










## Research Article

# Component Composition and Biological Activity of Various Extracts of *Onosma gmelinii* (Boraginaceae)

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*Onosma* roots are widely used in traditional medicine to treat various diseases throughout the world. In this study, for the first time, we investigated the component composition and biological activity of various extracts from the roots of *Onosma gmelinii* collected in the highlands of the Karkpakty Mountains of the Almaty region (Republic of Kazakhstan). Extracts were obtained by three different methods: percolation extraction, ultrasound-assisted extraction, and supercritical carbon dioxide extraction. The component composition of the extracts was determined by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS), naphthoquinones by thin-layer chromatography (TLC), and spectrophotometric method. In this study, the presence of shikonin and its derivatives in the extracts was confirmed. The concentration of naphthoquinones during CO<sub>2</sub> extraction was about 40%, during ultrasonic extraction about 3%, and during percolation extraction about 1.3%. The GC-MS method identified 69 chemical compounds in the ultrasonic extract, 46 compounds in the CO<sub>2</sub> extract, and 51 compounds in the percolation extract. The extracts were tested on a panel of bacteria and viruses: two Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli* ATCC 8739, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 9027); nine Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 6538-P, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC BAA-39, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 51625, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 12228, *Streptococcus pyogenes* ATCC 19615, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* ATCC BAA-660, *Enterococcus hirae* ATCC 10541, *Enterococcus faecalis* ATCC 51575, *Enterococcus faecium* ATCC 700221); and two fungal species (*Candida albicans* ATCC 10231, *Candida albicans* ATCC 2091); five subtypes of influenza virus A (A/FPV/Weybridge/78 (H7N7), A/Swine/Iowa/15/30 (H1N1), A/black-headed gull/Atyrau/743/04 (H13N6), A/FPV/Rostock/1934 (H7N1), A/Almaty/8/98 (H3N2)). The root extracts of *Onosma gmelinii* showed antibacterial activity in different degrees against all tested Gram-positive bacterial strains, while no inhibitory effect on Gram-negative bacteria was observed. The results indicated that the ultrasonic extract effectively inhibits the growth of the majority of tested Gram-positive bacteria (MBC from 18.3 to 293.0 µg/mL). CO<sub>2</sub> extract had the greatest bactericidal activity (MBC from 0.1 to 24.4 µg/mL). Percolation extract insignificantly inhibited bacterial growth (MBC from 2343.8 to 4687.5 µg/mL). CO<sub>2</sub> extract and ultrasonic extract significantly reduced the activity of *C. albicans*. The results of the antiviral action showed that the ultrasonic extract has the greatest effectiveness against different subtypes of the influenza virus A, while other extracts did not show significant activity.

## 1. Introduction

Plants are an inexhaustible source of biologically active substances, based on which medicines are created. Since ancient times, people have used traditional herbal medicine to treat many diseases [1, 2]. It is believed that the use of drugs of natural origin together with synthetic ones makes it possible to reduce or completely neutralize the side effects of the latter. Widespread use of herbal preparations is observed not only in Asian countries but also in developed countries of Europe and North America [3]. Traditional medicine, which mainly uses combinations of herbs prescribed as medicines, plays a special role in China, where it accounts for approximately 40% of the Chinese pharmaceutical market [4]. According to WHO, almost 80% of the world's population within the organization of first aid uses mainly herbal preparations [3]. To date, out of 320 thousand described plant species, about 21 thousand species are used in traditional medicine. The register of medicinal plants is constantly updated. Most of the medicinal plants are recognized by official medicine and are widely used in the production of pharmaceuticals. Phytopreparations are well combined with other methods of treatment, their use allows not only for curing some diseases but also for preventing their further development. It has been established that more than 40% of drugs on the pharmaceutical market contain medicinal plant raw materials in their composition.

The genus *Onosma* L. belongs to the family Boraginaceae Juss., subfamily Boraginoideae, is included in the tribe Lithospermeae. The genus *Onosma* is represented by perennial herbaceous plants, subshrubs, and prostrate subshrubs. *Onosma* species have been used in traditional medicine for centuries for the treatment of various diseases throughout the world [5, 6]. The genus *Onosma* L. (Boraginaceae) represents about 150 known species distributed mainly in the dry regions of the Mediterranean and territories from Western and Central Asia to Western China. However recent systematic botanical studies have increased the number of species in this genus to over 230 species [5, 7].

Some types of *Onosma* are part of multicomponent herbal preparations. The Indian drug "Cystone," containing an extract of *Onosma bracteatum* stems, is used for urolithiasis, reduces the content of stone-forming substances, has an anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antiseptic, and diuretic effect, and reduces irritation of the bladder mucosa [8]. *Arnebia euchroma*, *Arnebia guttata*, *Lithospermum erythrorhizon*, *Onosma paniculatum*, *Onosma exsertum*, *Onosma confertum*, *Onosma hookerii*, and *Onosma waltonii* are used as interchangeable sourcing plants for the Chinese Materia Medica known as "Zicao." The Zicao is used externally for the treatment of burns, frostbite, eczema, ulcers, and inflammation and as an antiparasitic, antipyretic, and antiseptic [9]. *Onosma* roots are widely used in the treatment of infectious diseases such as hemorrhoids, tonsillitis, and bronchitis and have an important potential in the recovery of wounds and burns [10]. Some *Onosma* species are effective against abdominal pain, eye diseases, ear diseases, lung diseases, blood diseases, urinary calculi, dysuria, piles, fever, itching, and thirst [6, 11]. Flowers of these species can

also be used in the treatment of rheumatism and are also used as a cardiac stimulant agent [12]. Infusions of herb *Onosma* have hypotensive, sedative, diuretic, myotropic, and antipyretic effects, reduce capillary fragility and vascular permeability, and lower blood pressure [13]. *Onosma* root extracts have antioxidant, anthelmintic, antifungal, and antimicrobial activity [14, 15] and also have an antitumor effect [16]. Most members of the *Onosma* are known to produce shikonin derivatives. Particularly the red dye of *Onosma* sp. has been used since ancient times in the textile and food industries [17]. Moreover, since this pigment is a natural dye, it is often used for medical and cosmetic applications [6, 18].

Shikonin and its derivatives exhibit activity against HIV type 1, possess anti-ADV3 (adenoviral type 3) properties, and are able to inhibit HCV replication [19]. The activity of naphthoquinones against influenza A is poorly studied. Influenza A viruses with a high degree of genome variability are etiological agents of dangerous infectious diseases in humans and animals that can occur in the form of extensive epizootics, epidemics, and pandemics with high mortality. At the same time, some of the newly emerging strains show resistance to existing anti-influenza drugs. Therefore, the problem of developing and searching for new drugs to protect against influenza infection, including both prophylactic and therapeutic drugs, seems extremely important and especially relevant.

In Kazakhstan, three species of the *Onosma* genus have gained the greatest popularity in traditional medicine: *Onosma dichroantha* contains saponins and alkaloids, flowers are used in the treatment of impotence, and root juice is used as an analgesic for otitis media. *Onosma simplicissima* helps lower blood pressure and increase the amplitude of heart contractions and has an antipyretic effect. *Onosma transrhynensis* is used for headaches and as a sedative, hypotensive, diuretic, and myotropic agent [13].

