Inhibitory Effect of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (Lam.) Oken leaf Extract and their Fractions on α-amylase, α-glucosidase and Cholinesterase Enzyme

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ABSTRACT

Bryophyllum pinnatum (Lam.) Oken leaves are employed as food and as traditional medicines. This study investigates the antioxidant activity (reducing power, DPPH, ABTS, FRAP, H₂O₂ scavenging ability and metal ion chelating), carbohydrate digesting enzymes activity and inhibitory activity of cholinergic enzyme of aqueous extract and fractions (n-hexane, ethyl acetate, n-butanol, residual aqueous fraction) of *B. pinnatum* leaves were investigated. Results showed that aqueous extract of *B. pinnatum* exhibited DPPH radical scavenging abilities, iron chelation, hydrogen peroxide scavenging abilities and reducing power (Fe³⁺- Fe²⁺). *B. pinnatum* aqueous extract also had considerably α-amylase and α-glucosidase inhibitory activities with IC₅₀ values 149.20 ± 14.44 µg/mL and 126.15 ± 9.76 µg/mL respectively. Our findings indicated that ethyl acetate fraction contained a considerably higher (*p* < 0.05) amount of total phenolic, flavonoids, total antioxidant, FRAP, metal ion, ABTS and DPPH radical scavenging activity than other solvent fractions. Furthermore, the ethyl acetate fraction elicited a significantly higher (*p* < 0.05) inhibitory effects on *α*-glucosidase (IC₅₀ = 70.90 ± 1.23 µg/ml), α-amylase (IC₅₀ = 62.45 ± 1.22 µg/ml), acetylcholinesterase (AChE) (IC₅₀ = 66.75 µg/mL) and butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) (IC₅₀ = 62.97 µg/mL) activities than other fractions. Hence, *B. pinnatum* leaves were rich in biologically active components; thus, could be employed to formulate new plant-based pharmaceutical and nutraceutical drugs to improve human health.

Key words: *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (Lam.), Oken, Antioxidants, Enzyme inhibitory activity, Cholinesterase.

INTRODUCTION

With the emerging trends in science, the therapeutic properties of plants have got importance role everywhere, attributable to its pharmacologic activities (such as free radical scavengers, anti-ulcer, anti-malarial, anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial) and nutraceuticals properties.¹ Reports have targeted on beneficial roles of phytochemicals from plants as well as their health-promoting effects. Amid the numerous secondary metabolites with biological activities, phenolics are accountable for the aforesaid biochemical properties.2 World societies progressively involved on well-being and diet, natural plant products are budding as valuable alternatives aimed at replacing synthetic drugs. On the premise of the aforesaid issues, new plant-based products or Phytomedicine remain thought of as potential resources.

Several native plants are utilized in folklore (traditional) medicine nowadays to treat illnesses and cure wounds.3 One among such therapeutic plants includes Bryophyllum Pinnatum (Lam.) Oken. The medicinal importance of plants paved means for the in depth pharmaceutical production of drugs from its synthetic chemical, utilizing the active ingredients of that particular plant origin.⁴ Bryophyllum Pinnatum (Lam.) Oken (Crassulaceae) Synonyms: Kalanchoe pinnata (Lam.) Pers. Usually referred to as life leaf and air plant is widely cultivated as a garden ornamental in tropical America, China, India, Australia and tropical Africa. The plant flourishes throughout the Southern part of Nigeria. Bryophyllum Pinnatum (Lam.) Oken, a succulent recurrent herb that cultivates in tropical, subtropical and warm temperate climate zone. It is employed in ethno medicine as a curative plant for the treatment of high blood pressure.5 Literatures searches reported Bryophyllum

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juice extract as helpful for the cure of kidney stones.6 Although, there's no proof based clinical indication for these uses in modern medicine and so, such usage might prove dangerous and even fatal in some cases. The leaves of the plant have great medicinal value and are used both internally as well as externally. It additionally possesses numerous properties like haemostatic, refrigerant, emollient, mucilaginous, vulnerary, antiinflammatory,5 disinfectant and tonic. The herb has been used to facilitate the induction of placental delivery in newly born babies within the southern part of Nigeria. The plant additionally encompasses hydrogen cyanide (HCN), Oxalic acid, citric acid, isocitric acid, oxaloacetate and succinic acid. It's also contains a variety of vitamins such as vitamin C, vitamin B, vitamin B, vitamin B, vitamin B, Cysteine, Casein hydrolysate and amino acids such as glutamic acid, methionine and phenylalanine.⁷ The herb may be a suitable supply of inorganic elements such as Na, Ca, K, P, Mg, Mn, Fe, Cu, Zn (3). The Bufadienolides which are active components of Bryophyllum Pinnatum possess anti tumorous,8 antibacterial,9 and insecticidal actions. Although, some literatures have reported Bufadienolides to be toxic and as like cardiac glycosides toxicity.

