



**IN VITRO STUDY OF ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY, ANTICANCER ACTIVITY,  
LC/MS ANALYSIS, AND SEQUENCE OF COCONUT HUSK RETTING SOIL  
ASSOCIATED ACTINOMYCETES IN MANDAİKADU, KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT**

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**ABSTRACT**

Actinomycetes are a source of a broad variety of secondary metabolites with diverse biological activities, such as antifungal, antibiotic. Many of which have been developed for clinical use. Actinomycetes were isolated from the coconut husk retting soil sample by serial dilution agar plating method. The antimicrobial activity of actinomycetes extract was tested against pathogenic bacteria and fungi. The extract was tested against seven bacteria and five fungi. Then bioactive compounds were purified by silica gel column chromatography and it was identified by liquid chromatography-Mass spectrometry. Cytotoxic activity of actinomycetes extract on A375 cell line were analysed by MTT method. Three compounds such as 1-3-Di undecylprodiginine, Anthracene-9,10-dione, Isorenieratone were identified. The DNA of actinomycetes was isolated and the 16S rRNA gene was amplified using universal eubacteria 16S rRNA gene primers and it was phenotypically identified as *Streptomyces albaduncus*.

**KEYWORDS:** LC.MS, 16S rRNA, coconut husk retting soil.

**INTRODUCTION**

Soil is comprised of minerals, soil organic matter, water and air. The composition and proportion of these components greatly influence soil physical properties like structure and porosity.<sup>[13]</sup> Microorganisms are frequently present in soil, manure and decaying plant tissues which are able to degrade wastes that are correlated with the substrate organic matter.<sup>[8]</sup> Microorganisms produce some useful compounds that are beneficial to soil health, plant growth and play an important role in nutritional chains that are important part of the biological balance in the life in our planet. The microorganisms that are capable of biodegrading these toxic compounds may be absent at the contaminated site. If the necessary microorganisms are present, some limiting factor, such as a nutrient shortage, may create unfavourable conditions for the biodegradation of the contaminant. The second possibility is that the compound could be recalcitrant or resistant to biodegradation.<sup>[11]</sup>

The actinomycetes produce an enormous variety of bioactive molecules, e.g., antimicrobial compounds.<sup>[9]</sup> Actinomycetes are the most widely distributed group of microorganisms in nature which primarily inhabit the soil. Actinomycetes are diverse group of Gram positive bacteria that usually grow by filament formation. They are free living, saprophytic bacteria and a major source

for the production of antibiotics, widely distributed in natural and manmade environments and play an important role in the degradation of organic matter. The most important genus in Actinobacteria is *Streptomyces*; five hundred and thirty three species of *Streptomyces species* were described in Bergy's Manual of Systematic bacteriology.<sup>[7]</sup> The important bioactive compounds of high commercial value and continue to be routinely screened for new bioactive compounds. These searches have been remarkably successful and approximately two thirds of naturally occurring antibiotics, including many of medical importance, have been isolated from actinomycetes.<sup>[10]</sup> The natural products (NPs) are one of the most prolific sources of therapeutics and because of their enormous structural diversity, they can serve as leads in finding novel drugs to be introduced in cancer therapy.<sup>[2]</sup>

In this context, a study was conducted on the isolation, characterization, identification of actinomycetes isolated from the coconut husk retting soil sample collected from Mandaikadu. The present study examined the antimicrobial activity against bacteria and fungi. This work also involves the purification and identification of antibiotic compound by silica gel column chromatography and LCMS analysis. The eluted fractions were tested for cytotoxic activity using cancer

cell lines. DNA was isolated from actinomycetes and 16S rRNA gene sequencing was carried out.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Sample collection:** Actinomycetes was isolated from coconut husk retting soil sample collected from Mandaikadu, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, South India by serial dilution agar plating method. The coconut husk retting soil samples were serially diluted up to  $10^{-9}$  dilutions, in distilled water and 1 ml sample from  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-5}$  were pour plated in Actinomycetes isolation agar plates. The plates were kept for incubation at 25 to 30°C for 48 hours in an inverted position. The colonies formed were enumerated using Quebec colony counter. Then the actinomycetes isolates were purified by pure culture techniques and refrigerated in agar slants for further studies.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Antibiotic sensitivity with pathogens

