

ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF *PLEUROTUS SQUARROSULUS* ON CLINICAL PATHOGENIC BACTERIA AND FUNGI

ABSTRACT

Aim: To evaluate the antimicrobial activities of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* mushroom extracts on bacterial and fungal isolates.

Study design: *Pleurotus squarrosulus* was obtained from different sources in Umuahia North Local Government, Abia state, Nigeria and identified in the Department of botany, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Place and duration of study: Antimicrobial activities of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* was carried out in the department of microbiology between January 2016 and August 2016

Methodology: *Pleurotus squarrosulus* was extracted using ethanol, methanol and aqueous. Antimicrobial susceptibility tests were carried out by agar disc diffusion technique using National Committee of Clinical Laboratory Standard. Qualitative phytochemical analysis was carried out using standard methods.

Results: Methanol, ethanol and aqueous extracts of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* were tested against *E.coli*, *B. cereus*, *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, *C. albicans* and *C. glabrata*. The different test microorganisms showed varied susceptibility to the test extracts. All the test organisms were inhibited by methanol, ethanol and aqueous extract at varied concentrations ranging between 500 mg/ml and 125 mg/ml. Statistically, inhibition of the antibacterial and antifungal control for the test organisms were significantly higher ($P < 0.05$) than that of the extracts. The phytochemical analysis revealed the presence of saponin, carbohydrates, tannins, flavonoids and proteins in all the extracts while glycoside and alkaloids, were found in some.

Conclusion: The finding of this result suggest that *Pleurotus squarrosulus* possess broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity. The potential of developing antimicrobials from plants appear rewarding.

Key words: *Pleurotus squarrosulus*, antimicrobial activities, mushroom, phytochemicals, bacteria, yeast

1. INTRODUCTION

Pleurotus species is one of the choice edible mushrooms which can be cultivated in many countries in the subtropical and temperate zones. Generally *Pleurotus* is referred to as "oyster mushroom" over the world while in China it is known as Abalone mushroom" and „Dhingri" in India. *Pleurotus* species have been used by the people in all over the world for their nutritional value, medicinal properties and other beneficial effects [1].

Oyster mushrooms are easy to grow and process and do not need huge investment. Mushroom farming is being practiced in more than 100 countries and its production is increasing at the rate of 7 per cent per annum. Production of mushroom has already crossed 5 million metric tons annually in the world and is expected to reach around 7 million metric ton in next ten years. India had been known world over for its exotic mushrooms and total mushroom production in India was 48,000.00 tons in 2005. Oyster mushroom cultivation has increased during the last decade [2].

Mushrooms have been used as food supplement from times immemorial not only for their flavor, aroma and nutritive values but also for their medicinal properties [3, 4, 5]. Wild mushroom holds a variety of

39 bioactive compounds that have made it possible to be used as an impending source for the improvement
40 of medicine and nutraceuticals [6].

41 A number of medicinal mushrooms, such as *Aleurodiscus*, *Coprinus*, *Clitocybe*, *Daedalea*, *Marasmius*,
42 *Merulius*, *Pleurotus*, *Polyporus*, *Poria*, *Psathyrella*, and *Tricholoma* spp., are rich sources of β -glucan,
43 lectin, phenolic compounds, flavonoids, polysaccharides, triterpenoids, dietary fibre, lentinan,
44 schizophyllan, lovastatin, pleuran, steroids, glycopeptides, terpenes, saponins, xanthones, coumarins,
45 alkaloid, purin, purimidin, kinon, fenil propanoid, kalvasin, volvotoksin, flammutoksin porisin, eryngeolysin
46 etc. [1].

47 These bioactive compounds have been employed as immune-modulator, anti-fibrotic, anti-
48 inflammatory, anti-diabetic, anti-viral, antioxidant and antimicrobial agents [7]. Besides, mushroom has
49 been used extensively in traditional medicine for curing of various types of diseases [8, 9, 10]. For
50 centuries, mushrooms have been prescribed for treatment of diseases such as gastro-intestinal disorder,
51 bleeding, high blood pressure and various bacterial infections [11]. While some of the medicinal values
52 associated with mushroom must have arisen from superstitious beliefs and myths, they have provided
53 information for curiosity research studies. Research has shown that some of these claims are not mere
54 myth but are authentic [12, 13]. Besides medicinal and nutritional use, mushroom can be used as natural
55 dyes for fabrics [14].

