In an ethnopharmacological survey, extracts of the six East African medicinal plants *Entada abyssinica* (stem bark), *Terminalia spinosa* (young branches), *Harrisonia abyssinica* (roots), *Ximenia caffra* (roots), *Azadirachta indica* (stem bark and leaves), and *Spilanthes mauritiana* (roots and flowers) were tested against 105 strains of bacteria from seven genera (*Staphylococcus, Enterococcus, Pseudomonas, Escherichia, Klebsiella, Salmonella, Mycobacterium*). The minimum inhibitory concentration reached by 50% (MIC\textsubscript{50%}) and 90% (MIC\textsubscript{90%}) of the strains for the extracts of *E. abyssinica, T. spinosa, X. caffra,* and *A. indica* (stem bark) ranged from 0.13–8 mg/ml and from 0.5 to >8 mg/ml, respectively. Their minimum bactericidal concentration by 50% (MBC\textsubscript{50%}) and MBC\textsubscript{90%} were all between 0.5 and >8 mg/ml. *H. abyssinica, A. indica* (leaves), and *S. mauritiana* (roots and flowers) had MIC and MBC values ≥8 mg/ml. Mycobacteria were not inhibited at extract concentrations of 0.5–2 mg/ml. It is concluded that plant extracts with low MIC and MBC values may serve as sources for compounds with therapeutic potency.