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**ENDOPHYTIC FUNGI AS RESOURCE OF BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS****VED PRAKASH***

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ABSTRACT

Endophytic fungi live inside plants, apparently do not cause any harm to their hosts and may play important roles in defense and growth promotion. Endophytes are microorganism that lives between living plant cell. Their relationship may vary with plant from symbiotic to bordening on pathogenic. Endophytes may contribute to their host plant by producing a plethora of substances that provide protection and ultimately survival value to the plant. Of all plant species on only a few grass species have had their complete complement of endophyte studied. As a result the opportunity to find new and interesting endophyte derived bioactive compound is great. Endophytes have proved to be a rich source of novel chemistry and biological molecules. The review aim at endophyte successful isolation methods , media used as well as different as well as production of secondary metabolites with special emphasis on anticancerous, anti-TB, antimicrobial, antibiotics along with a huge number of other secondary metabolites for commercial exploitation in pharmaceutical and medical field. With day to day increasing demand of drugs plant sources are proving to be able to meet the tremendous demand, endophytes can serve the purpose of mass scale production of bioactive metabolites to mitigate the increasing demand and prospect of finding new drugs that may be effective candidates for treating newly developing diseases in humans, plants, and animals are immense.

KEYWORDS: Endophyte isolation, media, bioactive compounds: anti-TB, anti-fungal, anti-cancer.

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INTRODUCTION

Bioactive natural products and their derivatives have historically served as a major source of therapeutic agents for treating infectious diseases¹. Almost all plants harbour numerous fungi known as endophytes in various amounts in almost all plant tissues²⁻⁵. Infact, a recent comprehensive study has indicated that 51% of biologically active substances isolated from endophytic fungi were previously unknown⁶. Endophytes have proven to be rich sources of novel natural compounds with a wide-spectrum of biological activities and a high level of structural diversity. The use of endophytes as biocatalysts in the biotransformation process of natural products assumes greater importance⁷ and recently several novel bioactive substances have been isolated from these microorganisms⁸. However, fungi isolation in pure cultures has been limited. Of the estimated 1.5 million species that are thought to exist, less than 5% have been successfully isolated into pure cultures⁹⁻¹⁰. Endophytic fungi represent an important and quantifiable component of fungal diversity, and are known to affect the plant community diversity and structure¹¹. Endophytic fungi isolated from medicinal plants more likely exhibit pharmaceutical potentials. Plant endophytic fungi have been found in each plant species examined, and it is estimated that there are over one million fungal endophytes existed in the nature¹².

Host specificity of endophytic fungi

The term "endophyte" was introduced by De Bary and was for some applied to "any organism occurring within plant tissues"¹³. Endophytic relationships may have begun from the time that higher plants first appeared hundreds of millions of year ago. Evidence of plant associated fungi has been discovered in fossilized tissues of stems and leaves¹⁴. As a consequence of these long-term associations, some of these microorganisms may have developed a mechanism of genetic cross systems that allow the exchange of information between themselves and the higher plant. This exchange would allow the fungi to more efficiently cope with the environmental

conditions and perhaps increase compatibility with the host plant. The dependent evolution of endophytic fungi may have allowed them to better adapt to the plant such that the fungi could contribute to the relationship by performing a protective function against pathogens and insects¹⁵. Plant endophytic fungi have been found in each plant species examined and it is estimated that there are over one million fungal endophytes existed in the nature¹⁶. During the long period of coevolution, a friendly relationship was gradually set up between each endophytic fungus and its host plant. The host plant can supply plenteous nutriment and easeful habitation for the survival of its endophytes. On the other hand, the endophytes would produce a number of bioactive compounds for helping the host plants to resist external biotic and abiotic stresses, and benefitting from the host growth in return¹⁷.

Fungal isolation

The methods used to isolate endophytic fungi vary in technique used for surface disinfection of the host plant tissue (leaves, stems, roots, bark, flowers, fruits, and seeds) and choice of cultivation media.

Isolation by leaf cutting

Leaf and stem fragments about 1 cm long were surface-sterilized by successive dipping in ethanol 70%, hypochlorite 4%, ethanol 70%¹⁸. This is done in order to eliminate surface contaminating microorganisms. With a sterile scalpel, outer tissues were removed from the plant samples and the inner tissues were carefully dissected under sterile conditions & placed onto malt agar plates containing antibiotics (chloramphenicol/streptomycin). After 3 weeks of incubation at room temperature, hyphae tips of the fungi were transferred to fresh malt agar medium. Plates are prepared in duplicates to eliminate the possibility of contamination. Pure strains were isolated by repeated inoculation¹⁹.

