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## SCREENING OF ANTI-BACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF BROWN SEAWEEDS FROM SOUTH EAST COAST OF INDIA

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### Keywords:

Gram-positive, Gram-negative bacteria, Brown seaweeds, Solvents, GC-MS compounds

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**ABSTRACT:** Three different species of seaweeds collected from south east coast of India such as *Sargassum plagiophyllum*, *Padina gymnospora* and *Turbinaria conoides* for evaluating anti-bacterial activity against selected gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. Extracts prepared using solvents namely hexane, ethyl acetate, methanol, and water against human pathogenic strains of *Proteus vulgaris*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Enterobacter aerogenes*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Shigella flexneri*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Bacillus subtilis*. Gram-negative bacteria showed a lesser zone of inhibition than gram-positive bacteria with various extracts tested. All the three solvent extracts of *Turbinaria conoides* showed, zone of inhibition for the gram-positive bacteria, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* over the standard control, with a significant zone in hexane extract. Analysis of GC-MS of *Turbinaria conoides* hexane extract revealed 14 major and numerous minor phytochemical compounds that have to be fractionated and explored for specific anti-bacterial activity in order to isolate a potential anti-bacterial compound.

**INTRODUCTION:** Marine seaweeds produce an assorted collection of compounds that helps as a chemical defense system that facilitating their survival in extremely viable environments. Some of them used as fertilizers, medicines, and dietary chemicals <sup>1</sup>. Chemicals such as carbohydrates and proteins are vital for maintaining life processes, while others like alkaloids, phenolic and steroids are secondary metabolites, which have toxicological, pharmacological, and ecological significance <sup>2</sup>.

They considered as a source of bioactive compounds, since they produce a great variety of secondary metabolites with broad spectrum of biological activities, which possess pharmaceuticals, industrial, agricultural and bio-technological applications <sup>3, 4</sup>. Compounds with antioxidant, antiviral, antifungal, and antimicrobial activities have been isolated from various groups of brown, red, and green algae <sup>5, 6, 7</sup>.

Epidemiological evidence suggests regular seaweed consumption may protect against a range of diseases of novelty. Extracts of marine algae are likely to exhibit potent anti-bacterial activity, which used as a potent anti-microbial agent <sup>8</sup>. More precisely, Southeast coast of India has an enormous amount of Chlorophyceae, Rhodophyceae, and Phaeophyceae seaweeds, which has anti-bacterial property <sup>9</sup>.

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Understanding the commercial value and therapeutic usage of these compound would create a solution to various clinical and public health problems caused due to antibiotic resistance and multi-resistant bacteria, which are difficult and sometimes impossible to treat<sup>10</sup>. Hence, the current study aimed to investigate the antimicrobial activities of brown marine macroalgae (*Turbinaria conoides*, *Padina gymnospora*, and *Sargassum plagiophyllum*) collected from coastal waters of Gulf of Mannar Coast of Indian Subcontinent.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS:

**Collection of Seaweeds:** Seaweeds were collected by handpicking from Gulf of Mannar, South Indian coastal region of India which lies between 8° 47' to 9° 15' N latitude and 78° 12' to 79° 14' E longitude. The samples collected in the month of November 2017 to February 2018. They were washed with marine water thoroughly to remove epiphytes and debris and then with running water and rinsed with sterile water and was stored at room temperature until analysis. The collected seaweeds were identified in the Center for Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam, Tamil Nadu, and India. The identified species of seaweeds such as *Turbinaria conoides*, *Padina gymnospora* and *Sargassum plagiophyllum* screened for the evaluation of their antibacterial efficacy.

**Selective Micro-organisms for Screening:** The MTCC strains of *Proteus vulgaris* 1771, *Staphylococcus aureus* 96, *Klebsiella pneumonia* 109, *Enterobacter aerogenes* 111 and *Salmonella typhimurium* 1251, *Yersinia pestis* 840, *Shigella flexneri* 1457, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* 3615 and *Bacillus subtilis* 441 were obtained from CSIR Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh.

**Preparation of Crude Seaweed Extract:** The seaweeds were shade dried for 5-15 days, and the dried pieces were ground into powder by using electrical grinder. 100 g of powdered seaweeds were mixed with 300 ml of different solvents, i.e., hexane (polarity index -0.1), ethyl acetate (polarity index-4.4), methanol (polarity index -10.2) and placed on rotary shaker at 100 rpm. The extracts then filtered using 11-µm pore size of Whatman no.1 filter paper. Then the extracts were concentrated using a rotary evaporator (Buchi-

R420) at 40 °C under reduced pressure. Finally, the crude extracts weighed and stored at -20 °C until use. The extraction of aqueous fraction was by lyophilization from the dried powder.

**Determination of Antimicrobial Activity:** The antimicrobial activity was determined by agar well diffusion method, according to National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS). Briefly, Mueller-Hinton agar (Hi-Media, India) plates swabbed with inoculums containing 10<sup>8</sup> CFU /ml of each bacterial culture and inoculated with standardized inoculums of the test microorganism with sterile effusion. Wells of 10 mm in diameter punched into the seeded MH agar plates.

Different concentrations (150 mg/ml and 200 mg/ml) of crude extracts were prepared using 2% dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO) for the analysis of the antibacterial activity against the bacterial pathogens 100 µl of each extract, which has a final concentration of 3 mg / 20 µl and 4 mg / 20 µl was loaded along with DMSO into the well for standard diffusion. Streptomycin disc (Hi-Media, India) acts as a positive control, and the plates were incubated in triplicates at 37 °C for 24 h. The diameter of the inhibition zone (mm) measured, and the activity index was calculated. DMSO acts as a negative control for all the experiments.

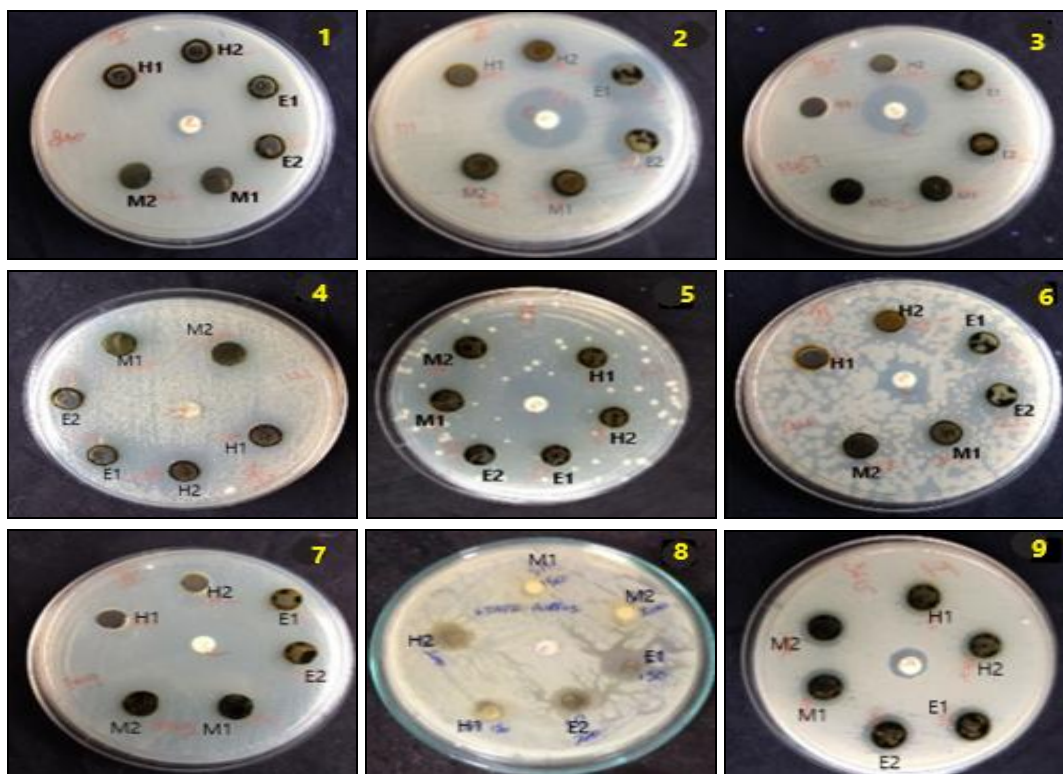
**Determination of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration:** MIC performed was by a serial dilution technique using 96-well microliter plates<sup>11</sup>. The extracts of the test samples were diluted with DMSO in different concentrations viz., 20, 50, 100, 150, 200 mg/ml. and were allow diffusing thoroughly. Absorbance reading at 600 nm was determined after incubation for 18 h at 37 °C using a UV-1800 spectrophotometer.

**RESULTS:** The antimicrobial activities of the three species of seaweeds were calculated according to their zone of inhibition against various pathogens.

The activity of crude extract of *Sargassum plagiophyllum* against various microbes revealed that a zone of inhibition in ethyl acetate solvent extract against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Shigella flexneri*, and *Bacillus subtilis*.

Whereas, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Proteus vulgaris* showed a zone of inhibition against hexane extraction in addition to ethyl acetate extract, on the contrary, *Enterobacter aerogenes* showed activity only against hexane extract of *Sargassum plagiophyllum*. The crude extract of *Sargassum plagiophyllum* was not effective against

*Salmonella typhimurium*, and *Yersinia pestis* of all the extracts tested ethyl acetate extract of *Sargassum plagiophyllum* showed higher zone of inhibition activity only against *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Proteus vulgaris*, and *Bacillus subtilis* when compared to control in **Fig. 1** and **Table 1**.



