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Toxicity assessment of Egyptian *Pterocephalus sanctus* Decne. on *Artemia salina* (Leach.)

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Abstract: *Pterocephalus sanctus* Decne. is endangered and near endemic species belonged to Dipsacaceae family. An overview on the cytotoxicity properties of the selected species was conducted. The brine shrimp lethality bioassay was used to evaluate four of the *P. sanctus* extracts against the larvae of the *Artemia salina* Leach. The results revealed the potency of the hexane extract and could predict its cytotoxic EC_{50} to be ~ 20.5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. The results were supported by the folk use and encourage further fractionation towards the toxicity properties.

Key words: *Pterocephalus sanctus*; *Artemia salina*; Toxicity.

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