

Anti Fungal Activity of Green Synthesized Copper Nanoparticles Using Plant Extract of *Bryophyllum Pinnatum* (Lam.) and *Polyalthia Longifolia* (Sonn.)

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Plant-mediated nano-fabrication is a new area of nanotechnology that is preferred to traditional methods due to its advantages in terms of safety, cost efficiency, environmental friendliness, and biocompatibility. In the current study, copper chloride and copper sulphate are used as precursor materials to examine the effectiveness of green synthesized copper oxide nanoparticles using the plants *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (Lam.) and *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.). Comparative study on the efficiency of the synthesized Copper oxide nanoparticles against each precursor has been studied. Different spectroscopic and microscopic characterization techniques such as UV- Visible spectrophotometer, X- ray powder diffraction (XRD), Fourier transformed infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) were performed to confirm the presence of copper oxide nanoparticles. UV –vis spectrophotometer results confirmed the existence of copper oxide nanoparticles using Copper chloride and Copper sulphate precursor showed absorption at 235nm and 575nm respectively. X- Ray Diffraction results showed crystalline structure of the particles with three peaks at (111), (200) & (220) which confirmed the presence of copper oxide nanoparticle for both the precursors. FTIR results supported the existence of several functional groups involved in capping, reducing, and stabilizing copper oxide nanoparticles. The SEM image showed that the copper oxide nanoparticles were spherical in shape and ranged in size from 40 to 90 nm. Further, the Anti-fungal and Anti-bacterial activity of the synthesized nanoparticle for both the copper chloride and copper sulphate precursor were studied. The Study shown maximum zone of inhibition at 100µg/ml as 18mm and 25mm respectively against *Galactomyces geotrichum*. As a result of the high biological potentials and powerful Antifungal activity, the green synthesized copper oxide nanoparticles can be exploited in phytopathology to combat plant infections.

Keywords: Anti- fungal activity; Anti-bacterial activity; Copper oxide nanoparticles; green synthesis; Phytopathology.

Nanoparticles can be made via chemical or biological processes. Chemical production process have been associated with a number of detrimental impacts because some dangerous chemicals are

present and have been absorbed on the surface. Instead of using chemical and physical methods to create nanoparticles, biological procedures using bacteria, enzymes, fungus, plants, or plant

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extracts are a suitable alternative¹. One important area of nanotechnology is the creation of these environmentally benign processes for generating nanoparticles, especially copper nanoparticles, which have various applications².

Some microorganisms, such as *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* microscopic organisms, are poisoned by copper nanoparticles, but animal cells are unaffected. Using the “green mix” method, certain odd plants and nanoparticles have been combined. A few odd plants and nanoparticles have been combined using the green union technique³. Copper nanoparticles are responsive and can surely work with other particles due to their significant surface area to volume ratio. For a very long time, colloidal copper has been used as a potent antimicrobial. Because of the use of copper nanoparticles in wound dressings and their biocidal properties, scientists have given them a lot of thought. ⁴Virulent species like *Staphylococcus aureus*, are susceptible to the anticipated antibacterial actions of copper nanoparticles. Due to their extensive uses in fields like mechanics, optics, biomedical sciences, hardware, sedate quality conveyance, catalytic photo electrochemical applications, and nonlinear optical devices, these nanoparticles have also caught the attention of experts.^{3,5}

Bryophyllum pinnatum (lam.)(BP) (equivalent word: Kalanchoepinnata) is a perpetual spice developed and utilized in folkloric medication in tropical Africa, India, China, Australia and tropical America⁶ Figure 1. In a creating nation like Nigeria, BP is delegated a weed that thrives all through the Southern piece of the nation. These plants are typically found in gardens wealthy in natural fertilizer and adequate dampness.⁷ Various dynamic mixes, including flavonoids, glycosides, steroids, bufadienolides and natural acids, have been distinguished in *Bryophyllum pinnatum*.⁸ In this manner, BP is utilized for medication in ethno practice treatment of injuries of the navel of recently conceived children, in ear problem, hack, looseness of the bowels, and diarrhea. It was discovered that the leaves 60% methanolic extract was efficient against several bacteria. These include *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Escherichia coli* at a dosage of 25 mg/ml. The extract was found to be ineffective against

Klebsiella pneumonia, *Candida albicans*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*⁹.