**FIG. 1: PATHOGENIC ACTIVITY OF SARGASSUM PLAGIOPHYLLUM** 1. *Yersinia pestis* 840; 2. *Enterobacter aerogenes* 111; 3. *Shigella flexneri* 1457; 4. *Proteus vulgaris* 1771; 5. *Salmonella typhimurium* 1251; 6. *Bacillus subtilis* 441; 7. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* 109; 8. *Staphylococcus aureus* 96; 9. *Staphylococcus epidermidis* 3615

**TABLE 1: PATHOGENIC ACTIVITY OF SARGASSUM PLAGIOPHYLLUM**

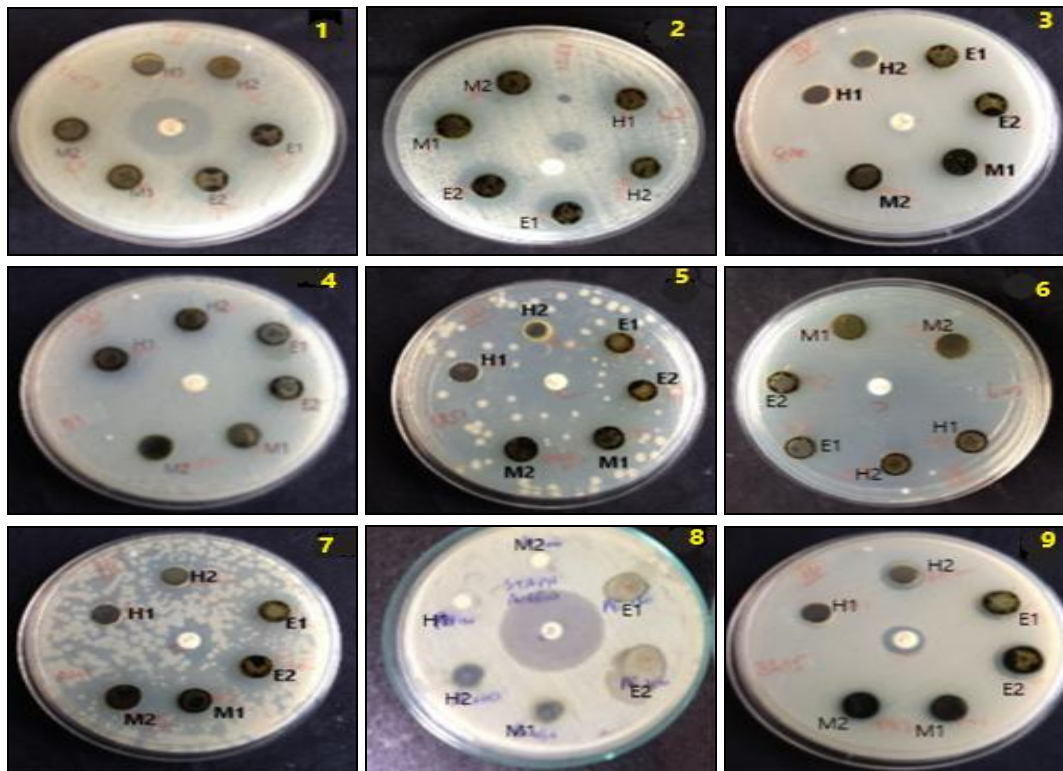
Crude extract	Pathogens	H1 150 mg/ml	H2 200 mg/ml	E 150 mg/ml	E2 200 mg/ml	M1 150 mg/ml	M2 200 mg/ml	Aqueous 150 200 mg/ml	Contro 1 10 mg
<i>Sargassum plagiophyllum</i>	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> 1251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> 96	15 ± 0.25	20 ± 0.25	11 ± 0.24	16 ± 0.27	-	-	-	25
	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> 3615	-	-	12 ± 0.26	15 ± 0.27	-	-	-	13
	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i> 111	10 ± 0.25	11 ± 0.27	-	-	-	-	-	13
	<i>Yersinia pestis</i> 840	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> 109	-	-	11 ± 0.25	14 ± 0.27	-	-	-	20
	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> 1771	-	11 ± 0.26	13 ± 0.25	17 ± 0.24	-	-	-	15
	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> 1457	-	-	11 ± 0.26	15 ± 0.24	-	-	-	20
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> 441	-	-	11 ± 0.27	16 ± 0.24	-	-	-	14

H1, H2 - Hexane, E1, E2 - Ethyl acetate, M1, M2 - Methanol, 1 (150 mg/ml), 2 (200 mg/ml)



Ethyl acetate extract of *Padina gymnospora* showed activity against *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Shigella flexneri*, *Enterobacteria aerogenes*, *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Klebsiella pneumonia*, whereas it fails to show the activity in all the other

solvents tested of these results, the higher zone of inhibition was against *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Proteus vulgaris*, and *Bacillus subtilis* when compared to control, whereas *Yersinia pestis* does not show any zone of inhibition against any of the solvents tested in **Fig. 2** and **Table 2**.



**FIG. 2: PATHOGENIC ACTIVITY OF PADINA GYMNOSPORA** 1. *Yersinia pestis* 840; 2. *Enterobacter aerogenes* 111; 3. *Shigella flexneri* 1457; 4. *Proteus vulgaris* 1771; 5. *Salmonella typhimurium* 1251; 6. *Bacillus subtilis* 441; 7. *Klebsiella pneumonia* 109; 8. *Staphylococcus aureus* 96; 9. *Staphylococcus epidermidis* 3615

**TABLE 2: PATHOGENIC ACTIVITY OF PADINA GYMNOSPORA**

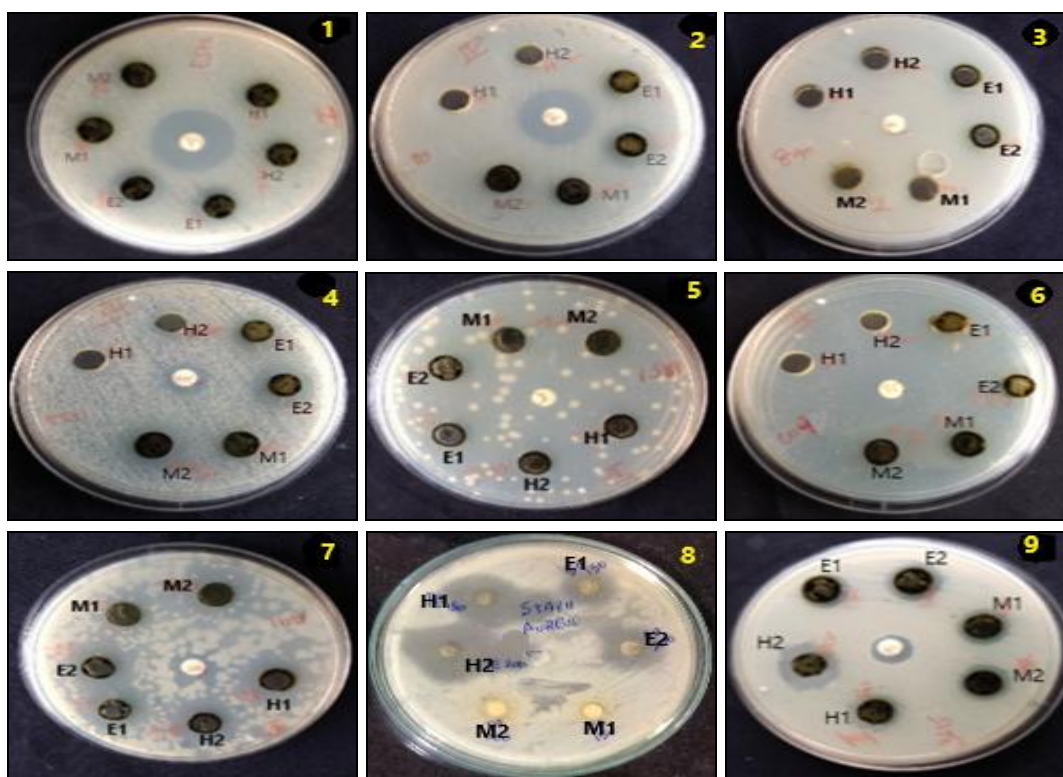
Crude extract	Pathogens	H1 150 mg/ml	H2 200 mg/ml	E1 150 mg/ml	E2 200 mg/ml	M1 150 mg/ml	M2 200 mg/ml	Aqueous 150 200 mg/ml	Control 10 mg
<i>Padina gymnospora</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> 96	11 ± 25	13 ± 24	-	-	-	-	-	14
	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> 3615	-	-	11 ± 0.27	14 ± 0.25	-	-	-	13
	<i>Yersinia pestis</i> 840	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> 1771	-	-	13 ± 0.27	17 ± 0.24	-	-	-	15
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> 441	-	-	11 ± 0.26	16 ± 0.27	-	-	-	15
	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> 1457	-	-	11 ± 0.25	16 ± 0.28	-	-	-	20
	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i> 111	-	-	12 ± 0.27	16 ± 0.23	-	-	-	16
	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> 1251	-	-	11 ± 0.27	15 ± 0.26	-	-	-	16
	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> 109	-	-	9 ± 0.26	13 ± 0.26	-	-	-	20

H1, H2 - Hexane, E1, E2 - Ethyl acetate, M1, M2 - Methanol, 1 (150 mg/ml), 2 (200 mg/ml)

Pathogenic activity of crude extract of *Turbinaria conoides* showed very significant against *Staphylococcus pidermidis* for hexane, ethyl acetate and methanol extracts, of which 200 mg/ml of hexane, ethyl acetate and methanol extract showed very high zone of inhibition of  $17 \pm 0.24$ ,  $15 \pm 0.27$  and  $13 \pm 0.28$  respectively when compared to control. A maximum zone of inhibition of about  $17 \pm 0.24$  mm recorded for

hexane solvent extract when compared to the control (12 mm).

