

P-039: HYPOTENSIVE EFFECT OF THE METHANOLIC EXTRACT FROM STRUTHANTHUS VENETUS LEAVES IN RATS

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Like all species of the family Loranthaceae, the members of the genus *Struthanthus* are hemiparasites. They cause damage, often irremediable, to crops and ornamentals plants in many parts of the world, but also are used popularly as medicinal remedies. However until today the biological activity of these plants have not been studied in integrate animal. As a first step we began the characterization of the cardiovascular activity of the methanol extract of *Struthanthus venetus* leaves (Voucher 33393, Herbarium National of Mexico, Institute of Biology, UNAM) in anesthetized rats. The blood pressure and cardiac frequency were recorded simultaneously by two hours. The results show that the administration i.v. of methanolic extract from *Struthanthus venetus* produced immediate decrease of the blood pressure (20 to 80 mm Hg), which is long lasting and several times is lethal. The heart rate increases the first three min and after decrease progressively until the experiment end. These cardiovascular effects are doses dependent. Propranolol pretreatment (1 mg/kg) show blockade and inversion of the hypotensive effect produced by the methanolic extract. The results suggest that the long lasting hypotension could be mediated by β adrenergic receptors.