

## HORMONAL EVALUATION OF RATS TREATED DURING GESTATION WITH AN AQUEOUS EXTRACT OF *Bauhinia monandra* LEAVES

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*Bauhinia monandra* is a plant widely distributed in Brazil. The leaves are used in folk medicine as hypoglycemic, even by pregnant women. The objective of the present work was to evaluate possible hormonal alterations in pregnant rats treated with an aqueous extract obtained from dried milled leaves of *B. Monandra*, during gestation. Pregnant rats, at gestation day 01 (DG 01), were divided in two groups: control (n=5) and experimental (n=4). The experimental rats received, by *gavage*, the aqueous extract (1400 mg/kg) from DG 01 to gestation day 21 (DG 21), and the control group received tap water by *gavage*. At DG 21 the rats were euthanized and blood samples were collected for the measurement of sexual hormone levels and for evaluation of biochemical parameters. The treatment did not impair hormonal pathways since no hormonal alterations (TSH, LH, T3, T4, progesterone, estradiol, testosterone) were observed by the t test employed. Also, no alterations in the biochemical parameters were observed. However the experimental rats presented a diminished TGO level ( $p<.01$ ), suggesting that the treatment may alter the nutritional state of the experimental animals. As a consequence, probably the treatment of pregnant rats with this plant may promote maternal toxicity and reproductive capability, parameters that are being evaluated in our laboratory.

**Key-words:** *Bauhinia monandra*, reproduction, rats.