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DNA DAMAGE PROTECTIVE ACTIVITY OF THE CRUDE
METABOLITES OF ENDOPHYTIC FUNGI ISOLATED
FROM TWO ETHNO-PHARMACOLOGICALLY
IMPORTANT MEDICINAL PLANTS OF THE KHASI HILLS
OF MEGHALAYA, INDIA.

R. K. Bhagobaty and S. R. Joshi*

Microbiology Laboratory
Department of Biotechnology & Bioinformatics
North Eastern Hill University
Permanent Campus
Umshing, Shillong -793022
Meghalaya (India)

Corresponding Author*: S.R. Joshi
Email: microbialtech@gmail.com
Phone: +91 9436102171

Summary

Traditional medical practitioners of the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, India, rely on herbs and plants for treating various ailments. These medicinal plants are found to be protected from human interferences in the sacred groves by the tribal population. Endophytic microorganisms residing in the plant tissues without causing any apparent harm to the host have been proven to produce metabolites with anti-cancerous and anti-oxidant properties. It is hypothesized that the metabolites produced by these endophytes may also protect DNA damage. The present study clearly indicates that the endophytic fungal metabolites were able to prevent UV and hydrogen peroxide induced DNA damage in the laboratory conditions.

Key Words: DNA damage, protective activity, medicinal plants, endophytic fungi, metabolites, Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.