

Gastroprotective Activity of *Sterculia striata*

A. St. Hil. & Naudin (Malvaceae) in Rodents

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The *Sterculia striata* ethanolic extract (Ss-EtOH) inhibited gastric lesions induced by ethanol, HCl/ethanol, and ischemia/reperfusion, but not those induced by indomethacin, and did not alter the gastric secretion. Ss-EtOH restored the catalase activity and content of non-protein sulfhydryl groups in the stomach of mice treated with ethanol. The gastroprotection induced by Ss-EtOH in the ethanol-induced gastric lesion model was abolished by *N*^G-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester (L-NAME) pretreatment, suggesting the involvement of nitric oxide and antioxidant compounds, but not prostaglandins, in this activity. Lupeol obtained from Ss-EtOH promoted gastroprotection as well as the extract at the same dose, and it must therefore contribute to the observed effects.

Key words: Gastroprotective, Nitric Oxide Synthase, *Sterculia striata*