

ANTIPARASITIC ACTIVITY OF PLANT TRITERPENOIDS

Summary

Helminth parasites have been always a major problem for humanity. Parasites – both flatworms (Platyhelminthes) and roundworms (Nematoda) cause large losses in livestock and are infecting vast number of people, especially in developing countries. Unfortunately, only few medicines are available for curing helminth infections; moreover, the available ones are not free of side effects and parasites develop tolerance toward them. This is why research

interests are focused on the search of natural products of anthelmintic properties and lack of toxicity. Plant triterpenoids, known to possess various biological activities, may prove to belong to this class. This article presents results of studies showing that various forms of these compounds: free aglycone, glycosides and glycoside-esters possess anthelmintic activities against nematodes, cestodes, trematodes and Monogenea.