



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Plants in the genus *Strychnos* have long been known for their benefits and toxicities. They have acquired widespread use as a source of folk remedies, especially as an emetic and purgative.¹ On the contrary, for the native people in Asia and South America, They were used in the preparation of dart and arrow poisons.

The use of certain species in medicine and pharmacy and as poisons has done much to attract scientists to the study of their active principles. The phytochemical studies on *Strychnos* species have been carried on unceasingly to isolate the chemical constituents. For *Strychnos thorelii* Pierre ex Dop., there has never been reports on phytochemical investigation before. Consequently, the result of this study will provide the useful information in the field of chemotaxonomy and phytochemistry.

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