

1 | **Effect of *Annona muricata muricata* Extract On Colon Antioxidant Status and Ketone**  
2 | **Bodies in Blood and Urine of Cycas-Treated Rats**

4 | **ABSTRACT**

5 The effect of *Annona muricata* methanol leaf extract (AMELE) on colon antioxidant status and  
6 ~~Ketone~~ ketone bodies in blood and urine of cycas treated rats was investigated. This was to establish  
7 if there was any relationship between Soursop consumption, reduced carcinogenesis and changes in  
8 levels of ~~Ketone~~ ketone bodies. Seventy male albino rats, divided into seven groups were used for  
9 this study. Group 1 received normal diet and served as control. Group 2 received normal feed with  
10 5% (w/w) cycas. Group 3 received ketogenic diet with 5% (w/w) cycas, Group 4 received normal  
11 feed with 100 mg AMELE/kg body wt. Group 5 received ketogenic diet with 100 mg AMELE/kg  
12 body wt. Group 6 received normal feed and 5% (w/w) cycas with 100 mg AMELE/kg body wt and  
13 Group 7 received ketogenic diet and 5% (w/w) cycas with 100 mg AMELE/kg body wt. All the  
14 treatments were administered orally for ~~twenty-eight~~ 28 days. Using standard methods,  $\beta$ -  
15 hydroxybutyrate ( $\beta$ OH) and acetoacetate (AcAc) levels were measured in serum and urine while  
16 malondialdehyde (MDA), reduced glutathione (GSH), catalase (CAT), superoxide dismutase (SOD)  
17 and glutathione peroxidase (GPx) were assayed in the colon. Lactate dehydrogenase activities were  
18 estimated in serum, while histopathological analysis was done on colon tissues at the of 4 weeks  
19 treatment. The results showed that ~~all the groups placed on~~ ketogenic diet had significant ( $p < 0.05$ )  
20 increase in serum and urine  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate and aceto-acetate levels compared to ~~all the~~ other  
21 groups on normal feed. *Annona muricata* extract enhanced cellular consumption and uptake of ketone  
22 bodies, whereas cycas reduced cellular consumption of ketone bodies. *Annona muricata* given either  
23 with ketogenic diet or cycas or with both ketogenic diet and cycas led to higher tissue levels of  
24 catalase, superoxide dismutase and glutathione peroxidase. Reduced glutathione levels were

25 significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) increased in ~~Group-group~~ 2 (normal feed with cycas) compared to the control  
26 group. Tissue MDA levels were significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) increased in all cycas treated groups compared  
27 to the control group with the highest levels seen in the two groups placed on normal feed and cycas  
28 (untreated/treated), Groups 2 and ~~Group-6~~, respectively. Lactate dehydrogenase activities were  
29 ~~examined in serum and there were~~ significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) increases in all the groups placed on  
30 ketogenic diet compared to the groups placed on normal feed. The highest activity of lactate  
31 dehydrogenase was observed in ~~Group-groups~~ 3 and ~~Group-5~~. Histo-pathological analysis revealed  
32 normal rat colon tissues in all the groups except 43% of the group 2 animals (normal feed with 5%  
33 (w/w) cycas) which showed several colonic glands with dysplastic (precancerous) changes. This  
34 invariably means that *Annona muricata* extract and/or ketogenic diet conferred protection on the  
35 colon tissues. These results therefore indicate that cycas- induced oxidative stress and tissue injury,  
36 which are early events leading to colorectal carcinogenesis, may be mitigated by the combined  
37 administration of *Annona muricata* extract and ketogenic diet.

38 |  
39 KEYWORDS: *Annona muricata*, cycas, colon, ketogenic diets, lipid peroxidation, antioxidant,  
40 ~~Histopathology~~histopathology.

41

## 42 INTRODUCTION:

43 Incidence of cancer is ~~silently growing~~increases at exponential rates due to its nature and  
44 numerous factors associated with its development. Cancer remains one of the most dreaded  
45 diseases causing an astonishingly high death rate, second only to cardiac arrest (Shaffi *et al.*,  
46 2009). Although overall cancer incidence rates in the developing world is half those seen in the  
47 developed world in both sexes, the overall cancer mortality rates are generally similar (Jemal *et*

48 | *al.*, 2011). Cancer survival tends to be poorer in developing countries like Nigeria, most likely  
49 | because of a combination of a late stage diagnosis and limited access to timely and standard  
50 | treatment. The fact that conventional and newly emerging treatment ~~Assays-assays like such as~~  
51 | chemotherapy, catalytic therapy, photodynamic therapy and radiotherapy have not succeeded in  
52 | reverting the outcome of the disease to any drastic extent, has made researchers to investigate  
53 | alternative treatment options (Jemal *et al.*, 2011).

54 | Over the last few decades there are accumulating evidence about the metabolic reorganisation  
55 | during cancer development which has been obtained from studies on various tumor ~~types~~ (Poff *et*  
56 | *al.*, 2014). Cancer cells require unrestricted energy generation to sustain their characteristic  
57 | uncontrolled proliferation (Warburg, 1956). The growth of a normal mammalian cell depends on  
58 | growth factor signaling and nutrient availability (Cantor and Sabatini, 2012; Dang, 2012). In  
59 | certain cell models, resting cells use fatty acid oxidation as a means to generate ATP, maintain  
60 | membrane potentials, and turn over organelles (Wang *et al.*, 2011). As the cell is induced to  
61 | grow, glycolysis and glutaminolysis are induced through increased expression of glucose and  
62 | amino acid transporters (Vander Heiden, 2011; Cantor and Sabatini, 2012; Dang 2012).

