

ABSTRACT

The Pharmacologic study of
Alkaloidal Extracts of *Trophis Racemosa*

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This thesis is mainly concerned with the pharmacologic activity of the alkaloid containing extracts obtained from *Trophis racemosa* (ramoon). Two semi-purified extracts were obtained from the extraction procedure. Each extract was found to consist of more than one alkaloid. Alkaloidal sample one (**ALKS1**) contained a group of polar alkaloidal compounds; while, alkaloidal sample two (**ALKS2**) contained a group of tertiary alkaloids. Some preliminary experiments were done using a crude aqueous extract for reasons to be discussed.

The first experiments done were to establish the effects of all extracts on the cardiovascular system. The semi-purified extracts produced a hypotensive effect which was short in duration and results suggest that the fall produced by both was via a muscarinic mode of action. On this basis, experiments were performed on the isolated guinea pig ileum. These results also suggest a muscarinic mode of action. The effect of the extracts

on the isolated rat uterus was examined. The extracts produced no effect on this tissue. Only one of the semi-purified extracts was observed to produce contraction of the guinea pig trachea. The aphrodisiac property, which the plant is believed to possess was not indicated by the sexual motivation experiments. One of the alkaloidal extracts, ALKS1, was however shown to possess the property of lowering intraocular pressure; another medicinal use of the plant. The effect on intraocular pressure suggests that the effect may also be through a muscarinic mode of action.