



Research article

Chemical characterization, antioxidant, cytotoxicity, Anti-*Toxoplasma gondii* and antimicrobial potentials of the *Citrus sinensis* seed oil for sustainable cosmeceutical productionO. Atolani^{a,*}, N. Adamu^b, O.S. Oguntoye^a, M.F. Zubair^b, O.A. Fabiyi^c, R.A. Oyegoke^d, O.S. Adeyemi^e, E.T. Areh^a, D.E. Tarigha^a, L. Kambizi^{f,**}, G.A. Olatunji^{a,b}^a Department of Chemistry, University of Ilorin, P.M.B. 1515, Ilorin, Nigeria^b Department of Industrial Chemistry, University of Ilorin, P.M.B. 1515, Ilorin, Nigeria^c Department of Crop Protection, University of Ilorin, P.M.B. 1515, Ilorin, Nigeria^d Department of Biochemistry, University of Ilorin, P.M.B. 1515, Ilorin, Nigeria^e Department of Biochemistry, Medicinal Biochemistry, Nanomedicine & Toxicology Laboratory, Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State, Nigeria^f Department of Horticulture, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa

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ABSTRACT

There are growing concerns about the chronic and acute effects of synthetic additives such as antibacterial, fragrances, colourants and stabilizing agents used in the production of various household products. Many household products and materials including cosmetic products are reportedly suspected to be carcinogenic with some acting as endocrine disruptors among other effects. Thus, environmental-friendly alternatives such as products that are rich in bioactive phytochemicals are becoming consumers' preferred choice especially in the beauty and cosmetic sector. 'Green' preparation of medicinal soaps devoid of any synthetic additives was made from underutilized tropical seed of *Citrus sinensis* seed oil and some natural additives comprising of natural honey, *Ocimum gratissimum* leaves extract, *Moringa oleifera* seed oil and coconut oil. Precisely, the seed oil of the underexplored *C. sinensis* was obtained via soxhlet extraction and saponified with natural lye solution at different ratios to produce soaps of varying characteristics. The incorporation of honey and *Ocimum gratissimum* leaf extract provided additional antimicrobial, antioxidant and fragrance properties. Physico-chemical parameters of the oil and soaps were determined following standard procedures while the fatty acid profile of the trans-esterified oil was determined using GC-MS. The antimicrobial potential of the oil and soaps were assessed using agar diffusion method at concentrations 200 mg/mL and below. Linoleic acid (36%) and oleic acid (27%) were the most prominent in *C. sinensis* seed oil. The soap had antimicrobial potential comparable to commercial product. The soap samples recorded highest anti-bacteria activities (22.0 ± 1.0 – 23.0 ± 1.0) against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis* and notable anti-fungi activities (18.0 ± 1.0) against *Penicillium notatum* and *Candida albicans*. Additionally, the oil showed moderate anti-parasite (anti-*Toxoplasma gondii*) activity ($EC_{50} \leq 500 \mu\text{g/mL}$) but with improved selectivity that precludes oxidative stress while the prepared medicinal soaps exhibited remarkable antioxidant property. The utilization of these locally sourced resources will prevent the daily introduction of synthetic antimicrobial and antioxidant chemicals into the environment. The initiative avail a sustainable production of environmentally-benign cosmetic products besides conversion of waste to wealth agrees which aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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1. Introduction

Many synthetic additives such as colorants, preservatives, fragrances and antibacterial have been found to be allergens and carcinogenic. For instance, various researches have implicated synthetic antioxidants butylated hydroxytoluene, butylated hydroxyanisole and parabens as potential carcinogens and endocrine disruptors (Kahl and Kappus, 1993; Gultekin et al., 2015; Nowak et al., 2018). These synthetic chemicals used as antioxidants and/or preservatives in foods and cosmetics are now known to promote irritation, carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and various other allergic reactions especially when used as additives in food and cosmetics (Joshi and Pawal, 2015; Suzuki, 2010). As such, there is need for extreme care in selecting the ingredients and additives for cosmetic formulation that afford consumers opportunity to achieve their targeted beauty desire without compromising human health and environmental safety.

The incorporation of raw natural honey (honeybees) into food and cosmetic products has been an age-long practice (Bergamo et al., 2019; Waheed et al., 2018; Chari, 2008). Honey in cosmetic is reported to possess both *in vitro* and *in vivo* potential against effect of *Acne vulgaris* on skin. It had efficacy in reducing lesion counts as well as skin microorganism concentration (Han et al., 2013). Several studies have indicated that honey has antioxidant, antimicrobial, skin smoothening and moisturizing effects (Boussaïd et al., 2018; Alvarez-Suarez et al., 2010; Basualdo et al., 2007), wound healing (Molan and Betts, 2004), anti-inflammatory and antiviral activities (Bansal et al., 2005; Eteraf-Oskouei and Najafi, 2013) among others.

On the other hand, *Ocimum gratissimum* has been reported as natural cosmetic component to impact antimicrobial activity, anti-inflammatory activity and stimulate hair growth (Tareau et al., 2017; Fongzossie et al., 2017). Interestingly, *Cocos nucifera* is an important seed oil widely applied in cosmetic products, such as soap, cream, shampoo, hair conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, skin and hair care products as well as beauty make-ups (Tareau et al., 2017; Rodrigues et al., 2018).

In recent times, increased attention, particularly from the academia and industries has been given to the pharmacological potentials of fixed oils extracted from various herbs, plants and seeds in order to ascertain their multifunctional applicability including their classical roles as food and cosmetic substrate or additives. Various underutilized seed oils are now being investigated for possible mass production of cosmetic products (Atolani et al., 2016; Olabanji et al., 2016; Alander, 2004; Aliyu et al., 2012; Ameh et al., 2013; Getradeghana, 2000; Warra et al., 2011).

