

Phytochemical Studies and Evaluation of The Antioxidant and Antidiabetic Activities of *Terminalia catappa* L. (Combretaceae) and *Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link (Fabaceae) from Ivory Coast

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Abstract:

Diabetes mellitus is a major public health challenge worldwide, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where conventional therapeutic resources remain limited. In Ivory coast, the use of medicinal plants in the management of diabetes remains widespread despite advances in modern medicine. This study aims to evaluate the antidiabetic potential of two Ivorian medicinal plants, *Terminalia catappa* L. (Combretaceae) and *Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link (Fabaceae), through phytochemical analyses, antioxidant assays, and in vivo pharmacological tests. Phytochemical screening revealed the presence of flavonoids, coumarins, sterols, terpenes, and tannins in all tested extracts. Extracts derived from *T. catappa* leaves stood out for their particularly high levels of total polyphenols and condensed tannins. Assessment of antioxidant activity revealed a significantly high free radical scavenging capacity for the ethanolic and hydroethanolic extracts of *T. catappa* (extracts Ca₃ and Ca₄), with respective CR₅₀ values of 0.0316 and 0.0318 mg/mL. In vivo tests demonstrated that extracts from both plants significantly ($p < 0.05$) reduce glucose-overload-induced postprandial hyperglycemia, with efficacy comparable to that of low-dose glibenclamide. These results provide a solid scientific basis for the traditional use of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* in diabetes management in Ivory Coast. The high content of phenolic compounds and marked antioxidant activity suggest that these properties may contribute to the observed antihyperglycemic effects. Further mechanistic studies are needed to elucidate the molecular targets involved.

KEYWORDS: *Terminalia catappa*, *Senna occidentalis*, DPPH antioxidant activity, antihyperglycemic effect, phytochemistry, Ivorian medicinal plants

Date of Submission: 06-06-2026

Date of acceptance: 16-06-2026

I. Introduction

Diabetes mellitus, particularly the more common type 2, is now one of the major global public health challenges. Considered one of the scourges of the third millennium, it affects both industrialized countries and low- and middle-income countries, with a steadily rising prevalence (WHO, 2016). This alarming increase is accompanied by high morbidity and mortality, linked in particular to associated metabolic and cardiovascular complications. In Ivory coast, the situation is particularly concerning: approximately 78.7% of type 2 diabetes cases remain undiagnosed, contributing to an estimated 5,382 deaths per year among people aged 20 to 79 (IDE, 2025). This high proportion of undiagnosed cases constitutes a major obstacle to early and effective management of the disease.

Although conventional treatments (oral antidiabetics and insulin therapy) have proven effective, their use remains limited by several constraints, including high cost, associated side effects, and sometimes limited accessibility in resource-constrained settings (Konkon et al., 2017). In this context, the search for accessible, safe, and effective therapeutic alternatives is a necessity. Medicinal plants represent an important source of bioactive compounds that can be utilized in the management of diabetes. The traditional Ivorian pharmacopoeia constitutes a rich reservoir of plant species used empirically for the treatment of diabetes and its complications (Ake, 1983). From this perspective, it seems appropriate to undertake an in-depth scientific investigation aimed at validating the traditional uses of these species and characterizing their biological properties. Thus, the general objective of this study is to evaluate the phytochemical potential as well as the antioxidant and antidiabetic activities of *Terminalia catappa* L. (Combretaceae) and *Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link (Fabaceae).

II. Materials and Methods

Plant material

The plant matrices used in this study consist of leaves from *Terminalia catappa* L. (Combretaceae) and *Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link (Fabaceae), formerly known by the synonym *Cassia occidentalis* L. The samples were collected in the Abidjan district (Ivory Coast) during February 2020, during the dry season. The botanical identification of the two species was carried out at the National Floristic Center (NFC) of Félix Houphouët-Boigny University (UFHB) in Abidjan, using existing herbarium specimens: No. UCJ003136 for *Terminalia catappa* and No. UCJ009170 for *Senna occidentalis*. After harvesting, the leaves were carefully cleaned with distilled water to remove impurities, then dried away from direct light under air conditioning at 16 °C for 7 days. This low-temperature drying method preserves the integrity of heat-sensitive secondary metabolites. The dried leaves were then ground into a fine powder using an electric grinder (Moulinex, model LM 2201). The resulting powders were stored in airtight bags, protected from light and moisture, until use.

Animal Materials

Male Wistar rats (*Rattus norvegicus*, Wistar strain) weighing between 80 and 150 g and aged 6 to 12 weeks were used for this study. The animals were obtained from the vivarium of Félix-Houphouët-Boigny University located at the Higher Teacher Training College of Abidjan and housed in polypropylene cages in a climate-controlled animal facility (temperature: 22 ± 2 °C, humidity: 55 ± 5%), maintained on a 12-hour light/dark cycle. The animals had ad libitum access to drinking water and a standard diet. A 7-day acclimatization period was observed prior to the start of the experiments. All experimental procedures were conducted in accordance with international guidelines for the ethical use of laboratory animals (Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NRC, 2011) and were approved by the Committee of the African Pharmacopoeia and Natural Substances Research Center (PPASN) at Nangui ABROGOUA University.

Methods

Preparation of plant extracts

Obtaining aqueous extracts by decoction

Aqueous extraction was performed by decoction. Thirty grams (30 g) of plant powder were placed in a 500 mL Erlenmeyer flask fitted with a reflux condenser, to which 300 mL of distilled water were added, resulting in a drug-to-solvent ratio of 1:10 (w/v). The mixture was brought to a boil (100 °C) under stirring for 30 minutes. After cooling to room temperature, the decoction was filtered through a Büchner funnel fitted with Whatman No. 1 filter paper. The recovered filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure using a rotary evaporator (water bath temperature: 45 °C), then dried in an oven at 45 °C for 16 hours until dry extracts of constant mass were obtained. The dry aqueous extracts thus obtained were designated Ca₁ (*Terminalia catappa*) and Se₁ (*Senna occidentalis*). The extraction yields were calculated using the following formula:

$$R (\%) = (\text{mass of dry extract} / \text{mass of plant powder}) \times 100$$

The extracts were stored in hermetically sealed glass vials, protected from light and moisture, until use.

Preparation of aqueous, hydroethanolic, and ethanolic extracts by maceration

Maceration extraction was performed using three solvents of increasing polarity: distilled water, 80% (v/v) ethanol, and absolute ethanol (99.9%). For each solvent, 30 g of plant powder was placed in contact with 300 mL of solvent in a hermetically sealed glass flask, resulting in a drug-to-solvent ratio of 1:10 (w/v). Maceration was conducted at room temperature (25 ± 2 °C) under continuous magnetic stirring for 24 hours. This procedure was repeated three consecutive times (exhaustive maceration over 3 × 24 h), with the solvent replaced at each cycle to optimize extraction yield and ensure complete exhaustion of the plant material. The resulting macerates were filtered through a Büchner funnel, and the filtrates were combined. The combined solutions were concentrated under reduced pressure using a rotary evaporator (water bath temperature: 40 °C for the ethanolic extracts, 45 °C for the aqueous extracts), then dried in an oven at 45 °C for 24 hours until dry extracts of constant mass were obtained. Extraction yields were calculated using the formula described above.

