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## A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW ON ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF ZINGIBER OFFICINALE

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## **Abstract**

Zingiber officinale (Family: Zingiberaceae; ZO) commonly known as ginger, is an herbaceous perennial which grows annually in tropical rain forests of Indian Subcontinent. The rhizomes and roots of the flowering plant are widely used as a spice or food supplement in Southern Asia. In folk medicinal system, ZO has been recommended for its antimicrobial activity. The aim of this study was to provide a comprehensive review on the antimicrobial activity of ZO.Experimental studies reported the potential antimicrobial effects of ZO in the management of several infections caused due to different types of microbes. ZO showed ant-microbial activity against bacterial strains such as Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Bacillus subtilis, and Pasteurella multocida, and fungal strains such as Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus, Rhizopus solani, and Alternaria alternate. ZO also inhibited Candida yeast such as C. albicans and C. krusei. ZO exhibits broad spectrum antibacterial activity and is effective against multi-drug resistant strain of *P. aeruginosa*. ZO also exhibited antileishmanial activity against Leishmania amazonensis perhaps through activating nitrite production in the microbe without any effect on the host cells. ZO chemically consists of monoterpene and sesquiterpene hydrocarbons such as α-zingiberene, ar-curcumene, β-bisabolene and β-sesquiphellandrene that are possessing anti-microbial activity. Thus, it can be considered as a safe herbal medicine in the management of microbial infections which has to be substantiated by further mechanistic studies.

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