

# Antioxidant activity and GC-MS profile of *Conyza bonariensis* L. leaves extract and fractions



Actividad antioxidante y perfil CG-EM del extracto y fracciones de hojas de *Conyza bonariensis* L.

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## ABSTRACT

### Keywords:

Bioactivity  
DPPH  
Flavonoid  
Fractionation  
FRAP  
Polyphenol

The 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), ferric reducing power (FRAP), and semivolatiles compounds of *Conyza bonariensis* L. leave extract and fractions are discussed. A methanolic crude extract was obtained through maceration, and subsequently, *n*-hexane, chloroform, and ethyl acetate fractions were collected using a solvent-solvent partition. Total phenols, flavonoids, and antioxidant activity assays were performed in an ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) spectrophotometer, and the results were expressed as Gallic Acid, Quercetin, and Trolox equivalents, respectively. The findings achieved indicate that ethyl acetate fraction showed the highest DPPH radical scavenging capacity (90.69±3.16%) at 500 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>, and reduced the ferric tripyridyltriazine complex (Fe<sup>3+</sup>-TPTZ) with values between 19.68 and 2,355.37 mg Trolox equivalent (TE) g<sup>-1</sup>. It was identified 28 phytoconstituents through Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). The scavenging activity of ethyl acetate fraction could be correlated mostly to the presence of eugenol, trans-isoeugenol, lutein-2, methyl salicylate, and syringic acid. This study reveals that the ethyl acetate fraction could be used as a good source of antioxidants for health benefits.

## RESUMEN

### Palabras clave:

Bioactividad  
DPPH  
Flavonoide  
Fraccionamiento  
FRAP  
Polifenoles

El 2,2-difenil-1-picrilhidrazil (DPPH), el poder reductor férrico (FRAP) y los compuestos semivolátiles del extracto y fracciones de *Conyza bonariensis* L. son discutidos. Se obtuvo un extracto crudo en metanol mediante maceración y posteriormente se recogieron fracciones de *n*-hexano, cloroformo y acetato de etilo usando partición disolvente-disolvente. Los ensayos de fenoles totales, flavonoides y actividad antioxidante se efectuaron en un espectrofotómetro (UV-Vis) y los resultados se expresaron como equivalentes de Ácido gálico, Quercetina y Trolox, respectivamente. Los resultados indican que la fracción en acetato de etilo mostró la mayor capacidad de eliminación del radical DPPH (90,69±3,16%) a 500 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> y redujo el complejo de tripiridiltriazina férrico (Fe<sup>3+</sup>-TPTZ) con valores entre 19,68 y 2355,37 mg equivalente de Trolox (TE) g<sup>-1</sup>. Se identificaron 28 fitoconstituyentes a través del análisis de cromatografía de gases-espectrometría de masas (CG-EM). La actividad antioxidante presentada puede correlacionarse principalmente con la presencia de eugenol, trans-isoeugenol, luteína<sup>2</sup>, salicilato de metilo y ácido síringico detectado. Este estudio muestra que la fracción de acetato de etilo podría ser utilizada como una buena fuente de antioxidantes para el beneficio de la salud humana.

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**C***onryza bonariensis* L. is a short-lived perennial weed native from South America, extensively spread over tropical and warm temperate areas worldwide (Zambrano-Navea *et al.*, 2016). This species is part of the Asteraceae family, which is popular in the folk medicine, and large number of species are reported to be rich in phenolic compounds and acidic polysaccharides. Besides, some species have been described to possess biological activities such as antiplatelet, anticoagulant, and antioxidant properties (Saluk-Juszczak *et al.*, 2010). *C. bonariensis* is considered as a glyphosate-resistant weed that causes serious problems to productive crops (Okumu *et al.*, 2019). Nonetheless, *C. bonariensis* is widely used in traditional medicine for the treatment of rheumatism, gout, and nephritis. Furthermore, antioxidant, antibacterial, and hepatoprotective activities have been reported for *C. bonariensis* extracts (Thabit *et al.*, 2015). Natural extracts that exhibit antioxidant and antimicrobial activities represent a promising alternative to chemical products because of their high effectiveness, low cost, and non-environmental pollutants (Rodríguez *et al.*, 2000). *C. bonariensis* tinctures have been shown notably inhibitory activity against fungi that cause skin superficial infections, such as dermatophytes, *Candida*, and *Malassezia* (Mussin *et al.*, 2017). In this context, the exploitation of *C. bonariensis* properties would represent a great benefit for the socio-economic development of countries where the weed interferes with the growth of crops. Even though there is information available about biological activities of *C. bonariensis*, the species that grow in Ecuador has not been studied yet. Due to a lack of information, this study focuses on determining the chemical profile and antioxidant activity of extracts and fractions of *C. bonariensis* leaves extract and its fractions in order to support the beneficial use of this weed in Ecuador.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Plant material

