

Publication

Antileishmanial activity of selected South African plant species

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 3749222

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Year 2017

Title Antileishmanial activity of selected South African plant species

Journal South African journal of botany

Volume 108

Pages / Article-Number 342-345

In vitro screening of forty extracts prepared from selected South African plant species was conducted against *Leishmania donovani* (MHOM-ET-67/L82). Crude plant extracts were also subjected to an antiproliferative bioassay in an attempt to determine their potential lethality or safe therapeutic application against rat skeletal myoblast L6 cells. Of all the tested plant species, only 10% exhibited significant leishmanicidal activity with acceptable SI values ($SI \geq 10$). The current study is the first scientific account on the significant antileishmanial activity ($IC_{50} \leq 5 \mu g/ml$) of *Bridelia mollis* (Phyllanthaceae), *Vangueria infausta* subsp. *infausta* (Rubiaceae), *Syzygium cordatum* (Myrtaceae) and *Xylopia parviflora* (Annonaceae). Further phytochemical investigations are currently underway in an attempt to isolate and identify the chemical constituents that may be attributable to the leishmanicidal efficacy observed in the study. (C) 2016 SAAB. Published by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

Publisher Elsevier

ISSN/ISBN 0254-6299

edoc-URL <http://edoc.unibas.ch/54419/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1016/j.sajb.2016.08.014

ISI-Number WOS:000390671400047

Document type (ISI) Article