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The need for new antimicrobial drugs has become perceptible in the past few years, especially for the treatment of infections where microbial resistance to antibiotics has developed (Penna et al., 1997). As resistance towards prevailing antibiotics has become widespread among bacteria and fungi, new class of antimicrobial substances are required immediately (Darokar et al., 1998). Though plants are lacking the typical immune response, they have an inbuilt system for protection against biotic and abiotic stress conditions. Since plants have co-evolved with pathways against the parasitic organisms, it is reasonable to expect a variety of compounds with antibiotic potential. The leaf, stem and root extracts of the plant have been widely evaluated for bioactive components and antibiotic potential.

The objective of the present study was to evaluate the antibacterial activity of herbal plants viz. T. populnea and A. vasica. A. vasica is used as an expectorant syrup in modern medicine (www.linkherbals.com). The leaves and flowers of A. vasica are used in the treatment of chronic bronchitis, bronchial asthma in the form of juice, decoction, powder and avaleha. A. vasica contain nonvolatile alkaloid vascicine, fat resin and volatile essential oil. The alkaloid fraction analysis shows anti-inflammatory, anti-allergic and anti-asthmatic activity. Vascicine and bromohexene are known for their bronchodilating properties which help to clear the air passages. As per Ayurveda, it is antikapha
and antipitta (RHYME, 2005, www.elderindia.com). There are eighteen species of *Thespesia* throughout the tropics. The young leaves and green fruits are said to be edible as vegetables when cooked. It has been used in traditional medicines in Polynesia and South Asia. The decoction of the leaves has been used in treating coughs and headaches. The bark has been used to treat intestinal diseases. Various parts of the plants have high tannin contents and the plant extracts have been shown to have antibacterial and antiviral activity (Friday and Dano okano, 2006).

A detailed, systematic and scientific study on the antibacterial properties of *T. populnea* and *A. vasica* are limited. Hence the present investigation is aimed to compare the antibacterial properties of the different extracts obtained with cold and soxhlet extractions.