Citrus sinensis (Sweet orange) of the family Rutaceae is widely cultivated in Nigeria and many other tropical and subtropical regions (Atolani et al., 2012; Bovili, 1996; Jorge et al., 2016). More than 80 million tons of *C. sinensis* are produced annually (FAOSTAT, 2019) and citrus accounts for about 50% of the wastes produced by the juice industries in the form of peel and seed residues (Ozturk et al., 2018). Sweet orange is a major source of vitamins, especially vitamin C, folacin, thiamine, niacin, calcium, potassium and magnesium (Angew, 2007). The flavonoids and anthocyanin in the plant are reported to possess various pharmacological properties which include antioxidant and metal chelation properties (Atolani et al., 2012; Jorge et al., 2016; Ozturk et al., 2018; Tripoli et al., 2007). Some lipophilic components of plants have also shown anti-*Toxoplasma* activity (Abugri et al., 2019; Adeyemi et al., 2019). Various value-added products such as ethanol, hesperidin and nanocellulose have been obtained from orange waste (Cypriano et al., 2018). Many seeds are reported to possess anti-microbial potentials (Atolani et al., 2019a, 2019b). Oranges are harvested in large quantity in African countries and the industries processing it into various food products, discards the seeds in large volume annually. Therefore, the aim of this research was to explore the underutilized seeds of *C. sinensis* for the production of natural antiseptic soaps with appreciable antioxidant and antimicrobial properties.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Plant materials preparation

The fruit of *C. sinensis* (Sweet Orange) and *Moringa oleifera* leaves obtained within Ilorin metropolis were authenticated and assigned the specimen number UILH/001/996 and UILH/002/1008 respectively. The fruits of *C. sinensis* were squeezed manually to obtain the seeds from the flesh and dried at room temperature. After drying, the seeds were de-shelled manually, dried at ambient temperature and pulverized using an electric blender. Natural pure honey and undiluted coconut oil without additive was obtained directly from trusted sellers while *Ocimum gratissimum* leaves were collected fresh from source plant following authentication and documentation by the herbarium specialist.

2.2. Solvents and chemical reagents

Analytical grade solvents and reagents which include n-hexane, methanol, chloroform, potassium hydroxide, potassium iodide, glacial acetic acid and hydrochloric acid were used. Ashes used for lye preparation were obtained from a renowned baking centre in Kwara State, Nigeria.

2.3. Lipid extraction

The oil was obtained from the seed of *C. sinensis* by subjecting the pulverized seed material (110.10 g) to soxhlet extraction using n-hexane at 60 °C for 3 h (Atolani et al., 2016). The oil (38 g) was obtained after the removal of the extracting solvent *in vacuo*.

2.4. Physicochemical analysis

The physicochemical parameters which include saponification value, acid value, iodine value, free fatty acid were determined using standard procedures (AOAC, 1990; Atolani et al., 2016).

2.5. Lipid trans-esterification

The fatty acid profile of the seed oil was determined by converting the lipid to fatty acid methyl esters (FAMES) following previous reported method (Atolani et al., 2016). Briefly, 2 g oil was refluxed for one hour with hydrochloric acid prepared in methanol (0.2 M) and the organic phase containing the FAMES was concentrated *in vacuo* and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate. The extent of esterification was determined as a function of lipid used.

2.6. Determination of fatty acids composition

The FAMES obtained was subjected to gas chromatograph (6890N, Agilent technologies) coupled to an Agilent technology inert electron ionisation Mass Detector, (5975B, Agilent technologies, CA). Fatty acids standards were first injected and the calibration kept for further analyses. Sample injection (with split ratio 5:1) was via analytics auto-sampler attached to the gas chromatograph equipped with a non-polar column: ZB 7 HG-G010-11 with size 30 m × 0.25 mm × 0.25 μm. Carrier gas (He) was set to 1 mL/min and the injection temperature kept at 250 °C while the temperature gradient was set to 100 °C (5 min) and thereafter increased to 180 °C (at 5 °C/min). The temperature was maintained isothermally and finally raised to terminate at 330 °C. The mass range of the mass spectrometer operated at 70 eV ionisation energy with source and quad temperatures set to 230 °C/150 °C in an electron impact mode was set to the range 35–600 m/z. FAMES were identified by comparing their retention time with those of the authentic standards and further confirmed by comparison of mass fragmentation pattern with those of NIST library (Atolani et al., 2016).

2.7. Lye preparation

Wood ash was soaked in cold water for 24 h in order to obtain a concentrated lye solution (Zubair et al., 2018). The mixture was decanted, filtered and filtrate concentrated via evaporation to dryness to afford the lye, brownish crystals which were kept for further use.

2.8. Evaluation of lye properties

The concentrated lye solution obtained was characterized by measuring the conductivity and turbidity of the lye solutions on EC 214 Conductimeter and 2100N Turbidimeter respectively (Zubair et al., 2018).

2.9. Elemental characterization by X-Ray fluorescence (XRF) spectroscopy

Lye crystals obtained were further characterized by subjecting it to XRF analysis to determine the element composition (Atolani et al., 2013). XRF spectrometer ECLIPSE III (AMTEK INC. MA, US) was used for the XRF analysis. The lye crystal was further dried, pulverized and pelletized. The sample was placed in the sample chamber for irradiation. The sample chamber was placed at angle 45° to the source X-ray tube connected to the Si-PIN photodiode detector. The source X-ray tube was maintained at a voltage of 25 kV at a current of 50 µA. Samples was irradiated for 1000 s.

2.10. Saponification reaction with lye solution

Standard hot saponification procedure of Warra et al. (2011) and Atolani et al. (2016) was adopted. Briefly, warm lye solution (10 mL) was slowly and intermittently introduced into a boiling aliquot of *C. sinensis* seed oil (10 mL) and stirred with continuous heating until the creamy dark-brown soap formed. As applicable, additives were added at this stage to the thick creamy substance, followed by gentle stirring for additional 10 min before allowing it to cool and set for ten weeks.

2.11. Incorporation of natural additives

The medicinal soaps were prepared using the mixture thus: seed oil only; seed oil with honey and *Ocimum gratissimum*; seed oil with honey, *Ocimum gratissimum*, coconut oil and *M. oleifera* seed oil. After the initial saponification of the oil, the incorporation of the additives (a proportion of coconut oil, *M. oleifera* seed oil and honey) was performed as applicable. Fresh leaves of *Ocimum gratissimum* were briefly inserted into the semi-solid matter to impart fragrance and antibacterial properties to the soap.

2.12. Soap characterizations

The soap characterization followed standard procedure (Ameh et al., 2013; Zubair et al., 2018). The soap characteristics which include hardness, foamability, pH value and solubility were determined and compared with the commercial antiseptic soap, Septol.

2.13. Test for washing efficiency

The washing efficiency of the prepared soaps was determined using standard procedure (Ameh et al., 2013; Zubair et al., 2018). Precisely, one drop of palm oil was placed on four separate sheets of filter paper each. The filter papers containing the oil spots were then immersed in a separate test tubes containing soap solution (2 g soap per 100 mL water). The test tubes were then vigorously shaken for 2 min and the filter papers thereafter removed and rinsed with distilled water. The filter papers were observed visually and comparatively for their respective washing efficiency in removing the oil spots.

2.14. Total fatty matter evaluation

Standard procedure was adopted for the determination of the Total Fatty Matter, TFM (Zubair et al., 2018, 2019). The TFM was determined by dissolving the soap (0.2 g) in 3 mL distilled water and 0.4 mL of 15% H₂SO₄ while heating until a clear solution was obtained. The mixture was allowed to settle for some time until fatty acids liberated from the soap cake. The formed cake was weighed, dried and used to determine the TFM.

