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ANTIFUNGAL POTENTIAL OF *BRYUM CELLULARE* AGAINST SOME COMMON DISEASES OF MAIZE

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ABSTRACT

Present study was carried out to evaluate the antifungal properties of *Bryum cellular* (moss) extracts on fungus *Drechslera maydis*, the causal organism of southern corn leaf blight using hanging drop method. Ethanol, methanol and aqueous extracts were used against selected test fungi for antimicrobial assay. Phyotochemical screening of the extracts was also carried out to determine the active antifungal substances. The results showed that all the extracts posses significant antifungal activity but to varying degrees. The highest inhibition in spore germination per cent was observed in ethanolic extract of *Bryum cellulare*. The percentage of spore germination was 66.9 to 21.63 from 10 to 100 per cent concentrations of the extract.

KEYWORDS: Bryophytes, *Bryum cellulare*, Antifungal Potential, Phytochemical Screening