

# A Pharmaceutical Approach & Antifungal Activities of Copper Soaps with their N & S Donor Complexes Derived from Mustard and Soyabean Oils



PragyaTank, Rashmi Sharma and Arun Kumar Sharma\*

Department of Chemistry, S.P.C. Govt. College, Ajmer-305001 Rajasthan, India

Submission: September 22, 2017; Published: October 13, 2017

\*Corresponding author: Arun Kumar Sharma, Department of Chemistry, S.P.C. Govt. College Ajmer- 305001, Rajasthan, India, Email: sharmaarun423@gmail.com

## Abstract

Fungicidal studies have also been done so as to understand the toxicity patterns of Copper-Mustard soap, Copper-Soyabean soap and their complexes on *Alternaria alternata* fungi at varying concentrations using agar plate technique. The effect of solvent has been excluded by complete evaporation. Fungicidal activity is measured in terms of % inhibition. The % Inhibition is calculated according to the following equation: - % Inhibition =  $(C-T) / C * 100$

Where C and T are the diameter of fungal colony in control plate and test plate respectively after 72 hours. In general, it has also been concluded that CMU complexes are more active than CSU complexes. All the physico-chemical and fungicidal analysis reported by us will play a significant role in their application in industries and various other fields.

## Introduction

Copper fungicides rapidly developed after the 'accidental' discovery of the Bordeaux mixture. The Bordeaux mixture [1]. (Copper sulphate and hydrated lime) was the first fungicide to be used on a large scale world- wide [2,3]. Recent studies conducted showed that the use of copper significantly reduced the numbers of bacteria, filamentous fungi and yeast on leaf and fruit surfaces [4]. Recently the deeper understanding of the role of metal ion in biosystem has led to the awareness that metal complexation is useful in the treatment of bacterial, fungicidal and viral diseases.

The pathogenic activity of organic antimicrobial agents is enhanced on complexation with various transition and toxic metals. The biological effect of these derivatives depends on the nature and structure of ligands and their metal complexes and also on the presence of the particular element [5-8]. Many copper compounds are employed as pesticides either alone [as Cu (II) oxide and Cu (II) sulphate] or in mixture like Bordeaux mixture and Burgundy mixture-fungicide similar to Bordeaux mixture but containing sodium carbonate instead of lime. Nitrogenous ligands have been found to be effective against many metal enzymes, bacteria and number of fungi. Large number of compounds containing nitrogen and sulphur atoms in the heterocyclic ring shows different types of activities [9-12].

Recently, Wood has developed antagonist theory of drug action and Fields led to the synthesis of several co-ordination compounds, which have been used for antibacterial and anti-tubercular activity [13-14]. Some newly synthesized 2-arylamino-4-fluoroarylthiazoles, which were evaluated for biological activities, were found to possess fungicidal, herbicidal and anti-arthritic activities [15-17]. Various workers [18-19] synthesized and evaluated the biological activity of copper complexes with tridentate ligands and studied the N-heterocyclic ligands and assessed their remarkable insecticidal activity. A number of heterocyclic derivatives proved to be very useful insecticides and were used in crop protection [20-21].

It has also been established that chelation of the nitrogen and sulphur containing compounds and their substituted derivatives enhances the biological and fungicidal activity [22-26]. The use of copper linoleate as heavy-duty wood preservative and other biological activities of surfactants containing copper metal have also been studied [27]. Small quantities of copper soaps such as copper stearate, copper oleate and copper abietate (from resins) are employed mainly for rot proofing textiles, rope etc. The main applications of Copper sulfate are in the field of wood preservatives and agricultural fungicides.

copper naphthenate is a widely used, broad spectrum wood preservatives .It has several properties related to effective control of decay fungi and excellent control or mitigation of wood destroying insects, including termites, beetles, carpenter ants and other host organisms which makes it a highly valued commodity. In United States, The Environmental Protection Agency also classifies copper naphthenate as a general use (unrestricted) pesticide.

All the above studies suggest that copper metal as well as nitrogen and sulphur containing compounds play a vital role in fungicidal activities. Various edible oils are widely used, easily available, and are eco- friendly. These facts led us to synthesize copper soaps of edible oils and their complexes with ligands containing nitrogen and sulphur elements, to study their micellar characteristics and investigate the role of copper metal in fungicidal activities for exploring their applications and possible uses in various industries and agriculture. For this purpose, we have chosen to study the fungicidal activity of the synthesized copper soaps and complexes against easily available fungi *Alternaria alternata*.

**Experimental**

**Anti-fungal testing**

The general laboratory techniques followed in the course of this investigation are as suggested by literature [28].