2.15. Determination of free caustic alkali

The free caustic alkali was determined by titrating the solution of the soap (5 g) in 30 mL ethanol against H₂SO₄ solution (0.05 M) in the presence of 10 mL of 20% BaCl₂ and few drops of phenolphthalein indicator. The free caustic alkali was thereafter calculated using the expression (Mak-Mensah and Firempong, 2011):

$$\text{Free caustic alkali} = 0.31[\text{Volume of acid (mL)}/\text{Weight of soap (g)}]$$

2.16. Determination of total alkali

The total alkali was calculated following the procedure reported by Olabanji et al. (2016). Soap sample (1 g) dissolved in 5 mL ethanol and warmed was titrated against NaOH (1.0 M) in the presence of 0.5 mL H₂SO₄ and phenolphthalein indicator.

2.17. Antioxidant assay

In order to establish the antioxidant potential of the seed oil and soap, the *in vitro* DPPH radical scavenging assay according to the procedure previously described (Adeosun et al., 2013; Atolani and Olatunji, 2016). The oil and soap solutions (2.4 mL each) were prepared at concentrations ranging from 10 to 500 µg/mg and 0.8 mL solution of freshly prepared DPPH solution (in methanol) at 0.1 mM. The resulting mixtures were thoroughly vortexed and incubated in the dark at room temperature for 10 min to attain a complete reaction. The absorbances of the solutions were read at 517 nm on a Unicam UV 500 Spectrophotometer (Thermo Spectronic, UK). The DPPH radical scavenging potential of the samples was expressed as percentage of DPPH radicals scavenged. Ascorbic acid was used as standard while the solution without sample served as control.

2.18. Assay for evaluation of anti-Toxoplasma activity

In this evaluation, we used the *Toxoplasma gondii* RH strain 2F (ATCC® 50839). To sustain the parasite stabilize, it was repeatedly passaged in in cultures of Human Fibroblast Foreskin (HFF ATCC®) monolayers. The cell medium consisted of DMEM (Nissui, Tokyo, Japan), GlutaMAX™-I and (fetal calf serum (10% v/v Gibco, Invitrogen, UK), and penicillin/streptomycin (100 U/mL; Biowhittaker, UK). Purified suspension of *T. gondii* tachyzoites was obtained by lysing infected HFF monolayers, followed by filtration and washing of cell lysates with fresh culture medium. The anti-parasite assay was performed as described elsewhere (Adeyemi et al., 2017a). In brief, various concentrations of oil extracts in culture medium (0, 125, 250, 500, 1000 µg/mL) were co-incubated with freshly purified tachyzoites in cultures of HFF monolayers in a 96-well optical bottom plate (Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, USA). This was followed by incubating plates in an atmosphere of 37 °C and 5% CO₂ for 72 h. The negative drug control had only the culture medium, while sulfadiazine (5 µM) served as a positive drug control. Multiplicity of infection was 1:5 [parasite/host cell ratio] and parasite viability was determined by luminescence (Promega Beta-Glo Madison, USA). The assay was performed in triplicate and independently carried out three times.

2.19. Determination of cellular toxicity of the oil

The HFF cells maintained in normal cell culture medium as described above were allowed to grow to 70–80% confluence. This was followed by sub-culturing and seeding of 100000 cells per well in a 96-well plate. Then cells were incubated for 72 h in an atmosphere of 37 °C and 5% CO₂. This was followed by treatment of cells with various concentrations of the oil (0–1000 µg/mL). Only the culture medium was added to the control well, while staurosporine served as positive drug control. After treatment, cells were incubated for another 72 h before colorimetric determination of the cell viability (Promega CellTitre-Aqueous One Solution Madison, USA). The assay was in triplicates and independently carried out three times.

2.20. Assay for determining reactive oxygen species (ROS) in cells

ROS within cells was measured as described elsewhere (Adeyemi et al., 2017a). This method is based on the oxidation of 2',7'-dichlorodihydro-fluorescein diacetate (H₂DCF-DA, Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA) to a fluorophore 2',7'-dichlorofluorescein by intracellular peroxide. In brief, cultures of HFF monolayers treated with the oil in the absence/presence of *T. gondii* infection were incubated for 24 h in an atmosphere of 37 °C and 5% CO₂. Thereafter, the cells were harvested, washed, and re-suspended in PBS containing the H₂DCF-DA (final concentration 100 µM). After 30–60 min incubation at 37 °C, fluorescence was recorded on a spectrofluorometer (Corona Electric, Japan) with excitation set at 485 nm and emission at 530 nm. To validate this assay, H₂O₂ (100 µM) was included as a positive control.

2.21. Assay for determining the mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP)

The MMP measurement was as described previously (Adeyemi et al., 2017a). In brief, cultures of HFF cells treated with *C. sinensis* oil in the absence/presence of *T. gondii* infection were incubated for 24 h at an atmosphere of 37 °C and 5% CO₂. Thereafter, the cells were harvested, washed, and stained with 200 nM MitoRed (Dojindo Molecular Technologies Inc. Japan). Fluorescence was recorded on a spectrofluorometer with excitation set at 560 nm and emission at 580 nm.

2.22. Antimicrobial studies

The antimicrobial sensitivity of the oil and soap samples was examined using agar diffusion procedure (Ameah et al., 2013) against some economically important organisms (clinical isolate) of McFarland standard aseptically maintained on agar at 4 °C. The bacteria which were used include: *Klebsiella pnamananae*, *Streptococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Escherichia coli*, while fungi include *Candida albicans*, *Penicillium notatum*, *Aspergillus niger* and *Rhizopus stolonifer*. The prepared media was spread into sterilised petri-dishes and the organisms were inoculated following serial dilution of 1×10^6 CFU/mL. The sample solutions (1 mL) with highest concentration 100 mg/mL prepared in water were pipetted into each hole in the petri dish bored aseptically. Bacteria were incubated at 37 °C for 48 h while fungi were incubated at 37 °C for 96 h. The diameter zones of microbial inhibition were measured thereafter.

2.23. Data analysis

Data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA on GraphPad Prism 5 (San Diego, CA, USA) and presented as the mean of triplicates ± standard error of mean (SEM). IC₅₀ values were obtained from a dose-response curve as the concentration causing a 50% inhibition or reduction in parasite and/or cell viability and the curve was fitted using a non-linear regression. Values at $p < 0.05$ are considered significant.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Physicochemical characterization

The result of the physicochemical characterization of the oil is as depicted in Table 1.