63 | Most proliferating cells metabolize glucose by aerobic glycolysis rather than through the more  
64 | energetically efficient oxidative phosphorylation used by normal resting cells in the presence of  
65 | oxygen. It has been noted that under high conditions of high glucose uptake, the flux of  
66 | glycolytic intermediates into branching biosynthetic pathways could be substantially increased.  
67 | The dependence on glycolysis for energy production provides additional advantages to the tumor  
68 | and this includes adaptation to a low oxygen environment as well as the acidification of the

69 surrounding microenvironment. This promotes tumor invasion and suppresses immune  
70 surveillance (Luo *et al.*, 2009).

71 Targeting cancer cell metabolism through glycolytic inhibition has thus emerged as a new and  
72 promising strategy to fight cancer (Seyfried, *et al*, 2003). It has been reported that ketone bodies  
73 have deleterious effects on some cancer cells (Seyfried, 2012). As a result of this, the use of  
74 ketogenic diet (KD) ~~is emerging~~ as an alternative or complementary approach to the current  
75 standard care for cancer management. Carbohydrate low ketogenic diet has been demonstrated to  
76 inhibit disease progression and promote partial remission in patients with advanced metastatic  
77 cancer from various tissue origins (Freeman *et al.*, 2007; Maurer *et al.*, 2011; Seyfried *et al*  
78 *.,2003*). On the other hand, natural products have also been targets for cancer therapy for several  
79 years. Medicinal plants are considered to be the main sources of biologically active compounds  
80 that can be used for the treatment of various ailments including cancer. One of such plants is  
81 *Annona muricata* (commonly known as soursop) which contains a novel set of phytochemicals  
82 called “annonaceous acetogenins” which have been demonstrated to exhibit remarkable  
83 cytotoxic potential against cancer cell lines (Morre *et al.*,1994; Zeng *et al.*,1996). It has an edible  
84 fruit usually called soursop due to its slightly acidic taste when ripe. *Annona muricata* is a small,  
85 upright, evergreen tree that can grow to about 4 ~~metres-m~~ (13 feet) tall. Its young branches are  
86 hairy. The fruits are dark green and prickly, ovoid and can be up to 30 ~~centimetres-cm~~  
87 (12 inches) long, with a moderately firm texture. Their flesh is juicy, acidic, whitish and  
88 aromatic. Phytochemical screening of the plants showed the presence of alkaloids,  
89 carbohydrates, coumarins, flavonoids, glycosides, phenolic compounds, phytosterols, proteins,  
90 quinones, saponins, steroids and terpenoids (Vijayameena *et al.*, 2013). Working on the anti-  
91 carcinogenic properties of *Annona muricata*, Maria *et al.*, showed that the extracts induced

92 necrosis of pancreatic cancer (PC) cells by inhibiting cellular metabolism (Maria *et al.*,2012).  
93 Several pharmacological activities and medicinal applications of *Annona muricata* have been are  
94 widely reported (Adeyemi *et al.*, 2009; Adeyemi *et al.*, 2010; Padmaa *et al.*,1999; Orlando *et*  
95 *al.*,2010; Maria *et al.*,2012). However, their mechanisms of action has not been fully elucidated  
96 beyond the fact that they inhibit the reduced form of NADH oxidase in the plasma membrane of  
97 cancer cells as well as complex 1 in the electron transport chain thereby starving the cancer cells  
98 of ATP (Nakanishi *et al.*, 2011).

99 The ~~Carcinogen-carcinogen~~ used in this study was the *Cycas circinalis* plant, otherwise called  
100 the Queen Sago. This plant contains alkaloids of carcinogens and also amino acids that cause  
101 chronic nervous disorders. Regular consumption of the plant leads to severe health problems and  
102 death. In 1941, Lorenzo and Stewart first reported the carcinogenic activity of hydrazine, the  
103 hydrazine source being cycad flour. When large quantities of cycad flour were fed to rats, colon  
104 adenocarcinomas ~~in the colon~~ arose in some of the animals. The carcinogen in cycad flour was  
105 subsequently found to be cycasin, a form of methyl azoxymethanol (MAM) (Laqueur, 1964).  
106 The carcinogen 1,2-dimethylhydrazine (DMH) which is metabolized to MAM in the liver  
107 ~~was liver was~~ found to induce cancer in inbred rats. The location of the tumor was mainly in the  
108 distal portion of the colon which mimics the distribution seen in some forms of colorectal cancer  
109 (Druckery and Preussmann, 1967). In 1990, the carcinogenic activity of cycad was also reported  
110 when experimental animals placed on a diet composed of 5% cycad flour developed colon  
111 cancer. Recently Okolie *et al.*; 2013 reported the carcinogenic property of cycas after observing  
112 the induction of colon carcinogenesis on experimental rats placed on a diet composed of 5%  
113 cycas. Thus, this present study was aimed at examining the mechanism of action of *Annona*  
114 *muricata* in relation to ketogenesis in cycas induced colon carcinogenesis in rats

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115 | **MATERIALS AND METHODS** ~~aterials and Methods~~

116 | **Sample Collection and Preparation;**

117 | Large quantities of fresh green leaves of *Annona muricata* were collected from trees in  
118 | household gardens in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. Fresh leaves of *Annona muricata* were  
119 | rinsed with tap water and dried at room temperature for 4 weeks. The dried leaves were  
120 | ~~pulverised~~ ~~pulverized~~ into fine coarse powder (1.5 kg) and soaked in 2.6 Litres of methanol for  
121 | 72 hours with regular stirring. The extract was ~~collected by filtration. The residue was washed~~  
122 | ~~with methanol. The filtrates were combined,~~ filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure.

124 | Fresh cycas leaflets were collected at the Ugbowo campus of the University of Benin, Benin  
125 | City, Nigeria. Fresh leaves of *Cycas circinalis* were dried at room temperature and subsequently  
126 | pulverised as above. The powdered leaf (2 kg) was kept in an air- tight glass jar until used.

