Trees of the genus Terminalia have long been used in the traditional medicine of Kenya (East Africa). In an ethnopharmacological approach, extracts of the stem bark of Terminalia spinosa were investigated for antibacterial and antifungal activity. The extracts were active against Helicobacter pylori, with the following minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC): MIC50 of 125 mg/l, MIC90 of 250 mg/l, and MIC-range of 62.5-500 mg/l. Yeasts of the genus Candida showed a similar susceptibility. The results indicate that the plant is a source of antimicrobial compounds with therapeutic potential.