Edible fruits, herbs and vegetables largely contain high levels of polyphenols that have high antioxidant activity and are useful against stress conditions in the human body, hence presenting vital health benefits. Though, not solely edible plants are beneficial from this point of view, however, additionally non-edible plant materials are mostly examined with this purpose.^{10,11,12} In this sense, several food supplements and pharmaceutical products have been developed in recent years exploiting plant-derived constituents. Therefore, the biochemical composition of plants ordinarily employed in folk medicines, or from the same species, are being considered to look for new alternatives in the food industry. The main objective of the study here presented was to analyze the antioxidant capacity (free radical scavenging assays, reducing power, metal chelating and DPPH, ABTS assays), and enzyme inhibitory activity (cholinesterases, α -amylase and α -glucosidase) of *Bryophyllum Pinnatum* (Lam.) Oken leaves from which scarce data is obtainable in the scientific

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals

All reagents and standards were of analytical reagent (AR) grade unless stated otherwise. Folin–Ciocalteu's reagent and methanol were purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), ABTS radical cation (2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline)-6-sulphonic acid), DTNB (5,5-dithio-bis(2- nitrobenzoic) acid), trolox, EDTA, acarbose, AChE (acetylcholinesterase; Electric ell acetylcholinesterase, Type-VI-S, EC 3.1.1.7), BChE (butyrylcholinesterase; horse serum butyrylcholinesterase, EC 3.1.1.8), acetylthiocholine iodide (ATCI), butyrylthiocholine chloride (BTCI), α -amylase (from porcine pancreas, EC 3.2.1.1) and α -glucosidase (from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, EC 3.2.1.20) were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. (Sigma–Aldrich GmbH, Sternheim, Germany). All other chemicals and solvents were of analytical grade.

Plant material and extraction procedure

Fresh leaves of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (Lam.) Oken was obtained (January, 2017) at Oja Oba market Ado-Ekiti. Fresh leaves of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* was identified and documented by a senior plant scientist from the Department of Plant Biology, University of Ilorin, Nigeria and a voucher specimen number was deposited appropriately at the University herbarium. All plant names in this manuscript are arranged according to the modern revision in "The Plant List", and correspond to the good practices in publishing studies on herbal plants, as described by.¹³ The fresh leaves were air-dried for three weeks and ground to powder using a mechanical blender. To obtain aqueous extracts, 500 g of air-dried leaves

were soaked with 2000 mL of water for 48 h.¹⁴ Aqueous extracts obtained were lyophilized and stored until use.

Solvent partitioned fractionation of crude aqueous extracts

Aqueous leaves extract of *B. pinnatum* was (50 g) sequentially extracted with solvents of increasing polarity (hexane, ethyl acetate, n-butanol and water). Aqueous extract was partitioned between n-hexane (2 x 200 mL) and water to obtain n-hexane fraction (HF) and aqueous portion. The aqueous portion obtained was further partitioned by ethyl acetate (2 x 200 mL) to obtain ethyl acetate fraction (EAF) and aqueous portion. The aqueous portion obtained was further partitioned by n-butanol (2 x 200 mL) to obtain n-butanol fraction (BF) and residual aqueous fractions (AF). The yield of the aqueous extract was 25.25g while the yield for n-hexane fraction, ethyl acetate fraction, n-butanol fraction and residual aqueous fractions are 3.26g, 7.74g, 4.5g and 5.5g respectively.

Evaluation of Antioxidant Activities of Aqueous and Fractions of *B. pinnatum* leaves Determination of Reducing Property

The reducing power of the *B. pinnatum* leaf aqueous extract and fractions (HF, EAF, BF, AF) was studied by evaluating the capability of the extract or fractions to scale back FeCl₃ solution using the method of.¹⁵ 2.5 mL of extract was mixed with 2.5 mL of 200 mM phosphate buffer (pH 6.6) and 2.5 mL of 1% potassium ferricyanide. Solution was incubated for 20 min at 50 °C in a water bath and 2.5 mL of 10% trichloroacetic acid was added. Resulting solution was then centrifuged for 10 min at 650 g. After that, 5 mL of the filtrate was mixed with an equal volume of water and one mL, 0.1% FeCl₃. Above-stated process was conjointly applied to a standard ascorbic acid solution, and absorbance was read at 700 nm. The reducing ability was calculated as percentage inhibition.

Iron (Fe²⁺) chelation assay

Metal chelating ability of *B. pinnatum* leaf aqueous extract and fractions (HF, EAF, BF, AF) was determined by employing a changed procedure by.¹⁶ Newly made 500 µmol L⁻¹ FeSO₄ (150 µL) was added to the solution comprising 168 µL of 0.1 mol L⁻¹ Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 218 µL saline and the aqueous extract (20-100 µL) and fractions. The solution was incubated for 5 min, with addition of 13 µL of 0.25% (w/v) of 1, 10-phenanthroline. Absorbance was read at 510 nm. (EDTA was used as a standard for evaluating metal chelating activity (EDTAE)).

Evaluation of DPPH Free Radical Scavenging Ability

DPPH scavenging ability of *B. pinnatum* leaf aqueous extract and fractions (HF, EAF, BF, AF) against DPPH free radical was assessed as delineated by.¹⁷ Concisely, suitable dilution of the extract and fractions (1 mL) was mixed with 1 mL 0.4 mM DPPH solution in methanol. The mixture was left within the dark for 30 min and absorbance was read at 516 nm. DPPH radical scavenging assay was afterwards calculated with reverence to the control (Vitamin C was used as a standard for evaluating DPPH activity).

