

**THE COMPARATIVE EFFECTS OF
PURIFIED FRACTIONS OF *Vitex negundo* L. (lagundi)
AND CRUDE EXTRACTS OF *Cassia alata* L. (akapulko)
AND *Artemisia vulgaris* L. (damong-maria) ON
INFLAMMATORY PROCESSES. *IN VITRO***

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INTRODUCTION

The three plants of interest in this study are widely distributed throughout the country. *Vitex negundo* L. has been recommended in the treatment of cough while *Cassia alata* L. has been found to be effective in the treatment of fungal infections of the skin. On the other hand, *Artemisia vulgaris* L. is used for its anti-inflammatory effects (Quisumbing, 1978). However, their exact mechanism of action remains unclear.

The purpose of this study is to determine the immunomodulatory effects of the purified fractions of *V. negundo* and crude extracts of *C. alata* and *A. vulgaris* on the following:

1. Human polymorphonuclear leukocyte chemotaxis movement
2. Phagocytosis by human polymorphonuclear leukocyte
3. Classical complement mediated hemolysis, and
4. Alternative complement mediated hemolysis