

RECENT TRENDS IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

VOLUME 2

Editor

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***SUB-ACUTE TOXICITY STUDIES OF SEMIPURIFIED
SAPONINS FROM FRUITS OF *Averrhoa bilimbi****

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Abstract

Commonly known as bilimbi, cucumber tree, or tree sorrel, *Averrhoa bilimbi* is a tropical fruit-bearing tree of the genus *Averrhoa*, family *Oxalidaceae*. It is used as a folkloric medicinal remedy for many diseases and symptoms such as fever, mumps, pimples, inflammation of the rectum, diabetes, itches, boils, rheumatism, syphilis, bilious coli, whooping cough, hypertension, stomach ache and ulcer. It is also consumed as a cooling drink. The aqueous methanol bilimbi extracts contained saponins which were semi purified by subjecting it to a series of biphasic extraction, silica gel chromatographic separation, ion exchange chromatography and thin layer chromatography. The sub-acute toxicity of the bilimbi saponins (BS) is being reported for the first time.

Key words: Saponins, sub-acute toxicity, bilimbi

1. Introduction

Commercially unexploited plants or "underutilized" plants have been used by local practitioners in the form of poultices, tinctures, powders and formulations, and used as analgesics, antitussives, antihypertensives, cardiotonics, antineoplastics, antimalarials,