The actinomycetes isolates were tested against pathogens and their antibiotic sensitivity were determined by Disc Diffusion method. The bacteria lawn of each organism was prepared on the nutrient agar plates. One drop of actinomycetes culture was added to sterile filter paper disc (size:5mm) and allow to dry after each addition. The disc were then placed on air dried surface of the medium. The plates were incubated at 37°C for 24hours. After incubation the diameter of inhibition zones around the discs was measured.

Pathogenic bacteria (Gram – positive and Gram-negative) and fungus were obtained from Microbial Type Culture Collection, (MTCC) Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh. The bacterial strains used *Vibrio cholerae*(3906), *Enterobacter aerogenes*(10102), *Escherichia coli* (40), *Klebsiella pneumonia* (4030), *Shigella flexneri*(1457), *Streptococcus epidermic*(6810), *Bacillus megaterium* (453). The fungal strains used were *Aspergillus niger* (545), *Aspergillus fumigates*(4333), *Candida albicans*(183), *Candida fumigata* (8332) and *Penicillium* (7584). The bacterial and fungal strain cultures were maintained in nutrient and fungal broth a turbid growth and kept in refrigerator at 4°C for further analysis. The observed structure was compared with Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology<sup>[1]</sup> and the organism was identified.

### Purification of Antibiotics

The purification of antimicrobial substance was carried out using silica gel (2.5×50) chromatography. Chloroform and Methanol 95:5 (v/v) mixtures were used as an eluent. The column was left overnight until the silica gel (pro labo) was completely settled. 1 ml crude extract to be fractionated was added on the silica gel column surface and the extract was absorbed on top of silica gel. Read the absorbance at 272 nm. 10 eluents were collected (each of 5 ml) and tested for their antimicrobial activity.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Antiproliferative Assay by MTT Method in A375 Cell Lines

A375 cell line from Fifteen mg of MTT (Sigma, M-5655) was reconstituted in 3 ml PBS until completely dissolved and sterilized by filter sterilization. After 24 hours of incubation period, the sample content in wells were removed and 3 0µl of reconstituted MTT solution was added to all test and cell control wells, the plate was gently shaken well, then incubated at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for 4 hours. After the incubation period, the supernatant was removed and 100µl of MTT solubilisation Solution (DMSO was added and the wells were mixed gently by pipetting up and down in order to solubilize the Formosan crystals. The absorbance values were measured by using micro plate reader at a wavelength of 540 nm.

### LC MS Analysis

Mass spectrometer system equipped with a capillary column HP5-MS. (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, California, USA). Ion source polarity: Positive ion mode sheath gas pressure (N<sub>2</sub>):40 units Ion transfer tube temperature: 350°C collision gas pressure (Ar): 1.0 mTorr q1 resolution:0.2 FWHM Q3 resolution: 0.7 FWHM D well time: 0.2 sScan type: SRM solvent: Methanol (Column purified – sephadex G24.5) sample: Animal Ext-Microbial origin LC MS conditions for the analytes.

### DNA Preparation

The genomic DNA isolation from actinomycetes was described by the method. CTAB method was the most commonly used protocol for the preparation of actinomycetes genomic DNA.<sup>[5]</sup>

