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UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO DELTA DO PARNAÍBA
CAMPUS MINISTRO REIS VELLOSO
CURSO DE BIOMEDICINA



THAÍS AMANDA DE LIMA NUNES

**ATIVIDADE ANTILEISHMANIA DO CURZERENO: EFEITOS SOBRE *Leishmania*
(*Leishmania*) *amazonensis* E POSSÍVEIS MECANISMOS DE AÇÃO**

PARNAÍBA

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Trabalho de Conclusão de Curso apresentado ao Curso de Biomedicina da Universidade Federal do Delta do Parnaíba, Campus Ministro Reis Velloso, como requisito parcial para obtenção do título de Bacharel em Biomedicina.

Orientador: Prof^o: Dr. Klinger Antonio da Franca Rodrigues

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Aprovada em ____/____/____

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1 **ATIVIDADE ANTILEISHMANIA DO CURZERENO: EFEITOS SOBRE *Leishmania***
2 **(*Leishmania*) *amazonensis* E POSSÍVEIS MECANISMOS DE AÇÃO**

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4

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33 **Resumo**

34 As leishmanioses são um conjunto de doenças infecciosas que afetam milhões de pessoas por
35 todo o mundo com alto índice de morbidade e mortalidade. O tratamento, realizado
36 principalmente com antimoniais pentavalentes, possui elevada toxicidade e muitos casos de
37 resistência. Em trabalhos anteriores demonstramos a atividade antileishmania efetiva e seletiva
38 do óleo essencial de *Eugenia uniflora* L., constituído em 47,3 % pelo sesquiterpeno curzereno.
39 Considerando a problemática do tratamento das leishmanioses e a ausência de estudos do
40 curzereno, o presente trabalho teve como objetivo avaliar a atividade antileishmania do
41 constituinte e possíveis mecanismos de ação. O curzereno mostrou-se efetivo em inibir o
42 crescimento de formas promastigotas (CI₅₀ 3,09 µM) e amastigotas axênicas (CE₅₀ 2,56 µM),
43 com baixa citotoxicidade para macrófagos RAW 264.7 (CC₅₀ 83,87 µM). Foi observado que o
44 curzereno apresenta efeitos diretos sobre o parasito, induzindo morte celular por apoptose com
45 secundária morte por necrose produzindo poros na membrana plasmática. O constituinte
46 mostrou-se ainda mais efetivo sobre formas amastigotas intramacrofágicas, com CE₅₀ de 0,46
47 µM. O índice de seletividade demonstrado pelo curzereno sobre estas formas foi de 182,32,
48 sendo o sesquiterpeno 43,51 e 5,66 vezes mais seletivo que antimoniato de meglumina e
49 anfotericina B, respectivamente. A atividade anti-amastigota do curzereno foi associada ao
50 aumento do volume lisossomal bem como ao aumento dos níveis de NO, demonstrando também
51 atividade indireta pela ativação de macrófagos. Em conclusão, os resultados demonstram que o
52 curzereno é um agente antileishmania efetivo e seletivo, candidato a ser investigado em
53 modelos *in vivo* de atividade antileishmania.

54

55

56 **Key-words:** Curzereno; *L. amazonensis*; antileishmania

57

58 1. Introdução

59 As leishmanioses são um espectro de doenças infecto-parasitárias causadas por
60 protozoários do gênero *Leishmania*, transmitidos através da picada da fêmea do inseto vetor,
61 principalmente os do gênero *Phlebotomus* no Velho Mundo e *Lutzomyia* no Novo Mundo
62 (Hendrickx et al., 2019). A Organização mundial da saúde categoriza como uma doença
63 emergente ou não controlada, com cerca de 12 milhões de pessoas infectados e estima-se que
64 são mais de 350 milhões de pessoas consideradas em risco (Boniface et al., 2019). É
65 considerada uma Doença Tropical Negligenciada (DTN) pelos grupos de pessoas que afetam
66 (geralmente de baixa classe de renda) e pela falta de investimento que se tem no tratamento
67 quimioterápico (Charlton et al., 2018; Braga, 2019).

68 As manifestações clínicas das leishmanioses variam de acordo com a espécie e com a
69 resposta imune do hospedeiro. São divididas em dois grupos principais, a leishmaniose
70 tegumentar, variando de lesões ulcerativas, papulares, à forma mucocutânea, provocando
71 deformidades e incapacidade do indivíduo e a leishmaniose visceral, a forma mais grave e fatal
72 da doença, que acomete órgãos internos como baço e fígado e medula (Bennis et al., 2018;
73 Berbert et al., 2018; Aronson et al., 2019).

74 Ainda que as leishmanioses possuam um perfil epidemiológico importante, a linha de
75 fármacos usada como referência para o tratamento está longe de ser adequada. O fato deve-se
76 à diversidade de efeitos adversos graves e ao aumento do número de casos de resistência do
77 parasito, fazendo com que o seu uso seja limitado (Borborema et al., 2019). Os antimoniais
78 pentavalentes são utilizados como primeira escolha na terapêutica das leishmanioses desde a
79 década de 40. São fármacos tóxicos e com inúmeros efeitos adversos como cardiotoxicidade,
80 hepatotoxicidade e pancreatite. Os fármacos de segunda escolha, como a anfotericina B,
81 miltefosina, paramomicina, pentamidina, são utilizados em casos de resistência aos

82 antimoniais, mas são ainda mais tóxicos do que estes (Marques et al., 2019; Terreros et al.,
83 2019). Portanto, há uma necessidade global no desenvolvimento de novos tratamentos para as
84 leishmanioses.

85 Em trabalhos anteriores, nosso grupo de pesquisa realizou estudo de atividade
86 antileishmania com o óleo essencial de *Eugenia uniflora* L. (Myrtaceae), conhecida
87 popularmente como pitangueira no Brasil, e encontrou resultados promissores com CI_{50} de 1,75
88 μ M e 1,92 μ M sobre formas promastigotas e amastigotas de *L. amazonensis*, respectivamente
89 (Rodrigues et al., 2013). Através da análise química por cromatografia a gás acoplada à
90 espectrometria de massas (CG-EM) do óleo essencial foi encontrado o sesquiterpeno oxigenado
91 curzereno como constituinte majoritário e representando 47,3 % do óleo essencial.
92 Considerando a alta taxa de inibição do parasito pelo óleo essencial de *E. uniflora* e a presença
93 em grande quantidade de curzereno no óleo, este trabalho teve como objetivo investigar a
94 atividade antileishmania do curzereno bem como determinar sua citotoxicidade em células
95 mamíferas e os mecanismos moleculares de ação.

96

97 **2 Material e Métodos**

98 *2.1 Produtos químicos e fármacos*

99 Meio de Schneider para insetos e meio *Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's* (DMEM);
100 dimetilsulfóxido (DMSO 99 %), dodecilsulfato de sódio (SDS), brometo de 3- (4,5-
101 dimetiltiazol-2-il) 2,5-difeniltetrazólio (MTT), Lipopolissacarídeo de *Escherichia coli* (LPS),
102 reagente de Griess (1 % de sulfanilamida em H_3PO_4 a 10 % (v/v) em água Milli-Q), curzereno
103 ($C_{15}H_{20}O$ 99 %; sua estrutura é mostrada na Fig. 1), antibióticos penicilina e estreptomicina,
104 zimosan e vermelho neutro foram adquiridos na Sigma Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, EUA). O kit
105 de detecção de apoptose de anexina V-FITC / 7-AAD foi adquirido em Elabscience (St. Louis,

106 MO, EUA). Soro fetal bovino (SFB) inativado pelo calor foi adquirido da Cultilab (São Paulo,
107 SP, Brasil). O antibiótico anfotericina B foi adquirido na Cristália (São Paulo, SP, Brasil). O
108 antimoniato de meglumina (Glucantime®; 300 mg/mL) foi obtido na Aventis Pharma (São
109 Paulo, SP, Brasil).

