

1 **PHYTOCHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES OF LEAVES AND PULP EXTRACTS FROM**  
2 **ZIZIPHUS MAURITIANA (LAM.) COLLECTED IN MALI**

3  
4 **ABSTRACT:**

5 **Introduction:** The objectives of this work were to conduct a phytochemical study of the leaves and  
6 pulp of *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam collected from the flooded and exonded sites of Niono and Sévaré in  
7 Mali as well as the evaluation of the biological activity of the extracts, i.e. the antiradical activity and  
8 hemolytic activity.

9 **Method:** Phytochemical analysis and biological activities were performed at the plant biochemistry  
10 and biotechnology laboratory of the FST / USTTB. The tannins and flavonoids were extracted by  
11 maceration and assayed by spectrophotometry. The saponosides were extracted by decoction.

12 **Results:** Catechin, flavonoids and sugars were abundant in the leaves and pulp but saponosides  
13 were absent in the pulp.

14 Calcium carbonate and chloride ions were abundant in the leaves and pulp of the excavated site of  
15 Niono and the flooded Sévaré site. HPLC chromatograms of leaf tannin and pulp extracts showed two  
16 peaks of gallic acid.

17 The antiradical activity on the DPPH of the leaf extracts would be linked to the collection site.  
18 Catechin, tannins and flavonoids of the flooded sites have greater antiradical activity than those of the  
19 exonded sites of Niono and Sévaré. This is not the case extracts of pulp. Their antiradical activity  
20 remains lower than that of ascorbic acid whose IC<sub>50</sub> is 30 µg.

21 Leaf saponosides showed hemolytic activity on red blood cells, especially those from the flooded  
22 Niono site and the Sévaré extruded site.

23 **Conclusion:** Secondary metabolites such as phenolic compounds have antiradical activity and  
24 saponosides extracted from the leaves have hemolytic activity.

25 **Keywords:** *Phenolic compounds, tannins, flavonoids, saponosides, Ziziphus mauritiana Lam,*  
26 *biological activity.*

27 **1. INTRODUCTION**

28 *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Lam) has many nutritional, medical, artisanal and even orchard protection  
29 interests (Reference needed). Several works have shown its richness in primary and secondary  
30 metabolites [1], [2], [3] as well as its economic interests [4]. Danthu et al. studied phytochemical  
31 composition in two wild and domestic species of *Ziziphus* in Senegal [3].

32 These metabolites have antibacterial, analgesic, astringent and anti-inflammatory properties, which  
33 can justify their use in traditional medicine [5], [6]. The fruits of the plant are an important source of  
34 income for many rural families [4].

35 Other studies have shown that leaf extracts have hypoglycemic, hypertensive, anti-inflammatory,  
36 antibacterial and antioxidant activity[7], [8], [9]. The antioxidant properties of tannins (catechin and  
37 gallic acid) and flavonoids would help fight against ageing [7].

38 A comparative study of certain metabolites in the leaves and pulp of *Ziziphus* sp make it possible to  
39 evaluate the nutritional and biological qualities according to the collection sites (site flooded, site  
40 exonded) (Reference needed). Metabolites were extracted, characterized and assayed. Their anti-  
41 radical activities on DPPH and hemolytic on red blood cells of beef blood were evaluated.

42 **2. MATERIAL AND METHOD:**

43 **2.1. Equipment:**

44 **2.1.1. Sample collection sites:**

45 Samplings of leaves and pulp of *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Lam.) were collected at the following sites: In  
46 Niono flooded site: Sitan Wéré, and exonded site: Ranch. In Sévaré flooded site Dialagou and site  
47 exonded: Doundoun.

48 **2.1.2. Plant material:**

49 Biological material consisted of powder, leaves and pulp of *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Lam.). Sites of Niono  
50 and Sévaré, the Blood of beef has been taken at the slaughterhouse of Sabalibougou in Kati.

