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*Recent Advances in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology*  
*Volume 1*

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# **NANOMEDICINE AND DRUG DELIVERY**

*Edited By*  
**Mathew Sebastian, MD, Neethu Ninan,  
and A. K. Haghi, PhD**



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## Recent Advances in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

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## Chapter 7

### Biosynthesis of Silver Nanoparticles, Characterization and Their Antimicrobial Activity

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G. R. Dillip, and B. Deva Prasad Raju

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#### INTRODUCTION

There has been an increasing interest in the development of a clean synthetic procedure often known as "green chemistry" for nanoproducts which are targeted as potential applications in the fields of catalysis in chemical reactions, drug delivery in medical field, biolabelling, microelectronic, information storage, and optoelectronic devices (Crooks et al., 2001; Bhumakar et al., 2007; Dai and Bruening, 2002; Gittins et al., 2000; Hayat, 1989; Murray et al., 2001). The broad spectrum of silver nanoparticles was produced by different physical and chemical methods. For environmental concerns, there is a need to develop benign nanoparticles using non-toxic chemicals in the synthesis protocols in order to avoid adverse effects in medical applications. At present, several groups of researchers concentrate on biomimetic approaches such as plant or plant leaf extracts, microorganisms and yeast to synthesize the metal nanoparticles called as "green chemical or phytochemical" approach (Sinha et al., 2009). One of the synthesis procedure such as leaf extracts of *geranium*, *lemon grass*, *neem* and several others has been reported (Dubey et al., 2010; Rajesh et al., 2009; Shankar et al., 2003, 2004a, 2004b; Song et al., 2009;). The *Piper betle* is a traditional medicinal plant of India. The betel leaf is used in a number of traditional remedies for the treatment of stomach ailments, infections, and as a general tonic. It is often chewed in combination with the betel nut (*Areca catechu*), as a stimulatory. Some evidence suggests that betel leaves have immune boosting properties as well as anti-cancer properties. It is also well known for its phenolic content, and also for its antibacterial and antioxidant activities as well. So far, there have been no reports on the synthesis of nanoparticles by using *piper betle* leaf extract. In this paper, we report on the synthesis of silver nanoparticles using *piper betle* leaf, their characterization and their antibacterial activity.

#### EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

##### Preparation of Leaf Extract

The fresh leaves of *piper betle* were collected from a retail shop in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India. Silver nitrate ( $\text{AgNO}_3$ , 99.99%) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich chemicals. 10g of fresh leaves were washed thoroughly under the running tap water, while finely cut leaves were added with 50 ml of distilled water in a 250 ml Erlenmeyer

flask, and then boiled for 10min, before decanting it. The extract was filtered and stored at 4°C for further experiments.

#### **Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles**

The leaf broth with various concentration levels, ranging from 50 to 150 µl was added to 3 ml of 1mM aqueous AgNO<sub>3</sub> solution kept at room temperature. The bioreduced silver nitrate solution was monitored by periodic sampling of aliquots (0.3 ml). It was diluted to the ratio of 1:10 with distilled water, to avoid errors due to high optical density of the solution for measuring UV-Vis spectra.

#### **Antifungal Activity of Silver Nanoparticles**

The antifungal activity of the silver nanoparticles was checked against *Aspergillus* spp. The pure cultures of the fungi were obtained by sub culturing. The culture slants were subjected to a 3 ml sterile distilled water containing 0.01 ml of TritonX-100. 100 µl of fungal spore suspension was loaded into the Czapek-Dox agar medium plates. Later cavities of 0.5 cm diameter were made and filled with 100 µl of silver nanoparticle solution.

