

Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciências (2019) 91(2): e20180248 (Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences) Printed version ISSN 0001-3765 / Online version ISSN 1678-2690 http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/0001-3765201920180248 www.scielo.br/aabc | www.fb.com/aabciournal

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Manuscript received on March 3, 2018; accepted for publication on August 8, 2018

How to cite: MARQUES TR, BRAGA MA, CESAR PHS, MARCUSSI S AND CORRÊA AD. 2019. Jabuticaba (Plinia jaboticaba) skin extracts as inhibitors of phospholipases A, and proteases. An Acad Bras Cienc 91: e20180248. DOI 10.1590/0001-3765201920180248.

Abstract: The phenolic extracts of jabuticaba skin flour (JSF) were characterized by HPLC, and evaluated for their modulating action upon phospholipases A, and proteases of snake venom, aiming at their possible use in the treatment of the various diseases associated with the action of venom toxins. Two types of extracts were prepared from JSF: aqueous and methanolic. These extracts, evaluated at different ratios, (venom: extract, m/m), significantly inhibited the phospholipase activity induced by the venom of Bothrops moojeni and Crotalus durissus terrificus, except for Bothrops atrox venom. The greatest hemolysis inhibitory action was observed for the methanolic extract, when incubated with venoms of B. moojeni and C. durissus terrificus, with inhibitions between 21 and 100%. Thrombolysis induced by venoms of B. moojeni and C. durissus terrificus was inhibited by both extracts, ranging from 32 to 83% and 51 to 83% for the aqueous and methanolic extracts, respectively. Both extracts extended coagulation time, induced by the venoms of B. moojeni and Lachesis muta muta. Inhibitory actions are related to phenolic compounds, such as gallic, syringic and p-coumaric acids, besides catechin, epigallocatechin gallate, epicatechin; resveratrol and quercetin, present in the extracts of jabuticaba skin flour, confirming their potential for nutraceutical use.

Key words: agro-industrial waste, phenolic compounds, venom enzymes as laboratory tools, clotting, thrombolysis.

INTRODUCTION

The jabuticaba tree is a plant native to Brazil, belonging to the family Myrtaceae, and it is found in a wide territorial area of the country, from the State of Pará to Rio Grande do Sul, but it is in the states of the Southeast that the highest production occurs. Among the most appreciated species, *Plinia jaboticaba* (Vell.) Berg, popularly known as 'Jabuticaba Sabará', stands out (Citadin et al. 2010).

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The fruit is rich in phenolic compounds, mainly in its skin, with contents ranging from 9.79 to 11.99 g 100 g-1 dry matter, in addition to vitamin C, minerals and fibers (Lima et al. 2008, Alves et al. 2013, 2014), and it has attracted the attention of researchers, being used for various medicinal purposes, such as in the treatment of diarrhea and skin irritation, as well as indications in popular medicine against asthma and other diseases (Ascheri et al. 2006, Sato and Cunha 2009). The fruit is frequently used in the production of sweets, jellies, juices and alcoholic beverages, which generates large amounts of residues, mainly represented by the skins (Fortes et al. 2011, Abe et al. 2012).

In the skin, which is generally discarded and may represent up to 43% of the fruit (Lima et al. 2008), the highest levels of nutrients and phytochemicals that are beneficial to health are found. Studies have reported the use of skin as dyes in yoghurts (Alves et al. 2013) and in the preparation of restructured hams (Alves et al. 2017), making these products rich in fibers and phenolic compounds with antioxidant activity; as well as the use in humans and rats to reduce serum levels of oxidative peroxidation and increased antioxidant defense (Lage et al. 2014, Lenguiste et al. 2015, Batista et al. 2016). Therefore, its chemical and pharmacological characterization is of great economic interest, adding value to the residue and directing to its possible applications, mainly in the development and manufacture of functional and nutraceutical products that might be used in health improvement, in the maintenance of well-being, in improving immunity and, therefore, in the prevention, as well as in the treatment, of various diseases.

Phenolic compounds have potential for the production of nutraceuticals and functional foods, due to their antioxidant capacity, specific interaction with several enzymes and protective role on membranes and modulators on the immune response (Prakask et al. 2012, Kumar 2015, Peluso and Serafini 2017). Studies report their action in the prevention of various diseases, such as cancer, atherosclerosis, menopausal symptoms and degenerative diseases such as Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's (Babbar et al. 2015, Kumar and Kumar 2015, Olaiya et al. 2016, Evans et al. 2016, Wong and Evans 2017). They are also responsible for inhibiting toxic and/or pharmacological effects induced by snake venoms, acting as enzymatic inhibitors (Santhosh et al. 2013, Nanjaraj et al. 2013).

The snake venoms contain proteases and phospholipases A_2 that can act on several components of the coagulation cascade, receptors and components of the extracellular matrix and of the

basement membrane, as well as on components of platelet membranes. These enzymes can display up to 96% of homology with their human homologues (Sajevic et al. 2011, Trusevych and MacNaughton 2015, Pozzi et al. 2016). Because of this high degree of structural and functional homology these can be used to induce the effects on hemostasis and enzymatic activities of phospholipases A_2 and proteases. Thus, the inhibition of phospholipases A_2 and some proteases present in snake venoms by natural compounds is believed to occur in a similar fashion upon animal enzymes homologues.