Gram-negative bacteria like *Enterobacter aerogenes*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Proteus vulgaris* and *Shigella flexneri* failed to show any zone of inhibition against various solvents tested, but *Klebsiella pneumoniae* shows the zone of inhibition against hexane extract.



**FIG. 3: PATHOGENIC ACTIVITY OF *TURBINARIA CONOIDES*** 1. *Yersinia pestis* 840; 2. *Enterobacter aerogenes* 111; 3. *Shigella flexneri* 1457; 4. *Proteus vulgaris* 1771; 5. *Salmonella typhimurium* 1251; 6. *Bacillus subtilis* 441; 7. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* 109; 8. *Staphylococcus aureus* 96; 9. *Staphylococcus epidermidis* 3615

**TABLE 3: PATHOGENIC ACTIVITY OF *TURBINARIA CONOIDES***

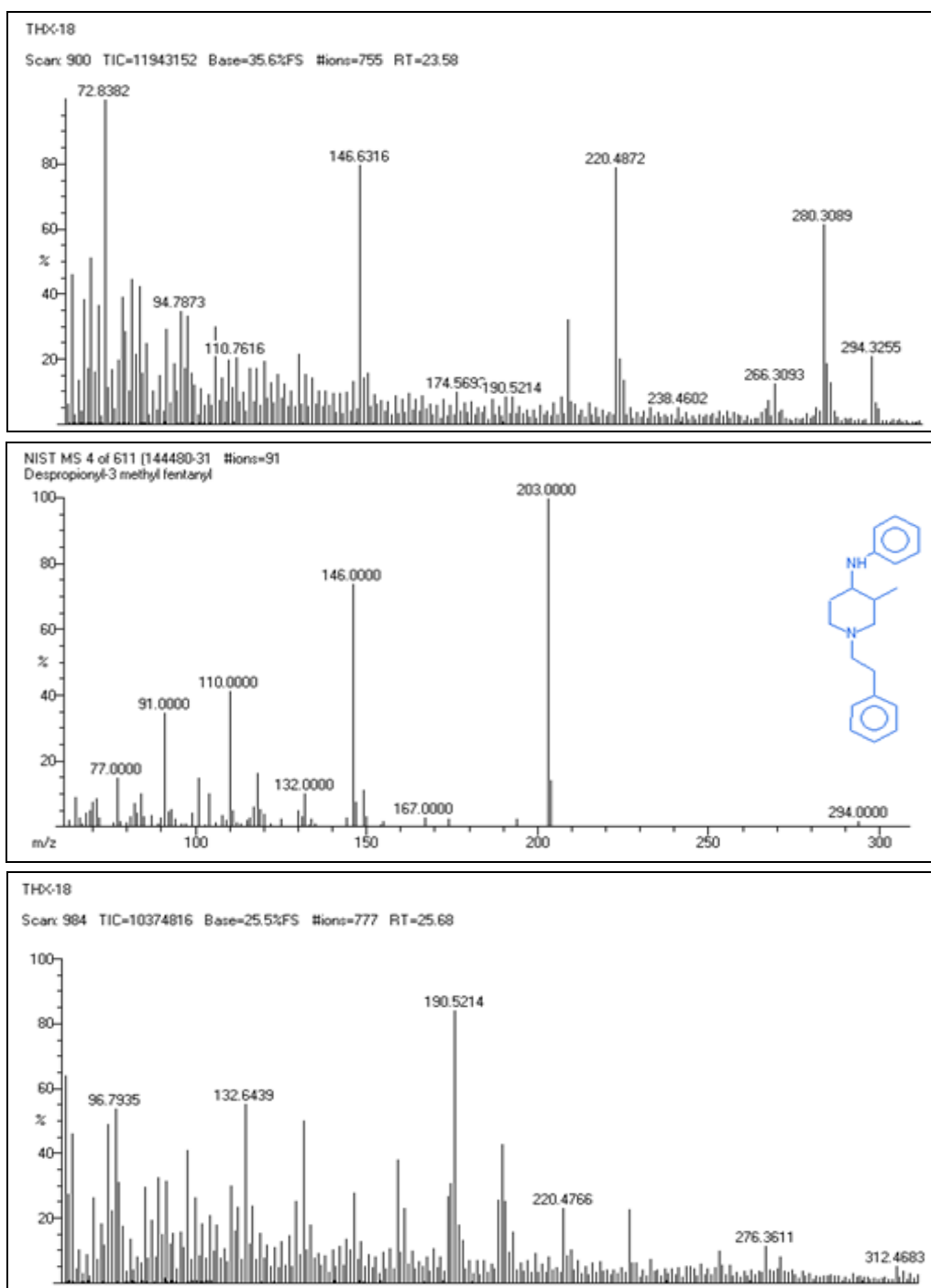
Crude extract	Pathogens	H1 150 mg/ml	H2 200 mg/ml	E1 150 mg/ml	E2 200 mg/ml	M1 150 mg/ml	M2 200 mg/ml	Aqueous 150 200 mg/ml	Control 10 mg
<i>Turbinaria conoides</i>	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i> 111	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> 109	$11 \pm 0.28$	$15 \pm 0.25$	-	-	-	-	-	19
	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> 96	$22 \pm 0.26$	$29 \pm 0.25$	$18 \pm 0.23$	$24 \pm 0.26$	-	-	-	25
	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> 1251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> 3615	$15 \pm 0.26$	$17 \pm 0.24$	$14 \pm 0.26$	$15 \pm 0.27$	$9 \pm 0.25$	$13 \pm 0.28$	-	12
	<i>Yersinia pestis</i> 840	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> 1771	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> 1457	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> 441	-	-	$11 \pm 0.24$	$16 \pm 0.25$	-	-	-	14

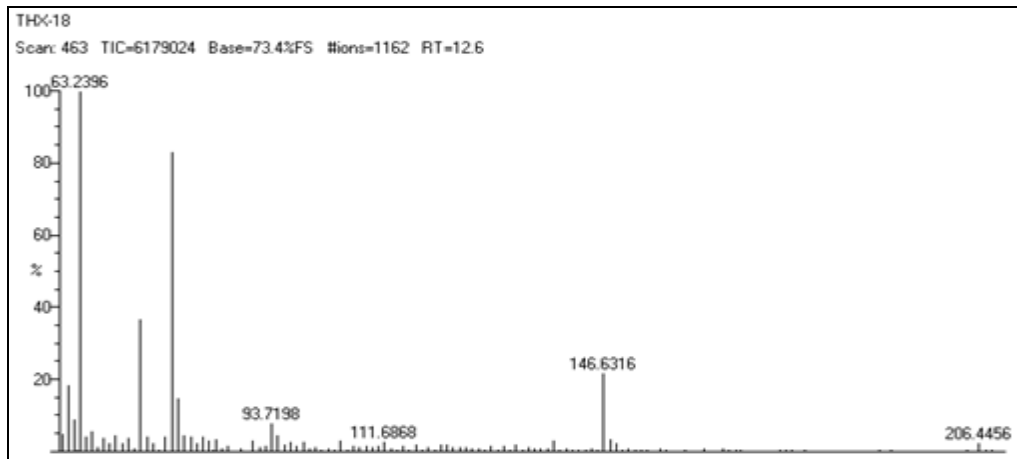
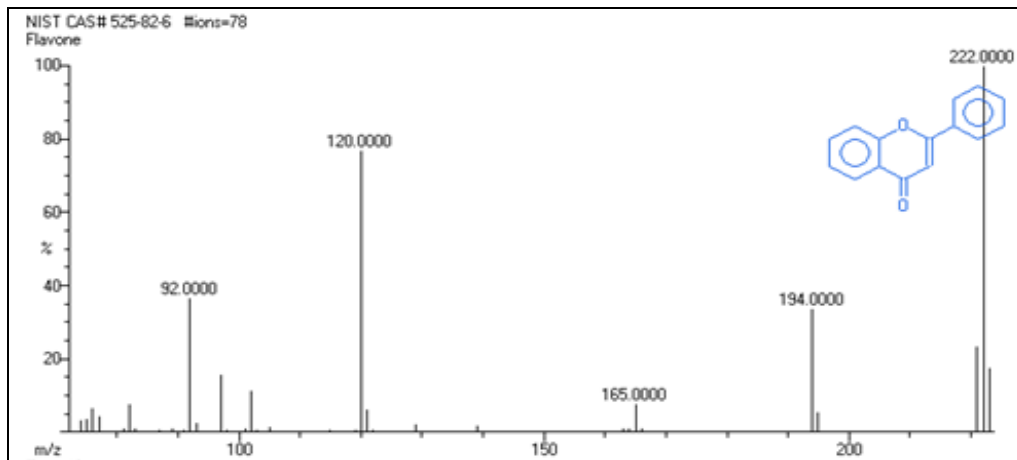
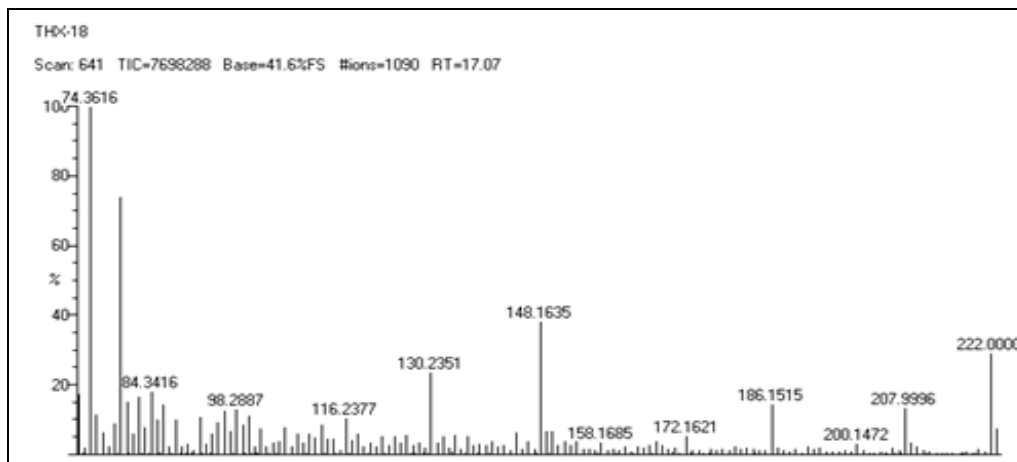
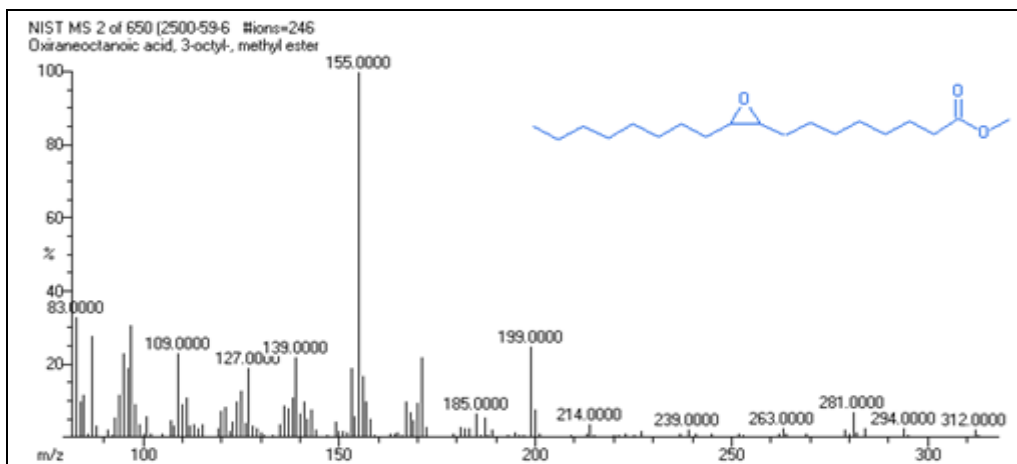
H1, H2 - Hexane, E1, E2 - Ethyl acetate, M1, M2 - Methanol, 1 (150 mg/ml), 2 (200 mg/ml)

