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**51-2 EFFECT OF "BUCHINHA-DO-NORTE" (*LUFFA OPERCULATA* COGN.) FRUIT DECOCT ON FEMALE REPRODUCTION AND EMBRYOFETAL DEVELOPMENT**

Sofia Louise Santin Barilli (UFRGS); Sílvia Tônia dos Santos (UFRGS); Tatiana Montanari (UFRGS).

**Resumo**

*Luffa operculata* (*Cucurbitaceae*). Known popularly as "buchinha-do-norte", is used for sinusitis, but it might cause nausea, vomiting and hemorrhage. Currently the concentrated decoct is taken as an abortifacient. To verify this potential, the fruit decoct was administered orally to pregnant mice at a dose of 4 ml/kg per day (3 mg of dry matter), from the first to the third gestation day (gd) - preimplantation period, from the fourth to the sixth gd - implantation period, and from the seventh to the ninth gd - early organogenic period. The females were killed on 18 gd. The number of corpora lutea, implantation sites, reabsorptions and fetuses were recorded. The placenta and fetuses were weighed. The fetuses were examined for malformations and skeletal anomalies. The decoct administration from the fourth to the sixth gd caused a significant reduction on the birth rate. In this same group, many fetuses presented a retarded bone development. To verify an estrogenic activity by *L. operculata*, sexually immature females received the decoct for three days, and the uteri were collected and weighed. The decoct was not uterotrophic. Concluding, *Luffa operculata* might be abortive by an antiimplantation effect, which is not induced by an estrogenic activity. Furthermore, it might delay the fetal growth.

**51-3 EFFECT OF *PFAFFIA GLOMERATA* (SPRENG.) PEDERSEN ROOT HYDROALCOHOLIC EXTRACT ON THE FEMALE REPRODUCTION AND EMBRYOFETAL DEVELOPMENT**

Sofia Louise Santin Barilli (UFRGS); Tatiana Montanari (UFRGS).

**Resumo**

*Pfaffia glomerata* (*Amaranthaceae*), known popularly as "Brazilian ginseng", is used for several therapeutic indications and recently has attracted the attention as an economically accessible substitute to *Panax ginseng*, aiming at its commercialization as an adaptogen and a stimulant. This study was delineated to evaluate its effect on gestation. The lyophilized hydroalcoholic extract of *P. glomerata* root (1000 mg/kg per day) was administered orally to mice from the first to the third gestation day (gd) - pre-implantation period, from the fourth to the sixth gd - implantation period, or from the seventh to the ninth gd - early organogenic period. The females were killed on 18 gd. The number of corpora lutea, implantation sites, reabsorptions and fetuses were recorded. The placenta and fetuses were weighed. The fetuses were examined for malformations and skeletal anomalies. To verify the estrogenic activity, sexually immature females received the extract for three days, and the uteri were weighed. *P. glomerata* did not promote embryonic loss before the implantation, nor inhibited this process. However, the females did not gain significant weight during the administration from the first to the third gd and had more degenerated embryos/dead fetuses and malformed fetuses. The death rate was not significantly different than control. The extract did not demonstrate an estrogenic activity.