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**PERFIL REDOX-ATIVO *IN VITRO* DE EXTRATOS DE ESPONJAS**  
**MARINHAS DO LITORAL BRASILEIRO**

**PORTO ALEGRE**

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Dissertação de mestrado apresentada ao Curso de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Biológicas: Bioquímica como requisito à obtenção do grau de Mestre em Bioquímica.

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*À minha mãe, minha maior incentivadora.*

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## RESUMO

A bioquímica farmacológica dos organismos marinhos tem emergido como uma interessante área a ser pesquisada. O Brasil com 8.000 km de litoral rico em espécies de esponjas representa um grande potencial de investigação de metabólitos secundários ativos. O *screening* de extratos de esponjas e de outros organismos marinhos é uma prática comum para identificar compostos de importância biomédica e reflete o comportamento do conjunto de compostos presentes numa dada espécie. Portanto, o objetivo deste trabalho foi realizar um *screening* de propriedades redox-ativas em vinte extratos de esponjas marinhas coletadas no litoral dos estados de Santa Catarina, Pernambuco e Paraíba. Os extratos foram avaliados através dos ensaios: TRAP, degradação da 2-deoxirribose via radical  $\bullet\text{OH}$ , produção de nitritos via  $\bullet\text{NO}$ , auto-oxidação da adrenalina por  $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$ , redução do NBT via  $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$  e lipoperoxidação induzida por AAPH,  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  e  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  pela técnica de TBARS. Este trabalho mostrou que extratos de esponjas marinhas possuem atividades de *scavenger* de  $\bullet\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  e  $\text{ROO}\bullet$  e de proteção de peroxidação lipídica induzida por  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{ROO}\bullet$  e  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ . Dada a importância e o envolvimento destas espécies reativas em várias patologias, os mecanismos bem como as moléculas responsáveis pelas ações antioxidantes observadas nestes extratos de esponjas marinhas merecem ser melhor entendidos. Este trabalho apresentou uma metodologia plausível para determinar potenciais redox-ativos de importância fisiopatológica em extratos de esponjas marinhas e forneceu dados estimulantes para o prosseguimento da pesquisa por moléculas antioxidantes nestes organismos. Conforme já descrito para outras bioatividades, é possível que as características redox destes extratos sejam reflexo da biologia e ecologia das esponjas marinhas.

## ABSTRACT

The biochemistry of marine organisms is emerging as a promising research area. Brazil has a 8,000 km coastline and presents diversity of sponge species, which indicates a great potential of investigation of pharmacologically active secondary metabolites. Screening of crude extracts from marine sponge and other organisms is a powerful tool to search for biomedical relevant compounds and also reflects the behavior of the metabolites mixture presented in a species. Hence, the aim of this study was perform a redox-activity screening of twenty marine sponge extracts collected off Santa Catarina, Pernambuco, and Paraíba States. Extracts were evaluated by: TRAP, 2-deoxiribose oxidative degradation by  $\bullet\text{OH}$  radical,  $\bullet\text{NO}$  production of nitrites, SOD-like activity, NBT reduction via  $\text{O}_2\bullet^-$  and AAPH-,  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ - and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced lipid peroxidation by TBARS. It was observed that marine sponge extracts possess scavenging activity of  $\bullet\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{ROO}\bullet$ , and are able to prevent lipid peroxidation induced by  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{ROO}\bullet$  and  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ . In the knowledge of the involvement of reactive species in relevant dysfunctions, the mechanisms and the molecules related to the antioxidant potentials observed in these marine sponge extracts must be better studied. This work presented a feasible approach to evaluate redox-active properties against reactive nitrogen and oxygen species of physiological and pathological relevance in marine sponge extracts. Furthermore, the data obtained stimulate the research for novel antioxidant prototypes in sponge extracts. It is possible that the redox features here observed be related to the biology and ecology of marine sponges, such it is for other bioactivities.