Our research area includes the little-studied wild plant *Onosma gmelinii*. It is a perennial herbaceous plant 20–50 cm high. The root is thin, dark purple, or brownish, usually with 1–5 flowering stems and a rosette of leaves at their base, stems are bluish, rarely green, unbranched, ascending, densely covered with protruding thin long bristles, which are seated with short stiff protruding hairs. Leaves are also covered with long protruding bristles and stiff hairs. Basal leaves are long petiolate, oblanceolate; stem leaves are upward-directed, lanceolate, sessile, gradually narrowed towards the base, obtuse, or shortly pointed, with inflorescences terminal, unbranched, with numerous crowded flowers. Corolla is light yellow, later turning brown, tubular-campanulate, gradually expanded upward; throat is obscurely pubescent outside, glabrous inside; lobes are broadly triangular. Nutlets are grey-brown, up to 5 mm long, lustrous, smooth, gradually tapering to beak, not gibbous. It blooms in May–July and bears fruit in July–August [20]. It grows mainly on rocky and dry gravelly slopes, rocks, dry terraces in the lower and middle mountain belts, rarely in the steppes and mountain steppe belt. Spread area is Eastern Siberia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, China, and Kashmir.

It belongs to technical plants, the roots of which have been a source of red dye for colouring wool and oils for many years [21], but the chemical composition of the plant is insufficiently studied still.

This study aims to explore the component composition of various extracts from the roots of *Onosma gmelinii* obtained by percolation extraction, ultrasound-assisted extraction, and supercritical carbon dioxide extraction. For the first time, their antimicrobial activity against pathogenic microorganisms and antiviral activity against various strains of the influenza virus was established. The results will allow us to select the most effective and cost-effective extract of the roots of *Onosma gmelinii* to develop antibacterial drugs for medical practice.

## 2. Material and Methods

**2.1. Plant Material.** Roots of *Onosma gmelinii* were collected in the flowering phase in August, 2019, in the highlands of the Kakpakty Mountains (Kokbel village, Raiymbek district of Almaty region, Kazakhstan). Sample of plant was identified by a Botanist at the Department of Biodiversity and Bioresources, Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The samples were washed thoroughly in running tap water to remove soil particles and adhered debris and finally washed with sterile distilled water. The roots of plant were dried in a well-ventilated room at a temperature of  $25 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ . The dried roots were finely powdered using an electric grinder to a fraction of 0.5–2.0 mm and stored in airtight containers until use.

**2.2. Preparation of Plant Extracts.** The extraction of plant raw materials was performed in three different methods.

**2.2.1. Percolation Extraction (P).** 40 g of powdered plant material was packed in a percolator, with adding 80 mL of 70% ethanol, and macerated overnight [22]. The percolation process was carried out at a moderate rate until the plant raw materials were completely depleted. Liquid extracts obtained were filtered through ashless filter paper and concentrated using a rotary evaporator (IKA RV 05 basic, Germany). The yield of the dry extract was 7.56 g (18.9%).

**2.2.2. Ultrasound-Assisted Extraction (UAE).** 40 g of powdered plant material was soaked in 800 mL of 70% ethanol for 30 minutes [22]. Then the mixture was subjected to a double ultrasonic extraction in an ultrasonic bath (Elmasonic S90H, Germany, 400 W, 37 kHz) for 30 minutes each. Water in the ultrasonic bath was circulated at a temperature of  $40 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ . The supernatant was similarly processed as described in percolation to get dried UAE extract of *Onosma gmelinii*. The yield of the dry extract was 4.47 g (11.2%).

**2.2.3. Supercritical Carbon Dioxide Extraction (CO<sub>2</sub>-SE).** CO<sub>2</sub> extraction of *Onosma gmelinii* roots was carried out in a supercritical fluid extractor (Thar, USA) [22]. 500 g of

powdered plant material was placed into stainless steel extraction cell. The cosolvent pump was filled with 90% ethanol. The temperature was 45–50°C, while the pressure used was above 100 bar. The total extraction time was 70 min, consisting of 10 min of static extraction followed by 60 min of dynamic extraction. The extract was collected in a glass vessel cooled by CO<sub>2</sub> expansion and then concentrated by the rotary evaporator (IKA RV 05 basic, Germany). The yield of the thick extract was 12.44 g (2.5%).

**2.3. Determination of Naphthoquinones.** 500 mg (exact weight) of the test extract was completely dissolved in 100 mL of chloroform. The qualitative determination of naphthoquinones in the test solutions was carried out by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) [23, 24]. A 20 µL of test samples of different extracts was applied to the TLC plate (aluminum foil-backed TLC plate coated with silica gel 60 F254, Merck, 0.2 mm layer thickness) separately [25]. It was positioned 10 mm from the bottom of the plate, and then the plate was developed to a distance of about 10.5 cm using hexane-acetone (20 : 1) as the mobile phase. The plates were then removed and air-dried for 15 minutes. The naphthoquinones formed red zones, the colours of which changed to violet on treatment with ammonia vapour. Detection of the phytochemicals was conducted by comparison of R<sub>f</sub> values and spot colours with literature data.

The quantitative determination of the amount of naphthoquinones in terms of shikonin in the extracts was carried out by the spectrophotometric method. Under the condition of the high content of the number of naphthoquinones in the test extract, the test solution was diluted with chloroform until an optical density of 0.2 to 0.8 was reached; the dilution coefficient was used in the calculations. The optical density of the test solutions was measured on a spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 525 nm. Calculation of the amount of content naphthoquinones was performed based on shikonin by specific absorption rate shikonin ( $A_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 430$ ) [26].

## 2.4. Component Composition Determination

**2.4.1. GC-MS Analysis.** The chemical composition of extracts was determined on a gas chromatograph with an Agilent 6890N/5973N mass spectrometric detector. Chromatography conditions were as follows: sample volume 1.0 µL and sample inlet temperature 250°C, without dividing the flow. The separation was carried out using a DB-WAXETR chromatography capillary column with a length of 30 m, an inner diameter of 0.25 mm, and a film thickness of 0.25 µm at a constant carrier gas (helium) velocity of 1 mL/min. The chromatographic temperature was programmed from 40°C (holding 0 min) to 240°C with a heating rate of 5°C/min (holding 10 min). The detection was carried out in the SCAN m/z 34–750 mode. Agilent MSD ChemStation (v.1701EA) software was used to control the gas chromatography system, recording, and processing of the results and data.

**2.4.2. Identification of Compounds.** Interpretation on mass spectrum GC-MS was conducted using the databases of National Institute Standard and Technology (NIST'02) and Wiley 7th edition. The percentage of components was calculated automatically based on the peak areas of the total ion chromatogram. The components were identified by mass spectra and retention times.

## 2.5. Antiviral Activity Determination

**2.5.1. Viruses and Cells.** Madin-Darby canine kidney (MDCK) cell lines were obtained from RSE "Scientific Research Institute for Biological Safety Problems" CS MES RK. The cell line was grown in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM; Sigma-Aldrich) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), penicillin (100 units/mL), streptomycin (100 µg/mL), and amphotericin B (0.25 µg/mL) at 37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.

Influenza viruses A/FPV/Weybridge/78 (H7N7), A/Swine/Iowa/15/30 (H1N1), A/black-headed gull/Atyrau/743/04 (H13N6), A/FPV/Rostock/1934 (H7N1), and A/Almaty/8/98 (H3N2) were obtained from RSE «Institute of Microbiology and Virology» SC MES RK. Influenza virus was propagated in MDCK cells at 37°C for 72 h, then virus-containing fluid was harvested and centrifuged to remove the cell debris at 300 g for 15 min, and clarified supernatant was stored at -70°C [27]. The 50% tissue culture infective dose (TCID<sub>50</sub>) was determined using Reed and Muench [28].

