

Original Article

PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS AND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF *MORINGA OLEIFERA* AND ITS ENDOPHYTIC FUNGI

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ABSTRACT

Objective: *Moringa oleifera* Lam (Moringaceae) is a highly valued plant which has an impressive range of medicinal uses with high nutritional value. Different parts of the plant were being used for the treatment of illness due to the presence of various secondary metabolites that gives the plant anti-bacterial, anti-oxidant and other properties. These secondary metabolites are synthesized by endophytic organisms, which are present inside the tissues of plant.

Methods: ITS regions were amplified using a polymerase chain reaction for molecular identification. The sequences were analysed using BLAST n and DNA barcoding of plant was done for the identification of species. The organisms were refined on Potato Dextrose stock for identification of metabolites.

Results: It was found that fungi obtained are *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Trichoderma turrialbense* with percentage identity of 96% and 98%, respectively, as obtained from NCBI BLAST; the metabolites were extracted with ethanol extract and Flavonoids and terpenoids are the main phytoconstituents present in endophytic fungi.

Conclusion: The results obtained support the medicinal properties of plant, which gets enhanced due to the presence of endophytic fungi present in them.

Keywords: Antimicrobial activity, Enzyme production, Flavonoids, Secondary metabolites

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INTRODUCTION

Moringa oleifera tree has a place with the group of Moringaceae, it is generally called "drumstick tree" or pony radish tree, and privately called "zogale" in Hausa, Nigeria. It was notable for its multipurpose traits, wide adoptability, and simplicity of foundation. As per its leaves, units, and blossoms were loaded with supplements critical to both human and creatures. *Moringa oleifera* is a local to north India however is presently found all through India. It develops vastly and reaches up to 12 m tall. The bark is dark and appears as hard cork baring in patches [1]. Moringa leaves have been accounted for to be a rich source of β -carotene, protein, vitamin C, calcium and potassium and go about as decent sources of characteristic cancer prevention agents; and subsequently upgrade the time span of usability of fat-containing food varieties because of the presence of different kinds of cell reinforcement mixtures, for example, ascorbic acid, flavonoids, phenolics and carotenoids [2, 3].

Almost every one of the pieces of this plant: root, bark, gum, leaf, natural product (units), blossoms, seed and seed oil have been utilized for different infirmities in the native medication of South Asia, including the therapy of worsening and irresistible illnesses alongside cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, hematological and hepatorenal disorders [4, 3].

An endophyte is an endosymbiont, frequently an organism, which lives inside a plant for in any event part of its existence without creating any apparent sickness. They outline subtle sicknesses inside tissues of various flora for all or if not anything else a piece of their life cycle [5]. Endophytic parasites are actually mitosporic and meiosporic ascomycetes that asymptotically dwell in the inward tissues of plants underneath the epidermal cell layer, where growths colonize living tissue by means of still infections [6]. Their organic variety is tremendous, particularly in mild and tropical rainforests. The growths are facilitated in almost 300,000 land plant species, with each plant facilitating at least one of these growths.



Fig. 1: Different parts of the moringa oleifera plant such as leaves, oil, seeds, flowers

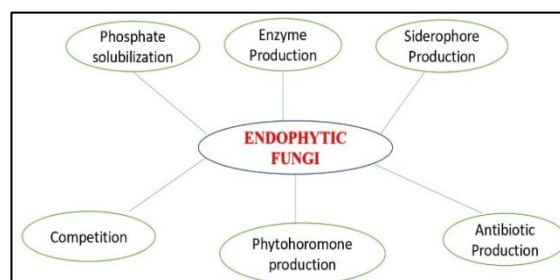


Fig. 2: Importance of endophytic fungi in plants

Endophytic strains have been segregated from various plants, including trees (pine and yew), grains (hay, sorghum and clover), vegetables

(carrot, radish, tomatoes, yams, lettuce, and soybean), natural products (banana, pineapple, and citrus), oat grains (maize, rice, and wheat), and different harvests (sugarcane, marigold, and espresso) [7]. Additionally, endophytes involve a rich and solid wellspring of hereditary variety and organic oddity and have been applied in pharmacology (e. g., the anticancer medication taxol) and farming [8]. Endophytes are bacterial or parasitic microorganisms that colonize plant tissue intercellularly as well as intracellularly without causing any evident appearances of disease [9]. They are omnipresent, colonize in all plants, and have been disengaged from practically all plants inspected till date. Their relationship can be facultative and makes no damage to the host plants. They display complex communications with their hosts which includes mutualism and antagonism [10].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of plant material

The leaf samples of *Moringa Oleifera* were collected for the analysis from Garden City University Bangalore with Voucher No. P201201. The symptomless and clearly solid leaves were gathered in pre-sanitized polythene packs. The samples were collected and brought to the laboratory, where they were sterilized and stored at 4 °C. Later, they have been used for the plant genomic DNA extraction and also to isolate endophytic fungi within 48 h of collection.

