**ANTIFUNGAL POTENTIAL OF CASHEW (*Anacardium occidentale* Linn) LEAVES EXTRACT ON FUNGI ISOLATES OF GROUNDNUT SEED**

**BY**

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**APPROVAL PAGE**

This project has been presented and approved by Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.), degree in microbiology from the department of microbiology, Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences.

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 **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to the great architect of the universe, my lord, master and friend JESUS CHRIST and to my parents, siblings, aunties, uncles and cousins.

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My heartfelt appreciation goes to the source of the air that I breathe and source of my life, God Almighty. To my Parents, Mr.& Mrs. Udeh Hyacinth, for their understanding, love, and care. To my sponsor and guardian Rev. Fr. Okpara Dominic, my heart pours out in appreciation for providing for my needs throughout my stay in this University. I cannot fail to acknowledge the efforts of my Dean Prof. Chidi, Uhuegbu and my HOD Dr. (Mrs) M.N Unachukwu who worked tirelessly in ensuring the lecturers are update and never missed lectures.

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**ABSTRACT**

The aim of this work was to determine the antifungal potential of ethanol extract of cashew (*Anacardiun occidentale*) leaves on fungi isolates of groundnut seed. The phytochemical analysis carried out showed presence of Flavonoids, Tannins, Saponins and Alkaloids. The isolates from groundnut seeds were *Rhizopus* sp, *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus fumigatus*. The susceptibility of the fungal isolates to the extract was evaluated by agar well diffusion method. Inoculated plates were incubated at 28oC for 24-48hours. Zones of inhibition were measured and recorded. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum fungicidal concentration (MFC) were determined by dilution method. The test extract inhibited the growth of the three (3) isolates in this study. The MIC varied among the isolates for *Aspergillus niger*, the MIC was 128mg/ml, 64mg/ml for *Rhizopus* sp and *Aspergillus fumigatus.* The extract showed fungicidal activities on *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Rhizopus* sp but did not show any fungicidal activity on *Aspergillus niger.* Therefore it can be said that the extract of cashew (*Anacardium occidentale)* leaves possess antifungal properties.