**2.5.2. Test Extracts.** The extracts performed by percolation and ultrasonic extraction were dissolved in DMSO, and supercritical carbon dioxide extract was dissolved in 96% ethanol. The choice of solvent was determined by the physicochemical properties of the extracts.

The final maximal DMSO or 96% ethanol concentration in the assay wells with the highest sample input (1%) was well tolerated by the cells. The cytotoxicity and antiviral activity were determined by treating the monolayers with twofold serial dilutions of test extracts.

**2.5.3. Cytotoxicity Assay.** The cytotoxicity of plant extracts was determined by the MTT method [29, 30]. The absorbance of each well was measured at the wavelength of the main filter of 540 nm and a reference wave of 620 nm in a microplate reader (Tecan Sunrise RC.4, Austria). The median cytotoxic concentration (CC<sub>50</sub>) was calculated as the concentration of the plant extracts that reduced the viable cells to 50% of the untreated control [31, 32].

**2.5.4. Antiviral Assay.** *In vitro* antiviral activity against influenza viruses was determined according to two schemes: therapeutic and virus inhibition [31]. All studies were tested in four replicates. For both schemes, IC<sub>50</sub> (half maximal inhibitory concentration) and selective index (SI) were calculated. The SI was calculated as the ratio of CC<sub>50</sub>/IC<sub>50</sub> [31, 33].

**(1) Therapeutic Activity.** A therapeutic activity assay was performed to evaluate the inhibitory effects of the investigated compounds on viral cycle's intracellular stage, such as replication, particle assembly, or budding. Briefly, confluent MDCK cells were infected with the influenza virus at a dose of 100 TCID<sub>50</sub>/0.2 mL and incubated for 1 hour at 37°C. Then, the contents of the wells were removed, and the final dilutions of the test extract were added. Serum-free DMEM was used as negative control and an untreated virus as a positive control. The plates were incubated for 72 h in a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The therapeutic activity of the test compound against the influenza virus was detected as a result of a decrease in the titer of the residual virus infectivity in the hemagglutination reaction [27].

**(2) Virus Inhibition Activity.** A viral inhibition assay was performed to determine the direct effect of an extract on viral particles. Briefly, the serially diluted compound was preincubated with the virus at 100 TCID<sub>50</sub>/0.2 mL at 37°C for 1 h. Then serial 10-fold dilutions of virus-extract mixture were prepared. The growth medium was removed from the wells of the cell culture plate, and the prepared dilutions were added starting from the initial one. Serum-free DMEM was used as negative control and an untreated virus as a positive control. The plate was incubated for 72 h at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The results were evaluated based on the presence or absence of a virus in the cell culture in the hemagglutination test [27]. The titer of the residual virus infectivity was calculated by Reed and Muench [28].

## 2.6. Antimicrobial Activity Determination

**2.6.1. Microbial Strains.** The antibacterial activity was evaluated using a panel of pathogenic strains including Gram-negative bacteria: *Escherichia coli* ATCC 8739, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 9027; Gram-positive bacteria: *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 6538-P, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC BAA-39 (multidrug resistant, MRSA), *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 51625 (methicillin resistant), *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 12228 (VRSA), *Streptococcus pyogenes* ATCC 19615, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* ATCC BAA-660 (multidrug resistant), *Enterococcus hirae* ATCC 10541, *Enterococcus faecalis* ATCC 51575 (gentamicin, streptomycin, and vancomycin resistant), and *Enterococcus faecium* ATCC 700221 (vancomycin and teicoplanin resistant); and two fungal strains: *Candida albicans* ATCC 10231, *Candida albicans* ATCC 2091.

The storage, maintenance, and preparation of working culture suspensions were carried out following established procedures [34].

**2.6.2. Antimicrobial Assay.** A 48-well plate was used to determine the antimicrobial activity [35, 36]. A twofold serial dilution series of the test extract using Mueller Hinton broth (Mueller Hinton broth (M391), HiMedia, India) for bacterial testing and Sabouraud broth (Fluid Sabouraud medium (M013), HiMedia, India) for fungal testing was prepared in a separate 48-well microplate. The initial

TABLE 1: GC-MS analysis of *O. gmelinii* root extracts.

| No. | Compound name                                | Molecular formula | CO <sub>2</sub> extract        |                |                                | Ultrasonic extract |                                |                | Percolation extract            |                |  |
|-----|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
|     |  |                   | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%) | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%)     | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%) | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%) |  |
| 1   | Acetic acid                                  | C2H4O2            | 97                             | 15.53          | 97                             | 10.83              | 97                             | 10.87          |                                |                |  |
| 2   | Propanoic acid                               | C3H6O2            | 95                             | 0.5            | 91                             | 0.19               | 84                             | 0.12           |                                |                |  |
| 3   | Propanoic acid, 2-methyl-                    | C4H8O2            | 93                             | 13.99          | 93                             | 5.69               | 94                             | 4.45           |                                |                |  |
| 4   | 2-Butenoic acid, 3-methyl-                   | C5H8O2            | 87                             | 10.11          | 95                             | 9.24               | 96                             | 9.97           |                                |                |  |
| 5   | 3-Methyl-3-butenic acid                      | C5H8O2            | 88                             | 1.63           | 89                             | 0.71               | 88                             | 0.6            |                                |                |  |
| 6   | 2-Butenoic acid, 2-methyl-                   | C5H8O2            | 95                             | 0.6            | 93                             | 0.25               | 81                             | 0.17           |                                |                |  |
| 7   | Butanoic acid, 3-hydroxy-3-methyl-           | C5H10O3           | 74                             | 6.34           | 74                             | 1.89               | 72                             | 0.37           |                                |                |  |
| 8   | 2-Methoxy-4-vinylphenol                      | C9H10O2           | 90                             | 0.15           | 92                             | 1.32               | 92                             | 1.05           |                                |                |  |
| 9   | Hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester               | C18H36O2          | 90                             | 0.64           | 86                             | 0.28               | 91                             | 6.52           |                                |                |  |
| 10  | 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid, ethyl ester       | C20H36O2          | 88                             | 0.7            | 84                             | 0.56               | 92                             | 4.05           |                                |                |  |
| 11  | Hexadecanoic acid                            | C16H32O2          | 93                             | 3.84           | 93                             | 2.14               | 92                             | 1.92           |                                |                |  |
| 12  | Squalene                                     | C30H50            | 97                             | 2.63           | 78                             | 0.72               | 88                             | 0.56           |                                |                |  |
| 13  | Oleic Acid                                   | C18H34O2          | 95                             | 4.37           | 89                             | 1.65               | 82                             | 0.5            |                                |                |  |
| 14  | 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid                    | C18H32O2          | 91                             | 7.0            | 92                             | 2.43               | 91                             | 1.53           |                                |                |  |
| 15  | 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid                | C18H30O2          | 91                             | 2.17           | 78                             | 1.23               | 73                             | 0.98           |                                |                |  |
| 16  | Nonanoic acid                                | C9H18O2           | 90                             | 0.61           | 77                             | 0.15               | —                              | —              |                                |                |  |
| 17  | 4-Methylphthalaldehyde                       | C9H8O2            | 74                             | 0.18           | 71                             | 0.16               | —                              | —              |                                |                |  |
| 18  | 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, methyl ester  | C19H32O2          | 84                             | 0.16           | 78                             | 0.18               | —                              | —              |                                |                |  |
| 19  | Palmitoleic acid                             | C16H30O2          | 94                             | 1.34           | 76                             | 0.34               | —                              | —              |                                |                |  |
| 20  | Octadecanoic acid                            | C17H35CO2H        | 91                             | 1.03           | 83                             | 0.51               | —                              | —              |                                |                |  |
| 21  | n-Tetracosanol-1                             | C24H50O           | 94                             | 2.88           | 86                             | 1.65               | —                              | —              |                                |                |  |
| 22  | Ethyl 9-hexadecenoate                        | C18H34O2          | 87                             | 0.24           | —                              | —                  | 91                             | 0.77           |                                |                |  |
| 23  | Octadecanoic acid, ethyl ester               | C20H40O2          | 69                             | 0.11           | —                              | —                  | 90                             | 0.79           |                                |                |  |
| 24  | Ethyl oleate                                 | C20H38O2          | 89                             | 0.37           | —                              | —                  | 90                             | 3.1            |                                |                |  |
| 25  | Methyl stearidonate                          | C19H30O2          | 80                             | 0.06           | —                              | —                  | 86                             | 0.41           |                                |                |  |
| 26  | 2,2'-Bioxirane                               | C4H6O2            | —                              | —              | 83                             | 0.59               | 81                             | 0.48           |                                |                |  |
| 27  | 2-Propanone, 1-(acetyloxy)-                  | C5H8O3            | —                              | —              | 75                             | 0.22               | 81                             | 0.19           |                                |                |  |
| 28  | Formic acid                                  | CH2O2             | —                              | —              | 96                             | 0.48               | 85                             | 0.27           |                                |                |  |
| 29  | 2,4-Dihydroxy-2,5-dimethyl-3(2H)-furan-3-one | C6H8O4            | —                              | —              | 88                             | 0.35               | 87                             | 0.28           |                                |                |  |
| 30  | 4-Cyclopentene-1,3-dione                     | C5H4O2            | —                              | —              | 86                             | 0.35               | 88                             | 0.57           |                                |                |  |
| 31  | Butanoic acid, 4-hydroxy-                    | C4H8O3            | —                              | —              | 91                             | 0.18               | 90                             | 0.24           |                                |                |  |
| 32  | Carbamic acid, methyl ester                  | C2H5NO2           | —                              | —              | 93                             | 0.16               | 90                             | 0.27           |                                |                |  |
| 33  | 2-Furanmethanol                              | C5H6O2            | —                              | —              | 96                             | 1.29               | 95                             | 1.19           |                                |                |  |
| 34  | Hexanoic acid, 2-methyl-                     | C7H14O2           | —                              | —              | 81                             | 10.29              | 81                             | 10.67          |                                |                |  |
| 35  | 1,2-Cyclopentanedione                        | C5H6O2            | —                              | —              | 93                             | 0.26               | 92                             | 0.49           |                                |                |  |
| 36  | Urea, 1-methylcyclopropyl-                   | C5H10N2O          | —                              | —              | 72                             | 0.41               | 72                             | 1.53           |                                |                |  |
| 37  | 2,5-Dimethyl-4-hydroxy-3(2H)-furanone        | C6H8O3            | —                              | —              | 85                             | 1.04               | 84                             | 1.07           |                                |                |  |
| 38  | 2H-Pyran-2,6(3H)-dione                       | C5H4O3            | —                              | —              | 81                             | 0.15               | 86                             | 0.25           |                                |                |  |