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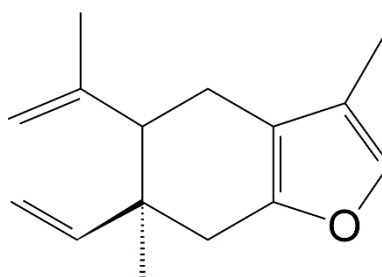
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Fig. 1. Estrutura química do curzereno

118118

119 2.2 Manutenção de parasitos e macrófagos

120 Parasitos da espécie *Leishmania (Leishmania) amazonensis* (IFLA/BR/67/PH8) foram
121 utilizados para a determinação da atividade antileishmania. As células foram cultivadas em
122 meio Schneider, pH 7, suplementado (20 % de SFB e 1 % de penicilina 100 U/mL e
123 estreptomicina 100 µg/mL) e incubadas à 26 °C em estufa de Demanda Bioquímica de Oxigênio
124 (BOD). A obtenção das formas amastigotas axênicas se deu por meio da transformação das
125 formas promastigotas, diminuindo o pH para 4,6 e elevando a temperatura para 32 °C.
126 (Carvalho et al., 2017; Chanmol et al., 2019).

127 Macrófagos RAW 264.7, cedidos pelo Prof. Virmondes Rodrigues Jr da Universidade
128 Federal do Triângulo Mineiro – UFTM, foram cultivados em meio DMEM, pH 7,2,
129 suplementado (10 % de SFB e 1 % de penicilina 100 U/mL e estreptomicina 100 µg/mL) e
130 incubados à 37 °C e 5 % de CO₂. A manutenção foi realizada a cada dois dias ou quando as
131 células atingissem a confluência (Ghasemi et al., 2019).

132132

133 *2.3 Atividade antileishmania sobre formas promastigotas e amastigotas axênicas*

134 A atividade antileishmania sobre formas promastigotas e amastigotas axênicas foi
135 avaliada usando o ensaio colorimétrico do MTT. Promastigotas ou amastigotas axênicas em
136 fase logarítmica de crescimento foram cultivadas em placas de cultura de 96 poços a 1×10^6
137 parasitas por poço em 100 μL de meio Schneider suplementado em concentrações de 1,56 a 50
138 μM de curzereno, previamente diluído em DMSO e os medicamentos de referência, antimoniato
139 de meglumina 200 a 40000 μM e anfotericina B 0,031 a 2 μM . As placas foram incubadas por
140 72 h em BOD a 26 °C. A seguir foram adicionados 10 μL de MTT às placas (concentração final
141 de 5 mg/mL) e as células foram incubadas por mais 4 h. Ao final do processo, foram adicionados
142 50 μL de SDS a 10 % para solubilização dos cristais de formazan. As absorbâncias foram
143 medidas usando um leitor de placa ELISA (BioSystems modelo ELx800, Curitiba, PR, Brasil)
144 a 540 nm (De Castro Oliveira et al., 2017).

145145

146 *2.3.1 Avaliação do perfil de morte celular de formas promastigotas*

147 Promastigotas (1×10^6) em fase de crescimento logarítmico foram incubadas com
148 concentrações correspondentes a 1x, 2x e 4x o CI_{50} do curzereno por 4 h. A seguir foram lavados
149 três vezes em PBS frio e ressuspensos em tampão de ligação (HEPES 10 mM, 140 mM NaCl e
150 CaCl_2 2,5 mM, pH 7,4) de acordo com o protocolo do fabricante. Em seguida as células foram
151 coradas com o kit de detecção de apoptose Anexina V-FITC/7-AAD (St. Louis, MO, EUA),
152 células viáveis permaneceram sem coloração. Células coradas com Anexina V-FITC/7-AAD
153 foram analisadas usando um citômetro de fluxo BD FACSCanto® II (BD Biosciences, San
154 Jose, CA, EUA). No total, 30.000 células foram analisadas por medição. Os dados foram
155 analisados por meio do software FlowJo 10.0.7 TreeStar Inc., Ashland, OR, EUA (Rodrigues
156 et al., 2015b)

157 2.3.2 Avaliação morfológica de formas promastigotas por Microscopia de força atômica
158 (MFA)

159 Promastigotas em fase de crescimento logarítmico (1×10^6) foram incubadas com
160 concentrações correspondentes a 1x, 2x e 4x o CI_{50} do curzereno por 24 h no mesmo meio
161 usado para o crescimento celular. Após esse período, as leishmanias foram centrifugadas (1,100
162 x g por 15 min em temperatura ambiente) e foram lavadas duas vezes com PBS e fixadas com
163 2,5 % (v/v) glutaraldeído em tampão de fosfato 0,1 M, pH 7,2, por 60 min. A MFA foi realizada
164 utilizando o equipamento TT-AFM (AFM Workshop – EUA) no modo contato intermitente,
165 com pontas TED PELLA (TAP300-G10) em uma frequência de ressonância de
166 aproximadamente 242 kHz (Eaton, 2014).

167167

168 2.4 Determinação da citotoxicidade sobre macrófagos

169 A avaliação da citotoxicidade foi realizada em placas de 96 poços utilizando o ensaio
170 colorimétrico do MTT. Aproximadamente 5×10^5 macrófagos RAW 264.7 por poço foram
171 incubados em 100 μ L de meio DMEM suplementado a 37 °C e 5 % de CO_2 por 4 h para adesão
172 celular. Células não aderentes foram removidas por lavagem com meio DMEM puro. A seguir
173 foi adicionado novo meio DMEM suplementado contendo concentrações de 3,12 a 400 μ M de
174 curzereno e dos fármacos de referência, antimoniato de meglumina (200 – 40000 μ M) e
175 anfotericina B (0,031 a 2 μ M) foram incubados a 37 °C com 5 % de CO_2 durante 72 h. Após a
176 incubação, a citotoxicidade foi avaliada pela adição de 10 μ L de MTT (5 mg/mL). O
177 sobrenadante foi descartado e os cristais de formazan foram dissolvidos pela adição de 100 μ L
178 de DMSO. Finalmente, a absorbância a 540 nm foi medida utilizando um leitor de placas
179 ELISA (Amlabu et al., 2020).

180180

181 2.5 Atividade antileishmania contra amastigotas intramacrofágicas

182 Macrófagos RAW 264.7 foram semeados em placas de cultura com 24 poços a uma
183 concentração de 1×10^5 células/mL em 1 mL de meio DMEM suplementado, contendo
184 lamínulas circulares estéreis de 13 mm. As placas de cultura foram incubadas a 37 °C e 5 % de
185 CO₂ por 3 h para adesão celular. A seguir foram realizadas três lavagens com PBS estéril para
186 retirada de células não aderidas. Os macrófagos foram então incubados com um novo meio
187 contendo promastigotas (em fase estacionária) na proporção de dez promastigotas para um
188 macrófago, a 5 % de CO₂ e 37 °C por 4 h. O meio foi subsequentemente aspirado para remover
189 parasitos não internalizados e os poços foram lavados com PBS. Por conseguinte, os
190 macrófagos infectados foram incubados com as concentrações de 3,12 a 25 µM de curzereno,
191 200 a 40000 µM do antimoniato de meglumina e 0,031 a 2 µM de anfotericina B. As
192 concentrações do curzereno foram observadas para não serem tóxicas para macrófagos por 72
193 h. Após este período, as lamínulas foram removidas e coradas com kit de coloração panótica.
194 Para cada lamínula, cerca de 300 macrófagos foram contados microscopia óptica (Dias et al.,
195 2020).

