

Poster presentation

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Screening of some savannah plants for antiretroviral (ANTI-HIV) activity

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Available data showed that there is at present a need for an increasing research momentum towards the discovery of an anti-retroviral drug, which could be used in the treatment and control of the most deadly disease, such as Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Currently, Zidovudine (AZT), lamivudine (3TC) and didanosine (ddI) are the most commonly employed drugs but with a minimal level of success. None of these available orthodox drugs for the treatment of this epidemic around the globe has so far provided the needed property of a good drug. These drugs are very expensive and beyond the reach of the average HIV patient in addition to their being very toxic in nature. There is a strong belief in the scientific community, that the active agent, which could successfully combat the HIV/AIDS virus, might be contained in medicinal plants. It is view that such isolate(s) will be safe and cheap to the average AIDS patient. This research is aimed at investigating whether the extracts from some suspected ethnomedicinal savannah plants possess any antiretroviral activity. Such plants would include *Ceratotherca sesamoides*, *Amaranthus viridis*, *Senna occidentalis*, *Cassia singuena*, *Solanum americanum*, *Momordica balsamina*, *Jatropha curcas*, *Vernonia amygdalina*, *Leptademia hastate*, and *Cassia tora*. The plants extracts would be administered to HIV infected laboratory cultured human lymphocytes with a view to elucidating their potency and efficacy as candidates worthy of repute for further toxicological research towards the treatment of the disease.