
- 1028.09
- 910.19
- 802.09
- 814.02
- 813.98
- 790.31
- 688.65
- 513.07

Fig 2:-FT-IR spectrum of Schiff base from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine with kaffir lime

The ^1H NMR spectrum of the synthesised Schiff base recorded in DMSO solution shows signals at 8.94, 7.63, 7.39, 7.32, 7.26, 3.40, 2.34 δ respectively. A singlet at 8.94 δ , equivalent to 1H, is due to $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$ proton. Aromatic protons appear between 7.26-7.63 δ . A singlet at 13.24 δ , equivalent to 1H is due to O-H proton. A singlet at 2.34 δ , equivalent to 3H, represents the methyl protons. The ^1H NMR spectrum of synthesised Schiff base is given in Fig.3.

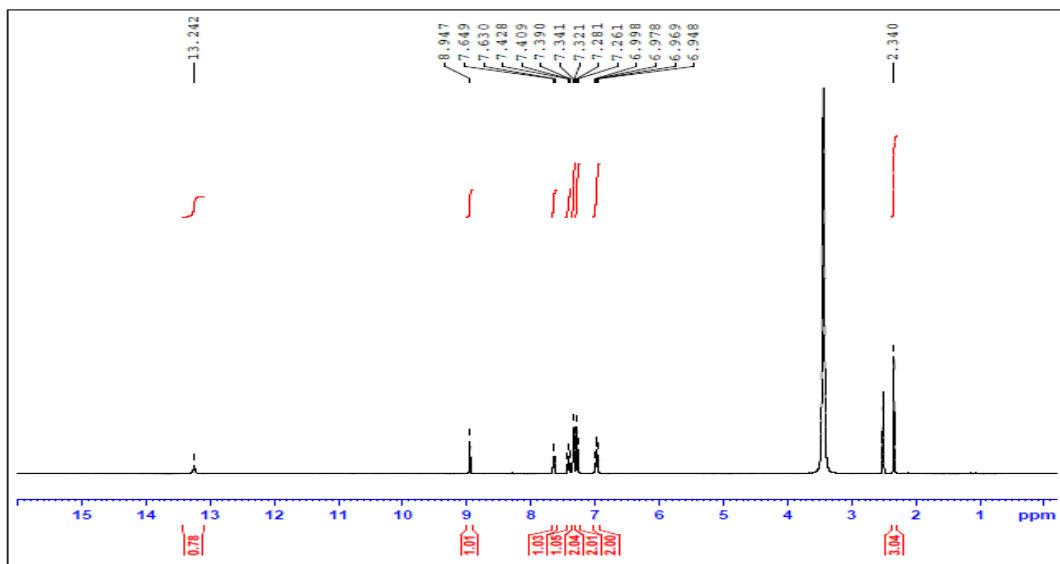


Fig 3:-H-NMR spectrum of Schiff base from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine with kaffir lime

Antibacterial activity of the synthesised schiff base is performed against five bacteria viz. *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Streptococcus sp* and *Escherichia coli*. It shows good activity

against on *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Streptococcus sp*, *Escherichia coli* (**Table 1**). Thus the Schiff base synthesised from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine using kaffir lime extract may have a potential use in the biomedical applications due to its antibacterial activity.

Table 1:-Antibacterial activity of Schiff base synthesised from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine with mosambi extract

| Microbes | Activity | Std.Value |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> | 10 | 21 |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> | 17 | 33 |
| <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> | 11 | 26 |
| <i>Streptococcus sp</i> | 8 | 10 |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> | 13 | 16 |

Antifungal Activity

Antifungal activity of the synthesised Schiff base is tested against three fungi viz. *Pencilium notatum*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus flavus*. It shows good activity against on *Pencilium notatum*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus flavus* (**Table 2**). Thus the Schiff base synthesised from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine using kaffir lime extract may have a potential use in the biomedical applications due to its antimicrobial activity.

Table 2:-Antifungal activity of Schiff base synthesised from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine using kaffir lime extract

| Microbes | Activity | Std.Value |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| <i>Pencilium notatum</i> | 9 | 14 |
| <i>Aspergillus niger</i> | 11 | 18 |
| <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> | 13 | 19 |

Conclusion:-

The present study concentrates on the importance of fruit juice in organic transformations with natural and biocatalyst exclusivity. An eco-friendly method for the synthesis of Schiff base from salicylaldehyde and *p*-toluidine using kaffir lime extract has been investigated. The role of natural acid catalyst like kaffir lime extract in the synthesis of biologically active molecules has been well demonstrated. The synthesised Schiff base shows an absorption maximum at 298 nm. The FT-IR band at 1737 cm^{-1} is due to the presence of azomethine group. The ^1H -NMR signal at 8.94 δ is attributed to $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$ proton, this confirms the formation of Schiff base. This solvent-free approach is non-polluting and does not employ any toxic materials, quantifying it as a green approach for the synthesis of Schiff bases. In addition to this, compared to traditional methods, this new method is cleaner, safer and more eco-friendly, involving mild reaction conditions and simple workup. The biological activity results prove that the synthesised Schiff base can be used for the treatment of diseases caused by microbes. Such schiff bases can be good lead compounds for the development of new drug entities in future.

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