Ant-Diabetic effect of two Medicinal plants: *Cataranthus Roseus* and *Nauclea Latifolium* on some Biochemical indices of Streptozotocin Induced Diabetic Albino Wistar Rats

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ABSTRACT

8 The study was carried out to investigate the anti-diabetic effects of two medicinal plants 9 Cataranthus roseus (C.R) and Nauclea Lat folium (N.L) on some biochemical indices of 10 streptozotocin induced diabetic albino wistar rats. Methods: Ethanolic leaf extracts of C.R. and 11 N.L. were given at daily doses of 500mg/kg body weight in two divided doses each for 14 days. Thirty albino wistar rats were divided into five (5) groups, consisting of 6 rats each viz: Group 12 13 1(normal control), Group 2(diabetic control), Group 3(insulin treated), Group 4(received N.L) 14 and Group 5 (received C.R.). Results: The results of the phytochemical screening contain 15 flavonoids, polyphenols, and alkaloids were found to be present in appreciable amount in N.L. 16 while saponins and tannins were found in traceable concentration. Fasting blood glucose levels 17 showed significant decrease (P<0.05) in all the test groups compared to diabetic control and 18 closely related to the insulin treated groups. A significant increase (P<0.05) was observed in 19 (TG) and (TC) concentration of all treated groups compared to the diabetic control group. The 20 concentration of HDL was significantly increased while there was also a significant decreased 21 (P<0.05) in VLDL and LDL in the diabetic control group and insulin group when compared to 22 the normal control group, except for C.R treated group that shows a significant decrease 23 compared with the diabetic control group. Enzymes activities was increased in insulin and 24 diabetic groups. A significant reduction (P<0.05) was observed with the treated group of C.R. and N.L compared to the normal control group. Also, observed was a decrease in albumin level 25 26 in groups treated with the extracts. Marked reduction in total protein level was observed in 27 groups treated with extracts and insulin, compared to the normal control group. Serum 28 concentrations of Na^+ , K^+ , Cl^- in diabetic control groups showed a significant increase (P<0.05) compared to the normal control group. K^+ concentration was observed to be significantly 29 30 decreased (P<0.05) in all groups treated with extract and insulin compared to the normal control 31 group. Conclusions: The results demonstrated that C. roseus and Latifolium have anti-diabetic

and antihepatotoxic properties and could be potential herbal remedy in treating and managingdiabetic conditions.

Key: *Cataranthus roseus, Nuclea Latifolium*, triglycerides (TG) and total cholesterol (TC)
 concentration.

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1. Introduction

39 Herbal medicines are popular remedies for disease used by a vast majority of the world's 40 population. Formulation from herbs, have attained widespread acceptability as therapeutic agent 41 [1]. Report by World Health Organization (WHO), [2], estimates that more than 80% of the 42 world population relies on traditional medicine for their primary health care needs. People living 43 in small isolated villages and natural communities use folk medicine from treatment of common 44 infectious diseases [3]. Medicinal plants have acquired increasing significance in development 45 co-operation over the last few years (http://www.traffic.org/about/priority medicinal trade html). 46 Their use and conservation are cross-sectorial concerns that embrace not only health-care but 47 also natural conservation, biodiversity, economic assistance, trade and legal aspects, including 48 intellectual property. Even today, the majority of the world's population is dependent upon 49 traditional medicine and also on the use of plants and plant extracts. This is particularly true of 50 poorer sections of the population in developing countries, because natural remedies are not only 51 cheaper than modern medicines but are often the only medicines available in various rural 52 regions. Beside serving medical and cultural functions, medicinal plants in developing countries 53 have important economic role. The gathering of wild medicinal herbs provides economically 54 disadvantaged groups such as small holders and handless herd's people with their only form of 55 cash income.

