Abstract

In frame of this work, antimicrobial activity of ethanol extracts from 16 plants (belonging to 14 families) traditionally used in Peruvian folk medicine for the treatment of various infections was tested against 9 bacteria and 1 yeast by broth microdilution method. For 8 of which this is the first report of antimicrobial activity. *Abuta grandifolia*, *Maytenus macrocarpa*, *Naucleopsis glabra* and *Pterocarpus rohrii* inhibiting all tested microbial strains at MICs ranging from 0.25 to 8 mg/ml; 0.125 to 0.25 mg/ml; 0.0625 to 4 mg/ml and 0.25 to 16 mg/ml, respectively, were considered as potentially prospective sources of new bioactive substances. In addition, a comparative analysis of five plants known for anti-infective activity was performed. The Peruvian plants showed up to 1000 times higher antimicrobial efficiency.