

## ACUTE ORAL TOXICITY STUDIES OF METHANOLIC EXTRACTS OF *FILICIUM DECIPIENS*

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An experimental study with the objective to evaluate the acute toxicity of methanolic extract of *Filicium decipiens* (MFD) was done as per Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) guideline. The study was done on three female rats received a single oral dose of 5,000 mg/kg body weight (b. wt.) of methanolic and three control female rats were orally given distilled water. No toxicities to treatment with the extracts were observed on behavioural pattern, haematology, clinical signs, and serum biochemistry examination of liver, renal function and also gross necropsy evaluation of liver, kidney and heart. Therefore, single oral administration of herbal mixture up to 5,000 mg/kg b. wt. to rats under this study condition was produced no significantly toxicological effects.

### INTRODUCTION

*Filicium decipiens* is also called fern leaf tree. It is Slender tree 4.5–20(–30) m. tall; bark smooth, whitish. Petiole winged, 1.5–11 cm (Davies *et al.*, 1998). *Filicium* is a genus of three tree species found in Africa and possibly, South India. The name *Filicium* is from the Greek word for fern. Distinguishable by the 3 habits, leaves that are alternate, pinnately compound and fern like and axillary panicles of inconspicuous fruit and flowers. It is probably native to south-eastern Africa but was long ago introduced to India, where it is widely cultivated. It is also grown elsewhere in the tropics as a shade or street tree. The flowers are seasonal, small and inconspicuous, but the feathery, dark green foliage is attractive. Dichloromethane, methanol and *n*-butanol fractions of the methanol extracts from the leaves and the stem showed a variety of biological activities, e.g. antifungal, antibacterial and molluscicidal activities (Jayasinghe *et al.*, 1997). Sitosterol, kaempferol were identified in *n*-butanol extract from the methanol extracts from the leaves of *Filicium decipiens* (Jayasinghe *et al.*, 2007). Four new saponins were isolated from the stem bark of *Filicium decipiens* (Lavaud *et al.*, 1998)

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

#### Collection of leaves

*Filicium decipiens* is a fern like tree belonging to family Sapindaceae was obtained from Tirupathi in August and authenticated by Madhavachety (Department of Botany) SV University, Tirupathi). The specimen was preserved in our laboratory for future reference.

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