TABLE 1: Continued.

| No. | Compound name   | Molecular formula | CO <sub>2</sub> extract        |                | Ultrasonic extract             |                | Percolation extract            |                |
|-----|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
|     |   |                   | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%) | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%) | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%) |
| 39  | Dihydroxyacetone  | C3H6O3            | —                              | —              | 78                             | 1.64           | 80                             | 1.2            |
| 40  | Cyclopropyl carbinol                                    | C4H8O             | —                              | —              | 74                             | 0.6            | 78                             | 0.93           |
| 41  | 1,3-Dioxol-2-one, 4,5-dimethyl-                         | C5H6O3            | —                              | —              | 77                             | 0.87           | 77                             | 0.7            |
| 42  | 2-Hydroxy-gamma-butyrolactone                           | C4H6O3            | —                              | —              | 78                             | 0.98           | 85                             | 1.65           |
| 43  | 4H-Pyran-4-one, 2,3-dihydro-3,5-dihydroxy-6-methyl-     | C6H8O4            | —                              | —              | 90                             | 3.51           | 91                             | 4.52           |
| 44  | Glycerin  | C3H8O3            | —                              | —              | 92                             | 2.09           | 86                             | 0.87           |
| 45  | 2-Propanamine, N-methyl-N-nitroso-                      | C4H10N2O          | —                              | —              | 70                             | 0.65           | 72                             | 0.89           |
| 46  | Benzofuran, 2,3-dihydro-                                | C8H8O             | —                              | —              | 80                             | 0.17           | 84                             | 0.21           |
| 47  | 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural                                 | C6H6O3            | —                              | —              | 92                             | 10.67          | 91                             | 8.56           |
| 48  | 2(3H)-Furanone, dihydro-4-hydroxy-                      | C4H6O3            | —                              | —              | 78                             | 0.22           | 77                             | 0.22           |
| 49  | Sucrose   | C12H22O11         | —                              | —              | 74                             | 4.01           | 74                             | 5.71           |
| 50  | Nonane, 1,1-diethoxy-                                   | C13H28O2          | 88                             | 0.38           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 51  | Butanoic acid, 3-methyl-                                | C5H10O2           | 86                             | 16.26          | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 52  | Hexadecane, 2,6,11,15-tetramethyl-                      | C20H42            | 82                             | 0.28           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 53  | Heptanoic acid  | C7H14O2           | 69                             | 0.09           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 54  | Heptadecane, 2,6,10,15-tetramethyl-                     | C21H44            | 76                             | 0.07           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 55  | Octanoic acid   | C8H16O2           | 83                             | 0.06           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 56  | 2-Pentadecanone, 6,10,14-trimethyl-                     | C18H36O           | 76                             | 0.10           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 57  | Henriacantane   | C31H64            | 71                             | 0.25           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 58  | Dodecanoic acid   | C12H24O2          | 78                             | 0.10           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 59  | 9,12-Octadecadienyl chloride                            | C18H31ClO         | 83                             | 0.23           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 60  | 1-Hexadecanol   | C16H34O           | 85                             | 0.22           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 61  | Ethyl 9,12,15-octadecatrienoate                         | C20H34O2          | 87                             | 0.19           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 62  | Methyl 19-methyl-eicosanoate                            | C22H44O2          | 71                             | 0.08           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 63  | 1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, butyl 8-methylnonyl ester | C22H34O4          | 75                             | 0.26           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 64  | 1-Docosene  | C22H44            | 83                             | 0.64           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 65  | 17-Pentatriacontene                                     | C35H70            | 71                             | 0.57           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 66  | Docosanoic acid, ethyl ester                            | C24H48O2          | 70                             | 0.14           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 67  | Behenic alcohol   | C22H46O           | 91                             | 1.22           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 68  | Ethyl tetraacosanoate                                   | C26H52O2          | 81                             | 0.44           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 69  | Ethyl (2E)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-propenoate   | C12H14O4          | 74                             | 0.18           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 70  | Gamolenic acid  | C18H30O2          | 86                             | 1.07           | —                              | —              | —                              | —              |
| 71  | Hydrazoic acid  | HN3               | —                              | —              | 74                             | 0.03           | —                              | —              |
| 72  | 2,3-Butanediol  | C4H10O2           | —                              | —              | 92                             | 0.12           | —                              | —              |
| 73  | 2(5H)-Furanone, 5-methyl-                               | C5H6O2            | —                              | —              | 67                             | 0.15           | —                              | —              |
| 74  | Furfural  | C5H4O2            | —                              | —              | 76                             | 2.39           | —                              | —              |
| 75  | 2-Furancarboxaldehyde, 5-methyl-                        | C6H6O2            | —                              | —              | 87                             | 0.15           | —                              | —              |
| 76  | 2(5H)-Furanone  | C4H4O2            | —                              | —              | 94                             | 0.10           | —                              | —              |

