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### Evaluation of Anti-Inflammatory Activity of Extract of *Vernonia amygdalina*

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#### Introduction

The anti-inflammatory activity of the extract of *Vernonia amygdalina* was investigated.

**Methods:**Inflammatory response was induced by topical application of croton oil dissolved in suitable vehicle on the rat ear.

After 6 hrs, cutting out the ear quantitated the response. The cut ear is weighed and the increase in weight relative to controls evaluated.

**Results:** Extract of *V.amygdalina* when co-applied with croton oil to the rat ear produced a reduction in the inflammatory response





produced when croton oil alone was applied to the rat ear. The extract produced  $67.10 \pm 2\%$  reduction of the inflammatory response produced by croton oil alone, this was however lower than the  $71.1 \pm 2\%$  reduction of the inflammatory response produced by acetyl salicylic acid.

**Conclusions:** This finding suggests that extract of *V. amygdalina* exhibits anti-inflammatory activity and may explain the usefulness of the leaves of this plant in the treatment of inflammatory disease conditions by traditional healers.

**Key words:** Inflammatory response, croton oil, acetyl salicylic acid, *Vernonia amygdalina*

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