

ANTI-PYRETIC ACTIVITY OF *PILIOSTIGMA THONNINGII*

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The present study was carried out to investigate the anti-pyretic activity of petroleum ether, alcoholic and aqueous extracts of *Piliostigma thonningii*, leaves using experimental animal models. The extracts were screened for alkaloids, steroids, proteins, flavanoids, saponins, mucilage, carbohydrates, tannins, fats and oils. Anti-pyretic activity was evaluated using the brewer's yeast-induced pyrexia in rats. The extracts in dose levels of 50,100 and 200 mg/kg orally were used for anti-pyretic studies. The ethanol and aqueous extracts of leaves of *Piliostigma thonningii* produced significant ($P<0.05$) anti-pyretic activity. The three extracts has shown a good anti-pyretic effect ($P<0.05$) with all the doses used when compared to the control group. The results obtained indicate that the crude leaf extracts of *Piliostigma thonningii* possess potent anti-pyretic activity by supporting the folkloric usage of the plant to treat various diseases.

INTRODUCTION

Pyrexia is the same thing as that of fever which is usually 1.8 to 3.6⁰F higher than normal body temperature (or) Anal temperature above 100⁰F (www.right health.com). The use of plant compounds to treat infections is an age old practice in a large part of the world, especially in developing countries, where there is dependence on traditional medicine for a variety of diseases (Gangoue-Pieboji et al., 2006, Shiba et al., 2005). *Piliostigma thonningii* belongs to the family caesalpiniaceae and it is a shrubby tree with alternate compound leaves. The fruits are often pod-like with pods containing one to many seeds. The tree is perennial in nature and its petals are white to pinkish colour produced between November and April. The fruits, which are produced between June and September 1999 are hairy, hard, flattish pod, turn rusty brown, woody and wisted which splits at ripening and usually persistent on the tree (www.plantzafrica.com). *P. thonningii* rows in open woodland and savannah regions that are moist and wooded grassland in low to medium altitudes. It is widely distributed in Africa. A warm infusion of the bark and leaves traditionally is used to relieve fever and toothache. The powdered bark or the young inner bark and the scurf scraped from the surface of the pods are

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