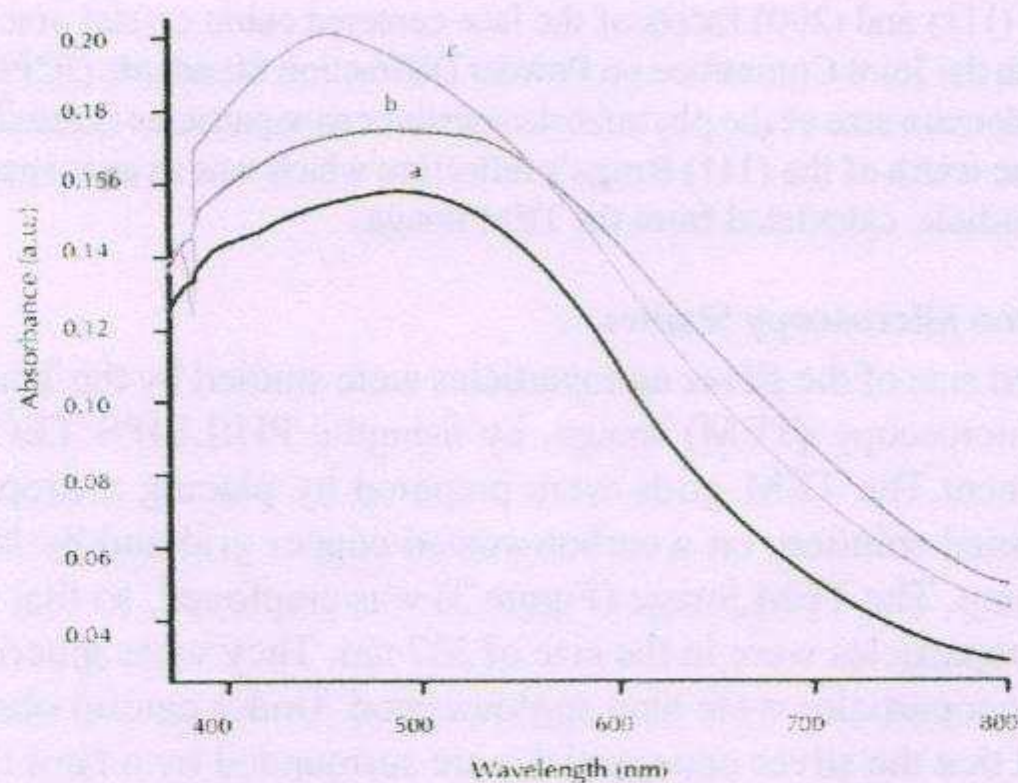
#### **Antibacterial Activity of Silver Nanoparticles**

The antibacterial property of silver nanoparticles was checked on both gram positive and gram negative bacteria by following the agar diffusion method. Gram positive bacteria like *Staphylococcus* spp, *Bacillus* spp and gram negative bacteria like *Escherichia coli* (*E.Coli*) *Pseudomonas* spp were used for the present study. The 24 hr active cultures of the above bacterial strains were seeded in the Agar plates by pour plate technique. Cavities of 0.5 cm diameter were made using a borer and the bottoms of the cavities were sealed. Each cavity was filled with 100 µl of silver nanoparticles solution and then incubated at 37°C in an incubator.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **UV-Visible Absorbance Spectroscopy**

