

**Effects of Roots of *Pongamia pinnata* on Germ Tube Formation by
*Candida albicans***

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Pongamia pinnata is a plant which is used in Sri Lankan traditional medicines to cure various ailments including oral infections. *Candida albicans* is an opportunistic human pathogen. The germ tube production by this organism is considered as a significant virulence determinant. Hence the objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of root extracts of *P. pinnata* on the germ tube formation and germ tube elongation by *C. albicans*. Germ tube assay was performed with five different clinical isolates of *C. albicans* together with Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MICs), 2 X, 3 X, and 4 X MIC of the root extract. In all the isolates, even the lowest concentration of the extract (MIC) caused a significant reduction ($P < 0.05$) in the germ tube production and the length of the germ tubes. The highest concentration (4 X MIC) showed a reduction in the germ tube production ranging from 23% to 45%. The reduction of the length of the germ tubes caused by this treatment was from 27% to 40%. These results show the potential of the root extract of *P. pinnata* in reducing the germ tube production of *C. albicans*, rendering it less virulent.