



Research Article

PHYTOCHEMICAL STUDY AND EVALUATION OF THE ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY OF FRACTION TO THE EXTRACT OF *LECANIODISCUS CUPANIOIDES* (SAPINDACEAE)

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Abstract

Lecaniodiscus cupanioides is a medicinal plant of the Sapindaceae family, widely used in traditional medicine in Benin. In the present work we prepared the hydro ethanolic extract from the dried leaves of this plant with an extract yield of around 23%. The quantitative estimation of flavonoids and total phenols by the colorimetric method and the Folin Ciocalteux method showed that the hydro ethanolic extract is very rich in these compounds. We did the liquid-liquid extraction from the solvent of increasing polarity and obtained apolar (cyclohexane and dichloromethane) and polar (ethyl acetate and methanol) fractions. The evaluation of the antioxidant power of ethyl acetate and methanolic fractions carried out using the method of scavenging the free radical DPPH and that of the reduction of iron of FRAP revealed that the fractions of ethyl acetate and methanolic of the hydro ethanolic extract of the leaves of *Lecaniodiscus cupanioides* has a higher antioxidant power than that of ascorbic acid.

Keywords: *Lecaniodiscus cupanioides*, Flavonoids, Oxidative activity, Polyphenols.

INTRODUCTION

True health capital natural antioxidant molecules protect our organism from premature aging by opposing the action of free radicals. Polyphenols are natural compounds widely distributed in the plant kingdom. They appear to play an important role in both cancer and cardiovascular disease protection. The protection active against cancer would be explained by a mechanism quite similar to that of prebiotics by their ability to select a particular type of microflora in particular for cancers of the digestive system (stomach, colon etc.). Medicinal plants constitute an inexhaustible source of molecules with varied biological and pharmacological activity and alternative for the use of synthetic antioxidants products. It's for this reason that we studied *Lecaniodiscus cupanioides* a plant with antioxidant potential among the medicinal plants widely used in traditional medicine. *Lecaniodiscus cupanioides* is a species of plant in the family Sapindaceae and genus *Lecaniodiscus*. It's a tree 9 meters high with strong woody branches with flowers in fascicles in axillary cluster of purplish green color and fragrant with slender petioles. The species is present in tropical Africa from Sierra Leone to Sudan also in Angola to the South of the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Uganda. The species has multiple uses in traditional medicine in the form of inhalation. The bark is used to treat headaches, sinusitis, otitis, eye or hearing complaints. In decoction it's applied to relieve pains in the chest, bronchitis, pleurisy, kidney pain. Pruritus is treated with frictions of crushed bark. The leaves are reputed to be antibacterial and rubefacient. They are applied to boils, bruises but are liable to cause burns if left in place for too long. The fruits are considered anthelmintic.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material: The plant material consists of dried leaves of *Lecaniodiscus cupanioides* collected in December 2020 in Abomey-Calavi. The leaves of plant were identified at the National Herbarium of the University of Abomey Calavi. The leaves of the plant were washed and dried at room temperature in a ventilated room of the Pharmacognosy laboratory for three weeks before being reduced to powder.

Extraction: The extraction was done for the hydro ethanolic extract by mixing 50g of powder in 500 ml of hydro ethanolic mixture (40V/60V respectively) for 48 hours. After respective filtration on Whatman paper N°1 the filtrate obtained were evaporated using a rotary evaporator at 40°C. The residues of this filtrate were dried in the oven for 48 hours at 40°C to obtain the dry extract.

Liquid-liquid extraction method: The liquid-liquid extraction is carried out by the intimate contact of the solvent with the solution in a separating funnel. The separation of the phases is obtained by gravimetric or centrifugal decantation after stirring of the whole. The solution consists of the crude hydroethanolic extract dissolved in 50 mL of distilled water. We used successively during the extraction 500 mL of cyclohexane, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate and butanol. The different fractions (phase from the operation containing the extracted solutes) collected are evaporated with a rotavapor.

