

Ethno-botanical studies on medicinal plants used for the treatment of skin infections in the Eastern Cape, South Africa

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The methanol extracts of some commonly used medicinal plants used for treatment of skin infections and disorders were screened for their antioxidant activity using ascorbic acid as standard antioxidant. The free radical scavenging activity was evaluated using 1, 1-diphenyl-2-picryl-hydrazyl (DPPH) free radical. The analysis was performed using a Phoenix-2000 V UV-VIS spectrophotometer. The methanol extracts of *Protorhus longifolia*, *Gnidia capitata*, *Macaranga capensis*, *Syzygium cordatum* and *Hypoxis hemerocallidea* showed significantly higher free radical scavenging activity than that of ascorbic acid while *Kniphofia drepanophylla* showed weak antioxidant activity. The IC₅₀ of former plant extracts were 11.5, 14.4, 14.6, 40.0, 41.2 and 44.0 µg/ml respectively while the IC₅₀ value for *K. drepanophylla* could not be determined at 100µg/ml. The DPPH free radical scavenging activity of the plant extracts increased with increasing concentration. Generally, results revealed that these medicinal plants are potential sources of natural antioxidant.

Biography

Learnmore Kambizi completed his PhD from the University of Fort Hare, South Africa in 2005. He is an Associate Professor at Cape Peninsula University of Technology. He has published more than 28 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as a Reviewer of various journals in the field of Plant Sciences.

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