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Antibacterial activity of *Ailanthus altissima* against *Streptococcus mutans* JC-2, a pathogen of dental caries

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Dental caries, one of microbial disease in teeth, has been continuously increased in worldwide and recent reports revealed the infected people showed high incidence of cerebral apoplexy above two folds compared than healthy people. To develop anticaries agent from edible or medical plants, we have evaluated antibacterial activity of 876 kinds of plant extracts using *Streptococcus mutans* JC-2. The antibacterial activity was subsequently determined using high-throughput microplate method, disc-paper method, and spot test in solid Nutrient Agar medium. Among the tested plant extracts, *Glycyrrhiza uralensis*, *Paeonia lactiflora* var. *hortensis*, *Sinomenium acutum*, *Agrimonia pilosa* and *Ailanthus altissima* showed strong antimicrobial activity. The strongest activity was found in methanol extract of *Ailanthus altissima*, with 50 ug/ml of MIC (minimal inhibitory concentration). These results suggested that *Ailanthus altissima* could be used as a source of natural agent against dental caries and cerebral apoplexy.