Phospholipases A₂ are considered as important regulators of the arachidonic acid pathway and can act as essential mediators of intracellular and intercellular signaling, hydrolyzing phospholipids and generating bioactive lipid mediators or messengers that control multiple cell functions and regulate physiological and pathophysiological processes (Ramanadham et al. 2004, Masuda et al. 2005, Cechetti et al. 2017). While the proteases act selectively in the factors of the coagulation cascade, with effect on platelet aggregation, fibrinolysis and coagulation (Braud and Wisner 2000).

In this context, jabuticaba skin could be used in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and/or food industry, mainly due to its high levels of phenolic compounds that provide nutraceutical properties. Thus, in this study, we evaluated the toxicity and pharmacological characterization of the aqueous and methanolic extracts of jabuticaba skin flour upon hemostasis and enzymatic activities of phospholipases A_2 and proteases. To induce such effects, tests were carried out using snake venoms as tools aiming to extend the knowledge on the nutraceutical potential this jabuticaba skin waste.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

OBTENTION AND PREPARATION OF THE JABUTICABA SKIN FLOUR

Jabuticaba (*Plinia jaboticaba* (Vell.) Berg fruits (16 kg), were picked on São José do Ismeril Farm, in the

municipality of Coqueiral, MG, Brazil. The fruits were identified and incorporated into the collection of the ESAL Herbarium in the Department of Biology of the Federal University of Lavras - MG, under the registration number 19574.

They were selected, washed in tap water and then sanitized with sodium hypochlorite solution (200 mg kg⁻¹), by immersion for 10 minutes. Subsequently, the fruits were pressed, and 3.91 kg skins were obtained. The skins were placed in fine mesh metal baskets and dehydrated in a drying oven at 45 °C until constant weight.

After drying, the skins were ground in a knife mill (TE 631 Tecnal) for 3 minutes, and 0.82 kg jabuticaba skin flour (JSF) was obtained. The JSF passed through sieves, resulting in particle sizes between 40 mesh (0.425 mm) and 80 mesh (0.180 mm). Subsequently, the moisture content of this flour was determined in triplicate (AOAC 2016) and it was stored in hermetically sealed flasks, protected from light, at room temperature until its use.

PREPARATION OF THE JABUTICABA SKIN FLOUR EXTRACT

For the preparation of the JSF extracts, water and methanol were used to obtain two extracts, aqueous and methanolic, respectively. The extractions were performed in triplicate.

The aqueous extract was obtained using 1 g JSF mixed with 50 mL of distilled water, stirred for 15 minutes at room temperature, and filtered through organza cloth. The residue was subjected, twice more, to the same extraction process. The filtrates were collected, frozen and lyophilized. For the obtention of the methanolic extract, 1 g JSF was transferred to a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask, mixed with 50 mL of 50% (v/v) methanol, capped with an appropriate stopper for reflux and subjected to a temperature of 80 °C on a hot plate, for 15 minutes. The extract was then filtered on filter paper and the residue was subjected to two extractions (AOAC

2016). The filtrates were collected, evaporated on a plate at 80 °C until complete elimination of methanol and then frozen and lyophilized.

PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING

The extracts of JSF passed through phytochemical screening process, using specific reagents for each chemical group, and applying chemical reactions that resulted in coloring and/or precipitation processes particular for each substances class (Matos 1997). The substances analyzed were tannins, flavonoids, catechins, saponins, cardiac glycosides, steroids and alkaloids.

- a) Tannins: 1 mg of extracts was dissolved in 10 mL of distilled water and a drop of 1% ferric chloride was added. The change in color or formation of a precipitate indicated a positive reaction.
- b) Flavonoids: 1 mg of extracts was dissolved in 10 mL of methanol. The mixture was filtered, and five drops of concentrated HCl and a one-cm piece of magnesium tape were added. A pink tint in the solution indicated a positive reaction.
- c) Catechins: 1 mg of extracts was dissolved in 3 mL of methanol, were subsequently added 1 mL of 1% vanillin aqueous solution and 1 mL of concentrated HCl. The appearance of an intense red color indicated a positive reaction.
- d) Saponins: 1 mg of the extracts was dissolved in 1 mL of 80° GL ethanol and was added 15 mL of distilled water. The solution was stirred and foamed for more than half an hour, indicated a positive reaction.
- e) Cardiac glycosides: 1 mg of the extracts was solubilized in 4 mL of methanol and a drop of the Kedde reagent was added. The formation of a blue or violet color indicated a positive reaction.
- f) Steroids: 1 mg of the extracts was solubilized in 3 mL of chloroform, and then 2 mL of

acetic anhydride was added and stirred gently. On the walls of the tube was added 1 mL of concentrated sulfuric acid. The formation of a succession of colors, from evanescent blue to persistent green indicated a positive reaction.

g) Alkaloids: 1 mg of the extracts was solubilized in 3 mL of 5% hydrochloric acid and was added 5 drops of the Bouchardat reagent. The formation of an orange-red precipitate indicated a positive reaction.