## 51 **2.2. METHODS:**

### 52 **2.2.1. Characterization reactions of metabolites:**

#### 53 **2.2.1.1. Catechin tannins:**

54 The catechin tannins were extracted by maceration in 100 mg of plant organ powder in acetone  
55 diluted to 7/3 for 20 minutes with stirring. The filtrate was concentrated in a rotavapor saturated with  
56 sodium chloride and centrifuged at 3000 rpm. for 10 minutes. The catechin tannins were ferified and  
57 characterized by ferric chloride [7]

#### 58 **2.2.1.2. Gallic acid/ tannins:**

59 Gallic tanins were extracted from one hundred milligrams (100 mg) of organ powder, delipidated with  
60 petroleum ether and boiled in 20 mL of distilled water for 10 minutes. Dichloromethane was mixed  
61 with the filtrate to remove the pigments. Gallic acid tannins were extracted in the aqueous phase with  
62 ethyl acetate and characterised/ferified by 2% ferric chloride [10], [7].

#### 63 **2.2.1.3. Flavonoids:**

64 In a test tube, ten (10) drops of concentrated hydrochloric acid were added to 0.5 mL of extract and a  
65 few milligrams of magnesium turnings. After three minutes of incubation at room temperature, specific  
66 staining of flavonoids was observed [11], [12], [7].

#### 67 **2.2.1.4. Coumarines:**

68 Five millilitres (5 mL) of etheric extract (maceration for 24 hours) were evaporated in a beaker in the  
69 open whereafter 2 mL of hot water was added to the residue. The solution was partitioned between  
70 two tubes and 0.5 mL of 25% NH<sub>4</sub>OH was added to the contents of one of the tubes and mixed.  
71 Fluorescence was observed at UV at 366 nm [9], [10].

#### 72 **2.2.1.5. Leucoanthocyanins:**

73 To 5 mL of infused prepared from the drug powder, 5 LI of sulfuric acid and 5 mL of NH<sub>4</sub>OH were  
74 added to a test tube and the appearance of leucoanthocyanin-specific staining followed [10] .

#### 75 **2.2.1.6. Sterols and triterpenes:**

76 In a test tube, one (1) gram of organ powder was added to twenty (20) mL of petroleum ether. The  
77 solution was stirred and left in the refrigerator for 24 hours, filtered on filter paper in a beaker and  
78 evaporated to dryness in a rotavapor. The sterols and triterpenes were extracted in the residues with  
79 10 mL of chloroform. To 10 mL of chloroform extract, 1 mL of acetic anhydride and 1 mL of CHCl<sub>3</sub>  
80 were added. The chloroform solution was split into two test tubes. At the bottom of one of the tubes, 2  
81 mL of concentrated H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was deposited and the other tube was used as a reference. The  
82 appearance of specific staining was followed without shaking.

#### 83 **2.2.1.7. Mucilages:**

84 The mucilages were extracted by maceration of five (5) grams of plant organ powder (leaves and  
85 pulp) in one hundred (100) mL of distilled water for 12 hours. Mucilages were precipitated by ethanol.  
86 Afluffy precipitate by mixing indicates the presence of mucilage [9], [10], [11].

#### 87 **2.2.1.8. Reducing sugars:**

88 The reducing sugars were characterized by hot Fehling liquor. For this purpose, 1 mL of Liquor and  
89 Organ Extract Reagent was mixed to volume and boiled at 80 ° C for 5 minutes.

### 90 **2.2.2. Characterization of mineral salts of leaves and pulp:**

91 One (1) gram of organ powder was calcined in an oven at 600 °C for 12 hours. The ash obtained was  
92 weighed and dissolved in 10 mL of distilled water and filtered through..... The different ions were  
93 highlighted in the filtrate using colour precipitate?.....

