ANTINOCICEPTIVE ACTIVITY OF THE LECTIN FROM RED MARINE ALGA *Pterocladiella capillacea* (S. G. GMELIN) SANTELICES & HOMMERSAND

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In order to discover drugs that are stronger, more efficient, and with less side effects, some researchers turn to alga as an alternative. Isolated molecules of marine algae have, in great part, revelead themselves to be of great pharmaceutical interest. This work has attempted to verify the antinociceptive action alga lectin with the intent to use it as an analgesic. The lectin from the alga was purified following the protocol described by Oliveira *et al*., 2002. The writhing test was performed as described by Collier *et al*.,1968 with slight modification. Nociception was induced by 0,8% acetic acid (10ml/kg, ip). Mice (Swiss males with 20-25g) were pretreated with the lectin (0,3–24,3 mg/kg,iv) 30min before acetic acid. A group of mice was treated with indomethacin and morphine (5mg/kg, sc) used as reference drugs. Control animals received a similar volume of saline solution (10ml/kg,iv). The mice were observed during 30min after the greeting of acetic acid. The writhing test indicated that the tested lectin was potent in causing inhibitions of acetic acid-induced abdominal contractions in mice after intraperitoneally administration, with the antinociceptive activity dose dependent.

Keywords: alga, lectin

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