- 1 GC-MS characterization of *Polygonatum geminiflorum* depicted by antibacterial efficacy
- 2 of the biosynthesized silver nanoparticles using its leaf extract

3 Maaz Ahmad¹, Ahmad Ali^{1*}, Mohammad Ajmal Ali^{2*}, Mohammad Abul Farah³, Zahid

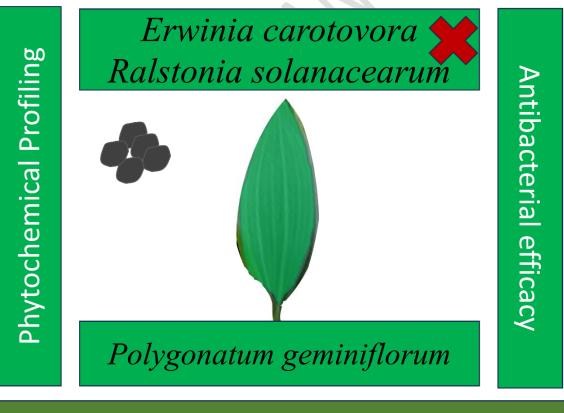
4 Ullah¹, Haidar Ali¹, Hassan Sher¹, Sayed M. Eldin⁴, Shah Zaman⁵, Iftikhar Ali^{1,6,*}

 ¹Center for Plant Sciences and Biodiversity, University of Swat, Charbagh Swat 19120, Pakistan; ²Department of Botany and Microbiology, College of Science, King Saud University, Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia; <u>alimohammad@ksu.edu.sa</u>;
 ³Department of Zoology, College of Science, King Saud University, Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia; <u>mfarah@ksu.edu.sa</u>; ⁴Center of Research, Faculty of Engineering, Future University in Egypt, New Cairo 11835, Egypt; <u>sayed.eldin222@gmail.com</u>;
 ⁵Department of Botany, University of Malakand, Pakistan; ⁶Department of Genetics and Development, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY, United States.

11 *iftikhar.ali@stonybrook.edu; draali@uswat.edu.pk; alimohammad@ksu.edu.sa;

Maaz Ahmad (maazahmad25@yahoo.com); Ahmad Ali (draali@usswat.edu.pk); Mohammad Ajmal Ali
 (alimohammad@ksu.edu.sa); Mohammad Abul Farah (mfarah@ksu.edu.sa); Zahid Ullah (zahidtaxon@uswat.edu.pk); Haidar
 Ali (haidar@uswat.edu.pk); Hassan Sher (hassansher@uswat.edu.pk); Sayed M. Eldin (sayed.eldin22@fue.edu.eg); Shah
 Zaman (shahzaman@uom.edu.pk); Iftikhar Ali (iftikhar.ali@stonybrook.edu)

16 **GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT**



Green Synthesis of silver nanoparticles

17

18 Abstract

The biological synthesis of nanomaterials is drawing immense interest because of their non-19 hazardous nature and enormous antimicrobial application. In the present study, we explored 20 Polygonatum geminiflorum Decne for phytochemical profiling and biosynthesis of silver 21 nanoparticles to control soft rot/blackleg and bacterial wilt pathogens of potato through in vitro 22 experiment. Phytochemical screening indicated the presence of important secondary chemicals 23 including tannins, glycosides, flavonoids and terpenoids, while, gas chromatography-mass 24 25 spectrophotometry (GC-MS) study of leaf extract showed the presence of 30 phytochemicals, the most prominent among which included c-Sitosterol and n-Hexadecanoic acid. The GC-MS 26 27 qualitative analysis also supported the presence of bioactive compounds responsible for metal reduction processes and synthesized nanoparticles stabilization. In vitro study showed that 28 concentration of 100µg/mL of AgNPs and AgNPs-PE efficiently control both Erwinia 29 carotovora and Ralstonia solanacearum. The outcomes have provided an improved protocol 30 to use prepared AgNPs against the tested pathogens without health hazards. 31

Keywords: *Ralstonia solanacearum*; *Erwinia carotovora*; GC-MS; Silver nanoparticles;
Potato; Pathogens

34 Introduction

Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is amongst important crops consumed all over the world owing to its easy availability and rich nutrient capacity (Devaux et al. 2014). It is also amongst the commonly grown crop in Pakistan as well as around the world which is an excellent source of protein, minerals, vitamins and carbohydrates (Zaheer and Akhtar 2016). This essential vegetable crop is badly affected by plant pathogens, the result being reduced production (Djaya et al. 2019). *Erwinia carotovora* is one of the severe pathogens causing soft rot and blackleg diseases in potatoes (Ali et al. 2012). Similarly, *Ralstonia solanacearum* is another pathogen 42

43 and as a result, affecting the crop quality and quantity (Ranjan et al. 2016; Oyesola et al. 2021).

causing bacterial wilt of potatoes (Sagar et al. 2014). These pathogens have negative impacts

44

To control these pathogens, various conventional strategies are used including development of
resistant varieties, chemical pesticides and bio-control agents (Cook 1985; Srinon et al. 2006).
However, due to the pesticide's resistant capability the control of these pathogens is ineffectual
(Srinon et al. 2006; Sun et al. 2012). Therefore, the modern investigators are working to
produce novel antimicrobial drugs (León-Buitimea et al. 2020).

