

PHARMACOGNOSTICAL STUDY OF AILANTHUS EXCELSA ROXB. GROWN IN EGYPT

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Abstract

The lipoidal matter: unsaponifiable fractions and fatty acid methyl esters, of leaf and stem of *Ailanthus excelsa* Roxb. were prepared, identified and estimated by GLC. Octacosane was the major component in the unsaponifiable fractions of both leaf and stem (22.719% and 27.750% respectively). Methyl palmitate (44.26 $\mu\text{g}\%$) and methyl caprate (14.07 $\mu\text{g}\%$) were the major fatty acid methyl esters in leaf and stem respectively. Cytotoxic activity of hexane extracts of the investigated organs were tested; both leaf and stem extracts showed significant activity against four different tumor cell lines. The macro and micro morphological characters of the leaf and stem of *A. excelsa* Roxb. were described and illustrated with the aim of its identification in both entire and powdered forms.

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