

1
2
3 **Antibacterial Potentiality and Brine Shrimp Lethality Bioassay of**
4 **the Leaves Extract of *Trema orientalis***

5 **Abstract**

6
7 **Aim:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the antibacterial and cytotoxic activities of
8 methanol extract of leaves of *Trema orientalis*.

9
10 **Materials and Methods:** Antibacterial activity of leaves of *Trema orientalis* was tested
11 against two Gram positive and seven Gram negative bacteria by disc diffusion assay. The
12 liquid micro dilution assay was used for the determination of the minimum inhibitory
13 concentration (MIC). The cytotoxic activity of methanol extract of leaves of *Trema orientalis*
14 was analyzed by brine shrimp lethality bioassay.

15
16 **Results:** The methanol extract exhibited potent antibacterial activity with the zone of
17 inhibition ranging from 9 to 14 mm against both the tested Gram positive and all tested Gram
18 negative bacteria except *Pseudomonas denitrificans* and *Xanthomonas campestris*.
19 Comparatively, higher antibacterial activity was found against Gram negative bacteria in case
20 of *Shigella dysenteriae* and *Salmonella typhi* showed 14 mm and 13 mm zones of inhibition
21 respectively. *Salmonella typhi* showed resistance against reference antibiotics (Tetracycline,
22 Erythromycin, Gentamicin and Ciprofloxacin) but methanol extract of leaves exhibited potent
23 antibacterial activity against *Salmonella typhi*. The MIC values for tested Gram positive
24 bacteria was 10 mg/mL while for Gram negative bacteria were ranged from 1.25 to 20
25 mg/mL. Methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* leaves showed very low cytotoxicity (LC₅₀,
26 170.215 µg/mL) in comparison with the standard vincristine sulphate having LC₅₀ value
27 2.477 µg/mL.

28
29 **Conclusion:** The results suggest that the methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* leaves has
30 potent antibacterial activity with minimum cytotoxicity and could lead to the development of
31 novel broad spectrum antibacterial agent.

32

33 **Keywords:** *Trema orientalis*, Antibacterial activity, Cytotoxicity, Disc diffusion, Minimum
34 inhibitory concentration and Brine shrimp lethality bioassay.

35 **1. Introduction**

36 Pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi cause infectious
37 diseases. The disease can transmit directly or indirectly from one person to another. One half
38 of all death in tropical countries is caused due to infectious diseases. The infectious diseases
39 are considered as major threat to human health [1] and dangerous for child and young adults
40 and responsible for the second leading cause of death worldwide [2]. Bacterial infections
41 have again become a threat after many decades and the first patient treated with antibiotics.
42 The Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria like different species of *Bacillus*, *Escherichia*,
43 *Proteus*, *Klebsiella*, *Xanthomonas*, *Pseudomonas* are main source to cause severe infection in
44 humans. Because these organisms are capable to survive in adverse condition due to their
45 multiple environmental habitats [3]. The synthetic antibiotics are costly and are out of range
46 from the patient belonging to developing countries. With the passage of time,
47 microorganisms develop resistance against antibiotics and the antibiotic resistance climax has
48 been attributed to the indiscriminate and inappropriate use of these medications as well as a
49 lack of new drug development by the pharmaceutical industry due to reduced economic
50 incentives and challenging regulatory requirements [4,5,6,7]. In addition, almost all of the
51 antibiotics have side effects on the host including allergic reactions, immune-suppression and
52 hypersensitivity [8, 9]. New and re-emerging infectious diseases are rising very rapidly. Due
53 to these problems, attention is now being given to biologically active compounds isolated
54 from plant species commonly used as herbal medicine as they offer a new source of
55 antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal activities and are widely perceived as natural and safe,
56 that is, not toxic [9, 10]. Moreover, plant-based medicines contain diverse chemical structure
57 and novel mechanism of action that work in a way of orchestral ensembles which are able to

58 target many elements of the complex cell signaling pathways [11]. Plant-based antibiotics
59 such as Quinine (Cinchona) and berberine (Berberis) are highly effective against
60 *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* [9]. Therefore, there is an urgent need to search
61 new and more potent anti-bacterial and bioactive agents that can fight against those pathogen.
62
63 *Trema orientalis* has common name such as pigeon wood, charcoal tree, Indian charcoal tree,
64 and gunpowder tree. It is the fast growing and evergreen tree with soft foliage belongs to the
65 family Ulmaceae and distributed all over the world in countries such as Bangladesh, Angola,
66 Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon,
67 Central African Republic, Chad, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India,
68 Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria,
69 Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and
70 Zambia. It can grow on a wide range of soils from heavy clay to light sand [12]. *Trema*
71 *orientalis* is a shrub or small to medium size tree. It has wide variety of sizes depending on
72 the location and climatic conditions and grows up to 18 m high in forest regions and up to 1.5
73 m tall in the savannah. The slender branchlets have white velvety hairs. The extensive root
74 system of *Trema orientalis* enables it to survive long periods of drought. The base is
75 frequently unequal and the leaves are alternate, simple and stipulate although the stipules
76 drop early. margins are finely serrulated whereas the young leaves are rough and hairy,
77 occasionally becoming smooth when old. The inconspicuous flowers are small and greenish,
78 carried in short dense bunches and appear irregularly from late February to April. The round
79 fruits are small and dark purple or green drupes that become black upon ripen and carried on
80 very short stalks [13]. The young leaves are eaten as spinach and the roots and stem bark are
81 used as traditional medicine by the Zulus in South Africa [14]. In combination with lemon
82 juice, the leaves maceration are used for the treatment of bronchitis, cough, pneumonia and

