



Phytochemical constituents of some medicinal plants used by the Nandi people of Kenya

Jeruto Pascaline ^{1*}, Mutai Charles ² and Ouma George ³

^{1*}Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), P.O.Box Box 249 Kitale, Kenya;

² Center for Traditional Medicine and Drug Research, Kenya Medical Research Institute, P.O. Box 54840-00200, Nairobi, Kenya;

³Department of Botany and Horticulture, Maseno University, P. O. Box 333, Maseno, Kenya

*Corresponding author: Email address email Address:
pasjeru@yahoo.com; Tel.: +25420326629

ABSTRACT

The distributions of alkaloids, saponins, anthraquinones, glycosides, phenolics, terpenoids and flavonoids in ten medicinal plants belonging to different families were assessed and compared between the plants. The medicinal plants investigated were *Asparagus racemosus*, *Clutia abyssinica*, *Clerodendrum myricoides*, *Ehretia cymosia*, *Leucas calostachys*, *Toddalia asiatica*, *Rubia cordifolia*, *Spermacoce princeae*, *Carrisa edulis* and *Ajuga remota*. All plants were found to contain alkaloids, terpenoids, saponins and flavonoids. However, saponins were absent in root extracts of *R. cordifolia* and *C.myricoides* while flavonoids were absent in leaf extracts of *L. calostachys* and *A. remota*. The significance of the plants in traditional medicine and the importance of the distribution of their medicinal constituents are discussed with respect to their role in ethnomedicine in South Nandi district, Kenya.

Key words: Phytochemical analysis, medicinal plants, ethnomedicine