196

197 2.6 Atividade lisossomal

198 Macrófagos RAW 264.7 (1×10^5 células por poço) foram plaqueados e incubados com
199 curzereno em diluições seriadas de 3,12 a 25 µM por 72 h a 37 °C e CO₂ a 5 %. Em seguida
200 foram adicionados 10 µL de solução de vermelho neutro e incubados por 30 min. Depois o
201 sobrenadante foi descartado, os poços foram lavados com PBS a 37 °C e foram adicionados
202 100 µL de solução de extração (ácido acético glacial a 1 % v/v e etanol a 50 % v/v dissolvido
203 em bidestilada água) para solubilizar o vermelho neutro dentro das vesículas de secreção

204 lisossômica. Após 30 min em um agitador Kline (modelo AK 0506), a absorbância a 540 nm
205 foi lida em um leitor de placas de ELISA (Dias, et al.,2020)

206206

207 2.7 Capacidade fagocítica

208 Macrófagos RAW 264.7 (1×10^5 células por poço) foram plaqueados e incubados com
209 curzereno em diluições seriadas de 3,12 a 25 μM por 72 h a 37 °C e CO_2 a 5 %. Posteriormente
210 foi adicionado 10 μL de zimosan corado com vermelho neutro como realizado por Jakhar et al.,
211 2018, com algumas modificações. Após 30 min de incubação, o sobrenadante foi removido e
212 100 μL de fixador de Baker (formaldeído 4 % v/v, cloreto de sódio 2 % p/v e acetato de cálcio
213 de 1 % w/v em água destilada) foi adicionado para parar a fagocitose do zimosan. Passados 30
214 min, as células foram lavadas com PBS para remover o que não foi fagocitado pelos
215 macrófagos. A solubilização foi feita pela adição da solução de extração em um agitador Kline.
216 A seguir as absorbâncias foram lidas a 540 nm usando um leitor de placas ELISA.

217217

218 2.8 Avaliação da produção de óxido nítrico (NO)

219 A produção de NO foi avaliada usando o sobrenadante do ensaio de infecção dos
220 macrófagos RAW 264.7 (item 2.5) pelo método de Griess. Os sobrenadantes a serem avaliados
221 foram distribuídos em placas de 96 poços juntamente com concentrações em série (2-125 μM)
222 de NaNO_2 em meio DMEM, para ser realizado a curva padrão. Reagente de Griess foi então
223 adicionado e deixado 10 min à temperatura ambiente. A reação colorimétrica foi determinada
224 a 540 nm por espectrofotômetro. A concentração de nitrito foi estimada por interpolação da
225 curva padrão (Amorim et al., 2013).

226226

227 2.9 Análise estatística

228 Todos os ensaios foram realizados em triplicata e em 3 experimentos independentes. As
229 diferenças entre os grupos foram analisadas por ANOVA unidirecional com teste post-hoc de
230 Tukey usando o software GraphPad Prism® versão 7.0, considerando o valor de $p < 0,05$ como
231 estatisticamente significativo. Os valores da concentração inibitória média (CI₅₀), concentração
232 efetiva média (CE₅₀) e os valores da concentração de citotoxicidade média (CC₅₀), com
233 intervalos de confiança de 95 %, foram calculados usando regressão não linear no software
234 GraphPad Prism®.

235235

236 3 Resultados

237 *3.1 Avaliação da atividade antileishmania do curzereno sobre formas promastigotas e*
238 *amastigotas axênicas.*

239 A atividade antileishmania do curzereno foi avaliada em culturas de promastigotas e
240 amastigotas axênicas de *L. amazonensis* e os resultados estão presentes na Fig. 2 e Tabela 1. O
241 curzereno inibiu o crescimento de formas promastigotas em todas as concentrações testadas,
242 com redução de 19,12 %, 54,5 %, 67,42 % e 100 % nas concentrações de 3,12 µM, 6,25 µM,
243 12,5 µM e 25 µM, respectivamente (Fig. 2A), resultando em uma CI₅₀ de 3,09 µM (Tabela 1).
244 Na avaliação da atividade contra formas amastigotas axênicas foi observada uma inibição de
245 crescimento significativo ainda maior promovido pelo curzereno, com taxas de inibição de 44,8
246 % e 65,37 % nas concentrações de 3,12 µM, 6,25 µM, respectivamente, chegando a 100 % de
247 inibição nas duas maiores concentrações (12,5 µM e 25 µM) (Fig. 2B) e CE₅₀ de 2,56 µM
248 (Tabela 1).

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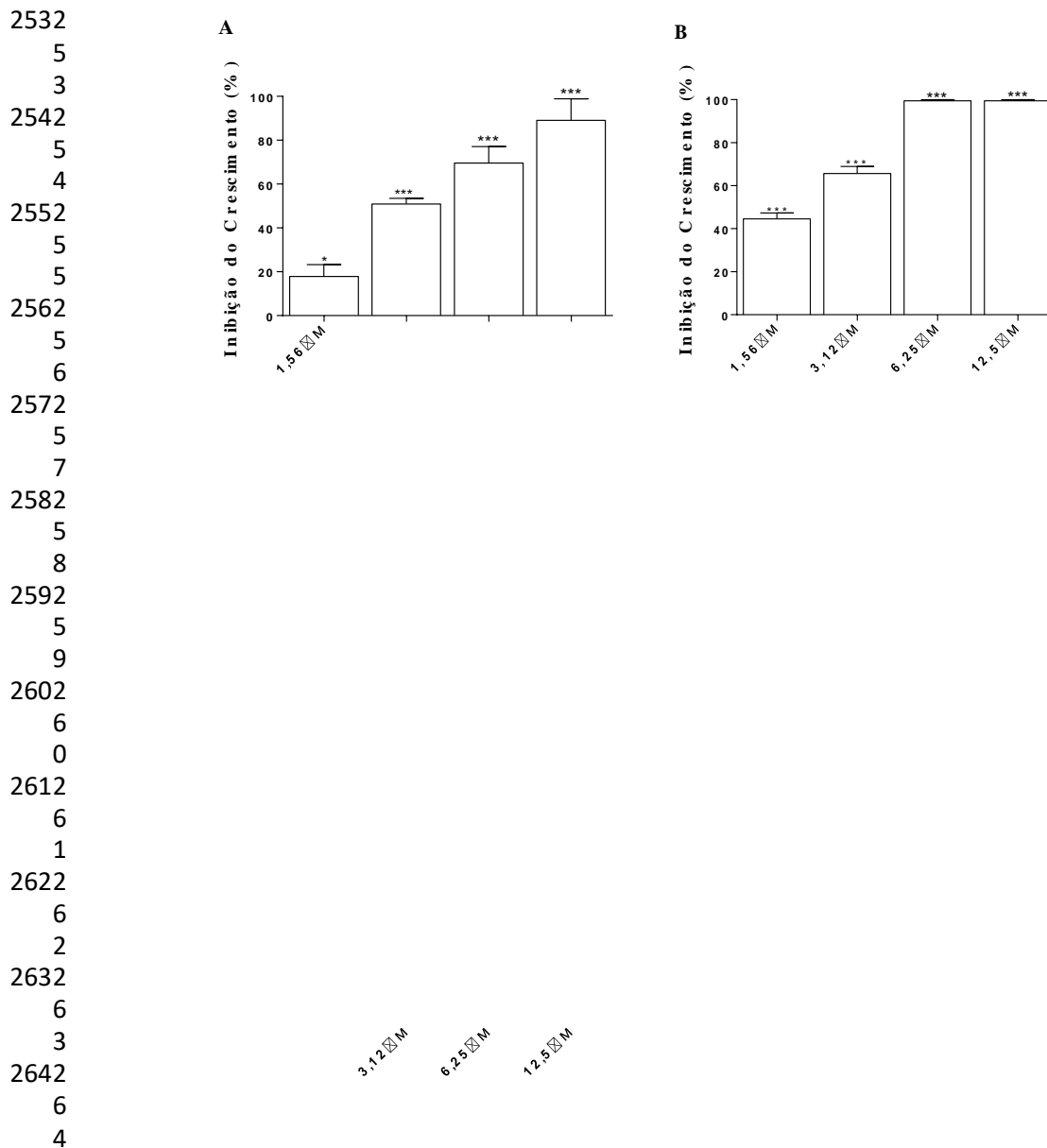


