LECTIN FROM SEEDS OF *Dioclea rostrata* (Dros) INDUCES *in vivo AND in vitro* NEUTROPHIL MIGRATION

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INTRODUCTION - Vegetal lectins have been used as tools in the study of inflammation due to their propertie of recognizing carbohydrate residues in inflammatory cell membranes by their lectin domines. OBJECTIVE - To study the pro-inflammatory activity of a lectin from seeds of D.rostrata (Dros). METODOLOGY - Two models were used: subcutaneous air-pouch in which is created an artificial subcutaneous cavity with macrophage preponderance, by injection of sterilized air (500 µg/pouch), and neutrophil chemotaxis *in vitro* by neutrophil suspension (10^6 cells/mL) placed in the upper wells of a 48-well modified Boyden chamber equipped with a Nucleopore polycarbonate filter (3 µm pore size). In the lower wells, RPMI or Dros (0.4, 15, 31 and 500µg/mL) were added. RESULTS - Dros stimulated neutrophil migration (8379±709 neutrophilsx10^3/mL) in the air pouch, compared to control (657±94). With doses of 15, 31 and 500µg/mL there was a neutrophil chemotaxy (9.4±2.4, 11.4±2.7 and 17.2±2.1 neutrophils/field, respectively) above the observed in control animals (3.6±1.1). CONCLUSIONS – Dros exhibits a pro-inflammatory activity in the present models but other models must be tested in order to establish its mechanisms of action. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: FUNCAP/CNPq. KEYWORDS: *Dioclea rostrata*, lectin, inflammation.