The dry extracts thus obtained were coded as follows:

- Ca₂ and Se₂ : aqueous extracts obtained by maceration of *T. catappa* and *S. occidentalis*, respectively;
- Ca₃ and Se₃ : 80% hydroethanolic extracts of *T. catappa* and *S. occidentalis*, respectively;
- Ca₄ and Se₄ : ethanolic extracts of *T. catappa* and *S. occidentalis*, respectively.

All extracts were stored in tightly sealed amber glass vials, protected from light and moisture at 4 °C until use.

Obtaining selective fractions by liquid-liquid fractionation

To obtain fractions enriched in families of specialized metabolites with distinct polarities, each crude extract was subjected to liquid-liquid fractionation using a gradient of increasing polarity. One gram (1 g) of each crude extract was dissolved in 25 mL of distilled water, then transferred to a separatory funnel. The resulting aqueous solution was successively eluted with four organic solvents of increasing polarity: hexane (nonpolar solvent), chloroform (low-polarity solvent), ethyl acetate (medium-polarity solvent), and n-butanol (polar solvent), using three successive extractions of 15 mL for each solvent (3×15 mL), for a total volume of 45 mL per solvent. After each extraction, the organic phases were separated from the residual aqueous phase, then combined and washed with a saturated sodium chloride (NaCl) solution to remove residual water. The organic phases were then dehydrated over anhydrous sodium sulfate (Na_2SO_4), filtered, and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure using a rotary evaporator. The resulting dry residues were weighed and stored at 4 °C in amber glass vials until use. The fractionation yields were calculated using the formula described above.

Phytochemical screening by thin-layer chromatography (TLC)

Phytochemical screening of the crude extracts and fractions obtained from the liquid-liquid fractionation of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* was performed by thin-layer chromatography (TLC), according to the methodologies described by **Brou et al. (2010)** and **N'gaman (2013)**, adapted to laboratory conditions. Chromatographic separations were performed on 10×20 cm aluminum-backed silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ plates (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). Aliquots of extracts were dissolved in the appropriate solvent, then spotted using a capillary, 1 cm from the bottom of the plate and 1 cm from the side edges. Spotting was performed under a stream of hot air to ensure rapid evaporation of the carrier solvent. The chromatographic plates were developed in chromatographic chambers saturated with solvent vapor, using developing agents (solvent systems) specific to each family of specialized metabolites being sought. After migration, the plates were air-dried and then visualized under a UV lamp at 254 nm (extinguished fluorescence) and 366 nm (induced fluorescence), prior to the application of specific detection reagents.

Phytochemical quantification

Assay of phenolic compounds

Phenolic compound contents were quantified by spectrophotometry. Total phenols were determined according to **Singleton et al. (1999)** and **Flavie et al. (2024)**, while total flavonoids were measured using the method of **Hariri et al. (1991)**. Finally, hydrolyzable tannins were assessed according to **Dif et al. (2015)** and **Flavie et al. (2024)**, and condensed tannins according to the protocols of **Broadhurst and Jones (1978)** and **Heilmer et al. (2006)**.

Total sugar determination

The total sugar content was determined using the sulfuric acid-phenol method, according to the protocol of **Dubois et al. (1956)**. Briefly, a 0.1 mL volume of ethanolic extract (1 mg/mL) was made up to 1 mL with distilled water, then mixed with 1 mL of phenol (5%) and 2 mL of concentrated sulfuric acid. After stirring and incubation at room temperature for 30 min, the absorbance was measured at 490 nm against a blank. Concentrations were determined from a glucose calibration curve (1 mg/mL) and expressed in milligrams of glucose equivalent per gram of dry matter (mg GE/g) according to formula (1):

$$Q \text{ (mg/g)} = \frac{V_f \times q}{V_i \times m} \quad (1)$$

Q: total sugar content; **V_f:** final volume after extraction; **m:** mass of powder sampled for extraction in g; **q:** amount of material calculated from the calibration curve in mg; **V_i:** initial volume of plant extract

Determination of reducing sugars

The reducing sugar content was quantified using the 3,5-dinitrosalicylic acid (DNS) method, adapted from **Bernfeld (1955)**. A volume of 0.1 mL of crude extract was mixed with 0.9 mL of distilled water and 0.5 mL of DNS reagent (prepared from 2 g of DNS, 60 g of sodium potassium tartrate, and 3.2 g of NaOH, all adjusted to 200 mL). The reaction mixture was heated in a boiling water bath (100°C) for 5 min, then cooled to room temperature for 10 min. After adding 3.5 mL of distilled water, the absorbance was measured at 540 nm. Concentrations were determined using a glucose calibration curve (1 mg/mL), and the reducing sugar content was calculated according to equation (2):

$$Q \text{ (mg/g)} = \frac{V_f \times q}{V_i \times m} \quad (2)$$

Q: total sugar content; **V_f:** final volume after extraction; **m:** mass of powder sampled for extraction in g; **q:** amount of material calculated from the calibration curve in mg; **V_i:** initial volume of plant extract

Evaluation of antioxidant activity by DPPH

The antioxidant activity of the extracts was evaluated using the DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) free radical scavenging assay, according to the method of **Blois (1958)** adapted by **Tanoh et al. (2019)**. Antioxidant efficacy was expressed as the median effective concentration (CR₅₀), corresponding to the extract concentration required to reduce the initial DPPH coloration by 50%. This value was determined graphically by linear regression from the curve of scavenging activity versus concentration (**Tanoh et al., 2019**).

Evaluation of hypoglycemic activity

Fifty-five (55) male Wistar rats, aged 6 to 12 weeks and weighing between 80 and 150 g, were randomly divided into 11 groups of 5 animals. After a 12-hour water fast, baseline blood glucose (t₀) was measured using a glucose meter (One Call Extra®, USA). The rats were then administered the following substances orally: distilled water (10 mL/kg, healthy control), glibenclamide (10 mg/kg, positive control), anhydrous glucose (4 g/kg, negative control/vehicle), or plant extracts at doses of 250 and 500 mg/kg. Blood glucose levels were monitored every 60 minutes over a 4-hour period (t₆₀, t₁₂₀, t₍₁₈₀₎, and t₂₄₀), according to the protocols described by **Gisele et al. (2017)** and **Nko'o et al. (2024)**.

Evaluation of antihyperglycemic activity

An oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) was performed on fifty-five (55) male Wistar rats (80–150 g; 6–12 weeks), divided into 11 groups of 5 animals. After a 12-hour fast, hyperglycemia was induced by oral administration of an anhydrous glucose solution (4 g/kg). The various treatments were administered 60 minutes after the glucose load to evaluate their ability to inhibit the glycemic response. The experimental groups included: a healthy control (distilled water, 10 mL/kg), a negative control (glucose alone, 4 g/kg), a reference or positive control (glibenclamide, 10 mg/kg), and the groups treated with the extracts (250 and 500 mg/kg). Basal blood glucose (t₀) was measured immediately before administration, and glucose levels were then monitored every 60 min for 4 h (t₆₀, t₁₂₀, t₍₁₈₀₎, and t₂₄₀) using a glucose meter (One Call Extra®, USA), according to the protocols of **Gisele et al. (2017)** and **Nko'o et al. (2024)**.