Isolation by mortar and pestle

A mortar was prepared with 1 ml of tap water and some sterile sand. Leaves were added to the mortar and crushed with a pestle. The leaf suspension was then filled up with tap water to a volume of 8 ml and 200 µl of the resulting suspension was spread on the seven artificial media²⁰.

Isolation by blender shaft

Leaves were added to 250 ml of sterile tap water in a beaker and shredded with an ethanol-sterilized blender shaft. For the cultivation of endophytes, 200 µl of the leaf suspension including the sediment was spread on the artificial media.²⁰

Media used

Media	Composition
SAB ²¹	Peptone 10 g/L, dextrose 10 g/L, agar 15 g/L
PDA ²¹	Potato 200 g/L, dextrose 20 g/L, agar 15 g/L
YNBD agar ²²	6.7 g/L yeast nitrogen base, 1g/L glucose, 15 g/L agar
MMK2 ²³	Mannitol 40 g/L, yeast extract [Becton Dickinson] 5 g/L, Murashige & Skoog salts [Sigma M5524] 4.3 g/L
YES ²⁴	sucrose 150 g/L; yeast extract 20 g/L; MgSO ₄ .7H ₂ O 0.5 g/L; CuSO ₄ .5H ₂ O 0.005 g/L; ZnSO ₄ .7H ₂ O 0.01 g/L
SMYA ²⁵	neopeptone 10 g/L, maltose 40 g/L, yeast extract 10 g/L, agar 4 g/L
YM agar ²⁵	malt extract 10 g, yeast extract 2 g, agar 20 g
CYA agar ²⁶	K ₂ HPO ₄ 1 g/L, Czapek concentrate 10 mg/L, yeast extract 5 g/L, sucrose 30 g/L, agar 15 g/L
Malt extract agar ²⁷	malt extract, 30.0 g/L; mycological peptone, 5.0 g/L; agar, 15.0 g/L; chloramphenicol, 0.1 g/L
Wickerham medium ²⁸	Malt extract (3 g/l); Yeast extract (3 g/l); Peptone (5 g/l); Glucose 10 g/l; pH-7.2–7.4

Endophytic fungi as a source of bioactive natural products

It is of great relevance in this context that the number of secondary metabolites produced by fungal endophytes is larger than that of any other endophytic microorganism class.²⁹ Indeed, endophytic fungi are a very promising source of novel biologically active compounds, and have proven to yield a considerable hit-rate of novel compounds when screening larger strain numbers for biological activities.³⁰ In the following part examples including novel bioactive secondary metabolites from endophytic fungi are listed according to their indications. So far, only a small percentage of these metabolites have been carried forward as natural product drugs, nevertheless they represent interesting structures which indicate the great chemical diversity and pharmaceutical potential of endophytic fungi as sources for novel drug lead compounds

Endophyte as source of natural product Anti-Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is a potentially deadly infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium* sp., mainly *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Often infecting the lungs, it can also attack the central nervous system, the lymphatic system, as well as skeletal tissue. Common symptoms of TB include chronic cough with blood-tinged sputum, fever, night sweats, and weight loss. TB is transmitted through the air when infected individuals cough, sneeze, or spit, spreading the bacteria from their throat or lungs. One-third of the world's current populations have been infected with *M. tuberculosis*.³¹ There were approximately 8.8 million reported cases of active TB in 2010, 5.7 million of which are new or relapsed cases. The disease caused approximately 1.5 million deaths³².

Compound	Endophytic Fungus
Phomoenamides ³³	Phomopsis sp. PSU-D15
Bisdethiobis(methylsulfanyl) apoaranotin ³⁴	Aspergillus terreus BCC 4651
Calpinactam ³⁵	Mortierella alpine FKI-4905
Cordycommunin ³⁶	Ophiocordyceps communis BCC 16475
Nocardithiocin ³⁷	Nocardia pseudobrasiliensis IFM 0757
Trichoderin A ³⁸	Trichoderma sp. 05F148
Trichoderin B ³⁸	Trichoderma sp. 05F148
Ramiferin ³⁹	Kionochaeta ramifera
Sansanmycin A ⁴⁰	Streptomyces sp. SS
Sansanmycin F ⁴⁰	Streptomyces sp. SS
Sansanmycin G ⁴⁰	Streptomyces sp. SS
Biscogniazaphilone A ⁴¹	Biscogniauxia formosana
Chaetoviridine E ⁴²	Chaetomium cochloides
Mollicellin K ⁴³	Chaetomium brasiliense
Ramariolide A ⁴⁴	Ramaria cystidiophora W179

