



## ANTI-INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY OF ETHANOL LEAF EXTRACT OF *Struthanthus vulgaris* ON CARRAGEENAN-INDUCED INFLAMMATION IN THE MOUSE AIR POUCH MODEL

**Franciane Martins Marques<sup>1</sup>; Maycow Rodrigues da Costa<sup>1</sup>; Cátia Vittorazzi<sup>1</sup>; Luciane Souza dos Santos Gramma<sup>1</sup>; Tadeu Uggere de Andrade<sup>1</sup>; Marcio Fronza<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Farmacêuticas, Universidade Vila Velha, Vila Velha, Brasil  
(narf\_1704@live.com)

The purpose of this study was to investigate the *in vivo* effects of ethanol leaf extract of *Struthanthus vulgaris* (EP) in the inflammatory air pouch model induced by carrageenan. To produce the air pouches, 3 mL of sterile air was subcutaneously injected into the back of the experimental animals [1,2]. Three days later 1.5 mL of sterile air was injected into the cavity. On the sixth day, the animals were divided in groups and inflammation was induced by carrageenan 1% administered directly into the air pouch. After one hour, animals were treated with phosphate buffered saline (PBS), EP 50 or 100 mg/kg or dexamethasone (1 mg/kg). After 4 and 24h, the animals were euthanized with an overdose on anesthetic and the pouches washed with 3 ml of PBS. The influx of total and differential leukocytes, the concentration of total proteins, detection of nitrite and the pro-inflammatory cytokines TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\alpha$ , and the anti-inflammatory IL-10 were evaluated in the fluid collected from the mice air pouch cavity [3]. Treatment with 50 and 100 mg/kg of EP produced a significant decrease in the total number of cells, 53.9  $\pm$  11.4% and 73.7  $\pm$  10.5% after 4 and 30.5  $\pm$  14.5% and 37.1  $\pm$  17.2% after 24h, respectively (p <0.05) when compared to PBS control group. Dexamethasone 1 mg/kg also suppress the total number of cells into the pouch (69.3  $\pm$  14.8% and 84.3  $\pm$  5.6% after 4 and 24h, respectively). The differential cell count revealed a highly prevalence of neutrophils with significant differences after 4 and 24h after treatment with EP followed by mononuclear cells and eosinophils. We also observed a significant reduction in total protein concentration after 24h at a dose 100 mg/kg and the levels of nitrate/nitrite after 4h of exposure to 50 mg/kg EP, as well as reduced cytokines TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\alpha$  and an increased of IL-10 production. In conclusion, our results demonstrated that the ethanol leaf extract of *S. vulgaris* was effective in reducing the inflammation in the *in vivo* air pouch model by suppressing the influx of leucocytes, reducing the NO, TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\alpha$  production.

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