

**RADICAL SCAVENGING ACTIVITIES OF FLAVONOIDS FROM  
THE ROOT BARK OF *ERYTHRINA ABYSSINICA***

**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

The genus *Erythrina* (Leguminosae) is a rich source of flavonoids and isoflavonoids, which are known to possess a wide range of biological activities; the most prominent of which being antioxidant, insecticidal and antimicrobial properties.

*Erythrina abyssinica* is widely used in East Africa for the treatment of various ailments including microbial infections. In this study the roots of *Erythrina abyssinica* was found to have radical scavenging activity against DPPH. Chromatographic separation of the root extract on oxalic acid impregnated silica gel led to the isolation of three compounds. The structures were established by spectroscopy ( $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR). These compounds are identified as *n*-triacontyl 4-cinnamate (1), 6a, 11a-dehydroerythrabyssin (2) and erythrabyssin (3). The radical scavenging activity of the crude extract is mainly associated to these compounds.