Apart from biotic stresses, several abiotic stresses including salinity, drought, high temperature 50 and heavy metal also affect crop growth and production (Rafique et al. 2017; Tariq et al., 2021; 51 Hassanisaadi et al. 2022; Salam et al. 2022). Over the past decades, climate changes and global 52 warming has led to reduction of water resources, ultimately resulting in agricultural land 53 reduction (Sadiq et al. 2013; Ali et al. 2014; Singh et al. 2021). These environmental factors 54 55 badly reduce the crop production and quality which leads to global food insecurity (Ali et al. 2013 and 2022). To overcome this, the development of new techniques need to be developed 56 for improvement of agricultural crops (Singh et al. 2021). Green chemistry deals with the 57 production of nanomaterials using bio-reducing agent to overcome toxic and hazardous 58 substances (Salem et al. 2021). Green chemistry utilizes natural substances to produce cost 59 60 effective and non-toxic nanomaterials on large scale (Shah et al. 2015). Moreover, it includes the development of significant processes to produce nanomaterials that have positive 61 ecofriendly effects (Yates and Dionysiou 2006; Wong and Karn 2012). Also, these procedures 62 provide efficient solutions to environmental health problems without effecting human health 63 (Khan 2020). Consequently, green chemistry produces safe and ecofriendly nanomaterials that 64 utilize no toxic substances during synthesis process, hence, offering a substitute to other 65

conventional physical and chemical processes (Krishnaswamy and Orsat 2017; Dilbar et al.2023a).

68 Medicinal plants and fungi have been reported to fulfil the major healthcare needs, and, hence, are utilized in different traditional formulations (Rahman et al. 2022a and b; Hussain et al. 69 2023). They provide relatively simple, eco-friendly and safe methods for producing and 70 provide capping layers to stabilize nanomaterial having a particular size and shape (Mata et al. 71 2015). Nanoparticles get synthesized through plants are ecofriendly and shows significant 72 antimicrobial potential against pathogenic microorganisms (Gopinath et al. 2017; Handoko et 73 al. 2019). Secondary metabolites present in the plants provide favorable routes to produce 74 metallic nanoparticles on large scale (Kuppusamy et al. 2016). Biological method of 75 nanoparticles synthesis combined the effects of plant constituents with nanoparticles to provide 76 77 stability and increase its antimicrobial effects (Choudhury et al. 2016). Apart from others, silver nanoparticles were previously studied for different biological activities (Vishwasrao et al. 78 2019; Ahmad et al. 2022; Dilbar et al. 2023b). Moreover, the low concentrations of silver 79 nanoparticles were found effective against phytopathogens having no toxicity to human health 80 (Jeong et al. 2005; Khan et al. 2022). 81

Due to highly medicinal importance of *Polygonatum geminiflorum* (Ullah et al. 2021; Sher et al. 2022), the present work aimed to investigate phytochemical profile of its leaf extract and its further utilization in biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles. Moreover, the synthesize nanoparticles were studied for the antibacterial effects against potato's pathogens via *in vitro* experiments.

87

88 Materials and Methods

Healthy leaves of P. geminiflorum were collected from Swat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Province, Pakistan. The specimens were submitted to University of Swat herbarium (SWAT)

4

91 which can be accessed using catalog (accession) number "SWAT004621". The healthy leaves
92 were then dried under shade and were used for phytochemicals investigations and silver
93 nanoparticles biosynthesis.

94 Preliminary phytochemical analysis

For phytochemicals investigation, 50 g dried leaf material of *P. geminiflorum* was dissolved in
in 100 mL aqueous methanol (95%), which was simultaneously incubated for 24 h at 28°C. this
was followed by filtration and then evaporation of the solution till the availability of 15 g final
mass of crude extract for its further utilization in different phytochemical tests.

99 Test for tannins

100 The crude leaf extract (about 2 mg) was mixed in deionized water (20 mL) and heated in water 101 bath for about 5 min followed by cooling the solution and its subsequent filtration. Then, 102 dropwise addition of ferric chloride (10%) was accomplished to about 1 mL of the filtrate till 103 brownish coloration which indicated the presence of tannins.

104 Test for flavonoids

The crude leaf extract (about 1 mg) was mixed in deionized water (10 mL) and heated in water bath for about 5 min followed by cooling the solution and its subsequent filtration. Then, dropwise addition of ferric chloride (20%) was accomplished to about 1 mL of the filtrate till yellow coloration which indicated the presence of flavonoids.

109 Test for glycosides

For this purpose, crude leaf extract (about 5 mg) was mixed in deionized water (10 mL) and heated for 15 min at 60 °C which was followed by filtration of the solution. About 5 mL filtrate was then reacted with glacial acetic acid (2 mL) and conc. H_2SO_4 (1 mL), then dropwise ferric chloride was added to it. The appearance of blue ring appearance at the bottom of the flask

114 indicated the existence of glycosides.

115 Test for terpenoids

For this purpose, crude leaf extract (about 1 mg) was mixed in deionized water (5 mL), heated till boiling, followed by cooling and filtration of the solution. About 2 mL filtrate was then reacted with chloroform (2 mL) and conc. H_2SO_4 (1 mL) till the appearance of reddish brown coloration which indicated the presence of terpenoids.

120 GC-MS analysis

The leaf extract was subjected to GS-MS analysis carried out at Department of Chemistry, 121 University of Peshawar. For extract preparation, 25 g of powdered leaf was dissolved in 200 122 mL methanol and kept in shaking incubator. After, 24 h the solution was filtered and 50 mL 123 124 methanol was added to the extract and placed on shaking. After 24 h, the solution was filtered again and 50 mL methanol was added the extract followed by shaking incubation for 24 h. The 125 solution was filtered and the obtained extract was analyzed using Thermo Scientific (GC-MS) 126 DSQ instrument. NIST/EPA/NIH mass spectral library was used for the identification of 127 compounds. The GC-MS data were obtained on Elite-I mode with HP-5 column of $30 \text{ m} \times 0.25$ 128 mm \times 0.25 µm and 70 eV energy. The Helium gas as a carrier at 1 mL/min flow rate was used 129 and 230C of injector temperature. Initially the temperature was set up to 110 °C, which remains 130 for 2 min and it was raised up to 200 °C which held for 10 min. The temperature was further 131 increased to 280 °C which hold up for 9 min. The temperature for injecting and detecting was 132 maintained respectively at 250 °C and 280 °C, while, it was retained at 200 °C for ion source. 133 The MS of compounds in the sample extract was attained by electron ionization 70 eV energy 134 and scan mode detector was run by 45-450 amu. A 0.5 seconds of scan interval was maintained 135 at total running time of 27 min. 136