56 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

57 **2.1 Collection and identification of materials**

58 *Pleurotus squarrosulus* was collected from different sources of Umuahia North Local Government area,
59 Abia state and identified by a botanist in the Department of botany, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

60 **2.2 Test organisms used**

61 Pure cultures of *Escherichia coli* JCM 20135 and *Bacillus cereus* IFO 13804 were obtained from
62 Department of Microbiology, University of Nigeria Nsukka while pure cultures of *Staphylococcus aureus*
63 ATCC 25923, *Candida albicans* ATCC 10231, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 25783 and *Candida*
64 *glabrata* ATCC 22018 were obtained from Spectramedics Laboratories No. 2 Adebayo close, Araromi
65 Offiri Ikenne Road, Sagamu, Ogun State.

66

67 **2.3 Standard antimicrobials**

68 Tetracycline (5 μ g/ml), Ampicillin (5 μ g/ml), Oxacillin (5 μ g/ml) and Nystatin (20 μ g/ml) oxoid discs were
69 used as positive standards.

70

71 **2.4 Sample preparation and extraction**

72 Fresh *Pleurotus squarrosulus* mushrooms were thoroughly washed with distilled water, cut into
73 pieces, air-dried at room temperature and pulverized using manual grinder. Fifty grams of each
74 of the ground samples was soaked in 500 ml ethanol, cold water, and methanol for 24 hours
75 with intermittent shaking. Each sample was filtered using Whatman №1 filter paper. The filtrate
76 was dried with a rotary evaporator in order to obtain the extract which was scooped and poured
77 into well-labeled sample bottles and stored at 4°C [15].

78

79 **2.5 Inoculum preparation**

80 Pure cultures of *Escherichia coli* JCM 20135 and *Bacillus cereus* IFO 13804 were obtained from the
81 Department of Microbiology, University of Nigeria Nsukka while pure cultures of *Staphylococcus aureus*
82 ATCC 25923, *Candida albicans* ATCC 10231, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 25783 and *Candida*
83 *glabrata* ATCC 22018 were obtained from Spectramedics Laboratories, Sagamu, Ogun State, Nigeria.
84 Inoculum was prepared by emulsifying overnight colonies from an agar medium. A 0.5 McFarland
85 standard (equivalent to approximately 10^8 cfu/ml) was used. Media plates were inoculated within 30
86 minutes of standardizing the inoculum to avoid changes in inoculums density.

87

88 **2.6 Determination of antimicrobial activity of mushroom extracts**

89 Antimicrobial activity of mushroom extracts was determined according to the National Committee of
90 Clinical Laboratory Standards [16]. Agar disc diffusion method on SDA and Muller-Hinton agar were used
91 for fungi and bacteria respectively. A micropipette was used to introduce 100 µL of the inoculum onto the
92 agar plate, and spread with glass rod spreader under sterile conditions. The paper discs of 6 mm
93 diameter soaked in 10 µL of different concentrations of the extracts (500, 250, 125, 62.5, 31.25, 15.63
94 and 7.81 mg/mL) was applied on the agar plate. Similarly, for control plates, paper discs of 6 mm with
95 dilute dimethylsulfoxide were used as negative control and antibiotics discs of tetracycline (10 µg/mL) and
96 ampicillin (10 µg/mL) were used for Gram negative bacteria isolates, oxacillin (5 µg/mL) was used for
97 Gram positive bacteria isolates whereas antifungi disc of nystatin (20 µg/mL) oxoid disc was used as
98 positive control.

99 This procedure was carried out in triplicate for the entire test organisms and allowed to stand for 30 min
100 on the bench after which they were incubated for 24 h at $37 \pm 2^\circ$ C for bacteria and 72 at $28 \pm 2^\circ$ C for
101 yeast. After incubation, the inhibition zone diameters produced by the different concentrations of the
102 crude extracts were measured (in millimeter) using transparent meter rule.

