

HARVESTING OF VALUABLE ENO- AND EXO-METABOLITES FORM CYANOBACTERIA: A POTENTIAL SOURCE

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ABSTRACT

Most of the disease is growing resistance from the applied drugs. However, in this view people search for cheap and effective drugs for their cure. Cyanobacteria in this respect can help in curing disease with cheap and effective manner. Cyanobacteria are photosynthetic prokaryotic microorganism. From ancient time cyanobacteria were used as food and fodder. However, it is notorious for toxin production and fouling of ponds as it forms water bloom. Now-a-days various studies have been done to prove its potency in medical science also. They produce various metabolites that are antibacterial, antifungal, antimalarial, anticancerous, antitumor, anti-algal, antiviral, UV protectants, inhibitors of enzymes, hepatotoxins and neurotoxins. These metabolites produced at the particular cell age and are regulated by various biotic and abiotic factors. Many cyanobacteria produce compounds with potent biological activities. This review aims to showcase of cyanobacterial secondary metabolites with a comprehensive coverage of antibacterial, antifungal and other activity of cyanobacteria.

Keywords: Cyanobacteria·Organic extract· Secondary metabolites· Antimicrobial· Bioactive compounds.

INTRODUCTION

Natural products which have no role in growth and reproduction are largely referred as secondary metabolites. They are formed on the basis of precursor substances participating in primary metabolism, such as acetic acid, amino acids, glucose and are observed mainly as final products of biochemical transformations. Secondary metabolites are quite diverse by its chemical structures. It includes steroids, terpenoids, alkaloids, polyketides, phenolic metabolites, carbohydrates, lipids and peptides. They can be classified on the basis of their biological functions as hormones, antibiotics, toxins, pheromones, etc. and are found to be the most productive source of leads/active compounds for the development of drugs, over a 100 new products are in clinical development, particularly as anticancerous agents and anti-infective. Use of advanced techniques increases the availability of novel drugs that are produced in bacteria or actinomycetes or yeast [1]. Most of drugs available in the market are Actinomycetes, Bacterial and fungal origin. With the discovery of new drugs, drug resistance among the target organism also emerged as; methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [2-4]. This indicates the loss of efficacy of conventional antibiotics and necessitates their replacement with new generation drugs. These all lead to search about the new drugs and perhaps the new sources because there are a large number of untapped microbes which produce good and potent bioactive compound. In this respect cyanobacterial origin has most importance because in the microbial diversity (10^6 - 10^7) only 1-10% of cultured bacteria (2×10^5) has been unexplored and the natural products from cyanobacteria, actinomycetes and uncultured bacteria are likely to offer newer source of antibiotics [5,6].

Cyanobacteria are photosynthetic, oxygen evolving prokaryotes found in every corner of world including the extreme condition. Since decades Cyanobacteria have been found to be the potent source of antibacterial, antifungal, anticancerous, antiviral and antiprotazoal [7-9]. They produced bioactive compounds in two ways either within the cell biomass i.e. endo-metabolites and towards the environments i.e. exo-metabolites. A large number of bioactive secondary endo-metabolites have been isolated from cyanobacteria such as lyngbyabellin from *Lyngbya majuscula* (cytotoxic) pahayokolide A from *Lyngbya semiplena* (anticancer), hapalindole series (antituberculosis), venturamide A, B from *Oscillatoria* sp. (antimalarial), Antimalarial linear lipopeptides from marine cyanobacterium *L. majuscula* (antimalarial) [10-14]. Thus cyanobacteria produce a large number of diverse natures of

compound and their property depends upon their habitat and species.

A single cyanobacterium may possess one activity or several activities depending upon its screening, and the production of bioactive compounds depends upon the various biotic and abiotic factors [15, 16].

