

ABSTRACT

Use of herbs as combinations is a common practice with many herbal practitioners. The main idea behind this usually is the synergistic action expected to take place by the traditional healer hence being able to give better results as compared to one herb and also treat more than one ailment, even those not mentioned by the patient. However, other interactions such as additive and antagonism too take place when herbs are used in combinations. In this study, anti-aspergillus and anti-candida efficacy of crude extracts of five plants used in combination to treat malaria were investigated. *Toddalia asiatica* (root), *Rhamnus staddo* (root), *Momordica foetida* (shoot), *Podocarpus falcatus* (bark), *Aloe sp* (succulent leaves) used by traditional health practitioners in the Kalenjin community were extracted using water and dichloromethane/methanol (1:1) and the crude extracts tested for in vitro antifungal activity singly and in combinations against *Aspergillus niger* and *Candida albicans*.

Dichloromethane/methanol extracts of *P. falcatus* showed the highest activity (77.77% inhibition) against *A.niger* while *M. foetida* showed the highest activity (77.78% inhibition) against *C. albicans*. *Aloe sp*. Showed no activity against *A. niger* when tested singly. *A.niger* was more sensitive to the plants extracts than *C.albicans*. Aqueous extracts did not show any activity. Antagonism, additive and synergism were observed when combinations of the herbal plants were assayed. Findings in this study are a preliminary verification of the usefulness of using herbal plants in combinations as a prevalent practice among the traditional healers.