56 Worldwide, a total of at least 35,000 plant species are used for medicinal purposes. The most 57 important industrial medicines nowadays are based on not more than about 90 species, whilst 58 traditional remedies in developing countries are usually based on mixtures of herbs collected in 59 the wild. In Indonesia, for example up to three quarters of all instance of sickness are treated 60 with mixture of teas – known as Jamu – which contain plant extracts from up to 30 different 61 kinds of dried plant species. Plants are not just the main component of traditional medicines, 62 according to estimates by the World Health Organisation, they also form up to about 70 percent 63 of the basis of modern pharmaceutical products. One example is acetylsalicylic acid, the main 64 ingredient, in painkillers (headache tablets) which was first extracted from domestic willow as 65 long as 150years ago [4]. According to World Health Organization estimates of about 346 66 million people worldwide have diabetes. In 2004, an estimated 3.4 million died from consequences of high blood sugar and more than 80% of diabetic related death occurring in low 67 68 - and middle income countries. WHO projects that diabetic death will double in 2030? A report 69 estimated that 25.8 million people in United State are affected with diabetes, 8.3% of the U.S. 70 population, (18.8 million people) are diagnosed while 7.0 million are undiagnosed. In Nigeria, 71 WHO estimated diabetes mellitus prevalence to be 3.4% which may be under represented as 72 more than half a million people in Lagos State alone are living with diabetes mellitus [4,4]. 73 Vernonia amygdalina, Gongronema latifolium and Cataranthus roseus are three known plants 74 used in traditional medicine for the treatment or management of disease conditions. Nauclea 75 latifolium and Cataranthus roseus will be used in this research. Cataranthus roseus, common 76 name Madagascar periwinkle, or rosy periwinkle is an attractive small shrub with graceful pink 77 or white salveer form flowers. Native to South eastern and eastern Madagascar [5]. Nauclea 78 *latifolium* commonly known as pin cushion tree, is a straggling shrub or small tree of about 10ft 79 high and is a native of the tropic, Africa and Asia. The leaves are broadly elliptic to round ovate. 80 It is found in areas like Abuja, Enugu, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Kontangora, Shaki and some

81 other parts of Nigeria [6]. However, this plant has been over time used in the management of 82 some other metabolic diseases in Nigeria. Progressive metabolic disorder characterized by 83 hyperglycaemia mainly due to absolute (Type1DM) or relative (Type2 DM) deficiency of insulin 84 hormone. DM virtually affects every system of the body mainly due to metabolic disturbances 85 caused by hyperglycaemia, especially if diabetes control over a period of time proves to be 86 suboptimal. Until recently it was believed to be a disease occurring mainly in developing 87 countries, but recent findings reveal a rise in number of new cases of type 2 DM with onset and 88 associated complications in developing countries [7]. Diabetes is associated with complications 89 such as cardiovascular diseases, nephropathy, retinopathy and neuropathy, which can lead to 90 chronic morbidities and mortality. World Health Organization [7,7]. estimates that more than 91 346 million people worldwide have DM. This number is likely to be more than double by 2030 92 without any intervention. Recent report, India today heads the world with over 32million 93 diabetes patients and this number is projected to increase to 79.4 million by the year 2030.

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2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

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99 2.1 Chemicals and reagents

Ethanol (90%) was obtained from James Burrogh Limited, 60 Montford place London 99.9%v/v min, one touch plus blood glucometer strips which were purchased from Globus Chemical, 55 Mayne Avenue, Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. A7413-106 Streptozotocin was obtained from sigma –Aldrich, Inc, St Louis, Mo63103, USA. All routine assay kits were from Agape Diagnostic Switzerland GmbH. Langackerstress 29-6330-Swirtzerland were obtained from spectrum Egyptian Company for Biotechnology (S.A.E) Obour City industrial area. Block 20009 8 pieces 19A Cairo, Egypt, human insulin injection was obtained from Atrapid Novo Nordisk A/s, DK-2880 Bagsvaerd, Denmark, Needles and other syringes used
were purchased from Peace Land Pharmacy Limited, 476 Ndidem Isang Iso road, opposite
Calabar Municipal Council Calabar.

