Anti-Inflammatory Activity of Two Diterpenes of *Hyptis suaveolens* from El Salvador

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Separation and isolation of the two main compounds suaveolol and methyl suaveolate from leaves of chichinguaste (*Hyptis suaveolens* Poit., Lamiaceae) could be achieved by means of repeated column chromatography and repeated preparative thin layer chromatography. Their chemical structures were approved by MS, ^{1}H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and 2D-NMR experiments. The anti-inflammatory activity of the two compounds was tested for the first time as inhibition of croton oil-induced dermatitis of the mouse ear. Suaveolol and methyl suaveolate showed nearly the same dose-dependent topical anti-inflammatory activity, only two to three times lower than that of the reference drug indomethacin. The anti-inflammatory properties of these compounds could contribute to the antiphlogistic activity of extracts of *Hyptis* species and confirm the rational use of *Hyptis suaveolens* extracts in dermatological diseases.

Key words: Hyptis suaveolens, Diterpenes, Anti-Inflammatory Activity