The *C. sinensis* seed oil had saponification value of 193.55 mg KOH/g. The relatively high saponification value of the oil indicates the presence of lower molecular weight fatty acids in the oils which therefore qualifies the oil to be classified as edible oil. The free fatty acid content was 20.02% showing that the oil would readily saponifies. However this high FFA content nullifies the edibility potential suggested by saponification potential. The iodine value of the oil was 83.45 gI₂/100 g. This indicated that the oil is a potential source of unsaturated fatty acids which would be non-drying oil and thus can be recommended for saponification purposes (Guner et al., 2006). Taken together, the values obtained for the physicochemical properties were considerably in favour of the utilization of the oil from the indigenous seed of *C. sinensis* for soap production on commercial scale since the seed are obtained in large quantity especially in fruit juice industries.

3.2. Lye analysis

3.2.1. X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectroscopy

In order to determine the major elemental composition of the lye, XRF spectroscopy analysis was carried out. The XRF results (Table 2) for the prepared lye sample showed the presence of potassium, calcium as major elements and trace amount of copper, iron, manganese, silicon, barium and zinc. Toxic heavy metals such as elements cadmium, silver and mercury were not detected.

3.3. Conductivity and turbidity evaluations

The conductivity and turbidity of the prepared lye is as presented (Table 3). The lye has moderate conductivity and turbidity of 0.1 µS/cm and 199 NTU respectively.

3.4. Fatty acids profile of the *C. sinensis* seed oil

FAMES were prepared from the extracted *C. sinensis* seed oil and subjected to GC-MS analysis. The fatty acid profile of the oil as obtained from the GC-MS analysis is showed in Table 4.

The relatively high total lipid contents (34.5%) of the seeds (Table 1) makes the seed to be considered economically lucrative sources for industrial applications, specifically when compared with other oil seed crops such as corn and soybean which show a lipid content that is less than 20% (O'Brien, 2004). Linoleic acids (C18:2n6), oleic (C18:1n9) and palmitic (C16:0) were detected at high concentrations in the *C. sinensis* oil. Stearic acid (C18:0) and α-linolenic acid (C18:3n3) were also present in noticeable percentages in the oil at 4.80% and 3.52% respectively. The linolenic acid percentage of the *C. sinensis* seed oil was low compared to the common natural oils such as corn (10.0%), soybean (8%) and rapeseed (10%) oils but matches those of oils extracted from the seeds of sweet lemon (3.89%), orange (3.44%) and mandarin (3.57%) (Anwar et al., 2008).

The *C. sinensis* seed oil proved to be a good source of essential fatty acids (C18:2n6 + C18:3n3) containing approximately 40% of linoleic and linolenic fatty acids. This same feature was also observed with citrus seed oils by other authors (Ajewole and Adeyeye, 1993; Saidani et al., 2004; Anwar et al., 2008). The palmitic and oleic acid which accounted for about 48% of the total fatty acid is known in the cosmetic industries as a major determinant of soap quality (Oghome et al., 2012). Thus, *C. sinensis* oil can therefore be adjudged to be suitable for soap production.

The high proportion of unsaturated fatty acids (71.50%) of the oil correlates with the trend observed in the iodine and saponification

Table 1. Physicochemical characteristics of *C. sinensis* seed oil.

Parameters	Results
Percentage yield (%)	34.54
Colour	Golden-yellow
State at ambient temperature	Liquid
Saponification value (mgKOH/g)	193.55
% Free fatty acid	20.02
Iodine value (I ₂ g/100 g)	83.45
%Yield of the trans-esterified oil	91.85
Acid value (mgKOH/g)	7.59

Table 2. XRF spectroscopy result of lye.

Elements	Conc. Value (wt%) ± SD
Ca	0.2435 ± 0.0083
K	5.4347 ± 0.0723
Ba	0.0027 ± 0.0018
Cu	0.001 ± 0.0001
Fe	0.0093 ± 0.001
Mn	0.001 ± 0.0004
Sr	0.0034 ± 0.0005
Zn	0.0009 ± 0.0001

Table 3. Conductivity and Turbidity Result of Lye (wood ash).

Parameter	Lye
Conductivity	0.1 μS/cm
Turbidity	199 NTU

Table 4. Fatty acid compositions of *C. sinensis*.

Peak No.	Fatty Acids	Short Name	Saturation	%Abundance
1	Palmitic acid	C16:0	16:0	21.10
2	Palmitolinoleic acid	C16:1	16:1	0.39
3	Heptadecenoic acid	C17:1	17:1	0.41
4	Stearic acid	C18:0	18:0	4.80
5	Elaidic acid	C18:1n9t	18:1	1.11
6	Oleic acid	C18:1n9c	18:1	27.35
7	Linoleic acid	C18:2n6c	18:2	36.23
8	α-Linolenic acid	C18:3n3	18:3	3.52
9	Arachidic acid	C20:0	20:0	0.50
10	Eicosadienoic acid	C20:2	20:2	0.35
11	Heneicosylic acid	C21:0	21:0	0.36
12	Arachidonic acid	C20:4n6	20:4	0.36
13	Cis-11,14,17-eicosatrienoic acid	C20:3n3	20:3	0.36
14	Behenic Acid	C22:0	22:0	0.34
15	Cis-13,16-docosadienoic acid	C22:2n6	22:2	0.62
16	Tricosylic acid	C23:0	23:0	1.05
17	Lignoceric acid	C24:0	24:0	0.36
18	Nervonic acid	C24:1	24:1	0.39
19	Docosahexaenoic acid	C22:6n3	22:6	0.40
		Total Saturate		28.49
		Total Unsaturate		71.50
		Monounsaturate		29.65
		Polyunsaturate		41.84

values. This characteristic was also observed in citrus seed oils by other authors (Atolani et al., 2012).

3.5. Physicochemical characteristics of prepared soaps

Different formulations were employed in the Green production of soaps from the extracted oil in order to explore the various potentials of the oil and afford optimization. The properties of the soaps produced based on the mixing ratio are as presented in Table 5.

The *C. sinensis* soaps (CS1 to CS3) appeared creamy to brown in colour. Based on the physical observations, the mixing of the oil with coconut and *M. oleifera* seed oil reduced the washing efficiency as the highest washing efficiency was observed in the soap CS 1, that is, the soap without any additive incorporated. CS2 and CS3 with different proportions of additives have comparable washing efficiencies.

3.6. Physical characteristics of the soap samples

The physicochemical properties of the soaps produced was compared with a commercial soap (Septol) used as standard. The results of the physical characterization of the prepared soaps are as depicted in Table 6.

