IN VIVO ANTIMALARIAL EFFECT OF *RHEEDIA LONGIFOLIA* PLANCH & TRIANA

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Malaria remains the most important parasitic disease, causing 2–3 million deaths every year. Multi-drug resistance is one of the most important problems in malaria control. The interest in plants as potential sources of antiparasitic drugs was stimulated by the isolation of artemisinin from *Artemisia annua*. In this context, the aim of this work was evaluated the antimalarial potential of an aqueous extract of *Rheedia longifolia*. The leaves were triturated and dried at 40°C. The extract was obtained by infusion (100 g/L), then filtrated and lyophilized (AERl 21.2% yeld). The *in vivo* antiplasmodial activity was evaluated by the 4 day test. Male SW mice (25-32 g, n=6/group) was infected on day 0 (200 µL, i.p.) with *Plasmodium berghei* Anka parasited erythrocytes (10^8). The AERl was administered i.p. or orally (200 µL) with different doses during 4 days. The control group received the saline or chloroquine 10 (i.p.) or 50 (p.o.) mg/kg. On day 4, tail blood smears were prepared, stained and parasitaemia (%) was recorded. Despite the AERl i.p. treatment had suppressed parasitaemia (39%, 52% and 34% at doses 10, 30 and 60 mg/kg, respectively, $p<0.05$ Newman-Keuls Multiple Comparison Test), no effect was observed when it was given orally (1, 10 and 50 mg/kg).

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