Statistical analyses

Data are presented as means ± standard error of the mean (SEM). Analyses were performed using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post-hoc test to compare the treated groups with the negative control. GraphPad Prism software (version 9.0) was used, and differences were considered significant at p < 0.05.

III. Results and Discussion

Extraction Yields

The extraction yields presented in **Tables No.1 and No.2** show significant variability depending on the plant organ and the polarity of the extraction solvent used.

Table No.1: Yields of crude extracts

Crude extract	Yield (%)							
	Ca ₁	Ca ₂	Ca ₃	Ca ₄	Se ₁	Se ₂	Se ₃	Se ₄
Powder mass (g)	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Mass of crude extract (g)	6.23	7.24	5.67	3.4	5.85	7.17	4.15	2.3
Yield (%)	20.77	24.13	18.90	11.33	19.50	23.90	13.83	7.67

Ca₁ : aqueous decoction, Ca₂ : aqueous maceration, Ca₃ : hydroethanolic maceration (80%), Ca₄ : ethanolic maceration of *Terminalia catappa*; Se₁ : aqueous decoction, Se₂ : aqueous maceration, Se₃ : hydroethanolic maceration (80%), Se₄ : ethanolic maceration of *Senna occidentalis*.

Table No.2: Yields of liquid-liquid fractionation (in %)

Selective fraction	Yield (%)							
	Ca ₁	Ca ₂	Ca ₃	Ca ₄	Se ₁	Se ₂	Se ₃	Se ₄
Hexane	~0.4	~0	~0.4	~1	~0.5	1.1	~0.7	~1
Chloroform	~1.3	3.5	2.7	~0.2	0.6	0.7	0.9	~0.7
Ethyl acetate	~0.9	3.6	2	5.6	1.6	1.6	3.6	0.4
n-Butanol	10.6	15	2.9	8	13	7.1	14.2	7.9

Ca₁ : aqueous decoction, Ca₂ : aqueous maceration, Ca₃ : hydroethanolic maceration (80%), Ca₄ : alcoholic maceration of *Terminalia catappa*; Se₁ : aqueous decoction, Se₂ : aqueous maceration, Se₃ : 80% hydroalcoholic maceration, Se₄ : alcoholic maceration of *Senna occidentalis*

Analysis of the yields (**Tables 1 and 2**) highlights the decisive influence of the nature of the plant part and the solvent system on extraction efficiency, suggesting a differential distribution of specialized metabolites within the plant.

Crude extracts

Extraction yields for crude extracts vary significantly depending on the type of solvent used. Aqueous extracts obtained by maceration show the highest yields, with values of 24.13% for *T. catappa* (Ca₂) and 23.90% for *S. occidentalis* (Se₂). In contrast, ethanolic extracts show the lowest yields, at 11.33% for Ca₄ and 7.67% for Se₄. This inverse relationship between solvent polarity and extraction yield is explained by the hydrophilic nature of the parietal constituents of plant cells, which promotes the solubilization and transfer of polar compounds to the aqueous phase (**Bruneton, 2016**). Comparable results have been reported in the literature for other tropical medicinal plants, where aqueous extractions consistently outperform organic solvents in terms of crude yield (**Brou et al., 2010; Bekro et al., 2007**).

Selective Fractions

Regarding the fractions obtained from liquid-liquid fractionation (**Table 2**), the hexane and chloroform fractions exhibit yields below 1.3%, reflecting a low content of nonpolar compounds such as waxes, essential oils, and chlorophylls. This profile is characteristic of polyphenol-dominant plants, whose major specialized metabolites are polar in nature (**Bruneton, 2016**). In contrast, the butanol fractions exhibit the highest yields among the selective fractions, which is consistent with n-butanol's strong affinity for flavonoid glycosides and glycosylated phenolic compounds (**Kadja et al., 2011**). These observations suggest that the two species studied exhibit a predominantly polyphenolic metabolic profile, which justifies their traditional use in the management of diabetes and directs further phytochemical investigations toward the polar fractions.

Phytochemical profile of the selective fractions

The different classes of phytochemicals identified by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) are presented in **Tables 3 through 6**. Qualitative analysis reveals the presence of several major chemical groups, including sterols, terpenes, coumarins, flavonoids, alkaloids, and tannins, consistent with the phytochemical profiles generally reported for bioactive plant extracts.

The Liebermann–Bürchard reagent is classically used for the detection of sterols and triterpenes. In this study, it revealed sterols as yellow spots and terpenes as orange to violet stains under UV irradiation at 365 nm, which is consistent with observations described in the literature (**Sasidharan et al., 2011; Banu & Cathrine, 2015**). Godin's reagent also confirmed the presence of sterols, with blue coloration under UV light (365 nm) and violet to brown hues in visible light, indicating reactions specific to steroid rings.

Coumarins were detected using a 5% KOH solution, which induces characteristic fluorescence. The observed spots appear yellow in visible light and exhibit green to blue fluorescence under UV light at 365 nm, consistent with the well-documented photophysical properties of these compounds (**Venugopala et al., 2013; Borges et al., 2021**).

Flavonoids were identified using Neu's reagent, which forms fluorescent complexes with these compounds. Flavonoids appear yellow in visible light and exhibit blue to red fluorescence under UV light (365 nm), depending on their structure and degree of substitution (**Panche et al., 2016; Dias et al., 2021**).

Alkaloids were detected using Dragendorff's reagent, producing orange spots under visible light, which is a widely used standard method for screening these nitrogen-containing compounds (**Heinrich et al., 2020**).

Finally, tannins were detected using ferric chloride (2% FeCl₃), yielding grayish to dark stains under visible light, indicative of the formation of phenol–iron complexes, characteristic of high-molecular-weight phenolic compounds (**Sieniawska, 2015; Sharifi-Rad et al., 2022**).

Overall, these results confirm the phytochemical richness of the extracts studied and highlight the value of CCM as a rapid, reliable, and inexpensive technique for the preliminary screening of secondary metabolites.

Table No.3 : TLC profile of hexane extracts of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis*

Extracts	R _f , Colors, possible phytochemicals
Ca ₁ ¹	0.86, o ^b , -vi ^c , te ^b /st ^c
Ca ₂ ¹	0.86, o ^b , te ^b , 0.95, vi ^c , st; 0.50, j ^b , st; 0.13, m ^c , st

Ca ₃ ^I	0.98, o ^b - vi ^c , te/st, 0.74, Vi ^c , 0.49, Jp ^b , 0.30, J ^b , 0.26, vi ^c , st
Ca ₄ ^I	0.49, jp ^b , st; 0.98, vi ^c , st
Se ₁ ^I	0.98, o ^b - vi ^c , te/st
Se ₂ ^I	0.93, o ^b , te; 0.90, Vi ^c , st
Se ₃ ^I	0.95, o ^b - Vi ^c , te/st ; 0.15, B ^b , te; 0.46, J ^b , st; 0.11, Vi ^c , st
Se ₄ ^I	0.73, j ^b , st; 0.64, j ^b , st; 0.53, j ^b , st; 0.48, vi ^c , st; 0.48, b ^b , te; 0.20, o ^b , te; 0.15, bp ^b , te; 0.11, o ^b -b ^c , te/st

b: Liebermann-Bürchard; c: Godin; J: yellow; V: green; B: blue; G: gray; O: orange; M: brown; Vi: violet; R: red; st/sterol; te/terpene

