

**HISTOPATHOLOGICAL CHANGES IN MALE RABBITS THYROID GLAND
FOLLOWING DRENCHING OF NICKEL CHLORIDE AND THE AMELIORATING
EFFECT OF ETHANOLIC *SILYBUM MARIANUM* SEEDS EXTRACT**

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ABSTRACT

Nickel chloride known as one of the heavy metals that induce damage in different body organs also silymarin act as anti oxidants and have ameliorative effects against many diseases and drugs. The histological effect of nickel chloride and *Silybum marianum* seeds ethanolic extract on thyroid gland of fifteen male rabbits (*Lepus cuniculus*) were studied for 35 days. Three groups of rabbits (n = 5 each), first group rabbits served as control and given 1 ml normal saline, second group treated orally with dosages of 1mg/100g B.W nickel chloride, the third group treated nickel chloride 1mg/100g B.W plus 0.1mg silymarin extract. The results revealed a severe damage of thyroid gland structures while *Silybum marianum* extract ameliorated the severity of damage.

KEYWORDS: Thyroid, Nickel, Silymarin