137 Biosynthesis and characterization of silver nanoparticles

Biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles has previously discussed in Ahmad et al. (2022). Briefly,
4 mM AgNO₃ solution was mixed with 5 mg mL⁻¹ aqueous leaf extract in equal volume. The
obtained solution was stirred and exposed to sunlight to notice change in coloration in reaction

mixture. The solution after 15 min were placed in room temperature for 24 h. After 24 h,
centrifugation of solution was accomplished at 14,000 rpm for 10 min. The pelleting and
washing process was repeated multiple times to eradicate unreacted substances or impurities.
This process produced pure washed nanoparticles which were used for further analysis.

The biosynthesized silver nanoparticles were previously analyzed using UV-Visible spectrophotometric and Fourier transmission infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and X-ray diffraction (XRD) characterizations (Ahmad et al. 2022).

149 In vitro antibacterial bioassay

The antibacterial activities against R. solanacearum and E. carotovora were performed for PE 150 (plant extract), AgNPs (Green synthesized washed silver nanoparticles) and AgNPs-PE (plant-151 extract-coated silver nanoparticles). Briefly, a 96-well microtiter plate with change in 152 concentrations (15.62, 31.25, 62.5, 125, 250, 500 and 1000 µg/mL) of PE, AgNPs and AgNPs-153 PE was utilized. Pure bacterial cultures were refreshed and incubated at 28 °C for 36 h, 154 followed by its inoculation to nutrient broth and were grown overnight at 28 °C to adjust the 155 OD (600) = 1. Next, each well of the microtiter plate was poured with 150 μ L of each treatment 156 (AgNPs, PE and AgNPs-PE) and equal volume of bacterial suspension was added to it. The 157 OD of the prepared microtiter plate was measured at 0 h and placed in shaking incubator (200 158 rpm) at 28 °C. The experiment was replicated three times and control treatments contained 159 160 bacterial suspension without AgNPs, PE and AgNPs-PE. After 24 h, the optical density (OD) was recorded and the growth inhibition pattern was calculated by measuring the OD at 0 h and 161 24 h time points using the following formula: 162

163

Antibacterial activity = $\frac{\text{Control} - \text{Treatment}}{\text{Control}} \times 100$

- 164
- 165 **Results**

7

166 **Phytochemical analysis**

167 The methanolic leaf extract of *P. geminiflorum* has shown the existence of prominent 168 phytochemicals which included flavonoids, glycosides, terpenoids and tannins that are 169 presented in table 1.

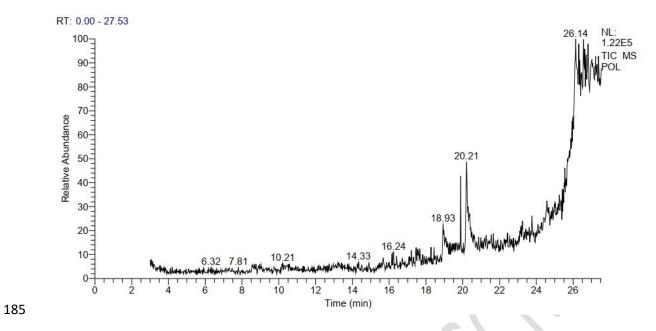
170 Table 1. Qualitative phytochemicals screening of *P. geminiflorum* leaf extract

S. No	Phytochemicals	Result	Indication
1	Glycosides	Present	Appearance of blue ring
2	Flavonoids	Present	Yellowish color
3	Tannins	Present	Brownish color
4	Terpenoids	Present	Reddish brown color

171

GC-MS analysis

GC-MS characterization of leaf extract showed the presence of thirty important plant 173 compounds which indicated the importance of this high valued medicinal plant (figure 1). The 174 compounds were identified on the basis of retention times, peak percent area, molecular 175 formula and molecular weight (table 2). The first compound detected at retention time of 7.28 176 were Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, 2-hydroxy-, ethyl ester having 0.57 percent area. Other 177 compounds detected were, Hydroquinone, Phenol, 2-(6-methyl-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-178 c][1,2,4]triazol-3-yl)-, Cyclohexane, 1,4-dimethyl-2-octadecyl-, Benzene, (1-pentylheptyl)-, 179 Pentacosane, 13-phenyl-, n-Hexadecanoic acid, acetate, Oleic Acid, Azuleno[4,5-b]furan-180 2(3H)-one,9a-[(acetyloxy)methyl]decahydro-6a,9-dihydroxy-6-methyl-3-methylene-, [3aS-181 acid, 1-Methyl-4-phenyl-3,4-(3aà,6á,6aà,9á,9aá,9bà)], 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic 182 183 dihydroisoquinoline and ç-Sitosterol. The compounds identified in the GC-MS study are biologically important and can be utilized for various biological activities. 184