DETERMINATION OF THE PHENOLIC COMPOSITION OF THE EXTRACTS BY HPLC

Chromatographic analysis was performed with a Shimadzu high performance liquid chromatography system, equipped with two LC-20AT model high pressure pumps, an SPD-M20A model UV-visible detector, CTO-20AC model oven, CBM-20A model interface and automatic injector with an SIL-20A model autosampler. Separations were carried out with a Shim-pack VP-ODS-C18 column (250 mm x 4.6 mm) connected to a pre-column Shim-pack Column Holder (10 mm x 4.6 mm).

The mobile phase consisted of solutions of acetic acid in 2% water (A) and methanol: water: acetic acid (70: 28: 2, v:v:v) (B). The analyses were performed with total time of 65 minutes, temperature of 40 °C, flow rate of 1.0 mL min $^{-1}$, wavelength of 280 nm and injection volume of 20 μ L in gradient elution (starting at 100% of solvent A up to 5 minutes; 70% of solvent A from 5 to 25 minutes; 60% of solvent A from 43 to 50 minutes and 0% of solvent A for 10 minutes) (Marques et al. 2016). The standards used were: ferulic acid, salicylic acid, syringic acid, gallic acid, p-coumaric acid, epicatechin, catechin, epicatechin gallate, resveratrol and quercetin.

The lyophilized extracts, dissolved in water (1:16, w:v) and the standards were filtered through a membrane of 0.45 μ m (Millipore®) and injected into the chromatograph. Phenolic compounds were identified by comparison with retention times

with standards. Quantification was accomplished through the construction of analytical curves obtained by linear regression, considering the coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.99.

SNAKE VENOMS

Crystallized bulk venoms of the species *Bothrops* moojeni, *Bothrops atrox*, *Crotalus durissus* terrificus and *Lachesis muta muta* were bought from the Bioagentes serpentarium (Batatais –SP).

All venoms were previously assessed at different doses for all tests to establish the minimum inducing doses for each activity, considering scientific content of the Toxinology field. Thus, for each assay, different venoms were established, considering the most effective in inducing the effects, to assess the inhibiting effect of extracts of JSF.

HUMAN BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

The protocols for the trials in which human cells or blood components were used previously assessed and approved by the Ethics Committee on Human Research (COEP) at the Federal University of Lavras under the registration number CAAE: 64329117.9.0000.5148.

The human blood used for the tests of hemolytic and thrombolytic activity and coagulation was obtained from healthy volunteers who had not used any medication for a period of 30 days before the collection. The blood was collected by venipuncture in tubes containing heparin for hemolytic activity, citrate for coagulant and anticoagulant-free activity for thrombolytic activity.

PHOSPHOLIPASE AND HEMOLYTIC ACTIVITY

The phospholipase and hemolytic activities were evaluated in solid medium as described by Habermann and Harm (1972) and Gutiérrez et al. (1988), respectively. The gel used for the assessment of phospholipase activity was prepared with CaCl,

0.01 mol L⁻¹; 1:3 (v:v) egg yolk lecithin; phosphatebuffered saline (PBS), pH 7.4; 1% bacteriological agar and 0.005% sodium azide, and the medium was poured at a temperature of 45-50 °C in petri dishes. After the gel solidification, the treatments were applied to holes and the dishes were kept in a cell cultivation chamber for 12 hours at 37 °C.

The phospholipases A_2 trials were carried out using venoms of B. moojeni, B. atrox and C. durissus terrificus, in which the minimum phospholipase dose (30 µg) of each venom was previously incubated with the aqueous and methanolic extracts of JSF for 30 minutes at 37 °C at the proportions of 1:0.1; 1:0.5; 1:1; 1:2.5; 1:5; 1:10 and 1:20 (venom: extract, w:w).

For the hemolytic activity, the gel was developed by replacing the lecithin from egg volk by a human red cell concentrate in the same volume. To obtain the cells, the newly collected blood was centrifuged at 700 x g for 5 minutes. The plasma was, then, removed and the red cells were suspended in 5 mmol L⁻¹ PBS, pH 7.4, and centrifuged under the same conditions, being this washing step repeated twice. The inhibition of the hemolytic activity was evaluated for the venoms of B. moojeni and C. durissus terrificus, these being previously incubated at the minimum hemolytic dose (30 µg) with the aqueous and methanolic extracts of JSF for 30 minutes at 37 °C at the proportions of 1:0.1; 1:0.5; 1:1; 1:2.5 and 1:5 (venom:extract, w:w). Controls containing only venoms or the extracts were carried out.

The diameter of translucent halo around the hole in the gel was measured and the results were converted in percentage (%). The controls containing only venoms were considered as 100% of activity.

