



SECONDARY METABOLITES OF WILD *Ocimum basilicum* IN THE SAVANNAH REGION OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Ocimum basilicum is used as a treatment for diarrhoea, urinary and respiratory ailments. Samples of seeds, leaves, stem and roots of *Ocimum basilicum* were collected and air dried separately. Powdered samples of each were subjected to phytochemical analysis. Roots, seeds and leaves contain flavonoids, saponins, tannins and cardiac glycosides, but flavonoids was absent in the stem and phlobatannins and alkaloids were absent in the seeds. The studies showed secondary metabolites that make the plant useful in medicine. Leaves are a rich source of health protection that help the body to fight free radicals and also help the body stay cancer free.

Keywords: *Ocimum basilicum*, phytochemicals, samples, radicals, saponins

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