

## The Preservative Effect of Pawpaw (*Carica papaya*) Seed Extract on Some Selected Food Materials

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### Abstract

The use of preservatives in inhibiting and retarding the growth of microorganism responsible for the spoilage or decay of food substance is of great interest. The anti-microbial activities of plant extracts like pawpaw form the basis for many applications, including raw and processed food preservation, pharmaceuticals, alternative medicines and natural therapies. Therefore, this work was aimed at evaluating the preservative effect of pawpaw (*carica papaya*) seed extract on some selected food materials. T-solo variety of pawpaw was obtained from Akintola Farm, Kinnira, Ogbomosho and the seeds were fermented. Extracts from the fermented seeds were obtained using petroleum ether, n-hexane and hot aqueous solvents. Antioxidative study was carried out on the crude extracts using 1,1- diphenyl-1- picrylhydrazil radical (DPPH) assay. Total Viable Bacteria (TVB) and Total Fungi Count (TFC) of akara, fish, soymilk and dairy milk were carried out. The DPPH were 42.14, 33.28, 18.85% for petroleum ether, n-hexane and hot aqueous extracts, respectively. The TVB and TFC of akara, fish, soymilk and dairy milk samples ranged (1.00 -1.42 x10<sup>4</sup>, 0.60-1.57 x10<sup>2</sup>; 1.30-2.28x10<sup>4</sup>, 1.50-2.22x10<sup>2</sup>; 1.43-2.37x10<sup>4</sup>, 0.80-2.86 x10<sup>2</sup> cfu/g and 1.20-2.60 x 10<sup>4</sup>, 1.05 - 1.67 x 10<sup>2</sup> cfu/g), respectively.

**Keywords:** *Carica papaya*, Total Fungi Count (TFC), DPPH.

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### INTRODUCTION

Natural additives, such as seeds, spices and herbs have been added to foods since ancient times, not only as flavoring agents, but also as food preservatives [1]. Certain natural additives (such as negro pepper, sesame seed, moringa seed and others) prolong the storage life of foods by preventing rancidity through their antioxidant activity and they also possess antimicrobial and antibrowning properties [2, 3]. Natural additives and their constituents are generally recognized to be safe, either because of their traditional use without any documented detrimental impact or because of several toxicological studies [1].

The extracts of some seeds have become popular in recent years and attempts to characterize their bioactive principles have gained momentum for varied pharmaceutical and food processing applications [4]. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 80% of the world's population relies on traditional medicine for their primary health care needs [5]. Due to the development of adverse effects and microbial resistance to the chemically synthesized drugs, attention turned to ethnopharmacognosy. Literally thousands of phytochemicals from plants were discovered to be safe and broadly effective alternatives

with less adverse effect. Many beneficial biological activity such as anticancer, antimicrobial, antioxidant, antidiarrhea, analgesic and wound healing activity were reported. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 20,000 medicinal plants exist in 91 countries [6]. Pawpaw is a plant with great economic value and its use ranges from nutritional to medicinal. Many scientific investigations have been conducted to evaluate the biological activities of various parts of pawpaw including fruits, shoots, leaves, rinds, seeds, roots and latex [7]. The enzyme papain which is present in the fruit, stem and leaf is a proteolytic enzyme which has a wealth of industrial uses; it has milk clotting (rennet) and protein-digesting properties [8]. It can be used to digest helminths (worms) within the belly. Digestive supplements that combine papain and bromelain are used as digestive support for protein digestion [9]. Papain is commonly used commercially in meat tenderisation, in clearing of beer and in the production of chewing gum [10]. Phytochemicals in papain may increase immune system and may also promote the release of natural chemicals that attack tumor cell [11]. Ripe and unripe pawpaw fruits and seeds are active against bacteria which is why many women on the west coast dry the bitter seeds to prepare them as tea. The seeds of *Carica papaya* are medically important in the treatment of sickle cell diseases and

poisoning related disorder [12]. However, several seeds are being wasted and they remain underutilized due to ignorance of consumers on their potentials. Pawpaw seed is one of those seeds that are underutilized, harnessing its preservative potentials will add to catalogue of natural food additives. Therefore, this work is aimed at evaluating the preservative effect of pawpaw seed extract on akara, fish soymilk and dairy milk.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### MATERIALS

Matured ripe fruits of *Carica papaya* (variety T. solo) were obtained from Akintola Farm, a private farm in Ogbomoso. The fruits were identified and authenticated at Department of Pure and Applied Biology, Ladoké Akintola University of Technology Ogbomoso. The chemicals and reagents used were of analytical standard. The experiment was carried out in Food Science and Engineering Lipid Laboratory, LAUTECH, Ogbomoso and Food Science and Technology Laboratory FUTA, Akure.