TABLE 1: Continued.

| No.                              | Compound name                                   | Molecular formula | CO <sub>2</sub> extract        |                | Ultrasonic extract             |                | Percolation extract            |                |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
|                                  |   |                   | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%) | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%) | Identification probability (%) | Percentage (%) |
| 77                               | Butanoic acid, 2-ethyl-, methyl ester           | C7H14O2           | —                              | —              | 63                             | 0.32           | —                              | —              |
| 78                               | 3-Furancarboxylic acid, methyl ester            | C6H6O3            | —                              | —              | 83                             | 0.13           | —                              | —              |
| 79                               | 5-Acetoxyethyl-2-furaldehyde                    | C8H8O4            | —                              | —              | 74                             | 0.15           | —                              | —              |
| 80                               | 4H-Pyran-4-one, 3,5-dihydroxy-2-methyl-         | C6H6O4            | —                              | —              | 71                             | 0.14           | —                              | —              |
| 81                               | 5-Hydroxymethylidihydrofuran-2-one              | C5H8O3            | —                              | —              | 81                             | 0.17           | —                              | —              |
| 82                               | 1,2-Ethanedial, 1-(2-furanyl)-                  | C6H8O3            | —                              | —              | 64                             | 0.43           | —                              | —              |
| 83                               | DL-Proline, 5-oxo-, methyl ester                | C6H9NO3           | —                              | —              | 76                             | 0.24           | —                              | —              |
| 84                               | 1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, butyl octyl ester | C20H30O4          | —                              | —              | 63                             | 0.19           | —                              | —              |
| 85                               | Glyceraldehyde                                  | C3H6O3            | —                              | —              | 68                             | 0.23           | —                              | —              |
| 86                               | Uric acid                                       | C5H4N4O3          | —                              | —              | 64                             | 0.21           | —                              | —              |
| 87                               | Pentadecanoic acid                              | C15H30O2          | —                              | —              | 68                             | 0.17           | —                              | —              |
| 88                               | 2-Acetylthiazole                                | C5H5NOS           | —                              | —              | 61                             | 0.16           | —                              | —              |
| 89                               | Hexadecenoic acid, Z-11-                        | C16H30O2          | —                              | —              | 91                             | 0.75           | —                              | —              |
| 90                               | 1-Nonadecene                                    | C19H38            | —                              | —              | 73                             | 0.28           | —                              | —              |
| 91                               | 9,10-Anthracenedione, 1,8-dihydroxy-3-methyl    | C15H10O4          | —                              | —              | 74                             | 3.42           | —                              | —              |
| 92                               | Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate                     | C24H38O4          | —                              | —              | 95                             | 6.14           | —                              | —              |
| 93                               | 1-Eicosanol                                     | C20H42O           | —                              | —              | 77                             | 0.42           | —                              | —              |
| 94                               | D-Allose  | C6H12O6           | —                              | —              | 69                             | 0.25           | —                              | —              |
| 95                               | Acetic acid, (acetyloxy)-                       | C4H6O4            | —                              | —              | —                              | —              | 75                             | 0.15           |
| 96                               | Acetic acid, hydroxy-, methyl ester             | C3H6O3            | —                              | —              | —                              | —              | 89                             | 0.36           |
| 97                               | Propanoic acid, 2-oxo-, methyl ester            | C4H6O3            | —                              | —              | —                              | —              | 77                             | 2.86           |
| 98                               | 2-Furanmethanol, 5-methyl-                      | C6H8O2            | —                              | —              | —                              | —              | 77                             | 0.13           |
| 99                               | $\gamma$ -Linolenic acid, methyl ester          | C19H32O2          | —                              | —              | —                              | —              | 83                             | 0.71           |
| 100                              | 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, ethyl ester      | C20H34O2          | —                              | —              | —                              | —              | 93                             | 1.68           |
| 101                              | 15-Tetradecenoic acid, methyl ester             | C25H48O2          | —                              | —              | —                              | —              | 70                             | 0.37           |
| 102                              | Diisooctyl phthalate                            | C24H38O4          | —                              | —              | —                              | —              | 88                             | 2.06           |
| Total compounds for each solvent |   |                   | —                              | 46             | 69                             | 51             |                                |                |

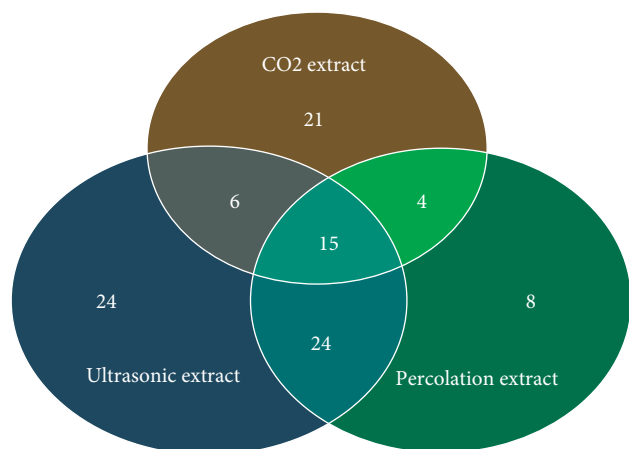


FIGURE 1: Venn diagram of the distribution of phytochemical components.

concentration for CO<sub>2</sub> extract was 100000.0 µg/mL, and for ultrasound-assisted and percolation extraction it was 150000.0 µg/mL. Antibiotics ampicillin (the initial concentration was 4000.0 µg/mL) and nystatin (the initial concentration was 11100.0 µg/mL) were used as reference drugs for bacteria and fungi, respectively. The medium and test strain was used as a positive control to confirm growth for each test strain. For each test strain, a suitable nutrient broth (Mueller Hinton broth for bacterial testing or Sabouraud broth for fungal testing) without test material was used as a negative control.

To all wells with dilution and positive control, 50.0 µL of the tested strain at a concentration of  $1.5 \times 10^6$  CFU/mL was introduced. All samples were incubated at  $37 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h. After incubation, the samples were seeded on Petri dishes with an appropriate dense medium to determine the live strains and incubated at  $37 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 hours (for bacteria) and at  $22 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  for 48 hours (for fungi). The results were detected visually by the presence/absence of visible growth of microorganisms on the surface of the dense nutrient medium. The minimum bactericidal/fungicidal concentration (MBC/MFC) was considered the lowest concentration that suppressed microorganisms growth.

**2.7. Statistical Analysis.** The statistical evaluation of the data was done using one-way analysis (ANOVA) using GraphPad Prism 6 application software package, version 6.01 for Windows. The significance values were set at  $p < 0.05$ .

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Component Composition of Extracts

**3.1.1. GC-MS of Extracts.** The extracts were rich phytochemical components in different concentrations. A total of 102 chemical compounds were detected (Table 1 and Figure 1).

The GC-MS screening has revealed that ultrasound-assisted extraction is the most optimal method of extracting biologically active substances from the roots of *Onosma*

*gmelinii*. 69 components were identified in the ultrasonic extract, 46 in the CO<sub>2</sub> extract, and 51 in the extract performed by percolation. Flavonoids are such as 2,3-dihydro-3,5-dihydroxy-6-methyl-4h-piran-4-one (3.51%) with anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antimicrobial activity [37, 38]; organic compounds such as 5-hydroxymethylfurfural (10.67%), exhibiting antioxidant and antiproliferative properties [38], were found among the main components of the ultrasonic extract.