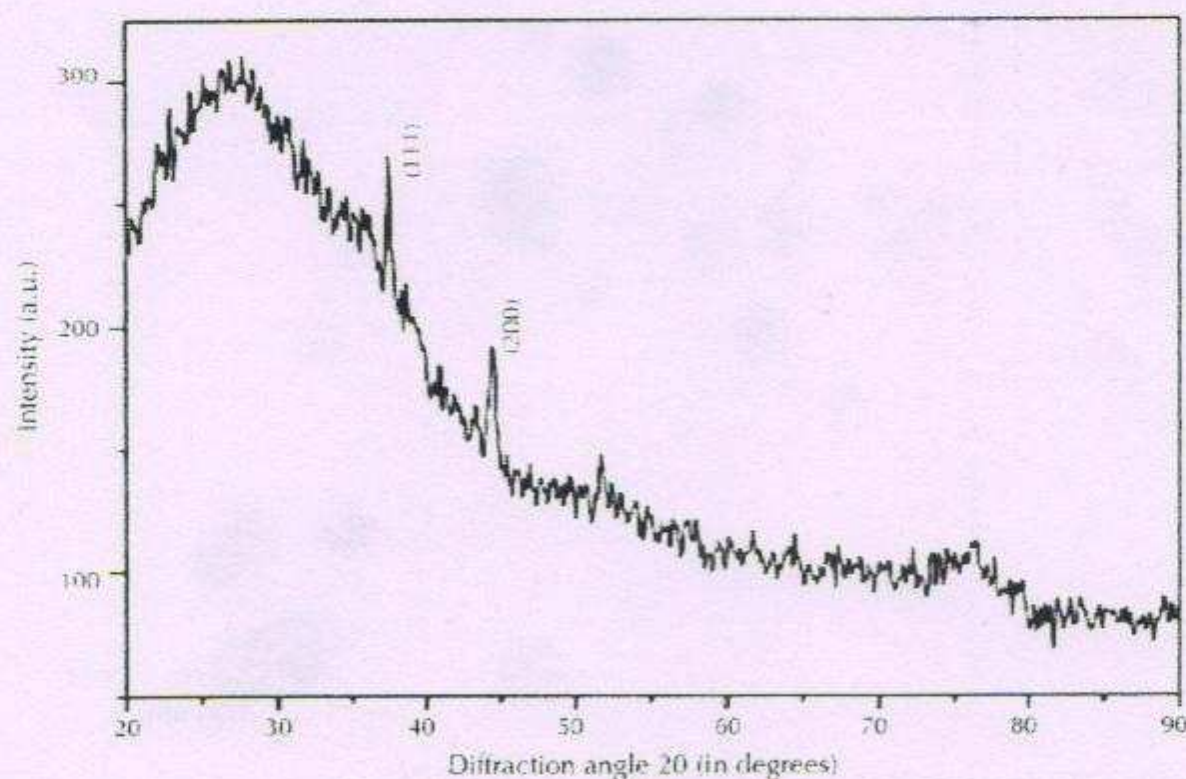
The concentration variation with bioreduced Ag<sup>+</sup> ions, in aqueous component were measured with an UV-Vis spectrometer, (Perkin-Elmer lambda 25) which operated at a resolution of 1nm in the range of 370-800 nm. The progress of the reaction between the betle leaf broth and the metal ions were observed by UV-Vis spectra of silver nanoparticles which are shown in Figure 1. A Bathochromatic shift in the surface plasmon resonance band of silver nanocolloid, with an increasing concentration of leaf extract and consequent color change was observed. From the spectrum, we observed that the peak blue shift was at 477440 nm while the amount of leaf extract was constantly increased. The reduction of silver ions and the synthesis of stable nanoparticles occurred with a concentration variation reaction, making it one of the smart phytofabrication methods; in order to produce Ag nanoparticles reported nowadays (Dwivedi and Gopal, 2010; Gils et al., 2010; Komwarh et al., 2011; Philip and Unni, 2011).



**Figure 1.** UV-Vis spectra of silver nitrate with *piper betle* leaf extract at different concentrations. a) 50 L, b) 100 μL and c) 150 μL.

#### X-Ray Diffraction Spectral Analysis

An X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurement of a thin film of the bio-reduced silver ions' aqueous solution was drop coated onto a glass slide and carried out on an INEL X-ray diffractometer. The diffraction pattern was recorded by  $\text{Co-}\alpha_1$  radiation with  $\lambda$  of  $1.78\text{\AA}$  in the region of  $2\theta$  from  $20^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$  at  $0.02^\circ/\text{min}$  and the time constant was 2 sec. The size of the nanoparticles was calculated through the Scherer's equation (Mulaney, 1996). The Crystalline nature of Ag nanoparticles was studied with the aid of an X-ray diffraction (Figure 2). The diffracted peaks were observed at  $37.6^\circ$  and  $44.4^\circ$



**Figure 2.** X-Ray diffraction spectrum of synthesized silver nanoparticles.



corresponding to the (111) and (200) facets of the face centered cubic crystal and the data was matched with the Joint Committee on Powder Diffraction Standards (JCPDS) file No.030921. The domain size of the phytofabricated silver nanoparticles is found to be 5.4 nm, by using the width of the (111) Bragg's reflection which was in consonance with the size of the particle, calculated from the TEM image.

