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MEDICINAL PLANTS - FROM TRADITIONAL USE TO TOXICITY ASSESSMENT: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT: Herbal medicine is gaining popularity once again and there is an increased interest in green medicine simply because it is considered as safe. Traditionally also plants and plant extracts were used to cure many diseases and disorders. However, before usage it is of utmost important to ensure its safety. The extract may be therapeutically very efficient but if it's toxicity assessment is not worked out, it will not be accepted. Hence, toxicity assessment of plants with proven therapeutic use is of utmost important. Toxicity data are required to predict the safety associated before the use of medical products. In the present review, parameters required to be analyzed in acute, sub acute and chronic toxicity are discussed with their relevant importance. In the end ninety eight plants whose toxicity is worked out are listed along with their botanical name, family, ethnomedicinal uses, part used, solvent used, safety levels, dose levels used, route of administration, LD₅₀ values and references. Researchers who wish to work on some pharmacological activity can directly choose one of these plants since their toxicity assessment is already done.

INTRODUCTION: Medicinal plants from time immemorial have been used in virtually all cultures as a source of medicine¹. They are considered to be the backbone of traditional medicine and are widely used to treat acute and chronic diseases. The World Health Organization estimated that perhaps eighty percent of the inhabitants of the world rely chiefly on traditional medicines. It, therefore, approved the use of herbal products for national policies and drug regulatory measures in order to strengthen research and evaluation of the safety and efficacy of herbal products.

The report has suggested that of the 119 plant derived drug listed by WHO study, 74% were discovered as a result of chemical studies to isolate the active compounds responsible for the use of original plant in traditional medicine². The use of plants for healing purpose is getting increasingly popular as they are believed to be beneficial and free of side effects.

However, the rationale for the utilization of medicinal plants has rested largely on long-term clinical experience with little or no scientific data on their efficacy and safety³. Medicinal herbs have their use as medicament based simply on a traditional folk use that has been perpetuated along several generations. With the upsurge in the use of herbal medicines a thorough scientific investigation of these plants is imperative, based on the need to validate their folkloric usage⁴. Herbs are supposed to be safe but many unsafe and fatal side effects

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have been reported^{5, 6}. These could be direct toxic effects, allergic reactions, effects from contaminants and/or interactions with drugs and other herbs⁷. Phytotherapeutic products are many times, mistakenly regarded as less toxic because they are 'natural'⁸. Nevertheless, those products contain bioactive principles with potential to cause adverse effects⁹.

An adverse effect is defined as an abnormal, undesirable or harmful change following exposure to the potentially toxic substance. The ultimate adverse effect is death but less severe adverse effects may include altered food consumption, altered body and organ weights, visible pathological changes or simply altered enzyme levels¹⁰. Thus, all the "natural" products used in therapeutics must be submitted to efficacy and safety test by the same methods used for new synthetic drugs¹¹.

Toxicology is the fundamental science of poisons. A poison is generally considered to be any substance that can cause severe injury or death as a result of a physicochemical interaction with living tissue. However, all substances are potential poisons since all of them can cause injury or death following excessive exposure. On the other hand, all chemicals can be used safely if exposure of people or susceptible organisms to chemicals is kept below defined tolerable limits¹⁰. Appropriate dose of a drug should be determined by preliminary studies of acute toxicity. Such studies are essential to prevent any overdose of drug which may interfere with results of experiment.

The lethal dose (LD₅₀) is defined as the dosage of a substance which kills 50 per cent of the animals in a particular group, usually determined in an acute, single exposure study. There are three major sites for the absorption of foreign compounds: the skin, lungs and gastrointestinal tract. The gastrointestinal tract is the most important in toxicology as most foreign compounds are ingested orally.

The lungs are clearly important for all airborne compounds whereas the skin is only rarely a significant site for absorption¹². They are also helpful in understanding toxicity profiles of the drug¹³. The multiple dose study with a drug is also

necessary. But, in order to choose the doses to be used in the study, the clinical observation of the acute assay is important along with pharmacological activity studies in animals and in humans^{14, 15}. Daily clinical observation is of major importance as well as the final observation¹⁶. The doses to be evaluated in chronic toxicity in animals must be larger than that suggested for use in humans¹⁷.

Toxicological studies help to decide whether a new drug should be adopted for clinical use or not¹⁸. Depending on the duration of exposure of animals to drug, toxicological studies may be of three types viz. acute, sub-acute and chronic¹⁹. Toxicity depends not only on the dose of the substance but also on the toxic properties of the substance. The relationship between these two factors is important in the assessment of therapeutic dosage in pharmacology and herbalism²⁰.

For clinical trials designed to study pharmacologic effects of candidate products, more extensive preclinical safety data would be needed to support the safety of such studies. The critical preclinical information required includes a two week toxicology study in sensitive species (usually rodents) plus toxicokinetics that should allow determination of the no observed adverse effect level (NOAEL). For some compounds and types of toxic effect there will clearly be a dose below which no effect or response is measurable. There is thus a threshold dose. The concept of a threshold dose for the toxic effect is an important one in toxicology because it implies that there is a NOAEL. The NOAEL is usually based on animal toxicity studies. The NOAEL is important for setting exposure limits. For example, the acceptable daily intake (ADI) is based on the NOAEL. This is a factor used to determine the safe intake for food additives and contaminants such as pesticides and residues of veterinary drugs and, hence, to establish the safe level in food¹².

Acute toxicity:

Acute toxicity is defined as the toxic effects produced by single exposure of drugs by any route for a short period of time²¹. Acute toxicity studies in animals are considered necessary for any pharmaceutical intended for human use. The main

objective of acute toxicity studies is to identify a single dose causing major adverse effects or life threatening toxicity, which often involves an estimation of the minimum dose causing lethality. The studies are usually carried out in rodents and consist of a single dose. In pharmaceutical drug development, this is the only study type where lethality or life-threatening toxicity is an endpoint as documented in current regulatory guidelines^{22, 23}. To evaluate toxicity of a compound in animals various routes may be used, but two most commonly used modes of administration for animals studies are via intraperitoneal injection or the oral route²⁴.

