

ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF THE ESSENTIAL OILS OF SOME IRANIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS ON GRAM NEGATIVE ORGANISMS

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ABSTRACT

The antimicrobial activities of the essential oils of four different medicinal plants (cumin, thyme, mint and fennel) were investigated at different concentrations (0 – 2 % v/v) on *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Proteus vulgaris*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The antimicrobial activity of the essential oils were evaluated by disc diffusion method. Results indicate that the essential oils used in this experiment at 1 to 2 % were most effective. The most effective oils were thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* L.) and peppermint (*Mintae piperita*). Furthermore, the study suggests that the use of these essential oils can be considered in food preservation.

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