

s in African traditional herbal medicines (Part II).

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Abstract:

Mitogenic activities in African traditional herbal medicines were examined on human peripheral blood lymphocytes and mouse spleen cells using protein fractions obtained from their extracts by precipitation with ammonium sulfate. Target specificity for these mitogens was investigated by using isolated T cells and lymphocytes from athymic nude mice. Among 20 plants investigated, potent mitogenic activities for both human and mouse lymphocytes were found in 7 plants: *Monanthotaxis* sp. (Annonaceae), *Uvaria lucida* (Annonaceae), *Maytenus buchananii* (Celastraceae), *Lonchocarpus bussei* (Leguminosae), *Phytolacca dodecandra* (Phytolaccaceae), *Phytolacca octandra* (Phytolaccaceae), and *Toddalia asiatica* (Rutaceae). The *U. lucida* stem demonstrated the highest activity among all and induced mitogenesis both in human and mouse isolated T cells, but not in lymphocytes from athymic nude mice.