186 Figure 1. GC-MS analysis of the leaf extracr of *P. geminiflorum*.

S.N O	Area %	RT	Compound	Formula	Molecula weight
	0.57	7.28	Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, 2-hydroxy-, ethyl ester	C9H16O3	172
	0.96	8.62	Benzofuran, 2,3-dihydro-	C ₈ H ₈ O	120
	0.76	8.97	1-Naphthalenol, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-, acetate	$C_{12}H_{14}O_2$	190
	0.39	9.34	4-(4-Methoxy-6-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]isoquinolin-5-yl)-5-propyl-2,4-dihydro-pyrazol-3-one	C18H23N3O4	345
	1.7	10.23	Hydroquinone	$C_6H_6O_2$	110
	0.27	12.19	Azuleno[4,5-b]furan-2(3H)-one, 9a-[(acetyloxy)methyl]decahydro-6a,9-dihydroxy-6-methyl-3-methylene-, [3aS-(3aà,6á,6aà,9á,9aá,9bà)]-		324
	0.23	12.47	4-(4-Methoxy-6-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]isoquinolin-5-yl)-5-propyl-2,4-dihydro-pyrazol-3-one	C18H23N3O4	345
	2.64	13.25	Phenol, 2-(6-methyl-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-c][1,2,4]triazol-3-yl)-	C ₁₁ H ₁₁ N ₃ OS	233
	0.47	14.33	Propanoic acid	C19H26O6	350
0	0.19	14.9	Phenmethylcynide, à,à-dimethyl-2-methoxy-6-nitro	$C_{11}H_{12}N_2O_3$	220
1	1.38	15.65	Cyclohexane, 1,4-dimethyl-2-octadecyl-	C26H52	364
2	1.75	16.2	Benzene, (1-pentylheptyl)-	C18H30	246
3	0.46	16.73	Hexanoic acid, 5-methylene-6-(5-methoxycarbonyl-1-cyclohexenyl)-, methyl ester	C16H24O4	280
4	0.88	17.18	Benzene, (1-methylnonadecyl)-	C ₂₆ H ₄₆	358
5	1.96	17.54	Pentacosane, 13-phenyl-	C31H56	428
5	0.13	18.24	Pregn-5-ene-3,8,11,12,14,20-hexol, (3á,11à,12á,14á)-	C21H34O6	382
7	0.22	18.48	Cyclopropanebutanoic acid	$C_{25}H_{42}O_2$	374
3	6.06	18.97	n-Hexadecanoic acid	C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂	256
)	1.52	19.89	E-9-Methyl-8-tridecen-2-ol, acetate	$C_{16}H_{30}O_2$	254
)	10.61	20.23	Oleic Acid	C ₁₈ H ₃₄ O ₂	282
1	0.73	21.25	4-Hexyl-1-(7-methoxycarbonylheptyl)bicyclo[4.4.0]deca-2,5,7-triene	C25H40O2	372
2	0.89	21.54	1-Heptatriacotanol	C37H76O	536
3	1.2	22.39	9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, 2,3-bis[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]propyl ester, (Z,Z,Z)-	C27H52O4Si2	496
1	3.44	23.21	Azuleno[4,5-b]furan-2(3H)-one	C17H24O6	324
5	1.16	23.76	9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid	C27H52O4Si2	496
5	0.34	0.34	Acetamide,N-[2-(3-ethyl-1-methyl-9H-carbazol-2-yl)ethyl]-N-methyl	C20H24N2O	308
7	2.77	24.59	1-Methyl-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline	C16H15N	221
3	0.48	25	Isoquinoline	C16H23NO2	261
9	0.21	25.24	Ethanol,2-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methylisoquinolin-2-yl)-1-(3-nitrophenyl)-	C20H24N2O5	372
0	55.64	26.16	ç-Sitosterol	C29H50O	414

Table 2. List of compounds detected during the GC-MS analysis of the leaf extract

Characterization of the biosynthesized AgNPs

The characterization of the biosynthesized silver nanoparticles was previously performed, and the details were discussed in Ahmad et al. (2022). Briefly, the appearance of brown color was observed after mixing AgNO₃ with plant extract with direct exposure for about 15 min to sunlight. The color was turned to brown due silver ion reduction is a general characteristic of AgNPs synthesis. The UV-Visible spectrophotometric characterization recorded after 24 h and the highest absorption surface plasmon resonance peak at 440 nm. The reaction mixture was observed for many days however no significant change in the absorbance spectrum was observed after 48 h. The FTIR spectroscopy of the biosynthesized AgNPs identified various functional groups in the leaf extract and on the surface of silver nanoparticles. The detection of these groups may have resulted due to presence of plant secondary metabolites which may have led to formation of stable AgNPs. Size and shape morphology of the prepared silver nanoparticles was observed through different magnification lenses using transmission electron microscopy (system JEOL JEM-101). XRD pattern analysis of the prepared silver nanoparticles was accomplished using system, JDX-3432, JEOL, Japan following Debye-Scherrer equation. Both TEM and XRD analysis showed the formation of crystalline nature particles having a size in the range of 8-34 nm.

Antibacterial bioassay of the synthesized AgNPs

Both AgNPs and AgNPs-PE (1000 μ g/mL) intensely inhibited the cell growth of both *E. carotovora* and *R. solanacearum*, while PE exhibited significant inhibition. The control treatment in the experiment did not inhibit the cell growth of both *E. carotovora* and *R. solanacearum* (Figure 2).

Observation regarding *E. carotovora* in microtitier plate experiment revealed 98 % inhibition by AgNPs-PE and 94 % by AgNPs (both at concentration of 1000 μ g/mL). The PE (1000 μ g/mL) treatment showed an optimum inhibition (58%) (Figure 2). The AgNPs-PE (1000 μ g/mL) and AgNPs (1000 μ g/mL) inhibited the growth of *R. solanacearum* by 97% and 95% respectively (Figure 2).

