Antibacterial activity of *Tripodanthus acutifolius*

C.M. da SILVA¹; L.B. BENITEZ¹; A. REBECHI¹; T.K. de SOUZA¹; J.A. ZUANAZZI²; G.L. Von POSER²

¹Departamento de Biologia e Farmácia - Universidade de Santa Cruz do Sul; ²PPGCF - UFRGS

Keywords: Antibacterial; *Tripodanthus acutifolius*

**Introdução:** The research of the antimicrobial activity of extracts derived from plants has stimulated the interest of the scientific community. The purpose of our research was the determination of the antibacterial activity of methanolic and aqueous extracts of *Tripodanthus acutifolius* (Ruiz & Pavón) Van Tieghem (Loranthaceae) against clinical strains.

**Parte experimental:** The plants species was collected from the host *Ligustrum lucidum*, taxonomically identified and the voucher specimen was deposited in a herbarium. Plant leaves were dried and ground to a coarse powder. The methanol and aqueous extracts were obtained by the technique of maceration and then lyophilized. The antimicrobial activity was determined by the agar disc diffusion method. The strains used included five gram-positive bacteria: *Staphylococcus aureus* 5330 (Clinical Isolate, CI), *S. aureus* 3853 (ATCC), *Enterococcus faecium* 5033 (CI), *Enterococcus faecalis* 5069 (ATCC), *E. faecalis* 5762 (CI) and two gram-negative: *Acinetobacter baumannii* 3174 (CI) and *A. baumannii* 4922 (ATCC). As positive controls were used oxacillin and vancomycin. The negative control was sterile saline.

**Resultados/Discussão:** The preliminary biological screening of the extracts showed that both aqueous and methanolic had antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus* and *A. baumannii* (clinical and ATCC). The antimicrobial activity test revealed that the growth of *S. aureus* was affected by the extracts by forming clear inhibition zones between 19 and 45 mm in diameter. All strains of *Staphylococcus* tested were sensitive to oxacillin and vancomycin, but the growth inhibition caused by antibiotics was always lower than the plant extracts. *A. baumannii* showed lower zones of growth inhibition (14-21 mm). *Acinetobacter* strains were resistant to antibiotics used as control. The clinical isolate of *E. faecium* (5033) was inhibited by the aqueous extract of the plant. The other microorganisms tested were not affected.

**Conclusão:** The results of the present investigation indicate the existence of compounds with antimicrobial activity in extracts of the *T. acutifolius*. 