Preparation of plant extracts

The *Moringa oleifera* leaves were homogenized by adding the 10% ethanol to it. Metabolite was extracted by solvent extraction method utilizing ethyl acetate and methanol as natural solvents.

DNA isolation from plant

The genomic DNA of the plant was isolated using the CTAB method. Around 0.05 gm *Moringa oleifera* leaves were collected. The leaves were ground with 750 µl of extraction buffer (100 Mm Tris, 1.4 M NaCl, 20 mmol EDTA, 2% CTAB). The homogenate was kept in incubation at 65 °C for 20 min. The content was allowed to cool down at room temperature and an equal volume of chloroform: isoamyl alcohol (24:1 ratio) was added and mixed gently. The mixture was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 min in a refrigerated centrifuge, the pellet was discarded and the supernatant was transferred to another fresh microtube to which an equal volume of ice-cold isopropanol was added. This mixture was also centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 min in a refrigerated centrifuge. The supernatant was discarded and 500µl of 70% ethanol was added to the pellet, followed by a quick spin at 10,000 rpm for 10 min in a refrigerated centrifuge. The supernatant was discarded and pellet was retained, which was allowed to dry for about 45 min, and then dissolved in 10µl TE buffer. This DNA was treated with RNase and column purified to get rid of impurities [11].

Electrophoresis of the isolated DNA

The isolated plant DNA was later subjected to electrophoresis for proper quantification. Then 0.8 % agarose solution in 1 X TAE buffer was prepared for 100 ml solution is heated in oven to dissolve agarose completely. Then it is cooled to 400 °C, and Ethidium bromide solution (0.1 g/ml) was added. When gel was set, the gel electrophoresis tray will be filled with 0.5 X TAE buffer, and then gel boat was placed in the tank and DNA solution was loaded. Then 2µl of the DNA solution was pipetted into a microfuge tube. Again, 2µl of Bromophenol dye is added and mixed for few seconds and loaded on gel. Gel unit will be run at 120 volts for 40 min [11].

PCR and gel purification

PCR amplification of isolated plant DNA was done using primers ITS2, MATK for plant. PCR amplification were acted in total reaction volume of 25 µl containing 12.5 µl of 2X PCR Master mix, 1 µl of forward primer and 1 µl of reverse primer and 9.5 µl of nuclease free water. DNA amplification was performed and DNA thermal cycler programmed for 35 cycles, the first step involved was heating to a temperature of 95 °C for 5 min trailed by 35 amplification cycles at 75 °C for 1 min for denaturation. The process annealing will take place in, 53 °C about 1-2 min. The temperature involved was 72 °C for 1 min for initial extension and Taq polymerase starts filling the

missing nucleotides in the 3' 5' direction away from each of the primer and 72 °C for 8 min for final extension. The quality of PCR products was checked on 1 % agarose gel electrophoresis stained with ethidium bromide [11].

Sanger gene sequencing

The Bidirectional sequencing of PCR products were carried in Sequencer-Applied Biosystems (Hitachi) 3130x1 Genetic Analyzer. The data from the sequencer was taken in storage drive and processed in the software Finch TV. The electropherogram files which were in AB1 format was converted to. pdf and fasta files using a Sequence Scanner Software. The sequence data generated during this study were subjected of BLAST searches in the nucleotide database of GenBank (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) to determine their most probably closely related taxa.

Isolation of endophytic fungi from *Moringa oleifera*

The *Moringa oleifera* leaf samples were washed thoroughly under running tap water for 10 min to remove the superficial debris adhered and finally washed with double distilled water to minimize the microbial load from the sample surface. The surface treatment is done and the epiphytic mycelia are removed by immersing the tissues in 70% ethanol for 1-3 min and in an aqueous solution of sodium hypochlorite (4% available chlorine) for 2-5 min followed by washing with 70% ethanol for 5s. The tissues are then rinsed in sterile distilled water and were allowed to surface dry in sterile conditions. The leaves were carefully dissected into small pieces (1.0 · 0.5 cm). The pieces were placed on petri dishes containing potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium and incubated for seven days at 25±2 °C in the incubator. Tissues were observed for fungal growth at 2 d intervals for seven days. The actively growing fungal tips that are emerging from plant tissues were subcultured on PDA Petri plates for identification.

