

## Anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* activity and cytotoxicity of *Calophyllum brasiliense* Cambess (Clusiaceae)

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We evaluated the *in vitro* anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* activity and the cytotoxicity of dichloromethane extract and pure compounds from the leaves of *Calophyllum brasiliense*. Purification of the dichloromethane extract yielded the pure compounds (-) mamea A/BB (1), (-) mamea B/BB (2) and amentoflavone (3). The compound structures were elucidated on the basis of spectroscopic and spectrometric data. The contents of bioactive compounds in the extracts were quantified using high performance liquid chromatography coupled to an ultraviolet detector. The anti-*M. tuberculosis* activity of the extracts and the pure compounds was evaluated using a resazurin microtitre assay plate. The cytotoxicity assay was performed in J774G.8 macrophages using the 3-(4,5-dimethyl thiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide colourimetric method. The quantification of the dichloromethane extract showed (1) and (2) at concentrations of  $31.86 \pm 2.6$  and  $8.24 \pm 1.1$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{mg}$  of extract, respectively. The dichloromethane and aqueous extracts showed anti-*M. tuberculosis*  $H_{37}\text{Rv}$  activity of 62.5 and 125  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , respectively. Coumarins (1) and (2) showed minimal inhibitory concentration ranges of 31.2 and 62.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  against *M. tuberculosis*  $H_{37}\text{Rv}$  and clinical isolates. Compound (3) showed no activity against *M. tuberculosis*  $H_{37}\text{Rv}$ . The selectivity index ranged from 0.59-1.06. We report the activity of the extracts and coumarins from the leaves of *C. brasiliense* against *M. tuberculosis*.

Key words: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* - *Calophyllum brasiliense* - coumarin - cytotoxicity - 3-(4,5-dimethyl thiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious public-health problem, with increasing mortality rates worldwide (WHO 2012). The search for new drugs to treat TB is of paramount importance in view of the present long-term combination therapy, the large number of side effects associated with most drugs and the continuous selection of resistant strains (Boogaard et al. 2009, León-Díaz et al. 2010).

Species from the genus *Calophyllum* sp. (Clusiaceae) have aroused interest from the scientific community because of promising results from chemical and biological aspects. This genus is rich in secondary metabolites such as steroids, triterpenes, coumarins, benzopyrans and several types of xanthenes and proanthocyanins, some of which possess antibacterial potential (Cronquist 1981). The pyranocoumarin (+)-calanolide A from *Calophyllum lanigerum* showed significant activity against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, including multidrug-resistant (MDR) strains, with a minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 3.13  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  and anti-human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-1 activity, indicating a new class of

compounds that can be used to treat patients co-infected with HIV/TB (Xu et al. 2004).

*Calophyllum brasiliense* Cambess (Clusiaceae) is a large tree that is widely distributed in the Americas. It grows in tropical forests from Mexico to Brazil, where it is known as “Guanandi” (Corrêa 1978). In Brazil folk medicine, infusions prepared from the stem bark are used in the treatment of rheumatism, varicosis, haemorrhoids, chronic ulcers (Corrêa 1978), bronchitis, gastric and hepatic disturbances (Noldin et al. 2006) and pain (Lewis 1977).

*C. brasiliense* has proven to be a rich source of bioactive compounds, including the coumarins mamea A/BA, mamea A/BB (1), mamea A/AA, mamea C/OA and mamea C/OB, which act against *Staphylococcus aureus* (Reyes-Chilpa et al. 2004, Yasunaka et al. 2005). Some chromanone acids isolated from *C. brasiliense* bark showed moderate to strong activity against *Bacillus cereus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (Cottiglia et al. 2004). Assays using methanolic extracts of the roots, stems, leaves, flowers and fruits from *C. brasiliense* indicated that all parts of the plant exhibited activity against Gram-positive bacteria (*B. cereus*, *S. aureus*, *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* and *Streptococcus agalactiae*). No activity was observed against Gram-negative bacteria (*Enterobacter cloacae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Salmonella typhimurium*) and yeasts (*Candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis*) (Pretto et al. 2004). Other studies have shown that the extracts, especially the coumarin

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(-) (1) isolated from *C. brasiliense* leaves, possess potent antileishmanial activity (Brenzan et al. 2007, 2008a, b, 2012, Honda et al. 2010, Tiunan et al. 2012).

