



# HerbClip™

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**FILE: ■ Antifungal Herbs  
■ Mexican Herbs**

**HC 080335 - 245**

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**RE: Potential Antifungal Activity of Traditional Mexican Medicines**

Navarro Garcia VM, Gonzalez A, Fuentes M, Aviles M, Rios MY, Zepeda G, Rojas MG. Antifungal activities of nine traditional Mexican medicinal plants. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 2003;87(1):85-88.

Throughout the world, there has been an increasing incidence of fungal infections due to the fact that more people are immuno-compromised (i.e. those with organ transplants, cancer, and HIV/AIDS) than ever before. Drug resistance and toxicity associated with long-term treatment with antifungal drugs has led to a search for new drugs to treat fungal infections. This study reports on an in vitro screening of 18 extracts from nine traditional Mexican plants used to treat respiratory, genital, gastrointestinal, urinary, and skin infections.

Bloodflower (a.k.a. Mexican milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*), annatto (*Bixa orellana*), *Eupatorium aschenbornianum*, thryallis (*Galphimia glauca*), tepehuaje (*Lysiloma acapulcensis*), little mallow (a.k.a. cheeseweed, *Malva parviflora*), *Sedum oxypetalum* (a succulent), and *Senecio angulifolius* were collected in November 2000 from Morelos State, Mexico. Cherimoya (*Annona cherimolia*) was collected November 2000 from Arteaga, Michoacan State, Mexico. The powder from the dried plant materials was extracted with n-hexane and methanol. All extracts were tested in an antifungal assay against four human pathogenic fungi: *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Trychophyton mentagraphytes*, and *Trychophyton rubrum*. MIC values (the lowest concentration of extract that inhibited visible growth) were determined. A MIC value of 8 mg/mL or below was considered active.

Hexane extracts of *Eupatorium aschenbornianum* and *Sedum oxypetalum* and methanol extracts of *Lysiloma acapulcensis* and *Annona cherimolia* inhibited growth of all fungi tested. All had MICs of 8 mg/mL or less. According to the authors, no other data on the antimicrobial activity of these plants have been published.

Four of the plants tested have antifungal properties, which explains the use of these plants in folk medicine to treat symptoms involving fungal infections. Further research is needed to determine the active principles responsible for the antifungal effects.

—*Heather S. Oliff, Ph.D.*

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