### METHODS

#### Preparation of *Carica papaya* Seeds

The method of Afolabi and Ofobruketa [13] and Dakare [14] was adopted with some modifications. The raw pawpaw fruit was cut into two longitudinal halves. The seeds were removed and dehulled manually, the hulls were allowed to float and decanted to obtain the seed kernel. The seed kernels were pre-dried in the oven (Model, Uniscope SM9053) at 50 °C for 20 h. The seeds were incubated at 37 °C in a dark room, allowed to ferment for 72 h and dried in the oven (Model, Uniscope SM9053) at 120 °C for 10 h. It was milled and packaged [14].

#### Pawpaw Seed Extract Preparation

The extracts were prepared using three solvents which are petroleum ether, n-hexane and aqueous solution.

#### Antioxidative Assessment of the Extracts

Antioxidative assessment of the crude extract was carried out by determining the free radical scavenging activity in the 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazil radical (DPPH) assay.

#### Determination of the free radical scavenging activity (FRSA) in the 1,1-diphenyl-2 picrylhydrazil radical (DPPH) assay

The antioxidant activity was determined using the DPPH assay as reported by Ansari *et al.*, [15]. The DPPH method was used because this technique is easily applicable and widely used. DPPH is a synthetic free radical that accepts an electron or hydrogen to be converted to DPPH stable molecules. The disappearance of the DPPH radical is monitored by decrease in absorbance of solution at 517nm. One (1) g of sample was mixed with 80% methanol (4:1 of

methanol and water). This was incubated for 1 h at 37 °C in a shaking water bath and centrifuged (3,500 x g at 4 °C) in an Eppendorf centrifuge (Model AJ-IC 03) for 35 min. Ten times dilution of extracts was made with 80% methanol. 100 µl of diluted extract was mixed with 100 µl of DPPH solution (0.1 mg/ml) in a 96 well microplates. The mixture was kept in the dark at ambient temperature while the absorbance recorded at 517 nm after 20 min. Blank was made from 100 µl of DPPH and 100 µl methanol. The FRSA was calculated as:

$$\left[ 1 - \left( \frac{A - B}{C} \right) \right] \times 100$$

Where,

A = is the absorbance of 100 µl of the diluted extract solution mixed with an equal volume of the DPPH solution

B = is the absorbance of 10 µl of the diluted extract solution mixed with an equal volume of methanol.

C = is the absorbance of blank sample prepared by mixing 100 µl of the DPPH with an equal volume of methanol: water (4:1). Analysis was done in triplicates.

#### Preparation of bean cake (akara)

The method of Ajibola and Filani [16] was adopted with some modifications. Beans (500 g) was cleaned and winnowed to remove dirt, stones and metals. It was soaked for 5 mins, after which it was dehulled by rubbing with hands until the loosed coats were floated off in water. The dehulled cotyledons were soaked in water for 15 min to soften the seeds. It was milled to form a paste. The extract was incorporated into bean paste at 1% concentration according to Adedeji and Ade-omowaye [17].

#### Preparation of soymilk

The method of Ajibola and Filani [16] was adopted with some modifications. 500g of soybean was cleaned and winnowed to remove dirt, stones and metals. It was boiled for 20 min to remove the beany flavor and to enhance easy dehulling. The soybean was cooled dehulled and drained. It was milled, reconstituted with water and sieved. The filtrate was boiled for 30 min after which the extract was added to soymilk at 1% concentration and thoroughly mixed together.

#### Preparation of fried fish

Method of Abou-Taleb *et al.*, [18] was adopted with some modifications. Whole Tilapia fish was obtained from the market, it was cut into small sizes, gills were removed and the fish was cleaned. It was macerated with the extract at 1% concentration for 1 h, then it was deep fried.

### Preparation of dairy milk

Dairy milk (Peak Evaporated Milk) was obtained from the market. The can was opened and poured into a jar with a lid; 800ml of milk was thoroughly mixed with the extract at 1% concentration.

### Determination of total viable bacteria

Pour plate method was used. Ten (10) ml of each food sample was aseptically poured into sterile bottles and diluted serially in distilled water up to a  $10^{-8}$  dilution. One ml of each of the  $10^{-7}$  and  $10^{-8}$  dilutions were mixed with nutrient agar in Petri dishes. The agar plates were allowed to solidify and incubated at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 - 48 h. The colonies that grew were counted and the values were expressed as colony forming units (cfu)/g [19].