Table No.4: TLC profile of chloroform extracts of Terminalia catappa and Senna occidentalis

Extract	R _f , Colors, possible phytochemicals
Ca ₁ ^{II}	0.48, b ^a , yellow; 0.56, b ^a , yellow; 0.53, J ^b , st
Ca ₂ ^{II}	0.64, vi ^b - b ^d , te/fl; 0.59, j ^a , cou; 0.56, j ^a , cou; 0.49, b ^a , cou; 0.46, b ^a - vi ^b , cou/te
Ca ₃ ^{II}	0.86, r ^d , fl; 0.79, vi ^b , b ^d , j ^a , fl/te/cou; 0.75, j ^b , st; 0.64, b ^{2d} - vi ^b , fl/te; 0.59, j ^a , cou; 0.48, b ^a , cou; 0.46, vi ^b - b ^a , te/cou; 0.43, j ^a , cou
Ca ₄ ^{II}	0.64, vi ^b - b ^d , te/fl
Se ₁ ^{II}	0.56, b ^a , cou; 0.50, b ^a - b ^d - J ^b , cou/fl/st; 0.44, j ^d - b ^b , fl/te; 0.40, g ^c - j ^a , ta/cou; 0.34, b ^d , fl; 0.24, b ^a -b ^b -b ^d , cou/te/st; 0.08, j ^a -j ^d , cou/st/fl
Se ₂ ^{II}	0.94, j ^b , st; 0.71, j ^b , st; 0.56, j ^a , cou; 0.48, b ^a , cou; 0.48, b ^b , te; 0.44, j ^b - j ^d , st/fl; 0.41, j ^a - g ^c , cou/ta; 0.38, j ^a , cou; 0.34, j ^d , fl; 0.25, j ^d , fl; 0.23, v ^a , cou; 0.08, j ^d -j ^a -j ^b , fl/cou/st
Se ₃ ^{II}	0.88, j ^a , neck; 0.55, b ^a , neck; 0.48, b ^a , neck; 0.45, j ^a -b ^b -j ^d -g ^c , neck/te/fl/ta; 0.43, j ^b , st; 0.38, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl; 0.36, v ^a , cou ; 0.33, b ^d , fl ; 0.30, v ^a , cou ; 0.25, b ^b -b ^d , te/fl ; 0.20, v ^a , neck; 0.08, j ^b , st; 0.06, j ^a -j ^d , neck/fl
Se ₄ ^{II}	0.08; 0.25, b ^d , ; ; ; 0.91, r ^d , fl; 0.86, r ^d , fl; 0.80, j ^b , st; 0.58, b ^a , cou; 0.48, b ^a , cou; 0.44, j ^a -j ^b -j ^d -g ^c , cou/st/fl/ta; 0.40, b ^d , fl; 0.38, j ^a , cou; 0.34, b ^d , fl; 0.30, j ^a , cou; 0.25, b ^b , te; 0.23, v ^a , cou; 0.20, j ^a , cou; 0.08, j ^b -j ^d , st/fl

a: KOH; b: Liebermann-Bürchard; c: Godin; d: Neu; e: FeCl₃; f: Dragendorff; J: yellow; V: green; B: blue; G: gray; O: orange; M: brown; Vi: violet; Br: brown; R: red; st/sterol; te/terpene; cou/coumarin; fl/flavonoid; ta/tannin

Table No.5: TLC profile of ethyl acetate extracts of Terminalia catappa and Senna occidentalis

Extract	R _f , Colors, potential phytochemicals
Ca ₁ ^{III}	0.93, j ^a , stem; 0.68, v ^a , stem; 0.64, v ^d , flower; 0.60, b ^d , flower; 0.55, b ^a -v ^d , stem/flower; 0.49, g ^c , stem; 0.35, b ^a - b ^d , stem/flower; 0.25, j ^a -g ^c , stem/stem; 0.08, j ^d , flower; 0.04, o ^d - g ^c , flower/stem
Ca ₂ ^{III}	0.69, b ^b , cou; 0.64, v ^d , fl; 0.59, b ^d , fl; 0.55, b ^a - v ^d , cou/fl; 0.36, b ^a , cou; 0.30, b ^d , fl; 0.24, j ^a - g ^c , cou/ta ; 0.08, j ^d , fl ; 0.04, o ^d -g ^c , fl/ta
Ca ₃ ^{III}	0.90, b ^a - b ^d , neck/flute; 0.83, j ^a , neck; 0.80, j ^a , neck; 0.75, b ^a , neck; 0.71, j ^a , neck; 0.68, j ^a , cou; 0.64, j ^d , fl; 0.53, j ^a - v ^d , cou/fl; 0.41, j ^a , cou
Ca ₄ ^{III}	0.04, o ^d ; 0.09, j ^d , ; ; ; 0.63, v ^d , fl; 0.55, b ^a - b ^d , cou/fl; 0.41, j ^a , cou; 0.35, b ^a , cou; 0.28, b ^d , fl; 0.15, j ^a , cou ; 0.04, g ^c , ta
Se ₁ ^{III}	0.93, r ^d , fl; 0.74, j ^d , fl; 0.68, j ^a , cou; 0.65, v ^a - j ^d - g ^c , cou/fl/ta; 0.60, v ^a , cou; 0.56, v ^a -g ^c , cou/ta ; 0.53, v ^d , fl; 0.50, v ^a , cou ; 0.30, j ^a , cou; 0.19, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl; 0.13, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl; 0.04, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl
Se ₂ ^{III}	0.93, r ^d , fl; 0.75, j ^d , fl; 0.68, j ^a -o ^f , cou/al; 0.65, j ^d -g ^c , fl/ta; 0.61, v ^a -o ^f , cou/al; 0.56, g ^c , ta; 0.30, j ^a , cou; 0.18, j ^d , fl ; 0.15, j ^a , cou ; 0.11, j ^d , fl ; 0.05, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl
Se ₃ ^{III}	0.96, r ^d , fl; 0.94, g ^c , ta; 0.83, r ^d , fl; 0.81, j ^d , fl; 0.75, r ^d -g ^c , fl/ta; 0.66, j ^d , fl; 0.61, v ^a -j ^d -o ^f , cou/fl/al; 0.58, j ^a , cou; 0.53, j ^d , fl; 0.49, j ^a , cou; 0.28, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl; 0.19, j ^d , fl ; 0.14, j ^a , cou ; 0.11, j ^d , fl ; 0.05, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl ; 0.03, j ^a , cou
Se ₄ ^{III}	0.65, v ^a - j ^d , neck/fl; 0.61, v ^a - r ^d - o ^f , neck/fl/al; 0.58, j ^a , neck; 0.54, v ^a -j ^d , neck/fl; 0.50, v ^a , cou; 0.43, j ^a , cou; 0.34, j ^a , cou; 0.26, j ^a , cou; 0.18, j ^d , fl; 0.15, j ^a , cou; 0.04, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl

a: KOH; b: Liebermann-Bürchard; c: Godin; d: Neu; e: FeCl₃; f: Dragendorff; J: yellow; V: green; B: blue; G: gray; O: orange; M: brown; Vi: violet; Br: brown; R: red; cou/coumarin; fl/flavonoid; ta/tannin; al/alkaloid