### Randomly amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD)

The Polymerase chain reactions (PCR) were carried out in a 200 ml thin walled PCR tubes. The PCR for RAPD were carried out in a 25 ml of reaction mixture as described by Abbasi et al. 1993. RAPD primers and PCR related chemicals were obtained from Bangalore genei, India. Amplification reactions were carried out in a total volume of 25 ml containing, 10\_ PCR buffer with 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and 10 mM Tris, 2.25 U Taq polymerase, 0.20 mM each dNTPs, 1 mM primer and 50 ng template DNA. Amplification was carried out on Bio-Rad Thermal-Mycycler with the following programme as described by Shalini et al.<sup>[17]</sup> The samples were initially heated to 94 °C for 5 min and then subjected to 45 cycles of denaturation at 94 °C for 1 min, annealing at 37 °C for 1 min and 30 s and extension at 72 °C for 2 min followed by a final extension for 10 min. After the process, samples of 15 ml of the amplification products were assayed by electrophoresis in 1.5% agarose gel containing ethidium bromide, running with TBE buffer. The electrophoresis was carried out at 80 V (constant) for about 100 min using Bio-Rad submerge gel electrophoresis system. The gel was viewed under UV trans-illuminator for visualizing separated bands and photographed. The low range ruler (100 bp to 3 kb) was

used as molecular weight size markers. Amplifications were repeated once more for each RAPD primer and only consistent bands were considered for scoring. The NTSYS. PC (Numerical Taxonomy System Applied Biostatistics, Setauket, New York) system version 2.2 by Exeter Software was used for data analysis.<sup>[18]</sup> The data (band presence or absence) were introduced in the form of a binary matrix and a pair wise similarity matrix was constructed using the Jaccard's coefficient.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Isolation of Actinomycetes

Actinomycetes were isolated from coconut husk retting soil sample collected from Mandaikadu, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, South India by serial dilution agar plating method. Three actinomycetes were selected for further studies.

### Antibiotic sensitivity with Bacterial pathogens

The bioactive compound producing actinomycetes A3 was selected and tested its antibiotic sensitivity with

bacterial pathogens. The largest inhibition zone was produced by actinomycetes strain A3 against *streptococcus epidermice*. The inhibition zone diameter was 3.4 cm. The smallest zone was also produced by *Vibrio cholerae*. The inhibition zone diameter was 0.8 cm. The values were listed in the table no-1.

### Antibiotic sensitivity with Fungi pathogens

The bioactive compound producing actinomycetes A3 was selected and tested its antibiotic sensitivity with fungal pathogen. The largest inhibition one was produced by actinomycetes strain A3 against *pencillium sps*. The inhibition zone diameter was 3cm. The smallest inhibition produced by *Asperigillus fumigates* zone diameter was 2 cm. The values were listed in the table no – 2.

**Table -1: Antibiotic sensitivity with Bacterial pathogens.**

S.No	Bacterial Pathogens	Zone of diameter (cm)
1	<i>Vibrio cholerae</i> (3906)	0.8
2	<i>Bacillus megaterium</i> (453)	2.5
3	<i>Klebsilla pneumonia</i> (4030)	3.0
4	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> (1457)	2.5
5	<i>Enterobacteria aerogenes</i> (10102)	2.0
6	<i>Eschericha coli</i> (40)	2.9
7	<i>streptococcus epidermice</i> (6810)	3.4

**Table -2: Antibiotic sensitivity with Fungi pathogens.**

S.NO	Fungal Pathogens	Zone of diameter (cm)
1	<i>Asperigillus fumigates</i> (4333)	2.0
2	<i>Candida fumigates</i> (8332)	2.0
3	<i>pencillium sps</i> (7584)	3.0
4	<i>Candida albicans</i> (183)	2.5
5	<i>Asperigillus niger</i> (545)	0

### Purification of bioactive compounds by silica gel column chromatography

The bioactive compound were purified by silica gel column chromatography. Chloroform and Methanol 95:5 (v/v) mixtures were used as an eluting solvent. Crude extract of A3 was used for the purification of bioactive compound. Five eluents were collected from A3. The collected fractions were kept at 4°C. The optical Density by eluent eight showed that the activity was increased that is 0.430. Decreased enzyme activity represented in the activity was showed by eluent two (0.147).

### Antibacterial activity of eluent fractions of Actinomycetes

Seven elutions of Actinomycetes was used for the antibacterial activity against bacterial pathogens. The zone of inhibition of each elution was tabulated in **Table-3**.