#### Transmission Electron Microscopy Studies

The morphology and size of the silver nanoparticles were studied by the Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) image, by using the PHILLIPS TECHNAI FE 12 instrument. The TEM grids were prepared by placing a drop of the bio reduced diluted solution, on a carbon-coated copper grid and by later drying it under a lamp. The TEM image (Figure 3) was employed, so that the bio synthesized nanoparticles were in the size of 337 nm. They were spherical in shape and few nanoparticles were also agglomerated. Under careful observation, it is evident that the silver nanoparticles are surrounded by a faint thin layer of other materials. The histogram of fabricated silver nanoparticles is shown in Figure 4. It is evident that there is a variation in particle sizes and the estimated average size is 12 nm. The small sized nanoparticles were able to easily penetrate across the membrane; and similar results have been reported in literature (Jaidev and Narasimha, 2010; Pal et al., 2007; Morones et al., 2005).

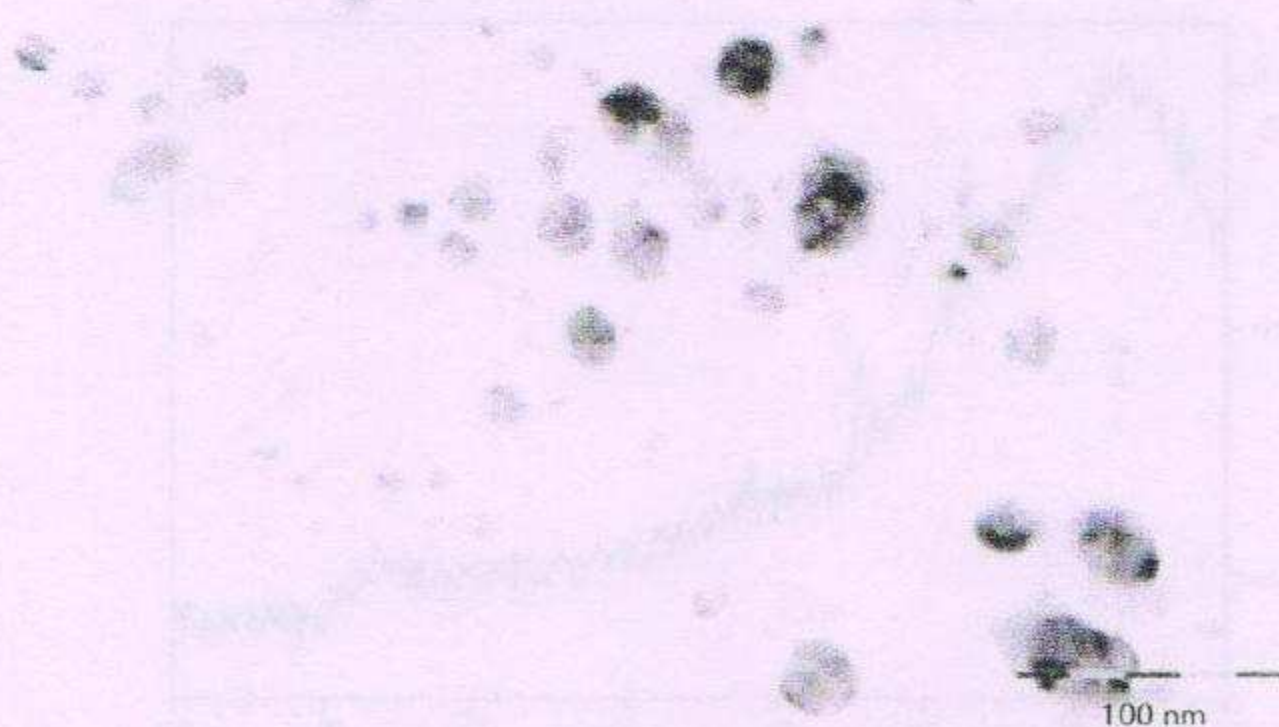


Figure 3. Transmission electron microscopy image of silver nanoparticles.