Fig. 2. Efeito do curzereno sobre formas promastigotas (A) e amastigotas axênicas (B) de *Leishmania amazonensis*. Culturas em fase logarítmica de crescimento (1×10^6) foram incubadas à 26 °C (promastigotas) e 32 °C (amastigotas) por 72 h com o curzereno e a atividade antileishmania foi avaliada usando o ensaio colorimétrico do MTT. Os resultados representam média \pm erro padrão de três experimentos independentes realizadas em triplicata. (*) $p < 0,05$ vs. controle; (**) $p < 0,01$ vs. controle; (***) $p < 0,001$ vs. controle.

Tabela 1. Atividade antileishmania, efeito citotóxico contra macrófagos e valores do índice de seletividade (IS) calculados para o curzereno, antimoniato de meglumina e anfotericina B.

Compostos	RAW 264.7	Promastigotas		Amastigotas axênicas		Amastigotas intramacrofágicas	
	CC ₅₀ μM	CI ₅₀ μM	SI	CE ₅₀ μM	SI	CC ₅₀ μM	SI
Curzereno	83,87	3,09	27,14	2,56	32,76	0,46	182,32
Anfotericina B	0,39	0,35	1,11	0,51	0,76	0,093	4,19
Antimoniato de meglumina	15863	21502	0,73	1730	9,16	492,6	32,20

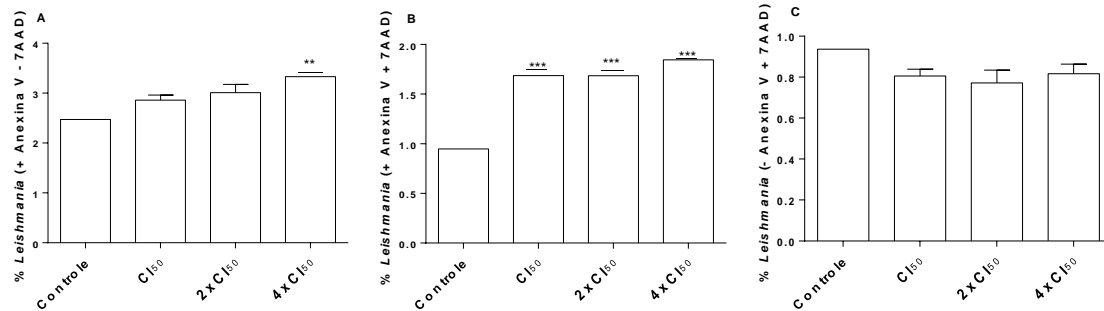
274 IS (índice de seletividade) = CC_{50}/CI_{50} ou CE_{50}

275

276 3.2. Avaliação do perfil de morte celular de formas promastigotas

277 Os resultados da marcação com Anexina V-FITC e 7-AAD estão plotados na Fig. 3. As
278 células marcadas com +Anexina V/-7AAD representam as células em apoptose inicial (Fig.
279 3A), +Anexina V/+7AAD representam células em apoptose tardia (Fig. 3B) e as marcadas com
280 -Anexina V/-7AAD representam as células necróticas (Fig. 3C). No gráfico A foi observado
281 um aumento significativo no número de células em apoptose inicial na concentração de 4x CI_{50} ,
282 no qual o de 4x CI_{50} representa 12,36 μ M. No gráfico B (células em apoptose tardia) houve um
283 aumento significativo em todas as concentrações testadas, no valor do CI_{50} (3,09 μ M); 2x CI_{50}

284 (6,18 μ M) e 4x CI₅₀ (12,36 μ M). Já no gráfico C, células necróticas, não foi observada alteração
 285 em relação ao controle negativo.



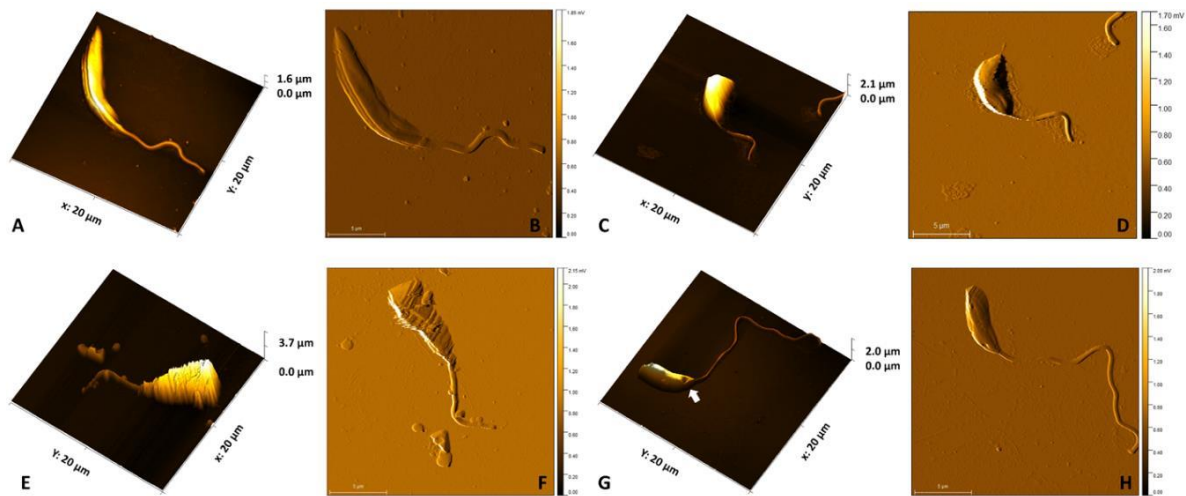
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287 **Fig. 3:** Análise de citometria de fluxo de promastigotas de *Leishmania amazonensis*. As células
 288 foram incubadas a 26 °C por 4 h presença do curzereno nas concentrações de CI₅₀, 2x CI₅₀ e 4x
 289 CI₅₀. Foi realizada dupla marcação com Anexina V/7AAD e as células foram analisadas por
 290 citometria de fluxo. Os dados representam a média \pm erro padrão de três experimentos
 291 independentes realizadas em triplicata; (*) p <0,05 vs controle; (**) p <0,01 vs controle; (***)
 292 p <0,001 vs controle.