Only 15 chemical components were found in all three extracts: monocarboxylic acids and its derivatives such as acetic acid, 3-methyl-2-butenic acid, 3-methyl-3-butenic acid, 2-methyl-2-butenic acid, 3-hydroxy-3-methylbutanoic acid; triterpenes such as squalene; fatty acids and fatty acid derivatives such as propanoic acid, 2-methyl-propanoic acid, oleic acid, hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester 9,12-octadecadienoic acid, 9,12-octadecadienoic acid, and 9,12,15-octadecatrienoic acid were found among the main classes of compounds.

However, GC-MS did not allow determining the presence of naphthoquinone pigments in the extracts, which are well-known components of plants of the *Boraginaceae* family. Therefore, thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and spectrophotometric method were used to detect naphthoquinones.

**3.1.2. Determination of Naphthoquinones.** Unlike other chromatographic techniques, TLC is a simple, economical, rapid, and flexible technique allowing sensitive parallel processing of many samples on one plate [39]. Therefore, the TLC is widely used for the qualitative analysis of naphthoquinones in plant raw materials, substances, and phytochemicals. When analyzing extracts in the mobile phase hexane-acetone (20:1), red spots were observed, the colours of which changed to violet on treatment with ammonia vapour. Based on the colour, the secondary metabolites were differentiated and R<sub>f</sub> values were calculated. The separation of extracts with TLC is presented in Figure 2.

A comparative chromatographic evaluation showed the presence of two shikonin derivatives in all the tested extracts of the roots of *O. gmelinii*. The spots with an R<sub>f</sub> value of approximately 0.2 were shikonin [40].

For the quantitative analysis of shikonin and its derivatives spectrophotometric method was used, since most naphthoquinones, when dissolved in chloroform, have a maximum light absorption at a wavelength of 525 nm. The amount of naphthoquinones was calculated in terms of shikonin by specific absorption rate shikonin ( $A_{1\text{cm}}^{1\%} = 430$ ). The results are presented in Table 2.

The concentration of naphthoquinone in extracts was significantly affected by the method of obtaining the extract, the amount of plant raw materials, and the % yield of extract. The amount of naphthoquinones in terms of shikonin in the CO<sub>2</sub> extract exceeds the amount of naphthoquinones in the extracts performed by ultrasonic extraction and percolation by 13 and 30 times, respectively.

Studies conducted in recent years by various authors have shown that shikonin and its derivatives possess many



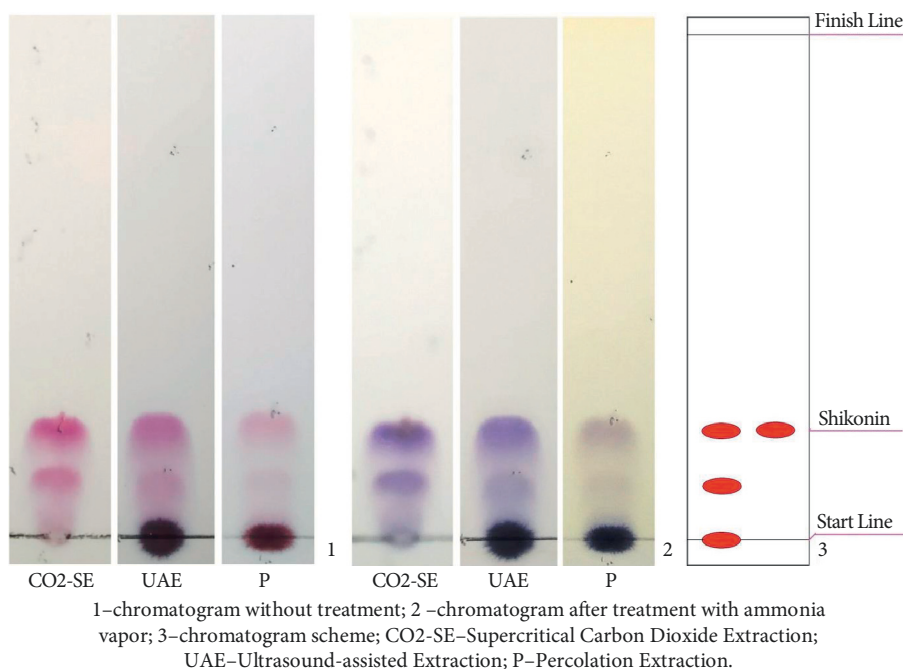


FIGURE 2: Thin-layer chromatogram of different extracts from the roots of *O. gmelinii*. (1) chromatogram without treatment; (2) chromatogram after treatment with ammonia vapour; (3) chromatogram scheme; CO2-SE: supercritical carbon dioxide extraction; UAE: ultrasound-assisted extraction; P: percolation extraction.

TABLE 2: Content of the sum of naphthoquinones in extracts from *O. gmelinii*.

| Extract name                                     | Amount of naphthoquinones (% $\pm$ SD) |
|--|--|
| Percolation (P)                                  | 1.30 $\pm$ 0.02                        |
| Ultrasound-assisted extraction (UAE)             | 2.98 $\pm$ 0.04                        |
| Supercritical carbon dioxide extraction (CO2-SE) | 39.57 $\pm$ 0.55                       |

diverse properties, including antioxidant [41, 42], anti-inflammatory [43], antiviral [44–46], antifungal [47], anti-parasitic [48], antibacterial [49], wound healing [50], and even anticancer effects [51–53].

At the same time, other phytochemical components found in extracts also have biological and therapeutic activities. In particular, squalene is triterpene, which acts as an antibacterial, antioxidant, antitumor, immunostimulant, chemopreparative, lipoxygenase inhibitor, and anti-HIV [54]. Hexadecanoic acid (palmitic acid) has anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, hypocholesterolemic, and antibacterial activity [55]. Oleic acid has antibacterial potential [56]. Linoleic acid (9,12-octadecadienoic acid) and linolenic acid (9,12,15-octadecatrienoic acid) represent two families of essential polyunsaturated fatty acids (Omega-6 and Omega-3). They are the precursors of their higher molecular weight and more unsaturated components. The ultimate metabolites of PUFA are various prostaglandins. A lack of PUFA in the human body can lead to the development of a broad spectrum of diseases such as cardiovascular pathologies, inflammatory processes, viral infections, autoimmune diseases, and certain types of cancer [57].

Summing up the results of the component composition, we decided to study the biological properties of the extracts, in particular antiviral and antimicrobial activity.

### 3.2. Biological Activity of Extracts

**3.2.1. Antiviral Activity.** The various root extracts of *Onosma gmelinii* were tested for cytotoxicity and antiviral activity. To assess the antiviral activity of plant extracts in experiments *in vitro*, their nontoxic concentrations were used. The viability of MDCK cells incubated in the presence or absence of the extracts was evaluated by MTT assay. The  $CC_{50}$  values of extracts of *Onosma gmelinii* obtained by supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> extraction, ultrasound-assisted extraction, and percolation extraction were 7.5, 200.0, and 236.6  $\mu$ g/mL ( $p < 0.05$ ), respectively.

Evaluation of antiviral activity of plant extracts against different strains of influenza viruses A (A/FPV/Weybridge/78 (H7N7), A/Swine/Iowa/15/30 (H1N1), A/black-headed gull/Atyrau/743/04 (H13N6), A/FPV/Rostock/1934 (H7N1), A/Almaty/8/98 (H3N2)) was carried out using therapeutic and viral inhibition schemes. For all extracts,  $IC_{50}$  and SI were determined. The SI value most reliably characterizes the specific antiviral activity of the compound under study. The higher the SI value is, the more effective the compound is considered to be against the virus. The results are presented in Tables 3 and 4.

