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Assessing subchronic toxicity of ethanolic extract of pods of *Tetrapleura tetraptera* in mice

Oloyede Adeola Michael
University of Lagos, Nigeria

Tetrapleura tetraptera fruit has wide use in South East and Western Nigeria as a spice as well as to treat various medical ailments. This study was designed to investigate the sub chronic toxicity of ethanolic extract of the pods of *T. tetraptera* in albino mice. Twenty-five albino Wister mice weighing between 18-30 g were randomly assigned to four groups. Animals in group 1 served as the control group and were administered distilled water. Animals in group 2-4 were orally administered 50,100 and 200 mg/kg-1 bodyweight of T. tetraptera. All animals were fasted on the eve of the 43rd day after withdrawal of treatment the blood, liver, kidneys, lungs and heart were harvested for hematologic, biochemical and histologic studies. There were no much changes in the hematologic parameters except for the significant decrease in the WBC (white blood corpuscles). The biochemical analyses revealed gross changes in most of the biochemical analytes dose-dependently. ALT (alanine aminotransferase), ALP (alkaline phosphatase level test), TB (total bilirubin), DB (direct bilirubin), PRO (protein), CREA (creatinine), UREA, ALB (albumin) and CHOL (cholesterol) were all significantly ($P<0.05$) different from control in all doses which may indicate toxicity. Some minor changes were also in the histoarchitecture of the liver and the kidney. Results therefore, suggests that the extract may have induced some toxicity to the kidneys and liver which may further affect other parts of the body. T. tetraptera may contain some phytochemicals which on prolonged use may affect the physiology of the body.

moloyede@unilag.edu.ng
oloism@yahoo.com