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## LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS

AAPH: dihidrocloridrato de 2,2'-azobis 2-metilpropionamida

AIDS: síndrome da imunodeficiência adquirida

ANOVA: análise de variância

AUC: *area under curve*, área abaixo da curva

CDKs: ciclinas dependentes de cinases

CK1: caseína cinase 1

DNA: ácido desoxirribonucléico

ERN: espécies reativas de nitrogênio

ERO: espécies reativas de oxigênio

GSH: glutationa reduzida

GSK-3 $\beta$ : glicogênio sintase quinase - 3 $\beta$

H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: peróxido de hidrogênio

HD: hymenialdisine

HIV-1: vírus da imunodeficiência humana tipo 1

HOCl: ácido hipocloroso

LDL: *low-density lipoprotein*, lipoproteína de baixa densidade

MCNPOR: Museu de Ciências Naturais - Porifera

NBT: *nitroblue tetrazolium*

(NO)<sup>2</sup>: monóxido de nitrogênio

•NO: óxido nítrico

NOS: *nitric oxide synthase*, óxido nítrico sintase

$\cdot\text{OH}$ : radical hidroxil

$\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ : ânion superóxido

$\text{ONOO}^-$ : peroxinitrito

PBS: Tampão fosfato tamponado com salina

SNP: nitroprussiato de sódio

TBARS: substâncias reativas ao ácido tiobarbitúrico

TRAP: *total radical-trapping antioxidant potential*, potencial total antioxidante de captura de radical

TAR: *total antioxidant reactivity*, reatividade antioxidante total

## **1. INTRODUÇÃO**

### **1.1 Esponjas como Alvo de Estudo**

Nas últimas décadas, os oceanos se revelaram provedores de um grande grupo de produtos naturais. A descrição de novos compostos de origem marinha, os quais muitas vezes são estruturalmente únicos, tem superado todas as expectativas (FAULKNER, 2000). Os organismos marinhos fontes de compostos com potencial bioativo e farmacológico compreendem bactérias, fungos, algas, tunicados e esponjas. Entre estes seres, as esponjas têm atraído a atenção de várias áreas da ciência. Um destes ramos de pesquisa corresponde à procura de bioatividades em extratos e metabólitos de poríferos. A descoberta de compostos químicos inéditos na literatura intensificou e animou a possibilidade de aplicação dos compostos de esponja visando à cura e ao tratamento de doenças.

O relacionamento entre esponjas e a medicina remete aos médicos alexandrinos e foi descrito pelo historiador romano Plínio. Médicos utilizavam esponjas saturadas com iodo para estimular a coagulação sanguínea ou com extratos de plantas para anestesiarem pacientes. Esponjas embebidas em vinho puro eram colocadas no lado esquerdo do peito em casos de ataque cardíaco e utilizadas em compressas com urina para tratar picadas de animais venenosos. O uso de esponjas foi recomendado no tratamento de insolações, tonturas, fraturas ósseas, dores no estômago, doenças infecciosas e tumores testiculares, ou ainda como implantes depois de operações no peito (HOFRICHTER & SIDRI, 2001).

Desde o século 18, médicos russos, ucranianos e poloneses têm usado uma esponja de água doce por eles chamada Badiaga (figura 1). Seca, é empregada em massagens no peito ou costas de pacientes com doenças no pulmão, ou no local da dor em pacientes com

reumatismo (SCHRODER, 1942). Oficjalski (1937) descobriu que Badiaga não era realmente uma esponja, mas uma mistura de muitas esponjas de água doce que diferiam de acordo com a região. Na Polônia, correspondia a *Euspongilla lacustris*, *Ephydatia fluviatilis* e *Meyenia muelleri*. Enquanto na Rússia, Badiaga consistia na mistura de *Euspongilla lacustris*, *Ephydatia fluviatilis*, *Spongilla fragilis* e *Carterius stepanowi*. Atualmente, o xarope Stodal contendo *Spongia officinalis* é usado no Oriente para tratamento homeopático de tosse seca ou asmática (figura1).



Figura 1. Exemplos de drogas homeopáticas baseadas em extratos de esponja atualmente em uso (Badiaga e xarope Stodal).