### Determination of total fungi count

Pour plate method was used. Ten ml of each sample was aseptically poured into sterile bottles and diluted serially in distilled water up to a  $10^{-8}$  dilution. One ml of each the  $10^{-7}$  and  $10^{-8}$  dilutions were mixed with Potato Dextrose agar in Petri dishes. The agar plates were allowed to solidify and incubated at  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 72 h. The colonies that grew were counted and the values are expressed as colony forming units (cfu)/g [19].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Antioxidative activities of pawpaw seed extract

The 1,1- diphenyl-2- picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging activities of the extracts is as shown in Table-1. Petroleum ether extract had the highest antioxidant activity of 42.14%, aqueous extract had 33.28% while n-hexane extract had the least antioxidant activity of 18.85%. This result is different from that of Ng *et al.*, [20] which reported a research on the influence of different extraction parameters on antioxidant properties of *Carica papaya* peel and seed. It was discovered that the deionized water extract had the highest antioxidant activity in all the extract

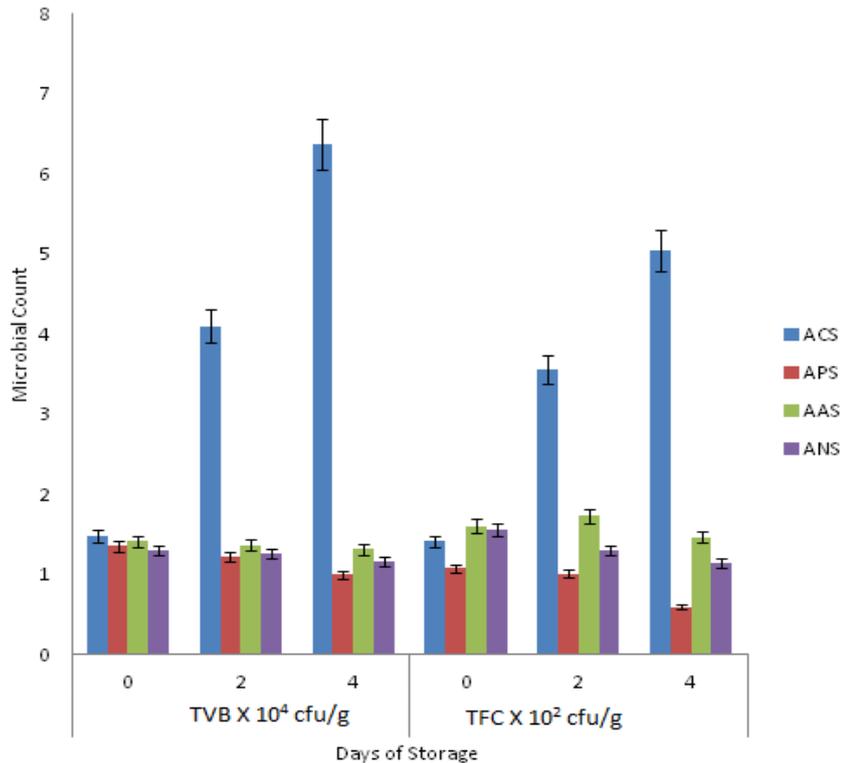
concentrations. At the highest concentration, the DPPH of 35.9% was recorded using deionized water extract while the lowest antioxidant activity of 1.4% was from n-hexane extract. Variations in antioxidant concentration and scavenging activities may be found in the extract from the same plant materials due to factors like different degrees of exposure of the plant to sun, specie of the plant and other environmental factors. The yields of hydrophilic and lipophilic antioxidants are dependable on the polarity of the solvent used [21].

**Table-1: DPPH (%) of Crude Extracts of *Carica papaya* Seeds**

Extracts	% DPPH
Aqueous	33.280
n- hexane	18.850
Petroleum Ether	42.140

### Total viable bacteria count of akara treated with pawpaw seed extract

Results of the total viable bacteria and total fungi count of akara treated with pawpaw seed extract is presented in Figure-1. On day zero, which was the day of production; Akara Control Sample (ACS) had a Total Viable Bacteria (TVB) count of  $1.48 \times 10^4$  cfu/g. It increased significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) to  $4.10 \times 10^4$  cfu/g after two days of storage. On the fourth day there was a further increase in the growth of bacteria to  $6.37 \times 10^4$  cfu/g. For the Akara treated with Petroleum ether extract Sample (APS) at day zero, the total viable bacteria count was  $1.36 \times 10^4$  there was a slight decrease in the TVB to  $1.22 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day two. However, at day four there was a significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) to  $1.00 \times 10^4$  cfu/g this implied that petroleum ether extract was able to eliminate some of the bacteria so it has a bacteriostatic effect. This is similar to the work of Adesokan *et al.*, [22] who recorded a gradual decrease in the total viable count of *Hisbiscus sabdariffa* drink blended with aqueous extract of ginger and garlic over a storage period of four days.