Estimation of 2, 2-Azino-bis3-ethylbenthiazoline-6sulphonic acid (ABTS.) radical scavenging ability

2, 2-Azino-bis3-ethylbenthiazoline-6sulphonic acid scavenging ability of *B. pinnatum* leaf aqueous extract and fractions (HF, EAF, BF, AF) was assessed primarily based to the protocol delineated by.¹⁸ The ABTS was produced by reacting 7mM ABTS aqueous solution with $K_2S_2O_8$ (2.45 mM, final concentration) within the dark for 16 h and altering the absorbance at 734 nm to 0.700 with alcohol. Afterward, 200 µL of suitable dilution of extracts and fractions were added to 2.0 mL ABTS Solution. Absorbance were read at 734 nm after 15 min.

Estimation of Hydrogen peroxide radical scavenging ability

The capability of the *B. pinnatum* leaf aqueous extract and fractions (HF, EAF, BF, AF) to scavenge hydrogen peroxide was determined according to the protocol of.¹⁹ Hydrogen peroxide (40 mM) was prepared in phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). Extracts and fractions dissolved (20 - 100 µg/mL) in distilled water were mixed with hydrogen peroxide solution (0.6 mL, 40mM). Hydrogen peroxide absorbance was determined 10 min later against a solution containing the phosphate buffer without H_2O_2 and read at 230 nm. Hydrogen peroxide scavenging powered of both *B. pinnatum* extracts and fractions were calculated:

% Scavenged
$$[H_2O_2] = \frac{(Abs \text{ control} - Abs \text{ sample})}{Abs \text{ sample}} \times 100$$

Where Abs_{control} is the absorbance of the control and Abs_{sample} is the absorbance in the presence of the sample of B. pinnatum extracts or fractions.

Quantitative Determination of Total Phenolics, Total Flavonoids, Tannins and vitamin C Quantitative Determination of Total phenolics, total Flavonoids, Tannins and Vitamin. Secondary metabolites and vitamins were quantitatively determined using previously described methods.^{15,16,18}

Evaluation of a-amylase inhibitory activity

Alpha-amylase activity was determined concurring to the protocol delineated by.²⁰ A volume of 250 μ L of *B. pinnatum* leaf aqueous extract and fractions (HF, EAF, BF, AF) at totally different concentrations (20–100 μ g mL⁻¹) was incubated with 500 μ L of porcine pancreatic amylase (2 U mL⁻¹) in 100 mmol L⁻¹ phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) at 37°C for 20 min. Two hundred and fifty μ L of 1 % starch dissolved in 100 mmol L⁻¹ phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) was then added to the mixture and incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. One mL of DNS color was then added to the solution and boiled for 10 min. The absorbance of resulting mixture was read at 540 nm and the enzyme inhibitory activity was calculated as percentage of control sample without inhibitors. All assays were applied in triplicate.

$$\alpha - \text{amylase inhibition(\%)} = \frac{A_{540} \text{ control} - A_{540} \text{ sample}}{A_{540} \text{ control}} \times 100$$

Estimation of a-glucosidase inhibitory activity

Alpha-glucosidase inhibitory activity was assessed in line with the protocol delineated by.²¹ with small modifications. Briefly, 250 μ L of *B. pinnatum* leaf aqueous extract and fractions (HF, EAF, BF, AF), at different concentrations (20–100 μ g mL⁻¹), was mixed with 500 μ L of 1.0 U mL⁻¹ α -glucosidase solution in 100 mmol L⁻¹phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) at 37 °C for 15 min. Thereafter, 250 μ L of pNPG solution (5 mmolL⁻¹) in 100 mmol L⁻¹ phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) was added and therefore the solution was more mixed at 37°C for 20 min. The absorbance of the free *p*-nitrophenol was read at 405 nm and therefore the inhibitory activity was expressed as percentage of a control sample without inhibitors.

$$\alpha - \text{glucosidase inhibition (\%)} = \frac{A_{405}\text{control} - A_{405}\text{sample}}{A_{405}\text{control}} \times 100$$

Determination of Cholinesterase Activity

Estimation of Acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and butyrylcholinesterase inhibitory activity

Inhibitory activity of AChE was evaluated via an adapted colorimetric method as delineated by.²² The AChE activity was assessed in a mixture

containing 200 µL of a solution of AChE (0.415 U/mL in 0.1 M phosphate buffer, pH 8.0), 100 µL of a solution of 5,50-dithiobis (2-nitrobenzoic) acid (DTNB) (3.3mM in 0.1 M phosphate-buffered solution, pH 7.0) containing NaHCO₂ (6 mM), B. pinnatum leaf aqueous extract and fractions (HF, EAF, BF, AF), and 500 µL of 4 phosphate buffer of pH 8.0. After incubation for 20 min at 25 °C, 100 µL of 0.05mM acetylthiocholine iodide solution was added as the substrate, and AChE activity was assessed as change in absorbance reading at 412 nm for 3 min at 25 °C using a spectrophotometer. Also, inhibition of BChE was evaluated by an adjusted colorimetric method as delineated by.22 The BChE activity was assessed in a mixture comprising 200 µL of a solution of BChE (0.415 U/mL in 0.1 M phosphate buffer, pH 8.0), 100 µL solution of 5, 50-dithiobis (2-nitrobenzoic) acid (DTNB) (3.3mM in 0.1 M phosphate-buffered solution, pH 7.0) containing NaHCO₂ (6 mM), B. pinnatum leaf aqueous extract and fractions (HF, EAF, BF, AF), and 500 µL of 4 phosphate buffer, pH 8.0. After incubation for 20 min at 25 °C, 100 μL of 0.05mM butyrylthiocholine iodide solution was added as substrate, and BChE activity was estimated as change in absorbance reading at 412 nm for 3 min at 25 °C using a spectrophotometer. AChE and BChE inhibitory activities were calculated as percentage inhibition (%).