94

95

96 Table I: Characterization Reaction of Mineral Salts

Ions	Reagents	Results
Phosphate	Hot ammonium nitro-molybdate	Yellow precipitate
Sulfate	Barium chloride	White precipitate
Calcium	Ammonium oxalate	White precipitate
Carbonates	Acid chlorihydric on ash	Effervescence reaction
Chloride	Silver nitrate	The white precipitate darkens in the light
Potassium	Cobalt sodium nitrite	Needle crystal

97

98 **2.2.3. Dosage of catechetical and gallic tannins, flavonoids and saponosides:**

99

100 **2.2.3.1. Catechetical tannins:**

101

102 The content of the catechetical tannins in the extracts was determined spectrophotometrically. In a  
 103 test tube, 1 mL acetone extract, 5 mL distilled water, 1 mL ethanol and 0.5 mL Folin reagent were  
 104 mixed. After standing for 5 minutes, 1 mL of a 5% sodium carbonate solution was added and left in  
 105 the dark for 1 hour. Absorbance reading was made at 725 nm. A 1% gallic acid standard range of 10  
 106 to 100 µg was used [9]. Results were expressed as gallic acid equivalents???

107

108 **2.2.3.2. Flavonoids:**

109

110 To 500 µL of the extract, 2 mL of distilled water and 50 µL of 5% sodium nitrite (NaNO<sub>2</sub>) were added.  
 111 After five minutes, 100 µL of aluminium trichloride (AlCl<sub>3</sub>) at 10% (w / v) was added to the mixture.  
 112 After six (6) minutes of stationary? incubation at room temperature, 1 mL of 1M sodium carbonate  
 113 (NaCO<sub>3</sub>) was added. The content was homogenized and the absorbance of the pinkish solution was  
 114 determined at 510 nm against a blank. Catechin was used as a positive control. The total flavonoid  
 115 content of plant extracts was expressed in milligram (mg) catechin equivalent per 100 grams of dry  
 116 matter (mg CE / 100g) [9], [11].

117

118 **2.2.3.3. Saponosides:**

119

120 Dosage of the saponosides was done by calculation of the foam index. The extraction was done as  
 121 follows. To 1 g of organ powder, 5 mL of petroleum ether was added to delipidate for 5 minutes. The  
 122 supernatant was poured and the operation was repeated with 2.5 mL of petroleum ether. The powder  
 123 was dried at laboratory temperature. To 0.5 g of delipidated powder, 0 mL of distilled water was  
 124 added and the mixture was boiled with stirring for twenty (20) minutes and filtered through ....  
 125 Saponosides were determined on the decoction content by 1/10 dilution [10]. Each tube was shaken  
 126 horizontally for 15 seconds and allowed to stand for 15 minutes. The foam index was calculated in the  
 127 tube having 1 cm of foam height. That is a 1/10 dilution of the 1% decoction at a concentration of  
 128 0.1%. If the tube containing 5 mL of decoction and 5 mL of distilled water has a foam height of 1 cm,  
 129 then 5 mL of 1% has 0.05 g of saponoside and the foam number is  $10 * 1 / 0.05 = 200$ .

130

131

132 **2.2.3.4. High-performance liquid chromatography:**

133

134 The standards were prepared in a 50/50 (v / v) water/methanol mixture. Several calibration ranges  
 135 were used: 10 mg / mL, 20 mg / ml, and 50 mg / mL to establish the calibration curve. Lyophilized  
 136 tannic extracts were dissolved in the 50/50 (v / v) water/ethanol mixture, sonicated for 15 min, allowed  
 137 to cool to room temperature and filtered through a nylon membrane filter with 0.45µm pores before  
 138 injection.[18].