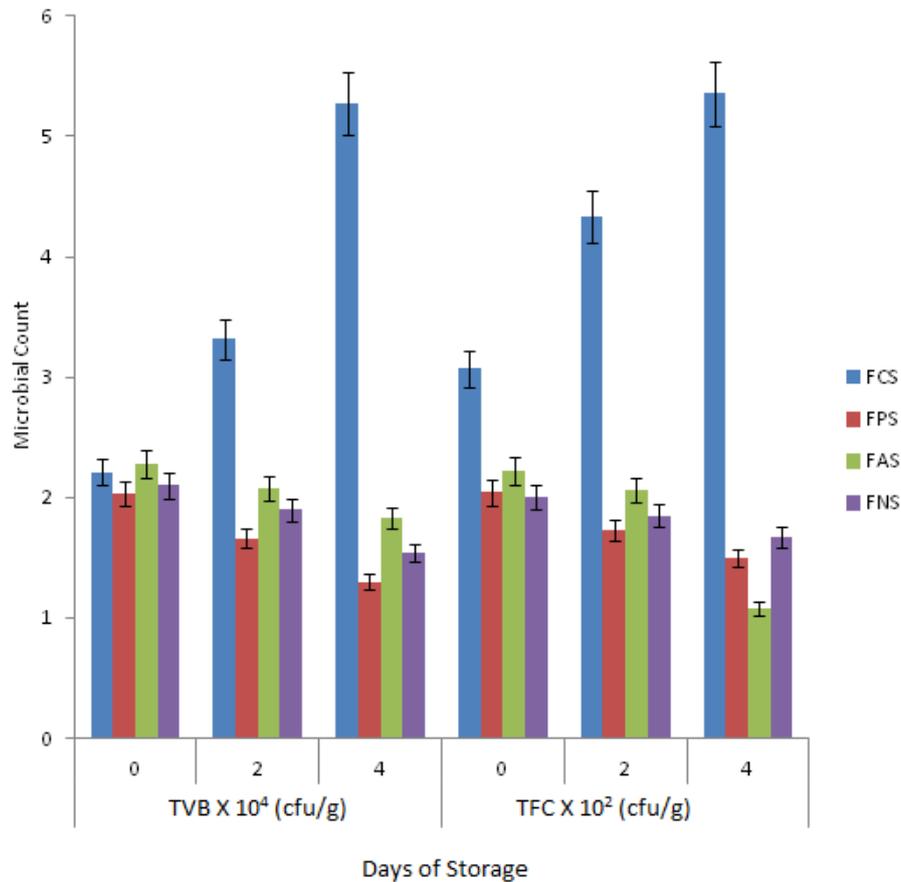
**Fig-1: Total Viable Bacteria and Total Fungi Counts of “Akara” treated with Pawpaw Seed Extracts**

KEY: TVB= Total Viable Bacteria Count, TFC= Total Fungi Count, ACS= Akara Control Sample, APS= Akara treated with Petroleum ether extract Sample, AAS= Akara treated with Aqueous extract Sample, ANS= Akara treated with n-hexane extract Sample

The total viable bacteria of Akara treated with Aqueous extract Sample (AAS) was  $1.42 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day zero however, on day two, there was a slight decrease to  $1.37 \times 10^4$  cfu/g and on day four, the TVB further decreased to  $1.32 \times 10^4$  cfu/g. This is an indication that aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* seed was able to retard the growth of bacteria. Akara treated with N-hexane Sample (ANS) had an initial TVB of  $1.30 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day zero but there was a decrease to 1.26 cfu/g on day two and on day four the value of TVB further decreased to 1.17 cfu/g. This establishes that n-hexane extract of *Carica papaya* seed also has a bacteriostatic effect. This is similar to the work of [23] recorded a significant decrease in the total aerobes and total anaerobes of “Wara” that was treated with *Terminalia cattapa* seed extract, *Carica papaya* seed extract and Nisin and stored over a period of three weeks.