Data analysis

Results were expressed as the mean \pm SEM.²³ The level of significance for the analyses was set to p < 0.05. Mean values were analyzed and compared using One way analysis of variance and Student's t test. These analyses were performed using the free software R version 3.1.1.²⁴

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the results of the total phenolics, total flavonoids, and Vitamin C content, reducing power and trolox antioxidant capacity by aqueous and various fractions of crude aqueous extract of Bryophyllum pinnatum leaves. The result revealed that both the aqueous and all fractions showed an ability to donate electrons to convert Fe3+ into Fe2+ as indicated by the values presented. Ethyl acetate fraction of Bryophyllum pinnatum leaves $(3499.08 \pm 45.28 \text{ mg AAE}/100\text{g})$ had considerably (p < 0.05) higher reducing ability than aqueous extract ($838.77 \pm 39.93 \text{ mg AAE}/100g$), n-hexane (338.23 ± 2.47 mg AAE/100g), residual aqueous (556.04± 55.89 mg AAE/100g) and n-butanol (627.25 ± 10.39 mg AAE/100g) fractions as presented in Table 1. As revealed by the results, ethyl acetate fraction of Bryophyllum pinnatum (1049.48 ± 26.87 mg AAE/100g) had appreciably (p<0.05) higher antioxidant capacity (Table 1) than aqueous extract (558.08 ± 18.96 mg AAE/100g), residual aqueous (420.24 ± 40.04 mg AAE/100g), n-butanol (327.47 ± 15.28 mg AAE/100g) and n-hexane (115.86 ± 15.28 mg AAE/100g) fractions.

DPPH radical scavenging ability is displayed in Figure 1, with its IC_{50} values (93.64 ± 3.42 µg/mL). The result revealed that the aqueous extracts of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* scavenged free radicals (20-100 µg/ml).

Figure 2 shows the metal ion chelating ability of aqueous extract of *B. pinnatum* leaves. The result revealed that the aqueous extract of *B. pinnatum* IC_{50} (224.17 ± 15.22 µg/mL) had a high (*p*<0.05) metal chelating ability.

Figure 3 presents the hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) scavenging activities of aqueous extracts of *B. pinnatum* leaves. The extract was found to exhibit NO inhibition activity. As revealed by the results, the aqueous extract of the leaves possessed IC₅₀ values of (316.88 ± 12.75 µg/mL).

The radical scavenging ability of the *B. pinnatum* leaves extract was consequently evaluated using the reasonably steady ABTS radical and displayed in Figure 4 with IC_{50} (94.97 ± 3.33 µg/ml) value. The results showed that the *B. pinnatum* leaves extract quenched ABTS radical (20-100 µg/ml).

Fractions	Total Phenolic (mg GAE/100g)	Total Flavonoid (mgQE/100g)	Total Tannin (mgQE/100g)	Vitamin C (µg/g)	FRAP (mg AAE/100g)	TEAC (mg AAE/100g)
Aqueous	747.78 ± 23.07^{a}	442.50 ± 19.91^{a}	$235.69\pm13.14^{\rm a}$	268.54 ± 14.67^{a}	838.77 ± 39.93^{a}	558.08 ± 18.96^{a}
n-Hexane	$59.28 \pm 4.47^{\rm d}$	-	$55.50\pm2.07^{\rm d}$	$34.95 \pm 1.02^{\rm d}$	$338.23\pm2.47^{\rm d}$	115.86 ± 15.28^{d}
Ethyl acetate	$582.46 \pm 21.25^{\text{b}}$	$397.12 \pm 15.46^{\mathrm{b}}$	655.50 ± 1.21^{b}	$734.95\pm1.05^{\mathrm{b}}$	$3499.08 \pm 45.28^{\mathrm{b}}$	1049.48 ± 26.87^{b}
n-Butanol	$472.48 \pm 94.06^{\circ}$	$247.50 \pm 90.91^{\circ}$	$355.50 \pm 10.29^{\circ}$	434.95± 9.05°	627.25 ± 10.39°	327.47 ± 15.28°
Residual aqueous	$465.64 \pm 95.39^{\circ}$	$170.00 \pm 52.02^{\rm d}$	$204.33 \pm 8.78^{\circ}$	$229.34\pm7.21^{\text{e}}$	556.04 ± 55.89^{d}	$420.24 \pm 40.04^{\circ}$

Table 1: Total phenolic, Flavonoids, Tannins, Vitamin C, reducing power (FRAP) and Trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity (TEAC) by aqueous and various fractions of crude aqueous extract of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* Leaves.