Em 1951, foi isolado o primeiro arabino-nucleosídeo da esponja *Tectitethya crypta* (BERGMANN & FEENEY, 1950, 1951) utilizado como modelo para drogas anticâncer e antiinflamatória. O potencial deste novo ambiente a ser pesquisado chamou a atenção para a fauna marinha (PRADO *et al.*, 2004; SIPKEMA *et al.*, 2005). Contudo, a química de produtos naturais marinhos permaneceu incipiente até obter rápido desenvolvimento em 1980 e maturar nos anos 1990 (FAULKNER, 2000). Nos últimos anos, a ação farmacológica de compostos marinhos foi amplamente investigada. Estas moléculas abrangem atividades hemolíticas e de hemaglutinação (SEPCIC *et al.*, 1997), antifúngicas e antibacterianas

(ZHENG *et al.*, 2000), anticâncer, antiinflamatórias, de vesiculação do complexo de Golgi, de ação em proteínas motoras, como a actina, e de ação específica em proteínas e receptores (FAULKNER, 2000). Portanto, apresentam relevância não somente para a medicina, mas também no desenvolvimento de novas ferramentas para a biologia celular e molecular.

A justificativa para o interesse e os esforços na investigação de extratos e compostos biologicamente ativos provenientes de esponjas marinhas provém da biologia destes organismos.

## **1.2 Biologia das Esponjas**

As esponjas pertencem ao Filo Porifera, importante grupo do Reino Animal por conter organismos modelo da transição entre unicelulares e pluricelulares. Os poríferos surgiram há mais de 550 milhões de anos, no período Pré-Cambriano, era Paleozóica. No Cambriano Inferior já existiam representantes de todos os grupos encontrados recentemente (BERGQUIST, 1978). O Filo Porifera está entre os maiores representantes do substrato duro bentônico, com respeito tanto ao número de espécies quanto à biomassa (SÀRA & VACELET, 1973).

O nome Porifera é justificado pela superfície perfurada por muitas aberturas pequenas, os poros. Cada poro é formado por um porócito, uma célula em forma de anel que se estende da superfície externa até a cavidade central, denominada átrio ou espongiocele. Internamente, a parede do corpo é revestida pelos coanócitos, as células flageladas típicas dos poríferos. Os coanócitos promovem a filtração da água capturando microorganismos e partículas alimentares nela presentes. Após a filtração, a água é expelida

para o meio externo através de uma abertura maior, chamada ósculo. A parede corporal é relativamente simples, com a superfície externa revestida de células achatadas, os pinacócitos, que constituem a pinacoderme. Estes pinacócitos secretam um material que fixa a esponja ao substrato. Por baixo da pinacoderme está o mesohilo, que consiste em uma matriz proteinácea gelatinosa que contém material esquelético e células amebóides. O mesohilo é equivalente ao tecido conjuntivo dos outros metazoários. O esqueleto é relativamente complexo e proporciona uma estrutura de sustentação para as células vivas do animal. A maioria das esponjas tem esqueleto formado por fibras de espongina juntamente com estruturas chamadas espículas, que se assemelham a pequenas agulhas cristalinas de sílica ou de carbonato de cálcio. O esqueleto que sustenta as esponjas é constituído por uma rede de espículas rígidas, fibras flexíveis e sedimentos externos, como areia. A combinação das dimensões, do tipo e da distribuição das espículas, bem como sua relação com o esqueleto fibroso, é a principal ferramenta utilizada para identificar esponjas (MOTHES *et al.*, 2003).

As esponjas são organismos filtradores capazes de ingerir partículas de tamanho entre 5 e 50  $\mu\text{m}$  através de células do mesohilo e da pinacoderme, e micropartículas de 0,3 a 1  $\mu\text{m}$  pelas câmaras de coanócitos (SIMPSON, 1984). Um espécime da esponja silicosa *Geodia cydonium* de 1 kg filtra 24.000 litros de água por dia (VOGEL, 1977). O alimento e o oxigênio para as esponjas são garantidos pela capacidade de bombeamento e filtração de grandes volumes de água (ZHANG *et al.*, 2003). Portanto, não é surpreendente que possam viver em um ambiente pobre em nutrientes e que necessitem de um potente mecanismo de detoxificação.



