

Clinical trial of *Alectra sessiliflora* (VAHL.) Kunze powder in the treatment of sheep's foot rot in Lubero territory (North-Kivu/DR Congo)

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1 ABSTRACT

Alectra sessiliflora, a plant native to the forests and grasslands of tropical Africa is currently found in the pastures of farms in the Lubero territory as weeds. In tropical Africa, it is used to treat a wide range of diseases such as gastrointestinal infections, wounds, scabies, and oral thrush. It is also used in some regions of Central Africa as a galactogen and to speed up parturition. This plant contains bioactive para-couramic acid, 3, 4-dihydroxybenzoic acid, luteolin and other compounds including alkalis and phosphorus. The aim of this study was to test the effectiveness of *Alectra sessiliflora* powder in the clinical treatment of sheep foot rot. The broad objective of this study was to contribute to the promotion of the ethnomedicine in the fight against antibiotic resistance in the Lubero Territory. Two lots of 60 sheep each suffering from foot rot and distributed in four sites were subjected to two types of treatment. The first batch was treated with oxytetracycline spray combined with penicillin by injection route and the second batch was treated with *Alectra sessiliflora* powder for 10 days. At the end of the treatment period, the cure rates were 55.0% and 76.7% for the control treatment with oxytetracycline spray combined with penicillin by injection route and *Alectra sessiliflora* powder, respectively. This powder could replace the antibiotics commonly used in the treatment of foot rot of sheep in Lubero territory.