ORGANIC EXTRACTS ACTIVITY

The biomass of cyanobacteria shows bioactivity when extracted in organic solvents. Methanolic extracts from *Tychonema bourrellyi*, *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* and also the aqueous counterpart from *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *T. bourrellyi*, were significantly antibacterial [17]. The methanolic extract of *Chroococcus dispersus* has antifungal and antituberculosis activity [18]. The chloroform and methanol extracts of *Hapalosiphon* were antimycobacterial [19]. Bioassays of methanolic extracts from the genera of *Anabaena* and *Nostoc*, were found antifungal and antibacterial [20]. Methanolic extracts of *Oscillatoria* sp. (halo-tolerant) showed inhibition against fungal pathogens, followed by extracts in n-propanol, petroleum ether and water [21]. Extractions of bioactive compounds from *Phormidium* sp. in different solvents (hexane, ethanol and water) were found antifungal and antibacterial [22].

Polar (water) and non-polar (ethyl acetate) extracts from the hot spring cyanobacterial layer tested for their antibacterial, anti-diatom and quorum sensing inhibitory activities under natural conditions, proved antibacterial [23]. Antimicrobial activity of ethanol, acetone and methanol, extracts of *O. latevirens*, *Chroococcus minor* and *M. aeruginosa* on Gram-positive and Gram-negative organisms was also observed were antifungal [24]. The strains *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*, *Synechococcus elongatus*, *M. aeruginosa*, *M. panniformis* and *Fischerella* sp. provided the most active extracts [25]. The organic solvent extracts of *Oscillatoria subrevis* and *O. amphibia* in pyridine, n-butanol showed activity against the five *Vibrio* pathogens [26]. *Anabaena* supernatants and ethanolic extracts found antimicrobial activity [27]. The ethanolic extracts of *Phormidium* sp. and *Microcoleus* sp. at various concentrations were active against *Streptococcus enteritidis* and *E. coli* [28].

ENDO-METABOLITES and ACTIVITY

Various endo-metabolites from cyanobacteria have been identified as linear peptide from the dragonamide series was isolated, along

with the two known modified linear peptides, dragonamide A and herbamide B [29]. A number of anti-infective compounds against the neglected diseases include viridamides A and B, gallinamide A, dragonamide E, and the almiramides identified from marine cyanobacteria [30]. N-methylated linear lipopeptides, almiramides A-C from *L. majuscula* were active against *Leshmania donovani* [31]. Two cyclic peptides, anabaenopeptins A and B, were isolated as a third group of bioactive compounds from *Anabaena flos-aquae* [32]. Five new antibacterial ambiguine K-O isonitriles and nine previously described indole alkaloids were isolated from the cultured cyanobacterium *Fischerella ambigua* [33]. Two depsipeptide metabolites, scyptolin A and B, a least antimicrobial compound were reported recently from terrestrial cyanobacterium *Scytonema hofmanni* [34]. Four novel cyclic undecapeptides, antimicrobial, lyngbyazothrins A, B, C, and D, were isolated from the cultured *Lyngbya* sp. as binary mixtures [35]. New natural products 3,5-bis (2,4-dichlorophenoxy)-2,6-dichlorophenol (ambigol C), a highly chlorinated aromatic compound, and 2,4-dichlorobenzoic acid were isolated from the terrestrial cyanobacterium *Fischerella ambigua* together with the known compounds ambigol A and tjipanazole D. Ambigol C has moderate activity against *Trypanosoma rhodesiense* [36]. A novel acetylene-containing para-14-cyclophane, nostocyclone A, possessing antimicrobial activity, is the major active metabolite of the natural bloom of the cyanobacterium *Nostoc* sp. [37]. Viridamide A isolated from a marine strain *Oscillatoria nigro-Viridis* showed antitrypanosomal activity and antileishmanial activity [38]. Gallinamide A isolated from *Schizothrix* species showed potent initial antimalarial activity against the *Plasmodium falciparum* [13]. Venturamides A and B were isolated from the marine cyanobacterium *Oscillatoria* sp. has antimalarial [39]. Among the other secondary metabolites, lobocyclamide A-C a lipo-peptide from *L. confervoides* showed moderately antifungal [40]. The cryptophycin from *Nostoc* was antifungal, antimicrobial and insecticidal but not antibacterial [41]. Anachelin H an antimicrobial compound from *Anabaena cylindrica*, had moderate activity against bacterial and fungal pathogens [18]. *Microcoleus lacustris* yielded two abietane diterpenes, 20-nor-3a-acetoxyabieta-5,7,9,11,13-pentaene and 20-nor-3a-acetoxy-12-hydroxy-abieta-5,7,9,11,13-pentaene that when assayed were active against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Salmonella typhi*, and *Vibrio cholerae* [42]. Scytoscalarol, an antimicrobial sesterterpene bearing a guanidino group, was isolated from the cultured cyanobacterium *Scytonema* sp. was active against *Bacillus anthracis*, *S. aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* [33]. Four novel cyclic undecapeptides, lyngbyazothrins A, B, C, and D were isolated from the cultured *Lyngbya* sp. were active against *Micrococcus flavus* *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *S. marcescens* [35]. A number of endo-metabolites as hapalindole A, C, G, H, I, J, and U, hapalonamide H, anhydrohapaloxindole A, and fischerindole L have been isolated from cyanobacteria [43]. These are the endo-metabolites which is isolated through the extraction of cell biomass in suitable solvents.