THROMBOLYTIC ACTIVITY

The thrombolytic activity was evaluated upon human blood clots formed *in vitro* according to

the methodology described by Cintra et al. (2012). The clots were incubated for 24 hours at 37 °C with samples containing venoms of *B. moojeni* and *C. durissus terrificus*, PBS or venom (at the minimum thrombolytic dose of 40 µg) previously incubated (30 minutes at 37 °C) with aqueous and methanolic extracts of JSF at the proportions at 1:0.5; 1:1; 1:2.5 and 1:5 (venom:extract, w:w). The activities were estimated by measuring the volume of liquid released by each clot, the controls containing only venoms were considered as having 100% activity, and the average of the volumes obtained in the negative control (PBS) was subtracted from the other treatments.

COAGULANT/ANTICOAGULANT ACTIVITY

Evaluation of the coagulation time was performed as described by Rodrigues et al. (2000). The aqueous and methanolic extracts of JSF were previously incubated with the venoms of *B. moojeni* and *L. muta muta* for a period of 10 minutes at 37 °C at the proportions of 1:0.5; 1:1; 1:2.5 and 1:5 (venom:extract, w:w). Tubes containing citrated plasma (200 μ L) were kept at a 37 °C bath. Incubated samples were added to the plasma and time was recorded until the formation of the clot. Controls containing only the extracts were also carried out. The minimum coagulant dose was previously established, which was the smallest venom quantity capable of inducing coagulation in a period between 50 and 180 seconds (Selistre et al. 1990).

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The results were presented as the average of six runs \pm standard deviation. The data of phospholipase, hemolytic and thrombolytic activity were statistically evaluated by analysis of variance, and the averages were compared using the Dunnett test (p<0.05) with help of the statistical software (R Core Team 2012).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The JSF presented moisture content of 9.28 \pm 0.19% and the extraction yields (%), in dry weight, of the aqueous and methanolic extractions were of 55.02 \pm 1.02 and 67.03 \pm 1.32, respectively. The highest yield, in dry weight, was observed for the methanolic extraction.

The results of phytochemical screening indicate the presence of different metabolic groups of food and pharmacological interest in the aqueous and methanolic JSF extracts, such as tannins, flavonoids and catechins. Cardiac glycosides or steroids and alkaloids were not detected in the extracts. However, in addition to the metabolites of interest, small amounts saponins were found in the methanolic extract. Saponins are metabolites with antioxidant activity, able to combating the action of free radicals in the cell, and it is known to present cytotoxic activity against tumor cells (Schenkel et al. 2007, Leung and Wong 2010). Further benefits of the intake of saponins are related to a reduction in the risk of developing cardiovascular diseases, and as an antiviral agent, acting by inhibiting viral replication (Trugo et al. 2003).

The phenolic compounds in the aqueous and methanolic JSF extracts are shown in Figures 1 and 2 and Table I. The methanolic extract presented contents of phenolic compounds higher than those obtained for the aqueous extract. The extracts also presented different constitutions. For example, syringic acid was not detected in the aqueous extract and quercetin was not detected in the methanolic extract.

In the past decade, phenolic compounds have gained great interest in the medical field. Many important pharmacological properties such as cytotoxic and chemoprotective effects were attributed to this class of compounds (Dai and Mumper 2010). Increasing evidence suggests that the long-term ingestion of these compounds may result in favorable effects on the incidence of some diseases, such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, type II diabetes, and nervous system diseases, which frequently occur in the population (Spencer and Crozier 2012, Zhang and Rong 2016, Lin et al. 2017).

Phenolic compounds of plants, fruits and agro-industrial residues have pharmacological properties that can be used for the design of natural therapeutic agents. Studies using extracts of grape

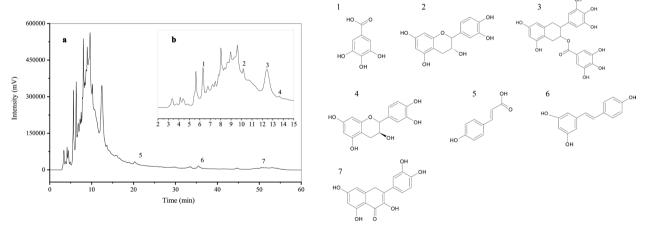


Figure 1 - (a) Chromatogram of jabuticaba skin flour aqueous extract, with peak identification: 1. gallic acid (time = 6.311 min); 2. catechin (time = 10.127 min); 3. epigallocatechin gallate (time = 12.418 min); 4. epicatechin (time = 13.602 min); 5. *p*-coumaric acid (time = 20.238 min); 6. resveratrol (time = 35.462 min) and 7. quercetin (time = 51.780 min). (b) Expansion of the chromatogram at times from 2 to 15 min.

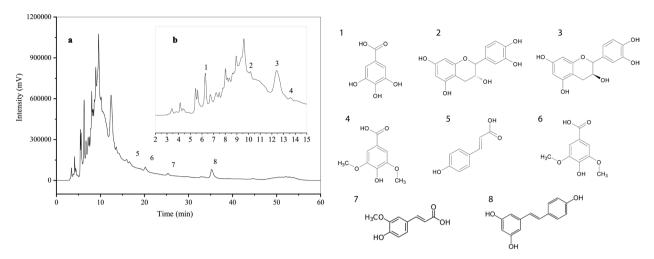


Figure 2 - (a) Chromatogram of jabuticaba skin flour aqueous extract, with peak identification: 1. gallic acid (time = 6.281 min); 2. catechin (time = 10.150 min); 3. epigallocatechin gallate (time = 12.405 min); 4. epicatechin (time = 13.587 min); 5. syringic acid (time = 15.936 min); 6. *p*-coumaric acid (time = 20.183 min); 7. ferulic acid (time = 25.299 min) and 8. resveratrol (time = 35.263 min). (b) Expansion of the chromatogram at times from 2 to 15 min.