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111 **2.2 Methods**

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Collection of plant materials

113 Fresh and matured leaves of Nauclea latifolium was harvested from the Endocrine 114 Research Farm while *Cataranthus roseus* were harvested from the staff village environment, 115 University of Calabar, in August 2018. They were authenticated by a botanist Dr Mike Eko, 116 Department of Botany, University of Calabar, Calabar and voucher specimens deposited in an 117 herbarium in the Department of Botany. The leaves were rinsed severally with clean tap water to 118 remove dust particles and debris followed with distilled water thereafter allowed to completely 119 drain. The dry Nauclea latifolium and Cataranthus roseus leaves were blended with the use of 120 Cornono (EL legitima) VC.I.A. S.A manual hand blended, (Medellin-Colombia) into powder and 121 3kg of the Nauclea latifolium, was weighed out and soaked in 2000ml of 80% ethanol while 800g of Cataranthus roseus was weighed out and soaked in 1000ml of 80% ethanol. The mixture 122 was allowed for 48 hours in the refrigerator at 40^{oc} for thorough extraction of the plant's active 123 124 components. These were then filtered with a cheese cloth and later with Whatman No.1 filter 125 paper to obtain a homogenous filtrate. These filtrates were then concentrated in vacuo at low 126 temperature $(37 - 40^{\circ}c)$ to about one tenth the original volume using a rotary evaporator. The 127 concentrates were allowed open in a water bath (40°C) for complete dryness yielding 34.9g 128 (3.49%) and 29g(3.62%) respectively. The extracts were then refrigerated at 2 - 80C until when 129 used.

131 2.3 Animals

132		Thirty albino rats (males only) of Wistar strain weighing about 140-180g were obtained
133	from t	he animal house of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Calabar, Calabar. The
134	anima	ls were divided into five (5) groups containing six (6) animals were allowed to acclimatize
135	for the	ree weeks in the animals' house of the Department of Biochemistry. The animals were
136	house	d in well ventilated cages (wooden bottom and wire mesh top) and kept under controlled
137	enviro	nmental conditions of temperature (25+500C), relative humidity (29+2%) and 12 hours'
138	light/c	lark cycle.
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140	2.5	Method of Acute toxicity test LD50
141		The acute toxicity study of Cataranthus roseus and Nauclea latifolium was carried out
142	using	the [8]. The LD50 value was determined, Confirmatory test was carried out and the LD50
143	was ca	alculated from the graph of percentage (%) of mortality (converted to probit) against Log-
144	dose o	of the extract.
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147	2.6	Induction of experimental diabetes
148		Principle:
149		Streptozotocin is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating
150	metas	tatic cancer of the pancreatic islets cells. Since it carries a substantial risk of toxicity and
151	rarely	curing the cancer, its use is generally limited to patients whose cancer cannot be removed

by surgery. In these patients streptozotocin can reduce the tumour size and reduce symptoms(especially hypoglycaemia due to excessive insulin secretion by insulinomas).

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155 2.7 Anti-diabetic activity

Fasting blood glucose was determined after deprivation of food for 16 hours with free access of drinking water. Hyperglycaemia was induced by a single intraperitoneal injection of 100mg/kg body weight streptozotocin (STZ), a-Aldrich, Inc, St. Louis, Mo63103, U.S.A) in sterile saline. After 5 days of streptozotocin (STZ) injection, the hyperglycaemic rats (glucose level >8.3mmol/dl) were separated and divided into different groups comprising of 6 rats each for the anti-diabetic study.

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53 2.8 Extract and drug administration

Before administration, the extracts were reconstituted in normal saline (vehicle) and administered orally twice daily at a dose of 500mg/kg body weight for the single dose of 250mg/kg of the extracts of C. R and N. L, Insulin was administered at 5IU/kg b.wt, And the control animal received 0.2mlq of normal saline (Placebo) Respectively.

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- 169 2.9 Experimental design
- 170 Diabetic animals were grouped as shown in table 1 below.