EXO-METABOLITE and ACTIVITY

The other bioactive compound such as *exo*-metabolites are isolated through the cell free extract such as a new brominated indole alkaloid, designated as bromoanaindolone, was isolated from the culture media of the cyanobacterium *Anabaena constricta* and was identified as 6-bromo-3-hydroxy-3-methyl-indol-2-one. This extracellular metabolite of *A. constricta* possessed antimicrobial (anticyanobacterial and antibacterial) activity [44]. Two cytotoxic and non-cytotoxic compounds 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl (I), two more compounds, the β -carboline 9H-pyrido(3,4-b) indole (norharmane, II) and N,N'-(4,5-dimethyl-1,2-phenylene)bis-acetamide (III), were discovered from exometabolite of *Nostoc insulare* [45]. Two known cyanobacterial exometabolites 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl and norharmane (9H-pyrido(3,4-b)indole) and in addition of harmane (1-methyl-9H-pyrido(3,4-b)indole) were isolated from cyanobacterium *Nodularia harveyana* possess antialgal activity [46].

A new brominated indole alkaloid, bromoanaindolone, was isolated from culture media of *A. constricta* and identified as 6-bromo-3-hydroxy-3-methyl-indol-2-one. This extracellular metabolite was antimicrobial (anticyanobacterial and antibacterial) for different test

systems, such as suspension and porous matrix and the molecular structure elucidated on the basis of IR, MS and NMR data [45]. Exopolysaccharides of unicellular cyanobacterium *A. halophytica* [47], and lipophilic extracts of *F. ambigua* led to the isolation of three compounds ambigols A and B, and tjipanazole D [48]. Among these, ambigols A and B were antibacterial, antifungal, cytotoxic, molluscicidal, anti-inflammatory and antiviral. Tjipanazole D on the contrary, was the moderate antibacterial. Noscomin, the novel extracellular metabolite with the diterpenoid skeleton, was active against *B. cereus*, *S. epidermidis* and *E. coli* [49]. Norharmane (9H-pyrido(3,4-b) indole) from *Nodularia harveyana* and 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl from *Nostoc insulare* are the two exometabolites with anticyanobacterial, antibacterial and antifungal activity [46].

OTHER ACTIVITY

Besides antimicrobial compounds, cyanobacteria possess most of the other activity which includes cytotoxic, anticancerous, antituberculosis, antialgal, antiviral and many more.

N-methylwelwitindolinone C isothiocyanate from *H. welwitschii* UH IC-52-3 and *Westiella intricata* UH HT-29-1 (*Stigonemataceae*), was responsible for MDR reversal and also the insecticidal activity, respectively [50]. Borophycin, the potent cyanotoxin, was also isolated from the marine strain of *N. linckia* [51]. A number of cyanobacteria and a very few other microalgae, have been screened for antiviral activity so far, but the limited results available are promising [52]. Microcystin, the first metabolite whose non-ribosomal biosynthesis was confirmed by knock-out mutagenesis, is the worldwide common cyanobacterial hepatotoxin [53]. The lipid extract of the marine *L. majuscula* was toxic to the mollusc *Biomphalaria glabrata* [54]. Subsequent bioassay-guided fractionation of this extract yielded the novel lipopeptide, barbamide, as the active compound. Cyanovirin-N from *N. ellisposporum* was also anti-HIV [55]. Oscillapeptin D from *O. agardhii*, was the trypsin inhibitor [56].