103

104 **2.7 Determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of the mushroom extracts**

105 The MIC of the extracts was determined for the test organisms in triplicates at varying concentrations
106 (250, 125, 62.5, 31.25, 15.62, 7.80 and 3.90 mg/ml). To obtain these concentrations, 1.0 ml of varying

107 concentrations of the extracts with double strength (500, 250, 125, 62.5, 31.25, 15.62 and 7.80 mg/ml)
108 were constituted in different test tubes. About 1.0 ml of Mueller-Hinton broth (for bacteria) and Sabouraud
109 dextrose broth (for fungi) was added and then a loopful of the test organism, previously diluted to 0.5
110 McFarland turbidity standard, was introduced. Controls of Mueller-Hinton broth and Sabouraud dextrose
111 broth without the mushroom extract were set up. All the bacterial cultures were incubated at $37 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ for
112 24 hours and yeast culture incubated at $28 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ for 72 hours. After incubation each tube was examined
113 for microbial growth. The lowest concentration of the extract that inhibited the growth of the test
114 organisms as detected by lack of visual turbidity was designated the MIC [16].
115

116 **2.8 Determination of minimum bactericidal concentrations (MBCs) and minimum** 117 **fungicidal concentrations (MFCs) of the mushroom extracts**

118 MBC was determined by selecting tubes that showed no bacterial growth during the MIC
119 determination. A loopful from each of the tubes was sub-cultured on the Mueller Hinton Agar
120 and incubated for 24 hours at $37^\circ\text{C} \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$. MFC was determined by selecting tubes that showed no
121 fungal growth during MIC determination. A loopful from each of the test tubes was sub-cultured on Potato
122 Dextrose agar. The plates were incubated for 72 hours at $28 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ [16].
123

124 **2.9 Statistical analysis**

125 Experimental values were given as means \pm standard deviation (SD). Statistical significance of data were
126 analyzed at $P \leq 0.05$ (Independent-Samples T Test) using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS,
127 Armonk, NY, USA) version 20.

128 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

129 Natural products not only provide valuable components but also an important source of bioactive
130 compounds that provide lead information for developing useful synthetic compounds. Mushrooms contain
131 a large number of biologically active components that impart health benefits and protection against
132 degenerative diseases. They have been traditionally used in all over world for treatment of variety of
133 chronic disease. Antimicrobial activity of the crude extract of *Pluerotus squarrosulus* as well as
134 phytochemical characteristics were studied. Table 1 shows the result of the MIC and MBC of the
135 ethanolic, methanolic and aqueous extracts of *P. squarrosulus* on the test organisms. The MIC of
136 ethanolic extract of *P. squarrosulus* showed that *B. cereus*, *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa* and *E.coli*, had
137 15.63, 15.63, 15.63 and 31.25 mg/ml with MBC of 15.63, 31.25, 31.25 and 31.25 mg/ml respectively. The

138 methanolic extract of *P. squarrosulus* showed that the MIC varied between 3.90 and 125 mg/ml with MBC
139 of 7.81 to 125 mg/ml while the MIC of aqueous extract of *P. squarrosulus* varied between 31.25 and
140 62.50 mg/ml with MBC of 31.25 to 125 mg/ml.

141 Table 2 shows the result of the average MIC and MFC of the ethanolic, methanolic and aqueous extracts
142 of *P. squarrosulus* on test organisms. The MIC of ethanolic extract of *P. squarrosulus* showed 15.63
143 mg/ml for *C. albicans* and 125 mg/ml for *C. glabrata* with MFC of 31.25 and 125 mg/ml, respectively, the
144 MIC of methanolic extract of *P. squarrosulus* showed 250 mg/ml for *C. albicans* while *C. glabrata* showed
145 no activity with MFC of 250 mg/ml for *C. albicans* while the MIC of aqueous extract of *P. squarrosulus*
146 showed 7.81 mg/ml for *C. albicans* and 62.5 mg/ml for *C. glabrata* with MFC of 15.25 and 125 mg/ml,
147 respectively.

148 Table 3 shows the phytochemical analysis that revealed the presence of bioactive compounds which
149 were present at varying levels. Saponins, protein and carbohydrate were detected in all the extracts while
150 glycosides, alkaloids, tannins and flavonoids were found in some.

151
152 Figure 1 shows the antimicrobial activity of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* methanol extract on the test
153 organisms. The mean inhibition zone diameter varied directly with increase in extract concentration.
154 *E. coli* was inhibited at different concentration of 500, 250 and 125 mg/ml, *P. aeruginosa* and *B. cereus*
155 were inhibited at different concentration ranging from 500 mg/ml to 62.5 mg/ml, also *S. aureus* was
156 inhibited at different concentrations ranging from 500 mg/ml to 31.25 mg/ml and *C. albicans* were
157 inhibited at different concentrations of 500 mg/ml to 31.25 mg/ml whereas *C. glabrata* was not inhibited by
158 the extract even at the highest concentration of 500 mg/ml. However, inhibition of the antibacterial and
159 antifungal control for the test organisms were significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) than that of the extract.

