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In vitro antiplasmodial activity of extracts of *Alchornea cordifolia* and identification of an active constituent: ellagic acid

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Abstract

Extracts of leaves of *Alchornea cordifolia* were studied for their antiplasmodial activities. Chloroformic and ether extracts were found to be inactive while the ethanolic extract exhibited mild in vitro activity against *Plasmodium falciparum*. Fractionation of this extract led us to isolate ellagic acid as the active constituent of the extract with IC₅₀ in the range of 0.2–0.5 μ M. Cytotoxicity of ethanolic fraction and ellagic acid was also estimated on human fibroblasts cells (IC₅₀ on Hela CELLS=7.3 μ M at 24 h for ellagic acid).

Keywords:

Alchornea cordifolia; Antiplasmodial; Ellagic acid