TABLE I
Phenolic compounds content in aqueous and methanol extract of jabuticaba skin flour.

Phenolic compounds (mg L ⁻¹)	Aqueous extract	Methanolic extract
Gallic acid	65.18 ± 1.42	132.05 ± 1.29
Catechin	33.96 ± 0.19	277.62 ± 2.94
Epigallocatechin gallate	517.83 ± 1.69	724.73 ± 2.89
Epicatechin	10.45 ± 0.07	37.57 ± 0.49
Siringic acid	-	5.72 ± 0.09
p-Cumaric acid	1.44 ± 0.01	4.03 ± 0.04
Resveratrol	3.27 ± 0.02	25.97 ± 0.92
Quercetin	0.07 ± 0.00	-
∑ Phenolic compounds	632.20	1,207.69

The results correspond to the averages of the triplicates and the standard deviation.

seeds and skin identified bioactive compounds in both *in vitro* and *in vivo* activities. The authors identified flavonoids which protected platelets from peroxidative stress, modulated platelet function, and reduced the release of reactive oxygen intermediates, suggesting antithrombotic and anti-inflammatory properties. The *in vivo* results suggest the consumption of these compounds to prevent degenerative processes through their incorporation into functional foods, nutraceuticals, and cosmetics (Vitseva et al. 2005, Teixeira et al. 2014).

Flavonoids such as quercetin, catechin and epicatechin have anti-inflammatory and antithrombogenic properties. The main anti-inflammatory effects of flavonoids occur through the interaction with various enzymatic systems and the elimination of free radicals, in addition to the inhibition of arachidonic acid metabolism (Manach et al. 2005). As for antithrombogenic effects, flavonoids are inserted into the catalytic site of thrombin, blocking its activity (Mozzicafreddo et al. 2006). These phenolic compounds were identified in the extracts of JSF.

Studies using jabuticaba skin already report human health benefits due to its phenolic composition. The administration of jabuticaba skin flour in rats prevented lipid peroxidation and increased their antioxidant defense (Lage et al. 2014, Batista et al. 2014, Lenguiste et al. 2015). Already the administration of jabuticaba skin for 4 weeks in humans decreased serum levels of oxidative peroxidation (Batista et al. 2016). Alves et al. (2017) prepared restructured hams with the addition of JSF and the results showed an increase in fiber content and phenolic compounds, with good acceptance, provided that the fact it had antioxidants and dietary fibers was informed to the consumer. The authors related these benefits to the presence of phenolic compounds.

Figure 3 shows the phospholipase activity (%) induced by venoms of snakes from the *B. moojeni* (a), *B. atrox* (b), and *C. durissus terrificus* (c) species previously incubated with aqueous and methanolic JSF extract.

The aqueous and methanolic extracts, at the lowest ratios tested (1:0.1; 1:0.5; 1:1; 1:2.5), inhibited the phospholipase activity induced by *B. moojeni* venom, and the highest inhibition was observed at the 1:0.1 ratio of 26% and 22%, respectively (Fig. 3a).

The aqueous extract showed a significant inhibitory action on phospholipase activity induced by *B. atrox* venom from the ratio of 1:0.1, reducing the activity of this venom at 21%. The other proportions of aqueous extract also presented a significant inhibitory action on phospholipase activity, but were lower and did not differ among them. The same was observed for the methanolic extract. All proportions of methanolic extract presented a significant inhibitory action on phospholipase activity induced by *B. atrox* venom, but were lower (approximately 11%) and did not differ among them (Fig. 3b).

For the venom of *C. durissus terrificus*, inhibition was observed after incubation with the

aqueous extract at the ratios 1:10 and 1:20, of 41% and 100%, respectively. The methanolic extract induced significant inhibitions at the ratios 1:1, 1:2.5, 1:5 and 1:10, with the highest inhibition observed at 1:20, reducing phospholipase activity by approximately 33% (Fig. 3c).

Phospholipases A₂ are considered important keys in the release of arachidonic acid, and are precursors of pro-inflammatory mediators, such as prostaglandins and leukotrienes. These enzymes are responsible for changes in hemostasis (Gutiérrez and Lomonte 2013), thus involved in a number of diseases such as asthma and allergic reactions (Pniewska et al. 2014), arthritis (Kokotos et al. 2014), atherosclerosis (Ait-Oufella et al. 2014), cancer (Berg et al. 2001), neurological diseases such as Alzheimer (Sagy-Bross et al. 2014), multiple sclerosis (Kalyvas and David 2004) and Parkinson (Lee et al. 2010).