83 pleurisy. The decoction of leaves is also used as an anti-helminthic medicine for hookworms
84 and roundworms in East Africa, West Africa, Madagascar and some parts of Central Africa.
85 The infusion is prepared from fruits and flowers of *Trema orientalis* for administration to
86 children as a therapy for pneumonia, pleurisy and bronchitis [15]. The decoctions of stem
87 bark and are used as vermifuge and to treat malaria and dysenteries, manage pain in tired
88 muscles and aching bones as well as venereal disease [16-20]. The root is used in folk
89 medicine for treatment of blood stasis, trauma, hematuria and bleeding of intestines and
90 stomach [21]. Numerous research report claimed that the different pharmacological effects of
91 *T. orientalis* in various test models. The aerial parts, flowers, bark, and seeds of *T. orientalis*
92 exhibit various pharmacological activities including hypoglycemic, analgesic, anti-
93 inflammatory, laxative, anti-plasmodial, diuretic anti-convulsant anti-helminthic, anti-sickling,
94 anti-oxidant and anti-bacterial activities. These pharmacological activities may be mainly
95 due to the fact that it contains important biologically active compounds such as scopoletin, 4-
96 hydroxybenzoic acid, Epicatechin, lupeol, methylswertianin, catechin, hexacosanoic acid and
97 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid [22-24]. Various secondary metabolites like tannins, saponins,
98 flavonoids, triterpenoid (simiarenol, simiarenone, trematol) phytosterols, and several
99 constituents of xanthenes has been isolated from and stem bark of this plant [12] and these
100 metabolites may be responsible for cytotoxicity and antibacterial activities. Although there
101 are many literatures reporting the ethno-medicinal values of *T. orientalis* there is little
102 scientific proof for further using this plant commercially or in a more effective form.
103 Therefore, an attempt was made to evaluate the antibacterial and cytotoxic activities of the
104 crude methanol extract of *T. orientalis* leaves to support the pharmacological effects and
105 phytochemical investigation of the plant.

106

107 **2. Materials and Methods**

108 **2.1. Plant Material**

109 The leaves of *Trema orientalis* were collected during the month of January 2015 from Jessore
110 University of Science & Technology, Jessore-7408, Bangladesh. This plant was then
111 botanically identified by Bushra Khan, Principal Scientific Officer, Bangladesh National
112 Herbarium, Mirpur, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh. A voucher (DACB 31285) has been deposited
113 in Bangladesh National Herbarium, Mirpur, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh. The collected plant
114 leaves were washed with running tap water and dried in shade at room temperature. The air
115 dried leaves were pulverized into fine powder by commercial blender (Philips, South Korea)
116 and stored in sealed container.

117

118 **2.2. Experimental Methods**

119 **2.2.1. Preparation of Extract**

120 One hundred gram of powder was taken in a 500 ml conical flask added with 350 mL of
121 methanol. The flask was kept for 7 days with continuous shaking at shaking incubator at
122 room temperature. The plant extract was filtered into beaker through Whatman no.1 filter
123 paper to exclude the insoluble powder. The extract was then concentrated by using a rotary
124 evaporator and kept at room temperature to evaporate remaining solvent. After complete
125 evaporation of solvent, only plant's crude extracts were obtained. The amount of crude
126 extracts was 1.0 g which was stored in refrigerator at 4°C in sterile container for further use.

127

128 **2.2.2. Tested Bacterial Preparation**

129 Pure culture of Gram positive bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis* IFO 3026, *Sarcina lutea* IFO 3232)
130 and Gram negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli* IFO 3007, *Proteus vulgaris* MTTC 321,
131 *Klebsiella pneumonia* ATTC 10031, *Xanthomonas campestris* IAM 1671, *Pseudomonas*
132 *denitrificans* KACC 32026) were used in this study and obtained from the Microbiology

133 Laboratory of Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Islamic University,
134 Kushtia, Bangladesh. Another two Gram negative bacteria, *Salmonella typhi* and *Shigella*
135 *dysenteriae* were kindly provided by the Microbiology laboratory of Department of
136 Microbiology, Jessore University of Science & Technology. Bacteria were cultured in
137 Nutrient agar media and Nutrient broth media. For antibacterial assay, minimum inhibitory
138 concentration (MIC) determination and the further stock culture preparation, 100 μ L of
139 frozen stock culture was inoculated into 125 mL conical flask containing 25 mL of Nutrient
140 broth media and incubated at 37°C with continuous shaking at 250 rpm for culturing the
141 bacteria until mid-log phase of absorbance at 600 nm reached at 0.4 by using UV
142 spectrophotometer (Oasis scientific Inc., USA) for bacterial broth culture.

