

OPERCULUM OF *CHICOREUS RAMOSUS* AND *PLEUROPLOCA TRAPEZIUM*
- A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF BIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

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ABSTRACT

Opercula of marine gastropods are exported from India and are presumed to be used in perfume industries. They are also used in traditional medicine in villages of Southern India. The opercula of *Chicoreus ramosus* and *Pleuroploca trapezium* are fetching about Rs. 1,600 (approx. US \$46) per kg. This high price is an indication that they are used as raw materials for valuable products. It may be hypothesised that the operculum is a source of bioactive substances due to its use in traditional medicine. Hence, petroleum ether and methanolic extracts of the opercula were studied to reveal possible antibiotic and pharmacological properties. Methanolic extracts were found to produce cardiac inhibition in isolated frog heart.