Polyalthia longifolia (Sonn.) the false ashoka native to India, is an elevated evergreen tree, normally planted because of its viability in all conditions. A massive variety of bushes and trees known as *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) is found across the tropics and subtropics¹⁰ Figure 2. It belongs to the Annonaceae family, which has more than 2000 species and 120 genera. *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) Pendular is a tall, beautiful, evergreen tree native to Sri Lanka that has spread over the Indo-Pakistan sub-mainland. It has a straight trunk and flat branches¹⁰. The bark of *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) is cited in ethno pharmacological claims to have febrifuge properties. It weakens the heart, lessens circulatory strain, and energizes breathing. It has been taken into account how *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) affects fungus. It is useful in treating helminthiasis, diabetes, hypertension, and skin conditions. Additionally, it is applied to the healing of wounds.¹¹

Methanol extracts of *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) var. pendula’s leaves, stems, twigs, green berries, flowers, roots, root-wood, and rootbark were tested for their antimicrobial and antifungal properties.¹² With MIC values between 7.8 and 500 g/ml, the methanol extract of leaves and berries completed bioassay-monitored isolation operations and showed good antibacterial activity.¹³ 91 clinically relevant microbial species were tested for their antibacterial potential by two dosages of various *P. longifolia* leaf extracts, including 1, 4-dioxan, methanol, and acetone extracts.¹⁴ All three plant extracts are efficient against 98% of the total number of gram-positive bacterial strains at a concentration of 500 g/disc.¹⁵ While 1, 4-dioxan extract was efficacious against 18.18% of the total gram negative bacterial strains, methanolic and acetone extracts were only effective against 12.72 % of them.¹⁶

Copper has a wide scope of antimicrobial activity including bacterial species and is viewed as more powerful than costly metallic antimicrobials.¹⁷ Copper kills microorganisms by an instrument called contact executing. Copper Nanoparticles can be used as microbial development inhibitors.¹⁸ Additionally, metallic nanoparticles have a biocidal effect on both bacterial species. They are

bactericidal because of their high surface to volume ratio and small size.¹⁹ They become highly intensive as a result, disrupting microbial membranes. The aqueous extract of two plant leaves and copper sulphate pentahydrate were used in this study to create copper nanoparticles (CuNP), which were subsequently analyzed utilizing cutting-edge techniques.²⁰ Bacterial and fungal species were examined for their susceptibility to the produced CuNP antimicrobial properties.²¹

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preparation to Plant extract

Bryophyllum pinnatum (lam.) and *Polyalthia longifolia (Sonn.)* leaves were purchased from nurseery nearby Avadi. The collected leaves were washed with running water then by distilled water and dried in shade for not more than 10 days. The shade dried leaves were gathered and squashed using mortar and chisel, followed which the leaves were taken in a receptive and 100ml of refined water is added and heated in water bath for 100°C for 30 minutes Figure 3a and 3b. Then the extract was collected using Whatman No.1 filter paper and used in the synthesis of nanoparticles.^{22,23}

Green Synthesis of Copper nanoparticles

Copper nanoparticles were produced by 1ml of plant extract in to 30ml of copper chloride and copper sulphate solution while stirring for 30 minutes. The two different preparations were stored at darkroom overnight by wrapping in aluminum foil Figure 4a and 4b. The copper solutions original blue tint changed to an earthy green hue, visually confirming the preliminary method's assertion that nanoparticles had formed. Both the solution were centrifuges at 10000 rpm after the change of color. After discarding the supernatant, the formatted Copper nanoparticles Figure 5a and 5b were washed with distilled water and characterization analysis is done.²⁴

Characteristics analysis

Shimadzu's UV-2600 UV-visible spectrophotometer was used to capture the samples' UV-visible absorbance and reflectance spectra. Its wavelength range is 200-800 nm. UV-DRS diffuse reflection spectroscopy, whereas transmission was utilized to analyze UV-visible spectra. The plant extract was combined with copper solution after the necessary dilution to create the Copper nanoparticle

solution. An absorbance spectrum was discovered by contrasting the absorbance of a nanoparticle solution with that of a control extract solution at wavelengths ranging from 200 to 800 nm. FTIR analysis for leaf extracts of *Polyalthia longifolia (Sonn.)* and *Bryophyllum pinnatum (lam.)* using copper sulphate and chloride, respectively, as precursors. The terms "FTIR analysis" and "FTIR spectroscopy" are frequently used to describe Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy. The analytical technique known as FTIR analysis can be used to identify organic, polymeric, and occasionally inorganic functional groups. This method uses infrared light to scan test samples and look at chemical properties²⁵.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characterization of nanoparticle

The synthesized copper oxide nanoparticles optical characteristics along with the biocomponents found in plants. Crystallinity, nanoparticle size, and shape were all examined throughout their production utilizing a variety of techniques²⁶. The produced nanoparticles were examined using FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy), UV-Visible spectroscopy, XRD analysis, and SEM examination²⁷.

Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

A FTIR Spectrometer analysis was performed to determine the likely functional groups in plant extract that are involved in the synthesis, stabilization of copper oxide nanoparticles. The spectra between 650 and 4000 cm^{-1} were acquired FT-IR characterization used to examine the phytochemicals from plants that are in converting cupric ions to copper oxide nanoparticles and then capping them. The peaks of the spectrum of *Bryophyllum pinnatum (lam.)* plant extract include 2355 cm^{-1} , 3312 cm^{-1} , 1640 cm^{-1} , 3350 cm^{-1} , 2322 cm^{-1} , 3327 cm^{-1} , and 776 cm^{-1} . FTIR examination revealed the hydroxyl (-OH) group with a peak at 3312 cm^{-1} , whereas the N-H peak is at 3350 cm^{-1} . The peak at 2,355 cm^{-1} was attributed to CN, while the peak at 3312 cm^{-1} belongs to CC-H. The peak C=O stretch measurement is 1640 cm^{-1} . In the FTIR spectrum of copper oxide nanoparticles, the peculiar characteristic bands at 773, 974, 1074, 1097, 1119, 1153, 1339, 1383, 1633, and 3231 cm^{-1} correspond to the bands from the plant extract

of *Bryophyllum pinnatum*. The N-H extension vibration is attributed to the peak at 3231 cm^{-1} . 1633 cm^{-1} C=N by 1383 cm^{-1} , C=C by 1339 cm^{-1} , C=O by 1153 cm^{-1} , and C=O by 1119 cm^{-1} Figure 6. This suggests that copper oxide nanoparticles were produced using biomolecules that can be found in plant extract²⁸.

The phytochemicals from plants that are engaged in reducing copper ions to copper oxide nanoparticles and afterwards capping were also analyzed using FT-IR characterization. The peaks in the spectrum of *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) leaf extract include which was evidently seen at 3354 cm^{-1} , 2922 cm^{-1} , and 1744 cm^{-1} , respectively, and corresponds to the O-H, C-H, and C = O stretching vibrations of polyphenol compounds. Simultaneously, the interaction between copper-based nanoparticles and polyphenols results in a broad absorption peak at 3356 cm^{-1} and 2926 cm^{-1} of O-H and C-H stretching. O-H stretching was substantially less intense as a result of the Cu ion's

oxidation process, which produced the Cu(II), Cu(I), and Cu(0) ions. The peak intensity at 1635 cm^{-1} was therefore attributed to the C = O stretching from the polyphenol bond with Cu metal, leading to a decreased electron density as a result of the dispersion of electrons towards Cu ions Figure 7. The extract also functions as a stabilizing agent (which prevents re-oxidation) in addition to acting as a reducing agent²⁹.

XRD Analysis

Figure 8 displays the XRD result of copper oxide nanoparticles produced using *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (lam.) plant extract. 2 Diffraction peaks were found at 11.763° , 12.838° , 20.782° , 25.777° , 42° , and 57.06° . Strong peaks in XRD patterns indicate that the CuO nanoparticles produced by reducing Cu ions in the presence of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (lam.) leaf extracts are crystalline. The JCPDS/ICDD database and published literatures were compared to the miller indices and peaks of



Fig. 1. Leaf of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (lam.)



Fig. 2. Leaf of *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.)

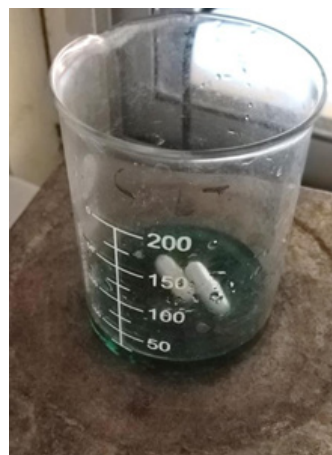
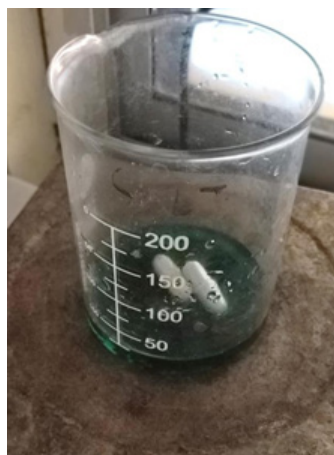


Fig. 3a. Leaf extract of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (lam.) with CuCl_2 as precursor 3b. Leaf extract of *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) with CuSO_4 as precursor.