TABLE 1

Animal grouping and treatment scheme **Diabetic rats** Groups No of Treatment Dosage animals 1 6 Normal control 0.2ml of normal saline 2 Diabetic control Placebo 6 3. 6 Insulin $51\mu/kg$ 4. 6 Nauclea latifolium 500mg/kg body weight/day 5. 6 Cataranthus roseus 500mg/kg body weight/day

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177 Animals were accordingly treated with extracts and insulin. The plant extracts were also 178 determined from preliminary work in our laboratory whereas insulin dose, NPH (5IU/kg b.w) 179 was adopted as previously used. The plant extracts were administered via oral gastric 180 intubations, twice per day (10.00am; 4:00pm) in a 6 hours cycle and insulin was administered 181 once per day postprandial (10.00am), subcutaneously (S.C.). Treatment lasted for 14 days and 182 throughout this duration periodic changes in glucose and body weight were measured with the 183 use of a glucometer and animal weighing balance respectively. The animals were maintained on 184 rat pellets prepared by Vital Feeds, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria and tap water, both the feed and 185 water were provided ad. libitium.

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187 **3.0** Collection of samples for analysis

188 At the end of the 14 days' food was withdrawn from the rats and they were fasted 189 overnight but had free access to water. They were then euthanized under chloroform vapour and 190 sacrificed. Whole blood was collected via cardiac puncture using sterile syringes and needles. 191 The blood was transferred into plain tubes and allowed to clot for about two hours, the clotted 192 blood was thereafter centrifuged at 3,000rpm for 10 minutes to recover serum from clotted cells. 193 Serum was separated with sterile syringes and needles and stored frozen until used for 194 biochemical analysis.

3.1 Data and statistical analysis

Blood glucose levels were expressed in mg/dl as mean + SEM. The data were statistically
analyzed using ANOVA with multiple comparisons with the control group according to
Punnett's method using SPSS software version 17. The value of P<0.05 were taken as
significant.

3.2 RESULTS

TABLE 2

Phytochemical components of Ethanolic extracts of Cataranthus	rosues a	and
Nauclea latifolium		

	Components	Cataranthus roseus	Nauclea latifolium
1.	Flavonoids	++	+
2.	Saponins	+	+++
3.	Polyphenols	+++	+
4.	Alkaloids	++	+
5.	Tannins	+	N.D

210	6.	Hydr	ocyanide (HCH)	N.D	+++
210 211	Key				
212		+	= Present		
213		++	= Highly present		
214		+++	= Very highly present		
215		N.D	= Not Detected		
216					
217					

The result in table 2 shows that the phytochemicals present in *Cataranthus roseus* and *Nauclea latifolium*. Contains flavonoids, polyphenols and Alkaloids were found to be present in appreciable amount in *Cataranthus roseus* with saponins, tannins are found to be in traceable concentration. Also, saponins and hydrocyanide were detected at higher levels in *Nauclea latifolium* with flavonoids, polyphenols all in traceable amount.



260 C.R, resulted in a significant (P<0.05) reduction in Fasting Blood Glucose (FBG) relative to

261 diabetic control and insulin treated group. The reduction in serum glucose may be due to the 262 regeneration of beta cells of the pancreas, which were destroyed by STZ [9]. Fig.1 shows a 263 presentation of the result of FBG that was observed in experimental period compared to the 264 normal control. Upon treatment with both extracts and insulin respectively, a marked reduction 265 in FBG was observed at the final day of the experimental period, which was significant (P<0.05) 266 compared with the diabetic control and normal control. Therefore, this research reflected the 267 beneficial effect of plant extracts on the glucose level of diabetes albino wistar rats. The 268 reduction in glucose level in extract treated group may be due to the insulin-like effects of the 269 extracts, as insulin increase glucose uptake by the cells. Reduction in glucose level of diabetic 270 extract-treated group may also be due to the renewal of cell following extract administration. The 271 renewal of cells in diabetics has been studied in several animal models. It has been suggested 272 that regeneration of islet cells after the use of extract may be the primary cause of the recovery of 273 STZ induced albino wistar rat.

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- **FIGURE 2**: Percentage change in blood glucose level of diabetic rats.
- 298 Values are expressed as mean + SEM, n = 6.
- Also from Fig.2, percentage (%) change in the blood glucose showed a relative decrease in all
- 300 the experimental groups.