128 | **Table 3.1:** Composition of the ~~Ketogenic~~ ~~ketogenic~~ ~~Diet~~ ~~diet~~ used in this ~~Study~~ ~~study~~.

| DIETARY COMPONENTS       | AMOUNT(g/100g)<br>(Low Carbohydrate /High Fat Diet) |
|--------------------------|---|
| Carbohydrate (Garri)     | 64.0g   |
| Protein (Casein)         | 16.0g   |
| Mineral and vitamin Mix  | 1.0g  |
| Saturated Fat (Palm oil) | 20.0g   |
| Methionine               | 0.6g  |

129 |  
130 | The ~~Oil~~ ~~oil~~ used in this study was obtained from the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research  
131 | (NIFOR) Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. The Garri (yellow in color) was obtained from an open air  
132 | market in Benin City, Nigeria.

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133 **Animal Experiment: Experimental Animals**

134 A total of 70 ~~wistar~~ Wistar male rats weighing 150 ~~to~~ 200 g were used for this study. The rats  
135 were ~~allowed two weeks for~~ acclimatization for two weeks before ~~the~~ commencement of ~~the~~  
136 treatment. ~~They~~ The rats were maintained with tap water and fed (Growers Mash Bendel Feeds  
137 and Flour Mills Ltd, Ewu, Edo State). The rats were divided into ~~7 (seven)~~ groups, each group  
138 consisting of 10 rats and treated for 28 days as indicated below:

139 Group I- Rats served as ~~Control~~ control.

140 Group II- Rats + 5% (w/w) Cycas based ~~Diet~~ diet.

141 Group III- Rats + 5% (w/w) Cycas based ~~Diet~~ diet + ~~Ketogenic~~ ketogenic ~~Diet~~ diet

142 Group IV- Rats + AMME (100 mg/kg body wt)

143 Group V- Rats + ~~Ketogenic~~ ketogenic ~~Diet~~ diet + AMME (100 mg/kg body wt)

144 Group VI- Rats + 5% (w/w) Cycas + AMME (100 mg/kg body wt)

145 Group VII- Rats + 5% (w/w) Cycas + ~~Ketogenic~~ ketogenic ~~Diet~~ diet + AMME (100 mg/kg body  
146 wt)

147

148 **Administration of *Cycas circinalis***

149 To 100 g of the rat feed, 0.5 gm of the powdered cycas leaf was added ~~to rat feed~~ and orally  
150 administered to the rats for ~~twenty eight (28)~~ days.

151

152 **Administration of Extracts**

153 The prescribed doses of plant extracts were orally administered to the rats daily, for 28 days of  
154 ~~experiment~~. Each animal was weighed. To each rat, 100 mg/kg body weight of this extract

155 solution was administered. The injection dose for each animal according to their weight was  
156 determined by the following equation:

157 | Calculated injection volume =  $\frac{\text{Animals weight in kg} \times \text{Dose-dose (mg/kg)}}{\text{Concentration (mg/ml)}}$   
158 | (typically measured in ("ml"))

### 159 **Collection of Urine**

160 At the end of the feeding experiment, which lasted for 28 days, metabolic cages were used for  
161 urine collection.

### 163 **Collection of Blood**

164 Blood samples were collected from the anesthetized rats by cardiac puncture. The samples were  
165 collected in plain bottles.

### 167 **Preparation of Serum**

168 The blood samples collected from the rats were allowed to coagulate at room temperature and  
169 centrifuged at 3500 rpm for 15\_mins at room temperature for separation of Serumserum. The  
170 clear non-hemolysed supernatant was separated using dry pasture pipette and stored at -20°C<sup>o</sup>-e.  
171 The Serum-serum was used for subsequent biochemical essays such as β-hydroxybutyrate,  
172 acetoacetate and lactate dehydrogenase assays.

173

174

175



176 **Biochemical Assays**

177 Beta- hydroxybutyrate was assayed using the method described by Williamson *et al.*, (1962)  
178 based on the oxidation of  $\beta$ -~~Hydroxybutyrate~~ hydroxybutyrate to acetoacetate by the enzyme 3-  
179 hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase by monitoring the reduction of NAD<sup>+</sup> to NADH at 450 nm. The  
180 estimation of ~~Acetoacetate~~ acetoacetate (AcAc) was carried out colorimetrically at 550 nm as  
181 described by Stadtman *et al.*, (1951). LDH was assayed spectrophotometrically using Randox  
182 kits, by monitoring NAD<sup>+</sup> reduction at 340 nm as described by Klin *et al.*, (1972). Catalase  
183 assay was as described by Cohen *et al*, in which the rate of decomposition of hydrogen peroxide  
184 is monitored at 480 nm. SOD was assayed by following auto-oxidation of adrenaline at 420 nm  
185 (Misra and Fridovich, 1972). Glutathione ~~Peroxidase~~ peroxidase activity was determined by  
186 measuring the production of purpurogallen from pyrogallol at 420 nm (Nyman,1959). MDA  
187 levels were measured ~~ima-using~~ colorimetric reaction with thiobarbituric acid as described by  
188 Tietz, 1986. Reduced glutathione assay was done using the method as described by Tietz, 1976,  
189 in which 5,5-dithiobis (2-nitrobenzoic acid) (DTNB) with reduced glutathione (GSH) was  
190 decomposed to hydrogen peroxide and was monitored at 480nm.

191

192 **Preparation of Colon Tissue Homogenates**

193 Tissues of colon were homogenized respectively in ice cold normal saline (1:10 w/v) and  
194 centrifuged at 10,000 rpm, for 15 minutes. The supernatant was stored at 4°C for onward  
195 analysis of malondialdehyde and reduced glutathione levels, superoxide dismutase, catalase and  
196 glutathione peroxidase activities.

