



CHEMICAL COMPOSITION AND ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF THE ESSENTIAL OIL FROM *Nectandra grandiflora* Nees. (*Lauraceae*) LEAVES

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INTRODUCTION

The study of essential oils in search of new bioactive compounds has increased significantly in recent years. *Nectandra grandiflora* Nees (*Lauraceae*) species is popularly known as yellow Canela, it is an endemic species of Brazil, found predominantly in Atlantic Forest and Cerrado biomes (LORENZI, 2002). The study carried out by Cunico *et al* (2010) evidenced the antibacterial potential of the species against *Staphylococcus aureus* indicating the presence of bioactive substances. In this study we have analysed the essential oil of *Nectandra grandiflora* Nees (*Lauraceae*) and evaluated the antibacterial potential.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The plant material was collected in Palmeira, Paraná-Brazil, in March 2019. The leaves of the species were still submitted to hydrodistillation in a Clevenger-type graduated apparatus. The calculation was also performed to verify the yield of the essential oil and the chemical characterization was performed by GC-FID (quantification and retention index) and GC-MS (computer library research) (Adams, 2017, Allured pub). The antibacterial assay against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus* and *Escherichia coli* was carried out by agar diffusion method with antibiotic "Tetracycline" as positive control.

RESULTS

The essential oil was obtained in 0.88% of yield and thirteen chemical constituents were identified in the sample. The most abundant constituents were *Nootkatone* (49.10%) and *Eudesm-11-en-4- α , 6- α -diol* (13.22%). In addition, *Zerumbone* (8,69%), *Intermedeol* (5,64%), *Intermedeol<neo* 5,25%, *Isobicyclogermacrene* (4,07%), *Bicyclogermacrene* (3,65%) and *Valencene* 3.23%) were also identified. The antibacterial assay showed a positive result of the essential oil against *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria with a halo of 10mm and *Bacillus cereus* with a halo mean 11mm. However, the essential oil was inactive against gram negative bacteria *Escherichia coli*.

CONCLUSIONS

The essential oil of *Nectandra grandiflora* showed moderate antibacterial activity against a foodborne pathogen (*B. cereus*) and a skin infection (*S. aureus*) strain. Further studies with other strains are necessary to spread the potential of species found in the Atlantic Forest biomes.

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