

HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION

CINNAMON BARK OIL AS AN ANTIBACTERIAL AND ANTIFUNGAL AGENT

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Preliminary antibacterial and antifungal screening analysis of the oil from the bark of *Cinnamomum mercadoi* using the paper disk diffusion method, showed strong inhibition against the reference strains: *Staphylococcus aureus* Atcc 25923, *Candida albicans*, and *Fusarium moniliforme*. However, the oil exhibited moderate inhibition against *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922.

Cinnamon bark oil, tested against forty-five common clinical pathogens isolated from the blood, throat, sputum, stool, and urine, strongly inhibited these pathogens. *E. coli* from urine was moderately inhibited.

Results suggest that cinnamon bark oil has a strong potential as an antibacterial agent against skin and urinary tract infections; and is a very potent antifungal agent. Furthermore, there was no dermatological adverse effect when the oil was tested using albino rabbits.

