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## **A Study of Antifungal Properties of Selected Medicinal Plants**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Medicinal plants have been used in traditional medicine for centuries to treat a wide range of infections, including fungal diseases. Fungal infections caused by species such as *Candida*, *Aspergillus*, and *Trichophyton* are common and sometimes difficult to treat due to the development of resistance to synthetic antifungal drugs. In this context, selected medicinal plants have gained significant attention because of their natural antifungal properties. Plants such as neem (*Azadirachta indica*), turmeric (*Curcuma longa*), garlic (*Allium sativum*), tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*), and aloe vera (*Aloe barbadensis*) contain various bioactive compounds including alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, and essential oils that exhibit strong antifungal activity. These compounds work by inhibiting fungal growth, damaging fungal cell membranes, and preventing the reproduction of fungal cells. For example, neem extracts are widely recognized for their ability to control fungal pathogens, while garlic contains allicin, a compound known for its potent antimicrobial and antifungal effects. Similarly, turmeric contains curcumin, which has been shown to inhibit several pathogenic fungi. The use of these medicinal plants offers a natural, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly alternative to chemical antifungal agents.