139 HPLC conditions:

140 Mobile phase: Water / 20 mM phosphate / acetonitrile buffer 70: 28: 2 v / v / v

141 Column: C18, 4.6 x 150 mm, 5µ- Zorbax- Agilent

142 Flow rate: 0.8 mL / min, injection volume: 20 µL, column temperature: 30 °C, detection: 271 nm

143

144

145 **2.2.4. Antioxidant activity: 1-1 diphenyl-2-pyrryl hydrazyl test (DPPH):**

146

147 The antioxidant activity of the aqueous extracts of *Z. mauritiana* L. and a standard antioxidant  
 148 (ascorbic acid) concerning the DPPH radical was evaluated using a spectrophotometer by following  
 149 the reduction of this radical, which is accompanied by its change from purple colour (DPPH) to yellow  
 150 colour (DPPH). Negative control was prepared by replacing the extract with distilled water. The tubes  
 151 were placed in the dark for 30 min and the reading was made at 517 nm. [12]. The results were  
 152 expressed in % of the anti-radical activity or Inhibitory in percentage (%) according to the formula: I%  
 153 = (Abs negative control-Abs Sample) / Abs control [13]. The IC<sub>50</sub> of each extract was calculated from  
 154 a linear regression line established with the percentages of inhibitions obtained. IC<sub>50</sub> is the  
 155 concentration of the extract that inhibits 50% of the activity of the radical, plus it is small plus the  
 156 extract is considered a powerful antioxidant [14].

157

158 **2.2.5. Hemolytic activity of saponosides:**

159

160 The tests were performed on red blood cell pellets obtained by centrifugation of whole blood at 4000  
 161 rpm for five (5) min. the pellets were washed three (3) times with buffered physiological saline 1 mL of  
 162 blood dissolved in 25 mL of saline.

163 Six tubes, each containing 0.5 mL of packed red blood cells, increasing volumes of 1 mg / mL or 5 mg  
 164 / mL of saponosides extracted from the leaves and 2 mL of the buffered saline solution were added.  
 165 The mixture was homogenized and the tubes were allowed to stand for 24 hours and centrifuged at  
 166 3500 rpm for 10 minutes.[16].

167 The turbidity through the red colouration observed in the tubes containing the extract and the pellet  
 168 determines the haemolytic activity. The absorbance of the solutions of the tubes

169

170 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:**

171 **3.1. Characterization of metabolites:**

172 The results obtained after the characterization reactions of the metabolites are listed in tables II and  
 173 III.

174 Table II: Characterization of primary and secondary metabolites

Metabolites	Feuilles				Pulps			
	Niono		Sévaré		Niono		Sévaré	
	exonded site	Flooded site	exonded site	Flooded site	exonded site	Flooded site	exonded site	Flooded site
Catechical tannins	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Gallic tannins	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	+
Flavonoids	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++
Coumarins	+	++	+	++	+	+	++	+
Leucoanthocyanins	++	+	+	+++	+	+	+	++
Saponosides	+++	++	++	+++	-	-	-	-
Terpenes - Sterols	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	++
Mucilage	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Sugars	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

175

176 Legend: +++ = Abundant, ++ = Not abundant, + = Traces, - = Absent

177

178 Table III: Characterization of mineral salts in leaves and pulps

Mineral salts	Leaves				Pulp			
	Niono		Sévaré		Niono		Sévaré	
	Exonded Site	Flooded site	Exonded Site	Flooded site	Exonded Site	Flooded site	Exonded Site	Flooded site
Sulfate	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Calcium	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	++
Carbonate	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	++
Chloride	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	++
Potassium	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	+

179

180 Legend: +++ = Abundant, ++ = Not abundant, + = Traces, - = absent

181

182 **3.2. Determination of metabolites of leaves and pulp:**

183 Table IV and Table V show the results of catechetal tannin determination in the leaves and pulp of  
 184 the different sites. These results are the averages of three trials.