Several plant extracts have been described with inhibitory activity on phospholipases A_2 and being efficient in inhibiting or preventing inflammatory processes, aiding in the management of inflammatory diseases and this inhibitory activity was attributed to phenolic compounds (Kishore et al. 2016, Silva et al. 2016, Moura et al. 2017, Kuganesan et al. 2017).

According to Moura et al. (2016), tannins can form complexes with calcium, which is a cofactor of phospholipases A₂ and various enzymes involved in the coagulation cascade. On the other hand, flavonoids, are able to inhibit the action of phospholipases A₂ inhibiting the cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase pathways and the release of arachidonic acid, thereby decreasing the formation of inflammatory metabolites (Serafini et al. 2011, Nworu and Akah 2015). In the aqueous and methanolic JSF extracts evaluated in this study, phenolic compounds such as tannins, phenolic acids and flavonoids were identified, thus explaining the inhibition of phospholipase activity and, therefore, they may act to inhibit the release of inflammatory

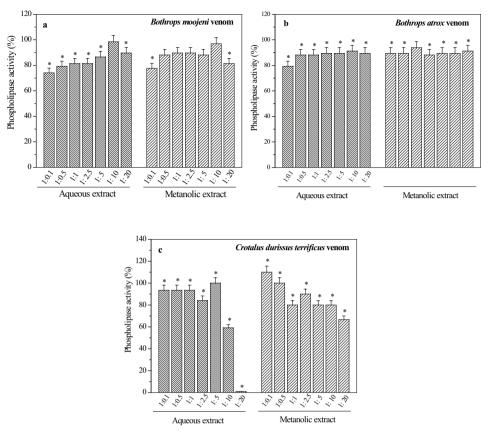


Figure 3 - Phospholipase activity (%) induced by the venoms of snakes from the species: *Bothrops moojeni* (a), *Bothrops atrox* (b) and *Crotalus durissus terrificus* (c), previously incubated with aqueous and methanolic extracts of jabuticaba skin. Controles (+) containing only venom (30 μ g) was considered as having 100% of activity. The results correspond to the average of triplicates of the data obtained for each proportion (venom: extract, w:w) and the standard deviations. *the averages differ statistically from the respective positive control by the Dunnett test (p<0.05).

mediators. *In vivo* tests using these extracts are required to substantiate this action.

Figure 4 shows the hemolytic activity in solid medium. This assay was performed to evaluate the direct effects of extracts on erythrocyte membranes, as well as the potential of extracts to inhibit venominduced cytotoxicity. It was observed that the extracts alone did not induce hemolysis, at the concentration and incubation time conditions evaluated.

The aqueous extract showed a significant inhibitory action on the hemolysis induced by *B. moojeni* venom from the ratio of 1:1, reducing the activity of this venom between 21% and 55%. The

methanolic extract provided significant inhibition from the ratio 1:0.5, reducing the action of this venom from 41% to 53% (Fig. 4a). For the venom of *C. durissus terrificus*, incubation with the aqueous extract also showed significant inhibitory action, inhibiting 69% at the ratio 1:5. The methanolic extract reduced the activity of this venom by 21% to 100%, from the ratio 1:0.5 (w:w) (Fig. 4b). The lysis of erythrocytes was decreased with the increase in the proportion of extracts. The data show a greater inhibitory action of the methanolic extract, when incubated with the venoms of *B. moojeni* and *C. durissus terrificus* and, even with

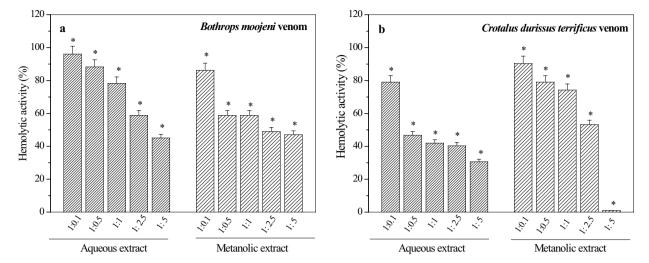


Figure 4 - Hemolytic activity (%) induced by the venoms of snakes from the species: *Bothrops moojeni* (a) and *Crotalus durissus terrificus* (b) previously incubated with aqueous and methanolic extracts of jabuticaba skin. Controles (+) containing only venom (30 μ g) was considered as having 100% of activity. The results correspond to the average of triplicates of the data obtained for each proportion (venom: extract, w:w) and the standard deviations. *the averages differ statistically from the respective positive control by the Dunnett test (p<0.05).

the identification of saponins in this extract, its low content did not have able to cause the release of hemoglobin and induce hemolysis.

The enzymes involved in the hemolytic activity are serine proteases and metalloproteases that degrade membrane proteins and the phospholipases A_2 (responsible for the breakdown of phospholipids that make up the cell membranes). The action of these enzymes destabilizes the membrane structure, altering the ion flow and intracellular metabolism, thus resulting in the lysis of red blood cells (Garcia Denegri et al. 2010, Gutiérrez and Lomonte 2013). Therefore, the inhibition of hemolytic activity is also a proof of the action potential of the extracts evaluated on the inflammatory response and the blood coagulation cascade.

