

EVALUATION OF NUTRITIONAL AND TOXICOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF *Clerodendron inerme* IN LABORATORY RATS

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Clerodendron inerme was reported as a popular medicinal plant widely and abundantly grown in Egypt. Because the plant has a good nutritive matrix of economical important, alcoholic and petroleum ether extracts and proximate analyses of leaves and stems were conducted to evaluate the nutritional value of the plant. Safety of the active principles of *C. inerme* was ensured by pursuing short and long-term toxicity testing experiments using different routes of administration in laboratory albino rats. Results showed that the plant contained high amount of protein, soluble carbohydrates and fibers. No signs of toxicity were observed on experimental rats except when extracts were given by inhalation route. Owing to high protein and carbohydrate contents of the plant, it can be concluded that *C. inerme* could be recommended as a cheap source of protein in animal rations with significant safety against any adverse alterations.