197

198 **Histopathological studies**

199 The ~~colon~~ tissue (~~ecolon~~) were fixed with 10% formal saline solution (3-~~to~~ 5 days) ~~they-and~~ were  
 200 later dehydrated by passing through varying (increasing) concentrations of alcohol, cleared in  
 201 benzene and ~~then-further~~ embedded in molten paraffin. Five micron (5\_μm) cryostat sections  
 202 were stained with hematoxylin and eosin dyes. The sections were examined under light  
 203 microscope at high power magnifications and photomicrographs taken.

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205 **Results** **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**  
**Comment [SaA1]:** Please explain about the tables in detail, rather just projecting it!

206 **Table 1:** Serum β-hydroxybutyrate and acetoacetate levels of the rats after 28 days of  
 207 treatment.

|                         | Serum β-Hydroxybutyrate (ng/μl) | Serum acetoacetate (ng/μl) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Group_1                 | 172.66±0.70 <sup>a</sup>        | 4.27±0.60 <sup>a</sup>     |
| Group_2                 | 175.93±1.00 <sup>ab</sup>       | 4.34±0.50 <sup>ab</sup>    |
| Group_3                 | 198.98±1.00 <sup>c</sup>        | 8.63±0.60 <sup>ch</sup>    |
| Group_4                 | 170.87±0.90 <sup>ac</sup>       | 4.55±0.60 <sup>ad</sup>    |
| Group_5                 | 177.27±1.00 <sup>ad</sup>       | 7.77±1.00 <sup>e</sup>     |
| Group_6                 | 170.58±1.00 <sup>ac</sup>       | 4.18±0.70 <sup>af</sup>    |
| Group_7                 | 203.89±0.40 <sup>e</sup>        | 8.30±0.90 <sup>gh</sup>    |
| One way ANOVA (p-value) | 0.113                           | 0.000                      |

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208 Values are represented as mean ± SEM (n=6). Means with different superscripts down the column are  
 209 significantly different (p<0.05) at 95% confidence interval using paired sample students). -test.

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213 **Table 2:** Urine  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate and acetoacetate levels of the rats after 28 days of  
 214 treatment.

|                         | Urine $\beta$ -Hydroxybutyrate hydroxybutyrate (ng/ $\mu$ l) | Urine acetoacetate (ng/ $\mu$ l) |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Group_1                 | 1.67 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>a</sup>                                 | 23.20 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Group_2                 | 2.70 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>b</sup>                                 | 30.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>b</sup>    |
| Group_3                 | 4.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>c</sup>                                 | 70.70 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>c</sup>    |
| Group_4                 | 1.60 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>a</sup>                                 | 33.70 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>d</sup>    |
| Group_5                 | 5.70 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>d</sup>                                 | 83.50 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>e</sup>    |
| Group_6                 | 0.90 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>e</sup>                                 | 26.50 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>f</sup>    |
| Group_7                 | 2.70 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>f</sup>                                 | 84.20 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>g</sup>    |
| One way ANOVA (p-value) | 0.000  | 0.000                            |

215 Values are represented as mean $\pm$ SEM (n=6). Means with different superscripts down the column are  
 216 significantly different (p<0.05) at 95% confidence interval using paired sample students' t-test..  
 217

218 **Table 3:** Colorectal tissue antioxidant enzyme activities and reduced glutathione levels  
 219 of rats after 28days of treatment.  
 220

|                         | Tissue reduced glutathione (mmole/mg) | Tissue Superoxide dismutase (U/mg) $10^{-3}$ | Tissue Catalase (U/mg)          | Tissue glutathione peroxidase (U/mg) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Group_1                 | 0.33 $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>ac</sup>         | 0.21 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>ac</sup>                | 95.29 $\pm$ 2.00 <sup>ac</sup>  | 0.33 $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>abg</sup>       |
| Group_2                 | 0.49 $\pm$ 0.10 <sup>bh</sup>         | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>b</sup>                 | 91.43 $\pm$ 0.80 <sup>b</sup>   | 0.3 $\pm$ 0.06 <sup>b</sup>          |
| Group_3                 | 0.40 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>c</sup>          | 0.30 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>ch</sup>                | 105.42 $\pm$ 0.40 <sup>ch</sup> | 0.43 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>ch</sup>        |
| Group_4                 | 0.37 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>d</sup>          | 0.09 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>d</sup>                 | 86.14 $\pm$ 0.70 <sup>d</sup>   | 0.27 $\pm$ 0.04 <sup>d</sup>         |
| Group_5                 | 0.51 $\pm$ 0.10 <sup>e</sup>          | 0.32 $\pm$ 0.10 <sup>e</sup>                 | 142.14 $\pm$ 0.10 <sup>e</sup>  | 0.42 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>eh</sup>        |
| Group_6                 | 0.69 $\pm$ 0.10 <sup>thi</sup>        | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.04 <sup>thi</sup>               | 162.14 $\pm$ 0.40 <sup>f</sup>  | 0.51 $\pm$ 0.09 <sup>f</sup>         |
| Group7                  | 0.56 $\pm$ 0.10 <sup>gi</sup>         | 0.21 $\pm$ 0.06 <sup>gi</sup>                | 84.57 $\pm$ 2.00 <sup>gh</sup>  | 0.28 $\pm$ 0.05 <sup>bg</sup>        |
| One-way ANOVA (p-value) | 0.492                                 | 0.058  | 0.089                           | 0.099                                |

222 Values are represented as mean  $\pm$  SEM (n=6). Means with different superscripts are significantly different (p<0.05) at 95% confidence interval.