The pH of all the prepared soaps reduced slightly after week 12, implying a reduced alkalinity. The reduction in the pH is attributed to further neutralization of the unreacted alkali (lye) over time. The pH values of all the soaps were within acceptable limit 8.5–10 (Oyedele, 2002). The pH values obtained are also in agreement with literatures (Atolani et al., 2016; Ogunsuyi and Akinnowo, 2012; Vivian et al., 2014). Also, all the prepared soaps lather more than Septol soap, the commercial standard used. Sample CS3 had the highest foaming ability (Table 6). The inclusion of *C. sinensis* seed oil, coconut oil and *Moringa oleifera* seed oil together with *Ocimum gratissimum* leaf extract and honey improved the foam ability of the soap as observed in CS3 while the addition of only *Ocimum gratissimum* leaf extract and honey inhibit the foaming ability. It is evident that amongst all soaps produced, CS1 has the least solubility

Table 5. Mixing ratio of the component used for the saponification.

Soap Samples	Oil and Additives	Mixing Ratios	Colour	Washing Efficiency
CS1	CSO	1	Cream	Excellent
CS2	CSO + Additives	0.8:0.2	Brown	Very good
CS3	CSO + CO + MO + Additives	0.6:0.1:0.1:0.2	Brown	Very good

Where: CSO = *C. sinensis* Oil, CO = Coconut Oil, MO = *M. oleifera* Seed Oil, Additives = *Ocimum gratissimum* extract and Honey (1:1).

Table 6. Physical characteristics of the soap samples.

Soaps	CS1	CS2	CS3	Septol
pH (Day1)	9.85	9.83	9.86	-
pH (Week12)	8.93	9.10	9.30	9.01
Foam Height (cm)	5.8	5.0	6.9	4.1
Dissolution time (sec)	300	380	310	540
Texture	Hard	Soft	Soft	Hard
Total Fatty Matter	0.55	0.95	0.75	0.65
Free Caustic Alkali	0.31	0.47	0.16	0.12
Total Alkali	0.50	0.34	0.31	0.11

Where; CS1 = *C. sinensis* Oil, CS2 = *C. Sinensis* + *Ocimum gratissimum* extract + Honey, CS3 = *C. sinensis* Oil + Coconut Oil + *Moringa oleifera* seed Oil + *Ocimum gratissimum* extract + Honey.

character as it took the longest time to dissolve. Free caustic alkali and total alkali of the produced soaps were higher than that of the Septol. Septol recorded a higher total fatty matter than only the CS1 soap.

3.7. Antioxidant activity of seed oils and soaps

The extent of DPPH radicals scavenged by the soap samples are as shown antioxidant activities of control (ascorbic acid), *C. sinensis*, CS1, CS3 and Septol are shown in Table 7.

The reduction of DPPH radicals was determined by the decrease in the absorbance at 517 nm induced by the samples. DPPH is a stable free radical and accepts an electron (hydrogen radical) to become a stable diamagnetic molecule. The DPPH assay revealed that the *C. sinensis* seed oil and the soaps (CS1, CS3, and Septol) had appreciable scavenging capacity (Table 7) compared with the control (ascorbic acid). CS1 and CS3 recorded higher antioxidant capacity than Septol at all the tested concentrations. The antioxidant activity of citrus seed oil might be partly attributed to the presence of phenolic compounds (Lu and Foo, 2001).

Since cosmetic of natural sources is gaining more interest particularly among users who are now aware of the potential harmful effects of the synthetic additives (Soumanou and Adjou, 2016), the incorporation of natural additives has increased. The extract of the aromatic plant, *O. gratissimum* is one of the plants widely used in traditional medicine and natural cosmetic preparations for its flavouring and bioactivities (Fongzossie et al., 2017). Owing to safety concerns about synthetics, the plant has found increased used and applications in food, perfumery, cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries (Aguar et al., 2015; Pandey

et al., 2014). In addition, the oil has been applied in various cosmetic formulations primarily for its antioxidant, moisturizing and smoothing effects on skin (Gupta et al., 2010; Krongrawa et al., 2018; Mahomoodally and Ramjuttun, 2016).

3.8. In vitro anti-parasite may be due to general toxicity

The anti-*Toxoplasma* assay revealed that *C. senensis* seed oil had moderate potency in restricting the *in vitro* growth of *T. gondii* (Figure 1) with EC₅₀ of >500 µg/mL. Meanwhile, assay for cytotoxicity in mammalian host cells showed that *C. senensis* oil was dose-dependently cytotoxic to HFF cells with IC₅₀ of <350 µg/mL (Figure 2). Furthermore, we estimated the selectivity index (SI) of the oil [ratio of the cytotoxicity (IC₅₀) to the anti-parasite activity (EC₅₀)] in order to determine anti-parasite efficacy. Data revealed that the *C. senensis* oil had SI of ≤1 relative to the reference drug, sulfadiazine, (SI ≤ 4), the drug currently used for treatment of toxoplasmosis (Table 8). This finding indicates that the *C. senensis* oil lacked selective anti-parasite action. Together, the findings implicate general cellular toxicity by *C. senensis* oil.

3.9. C. senensis oil anti-parasite action precludes oxidative stress

Additionally, we determined whether reactive oxygen species (ROS) was culpable in the anti-parasite action of *C. senensis* oil, by adding an antioxidant, Trolox (100 µM) to the screening assay. Data showed that the addition of trolox relieved the restriction of parasite

Table 7. DPPH scavenging activities of the oil and soaps.

Percentage Reduction (%)					
Conc. (µg/mg)	<i>C. sinensis</i> Oil	CS1	CS3	Septol	Ascorbic Acid
10	46.05 ± 8.35	56.82 ± 2.75	45.79 ± 4.81	44.42 ± 5.46	49.42 ± 1.74
50	43.97 ± 1.56	47.89 ± 3.36	49.54 ± 2.17	42.41 ± 1.14	56.12 ± 4.12
100	54.44 ± 0.69	55.30 ± 1.36	49.44 ± 1.52	46.05 ± 6.26	60.96 ± 10.08
200	54.07 ± 7.18	53.93 ± 4.58	52.53 ± 10.21	46.02 ± 1.77	65.01 ± 7.69
500	52.36 ± 0.80	54.59 ± 4.25	51.12 ± 0.74	45.96 ± 5.58	72.27 ± 0.53
IC ₅₀ (µg/mg)	12.3 ± 1.01	14.9 ± 0.65	11.4 ± 0.56	7.0 ± 0.34	35.9 ± 4.04

Mean of triplicate determinations ± SEM.

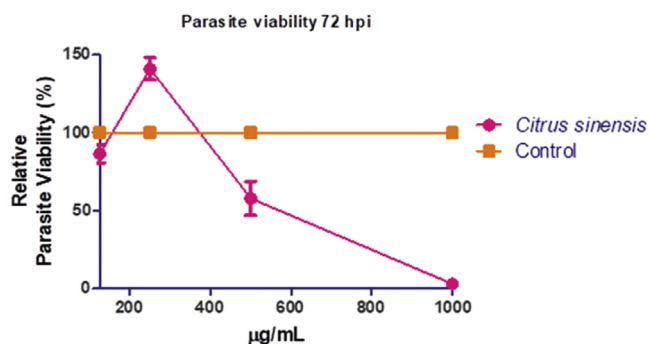


Figure 1. *In vitro* anti-parasite efficacy of *Citrus sinensis* oil following after 72 h treatment post infection. Data presented as mean of nine replicates ± standard error of mean (SEM).

