

## **EXPLORING THE ANTILEISHMANIAL PROPERTIES OF *LANTANA CAATINGENSIS* MOLDENKE (VERBENACEAE): A PHYTOCHEMICAL APPROACH**

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*Lantana caatingensis* Moldenke (Verbenaceae) is an endemic plant from northeastern Brazil. However, its chemical composition is almost unknown. This study aimed to characterize the chemical compounds found in *L. caatingensis* and investigate the antileishmanial potential of its hydroalcoholic extract and polar fractions. Compounds present in the hydroalcoholic extract obtained from *L. caatingensis* leaves and its polar fractions (ethyl acetate and methanolic) were analyzed by Liquid chromatography with a photodiode-array detector coupled an electrospray ionization quadrupole Time-of-Flight mass spectrometry. An antileishmanial assay was performed in a 96-well plate against *Leishmania major* promastigotes using resazurin on a plate spectrophotometer and the results were expressed as percentage of growth inhibition. Nine compounds were determined in the investigated extract and fractions, classified as flavonoids and C-glycosides derivatives, as well as the phenylethanoid glycosides and the antileishmanial activity revealed that both the hydroalcoholic extract and the ethyl acetate fraction were active against of *L. major* promastigotes with inhibitory concentration of 71.78 and 26.86  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , respectively, while the methanolic fraction was inactive (478.40  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ). This is the first report on the chemical composition and antileishmanial activity of *L. caatingensis* extracts. These results contribute to further knowledge on species belonging to the *Lantana* genus. The authors thank the support from their institutions, Capes, CNPq and PPBioAmar.

**Keywords:** flavonoids, phenylethanoids, mass spectrometry, promastigotes, natural products