Sésseis quando adultos, sua distribuição está condicionada à duração de seu curto período larval livre-natante, em geral de poucas horas. Devido a sua condição sésil e filtradora, tem sido freqüente o uso de esponjas como organismos-modelo no estudo de marcadores de potencial bioquímico (indução de oxidases de função múltipla) e níveis moleculares (expressão do gene codificador da proteína e do produto protéico) (MÜLLER, 1994; MÜLLER & MÜLLER, 1996), de resposta a choque térmico (MÜLLER *et al.*, 1995; KOZIOL *et al.*, 1995), a detergentes (ZAHN *et al.*, 1977) e a metais pesados (BATEL *et al.*, 1993). Recentemente, esponjas foram relatadas como um sistema capaz de detectar uma gama de poluentes de grupo desconhecido, os inativadores de bombas resistentes a multixenobióticos (KURELEC *et al.*, 1995; MÜLLER *et al.*, 1996).

Como resultado de pressões evolutivas, muitos organismos, de ambientes terrestres e marinhos desenvolveram mecanismos de defesa química. A diversidade molecular dos organismos marinhos é atribuída a suas histórias evolutivas (BELARBI *et al.*, 2003). O desenvolvimento de defesas químicas em organismos marinhos está atrelado e é direcionado pela intensa pressão de predação e competição (LIPPERT *et al.*, 2004). A longa história de vida dos poríferos é bem sucedida porque as esponjas desenvolveram estratégias químicas para defesa contra predadores e competição por espaço (PROKSCH *et al.*, 2002). O metabolismo secundário das esponjas lhes confere uma capacidade adaptativa ao passo que aponta estes organismos como candidatos ideais para investigação farmacológica (FAULKNER, 2000). Adicionalmente, Porifera é um grupo monofilético (MÜLLER, 1995), característica que pode explicar a singularidade molecular encontrada nas esponjas.

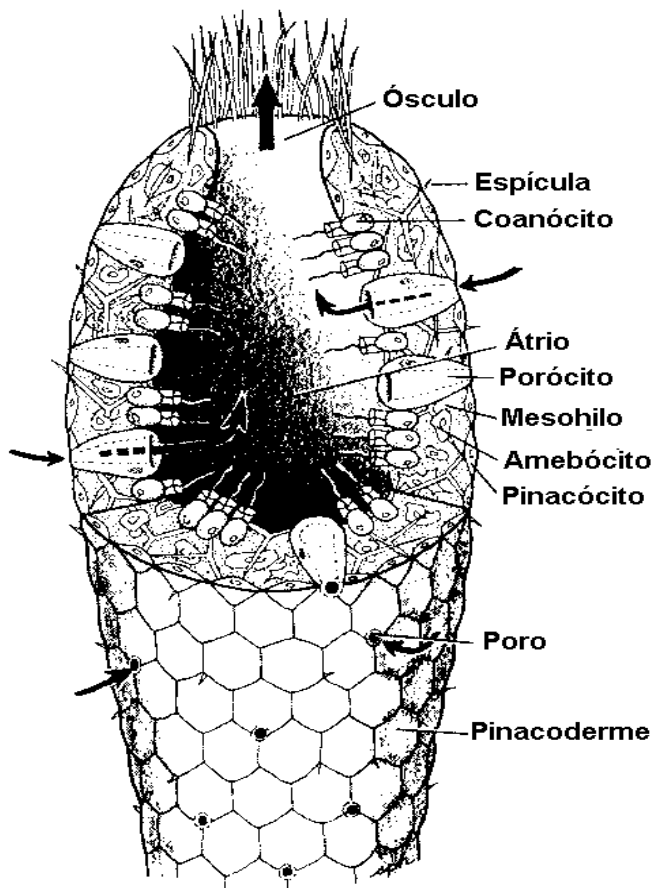


Figura 2. Estrutura básica de Porifera. Modificado de R. D. Barnes, 1991. As setas indicam o fluxo de água.

Fonte: <http://www.sfu.ca/~fankbone/v/lab02.html>.

### 1.3. Esponjas e Bioatividades

Geralmente lembrada pela sua primitiva organização morfológica, a fauna existente é amplamente diversa em muitos outros aspectos, especialmente na sua constituição bioquímica (NEVALAINEN *et al.*, 2004). Como são animais incapazes de movimento e vivem geralmente fixos ao fundo do mar, desenvolveram um sistema efetivo contra o estresse ambiental. As esponjas produzem toxinas e outros compostos para repelir e deter predadores (URIZ *et al.*, 1996; PAWLIK *et al.*, 2002), competir por espaços com outras

espécies sésseis (PORTER & TARGETT, 1988; DAVIS et al., 1991; BECERRO *et al.*, 1997), para comunicação e proteção contra infecção.

