Evaluation of the activity of aqueous extract of *Pothomorphe umbellata* against *Microsporum canis*

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Keywords: *Pothomorphe umbellata*; antifungal activity; dermatophytes.

**Introduction**: Studies in the literature indicate pharmacological actions for several plants species. There is great interest in searching for species with antifungal potential. *Pothomorphe umbellata*, is a characteristic plant of the Brazilian flora, known popularly as “caapeba” or “pariparoba”. It is used in the popular medicine as diuretic, antispasmodic agent, and in inflammatory disorders, malaria and gastrointestinal diseases. In phytochemistry studies it was demonstrated the presence of steroids, 4-nerolidylcathecol, sesquiterpenes and essential oils (β-pinene, spathulenol, cariophyllene, germacrene D). The aqueous extract has shown significant anti-edematous, anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity. In two past decades the incidence of infections caused by dermatophytes has increased, due to the inefficiency of some drugs to these agents. Among the dermatophytes that have a higher incidence worldwide are *Microsporum canis* which is a prevalent agent of tinea captis in developed world. The objective of this work was to evaluate the antifungal activity of aqueous extract of *Pothomorphe umbellata* to dermatophyte *M. canis*.

**Experimental part**: The aqueous extract prepared by infusion in a flask in which was added 100g of dried and ground plant, and 400 ml of boiling water. The flask was capped and after 30 minutes the mixture was filtered and lyophilized. The tests were performed according the NCCLS M38-A, using microtitulation plates for the determination of minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC).

**Results/Discussion**: The aqueous extract of *P. umbellata* presented action against *M. canis* with MIC values of 625 µg/ml. The effect obtained could be due to the presence of apolar substances responsible for this action. More detailed studies must be conducted to characterize substances that possess this property.

**Conclusion**: The aqueous extract of *Pothomorphe umbellata* show antifungal activity against *M. canis*.

**Support**: UNESP, CAPES