CuO nanoparticles using the Jade software, and it was discovered that they were fairly close. The copper oxide crystal phase's (113), (030), (036), and (436) planes are linked to the diffraction peaks at 2 values of 20.78°, 25.77°, 42°, and 57.06°, respectively. Although cuprous oxide (Cu₂O crystalline's) phase peaks at 11.763° and 12.83° are assigned to its (110), (110), and (220) planes, respectively, the results are in very good agreement with powder CuO from the JCPDS standards (JCPDS file no. 77-1898). These values match reported literature and the values for the cubic phase of CuO match the corresponding "JCPDS" (Joint Committee on Powder Diffraction Standards card no. 34-1354).³⁰ Both oxides are present in

the crystalline phase of CuO nanoparticles, as shown by the presence of CuO and CuO-related peaks in the XRD spectrum. The average crystal size of CuONPs is 65.776 nm. XRD analysis has been used in a few publications to describe different crystalline sizes for CuONPs that were bio-produced utilizing plant extracts.³¹

The considerable absorption of the plant extract, which was clearly detected at 3354, 2922, and 1744 cm⁻¹, respectively, corresponds to the O-H, C-H, and C = O stretching vibrations of the polyphenolic compound. Figure 9 illustrates this. A large absorption peak of O-H and C-H stretching is produced at 3356 and 2926 cm⁻¹ by the interaction of polyphenol and Cu-based NPs. O-H stretching



Fig. 4a. Leaf extract of *Bryohyllum pinnatum* (lam.) with CuCl₂ as precursor **4b.** Leaf extract of *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) with CuSO₄ as precursor at zero hours



Fig. 5a. Leaf extract of *Bryohyllum pinnatum* (lam.) with CuCl₂ as precursor **5b.** Leaf extract of *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) with CuSO₄ as precursor at 24 hours

was substantially less intense as a result of the Cu ion's oxidation process, which produced the Cu(II), Cu(I), and Cu(0) ions. In order to explain the peak intensity at 1635 cm⁻¹, it was determined that the C = O stretching from the polyphenol bond with Cu metal caused a drop in electron density as a result of the reoxidation process (stabilizing agent). The polyphenol compound's O-H bond to copper ions

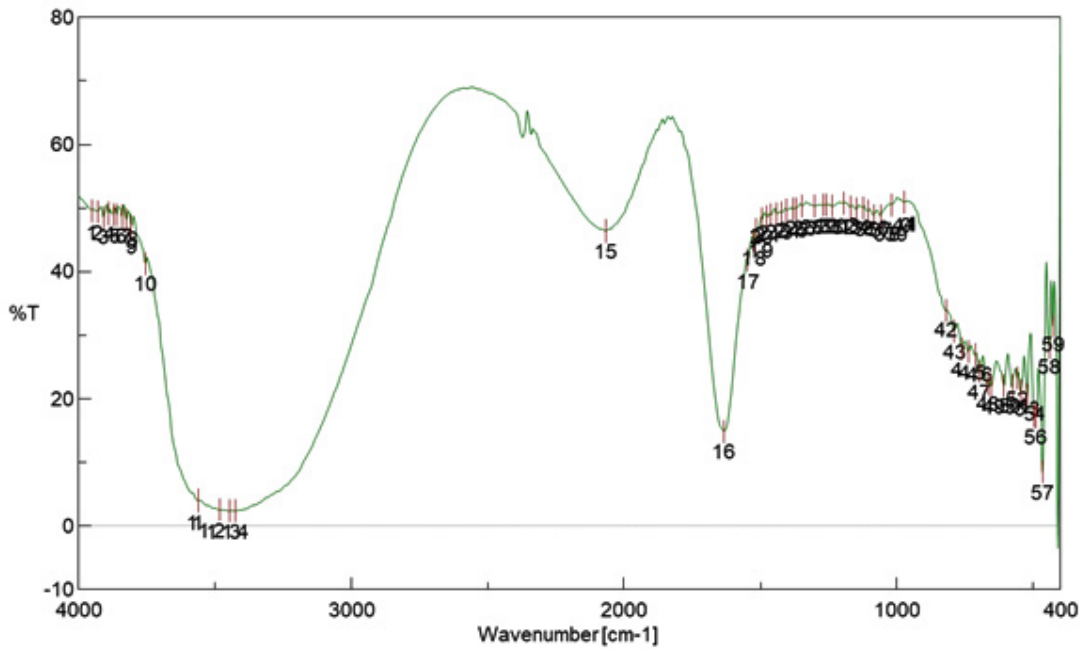


Fig. 6. FTIR Result of green synthesized CuONP with leaf extract and CuCl₂ as precursor

