

ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF FIVE MEDICINAL PLANT EXTRACTS USED BY THE MAASAI PEOPLE OF KENYA

D. K. Kariuki¹, J. O. Miaron², J. Mugweru³ & L. O. Kerubo⁴

^{1,4}Department of Chemistry, School of Physical Science, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

^{2,3}Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

ABSTRACT

Five locally known plants, *Solanum aculeastrum*, *Erythrina abyssinica*, *Carissa edulis*, *Croton megalocarpus* and *Myrica salicifolia* used by Maasai traditional healers for treatment of bacterial infections were extracted using chloroform, ethanol and water. The extracts obtained were then tested for *in-vitro* antibacterial activity on clinical isolates of gram-positive bacteria; *Staphylococcus aureus* and gram-negative bacteria; *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Krebsiella pneumoniae*. The activity of the water extracts of all the plants was the highest, followed by ethanol and chloroform extracts respectively. The water extract of *Croton megalocarpus* was observed to be the most active against all strains of bacteria.

KEYWORDS: Antibacterial Activity, *Erythrina abyssinica*, *Croton megalocarpus*, *Solanum aculeastrum*, *Myrica salicifolia*, *Carissa edulis*

\



Best Journals
Knowledge to Wisdom

Submit your manuscript at editor.bestjournals@gmail.com

Online Submission at http://www.bestjournals.in/submit_paper.php