The leaves of *C. bonariensis* were collected in, Guayaquil (Guayas, Ecuador) in 2014 and authenticated by National Herbarium (Quito, Ecuador). A voucher specimen (no. CIBE002) has been retained at Centro de Investigaciones Biotecnológicas del Ecuador.

### Standards and reagents

The chemicals used were of reagent grade or higher. Folin-Ciocalteu, 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl

(DPPH), gallic acid, ascorbic acid, 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid (Trolox), bis(trimethylsilyl)-trifluoroacetamide, methanol, sodium nitrite, aluminum chloride, and 2,4,6-tripyridyl-s-triazine (TPTZ) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). Chloroform, *n*-hexane, and ethyl acetate were purchased from Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, PA, USA). Iron (III) chloride hexahydrate was purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany), hydrochloric acid from Mallinckrodt (St. Louis, MO, USA), sodium acetate trihydrate and acetic acid from J.T. Baker (Phillipsburg, NJ, USA). Ethanol was purchased from Panreac (Barcelona, Spain). Ultrapure water was purified in a Milli-Q water purification system (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA).

### Extraction procedure

The leaves of *C. bonariensis* were dried at 37 °C for 48 h in a stove; they were pulverized with a hand mill and passed through a mesh sieve of 0.5 mm. Then, 100 g of dried plant material was macerated with methanol (MeOH) for 48 hours for extraction. The crude methanol extract (ME) was obtained by solvent evaporating, using a rotary evaporator to obtain 10.24 g of total extract (yield 12.24%). This extract was solubilized in H<sub>2</sub>O:MeOH (300 mL, 1:1) and subsequently partitioned with *n*-hexane (3×150 mL, HF), chloroform (3×150 mL, CF), and ethyl acetate solvents (3×150 mL, EAF). The remaining water part was freeze dried to obtain an aqueous fraction (AqF).

### Total phenolic content

Total phenolic content of the fractions was analyzed using a modification of the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent described by Waterhouse (2002). A calibrated method was used according to the equation  $y=0.0008x-0.0194$  ( $R^2=0.994$ ) obtained from the standard gallic acid graph. The total phenolic content was expressed as milligram gallic acid equivalents per gram of dry extract or fraction (mgGAE g<sup>-1</sup>).

### Total flavonoid content

Total flavonoid content was estimated using the spectrophotometric method described by Min *et al.* (2011) using quercetin as a standard. The total flavonoid content was expressed as milligram quercetin equivalents per gram of dry extract or fraction (mgQE g<sup>-1</sup>). The calibration curve was  $y=0.0005x-0.0009$  ( $R^2=0.9987$ ) obtained from the standard quercetin graph.

### DPPH radical scavenging capacity

The DPPH radical scavenging capacity was determined using the method described by Ebada *et al.* (2008) with minor modifications. Each fraction was reconstituted in ethanol to give concentration ranging from 50 to 500 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. The reconstituted fraction in ethanol (0.10 mL) was mixed with 1.6 mL DPPH solution (40 mg L<sup>-1</sup> in 100% ethanol). Ethanol and DPPH solution were used as blank and negative control, respectively. The solutions were mixed and incubated in darkness at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance was measured at 517 nm, and the DPPH radical scavenging capacity (RSC) was calculated according to  $RSC = ((A_0 - A_1)/A_0) \times 100$  equation, where  $A_0$  is the absorbance of the control and  $A_1$  is the absorbance of the fraction.

### Ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) assay

The reducing power was determined based on the method used by Li *et al.* (2012). The FRAP assay measures the ability of the antioxidants in the vegetable extracts to reduce ferric-tripyridyltriazine (Fe<sup>3+</sup>-TPTZ) complex to the blue colored ferrous form (Fe<sup>2+</sup>) which absorbs light at 593 nm. FRAP activity were expressed as milligram Trolox equivalents per gram of dry extract/fraction (mgTE g<sup>-1</sup>). The calibration curve was  $y = 0.0031x + 0.0061$  ( $R^2 = 0.9989$ ) obtained from the standard Trolox graph.

### Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)

Ethyl acetate fraction of *C. bonariensis* was analyzed using a gas chromatography-mass spectrometry equipment Agilent Technologies (7890A GC system and 5975C inert XL MSD with triple-axis detector). The procedure used for this process was adapted from the method described by Balladares *et al.* (2016). A capillary column HP-5MS (30 m × 0.25 mm) with phenyl methylpolysiloxane was used as stationary phase (0.25 μm film thickness) and helium as the carrier gas (1.2 mL min<sup>-1</sup>). Samples dissolved or suspended in a solvent different from the original extraction solvent were filtered or centrifuged to get rid of any insoluble matter. The injection of 2.0 μL of sample (10 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>) was done at a temperature of 250 °C with splitless mode, the detector temperature was 280 °C and the oven temperature was maintained at 70 °C for 2.0 min, then it was increased up to 285 °C at a rate of 5 °C min<sup>-1</sup>. The electron ionization was set at 70 eV, 230 °C was used as ion source, and the data compounds were collected with the full scan mode (40-1000 amu). The identification of the components was based on comparison

of their retention index using *n*-alkanes (C7–C40) and mass spectra database of Wiley 9th with NIST 2011 MS Library.

### Statistical Analysis

Results were expressed as mean ± standard deviation of three repetitions. The assays were compared by using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), followed by Tukey's post-hoc test, with statistical significance determined at the  $P < 0.05$ . All statistical analyses were performed using Minitab 16 software.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Extraction procedure

The maceration process of dried leaf powder (100 g) in methanol showed a yield of 12.80% after solvent evaporation. The liquid-liquid fractionation revealed the following yields: hexane (44.3%), chloroform (13.7%), ethyl acetate (3.0%), and aqueous fraction (37.9%). These results support that alcoholic extracts (MeOH or EtOH) from plant materials contain a wide variety of polar and nonpolar compounds. Several studies have shown that polar solvents are effective for the extraction of polyphenols (Sacchi *et al.*, 2005). Furthermore, it has been reported that the antioxidant activity is attributed to the presence of phenolic compounds and flavonoids in these extracts (Figueroa *et al.*, 2015). In this sense, the yield of the ME (12.8%) was higher than the previously obtained from *C. bonariensis* by El Zalabani *et al.* (2012) using 70% ethanol (3.89%), and Kong *et al.* (2001) using methanol (6.33%).

### Total phenolic content

The total phenolic content of *C. bonariensis* leave extract and fractions ranged from 27.90 to 340.84 mgGAE g<sup>-1</sup> for HF and EAF, respectively (Table 1). The phenolic content of EAF presented a significant difference in comparison with the remaining fractions ( $P < 0.05$ ), except for CF, AqF, and ME ( $P > 0.05$ ). Some studies have reported that ethanolic extracts of *C. bonariensis* obtained from the whole plant showed values between 56.6 and 144.1 mgGAE g<sup>-1</sup>, informed by Diaz *et al.* (2012) and Thabit *et al.* (2015), respectively. Similarly, the research carried out by Daur (2015) showed a total phenolic content of 78.0 mgGAE g<sup>-1</sup> in the methanolic extract of the complete plant. Also, Shahwar *et al.* (2012) described a higher total phenolic content (241.3 mgGAE g<sup>-1</sup>) for the methanolic extract of the stem. In fact, total phenolic content of EAF obtained

by liquid fractionation is slightly higher (395.6 mgGAE g<sup>-1</sup>) than the other investigations reported.