143

144 **2.2.3. Disc Preparation**

145 The Whatman No. 1 filter paper discs (6 mm diameter) were transferred to a small vial and
146 autoclaved at 15 lb/inch² pressure for 15 minutes at 121°C. The discs were completely dried
147 in drying oven at 60°C. Four hundred mg of crude methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* was
148 dissolved into 10 mL of methanol and each disc was impregnated with 10 μ L of 40 mg/mL
149 (400 μ g/disc) of *Trema orientalis* leaves extract. The discs were completely air dried in the
150 laminar flow cabinet and used for antibacterial assay. Blank discs (negative controls)
151 impregnated with 10 μ L of methanol.

152 **2.2.4. Antibacterial Activity Assay**

153 Antibacterial activity of crude extract was tested by the disc diffusion method [25]. The
154 prepared discs were placed on nutrient-agar-medium plate spreaded with 100 μ L of tested
155 bacterial broth culture and the plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 h. Standard reference
156 antibiotics Tetracycline (30 μ g/disc), Erythromycin (15 μ g/disc), Gentamicin (10 μ g/disc)
157 and Ciprofloxacin (5 μ g/disc) were used as positive control to ensure the activity of standard

158 antibiotic against the test organisms. The blank discs were used as negative control. After
159 incubation, the culture plates were examined and the inhibition zones formed around each
160 disk were measured in millimeter scale as previously described [26]. Each assay in this
161 experiment was replicated three times.

162

163 **2.2.5. Determination of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC)**

164 Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* was
165 determined by a two-fold serial dilution method as previously described [27]. The methanol
166 crude extract of *Trema orientalis* leaves was dissolved in Nutrient broth medium in an
167 eppendorf tube to achieve a concentration of 40 mg/mL. The solution of eppendorf tube was
168 serially diluted to obtain 20, 10, 5, 2.5 and 1.25 mg/mL of concentrations. The 0.5 mL of
169 bacterial broth culture of each tested bacteria was transferred to each eppendorf tube. Thus,
170 the total amount of solution in each eppendorf tube was 1 mL. The control tubes contain 0.5
171 mL bacterial broth cultures with 0.5 mL nutrient broth media. The solution of all eppendorf
172 tubes were mixed properly by vortexing and incubated at 37°C for 24 h with continuous
173 shaking at 250 rpm. After incubating 24 h, 100 µL of solution from each eppendorf tube were
174 spreaded over the nutrient-agar-media plate. The plates were incubated at 37°C for 16 h for
175 bacterial growth and the number of colony was counted for MIC determination.

176

177 **2.2.6. Brine Shrimp Lethality Bioassay**

178 Brine shrimp lethality bioassay is the most convenient system for preliminary assessment of
179 cytotoxicity of plant extracts. The brine shrimp lethality bioassay of the methanol extract of
180 *Trema orientalis* was evaluated as previously described procedure against *Artemia salina*
181 as a test organism to monitor the cytotoxicity of a compound [28]. The eggs of Brine shrimp
182 (*Artemia salina*) were collected from an aquarium shop (Dhaka, Bangladesh) and incubated

183 for 28°C with constant oxygen supply and hatched for two days to provide a large number of
184 larvae called nauplii. The different concentrations of crude extract were prepared by
185 dissolving them in DMSO (not more than 50 µL in 5 mL solution) plus seawater (3.8% NaCl
186 in water) to attain concentrations of 200, 100, 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25, 3.125 and 1.562 µg/mL. The
187 standard vincristine sulphate was used as a positive control. The varying concentration of
188 solution of vincristine sulphate was prepared by serial dilution into DMSO to attain a
189 concentration of 200, 100, 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25, 3.125 and 1.562 µg/mL. A vial containing 50
190 µL of DMSO diluted to 5 mL simulated seawater used as a control. Ten mature shrimp were
191 placed into each of the experimental vials. After 24 h, the vials were inspected using a
192 magnifying glass, and the number of surviving nauplii in each vial was counted. From this
193 data, the percentage (%) of mortality of the brine shrimp naupili was calculated for each
194 concentration using the following formula: % Mortality = $N_t/N_0 \times 100$ (Where N_t = Number
195 of dead nauplii after a 24 h incubation; N_0 = Number of total nauplii transferred i.e., 10). The
196 LC50 (median lethal concentration) was determined from the log concentration versus %
197 mortality.

