

Evaluation of the Antiinflammatory Potential of the Essential Oil from Leaves and α -Bisabolol isolated of *Nectandra megapotamica*

Toyama, D.O.¹.; Romoff, P.²; Favero, O.A.¹; Oliveira, S.C.B.^{3,5}; Diz Filho, E.B.S.^{3,5}; Lago, J.H.G.⁴.; Negro, C.C.¹; Toyama, M.H.⁵.

¹Centro de Ciências Biológicas e da Saúde e ²Centro de Ciências e Humanidade da Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie, SP; ³Departamento de Bioquímica, Instituto de Biologia, UNICAMP, Campinas; ⁴Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Campus do ABC, SP; ⁵Campus Experimental do Litoral Paulista, UNESP, São Vicente.

The essential oil from the leaves of *Nectandra megapotamica* was extracted using hydrodistillation procedures and analyzed by GC and GC/MS. Chemical analysis showed that there is a predominance of oxygenated sesquiterpenes, of which α -bisabolol was the main derivative (62-69%). A total of twenty compounds were identified in the crude oil and α -bisabolol was isolated from thin layer chromatography and characterized by NMR analysis. Finally, the crude oil and pure α -bisabolol were subjected to evaluation of anti-inflammatory potential induced by carrageenan (1%) indicating that the oil from *N. megapotamica* showed moderate activity, whereas α -bisabolol showed a similar effect induced by indomethacin injection 90 minutes prior to treatment with carrageenan (1%).

Keywords: *Nectandra megapotamica*; anti-inflammatory potential; essential oil composition.

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