Diaz *et al.* (2012) also reported a high phenolic content (200.0 mgGAE g<sup>-1</sup>) from an extract in hot water (autoclaved

121 °C) while El Zalabani *et al.* (2012) reported a low phenolic content (0.96 mgGAE g<sup>-1</sup>). This variability of the total phenolic content can be attributed to the geographic site where the plant grows and to the solvent used for the extraction.

**Table 1.** Total phenolic and flavonoid content of ME and its fractions.

Sample	Total phenolic content (mgGAE g <sup>-1</sup> )	Total flavonoid content (mgQE g <sup>-1</sup> )
ME	99.75±3.94 ad	241.79±7.34 a
HF	27.90±1.38 b	46.90±1.69 b
CF	118.07±6.45 a	166.01±15.25 a
EAF	340.84±22.82 c	795.11±60.88 c
AqF	78.49±2.49 d	200.48±5.34 a

ME: crude methanol extract; HF: *n*-hexane fraction; CF: chloroform fraction; EAF: ethyl acetate fraction; AqF: aqueous fraction. Different letters indicate significant differences among fractions/extract (Tukey test,  $P < 0.05$ )

### Total flavonoid content

The total flavonoid content of *C. bonariensis* extract and fractions ranged from 46.90 to 795.11 mgQE g<sup>-1</sup> for HF and EAF, respectively (Table 1). The flavonoid content of the EAF showed a significant difference compared with the remaining fractions ( $P < 0.05$ ) except for CF, AqF, and ME ( $P > 0.05$ ).

The total flavonoid content obtained was higher than values reported by Diaz *et al.* (2012) (73.4 mgQE g<sup>-1</sup>) and Thabit *et al.* (2015) (134.0 mgQE g<sup>-1</sup>) for whole plant extracts in EtOH and EtOH 90%, respectively. In the same study, Diaz *et al.* (2012) also reported a high flavonoid content (276.4 mgQE g<sup>-1</sup>) from an extract in hot water (autoclaved 121 °C). This study is comparable to the study informed by Kamdem-Boniface and Pal (2013), which reports a flavonoid content of 199.3 mgQE g<sup>-1</sup> in *C. sumatrensis*, a species from the same family.

Flavonoids are polyphenolic compounds with great importance that act as potent antioxidants depending on their molecular structures. Quercetin is the most abundant flavonoid with antioxidant properties. Hence, the high content of phenolic compounds and flavonoids in the soluble fraction of ethyl acetate could suggest a good source of bioactive compounds with an interest for human health.

### DPPH free radical scavenging capacity

The radical scavenging capacity evaluated between a DPPH concentration range of 50-500 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> showed inhibition percentages from 10.07% (HF) to 90.69% (EAF) (Table 2). Figure 1 shows the screening profiles of the ME and its fractions, where it can be observed a dose-dependent behavior. The EAF showed the highest activity with an IC<sub>50</sub> value of 146.9 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>. The results obtained were significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ).

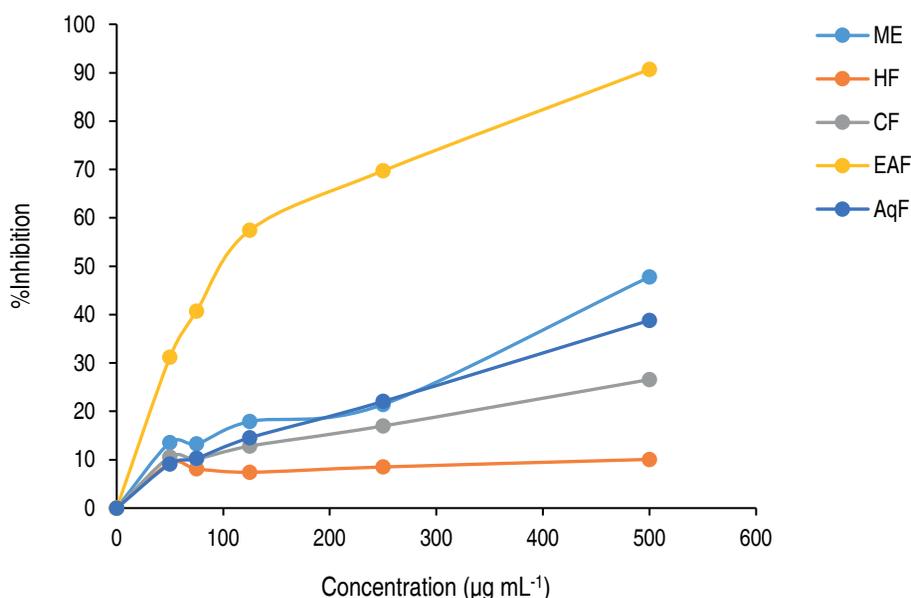
The DPPH scavenging activity of the methanolic extract (47.8%) of the present study was lower than the reported for the ethanolic extract of *C. bonariensis* whole plant at a concentration of 612 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>. However, the concentration of the DPPH used in our study (0.1 mM) is higher than the concentration (0.0055 mM) used by Diaz *et al.* (2012).

