

## Abstract

Three *Plumbago* spp have been tested for mosquito larvicidal activity. The crude extracts exhibiting the highest larvicidal activity against *Anopheles gambiae* were hexane ( $LC_{50} = 6.4 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ) and chloroform ( $LC_{50} = 6.7 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ) extracts from *Plumbago zeylanica* Linn, chloroform ( $LC_{50} = 6.7 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ) extract from *Plumbago stenophylla* Bull and ethyl acetate ( $LC_{50} = 4.1 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ) extract from *Plumbago dawei* Rolfe. These  $LC_{50}$  values were within 95% confidence limits. 5-hydroxy-2-methyl-1,4-naphthoquinone (plumbagin) 1 ( $LC_{50} = 1.9 \mu\text{g/mL}$ ) and  $\beta$ -sitosterol 2 were characterised from ethyl acetate extract of root bark of *P. dawei*, a native medicinal plant growing in Kenya, based on spectral analysis and comparisons with data in literature.