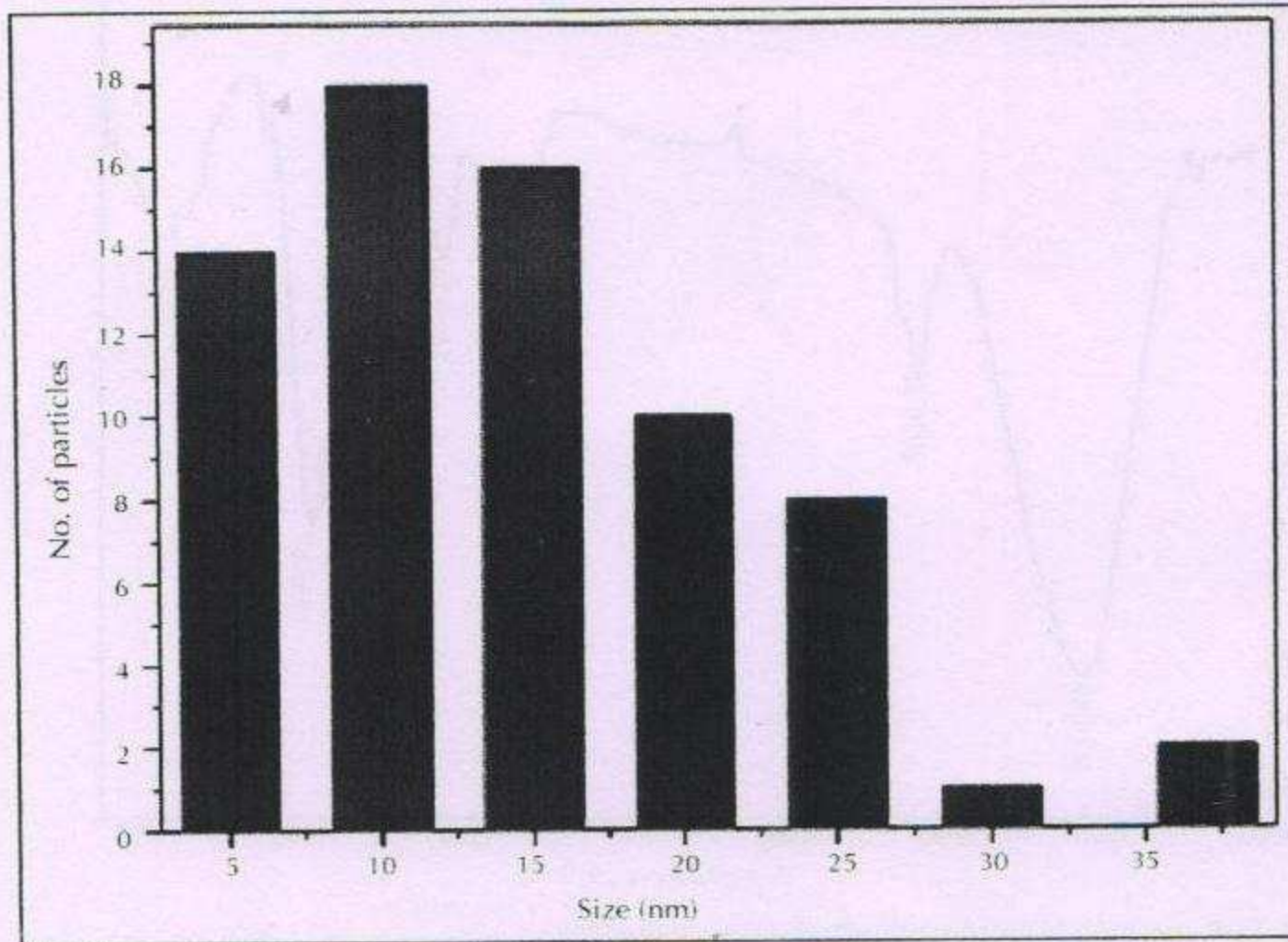


Figure 4. Histogram of synthesized silver nanoparticles.

