

**Establishment of some Pharmacopoeial
standards for Catharanthus Roseus (L.)
G. Don and Voacanga Africana Stapf.**

Soleye, Adetayo Oluwatoyin

M.Phil. Pharmacy

Department of Pharmacy

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria

1984.

Abstract:

Catharanthus roseus (L.) G. Don. contains the antineoplastic alkaloids: vinblastine and vincristine while Voacanga africana Stapf. possesses cardiotonic activities due to its content of alkaloids like voacangine and voaphylline. Before they can be included into the proposed African pharmacopoeia, certain pharmacognostical standards as well as macro- and micro-morphological features of the leaves of these plants are required. A literature review of the phytochemical investigations of these two plant drugs is presented. Reports on some pharmacopoeial standards, e.g. ash values, yield to solvent, total indole alkaloid content which are to be included in the African pharmacopoeia are presented with recommendations on the procedure for determining whether commercial crude drug samples of these plants comply with the limits recommended. Macro- and micro- morphological features are also given in the monographs presented on Catharanthus roseus and Voacanga africana.

Keywords: Alkaloids/ cardiotonic activities/ pharmacognostical standards/ morphological features/ phytochemicals/ solvent

Supervisor: Abayomi Sofowora

172p

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