Entre os animais marinhos, as esponjas têm a maior taxa de compostos citotóxicos descritos, presentes em mais de 10% das espécies investigadas (OSINGA *et al.*, 1998; ZHANG *et al.*, 2003). Alguns destes compostos apontados em estudos recentes estão sob investigação ou mesmo sendo desenvolvidos como novos fármacos (FAULKNER, 2000; DA ROCHA *et al.*, 2001; SCHWARTSMANN *et al.*, 2001). O princípio antiinflamatório manolidina de *Luffariella variabilis* já está disponível no mercado (MONKS *et al.*, 2002). Em estudos pré-clínicos de fase I encontram-se os compostos KRN7000 de *Agelas mauritianus* e IPL 576092 de *Petrosia contignata* e, em fase II, o agente anticâncer halicondrina B de *Halichondria okadai*.

A cada ano centenas de novos compostos de origem marinha estão sendo descobertos. Dos 15.000 produtos marinhos descritos, as esponjas respondem por mais de 5.300 produtos diferentes. A considerável diversidade química das esponjas compreende além de nucleosídeos incomuns, terpenos, esteróis, peptídios cíclicos, alcalóides, ácidos graxos, peróxidos e derivados de aminoácidos halogenados (SIPKEMA *et al.*, 2005). Entre os exemplos dessa singularidade molecular estão os alcalóides heteroaromáticos que bloqueiam receptores adrenérgicos denominados aaptaminas, isolados de esponjas marinhas do gênero *Aaptos* (GRANATO *et al.*, 2000), e os sesterterpenos, originalmente encontrados em *Ircinia oros*, que apesar de constituírem o maior grupo molecular entre os metabólitos de esponjas, ocorrem menos freqüentemente nos demais grupos taxonômicos (FAULKNER, 2000).

O *screening* de extratos orgânicos de esponjas e organismos marinhos é uma prática comum para identificar compostos de importância biomédica (ELY *et al.*, 2004) e integra

respostas de todos os metabólitos presentes nestes organismos (KARBAN & MYERS, 1989; MARTÍN & URIZ, 1993; TURON *et al.*, 1996; BECERRO *et al.*, 1998), possibilitando uma visão mais holística da química ecológica das espécies que bioensaios usando metabólitos puros (HARPER *et al.*, 2001). Recentes trabalhos com a utilização de extratos brutos de esponjas marinhas têm demonstrado propriedades antimicrobianas, antifúngicas e antiinflamatórias para algumas espécies do Caribe (NEWBOLD *et al.*, 1999).

Entre os compostos isolados biologicamente ativos, a psammaplin A, por exemplo, possui propriedades anticâncer, através da inibição da replicação do DNA (THAKUR & MÜLLER, 2004). Uma relevante atividade antiviral contra HIV-1 foi observada em algumas avaronas e derivados avarol de *Dysidea cinerea* capazes de inibir a transcriptase reversa (HIRSCH *et al.*, 1991) e em ácidos poliacetilênicos brominados inibidores de protease isolados de *Xestospongia muta* (PATIL *et al.*, 1992). Além disso, foi demonstrada a inibição de CDKs, GSK-3 $\beta$  e CK1 por hymenialdisine (HD), um composto isolado de várias espécies de esponjas marinhas (MEIJER *et al.*, 2000). Em particular, a fosforilação característica da proteína tau por GSK-3 $\beta$  foi completamente inibida por HD *in vivo*, sugerindo que este composto pode contribuir nos estudos de doenças neurodegenerativas como Alzheimer. Estudos realizados pelo Instituto Nacional do Câncer dos EUA retratam as esponjas como os organismos que mais produzem moléculas de alta singularidade com interesse farmacológico e potencial utilização em tratamentos de doenças como o câncer, AIDS e leucemias (KELECOM, 1991).

