

Phytochemical and antitumoral activity studies of *Plectranthus hadiensis* (Forssk.) Schweinf. ex Sprenger aerial parts.

Eva María Domínguez-Martín^{1, 2, a}, Epole Ntungwe^{1, 2}, Catarina Teodosio², Vera Isca^{2, 3}, Gabrielle Bangay², Ana María Díaz-Lanza^{1, b}, Patrícia Rijo^{2, 3, c}

1. University of Alcalá de Henares, Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacology Area (Pharmacognosy Laboratory), New antitumor compounds: Toxic action on leukemia cells research group. Ctra. A2, Km 33.100 – Campus Universitario, 28805. Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain. 2. Universidade Lusófona's Research Center for Biosciences & Health Technologies-CBIOS, Bio.Natural Lab. Campo Grande 376, 1749-024 Lisbon, Portugal. 3. University of Lisbon, Faculty of Pharmacy, Instituto de Investigação do Medicamento (iMed.Ulisboa). 1649-003 Lisbon, Portugal.

a. evam.dominguez@uah.es b. ana.diaz@uah.es c. patricia.rijo@ulusofona.pt

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Abstract

The *Plectranthus* genus belongs to the Lamiaceae family and consists of around 300 species distributed from Africa to Asia and Australia. Several studies have reported that *Plectranthus* species are rich in abietane-type diterpenes, such as royleanones, which are interesting in the treatment of various diseases. One of such species is *Plectranthus hadiensis* (Forssk.) Schweinf. ex Sprenger, which has been documented to be useful in several types of cancer (1). The objective of this work is to present the preliminary results of extraction, fractionation, isolation and bioactivity of the aerial parts of this plant. These data indicate a great difference between the acetonic extracts from leaves and those from stems, mainly in their content of 7a-acetoxy-6b-hydroxyroyleanone, which has cytotoxic properties (2,3). Currently, phytochemical studies are ongoing to elucidate the main abietanes responsible for the biological activity.

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