Isolation of DNA from endophytic fungi

Genomic DNA was extracted from pure fungal cultures and was named as a black colony (Bc) and grey colony (Gc) by using the CTAB method followed by column purification. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was used to amplify partial gene regions of Internal Transcribed Spacers (ITS) using fungal primers such as ITS2 AND ITS4. PCR amplification were acted in total reaction volume of 25 µl containing 12.5 µl of 2X PCR Master mix, 1 µl of forward primer and 1 µl of reverse primer and 9.5 µl of nuclease-free water. DNA amplification was performed and DNA thermal cycler programmed for 35 cycles, the first step involved is heating to a temperature of 95 °C for 5 min trailed by 35 amplification cycles at 75 °C for 1 min for denaturation. The process of annealing will take place in, 53 °C about 1-2 min. The temperature involved is 72 °C for 1 min for initial extension and Taq polymerase starts filling the missing nucleotides in the 3' 5' direction away from each of the primer and 72 °C for 8 min for final extension. The quality of PCR products was checked on 1 % agarose gel electrophoresis stained with ethidium bromide. The Purification and sequencing of PCR products are carried in Sequencer-Applied Biosystems (Hitachi)-3130x1 Genetic Analyzer.

Estimation of flavonoids

Shinoda test

1 ml of absolute ethanol and 3 drops of concentrated hydrochloric acid were added to 0.5 ml of diluted plant or fungal crude extract in isopropyl alcohol. Formation of red colour indicated the presence of aurones and chalcones. In cases where no colour change was observed, pieces of metallic magnesium were added. The formation of orange, red or magenta coloration indicated the presence of flavones or flavonoids, respectively [12].

Estimation of terpenoids

2.0 ml of chloroform was added with the 5 ml aqueous fungal crude extract or plant ethanol extract is taken and evaporated on the water path and then boiled with 3 ml of H₂SO₄ concentrated. A grey colour formed which showed the entity of terpenoids [12].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

DNA was isolated by using CTAB method. After the isolation of DNA, the quantity and quality of DNA was checked with the help of Gel

electrophoresis. The isolated DNA was subjected to electrophoresis and the gel will be run for getting specific region of DNA. After the process of gel electrophoresis, the gel has been removed and it was observed under UV light by comparing it with the standard 1KB ladder as obtained in fig. 3. The ITS regions of DNA were amplified using polymerase chain reaction using matK and ITS2 primers for plant and ITS2, ITS4 primers for endophytic fungi respectively where it produced a proper band and the obtained products have been gel purified for obtaining a pure template for sequencing and compared it with 1KB standard ladder as obtained in fig. 4. The sequencing files are obtained in AB1 format which can be viewed by using software Finch TV as electropherogram peaks of different nucleotides in its position.

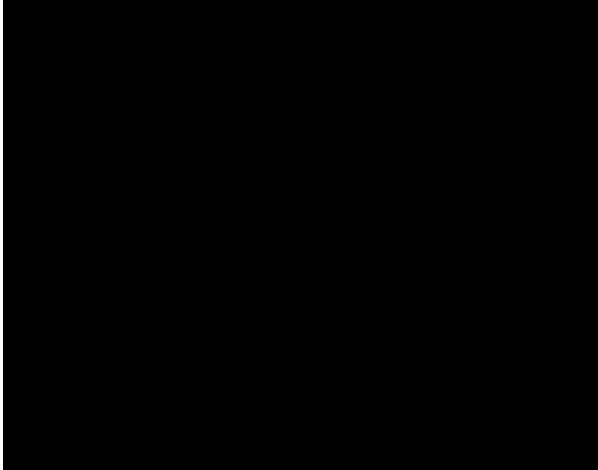


Fig. 3: DNA isolated from Moringa leaves and Endophytic fungi and compared with standard 1KB ladder

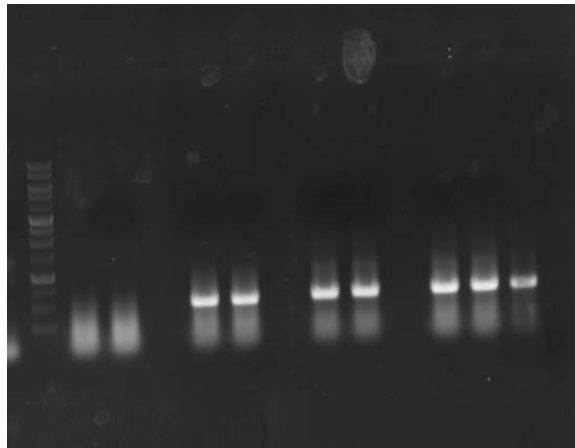


Fig. 4: Amplification of plant genes ITS2 and Matk, along with amplification of fungal gene ITS

