

Abstract

The antibacterial and synergistic effects of black, green, white tea and other specialty teas such as purple tea extracts processed from Kenyan tea germplasm were evaluated and compared with extracts from processed teas of Chinese and Japanese cultivars using disc diffusion method. Methicillin and penicillinase resistant *S. aureus* ATCC 25923 was most susceptible to the tea extracts; showing the largest inhibition diameters. Extracts from processed black, black tea buds, green, purple coloured leaf (both aerated and nonaerated) and white teas weakly inhibited ($p>0.05$) *E. coli* ATCC 25922 and a clinical isolate of *S. typhi* at a concentration of 1mg/ml after 24 hours. Synergism was observed between all tea extracts and penicillin G against methicillin and penicillinase resistant *S. aureus* ATCC 25923. This suggests that the concomitant administration of tea and penicillin G may not impair the antibacterial activity of penicillin G.