Table No.6: TLC profile of n-butanol extracts of Terminalia catappa and Senna occidentalis

Extract	R _f , Colors, possible phytochemicals
Ca ₁ ^{IV}	0.19, j ^d , fl ; ; 0.13, j ^d , fl ; 0.09, j ^d , fl ; 0.04, v ^a -j ^d , cou/fl ; 0.03, j ^d , fl ;
Ca ₂ ^{IV}	0.40, b ^d , fl; 0.20, j ^d -g ^c , fl/ta ; 0.16, g ^c , ta ; 0.14, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl ; 0.11, g ^c , ta; 0.04, v ^a -j ^d , cou/fl

Ca ₃ ^{IV}	0.66, j ^d - j ^a , fl/cou; 0.39, j ^d , fl; 0.31, j ^a , cou; 0.21, j ^d , fl; 0.19, g ^c , ta; 0.15, j ^d -g ^c , fl/ta; 0.13, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl; 0.09, j ^d -g ^c , fl/ta; 0.04, g ^c , ta
Ca ₄ ^{IV}	0.25, b ^d , fl; 0.21, j ^d , fl; 0.14, j ^d , fl; 0.13, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl; 0.11, j ^a , cou; 0.09, j ^d , fl; 0.08, j ^d , fl; 0.04, v ^a -g ^c , cou/fl
Se ₁ ^{IV}	0.64, ; 0.75, j ^d , fl; 0.73, j ^d , fl; 0.65, v ^a - j ^d , cou/fl; 0.58, j ^d , fl; 0.54, v ^a , cou; 0.40, v ^a , cou; 0.38, j ^d , fl; 0.29, j ^d , fl; 0.23, j ^a , cou; 0.18, j ^d , cou; 0.13, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl; 0.11, j ^a , cou; 0.05, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl
Se ₂ ^{IV}	0.74, j ^d -j ^a , cou/fl; 0.65, j ^d , fl; 0.04, j ^a , cou
Se ₃ ^{IV}	0.98, r ^d , fl; 0.96, j ^d , fl; 0.83, r ^d , fl; 0.76, j ^d , fl; 0.64, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl; 0.53, j ^a , cou; 0.28, j ^a , cou; 0.13, j ^a , cou; 0.11, j ^d , fl; 0.05, j ^d , fl; 0.04, j ^a -j ^d , cou/fl
Se ₄ ^{IV}	0.64, j ^d - j ^a , fl/cou; 0.11, j ^d - j ^a , fl/cou; 0.05, j ^d - j ^a , fl/cou

a: KOH; b: Liebermann-Bürchard; c: Godin; d: Neu; e: FeCl₃; f: Dragendorff; J: yellow; V: green; B: blue; G: gray; O: orange; M: brown; Vi: violet; Br: brown; R: red; cou/coumarin; fl/flavonoid; ta/tannin

Phytoconstituent content

Table 7 presents the total phenolic compound contents of the various crude extracts. The Ca₂ and Ca₃ extracts of *Terminalia catappa* stand out for having the highest concentrations, reaching 67.53 ± 2.09 mg EAG/g and 55.38 ± 0.395 mg EAG/g, respectively, compared to the Se₃ and Se₁ extracts from *Senna occidentalis* (formerly *Cassia occidentalis*), which contain 39.69 ± 0.298 mg EAG/g and 19.60 ± 0.447 mg EAG/g, respectively. These results confirm the high polyphenol content of *T. catappa*, previously reported in the literature, with levels reaching up to 95 mg EAG/g in certain parts of the fruit, particularly the epicarp (Fousseyni et al., 2021). Furthermore, studies using technical assisted extraction techniques, such as ultrasonication, have shown even higher yields of phenolic compounds in the leaves and fruits of this species (Annegowda et al., 2010; Marques et al., 2012). The high total phenolic content observed in *T. catappa* extracts is of significant pharmacological interest, particularly in the context of type 2 diabetes. Indeed, phenolic compounds are recognized for their ability to neutralize reactive oxygen species (ROS) and mitigate oxidative stress, a key factor in the pathophysiology of diabetes and its complications (Shahidi & Danielski, 2024; Sharifi-Rad et al., 2022). Thus, aqueous and hydroethanolic (80%) macerates could be promising extracts for the development of phytotherapeutic approaches to treat diabetes. Regarding flavonoids, the contents range from 2.76 ± 0.370 to 6.54 ± 0.277 mg EQ/g, with higher concentrations observed in *S. occidentalis*, particularly in the hydroethanolic extract (80%). These results are consistent with chromatographic observations (TLC), where Neu's reagent revealed several fluorescent spots characteristic of flavonoids, particularly in the chloroform and ethyl acetate fractions. These compounds are well documented for their ability to inhibit key enzymes of carbohydrate metabolism, such as α-glucosidase and α-amylase, thereby contributing to the regulation of postprandial blood glucose levels (Iheagwam et al., 2019; Wende-Konté et al., 2023; Dias et al., 2021). The hydrolyzable tannin contents range from 0.7346 ± 0.126 to 7.773 ± 0.144%, while those of condensed tannins range from 41,167 ± 231 to 119,000 ± 346 µg ECT/mg. The Se₄ extract of *S. occidentalis* has the highest content of hydrolyzable tannins, whereas the Ca₂ extract of *T. catappa* has the highest concentration of condensed tannins. These results differ from those reported by Benchaachoua et al. (2018), who demonstrated greater efficacy of the decoction for the extraction of condensed tannins, suggesting that extraction parameters (solvent, temperature, duration) strongly influence the recovery of these metabolites. Tannins, particularly condensed forms, are known for their antioxidant properties and their ability to modulate carbohydrate absorption, thereby reinforcing their potential in diabetes management (Sieniawska, 2015; Shahidi & Yeo, 2018). Total sugar contents (Table 8) range from 0.976 ± 0.43 mg/g to 13.894 ± 1.357 mg/g across all extracts. Ethanol macerates (absolute and 80%) generally exhibit the highest concentrations, while the aqueous decoction of S₁ of *S. occidentalis* shows the lowest content. This decrease could be explained by partial thermal degradation of simple sugars during the decoction process, a phenomenon already described in plant matrices subjected to high temperatures. As for reducing sugars, their levels remain lower than those of total sugars in all extracted, with values ranging from 0.036 ± 0.00 mg/g to 0.0748 ± 0.020 mg/g. These low concentrations suggest a predominance of complex carbohydrates, such as polysaccharides and glycosides, over free monosaccharides. From a nutritional and pharmacological standpoint, the low content of reducing sugars, particularly in the Se₄ and Se₃ extracts of *S. occidentalis*, is an advantage for potential use in diabetes management by limiting the intake of rapidly assimilable sugars.