#### Total fungi count of akara treated with pawpaw seed extracts

There was a progressive increase in the Total Fungi Count (TFC) of the control sample on day zero from  $1.42 \times 10^2$  cfu/g to  $3.56 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day two, and to  $5.05 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day four. For Akara treated with Petroleum ether Sample (APS) the TFC was  $1.08 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day zero, there was a slight decrease on day two to  $1.01 \times 10^2$  cfu/g and a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) decrease to  $0.6 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on the fourth day of storage. This suggests that petroleum ether extract of *Carica papaya* seed has a fungicidal effect, that is, it was able to retard some fungi. Akara treated with Aqueous Extract (AAS) had an initial TFC of  $1.08 \times 10^2$  cfu/g, there was an increase to  $1.73 \times 10^2$  cfu/g. This may be because the fungi were initially resistant however, on the fourth day there was a decrease to  $1.47 \times 10^2$  cfu/g. For Akara N-hexane Sample (ANS) the initial TFC was  $1.57 \times 10^2$  cfu/g there was a gradual decrease to  $1.30 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on the second day of storage and a further decrease to  $1.15 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on the fourth day of storage which implied that n-hexane extract of *Carica papaya* seed has a fungicidal property.



**Fig-2: Total Viable Bacteria and Total Fungi Counts of Fish treated with Pawpaw Seed Extracts**

Key: TVB=Total Viable Bacteria, TFC= Total Fungi Count, FCS= Fish Control Sample, FPS= Fish treated with Petroleum ether extract Sample, FAS= Fish treated with Aqueous extract Sample, FNS= Fish treated with n-hexane extract Sample

#### Total viable bacteria of fish treated with pawpaw seed extract

Total Viable Bacteria (TVB) count in day zero of fried Fish Control Sample (FCS) increased significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) from  $2.21 \times 10^4$  to  $3.32 \times 10^4$  cfu/g after two days of storage. On the fourth day, there was a further increase in the growth of total viable bacteria to  $5.2 \times 10^4$  cfu/g.

For the Fish sample treated with petroleum ether extract (FPS), in day zero, the total viable bacteria count was  $2.03 \times 10^4$  cfu/g, there was a significant decrease in the TVB to  $1.66 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day two, furthermore, in day four, there was a significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) to  $1.30 \times 10^4$  cfu/g, this implied that petroleum ether extract was able to retard the growth of some of the bacteria so it has a bacteriostatic effect. For Fish-Aqueous extract Sample (FAS), there was also a significant decrease in TVB from  $2.28 \times 10^4$  cfu/g to  $2.08 \times 10^4$  cfu/g after two days and on day four there was a further decrease to  $1.83 \times 10^4$  cfu/g. Fish n-hexane Sample (FNS) recorded a gradual decline from  $2.10 \times 10^4$  cfu/g to  $1.90 \times 10^4$  cfu/g and a further decrease to  $1.54 \times 10^4$  cfu/g. The decreasing trend may be as a result

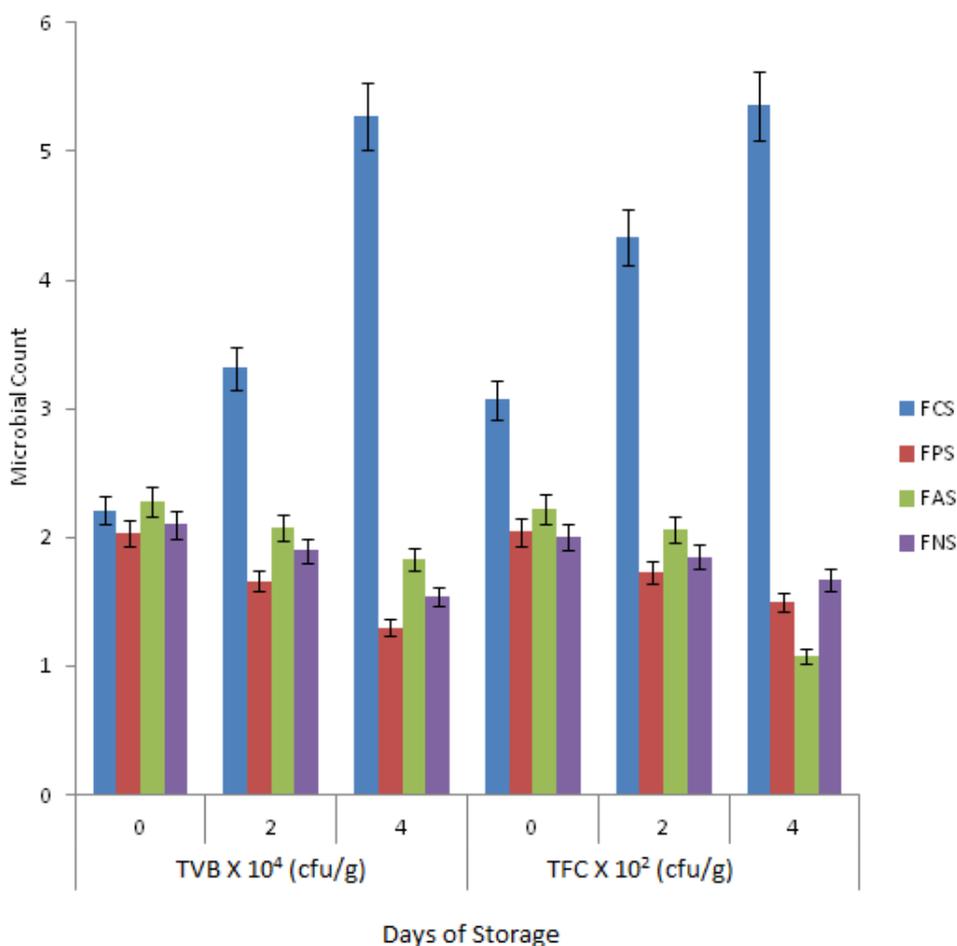
of the potency of the extracts in retarding the growth of viable bacteria in fish and in some cases eliminating the bacteria. Oyelese and Oyedokun [24] carried out a research on the microbial load of some common hot smoked freshwater fish species using different packaging materials. The report shows that the total viable count for *Niloticus* dropped from 10.6 to  $8.4 \times 10^4$  cfu/g (fresh state- hot smoked) and *M. rume* ( $9.8 - 7.0 \times 10^4$ ) cfu/g while *C. gariepinus* slightly increased from 12.4 to  $12.6 \times 10^4$  cfu/g over a storage period of 12 weeks.