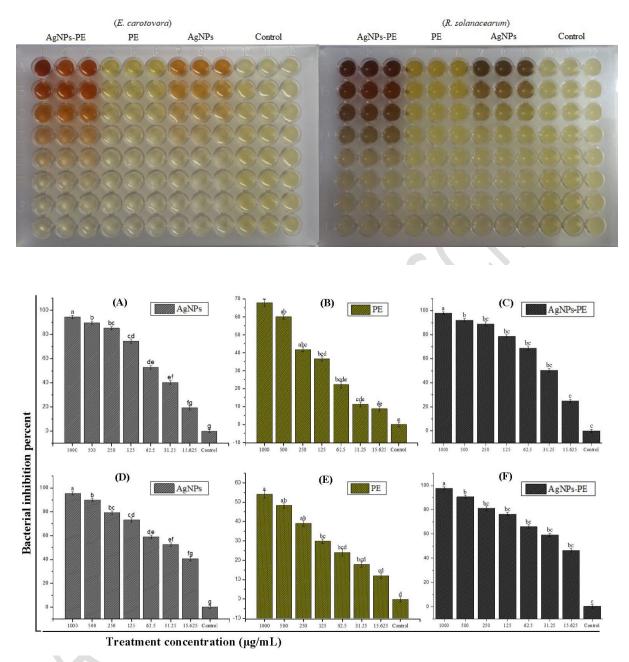


Figure 2. Growth Inhibition pattern of of *E. carotovora* (A to C) and *R. solanacearum* (D to F). Different letters are showing statistically significant differences at p < 0.05 for the same concentration.

Discussion

Disease resistant capability of pathogenic microbes is becoming a challenging threat because of its diverse harmful effects (Peterson and Kaur 2018). These pathogens are causing serious

diseases to important crops and declining their production (Nazarov et al. 2020). As a result of this major problem, the world is moving towards the food insecurity (Al-Ani and Furtado 2020). For instance, potato is one of the important widely grown vegetable crop which is badly affected by various phytopathogens (Wilson 2014; Oyesola et al. 2021). *E. carotovora* and *R. solanacearum* are the known pathogens causing soft rot and bacterial wilt in potato crop respectively (Tsror 1999; Ranjan et al. 2016). These pathogens directly attack on potato crop and lessening its production and nutrient capacity (Guchi 2015). To control these diseases several strategies have been developed including novel nano bio-control agents (Elmer and White 2018; Arif et al. 2022). Biosynthesized AgNPs are non-hazardous in nature and has been used as an alternative antimicrobial agent (Rosman et al. 2020). The plant secondary metabolites combine with silver metal to increase its antimicrobial effects (Marslin et al. 2018). Moreover, at low concentration AgNPs are more effective against hazardous pathogens and have no toxicity effects (Gurunathan et al. 2014).

In this study, the prepared leaf-extract-coated AgNPs was used as a stable antimicrobial drug against *E. carotovora* and *R. solanacearum*. Our findings regarding phytochemical indicated the presence of important secondary chemicals including flavonoids, tannins, glycosides and terpenoids. The GC-MS analysis of the extract revealed the existence of 30 plant important compounds which were important in respect of different biological properties. Among these compounds, the highest percent were detected for c-Sitosterol which is a member of the phytosterols class and which is playing its role as an antioxidant and anticholesteremic drug (Zozio *et al.*, 2014; Zhu *et al.*, 2022). Further, oleic acid and n-Hexadecanoic acid were also detected in the leaf extract which is an important fatty acid and helps to combat free radical, strengthen the immune system and showed anti-inflammatory effects (Joel and Bhimba, 2010). Previously, AgNPs have been shown to exhibit antibacterial properties through rapid release of Ag⁺ ions targeting depolarization of the plasma membrane and inhibition of respiratory and

metabolic activities (Bondarenko et al. 2018). These compounds may be considered to be key agents for increasing the medicinal applications of the plant. Previously we have reported the silver nanoparticles from the studied plant and were found for the presence of bioactive phenolic compounds (Ahmad *et al.*, 2022). Also, these compounds were found to increase the antimicrobial efficiency of the prepared nanoparticles (Kavaz *et al.*, 2018; de Carvalho Bernardo et al. 2022). Thus, the present analysis showed 30 important secondary compounds that may also enhancing the antimicrobial application of the prepared nanoparticles. Our phytochemicals results were completely corresponding to the previous studies (Sonam et al. 2017; Kavaz *et al.*, 2018; Fauzi et al. 2020; Lalam et al. 2020). Previously, researchers found stable AgNPs synthesis by plants because of the presence of important secondary constituents (Arif et al. 2022). Moreover, the leaf extract increases the antimicrobial potential of AgNPs and were effective against several pathogens (Anandalakshmi et al. 2016; Jinu et al. 2017). Therefore, plant-based biosynthesis of AgNPs is more effective because of the combined effects of Ag metal and plant extract (Anand et al. 2022; Dilbar et al., 2023b).

Results regarding *in vitro* antibacterial activities revealed that both AgNPs and AgNPs-PE in high concentration (1000 μ g/mL) were promising which effectively inhibited the cell growth of both *R. solanacearum* and *E. carotocora* by exhibiting strong inhibitory effects against the tested pathogens. Plant extract alone effectively control the cell growth of the pathogens in comparison to control. Our results regarding antibacterial activity were completely in agreement with those previously reported (Wypij et al. 2021; Arif et al. 2022).

Previous studies showed the effectiveness of plant-based nanoparticles synthesis and its use to control the growth of plant pathogens (Jinu et al. 2017; Khan et al. 2022 Mohammadzadeh et al. 2022). Several plants have previously been used for the antimicrobial silver nanoparticles synthesis (Borase et al. 2014; Ahmad et al. 2016). Therefore, due to its high medicinal importance we have use *P. geminiflorum* as source agent for the efficient synthesis of silver

nanoparticles. Further, silver nanoparticles were effectively synthesized with potential of controlling the cell growth of potato's pathogens.

Conclusion

In this study, we used the leaf extract of *P. geminiflorum* for phytochemical screening and antimicrobial silver nanoparticles synthesis. The phytochemical screening revealed the presence of 30 important secondary chemicals in the leaf extract. The biosynthesis process resulted with significant synthesis of silver nanoparticles. Moreover, the antimicrobial activity of AgNPs efficiently controls the growth of two pathogens of potato crop during *in vitro* experiment. Therefore, the result of *in vitro* experiment needs to be improved further for in planta antimicrobial applications. Similarly, the management of abiotic stresses is also one of the main concerns because of its severe effects on the plant growth. These stresses declining the production rate of important crops and leading to food insecurity worldwide. Further *in vivo* studies need to be conducted to investigate the mode of action and effects of synthesized nanoparticles on plant growth for better management of biotic and abiotic stresses.