The inhibitions of the enzymes phospholipases A_2 and proteases presented in this work may be related on to fact that the phenolic compounds present in extracts have synergistic and additive effects. This could create variations in the mode of action depending on their concentration. The reflex of such variations is oscillations on the results obtained on phospholipase and hemolytic

assays when increasing the concentrations of both extracts (Lidija 2015, Ozdal et al. 2013). Another consideration is related to the fact that phenolic compounds have able to promote conformational changes in enzymes, resulting in a diminishing or increasing in its activity based on the type of modification. That is, some compounds could bind to the active site, or a coordination site, leading to a decrease or inhibition of the activity. Conversely, other compounds could stabilize and enhance the catalytic activity of such enzymes.

Fig. 5 shows the thrombolytic activities of snake venoms of species *B. moojeni* and *C. durissus terrificus*, previously incubated with the aqueous and methanolic JSF extract.

The activity of *B. moojeni* venom decreased in approximately 49, 66, 79 and 83%, after incubation with the aqueous extract at ratios 1:0.5, 1:1, 1:2.5 and 1:5, respectively. Significant inhibitions were also observed after incubation of this venom with the methanolic extract, with reductions of 51, 59, 68 and 83% at the ratios of 1:0.5, 1:1, 1:2.5 and 1:5, respectively (Fig. 5a). Thus, the highest concentrations of extracts were responsible for the

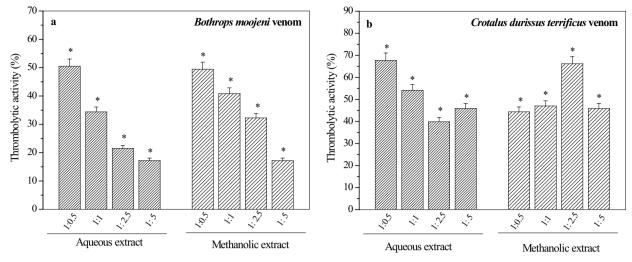


Figure 5 - Thrombolytic activity (%) induced by the venoms of snakes from the species: *Bothrops moojeni* (a) and *Crotalus durissus terrificus* (b) previously incubated with aqueous and methanolic extracts of jabuticaba skin. Controles (+) containing only venom (40 μ g) was considered as having 100% of activity. The results correspond to the average of triplicates of the data obtained for each proportion (venom: extract, w:w) and the standard deviations. *the averages differ statistically from the respective positive control by the Dunnett test (p<0.05).

most significant inhibitions, possibly due to the concomitant increase in the concentration of the phenolic compounds present in the extract.

For *C. durissus terrificus* venom, thrombolytic activity was inhibited in 32, 46, 60 and 54%, after incubation with the aqueous extract at ratios 1:0.5, 1:1, 1:2.5 and 1:5, respectively, indicating that the increase in the extract to the ratio of 1:2.5 resulted in a higher inhibition (Fig. 5a). Significant inhibitions were also observed after incubation with the methanolic extract, showing that the 1:2.5 ratio had the lowest inhibition of thrombolytic activity, with 34% (Fig. 5b).

Thrombosis occurs in abnormal hemostatic conditions due to the uncontrolled action of thrombin on fibrinogen, or excessive production of thrombin (Majumdar et al. 2014). These disorders, related to the imbalance between fibrin formation and fibrinolysis, are the main responsible for the high rate of morbidity and mortality. Platelet aggregation contributes to the development of atherosclerosis and acute platelet thrombus formation, followed by artery embolization. In the case of inflammation, arachidonic acid is

released and metabolized by platelets to form prostaglandin, endoperoxides and thromboxane A_2 , leading to platelet activation and aggregation (Gadek-Michalska et al. 2013, Sivamani 2014). Thus, it is necessary to evaluate natural extracts or isolated active principles capable of inhibiting enzymes that act in the blood clotting cascade, such as thrombin, as well as in platelet aggregation, such as phospholipases A_2 and proteases.

Elumalai et al. (2012) described the induction of thrombolytic activity by the methanolic extract of *Bougainvillea glabra* and mentioned that metabolite groups in the extracts, such as tannins, flavonoids, saponins, glycosides and terpenes, may be related to thrombus dissolution, due to the combined effect of active compounds, being able to perform the activity by different mechanisms. According to the phytochemical screening, tannins, flavonoids, saponins and terpenes were identified in JSF extracts.

The induced coagulation of citrated plasma was performed using pre-determined minimum coagulant doses of 5µg and 10 µg of *B. moojeni* and *L. muta muta* venoms, respectively. All values

that differed from the positive control in time equal to or greater than 10 seconds were considered significantly different, since this time is enough to trigger some processes of the coagulation cascade, such as prothrombin activation (normally between 10 and 14 seconds) and the partial activation of thromboplastin (normally between 24 and 40 seconds), according to a coagulogram.

The aqueous and methanolic JSF extracts previously incubated with *B. moojeni* venom at ratios 1:1, 1:2.5, 1:5 and 1:10, showed anticoagulant action, inducing increases in coagulation time from 12 to 91 seconds (Table II).