160
161 Figure 2 presents the antimicrobial activity of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* ethanol extract on the test
162 organisms. *E. coli*, *B. cereus*, *S. aureus* and *C. albicans* were well inhibited at different concentrations
163 ranging from 500 mg/ml to 31.25 mg/ml while *P. aeruginosa* were inhibited at concentrations between
164 500 mg/ml and 62.5 mg/ml whereas *C. glabrata* that was only inhibited at concentrations of 500 mg/ml

165 and 250 mg/ml. However, inhibition of the antibacterial and antifungal control for the test organisms were
166 significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) than that of the extract.

167
168 Figure 3 shows the result obtained for the antimicrobial activity of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* aqueous
169 extract. *B. cereus*, *S. aureus*, *C. albicans* and *C. glabrata* were well inhibited by the extract at
170 concentrations ranging from 500 to 125 mg/ml. *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* were not inhibited even at the
171 highest concentration of 500 mg/ml. However, inhibition of the antibacterial and antifungal control for the
172 test organisms were significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) than that of the extract.

173 The results indicated that extracts from mushroom has similar antimicrobial properties as reported by
174 Nwachukwu and Uzoeto [15]. The sensitivity of isolates to the mushroom extracts implies that intrinsic
175 substance in the extracts is unknown to the microorganisms which made it impossible for them to resist.
176 The variations in the antimicrobial activities of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* extracts may be due to the
177 differences in their bioactive compositions or concentrations, methods of extraction and mechanism of
178 action of active ingredients [17]. The results of the present study strengthened the outcomes of earlier
179 works done by others that showed mushrooms produced a great variety of antimicrobial agents. For
180 instance, it is known that the extract from fruit bodies of several *Lactarius* sp. [18, 19]; *Fomitopsis* sp. [20];
181 *Boletus* sp. [21]; *Cortinarius* sp. [22]; *Ganoderma lucidum*, *Navesporus floccosa* and *Phellinus rimosus*
182 [23]; *Pleurotus tuber-regium* [24]; *Amanita caesarae*, *Armillaria mellea*, *Chroogomphus rutilus*,
183 *Clavariadelphus truncates*, *Clitocybe geotropa*, *Ganoderma* sp., *Ganoderma carnosum*, *Hydnum*
184 *repandum*, *Hygrophorus agathosmus*, *Lenzites betulina*, *Leucoagaricus pudicus*, *Paxillus involutus*,
185 *Polyporus arcularius*, *Rhizopogon roseo*, *Sarcodon imbricatus*, *Suillus collitinus*, *Trametes versicolor*,
186 *Tricholoma auratum*, *Tricholoma fracticum* [25]; *Lactarius deliciosus*, *Sarcodon imbricatus* and *Tricholoma*
187 *portentosum* [26]; *Russula delica* [27]; *Pleurotus eryngii* var. *ferulae* [28]; *Infundibulicybe geotropa*,
188 *Lactarius controversus*, *Lactarius deliciosus* and *Phellinus hartigii* [29]; *Lactarius indigo* [30] and *Stereum*
189 *ostrea* [31] contain a wide range of antimicrobial activity.

190 **4.CONCLUSION**

191 This research has further illuminated the medicinal value of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* found in
192 Umuahia North Local Government, Abia State Nigeria. From the present study, the sensitivity of

193 isolates to the mushroom extracts implies that intrinsic substance in the extracts is unknown to the
194 microorganisms, which made it impossible for them to resist.

195

196 Table 1: The MIC and MBC of crude extract of *Pleurotus squarrosulus*

Extract	Test organism	MIC (mg/ml)	MBC (mg/ml)
Ethanol	<i>B. cereus</i>	15.63	15.63
	<i>S.aureus</i>	15.63	31.25
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	15.63	31.25
	<i>E.coli</i>	31.25	31.25
Methanol	<i>B. cereus</i>	3.90	7.81
	<i>S.aureus</i>	31.25	62.5
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	62.5	62.5
	<i>E.coli</i>	125	125
Aqueous	<i>B. cereus</i>	62.5	125
	<i>S.aureus</i>	31.25	31.25
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	ND	ND
	<i>E.coli</i>	ND	ND

