

IDENTIFICATION OF AN ANTIVIRAL ACTIVITY IN THE ETHANOL EXTRACT OF *LABRAMIA BOJERI* (SAPOTACEAE)

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Dengue fever is an important public health problem in the world. The disease is caused by a Flavivirus and transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* female. It is responsible for 100 million cases/year, 500000 of DHF and 24000 deaths. The main control is the vector combat, and several aspects of interaction virus-vector haven't been known. In the present study was tested the effect of ethanol extract of the *Labramia bojeri* (Lbee) on dengue (DENV-2, Jamaica 1409) infection, in culture cells (C6/36, *Aedes albopictus*). The Lbee citotoxic effect: was checked. Cells resisted to the treatment when used until 0.1% of the Lbee. The antiviral activity of Lbee was tested by immunofluorescence assay. The Lbee-treated cells were infected before, after or simultaneously with DENV-2. When the Lbee and DENV-2 were added together, no antiviral activity was observed. The same result was observed when pre-infected cells were treated with the Lbee. However, the pre-treatment of the C6/36 cells with Lbee was able to impair the viral infection. Taken together the data suggests that the antiviral activity of Lbee probably is associated with the first actions of the DENV in the infection course, probably interfering in the interaction of the virus with membranes in its entry route in the vector.

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