

The past, present and future of the Guinean Traditional Medicine

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Abstract

Introduction: Most rural communities and inmates of crowded refugee camps in Africa rely on herbs for treatment of malaria; as access to efficacious antimalarials against the multi-drug resistant *Plasmodium falciparum* in the African region is a challenge. However, very few of these folklore herbs have been scientifically investigated and proven useful for use.

Method: Nineteen extracts from ten indigenous plant species *Adenia cissampeloides* Planch. ex Hook., *Anthocleista nobilis* G. Don, *Calliandra calothyrsus*, *Elaeias. guineensis* Jacq., *Entandrophragma angolense* (Welw.) CDC, *Mallotus oppositifolia* (Geisel.) Müll. Arg., *Sarcocephalus latifolius* (J.E.Sm) E. A Bruce, *Petersianthus macrocarpus* (P. Beauv.) Liben, *Polyalthia longifolia* var. *pendula* and *Terminalia ivorensis* A. Chev; were evaluated against the multidrug resistant K1 strains of *P. falciparum* by the parasite lactate dehydrogenase (pLDH) assay.

Results: Thirteen extracts (7 alcoholic and 6 alkaloidal extracts) out of a total of 19 showed antiplasmodial activities with IC₅₀ < 50 µg/ml.

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Biography

A full Professor, Aliou Mamadou BALDE is a pharmacognost, having evolved academically in the faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Conakry (Guinea), the Institute of Pharmacy of the Free University of Brussels (Belgium), the Institute of

Tropical Medicine, Antwerp (Belgium) and the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Antwerp (Belgium). He was Dean of Pharmacy in the University of Conakry.