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**Table 4:** Colorectal tissue level of lipid peroxidation marker (MDA) and serum lactate dehydrogenase activity of rats after 28days of treatment.

|                         | MDA (x 10 <sup>-3</sup> nmoles/<br>g of fresh wt). | Serum lactate dehydrogenase<br>(IU/ml) |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Group_1                 | 1.24±0.71 <sup>a</sup>                             | 583.89±0.90 <sup>a</sup>               |
| Group_2                 | 2.25±0.20 <sup>b</sup>                             | 478.70±0.40 <sup>b</sup>               |
| Group_3                 | 1.36±0.20 <sup>ch</sup>                            | 1758.28±2.00 <sup>ch</sup>             |
| Group_4                 | 1.21±0.20 <sup>d</sup>                             | 518.17±0.20 <sup>di</sup>              |
| Group_5                 | 1.72±0.05 <sup>e</sup>                             | 1780.24±0.80 <sup>eh</sup>             |
| Group_6                 | 1.97±0.40 <sup>f</sup>                             | 519.99±0.50 <sup>fi</sup>              |
| Group_7                 | 1.29±0.10 <sup>gh</sup>                            | 741.61±0.80 <sup>g</sup>               |
| One-way ANOVA (p-value) | 0.000  | 0.000                                  |

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### HISTOPATHOLOGICAL RESULTS

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The histopathological results obtained from this study showed normal mucosal and muscular

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layers in all the groups placed on Ketogenic diet, treated or untreated with cycas and

232

or *Annona muricata* except the group placed on Normal diet treated with cycas only.

233

This can be seen in the Plates Figures are arranged as below:-

Comment [SaA2]: Need explanation for every images presented! What are the changes before and after!

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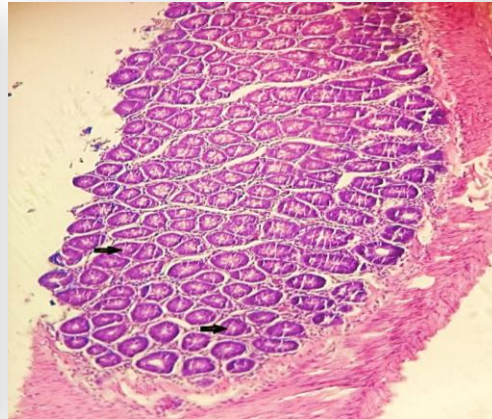
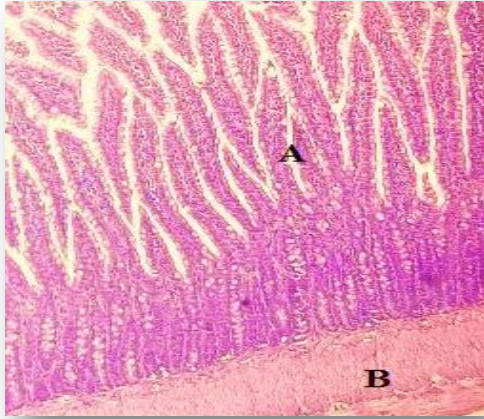
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**Plate-Figure 1:** Longitudinal section of rat intestine from control group. Intact mucosal (A) and muscular (B) layers are evident. The mucosa is seen here as finger-like projections of its lamina propria covered by normal columnar epithelial cells and mucus-secreting goblet cells. The muscularispropria is the muscle layer very well delineated at the bottom of the micrograph, propping up the mucosa. (H and E; X 100).

**Plate-Figure 2:** Transverse section of the colon from a control rat. Normal intestinal glands are evident in the mucosa, each being shown here as circular (tubular) structures (arrows) lined by mucus-secreting columnar epithelial cells. The underlying smooth muscle layer (muscularispropria) is also shown (shown (H and E; X 100).

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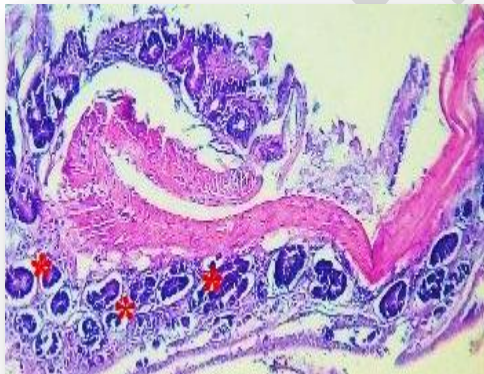
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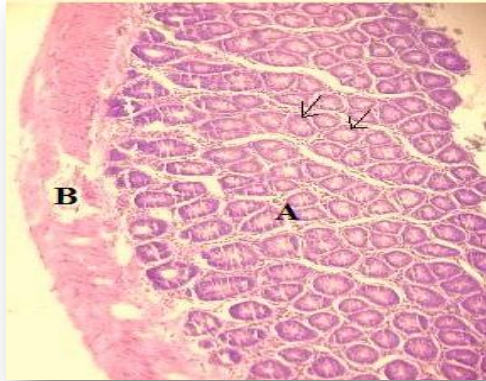
**Plate 3:** Section of the colon from a rat treated with Cycas only. (H & E; x 100). Intestinal glandular epithelial dysplasia (pre-cancerous change) is evident across the glands of the mucosa (red asterisks), the epithelial lining cells of which obviously exhibit nuclear enlargement, hyperchromasia and loss of mucin secretion. These pre-cancerous changes were seen in only about 43% of the rats belonging to this group and The the underlying smooth muscular layer is also shown.

**Plate 4:** Section of the colonic mucosa from a Cycas-only treated rat (Hand E; x 100). Glands (arrows) lined by dysplastic epithelial cells with nuclear disarray, enlargement and hyperchromasia are evident. There is loss of mucin secretion and absence of goblet cells. These pre-cancerous changes were seen in only about 43% of the rats belonging to this group.