This study corroborates the potent antioxidant action of the EAF compared to the other fractions assessed. This behavior is possibly explained by the high phenols and flavonoids content obtained in this fraction. EAF exhibited antioxidant activity value comparable to the result obtained by Shahwar *et al.* (2012), who showed (90.3%), and IC<sub>50</sub> of 89.0 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> for the ethyl acetate fraction with a concentration of 500 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>. This value is lower than the result obtained in the present study (146.9 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>). The other fractions obtained an IC<sub>50</sub> > 500 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table 2.** Activity antioxidant of ME and its fractions.

Sample	Free radical scavenging activity DPPH inhibition (%)	Antioxidant activity FRAP (mgTE g <sup>-1</sup> )
ME	47.83±0.51 b	262.02±7.09 b
HF	10.07±1.50 e	19.68±2.22 b
CF	26.56±3.87 d	182.33±4.75 b
EAF	90.69±3.16 a	2,355.37±255.11 a
AqF	38.81±3.01 c	202.29±4.82 b

ME: crude methanol extract; HF: n-hexane fraction; CF: chloroform fraction; EAF: ethyl acetate fraction; AqF; aqueous fraction. Different letters indicate significant differences between fractions/extract (Tukey test,  $P < 0.05$ )

**Figure 1.** Inhibition effect of ME and its fractions on DPPH

Hayet *et al.* (2009) reported a similar result with an  $IC_{50}$  of 150.0  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  for the ethyl acetate extract of the aerial parts of *Conyza canadensis*, assessed with a 0.075 mM DPPH solution. Furthermore, our results are comparable with the *Ageratum houstonianum* (Asteraceae). In this study, the ethyl acetate extract of the leaves reported a percentage of inhibition of 88.26% with a concentration of 500  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  (Tennyson *et al.*, 2012).

Additionally, there is a positive Pearson correlation between DPPH antioxidant activity, total phenol content, and total flavonoid content ( $r=0.929$  for DPPH and totalphenolic content,  $r=0.962$  for DPPH

and total flavonoid content). An extract is considered active when  $IC_{50}$  values range from 50 to 100  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , and moderate when the values range from 101 to 250  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  (Marjoni and Zulfisa, 2017).

#### Ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) assay

In the FRAP assay of *C. bonariensis* extract and fractions ranged from 19.68 to 2,355.37 mgTE g<sup>-1</sup> for HF and EAF, respectively (Table 2). EAF gave a high antioxidant power to reduce  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and was significantly different from the remaining fractions ( $P < 0.05$ ). There was not a significant difference in other fractions ( $P > 0.05$ ). Currently, the antioxidant activity

of *Conyza* sp. expressed as Trolox equivalent has not been reported, therefore, it is not possible to make comparisons with the same genus. However, when compared with other plants of the Asteraceae family, the value obtained in *C. bonariensis* ME (1,015.42 mgTE g<sup>-1</sup>) is higher. For example, Santos *et al.* (2015), reported an antioxidant activity from aqueous extract of *Tagetes erecta* of 24.9 mgTE g<sup>-1</sup>, hydroethanolic extract of 2.7 mgTE g<sup>-1</sup>, and the ethanolic extract of 25.9 mgTE g<sup>-1</sup> while *Tagetes patula* showed values of 22.5 and 21.0 mgTE g<sup>-1</sup> for hydroethanolic and ethanolic extracts, respectively.