185

186 Table IV: Content of extracts in leaves

Samples	Percentage			
	Sites de Niono		Sites de Sévaré	
	Exonded Site	Flooded site	Exonded Site	Flooded site
Content in catechical tannins	2,40 ± 0,04 <sup>a</sup>	2,88 ± 0,03 <sup>b</sup>	2,03 ± 0,03 <sup>a</sup>	3,13 ± 0,03 <sup>a</sup>
Content in gallic tannins	2,32 ± 0,04	0,60 ± 0,02	0,52 ± 0,03	1,07 ± 0,03
Flavonoids content	1,11 ± 0,3	0,83 ± 0,2	0,35 ± 0,3	1,17 ± 0,2

187

188 Table V: Content of extracts in pulp

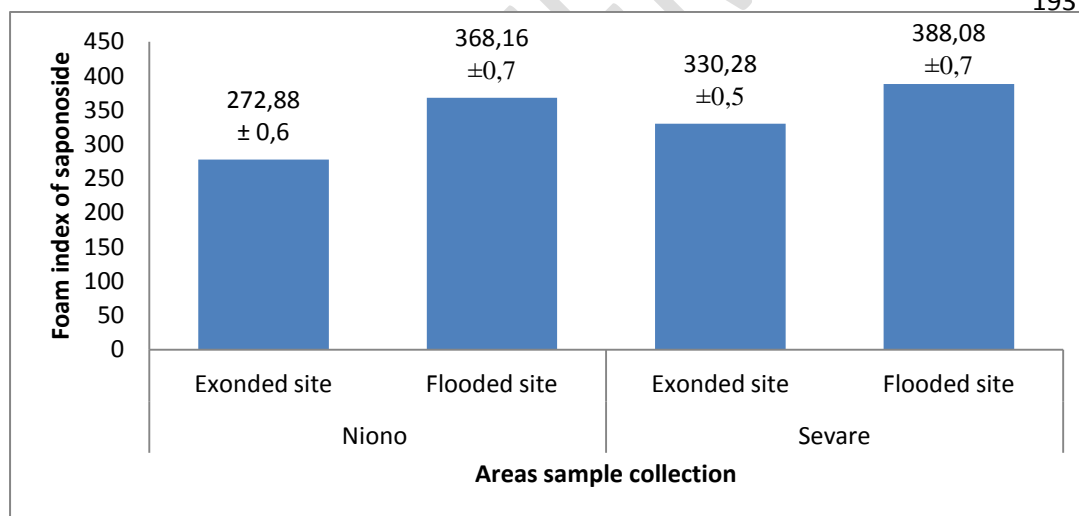
Samples	Content			
	Niono		Sevare	
	Exonded Site	Flooded site	Exonded site	Flooded site
Content in catechical tannins	3,00 ± 0,02	3,25 ± 0,05	4,02 ± 0,05	2,39 ± 0,04
Content in gallic tannins,	2,62 ± 0,04	1,90 ± 0,04	1,19 ± 0,04	2,12 ± 0,04
Flavonoids content	1,70 ± 0,58	2,14 ± 0,5	3,55 ± 0,5	3,28 ± 0,6

189

190 **3.3. Dosage of saponosides in the leaves:**

The foam index of the saponosides was calculated in the tube whose foam height was  
 equal to 1 cm or close to the different samples of *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam

192  
 193



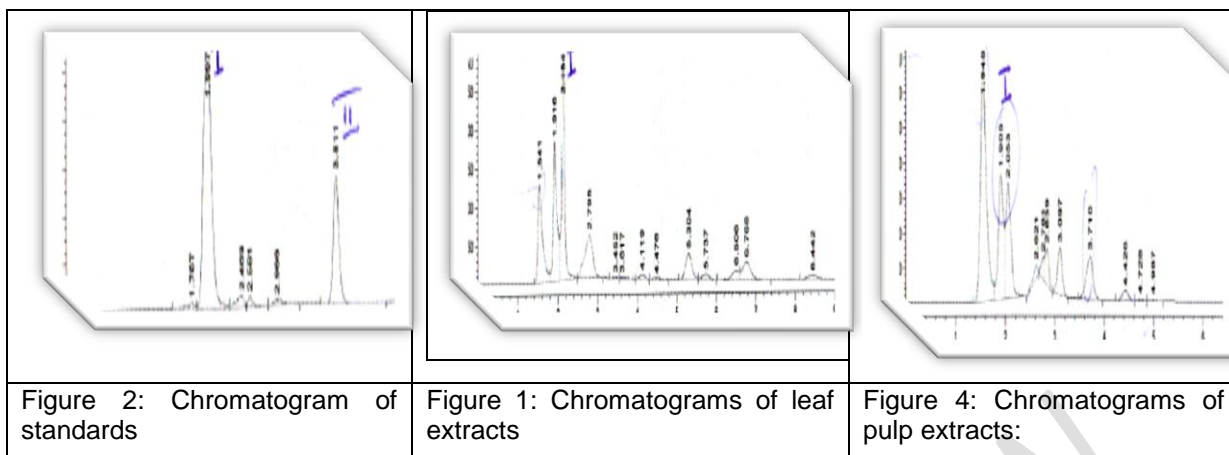
195 Figure 1: Saponoside content of leaf extracts from Niono and Sévaré sites