The aim of the present study was to assess the in vitro antimycobacterial activity and cytotoxicity of the dichloromethane extract and the compounds (1), (-) mamea B/BB (2) and amentoflavone (3) obtained from the leaves of *C. brasiliense*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Plant material** - *C. brasiliense* leaves were collected in Cardoso Island, December 2010, in the state of São Paulo (SP), Brazil. The voucher specimen (SP 363818) was identified by Prof Dr Maria Claudia M Young and was deposited and authenticated at the Herbarium of the Botany Institute of São Paulo, SP. The leaves were dried at 35°C in a circulating air oven and triturated in a knife mill (Usiram, São Bernardo do Campo, SP).

**Plant extraction and purification of compounds** - The powdered leaves (800 g) were extracted by exhaustive maceration in ethanol/water (9:1) at room temperature (RT), filtered and concentrated under vacuum at 40°C to obtain an aqueous extract and a dark-green residue. The aqueous extract was lyophilised (121.3 g). The dark-green residue from the extract, which had adhered to the glass bottles, was dissolved with dichloromethane and the solvent was completely evaporated at RT to yield a dichloromethane extract (25.0 g) (Brenzan et al. 2007, 2008a, b).

The dichloromethane extract (25.0 g) was initially fractionated using chromatography in a vacuum silica-gel column (8.0 × 40 cm) with hexane, hexane/dichloromethane (1:1), dichloromethane, dichloromethane/ethyl acetate (9:1), ethyl acetate, methanol and methanol/water (9:1). Next, the hexane fraction (4.0 g) was further chromatographed on a vacuum silica-gel column and eluted with hexane, hexane/dichloromethane (98:2, 95:5, 90:10, 80:20 and 50:50), dichloromethane, dichloromethane/ethyl acetate (98:2, 95:5, 90:10, 80:20 and 50:50), ethyl acetate and methanol. The hexane fraction was evaporated to a residue, which was crystallised using dichloromethane (9:1), yielding compound (1) (52.0 mg), as described in previous studies (Gasparotto-Júnior et al. 2005, Brenzan et al. 2007, 2008a, b). Fractions 6-8 (667.0 mg), which were eluted in hexane, were chromatographed using thin layer chromatography and combined and then rechromatographed on a silica-gel column chromatograph (40 × 2.0 cm) eluted with hexane, hexane/dichloromethane (98:2-50:50), dichloromethane, dichloromethane/ethyl acetate (95:5-50:50), ethyl acetate and finally methanol. Next, fractions 1-12, which were eluted in hexane, were combined and evaporated to dryness, obtaining (2) (10.5 mg), as described in a previous study (Brenzan et al. 2008b). The ethyl acetate fraction (1.83 g) of the dichloromethane extract was rechromatographed through a Sephadex LH-20 column and eluted with chloroform/methanol (1:1). Fractions 48-53 (223.8 mg) were identified as (3), as described in a previous study (Brenzan et al. 2008a).

**Structure elucidation** - The compounds were identified by chromatography-mass spectrometry in a Shi-

madzu GC/MS 17 A QP 5000 mass spectrometer, DB5 column (30 m; 0.32 µm) and a Micromass Quattro-LC instrument equipped with an ESI/APCI Z-spray ion source and by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) obtained in a Bruker DRX-400 (8.4 T) and Gemini 300 (7.05T), with TMS as the internal standard and a constant temperature of 298 K. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz), DEPT, COSY (300 MHz), HMBC and HSQC analysis was conducted using deuterated solvent (CDCl<sub>3</sub>). The α<sub>D</sub> was obtained using a Perkin-Elmer Model 241 polarimeter (20°C; 589 nm) with dichloromethane and was compared with data from the literature (Gasparotto-Júnior et al. 2005, Brenzan et al. 2008a, b, 2010).

**Spectroscopic and spectrometry data** - The spectroscopic and spectrometry data of compounds (1), (2) and (3) (Fig. 1) were obtained from previous studies (Gasparotto-Júnior et al. 2005, Brenzan et al. 2008a, b, 2010, respectively).

