We report the trypanocidal activity of quinonemethide triterpenoids isolated from root extracts of *Cheiloclinium cognatum*, a plant of the Hippocrateaceae family, collected in the Cerrado Reserve at Universidade Federal de Goiás, Brazil. The trypanocidal activity assays showed an effect on the blood trypomastigote forms of the Y strain of *Trypanosoma cruzi* where tingenone and tingenol demonstrated activity on the parasite. Their structures were elucidated on the basis of spectral data, particularly COSY, HMQC and HMBC experiments, and chemical transformations.

**Key words:** Celastroloids, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, Hippocrateaceae