196

197 **3.4. HPLC qualitative analysis of tannic extracts:**

198 The following HPLC chromatograms of the leaves and pulp of the localities of Niono and Sévaré were  
 199 obtained.

200 Gallic acid = (I): Retention time = 1.997 min and Catechol = II: Retention time = 3.811 min



201

202 **3.5. Biological activity:**

203 **3.5.1. Antioxidant activity of leaf and pulp extracts:**

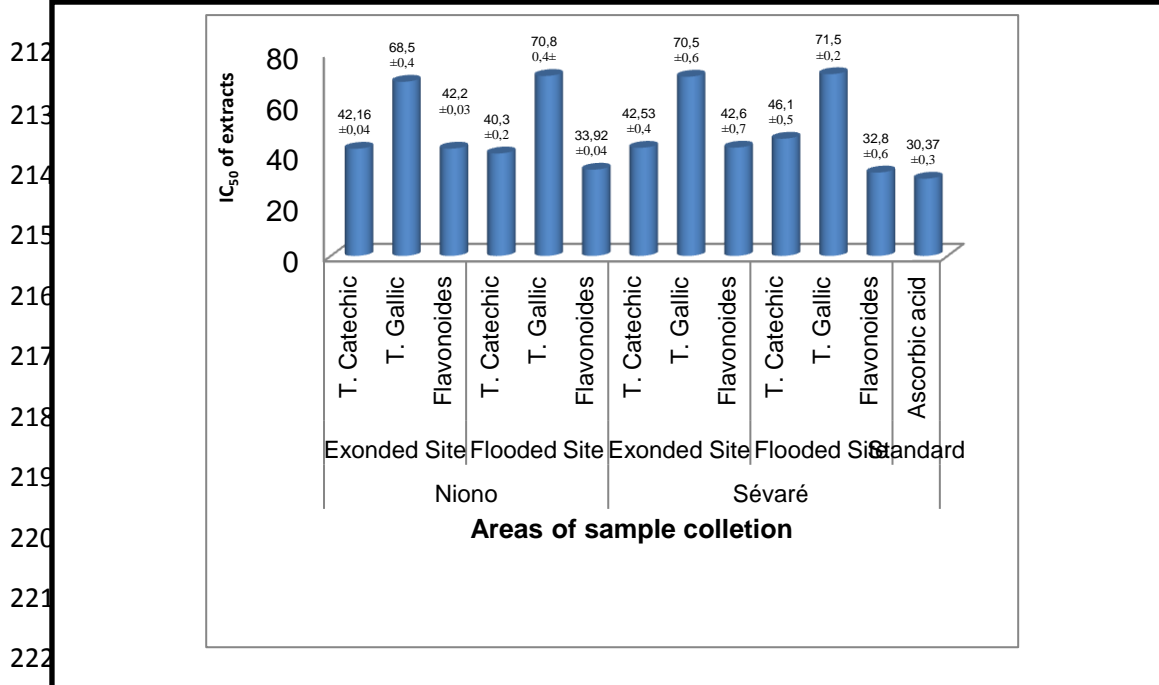
204 The antiradical activity of leaf extracts from Niono and Sévaré sites was evaluated by their  
 205 concentration which inhibits 50% of the radical IC<sub>50</sub> from equations of the linear regression line of the  
 206 percentages of inhibition (% I).