### Antifungal activity of eluent fractions of Actinomycetes

The anti fungal activity of eluent fractions of Actinomycetes was carried out in five fungal pathogens.

### Table-4.

**Table-3 Antibacterial activity of eluent fractions of Actinomycetes.**

S.No	Bacterial Isolates	Eluents Of Selected Actinomycetes – Zone Of the Diameter (cm)				
		I	II	III	IV	V
1	B1	1.5	1	1.3	1	0
2	B2	1.1	0	0	2	0
3	B3	1.2	0	0	0.9	0
4	B4	0	0.9	1.0	1.2	0
5	B5	0.9	0	0.9	0.8	0
6	B6	1.4	0	1	0	0
7	B7	0	1.2	1.3	0.6	0.8

**Table-4 Antifungal activity of eluent fractions of Actinomycetes.**

S.No	Fungal Isolates	Eluents Of Selected Actinomycetes – Zone Of the Diameter (cm)				
		I	II	III	IV	V
1	F1	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.8	0
2	F2	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.8
3	F3	0	0	0	0	0
4	F4	0	0	0	0	0
5	F5	0	0	0	0	0

**Antiproliferative Assay by MTT Method**

Fifteen mg of MTT (Sigma, M-5655) was reconstituted in 3 ml PBS until completely dissolved and sterilized by filter sterilization. After 24 hours of incubation period, the sample content in wells were removed and 30  $\mu$ l of reconstituted MTT solution was added to all test and cell control wells, the plate was gently shaken well, then incubated at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for 4 hours. After the incubation period, the supernatant was

removed and 100  $\mu$ l of MTT Solubilization Solution (DMSO was added and the wells were mixed gently by pipetting up and down in order to solubilize the formazan crystals. The absorbance values were measured by using microplate reader at a wavelength of 540 nm (Laura B. Talarico *et al.*, 2004). The values were listed in the **Table no: 5** and the results were showed in the **plate no: 1**.

**Table No: 5 Antiproliferative Assay by MTT Method.**

Sample volume ( $\mu$ l)	Average OD at 540nm	Percentage Viability
Control	0.4016	-
6.25	0.22905	57.03436
12.5	0.194	48.30677
25	0.1824	45.41833
50	0.16685	41.54631
100	0.14955	37.23855

**LD 50 value – 11.2874  $\mu$ l****Plate No: 1 Antiproliferative Assay by MTT Method.**

identified. They are 1-3 Di Undecylprodiginine, Anthracene-9, 10-dione, Isorenieratin. The values were listed in the table no: 6 and the results were showed in the plate no: 2.

**LC –MS Analysis**

LC –MS Analysis indicated that the Actinomycetes extract showed totally persnendage of peaks. Peaks were

Table No: 6 compounds present In the Peaks.

No.	Name of the Analyte(s)	% of Peak area	Mole. Formula	Mol. Wt	Peak Area	Retention Time
1.	1-3-Di undecylprodiginine	48.76	$C_{25}H_{35}N_3O$	393.575	2305671	20.14
2.	Anthracene-9, 10-dione	41.68	$C_{14}H_7O_2$	208.216	2257312	53.46
3.	Isorenieratine	48.37	$C_{40}H_{48}$	528.824	2536021	25.93