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294 3.3. Estudos morfológicos de formas promastigotas tratadas com curzereno

295 No presente trabalho as características morfológicas de promastigotas tratadas com o
 296 curzereno foram observadas por meio de MFA. Em células não tratadas foi observada uma
 297 textura superficial normal, intacta da membrana plasmática, formato alongado e fusiforme e a
 298 presença de um flagelo (Fig. 4A e 4B), confirmando a normalidade celular. No entanto, a
 299 ultraestrutura da superfície celular foi alterada topograficamente após o tratamento com
 300 curzereno nas concentrações CI₅₀ (Fig. 4C e 4D), 2x CI₅₀ (Fig. 4E e 4F) e 4x CI₅₀ (Fig. 4G e
 301 4H). Foram observadas algumas anormalidades como invaginações, globulações, rupturas e
 302 formação de poros de membrana plasmática. As alterações observadas indicam desajuste na
 303 maturidade celular sugerindo um efeito leishmanicida, por afetar não somente o crescimento
 304 celular, mas também causarem a morte do parasito.



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306 **Fig 4:** Análise morfológica de *Leishmania amazonensis* por Microscopia de Força Atômica
 307 (direita: imagens de amplitude em 2D; esquerda: imagens de altura em 3D). **A e B:** controle
 308 (não tratado); **C e D:** tratado com curzereno (CI_{50}); **E e F:** tratado com curzereno ($2 \times CI_{50}$); **G**
 309 **e H:** tratado com curzereno ($4 \times CI_{50}$). Seta branca: poro na membrana.

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311 3.4. Avaliação da citotoxicidade do curzereno sobre macrófagos RAW 267.4

312 Os resultados da citotoxicidade do curzereno sobre macrófagos RAW 267.4 estão
 313 plotados na Fig. 5. Foi observado que nas concentrações de 3,12; 6,25; 12,5 e 25 μM os
 314 macrófagos mantiveram uma viabilidade próximo a 100 %. No entanto, nas concentrações de
 315 50 μM , 100 μM , 200 μM e 400 μM houve uma diminuição de 90,39 %, 94,7 %, 99,35 % e
 316 98,11 %, respectivamente. Através destes resultados foi possível calcular a CC_{50} do curzereno
 317 no valor de 83,87 μM (Tabela 1).

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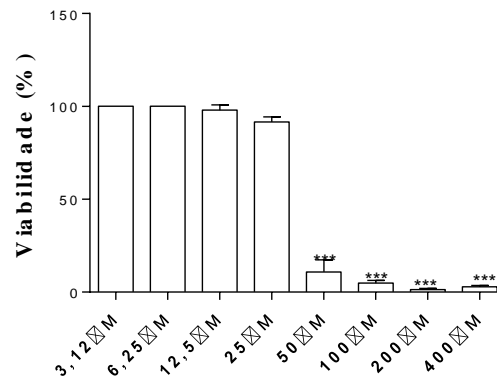
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329 **Fig. 5:** Efeitos citotóxicos do curzereno sobre macrófagos RAW 264.7. Macrófagos (5×10^5) foram
330 incubados a 37 °C e 5 % de CO₂ durante 72 h com diferentes concentrações de curzereno. A
331 citotoxicidade foi avaliada pelo teste do MTT. Os resultados representam média ± erro padrão de três
332 experimentos independentes realizadas em triplicata. (***) p <0,001 vs. controle.
333

334 3.5. Avaliação do curzereno sobre a infecção de macrófagos RAW 264.7 por *L. amazonensis*

335 Os resultados referentes ao tratamento dos macrófagos infectados com *L. amazonensis*
336 com curzereno foram apresentados através de três parâmetros: porcentagem de macrófagos
337 infectados, número de amastigotas/macrófagos e índice de infecção de macrófagos e estão
338 presentes na Fig. 6.

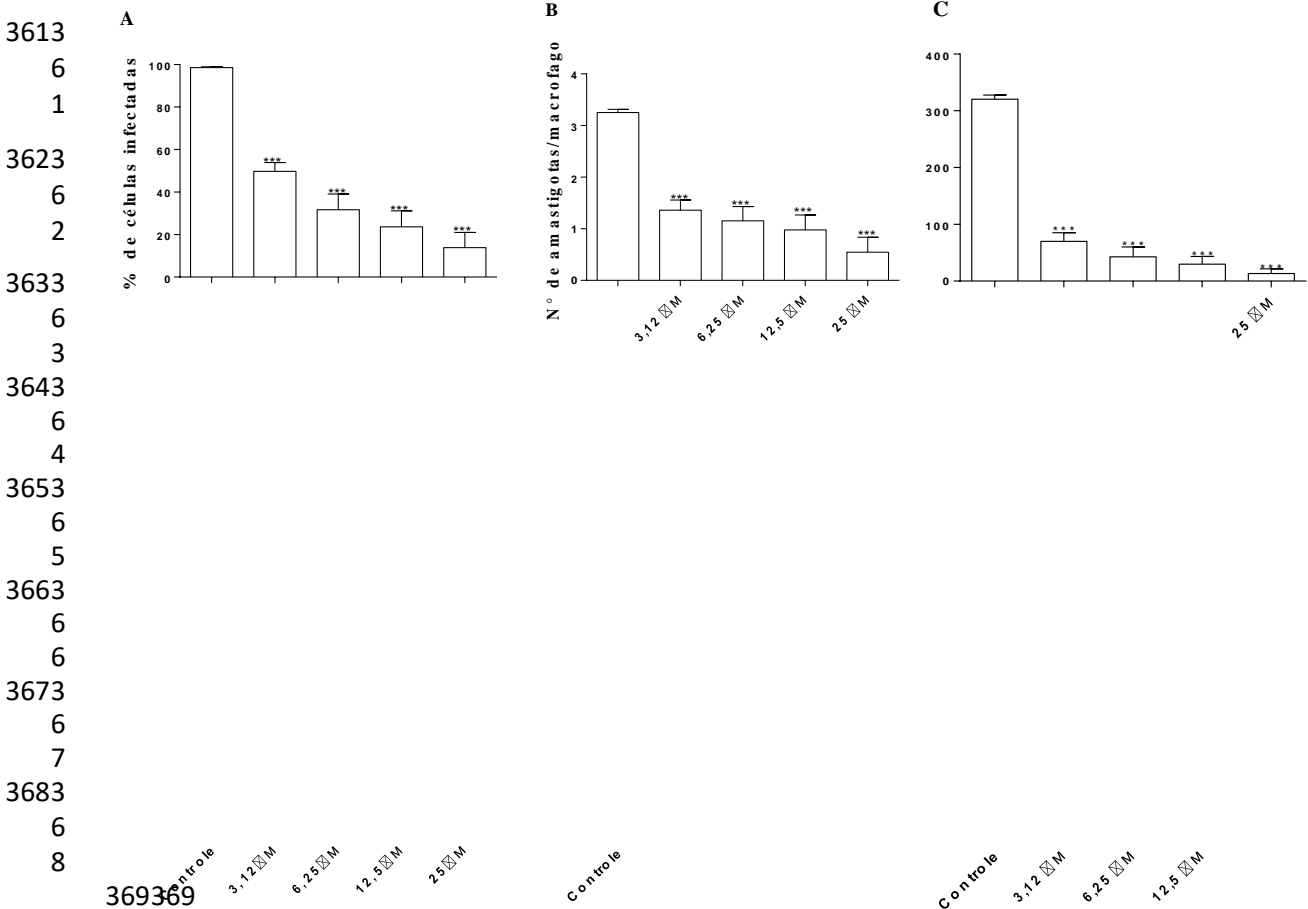
339 No que diz respeito à porcentagem de macrófagos infectados, foi possível observar que
340 o curzereno diminuiu a taxa de infecção de macrófagos em todas as concentrações testadas,
341 com 58,64 %, 71,1 %, 86,58 % e 93,25 % de redução nas concentrações de 3,12 μM, 6,25 μM,
342 12,5 μM e 25 μM, respectivamente, quando comparados ao controle negativo (Fig. 6A).
343 Adicionalmente, a Fig. 6D demonstra uma representação qualitativa do efeito do curzereno
344 sobre a infecção de macrófagos, no qual pode ser observado uma diminuição gradual da carga
345 parasitária com o aumento da concentração e a integridade preservada dos macrófagos após 72
346 h de tratamento com diferentes concentrações.