Conflict of interest

We declare no conflict of interest.

Data availability statement

The generated data is present in the manuscript.

Acknowledgment

The authors extend their appreciation to the Researchers Supporting Project number (RSP2023R306), King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

References

Ahmad M, Ali A, Ullah Z, Sher H, Dai D-Q, Ali M, Iqbal J, Zahoor M, Ali I (2022) Biosynthesized silver nanoparticles using *Polygonatum geminiflorum* efficiently control fusarium wilt disease of tomato. *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology* 10, 988607. doi: 10.3389/fbioe.2022.988607

Ahmed S, Ahmad M, Swami BL, Ikram S (2016) A review on plants extract mediated synthesis of silver nanoparticles for antimicrobial applications: a green expertise. *Journal of Advanced Research* 7(1), 17-28.

Al-Ani LK, Furtado EL (2020) The effect of incompatible plant pathogens on the host plant. In *Molecular Aspects of Plant Beneficial Microbes in Agriculture* 47-57.

Ali A, Ali Z, Quraishi UM, Kazi AG, Malik RN, Sher H, Mujeeb-Kazi A (2014) Integrating physiological and genetic approaches for improving drought tolerance in crops. In: Emerging technologies and management of crop stress tolerance. Academic Press, pp. 315-345.

Ali A, Arshad M, Mastrangelo AM, De Vita P, Gul-Kazi A, Mujeeb-Kazi A (2013) Comparative assessment of glutenin composition and its relationship with grain quality traits in bread wheat and synthetic derivatives. *Pakistan Journal of Botany* 45, 289-96.

Ali HF, Musharaf A, Muhammad J, Ali AB, Muhammad S, Barkat A, Khalid N, Amna S (2012) Inoculum sources, disease incidence and severity of bacterial blackleg and soft rot of potato. *Pakistan Journal of Botany 44*(2), 825-830.

Ali I, Khan A, Ali A, Ullah Z, Khan N, Al-Tawaha A, Sher H (2022) Iron and zinc micronutrients and soil inoculation of *Trichoderma harzianum* enhance wheat grain quality and yield. *Frontiers in Plant Science 13*, 960948. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2022.960948

Anand U, Carpena M, Kowalska-Góralska M, Garcia-Perez P, Sunita K, Bontempi E, Dey A, Prieto MA, Proćków J, Simal-Gandara J (2022) Safer plant-based nanoparticles for combating antibiotic resistance in bacteria: A comprehensive review on its potential applications, recent advances, and future perspective. *Science of The Total Environment* 153472.

Anandalakshmi K, Venugobal J, Ramasamy V (2016) Characterization of silver nanoparticles by green synthesis method using *Pedalium murex* leaf extract and their antibacterial activity. *Applied Nanoscience* 6(3), 399-408.

Arif M, Ullah R, Ahmad M, Ali A, Ullah Z, Ali M, Al-Joufi FA, Zahoor M, Sher H (2022) Green Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles Using *Euphorbia wallichii* Leaf Extract: Its Antibacterial Action against Citrus Canker Causal Agent and Antioxidant Potential. *Molecules* 27(11), 3525.

Bondarenko OM, Sihtmae M, Kuzmičiova J, Rageliene L, Kahru A, Daugelavicius R (2018) Plasma membrane is the target of rapid antibacterial action of silver nanoparticles in *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *International Journal of Nanomedicine* 13, 6779.

Borase HP, Salunke BK, Salunkhe RB, Patil CD, Hallsworth JE, Kim BS, Patil SV (2014) Plant extract: a promising biomatrix for ecofriendly, controlled synthesis of silver nanoparticles. *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology* 173(1), 1-29.

Choudhury R, Majumder M, Roy DN, Basumallick S, Misra TK (2016) Phytotoxicity of Ag nanoparticles prepared by biogenic and chemical methods. *International Nano Letters* 6(3), 153-9.

Cook RJ (1985) Biological control of plant pathogens: theory to application. *Phytopathology* 75(1), 25-9.

de Carvalho Bernardo WL, Boriollo MFG, Tonon CC, da Silva JJ, Oliveira MC, de Moraes FC, Spolidorio DMP (2022) Biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles from Syzygium cumini leaves and their potential effects on odontogenic pathogens and biofilms. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 13, 995521. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2022.995521

Devaux A, Kromann P, Ortiz O (2014) Potatoes for sustainable global food security. *Potato Research* 57(3), 185-199.

Dilbar S, Sher H, Ali A, Ullah Z, Ali I (2023a) Biological synthesis of Ag-nanoparticles using *Stachys parviflora* and its inhibitory potential against *Xanthomonas campestris*. *South African Journal of Botany*, 157, 409-22.

Dilbar S, Sher H, Binjawhar DN, Ali A, Ali I (2023b) A novel based synthesis of silver/silver chloride nanoparticles from *Stachys emodi* efficiently controls *Erwinia carotovora*, the causal agent of blackleg and soft rot of potato. *Molecules* 28, 2500.

Djaya L, Istifadah N, Hartati S, Joni IM (2019) *In vitro* study of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) and endophytic bacteria antagonistic to *Ralstonia solanacearum* formulated with graphite and silica nano particles as a biocontrol delivery system (BDS). *Biocatalysis and Agricultural Biotechnology 19*, 101153.

Elmer W, White JC (2018) The future of nanotechnology in plant pathology. *Annual Review of Phytopathology* 56, 111-33.

Fauzi NA, Tan NF, Razak AH, Mansur SA (2020) Qualitative Phytochemical Analysis and Antibacterial Potential of *Chromolena Odorata* Leaves as affected by Soxhlet and Maceration Extraction. *Journal of Advanced Industrial Technology and Application* 1(2), 38-48.