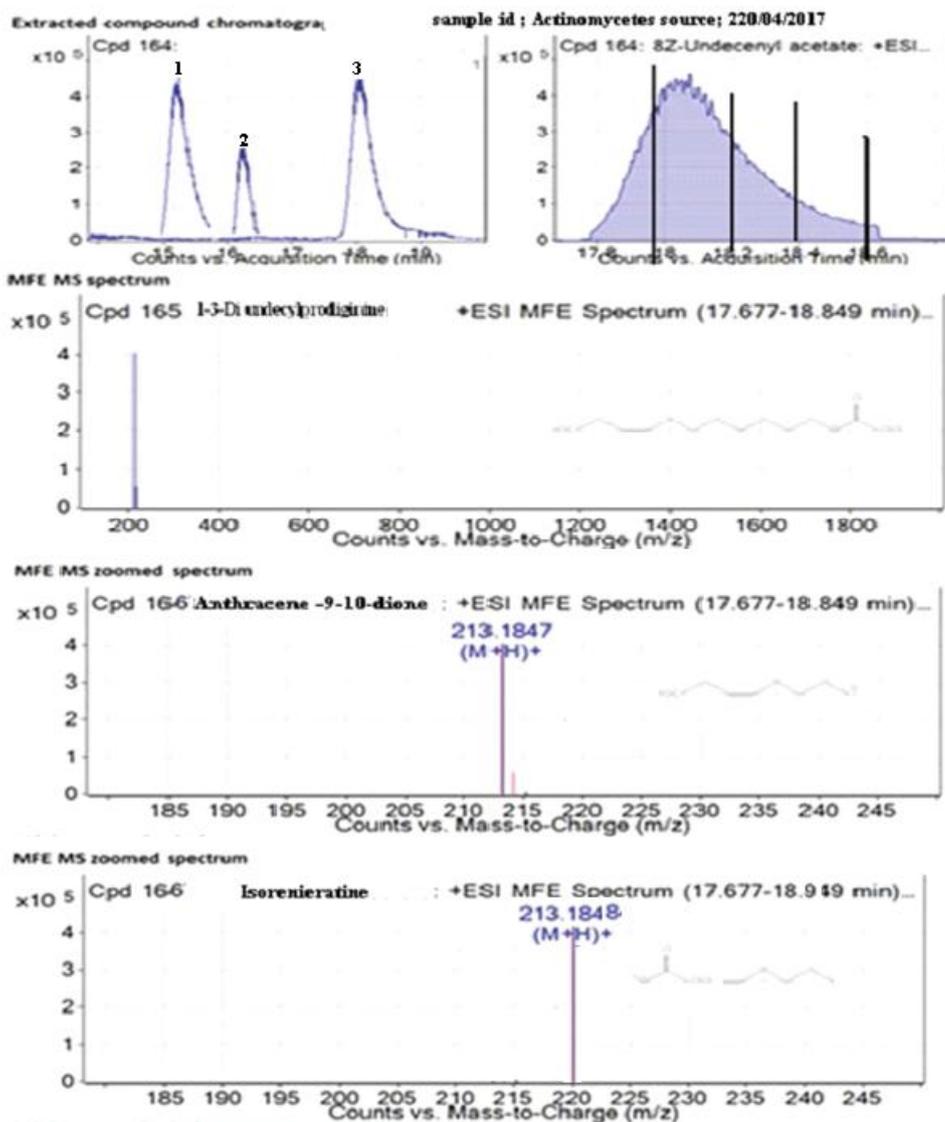


Figure 1: A typical chromatography showing the compound 1-3-Di undecylprodiginine. The compound was eluted at 18 min with an m/z ratio of 213.184. When searched and compared against METLIN database, the molecular feature (isotopic pattern) confirmed that this compound is Anthracene 9,10 dione and Isorenieratine.

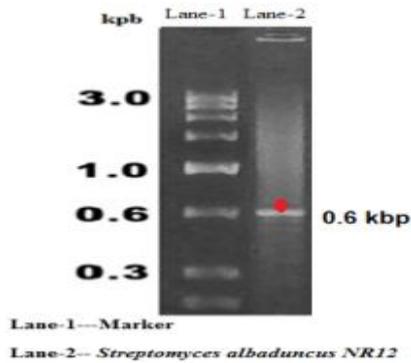
m/z	z	Abundance	Formula	Ion
213.185	1	403042.6	$C_{40}H_{48}$	(M+H) <sup>+</sup>
214.188	1	54882.5	$C_{14}H_7O_2$	(M+H) <sup>+</sup>
215.192	1	7123.61	$C_{25}H_{35}N_3O$	(M+H) <sup>+</sup>

Plate No: 2 Chromatogram For Selected Actinomycetes.

