Antiproliferative Effects of Several Compounds Isolated from
Amburana cearensis A. C. Smith

Letícia V. Costa-Lotufo a,*, Paula C. Jimenez a, Diego V. Wilke a,
Luzia Kalyne A. M. Leal a, Geanne M. A. Cunha a, Edilberto R. Silveira b,
Kirley M. Canuto b, Glauce S. B. Viana a, Maria Elisabete A. Moraes a,
Manoel Odorico de Moraes a, and Cláudia Pessoa a

a Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Federal University of Ceará, P.O. Box-3157, 60430-270 Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil. Fax: +55 85 288 8333.
E-mail: lvcosta@secrel.com.br

b Department of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, Federal University of Ceará, P.O. Box 12200, 60021-940, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil

* Author for correspondence and reprint requests

Z. Naturforsch. 58 c, 675–680 (2003); received February 3/March 12, 2003

Amburana cearensis a common tree found in Northeastern Brazil is widely used in folk medicine. The present work evaluated the cytotoxicity of kaempferol, isokaempferide, amburoside A and protocatechuic acid isolated from the ethanol extract of the trunk bark of A. cearensis. The compounds were tested for their cytotoxicity on the sea urchin egg development, hemolysis assay and 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide assay using tumor cell lines. Isokaempferide and kaempferol, but not amburoside A and protocatechuic acid, inhibited the sea urchin egg development as well as tumor cell lines, but in this assay isokaempferide was more potent than kaempferol. Protocatechuic acid was the only compound able to induce hemolysis of mouse erythrocytes, suggesting that the cytotoxicity of kaempferol and isokaempferide was not related to membrane damage.

Key words: Amburana cearensis, Kaempferol, Isokaempferide