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PII: S0378-8741(15)30062-3
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2015.07.045>
Reference: JEP9660

To appear in: *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*

Received date: 17 April 2015
Revised date: 9 July 2015
Accepted date: 29 July 2015

Cite this article as: Amandine Nachtergaele, Mélanie Poivre, Alexandra Belayew and Pierre Duez, *In vitro* genotoxicity tests point to an unexpected and harmful effect of a *magnolia* and *Aristolochia* association, *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2015.07.045>

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In vitro genotoxicity tests point to an unexpected and harmful effect
of a Magnolia and Aristolochia association.

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FUNDING

This research was fully supported by the University of Mons (UMONS)

ABSTRACT

Ethnopharmacological relevance: In the 1990's, a Belgian cohort of more than 100 patients reported cases of Aristolochic Acid Nephropathy (AAN). This progressive renal and interstitial fibrosis, frequently associated with urothelial malignancies, was consecutive to the Chinese-herbs based slimming capsules intake where a plant *Stephania tetrandra* S. Moore was replaced by a highly genotoxic *Aristolochia* species. 70% of the Belgian patients evolved into end-stage renal disease, requiring dialysis or renal transplantation. Furthermore the prevalence of upper urinary tract carcinoma was found alarmingly high in these patients. The *Aristolochia* adulteration was blamed for

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