### Amplification of 16S rRNA Sequencing

The actinomycetes DNA was isolate and amplified used 16S rRNA gene and it was phenotypically identified as *Streptomyces albaduncus* of the size 0.6kbp. The amplified product was visualized in ethidium bromide stained gel. The result was displayed in plate no-30

followed by the sequence of the identified actinomycetes.



#### Plate No: 4 16SrRNA Gene Amplification.

Species name: *Streptomyces albaduncus*  
*Streptomyces albaduncus* 16SrRNA gene, partial  
 sequence  
 Size: 0.6 kbp.

#### Forward Cycle

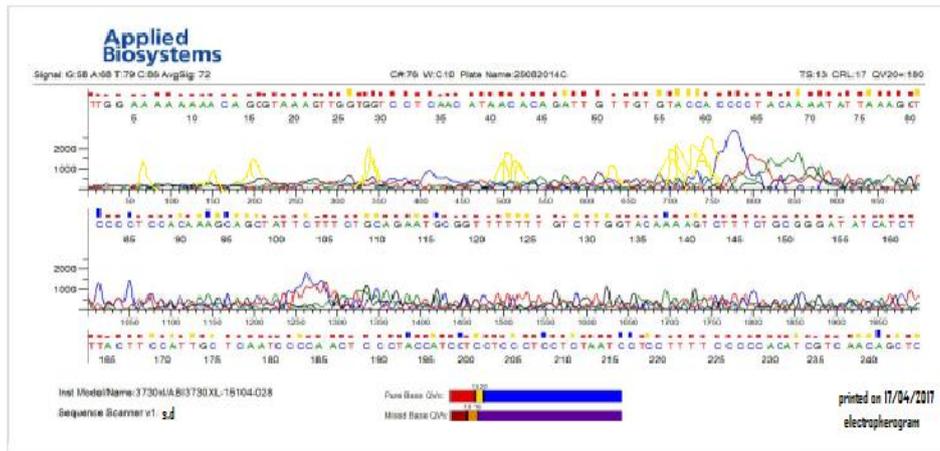
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 CGAAAGCTCCGGCGGTGCAGGATGAGCCCAGGGC  
 CTATCAGCTTGTGGTGAGGTAATGGCTCACCAAG  
 GCGACGACGGGTAGCCGGCCTGAGAGGGGCGACCG  
 GCCACACTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCCAGACTCCTA  
 CGGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGCACAATGGG  
 CGAAAGCCTGATGACGACGACGCCCGGTGAGGGAT  
 GACGGCCTTCGGGTGTAAACCTCTTTCAGCAGGG  
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 AAAGCCCGGGGCTTAACCCCGGGTCTGCAGTCGAT  
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 ATTCTGGTGTAGCGGTGAAATGCGCAGATATCAG  
 GAGGAACACCGGTGGCGAAGGCGGATCTCTGGGC  
 CGATACTGACGCTGAGGAGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAG  
 CGAACAGGATTAGATACCTTGGTAGTCCACGCCGT  
 AAACGGTGGGACTAGGTGTGGGCGACATTCCACG  
 TCGTCCGTGCCGAGCTAACGCATTAAGTGCCCCG  
 CCTGGGGAGTACGGCCGCAAGGCTAAAACCTCAA  
 GGAATTGACGGGGGCCCGACAAGCGGCGGAGCA  
 TGTGGCTTAATTCGACGCAACGCGAAGAACCTTAC  
 CAAGGCTTGACATACACCGGAAAGCATTAGAGATA  
 GTCCCCCTTGTGGTTCGGTGTACAGGTGGTGCAT  
 GGCTGTCTCAGCTCGTGTCTGAGATGTTGGGTT  
 AAGTCCCGCAACGAGCGCAACCCTTGTCCCGTGT  
 GCCAGCAAGCTCTTCGGGGTGTGGGGACTCAC  
 GGGAGACCGCCGGGTCAACTCGGAGGAAGGTGG  
 GGACGACGTCAAGTTCATGCCCCCTTATGTCTTG  
 GGCTGCACACGTGCTACAATGGCCGGTACAATGAG  
 CTGCGATACCGTGAGGTGGAGCGAATCTCAAAAAG  
 CCGGTCTCAGTTCGGATTGGGGTCTGCAACTCGAC  
 CCCATGAAGTCGGAGTCGCTAGTAATCGCAGATCA  
 GCATTGCTGCGGTGAATACGTTCACCGGGCCTTGTA  
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 CCGAAGCCGGTGGCCAACCCCTTGTGGGAGGGAG  
 CTGTCAAGGTGGGACTGGCGATTGG