Quality of the obtained sequence can be observed through Electropherogram peaks as seen in fig. 5. FASTA sequences for further analysis were obtained by converting AB1 file in Seq Scanner 2.0. Using BLAST server, unknown sequences were identified based on query coverage, percentage identity and e-value. When the FASTA file of this Moringa Mat K and Moringa ITS2 has shown nearly 98% similarity, whereas black moringa fungi and moringa green fungi has shown nearly 97% in NCBI blast as shown in table 3.

The results from Finch TV. ab1 format is converted to. pdf and fasta format. These fasta sequences are then used for constructing the phylogenetic tree using Clustal Omega as shown in fig. 6, 7 was done

to find out the evolutionary relationship of our query sequence, representative trees.

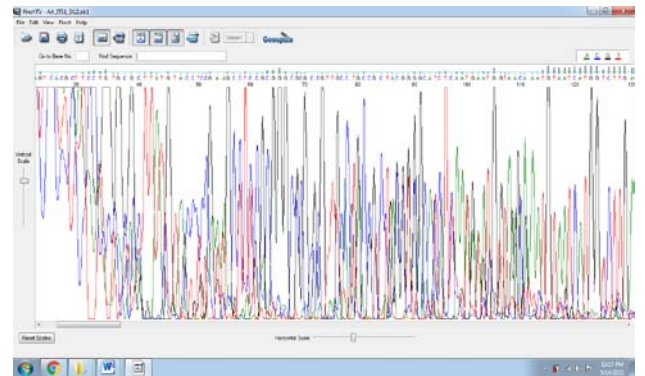


Fig. 5: Representative electropherogram showing the sequenced genes

Fasta sequences of plant genes

>ML_ITS2_E12. ab1

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TTACGTTTCAGTGCATCTGTCAGTCACGCTTCCCTGTGCGTTATGTACC
TCCGAAGCCTCCGCGGGCGCGCCGTTGCCCTGCCGCTACGGGGCATCTCA
ATGAATGGTAACAAATGTAATCATGGTCTTGACAGACCCTAAAAAGTT
AATACAACCTTCGACAACGGATCTCTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAAC
GCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAATTCAGTGAATCAT
CGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCGCCCTTTGGTATTCGGAGGGGCATGCC
TGTTTGAGTGCATTAATAACCATCAACCTCTTTGACTTCGGTCTCG
AGAGTGGCTTGGAAAGTGGAGGTCTGCTGGAGCCTAACGGAGCCAGCTCC
TCTTAAATGTATTAGCGGATTTCCCTTGCGGGATCGCGTCTCCGATGTG
ATAATTTCTACGTCGTTGACCATCTCGGGGCTGACCTAGTCAGTTTCAA
TAGGAGTCTGCTTCCAACCGTCTCTTGACCGAGACTAGCGACTTGTGCG
GTGACTTTGACTTGACCTCAAATCAGGTAGGACTACCCGCTGAACCTTA
AGCATATCAATAAGCGGGGGGAAGCCAGCCGTCGCCGGAAGGAGTACCCC
CCCAATACTTAAGAGAGAGAGTAGGTCGAAAAAACGAAAAGGAGACC
AC.
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>ML_Matk_E12. ab1

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GTTACGCTGCATCTGTCAGTCACGCTTCCCTGTGCGTTATGTACCTCCG
AAGCCTCCGCGGGCGCGCCGTTGCCCTGCCGCTACGGGGCATCTCAATGA
ATGGTAACAAATGTAATCATGGTCTTGACAGACCCTAAAAAGTTAATA
CAACTTTCGACAACGGATCTCTGGCTCTCGCATCAATCTTTGAACGCA
CCTTGCGCCCTTTGGTATTCGGAGGGGCATGCCGTTTGAGTGCATTA
AATACCATCAACCTCTTTGACTTCCGGTCTCGAGAGTGGCTTGGAAAGT
GGAGTCTGCTGGAGCCTAACGGAGCCAGCTCCTTAAATGTATTAGC
GGATTTCCCTTGCGGGATCGCGTCTCCGATGTGATAATTTCTACGTCGT
TGACCATCTCGGGGCTGACCTAGTCAGTTTCAATAGGAGTCTGCTTCCA
ACCGTCTTTGACCGAGACTAGCGACTTGTGCGGTGACTTTTGACTTGA
CCTCAAATCAGGTAGGACTACCCGCTGAACCTTAAGCATATAATAAGCG
GGGGGAAGCCAGCCGTCGCCGGAAGGAGTACCCCCCAATACTTAAGAGA
GAGAGTAGGTCGAAAAAACGAAAAGGAG.
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Table 1: table showing the presence of endophytic fungi in the different medicinal plants. As each and every plant shows the presence of different kinds of endophytic fungi that has a symbiotic relationship with plant that does not cause any harm to plant and provides different kinds of properties to the plant.