197 ND = NOT DETERMINED

198

199 Table 2: The MIC and MFC of the crude extract of *Pleurotus squarrosulus*

Extract	Test organism	MIC (mg/ml)	MFC (mg/ml)
Ethanol	<i>C.albicans</i>	15.63	31.25
	<i>C.glabata</i>	125	125
Methanol	<i>C.albicans</i>	250	250
	<i>C.glabata</i>	ND	ND
Aqueous	<i>C.albicans</i>	7.81	15.25
	<i>C.glabata</i>	62.5	125

200 ND = NOT DETERMINED

201

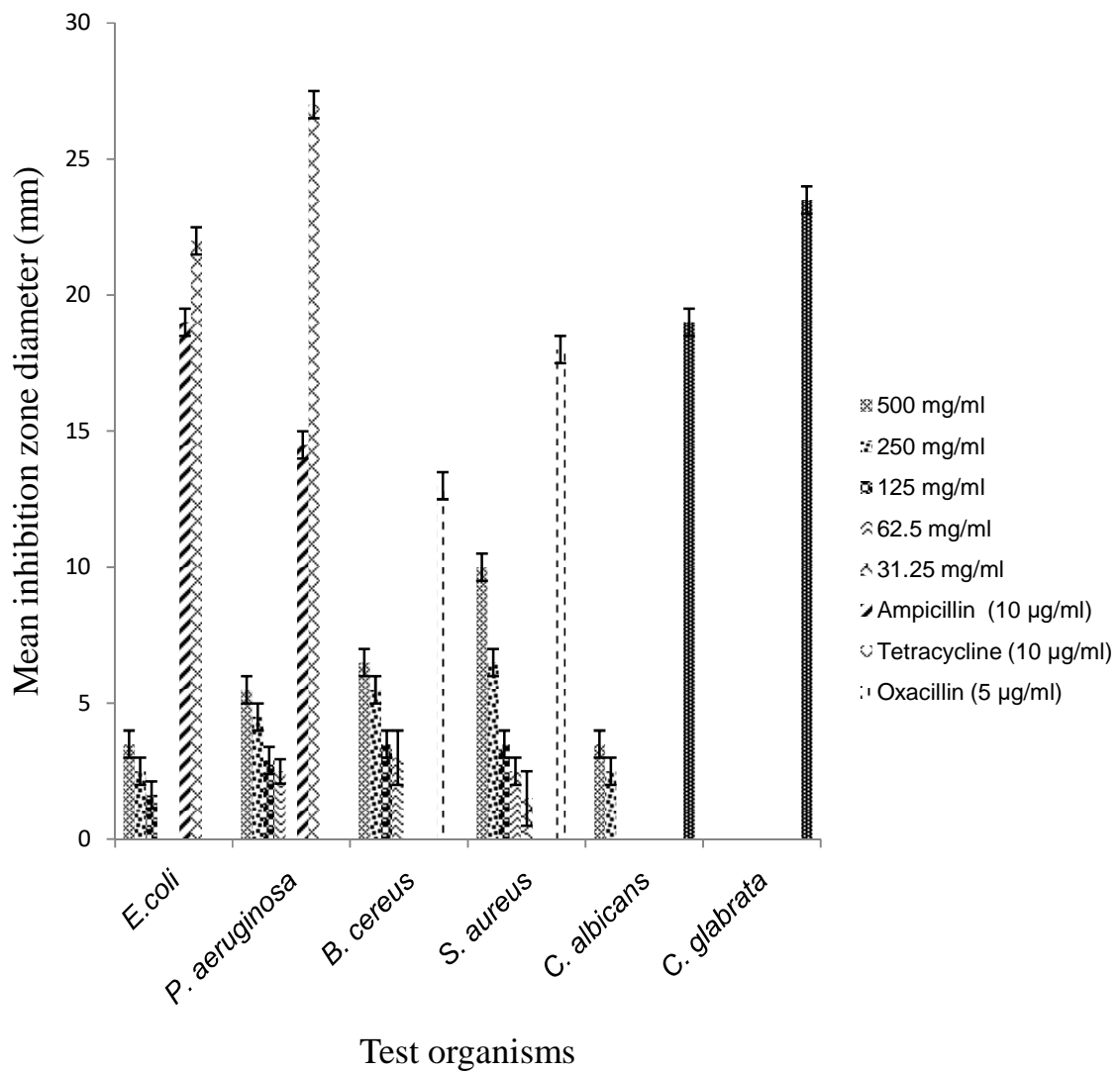
202 Table 3: PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF *PLEUROTUS SQUARROSULUS* IN DIFFERENT
203 SOLVENT