198

199 **2.2.7. Statistical Analysis**

200 Each experiment was replicated three times and data were reported as mean ±SEM. LC50
201 values were determined by correlation/regression analysis through Microsoft office excels 2007
202 and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

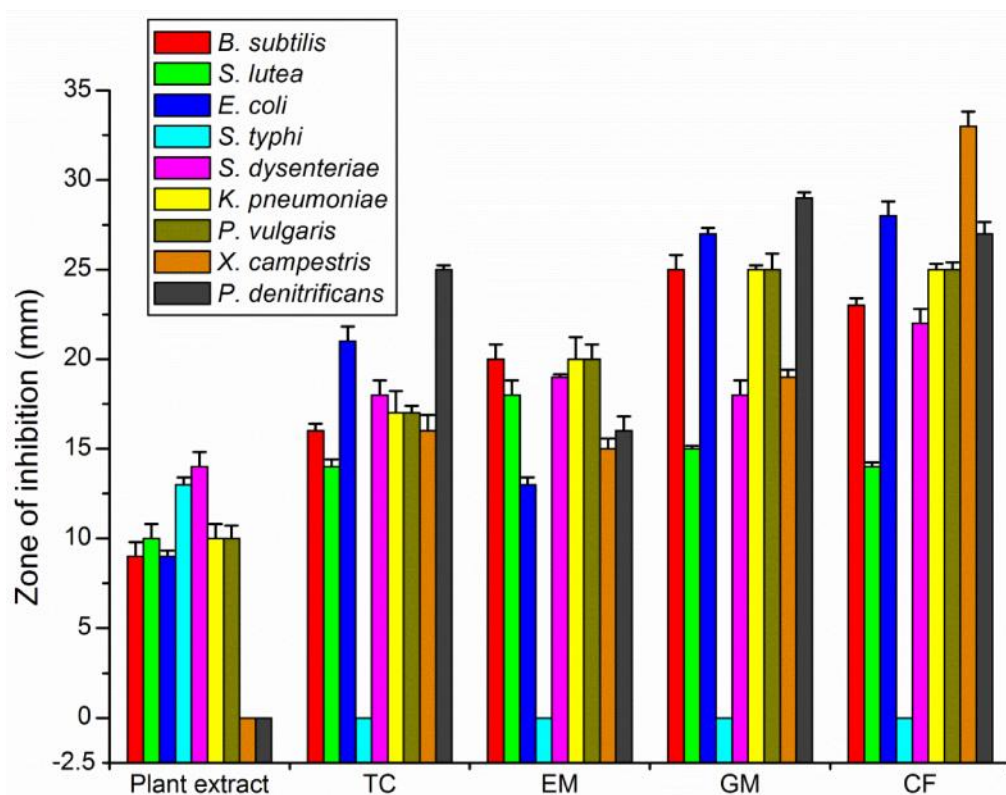
203

204 **3. Results**

205 **3.1. Antibacterial Potentialities of *Trema orientalis* Extract**

206 The antibacterial activity of methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* against the tested
207 bacteria were examined by the occurrence of clear zone of inhibition. The leaves extract at a

208 concentration of 400 µg/disc showed significant antibacterial effects against two Gram
209 positive bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis*, *Sarcina lutea*) and five Gram negative bacteria
210 (*Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and
211 *Proteus vulgaris*) with the zone of inhibition ranging from 9 to 14 mm (Figure 1). The
212 highest zone of inhibition was found 14 mm and 13 mm against *Shigella dysenteriae* and
213 *Salmonella typhi*. The inhibition zone was observed 10 mm against *Klebsiella pneumoniae*,
214 *Proteus vulgaris* and *Sarcina lutea* whereas zone of inhibition was 9 mm against *Bacillus*
215 *subtilis* and *Escherichia coli*. However, no antibacterial activity was observed against two
216 Gram negative bacteria, *Xanthomonas campestris* and *Pseudomonas denitrificans* at the used
217 concentration of 400µg/disc of plant extract. Standard reference antibiotics Tetracycline,
218 Erythromycin, Gentamicin and Ciprofloxacin were used as positive control showed higher
219 antibacterial activities than the plant extract against all the tested bacteria except *Salmonella*
220 *typhi*. Though *Salmonella typhi* showed resistance against reference antibiotics as positive
221 control, methanol extract of leaves of *Trema orientalis* exhibited strong zone of inhibition (13
222 mm) against *Salmonella typhi* (Figure 1) suggest that it could be a potential therapeutic drug
223 candidate against *Salmonella typhi*. No zone was formed by negative control.



224

225 **Figure 1.** Effect of methanol extract of leaves of *Trema orientalis* on two Gram positive and
 226 seven Gram negative bacteria. Values are represented as mean \pm SEM (n=3). TC,
 227 Tetracycline; EM, Erythromycin; GM, Gentamycin; CF, Ciprofloxacin.

228 3.2. Minimum Inhibitory Concentration

229 The lowest concentration of methanol extract of which prevent visible growth of bacterium
 230 is the minimum inhibitory concentration. The MIC values of crude extract of *Trema*
 231 *orientalis* were found ranging from 1.25 to 20 mg/mL (Table 1). The best MIC was 1.25
 232 mg/mL against *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Shigella dysenteriae* as this
 233 concentration completely inhibited the growth of these bacteria. The least efficacy was shown
 234 against *Proteus vulgaris* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* which was inhibited at 20 mg/mL
 235 concentration. The moderate MIC value was shown against Gram positive bacteria (*Bacillus*
 236 *subtilis* and *Sarcina lutea*) which were inhibited at 10 mg/mL concentration.