Usually acute (single dose) toxicity study is carried out on laboratory animals by using high dose (sufficient to produce death or morbidity) of the substance in question and/or based on previous report on its toxicity or toxicity of structurally related compounds²⁵. Acute toxicity studies are commonly used to determine LD₅₀ of drug or chemicals¹⁹. The acute study provides a guideline for selecting doses for the sub-acute and chronic low dose study, which may be clinically more relevant^{26, 27}.

Sub-acute toxicity:

In sub-acute toxicity studies, repeated doses of drug are given in sub-lethal quantity for a period of 14 to 21 days. Sub-acute toxicity studies are used to determine effect of drug on biochemical and hematological parameters of blood as well as to determine histopathological changes¹⁹.

Chronic toxicity:

In chronic toxicity studies, drug is given in different doses for a period of 90 days to over a year to determine carcinogenic and mutagenic potential of drug¹⁹. The parameters of chronic toxicity studies are same as that of sub-acute study. Multiple dose studies are necessary to assure the safety of natural products.

On the other hand clinical observations of acute assays are valuable tools to define the doses to be tested in multiple dose experiments, along with pharmacological studies in animals and in humans^{27, 28}.

Importance of different parameters in toxicity study:

Gross behaviour assessment:

The gross behaviour assessment generally in mice can be evaluated by the model given by Morpugo²⁹. The mice are placed one by one at the centre of three concentric circles drawn on a rubber sheet with diameter of 7cm, 14cm and 21cm. The animals are observed for different parameters of behavioural changes. After drug administration, the behaviour modifications were observed every hour till 5h and then at 24h, 48h and 72h. The mortality is observed for 10days after treatment. The observed results are recorded as the score of 0-3 point scale relative to the average intensity of the phenomena observed. Various parameters assessed for gross behaviour studies are CNS depression (Exitus, Hypoactivity, Passivity, Relaxation Narcosis, Ataxia, Ptosis); ANS effect (Exophthalmia, Hyperactivity, Irritability, Stereotypy) and CNS stimulation parameters (Tremors, Convulsions, Straub tail, Analgesia) and other Parameter- Mortality.

Body weight:

Body weight changes are indicators of adverse side effects, as the animals that survive cannot lose more than 10% of the initial body weight³⁰. The determination of food and water consumption are important in the study of safety of a natural product, as proper intake of food and water are necessary to the physiological status of the animals and to the achievement of the proper response to the drug tested instead of a "false" response due to improper nutritional conditions³¹.

Hematological importance:

The hematopoietic system is one of the most sensitive targets for toxic compounds and an important index of physiological and pathological status in man and animal³². The various hematological parameters investigated in this study are useful indices of evaluating the toxicity of plant extract in animals³³. Assessment of hematological parameters are not only used to determine the extent of deleterious effect of extracts on the blood of animals, but it can also be used to explain blood relating functions of a plant extract or its products³⁴.

Hematological status is one of the important ways for the diagnosis of root cause of disease. Hematological disorders include a wide range of abnormal conditions indicating the profile of blood parameters, due to changes in metabolism. Alterations in blood parameters may be due to changes in cellular integrity, membrane permeability of cells or even due to exposure to toxic chemicals³⁵. Reports regarding toxicological studies of plants on hematological aspects are scanty. However, some reports are available *viz.*^{36, 37}. In hematological analysis the following parameters are measured: Red blood cells, Haemoglobin, Packed cell volume, Mean corpuscular volume, Mean corpuscular haemoglobin, Mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration, Platelet Count, White blood cells, Neutrophils, Lymphocytes, Eosinophils, Monocytes and Basophils.

Each parameter has its own importance and increase or decrease in that particular parameter is indicative of specific disturbance. The fall in hemoglobin content, RBC count and PCV can be correlated with induction of anaemia, defective haematopoiesis, weakness and morbidity in experimental rats³⁸. The increase in MCV and decrease in MCHC indicate macrocytic and hypochromic anemia³⁹. WBC and its subpopulations relating to it such as lymphocytes usually show increase in activity in response to toxic environment⁴⁰.

The reduction in lymphocyte count and increase neutrophils count suggest some anti-lymphocytic activity⁴¹. Eosinophils normally constitute up to 7% of total circulating leukocytes. Eosinophils are important in the phagocytosis of foreign bodies. Eosinophils are also involved in allergic reactions⁴². Platelets also known as thrombocytes, help to mediate blood clotting, which is a meshwork of fibrin fibres. The fibres also adhere to damaged blood vessels; therefore, the blood clot becomes adherent to any vascular opening and thus prevents further blood clot⁴³.

Organ weight:

Organ weight changes have long been accepted as a sensitive indicator of chemically induced changes to organs and in toxicological experiments,

comparison of organ weights between control and treated groups have conventionally been used to predict toxic effect of a test material^{44, 45}. Organ weight is an index of swelling, atrophy or hypertrophy⁴⁶. The relative organ weight is fundamental to diagnose whether the organ was exposed to the injury or not. The heart, liver, kidneys, spleen and lungs are the primary organs affected by metabolic reactions caused by toxicants. The liver is the major site of foreign compounds metabolism in the body⁴⁷.

In preclinical safety studies of new compounds, organ weight changes are often difficult to interpret in relation to primary compound effects when reductions in food consumption are also present. By gaining a better understanding of tissue changes caused solely by feed restriction, it may be possible to differentiate direct compound effects from those of inadequate nutrition. Various studies have yielded information about the effects of inadequate nutrition on body weights, organ weights, histologic tissue changes, and clinical pathology data in rats^{48, 49}.