The presence of Fungal Black colony and green colony was grown in PDA Media (fig. 8). The identification of fungal endophytes was done by Lactophenol cotton blue staining. DNA was extracted using CTAB Method. The ITS2 primers were used in PCR to amplify the ITS region. The obtained PCR products were then gel purified for getting a pure template for Sanger gene sequencing. After Sanger gene sequencing the obtained results were converted to FASTA sequences. These fasta sequences were then used for constructing the phylogenetic tree using Clustal Omega as shown in (fig. 9, 10.)

Table 1: Table showing the presence of endophytic fungi in the different medicinal plants

S. No.	Plant name	Endophytic fungi	Studies	Reference
1.	<i>Antidesma madagascariense</i>	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> cepae, <i>Pestalotiopsis microspore</i> , <i>Neofusicoccum parvum</i> , <i>Guignardia mangifera</i> , <i>Cyphomyrmex muelleri</i> , <i>Penicillium westlingii</i> , <i>Penicillium griseofulvum</i>	PDA Media, DNA sequence analysis, and Phylogenetic Data Analysis	[13]
2.	<i>Actinidia macrosperma</i>	<i>Acremonium furcatum</i> , <i>Cylindrocarpon pauciseptatum</i> , <i>Trichoderma citrinoviride</i> , <i>Paecilomyces marquandii</i> , <i>Chaetomium globosum</i>	PDA Media, Morphological examination, Phylogenetic analysis.	[14]
3.	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	<i>Fusarium solani</i> , <i>Fusarium sterilihyphosum</i> , <i>Pithomyces chartarum</i> , <i>Fusarium verticillioides</i>	Richard solution, Conidial germination assay	[15]
4.	<i>Costus spiralis</i>	<i>Diaporthe phaseolorum</i> , <i>Sordariomyces sp.</i> , <i>Phomopsis sp.</i> , <i>Cochliobolus sp.</i>	PDA media, DNA Amplification and screening.	[16]
5.	<i>Artemisia sieberi</i>	<i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> , <i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Penicillium chrysogenum</i>	SDA medi, 18S rRNA Gene Sequencing, Phylogenetic analysis.	[17]
6.	<i>Morinda citrifolia</i>	<i>Stemphylium solani</i> , <i>Leptosphaerulina australis</i> , <i>Aspergillus pseudodeflectus</i> , <i>Paraconiothyrium sporulosum</i>	PDA, Amplification, Sequencing.	[18]
7.	<i>Mikania cordata</i>	<i>Fusarium equiseti</i> , <i>Phomamedicaginis</i>	PDA Media, DNA Amplification, and screening	[19]
8.	<i>Cymbopogon caesius</i>	<i>Curvularia lunata</i> .	PDA Media, Amplification, Phylogenetic analysis	[20]
9.	<i>Carica papaya</i>	<i>Daldinia eschscholtzii</i>	PDA Media, morphological and molecular identification.	[21]
10.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i>	<i>Daldinia placentiformis</i> , <i>Alternaria alternata</i>	PDA Media, Morphological and Molecular identification.	[21]
11.	<i>Cosciniium fenestratum</i>	<i>Phomopsis jacquiniana</i> , <i>Alternaria alternata</i> , <i>Aspergillus tamarii</i> , <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> , <i>Drechslera</i>	PDA Media, Sub culturing, Statistical Analysis	[22]
12.	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i>	<i>Phyllosticta sp.</i> , <i>Phomopsis sp.</i> , <i>Curvularia lunata</i> , <i>Pestalotiopsis</i>	PDA Media, Morphological Examination, Statistical Analysis	[23]
13.	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Colletotrichum sp.</i> , <i>Macrophominaphaseolina</i> , <i>Nigrospora sphaerica</i> and <i>Fusarium solan</i>	PDA Media, Morphological examination, Statistical analysis	[23]
14.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	<i>Aspergillus fumigates</i> , <i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i> , <i>Chaetomium globosum</i> , <i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Alternaria alternata</i>	PDA Media, Morphological examination, Statistical analysis	[24]