#### Fourier Transformed Infra-Red Spectroscopy

For Fourier transformed infrared (FTIR) measurements, the bioreduced  $\text{Ag}^+$  ion aqueous component was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 15 min. The dried sample was grinded with KBr pellets and analyzed on Thermo Nicolet Nexus 670 IR spectrometer which was operated at a resolution  $4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the region of  $4,000\text{--}400 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The FTIR spectrum of synthesized silver nanoparticles by using *Piper betle* leaf extract is shown in Figure 5. It confirmed the fact that to identify the biomolecular for reducing and efficient stabilization of the metal nanoparticles, the band at  $3,419 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to O-H, as also the H-bonded alcohols and phenols. The peak at  $2,920 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicates carboxylic acid. The band at  $1,640 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  states primary amines. The band at  $1,431 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to C-C stretching aromatics, while the peak at  $1,378 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  states C-H rock alkenes and  $1,163$ ,  $1,113$  and  $1,058 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicate the C-O stretching alcohols, carboxylic acids, esters and ethers. Therefore, the synthesized nanoparticles were encapsulated by some proteins and metabolites such as terpenoids having functional groups of alcohols, ketones, aldehydes and carboxylic acids.

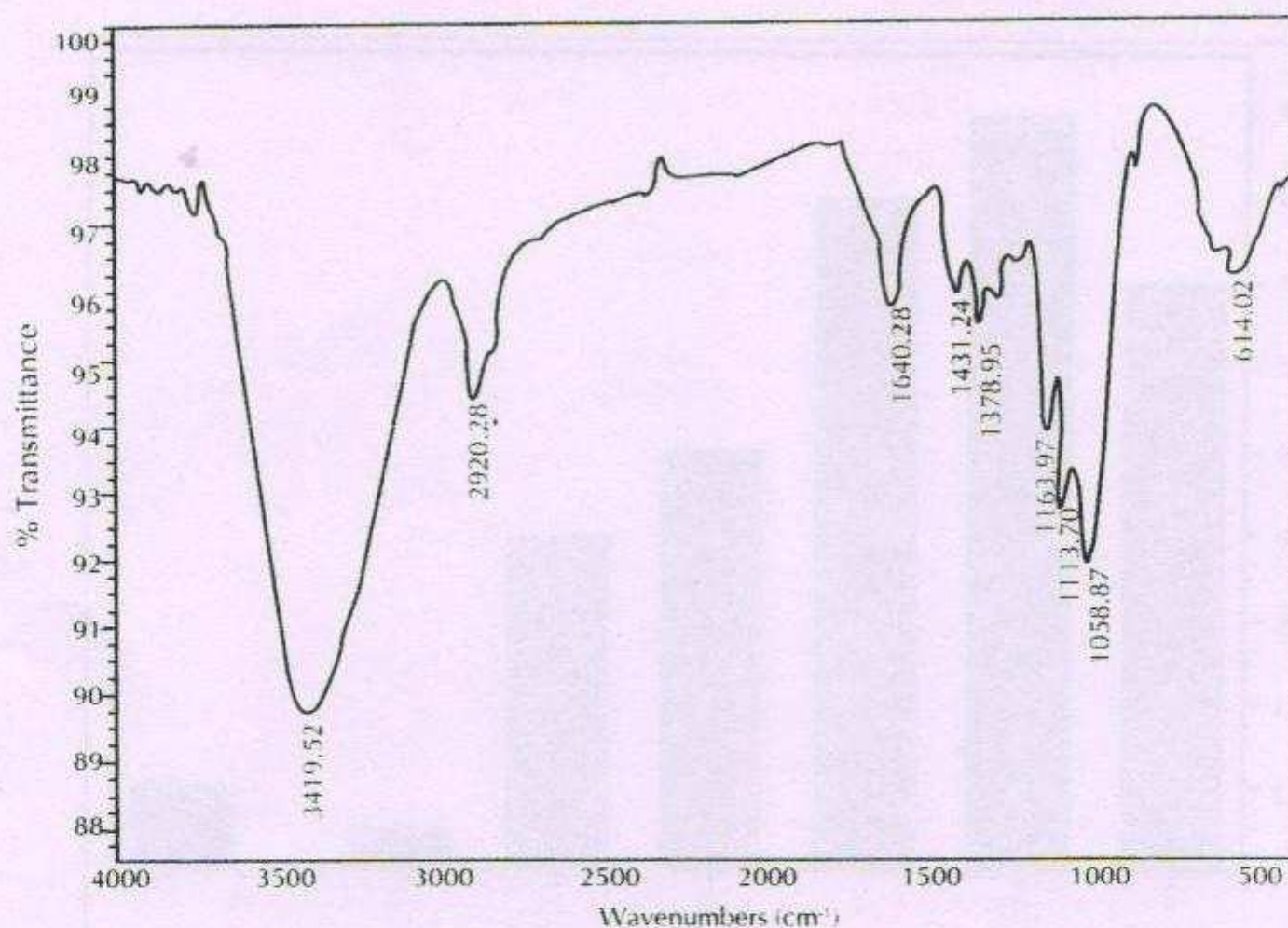


Figure 5. FTIR spectrum of green synthesized silver nanoparticles.

Table 1. Inhibitory activity of silver nanoparticles (100 $\mu$ l) on bacterial strains.

S. No	Organism	Zone of inhibition (cm)
1.	<i>Aspergillus</i> sps	1.2
2.	<i>E. coli</i>	1.8
3.	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sps	1.12
4.	<i>Staphylococcus</i> sps	1.01
5.	<i>Bacillus</i> sps	0.89

\*All values represented in the table are average of conducted experiment.

The antifungal property of silver nanoparticles checked against the fungi *Aspergillus* sps. was shown in Table 1. The Agar plate with fungal culture having the cavities filled with nanoparticles suspension showed a clear zone of diameter 1.2 cm. This indicates that silver nanoparticles have the antifungal activity and are very effective against the pathological fungi like *Aspergillus* which cause the disease Aspergillosis. Similar reports were made by Devendra, et al. 2009. According to his studies, papaya fruit extract mediated silver nanoparticles exhibited antibacterial activity against *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The antifungal activity of silver nanoparticles could be disruption of transmembrane energy metabolism and membrane electron transport chain by formation of insoluble compounds in the cell wall; the formation of insoluble compound may be due to the inactivation of cell wall sulfhydryl group; silver ions can create mutation in fungal DNA by displacing the hydrogen bonds; silver

ions can dissociate the enzyme complexes which are essential for respiratory chain and membrane permeability, disruption of membrane bound enzymes and lipids could cause the cell lysis(Velmurugan et al., 2009).

These bacterial strains in petriplate with the clearing zones around the cavities reveal that the silver nanoparticles inhibit the growth of the bacterial strains. The formation of inhibition zones around the wells containing silver nanoparticles against the test strains *Staphylococcus* sp. was measured as 1.01 cm, *Bacillus* sp. was 0.89 cm and *E.coli* was 1.8 cm (Table 1). This shows that the silver nanoparticles were more effective on *E.coli* (gram negative bacteria). Several studies have investigated and interpreted the interaction of the silver nanoparticles with bacteria. Similarly Sondi, et al. (2004) and Morones, et al. (2005), revealed that majority of the silver nanoparticles were localized on the membranes of treated *E. coli* cells. According to Lok et al. (2006), the treatment of *E.coli* cells with nanomolar concentrations of silver nanoparticles results in an immediate dissipation of the proton motive force, killing the cells. The gram positive and gram negative bacteria in antibiotic enhanced the action of silver nanoparticles and showed that the silver nanoparticles got bound to the DNA of the bacteria which caused their inactivation.

With reference to the above studies, the possible mechanism of the action of silver nanoparticles on both bacteria and fungi may be generalized as their accumulation in the cell membrane caused lysis of the cell by some unknown mechanism.

#### CONCLUSION

The bio synthesis of silver nanoparticles using leaf broth of *piper betle* provides an environment friendly, simple, cost effective and efficient route for the synthesis of benign nanoparticles. The size of the silver nanoparticles was estimated to be 337 nm. The reduced silver nanoparticles effectively inhibited the growth of microorganisms including bacterial and fungal strains which cause diseases in human beings. Further works needs to be conducted to investigate the cellular mechanism and toxicity of nanoparticles in microorganism.

#### KEYWORDS

- Fourier transformed infrared
- Green chemistry
- Nanoparticles
- Transmission electron microscopy
- X-ray diffraction