204 Solvents	Methanol	Ethanol	Aqueous
205 Saponin	++	+	+
206 Tannins	+	++	+
207 Flavonoid	+	++	+
208 Alkaloid	+	+	-
209 Proteins	++	+++	++
210 Glycosides	++	+++	-
211 Carbohydrates	++	++	++

212

Legend: - = not present, + = present in low concentration, ++ = moderate, +++ = present in high concentration,

213

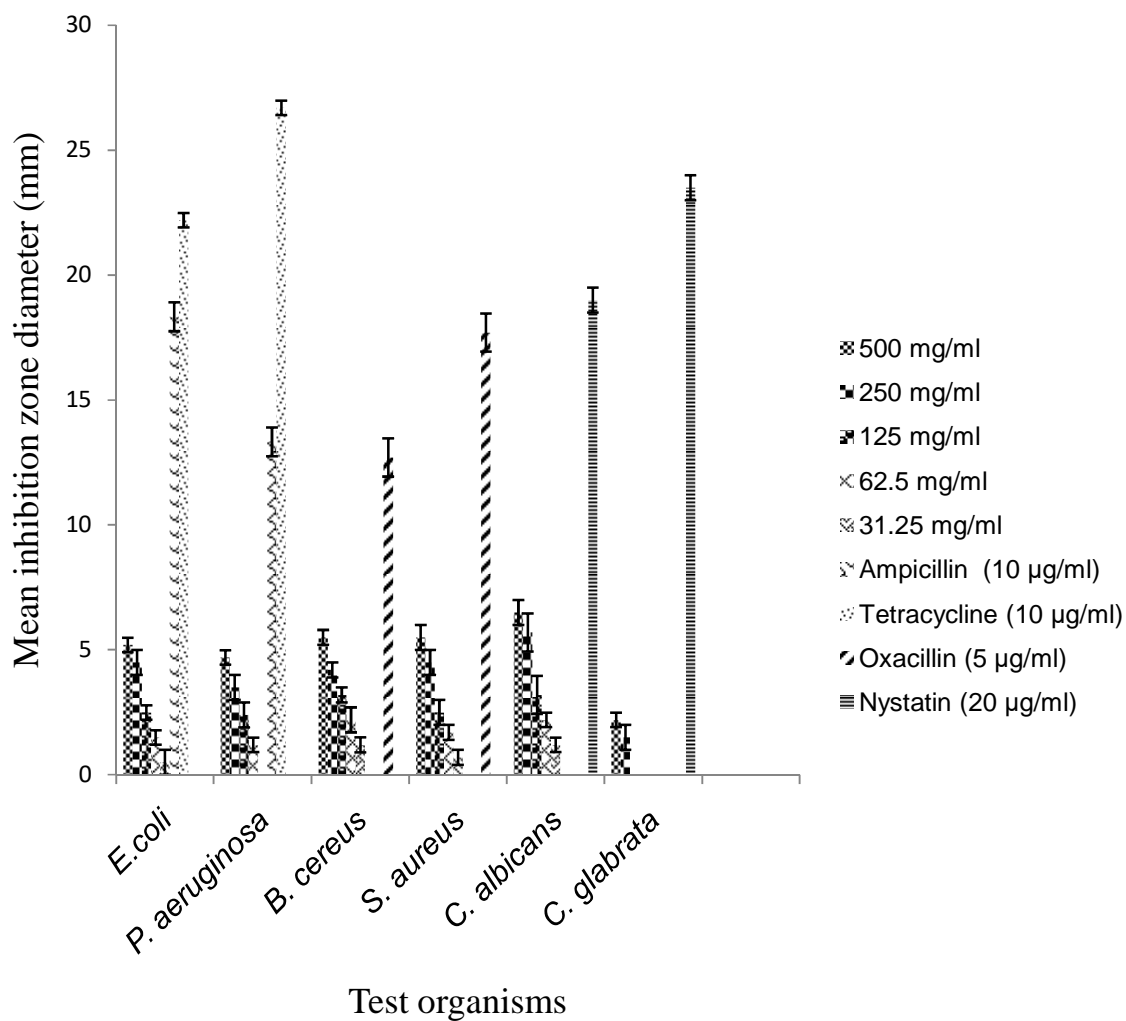


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215

216 Figure 1: The antimicrobial activity of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* methanol extract on the test