374	FIGURE 4: Potassium ion concentration of experimental rats. Values are expressed as mean +		
375	SEM, n = 6.		
376	*significantly different from NC at p<0.05.		
377	a = p<0.05 vs DC.		
378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389	b = p<0.05 vs Insuline		
390	3.3 Effect on electrolyte concentration		
391	The effect of the two anti-diabetic plants N. latifolium and C. roseus indicated in fig.3 and		
392	fig.4, showed a representation of sodium, chloride and potassium ion concentration in diabetic		
393	rats. From the result, a significant decrease in sodium and chloride was observed in all treated		
394	groups with the extract and insulin at ($P < 0.05$) compared to the normal control and related to the		
395	diabetic control. Also observed from fig.4 was a significant decrease in potassium concentration		
396	in all treated groups compared to both diabetic and normal control groups.		
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398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407			



c = p < 0.05 vs NL









- significantly different from NC at p<0.05.
- 560 a = p<0.05 vs DC.
- 561 b = p < 0.05 vs Insuline.

562 c = p<0.05 vs NL.



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7 3.4 Effect of treatment on serum lipid profile of experimental rats triacylglycerol

608 The effect of the two anti-diabetic plants N. latifolium and C. roseus indicated in figure 5, 609 triacylglycerol concentration shows a significant (P<0.05) decrease in all the treated groups 610 compared to the diabetic control groups. Also the result in figure 6, total cholesterol 611 concentration shows a significant decrease (P<0.05) in the treated groups compared to the 612 diabetic control groups and normal control groups. However, from the figure 7 there is a 613 significant increase (P<0.05) was observed in the HDL-C level in all the treated groups when 614 compared to the diabetic control and the normal control groups. In figure 8, it was observed that 615 there was a significant increase in LDL concentration (P<0.05) in the insulin group compared to 616 the diabetic control group and a significant decrease in all the extract treated groups compared to 617 the normal control. The result for VLDL shown a significant (<0.05) decrease in the extracts 618 treated groups compared to the insulin group and the diabetic control group respectively in 619 (fig.9). The presence of these substances may be responsible for their antihyperglycemic action. 620 [10]. had earlier in his report indicated that plants endowed with flavonoids, glycosides and 621 polyphenols are likely to possess both hypoglycaemic and anti-hyperglycaemic properties.







4. **DISCUSSION**

757 Diabetes mellitus (DM) is an endocrine disorder characterized by chronic 758 hyperglycaemia with many disturbances of carbohydrate, fat, and protein metabolism due to 759 decrease in insulin secretion. The result of this research reflected the beneficial effect of plant 760 extracts on the glucose level of diabetes albino wistar rats. The reduction in glucose level in 761 extract treated group may be due to the insulin-like effects of the extracts, as insulin increase 762 glucose uptake by the cells. Reduction in glucose level of diabetic extract-treated group may also 763 be due to the renewal of cell following extract administration. The renewal of cells in diabetics 764 has been studied in several animal models. It has been suggested that regeneration of islet cells 765 after the use of extract may be the primary cause of the recovery of STZ induced albino wistar 766 rat. The presence of these substances may be responsible for their antihyperglycemic action. [10-767 10]. had earlier in his report indicated that plants endowed with flavonoids, glycosides and 768 polyphenols are likely to possess both hypoglycaemic and anti-hyperglycaemic properties. 769 However, it is not known how the ethanolic extract of the leaves of N. latifolium exert its 770 hypoglycaemic effect. Moreover, the hypoglycaemic activity of the leaves of the plant may be 771 due to this secondary metabolite involved in the stimulation of the β -cells and subsequent 772 secretion of insulin [11]. The significant decrease in electrolyte in the extracts treated groups 773 may be attributed to the actions of the bioactive components, and suggests that these extracts 774 may be nephrotoxic. Diabetes mellitus is associated with disturbance in electrolytes metabolism. 775 Electrolytes are dissolved mineral used by the body to conduct electricity. Potassium, sodium 776 and calcium are all important for proper electrolyte balance. Electrolytes are vital for proper 777 electric signals in the heart. Electrolytes are salts that conduct electricity and are found in the body fluid, tissues and blood. Examples are chloride (C), calcium, Magnesium, sodium and 778