Endophyte as source of natural product: Anti-Fungal

New organisms and many novel natural products from endophytic fungi inhibit or kill a wide variety of harmful microorganisms like bacteria, fungi, viruses and protozoans that affect humans and animals⁴⁵. Endophytes do produce secondary metabolites in culture, but the temperature, composition of the medium

and the degree of aeration will affect the amount and kind of compounds produced⁴⁶, including steroids, xanthenes, phenols, isocoumarins, perylene derivatives, quinines, furandiones, terpenoids, depsipeptides and cytochalasins⁴⁵⁻⁴⁹. Here we are covering the metabolites obtained from endophytic fungi, belonging to various classes of fungi along with unidentified fungi and their potential as

Endophytic Fungus	Host Plant	Compound
<i>Pestalotiopsis microspore</i>	<i>Terminalia morobensis</i>	Pestacin ⁵⁰
<i>Pestalotiopsis jesteri</i>	<i>Fragraea bodenii</i>	Hydroxyjesterone ⁵¹
<i>Dothiorella</i> sp., strain HTF3	<i>Avicennia marina</i>	Cytosporone B ⁵²
<i>Phomopsis</i> sp.	<i>Costus</i> sp.	Phomoxanthone A ⁵³
<i>Phoma</i> sp.	<i>Saurauia scaberrinae</i>	Phomodione ⁵⁴
<i>Colletotrichum gloeosporioides</i>	<i>Artemisia mongolica</i>	Colletotric acid ⁵⁵
<i>Exophiala</i> sp.	<i>Adenocarpus foliolosus</i>	Exochromone ⁵⁶
<i>Cryptosporiopsis quercina</i>	<i>Tripterigeum wilfordii</i>	Cryptocandin A ⁵⁷
<i>Cryptosporiopsis quercina</i>	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Cryptocin ⁵⁸
<i>Hormonema</i> sp. (ATCC 74360)	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Enfumafungin ⁵⁹
<i>Epichloe typhina</i>	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Epichlicin ⁶⁰
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Fonecinone A ⁶¹
<i>Periconia</i> sp.	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	Periconicin A ⁶²
<i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	<i>Llexcornuta Lindl</i>	Trichodermin ⁶³
PSU-N24	<i>Garcinia nigrolineata</i>	Griseofulvin ⁶⁴
<i>Edenia gomezpompae</i>	<i>Callicarpa acuminata</i>	Preussomerin EG1 ⁶⁵
<i>Cladosporium</i> sp.	<i>Quercus variabilis</i>	Brefeldin A ⁶⁶
<i>Xylaria</i> sp. F0010	<i>Abies holophylla</i>	7-dechlorogriseofulvin ⁶⁷
<i>Chaetomium globosum</i>	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Chaetoglobosin A ⁶⁸
<i>Dinemasporium strigosum</i>	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Dinemasone A ⁶⁹
<i>Botryosphaeria rhodina</i>	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Botryorhodine A ⁷⁰

Endophyte as source of natural product: Anti-cancer

Plant-derived compounds have played an important role in the development of several clinically useful anti-cancer drugs. Vinblastine, vincristine, the camptothecin (CPT) derivatives, topotecan and irinotecan, etoposide derived from epipodophyllotoxin and taxol are some of the clinically useful drugs⁷¹. Taxol (paclitaxel) is an attractive invention from an endophytic fungus generated more attention in the treatment of various cancers because of its unique mode of action as compared to other anticancer agent. Podophyllotoxin is an

aryltetralin Lignan have been used as a precursor for synthesis of anticancer drug and with antimicrobial and antioxidative properties, mainly occurs in genera of an endangered species *Sinopodophyllum*. Camptothecin, a pentacyclic quinoline alkaloid, and its analogue 10-hydroxycamptothecin have been identified as effective antineoplastic agents and important precursors of anticancer drug topotecan, and irinotecan⁷². Vinblastine and vincristine, the terpenoid indole alkaloids act as anticancer agents, interfere with microtubule and mitotic spindle.⁷³

