

PRELIMINARY MOLLUSCICIDAL ACTIVITY IN AQUEOUS EXTRACT FROM LEAVES OF *Indigofera suffruticosa*.

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Indigofera suffruticosa Mill. (Fabaceae) is a plant found in Northeast Brazil. Recently, *in vitro* studies indicate that leaves extract of *Indigofera suffruticosa* is toxic to mice embryos. The molluscicidal effect of some plants has been searched as an attempt to break the *Schistosoma mansoni* life cycle. In this study, it was assayed the toxicity of an aqueous extract made with leaves of *Indigofera suffruticosa* against *Biomphalaria glabrata* adult snail and egg. Several groups of 5 adult mollusk were exposed during 24 hours to 80 e 100 ppm of the aqueous extract. The results showed a significant decrease on the snail fertility. The viable snail embryos were significantly reduced by 26.6% and 52.7% when exposed to 80 ppm and to 100 ppm of the plant extract, respectively, while 9.4% of embryos from the control group was unviable. The results suggest that the toxic effect of the aqueous extract against the mollusk is dose dependent, and that further studies are important to better evaluate these activity. Therefore, the extract of *Indigofera suffruticosa* is a natural product with potential to be used as a molluscicidal agent.

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