Em 2004, Berlinck e colaboradores publicaram uma revisão sobre os esforços na pesquisa de organismos marinhos. Neste trabalho foi ressaltada a existência de poucos estudos explorando a diversidade e a bioatividade de nossa fauna marinha. Os trabalhos

desenvolvidos com extratos de esponjas revelaram a existência de potencialidades: citotóxica e neurotóxica (RANGEL *et al.*, 2001), anticâncer, antiquimiotóxica e antimicrobianas (MONKS *et al.*, 2002), de modulação de microtúbulos e ciclo celular (PRADO *et al.*, 2004), genotoxicidade (AIUB *et al.*, 2006), antiviral contra herpes, adenovírus e rotavirus (SILVA *et al.*, 2006), antituberculose (AZEVEDO *et al.*, 2008a) and antiinflamatória e analgésica (AZEVEDO *et al.*, 2008b).

#### **1.4 Esponjas e Propriedades Redox-Ativas**

De todos os parâmetros bioquímicos estudados até agora, a investigação de propriedades antioxidantes de extratos de esponjas é insignificante. Mesmo apesar de Takamatsu e colaboradores (2003) já terem sugerido que produtos isolados de algas, cianobactérias e esponjas marinhas podem servir de protótipos para novos antioxidantes. Antioxidantes são compostos capazes de prevenir, atrasar ou remover o dano causado por espécies reativas (HALLIWELL & GUTTERIDGE, 2007). O mecanismo da ação antioxidante é amplo, podendo ser devido tanto à captura (*scavenger*) ou à degradação de espécies reativas quanto à inibição do dano oxidativo.

Também são diversas as técnicas de determinação de capacidade antioxidante. As abordagens no estudo do potencial antioxidante em esponjas marinhas restringem-se à utilização do radical não-biológico DPPH<sup>•</sup> (DUNLAP ET AL., 2003; TAKAMATSU *et al.*, 2003). Uma vez que se pode fazer quase qualquer composto químico exercer efeitos antioxidantes *in vitro* se escolhermos as condições apropriadas de ensaio (HALLIWELL & GUTTERIDGE, 2007), premissas para avaliação de capacidades antioxidantes foram

delineadas. Dentre as quais está convencionado que a avaliação do potencial antioxidante deve utilizar espécies reativas, radicais ou fontes de radicais biologicamente relevantes (PRIOR *et al.*, 2005).

As espécies reativas de oxigênio (ERO) são moléculas derivadas do oxigênio, e podem ter natureza radicalar ou não-radicalar. Um radical livre é uma molécula de existência independente, que tem elétrons desemparelhados e, por isso, é altamente reativa para oxidação ou redução de outras moléculas (SMITH *et al.*, 2005). O hidroxil ( $\bullet\text{OH}$ ) e o ânion superóxido ( $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$ ) são exemplos de espécies radicalares, e o peróxido de hidrogênio ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ), bem como o ácido hipocloroso ( $\text{HOCl}$ ), que são espécies não-radicalares. Um outro grupo denominado espécies reativas de nitrogênio (ERN) encerra os agentes oxidantes que possuem nitrogênio em sua composição. Nesta classe estão o radical óxido nítrico ( $\bullet\text{NO}$ ) e o peroxinitrito ( $\text{ONOO}^-$ ).

Em organismos aeróbios, as ERO são subprodutos naturais do metabolismo celular, inclusive já relatadas em organismos aquáticos de vários níveis filogenéticos (GORDEEVA & LABAS, 2003), ou podem ser geradas em resposta a algum estresse (HENSLEY *et al.*, 2000; CLEVELAND & KASTAN, 2000). Da mesma forma, algumas ERN, como monóxido de nitrogênio ( $\text{NO}$ )<sup>2</sup> e o  $\bullet\text{NO}$ , são mensageiros essenciais participantes dos processos inflamatórios, regulatórios do tônus vascular, imunológicos e de neurotransmissão (BREDT & SNYDER, 1994; MICHEL & FERON, 1997). Em condições fisiológicas, há um equilíbrio entre a produção de tais moléculas e a defesa antioxidante celular. A defesa antioxidante celular compreende enzimas, como superóxido dismutase (SOD) e catalase (CAT), bem como compostos não-enzimáticos, como vitaminas e glutathiona (GSH).

