

SPERM ANTIMOTILITY PROPERTIES OF
ROOT EXTRACT OF IPOMEA MAURITIANA

W.D Ratnasooriya, A.S. Amarasekera*,
V.D.K. Aberatne & G.A.S. Premakumara
Depts. of Zoology & *Chemistry,
University of Colombo.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of the crude extract of the tuberous root of Ipomea mauritiana (Jacq) on motility of washed human spermatozoa (concentrations tested : 0.25, 0.625, 1.25 or 2.5mg/ml). The extract reduced the motility of spermatozoa in a dose related manner. The concentration inducing 50% inhibition of percentage motility was 0.37 ± 0.16 mg/ml.

The onset of the antimotility effect was rapid and was essentially irreversible. The extract impaired the functional integrity of the plasma membrane (hypoosmotic test) and the viability (nigrosin-eosin stain) of spermatozoa. It appears that this sperm immobilization effect was mediated by a saponin of the triterpenoid type present in the extract.