



Comparative Morpho-Anatomical Study of *Baccharis curitybensis* Heering ex Malme and *Baccharis spicata* (Lam.) Baill.

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SUMMARY. The genus *Baccharis* L. belongs to Asteraceae and comprises several medicinal species. Both *Baccharis spicata* (Lam.) Baill. and *Baccharis curitybensis* Heering ex Malme are traditionally known as “vassoura” (broom) in Brazil. The species *B. spicata* has antibacterial, antioxidant and trypanocidal activities. Despite of *B. curitybensis* shows an external morphology quite similar to *B. spicata*, no chemical and pharmacological study is available about *B. curitybensis*. Therefore some confusion and/or problems can occur during popular use. In order to differentiate these taxa, the morpho-anatomy of their leaves and stems were investigated according to the usual light and scanning electron microtechniques. The species *B. curitybensis* reveals smooth and revolute margin, alternate leaf arrangement and non-capitate uniseriate glandular trichomes. Otherwise, dentate and flat margin, opposite leaf arrangement and uniseriate flagelliform non-glandular trichomes are observed in *B. spicata*. Morphological and anatomical data can be useful for differentiating *B. curitybensis* and *B. spicata*.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Herbal drug, Quality control, Trichomes.

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