Table No.7: Phytoconstituent contents of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis*

	Total Phenols (µg EAG/g)	Total Flavonoids (in %)	Hydrolyzable tannins (in %)	Condensed tannins (µg ECT/mg)
Ca ₁	46,471.3 ± 199.1	3.58 ± 0.306	2.557 ± 0.154	94,167 ± 288.7
Ca ₂	67,534.4 ± 2,090	4.85 ± 0.530	4.426 ± 0.146	119,000 ± 346
Ca ₃	55,379.3 ± 395	3.71 ± 0.496	6.289 ± 0.116	55,833 ± 252

Ca ₄	40,609.2 ± 647	3.09 ± 0.052	4.214±0.176	70,000±278
Se ₁	19,603.4 ± 447.9	2.96±0.034	0.9006±0.152	51,667±317
Se ₂	21,040.2 ± 199.1	2.76 ± 0.370	0.7346±0.126	43,667 ± 231
Se ₃	39,689.6 ± 298.6	6.54 ± 0.277	2.975±0.165	51,833 ± 480
Se ₄	22,534.5 ± 149.3	3.69 ± 0.152	7.773±0.144	41,167±231

Ca₁ : aqueous decoction, Ca₂ : aqueous maceration, Ca₃ : 80% hydroethanolic maceration, Ca₄ : ethanolic maceration of *Terminalia catappa*; Se₁ : aqueous decoction, Se₂ : aqueous maceration, Se₃ : 80% hydroethanolic maceration, Se₄ : ethanolic maceration of *Senna occidentalis*.

Table No.8: Total and reducing sugar contents of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis*

	Ca ₁	Ca ₂	Ca ₃	Ca ₄	Se ₁	Se ₂	Se ₃	Se ₄
Total sugars (mg/g)	2.8810 ±0.104	1.0891 ±0.116	13.1804 ±1.925	13.8937 ±1.357	0.9760 ±0.435	8.9354 ±1.531	7.7871 ±0.766	5.7777 ±0.122
Reducing sugars (mg/g)	0.0808 ±0.014	0.0531 ±0.009	0.1341 ±0.042	0.0748 ±0.020	0.0816 ±0.028	0.0418 ±0.009	0.0966 ±0.022	0.0362 ±0.001

Ca₁ : aqueous decoction, Ca₂ : aqueous maceration, Ca₃ : 80% hydroethanolic maceration, Ca₄ : ethanolic maceration of *Terminalia catappa*; Se₁ : aqueous decoction, Se₂ : aqueous maceration, Se₃ : 80% hydroethanolic maceration, Se₄ : ethanolic maceration of *Senna occidentalis*.

DPPH antioxidant profile

The CR₅₀ values of the various extracts (**Table 9**), determined using the DPPH radical scavenging assay, provide a reliable quantitative indicator of their antioxidant capacity. The CR₅₀, defined as the concentration required to inhibit 50% of free radical, is inversely proportional to antioxidant activity (**Brand-Williams et al., 1995; Tanoh et al., 2019**). In the present study, the CR₅₀ values ranged from 0.0316 ± 0.002 mg/mL to 0.9828 ± 0.058 mg/mL, highlighting significant variability in antioxidant activity depending on the extracts and solvents used. The hydroethanolic (Ca₃; CR₅₀ = 0.0316 ± 0.002 mg/mL) and ethanolic (Ca₄; CR₅₀ = 0.0318 ± 0.004 mg/mL) macerates of *Terminalia catappa* leaves exhibit the highest activities. This efficacy can be attributed to the strong ability of polar solvents to extract phenolic compounds, particularly flavonoids and tannins, which are known for their capacity to neutralize free radicals via electron or hydrogen atom transfer mechanisms (**Rice-Evans et al., 1997; Dai & Mumper, 2010**). However, these extracts remain less active than vitamin C (IC₅₀ = 0.0070 ± 0.001 mg/mL), used as a standard. This difference is explained by the pure and highly reactive nature of ascorbic acid, unlike plant extracts, which are complex mixtures of compounds that may exhibit synergistic or antagonistic effects. In comparison, extracts from *Senna occidentalis* leaves exhibit significantly higher CR₅₀ values, indicating lower antioxidant activity. This observation could be related to a lower content of total phenolic compounds or to a different composition of secondary metabolites. Indeed, several studies have established a positive correlation between total polyphenol content and antioxidant activity measured by the DPPH, ABTS, or FRAP methods (**Prior et al., 2005; Thaipong et al., 2006**). Furthermore, the results obtained confirm the decisive influence of the extraction solvent on the yield of bioactive compounds. Hydroalcoholic solvents are often described as optimal for the extraction of natural antioxidants, due to their intermediate polarity, which allows for the solubilization of a wide range of molecules (**Do et al., 2014**). Thus, *Terminalia catappa* extracts, particularly the hydroethanolic and ethanolic macerates (Ca₃ and Ca₄), exhibit significant antioxidant potential and could serve as promising natural sources for pharmacological, food, or cosmetic applications. Nevertheless, further investigations, including the quantification of total polyphenols, the identification of active compounds using chromatographic techniques (HPLC, LC-MS), and evaluation via other antioxidant assays (ABTS, FRAP), would be necessary for a better understanding of the mechanisms involved and the optimal utilization of these extracts.

Table No.9: EC₅₀ (mg/mL) of crude extracts of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis*

	Se ₁	Se ₂	Se ₃	Se ₄	Ca ₁	Ca ₂	Ca ₃	Ca ₄	VIT C
CR₅₀ (mg/mL)	0.9828 ±0.058	0.4716 ±0.051	0.1553 ±0.023	0.2144 ±0.038	0.2578 ±0.032	0.0857 ±0.012	0.0316 ±0.002	0.0318 ±0.004	0.0070 ±0.001

Ca₁ : aqueous decoction, Ca₂ : aqueous maceration, Ca₃ : 80% hydroethanolic maceration, Ca₄ : ethanolic maceration of *Terminalia catappa*; Se₁ : aqueous decoction, Se₂ : aqueous maceration, Se₃ : 80% hydroethanolic maceration, Se₄ : ethanolic maceration of *Senna occidentalis*

Effect of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* extracts on blood glucose levels in rats

- **Effect of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* extracts on blood glucose levels in pretreated rats**