Cyanobacteria are also the source of antialgal agents as *M. aeruginosa* caused complete inhibition of growth and cell lysis in *N. muscorum* and *Anabaena* [57]. The freshwater cyanobacterium *N. spongiaeforme*, released violet pigment nostocine A in the ambient medium that was growth inhibitory to several microalgae compared to parquat [58]. *Nostoc* 78-12A is the source of a new quaternary β -carboline alkaloid, nostocarboline, the inhibitor of butyrylcholinesterase (BchE) relative to galanthamine, the drug approved for treatment of Alzheimer's disease [59].

Cyanobacteria are also the ideal source of anticancerous/antiviral agents. Exopolysaccharide (EPS) from the unicellular cyanobacterium *A. halophytica* was effective against influenza virus A FM (H1N1) (FM1) in mice [60]. *N. insulare* produced only the non-toxic N,N'-(4,5-dimethyl-1,2-phenylene) bis-acetamide during linear growth while in stationary, it shifted to antimicrobial and cytotoxic exometabolites, 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl and 9H-pyrido (3,4-b) indole (norharmane) [44]. Among the 54 *Nostoc* strains screened for acetylcholinesterase inhibition, the efficacy varied in a strain specific manner [61]. The trypsin inhibitor, cyanopeptolin was also isolated from the freshwater *Aphanocapsa* sp. [62], while aqueous or organic extracts of *Phormidium* sp. were antioxidants [63]. Grassypeptolide, a new anticancerous compound has been reported from *L. confervoides* [64]. The novel peptide cytotoxin 'bisebromoamide' from marine *Lyngbya* sp. was also isolated [65]. This also opens new strategies for the development of novel neurochemicals from cyanobacteria. The organic extracts of *Schizothrix* sp. from a tropical reef near Piedras Gallinas (Caribbean coast of Panama) were antimalarial with particular reference to W2 chloroquine-resistant *Plasmodium falciparum* [13]. A novel antiprotozoal compound, Viridamide A was isolated from cyanobacteria [66]. The cell extract of terrestrial *Nostoc* sp. (UIC 10062), displayed antiproliferative activity against the HT-29 human colon cancer cell line [67].

Thus, Cyanobacteria are an important and little explored microbial resource offering novel secondary metabolites for lead compounds and discovery of newer drugs. Cyanobacteria produce a wide variety of toxins and other biomedically interesting bioactive compounds. They produce cyclic heptapeptide hepatotoxins, microcystins and

pentapeptide nodularins and antitumor, antiviral and antifungal compounds. Many of the pharmaceutically interesting compounds in cyanobacteria are peptides, including cyanobacterial toxins and important candidates for anti-cancer drugs. Peptide synthetases common in cyanobacteria, are responsible for the production of cyanobacterial hepatotoxins and other peptides.

CONCLUSIONS

Microbial natural products are the important source of new drugs. Among the producers of commercially important metabolites, cyanobacteria have proven to be the prolific source with a surprisingly small group of taxa accounting for the vast majority of compounds discovered till date. Cyanobacteria are one of the richest sources of known and unknown bioactive secondary metabolite is unquestionable. Many compounds from cyanobacteria could be useful for welfare of mankind if proper investigation done. Because of high discovery rate, research should be done to discover other beneficial of cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria are a simple, but primitive and diverse group of microorganisms, with characteristics in common to both bacteria and algae. Their success as a group in a wide range of habitats has been attributed to their unique physiological characters and high adaptive ability under a wide range of environmental conditions. This compilation reviews the salient advances in the discovery of bioactive compounds from cyanobacteria and their significance in agriculture and industry. In addition to the procurement of marine cyanobacteria from unexplored locales, the amenability of field collected strains to laboratory culture is an important factor in the drug discovery process.

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