237

238 **Table 1:** Minimum inhibitory concentration of methanol extract of leaves of *Trema*
 239 *orientalis*.
 240

Tested bacteria	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (mg/mL)						
	20	10	5	2.5	1.25	0.625	0.312
	Number of bacterial colonies survived at above concentration						
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	0	0	7±.81	17± 1.41	54±1.63	96±2.16	121±.81
<i>Sarcina lutea</i>	0	0	12±1.41	43±2.16	66±.81	107±2.94	144±1.63
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	0	0	0	0	0	47±.81	133±2.16
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	0	0	0	0	0	77±1.41	124±4.96
<i>Shigella dysenteriae</i>	0	0	0	0	0	55±.81	112±1.41
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	0	5±2.82	16±.81	52±1.41	79±.81	123±1.41	223±.81
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	0	23±2.16	54±.81	77±1.41	91±.81	155±1.41	175±.81

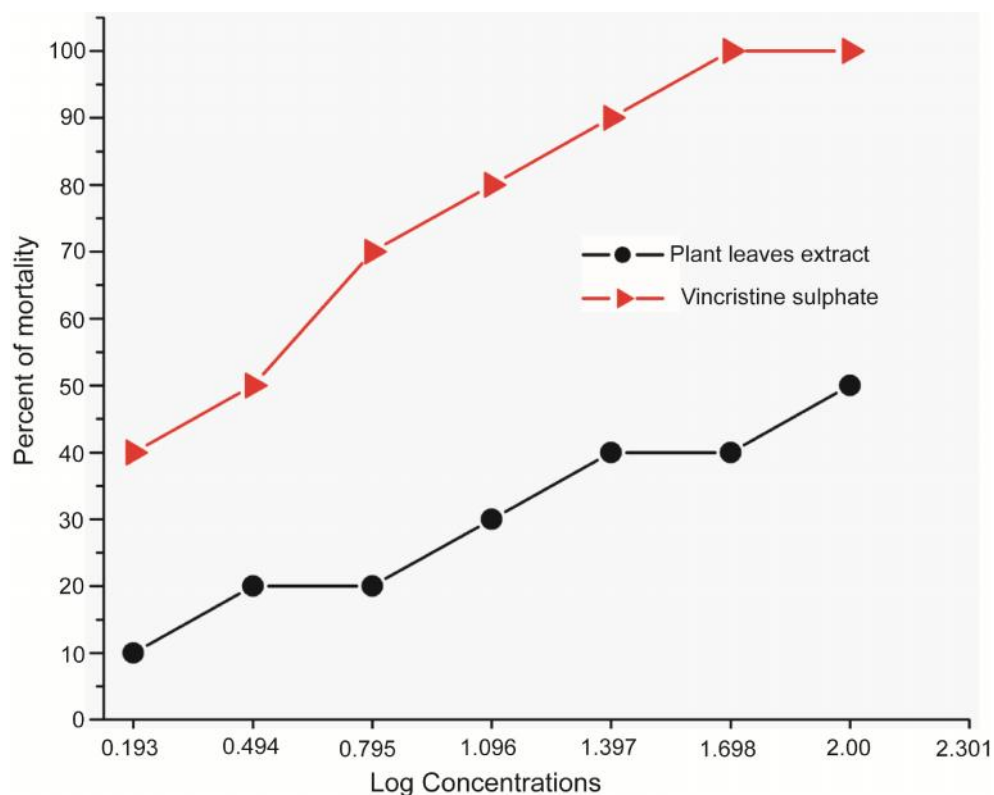
241

242 Values are represented as mean ± SEM (n=3).

243

244 3.3. Cytotoxic Activity of Methanol Extract of *Trema orientalis*

245 The percent mortality of brine shrimp naupli at different concentrations of plant extracts and
 246 vincristine sulfate as positive control are shown in Figure 2. It is clear that percent mortality
 247 of brine shrimp naupli is proportional to the concentration of extracts. The mortality rate was
 248 increased with the extract concentration increased. As shown in Table 2, methanol extract of
 249 *Trema orientalis* demonstrated a LC50 value of 170.215 µg/mL whereas vincristine
 250 sulphate showed the LC50 value of 2.477 µg/mL. This indicates that the plant leaves extract
 251 has much more higher LC50 value compared to that of vincristine sulphate. The crude
 252 methanol extracts resulted in LC50 values greater than 100 µg/mL were considered non-toxic
 253 in the brine shrimp lethality assay [29], support the notion that the methanol extract of leaves
 254 of *Trema orientalis* is non-toxic for host and had the potential for further investigation. There
 255 was no mortality in the negative control groups indicating the test as a valid one and the
 256 results obtained are only due to the activity of the tested agents.



257

258 **Figure 2.** Brine shrimp lethality for methanol extracts of leaves of *Trema orientalis* and
 259 vincristine sulphate from linear correlation between log concentrations versus % mortality.

260

261 **Table 2.** The cytotoxicity of methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* leaves and vincristine
 262 sulphate on brine shrimp nauplii.