O estado de estresse oxidativo é caracterizado quando há um desbalanço entre a proporção de espécies reativas e a capacidade de defesa de um organismo. Devido a suas propriedades químicas, em geral, essas espécies possuem uma meia vida curta. Contudo, o seu potencial pode ser amplificado, uma vez que, ao aceitar elétrons para completar seu(s) orbital(is), as espécies reativas criam novos radicais e, por conseguinte, a instabilidade molecular é perpetuada em uma reação em cadeia.

ERO podem influenciar nos processos de carcinogênese e progressão do câncer através do dano a biomoléculas como proteínas, lipídios e DNA, e pela indução da expressão de uma gama de fatores envolvidos em transformação neoplásica (DAS, 2002). É sabido que células cancerosas estão em estresse oxidativo devido à superprodução de ERO (SATO *et al.*, 1992). Muitos estudos associaram a malignidade tumoral à inflamação crônica, mas a sugestão de que  $\bullet\text{NO}$  e seus produtos em tecidos inflamados podem contribuir ao processo de carcinogênese é recente e tem base em observações do potencial mutagênico endógeno dessa molécula (BOSCO, 1998). Por outro lado, embora muitas enzimas antioxidantes, como catalase e SOD, estejam negativamente reguladas em várias linhagens celulares, outras enzimas antioxidantes ou moléculas antioxidantes não-enzimáticas, como GSH, participam na defesa antioxidante das células cancerosas (SUN, 1990). Recentemente, a proteína supressora tumoral p53 foi apontada como reguladora da expressão de genes que têm como produtos enzimas ou moléculas antioxidantes, dado que acentua a importância do potencial de antioxidantes na profilaxia e tratamento do câncer (SABLINA *et al.*, 2005).

Além do envolvimento do estresse oxidativo no câncer, sua participação em disfunções mitocondriais, como esclerose múltipla, na patogênese de doenças crônicas,

como *diabetes mellitus* (DURSUN *et al.*, 2005), e na etiologia e progressão de doenças neurodegenerativas humanas, como Alzheimer e Parkinson (HALLIWELL, 2001; HALLIWELL, 2002; MOREIRA *et al.*, 2005; SULTANA *et al.*, 2006), também já foi descrita. Danos oxidativos como a peroxidação de lipídios insaturados são associados à aterosclerose, inflamação, doença de Parkinson (MARZATICO *et al.*, 1993), entre outras patologias.

A observação de que o estresse oxidativo esteja implicado em condições patológicas trouxe a idéia da utilização de antioxidantes como tratamento terapêutico. Algumas áreas da pesquisa médica evidenciaram em seus estudos algum efeito benéfico da intervenção com antioxidantes. Altas doses de  $\alpha$ -tocoferol (2000U/dia) mostraram-se eficientes no atraso da deterioração de pacientes com doença de Alzheimer, embora não tenha afetado a progressão de estágios iniciais para tardios da doença (BLACKER, 2005). Portanto, a pesquisa de novos compostos antioxidantes para tratamento de doenças, como as neurodegenerativas, são áreas prioritárias (HALLIWELL, 2001; MOOSMANN & BEHL, 2002; MANDEL *et al.*, 2005).

A sugestão de que esponjas marinhas possam modular as concentrações de espécies reativas advém de suas relações ecológicas. Foi observado que a esponja *Sycon* sp. produz altas taxas do radical superóxido sem necessidade de estímulo (PESKIN *et al.*, 1998). Adicionalmente, o relato de que a esponja da Antártida *Haliclona dancoi* responde adaptativamente ao estresse pró-oxidante da simbiose com algas sugere a evolução de um mecanismo antioxidante em Porifera (REGOLI *et al.*, 2004). A partir destas informações, a procura de propriedades antioxidantes nesses organismos torna-se pertinente.