Values are given as mean \pm standard error of Mean (SEM). ^{a-e}Means with the different letters in each column are significantly different (p < 0.05) (n = 3). AAE; Ascorbic acid equivalents

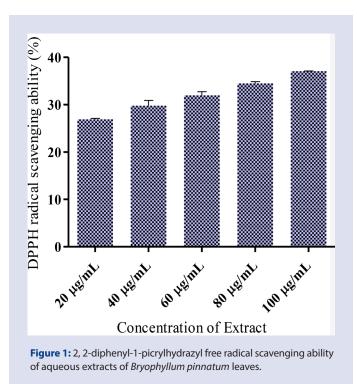
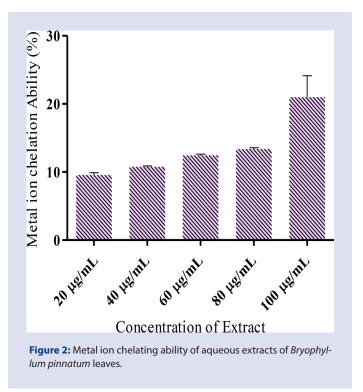


Figure 5 shows the percentage inhibitory activity of α - glucosidase by aqueous extract of *B. pinnatum* leaves. The aqueous extract inhibited α - glucosidase *in vitro*. The concentration of the extract required to cause 50 % inhibition (IC₅₀) against α - glucosidase was 149.20 ± 14.44 µg/mL. Figure 6 shows the percentage inhibitory activity of α - amylase by aqueous extract of *B. pinnatum* leaves. Extract had appreciable *in vitro* inhibitory activity against α - amylase. The IC₅₀ values for the aqueous extract against α - amylase activity was determined from a dose-response curve to be 126.15 ± 9.76 µg/mL.

Figure 7 shows the DPPH radical scavenging activities of the various fractions of *B. pinnatum* leaves. All the fractions showed an ability to quench DPPH free radicals as indicated by the concentration-dependent increase in the percentage inhibition. The ethyl acetate fraction had a consistently higher DPPH radical scavenging activity, as shown by the IC_{50} (80.37 ± 1.54 µg/mL) than residual aqueous (98.33 ± 4.65 µg/mL), n-butanol (87. 35 ± 2.11 µg/mL) and n-hexane (175.49 ± 15.73 µg/mL) fractions.

Metal ion chelating ability of various fractions of *B. pinnatum* is presented in Figure 8. The result revealed that the ethyl acetate fractions of *B. pinnatum* (79.82 \pm 1.08 µg/mL) had a considerably (*p*<0.05) higher



metal chelating properties than residual aqueous ($103.81 \pm 12.45 \ \mu g/mL$), n-hexane ($100.99 \pm 17.50 \ \mu g/mL$) and n-butanol ($118.46 \pm 14.76 \ \mu g/mL$) fractions.

Figure 9 shows the H_2O_2 radical scavenging activities of the various fractions of *B. pinnatum*. A concentration-dependent H_2O_2 inhibition activities were observed for ethyl acetate fraction which was significantly higher (128.79 ± 19.02 µg/mL) (p < 0.05) than the results of residual aqueous (749.88 ± 45.98 µg/mL), n-hexane (549.62 ± 21.02 µg/mL) and n-butanol (170.03 ± 9.12 µg/mL) fractions as indicated by their IC₅₀ values. The free radical scavenging ability of the various fractions of *B. pinnatum* leaves was consequently evaluated using the abstemiously steady ABTS radical and displayed in Figure 10. Results showed that ethyl acetate fraction of *B. pinnatum* leaves (66.82 ± 1.02 µg/mL) quenched ABTS radical (20-100 µg/ml) better than residual aqueous (96.65 ± 4.78 µg/mL), n-hexane (393.72 ± 23.02 µg/mL) and n-butanol (103.09 ± 10.12 µg/mL) fractions as indicated by their IC₅₀ values.

Figure 11 shows the percentage inhibition of α - glucosidase by various fractions of crude aqueous extract *B. pinnatum* leaves. The fractions inhibited α - glucosidase activities *in vitro*. More polar fractions demonstrated appreciably higher (p < 0.05) α -glucosidase activity than less

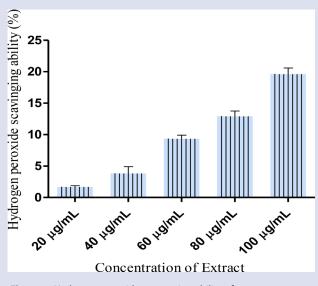


Figure 3: Hydrogen peroxide scavenging ability of aqueous extracts of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* leaves.