263

Sample	LC ₅₀ (µg/mL)	Regression equation	R ²
Plant extract	170.215	y=29.851x + (-16.592)	0.785
Vincristine sulphate	2.477	y=33.004x+36.976	0.838

264

265 **4. Discussion**

266 Infectious diseases are among the second leading causes of death worldwide. Recently, the
 267 emergence of antibiotic-resistant infection are rising very rapidly, are major threat to human
 268 health as well as economic burden on country’s healthcare system, patients and families. The
 269 effectiveness of many conventional antibiotics is being endangered by the rapid emergence of

270 microbial resistance to current therapeutic agents because of their overuse, misuse, and a lack
271 of new drug development by the pharmaceutical industry [30-34]. The peoples who live in
272 low-income and developing countries are deprived of the advantages of modern medicine
273 because of its high cost; hence, poor people are more vulnerable to infectious diseases. They
274 are also in high risk of health hazards due to food hazards include microbial hazards,
275 pesticide residues, misuse of additives, chemical contaminants, including biological toxins
276 and adulteration [35]. Moreover, co-infection with multiple diseases is an obstacle to
277 infection prevention and treatment. Scientists are searching for more effective medications to
278 meet such challenges of infectious diseases [4, 30]. For all these reasons, there is an urgent
279 need to identify new, safe and cost-effective antimicrobial agents which would help to
280 alleviate the problems of infectious diseases. Plant-derived natural secondary metabolites
281 represent a potential source of antimicrobial agents because they are natural; have fewer side
282 effects and affordable especially to low-income peoples of rural society [36]. Acceptance of
283 medicines from natural plant product as an alternative form of healthcare system is increasing
284 because they are serving as promising sources of novel antibiotic prototype. Medicinal plant
285 contain a large variety of chemical substances which have different mode of action than
286 conventional drug and could be of clinical importance to improve health care [37, 38]. In
287 developing countries, most of the people live in rural areas almost exclusively use traditional
288 medicines to treat many diseases. Therefore, we investigated the *Trema orientalis* leaves for
289 its antibacterial and cytotoxic activities. The present study showed that the methanol extract
290 of *Trema orientalis* leaves at a concentration of 400 µg/disc has potent antibacterial activity
291 against some human pathogenic bacteria. The ability of plant extract to kill or inhibit
292 pathogenic bacterial growth indicates the presence of some active compounds which have
293 antibacterial activity.

294

295 Since the methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* is found to exhibit anti-bacterial activity, the
296 magnitude of toxicity of *Trema orientalis* extract is safe or acceptable at the therapeutic doses
297 must be considered. Plant samples with a lower LC₅₀ value are considered more toxic in
298 nature. Extracts are considered non-toxic if the LC₅₀ is greater than 100 µg/mL in the brine
299 shrimp lethality assay [6]. Therefore cytotoxic assay was conducted in this study to determine
300 the toxicity profile of methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* through the brine shrimp
301 lethality bioassay. Results of brine shrimp cytotoxicity were shown in Table 2, where the
302 LC₅₀ value is 170.215 µg/mL. This indicates that methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* is not
303 toxic for host and can be a good source of potential antibacterial agents. It has been reported
304 that crude methanol and a aqueous root extracts of *T. orientalis* has anti-bacterial activity
305 against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. However, to the best of our knowledge,
306 no detailed scientific proof for anti-bacterial and cytotoxic activities of leaves of *Trema*
307 *orientalis* available yet for further using this plant for the development of potential new drugs
308 or use in a more effective form. It has been well documented that the antimicrobial
309 compounds are abundantly present in medicinal plants [39, 40]. The antimicrobial activities
310 we showed in this study may be due to the combined effects of tannins, saponins,
311 flavonoids, triterpenoid, phytosterols and several constituents of xanthones present in this
312 plant. Methanol is a polar solvent is able to extract more of the extractives than other non-
313 polar solvents (petroleum ether, chloroform) and aqueous. The result of this work however
314 agrees with the findings of many researches, which showed that the methanol extract of plant
315 product was active against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Sarcina lutea*, *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella*
316 *typhi*, *Shigella dysenteriae* and *Proteus vulgaris* [41,42]. The results of the minimum
317 inhibitory concentration showed that the methanol extract of *Trema orientalis* leaves have
318 potent bactericidal properties against the tested organisms except *Xanthomonas campestris*
319 and *Pseudomonas denitrificans*. In comparison with commercial antibiotics, the significant

320 antibacterial activity was observed from the extract. It is noticeable that *Salmonella typhi*
321 showed antibiotic resistance against all the tested commercial antibiotics but *Trema orientalis*
322 leaves extract showed potent inhibitory effect against *Salmonella typhi* with MIC values of
323 1.25 mg/mL indicate the necessity of natural plant products to combat against growing
324 resistance of bacteria. The antibacterial activity is believed to be due to the presence of
325 secondary metabolites. The findings of this study indicates that the extract could be used
326 against infections caused by the tested bacteria and showed a good correlation between the
327 reported use of *Trema orientalis* in traditional medicine against infectious diseases.

