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AN ECO-FRIENDLY HERBAL ANTIFUNGAL FINISH ON COTTON KNITTED FABRIC USING NEEM LEAVES EXTRACT.



Shweta Sharma Banasthali University, Rajasthan

Co - Author Details: Himadri Ghosh Banasthali University, Rajasthan



ABSTRACT

he existence of Microorganism in nature and their damaging effect like deterioration and odor are some of the challenging situations for the woven, nonwoven, knitted and composite fabric industries. For the human being to work at their maximum level health and hygiene is the basic thing. Mostly chemicals are being used to make the fabric antifungal which is very harmful to the human body and environment. In order to give antifungal finish to the textiles an eco-friendly natural antifungal finish has been prepared from the plant extract for textile application. Neem leaves extract have been applied to the cotton knitted fabric by the padding mangle so

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that even application of the finish can be applied. In the present study Neem leaves extract coated on cotton knitted fabric was found to be effective as antifungal finishing for textiles. The Neem leaves extract efficiently used as antifungal agent for the preparation of antifungal textile finish particularly for medical textiles. This study investigated that antifungal functionality of cotton knitted fabric coated with Neem leaves extract as value added textiles product.

KEYWORDS: Neem Leave Extract, Padding Mangle, Antifungal.

INTRODUCTION:

Recent, interest in the use of natural herbs has been growing rapidly due to the toxic and allergic reactions of the synthetic products which are used on the fabric. Researches shows that synthetic dyes, medicine are suspected to release harmful chemicals that are carcinogenic, allergic and detoriate the human skin and human health. Neem is the natural herb which is very good for human health and do not harm the body. Neem leaves, barks, buds etc are very useful and well known for the skin disease. It is having antifungal properties the fabric made from the Neem leaves do beneficial for the treatment of skin disease.

The present study focus on the antifungal properties of Neem leaves when the paste of guar gum was prepared their was no fungus occurred in the paste. As gaur gum is cellulosic so funguses do occur in paste if it left over for half an hour only but when Neem extract was added fungus does not occur in the paste.

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2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Grey Cotton knitted fabric and gaur gums has been purchase from the local market of Jaipur and Neem leaves been collected and dry in a sunshade or in oven at the temperature of $55^{\circ}C - 60^{\circ}C$.

2.1 Method

Maceration method

The leaves of Neem are been collected and dried under sunshade to remove the moisture from the leaves. The air dried leaves of Neem plant was made into the fine powder by grinding and followed by mixing with distill water and ethanol at the ratio of 50:50 in a beaker for the extraction process. The beaker was left closed for 7-8 days so that the ethanol and distill water takes up the active components of the leaves Stir the sample at the interval of time. After7-8 days, filter it in the muslin cloth and ethanol and distill water was allowed to evaporate in the oven at the temperature of 55°C -60°C or evaporate in sunshade, to get the residue at the bottom

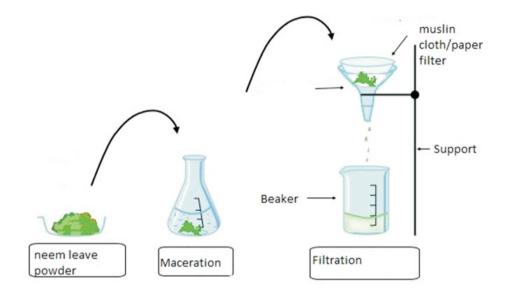


Figure no1 Maceration process.

This process should be repeated for 3-4 times. So that all the chemical compounds can come out. Use the waste for the manure purpose in the fields. Semi solid extract will be left it is dark brown in color and very sticky in nature.

2.2 Preparation of the paste

10gms of gaur gum and 1 liters of water were taken to make a paste. Then add Neem leaves extract in the mixture mix it well and leave for 48 hrs, after 48 hrs it has been observed that no fungus has been formed in the mixture. As gaur gum is cellulose that why fungal does not appear in the mixture but after addition of Neem leave extract fungus do not appear in the mixture.



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Figure no 2 paste of gaur gum and Neem leaves.

2.3 application on the cotton knitted fabric

Scouring is done to remove the impurities from the fabric and for the better application of the finish. Prepare the mixture of gaur gum and Neem leaves extract and apply on the fabric with the help of padding mangle and after application leave the fabric for drying after drying steam will be given. So that fixation of medicine should be there, and the complete penetration of medicine in the fabric. The only drawback of the application of medicine with the help of padding mangle was that it does not last for many washes. It with stand up to 15-20 washes only. With the help of padding mangle even penetration of medicine was there and the excess amounts do remove from the fabric.



Figure no 3. Application of finish on the fabric

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

It has been observed that Neem is having antifungal properties. When gaur gum paste is being prepared for any purpose if it leave for 1-2 hours the Microorganisms do act on it and pungent smell develop and it make the mixture or fabric deteriorate and odor but when the mixture was prepared with the help of Neem leaves extracts it has been develop that due to the antifungal properties of Neem the paste of gaur gum and Neem leaves extracts does not act by the microorganisms. Basically microorganisms do act on gaur gum because it is cellulosic, that's why microorganism does act on it.

4. CONCLUSION

It is conclude that Neem is having anti fungal properties and eco-friendly. With the help of

Neem we can develop antifungal finish for the medical textiles there is only limitation that such direct



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application method does not have wash durability it can stand up to 15- 20 washes only. If the fabric is single use application like sanitary pads, napkins, bandages etc which do not need to wash then we can adopt this technique.

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