It was revealed that the highest therapeutic activity is shown by CO<sub>2</sub> extract against influenza strains A/H7N7, A/

TABLE 3: Therapeutic activity of *O. gmelinii* root extracts on influenza viruses A.

| No. | Influenza virus strains                   | <sup>a</sup> CO <sub>2</sub> -SE          |   |                 | <sup>b</sup> UAE             |                              |     | <sup>c</sup> P               |                              |     |
|-----|---|---|---|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|
|     |   | <sup>d</sup> CC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | <sup>e</sup> IC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | <sup>f</sup> SI | CC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | IC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | SI  | CC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | IC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | SI  |
| 1   | A/FPV/Weybridge/78 (H7N7)                 |   | 1.2                                       | 6.2             |                              | 44.9                         | 4.5 |                              | 76.9                         | 3.1 |
| 2   | A/Swine/Iowa/15/30 (H1N1)                 |   | 3.6                                       | 2.1             |                              | 49.0                         | 4.1 |                              | 80.6                         | 2.9 |
| 3   | A/black-headed gull/Atyrau/743/04 (H13N6) | 7.5                                       | 1.2                                       | 6.2             | 200.0                        | 71.8                         | 2.8 | 236.6                        | 88.7                         | 2.7 |
| 4   | A/FPV/Rostock/1934 (H7N1)                 |   | 0.9                                       | 8.3             |                              | 41.8                         | 4.8 |                              | 82.8                         | 2.9 |
| 5   | A/Almaty/8/98 (H3N2)                      |   | 3.2                                       | 2.4             |                              | 42.6                         | 4.7 |                              | 99.7                         | 2.4 |

<sup>a</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>-SE: supercritical carbon dioxide extraction; <sup>b</sup>UAE: ultrasound-assisted extraction; <sup>c</sup>P: percolation extraction; <sup>d</sup>CC<sub>50</sub>: median (50%) cytotoxic concentration in MDCK cells; <sup>e</sup>IC<sub>50</sub>: inhibitory concentration required to protect 50% of cells; and <sup>f</sup>SI: selectivity index, CC<sub>50</sub>/IC<sub>50</sub>.

TABLE 4: Virus inhibition activity of *O. gmelinii* root extracts on influenza viruses A.

| No. | Influenza virus strains                   | <sup>a</sup> CO <sub>2</sub> -SE          |   |                 | <sup>b</sup> UAE             |                              |      | <sup>c</sup> P               |                              |      |
|-----|---|---|---|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------|
|     |   | <sup>d</sup> CC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | <sup>e</sup> IC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | <sup>f</sup> SI | CC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | IC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | SI   | CC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | IC <sub>50</sub> ,<br>μ-g/mL | SI   |
| 1   | A/FPV/Weybridge/78 (H7N7)                 |   | <sup>g</sup> ND                           | ND              |                              | 20.2                         | 9.9  |                              | 80.0                         | 3.0  |
| 2   | A/Swine/Iowa/15/30 (H1N1)                 |   | 0.6                                       | 11.7            |                              | 5.3                          | 38.0 |                              | 2.5                          | 93.5 |
| 3   | A/black-headed gull/Atyrau/743/04 (H13N6) | 7.5                                       | ND  | ND              | 200                          | 70.6                         | 2.8  | 236.6                        | 87.2                         | 2.7  |
| 4   | A/FPV/Rostock/1934 (H7N1)                 |   | ND  | ND              |                              | ND                           | ND   |                              | ND                           | ND   |
| 5   | A/Almaty/8/98 (H3N2)                      |   | ND  | ND              |                              | 0.0654                       | 3.1  |                              | 77.4                         | 3.1  |

<sup>a</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>-SE: supercritical carbon dioxide extraction; <sup>b</sup>UAE: ultrasound-assisted extraction; <sup>c</sup>P: percolation extraction; <sup>d</sup>CC<sub>50</sub>: median (50%) cytotoxic concentration in MDCK cells; <sup>e</sup>IC<sub>50</sub>: inhibitory concentration required to protect 50% of cells; <sup>f</sup>SI: selectivity index, CC<sub>50</sub>/IC<sub>50</sub>; and <sup>g</sup>ND: not determined.

H13N6, and A/H7N1 with IC<sub>50</sub> value of 1.2, 1.2, and 0.9 μg/mL ( $p < 0.05$ ), respectively. At the same time, the selectivity index (SI) was 6.2, 6.2, and 8.3, respectively. The ultrasonic extract is active against influenza strains A/H7N7, A/H1N1, A/H7N1, and A/H3N2, with SI values ranging from 4 to 5. It is possible to hypothesize that the CO<sub>2</sub> extract and ultrasonic extract can pass through cell membranes and target the viral cycle's intracellular stages, such as replication, particle assembly, or budding. The percolation extraction showed insignificant activity against influenza viruses A; the SI value did not exceed 3.

As shown in Table 4 the percolation extraction had the highest antiviral activity against influenza virus strain A/H1N1 with SI=93.5, followed by the ultrasound-assisted extraction (SI=38.0) and supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> extraction (SI=11.7). However, the ultrasonic extract displayed the highest antiviral activity against the influenza virus strain A/H7N7 (IC<sub>50</sub> = 20.2 μg/mL ( $p < 0.05$ ), SI = 9.9). It is possible to assume that these extracts potentially exert antiviral activity via blockage of viral attachment to sialic acids at the host cell surface. Inhibition of virus attachment, in turn, prevents virus entry, replication, and occurrence of infection. For other influenza virus subtypes, these extracts either are ineffective or show insignificant inhibitory activity with SI = 3.

A total of 190 extracts of 95 medicinal plants traditionally used in Lingnan Chinese Medicines, including those from the roots of *O. gmelinii*, were screened for their neuraminidase (NA) inhibitory activities for influenza virus A/H1N1 by Liu et al. The EtOAc (ethyl acetate) and MeOH (methanol) extracts from the roots of *O. gmelinii* at a final concentration of 40.0 μg/mL were able to inhibit NA

of influenza virus A/H1N1 by 40% and 15.9%, respectively [30].

**3.2.2. Antimicrobial Activity.** Antibacterial and antifungal activities of *O. gmelinii* extracts were tested against a panel of microbes: two Gram-negative bacteria (*E. coli* ATCC 8739 and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 9027); nine Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 6538-P, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC BAA-39 (multidrug resistant, MRSA), *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 51625 (methicillin resistant), *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 12228 (VRSA), *Streptococcus pyogenes* ATCC 19615, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* ATCC BAA-660 (multidrug resistant), *Enterococcus hirae* ATCC 10541, *Enterococcus faecalis* ATCC 51575 (gentamicin, streptomycin, and vancomycin resistant), and *Enterococcus faecium* ATCC 700221 (vancomycin and teicoplanin resistant)), and two fungal species (*Candida albicans* ATCC 10231 and *Candida albicans* ATCC 2091). Ampicillin is a broad-spectrum beta-lactam antibiotic active against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria and nystatin is an antifungal medicine highly active against yeast-like fungi of the genus *Candida* and they were used as reference drugs. The results of the research of antimicrobial activity by serial dilution are reported in Table 5.