Phytochemical Screening: The presence of the main chemical groups in the extracts was investigated using the tests described by Bassene (2012): flavonoids (Shibata test), tannins (Stiasny reaction followed by ferric chloride reaction), carotenoids (Carr-Price reaction), anthracenes (Dragendorff reagent), sterols (Liebermann-Buchard reaction), cardiotonic heterosides (Baljet, Kedde and Raymond-Marthoud reaction) and saponosides.

Polyphenol content: The polyphenol content of the extracts is determined by the Folin - Ciocalteu method. 1 mL of Folin's reagent is added to 1 mL of the solution of each extract, then 3 minutes later 1 mL of 25% sodium carbonate. After 2 hours of incubation, the samples were centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 4 minutes. The absorbances were then read with a spectrophotometer at 670 nm. Three tests were performed for each concentration of product tested. A calibration curve based on a dilution series of tannic acid (0.005-0.01-0.015-0.02-0.025-0.03-0.025-0.03-0.035-0.04 mg/ml) was treated in the same way as the extracts. The results are expressed as milligram equivalent of tannic acid per gram of dry extract 'mg ETA/g).

Determination of Flavonoids: The flavonoid content of the extracts was determined using the aluminium trichloride colorimetric method. A quantity of 100µl of the extract was mixed with 0.4 ml of distilled water and subsequently with 0.03 ml of 10% ALCL₃ solution was added. To the mixture 0.2 ml of 1M NaNO₂ solution and 0, 25 ml of distilled water were added after a 5min rest. The whole mixture was vortexed and the absorbance was measured at 510 nm. The results are expressed as milligrams of catechin equivalent per g of dry plant material

Antioxidant activity

DPPH test: Determination of free radical scavenging activity by DPPH assay was carried out using the method described by Molyneux (2003) slightly modified. An ethanolic solution of DPPH was prepared by dissolving 4mg of this product in 100ml of ethanol. Then to 50 µL of extract at a given concentration are added 950µL of the DPPH solution. The extracts as well as the reference (ascorbic acid) are tested at different concentrations (250 -125-62.5 - 31.25-15.62-7.81 µg/L); then the absorbances were measured at 517 nm after 30 min of incubation in the dark. Three tests were carried out for each concentration of product tested.

The antioxidant activity related to the DPPH radical scavenging effect is expressed in Percentage Inhibition (PI) using the following formula:

$$PI = 100(A_0 - A_1) / A_0 \quad A_0 = \text{DPPH absorbance} \quad A_1 = \text{sample absorbance}$$

The IC₅₀ (concentration of the sample required to neutralize 50% of the free radicals) was obtained using the software Statgraphics Plus 5/0.

FRAP test: The reducing power of the extracts is determined by FRAP method (Bassène 2012). Thus, 0.4mL of sample at different concentrations is mixed with 1mL of phosphate buffer (0.2M; pH=6.6) and 1mL of 1% potassium hexacyanoferrate [H₃Fe (CN)₆]. After incubating the mixture at 50°C for 30 minutes, 1mL of 10% trichloroacetic acid was added to it, then the tubes were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes. Then, 1mL of the supernatant from each tube was mixed with 0.2mL of 0.1% FeCl₃ solution and kept in the dark for 30 minutes before measuring the absorbances at 700 nm. The antioxidant activity related to the reducing power of the extracts is expressed as Reducing Power (RP) using the following formula: $RP = 100(A_a - A_b) / A_a$. A_a : Absorbance of the extract A_b : Absorbance of the blank

Statistical analysis: Significance tests are performed by Fisher's test through the software Stat View. A p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Phytochemical screening: Phytochemical screening revealed the presence of flavonoids, tanins in the extracts of both plant species. Alkaloids, anthracenes, triterpenes, coumarins are also present but cardiotoxic heterosides and saponosides were not found in the hydro ethanolic extract of the plant which is the subject of the present study.