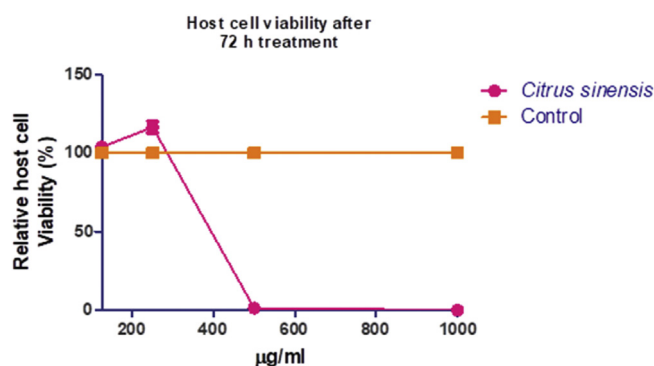


Figure 2. Cytotoxicity of *Citrus sinensis* oil in mammalian host cells (HFF) after 72 h treatment. Data presented as mean of nine replicates ± standard error of mean (SEM).

Table 8. Fold activity against *Toxoplasma gondii* versus host cell (human foreskin fibroblast- HFF).

Identifier	Anti-parasite activity EC ₅₀ (µg/mL)	Host cell cytotoxicity IC ₅₀ (µg/mL)	Selectivity index: IC ₅₀ /EC ₅₀
<i>Citrus sinensis</i> oil	≤500	≤350	<1
Sulfadiazine	≤139	≤480	<4

Values are expressed as Mean of replicates (n = 9).

growth by *C. sinensis* oil (Figure 3), suggesting that oxidative stress might be contributing to the anti-parasite action of the oil extract. However, our assays to determine level of ROS production showed that *C. sinensis* oil did not cause ROS production after 24 h treatment whether in the absence or presence of *T. gondii* infection (Figure 4). The oil extract actually reduced the ROS level by ≥ 50% when compared with the negative drug control. Probably the *C. sinensis* oil did not predispose to the generation of ROS but utilizes alternative ways to restrict parasite growth. Moreover, reduction of ROS level by ≥ 50% compared to the negative control may indicate that the *C. sinensis* oil extract might possess some level of antioxidant capacity. This may be related to the high DPPH scavenging activity observed in this study.

Furthermore, we measured the mitochondria membrane potential (MMP) and data revealed that *C. sinensis* oil mildly affected the cellular MMP (Figure 5) but not in the presence of *T. gondii* infection. The reason for this is unknown but might not be unconnected with alteration of physiological status of cells due to *T. gondii* infection (Adeyemi et al., 2017b, 2018). Taken together, findings support that the anti-parasite action of the *C. sinensis* oil preclude oxidative stress.

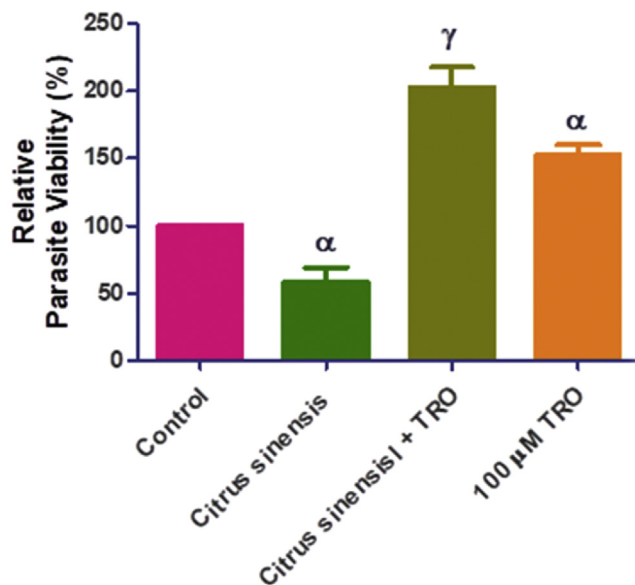


Figure 3. *In vitro* anti-parasite efficacy of *Citrus sinensis* oil following addition of antioxidant TROLOX. Data presented as mean of nine replicates ± standard error of mean (SEM). α at p < 0.05 versus control and γ at p < 0.0001 versus *Citrus sinensis*.

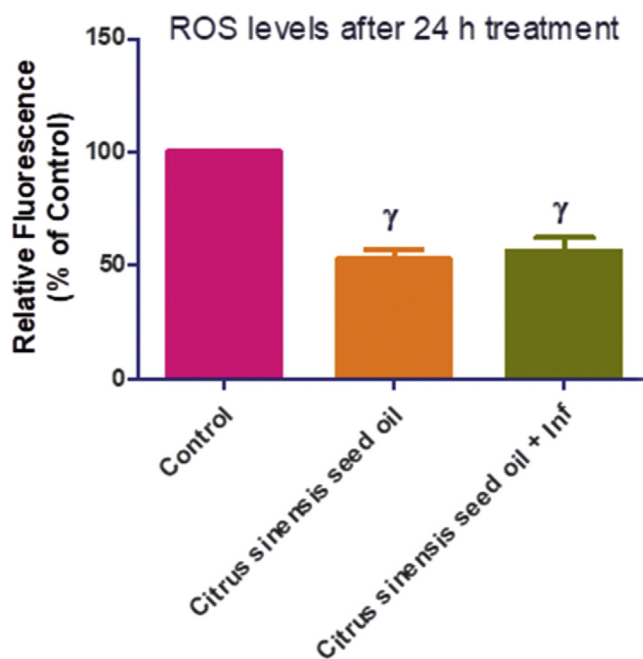


Figure 4. Cellular ROS level after 24 h treatment with *Citrus sinensis* oil in the absence or presence of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection. Data presented as mean of nine replicates ± standard error of mean (SEM). γ at p < 0.0001 versus control.

3.10. Antimicrobial activity

Atolani et al. (2016), recommended that a wider range of anti-microbial tests would be necessary to ascertain the potential of natural antiseptic soaps. Therefore, in order to evaluate the antimicrobial potential of the prepared soaps in this study, a wide range of bacteria and fungi were employed as test organisms to determine the extent of antimicrobial activities of CS1 and CS3 soaps using the commercial antiseptic soap, Septol as a standard.