207

208 **3.5.2. Antiradical activity of pulp extracts from different sources:**

209 The IC<sub>50</sub> was calculated from the equations of the regression line of per cent inhibition (% I) of  
 210 *Zizyphus mauritiana* Lam pulp extracts.

211



223 Figure 5: IC<sub>50</sub> histogram of leaf extracts

224

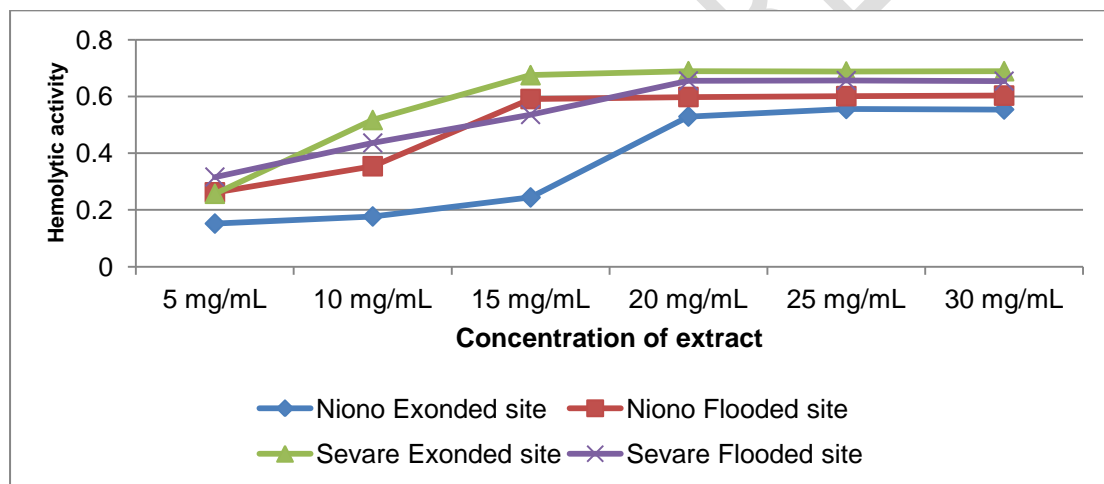
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Figure 6: Histogram of IC<sub>50</sub> of pulp extracts

### 3.5.4. Hemolytic activity of leaf saponosides:

Figure 7 depicts the optical densities of the supernatants obtained after centrifugation



239

Figure 7: Curve of hemolytic activity of saponoside Eextracts

241 Tannins, flavonoids and sugars have been found abundant in the leaves and pulp samples, whereas  
242 gallic tannins, coumarins, leucoanthocyanins and mucilages were less abundant. It should be noted  
243 that the saponosides were absent in all pulp samples of the different sites (Table II).

244

245 Sulphate, calcium, carbonate, chloride and potassium ions were present in the leaves and pulp of the  
246 non-flooded and flooded sites of Niono and Sévaré (Table III)

247 The leaves of the flooded sites of Niono and Sévaré had an average rate in catechetical tannins  
248 higher than those of the exposed sites of Niono. Flavonoids and gallic tannin production are not  
249 related to the types of areas. The flooded sites of Niono and flooded with Sévaré have higher content.  
250 The samples from non-flooded of Niono (Ranch) and the flooded Sévaré (Dialagou) site had the  
251 highest flavonoid levels at  $1.11 \pm 0.3$  and  $1.17 \pm 0.2$ , respectively.

252 These results are similar to those of Souhila et al. (2013), obtained in the bracts of *Cynara scolymus* L  
253 by maceration in the water at 2.39% in 2.15% ethanol, in acetone and 2.82% in 1.99% methanol.  
254 They found in flowers by maceration in water 3.53%, in ethanol 3.75%, in acetone 2.74% and  
255 methanol 2.05% [11].