15.	<i>Ephedra pachyclada</i>	<i>Penicillium crustosum</i> , <i>Penicillium commune</i> , <i>Alternaria infectoria</i> , <i>Alternaria tenuissima</i> , <i>Penicillium corylophilum</i>	Malt Extract Agar medium, Molecular identification, Phylogenetic analysis	[25]
16.	<i>Artemisia scoparia</i>	<i>Penicillium melinii</i> , <i>Alternaria alternate</i> , <i>Gliocladium solani</i> , <i>Trichoderma longibrachiatum</i> , <i>Trichoderma virens</i> , <i>Aspergillus versicolor</i>	PDA media, Morphological identification, Statistical Analysis	[26]
17.	<i>Dendrobium moniliforme</i>	<i>Cladosporium tenuissimum</i> , <i>Colletotrichum alatae</i> , <i>Cylindrocarpon</i> , <i>Fusarium equiseti</i> , <i>Leptosphaerulina chartarum</i> , <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	PDA media, DNA Amplification, Morphological Identification Sequencing,	[27]
18.	<i>Helicteres isora</i>	<i>Alternaria alternate</i> , <i>Penicillium citrinum</i> , <i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Curvularia vermiciformis</i>	PDA media, Morphological Identification, Statistical Analysis	[28]
19.	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	<i>Aspergillus terreus</i> , <i>Fusarium solani</i> , <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> , <i>Chaetomium cupreum</i> , <i>Curvularia lunata</i> , <i>Chaetomium brasiliense</i>	PDA Media, DNA Amplification, Sequencing, Phylogenetic Analysis.	[29]
20.	<i>Curcuma longa</i>	<i>Aspergillus venenatus</i> , <i>Fusarium proliferatum</i> , <i>Trichoderma asperellum</i> , <i>Phoma herbarum</i> , <i>Trichoderma atroviride</i>	PDA Media, DNA Amplification, Phylogenetic analysis	[30]
21.	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> , <i>Penicillium ochrochloron</i> , <i>Chaetomium globosum</i> , <i>Penicillium citreonigrum</i> , <i>Petriella sordid</i>	PDA Media, DNA Amplification, Morphological Identification.	[31]
22.	<i>Warburgia ugandensis</i>	<i>Nigrospora oryzae</i> , <i>Cladosporium bruhnei</i> , <i>Colletotrichum acutatum</i> , <i>Cochliobolus sativus</i> , <i>Bionectria ochroleuca</i> , <i>Phyllosticta gardeniicola</i>	PDA Media, DNA Amplification, Sequencing, Phylogenetic Analysis	[32]
23.	<i>Cephalotaxus hainanensis</i>	<i>Alternaria tenuissima</i> , <i>Bionectria ochroleuca</i> , <i>Diaporthe helianthin</i> , <i>Lasioidiplo-dia Theobroma</i> , <i>Phomopsis quercella</i> , <i>Trametes polyzona</i>	PDA Media, DNA Amplification, Statistical Analysis	[33]
24.	<i>Sesbania grandiflora</i>	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> , <i>Hormiscium sp.</i> , <i>Penicillium citreonigrum</i>	PDA Media, Morphological Identification	[34]
25.	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	<i>Alternaria longipes</i> , <i>Curvularia lunata</i> , <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> , <i>Aspergillus niger</i>	PDA Media, Morphological and Molecular Identification, Statistical Analysis	[35]
26.	<i>Messua ferrea</i>	<i>Aspergillus flavus</i> , <i>Aspergillus versicolor</i> , <i>A. sydowii</i>	PDA Media, Morphological and Molecular Identification, Statistical Analysis	[36]
27.	<i>Crescentia Cujete L.</i>	<i>Nigrospora sphaerica</i> , <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> , <i>Gibberella moniliformis</i> , <i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	PDA Media, Morphological Identification, Statistical Analysis	[37]
28.	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	<i>Rhizopus arrizus</i> , <i>Candida albicans</i> , <i>Epidermophyton floccosum</i> , <i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Mucor circinelloides</i> , <i>Lichtheimia corymbifer</i>	MacConkey and nutrient agar, Morphological and Molecular Identification,	[38]
29.	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	<i>Fusarium proliferatum</i> , <i>Guignardia camelliae</i> , <i>Alternaria destruens</i> , <i>Colletotrichum truncatum</i> , <i>Nigrospora oryzae</i>	PDA Media, DNA Amplication, PCR and Sequencing	[39]