The effects of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* extracts in pretreated rats are shown in **Figures 4 and 5**. One hour after administration of the various crude extracts, no significant change in blood glucose levels was observed compared to healthy controls (78.2 ± 0.46 mg/dL for *Terminalia catappa* and 80.0 ± 2.6 mg/dL for *Senna occidentalis*). These results indicate that the tested extracts do not induce basal hypoglycemia, suggesting an absence of direct hypoglycemic effect under normoglycemic conditions. Following oral administration of glucose (4 g/kg), a significant increase in blood glucose levels ($p < 0.0001$) was observed in all groups, confirming the effective induction of transient hyperglycemia. This model replicates the postprandial response and is widely used to evaluate the anti-hyperglycemic potential of plant extracts (Gisele et al., 2017; Nko'o et al., 2024). At a dose of 250 mg/kg body weight, the blood glucose levels measured at t_{60} for the extracts of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* are comparable to those observed in animals treated with glibenclamide (104–109 mg/dL), suggesting a similar ability to modulate the initial hyperglycemic peak at low doses. In contrast, at a dose of 500 mg/kg, notable differences emerge among the extracts. For *Terminalia catappa*, the Ca₃ hydroethanolic extract stands out with a blood glucose level of 93.6 ± 1.2 mg/dL at t_{60} , lower than that of the other extracts and comparable to, or even slightly better than, that of glibenclamide. The other extracts show higher values (120 ± 4.2 to 130 ± 3.2 mg/dL), indicating lower efficacy in limiting the glycemic peak. Conversely, in *Senna occidentalis*, the 500 mg/kg extracts show reduced efficacy, with high blood glucose levels for Se₂ (138.4 ± 1.7 mg/dL) and Se₃ (133.0 ± 4.5 mg/dL), close to those of the positive control (140 mg/dL), indicating a low capacity to contain the initial rise in blood glucose. Starting at t_{120} , a gradual and significant decrease in blood glucose is observed in the groups treated with both plant species. This kinetics is consistent with data in the literature attributing to polyphenolic compounds a delayed action involving, in particular, the inhibition of digestive enzymes (α -amylase, α -glucosidase), the improvement of peripheral glucose uptake, and the modulation of insulin sensitivity (Hanhineva et al., 2010). In *Terminalia catappa*, at t_{240} , the majority of extracts administered at 250 mg/kg, with the exception of Ca₂, induce a marked reduction in hyperglycemia. Similarly, at 500 mg/kg, the Ca₃ and Ca₄ extracts yielded final blood glucose levels of 86 ± 2 mg/dL, close to normoglycemic values, indicating high antihyperglycemic activity. In contrast, the Ca₂ extracts at 250 mg/kg, as well as Ca₁ and Ca₂ at 500 mg/kg, showed significantly higher blood glucose levels (100 ± 3.2 mg/dL), suggesting more limited efficacy. Glibenclamide also induces a significant decrease in blood glucose levels, with a final value of 80.4 ± 5 mg/dL. Regarding *Senna occidentalis*, the reduction in hyperglycemia becomes noticeable starting at t_{180} , unlike the positive control, in which blood glucose levels remain high throughout the experiment. At t_{240} , the extracts administered at 250 mg/kg showed mean blood glucose levels of 85.4 ± 1 mg/dL, close to those obtained with glibenclamide (76.8 ± 0.4 mg/dL) and to normoglycemic values. In contrast, the 500 mg/kg extracts showed higher final blood glucose levels (96.8 ± 0 to 100 ± 2 mg/dL), suggesting a lack of a favorable dose-dependent effect and, potentially, saturation or an antagonistic interaction between bioactive compounds at high doses. Overall, these results indicate that *Terminalia catappa* exhibits more pronounced antihyperglycemic activity than *Senna occidentalis*, particularly for the hydroethanolic and ethanolic extracts. This activity may be linked to a higher content of bioactive phenolic compounds capable of intervening at various levels of carbohydrate metabolism. However, further analyses, including the quantification of total polyphenols, the identification of active molecules, and the study of mechanisms of action, are necessary to confirm these hypotheses and better assess the therapeutic potential of these species.

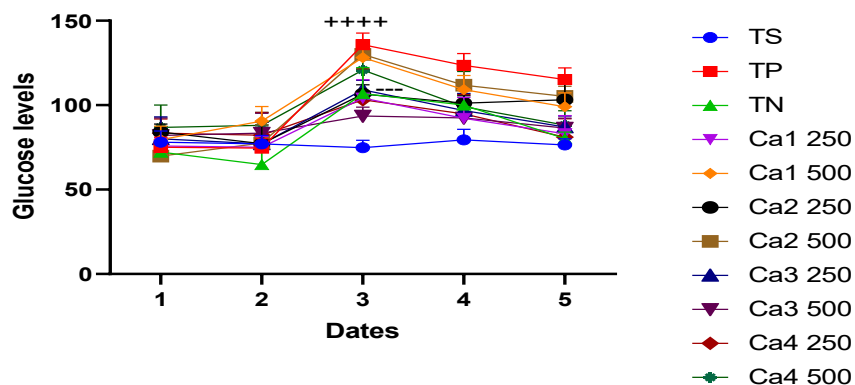


Figure No.4: Effect of *Terminalia catappa* on blood glucose levels in pretreated rats

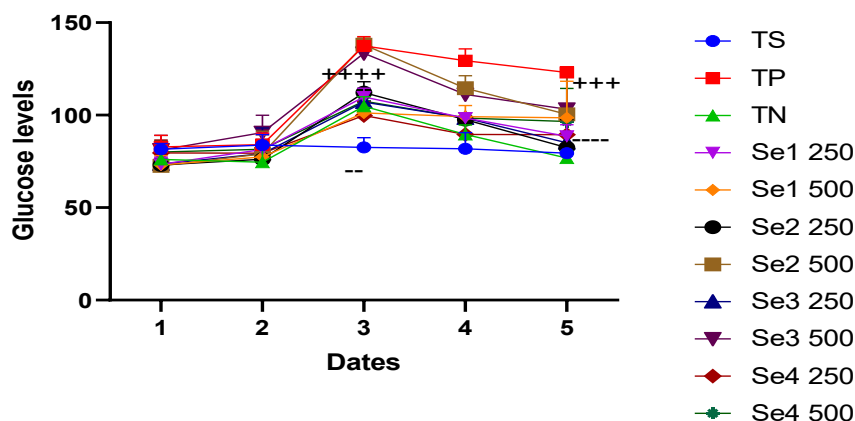


Figure No.5: Effect of *Senna occidentalis* on blood glucose levels in pretreated rats

• **Effect of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* on blood glucose levels in post-treated rats**

The effects of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* extracts on blood glucose levels in rats under post-treatment conditions are presented in **Figures 6 and 7**. One hour after oral administration of glucose, significant hyperglycemia ($p < 0.0001$) was observed in all groups.

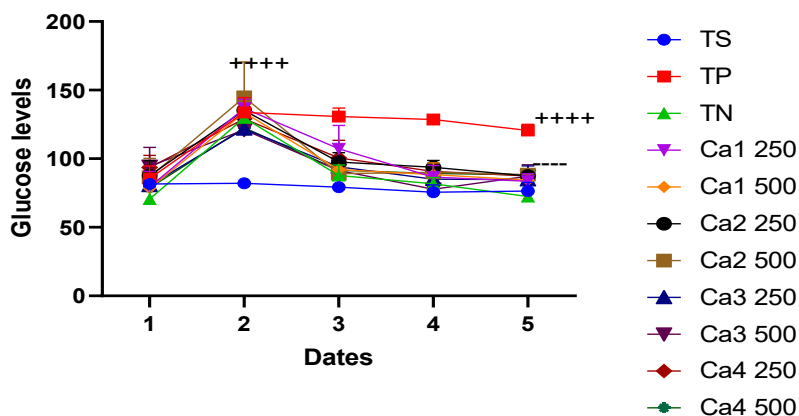


Figure No.6: Effect of *Terminalia catappa* on blood glucose levels in rats after treatment