On a body weight basis, it is assumed for toxicity data extrapolation that humans are usually about 10 times more sensitive than rodents. On a body surface–area basis, humans usually show about the same sensitivity as test mammals, i.e. the same dose per unit of body surface area will give the same given defined effect, in about the same percentage of the population. Knowing the above relationships, it is possible to estimate the exposure to a chemical that humans should be able to tolerate⁵⁰. Body weight and internal organ such as liver, kidney, heart spleen, thymus glands, etc. are simple and sensitive indices of toxicity after exposure to toxic substance³⁰. Toxicity data are required to predict the safety associated before the use of medical products⁵¹.

Serum biochemical importance:

The serum biochemical tests are frequently used in diagnosis diseases of hearts, liver, kidney and cardiovascular system etc. They are also widely used in monitoring the response to exogenous toxic exposure⁵². When an herbal product is ingested, the body interacts with it in an attempt to get rid of any harmful toxins, especially if the body cannot

convert the foreign substance into cellular components. These insults are commonly manifested by changes in enzyme levels and other cell components. The enzymes commonly involved are glutamate oxaloacetate transaminase (AST/GOT) glutamate pyruvate transaminase (ALT/GPT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP). Also component like urea and uric acid are vital diagnostic tools for toxicity⁵³. Generally, liver cell damage is characterized by a rise in serum enzymes like AST, ALT, ALP, etc.⁵⁴. In general, GOT concentrations are consistently higher than ALT levels which are expected since body cells contain more AST than ALT. Usually, about 80% of AST is found in the mitochondria whereas ALT is purely cytosolic enzyme.

Therefore, AST appears in higher concentrations in a number of tissues (Liver, Kidney, heart and pancreas) and is released slowly in comparison to ALT. But since ALT is localized primarily in the cytosol of hepatocytes, this enzyme is considered a more sensitive marker of hepatocellular damage than AST and within limits can provide a quantitative assessment of the degree of damage sustained by the liver⁵⁵. The urea and creatinine are good indications for renal function. If kidney function falls, the urea and creatinine levels will rise⁵².

Total protein measurement is used in the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of diseases involving the liver or kidney as well as other metabolic disorders. A decrease in albumin level has been attributed to several causes, such as massive necrosis of the liver, deterioration of liver function, hepatic

resistance to insulin and glycogen impairment of oxidative phosphorylation⁵⁶. Urea and creatinine are compounds derived from proteins which are eliminated by the kidney.

Table 1 lists some of the plants which show ethnomedicinal uses with botanical name, plant family, plant part (s) used and solvent used for extraction. Table 1 also provides information on toxicity study, route of administration and doses of plants. It lists toxicity studies viz. acute, sub-acute, chronic etc. with their doses, route of administration and LD₅₀ values along with their safety profile. Determination of appropriate dose is a very important issue in the study of plant extracts. Therefore, before starting the study on plants, researchers should determine the dose of extract by referring the previous toxicity trials or do the toxicity workup by themselves.

In the above review, it is seen that in acute toxicity study, the dose is single but observations are carried out for 14 days, but it varied from 24 h to 19 days. In repeated dose studies, the dose is given daily or on alternate days. If done for 21-28 days it was called sub-acute toxicity study if continued for more days up to 90 days or more it was called chronic or sub-chronic toxicity study. The table also lists a number of plants and its toxicity profile so it becomes easy to carry out further work. It also helps in dose and route selection. The most common route was oral or i.p. Such review helps in knowing the toxicity level of different plants. If any pharmacological activity is done or to be done, this toxicity data will help to decide if that particular plant is safe or not.

TABLE 1: LIST OF MEDICINAL PLANTS, THEIR FAMILY, ETHNOMEDICINAL USES, PARTS AND SOLVENTS USED, TOXICITY STUDY, ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION, DOSE LEVELS USED AND ITS SAFETY LEVEL

No.	Plants (family)	Ethnomedicinal uses	Parts used	Solvent	LD ₅₀ (g/kg) b.w. (route of administration)	Toxicity study (experimental periods), Dose (g/kg, b.w.) and route of administration	Result	Ref.
1.	<i>Acacia karroo</i> Hayne (Fabaceae)	Gum is an important food source	Stem, bark	Water	-	Acute (48 h) 0.4, 0.8, 1.6 and 3.2 (p.o.) Sub acute (14 days) 0.8 (p.o.)	Toxic	57
2.	<i>Acmela brasiliensis</i> DC	Respiratory infections and	Aerial parts	50% ET	-	Acute (24 h) 0.1, 0.5, 1, 2 and 4	Low toxicity	58

