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Preliminary Phytochemical Screening and Antibacterial Activity of the Bark of the *Ficus talboti*

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Siddha system is one of the oldest systems of medicine in the world. Decoction of the bark of the *F.talboti* (Moraceae) has been used for the treatment of ulcers, venereal disease, diarrhoea and leprosy. The aim of the study was to evaluate the antibacterial activity of the aqueous and ethanolic extracts of the bark of the *F.talboti and* to screen the phytochemicals of bark. The antibacterial activity was tested using the standard cut well diffusion method with Mueller Hinton Agar against *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853) and *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 291212). The diameter of the Zone of Inhibition (ZOI) was measured after incubation. Replicates were made for the entire procedure. Qualitative phytochemical analysis was done to screen the phytochemicals according to standard protocols. Ethanolic extract demonstrated high growth inhibition against Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria (18±1.01 - 22±0.71mm). The aqueous and ethanolic extracts of *F.talboti* did not inhibit the growth of *E.faecalis.* The aqueous and ethanolic extracts posseses alkaloids, tannin, saponin, terpenoids and cardiac glycosides and the ethanolic extracts contains the flavonoids and steroids in addition to above stated phytochemicals. The current study indicated the aqueous and ethanolic extract of bark of the *F.talboti* has inhibitory potential against *S.aureus*, *E.coli* and *P.aeruginosa*. Further studies warranted with extended spectrum of microorganism to detect the antibacterial activity.

Key Words: Siddha system of Medicine, Antibacterial activity, Phyto chemicals, *Ficus talboti*