**Sterilization of glass wares**

Glassware’s used in our present study were of Pyrex brand. The glassware viz. test tubes, conical flasks, pipette (micro and macro), glass rods and Petri-dishes were thoroughly washed after rinsing with chromic acid each time before sampling. The Petri plates and other glassware’s were then sterilized in hot air oven at 160 °C for 24 hours before use.

**Culture media used**

The culture medium used for the growth of the organism of the present study was P.D.A. The following media were used in the present study.

- Potatoes - 200 g
- Dextrose - 20 g

- Agar - 20 g
- Distilled water - 1000 ml

200 g of potatoes were cleaned, cut into pieces and boiled in about 1000ml of tap water for 2 hours. Then, the contents were strained using muslin cloth. To this extract 20g of dextrose, 20g of agar were added and made up to 1000ml in graduated flask, before sterilizing the medium.

**Preparation of sample solutions**

All the copper soaps and complexes derived from Mustard and Soyabean oil have been tested for their antifungal activity. The method of preparation of soap and complexes has been described in [29]. All the chemicals used were of LR/AR grade. The calculated amount of soap / complex was weighed in a standard flask and the solutions containing different concentrations (100, 1000 and 10000ppm) of soap / complex in benzene were prepared.

**Test organism**

The test organism used in the present study was *Alternaria alternata*; which was isolated from its natural habitat [plants, debris] and then purified characterized and identified.

**Fungicidal testing**

1 ml of sample solution was aseptically transferred into sterile Petri plates. Into these plates, 20ml of P.D.A. was poured and was mixed with sample solution by rotating the Petri plates in clock wise and anti-clock wise direction 3-4 times, and was allowed to solidify. After the solidification of the above medium, single hypha/spore of test organism were aseptically transferred in the centre of the Petri plates. The plates were incubated at 30±10°C for 72 hours. After the period of incubation, the plates were observed for the growth of fungus in different concentration of the soap/complex solution used in the present study. The data were statistically analyzed according to the following formula

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = (C-T) / C * 100$$

Where C = diameter of fungal colony in control plate after 72 hours

T = diameter of fungal colony in test plate after 72 hours

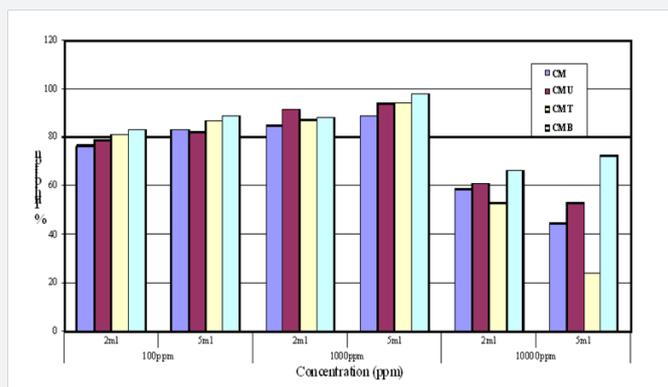
**Results and Discussion**

**Table 1:** % inhibition for copper soaps and complexes derived from mustard oil.

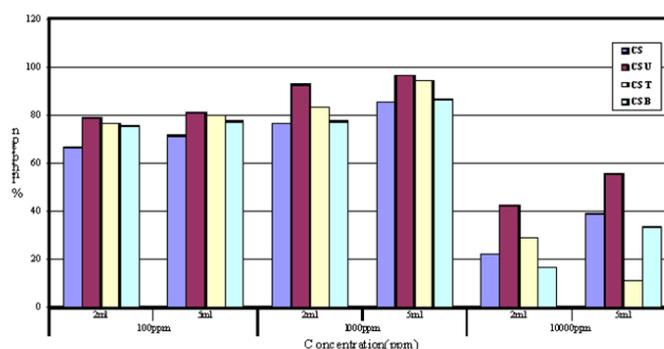
Soap Complex/ Concentration	100ppm		1000ppm		10000ppm	
	2 ml	5 ml	2 ml	5 ml	2 ml	5 ml
CM	76.6	83.3	85	89	58.3	44.4
CMU	78.8	82.2	91.6	94	61	52.7
CMT	81.1	86.6	87	94.4	52.7	24
CMB	83.3	88.8	88	97.7	66.6	72.2

