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EVALUATION OF THE ANTIOXIDANT POTENTIAL OF LEAVES OF *CURITIBA PRISMATICA* (MYRTACEAE)

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Brazilian biodiversity represents a vast source of bioactive compounds. However, the antioxidant potential of many native plant species remains unexplored, including *Curitiba prismatica* (Myrtaceae), an endemic tree from Southern Brazil (found in the highlands of Paraná and Santa Catarina), popularly known as “guamirim” or “murta”. This study aimed to evaluate the antioxidant profile of the ethanolic leaf extract of *C. prismatica*. Leaves were collected in Irati, Paraná, dried in an oven (40°C/6 days), ground, and stored frozen. For extraction, 2 g of dried leaves were mixed with 25 mL of 45% ethanol and subjected to constant agitation (85 rpm/24 h), repeated every 24 h for 6 days. Extracts were filtered, combined, evaporated (40°C, 100 mbar, 100 rpm), frozen, and lyophilized. Antioxidant activity was evaluated using DPPH radical scavenging, ABTS radical cation decolorization, ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP), and Folin–Ciocalteu reagent (FCR) assays. The antioxidant potential of the ethanolic extracts of *C. prismatica*, as determined by the methods, was: FCR: 348.46 ± 7.80 mg gallic acid equivalents (GAE) g^{-1} dry extract; ABTS: 3568.44 ± 80.28 µmol Trolox equivalents (TEAC) g^{-1} dry extract; DPPH: 2770.27 ± 50.73 µmol TEAC g^{-1} dry extract; FRAP: 7314.30 ± 166.40 µmol Fe^{2+} g^{-1} dry extract. Comparable results have been reported for other Myrtaceae species, such as *Syzygium malaccense*. This first report provides new insights into the antioxidant profile of *C. prismatica* and contributes to the phytochemical knowledge of Brazilian endemic species.

Keywords: *Curitiba prismatica, Myrtaceae, Antioxidant activity, Phenolic compounds, Brazilian biodiversity*