



Anti-Inflammatory Activity and Effect on Locomotion of *Polygonum persicaria* L. (Polygonaceae) Extract in Rats

Helena M. YANO ^{1*}, Elfriede M. BACCHI ², Lia S.S. HAYASHI ³ & Roberto De LUCIA ³

¹ Centre of Medicaments of Adolfo Lutz Institute, Av. Dr Arnaldo, 355,
ZIP CODE 01246902 902 São Paulo SP Brazil

² Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences of São Paulo University, São Paulo SP, Brazil

³ Biomedical Sciences Institute, São Paulo University, São Paulo SP, Brazil

SUMMARY. Several species of the *Polygonum* genera are collectively known in Brazil under the name “erva-de-bicho”. In traditional medicine, these species often mistaken for each other and are probably used for the same therapeutic purpose. In this study, the hydroalcoholic extract of the aerial parts of *Polygonum persicaria* was isolated, and the phytochemical composition was examined. In addition, the anti-inflammatory activity was tested in rats by paw edema inhibition analysis. The effects on locomotion were tested in rats, using the open field test. Flavonoids, mucilage, saponins, tannins and essential oils were detected. The extract showed anti-inflammatory and decreased locomotion after intraperitoneal administration to rats.

KEY WORDS: Flavonoids, Inflammation, Locomotion, *Polygonum persicaria*.

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed. *E-mail:* heleyano@ial.sp.gov.br