256 Saponosides were abundant in the leaves of the Niono and Sévaré samples and absent in the pulp  
257 samples. The highest foam index was that of the flooded site of Sevare (Dialagou) with 388 and non-  
258 flooded site of Niono had the lowest index with 239.

259  
260 Flavonoids of the flooded sites had a greater antiradical activity on DPPH than those of the non-  
261 flooded sites of Niono and Sevare with  $IC_{50}$  of  $33.92 \pm 0.04 \mu\text{g}$  and  $32.8 \pm 0.6 \mu\text{g}$  respectively. The  
262 catechetical tannins extracted from the Niono sites with  $IC_{50}$  of  $42.16 \mu\text{g}$  and  $40.2 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{g}$  had greater  
263 antiradical activity than extracts from the Sévaré sites. Gallic tannins had less antiradical activity.  
264

265 The flavonoids in the pulp of the flooded site of Sévaré had more activity, followed catechetical  
266 tannins of the exonerated site of Niono with  $IC_{50}$  of  $42.6 \pm 0.2 \mu\text{g}$  and  $44.4 \pm 0.04 \mu\text{g}$ . The  $IC_{50}$  values  
267 were close to those of ascorbic acid, i.e.  $30.37 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{g}$ . These results are similar to those of Nabila  
268 (2011) who obtained 90% [13] for bile tannins, the percentage was between 55.5% and 67.4%.  
269 Flavonoid percentage inhibition was between 36.1% and 59.4%.

270 The total haemolytic activity was from 15 mg of saponoside from the flooded Niono site and the  
271 exonded Sévaré site,, whereas the Sévaré flooded site and the non- flooded site of Niono, the total  
272 haemolytic activity was from 20 mg of saponoside. The hemolytic activity could not be linked to  
273 collection sites. These results are similar to those of Ouedraogo et al. (2009), who achieved total  
274 hemolytic activity with 21 mg of stem extracts and 15 mg of *Mitragyna inermis* root extract [17]. Najiba  
275 obtained a 54.21% haemolytic activity with total alkaloid extracts at 5 mg/mL of *Berberis vulgaris* L.  
276 [13]. Results obtained in this study are different from those of Haddouchi et al. (2016), whose  
277 haemolysis test showed that four species had a weak haemolytic effect [18]  
278

#### 279 **4. CONCLUSION:**

280 Tannins, flavonoids and saponosides were extracted, characterized and assayed in the samples  
281 collected on the exposed and flooded sites of the Niono and Sévaré sites.

282 Leaf and pulp samples of *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam from the flooded and exposed sites of Niono and  
283 Sévaré are rich in phosphates, sulphates, calcium, carbonates and potassium. Their production in the  
284 leaves or pulp is not related to the collection site. Secondary metabolites have been found in the  
285 leaves as well as in the pulp, i.e. catechin and gallic tannins, flavonoids, coumarins,  
286 leucoanthocyanins, terpenes and sterols, mucilages and saponosides. Catechin tannins are more  
287 abundant in the leaves than gallic tannins.  
288

289 Extracts of catechin tannins and flavonoids from leaves and pulp showed anti-radical activity on  
290 DPPH. This activity would be linked to the collection site at the leaf level extracts from flooded sites of  
291 Niono and Sévaré which showed greater antiradical activity than extracts from the excavated sites.  
292 The antiradical activity in pulp could not be linked to the site. The three collection sites have almost  
293 the same  $IC_{50}$  except that of the flooded site of Sévaré, which is inferior to the others and therefore  
294 more active. Their antiradical activity remains lower than that of ascorbic acid. Leaf saponosides  
295 showed good haemolytic activity on red blood cells, especially those from the flooded Niono site and  
296 the Sévaré extruded site. The hemolytic activity could not be related to the collection site.  
297

#### 298 299 **Competing interests:**

300  
301 Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.  
302

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