**Table 2:** % Inhibition for copper Soaps and Complexes Derived from Soyabean Oil.

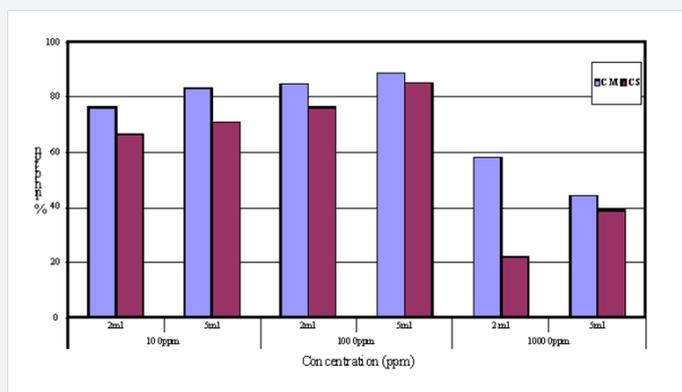
Soap Complex/ Concentration	100ppm		1000ppm		10000ppm	
	2 ml	5 ml	2 ml	5 ml	2 ml	5 ml
CM	66.6	71.1	76.6	85.5	22.2	38.8
CMU	78.8	81.1	92.7	96.6	42.2	55.5
CMT	76.6	80	83.3	94.4	28.8	11.11
CMB	75.5	77.7	77.7	86.6	16.66	33.33



**Figure 1:** % Inhibition for copper Soaps and complexes Derived from Mustard seed oil.



**Figure 2:** % Inhibition for copper Soaps and complexes Derived from Soyabean oil.



**Figure 3:** % Inhibition for copper Soaps Derived from Mustard and Soyabean oil.

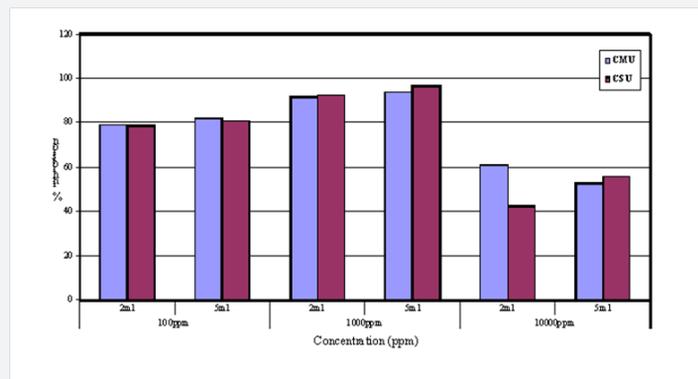


Figure 4: % Inhibition for Urea complexes of copper soaps Derived from Mustard and Soyabean oil.

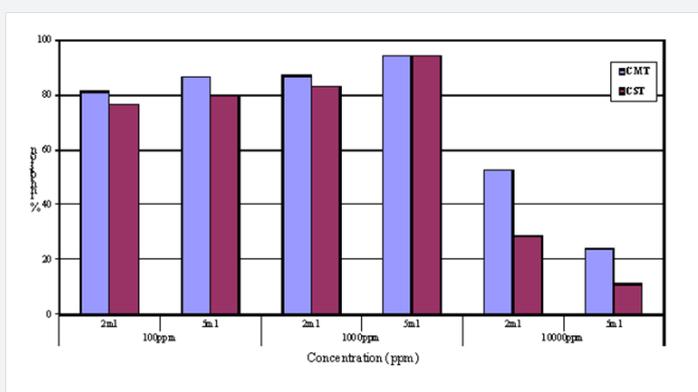


Figure 5: % Inhibition for Thiourea complexes of copper soaps Derived from Mustard and Soyabean oil.

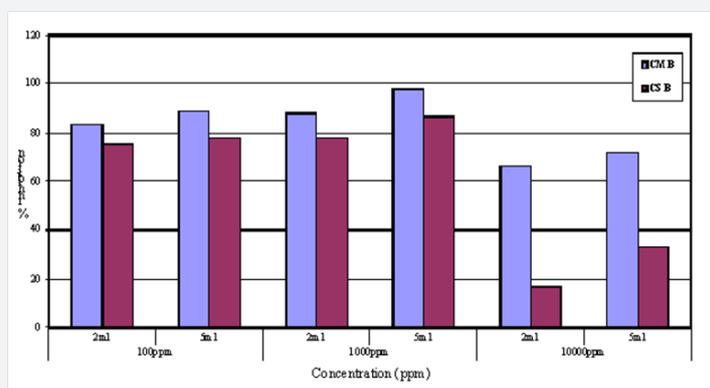


Figure 6: % Inhibition for Benzothiazole of copper soaps Derived from Mustard and Soyabean oil.

The anti-fungal activities of copper soaps and their corresponding complexes with ligands like Urea, Thiourea and substituted Benzothiazole have been screened against *Alternaria alternata* at 100ppm, 1000ppm and 10000ppm using 2ml and 5ml of these solutions by agar-plate technique [29]. A perusal of (Table 1 & 2) reveals that all complexes show higher activity than pure soaps (Figure 1 & 2) suggesting that complexes are more powerful antifungal agents; and Benzothiazole and other N,S etc. containing compounds are able to enhance the performance of copper soaps.

