

**IDENTIFICATION OF GLUCOSIDASES ISOLATED FROM THE MOLLUSC:
*Thais haemastoma***

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The metabolism of glycosaminoglycans sulfates has been investigated in species of molluscs. For this reason, it is extremely important to study the enzymes that take part in this process in order to better understand glycosaminoglycans structure. The purpose of this report was analyze and identify endo - and exoenzymes involved in degradation of glycosaminoglycans sulfates, present in invertebrates such as the mollusc *Thais Haemastoma*. This fact and the abundance of this mollusc on the northeast coast of Brazil, led us to search for the presence of the enzymes involved in the degradation of these glycosaminoglycans in the mollusc tissues. The enzymatic extracts were obtained from *Thais haemastoma* using 0.1M sodium acetate buffer, pH 5.0 at 4^o C. The enzymatic suspension was fractionated in ammonium sulfate in two different concentrations (F₁ = 0–50% and F₂ = 50–80%). Enzymatic activities were measured with p-nitrophenil derivatives. The F₁ extract underwent new fractioning using Bio-Gel A 0.5M. The results suggest that a certain degree of purification was obtained and that we were able to show the characterization of glucosidases activities.

Supported by CNPq (PIBIC)

Key words: *Thais Haemastoma*; Glycosaminoglycans sulfates; Glucuronidases