#### Reverse Cycle

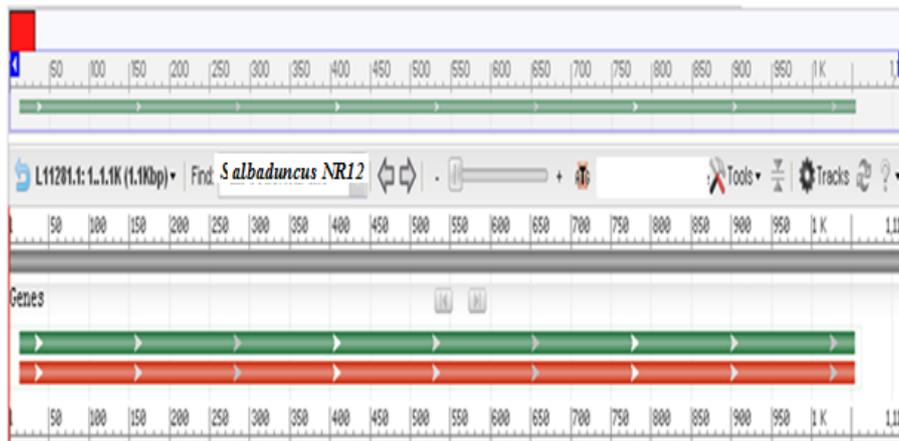
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 GCTCCGGCGGTGCAGGATGAGCCCAGGGCCTATCA  
 GCTTGTGGTGAGGTAATGGCTCACCAAGGCGACG  
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 GCTCCTTCGGGGTGTGGGGACTCACGGGAGACC  
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 GCAAGCTCCTTCGGGGTGTGGGGACTCACGGGA  
 GACCGCCGGGTCAACTCGGAGGAAGGTGGGGAC  
 GACGTCAAGTCATCATGCCCTTATGTCTTGGGCTG  
 CACACGTGCTACAATGGCCGGTACAATGAGCTGCG  
 ATACCGTGAGGTGGAGCGAATCTCAAAAAGCCGGT  
 CTCAGTTCGGATTGGGGTCTGCAACTCGACCCAT  
 GAAGTCGGAGTCGCTAGTAATCGCAGATCAGCATT  
 GCTGCGGTGAATACGTTCCCGGGCCTTGTACACAC  
 CGCCCGTACGTCACGAAAGTTCGGTAACACCCGAA

GCCGGTGGCCCAACCCCTTGTGGGAGGGAGCTGTC  
GAAGGTGGGACTGGCGATTGGGACG

### The Amplification of 16S rRNA Sequencing conformed by chromatogram



### Graphical View of the Identified Organisms



### CONCLUSION

From this study, it can be concluded that the actinomycetes *steptomyces albaduncus* showed the bioactivity compound were characterized from the actinomycetes and the extracts showed antimicrobial, Antiproliferative on A-375 cell line. The DNA of actinomycetes was amplified using universal eubacterial 16S rRNA gene primers and it was phenotypically identified as *steptomyces albaduncus*. Data from the literature as well as our results reveal the great potential of actinomycetes extracts showed various antimicrobial, cytotoxic activities and have not been completely investigated. Additional studies would be needed further to evaluate the potential of this extracts for the isolation of novel antibiotic.

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