

CHANGES IN BODY WEIGHT AND SERUM BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS OF WISTAR RATS ORALLY DOSED WITH *MAERUA PSEUDOPETALOSA* (GILG AND BENEDE.) DE WOLF TUBER EXTRACTS

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ABSTRACT

The effect of ethanol and ethyl acetate extracts of *Maerua psuedopetalosa* administered to Wistar rats at 50, 250 and 500 mg/kg body weight doses for a week was investigated on body weight and serum biochemical parameters. Rats given the ethanolic extract had no significant differences in the values of AST, total protein, cholesterol, total bilirubin and urea whereas had significantly increased ALP activity, and albumin concentration (at all doses used) and direct bilirubin (at 250 mg/ kg dose), compared to control ($p < 0.05$). Mortality occurred in the 500 mg/ kg dose group. Rats dosed with the ethyl acetate extract showed higher AST activity but comparable ALT and ALP activities to that of control. Compared to control values total protein and D.B were significantly lower in the three treated groups, T.B and albumin were significantly lower at the 250 and 500 dose level ($p < 0.05$), Cholesterol was significantly low in the 250 dose group and no significant difference was observed for urea levels. Administration of the extracts at all doses investigated proved that only the 250 mg/kg BW concentration- of the ethyl acetate and ethanol tuber extracts- were able to reduce the Wistar rats body weights. These alterations in some parameters indicated that the tuber extracts of *M. psuedopetalosa* possess slight toxicity. Therefore, crude extracts of tuber may not be completely safe as oral remedies.

Keywords: Biochemical parameters; Wistar rats; body weight and *Maerua psuedopetalosa*.