Results of antimicrobial evaluations (Tables 9, 10, 11, and 12) show that the seed oil possesses important antibacterial and antifungal

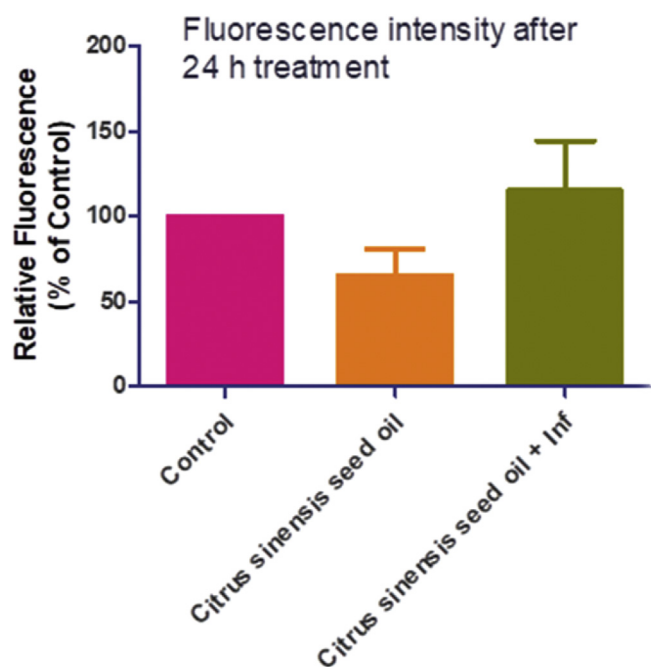


Figure 5. Cellular mitochondria membrane potential (MMP) after 24 h treatment with *Citrus sinensis* oil in the absence or presence of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection. Data presented as mean of nine replicates \pm standard error of mean (SEM).

activities. The result is in agreement with literature (Okunowo et al., 2013). Thus the antimicrobial activities obtained in this study have known scientific correlations. The antimicrobial activity was against a wide range of Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria as well as the screened fungi. These organisms have been implicated in skin and mucous membrane infections with reports of morbidity and mortality (Mahmoud, 2001).

It is evident (Table 9) that the *C. sinensis* seed oil showed appreciable level of anti-microbial activities against the tested organisms. At 50 mg/mL, the oil showed activity against all the test organisms with *Salmonella typhi* having the highest sensitivity. At 12.5 mg/mL, lower activities were recorded against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella typhi*. This oil had inhibitory activities against *Salmonella typhi* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* at all concentrations tested. Activities were however lower than the positive controls, gentamicin (bacteria) and tioconazole (fungi). Activities seem more pronounced against the fungi than the bacteria. The

MIC for the antibacterial mostly was 25 mg/mL and 50 mg/mL for anti-fungi respectively.

CS1 soap exhibited appreciable level of antimicrobial activity against the tested organisms (Table 10). Broad activity was recorded against all test organisms at all concentrations except for the fungi *Aspergillus niger*, *Penicillium notatum* and *Rhizopus stolonifer*. Soap CS1 had highest sensitivity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus subtilis* and lowest inhibition against *Rhizopus stolonifer* fungi.

CS3 soap also exhibited appreciable level of antimicrobial activity against the tested organisms (Table 11). Broad activity was recorded against all the bacteria test organisms at all concentrations except for the *Bacillus subtilis*. However, at 12.5 mg/mL, the anti-fungi activity could not be sustained. This soap recorded its highest activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella typhi* and lowest activity against *Rhizopus stolonifer*.

It was observed that CS1 soap (soap made from only *C. sinensis* oil) had higher antimicrobial activity than the CS3 soap which contains coconut and *Moringa oleifera* seed oils. The activity of CS1 was comparable with the standard soap, Septol (Table 12). It was noticed that mixing the *C. sinensis* seed oil with other oils (coconut oil and *Moringa oleifera* seed oil) reduces the soaps actions against these microbes.

The use of these natural soaps may help in the restricting growth of skin pathogen and consequently prevent skin diseases thereby avoiding the need to add synthetic antimicrobial agents. The use of antiseptic bath soaps is the earliest caution against bacteria and other pathogens that can cause colds, the flu, skin infections and other fatal communicable diseases (Atolani et al., 2016; Mwambete and Lyombe, 2011). Incorporation of synthetic additives like antimicrobial and fragrances, in soaps has many adverse effects such as irritation, environmental hazards among others, which should be avoided. Overuse of antibacterial agents in cosmetics products has been linked to bacterial resistance with capacity to induce more health havoc such as endocrine disruption and cancer initiation risks (Nowak et al., 2018). Triclosan, widely used in soaps, toothpastes and deodorants, has been detected in breast milk, and some recent studies have reported that it interferes with testosterone action in cells, impairs muscle functions and that it is allegedly carcinogenic (Chuanchen et al., 2001; Poole, 2002; Atolani et al., 2016). Alongside other cosmetic products, triclosan has been banned as additive in cosmetic products in some western countries. The catchall term "fragrance" has been reported as a potential mask for phthalates in soap, which act as endocrine disruptors linked to obesity, reproductive and developmental dysfunctions (Day, 2012). Also, many artificial fragrances present in most deodorants, shampoos, sunscreens, skin care, body care and baby products are reportedly carcinogenic or toxic to humans. Many scientific reports have linked rashes, skin discoloration and allergic skin

Table 9. Antimicrobial activities of *C. Sinensis* seed oil.

Tested Organisms	Diameter Zone of Inhibition (mm)						Gent.	MIC
	200	100	50	25	12.5			
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	17.0 \pm 1.0	14.0 \pm 0.0	10.0 \pm 0.0	-	-		35.0	50.0
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	18.0 \pm 0.0	15.0 \pm 0.0	12.0 \pm 0.0	10.0 \pm 0.0	-		35.0	25.0
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	16.0 \pm 0.0	14.0 \pm 0.0	12.0 \pm 0.0	10.0 \pm 0.0	-		36.0	25.0
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	18.0 \pm 0.0	16.0 \pm 0.0	14.0 \pm 0.0	12.0 \pm 0.0	10.0 \pm 0.0		35.0	12.5
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	20.0 \pm 0.0	18.0 \pm 0.0	16.0 \pm 0.0	14.0 \pm 0.0	10.0 \pm 0.0		36.0	12.5
<i>Klebsiella pnamananae</i>	16.0 \pm 0.0	14.0 \pm 0.0	12.0 \pm 0.0	10.0 \pm 0.0	-		35.0	25.0
Fungi							Tioc.	
<i>Candida albicans</i>	16.0 \pm 0.0	14.0 \pm 0.0	12.0 \pm 0.0	10.0 \pm 0.0	-		28.0	25.0
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	14.0 \pm 0.0	12.0 \pm 0.0	10.0 \pm 0.0	-	-		27.0	50.0
<i>Penicillium notatum</i>	15.0 \pm 1.0	13.0 \pm 1.0	10.0 \pm 0.0	-	-		26.0	50.0
<i>Rhizopus stolonifer</i>	14.0 \pm 0.0	12.0 \pm 0.0	10.0 \pm 0.0	-	-		26.0	50.0

Mean of triplicate determinations with SEM; Gent. means Gentamicin; Tioc means tioconazole. Sample was measure in mg/mL.

