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PHYTOCHEMICAL STUDIES AND *IN VITRO* ANTIOXIDANT, ANTIPROLIFERATIVE AND ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITIES OF THE STEM BARK OF BOSWELLIA DALZIELII HUTCH.

Yves S Kafuti¹ and Kalulu M Taba²

¹University of Kinshasa, DR Congo

Boswellia dalzielii (B. dalzielii) Hutch. is from the genus Boswellia and the family of Burseraceae. It is a tree plant abundantly found in North-Western Nigeria and very common among the locals as a potent source of ethnomedicine. This work aims at evaluating the phytochemical, antioxidant, antiproliferative and antifungal activities of the stem bark of Boswellia dalzielii. The phytochemical screening of the stem bark of B. dalzielii indicated the presence of tannins, saponins, flavonoids, steroids, carbohydrate. The phenolic content was found to be highest in sub-fraction C (481.20±10.13 mg GAE/g) and flavonoid contents were found to be highest in methanolic extract (142.17±4.82 mg RE/g). Boswellia dalzielii stem bark extracts, fractions and sub-fractions B, C and D exhibited antioxidant capacity; and the highest antioxidant activities were recorded from aqueous fraction and

methanol extract for the DPPH; and aqueous fraction and subfraction D for the FRAP assay. Antiproliferative, sub-fractions C and D at the concentration of 125 μ g/ml gave the highest percentage of inhibition (90%) followed by sub-fraction B (50%) at 250 μ g/ml. The antifungal screening of the bark methanolic extract, fractions and sub-fractions showed activity against Candida albicans; ethyl acetate and aqueous fractions showed activity against Penicillium notatum, while there was no activity shown by methanolic extract, fractions and sub-fractions against Aspergillus niger. These results further showed that the stem bark of Boswellia dalzielii has high growth inhibitory activity on the seeds of Guinea corn; and therefore may possess anticancer component(s) which need(s) further investigation.

kafutisungu@gmail.com