

CHAPTER ONE 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Anemia is a global public health problem affecting both developing and developed countries with major consequences for human health as well as social and economic development (WHO, 2005).

Anemia is a reduction from the normal quantity of circulating hemoglobin in the blood less than 13 g/dl for male and less than 12 g/dl for female adults (Okochi *et al.*, 2003). It occurs at all stages of the life cycle, but is more prevalent in pregnant women and young children (Adam *et al.*, 2005).

Hemolytic anemia is a form of anemia due to hemolysis, the abnormal breakdown of RedBlood Cells (RBCs), either in the blood vessels (intravascular hemolysis) or elsewhere in the human body (extravascular). It has numerous possible causes, ranging from relatively harmless to life-threatening (Telford *et al.*, 2003). The general classification of hemolytic anemia is either inherited or acquired.

Treatment depends on the cause and nature of the breakdown (Yamoto *et al.*, 1998).

Anemia is the result of a wide variety of causes that can be isolated, but more often coexist. Globally, the most significant contributor to the onset of anemia is iron deficiency so that IDA and anemia are often used synonymously, and the prevalence of anemia has often been used as a proxy for IDA (De Maeyer, 1989). It is generally assumed that 50% of the cases of anemia are due to iron deficiency, but the proportion may vary among population groups and in different areas according to the local conditions (De Maeyer, 1989).

THE ROLE OF n-BUTANOL LEAF fraction OF *Telfairia occidentalis* ON SOME HAEMATOLOGICAL PARAMETERS IN PHENYL-HYDRAZINE INDUCED ANEMIA IN WISTAR RATS

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