#### Total fungi count of fish treated with pawpaw seed extract

The Total Fungi Count (TFC) for the Fish Control Sample (FCS) on day zero was  $3.07 \times 10^2$  cfu/g it increased to  $4.33 \times 10^2$  cfu/g in day two and to  $5.36 \times 10^2$  cfu/g in day four. This is because the sample was not treated. However, for the Fish Petroleum ether Sample (FPS) there was gradual decrease in the fungi count from  $2.04 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day zero to  $1.73 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day two, there was a further decrease to  $1.50 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day four. This showed that petroleum ether extract of *Carica papaya* seed was effective in

preventing the growth of fungi and it also reduced some of the fungi. The fish aqueous sample also recorded a gradual decrease in the Total Fungi Count (TFC) from  $2.22 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day zero to  $2.06 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day two and finally to  $1.80 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day four. This implies that aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* seed also has a fungicidal effect though not as potent as the

petroleum ether extract. Similarly, there was a decrease in fungi count of Fish n-hexane extract Sample (FNS) from  $2.00 \times 10^2$  to  $1.67 \times 10^2$  cfu/g after four days of storage. This also indicates that n-hexane extract has a fungicidal property. However, FPS had the least total fungi count which indicated that petroleum ether extract was more effective in eliminating fungi.



**Fig-3: Total Viable Bacteria and Total Fungi Counts of Soymilk treated with Pawpaw Seed Extracts**

Key: TVB= Total viable Bacteria, TFC=Total Fungi Count, SCS= Soymilk Control Sample, SPS= Soymilk treated with Petroleum ether extract Sample, SAS= Soymilk treated with Aqueous extract Sample, SNS= Soymilk treated with n-hexane extract Sample

#### Total Viable Bacteria and Total Fungi Counts of Soymilk treated with Pawpaw Seed Extracts

Total Viable Bacteria count (TVB) of soymilk sample treated with pawpaw seed extracts is shown on Figure-3. The TVB of Soymilk Control Sample (SCS) increased significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) from  $2.57 \times 10^4$  to  $6.60 \times 10^4$  cfu/g after two days of storage, on the fourth day there was a further increase in the growth of total viable bacteria  $9.28 \times 10^4$  cfu/g. For the Soymilk Petroleum ether extract Sample (SPS), there was a significant decrease in the TVB. The TVB decreased from  $2.13 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day zero to  $1.70 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day two. It decreased further significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) to  $1.43 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day four. This implied that petroleum

ether extract was able to reduce some of the bacteria so it has a bacteriostatic effect.