328

329 **5. Conclusion**

330 The findings of present study has revealed that the methanol extract of *Trema orientalis*
331 leaves has great antibacterial potentiality due to the presence of the compounds with high
332 antibacterial properties that can be a source of natural antibacterial agents in developing new
333 drugs as an alternative to synthetic bactericides. The cytotoxic activity exhibited by the plant
334 leaves was within the permissible limit. Isolation and characterization of the active
335 compounds could lead to a better understanding of the antibacterial mechanism for potential
336 drug candidates for the infectious diseases in future.

337 **References**

- 338 1. Assob JCN, Kamga HLF, Nsagha DS, Njunda AL, Nde PF, Asongalem EA, et
339 al. Antimicrobial and toxicological activities of five medicinal plant species
340 from Cameroon traditional medicine. BMC Complement Altern Med. 2011;
341 11: 70. doi:10.1186/1472-6882-11-70.
- 342 2. Olajuyigbe OO, Afolayan AJ. Synergistic Interactions of methanolic extract of
343 *Acacia mearnsii* de Wild. with antibiotics against bacteria of clinical
344 relevance. Int J Mol Sci. 2012; 13(7): 8915-8932.

- 345 3. Ahameethunisa Ar, Hoper W. Antibacterial activity of *Artemisia nilagirica*
346 extract against clinical and phytopathogenic bacteria. *BMC Complement*
347 *Altern Med.* 2010; 10:6. doi:10.1186/1472-6882-10-6.
- 348 4. Spellberg B, Gilbert DN. The future of antibiotics and resistance: a tribute to a
349 career of leadership by John Bartlett. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2014; 59(S2):S71–S75.
- 350 5. Gould IM, Bal AM. New antibiotic agents in the pipeline and how they can
351 overcome microbial resistance. *Virulence* 2013;4(2):185-191.
- 352 6. Wright GD. Something new: revisiting natural products in antibiotic drug
353 discovery. *Can J. Microbiol.* 2014;60(3):147-154.
- 354 7. Sengupta S, Chattopadhyay MK, Grossart HP. The multifaceted roles of
355 antibiotics and antibiotic resistance in nature. *Front Microbiol* 2013;4:47. doi:
356 10.3389/fmicb.2013.00047.
- 357 8. Londonkar RL, Madire Kattougouga U, Shivsharanappa K, Hanchinalmath JV:
358 Phytochemical screening and in vitro antimicrobial activity of *Typha*
359 *angustifolia* Linn leaves extract against pathogenic gram negative
360 microorganisms. *J Pharm Res* 2013, 6(2):280–283.
- 361 9. Bibi Y, Nisa S, Chaudhary FM, Zia M. Antibacterial activity of some
362 selected medicinal plants of Pakistan. *BMC Complement Altern Med* 2011,
363 11:52. doi:10.1186/1472-6882-11-52.
- 364 10. Maiyo ZC, Ngure RM, Matasyoh JC, Chepkorir R: Phytochemical
365 constituents and antimicrobial activity of extracts of three *Amaranthus* plant
366 species. *Afr J Biotechnol* 2010; 9(21):3178-3182.
- 367 11. Lalrinzuali K, Vabeiryureilai M, Jagetia GC. Investigation of the anti-
368 inflammatory and analgesic activities of ethanol extract of stem bark of

- 369 *Sonapatha Oroxylum indicum* in vivo. Int J Inflam. 2016.
370 doi.org/10.1155/2016/8247014.
- 371 12. Adinortey MB, Galyuon IK, Asamoah NO. *Trema orientalis* Linn. Blume: A
372 potential for prospecting for drugs for various uses. Pharmacogn Rev. 2013;
373 7(13): 67-72.
- 374 13. Natural resources and the human environment for food and agriculture in
375 Africa, FAO Environment and Energy Paper 1986;6:88.
- 376 14. Coates PK. Trees of Southern Africa. 1st ed. Cape Town, Johannesburg: C.
377 Struik Publishers; 1977.
- 378 15. Watt JM, Breyer-Brandwijk MG. The Medicinal and Poisonous Plants of
379 Southern and Eastern Africa. 2nd ed. London: Livingstone; 1962; 982-7.
- 380 16. Akendengue J. Entheogenic drugs, their plant sources and history. J
381 Ethnopharmacol 1992;37:165.
- 382 17. Githens TS. Drug plants of Africa. African Handbooks. University of
383 Pennsylvania Press, Lancaster Press, Lancaster, United States 1948; 8:125.
- 384 18. Ayensu ES. Medicinal plants of West Africa. Nordic J Bot 1978; 4:1-3.
- 385 19. Rasoanaivo P, Petitjean A, Ratsimamanga-Urverg S and Rakoto-Ratsimamanga
386 A. Medicinal plants used to treat malaria in Madagascar. J Ethnopharmacol
387 1992;37:117-27.
- 388 20. Bhat RB, Ttejere EO, Oladipo VI. Ethnobotanical studies from Central
389 Nigeria. Econ Bot 1990;44:382-90.
- 390 21. Hines DA, Eckman K. Indigenous multipurpose trees for Tanzania: Uses and
391 economic benefits to the people, Cultural Survival Canada and Development
392 Services Foundation of Tanzania; Ottawa Ontario Canada 1993; 26-27.

