

MACELA

Scientific name: *Achyrocline satureioides* (Lam.) DC.

Family: *Compositae*

Popular names: macela, marcela, marcela do campo, alecrim de parede ⁽¹⁾, marcelita, falso yateicaá ⁽⁴⁾.

Used parts: aerial parts ⁽⁴⁾, flower ⁽¹⁾.

Habitat: *Achyrocline satureioides* DC is distributed in dry regions of South America ⁽²⁾. The genus *Achyrocline* comprises many species widely distributed in Argentina from the Northern Provinces of Salta and Jujuy to the Rio Negro river. Most species grow in dry regions ⁽³⁾.

Chemical composition: galangin, galangin 3-methyl ether, quercetin, quercetin 3-methyl ether, caffeic acid, esters of calleryanin, protocatechuic acid ⁽²⁾, quercetagenin, caffeoylcalleryanins and epoxybutoxyderivates (as chemosystematic markers) ⁽³⁾, flavonoids, coumarins, essential oil and terpenes ⁽⁴⁾.

Indications: increase bile flow ⁽²⁾, treatment of several human ailments, particularly those related to gastrointestinal dysfunction as choleric, hepatoprotective and antispasmodic ⁽⁴⁾.

Others informations:

- Previous pharmacological *in vivo* studies in animals have reported anti-inflammatory, analgesic and sedative effects ⁽⁴⁾.
- The high content of flavonoids present in this plant, considered at least in part responsible for the reported biological activities and the antioxidant activity reported *in vitro*, led us to study, in vivo conditions, the hepatoprotective and the choleric effects of the aqueous extract of *Achyrocline satureioides* ⁽⁴⁾.

- The hepatoprotective action of aqueous extracts of *Achyrocline satureioides* is certainly associated with their antioxidant properties acting as a scavenger of free radicals ⁽⁴⁾.
- The investigations on *Achyrocline satureioides* have demonstrate that the flavonoids, quercetin, luteolin and 3-O-methylquercetin are the main constituents of its ethanol extracts ⁽⁵⁾.
- The literature points out that some activities can be especially related to these flavonoids: antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antiulcerative, antihepatotoxic and antispasmodic for quercetin, antiplatelet and vasodilatory activities for luteolin and antiviral activity reported for 3-o-methylquercetin ⁽⁵⁾.

References:

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