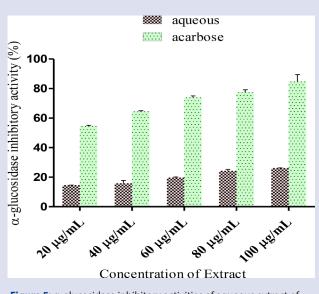
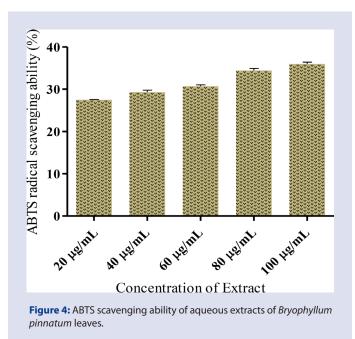
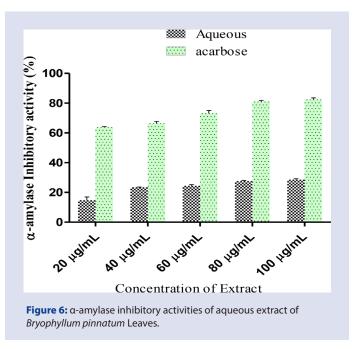


Figure 5: α-glucosidase inhibitory activities of aqueous extract of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* Leaves.





polar fractions. However, within the more polar fractions, the inhibitory activity demonstrated by the ethyl acetate fraction (70.90 \pm 1.23 µg/mL) was considerably higher (p < 0.05) than residual aqueous (173.85 \pm 14.69 µg/mL), n-hexane (419.71 \pm 26.52 µg/mL) and n-butanol (83.05 \pm 3.12 µg/mL) fractions as indicated by their IC₅₀ values.

Figure 12 shows the percentage inhibition of α - amylase by various fraction of crude aqueous extract of *B. pinnatum* leaves. The fractions had appreciable *in vitro* inhibitory activity against α - amylase in a fashion with ethyl acetate fraction (62.45 ± 1.22 µg/mL) showing a considerably higher (p < 0.05) α -amylase activity than n-butanol (104.78 ± 9.54 µg/mL), residual aqueous (139.07 ± 12.53 µg/mL) and n-hexane (695.82 ± 46.12 µg/mL) fractions.

Acetylcholinesterase inhibitory properties of *B. pinnatum* leaf aqueous extract and fractions was examined and displayed in Figure 13; the result shown the ethyl acetate fraction inhibiting AChE activity in a concentration-dependent manner (20–100 µg/mL), having an IC₅₀ (extract concentration causing 50% inhibition) value = 66.75 µg/mL better than both the aqueous 99.05 µg/mL and n-hexane (197.42 µg/mL), n-butanol (99.41 µg/mL) and residual aqueous fractions (122.91 µg/mL). Likewise, the ability of *B. pinnatum* leaf aqueous extract and fractions to inhibit butyrylcholinesterase activity was also assessed, and the result is displayed in Figure 14. This revealed that the ethyl acetate fraction inhibited BChE as the concentration increases (20– 100 µg/mL) having an IC₅₀ (extract concentration causing 50% inhibition) value = 62.97 µg/mL.

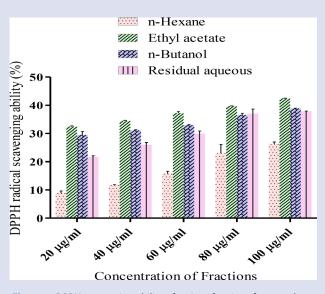
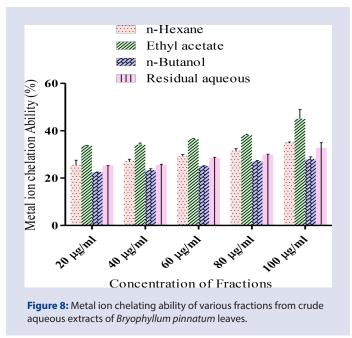


Figure 7: DPPH scavenging ability of various fractions from crude aqueous extracts of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* leaves.



Moreover, aqueous extracts of *B. pinnatum* inhibited both acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and butyrylcholinesterase (BChE). The result revealed that the aqueous extracts and various fractions (n-hexane, ethyl acetate, n-butanol and residual aqueous) inhibited AChE and BChE activities.

DISCUSSION

This work investigated the antioxidant activities and enzyme inhibitory properties of aqueous extract and fractions of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* leaf. Recently, phenolic compounds have attracted great interest for their potential use in the development of new nutraceuticals or pharmaceuticals due to their remarkable antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anticancer or antibacterial activities. Hence, several of the possible protecting effects of polyphenols could rely upon their concentration because of high doses

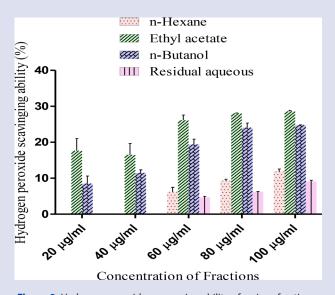
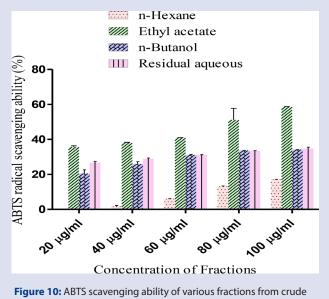


Figure 9: Hydrogen peroxide scavenging ability of various fractions from crude aqueous extracts of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* leaves.



aqueous extracts of Bryophyllum pinnatum leaves.