	(Asteraceae)	pain				(p.o.), Sub acute (15 days) 0.5, 1, 2 and 4 (p.o.) Chronic (22 days) 1 (p.o.)	Safe	59
3.	<i>Aconium napeilus</i> Linn. (Ranunculaceae)	Pain, coldness, vertigo and general fatigue	Isolated alkaloid Aconitine	-	-			
4.	<i>Aframomum melegueta</i> (Roscoe) K. Schum. (Zingiberaceae)	Stomachache, diarrhea and snakebite	Seeds	95% ET	-	Sub chronic (28 days) 0.12, 0.45 and 1.5	Toxic (liver)	60
5.	<i>Ajuga iva</i> (L.) schreber (Labiataea)	Hyper tension, diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders and anthelmintic	Whole plant	Water	3.6 (i.p.)	Acute (14 days) 2, 4, 6, 10 and 14 (p.o.) 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5 and 5.5 (i.p.) Chronic (90 days) 0.1, 0.3, 0.6	Safe (p.o.) Toxic (i.p.)	61
6.	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Gastrointestinal disorders, mouth ulcer, throat problems and hypertension	Leaves	70% ET	> 2	Acute (14 days) 2 (p.o) Sub acute (30 days) 0.40, 0.70, 1 (p.o)	Moderate toxicity	62
7.	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Diabetes mellitus and inflammation	Leaves	HE	16 (p.o.)	Acute (7 days) 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, and 26 (p.o.) Chronic (56 days) 6, 10 and 14	Toxic at high dose (chronic)	63
8.	<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i> (DC.) Guill. & Perr. (Combretaceae)	Helminthosis, schistosomiasis, leprosy, diarrhea and psoriasis	Leaves	Water	1.4 (i.p.)	Acute 72 h for p.o. and 24 h for i.p. 0.8, 1.2, 1.6, 2, 2.4, 2.8 (p.o. and i.p.)	Safe (oral) and low toxic (i.P.)	64
9.	<i>Artemisia afra</i> (Jacq. Ex. Willd) (Asteraceae)	Cough, colds, sore throat, heart burns, hemorrhoids, fever, malaria, asthma and diabetes mellitus	Leaves	Water	8.96 (p.o.) and 2.45 (i.p.)	Acute (14 days) 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 20, and 24 (p.o.) 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 and 5.5 (i.p.) Chronic (3 months) 0.01, 0.1, 1 (p.o.)	Safe	65
10.	<i>Asiasari radix</i> (Aristolochiaceae)	Neuroprotective	Whole plant	70% ME	-	Acute (14 days) 0.1, 0.3, 0.5 (p.o.)	Safe	66
11.	<i>Asparagus pubescens</i> Bak (Liliaceae)	Used as remedy for liver and kidney disorders	Roots	ME	-	Acute (24 h) 0.25 and 1 (p.o.)	Safe	67
12.	<i>Aspilia africana</i> (Pers) C.D. Adams (Compositae)	Stop bleeding, remove corneal opacities, anemia and various stomachs complains	Leaves	Water	6.6 (p.o.)	Acute (7 days) 2, 4, 8, 12 and 16 (p.o.) Sub acute (26 days) 0.5 and 1 (every 48 h) (p.o.)	Low toxicity	68
13.	<i>Basella alba</i> L. (Basellaceae)	Diarrhea, laxative and anemia	Leaves	Water	-	Sub acute 0.06, 0.08 and 0.1 (p.o.)	Safe	69
14.	<i>Bixa orellana</i> L. (Bixaceae)	Used in food industries	Isolated compound from annatto	-	-	Sub acute (28 days) 2 (p.o.)	Safe	70

15.	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.(Nyctaginaceae)	Inflammatory disorders, bacterial infection, heart diseases, corneal ulcers, antiviral and hepatic disorders	Leaves	Water	-	Sub chronic (30 days) 0.5, 1 and 2 (p.o.)	Safe	71
16.	<i>Boswellia dalzielii</i> Hutch.(Frankincense)	Wound healing, induce vomiting	Stem bark	Water	-	Acute (48 h) 3 (p.o.) Sub chronic (28 days) 0.9, 1.8 and 2.7 (p.o.)	Safe (acute) Toxic at high dose (sub chronic)	72
17.	<i>Bridelia ferruginea</i> Benth (Euphorbiaceae)	diabetes	Root bark	80% ET	-	Acute (14 days) 2 and 5 (p.o.) Sub chronic (28 days) 0.25, 0.5 and 1.0 (p.o.)	Safe	73
18.	<i>Bryophyllum calycinum</i> Salisb. (Crassulaceae)	Antiviral, antimicrobial, antitumor, antioxidant, diuretic, antiulcer, anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic	Leaves	ME and water	-	Acute (24 h) 0.5 to 3 (p.o.), 0.35 to 2.60 (i.p.)	Safe	74
19.	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> L. (Asteraceae)	Anti-inflammatory, wound healing and antiviral	Flowers	70% ET	-	Acute (14 days) 0.625, 1.25, 2.5 and 5 (p.o.) Sub acute (30 days) 0.025, 0.25, 0.5 and 1 (p.o.)	Safe	75
20.	<i>Calycopteris floribunda</i> Lam. (Combretaceae)	Dysentery, fever, emesis and ulcer	Leaves	ME, water	ME 0.38 (p.o)	Acute (14 days) 0.10, 0.20, 0.40, 0.60 (p.o)	ME - toxic water extract - safe	76
21.	<i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) Kuntze (Theaceae)	Antioxidant, anti-allergic, antiangiogenic, anti-inflammatory and hypolipidemic	Catechins	-	-	Sub chronic (90 days) 0.3, 1.25 and 5% (w/w) fed in diet	Safe up to 1.25 %	77
22.	<i>Careya arborea</i> Roxb. (Myrtaceae)	Anthelmintic, epileptic fits, bronchitis and astringents	Stem bark	ME	-	Acute (72 h) 0.1 to 1.6 (p.o.)	Safe	78
23.	<i>Carica papaya</i> L. (Caricaceae)	Anti-fertility	Seeds	ME	-	Acute (14 days) 2 (p.o) Sub chronic (28 and 90 days) 0.05, 0.1, 0.25 and 0.5 (p.o.)	Safe	79
24.	<i>Carrica papaya</i> L. (Caricaceae)	Digestive agent, wound healing, ulcer, boils and induce menstruation	Unripe fruit	Water	2.52 (p.o.)	Acute (24 h) 0.4, 0.8, 1.6 and 3.2 (p.o.) Chronic (42 days) 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2 and 0.25 (p.o.)	Safe	80