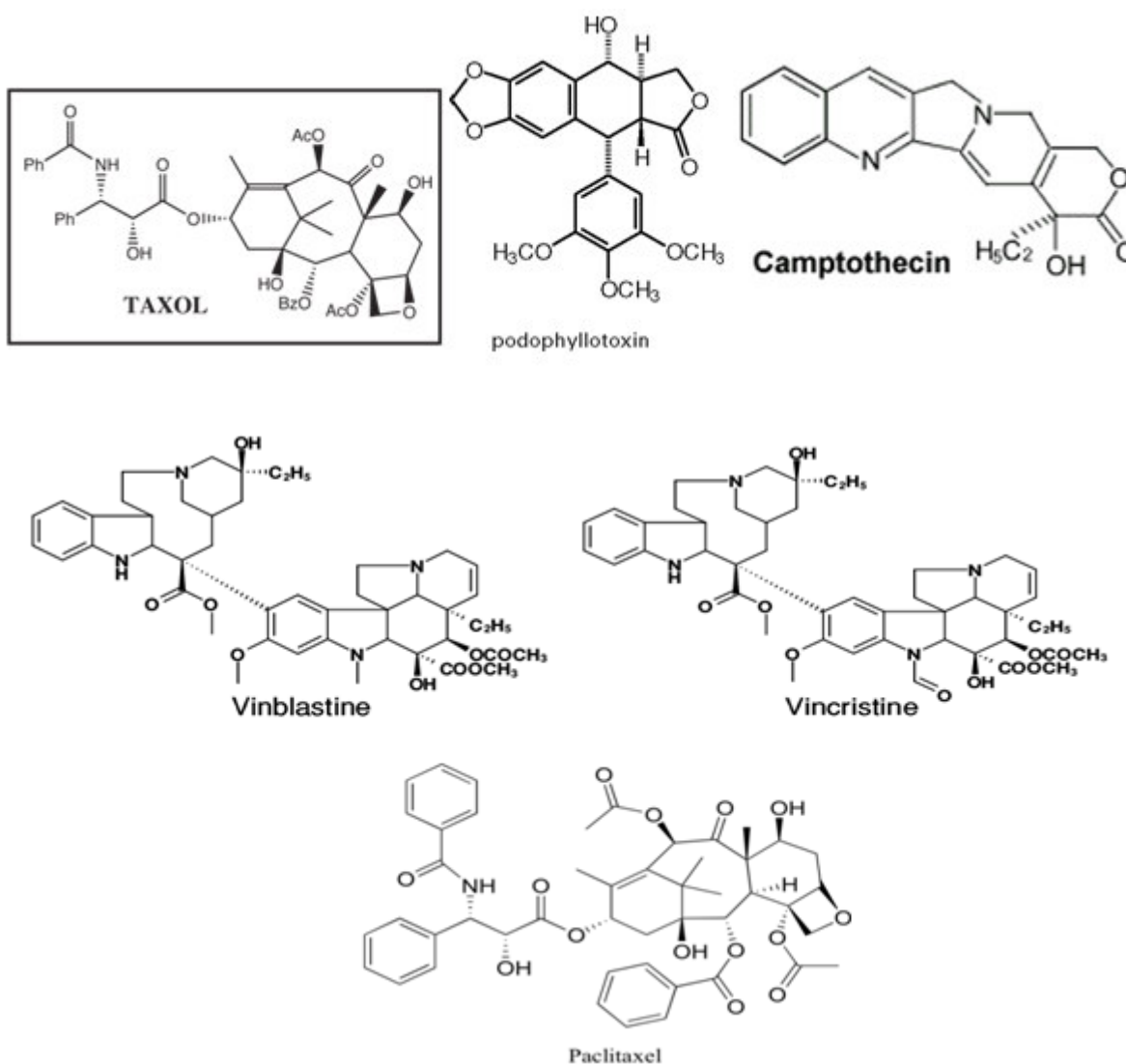


Figure. Showing molecular structure of anti-cancer compound

Host Plant	Endophytic fungus	Compound
<i>Taxus chinensis</i>	<i>Fusarium solani</i>	Taxol ⁷⁴
<i>Pestalotiopsis versicolor</i>	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	Taxol ⁷⁵
<i>Taxus chinensis</i> var. <i>mairei</i> .	<i>EFY-21(Ozonium sp.)</i>	Taxol ⁷⁶
<i>Taxus globosa</i>	<i>Nigrospora sp.</i>	Taxol ⁷⁷
<i>Morinda citrifolia</i> linn.	<i>Botryodiplodia theobromae</i>	Taxol ⁷⁸
<i>Morinda citrifolia</i>	<i>Lasiodiplodia theobromae</i>	Taxol ⁷⁹
<i>Aloe vera</i>	<i>Phoma species</i>	Taxol ⁸⁰
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	<i>Gliocladium sp.</i>	Taxol ⁸¹
<i>Capsicum annum</i>	<i>Collectotrichum capsici</i>	Taxol ⁸²
<i>Taxus x media</i>	<i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i>	Taxol ⁸³
<i>Sabina vulgaris</i>	<i>Alternaria sp.</i>	Podophyllotoxin ⁸⁴
<i>Sinopodophyllum hexandrum</i>	<i>Alternaria neesex</i>	Podophyllotoxin ⁸⁴
<i>Sabina recurva</i>	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	Podophyllotoxin ⁸⁵
<i>Dyosma veitchii</i>	<i>Monila sp.</i>	Podophyllotoxin ⁸⁶
<i>Diphylleia sinensis</i>	<i>Penicillium sp.</i>	Podophyllotoxin ⁸⁶
<i>Dyosma veitchii</i>	<i>Penicillium implicatum</i>	Podophyllotoxin ⁸⁷
<i>Sinopodophyllum peltatum</i>	<i>Phialocephala fortinii</i>	Podophyllotoxin ⁸⁶
<i>Sinopodophyllum hexandrum</i>	<i>Trametes hirsuta</i>	Podophyllotoxin ⁸⁸
<i>Nothapodytes foetida</i>	<i>Entrophospora infrequens</i>	Camptothecin ⁸⁹
<i>Camptotheca acuminata</i>	<i>Fusarium solani</i>	Camptothecin ⁹⁰
<i>Apodytes dimidiata</i>	<i>Fusarium solani</i> (MTCC 9667)	Camptothecin ⁹¹
<i>Apodytes dimidiata</i>	<i>Fusarium solani</i> (MTCC 9668)	Camptothecin ⁹¹
<i>Nothapodytes foetida</i>	<i>Neurospora sp.</i>	Camptothecin ⁹²
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	Vinblastine ⁹³
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Alternaria sp.</i>	Vinblastine ⁹⁴
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	Vincristine ⁹⁵
<i>Phyllosticta spinarum</i> ; <i>Phyllosticta citricarpa</i> ;	<i>Cupressus sp.</i> ; <i>Citrus medica</i> ;	Paclitaxel ⁹⁶