Table 1. Phytochemical Screening of Extract

Class	<i>Lecaniodiscus cupanioides</i> (extract hydro éthanolic)
Flavonoids	+
Tannins	+
Glycosylated coumarines	+
Triterpenes	+
Alkaloids	+
Anthracene derivatives	+
Cardiotonic glycosides	-
Saponosides	-
Lignans	+

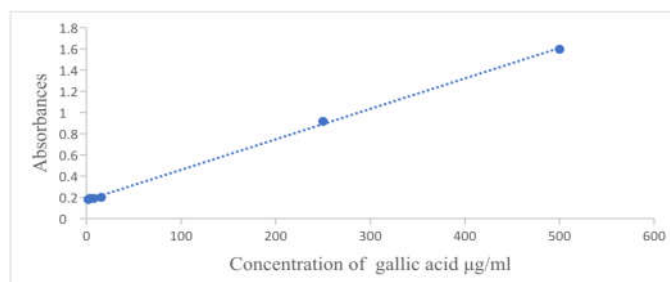
Fractionation: The yields obtained during the fractionation of the crude extract are given by the following table

Plant Material	Extract	Mass	Yield
Crude Extract (20g)	n Hexane Extract	0,25g	1,25%
	CH ₂ Cl ₂ Extract	0,29g	1,45%
	AcOEt Extract	3,58g	17,9%
	MEOH Extract	5,01g	25,05%
	Aqueous Residu	9,25g	46,2%

Total polyphenols content: The determination of the total polyphenols content in the hydroethanolic extract and the polar fractions was done by the Folin Ciocalteux method. The content was reported in mg gallic acid equivalent /g of dry plant material. The polar fractions are richer in total polyphenols compound to the apolar extract. This is confirmed by phytochemical Screening which reveals the presence of tannins flavonoids and saponosides in the hydroethanolic extract

Table 2. Total Polyphenols content

N°	Plant	Content of polyphenols µg Eq AG/mg of extract
1	Hydro éthanolic Extract	99,02 ± 3,7
	n Hexane Extract	12,9 ± 23,9
	CH ₂ Cl ₂ Extract	52,2 ± 13,9
	AcOEt Extract	305,6 ± 11,9
	MeOH Extract	542,2 ± 3,3
	Aqueous Residu	135 ± 15,9



Picture 1 : Gallic and calibration line

Determination of Flavonoids: The flavonoid content determined by the aluminum trichloride method for each extract was reported in mg equivalent of catechin/g of dry plant material. The results reveal that the polar fractions have a high content of flavonoid

Table 3. Yield and contents of total polyphenols and flavonoids

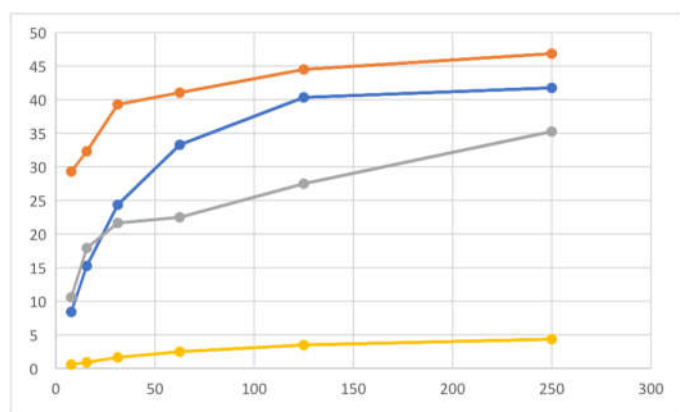
Extracts	Yield (%)	Content of total polyphenols $\mu\text{g Eq AG/mg d'extract}$	Content of Flavonoid mg QE
Hydro ethanolic Extract	20g	99,02 \pm 3,7	389,62 \pm 6,8
n Hexane Extract	1,25%	12,9 \pm 23,9	42,23 \pm 6,2
CH ₂ CL ₂ Extract	1,45%	52,2 \pm 13,9	60,12 \pm 5,4
AcOEt Extract	17,9%	305,6 \pm 11,9	391,76 \pm 3,4
MeOH Extract	25,05%	342,2 \pm 3,3	402,2 \pm 4,1
Aqueous Residu	46,2%	135 \pm 15,9	201,01 \pm 1,2

Antioxidant Activity: The antioxidant activity was studied on the polar fractions and the hydro ethanolic extract of the dried leaves of the plant