**High performance liquid chromatography coupled to a ultraviolet detector (HPLC-UV) analysis** - The dichloromethane extract and purified compounds were analysed by HPLC-UV using HPLC-UV grade solvents and ultrapure water (Milli-Q system, Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA) and a Waters 1525 liquid chromatograph equipped with a binary pump (LC-10 AD), automatic injection valve 135 (Rheodyne) with a 20 µL loop, CTO-10AVP thermostat-controlled oven compartment (Shimadzu) and a 2489 UV/visible detector (Waters) controlled by Breeze 2 software (OmniSolv EM Science, Gibbstown, NJ, USA). A MetaSil ODS column (5 µm; 150 × 4.6 mm) maintained at 25°C was used in the chromatographic analysis. The separation was conducted in a gradient system, using a mixture of acetonitrile and ultrapure water 55:45 v/v to 80:20 (0-10 min), 80:20 v/v to 100% (10-20 min), 100% acetonitrile (20-25 min) and 55:45 v/v (26-30 min) as the mobile phase, at a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min. Detection was performed at 336 nm and the running time was 30 min. The sample injection volume was 20 µL. The dichlo-

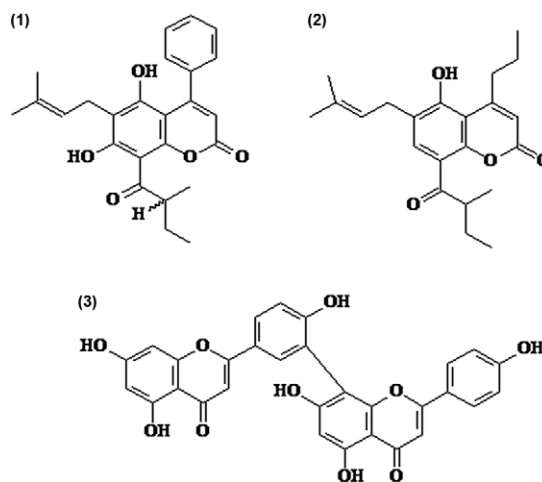


Fig. 1: pure compounds isolated from leaves of *Calophyllum brasiliense*: (-) mamea A/BB (1), (-) mamea B/BB (2) and amentoflavone (3).

romethane extract (3 mg/mL) and purified compounds (1), (2) and (3) (1 mg/mL) were dissolved in methanol, filtered through a membrane filter (Millipore, Brazil) and injected (20 µL) into the HPLC-UV system. Compounds (1) and (2) were quantified in the dichloromethane and aqueous extracts by HPLC-UV using compound (1) isolated from the *C. brasiliense* leaves as the standard. The content of (2) was calculated using the calibration curves of compound (1); these compounds belong to the same coumarin class and produced UV-spectra with almost the same molar absorptivity at 254 and 366 nm (Crombie et al. 1987, Gasparotto-Júnior et al. 2005). For the calibration curves of compound (1), solutions in methanol were used at concentrations ranging from 15.63-250 µg/mL. The extracts were prepared in methanol at 3 mg/mL and filtered through a 0.45-µm membrane filter (Millipore, Brazil). Three determinations were carried out for each sample. The statistical analyses of the data were performed using Statistica 8.0 software (Statsoft Inc, Tulsa, OK, USA).

**Determination of antimycobacterial activity** - To determine the MIC against *M. tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>Rv (ATCC 27294), the dichloromethane and aqueous extracts from *C. brasiliense* leaves and purified compounds (1), (2) and (3) were subjected to in vitro assays in triplicate. Additionally, the pure compounds were tested against 13 clinical isolates (6 susceptible and 7 resistant). The clinical isolates were obtained from the mycobacteria collection of the Laboratory of Medical Bacteriology of the State University of Maringá, state of Paraná, Brazil. The antimycobacterial activity was evaluated using REMA, according to the procedure by Palomino et al. (2002) and Scodro et al. (2013). Briefly, 200 µL of sterile distilled water was distributed into the outer wells of a microplate (Falcon 3072, Becton-Dickinson, Lincoln Park, NJ, USA). The extracts and pure compounds were diluted in dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO) (Amresco) and serial two-fold dilutions from 1,000-7.8 µg/mL and 250-1.9 µg/mL, respectively, were made in Middlebrook 7H9 (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, MI, USA) supplemented with oleic acid, bovine albumin, dextrose and catalase (OADC) enrichment (BBL/Becton-Dickinson, Sparks, MD, USA). Isoniazid (Difco) was used as the reference drug at concentrations from 1.0-0.007 µg/mL. One hundred microlitres of each bacterial inoculum, standardised according to 1 McFarland turbidity and diluted 1:20 in Middlebrook 7H9 medium supplemented with OADC, was inoculated into the wells. A growth control containing no drug and a sterile control without bacteria were prepared for each assay. A control containing 2.5 % (v/v) DMSO was included to detect inhibitory effects on *M. tuberculosis* growth. The plates were covered with lids and the edges were sealed with polyethylene tape. The plates were placed in a plastic box and incubated at 35°C at normal atmosphere for seven days. Next, 30 µL of freshly prepared 0.01% resazurin solution (Acros, Morris Plains, NJ, USA) was added to each well and the plates were reincubated for 24-48 h at 35°C for visual readings. A colour change from blue to pink indicated mycobacterial growth and the MIC was interpreted as the lowest concentration that prevented the colour change.

