

Biotransformation of Jatrophone by *Aspergillus niger* ATCC 16404

Mariano Pertino^a, Guillermo Schmeda-Hirschmann^a, Leonardo S. Santos^b,
Jaime A. Rodríguez^c, and Cristina Theoduloz^c

^a Laboratorio de Química de Productos Naturales, Instituto de Química de Recursos Naturales,
Universidad de Talca, Casilla 747, Talca, Chile

^b Laboratorio de Síntesis Asimétrica, Instituto de Química de Recursos Naturales,
Universidad de Talca, Casilla 747, Talca, Chile

^c Laboratorio de Cultivo Celular, Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad de Talca,
Casilla 747, Talca, Chile

Reprint requests to Prof. G. Schmeda-Hirschmann. Fax: +56 71 200 448. E-mail: schmeda@utalca.cl

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Biotransformation of the diterpene jatrophone (**1**) by *Aspergillus niger* ATCC 16404 afforded the new diterpene 9 β -hydroxyisabellione (**2**). The compounds were characterized by spectroscopic analysis. The cytotoxicity of the compounds as IC_{50} values on AGS and lung fibroblasts was 2.4 and 2.8 μM for compound **1** and 53.1 and 260 μM for **2**, respectively. Microbial transformation of **1** into compound **2** strongly reduced the cytotoxicity and enhanced the selectivity against AGS cells.

Key words: Biotransformation, Jatrophone, *Aspergillus niger*