As for *L. muta muta* venom, incubations with aqueous and methanolic extracts resulted in an increase in coagulation time, characterizing anticoagulant action for all evaluated ratios (1:0.5, 1:1, 1:2.5, 1:5 and 1:10), with periods of 15 to 67 seconds and 35 to 59 seconds higher than the control, respectively (Table II).

The prolongation of coagulation time (Table II) and dissolution of blood clots (Fig. 5), mainly related to coagulant enzymes inhibition, may also be due to the action of flavonoids present in JSF

extracts. Flavonoids act on the production of nitric oxide in blood platelets, thus inhibiting platelet aggregation and retarding clot formation (Silva et al. 2011).

Blood coagulation is a physiological process to prevent blood loss caused by vascular injury. This process leads to the generation of thrombin, a serine protease that plays a central role in the control of hemostasis and is responsible for the conversion of fibrinogen to fibrin, platelet activation and other coagulation factors (Crawley et al. 2007, Licari and Kovacic 2009). Thrombin is one of the most important enzymes in hemostasis, since it acts in the regulation of plasma coagulant activity. Disorders in mechanisms controlling the generation and activity of thrombin contribute to the formation and development of many cardiovascular diseases (atherosclerosis, coronary heart disease, venous thromboembolism, and stroke) (Bijak et al. 2011).

The enzymes present in venoms, such as some hemorrhagic metalloproteinases, act as anticoagulants; others, fibrinogenolytic, act as procoagulants, generating fibrin networks; serine proteases responsible for the formation of friable

TABLE II

Effect of extracts of jabuticaba skin flour on the coagulant activity induced by different snake venoms.

	Proportion venom: extract (m:m)	Clotting time (s)	
		Bothrops moojeni	Lachesis muta muta
	1:0.5	65.00 ± 3.79	107.33 ± 2.31^{a}
	1:1	85.00 ± 2.65^{a}	107.33 ± 3.79^{a}
Aqueous extract	1:2.5	$116.00 \pm 1.15^{\rm a}$	$124.00 \pm 2.65^{\rm a}$
	1:5	$129.00 \pm 2.89^{\rm a}$	$135.67 \pm 3.21^{\rm a}$
	1:10	$128.00 \pm 2.31^{\rm a}$	159.67 ± 3.79^{a}
Methanolic extract	1:0.5	81.00 ± 2.52	97.30 ± 2.08
	1:1	131.00 ± 3.46^{a}	$127.67 \pm 1.15^{\rm a}$
	1:2.5	135.00 ± 2.89^{a}	$142.67 \pm 1.53^{\rm a}$
	1:5	$164.00 \pm 3.00^{\rm a}$	$151.30 \pm 2.89^{\rm a}$
	1:10	$162.00 \pm 1.53^{\rm a}$	$147.00 \pm 2.00^{\rm a}$
Control		73.00 ± 2.65*	92.30 ± 2.08**

^{*}The control was carried out with 5 μg each evaluated venom. **The control was carried out with 10 μg each evaluated venom. The results are presented as the average of triplicates \pm standard deviation. *differs from the respective positive controls in values equal to or above 10 seconds.

clots can also act as anticoagulants, but with less efficiency, and still some phospholipases A₂ can act as procoagulants. In addition, the use of phospholipases A, may act as a procoagulant (Cate et al. 2017). Thus, finding plant extracts that show inhibitory activity of phospholipases A₂, metalloproteases and serine proteases is of great relevance in the pathophysiological context of maintenance and/or disorders in hemostasis. The aqueous and methanolic JSF extracts were able to increase coagulation time by inhibiting coagulant enzymes, when previously incubated with different venoms, and could be used as anticoagulant agents of wide application in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. However, further studies are necessary to comprehend such actions allowing the evaluation of their effective and safe doses and formulations of use; and thus, affirm the nutraceutical potential exerted by this jabuticaba residue.

CONCLUSION

The aqueous and methanolic extracts of jabuticaba skin flour were capable of modulating the enzymatic activity of snake venoms by inhibiting or potentiating phospholipases A_2 and proteases (mainly thrombin-like). This occurs probably due to the presence of phenolic compounds able interact with catalytic sites of the enzymes, or a coordination site, leading to a decrease or inhibition of these enzymes activity.

In this way, the extracts of jabuticaba skin flour stand out for its anti-genotoxic potential and modulator of processes related to hemostasis. However, new studies are still needed to expand the knowledge regarding the mechanisms of interactions between the bioactive compounds and enzymes, cellular components or other animal molecules.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de Minas Gerais (FAPEMIG), Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) and Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) for the grants provided.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

T.R. Marques contributed in running the laboratory work, analysis of the data and drafted the paper. M.A. Braga contributed in running the laboratory work and to critical reading of the manuscript. P. H.S. Cesar contributed in running the laboratory work. S. Marcussi supervised the laboratory work and contributed to critical reading of the manuscript. A.D. Corrêa designed the study and supervised the laboratory work and contributed to critical reading of the manuscript.

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