For Soymilk Aqueous extract Sample (SAS) there was also a significant decrease in TVB from  $2.10 \times 10^4$  to  $1.90 \times 10^4$  cfu/g after two days with a further decrease to  $1.72 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day four. Soymilk -n-hexane Sample (SNS) recorded a gradual decrease from  $2.37 \times 10^4$  to  $1.75 \times 10^4$  cfu/g and a further decrease to  $1.56 \times 10^4$  cfu/g. The decreasing trend may be as a result of the potency of the extracts in retarding the growth of viable bacteria in soymilk. This is similar to the work of Kabiru *et al.*, [25] who recorded decrease in the total bacteria count of soymilk samples that were

treated with cloves and guinea pepper. The samples were stored for 12 days, during the storage period, there was a significant bacterial and fungal growth in the control sample than in the treated sample and combination of cloves and guinea pepper extracts was able to reduce microbial growth effectively than when the extracts were used singly.

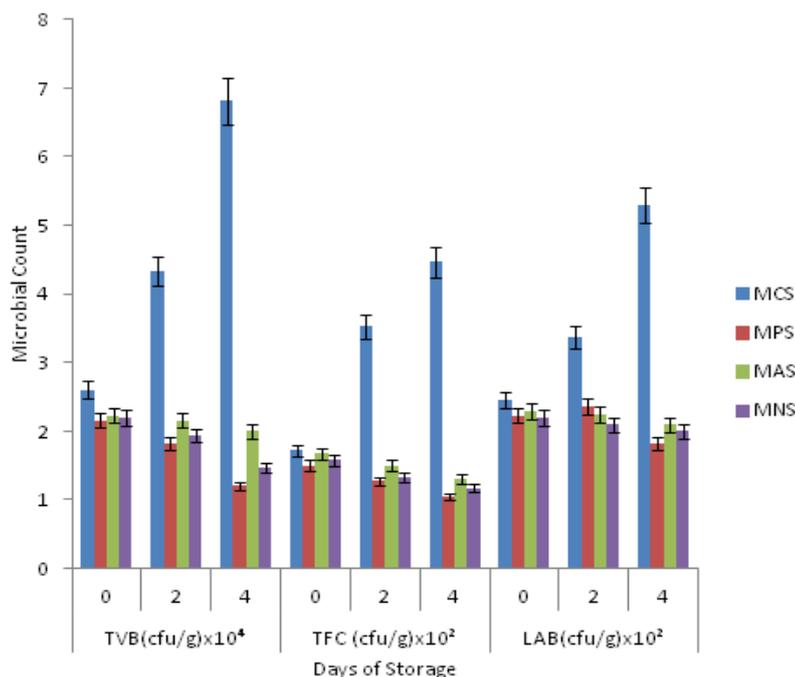
#### Total fungi count of soymilk treated with pawpaw seed extract

The Soymilk Control Sample (SCS) increased in fungi count throughout the four days of storage. The total fungi count increased from  $3.90 \times 10^2$  cfu/g in day zero to  $6.27 \times 10^2$  cfu/g in day two and then to  $9.61 \times 10^2$  cfu/g in day four. This is expected because the control sample was untreated. However, for the Soymilk treated with Petroleum ether Sample (SPS) there was gradual decrease in the fungi count from  $2.00 \times 10^2$  cfu/g in day zero to  $1.25 \times 10^2$  cfu/g in the day two and a further decrease to  $0.80 \times 10^2$  cfu/g in day four. This showed that petroleum ether extract of *Carica papaya* seed was effective in preventing the growth of fungi and it also reducing some of the fungi. The soymilk aqueous sample also recorded a gradual decrease in the Total Fungi Count (TFC) from 2.50

$\times 10^2$  cfu/g on day zero to  $2.17 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day two and finally to  $1.79 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day four. This implied that aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* seed also has a fungicidal effect though not as potent as the petroleum ether extract. Similarly, there was a decrease in fungi count of Soymilk N-hexane extract Sample (SNS) from  $2.86 \times 10^2$  to  $1.20 \times 10^2$  cfu/g after four days of storage. This also indicates that n-hexane extract has a fungicidal property. This result is in agreement with the result obtained by Kabiru *et al.*, [25] who recorded decrease in the total fungi count of soymilk samples that were treated with cloves and guinea pepper.

#### Total Viable Bacteria Counts of dairy milk treated with Pawpaw Seed Extracts

Milk Control Sample (MCS) had a Total Viable Bacteria (TVB) count of  $2.60 \times 10^4$  cfu/g in day zero. It increased significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) to  $4.33 \times 10^4$  cfu/g after two days of storage and it further increased to  $6.82 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on the fourth day. For the Milk treated with Petroleum ether extract Sample (MPS), the total viable bacteria count was  $2.16 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day zero, there was a decrease in the TVB to  $1.82 \times 10^4$  cfu/g on day two.