25.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L. (Caesalpinaceae)	Mild, pleasant purgative action, antifungal, antiviral, menstrual disorders and fever	Pods	Water	6.60 (i.p.)	Acute (48 h) 0.8, 1.6, 3.2, 6.4 and 12.8 (i.p.) Sub chronic (6 weeks) 0.25, 5 and 1 (i.p.)	Low toxic	81
26.	<i>Cassia sieberiana</i> DC (Caesalpinaceae)	Urinogenital infection, antimicrobial and dysentery	Pod pulp	Water	1.95 (p.o.)	Acute (24 h) 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5 and 3 (p.o.) Sub acute (5 weeks) 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 and 1.6 (p.o.)	Toxic at high dose (sub acute)	82
27.	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i> R.Br. (Lauraceae)	Diabetes mellitus, ulcer and cough	Stems, leaves	Water	-	Sub chronic (28 days) 0.25, 0.5, 1 (p.o.)	Safe	83
28.	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i> L. (Bombacaceae)	Antiameobic and antibacterial	Leaves	40% ME	-	Acute (24 h) 0.01 to 5 (p.o.) Chronic (21 days) 0.25 to 5 (p.o.)	Safe	84
29.	<i>Centaurium erythraea</i> (L.) Rafn. (Gentianaceae)	sedative, antipyretic, asthma, jaundice, intestinal parasitic infestation, rheumatism, wounds and sores, blood pressure, edema and digestive disorders	Whole Plant	Water	0.12 (i.p.)	Acute (14 days) 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 (p.o.), 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 14 (i.p.) sub-chronic (90 days) 0.1, 0.6 and 1.2 (p.o.)	Safe	85
30.	<i>Chiococca alba</i> (L.) Hitchc (Rubiaceae)	Rheumatic disorders, emetic, antidiarrheic, purgative, diuretic, antipyretic, tonic and delayed menstruation	Roots	ET	-	Acute (14 days) 0.062, 0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1 and 2 (p.o.), 0.062, 0.125, 0.25 and 0.5 (i.p. and s.c.) Repeated (14 days) 0.5, 1 and 2 (p.o.), 0.015, 0.013, 0.062 and 0.125 (i.p.)	Low toxicity (oral) Toxic (parenteral)	86
31.	<i>Cissampelos pareira</i> L. var <i>hirsute</i> (Menispermaceae)	Menstruation problems, pain reliever and used as remedy to control fertility temporarily	Roots	50% ET	-	Acute (13 days) 2 (p.o.) Sub acute (4 weeks) 1 and 2 (p.o.)	Safe	46
32.	<i>Crateva nurvala</i> Buch.-Ham. (Capparidaceae)	Digest, laxative, anthelmintic, antilithic, expectorant and antipyretic	Stem bark	PE, BZ,C, 95% ET, water	> 5 (p.o.)	Acute (14 days) 0.05 to 5 (p.o.)	Safe	87
33.	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duch. (Cucurbitaceae)	Stomach pain, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic	Seeds	50% ET	> 5 (p.o.)	Acute (24h) 0.1, 0.5, 1 and 5 (p.o.), Sub acute (30 days) 1 (p.o.)	Safe	88
34.	<i>Cylicodiscus gabunensis</i> (Taub.) Harms (Mimosaceae)	Diarrhea and gastrointestinal disorders	Stem bark	EA	11 (p.o) for female and 14.5 (p.o.) for male	Acute (7 days)- 4, 8, 12 and 16 (p.o.) Sub acute (6 weeks) 0.75, 1.5, 3 and 6 (p.o.)	Toxic at high dose	89

35.	<i>Datura stramonium</i> L.(Solanaceae)	Asthma, gastric pain, anti-inflammatory, stimulation of central nervous system and skin infection	Leaves	60% ET	-	Chronic (5 weeks) 0.05 and 0.2 (p.o.)	Safe	90
36.	<i>Delphinium denudatum</i> Wall (Ranunculaceae)	Anticonvulsion, anti-sterss, hepatoprotection, cardioprotection and antimicrobial	Roots	Water	16.1 (p.o.)	Acute (24 h) 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 24 (p.o)	Safe up to 16 g/kg b.w.	91
37.	<i>Dimorphandra mollis</i> Benth (Caesalpiniaceae)	Antioxidant, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor and anti platelets	Fruits	20% ET	-	Acute (13 days) 0.5, 2, 3.5 and 5 (p.o.)	Safe	17
38.	<i>Drimys angustifolia</i> Miers (Winteraceae)	Analgesic, antiulcer and anti-inflammatory	Leaves, stem bark	ET	-	Acute (48 h) 1.75, 3.5 and 5.25 (p.o.)	Toxic at high dose	92
39.	<i>Elephantorrhiza elephantina</i> (Burch.) Skeels. (Fabaceae)	diarrhoea, coughing, pneumoni and tick-borne diseases	Rhizomes	Water	-	Acute (24 h) 0.4, 0.8, 1.6 (p.o.) Sub acute (14 days) 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 (p.o.) Chronic (35 days) 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4 (p.o.)	Toxic at high dose	93
40.	<i>Entada africana</i> Guill. and Perr. (Mimosaceae)	Antileishmanial, anti-inflammatory, hepato-protective, respiratory tract disorders and wound healing	Stem bark, leaves	ME	Stem bark 0.146 and leaves 0.249 (i.p.)	Acute (72 h) 0.05 to 0.4 (i.p.)	Moderate toxic	94
41.	<i>Erythrina senegalensis</i> DC (Pailionaceae)	Bronchial infection, cough, and throat infection	Stem bark	C	0.526 (i.p.)	Acute (24 h) 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6 and 1.2 (i.p.) Chronic (12 weeks) 0.25, 0.5 and 1 (fed in diet)	Toxic at high dose	95
42.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L (Euphorbiaceae)	Inflammation, respiratory tract and asthma	Leaves	ET, HE, EA, ME	-	Repeated (14 days) 0.4, 0.8 and 1.6 (p.o.)	Toxic	96
43.	<i>Ficus exasperata</i> (Vahl) (Moraceae)	Stimulant, ring worm and chest complications	Leaves, stem	98% ET	-	Repeated (3 days) 0.5, 0.1 and 0.5 (p.o)	Leaves were toxic while stems were safe	97
44.	<i>Ficus exasperata</i> (Vahl) (Moraceae)	Chest pain, eye troubles and stomach pains and to arrest bleeding	Leaves	Water	0.54 (i.p.)	Acute (24 h) 2.5, 5, 10 and 20 (p.o.) 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 and 1 (i.p.)	Safe	98
45.	<i>Galega officinalis</i> L. (Papilionaceae)	Antidiabetic and increasing lactation	Aerial parts	Crude powder	-	Acute (14 days) 0.5, 1, 2.5 and 5 (p.o.) Subchronic (90 days) 0.15%, 1.5 %, and 3% (w/w) fed in diet	Safe (acute) Toxic (for liver and lung in Sub chronic)	99
46.	<i>Galphimia glauca</i> Cav. (Malpighiaceae)	Mental disorders, diminishing nervous excitement	Leaves	Water, ME, ET	-	Sub chronic (28 days) 2.5 (p.o.)	Safe	100

