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Anthelmintics (ovicidal and larvicidal) activity of the extract and a lupane pentacyclic triterpene from *Canarium schweinfurthii* (Engl)

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The challenges of parasitic worms, especially in the developing nations have become a global concern. The anthelmintic drugs in use are mostly synthesized compounds with the usual sides effects and complications. These have fueled the search for newer anthelmintics drugs, especially from nature. *C. Schweinfurthii*, a plant with many ethnomedicinal uses, has been implicated in the treatment of roundworm infections and other intestinal parasites in Africa. Our investigation reveals that, the leaves of *C. schweinfurthii* showed high degree of ovicidal activity against *Ascaris suum*, with 80% inhibition at 10 µg/ml. The chloroform and ethylacetate extracts of *C. schweinfurthii* stem bark showed high degree of larvicidal activity with 74% inhibition at 10 µg/ml. Column purification on silica gel lead to the isolation of 3β-hydroxylup-20(29)-en-28-oic acid (betulinic acid) from the ethylacetate extract of the stem bark. Anthelmintic investigation of 3β-hydroxylup-20(29)-en-28-oic acid revealed ovicidal activity with percentage inhibition of 65% and larvicidal activity of 83%, which compared favorably to the results obtained for albendazole; ovicidal (98.1%) and larvicidal (97.2%). This plant shows promising potential that can be explored in the search for new anthelmintic drugs.

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