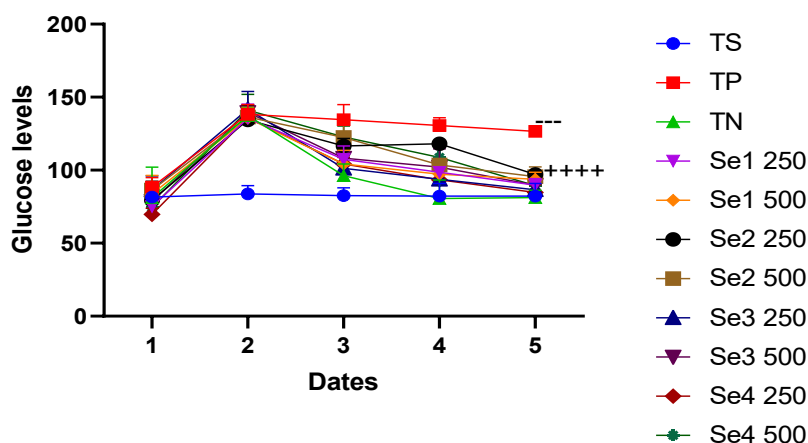


Figure No.7: Effect of *Senna occidentalis* on blood glucose levels in post-treated rats

In rats treated with *Terminalia catappa* extracts, the mean blood glucose level reached 135 ± 4 mg/dL at t_{60} . Similarly, in those receiving *Senna occidentalis* extracts, blood glucose levels rose from 81.8 ± 1 mg/dL to 138.2 ± 5.6 mg/dL during the first hour, representing an increase of approximately 65%. These results confirm the reproducibility and robustness of the model of hyperglycemia induced by oral glucose overload. The positive control group, consisting of untreated hyperglycemic rats, maintained elevated blood glucose levels throughout the experiment, with final blood glucose levels of 120.6 ± 3 mg/dL for *Terminalia catappa* and 126 ± 7 mg/dL for *Senna occidentalis*, corresponding to limited spontaneous decreases of 10% and 8%, respectively. This demonstrates the stability and persistence of the induced hyperglycemic state. As early as t_{120} , i.e., one hour after administration of the extracts, a significant reduction in blood glucose ($p < 0.0001$) is observed in all treated groups. In *Terminalia catappa*, the mean blood glucose level decreased to approximately 100 ± 3.2 mg/dL. In *Senna occidentalis*, blood glucose values at t_{120} ranged from 104 ± 2 to 122 ± 3.7 mg/dL, indicating a significant antihyperglycemic response, albeit slightly more gradual. At the end of the experiment (t_{240}), all extracts from both species induced a significant reduction in hyperglycemia compared to the positive control. The extracts of *Terminalia catappa* showed a marked decrease in blood glucose levels, consistent with the results obtained in the pretreatment. For *Senna occidentalis*, final blood glucose levels ranged from 85 ± 1.7 mg/dL to 95 mg/dL, values close to normoglycemia. Glibenclamide, used as a reference, caused a rapid and pronounced reduction in blood glucose levels as early as t_{120} , with a final value of 96.2 ± 6 mg/dL, confirming its efficacy in this experimental model. Overall, these results demonstrate that extracts of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* possess significant antihyperglycemic activity under postprandial conditions. The absence of a hypoglycemic effect under basal conditions, combined with a marked reduction in induced hyperglycemia, suggests a regulatory rather than a sudden corrective effect on blood glucose levels. Mechanistically, these effects could be attributed to the presence of bioactive secondary metabolites such as polyphenols, flavonoids, tannins, alkaloids, and coumarins. These compounds are known to act at various levels of carbohydrate metabolism: stimulation of insulin secretion by pancreatic β -cells, improvement of insulin sensitivity, inhibition of digestive enzymes (α -amylase and α -glucosidase), reducing intestinal glucose absorption, and modulating hepatic gluconeogenesis (Hanhineva et al., 2010; Zougrou, 2017). Flavonoids, in particular, play a key role in the enzymatic regulation of carbohydrate metabolism, while tannins may promote peripheral glucose uptake and limit protein glycation (De Boeck et al., 2012; Benhamida et al., 2023). Furthermore, the observed effect of glibenclamide, which stimulates insulin secretion via pancreatic islet β -cells (Rydberg et al., 1994), suggests that certain compounds present in the extracts may act through partially similar mechanisms, albeit with lesser potency. These results are consistent with several previous studies reporting the antihyperglycemic properties of plants from the African pharmacopoeia, notably *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* (Shaik et al., 2013). However, the observed activity could also result from synergistic effects between different bioactive compounds present in the extracts. In conclusion, the extracts studied show promising potential in regulating postprandial hyperglycemia. Nevertheless, further studies are needed to identify the active molecules, clarify their mechanisms of action, and evaluate their long-term efficacy and safety, particularly through pharmacological and clinical approaches.

III. CONCLUSION

This study highlights the phytochemical, antioxidant, and antihyperglycemic potential of the leaves of *Terminalia catappa* (Combretaceae) and *Senna occidentalis* (Fabaceae). Thin-layer chromatography analysis revealed the presence of major secondary metabolites (sterols, terpenes, flavonoids, coumarins, saponins, and tannins), confirming the bioactive richness of these two species. Quantitative analyses showed that the solvent

and extraction method had a decisive influence on the levels of phenolic compounds. The aqueous macerates of *Terminalia catappa* (Ca₂) are distinguished by high levels of total phenols and condensed tannins, while *Senna occidentalis* exhibits higher concentrations of flavonoids. Assessment of antioxidant activity using the DPPH assay reveals a clear superiority of *Terminalia catappa* extracts, particularly the hydroethanolic (Ca₃) and ethanolic macerates (Ca₄), with respective CR₅₀ values of 0.0316 and 0.0318 mg/mL, lower than those of *Senna occidentalis* (0.1553 to 0.9828 mg/mL). Pharmacologically, both species demonstrated significant antihyperglycemic activity ($p < 0.0001$) in the pretreatment and post-treatment models in rats subjected to hyperglycemia induced by oral glucose overload (4 g/kg). In the pretreatment model, extracts administered at 250 mg/kg, particularly Ca₃ from *Terminalia catappa* (93.6 ± 1.2 mg/dL at t₆₀), showed the greatest ability to limit the glycemic peak, with performance comparable to that of glibenclamide. In the post-treatment model, all extracts induced a significant decrease in blood glucose levels starting from the second hour, reaching values close to normoglycemia (85–95 mg/dL). Overall, the *in vivo* results confirm that these two plant species exert a regulatory effect on postprandial hyperglycemia without inducing basal hypoglycemia, which constitutes a potential therapeutic advantage. These effects could be attributed to the high content of phenolic compounds and other specialized metabolites, which are likely to act via multiple mechanisms involving the modulation of insulin secretion, the improvement of peripheral glucose sensitivity, and the inhibition of intestinal absorption. These results provide scientific validation of the traditional use of *Terminalia catappa* and *Senna occidentalis* and suggest their potential as sources of bioactive compounds for the development of antidiabetic herbal medicines. However, further studies are needed to identify the active molecules, elucidate their precise mechanisms of action, and evaluate their safety and long-term efficacy in preclinical and clinical models.

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