47.	<i>Garcinia haburyi</i> Hook. f. (Guttiferae)	Cytotoxic and anticancer activity	Gambogic acid (resin)	-	-	Chronic (13 weeks) 0.03, 0.06 and 0.12 (p.o.)	Safe	101
48.	<i>Glinuus lotoides</i> L. (Molluginaceae)	Anthelmintic	Seeds	60 % ME	-	Acute (14 days) 1 and 5 (p.o.) Repeated (28 days) 0.25, 0.5 and 1 (p.o.)	Safe	102
49.	<i>Gynura procumbens</i> (Merr.) (Compositae)	Eruptive fever, rash, migraines, constipation, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, kidney diseases, and cancer	Leaves	ME	-	Acute (14 days) 1.25, 2.5 and 5 (p.o.) Sub chronic (90 days) 0.125, 0.25 and 0.5 (p.o.)	Safe	103
50.	<i>Helicteres isora</i> L. (Sterculiaceae)	Diabetes mellitus, colic, gastropathy, diarrhea and dysentery	Bark	Water	-	Acute (12 days) 2 (p.o.), Repeated (28 days) 0.5 (p.o.)	Safe	104
51.	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> L. (Convolvulaceae)	Isolated compound ipomeamarone	Tuber	-	-	Acute (48 h) 0.25 and 0.5 (p.o.)	Toxic for liver	105
52.	<i>Jatropha curcus</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Biodiesel	Phorbol (Isolated)	-	0.027 (p.o.)	Acute (19 days) 0.036, 0.032, 0.29, 0.026, 0.023 and 0.021 (p.o.)	Toxic	106
53.	<i>Kielmeyera coriacea</i> Mart. (Clusiaceae)	Schistosomiasis, malaria, fungal and bacterial infections	Stem	DM	1.50 (p.o.) and 0.538 (i.p.)	Acute (14 days) 0.05, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8, 1.2, 1.8, 2 and 2.2 (p.o.) 0.05, 0.2, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6 and 0.8 (i.p.) Repeated (90 days) 0.005, 0.025 and 0.125 (p.o.)	Safe	107
54.	<i>Kyllinga brevifolia</i> Rottb. Hassk (Cyperaceae)	Diuretic, sedative and antispasmodic properties	Rhizomes	70 % ET	0.575 (i.p.)	Acute 0.001, 0.01 and 0.1 (i.p.)	Safe	108
55.	<i>Laportea crenulata</i> Gaud (Urticaceae)	Weakness, asthma, gout, mumps, chronic fever	Roots	PE, C, ME	> 1 (i.p.)	Acute (24 h) 0.2 to 1 (i.p.)	Safe	109
56.	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> Thunb. (Caprifoliaceae)	Antipyretic, antibacterial, antiviral and antioxidant	Leaves	95% ET	-	Acute (14 days) 5 (p.o.) Sub acute (14 days) 1 (p.o.)	Safe	110
57.	<i>Macrothelypteris torresiana</i> (Gaud.) Ching Thelypteridaceae)	Hydropsy and traumatic bleeding	Roots	EA	2.76 (p.o.), 0.87 (p.o.)	Acute (14 days) 6.67, 5, 3.75, 2.81, 2.11, 1.58, 1.19 and 0.89 (p.o.) 2.14, 1.57, 1.18, 0.89, 0.67, 0.50, 0.37 and 0.28 (p.o.) Sub acute (14 days) 6, 60, 600 and 1200 (p.o.), 4, 40, 400 and 800 (p.o.)	Low toxicity	111