<i>Podocarpus sp</i>	<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> (EPTP-1)	Paclitaxel ⁹⁷
<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> var. <i>taxi</i> (HD86-9)	Paclitaxel ⁹⁸
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	<i>Botryodiplodia theobromae</i>	Paclitaxel ⁹⁹
<i>Taxus media</i>	<i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰⁰
<i>Taxus celebica</i>	<i>Fusarium solani</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰¹
<i>Taxus chinensis</i>	<i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰²
<i>Taxus chinensis</i>	<i>Mucor rouxianus</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰²
<i>Wollemia nobilis</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis guepinii</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰⁴
<i>Pestalotiopsis sp.</i>	<i>Wollemia nobilis</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰⁴
<i>Pestalotiopsis pauciseta</i>	<i>Cardiospermum helicacabum</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰⁵
<i>Phyllosticta citricarpa</i>	<i>Citrus medica</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰⁶
<i>Taxomyces sp.</i>	<i>Taxus yunnanensis</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰⁷
<i>Phyllosticta spinarum</i>	<i>Cupressus sp</i>	Paclitaxel ¹⁰⁸

CONCLUSION

The recent spurt in demand for natural medicine has made the discovery of alternate production methods the need of the hour. Fermentation, with its wide array of application and immense benefits, has proved to be a main contender to fill this void. However, due to the variations among different fermentation techniques, a lot of work still needs to be done in terms of comparison of these techniques.

Also, a lot of exploration still needs to be carried out to identify sustainable substrates and processes to maintain productivity and quality. These can help in increasing production and reducing the cost of these compounds. The plants with ethanobotanical history and their use by indigenous people for healing and medicinal purposes may provide guidance for further the study.

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