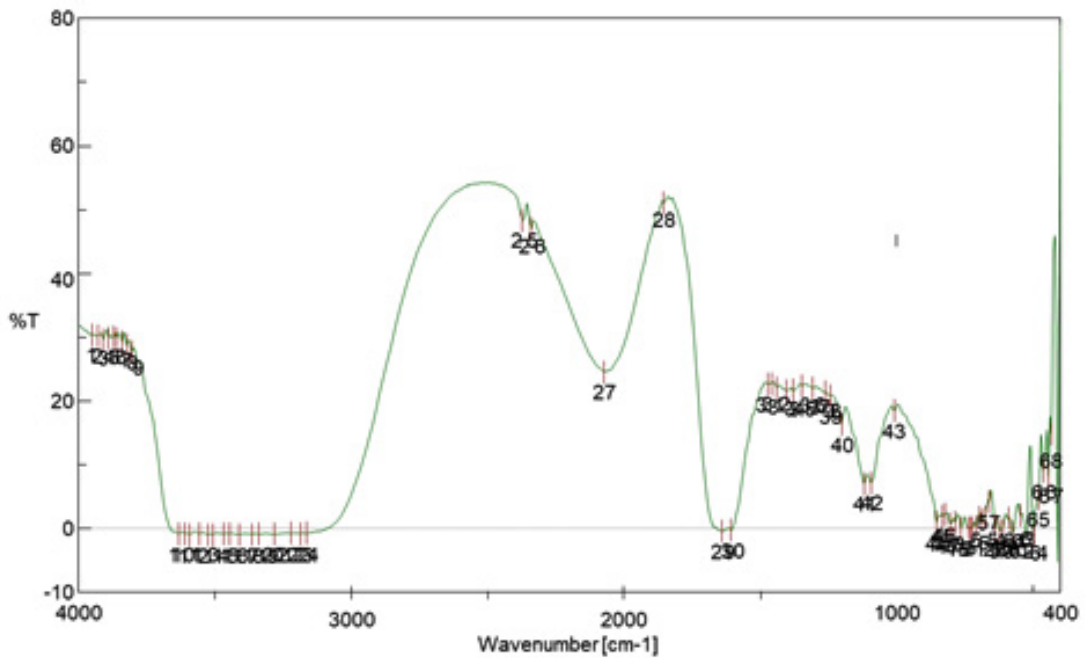


Fig. 7. FTIR Result of green synthesized CuONP with leaf extract and CuSO₄ as precursor

was further confirmed by the absorption at 1095 cm^{-1} ³²

UV-Visible Spectrophotometer

An illustration of the creation of copper oxide nanoparticles is the change in colour of

the prepared formulation from blue to green completing the reaction between extract of the plant and copper ions. This result mirrors what was discovered in earlier research^{33,34}. Additionally, the absorbance was looked at, and it has been

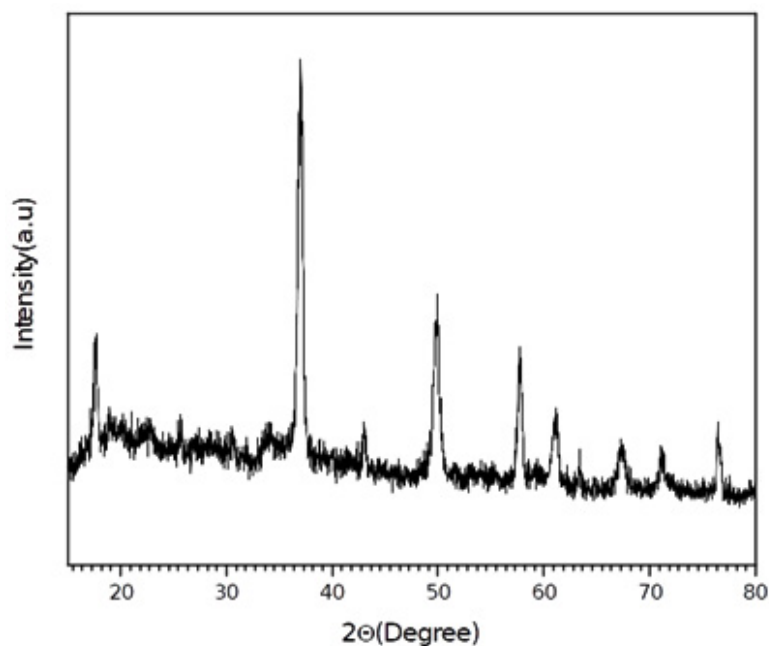


Fig. 8. FTIR Result of green synthesized CuONPs with leaf extract and CuCl_2 as precursor