347 No segundo critério avaliado, número de amastigotas por macrófago infectado, o

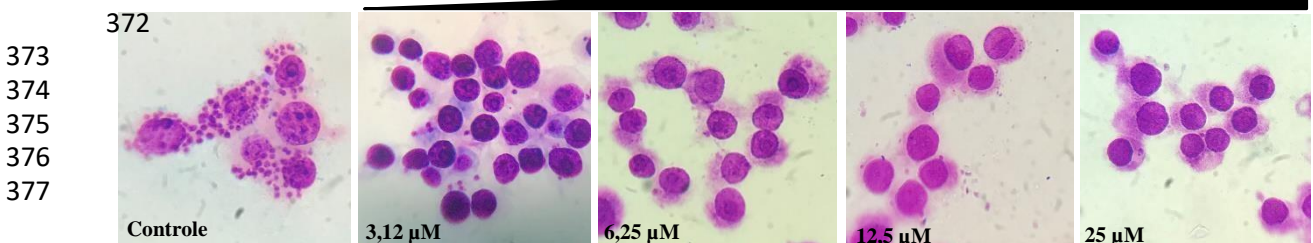
348 tratamento com curzereno resultou em uma redução significativa do número de amastigotas ~~na~~
349 quatro concentrações avaliadas. Observou-se redução de 62,4 %, 67,96 %, 70,3 % e 86,51 %
350 nas concentrações de 3,12 μM , 6,25 μM , 12,5 μM e 25 μM , respectivamente (Fig. 6B).

351 No que diz respeito ao índice de infecção, parâmetro que avalia a união dos parâmetros
 352 anteriores, observou-se redução mediante o tratamento com curzereno em todas as
 353 concentrações. Esta redução foi de 84,49 %, 87,8 %, 92,16 % e 96,6 % nas concentrações de
 354 3,12 μ M, 6,25 μ M, 12,5 μ M e 25 μ M, respectivamente (Fig. 6C).

355 A partir dos resultados encontrados com a análise da redução do índice de infecção pelo
 356 tratamento com o curzereno, foi calculado a CE_{50} para formas amastigotas intramacrofágicas,
 357 com o valor de 0,46 μ M (Tabela 1), constatando-se uma maior atividade do curzereno sobre
 358 amastigotas intramacrofágicas do que amastigotas axênicas. Além disso, os resultados
 359 demonstraram uma maior efetividade do curzereno sobre o fármaco de referência antimoniato
 360 de meglumina que apresentou CE_{50} de 492,6 μ M (Tabela 1).



D Exposição ao curzereno



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380 **Fig. 6.** Atividade antileishmania do curzereno contra formas amastigotas intramacrofágicas após 72 h
381 de exposição. (A) porcentagem de infecção; (B) número de amastigotas por macrófagos; (C) índice de
382 infecção; (D) Imagens de microscopia óptica de macrófagos RAW 264.7 infectados e tratados com
383 curzereno, observados a uma amplificação de 1000 x. Macrófagos RAW 267 (1×10^5) foram infectados
384 com formas promastigotas na proporção de 10:1 macrófagos e tratados com curzereno a 5 % de CO₂ e
385 37 °C por 72h. Os resultados representam média \pm erro padrão de três experiências independentes
386 realizadas em triplicata. (***) $p < 0,001$ vs. controle.

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389 3.6. Avaliação da capacidade fagocítica e volume lisossomal

390 A Fig. 7. apresenta os resultados referentes à avaliação da atividade lisossomal e
 391 fagocítica. É possível observar que o curzereno aumentou a atividade lisossomal nas
 392 concentrações de 3,12; 6,25 e 12,5 μ M, em relação ao controle negativo (Fig. 7A). No entanto,
 393 não alterou a fagocitose do zimosan, observado nos níveis de absorbância em relação ao
 3943 controle (Fig. 7B).

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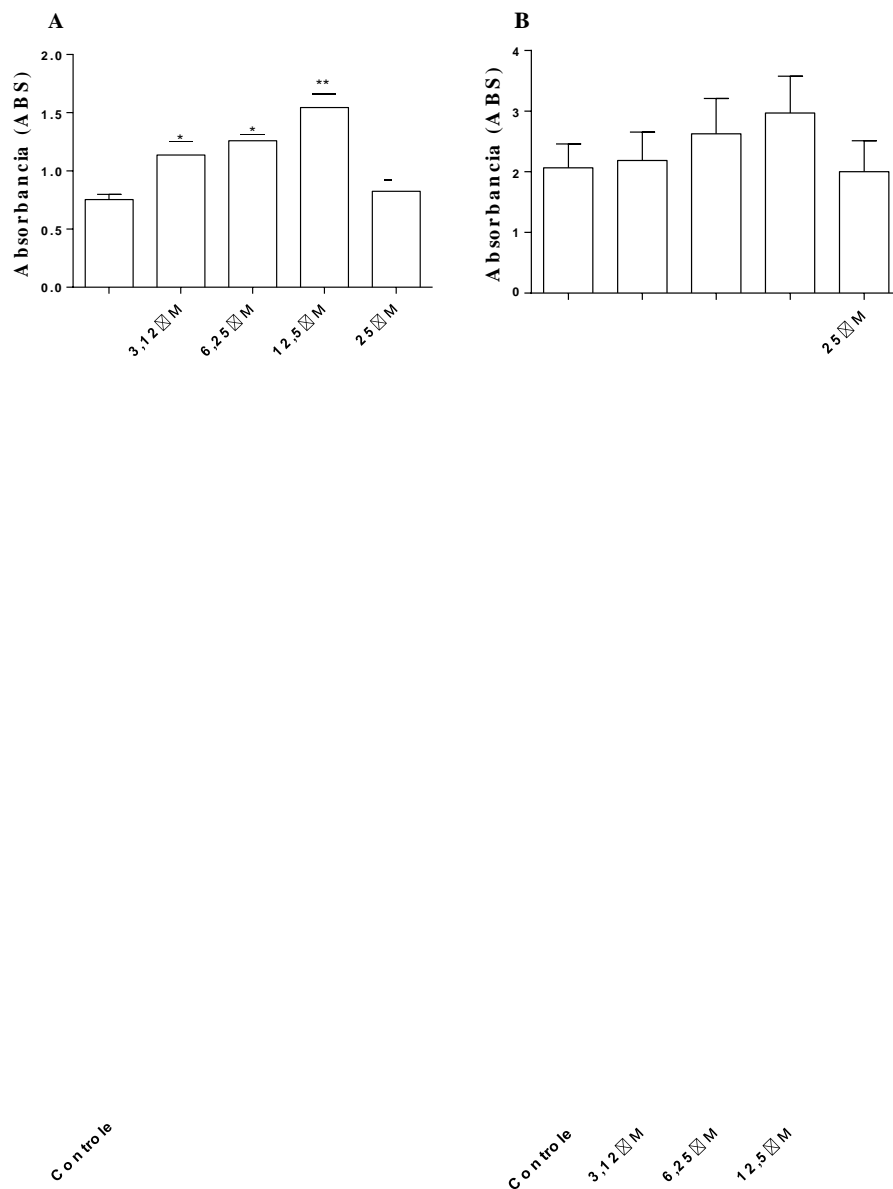
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407 **Fig. 7.** Avaliação do volume lisossomal (A) e capacidade fagocítica (B). Os macrófagos RAW 264.7
 408 foram tratados com concentrações seriadas por 72 h. A atividade lisossômica foi analisada pelo aumento
 409 de retenção de vermelho neutro (NR) após solubilização com solução de extração. A fagocitose foi
 410 analisada por incorporação de zimosan corado com vermelho neutro, solubilizado pela solução de
 411 extração. Os resultados representam média \pm erro padrão de três experimentos independentes realizados

