



Pediculicidal Activity of Hydroethanolic Extracts of *Ruta graveolens*, *Melia azedarach* and *Sambucus australis*

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SUMMARY. Pediculosis is a worldwide head infestation caused by *Pediculus humanus*. The treatment for this infestation is use of topical insecticides and there are studies which show that the insect may be resistant to chemical active ingredients. The insecticidal properties of *Sambucus australis*, *Melia azedarach* and *Ruta graveolens* are not known if they have pediculicidal properties as well. The aim of this study is to evaluate the insecticide activity of treatments using extracts of *S. australis*, *M. azedarach* and *R. graveolens* against the pediculosis. The results showed that lice are sensitive to the treatments used, and *M. azedarach* extract presented the most efficient results.

KEY WORDS: *Melia azedarach*, Pediculicidal activity, *Ruta graveolens*, *Sambucus australis*.

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