of some of these compounds which is also a pro-oxidant and negatively have an effect on cell growth causing toxicity.²⁵ This might result to a multifaceted mechanism that comprises as a minimum an antioxidantpro-oxidant consequence of the polyphenolic compounds. Several present antioxidants show mutagenic and genotoxic responses in cells reflecting its oxidant activity.^{25,26} Flavonoids are major classes of phenolics and many studies have documented their biological and pharmacological activities.^{27,28,29} Though, the phenolic contents of *B. pinnatum* aqueous extracts and various fractions were determined respectively. Ethyl acetate fraction of *B. pinnatum* had higher total phenolic and flavonoid content (582.46 \pm 21.25 mg GAE/g and 397.12 \pm 15.46 mg RE/g) than aqueous extract and all other fractions. The reducing powers of the aqueous extracts and various fractions of *B. pinnatum* was evaluated supported



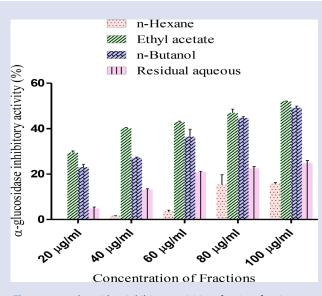
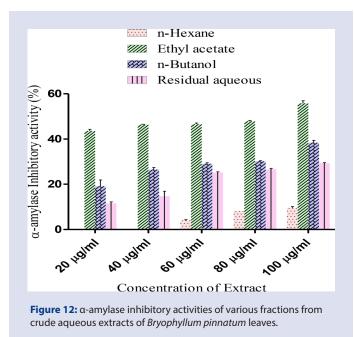


Figure 11: α-glucosidase inhibitory activities of various fractions from crude aqueous extracts of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* leaves.



by its ability to scale back Fe³⁺ to Fe²⁺. As displayed above, ethyl acetate fraction of *B. pinnatum* had higher reducing property of (3499.08 \pm 45.28 mg AAE/100g) than the aqueous extract and all other fractions. Reducing properties is a defense system with two pathways obtainable to have an impact on this property are by e⁻ transfer and hydrogen transfer.^{14,30} The reducing capacity of the extracts could also be a sign of its potential antioxidant activities owing to the presence of reductants.

DPPH assays assess the power to scavenge radicals. The capacity to present a H atom may be a primary characteristic of antioxidants. These antioxidants present H atoms to free radicals, that converts the radicals into non-toxic species and so inhibits the propagation part of lipid oxidation.³¹ This study revealed that aqueous extracts (Figure 1) and various fractions from *B. pinnatum* leaves (Figure 7) scavenged radicals as the concentra-

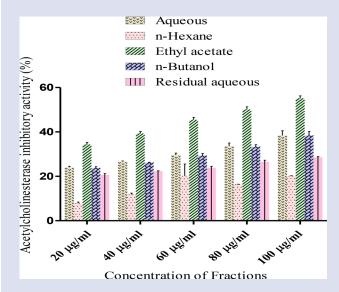
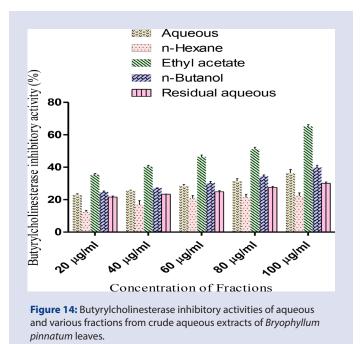


Figure 13: Acetylcholinesterase inhibitory activities of aqueous and various fractions from crude aqueous extracts of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* leaves.



tion increases (20–100 $\mu g.~m L^{-1}$). Though, radical scavenging abilities of the ethyl acetate fractions correlates with the total phenolic contents of the leaves. Thus, the observed DPPH radical scavenging ability can be attributed to the abundant phenolic constituents in the extracts and fractions. This is consistent with previous studies.^{29,32}

Metal ion chelating ability is important since it reduces the concentration of the transition metal.³³ Hence, chelating Fe²⁺, generation of hydroxyl radicals in the Fenton reaction may be attenuated and thus prevent possible damage of hydroxyl radicals to biomolecules. Accumulation of iron has been reported to lead to an increase in free radicals and development of oxidative stress.^{34,35}

The ability of water extract and various fractions of *B. pinnatum* on hydrogen peroxide radical is shown in Figure 3 and 9. *B. pinnatum*

extracts and fractions were efficient in scavenging hydrogen peroxide radical. Though, ethyl acetate fraction of *B. pinnatum* leaves exhibited higher activity than the aqueous extract and all other fractions. Hydrogen peroxide may occasionally be lethal to cell and as a result give rise to hydroxyl radical within the cells though, it's not very reactive.³⁶ Therefore, the eliminating of H_2O_2 is extremely vital for antioxidant defense.

Rice-Evans.³⁷ reported that compounds containing phenolic could play an important in eliminating radicals. The aqueous extract (Figure 4) and fractions (Figure 10) of *B. pinnatum* leaves might eagerly eliminate ABTS radical specifying the presence of secondary metabolites like flavonoids, phenolic (Table 1), that validate their action. However, ethyl acetate fraction of *B. pinnatum* leaf recorded the utmost quantity of radical reducing ability than the aqueous extract and all other fractions.