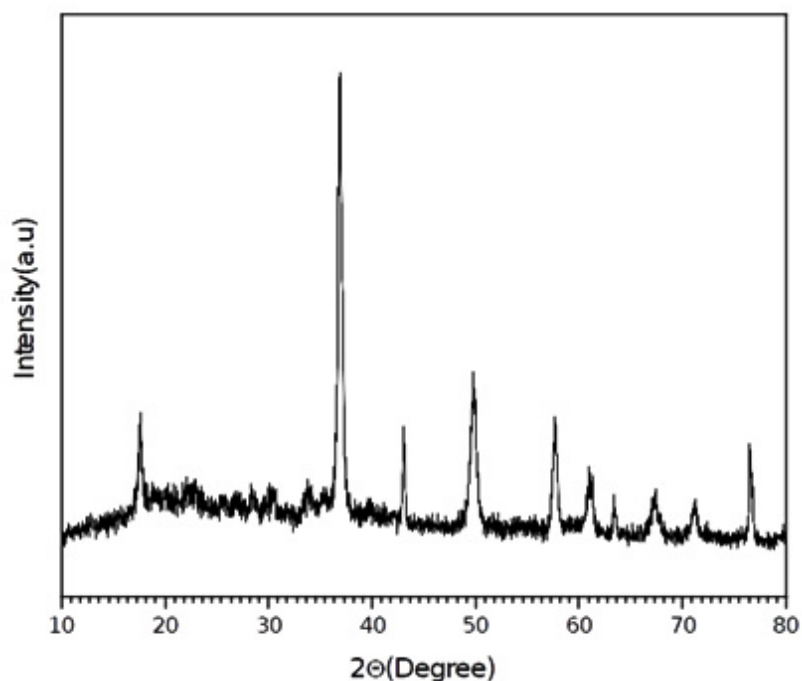


Fig. 9. FTIR Result of green synthesized CuONPs with leaf extract and CuSO_4 as precursor

discovered that the highest value of copper oxide nanoparticles was seen at 434 nm Figure 10, which is consistent with earlier research. At wavelengths of 434 nm, the absorption peaks of copper oxide nanoparticles produced by *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (*lam.*) where terpenoids act as a capping agent

were visible,³⁵ while copper oxide nanoparticles made from *Polyalthia longifolia* (*Sonn.*) had peak at 730nm³⁶ Figure 11. The production of copper oxide nanoparticles is readily visible in the UV-vis spectrum between 450 and 700 nm via plasmon resonance.³⁷

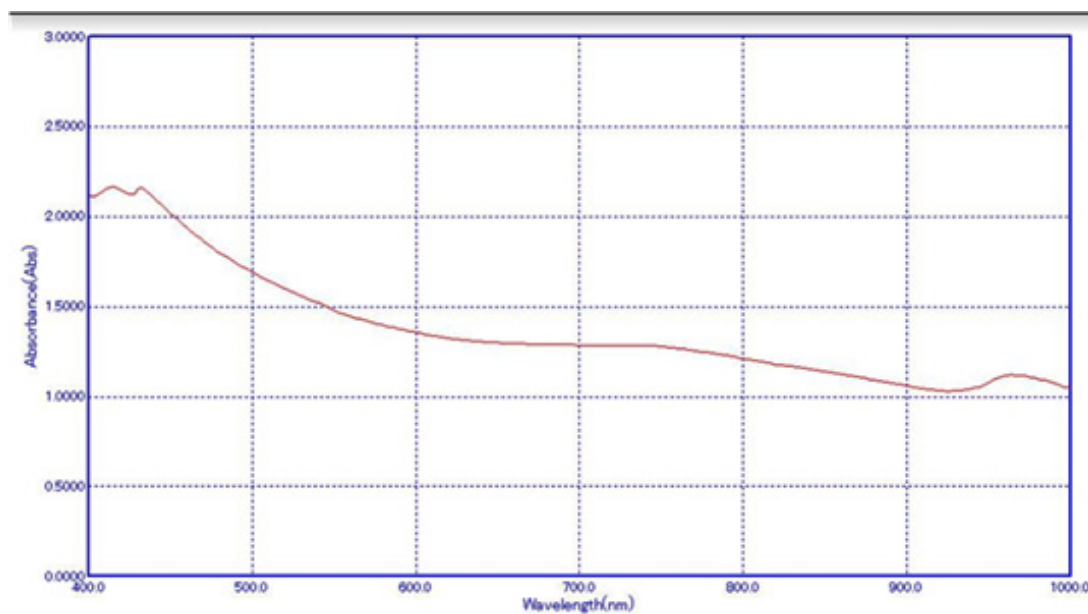


Fig. 10. UV Result of green synthesized CuONPs with leaf extract and CuCl_2 as precursor

