

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Department of Applied Chemistry



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**PHYTOCHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE CONSTITUENTS OF
MUNDULEA SERICEA**

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16/05/07	1824	RES PK865 MOY

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ABSTRACT

This project aims at investigating the phytochemical constituents of *Mundulea Sericea* (*cork bush*), an indigenous plant that has found several uses in Zimbabwe and other African countries where it grows. Before this study, three components had already been isolated; these include rotenone, deguelin and mutenone. Therefore the purpose of the project aims at investigating the remaining constituents in the stem bark. The phytoconstituents were extracted from the stem bark with methanol.

The isolation of three pure components and five different oils was possible and these samples were sent to Ethiopia and to the United States of America (respectively) for further analysis, so as to determine the chemical structures of these constituents. Biological screening of these samples was not possible because the isolated components occurred in very small amounts and time could not permit the re-chromatograph of similar fractions to obtain larger samples for biological screening.