412 em triplicata. (*) p <0,05 vs. ao controle; (**) p <0,01 vs. ao controle.
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414 3.7. Avaliação da produção de óxido nítrico

415 Os resultados referentes ao ensaio de NO estão plotados na Fig. 8. Foi possível observar
416 um aumento nos níveis de NO produzidos por macrófagos tratados com o curzereno na
417 concentração de 12,5 e 25 µM em relação ao controle negativo. No qual na concentração de 25
418 µM foi observado um aumento maior em relação ao controle positivo, nesse caso sendo o LPS
419 o controle positivo.

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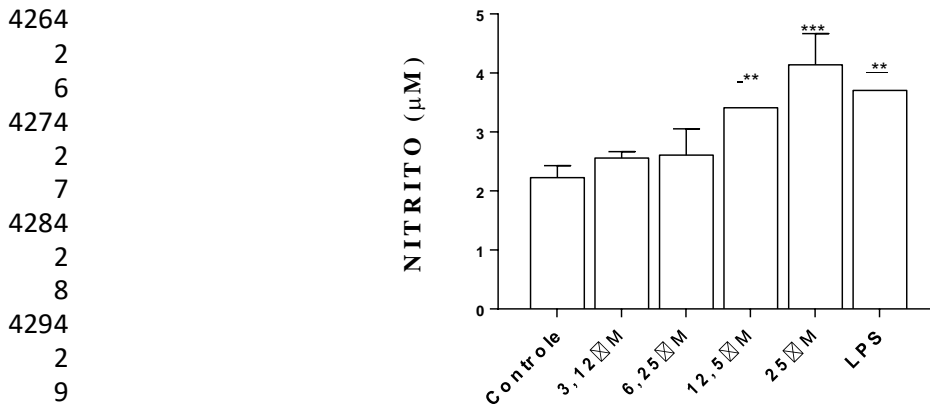


Fig. 8. Avaliação da produção de óxido nítrico (NO) por macrófagos tratados com o curzereno. A produção de NO foi avaliada pelo ensaio colorimétrico de Griess em cultura de macrófagos RAW 264.7 infectados e tratados por 72 h a 37 °C e 5 % de CO₂. Os resultados representam média ± erro padrão de três experimentos independentes realizados em triplicata. (**) p < 0,01 vs. ao controle; (***) p < 0,001 vs. ao controle. LPS – lipopolissacarídeo de *Escherichia coli* a 2 µg/mL.

445 Na busca por tratamentos mais efetivos e seguros para as leishmanioses, pesquisas
446 envolvendo os óleos essenciais e seus constituintes mostraram-se bastante promissoras. Alguns
447 óleos essenciais de espécies como *E. uniflora* (Rodrigues et al., 2013), *Eugenia pitanga* (O.
448 Berg) Nied. (Kauffmann et al., 2017), *Myracrodruon urundeuva* Allemão (Carvalho et al.,
449 2017), *Myrciaria plinioides* D. Legrand (Kauffmann et al., 2019); e *Campomanesia*
450 *xanthocarpa* Mart. ex O. Berg (Ferreira et al., 2020) têm apresentado atividade antileishmania
451 contra diferentes formas do parasito por meio de pesquisas *in vitro* e *in vivo*. Além da mistura
452 complexa que são os óleos essenciais, muitos autores relataram atividade antileishmania
453 promissora de seus constituintes majoritários, como α -pineno (Rodrigues, et al., 2015a) e guaiol
454 (Garcia et al., 2018), o que torna os óleos essenciais substâncias privilegiadas na busca de novos
455 agentes antileishmania (Essid et al., 2015; Andrade et al; Bernuci et al., 2016; Silva et al., 2017).

456 O curzereno é um sesquiterpeno de forma molecular $C_{15}H_{20}O$ e peso molecular de
457 216,32 g/mol. São poucos os relatos de sua atividade biológica, sendo reportado efeitos anti-
458 inflamatórios e antitumorais (Wang et al., 2017). Foi originalmente isolado das raízes de

459 *Curcuma longa* L., uma espécie da medicina tradicional chinesa e que tem óleo essencial
460 reconhecidamente antileishmania, bem como encontrado como constituinte majoritário do óleo
461 essencial da espécie antileishmania *E. uniflora* (Rodrigues et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2017).
462 Apesar de ser encontrado na composição química de óleos essenciais antileishmania, seu
463 potencial sobre espécies do gênero *Leishmania* ainda não havia sido explorado, sendo o objetivo
464 do presente trabalho.

465 Os estudos biológicos iniciaram com a avaliação da inibição de crescimento de formas
466 promastigotas e amastigotas axênicas de *L. amazonensis*. Baseado nos valores de CI_{50} e CE_{50}
467 obtidos para o curzereno, observou-se uma maior efetividade deste composto sobre outros
468 sesquiterpenos relatados na literatura como agentes antileishmania promissores. Por exemplo,
469 o nerolidol, com CI_{50} de 85,22 μM para formas promastigotas e 67,73 μM para amastigotas
470 axênicas de *L. amazonensis* (Arruda et al., 2005); artemisinina, uma lactona sesquiterpênica
471 com CI_{50} de 4,2 μM para amastigotas de *L. amazonensis* (Machin et al., 2020); e (-) - α -bisabolol
472 com CI_{50} de 26,6 μM contra as formas promastigotas da espécie *L. tropica* (Corpas-López et
473 al., 2016).