**Cytotoxicity assay** - In vitro cytotoxicity assays were performed on J774G.8 macrophages (Papazisis et al. 1997). The macrophages were maintained in tissue flasks containing RPMI-1640 medium (Gibco, Invitrogen Co, Grand Island, NY, USA) with L-glutamine and supplemented with 10% inactivated foetal bovine serum (FBS) (Gibco BRL, Life Technologies) at 37°C in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The macrophages were plated at  $5.0 \times 10^4$  cells per well in a 96-well microplate with RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% inactivated FBS and incubated for 24 h at 37°C in 5 % CO<sub>2</sub>. Next, the medium was removed and the cell monolayers were treated with different concentrations of the extracts and pure compounds (500-3.12 µg/mL). Positive and negative controls (without drugs) were included. The microplate was incubated under the same conditions for 48 h. Subsequently, 3-(4,5-dimethyl thiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide dissolved in phosphate buffered saline at a concentration of 2 µg/mL was added to all of the wells except the reaction blank (Mosmann 1983). The microplate was incubated in the absence of light under 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C for 4 h. Next, 150 µL of DMSO was added and stirred and the optical density was determined using an automated spectrophotometer (Asys Expert Plus) at 492 nm. The 50% cytotoxicity concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) was determined by logarithm regression analysis. The selectivity index (SI) was determined using the IC<sub>50</sub>/MIC ratio for each compound tested.

## RESULTS

The dichloromethane extract showed activity against *M. tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>Rv with a MIC of 62.5 µg/mL. The aqueous extract showed lower activity (MIC 125 µg/mL) (Table I).

The fractionation of the dichloromethane extract led to the isolation of the coumarins (1) and (2) and the biflavonoid (3), with the last one as the major constituent of the extract (Fig. 1). The spectral data of the compounds were in agreement with the literature (Gasparotto-Júnior et al. 2005, Brenzan et al. 2007, 2008a, b, 2010).

The dichloromethane and aqueous extracts were analysed using HPLC-UV. These extracts displayed similar chromatographic profiles at 336 nm. In both extracts, we identified compounds (1) (peak 1), (2) (peak 2) and (3) (peak 3) with retention times of 21.0, 15.5 and 5.5 min, respectively (Fig. 2). For the determination of the contents of compounds (1) and (2) in the extracts from *C. brasiliense*, the regression equation  $y = 61589x + 52298$  was used, which showed different concentrations of the compounds. The dichloromethane extract showed a significantly higher concentration of compound (1) ( $31.86 \pm 2.6$  µg/mg) than the aqueous extract ( $16.67 \pm 1.4$  µg/mg) ( $p < 0.001$ ). Compound (2) was detected at a concentration of  $8.24 \pm 1.1$  µg/mg in the dichloromethane extract, but it was not possible to quantify (2) in the aqueous extract. Compound (3) was not quantified because it did not demonstrate activity.

Both coumarins (1) and (2) isolated from the dichloromethane extract showed anti-*M. tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>Rv activity, with a MIC of 31.2 µg/mL (76.85 µM) and 31.2 µg/mL (83.87 µM), respectively (Table I). Compound (3)

showed low activity against *M. tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>Rv (MIC > 500 µg/mL) (Table I).

