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**GROWTH PERFORMANCE, HAEMATOLOGY AND SERUM BIOCHEMICAL PROFILE OF RABBIT DOES ADMINISTERED VARYING DOSAGES OF METHANOLIC EXTRACT OF MISTLETOE (*Tapinanthus bangwensis*) LEAVES**Banjo<sup>1</sup>, A.A., Alameda<sup>1</sup>, I.C., Egena<sup>1</sup>, S.S.A., Usman<sup>1</sup>, A., Ibikunle<sup>2</sup>, G., Musa<sup>3</sup>, B.B., and Audu<sup>1</sup>, Y.<sup>1</sup>Department of Animal Production, Federal University of Technology, Minna.<sup>2</sup>Department of Chemistry, Federal University of Technology, Minna.<sup>3</sup>Department of Water Resources, Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State

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This study was carried out using sixteen (16) female weaned rabbits of composite breed and aged between 6 – 8 weeks to evaluate the growth performance, haematology and biochemical profile following the administration of varying dosages of methanolic extract of mistletoe (*Tapinanthus bangwensis*) leaves. The rabbits were divided into four treatments with 4 rabbits, each serving as a replicate and the treatments designated as T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub>. The groups were administered 0 mg / kg body weight (control), 100 mg / kg body weight (once a month), 200 mg / kg body weight (twice in a month) and 300 mg / kg body weight (thrice in a month) of the methanolic extract respectively. The experiment lasted for 12 weeks. The parameters measured were the initial body weight (IBW), final body weight (FBW), total weight gain (TWG), nose to shoulder length (NTSL), shoulder to tail length (STL), heart girth (HG), length of ear (EL), haematology and biochemical profiles. It was observed that rabbits in T<sub>3</sub> (200 mg / kg body weight) had the highest (P<0.05) final body weight gain (2.63 kg) and total weight gain (1.13 kg) while rabbits in T<sub>4</sub> (300 mg / kg body weight) had the highest nose to shoulder length (14.07 cm), shoulder to tail length (22.60 cm), heart girth (26.55 cm) and length of ear (10.98cm). Therefore, drenching of rabbit does with methanolic extract of mistletoe leaves up to 300 mg / kg body weight is beneficial to weight gain and morphometric development in weaner rabbit does.

**Key words:** Mistletoe, Methanolic, Extract, Rabbit, Does.