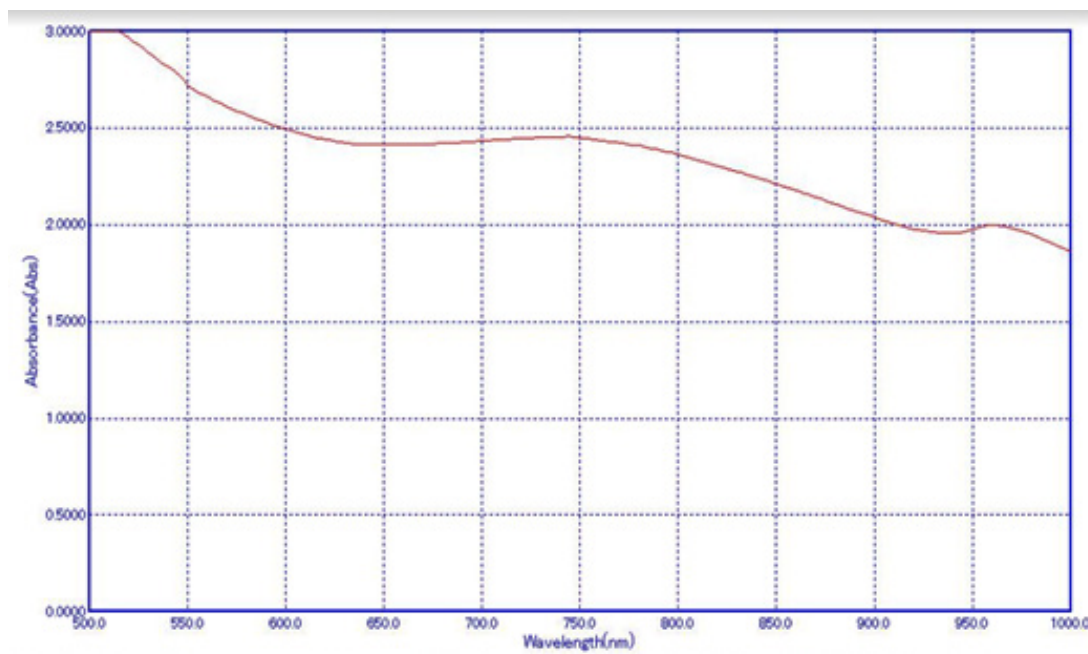


Fig. 11. UV Result of green synthesized CuONPs with leaf extract and CuSO_4 as precursor

SEM Analysis

Utilizing HR FESEM images, the morphological properties of the produced Copper nanoparticles using *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (*lam.*)

and *Polyalthia longifolia* (*Sonn.*) were identified. The produced Copper oxide nanoparticles SEM pictures showed that they are crystalline in structure and range in size from 78 to 134 nm.

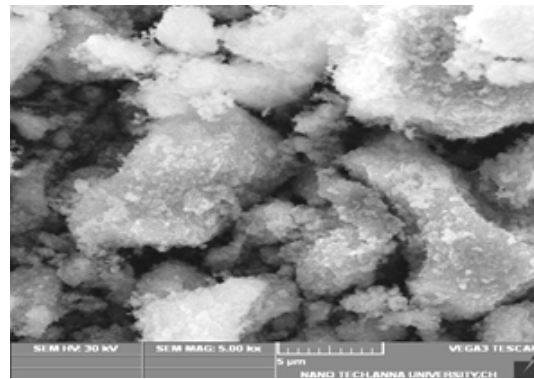
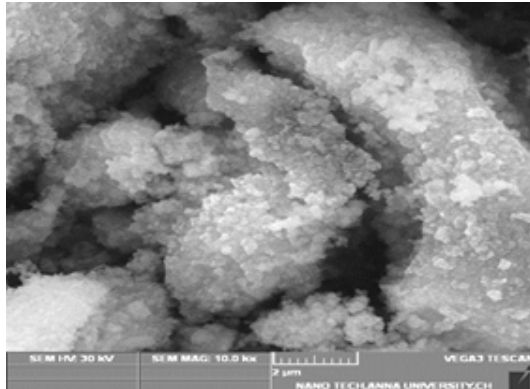


