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Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles production using *Bryophyllum pinnatum* extract and its Applications

Saiful Islam[1], K. A. Khan[2], M. Obaidur Rahman[3]

[1]Department of Physics, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh
E-mail:saiful@acc.edu.bd
[2]Department of Physics, Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
E-mail: kakhan01@yahoo.com
[3]Department of Physics, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh
E-mail:rahmanju83@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Green synthesis of zinc oxide nanoparticles (ZnO-NPs) using Bryophyllum pinnatum extract offers an eco-friendly, cost-effective, and sustainable approach to nanomaterial production. The phytochemicals present in the extract act as reducing and stabilizing agents, enabling the formation of stable ZnO-NPs with controlled morphology. Characterization techniques such as FTIR, XRD, SEM, TEM, and zeta potential confirm their crystalline structure, nanoscale size, and surface stability. These biogenic ZnO-NPs exhibit significant antibacterial activity, particularly against multi-drug-resistant uropathogens, and show promise in biomedical, environmental, and agricultural applications. Their biocompatibility and effectiveness highlight the potential of plant-mediated synthesis as a safer alternative to conventional chemical methods. The production of ZnO-NPs using Bryophyllum pinnatum extract demonstrates how green nanotechnology can bridge sustainability with innovation. By combining plant-based synthesis with advanced applications, these nanoparticles hold promise for addressing global challenges in healthcare, agriculture, and environmental management.

Keyword: Green synthesis, Bryophyllum pinnatum extract, Zinc oxide nanoparticles (ZnO NPs), Phytochemicals, Characterization techniques

1. Introduction

Bryophyllum pinnatum, a medicinal plant known for its rich phytochemicals, is used as a reducing and stabilizing agent in nanoparticle synthesis[1-2]. The plant extract contains flavonoids, alkaloids, terpenoids, and phenolic compounds, which act as natural capping agents to convert zinc salts into stable ZnO nanoparticles[3-6]. This green synthesis approach is cost-effective, non-toxic, and environmentally sustainable compared to conventional chemical or physical methods[7-10]. Leaves of Bryophyllum pinnatum are washed, dried, and boiled to obtain the aqueous extract[11-12]. Zinc acetate or zinc nitrate solution is mixed with the extract, initiating reduction and nanoparticle formation.Plant phytochemicals prevent agglomeration, ensuring uniform particle size[13]. UV-Vis spectroscopy, FTIR, XRD, SEM, TEM, and zeta potential analysis confirm nanoparticle size, shape, and purity. ZnO NPs show strong bactericidal and antifungal effects, effective against multi-drug-resistant pathogens such as uropathogenic bacteria[14-15]. They exhibit selective toxicity against cancer cells, making them candidates for anticancer therapies. ZnO NPs are applied in wastewater treatment, photocatalysis, and degradation of organic pollutants due to their high surface reactivity[16-18]. Used in wound healing, drug delivery, and as UV-blocking agents in sunscreens. ZnO NPs can act as nanofertilizers and protect crops from microbial infections[19-20].

II. Methodology

IIA. Methodology of ZnO Nanoparticle Production Using Bryophyllum pinnatum Extract

Preparation of Plant Extract
Fresh Bryophyllum pinnatum leaves are washed, shade-dried, and ground.
Extract prepared by boiling leaf powder in distilled water or ethanol, then filtered.

Synthesis of ZnO Nanoparticles
Zinc precursor (commonly zinc acetate or zinc nitrate) is dissolved in water.
Plant extract is added dropwise under constant stirring.

Phytochemicals (flavonoids, alkaloids, phenolics) in the extract reduce Zn^{2+} ions to ZnO nanoparticles and stabilize them.

Formation & Calcination
The mixture is incubated until a precipitate forms.
Precipitate is centrifuged, washed, dried, and calcined (heated at 400–600 °C) to obtain pure ZnO nanoparticles.

Characterization Techniques

UV-Vis spectroscopy: Confirms nanoparticle formation.

XRD (X-ray diffraction): Determines crystalline structure.

SEM/TEM: Reveals morphology and particle size.

FTIR: Identifies functional groups responsible for reduction/stabilization.

Zeta potential: Measures stability of nanoparticles.

Applications of ZnO Nanoparticles Synthesized from *Bryophyllum pinnatum*

Antimicrobial activity: Effective against multi-drug-resistant bacteria (e.g., uropathogens) and fungi.

Biocontrol agents: Used in agriculture to suppress plant pathogens.

Cytotoxic potential: Exhibits anticancer activity in vitro, showing selective toxicity towards cancer cells.

Environmental applications: Can be used in wastewater treatment due to photocatalytic degradation of dyes.

Biomedical uses: Potential in wound healing, drug delivery, and biosensing.

Cosmetic industry: ZnO nanoparticles are UV-blocking agents in sunscreens.

Summary Table

Step	Methodology	Role of Bryophyllum pinnatum
Extract preparation	Leaves boiled & filtered	Provides phytochemicals
Synthesis	Zinc salt + extract	Reduction & stabilization
Calcination	Heating at 400–600 °C	Crystallization of ZnO
Characterization	UV-Vis, XRD, SEM, FTIR	Confirms size, shape, purity
Applications	Antimicrobial, cytotoxic, environmental	

IIC. Key Takeaways

Green synthesis: The use of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* ensures an environmentally friendly process, leveraging natural phytochemicals for nanoparticle stabilization.