The extracts were inactive against Gram-negative bacteria such as *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. In contrast, all Gram-positive bacteria were sensitive to various extracts of root plant. Percolation extraction has the strongest effect on staphylococci: *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 6538-P, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC BAA-39, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 51625, and *Staphylococcus*

TABLE 5: The antimicrobial activity results of *O. gmelinii* extracts obtained by the method of serial dilutions.

| No.                           | Strain name                                  | <sup>a</sup> CO <sub>2</sub> -SE | <sup>b</sup> UAE<br><sup>c</sup> MBC or <sup>f</sup> MFC (μg/ml) | <sup>e</sup> P | <sup>d</sup> reference drugs |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|----------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Gram-negative bacteria</i> |  |                                  |  |                |                              |
| 1                             | <i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC 8739            | 12500.0                          | <sup>e</sup> ND  | ND             | 62.5                         |
| 2                             | <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> ATCC 9027      | 12500.0                          | 150000.0   | 150000.0       | 31.3                         |
| <i>Gram-positive bacteria</i> |  |                                  |  |                |                              |
| 3                             | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 6538-P     | 0.4                              | 73.3   | 4687.5         | 3.9                          |
| 4                             | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC BAA-39     | 0.8                              | 73.3   | 4687.5         | 62.5                         |
| 5                             | <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> ATCC 51625 | 0.1                              | 18.3   | 2343.8         | 7.8                          |
| 6                             | <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> ATCC 12228 | 0.4                              | 73.3   | 4687.5         | 31.3                         |
| 7                             | <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> ATCC 19615     | 390.6                            | 9375.0   | 9375.0         | 7.8                          |
| 8                             | <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> ATCC BAA-660 | 24.4                             | 293.0  | 2343.8         | 0.02                         |
| 9                             | <i>Enterococcus hirae</i> ATCC 10541         | 6.1                              | 146.5  | ND             | 62.5                         |
| 10                            | <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> ATCC 51575      | 6.1                              | 2343.8   | ND             | 1000.0                       |
| 11                            | <i>Enterococcus faecium</i> ATCC 700221      | 3.1                              | 73.3   | 2343.8         | 500.0                        |
| <i>Fungi</i>                  |  |                                  |  |                |                              |
| 12                            | <i>Candida albicans</i> ATCC 10231           | 48.8                             | 1171.9   | ND             | 2.7                          |
| 13                            | <i>Candida albicans</i> ATCC 2091            | 97.7                             | 2343.8   | ND             | 0.2                          |

<sup>a</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>-SE: supercritical carbon dioxide extraction; <sup>b</sup>UAE: ultrasound-assisted extraction; <sup>e</sup>P: percolation extraction; <sup>d</sup>reference drugs: ampicillin for bacteria and nystatin for fungi; <sup>c</sup>MBC: minimum bactericidal concentration; <sup>f</sup>MFC: minimum fungicidal concentration; and <sup>e</sup>ND: not determined.

*epidermidis* ATCC 12228 (MBC of 4687.5 μg/mL, 4687.5 μg/mL, 2343.8 μg/mL, 4687.5 μg/mL, respectively). Ultrasonic extraction is active against a panel of Gram-positive bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Enterococcus hirae*, and *Enterococcus faecium* at MBCs ranging from 18.3 to 293.0 μg/mL. The greatest bactericidal activity against Gram-positive bacteria was shown by the CO<sub>2</sub> extract of *Onosma gmelinii*. It turned out to be 100–200 times more effective than reference drug (ampicillin).

Only CO<sub>2</sub> extract and ultrasonic extract were effective against fungi, inhibiting the growth of *Candida albicans* ATCC 10231 at concentrations of 48.8 and 1171.9 μg/mL, respectively, and *Candida albicans* ATCC 2091 at concentrations 97.7 and 2343.8 μg/mL, respectively.

The reason for higher sensitivity of Gram-positive bacteria in comparison with negative bacteria could be explained by differences between their cell wall compositions. The cell wall of Gram-positive bacteria contains a thick homogeneous peptidoglycane layer, which is an ineffective permeability barrier, while the high resistance of Gram-negative bacteria to external agents can be attributed to the presence of an outer membrane formed by proteins, phospholipids and lipopolysaccharides, which acts as a barrier protecting the cell from penetration of many compounds (antibiotics, detergents, hydrophilic dyes, etc.).

The results of our study are well consistent with the findings of Moghaddam et al. [58], who reported that the root extracts of *Onosma dichroanthum* had antimicrobial efficiency against Gram-positive bacteria, but no effect on Gram-negative bacteria. Ozgen et al. [59] proved that the root extract of *Onosma argentatum* has antioxidant and antimicrobial effects agent against *S. aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *E. coli* but is inactive against *Candida albicans*.

A lot of research is focused on studying the antimicrobial activity not so much of crude extracts from various parts of

plants of the family Boraginaceae, but natural products isolated from them. So Shen et al. [49] showed the inhibitory activity of shikonin and some of its derivatives against methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* and vancomycin-resistant *E. faecium* and *E. faecalis*. Miao et al. [47] demonstrated that shikonin is active against *C. albicans*, including several fluconazole-resistant strains, against which shikonin (MIC<sub>80</sub> value 4.0 μg/mL) was shown to be >16 times more potent than the standard (MIC<sub>80</sub> > 64.0 μg/mL).

#### 4. Conclusion

For the first time, the chemical composition and biological activity of various extracts of the *Onosma gmelinii* roots growing in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan were determined. The main biologically active substances of raw materials are naphthoquinone derivatives. The preparation method has a great influence on the concentration of naphthoquinones in the extract. So the amount of naphthoquinones after supercritical carbon dioxide extraction was about 40%, after ultrasound-assisted extraction about 3%, and after percolation extraction about 1.3%. GC-MS analysis showed that ultrasonic extraction makes it possible to isolate a larger number of phytochemical components compared to CO<sub>2</sub> extraction and percolation extraction. In addition to triterpenes, monocarboxylic acids, fatty acids, and their derivatives, including essential polyunsaturated fatty acids identified in all obtained extracts, flavonoids, and 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural, which have high biological activity, were identified in the ultrasonic extract.

The results of the antiviral action showed that, of all the studied extracts, the ultrasonic extract has the greatest effectiveness against different subtypes of the influenza virus A, showing both therapeutic and virus inhibitory activity. CO<sub>2</sub> extract showed high therapeutic activity, but it was not effective for direct exposure to viral particles.

Study of antimicrobial activity showed that all tested extracts are effective against Gram-positive bacteria but are inactive against Gram-negative bacteria. Percolation extract shows low efficacy against Gram-positive bacteria (MBC from 2343.8 to 4687.5  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), compared to the reference drug (MBC from 3.9 to 500.0  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ). Ultrasonic extract of *Onosma gmelinii* has a significant effect against a panel of Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 6538-P, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC BAA-39, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 51625, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* ATCC 12228, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* ATCC BAA-660, *Enterococcus hirae* ATCC 10541, and *Enterococcus faecium* ATCC 700221), with MBC from 18.3 to 293.0  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ .  $\text{CO}_2$  extract of *Onosma gmelinii* has the greatest bactericidal activity against Gram-positive bacteria; it is 100–200 times more effective than ampicillin. Antifungal activity is observed only for two extracts:  $\text{CO}_2$  extract and ultrasonic extract.

The obtained results indicate that ultrasonic extraction is the optimal method for obtaining an extract from the roots of *Onosma gmelinii*. The extract has antiviral and antimicrobial activity with a cheap preparation method. At the same time, it is also worth noting that the  $\text{CO}_2$  extract has a high antibacterial effect. These extracts can be further used for the development of phytopreparations for medical practice.

## Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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