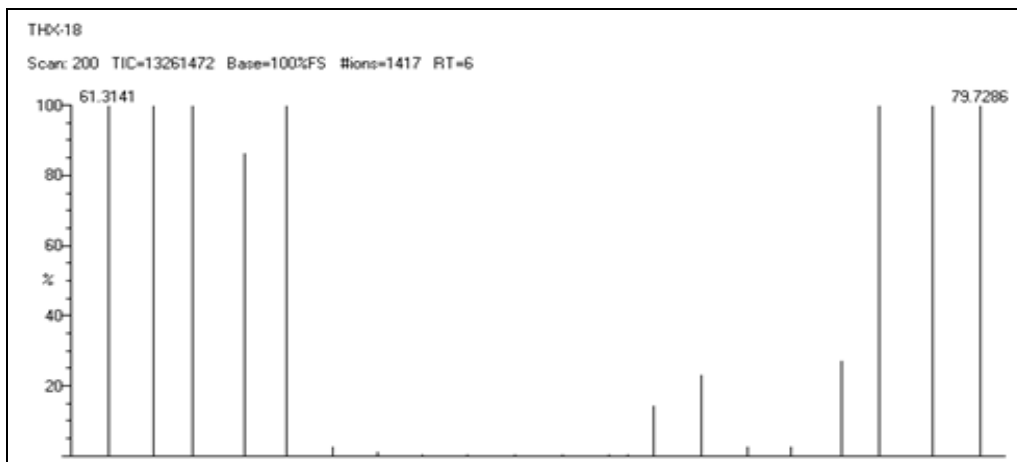
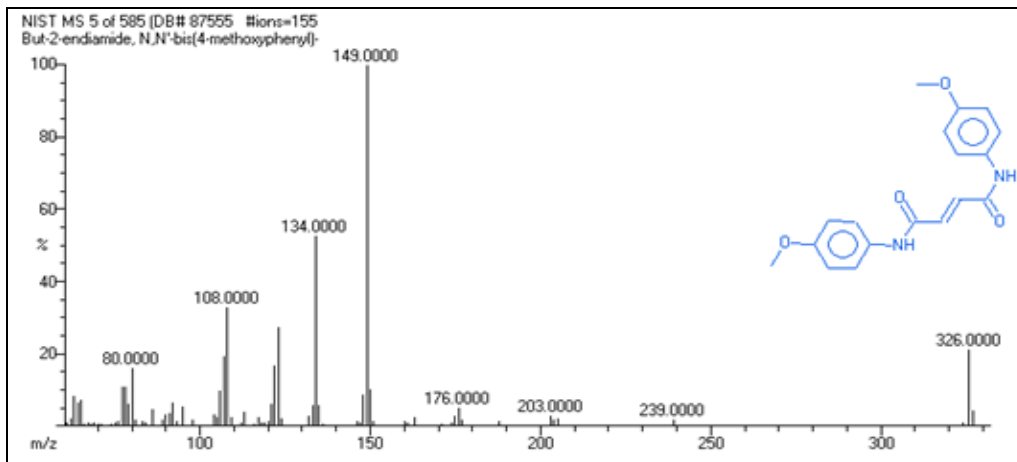
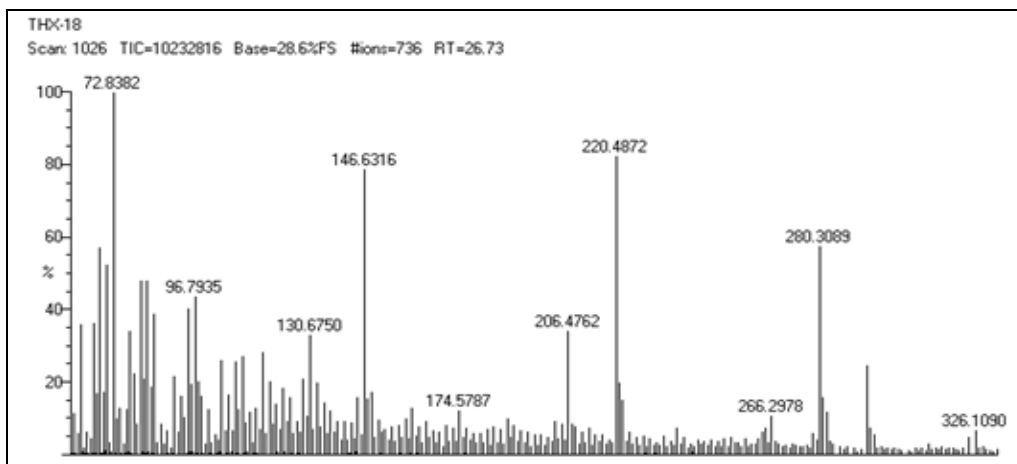
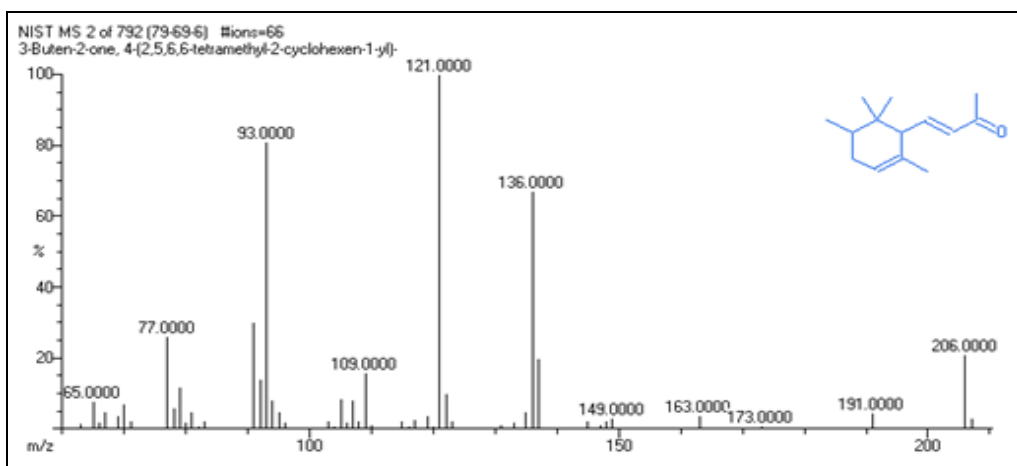
Gram-positive bacteria, *Bacillus subtilis* showed the zone in ethyl acetate solvent alone, but *Staphylococcus aureus* showed the zone of inhibition both in hexane and in ethyl acetate solvents, where the zone of inhibition was high in hexane solvent ( $29 \pm 0.25$  mm) **Fig. 3** and **Table 3**. Aqueous extracts of all the three species of seaweeds *Sargassum plagiophyllum*, *Padina gymnospora*, *Turbinaria conoides*, shows no zone of inhibition in all the three gram-positive and six gram-negative bacteria. Among the three species of seaweeds, *Turbinaria conoides* showed the

maximum zone of inhibition. The chromatogram is showing the GC-MS profile of crude hexane extract of *Turbinaria conoides* **Fig. 4**, which shows 14 major compounds with numerous minor compounds.

