This study was undertaken with an idea to isolate from Indian plants a potent antimicrobial substance with special reference to its antifungal property. With this object different extracts of 105 Indian plants were screened against a Gram-positive, a Gram-negative bacterium and a yeast. The rhizome extract of *Alpinia officinarum* Hance was found to exhibit strong activity against *Trichophyton* Sp. and other pathogenic fungi. The active component was isolated from the rhizome of *A. officinarum* and its homogeneity determined by chromatographic method. The physico-chemical properties, stability, molecular structure, the nature of antifungal action and biological toxicity of the compound were studied in detail.

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