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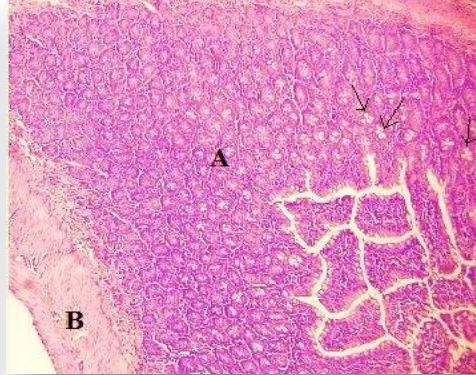
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**Plate Figure 5:** Section of the colon from a cycas-only treated rat (H&E; x100).The mucosa (A) contains numerous normal, transversely sectioned tubular glands (arrows) within its lamina propria. Each gland has a central lumen surrounded by columnar epithelial lining cells. The muscularis (B) layer is also well shown. Such normal histology was seen in 57% of this group.

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264



**Plate Figure 6:** Section of the colon from a cycas and ketogenic diet treated rat (H&E; x100). A normal mucosa (A) with normal glands lined by columnar and goblet cells (arrows), a normal muscularis layer (B) and an inconspicuous layer of submucosa inbetween the mucosa and muscularis; are evident.

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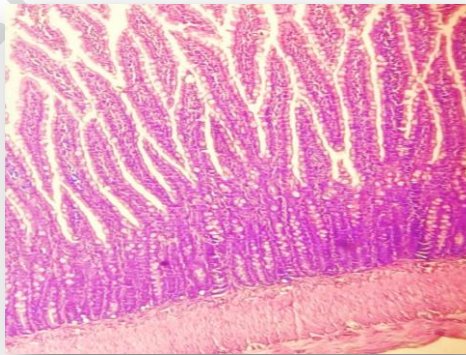
**Plate Figure 7:** Section taken from an extract only treated rat (H& E; x100).Numerous normal mucous glands (arrows) lined by normal columnar epithelial and goblet cells are evident in this view. The right of the field shows the mucosa disposed as finger-like structures of lamina propria covered by columnar and goblet cells. A section of the muscular layer is seen at the bottom left.

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**Plate Figure 8:** Section taken from a rat placed on ketogenic diet and extract (H&E; x100).Normal histology is evident. The mucosa above is displayed in numerous fingerlike projections of the lamina propria covered by columnar lining cells and mucin-secreting goblet cells. The muscularis propria props up the mucosa as shown at the bottom of the micrograph.

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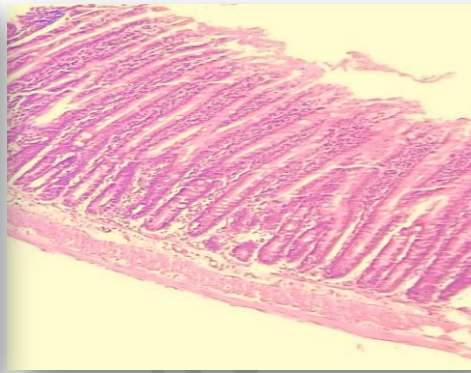
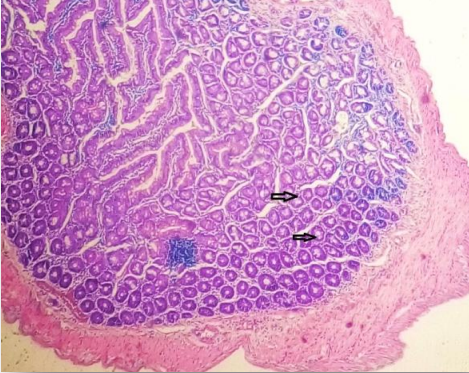
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**Plate-Figure 9:** Section of colon from a cycas and extract treated rat (H&E; x100). The normal mucosa with normal glandular architecture (arrows) is shown here surrounded by the normal muscular layer.

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282

**Plate-Figure 10:** Section of colon from a cycas, extract and ketogenic diet treated rat (H&E; x100). Numerous straight, tubular glands are seen in this normal mucosa, and they are lined by normal columnar and goblet cells. A thin layer of submucosa separates the mucosa above from the muscularis propria beneath.

283

### Discussion

284

Cancer chemoprevention by using antioxidant approaches has been suggested to offer a good

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potential in providing important fundamental benefits to public health and is now considered by

286

many clinicians and researchers as a key strategy for inhibiting, delaying or even reversal of

287

process of carcinogenesis (Ahmeida *et al.*, 2005). Moreover, knowledge and application of such

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potential activities in reducing oxidative stress *in vivo* has prompted the search for potent and

289

cost effective antioxidants from various plant sources. It has been strongly suggested that

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colorectal carcinogenesis is associated with intense oxidative stress and the progression of the

291

cancer is certain in the face of increased imbalance in the oxidative-antioxidative disorder

292

(Skrzydowska *et al.*, 2001).

293

294 The present study assays the tissue-protective effect of *Annona muricata* extract against  
295 histopathological damage in cycas—induced oxidative-stressed rats. Results from ~~table~~ Table 1  
296 shows the ~~Serum-serum~~ levels of  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate and acetoacetate levels of the rats after 28  
297 days of treatment. Results ~~from the show~~ showed significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum ~~Ketone~~  
298 ~~ketone~~ body ( $\beta$  -hydroxybutyrate levels and ~~-~~acetoacetate) profiles of the groups placed on  
299 ~~Ketogenic-ketogenic~~ diet (groups, III, V and VII) compared to the groups placed on normal diet  
300 (Table 1). ~~ove~~, it could be noticed that rats fed with ketogenic diets (groups, III, V and VII)  
301 showed higher ketone bodies ( $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate levels and acetoacetate). This is true because  
302 Ketogenic diet leads to the production of ketone bodies, such as  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate and  
303 acetoacetate, which can be used as an alternative energy source. Within the groups cycas treated  
304 groups, group VI has the lowest ketone body profile.