Gardener BB, Fravel DR (2002) Biological control of plant pathogens: research, commercialization, and application in the USA. *Plant Health Progress* 3(1), 17.

Gopinath V, Priyadarshini S, Loke MF, Arunkumar J, Marsili E, MubarakAli D, Velusamy P, Vadivelu J (2017) Biogenic synthesis, characterization of antibacterial silver nanoparticles and its cell cytotoxicity. *Arabian Journal of Chemistry* 10(8), 1107-17.

Guchi E (2015) Disease management practice on potato (Solanum tuberosum L.) in Ethiopia. World Journal of Agricultural Research 3(1), 34-42.

Gurunathan S, Han JW, Kwon DN, Kim JH (2014) Enhanced antibacterial and anti-biofilm activities of silver nanoparticles against Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria. *Nanoscale Research Letters* 9(1), 1-7.

Handoko CT, Huda A, Gulo F (2019) Synthesis pathway and powerful antimicrobial properties of silver nanoparticle: a critical review. *Asian Journal of Scientific Res*earch 12(1), 1-7.

Hassanisaadi M, Barani M, Rahdar A, Heidary M, Thysiadou A, Kyzas GZ (2022) Role of agrochemical-based nanomaterials in plants: Biotic and abiotic stress with germination improvement of seeds. *Plant Growth Regulation* 1-44.

Hussain S, Sher H, Ullah Z, Elshikh MS, Al Farraj DA, Ali A, Abbasi AM (2023) Traditional Uses of Wild Edible Mushrooms among the Local Communities of Swat, Pakistan. *Foods*, 12(8), 1705.

Jeong SH, Yeo SY, Yi SC (2005) The effect of filler particle size on the antibacterial properties of compounded polymer/silver fibers. *Journal of Materials Science* 40(20), 5407-11.

Jinu U, Gomathi M, Saiqa I, Geetha N, Benelli G, Venkatachalam P (2017) Green engineered biomolecule-capped silver and copper nanohybrids using *Prosopis cineraria* leaf extract: enhanced antibacterial activity against microbial pathogens of public health relevance and cytotoxicity on human breast cancer cells (MCF-7). *Microbial Pathogenesis* 105, 86-95.

Joel EL, Bhimba V (2010) Isolation and characterization of secondary metabolites from the mangrove plant Rhizophora mucronata. *Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine*, *3*(8), 602-604.

Kavaz D, Umar H, Shehu S. Synthesis, characterization, antimicrobial and antimetastatic activity of silver nanoparticles synthesized from Ficus ingens leaf. *Artificial cells, Nanomedicine, and Biotechnology* 46(sup3), S1193-203.

Khan S, Bibi G, Dilbar S, Iqbal A, Ahmad M, Ali A, Ullah Z, Jaremko M, Iqbal J, Ali M, Haq I, Ali I (2022) Biosynthesis and characterization of iron oxide nanoparticles from *Mentha spicata* and screening its combating potential against *Phytophthora infestans*. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 13, 1001499.

Khan SH (2020) Green nanotechnology for the environment and sustainable development. In *Green Materials for Wastewater Treatment* 13-46.

Krishnaswamy K, Orsat V (2017) Sustainable delivery systems through green nanotechnology. In *Nano-and Microscale Drug Delivery Systems* 17-32.

Kuppusamy P, Yusoff MM, Maniam GP, Govindan N (2016) Biosynthesis of metallic nanoparticles using plant derivatives and their new avenues in pharmacological applications–An updated report. *Saudi Pharmaceutical Journal* 24(4), 473-84.

Lalam R (2020) Qualitative phytochemical analysis and antibacterial activity evaluation of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* against some human pathogenic bacteria. *International Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemical Research* 12(2), 113-7.

León-Buitimea A, Garza-Cárdenas CR, Garza-Cervantes JA, Lerma-Escalera JA, Morones-Ramírez JR (2020) The demand for new antibiotics: antimicrobial peptides, nanoparticles, and combinatorial therapies as future strategies in antibacterial agent design. *Frontiers* in *Microbiology* 1669.

Marslin G, Siram K, Maqbool Q, Selvakesavan RK, Kruszka D, Kachlicki P, Franklin G (2018) Secondary metabolites in the green synthesis of metallic nanoparticles. *Materials* 11(6), 940.

Mata R, Nakkala JR, Sadras SR (2015) Catalytic and biological activities of green silver nanoparticles synthesized from *Plumeria alba* (frangipani) flower extract. *Materials science and Engineering:* C 51, 216-25.

Mohammadzadeh V, Barani M, Amiri MS, Yazdi ME, Hassanisaadi M, Rahdar A, Varma RS (2022) Applications of plant-based nanoparticles in nanomedicine: A review. *Sustainable Chemistry and Pharmacy* 25, 100606.

Nazarov PA, Baleev DN, Ivanova MI, Sokolova LM, Karakozova MV (2020) Infectious plant diseases: Etiology, current status, problems and prospects in plant protection. *Acta Naturae* 12(3), 46.

Oyesola OL, Aworunse OS, Oniha MI, Obiazikwor OH, Bello O, Atolagbe OM, Sobowale AA, Popoola JO, Obembe OO (2021) Impact and Management of Diseases of *Solanum tuberosum*: A Promising Crop for Starvation Problem 18, 213.

Peterson E, Kaur P (2018) Antibiotic resistance mechanisms in bacteria: relationships between resistance determinants of antibiotic producers, environmental bacteria, and clinical pathogens. *Frontiers in Microbiology* 9, 2928.

Rafique, K., Rauf, C. A., Gul, A., Bux, H., Memon, R. A., Ali, A., & Farrakh, S. (2017). Evaluation of d-genome synthetic hexaploid wheats and advanced derivatives for powdery mildew resistance. *Pakistan Journal of Botany*, 49(2), 735-743.