We also evaluated the antimycobacterial activity of compounds (1) and (2) against six susceptible and seven resistant clinical *M. tuberculosis* isolates. The MIC values ranged between (1) 31.2 µg/mL (76.85 µM) and 62.5 µg/mL (153.94 µM) and (2) 31.2 µg/mL (83.87 µM) and 62.5 µg/mL (168.01 µM) (Table II).

The cytotoxicity assays, which were used to evaluate the safety of these compounds for mammalian cells, were performed only with the dichloromethane extract and pure compounds (1) and (2), which showed antimycobacterial activity. The dichloromethane extract and the pure compounds showed SI ranges from 0.59-1.06 (Table I).

## DISCUSSION

In the present study, we evaluated the antimycobacterial activity of dichloromethane and aqueous extracts from the leaves of *C. brasiliense* and pure compounds (1), (2) and (3) isolated from the dichloromethane extract.

No relevant difference in MIC values between the dichloromethane and aqueous extracts were detected against *M. tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>Rv in this study. The similarity in the MIC values for the nonpolar and polar extracts may be attributed to the coumarin contents in the aqueous extract, which was demonstrated by HPLC-UV, albeit at lower concentrations than that in dichloromethane extracts.

The MIC values of coumarins (1) and (2) isolated from the dichloromethane extract encourage us to consider these compounds as promising candidates for anti-TB drugs. Compound (3) showed a low activity against *M. tuberculosis*, which is in agreement with a previous study. In addition, Lin et al. (2001), working with natural biflavonoids isolated from the seed kernels of *Rhus succedanea* and *Garcinia multiflora*, which included compound (3), observed no activity against *M. tuberculosis* H<sub>37</sub>Rv.

Although compounds (1) and (2) showed MICs higher than those of the reference drug isoniazid (MIC 0.01-0.2 µg/mL), these compounds are comparable to the MICs of other first-line anti-TB drugs, such as pyrazinamide

(MIC 20-100 µg/mL at pH = 5.5 or 6.0) (Inderlied & Salfinger 1999).

As observed in this study, the MIC values for the resistant isolates, of which five were MDR, were equivalent to those of the sensitive isolates. This encourages us to consider these compounds as potential candidates for the development of new anti-TB drugs that act against

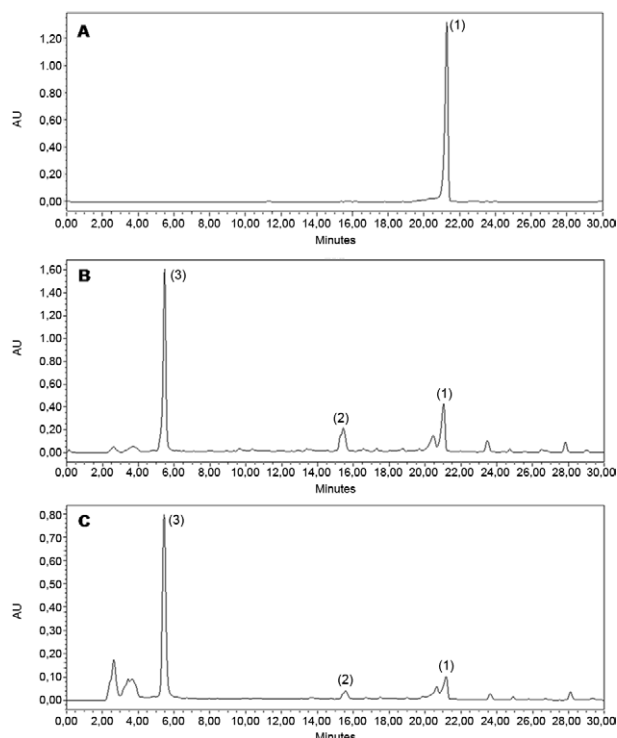


Fig. 2: chromatograms of the standard (-) mammea A/BB ( $R_t$  = 21.3 min) (A) and dichloromethane (B) and aqueous (C) extracts from leaves of *Calophyllum brasiliense*. Chromatographic conditions: MetaSil ODS column; mobile phase: acetonitrile-water 55:45 v/v to 80:20 (0-10 min), 80:20 v/v to 100% (10-20 min), 100% acetonitrile (20-25 min) and 55:45 v/v (26-30 min); flow rate 0.6 mL/min; temperature 25°C; detection: 336 nm; (1): (-) mammea A/BB; (2): (-) mammea B/BB; (3) amentoflavone.