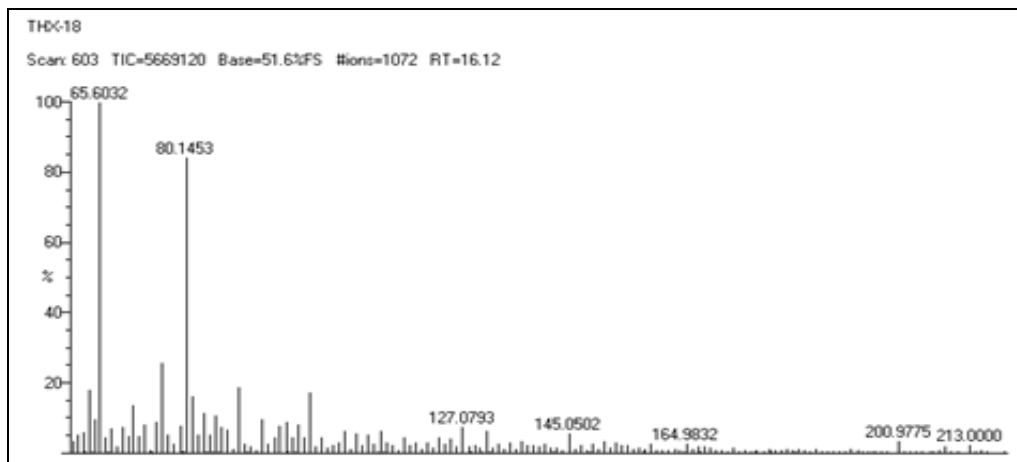
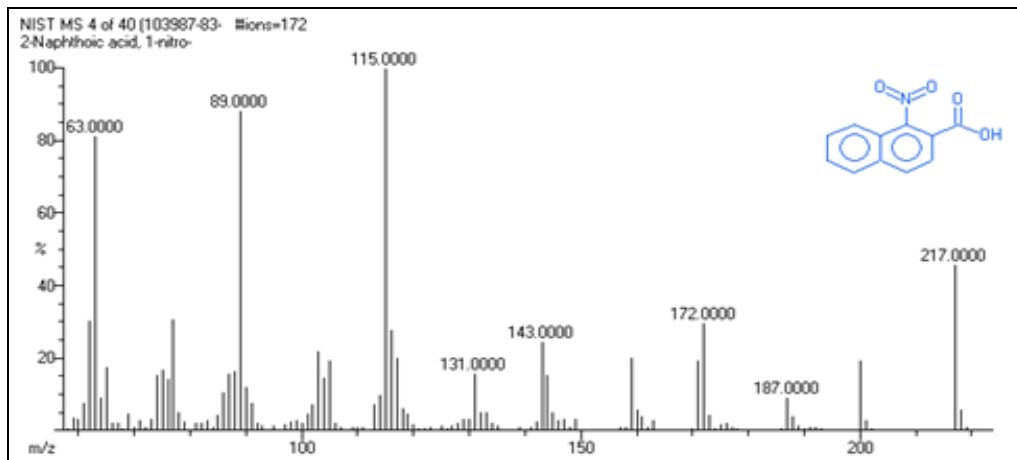
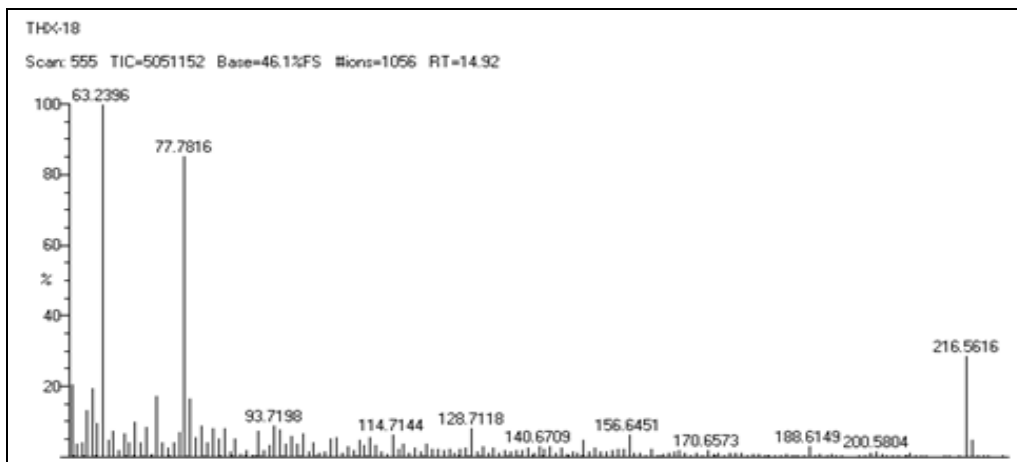
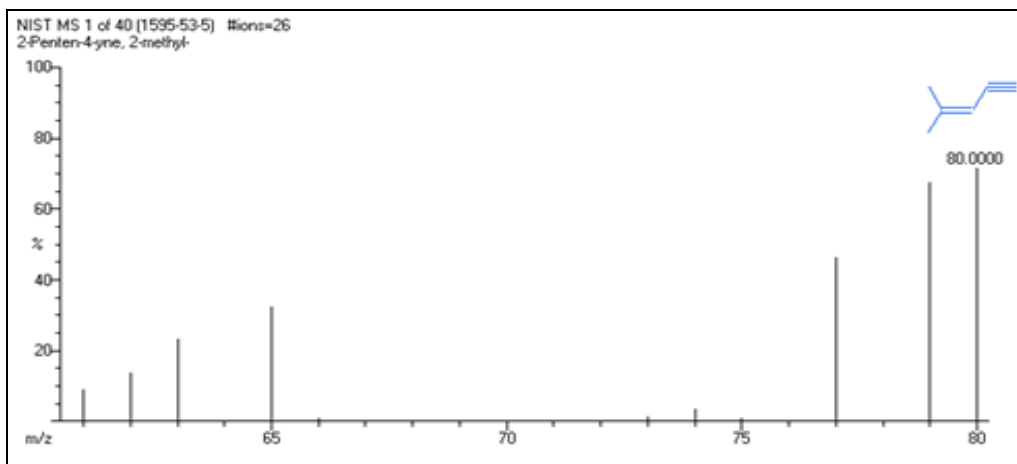
The various phytochemical components were compared with the spectra of known compounds stored in the NIST library by the peak area, molecular weight, molecular formula, chemical structure, and retention time (RT) in **Table 4**.

