

Antioxidant and Anticancer Activities of Six Palestinian Plants Used in Traditional Medicine

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Abstract

Ethanollic extracts of six plants (*Arum palaestinum*, *Urtica pilulifera*, *Coridothymus capitatus*, *Majorana syriaca*, *Teucrium creticum*, *Teucrium polium*), used in traditional medicine in Palestine were tested for their antioxidant and anticancer activities. They showed different ranges of antioxidant activity due to DPPH and β -Carotene-linoleic acid assays. The extracts were also tested for their ability to inhibit the proliferation of breast cancer cells (MCF-7) using the MTT reduction assay. The extract of *U. pilulifera* revealed the highest antioxidant due to β -Carotene-linoleic acid assay and showed the highest cytotoxicity against breast cancer.

Key words: medicinal plants, antioxidant activity, anticancer activity, *Arum palaestinum*, *Urtica pilulifera*, *Coridothymus capitatus*, *Majorana syriaca*, *Teucrium creticum*, *Teucrium polium*