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Development of health care textile substrate using polyphenolic rich plant extracts as green functional finishing agents

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The present study was conducted to investigate the effect of annatto, teak and flame of the forest natural dyes on color, fastness and antimicrobial property of protein based textile substrate. The color strength (K/S) of wool samples at various concentrations of dyes were analysed using a Reflective Spectrophotometer. The antimicrobial activity of natural dyes before and after application on wool was tested against common human pathogens *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Candida albicans* by using microbroth dilution method, disc diffusion assay and growth curve studies. The structural morphology of natural protein fiber (wool) was investigated by Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). Annatto and teak natural dyes proved very effective in inhibiting the microbial growth in solution phase and after application on wool and resulted in a broad beautiful spectrum of colors with exceptional fastness properties. The results encourage the search and exploitation of new plant species as source of dyes to replace toxic synthetic antimicrobial agents currently used in textile industry.

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