58.	<i>Magnistipula butayei</i> Subsp. montana (Hauman) F. white (Chrysobalanaceae)	Trunk bark and root used as decoction and leaves and fruit used as killing wild animals (rats, dogs and other animals)	Trunk bark	Water	0.37 (p.o.)	Acute (3 days) 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 and 1.6 (p.o.)	Toxic	112
59.	<i>Mammea africana</i> Sabine (Guttiferae)	Hypercholesterolemia, internal heat, microbial infection	Stem bark	Water	0.387 (i.p.)	Acute (24 h) 0.05 to 1 (i.p.) Sub acute (21 days) 0.03, 0.06 and 0.09 (p.o.)	Low toxic	113
60.	<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz (Euphorbiaceae)	Human and animal nutrition and raw material for industrial products	Cassava	-	-	Acute (14 days) 5 ml/kg b.w. Sub chronic (28 days) 25%, 50%, and 100% ml/kg b.w.	Safe	114
61.	<i>Mitragyna inermis</i> (Willd.) O.Kuntze (Rubiaceae)	Malaria and fever	Leaves	60% ET	-	Acute (4 days) 0.30 and 3 (p.o.) Chronic (28 days) 0.30 to 3 (p.o.)	Toxic at high dose	115
62.	<i>Mitragyna speciosa</i> Korth (Rubiaceae)	analgesic, antipyretic, antidiarrheal and local anesthetic	Leaves	ME	-	Acute (14 days) 0.1, 0.5 and 1 (p.o.)	Severe hepatotoxic and mild nephrotoxic	116
63.	<i>Monascus purpureus</i> MTCC 410 (red mould rice)	Lowering blood pressure and blood cholesterol	-	-	-	Acute (14 days) 0.5, 1, 2.5 and 5 (fed in diet) Sub chronic (14 weeks) 2, 4, 8 and 12% w/w (fed in diet)	Safe	117
64.	<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) spreng (Rutaceae)	Tonic, stomachic, anti-vomiting, dysentery, diarrhoea, hypoglycemic, febrifuge, antifungal and antiperiodic	Leaves	ME	0.316 (p.o.)	Acute (72 h) 0.2, 0.5, 1 and 2 (p.o.) Sub chronic (14 days) 0.25, 0.35 and 0.45 (p.o.)	Toxic at high dose	118
65.	<i>Musanga cecropioides</i> R.Br. (Cecreopiaceae)	Rheumatism, leprosy and chest infection	Stem bark	Water	-	Acute (12 days) 3 (p.o.) Repeated (28 days) 0.75 (p.o.)	Safe	119
66.	<i>Ocimum suave</i> wild. (Lamiaceae)	Ulcers, anticathartic, mosquito repellent and analgesic	Leaves	Water	-	Acute (7 days) 2 and 8 (p.o.) Sub acute (6 weeks) 0.25, 0.5 and 1 (p.o.)	Safe	120
67.	<i>Pluchea arguta</i> Boiss (Compositae)	Antiinflammatory, antioxiant	Leaves	ME	- (p.o.)	Acute (7 days) 1,3 and 6 (p.o.)	Safe	121
68.	<i>Polygala fruticos</i> (P.J. Bergius) (Polygalaceae)	Chronic ulcer, poor circulation, intestinal sores, gonorrhoea and the snuff to improve sinusitis	Leaves	Water	10.8 (p.o.)	Acute (14 days) 2, 4, 8, 12, 16 and 20 (p.o.) Sub chronic (31 days) 0.1 to 1 (p.o.)	Toxic at high dose	122

69.	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> (Sonn.) Thw(Annonaceae)	Treatment of fever, skin disease, diabetes, hypertension	Leaves	ME	-	(p.o.)	Acute (7 days) .54,1.1,2.1 and 3.2 (p.o.)	Safe	123
	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Merr. (Papilionaceae)	Anticonvulsant, hypotensive effects, bronchitis, chronic fever, whooping cough, and skin diseases	Pongamol (isolated)	-	-	-	Sub acute (14 days) 300 µg/0.3 ml (i.p.)	Safe	19
70.	<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i> Hook. (Portulacaceae)	Sore throat, skin rash and detoxification	Aerial part	Water	-	-	Chronic (6 months) 0.01, 0.1 and 1(p.o.)	Safe	124
71.	<i>Pothomorphe umbellate</i> L. Miq. (Piperaceae)	Liver and inflammation disorders	Roots	50% ET	-	-	Acute (14 days) 1, 2, and 5 (p.o) Sub chronic (40 days) 0.5 (p.o.)	Safe	125
72.	<i>Salacia oblonga</i> Wall. (Celastaceae)	Used as remedy for diabetes	Whole plant	Water	-	-	Sub chronic (90 days) 0.25, 1.25 and 2.5 (p.o)	Safe up to 0.25 g/kg	126
73.	<i>Salvia przewalskii</i> Maxim (Labiatae)	coronary heart diseases, myocardial infarction and atherosclerosis, angina pectoris and liver diseases	Rhizomes	ET	2.54 (p.o.), 0.90 (i.m.), 0.78 (i.p.)	-	Acute (14 days) 1.72, 1.98, 2.27, 2.62, 3.01 and 3.46 (p.o.), 0.288, 0.412, 0.58, 0.84, 1.2 and 1.71 (i.m.) 0.5, 0.625, 0.781, 0.977, 1.22 and 1.52 (i.p.) Sub acute (30 days) 0.05 and 0.25 (p.o.)	Safe	127
74.	<i>Salvia scutellarioides</i> Kunth (Lamiaceae)	Antihypertensive and diuretic properties	Bark, leaves	Water	-	-	Acute (14 days) 2 (p.o.) Sub acute (4 weeks) 1 and 2 (p.o.)	Safe	128
75.	<i>Schinus molles</i> var areira (Anacardiaceae)	Antibacterial, antiviral, antiseptic, astringent, digestive, purgative, diuretic, tooth ache, wound healer, menstrual disorders and rheumatism	Fruits	ET	-	-	Acute (14 days) 2 (p.o) Sub-acute (14 days) 1 (p.o)	Safe	129
76.	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> Raddi (Anacardiaceae)	ulcers, gout, tumors, respiratory problems, wounds, rheumatism, diarrhea, skin ailments, arthritis, antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, balsamic and haemostatic	Stem bark	70% ET	-	-	Acute (14 days) 0.625, 1.25, 2.5 and 5 (p.o.) Sub acute (45 days) 0.25, 0.625 and 1.5625	Safe	130