Table 10. Antimicrobial activities of soap, CS1.

Tested Organisms	Diameter Zone of Inhibition (mm)					Gent.	MIC
	200	100	50	25	12.5		
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	23.0 ± 1.0	19.0 ± 1.0	16.0 ± 0.0	13.0 ± 1.0	11.0 ± 1.0	35.0	12.5
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	21.0 ± 1.0	18.0 ± 0.0	15.0 ± 1.0	13.0 ± 1.0	11.0 ± 1.0	35.0	12.5
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	23.0 ± 1.0	19.0 ± 1.0	17.0 ± 1.0	14.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	36.0	12.5
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	12.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	35.0	12.5
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	12.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	36.0	12.5
<i>Klebsiella pnamananae</i>	20.0 ± 0.0	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	35.0	12.5
Fungi						Tioc.	
<i>Candida albicans</i>	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	12.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	28.0	12.5
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	15.0 ± 1.0	13.0 ± 1.0	10.0 ± 0.0	-	-	27.0	50.0
<i>Penicillium notatum</i>	15.0 ± 1.0	13.0 ± 1.0	10.0 ± 0.0	-	-	26.0	50.0
<i>Rhizopus stolonifer</i>	13.0 ± 1.0	10.0 ± 0.0	-	-	-	26.0	100.0

Mean of triplicate determinations with SEM; Gent. means Gentamicin; Tioc means tioconazole. Sample was measure in mg/mL.

Table 11. Antimicrobial Activities of CS3 soap.

Tested Organisms	Diameter Zone of Inhibition (mm)					Gent.	MIC
	200	100	50	25	12.5		
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	23.0 ± 1.0	19.0 ± 1.0	17.0 ± 1.0	13.0 ± 1.0	11.0 ± 1.0	34.0	12.5
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	12.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	34.0	12.5
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	-	36.0	25.0
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	20.0 ± 0.0	18.0 ± 0.0	15.0 ± 1.0	12.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	35.0	12.5
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	21.0 ± 1.0	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	37.0	12.5
<i>Klebsiella pnamananae</i>	19.0 ± 1.0	17.0 ± 1.0	14.0 ± 0.0	12.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	36.	12.5
Fungi						Tioc.	
<i>Candida albicans</i>	15.0 ± 1.0	13.0 ± 1.0	10.0 ± 0.0	-	-	26.0	50.0
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	15.0 ± 1.0	13.0 ± 1.0	10.0 ± 0.0	-	-	27.0	50.0
<i>Penicillium notatum</i>	18.0 ± 0.0	15.0 ± 1.0	13.0 ± 1.0	10.0 ± 0.0	-	27.0	12.5
<i>Rhizopus stolonifer</i>	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	12.0 ± 0.0	-	-	27.0	50.0

Mean of triplicate determinations with SEM; Gent. means Gentamicin; Tioc means tioconazole.

Table 12. Antimicrobial activities of septol (standard soap).

Tested Organisms	Diameter Zone of Inhibition (mm)					Gent.	MIC
	200	100	50	25	12.5		
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	25.0 ± 1.0	21.0 ± 1.0	17.0 ± 1.0	14.0 ± 0.0	11.0 ± 1.0	35.0	12.5
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	23.0 ± 1.0	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	11.0 ± 1.0	10.0 ± 0.0	35.0	12.5
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	22.0 ± 0.0	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	36.0	12.5
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	22.0 ± 0.0	19.0 ± 1.0	17.0 ± 1.0	15.0 ± 1.0	11.0 ± 1.0	35.0	12.5
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	21.0 ± 1.0	19.0 ± 1.0	15.0 ± 1.0	11.0 ± 1.0	10.0 ± 0.0	36.0	12.5
<i>Klebsiella pnamananae</i>	21.0 ± 1.0	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	35.0	12.5
Fungi						Tioc.	
<i>Candida albicans</i>	20.0 ± 0.0	18.0 ± 0.0	16.0 ± 0.0	13.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	28.0	12.5
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	19.0 ± 1.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	12.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	27.0	12.5
<i>Penicillium notatum</i>	19.0 ± 1.0	16.0 ± 0.0	14.0 ± 0.0	12.0 ± 0.0	10.0 ± 0.0	26.0	12.5
<i>Rhizopus stolonifer</i>	19.0 ± 1.0	17.0 ± 1.0	15 ± 1.0	12.0 ± 0.0	10 ± 0.0	26.0	12.5

Mean of triplicate determinations with SEM; Gent. means Gentamicin; Tioc means tioconazole. Sample was measure in mg/mL.

irritation to many synthetic additives used in soaps and cosmetics (Atolani et al., 2016).

4. Conclusion

C. sinensis seed, a neglected bio-resource has been investigated for the chemical composition of the oil, potential application in cosmeceuticals

and its biological activities. Though, *C. sinensis* seed is a typical waste product in the environment and natural fruit juice industries, soap made from *C. sinensis* seed oil, is herein reported to possess cosmeceutical application especially, antiseptic with excellent properties such as good solubility, foaming ability, texture, colour, low free caustic alkali, antimicrobial activity, antioxidant potential, anti-parasite and low cytotoxicity. Based on these results, it could be concluded that the bioactivities

recorded for *C. sinensis* seed oil (and soaps) is based on the chemical compositions herein reported. Since most cosmetic consumers now prefer “green”, natural and more benign products which is also more environmental-friendly, the application of the seed oil is highly recommended for further exploration. The result obtained in this research further add credence to the concept of conversion of waste to wealth initiative which could ameliorate poverty whilst making the terrestrial and aquatic environmental safer. Obviously, these results would be useful resource for the soap and cosmetic industries.

Declarations

Author contribution statement

Atolani O.: Conceived and designed the experiments; Performed the experiments; Analyzed and interpreted the data; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper.

Olatunji G.A.: Conceived and designed the experiments; Performed the experiments; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data.

Adamu N., Adeyemi O.S.: Performed the experiments; Analyzed and interpreted the data; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data; Wrote the paper.

Areh E.T.: Performed the experiments; Analyzed and interpreted the data.

Oguntoye O.S.: Performed the experiments; Wrote the paper.

Zubair M.F., Fabiyi O.A., Oyegoke R.A., Tarigha D.E.: Performed the experiments; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data.

Kambizi L.: Performed the experiments; Analyzed and interpreted the data; Contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools or data.

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Competing interest statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Additional information

No additional information is available for this paper.

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