In addition, comparisons with medicinal plants from Turkey, the antioxidant activity of this study was higher than the activity obtained for *Achillea phrygia* (Asteraceae) with ethyl acetate, methanol, and aqueous extract with values of 52.0, 129.9, and 130.6 mgTE g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. *Bupleurum croceum* (Apiaceae) showed values of 64.6, 72.6, and 87.9 mgTE g<sup>-1</sup> for the ethyl acetate, methanol, and aqueous extract, respectively. Ceylan *et al.* (2016) reported lower antioxidant activity of methanolic extract

of aerial parts of *Cytisopsis dorycniifolia* and *Ebenus hirsuta*, both members of Fabaceae family, 200.6 and 103.4 mgTE g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

The DPPH and FRAP trials were largely in agreement with each other, which is reflected in the high Pearson correlation ( $r=0.917$ ) between both trials. Therefore, the antioxidant activity for both DPPH and FRAP methods could be due to the presence of phenolic and flavonoids compound with a high correlation value ( $r=0.973$ ) for both.

### Gas chromatography/mass spectrometry analysis

Based on the high phenolic and flavonoid contents and antioxidant activity obtained in the present study, the EAF was subjected to GC-MS analysis. A total of 102 compounds were detected in EAF, but it was only possible to identify 28 corresponding to 36.59% (Table 3). These compounds were mainly esterified fatty acids, free fatty acids, and alcohols, but also the presence of monosaccharides, phenolic, and flavonoid acids were detected (Figure 2).

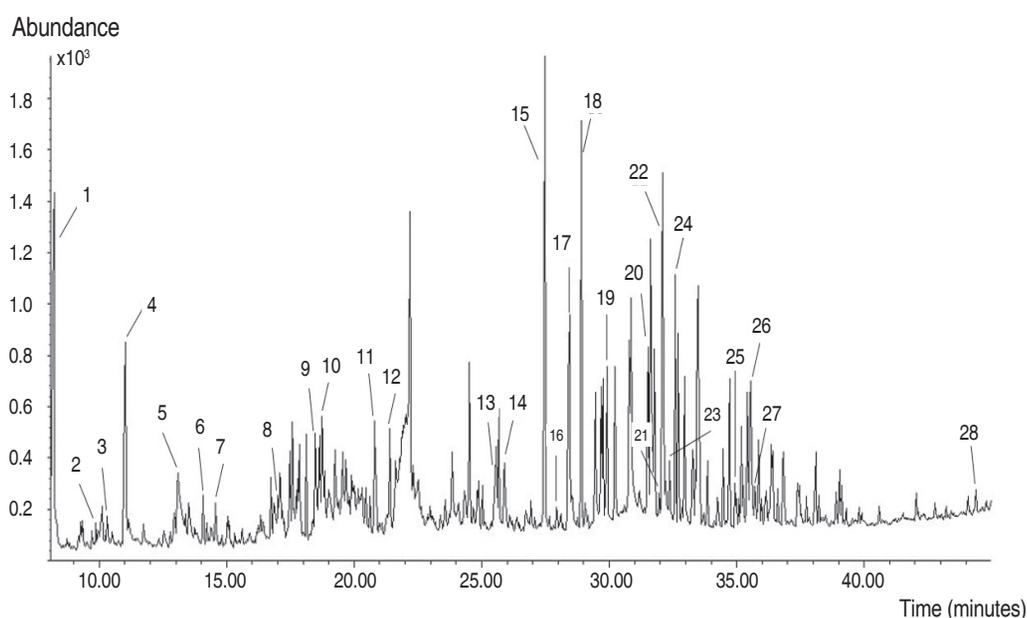
**Table 3.** Compounds identified by GC-MS in *C. bonariensis* ethyl acetate fraction.