- 393 22. Dimo T, Ngueguim FT, Kamtchouing P, Dongo E, Tan PV. Glucose lowering
394 efficacy of the aqueous stem bark extract of *Trema orientalis* (Linn.) Blume in
395 normal and streptozotocin diabetic rats. *Pharmazie* 2006; 61:233-6.
- 396 23. N'guessan K, TiebreM-S, Ake-Assi E and Zirihi GN. Ethnobotanical study of
397 plants used to treat arterial hypertension, in traditional medicine, by Abbey and
398 Krobou populations of agboville (Cote-d'Ivoire). *Eur J Sci Res* 2009;35:85-8.
- 399 24. Panchal HS, Master SM, Shah UD, Saluja AK, Dholwani KK. Anti-
400 convulsion activity of of *Trema orientalis*. *Int J Pharm Res* 2010; 2:53-5.
- 401 25. Bauer AW, Kirby WMM, Sherris JC, Turck M. Antibiotic susceptibility
402 testing by a standardized single disk method. *Am J Clin Pathol* 1966;
403 45(4):493-6.
- 404 26. Rahman MM, Rahman MM, Akhter S, Jamal MAHM, Pandeya DR, Haque
405 MA, et al. Control of coliform bacteria detected from diarrhea associated
406 patients by extracts of *Moringa oleifera*. *Nepal Med Coll J* 2010; 12(1): 12-
407 19.
- 408 27. Chandrasekaran M, Venkatesalu V. Antibacterial and antifungal activity of
409 *Syzygium jambolanum* seeds. *J Ethno pharmacol* 2004; 91: 105-108.
- 410 28. Meyer BN, Ferrigni NA, Putnam JE, Jacobsen LB, Nichols DE, McLaughlin
411 JL. Brine Shrimp: A Convenient General Bioassay for Active Plant
412 Constituents. *J. Med. Plants Res.* 1982; 45:31-34.
- 413 29. Naz R, Ayub H, Nawaz S, Islam ZU, Yasmin T, Bano A, et al. Antimicrobial
414 activity, toxicity and anti-inflammatory potential of methanolic extracts of
415 four ethnomedicinal plant species from Punjab, Pakistan. *BMC Complement*
416 *Altern Med* 2017;17:302. doi:10.1186/s12906-017-1815-z.

- 417 30. Gould IM, Bal AM. New antibiotic agents in the pipeline and how they can
418 overcome microbial resistance. *Virulence* 2013; 4(2):185–191.
- 419 31. Sengupta S, Chattopadhyay MK, Grossart HP. The multifaceted roles of
420 antibiotics and antibiotic resistance in nature. *Front Microbiol* 2013;4:47.
- 421 32. Read AF, Woods RJ. Antibiotic resistance management. *Evol Med Public*
422 *Health* 2014;2014(1):147.
- 423 33. Lushniak BD. Antibiotic resistance: a public health crisis. *Public Health Rep*
424 2014;129(4):314-316.
- 425 34. Piddock LJ. The crisis of no new antibiotics-what is the way forward? *Lancet*
426 *Infect Dis* 2012;12(3):249-253.
- 427 35. Nasreen S, Ahmed T. Food Adulteration and Consumer Awareness in Dhaka
428 City, 1995-2011. *J Health, Population and Nutrition*. 2014; 32(3):452-464.
- 429 36. Ghosh A, Das BK, Roy A, Mandal B, Chandra G. Antibacterial activity of
430 some medicinal plant extracts. *J Nat Med* 2008; 62(2):259-62.
- 431 37. Koduru S, Grierson DS, Afolayan AJ. Antimicrobial activity of *Solanum*
432 *aculeastrum*. *Pharm Biol* 2006; 44:283-286.
- 433 38. Okeke MI, Iroegbu CU, Eze EN, Okoli AS, Esimone CO. Evaluation of
434 extracts of the root of *Landolphia owerrience* for antibacterial activity. *J*
435 *Ethnopharmacol* 2001; 78:119-127.
- 436 39. Londonkar RL, Kattougou UM, Shivsharanappa K, Hanchinalmath JV. *J*
437 *Pharm Res* 2013; 6:280-283.
- 438 40. Kuete V. Potential of Cameroonian plants and derived products against microbial
439 infections: a review. *Planta Med*. 2010;76:1479–91.

- 440 41. Islam R, Rahman MS and Rahman SM. GC-MS analysis and antibacterial
441 activity of *Cuscuta reflexa* against bacterial pathogens. Asian Pac J Trop Dis
442 2015; 5(5): 399-403.
- 443 42. Alim S, Bairagi N, Shahriyar S, Kabir MM, Rahman MH. *In vitro*
444 antibacterial potential of *Bixa orellana* L. against some pathogenic bacteria
445 and comparative investigation on some standard antibiotics. J Pharmacogn
446 Phytochem 2016; 5(2): 178-181.