The enhanced activity of newly synthesized complexes as compared to those of the soaps could possibly be explained on the basis of presence of donor atoms N and S atom as well as the structural compatibility with molecular nature of the toxic moiety. A perusal of (Table 1 & 2) Shows a very interesting pattern of % inhibition with increasing concentration. For all the soaps and complexes, on increasing the concentration from 100ppm to 1000ppm, the % inhibition increases but on increasing the concentration from 1000ppm to 10000ppm, there has been unexpected decrease in % inhibition for all systems. The comparative order could be summarized as:

% Inhibition: 100ppm < 1000ppm > 10000ppm

This could possibly be explained on the basis of their CMC. It has been calculated that the concentration of 100ppm and 1000ppm lie below CMC for all soaps and complexes, whereas the concentration of 10000ppm lies above CMC. This observation suggests that the molecule shows an effective activity against the fungal growth and individually plays an important role in the inhibition of fungal growth, whereas when the concentration of the solute increases in the solution (i.e. concentration is higher than CMC) the molecule aggregates to form micelle and their behavior and activity against the fungal growth has been affected significantly.

Thus the possibility cannot be denied that after the formation of micelles, the biocidal behavior shows deviation and the concentration taken is an important factor. Also, on increasing the amount of solution in Petri plates from 2ml to 5ml, the % inhibition increases, suggesting that the % inhibition is affected by the increase in the concentration of the active fungicidal moiety in the analyzed system. On the basis of earlier works, where fungicidal analyses of pure ligand (Benzothiazole), soap and their complexes were conducted; it was observed that enhanced activity of complexes was due to synergistic mechanism, i.e. free ligand and pure soap show less activity but on complexation show enhanced activity. These results support our studies where pure soaps and ligands show less inhibition whereas on complexation show enhanced activity.

A perusal of (Table 1) shows that CM soap is the least fungi toxic (% inhibition lowest) whereas its Benzothiazole complex CMB shows highest inhibition. The activity of copper soap and complexes derived from Mustard oil (Figure 1) are found to increase in the order:

CMB > CMT > CMU > CM

This may be attributed to the fact that the atom introduced into the complex through the ligand also plays an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of fungicidal molecule. The result shows that the fungicidal activity increases as the nitrogen and oxygen atoms are introduced in the complex through Urea ligand; it further shows another increase due to sulphur atom introduced through Thiourea ligand.

The CMB molecule shows maximum fungicidal effect due to presence of two nitrogen atoms, one sulphur atom, one benzene ring and one chlorine atom introduced through Benzothiazole ligand in the complex. These results clearly indicate that atom present in the molecule, concentration, structure, CMC etc. and other factors are very important and play significant role in enhancing the activity of fungicide. On studying (Table 2), it is revealed that CS is the least toxic and has lowest % inhibition, whereas Urea complex shows highest % inhibition in all concentration ranges (Figure 2).

CSU > CST > CSB > CS

It has also been observed that, in general, copper soaps and complexes derived from Mustard oil show higher % inhibition as compared to those derived from Soyabean oil i.e. CM > CS. These results are depicted graphically in (Figure 3-6). All the studies done by us will provide valuable information regarding their selection in various industries.

## Conclusion

The general trend so observed for all the three concentrations i.e. 10<sup>2</sup> ppm, 10<sup>3</sup>ppm and 10<sup>4</sup>ppm indicate that fungicidal activity of complexes is higher than that observed for soaps. These results also suggest that % inhibition increases with the complexation of soaps, as nitrogen and sulphur atoms are included in the soap molecule after complexation. Further, for all the soaps and complexes studied, it is observed that the % inhibition increases on increasing the amount of solution in the Petri-plate from 2ml to 5ml.

It has also been observed that the activity increases with the increase in the concentration of solution from 102ppm to 103ppm. But as the concentration is further raised from 103ppm to 104ppm, the activity decreases in all the cases. This observation may be interpreted as, in general, activity is more pronounced at lower concentrations (10<sup>2</sup>ppm and 10<sup>3</sup>ppm) but at high concentration (10<sup>4</sup>ppm), the surfactant becomes less active due to its micellar behavior i.e. when the concentration is taken more than CMC, the molecule aggregates in the solution phase and after the evaporation of the solvent they act differently as compared to the dilute solutions. This observation clearly suggests that for better results the dilute solutions should be taken and the concentration should be below CMC.

## Acknowledgment

The authors pay their sincere gratitude to CSIR, New Delhi for Finance and Principal, S. D. Govt. College, Beawar- 305901 Rajasthan (India) and S.P.C. Government College Ajmer for providing necessary research facilities to accomplish this study.

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DOI: [10.19080/GJPPS.2017.03.555619](https://doi.org/10.19080/GJPPS.2017.03.555619)

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