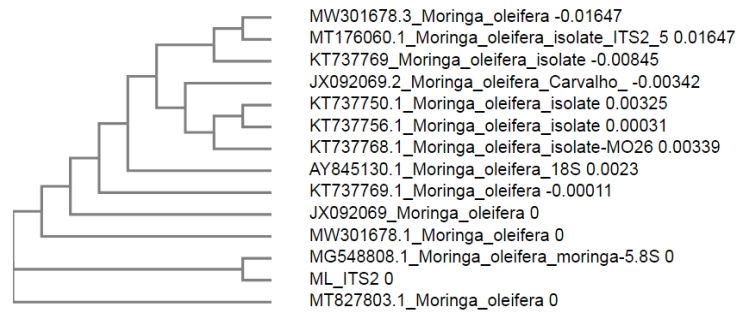


Fig. 6: Phylogenetic tree showing relationship of query sequence of ITS2 from *Moringa oleifera* obtained using clustal omega

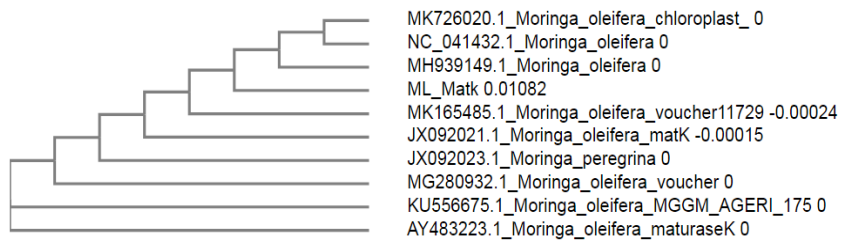


Fig. 7: Phylogenetic tree showing relationship of query sequence of Mat K from *Moringa oleifera* obtained using clustal omega



Fig. 8: Endophytic fungi (Black fungi and green fungi)

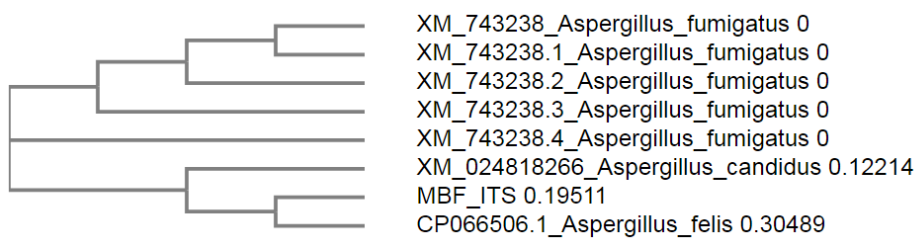


Fig. 9: Phylogenetic tree showing relation of *Aspergillus fumigatus* strain obtained using Clustal Omega

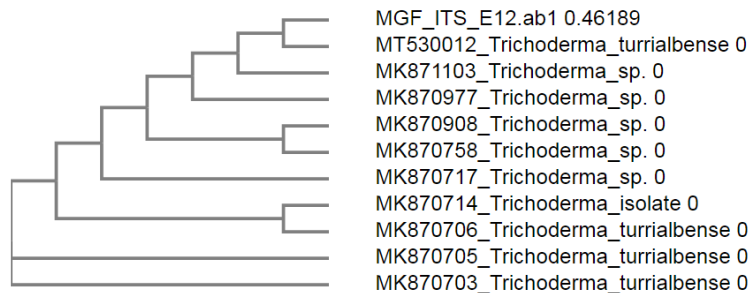


Fig. 10: Phylogenetic tree showing relation of *Trichoderma turrialbense* strain obtained using Clustal Omega

Table 2: Table showing hits obtained and similarity percentage for the query sequences in NCBI BLAST

S. No.	Sample name	Hit obtained	Accession number	Percentage similarity	E-value	Query coverage
1	Moringa ITS2	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase large subunit	JX091932.1	98%	0.0	82%
2	Moringa Matk	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> chloroplast matK gene for maturase K, partial cds	LC547438.1	97%	0.0	85%
3	Moringa BF ITS	<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> Af293 chromosome 3, whole genome shotgun sequence	CM000171.1	96%	0.0	92%
4	Moringa GF ITS	<i>Trichoderma turrialbense</i> strain CBS 112445 18S ribosomal RNA gene, partial sequence; internal transcribed spacer 1, 5.8S ribosomal RNA gene	EU330945.1	98%	0.0	91%

There are so many species of endophytic fungi that produce a different kind of enzymes such as cellulase, amylases, lipases, laccase, pectinases, xylanase, and proteases as shown in TABLE 3, that are used in biological activity and also in industrial applications, it also helps the plant to produce different kinds of secondary metabolites that helps in plant growth and also gives

different kind of properties such as antioxidant, antimicrobial, antidiabetic to the plant. Secondary metabolites synthesised by endophytes isolated from *Moringa oleifera* also displayed presence of flavonoids and terpenoids, the presence of these compounds provide anti-fungal, antioxidant properties as shown in table 4.

