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Pharmacognostic studies of the stem bark of *Detarium microcarpum*-Guill. & Perr. (Fabaceae)

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Various parts of the plant *Detarium microcarpum* or the plant as a whole has been used in Nigeria and several other West African countries for the treatment of various ailments; either in form of topical applications to treat skin diseases or prepared into infusion, decoctions or even concoctions with other herbs and consumed to either alleviate pains or treat other form of diseases like malaria, pile, bacterial infective HIV etc. The aim/mission of this work is to come up with standards for the development of a monograph for the stem bark of *Detarium microcarpum* by evaluating the pharmacognostic charactersters of its stem bark. In an attempt to standardize this plant, the pharmacognostic studies were carried out on its stem bark. The anatomical sections and powdered samples of the plant parts were investigated for their microscopical profiles. The stem cuttings and fresh young twigs of the plant were collected. Preliminary processing of the plant material was done. The stem cuttings were debarked and the barks dried in an open air under shade. The dried plant materials was then powdered using mortar and pistil. The macroscopical examinations and the microscopical studies were carried out on the stem bark. The results from the powdered bark samples revealed the presence of phloem tissues, parenchyma cells, cork cells, calcium oxalate crystals, starch grains and secretory ducts. The results from the anatomical sections revealed the presence of xylem tissues.

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