

THE EFFICACY OF *ALLIUM SATIVUM* (GARLIC) ON *ENTAMOEBIA HISTOLYTICA*

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ABSTRACT

Allium sativum is a very good source of Vitamin C and is widely used around the world for its pungent flavour. It is also used as a diaphoretic, diuretic, stimulant, anti-asthmatic, digestive disorder, fungal infection and for the treatment of gastro-intestinal diseases. The crude extracts of garlic from different parts of the world have shown to possess anti-parasitic and anti-microbial properties. *Entamoeba histolytica*, a parasite, is responsible for the major human gastro-intestinal diseases. The efficacy of *Allium sativum* (garlic) on *Entamoeba histolytica* was studied using isolated organism from stool sample of amoebic dysentery which was inoculated into Locke's egg Slant Media. Incubations were carried out and the slants examined after 48 hours of inoculation at 37°C. Different extracts-ethanolic, crude, aqueous and hot water were prepared and different concentrations of each of the extracts-100%, 80%, 60%, 40% and 20% made and tested against *Entamoeba histolytica*. The result showed that all the extracts were effective except hot water extract. The highest zone of inhibition was 35mm and 22mm in ethanolic and crude extracts respectively at 20% concentration followed by the aqueous extracts at 100% concentration.

Keywords: *Allium sativum*, *Entamoeba histolytica*, Stool, Extracts, Efficacy.