Rahman SU, Ullah Z, Ali A, Ahmad M, Sher H, Shinwari ZK, Nazir A (2022b) Ethnoecological knowledge of wild fodder plant resources of district Buner Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Botany*, 54(2), 645-52.

Rahman SU, Ullah Z, Ali A, Aziz MA, Alam N, Sher H, Ali I (2022a) Traditional knowledge of medicinal flora among tribal communities of Buner Pakistan. *Phytomedicine Plus* 2(3), 100277. doi: 10.1016/j.phyplu.2022.100277.

Ranjan RK, Singh D, Baranwal VK (2016) Simultaneous detection of brown rot-and soft rot-causing bacterial pathogens from potato tubers through multiplex PCR. *Current Microbiology* 73(5), 652-9.

Rosman NS, Harun NA, Idris I, Ismail WI (2020) Eco-friendly silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) fabricated by green synthesis using the crude extract of marine polychaete, *Marphysa moribidii*: biosynthesis, characterisation, and antibacterial applications. *Heliyon* 6(11), e05462.

Sadiq M, Asghar R, Qureshi R, Ali A (2013) Study of polypeptides induced by drought stress in some local varieties of barley from Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Botany*; 45(4):1251-4.

Sagar V, Jeevalatha A, Mian S, Chakrabarti SK, Gurjar MS, Arora RK, Sharma S, Bakade RR, Singh BP (2014) Potato bacterial wilt in India caused by strains of phylotype I, II and IV of *Ralstonia solanacearum*. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* 138(1), 51-65.

Salam, A., Ali, A., Afridi, M. S., Ali, S., & Ullah, Z. (2022). Agrobiodiversity: Effect of drought stress on the eco-physiology and morphology of wheat. In Biodiversity, Conservation and Sustainability in Asia, Springer, Cham. pp. 597-618. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-73943-0_33

Salem SS, Fouda A (2021) Green synthesis of metallic nanoparticles and their prospective biotechnological applications: an overview. Biological Trace Element Research 199(1), 344-70.

Shah M, Fawcett D, Sharma S, Tripathy SK, Poinern GE (2015) Green synthesis of metallic nanoparticles via biological entities. Materials 8(11), 7278-308.

Sher H, Ali A, Ullah Z, Sher H (2022) Alleviation of poverty through sustainable management and market promotion of medicinal and aromatic plants in Swat, Pakistan. *Ethnobotany Research and Applications* 23, 1-9.

Singh A, Tiwari S, Pandey J, Lata C, Singh IK (2021) Role of nanoparticles in crop improvement and abiotic stress management. *Journal of Biotechnology* 337, 57-70.

Sonam M, Singh RP, Pooja S (2017) Phytochemical screening and TLC profiling of various extracts of *Reinwardtia indica*. International Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochememical Research 9(4), 523-7.

Srinon W, Chuncheen K, Jirattiwarutkul K, Soytong K, Kanokmedhakul S (2006) Efficacies of antagonistic fungi against Fusarium wilt disease of cucumber and tomato and the assay of its enzyme activity. *Journal of Agricultural Technology* 2(2), 191-201.

Sun B, Zhang L, Yang L, Zhang F, Norse D, Zhu Z (2012) Agricultural non-point source pollution in China: causes and mitigation measures. *Ambio* 41(4), 370-9.

Tariq, A., Shah, G. M., Ahmad Zada, A. A., Shah, A. Z., & Fatima, I. (2021). 23. Phytochemical analysis and in-vitro anti-bacterial and anti-fungal activity of *Verbascum arianthum* (Benth). *Pure and Applied Biology*, 10(3), 797-806. http://dx.doi.org/10.19045/bspab.2021.100082.

Tsror L, Aharon M, Erlich O (1999) Survey of bacterial and fungal seedborne diseases in imported and domestic potato seed tubers. *Phytoparasitica* 27(3), 215-26.

Ullah Z, Ali U, Ali S, Ali A, Alam N, Sher H (2021) Medicinal flora and cultural values of Arkot-Biakand Valley Hindu Kush Region Swat, Pakistan. In, Ethnobiology of Mountain Communities in Asia. Springer, Cham. pp. 327-380.

Vishwasrao C, Momin B, Ananthanarayan L (2019) Green synthesis of silver nanoparticles using sapota fruit waste and evaluation of their antimicrobial activity. *Waste and Biomass Valorization* 10(8), 2353-63.

Wilson CR (2014) Plant pathogens-the great thieves of vegetable value. InXXIX International Horticultural Congress on Horticulture: Sustaining Lives, Livelihoods and Landscapes 7-16.

Wong S, Karn B (2012) Ensuring sustainability with green nanotechnology. Nanotechnology 23(29), 290201.

Wypij M, Jędrzejewski T, Trzcinska-Wencel J, Ostrowski M, Rai M, Golińska P (2021) Green synthesized silver nanoparticles: antibacterial and anticancer activities, biocompatibility, and analyses of surface-attached proteins. *Frontiers in Microbiology* 12, 632505.

Yates BJ, Dionysiou DD (2006) Green engineering and nanotechnology. In *Sustainability Science and Engineering* 1, 349-365.

Zaheer K, Akhtar MH (2016) Potato production, usage, and nutrition—a review. *Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition* 56(5), 711-721.

Zhu J, You H, Ng HY, Li Z, Xie B, Chen H, ... Zhang C (2022) Impacts of bio-carriers on the characteristics of cake layer and membrane fouling in a novel hybrid membrane bioreactor for treating mariculture wastewater. *Chemosphere*, *300*, 134593.

Zozio S, Servent A, Cazal G, Mbeguie-A-Mbeguie D, Ravion S, Pallet D, Abel H (2014) Changes in antioxidant activity during the ripening of jujube (*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamk). *Food Chemistry*, *150*, 448-456.