305  
306 Results from ~~table~~ Table 2 show a significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) in urinary ~~Ketone-ketone~~ body  
307 profiles in the groups (III, V and VII) placed on ~~Ketogenic-ketogenic~~ diet compared to the  
308 groups (I, II, IV and VI) placed on normal diet as shown in Table 2 ~~below~~. Within the cycas  
309 treated groups (II, VI and VII), the untreated carcinogenic group (I) presented the lowest urinary  
310 ketone body. This reduced presence of urinary ketone body as a result of inability of the  
311 cancerous cells to efficiently process ketone bodies for energy. Ketones also slow the  
312 proliferation of tumor cells. This reduced ketone bodies in the urine is also evident in the  
313 reduced serum ketone body profile within the group as shown in ~~table~~ Table 1. Although ketone  
314 bodies are efficient energy substrates for healthy extra-hepatic tissues, cancer cells cannot  
315 effectively use them for energy (Veech *et al.*, 2001). This increase in the ketone body of the rats  
316 treated with ketogenic diet corroborates with the results of a “classical” ketogenic diet described

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317 | by Russell Wilder at the Mayo clinic (Wilder, 1921). Studies by ~~Poff in 2104~~ (Poff *et al.*, 2014)  
318 | shows that ~~Ketone-ketone~~ supplementation elevated blood ketones which is similar with the  
319 | present study. Hence, from the present study, we can hypothesize that dietary administration of  
320 | ketone body precursors would inhibit disease progression *in vivo*.

321

322 | Among the measures that are utilized ~~by~~ cells to counteract the deleterious effects of lipid  
323 | peroxidation is ~~the~~ alteration of the activity of antioxidant enzymes such as catalase, peroxidases  
324 | and superoxide dismutase (Bhor *et al.*, 2004). Catalase is an important cellular antioxidant  
325 | enzyme that defends against oxidative stress found in the peroxisomes of most aerobic cells. It  
326 | serves to protect the cell from toxic effects of high concentrations of hydrogen peroxide by  
327 | ~~eatalsingcatalyzing~~ its decomposition into molecular oxygen and water (Shangari 2006). Thus,  
328 | estimation of catalase activity is a good indicator of oxidative stress in experimental animals.  
329 | Superoxide dismutase is a metalloenzyme that scavenges superoxide anions and exists as  
330 | isoforms classified on the basis of their relative requirement for manganese, copper and zinc to  
331 | maintain structural and functional integrity (Sasaki *et al.*, 2000). The results as seen in Table 3  
332 | ~~above,~~ shows a significant increase in colon tissue ~~Superoxide-superoxide~~ dismutase,  
333 | ~~Glutathione-glutathione~~ peroxidase and catalase activities in all the ~~Ketogenic-ketogenic~~ diet/  
334 | *Annona muricata* treated groups compared to the ~~Normal-normal~~ diet/ *Annona muricata* treated  
335 | groups.

336

337 | The Anti-oxidant enzyme system is one of the inherent protective mechanisms in living  
338 | organisms. *Annona muricata* has been reported to enhance anti-oxidative enzyme systems in  
339 | experimental animals. The observed synergistic relationship between *Annona muricata* and

340 | ketogenic diet in this study was also confirmed in the levels of anti-oxidant enzyme activity  
341 | exhibited between group\_4 (normal diet/extract treated) and group\_5 (ketogenic diet/extract  
342 | treated). In this study, there was a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) increase in antioxidant enzyme activity  
343 | in group\_5 compared to group\_4. Some studies, however, reported that ketogenic diet, ~~(with high~~  
344 | fat, low carbohydrate diets) can modulate the response of some antioxidant enzymes (Jodynis-  
345 | Liebert and Murias, 2002; Dhuley *et al.*, 1999; Ruiz-Gutierrez *et al.*, 1999).

346

347 | The animals in group 2 (normal diet, cycas treated), however showed lower levels of antioxidant  
348 | activity compared to control rats but they showed higher levels of reduced glutathione compared  
349 | to control rats. This is not uncommon as oxidative stress can cause the up-regulation of  
350 | antioxidant enzymes and increase in reduced glutathione levels that render cells more resistant to  
351 | subsequent oxidative insult (Halliwell, 2000). Over-expression of glutathione has been reported  
352 | in both animal and human tumors (Yang *et al.*, 1997; Skrzydlewska *et al.*, 2001; Balasenthil,  
353 | 2000).

354

355 | Results of the antioxidants levels of the rats in the present study shows (table-Table 3) that ~~they~~  
356 | ~~rats treated with~~ only the *Annona muricata* extract (group IV) presented the lowest antioxidant  
357 | levels. This was similar to the levels shown by the normal rats (group I), indicating that *Annona*  
358 | *muricata* did not in any way cause oxidative damage. Ketogenic diet has been reported to  
359 | stimulate the cellular endogenous antioxidant system with the activation of nuclear factor  
360 | erythroid-derived 2 (NF-E2)-related factor 2 (Nrf2), the major inducer of detoxification genes

361 (Pinto, *et al.*, 2018). This could probably be the same reason why the groups treated with  
362 | ketogenic diets presented higher antioxidant levels.

363

364 Results seen in Table 4 above show a significant increase in the malondialdehyde content in the  
365 | cycas-treated groups placed on ~~Ketogenic~~-ketogenic diet. The values of ~~Lactate~~-lactate  
366 | dehydrogenase activity was significantly higher in groups placed on ~~Ketogenic~~-ketogenic diet  
367 | (treated/untreated) compared to the groups placed on normal diet (treated/untreated).