779 potassium. Sodium (Na+) is concentrated in the (ICF) proper balance is essential for muscles co-780 ordination heart fluid absorption and excretion, nerve function and concentration [12]. The 781 kidney regulates fluid absorption and excretion and maintain a narrow range of electrolyte 782 function. Sodium and potassium are filtered and its secretion into the bile by the liver [13]. Too 783 much or too little sodium (hyponatraemia) or potassium hyper or hyperlkalaemina) caused by 784 poor diet, hydration, medication and disease, results in an imbalance. Hyponatraemia is the most 785 common electrolytes imbalance [14]. It is associated with kidney disease such as nephrotic 786 syndrome and acute renal failure (ARF). Sodium is the major positive ion (cation) in fluid 787 outside of cells too much or too little sodium therefore can cause cells to malfunction, and 788 extremes of it in the blood can be fatal. Potassium is the major positive ion (cation) found inside 789 of cells. The proper level of potassium is essential for normal cell function. An abnormal 790 increase in potassium or decrease in potassium (hyperkalemia) can profoundly affect the nervous 791 system and increase the chance of irregular heart beat (arhythemias), which when extreme can be 792 fatal. An abnormally low level of potassium (K^+) is called hypokalemia. The adrenal gland 793 makes a hormone (aldosterone) that signals the kidneys to excrete or conserve potassium based 794 on the body needs. Electrolytes play a vital role in maintaining homeostasis within the body. 795 They help to regulate myocardial and neurological function, fluid balance, oxygen delivery, acid-796 base balance and much more, the most serious electrolyte disturbance involved abnormalities in 797 the level of sodium and potassium. The result of the lipid profile from the study shows a 798 significant decrease in TG, TC, LDL with a significant increase in HDL and VLDL. These 799 increase shows that HDL serve as acceptor of cholesterol from various tissues [15]. They 800 promote the removal of cholesterol from cells and its secretion into the bile by the liver [16]. 801 This result further confirmed the use of these two traditionally used medicinal plants for the

802 management of diabetic and related cardiovascular implications. The best single indicator of the 803 likelihood of developing atherosclerotic heart disease is not total plasma cholesterol but rather 804 the ratio of plasma LDL cholesterol to plasma HDL-cholesterol. High levels of HDL are 805 negatively associated with the risk of coronary heart disease, high level of TG, which in the 806 fasting condition are found mainly in VLDL, are positively related to the risk for coronary heart 807 disease [17]. As LDL carries most of the plasma cholesterol, the total plasma cholesterol may 808 also be a good index for the risk of coronary heart disease, when the high cholesterol level is not 809 due to a high HDL level. However, the total cholesterol of HDL ratio may be the most potent or 810 efficient predicator for the risk of coronary heart disease [18]. The extract may cause increase in 811 HDL level by inducing APOA-1 production [19]. Suggested that increase in HDL levels after 812 treated may be due to the induction of APOA-1 production. In the present study the anti-813 diabetic effect of the extracts Cataranthus roseus and Nauclea latifolium indicates that there 814 were increase in AST and ALT levels thus suggesting that these extracts are hepatoprotective on 815 the liver where these enzymes are synthesized [20]. However, the result of Albumin and total 816 protein shows a remarkable decrease when compared to the normal control treated with the 817 extracts of Nauclea latifolium and Cataranthus roseus. The findings suggest that the extracts 818 may have the potentials to reverse the potential risk of hepatotoxicity but probably requires long 819 durations for total restoration of the liver synthetic function. The results are consistent with the 820 report by [21]. on the effect of Nauclea latifolium leaves aqueous extracts on blood glucose 821 levels of normal alloxan induced diabetic rats. Our finding on *Cataranthus roseus* and *Nauclea* 822 *latifolium* was consistent with earlier reports on the beneficiary importance of the two medicinal 823 plants.

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826	5.	Conclusion	
827	The findings of the present research were concluded that the ethanolic extracts of N		
828	latifolium and C. roseus has a beneficial effect on serum level of glucose, lipid profile, serum		
829	enzym	es and electrolyte. This study also exposes the therapeutic value of this medicinal plants	
830	and its efficacy in the management of diabetes and it related complication.		
831 832	Ethical Approval:		
833 834 835 836	As per international standard or university standard ethical approval has been collected and preserved by the authors.		
830 837 838 839 840 841 842	Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no competing interests.		
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