

P026 Hypoglycemic effects of the aqueous extract of African Mistletoe, *Tapinanthus sessilifolius* (P. Beauv) van Tiegh (Loranthaceae)
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The hypoglycemic effect of the aqueous extract African mistletoe, *Tapinanthus sessilifolius* was investigated in rabbits and rats. Studies were carried out on normoglycemic and alloxan-induced hyperglycemic rabbits. Glucose uptake studies were also done using the isolated intestine of normal rabbits. Acute toxicity studies were carried out in mice. The results of the studies revealed that the aqueous extract of *Tapinanthus sessilifolius* had transient reduction of blood glucose in normoglycemic rabbits. It was found to significantly lower blood glucose in hyperglycemic rabbits. On glucose uptake, the extract significantly decreased the level of glucose in serosal fluid with increase in time. The i.p. LD₅₀ of *Tapinanthus sessilifolius* was found to be 2000–2650 mg/kg within 95% confidence limits. The data showed that *Tapinanthus sessilifolius* contain biologically active substances that may be useful in the treatment of diabetes and which finding supports its use in herbal traditional medicine.