ABSTRACT

Chemical and antioxidant properties of Ceratotheca sesamoides vegetables were investigated. The leaves were freshly harvested, dried, milled into powder and packaged. Proximate, antioxidant, amino acids profiles, mineral and carotene contents were analyzed. The proximate compositions of the vegetable were fat (1.79%), crude fibre (6.21%), ash (9.15%), protein (28.92%) and carbohydrate (44.11%). The free radical scavenging activity of the vegetable extract using 2, 2-diphenyl- 1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) showed higher antioxidant activities (72000 µ moles TE / 100g) in the vegetable. Amino acids profile showed glutamic acid (2.010 %) and aspartic acid (1.927 %) as the major non-essential amino acids while leucine (1.436 %) was the major essential amino acid. Potassium and calcium were the major mineral contents in the vegetable with appreciable amount of iron. Total carotene found in C. sesamoides was 32000 IU/100g with trans beta carotene having higher value. C. sesamoides vegetable serves as source of nutrient and antioxidant which aids body metabolism and fight against diseases.