Table 3: Table showing different kinds of Enzymes produced by endophytic fungi

S. No.	Enzymes	Endophytic fungi	References
1.	Cellulase	<i>Penicillium</i> sp, <i>Phoma</i> sp, <i>Paraconiothyrium</i> sp, <i>Nigrosporasphaerica</i> , <i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i> , <i>Aspergillus japonicus</i>	[40]
2.	Amylases	<i>Fusarium</i> sp, <i>Penicillium</i> sp, <i>Lasiodiplodia</i> sp, <i>Paraconiothyrium</i> sp, <i>Fusicoccum</i> sp, <i>Xylaria</i> sp	[41]
3.	Lipases	<i>Fusarium</i> sp, <i>Xylaria</i> sp, <i>Phomopsis</i> sp, <i>Phoma</i> sp, <i>Penicillium</i> sp, <i>Fusicoccum</i> sp, <i>Diaporthe</i> sp, <i>Cercospora</i> sp, <i>Colletotrichum</i> sp, <i>Nigrospora</i> sp, <i>Paraconiothyrium</i> sp, <i>Pestalotiopsis</i> sp, <i>Guignardia</i> sp	[42, 44]
4.	Laccase	<i>Fusarium</i> sp, <i>Xylaria</i> sp, <i>Pestalotiopsis</i> sp, <i>Chaetomium globosum</i>	[43, 45]
5.	Pectinase	<i>Aspergillus japonicus</i> , <i>Penicillium glandicola</i>	[46]
6.	Xylanase	<i>Aspergillus</i> sp, <i>Penicillium</i> sp, <i>Trichoderma</i> sp, <i>Fusarium</i> sp, <i>Rhizopus</i> sp, <i>Cladosporium</i> sp, <i>Nigrospora</i> sp, <i>Myrothecium</i> sp	[47, 49]
7.	Protease	<i>Phomatropica</i> , <i>Trichoderma aristate</i> , <i>Asperigillus terricola</i> , <i>Asperigillus japonicus</i> , <i>Fusarium lateritium</i>	[50, 51]

Table 4: table showing the presence of secondary metabolites produced by both the *Moringa oleifera* and also from the endophytic

fungi (Black Fungi, Green Fungi) that are been isolated from the plant that gives the plant different properties.

Table 4: Table showing results of qualitative test conducted for flavonoids and terpenoids

S. No.	Sample name	Flavonoids	Terpenoids
1	Moringa ITS2	Present	Present
2	Moringa Matk	Present	Present
3	Moringa BF ITS	Partially present	Partially present
4	Moringa GF ITS	Present	Present

From this study *Moringa oleifera* has shown the presence of two endophytic fungi. The ITS sequences identified as *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Trichoderma turrialbense*. The current study showed that the endophytic fungi isolated from *Moringa oleifera* has potential for the production of enzymes such as Lipases, Proteases, Cellulases that helps fungi in producing different kinds of secondary metabolites such as Flavonoids, Terpenoids that gives the plant different properties such as antimicrobial, anti-oxidant. The further studies can be done for checking the presence of other secondary metabolites and also for identifying other Endophytic species.

CONCLUSION

The Endophytic fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Trichoderma turrialbense* were isolated from the medicinal plant *Moringa oleifera*. From the ethanol extract, it has shown the presence of secondary metabolites such as Flavonoids, Terpenoids. The production of different kinds of enzymes such as cellulase, xylanase, pectinase etc., from endophytic fungi has given the plant different kinds of properties. Since last many years, endophytic fungi were addressing new source of pharmacologically dynamic secondary metabolites in light of the basic presumption that they live advantageously inside their host plant. To distinguish clear bioactive mixtures, various techniques must be created in the future to separate leftover

optional metabolites from plant endophytic organisms and furthermore for the recognizable proof of various types of enzymes produced by endophytic fungi.

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CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Declared none

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