DPPH Test: The antioxidant activity of the hydro ethanolic extract of the leaves of the plant and the polar toward the DPPH radical was evaluated at using a spectrophotometer by following the reduction of this radical which is accompanied by its passage from the violet color (DPPH^o) to the yellow color (DPPH-H) measurable at 517nm

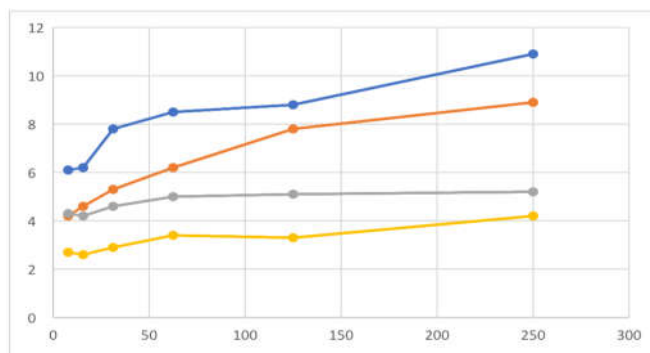
This reduction capacity is determined by a decrease in absorbance induced by antiradical substances. The results of the antioxidant power of the fractions tested and of the extract showed that the percentage inhibition of the ethyl acetate and methanol fractions is greater than 80% for concentrations of the order of 125 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ at 250 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. The EC 50 values determined in mg/mL expressing the effective concentration of the antioxidant extract necessary for the trapping and the reduction of 50% of moles of DPPH dissolved in methanol (Table 4).

According to the results recorded the two fractions have an antioxidant power their respective EC 50 is 24,14 \pm 9,73 and 35,02 \pm 15,08 significantly stronger than of ascorbic acid the value of which is order of 0,235mg/ML. The polyphenols contained in the fractions are responsible for the antioxidant activity of the extracts

**Picture 2. Percentage of DPPH inhibition according to different concentrations of the extract ; polar fraction and ascorbic acid****Table 4 . Value of IC₅₀ of the extract and of the polar fractions and of ascorbic acid**

Extracts/Standard	IC ₅₀ \pm Ecart type
Crude Extract	19,15 \pm 8,75
AcOEt Extract	24,14 \pm 9,73
MeOH Extract	35,02 \pm 15,08
Ascorbic acid	0,235 \pm 8,01

FRAP Test: The antioxidant activity of the polar fractions and of the hydro ethanolic extract was evaluated by the method of iron reduction FRAP. The presence of reducing agents in the polar fractions and of the plant extract causes the reduction of Fe³⁺ ferricyanide complex in ferrous form. Therefore Fe²⁺ can be evaluated by measuring the increase in the density of the blue color in the reaction medium at 700nm. The reducing power of the polar fractions and of the hydroethanolic plant extract is dose dependant (concentration – dependent) The evaluation of the reducing power of the fractions and the hydro ethanolic extract showed a better activity of the methanolic fraction of the extract compared to that the ethyl acetate fraction of the hydroethanolic extract of *Lecaniodiscus cupanioides* as show in Picture 3. Indeed the methanolic fraction of hydro ethanolic extract at concentration of 7,8-15,62-31,25-62,5-125-250 $\mu\text{g/ML}$ gave respective reducing powers of 6,1%, 6,2%, 6,8%, 8,5%, 8,8%, 8,9%. At the same concentrations respective reducing powers 5,2%, 5,3%, 5,6%, 6,2%, 6,8%, 6,9% were observed for the ethyl acetate fraction of the hydro ethanolic extract of *Lecaniodiscus cupanioides*

**Picture 3. Reducing power of the crude extract ; polar fractions and ascorbic acid according to different concentrations**

Conclusion

The study of the antioxidant activity of the polar fractions of the hydroethanolic extract of the species of LC according to the method of iron reduction and that of the trapping of the free radical DPPH showed that the two fractions of the extract hydroethanolic have proven antioxidant activity These fractions could therefore constitute an alternative to certain synthetic antioxidant additives Further research is needed to identify isolate and purify these fractions

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