77.	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Asthma, piles digestive disorders, cardiac tonic, antimicrobial, anticancer and anti-inflammatory	Fruits (oil)	-	-	Sub acute (7 days) 0.25, 0.5 and 0.75 (p.o.) (21 days) 0.083 and 0.166 (p.o.)	Toxic	131
78.	<i>Senna alata</i> (L.) Roxb. (Cesalpiniaceae)	Hepatitis and skin diseases	Leaves	Water and ET	18.5 (p.o.)	Acute (8 days) 4, 8, 12, 16 and 20 (p.o.) Sub acute (28 days) 0.5 and 1 (every 48 h) (p.o.)	Safe	132
79.	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> L. (Malvaceae)	Stomatitis of asthma and nasal congestion	Leaves	70% ET	2.64 (i.p.)	Acute (48 h) 0.5 to 5 (p.o.), 0.5 to 3 (i.p.)	Safe (p.o.) Toxic at high dose (i.p.)	133
80.	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i> L. (Malvaceae)	Antiseptic, wound-healing activity, diarrhea, cough, ulcer	Whole plant	Water / ME	-	Acute (24 h) 4, 8, 12 and 16 (p.o.)	Toxic at high dose	134
81.	<i>Smilax kraussiana</i> (Liliaceae)	Inflammation	Leaves	ME	0.24 (i.p.)	Acute (24 h) 0.01 to 1 (i.p.)	Safe up to 0.24 g/kg b.w. (i.p.)	135
82.	<i>Sphenocentrum Jollyanum</i> Pierre (Menispermaceae)	Vermifuge, chronic wound, cough and anti-inflammatory	Leaves	ET	1.44 (i.p.)	Acute (24 h) 11 (p.o.) 0.25 to 4 (i.p.) Sub chronic (120 days) 0.05, 0.1 and 0.2 (p.o.)	Safe	37
83.	<i>Stachtarpheta cayennensis</i> (Verbanaceae)	Stomachic, febrifuge and chronic liver diseases	Leaves	Water, 50 % ET, BT, EA	50% ET extract 0.09 (i.p.) in mice	Acute (72 h) Rat- 0.25, 0.5 and 1 (i.p.) Mice- 0.005 to 0.1 (i.p.) and 0.05 to 0.25 (p.o.)	50% ET extract was toxic in mice other extract were safe	136
84.	<i>Striga hermonthica</i> (Del.) Benth (Scrophulariaceae)	Dermatosis, leprosy, jaundice and antibacterial	Leaves, flowers, stem	80% A	17.53 (i.p.)	Acute (24h) 15.5, 16.5, 17.5, 18.5, 21.5 and 23 (i.p.)	Safe up to 17.53 g/kg b.w.	137
85.	<i>Strychnos potatorum</i> L (Loganiaceae)	Astringent, refrigerant, emetic, antihelminthic, diuretic, digestive, tonic, stomachic, ophthalmic, appetizer, water purifier and relive colic	Seed	Water	-	Acute (72 h) 0.05, 0.3 and 2 (p.o.) Chronic (90 days) 0.1 and 0.2 (p.o.)	Safe	138
86.	<i>Stryphnodendron adstringens</i> (Martius) coville (Leguminosae)	Anti-inflammatory, analgesic and gastric mucosa	Stem, bark	Water	-	Acute (7 days) 2 (p.o.) Sub acute (30 days) 0.80 and 1.60 (p.o.)	Safe (acute) Toxic (sub acute)	139
87.	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> L. (Myrtaceae)	Diabetes, high blood pressure, diarrhea and fever	Stem, bark, leaves	70% ME	Leaves 0.387 (p.o.) Stem bark > 5 (p.o.)	Acute (24 h) 0.01, 0.1 and 1 (p.o.)	Safe	140
88.	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> L.(Myrtaceae)	Hypoglycemic, anti-HIV, antibacterial and anti-diarrheal	Seeds	EA, ME	-	Acute (14 days) 0.05, 0.3 and 2 (p.o.)	Safe	141

89.	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L. (Fabaceae)	Cold, jaundice, stomach disorders, diarrhea, fever and skin cleanser	Pulp	Water	-	Sub acute (28 days) 0.9, 1.8, 2.7, 3.6 and 4.5 (p.o.)	Safe	142
90.	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> L. (Asteraceae/comp ositae)	Menstrual irregularities, anthelmic, carminative, antispasmodic, stimulant and tonic properties	Leaves	Water	9.9 (p.o.) and 2.8 (i.p.)	Acute (14 days) 1 to 13 (p.o.) 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4 and 4.5 (i.p.) Chronic (90 days) 0.1, 0.2 and 0.6 (p.o.)	Safe	143
91.	<i>Tetrapleura tetraptera</i> (Schumach. & Thonn.) Taub. (Mimosaceae)	Convulsion, leprosy, inflammation, jaundice, rheumatism, flatulence	Fruit	80% ET	-	Sub acute (10 days) 0.05, 0.1 and 0.15 (p.o.)	Toxic	144
92.	<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i> (Hemsl) (Asteraceae)	Malaria, menstrual pains, diabetes mellitus, sore throat, liver and measles	Leaves	Water	-	Repeated (7 days) 0.1 and 0.2 (p.o.)	Toxic (liver, heart and kidney)	145
93.	<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i> (Hemsl.) (Asteraceae)	Malaria, diarrhea, bacterial and parasitic infection	Leaves	Water	0.12 (p.o)	Acute (24 h) 0.05, 0.08, 0.1, 0.12 and 0.14 (p.o.)	Toxic	146
94.	<i>Toona sinensis</i> Roemor (Meliaceae)	Carminative enteritis and dysentery	Leaves	Water	-	Acute (14 days) 5 (p.o.) Sub acute (28 days) 1 (p.o.)	Safe	147
95.	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> Del (Compositae)	Antimalaria, anticancer, antimicrobial, as laxative herbs and anthelmintics	Leaves	95% ME, EA, ME	-	Sub acute (6-fraction) (28 days) 0.08, 0.16 and 0.32 (p.o.)	Safe	148
96.	<i>Vernonia condensate</i> Baker (Asteraceae)	Gastro intestinal disorders, headache, diarrhea and protection against snakebites	Leaves	Water	-	Acute (0.30, 0.45, 0.67, 1, 1.5, 2.25, 3.4 and 5 (p.o. and i.p.)	Safe	149
97.	<i>Zingiber zerumbet</i> Smith. (Zingiberaceae)	Anticancer and cytotoxic activity	Zerumbone from rhizomes	-	1.84 (i.p.)	Acute (48 h) 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5 and 3 (i.p.)	Toxic at high dose	150

A – acetone, BT – butanol, BZ – benzene, C – chloroform, DM – dichloromethane, EA – ethyl acetate, ET – ethanol, HE – hexane, ME – methanol, PE – petroleum ether, p.o. – per oral, i.p. – intraperitoneally, s.c. – subcutaneous, i.m. – intramuscular

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