368

369 Members of the *Cycas* family have been shown to contain cycasin which has the ability to cause  
370 the formation of agents like azoxymethane which have free radical activity (Rosenberg *et al.*,  
371 2009). This may account for the elevated amount of malondialdehyde-an index of lipid  
372 peroxidation in the experimental animals exposed to cycads only compared with the controls.  
373 Lipid peroxidation is a well-established mechanism of cellular injury and therefore used as an  
374 indicator of oxidative stress which is characterised by an increase in malondialdehyde  
375 concentration (MDA). In this study, the concentration of MDA was markedly increased in the  
376 cycas-treated group which is significantly different ( $p<0.05$ ) from the control group and the other  
377 groups. This is similar to the findings of Okolie *et al.*, (2013); Lolodi and Eriyamremu, (2013);  
378 Eriyamremu *et al.*, (2007) in which an increase in MDA concentration after cycas administration  
379 | was reported. The result of the ~~Lipid~~-lipid Peroxidation-peroxidation assay therefore shows the  
380 | oxidative stress effect caused by cycas administration. Within the cycas groups (II, III, VI and  
381 VIII) treated, group VII presented the lowest MDA level thereby suggesting a possible  
382 | synergistic effect of both extracts.

383

384 | Histological results ~~from this study~~ showed that, colon sections of cycas only treated rats (Group  
385 | II) showed evidence of pre-cancerous changes when compared to the untreated controls shown in  
386 | ~~plate~~Figures 3 and 4. Section of the colon from a rat treated with ~~Cycas cycas~~ only showed that  
387 | there was evident intestinal glandular epithelial dysplasia (pre-cancerous change) across the  
388 | glands of the mucosa. The epithelial lining cells of which obviously exhibit nuclear enlargement,  
389 | hyperchromasia and loss of mucin secretion. Sections from rats from other groups presented  
390 | normal morphological appearance. As shown in the ~~plates above~~Figures, as treatment was  
391 | introduced; the tissue (Groups VI, and VII) sections were evidently restored to normal. It seems  
392 | *Annona muricata* has tissue-protective effect which can be observed by its ability to restore and  
393 | reverse the damaged tissues. Similar effects were reported by earlier studies on *Annona*  
394 | *muricata*. Working on the evaluation of ~~Anticancer anticancer Activity activity of Annona~~  
395 | ~~annona muricata~~in 1, 2-~~Dimethyl dimethyl Hydrazine hydrazine Induced induced Colon colon~~  
396 | ~~Caneercancer~~, Venkateshwarlu *et al.*, (2014) reported that the ethanol extract of *Annona muricata*  
397 | it has shows potent anti-cancer activity. This was also similar to reports presented by  
398 | Moghadamtousi *et al.* in 2014. Using HCT-116 and HT-29 cells and MTT and LDH assays, it  
399 | has been shown that cells treated by ethanol extracts of A. ~~muricata arrested~~*muricata arrested* in  
400 | G1 cell cycle phase and induced to apoptosis cascade. Ethanol extracts of A. *muricata* -treatment  
401 | caused excessive accumulation of ROS followed by disruption of MMP, cytochrome c leakage  
402 | and activation of the initiator and executioner c as passes in both colon cancer cells  
403 | (Moghadamtousi *et al.*, 2014a). It's also reported that ethyl acetate extract of A. *muricata*  
404 | inhibited the proliferation of A549 cells, leading to cell cycle arrest and programmed cell death  
405 | through activation of the mitochondrial-mediated signaling pathway with the involvement of the  
406 | NF- $\kappa$ B signalling pathway (Moghadamtousi *et al.*, 2014b).

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407 | The anti-proliferative activity of *A. muricata* extract had been also reported elsewhere. A  
408 | comprehensive study showed that potentially strong antiproliferation and apoptosis was achieved  
409 | through disruption of MMP (Membrane mitochondrial potential), reactive oxygen species (ROS)  
410 | generation and G0/G1 phase cell mitigate Human promyelocytic leukemia (HL-60 cells) cell  
411 | culture (Pieme *et al.*, 2014). Reports also showed that treatment with *Annona muricata* improved  
412 | the histological changes of breast tissue and reduced the proliferative indexes of their cells  
413 | (Sulistyoningrum *et al.* 2017). This was in line with previous *in vitro* studies; the leaves of  
414 | soursop had *in vitro* anticancer activity on T47D cell lines (Rachmani *et al.*, 2012), human  
415 | adenocarcinoma cell MCF-7 (Ko *et al.*, 2011), human carcinoma cell (MDA-MB-435S) or  
416 | human immortal keratino cytes (HaCaT) (George *et al.*, 2012).

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417 |  
418 | The chemo preventive effects of *Annona muricata* might be attributed to the presence of a class  
419 | of compound obtained from Annona species, acetogenins. It has been reported that the main anti-  
420 | tumorous compound, annonacin was effective against *in vitro* cancer cell lines as well as *in vivo*  
421 | lung cancer (Venkateshwarlu *et al* 2014).

## 423 | **CONCLUSIONS**

424 | This study reveals that *Annona muricata* increased cellular uptake consumption of ketone bodies  
425 | while *Cycas circinalis* appeared to have the opposite effect. This property exhibited by *Annona*  
426 | *muricata* could be exploited as a therapeutic tool in the management and treatment of cancer.

427 | The anti-oxidative properties of *Annona muricata* were evident in this study. From the histology  
428 | results, ketogenic-Ketogenic diet and *Annona muricata* protected the cells from structural  
429 | damage. Together, and they exerted even more protection on these experimental animals.

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