

## Some pharmacological properties of extracts of *Terminalia sericea* roots

M.J.Moshi, Z.H.Mbwambo

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### Abstract

*Terminalia sericea* Burch. Ex. DC (Combretaceae) extracts are used to treat bacterial infections, diarrhea, and diabetes. Intermediate and polar extracts of the roots exhibited [antibacterial activity](#) against [Staphylococcus aureus](#), [Escherichia coli](#), [Bacillus anthracis](#), and [Pseudomonas aeruginosa](#), while the [petroleum ether](#) extract was inactive. The extracts were mildly active against *Bacillus anthracis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* but exhibited the highest activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*. They also exhibited antifungal activity against [Candida albicans](#) and [Aspergillus niger](#). An 80% aqueous ethanol extract of the roots did not have any effect on blood glucose levels during an oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT), in mice ( $P > 0.05$ ). With the exception of the [dichloromethane](#) and petroleum ether extracts, all the intermediate and polar extracts were toxic to [brine shrimps](#) giving  $LC_{50}$  (95% confidence intervals) values ranging from 5.4 (3.5–8.4) to 17.4 (11.4–26.5)  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , while that of [cyclophosphamide](#), a standard [anticancer drug](#), was 16.3 (10.6–25.2)  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . Further work is in progress to isolate and identify active compounds in the extracts.