

ANTIDEPRESSANT ACTIVITY EVALUATION OF *Hypericum keniense* (Schweinf) EXTRACTS.

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ABSTRACT

The *Hypericum revolutum* subspecies *keniense* (schweinf), hypericaceae there after referred as *Hypericum keniense* is used traditionally for various ailments including antidepressant; insanity, microbial infection, wound management and others, the objective of the study was to carry out the antidepressant activity as claimed by traditional medicine practitioners.

The plant was collected from Gakoe forest Ndarugo location in Thika district the now Kiambu County, the extracts of aerial and roots extract were prepared by cold maceration using methanol as solvent, it was then reduced by rotar vaporing the extracts was dried in an oven at 45 °C.

Dried sample of extracts was weighed and several solvents used for partitioning this included; Pet ether, Ethyl acetate, and Chloroform respectively to get eight samples which were also to be concentrated via rotar vapour then air dried to achieve a contrite that was later dissolved in normal saline before administration to the mice for study, to study the antidepressant activity one investigation was carried out the TST.

Other methods that can be used to carry out the anti depressant activity are FST and OFT, the use of fasted male Swiss albino mice (about 30 g) selected randomly and first acclimatized in the zone of experiment (lab), TST the mice were suspended on the edge of a table 50cm from the floor and 1cm from the tip using adhesive tape, in isolation for total period of investigation this study give scientific credence of the traditional uses of the *Hypericum keniense* for depression and insanity, hence further investigation should be carried out for pharmacological activities as also proved to have antibacterial activity by (Misonge. J. O, 2011).

Further investigations were carried out by performing the TLC to separate the components in the methanol extract this occurred after spotting on the plate, where 4 sample of root extract and four sample of aerial extract were used, the mobile phases were (i) chloroform 100 % and (ii) chloroform : methanol at ratio of 9:1 and the 4 plates made were put run, spots marked and Rf values calculated.