Reiterative problems with opportunistic pathogens in health services of Chile and World are a continuous challenge for successful treatment. In fact, resistant virus strains are a newly barrier on success of treatment against HIV or Flu virus. In Chile exist a great and profound tradition of use of medicinal plants; and in Copiapó this are very disseminated over rural areas.

**OBJECTIVES:** determinate in vitro the level of antimicrobial activity against Gram negatives, Gram positives and opportunistic fungi of organic and/or aqueous extracts from ethnic medicinal plants from Coya ethnicity.

**METHODS:** foliar material from specimens of medicinal plants used by Coya community was obtained from 'Botica Coya'. This material was selected on the basis of known use for treatment of infectious diseases. This material was washed on solution of 0,5% v/v of sodium hypochlorite, rinsed in distilled water, and dried by 72 hours to 55º Celsius. One time dry, the foliar material was pulverized in a mortar until obtain a fine powder. This powder was mixed and diluted with solution of 50% v/v of ethanol and rest for 48 hours. After this, the hydroalcoholic mix was transferred to Erlenmeyer bottle and dried on hot plate to 45º Celsius until obtain a dry residue. This was suspended in adecuated ethanolic solution volume for obtain a hydroalcoholic organic mix with concentration of plant extract of 50mg/mL. The hydroalcoholic extract from plants was tested to antimicrobial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas sp.* and *Candida sp.* This test was performed on Nutrient agar and Brain-Heart agar dish, on basis of diffusion method of an aliquot of 20uL per extract. The dishes were put into culture heater at 35º Celsius by 24 to 48 hours. Finally, the inhibitory effects was measured of extracts on bacteria by measurement of diameter of inhibition area without bacterial growth.

**RESULTS:** after period of cultivation, the measurement of inhibition area indicate that from twelve plants was obtained inhibition of bacterial growth with five extracts, being their activity a 80% of inhibitory effect in comparison with cephalosporines and quinolones. Was not obtained significant effect on *Candida*. More preliminary results are not shown because not exist yet more proofs. Chemical characterization of compounds presents in hydroalcoholic extracts are developing.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Clearly, medicinal plants of Coya community area a promissory and challenge for study if we consider the multiples cases of fungus, bacteria and viruses with new resistance against the latest antimicrobial agents.