TABLE I  
Anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Rv activity and cytotoxicity  
of extracts and pure compounds obtained from leaves of *Calophyllum brasiliense*

| Extracts/compounds | MIC<br>µg/mL (µM) | IC <sub>50</sub> µg/mL ± SD<br>(µM ± SD) | SI   |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|------|
| Extracts           |                   |                                          |      |
| Dichloromethane    | 62.5              | 36.67 ± 4.71                             | 0.59 |
| Aqueous            | 125.0             | NT                                       | NT   |
| Pure compounds     |                   |                                          |      |
| (-) mammea A/BB    | 31.2 (76.85)      | 33.30 ± 3.30 (82.51 ± 8.0)               | 1.06 |
| (-) mammea B/BB    | 31.2 (83.87)      | 27.50 ± 2.50 (73.92 ± 6.7)               | 0.88 |
| Amentoflavone      | > 500             | NT                                       | NT   |

results are expressed as mean of experiments performed in triplicate. IC<sub>50</sub>: 50% cytotoxic concentration; MIC: minimal inhibitory concentration; NT: not tested; SD: standard deviation; SI: IC<sub>50</sub>/MIC.

TABLE II  
Anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* clinical isolates activity  
of isoniazid and pure compounds obtained from leaves of *Calophyllum brasiliense*

| <i>M. tuberculosis</i><br>clinical isolates | Susceptibility<br>profile | MICs<br>µg/mL (µM) |               |               |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                             |                           | H                  | (1)           | (2)           |
| 1                                           | Susceptible               | 0.03 (0.22)        | 31.2 (76.85)  | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 13638                                       | Susceptible               | 0.03 (0.22)        | 62.5 (153.94) | 62.5 (168.01) |
| 3                                           | Susceptible               | 0.03 (0.22)        | 31.2 (76.85)  | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 11                                          | Susceptible               | 0.03 (0.22)        | 31.2 (76.85)  | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 16                                          | Susceptible               | 0.03 (0.22)        | 31.2 (76.85)  | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 4851                                        | Susceptible               | 0.03 (0.22)        | 62.5 (153.94) | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 1193                                        | H, R, E, S                | 1 (7.29)           | 62.5 (153.94) | 62.5 (168.01) |
| 91                                          | H, S                      | 2 (14.58)          | 62.5 (153.94) | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 3614                                        | H, R, E, S, Et            | 1 (7.29)           | 31.2 (76.85)  | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 4250                                        | H, R                      | 2 (14.58)          | 31.2 (76.85)  | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 73A                                         | H, R, Z                   | 4 (29.17)          | 31.2 (76.85)  | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 17                                          | H                         | 2 (14.58)          | 62.5 (153.94) | 31.2 (83.87)  |
| 40                                          | H, R                      | 2 (14.58)          | 62.5 (153.94) | 31.2 (83.87)  |

results are expressed as mean of experiments performed in triplicate. E: ethambutol; Et: ethionamide; H: isoniazid; MIC: minimal inhibitory concentration; R: rifampicin; S: streptomycin; Z: pyrazinamide; (1): (-) mammea A/BB; (2): (-) mammea B/BB.

resistant bacilli. A drug that can target these bacilli is undoubtedly desirable because this severe form of TB has been increasing worldwide.

The SI is used to estimate the therapeutic window of a drug and to identify drug candidates for further studies. According to Orme (2001), Protopopova et al. (2005) and García et al. (2012), a candidate as a new drug must have an SI  $\geq 10$ . The extract and pure compounds studied here exhibited lower SIs, indicating low therapeutic selectivity. However, these compounds deserve attention and, in the future, a microparticles study of these compounds, as well as the antitumour activity will be conducted.

Here we report the activity of extracts and coumarins from the leaves of *C. brasiliense* against *M. tuberculosis*. The results of this study provide a strong basis for the selection of new anti-TB drugs. Additional studies are required to increase the effectiveness of coumarins against *M. tuberculosis* and to decrease their toxicity to a host.

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