

## Antiemetic activity of *Acalypha fimbriata* Schumach. & Thonn., *Acalypha ornata* Hochst., and *Acalypha wilkesiana* cv. *godseffiana* Muell Arg.

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### Abstract

Current study was designed to explore the antiemetic effect of the methanolic extracts of *Acalypha fimbriata* Schumach. & Thonn., *Acalypha ornata* Hochst., and *Acalypha wilkesiana* cv. *godseffiana* Muell Arg., aerial parts using chick emesis model in order to validate their folk use in G.I. disorders. Emesis was induced by the oral administration of copper sulfate to male chicks. All the extracts (150 mg/kg orally) showed antiemetic effect and compared with reference drug chlorpromazine. Among all the extracts *Acalypha ornata* Hochst., leaves extract showed highest (94.51%) and *Acalypha fimbriata* Schumach. & Thonn., stem extract showed lowest (35.04%) antiemetic effect.

**Keywords:** Antiemetic; *Acalypha fimbriata*; *Acalypha ornata*; *Acalypha wilkesiana*; chi-ck emesis model

### Introduction

*Acalypha* is the fourth largest genus of Euphorbiaceae, comprises of fast growing, evergreen shrubs, trees and annuals from tropical to subtropical regions particularly in the tropics of Africa, America and Asia. A large proportion of genus *Acalypha* is weed while others are ornamental plants (Riley, 1963; Ogundaini, 2005). Decoction of *Acalypha fimbriata* Schum. & Thonn., is used as laxative (Kola *et al.*, 2008), where as leaves are used in asthma, rheumatism, syphilis, ulcers, and also as anthelmintic, antimicrobial and antifungal in Nigeria (Odugbemi, 2008). The leaves and roots of *Acalypha ornata* Hochst., are used for the relief of postpartum pain (Newton-Fisher *et al.*, 2006) and to treat scabies and haemorrhoids (Schmelzer and Gurib-Fakim, 2008). The leaves of *A. wilkesiana* cv. *godseffiana* Muell Arg., are used in diabetes mellitus, gastrointestinal disorders, hypertension, malaria and skin infectio-