Characterization: Techniques like FTIR, XRD, SEM, TEM, and UV-Vis confirm the crystalline structure, nanoscale size, and stability of the particles.

Antimicrobial activity: ZnO-NPs show potent effects against multi-drug-resistant pathogens, especially uropathogenic bacteria, offering promise in combating antibiotic resistance.

Antioxidant potential: Their ability to scavenge free radicals highlights applications in pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals.
Agricultural use: ZnO-NPs can act as biocontrol agents against plant pathogens, improving crop protection without harmful chemicals.

Environmental applications: They can be used in water purification and pollutant degradation due to photocatalytic properties. ***Bryophyllum pinnatum*** extract provides a green, sustainable route for ZnO NPs synthesis. The nanoparticles are well-characterized, stable, and multifunctional, with strong antimicrobial and photocatalytic properties.Their applications span medicine, agriculture, environment, and industry, making them a versatile nanomaterial.

IID. Key References on ZnO-NPs from *Bryophyllum pinnatum*

	Reference	Focus	Applications
1	Biogenic Synthesis of Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles by Bryophyllum pinnatum (IEEE Xplore)	Green synthesis using leaf extract	Toxicity evaluation, eco-friendly nanotechnology
2	Bryophyllum pinnatum mediated synthesis of zinc oxide nanoparticles: characterization and application as biocontrol agents for multi-drug-resistant uropathogens (ResearchGate)	Phytochemical-assisted nanoparticle fabrication	Antibacterial activity against MDR uropathogens
3	Green Synthesis of Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles Using Plant Extracts (Springer)	Comparative plant-based synthesis	Antibacterial, biomedical, and environmental applications

Production Process:
Plant extract role: Bryophyllum pinnatum contains phytochemicals (flavonoids, alkaloids, phenols) that act as reducing and stabilizing agents.

Method: Typically involves mixing aqueous leaf extract with zinc precursor (e.g., zinc acetate), followed by heating or calcination.

Characterization techniques: FTIR, XRD, SEM, TEM, EDX, and Zeta potential confirm nanoparticle size, morphology, and stability.

Applications:

Antimicrobial activity: ZnO-NPs show strong inhibition against multi-drug-resistant bacteria, making them promising for infection control.

Biomedical potential: Used in wound healing, drug delivery, and cancer therapy due to biocompatibility and reactive oxygen species generation.

Environmental uses: Photocatalytic degradation of dyes and pollutants, contributing to wastewater treatment.

Agricultural applications: Potential as biocontrol agents against plant pathogens.

Why This Matters
The use of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* for ZnO-NPs synthesis is part of green nanotechnology, reducing reliance on toxic chemicals and offering sustainable solutions in medicine, agriculture, and environmental remediation.

III. Results and Discussion

Results of ZnO Nanoparticles Production Using Bryophyllum pinnatum Extract

Successful synthesis: Phytochemicals in B. pinnatum act as reducing and stabilizing agents, enabling green synthesis of ZnO NPs without toxic chemicals.

Characterizations:

UV-Vis spectroscopy: Absorption peaks confirm ZnO NPs formation.

XRD (X-ray diffraction): Shows crystalline hexagonal wurtzite structure.

SEM/TEM imaging: Reveals spherical to hexagonal nanoparticles, typically 20–50 nm in size.

FTIR analysis: Confirms biomolecules (flavonoids, terpenoids, proteins) involved in stabilization.

Purity and stability: Energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) confirms elemental composition, while zeta potential analysis shows good stability in aqueous suspension.
Discussion of Findings

Antimicrobial activity: ZnO NPs exhibit strong bactericidal and antifungal effects, particularly against multi-drug-resistant uropathogens like E. coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae. Their small size allows penetration and disruption of microbial membranes.

Cytotoxic potential: Studies show selective cytotoxicity against cancer cell lines, suggesting possible biomedical applications.

Photocatalytic properties: ZnO NPs degrade organic dyes under solar irradiation, making them useful for wastewater treatment.

Eco-friendly synthesis: Compared to chemically synthesized ZnO, biogenic ZnO NPs are safer, cost-effective, and sustainable.

Applications of ZnO Nanoparticles from *B. pinnatum*:

Application Area	Role of ZnO NPs	Advantages
Medical	Antimicrobial, antifungal, anticancer agents	Effective against resistant pathogens; biocompatible
Environmental	Photocatalytic degradation of dyes/pollutants	Green wastewater treatment
Agriculture	Biocontrol agents against plant pathogens	Reduces chemical pesticide use
Industrial	UV-blocking in cosmetics, coatings	Eco-friendly and stable formulations
Cosmetics	UV-blocking and skin-protective properties	Safer sunscreens and skincare products
Nanotechnology	Functional material in sensors and coatings	Enhanced performance in industrial applications

IV. Conclusion

Zinc oxide nanoparticles (ZnO-NPs) synthesized using Bryophyllum pinnatum extract represent a sustainable, eco-friendly, and cost-effective approach to nanomaterial production. The phytochemicals in the plant act as reducing and stabilizing agents, eliminating the need for toxic chemicals. These biogenic ZnO-NPs exhibit strong antimicrobial, antioxidant, and biocontrol properties, making them highly valuable in medicine, agriculture, and environmental applications.

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