Enzyme assays have become an extremely valuable means to evaluate the potential health advantages of herbals, dietary supplements, and nutraceuticals for the development and design of functional foods or phytopharmaceuticals.³⁸ Besides, most usual biochemical assays involve major enzymes applicable in metabolic syndrome like diabetes (α -amylase and α -glucosidase), and Alzheimer's disease (cholinesterases).³⁹ This study reveals that the effects of the aqueous extract and various fractions of *B. pinnatum* leaves were further evaluated on several selected carbohydrate hydrolysis and cholinesterase assays, respectively, and the results are shown in Figure 5, 6, 11 and 12.

The inhibition of carbohydrate metabolizing enzymes like a-amylase and a-glucosidase delays the digestion and absorption of starch and later suppresses postprandial symptom. a- amylase and a-glucosidase inhibitory activities of *B. pinnatum* leaf extracts and fractions are shown in (Figure 5, 6, 11, 12) been helpful as oral antidiabetic drugs for the management of high blood sugar in patients with these syndromes. Inhibitions of these enzymes interrupt macromolecule digestion and overall extent the breakdown time inflicting a discount in the degree of glucose ingestion and thus plummeting postprandial blood sugar.40 However, aqueous extract and all the fractions of B. pinnatum leaf inhibited both a- amylase and a-glucosidase. The highest percentage inhibition of the α -amylase by the ethyl acetate fraction of *B. pinnatum* resulted in its low IC₅₀ value (62.45 \pm 1.22 µg/mL) which implies that it is the most potent inhibitor of the enzyme out of the extracts and all the other fractions. This is consistent with earlier studies that antidiabetic agents derived from plants are strong inhibitors of $\alpha\text{-glucosidase}.^{41,42,43}$ This implies that ethyl acetate fractions of B. pinnatum leaf offer better pharmacological effect than the common synthetic drugs.

Enzyme inhibitors delivering antioxidant roles shows potential in instances of neurodegenerative diseases, because of their defensive role against radical species.44 In spite of issues regarding absorption, metabolism and precise mechanisms of action in vivo, the screening for cholinesterase inhibitors found in plants is valid in highlighting those compounds with the most promise of biological activity.45 Besides, cholinesterase inhibitors are still the best available option for managing patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Hence, the aqueous extract and various fractions of B. pinnatum was active against acetylcholinesterase, whilst ethyl acetate fractions of B. pinnatum presented highest inhibitory effect (Figure 13) than the aqueous extract and all other fractions. Furthermore, for butyrylcholinesterase, ethyl acetate fractions of B. pinnatum revealed a higher inhibitory activity than aqueous extract, n-hexane, n-butanol and residual aqueous fractions (Figure 14). Ethyl acetate fractions of B. pinnatum inhibit AChE and BChE activities as the concentration increases. This is in pact with some previous studies where plant secondary metabolites revealed a considerably enhancement in reasoning and reminiscence.46,47 AChE and BChE inhibitory activity may be owing to the antioxidant properties of B. pinnatum.

CONCLUSION

This study discovered the phytochemical composition, antioxidant activity and enzyme inhibitory activities of *B. pinnatum* leaves. The extract and fractions of *B. pinnatum* scavenging radicals and had an inhibitory effect on enzymes associated to diabetes and Alzheimer's diseases *in vitro*. Furthermore, *B. pinnatum* presented a higher level of total phenolic and thus showed enhanced antioxidant and enzyme inhibitory effects. Additional studies are essential to clarify the mechanisms of *in vivo* antioxidant and enzyme inhibition action, bioavailability and concerned metabolic pathways.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

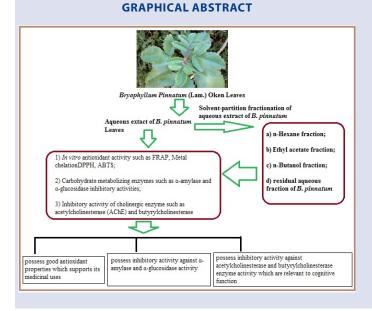
ABBREVIATIONS USED

ABTS: 2,2²-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline)-6-sulphonic acid; AChE: acetylcholinesterase; AF: residual aqueous fraction; ATCI: acetylthiocholine iodide; BChE: butyrylcholinesterase; Bryophyllum pinnatum: B. pinnatum; BF: butanol fraction; BTCI: butyrylthiocholine chloride; g: gram; GAE: Gallic acid equivalents; DMSO: dimethylsulfoxide, (DMSO), DNS: dinitrosalicylic acid; DPPH: 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazil; DTNB: 5,5-dithio-bis(2- nitrobenzoic) acid; EAF: ethyl acetate fraction; EDTA: ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; HF: Hexane fraction; pNPG: p-nitrophenyl-a-D-glucopyranoside.

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SUMMARY

That Bryophyllum pinnatum leaves extract possess strong anti-diabetes and anti-Alzheimer's activity via

- · possess good antioxidant properties which supports its medicinal uses;
- possess inhibitory activity against α-amylase and α-glucosidase activity;
- possess inhibitory activity against acetylcholinesterase and butyrylcholinesterase enzyme activity which are relevant to cognitive function.

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