**Fig-4: Total Viable Bacteria and Total Fungi Counts of dairy milk treated with Pawpaw Seed Extracts**

Key: TVB= Total viable Bacteria, TFC=Total Fungi Count, MCS= Milk Control Sample, MPS= Milk treated with Petroleum ether extract Sample, MAS= Milk treated with Aqueous extract Sample, MNS= Milk treated with n-hexane extract Sample

However, day four recorded a significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) to  $1.20 \times 10^4$  cfu/g. This implied that petroleum ether extract was able to reduce some of the bacteria so it is bacteriostatic. This is similar to the work of Badmos *et al.*, [26] who worked on the effect of crude leaf extracts of *Moringa oleifera* on the

bacterial, nutritional and sensory properties of West African soft cheese. The control Cheese increased in bacterial count throughout the three days of storage. It was observed that 3% ethanol extract showed the most significant inhibition of the bacterial population compared with the other treatments. The total viable

bacteria of Milk Aqueous extract Sample (MAS) was  $2.23 \times 10^4$ cfu/g (on day zero), it decreased to  $2.16 \times 10^4$ cfu/g (on day two) it further decreased to  $2.00 \times 10^4$ cfu/g on day four. This in an indication that aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* seed was able to retard the growth of bacteria. Milk n-hexane Sample (MNS) had an initial TVB of  $2.20 \times 10^4$ cfu/ on day zero but there was a decrease to  $1.94 \times 10^4$ cfu/g (on day two) and a further decrease to  $1.47 \times 10^4$ cfu/g in the fourth day. This establishes that n-hexane extract of *Carica papaya* seed also has a bacteriostatic effect. This is similar to the work of [23] that recorded a significant decrease in the total aerobes and total anaerobes of "Wara" which was treated with *Terminalia cattapa* seed extract, *Carica papaya* seed extract and Nisin stored for over a period of three weeks without spoilage.

#### Total fungi of dairy milk treated with pawpaw seed extract

There was a progressive increase in the Total Fungi Count (TFC) in the control sample on day zero ( $1.72 \times 10^2$  cfu/g to  $3.53 \times 10^2$  cfu/g (day two) with further increase to  $4.47 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day four. For Milk treated with Petroleum ether Sample (MPS), the TFC was  $1.50 \times 10^2$  cfu/g (day zero), there was a slight decrease on day two to  $1.27 \times 10^2$  cfu/g (day two) and a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) decrease to  $1.05 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day four of storage time. There was a progressive decrease in the TFC of the Milk Aqueous extract Sample (MAS) from  $1.67 \times 10^2$  cfu/g to  $1.50 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day two, and  $1.30 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day four. A similar trend was observed in the Milk n-hexane Sample (MNS). There was a gradual decrease in the TFC for MNS from  $1.58 \times 10^2$ cfu/g to  $1.17 \times 10^2$ cfu/g over a storage period of four days.

#### Lactic acid bacteria count of milk treated with pawpaw seed extract

The Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) count of the control sample (MCS) was  $2.45 \times 10^2$ cfu/g on day zero, thereafter was a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase to  $3.37 \times 10^2$ cfu/g on day two and a further increase to  $5.30 \times 10^2$ cfu/g on the fourth day. Milk treated with Petroleum ether Sample (MPS) had a LAB count of  $2.23 \times 10^2$ cfu/g there was an initial increase to  $2.37 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day two but on day four a noticeable decrease to  $1.83 \times 10^2$ cfu/g was recorded. The initial increase in LAB count may be as a result of some intrinsic conditions that favoured the growth of LAB which was later subdued by the extract. The LAB count for MAS was  $2.30 \times 10^2$  cfu/g on day zero but the value decreased gradually to  $2.10 \times 10^2$  cfu/g after the four days of storage. The lactic acid bacteria count of Milk n-hexane extract Sample (MNS) was  $2.20 \times 10^2$ cfu/g (day zero), it reduced gradually to  $2 \times 10^2$ cfu/g on the fourth day of storage. This implied that all the extracts inhibited the growth of lactic acid bacteria but petroleum ether extract of *Carica papaya* seed had the highest inhibitory potency.

## CONCLUSION

The results obtained from this study shows that petroleum ether extract had the highest antioxidant activity (39.14%). The microbiological studies revealed that, all the extracts had the potential to retard microbial growth but petroleum ether extract exhibited more antimicrobial activity because samples treated with petroleum ether extract recorded the least bacteria and fungi growth. Therefore, it is a good antimicrobial agent.

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