

EFFECT OF A LECTIN FROM *Dioclea rostrata* ON PAW EDEMA AND  
MIELOPEROXIDASE ACTIVITY IN RATS

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**INTRODUCTION** -Lectins are proteins that bind to carbohydrate moieties in biological system eliciting a variety of effects. The pro-inflammatory action of an  $\alpha$ -methyl-D-mannoside binder lectin from seeds of *Dioclea rostrata* was investigated on paw edema model and mieloperoxidase activity (MPO). **METODOLOGY** -The paw volumes were measured by pletismography before (control) and after 30 min, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 24 and 48h an intraplantar injection of lectin (125 $\mu$ g/paw in 0.1ml of saline). The MPO activity was determined by kinectic assay described by Graff et al. (1994) with modifications. **RESULTS** - The paw volume was increased ( $p < 0.001$ ) to a maximum of 0.469mL (4<sup>th</sup> hour) - control=0.056mL. The MPO activity was increased ( $p < 0.001$ ) in about 93% in the 4<sup>th</sup> hour (11.13- $\pm$ 0.96pmols/min/mg fresh tissue -control=1.238 $\pm$ 0.2). **CONCLUSIONS** - Clearly, the *D. rostrata* lectin possesses a potent pro-inflammatory activity and could be a pharmacological tool in the study of the inflammatory processes. **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**: FUNCAP/CNPq. **KEYWORDS**: *Dioclea rostrata*, edema, mieloperoxidase.