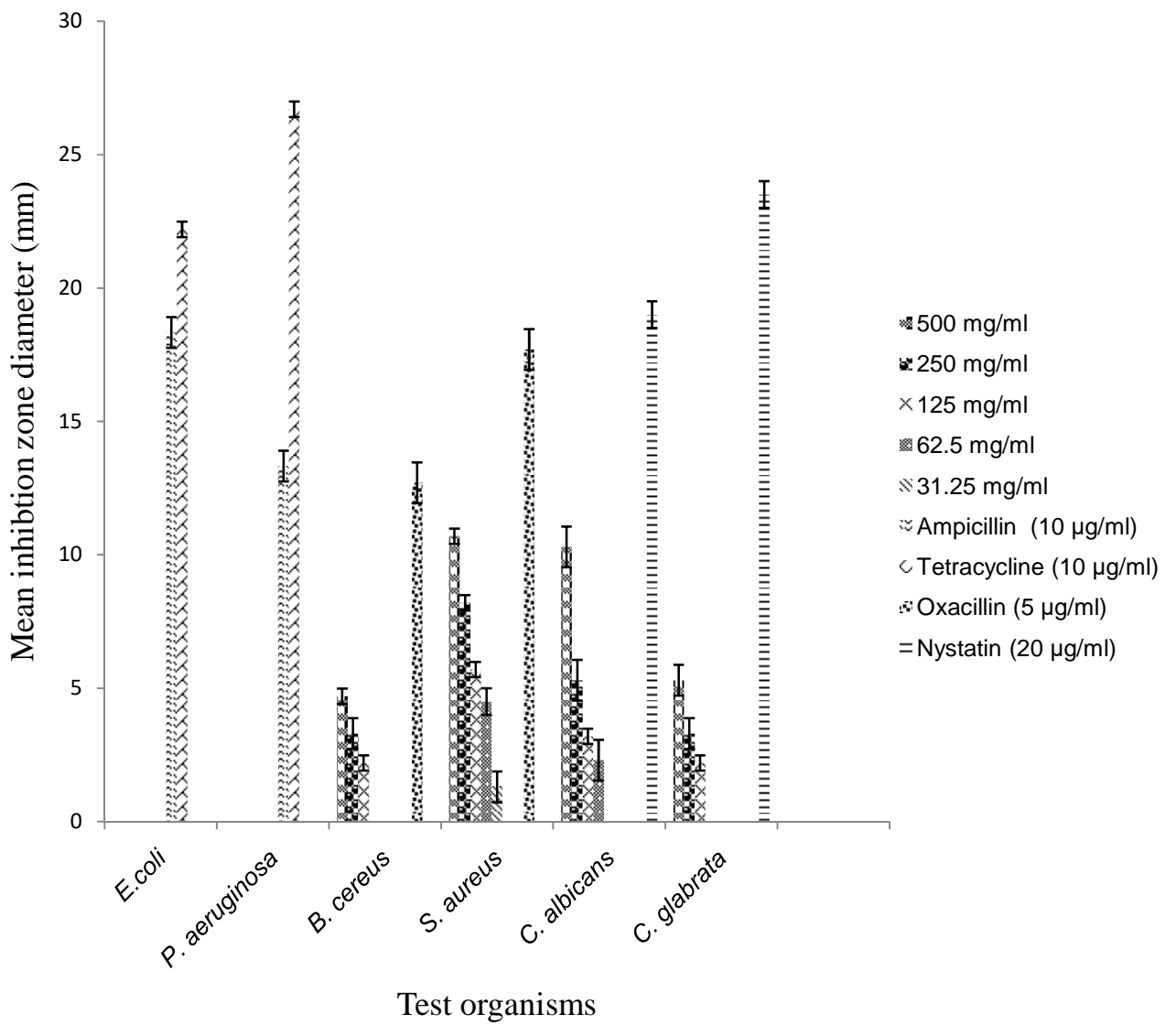
217 organisms



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220 Figure 2: The antimicrobial activity of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* ethanol extract on the test
 221 organisms



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224 Figure 3: The antimicrobial activity of *Pleurotus squarrosulus* aqueous extract on the test
 225 organisms

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