Peak	RT (min)	Compounds	RI	RIL	% area
1	8.21	Levogluconone	-	1070	3.45
2	9.88	Butanedioic acid, diethyl ester	-	1149	0.10
3	10.31	Benzoic acid, 2-hydroxy-, methyl ester	-	1176	0.18
4	11.02	1,4:3,6-Dianhydro- $\alpha$ -d-glucopyranose	1217.15	1198	2.25
5	13.09	Phenol, 4-ethoxy	1294.25	1330	1.51
6	14.07	2,2-Dimethyl-3-phenyl-2,5-dihydrofuran	1331.33	1368	0.27
7	14.56	Eugenol	1349.92	1337	0.40
8	17.02	Trans-Isoeugenol	1445.91	1429	0.31
9	18.47	Ethyl 3-hydroxybenzoate	1504.41	1380	0.86
10	18.74	Calamenene	1515.82	1517	1.27
11	20.80	Mesityl-3-methyl-1-butanol	1602.27	1629	0.87
12	21.40	Blumenol C	1629.15	1713	0.90
13	25.59	Syringic acid	1821.72	1813	1.23
14	25.88	p-Hydroxycinnamic acid, ethyl ester	1835.83	1887	0.64
15	27.48	Ethyl ferulate	1914.43	1776	3.19
16	27.95	Oleic Acid	1938.38	2113	0.15
17	28.44	Palmitic acid	1963.34	1942	2.66

Continuation Table 3

Peak	RT (min)	Compounds	RI	RIL	% area
18	28.91	Palmitic acid, ethyl ester	1987.09	1968	2.79
19	29.92	Myristyl monoethoxylate	2040.61	1930	1.54
20	31.53	8-Heptylpentadecane	2127.99	2144	2.13
21	31.97	Ethyl linoleate	2152.42	2193	0.26
22	32.10	Ethyl Oleate	2159.60	2185	3.89
23	32.22	Oleic Acid	2166.33	2133	2.90
24	32.60	Stearic acid, ethyl ester	2187.59	2181	1.90
25	34.93	Isochiapin B	2324.07	2577	0.41
26	35.55	9-Octadecenamide	2361.58	2333	2.23
27	35.73	1-Monopalmitin	2372.01	2482	0.91
28	44.39	Lucenin 2	2961.41	2499	0.20
<b>Total</b>					<b>36.59</b>

RT: retention time; RI: retention index relative to a standard mixture of *n*-alkanes on the HP-5MS column; RIL: retention index library.



**Figure 2.** Chromatogram of the GC-MS analysis of *C. bonariensis* ethyl acetate fraction.

Antioxidant activity of ethyl acetate fraction of *C. bonariensis* could be explained by the presence of the flavonoid lucenin-2, methyl salicylate, the aromatic compound eugenol, trans-isoeugenol, and the sesquiterpene lactone isochiapin B due to phenyls groups and double bonds in their chemical structures able to stabilize free radicals (Choe and Min, 2009). Lucenin-2

has been reported as remarkable antihepatotoxic activity against  $\text{CCl}_4$  and galactosamine cytotoxicity in primary cultured rat hepatocytes (Hoffmann-Bohm *et al.*, 1992). Besides this *c*-glycosyl compound has been isolated from the leaves of *Passiflora edulis* f. *flavicarpa*, contributing to the positive anxiolytic activity of leaf ethanol extracts evaluated, and it has been shown to

induce dose-dependent alterations on germination and growth of *Tortula muralis* increasing spore germination, protonemal length, seed germination, and length of ipocotyl-root until 18 days of inoculation (Basile *et al.*, 2003). Several biological activities have been attributed to eugenol such as anticonvulsant, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antifungal, antioxidant, and radical-scavenging activity (Singh and Chaudhuri, 2018). Furthermore, levoglucosenone has been demonstrated to have antitumor activity (Giri *et al.*, 2016). Besides, syringic acid has exhibited anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimicrobial, anticancer properties (Kumar *et al.*, 2012). On the other hand, the sesquiterpene lactone isochiapin B has been used to treat arthritis, tonsillitis, and other ailments by Chinese medicine (Krishnan and Murugan, 2014). It is important to note that sesquiterpene lactones are characteristic secondary metabolites of the Asteraceae family derivative of sesquiterpenoids which have been shown to possess antimalarial, antimicrobial, antitumor, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activity (Shoib *et al.*, 2017).

## CONCLUSIONS

This study reports that ethyl acetate fraction of *C. bonariensis* leaves showed a relevant antioxidant activity, which could be correlated to the presence of eugenol, trans-isoeugenol, lucenin-2, methyl salicylate, and syringic acid. These results confirm that this plant species is a good source of antioxidants that could be medicinally useful.

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