

Preliminary Investigation on the Effects of Bitter Kola (Garcinia kola) Extract on Rabbit Testes and Epididymides

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Abstract

The testicular lesions associated with prolonged (8 weeks) ingestion of bitter kola (Garcinia kola) extract were studied in fifteen adult male rabbits. Histopathological changes in the testicular and epididymal tissues of the experimental animals were evaluated. Significant but varying degrees of damage to the testis, ranging from mild to severe degeneration and necrosis of the spermatogenic cells were observed. These resulted in desquamation of the germinal epithelial cell. Also, the epithelium of the epididymis appeared normal but spermatozoa were scanty and abnormal. The severity of the damage was proportional to the dosage of the extract ingested, it is suggested that the testicular lesions observed in this study may develop in man, following habitual and prolonged eating of bitter kola as is the case in many Nigerian and other African communities.

Key words:

Bitter kola extract. Testis Epididymis, Degeneration, Necrosis, Rabbits.