Fig. 12. SEM result of green synthesized CuO NPs with leaf extract and CuCl_2 as precursor

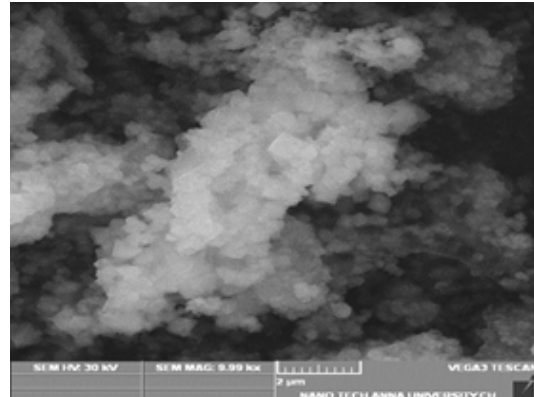
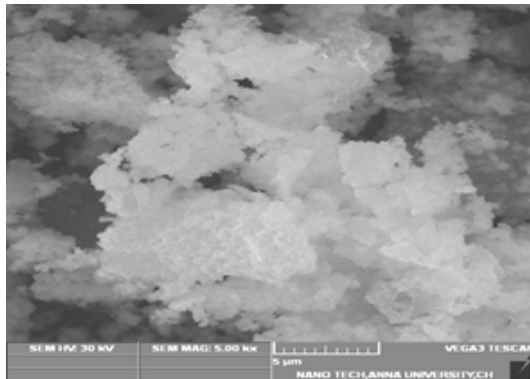


Fig. 13. SEM result of green synthesized CuO NPs with leaf extract and CuSO_4 as precursor

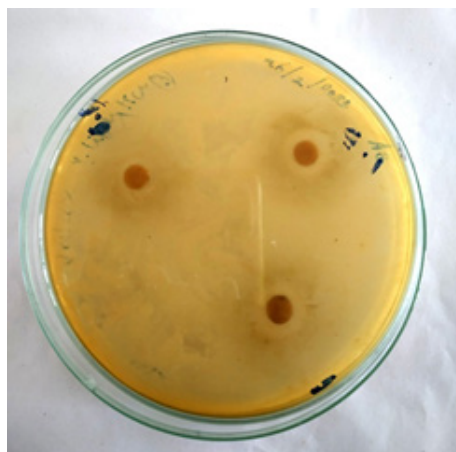
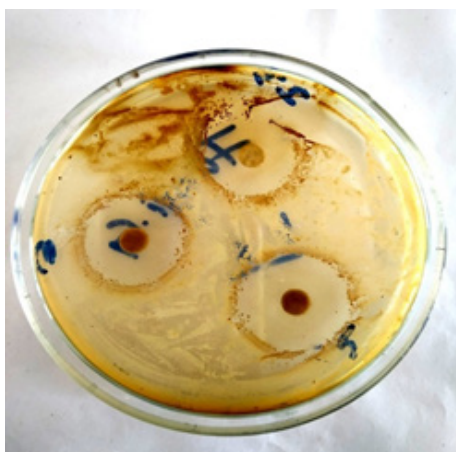


Fig. 14. Antifungal activity of copper oxide nanoparticle with CuCl_2 as precursor

Anti-fungal activity of copper oxide nanoparticle

An agar plate method was used to examine the antifungal activity of the copper oxide nanoparticles against *Galactomyces geotrichum*. After 24 hours of incubation with copper oxide nanoparticles, an 18mm and 25mm figure 14 zone of inhibition was discovered using the agar plate method, respectively. According to the outcome, a higher inhibition zone was observed. Greater inhibition zones in the agar plate test have been observed in several studies with comparable results^{38 39}.

CONCLUSIONS

Copper nanoparticles were successfully synthesized by green method, in which copper sulphate and copper chloride were used as a precursor. The green reduction of copper ions by flavonoids such as Kaempferol, terpenoids and organic acids involves change of color from copper blue to dark brown after 24 hours which preliminarily confirms the presence of copper nanoparticles. The Characterization analysis by UV-Vis Spectrophotometer, FTIR, XRD and SEM confirmed the presence of copper nanoparticles in the size of 120-150nm. The green synthesized copper nanoparticles exhibited high anti- fungal activity against *Galactomyces geotrichum* with the inhibition zone of 14mm for copper chloride as a precursor and 25mm for copper sulphate as a precursor. This work proposes a facile and cheap green synthesis method for the production of copper nanoparticles with high antifungal activity. Thus, the nanomaterial could be useful for controlling pathogenic fungi for various applications.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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