TOXICITY LEVEL ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN CARCINOMA CELL GROWTH VITIATED BY *Vernonia amygdalina* EXTRACTS

Lecia Gresham\textsuperscript{1,2} and Ernest B. Izevbigie\textsuperscript{1,2,3}

\textsuperscript{1}The Laboratory of Cellular Signaling, Phytoceuticals, Cancer Prevention and Therapies, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi 39217, USA
\textsuperscript{2}NIH-Center for Environmental Health, College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi 39217, USA
\textsuperscript{3}Department of Biology, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi 39217, USA

Abstract: Cancer of the breast is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women in the United States. Breast cancer represents 28\% of new cases of all cancers. An estimated 207,090 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and 39,840 women will die from the disease this year in the United States. There is an urgent need for the discovery and development of agent(s) efficacious against breast cancer to decrease breast cancer mortality and morbidity. Aqueous leaf extracts of *Vernonia amygdalina* (VA), a Nigerian edible plant is increasingly emerging as a very strong candidate. VA may be used alone or in combination (adjuvant) with known drugs. Therefore, the objectives of this study were to assess the growth inhibitory activity as well as profile the effects on the biological functions of VA on carcinoma cells of the breast. The data presented will suggest that breast cancer patients may benefit from VA consumption.

Key words: *Vernonia amygdalina*, estrogen receptor, ductal carcinoma

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