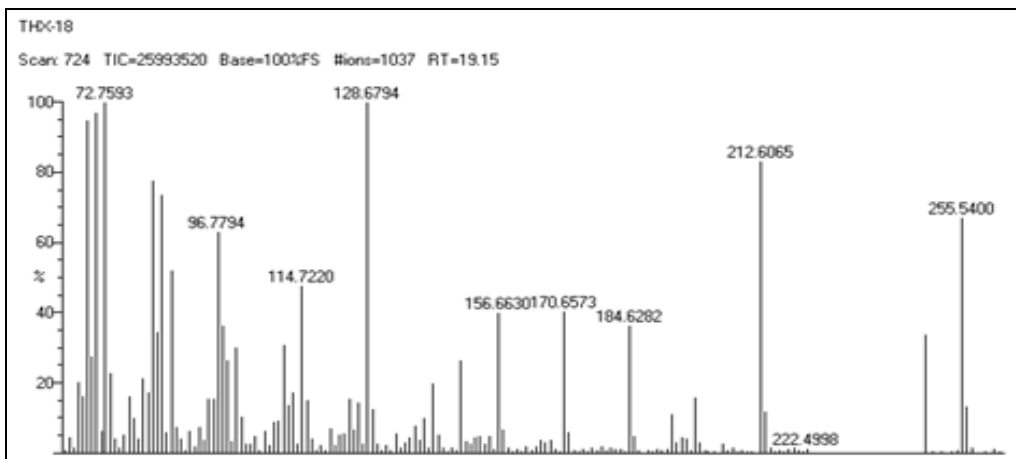
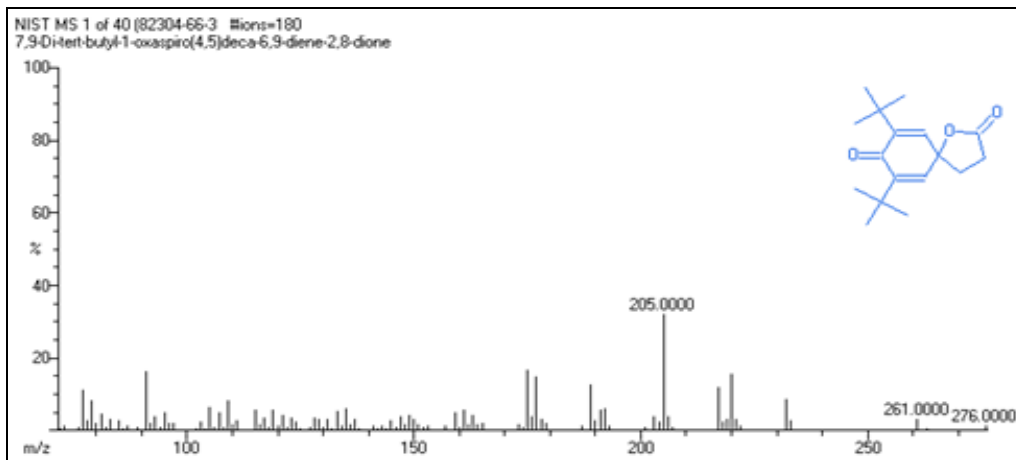
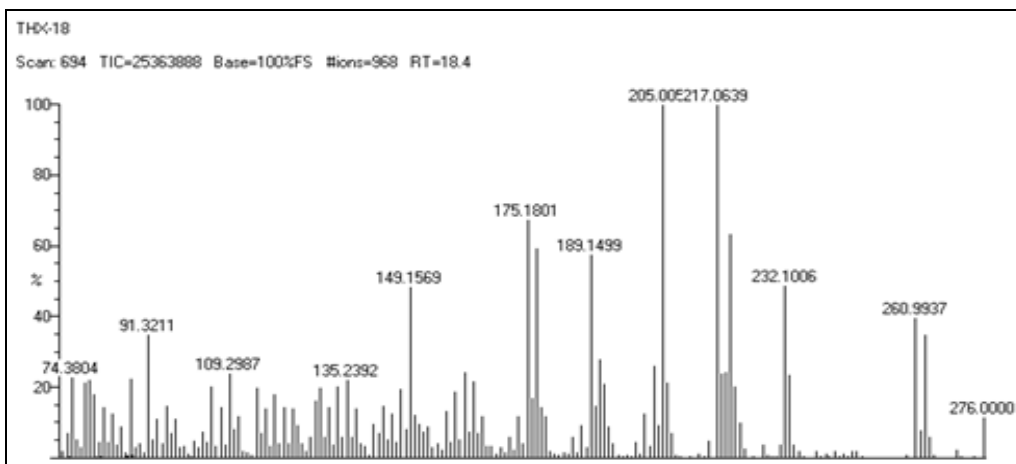
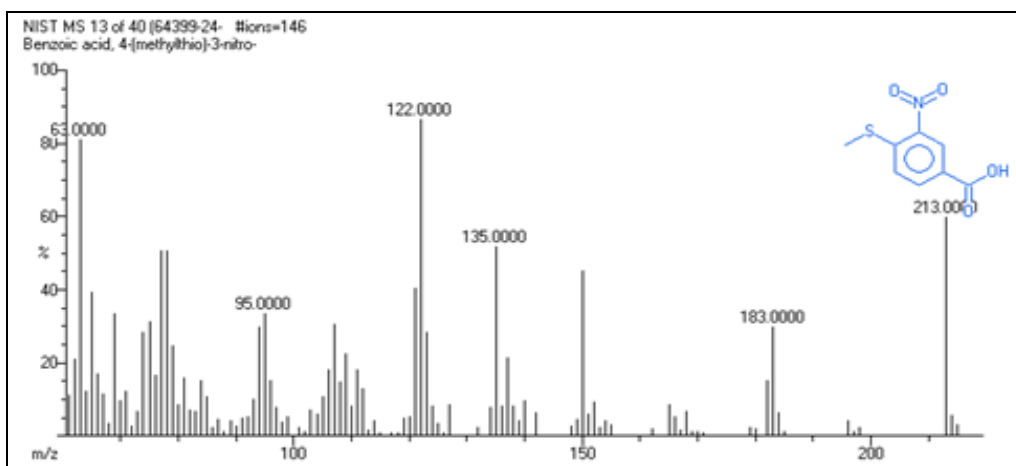


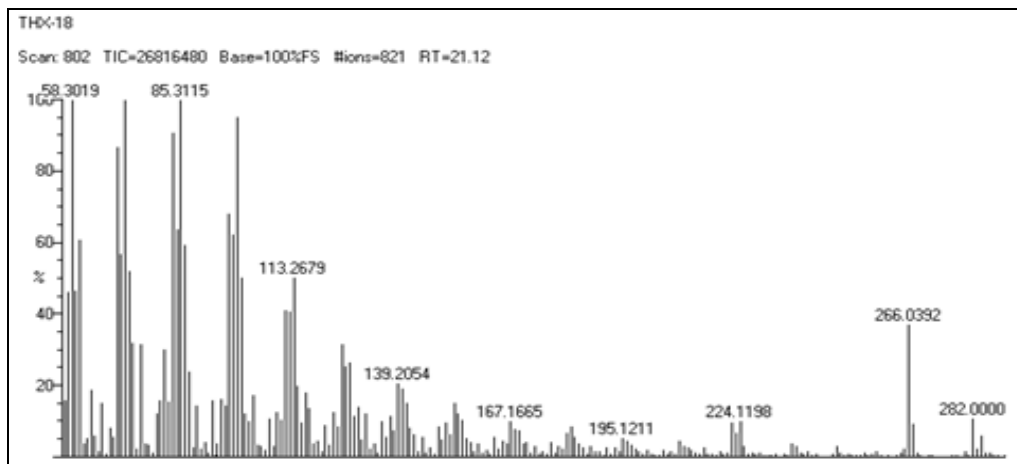
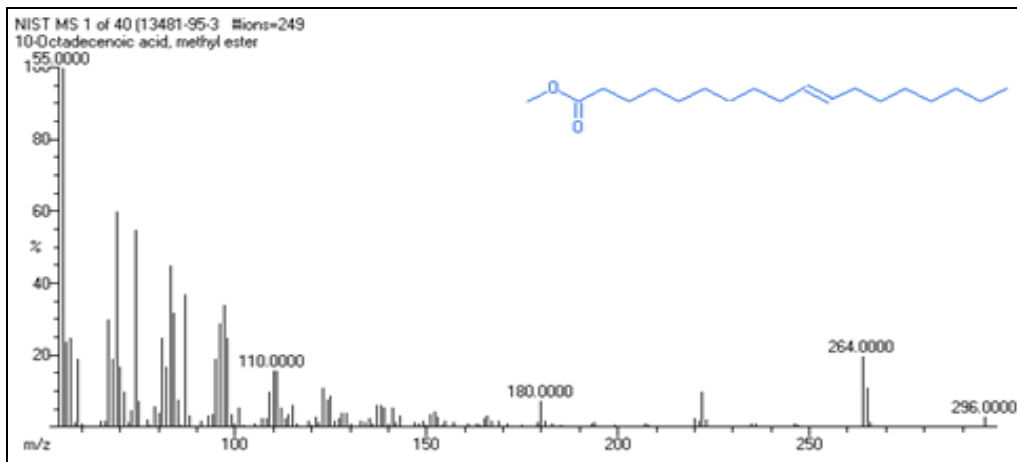
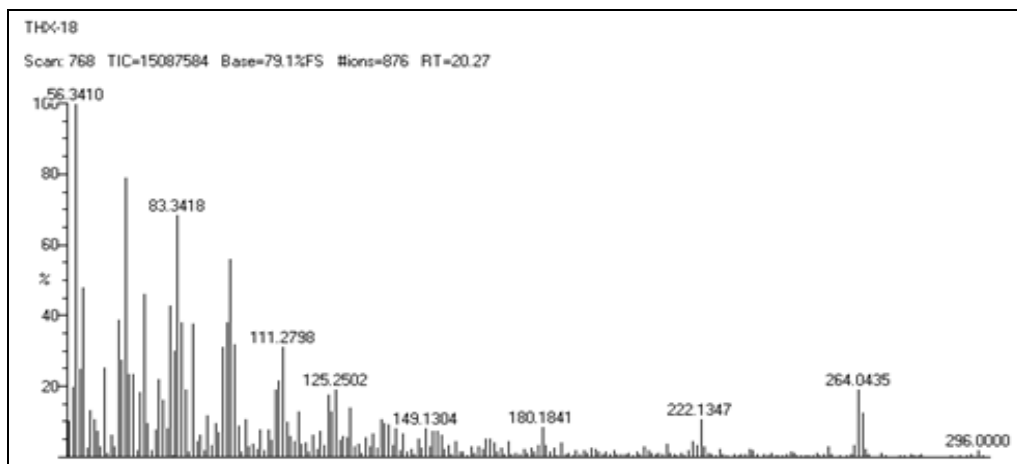
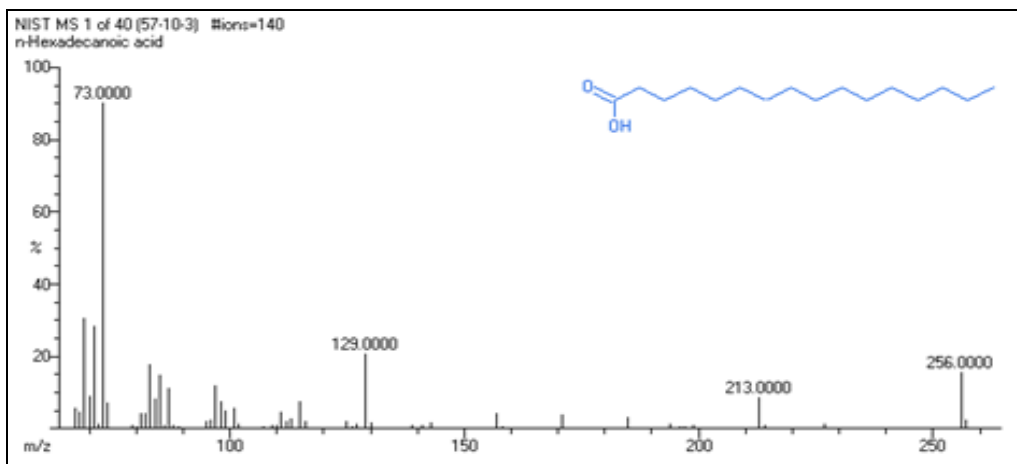