474 Uma vez constatada a atividade antileishmania do curzereno, investigou-se a
475 citotoxicidade sobre macrófagos RAW 264.7. A investigação da citotoxicidade sobre
476 macrófagos é importante, pois são as principais células parasitadas por *Leishmania* sp., e todos
477 os fármacos antileishmania disponíveis são altamente tóxicos. Um novo candidato a fármaco
478 antileishmania para ser considerado promissor, deve eliminar o parasito sem causar danos à
479 célula hospedeira (Rodrigues et al., 2015a). Muitos estudos recomendam que o índice de
480 seletividade deve ser acima de 20 (Evans et al., 2001; Nwaka et al., 2006). No presente trabalho
481 foram encontrados índices de seletividade satisfatórios para o curzereno, com destaque para o
482 índice de seletividade referente à amastigotas intracelulares, no valor de 182,32. Quando

483 comparado aos fármacos de referência, o curzereno demonstrou ser 43,52 vezes mais seletivo
484 que o antimoniato de meglumina e 5,66 mais seletivo que a anfotericina B.

485 No presente estudo foi demonstrado que o curzereno possui efeitos diretos sobre formas
486 promastigotas e amastigotas axênicas de *L. amazonensis*. Com intuito de se avaliar o
487 mecanismo de morte celular causado pelo curzereno foi utilizado a coloração com Anexina V-
488 FITC/7AAD (Rodrigues et al., 2020). Anexina V é comumente utilizada para marcar a
489 externalização da fosfatidilserina, que é um componente fosfolipídico mantido no lado
490 citosólico das membranas celulares. Quando uma célula entra no estado de morte celular
491 programada (apoptose), a fosfatidilserina é translocada e exposta na superfície da célula
492 (Tavares et al., 2005; Dutta et al., 2007; Bahrami et al., 2016). A coloração com 7AAD é
493 indicativo de morte celular por necrose uma vez que o 7AAD é um composto químico
494 fluorescente com forte afinidade pelo DNA e que não passa facilmente através de membranas
495 celulares intactas, sendo necessária a ruptura destas estruturas (Santos et al., 2008). O curzereno
496 após 4 h de tratamento aumentou o número de células marcadas apenas com anexina V e o
497 número de células com marcação dupla com anexina V e 7AAD indicando que o constituinte
498 induz morte celular por apoptose com uma secundária morte por necrose. O tempo curto de
499 incubação se deu ao fato de que a lise total das formas promastigotas torna impossível realizar
500 a citometria de fluxo de apoptose/necrose (Ardestani et al., 2012).

501 Além da análise por citometria de fluxo, os danos causados pelo curzereno sobre a
502 integridade de formas promastigotas do parasito foram avaliados pela MFA. Foi observado
503 anormalidades no formato celular após o tratamento, bem como diminuição do tamanho celular.
504 Estas alterações geralmente são associadas à condensação da cromatina e fragmentação do
505 DNA sendo sugestivas de morte celular programada (Rodrigues et al., 2020). Além disso outras
506 alterações observadas como a formação de poros na membrana plasmática do parasito são

507 sugestivas de morte celular por necrose (Rodrigues et al., 2020). Os danos à membrana
508 plasmática juntamente com a marcação por 7AAD sugerem que o efeito de curzereno sobre o
509 parasito é do tipo leishmanicida.

510 A preferência para que seja minimizado o uso de animais em laboratórios, tem guiado
511 o desenvolvimento de métodos alternativos *in vitro* que devem ser usados sempre que possível,
512 não apenas nas avaliações da ação farmacológica, mas também nos estudos de avaliação da
513 toxicidade de novos compostos. A utilização de modelos experimentais de amastigotas axênicas
514 de *leishmania* são importantes, pois essas formas são responsáveis pelas manifestações clínicas
515 das leishmanioses (Rodrigues et al., 2015a). Os modelos com a forma intracelular fornecem o
516 método mais eficiente para relacionar a atividade *in vitro* de um fármaco com sua eficácia no
517 ensaio *in vivo* (Mahmoudvand et al., 2015; Dezaki et al., 2016).

518 Em nosso estudo foi observado uma maior atividade do curzereno sobre formas
519 amastigotas intramacrofágicas do que formas promastigotas e amastigotas axênicas, indicando
520 a ativação das atividades microbicidas dos macrófagos (Do Carmo Maquiaveli et al., 2017).
521 Para exercer suas atividades microbicidas, os macrófagos desenvolvem mecanismos estruturais
522 (fagocitose, vacuolização e aumento do volume lisossomal) e celulares (alterações no perfil de
523 NO, níveis alterados de citocinas) (Schiessel et al; Bonatto et al., 2015). No presente trabalho,
524 foi avaliado dois mecanismos estruturais de atividade antileishmania (atividades lisossomal e
525 fagocítica). Nossos resultados mostraram que curzereno aumentou o tamanho de
526 compartimentos endocíticos onde parasitos do gênero *Leishmania* são degradados, sugerindo a
527 participação desse mecanismo na sua atividade antileishmania. Por outro lado, o curzereno não
528 alterou de forma significativa a capacidade fagocítica, sugerindo independência desse
529 mecanismo em sua ação antiparasitária.

530 No presente estudo foi observado ainda que a diminuição da taxa de infecção de
531 macrófagos tratados com curzereno foi associada ao aumento da produção de NO. A produção
532 de NO é um importante mecanismo envolvido na atividade leishmanicida dos macrófagos e
533 pode ser medido por meio de seus produtos oxidados, como o nitrito (Ventura et al., 2015). NO
534 é sintetizado pela enzima iNOS após ativação de citocinas Th1 como interferon- γ (IFN- γ) e
535 fator de necrose tumoral alfa (TNF- α) (Rodrigues et al., 2015b). Trabalhos anteriores têm
536 demonstrado que a atividade anti-*Leishmania amazonensis in vitro* e *in vivo* é associada como
537 a combinação de NO com o ânion superóxido, gerando peroxinitrito (ONOO⁻), um agente
538 altamente leishmanicida presente dentro do fagolisossomo (Horta et al., 2012).

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540 5. Conclusão

541 Baseado nos resultados encontrados pode-se constatar que o curzereno possui atividade
542 antileishmania efetiva e seletiva sobre as duas formas de *L. amazonensis*, atuando por
543 mecanismos diretos e indiretos. Foi verificado que efeitos diretos do curzereno sobre o parasito
544 envolvem a externalização da fosfatidilserina e a presença de poros na membrana plasmática
545 indicando morte celular por apoptose com secundária morte por necrose. Os efeitos indiretos
546 foram observados sobre a forma amastigota intracelular, associada ao estado de ativação
547 macrofágica observado no aumento do volume lisossomal e níveis de NO. Esses achados
548 apoiam a conclusão de que o curzereno é um constituinte promissor para ser avaliado sobre
549 modelos *in vivo* de leishmaniose tegumentar, para o desenvolvimento de novos agentes
550 antileishmania.

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552 Conflitos de interesse

553 Os autores confirmam que não há conflitos de interesse.

554554

555 Declaração de contribuição de autoria

556 **Thaís Amanda Lima Nunes:** Investigação, Conceitualização, Metodologia, Análise de
 557 Dados, Redação. **Malu Mateus Santos:** Investigação. **Mariana Silva de Oliveira:**
 558 Investigação. **Julyanne Maria Saraiva de Sousa:** Investigação. **Alyne Rodrigues de Araújo:**
 559 Investigação. **Anna Carolina Toledo da Cunha Pereira:** Investigação. **Gustavo Portela**
 560 **Ferreira:** Investigação. **Virmondes Rodrigues Junior:** Investigação. **Marcos Vinícius da**
 561 **Silva:** Investigation. **Klinger Antonio da Franca Rodrigues:** Investigação, Conceitualização,
 562 Metodologia, Obtenção de Dados, Redação, Aquisição de Recursos, Administração do Projeto.

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