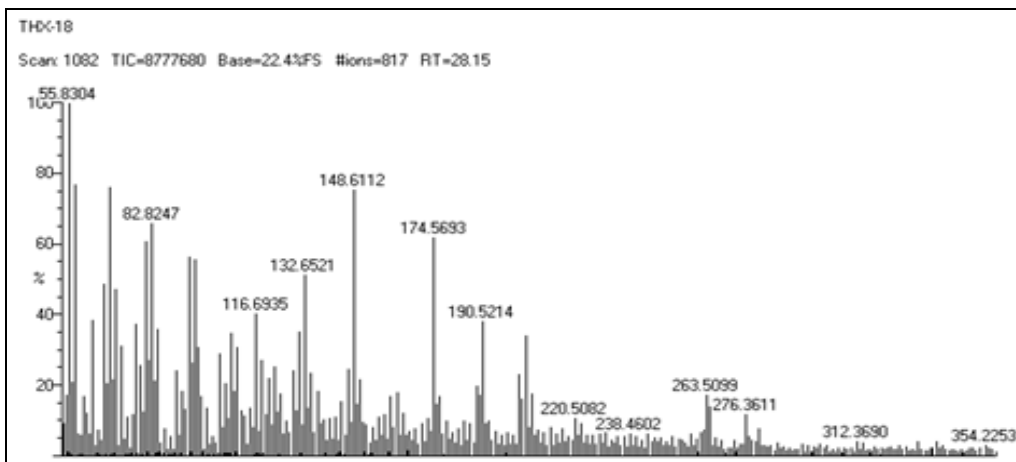
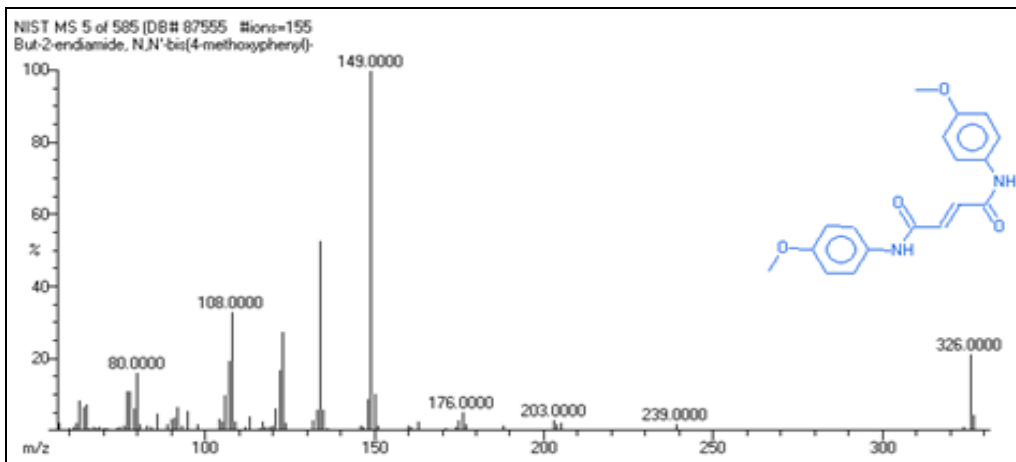
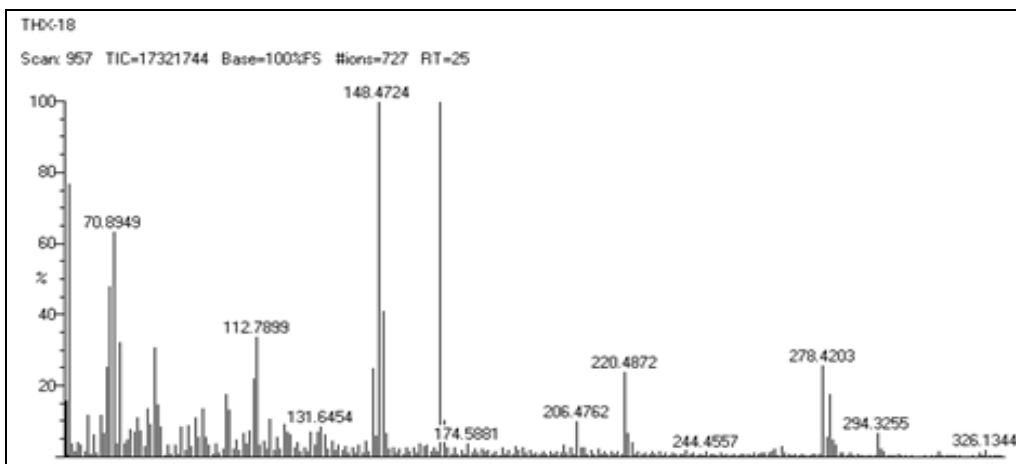
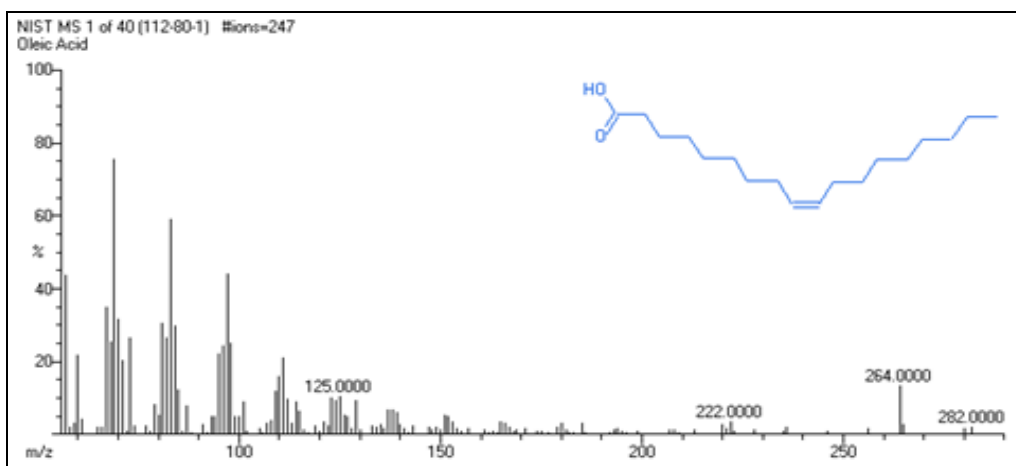














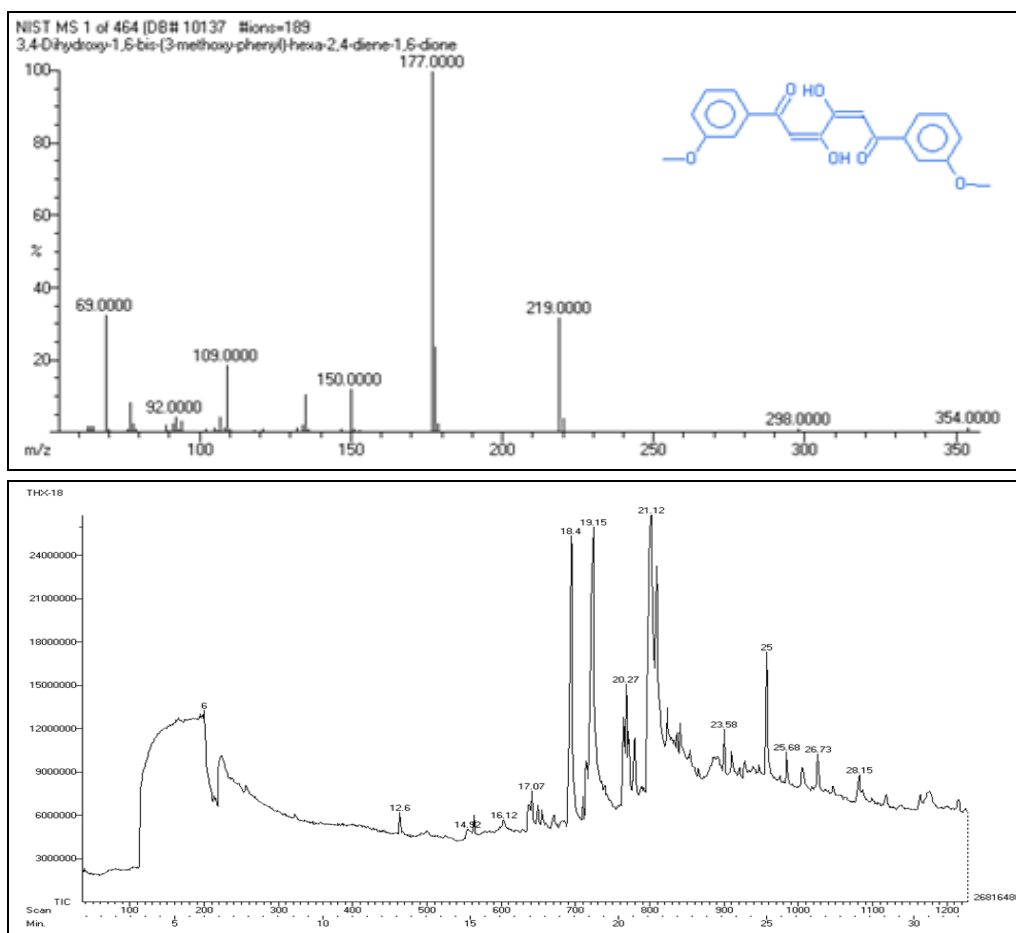
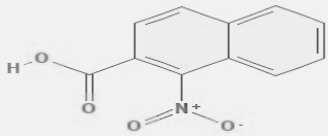
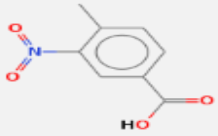
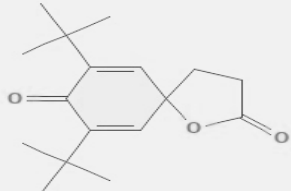

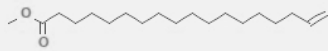
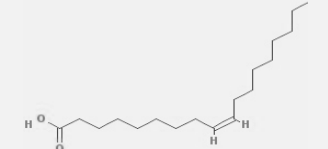
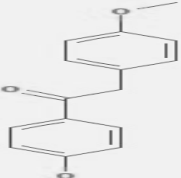
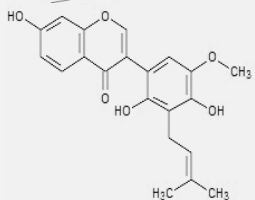


FIG. 4: GC-MS PROFILE OF COMPOUNDS IN TURBINARIA CONOIDES CRUDE EXTRACT (HEXANE)

TABLE 4: GC-MS ANALYSIS OF COMPOUNDS IN TURBINARIA CONOIDES CRUDE EXTRACT (HEXANE)

Phytochemical compound	RT(min)	Formula	Molecular Wt	Chemical structure
Oxiraneoctanoic acid, 3-octyl, methyl ester	25.68	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>36</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	312.494 g/mol	
3 buten 2-one 4 (2,5,6,6-tetramethyl-2-cyclohexen-1-yl)	12.6	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O	206.3239 g/mol	
despropionyl-3 methyl fentanyl	23.58	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>26</sub> N <sub>2</sub>	294.442 g/mol	
but-2-enamide, N, N'-bis (4-methoxyphenyl)	26.73	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	440.496 g/mol	
Flavone	17.07	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	222.243 g/mol	
2-penten-4-yne 2-methyl	6	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	66.10110 g/mol	

2-naphthoic acid 1-nitro	14.92	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	217.18 g/mol	
benzoic acid, 4- (methyl thio) 3-nitro	16.12	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	181.1455 g/mol	
7, 9-di-tert-butyl-1-oxaspiro (4, 5) deca-6 9-diene-2 8-dione	18.4	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	276.376 g/mol	
N-hexadecanoic acid	19.15	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	256.43 g/mol	
10-Octadecenoic acid, methyl ester	20.27	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>36</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	296.4879 g/mol	
Oleic acid	21.12	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	282.468 g/mol	
But-2-endiamide, N, N'-bis (4-methoxyphenyl)-	25	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	256.301 g/mol	
3, 4-dihydroxy-1, 6-bis (3-methoxyphenyl) hexa-2, 4-diene-1, 6-dione	28.15	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	354.2 g/mol	

**DISCUSSION:** A higher percentage of the population across the world prefers to use natural products for their various ailments as they produce fewer side effects on humans. One among them is the marine algae, which is a reservoir of many secondary metabolites, which serves various purposes. Different groups of marine algae known to contain active compounds that used as remedies for many diseases<sup>12, 13</sup>. Previous investigations on the production of antibiotic substances by aquatic organisms form a rich and varied source of antibacterial and antifungal agents. Over 15000 novel compounds have been chemically determined. Focusing on bio-products, recent trends in drug research from natural sources suggest that algae are a promising group to furnish novel biochemically active substances<sup>14</sup>. The present study focuses on the screening of various

extracts of marine seaweeds for its antibacterial activity against gram-positive and gram-negative pathogens. The results revealed that all the extracts are potent antimicrobials against the microorganisms tested.

From the previous studies, a variety of solvents used, based on its polarity, for antimicrobial activity screening, but still uncertain what kind of solvent is most effective for the extraction of seaweeds. Earlier studies showed the extraction of *Turbinaria conoides* with n-hexane, cyclohexane, methanol and ethanol: water (1:1) depicted with their antibacterial activities by disc diffusion method. In the present study, with increasing polarity, three organic solvents like hexane < ethyl acetate < methanol along with the water used for the extraction of crude extracts from three different

species of marine algae. In the case of *Turbinaria conoide* highest antibacterial activity was exhibited in ethanol extract, which was comparable to the standard, Streptomycin against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*<sup>15</sup>. There was no anti-bacterial, activity shown in Methanol extract of *Sargassum vulgare* against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*<sup>16</sup>.

The methanol extract of marine brown algae *Padina gymnospora* and *Sargassum wightii* showed no activity against the bacterial species of *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Salmonella typhus*<sup>17</sup>. In the present study, there is no zone of inhibition from methanol extract of *Sargassum plagiophyllum* and *Padina gymnospora* against the human pathogens studied. The organic solvent, which shows an antibacterial activity against the pathogens, in one species of algae, is not effective in other algae. Earlier reports, against the effectiveness of extraction methods, explain that methanol extraction yields higher antimicrobial activity than hexane and ethyl acetate<sup>18, 19</sup>, whereas another study gives better result in chloroform than methanol and benzene<sup>20</sup>. In another study, extract of acetone exhibited a strong antimicrobial activity against bacteria when compared to other extracts<sup>21</sup>.

Higher antibacterial activity in brown algae extracts may be due to the presence of secondary metabolites like phenolic compounds of *Turbinaria conoides*, which may affect the growth as an inhibitory effect and the metabolism of bacteria, based on their chemical constitutions and concentrations<sup>22</sup>. The present study is in concur with the study of<sup>23</sup> reports in which cyclohexane extract was possessed a broad array of antibacterial property over the other extracts. It was also evident that organic solvents provide a higher efficiency in extracting compounds for antimicrobial activities compared to water-based methods. The highest antibacterial activity shown in organic solvents compared to aqueous extract<sup>24, 25</sup>. Previous literature does not pertain to a single organic solvent of extract for the effectiveness of antibacterial activity from marine algae. For the present study, the solvents chosen on the polarity gradient from Hexane to water, where the solvent extract of *Turbinaria conoides* has significant result

in all the solvent extract, whereas the other species, *Sargassum plagiophyllum* and *Padina gymnospora* shown antibacterial activity in ethyl acetate, but the methanol extract fails to show activity in any of those pathogens studied. Aqueous extracts of the marine algae studied shown no result in all the human pathogens experimented for anti-bacterial activity and so no tabulation here.

Earlier experiments reveal that the dried samples accumulated more amounts of the antibiotic principle rather than the fresh samples, where the high water content diluted and leads to dissipated activity. It is also evident that the degradation of bioactive metabolites may not occur during shade drying<sup>26</sup>. In addition to earlier literature, the present investigation shows that *Turbinaria conoides*, the species of Phaeophyta showed the strongest activities against the human pathogenic bacteria in all the solvents. A study<sup>27</sup> on antimicrobial activity from the three families of Rhodophyta, Chlorophyta and Phaeophyta against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *E. coli*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, showed, *Padinagymnospora* and *Sargassum wightii*, which belongs to the family Phaeophyta, were more active than *C. linum* of Chlorophyta, against human pathogenic bacteria using the disc diffusion method.

Four species experimented<sup>28</sup> from brown seaweed (*Sargassum plagiophyllum*, *Sargassum flavellum*, *Sargassum binderi* and *Padina australis*) in Malaysia, where the crude extracts showed stronger antimicrobial activity against the gram-positive bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis* and *Staphylococcus aureus*) than the gram-negative bacteria (*P. aeruginosa* and *E. coli*). Susceptibility is more in gram-positive organisms than gram-negative bacteria against the seaweed extracts, and this susceptibility is due to the difference in their cell wall structure and their composition<sup>29</sup>. Earlier studies among the species tested, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Vibrio spp.* were the most susceptible pathogens reported<sup>30</sup>.

The methanol extract of *Sargassum vulgare* does not show effective result of antibacterial activity against *E. coli*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* pathogens reported<sup>31</sup>. However, the report of *Sargassum fusiforme* diethyl ether extract showed a positive activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*<sup>32</sup>.

Among the three different species of seaweeds, crude extracts of *Turbinaria conoides* showed antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus epidermidis* for all the solvent tested. *Staphylococcus epidermidis* is a facultative anaerobic bacterium, Coagulase-negative staphylococci (CoNS) which causes nosocomial infections in humans<sup>33</sup>. In addition, it was evident from previous research that, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* shows an increased resistance against various antibacterial agents, when the bacteria attached to plastic surface<sup>34</sup> and also they are often resistant to antibiotics, including rifamycin, fluoroquinolones, gentamicin, tetracycline, clinda-mycin, and sulfonamides<sup>35</sup>.

**CONCLUSION:** In the present study, the effect of crude extract of three seaweed species, upon the human pathogens shows a remarkable antibacterial activity against both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. Out of the solvents used like hexane, ethyl acetate, methanol, and water, methanol extract shows no activity in both *Sargassum plagiophyllum* and *Padina gymnospora* for all the pathogens. Ethyl acetate solvent extract showed the zone of inhibition both in gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. Comparatively, gram-negative bacteria showed lesser activity than Gram-positive bacteria.

In *Turbinaria conoides* all three solvents showed the zone of inhibition for *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. The hexane extract of *Turbinaria conoides* showed the zone of inhibition in all the positive bacteria, where it shows a significant zone of inhibition in *Staphylococcus epidermidis* compared to control. Further, the hexane extract analyzed by GC-MS to find the phytochemical compounds responsible for the activity.

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**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Nil

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