## 2. OBJETIVOS

### 2.1 Objetivo geral

O objetivo do presente trabalho foi delinear um perfil de atividades redox *in vitro* de extratos aquosos de esponjas marinhas das espécies *Aaptos* sp., *Agelas* sp., *Chondrilla nucula*, *Cinachyrella alloclada*, *Cliona* sp., *Dragmacidon reticulatus*, *Guitarra sepia*, *Halichondria* sp. *Haliclona tubifera*, *Hyatella* sp., *Mycale arcuiris*, *Petromica citrina*, *Protosuberites* sp., *Raspailia elegans*, *Scopalina ruetzleri* amarela, *Scopalina ruetzleri* vermelha e *Tedania ignis*, e dos extratos orgânicos de esponjas marinhas das espécies *Axinella corrugata*, *Haliclona tubifera* e *Scopalina ruetzleri* vermelha, coletadas no litoral brasileiro.

### 2.2 Objetivos específicos

1) Verificar se os extratos possuem capacidade de captura (*scavenger*) de:

- radical peroxil ( $\text{ROO}^\bullet$ ), através da técnica de Potencial Total de Atividade Antioxidante contra Radical (TRAP),
- radical hidroxil ( $^\bullet\text{OH}$ ), pelo método de degradação oxidativa da 2-deoxirribose,
- radical óxido nítrico ( $^\bullet\text{NO}$ ), gerado pelo nitroprussiato de sódio (SNP),
- radical ânion superóxido ( $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$ ), através do ensaio de inibição da formação de adrenocromo, e

- $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , a partir da técnica do monitoramento da absorbância desta espécie reativa a 240nm.
- 2) avaliar a habilidade dos extratos em atuar contra a peroxidação lipídica induzida por:
- AAPH (dihidrocloridrato de 2,2'-azobis 2-metilpropionamidina),
  - $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , e
  - $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ;
- 3) determinar o conteúdo de compostos fenólicos dos extratos de esponja marinha através do método de Folin-Ciocalteu; e
- 4) quantificar o conteúdo de tióis totais dos extratos pela reação de Ellman.

### **3 METODOLOGIA E RESULTADOS**

Os resultados gerados nesta dissertação de mestrado, bem como a metodologia empregada para sua obtenção, estão dispostos no manuscrito intitulado *IN VITRO* ANTIOXIDANT PROFILE OF BRAZILIAN MARINE SPONGE EXTRACTS a ser submetido à publicação no periódico *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part C: Toxicology and Pharmacology*.

## **IN VITRO ANTIOXIDANT PROFILE OF BRAZILIAN MARINE SPONGE EXTRACTS**

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### **Abstract**

After a long time of absolute vegetal reign, marine sponges are reaching the top of bioactive natural providers. Despite several activities have been reported, just a few works have addressed the marine sponges antioxidant potentials. Here we describe the *in vitro* screening of 20 Brazilian marine sponges extracts for their capacity to scavenge reactive oxygen and nitrogen species and to protect lipids of oxidative damage induced by biologically relevant oxidants. The obtained data revealed that marine sponge extracts possess relevant antioxidant potential and also interesting redox properties, which need to be further studied. Crude extracts possess a metabolites mixture of the organisms and, therefore, may reflect their chemical ecology. For the first time, the *in vitro* antioxidant capacities evidenced may reflect marine sponge's biology and ecology. This study provided a set of feasible experimental trials to evaluate the *in vitro* redox activity of marine sponge extracts.

### **Introduction**

Marine sponges are currently one of the most promising sources of bioactive compounds, which are secondary metabolites of incredibly diverse and unique chemical structures. Several reports

have compiled compounds hitherto isolated from marine sponges and other marine organisms (Faulkner, 2000; Zhang et al., 2003; Sipkema et al. 2005). The vast array of biological activities comprised in these reviews includes antifungal, antiviral, antibacterial, antimalarial, analgesic, antifouling, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer, as well as muscle relaxing and immunosuppressive effects. It has recently been published a review highlighting the efforts on the chemistry of marine organisms products in Brazil, in which researchers assure that Brazilian marine fauna remains practically unexplored (Berlinck et al., 2004).

General bioassays of crude extracts are a suitable approach to verify whether the species is active, when secondary chemistry of a given species is poorly known (Martí et al., 2003), and to guide the identification of biomedical important compounds in marine sponges and other organisms (Sepčić et al., 1997). Some crude extracts of Brazilian sponges have been assayed for cytotoxic and neurotoxic potential (Rangel et al., 2001), anticancer, antichemotactic and antimicrobial activities (Monks et al., 2002), microtubule and cell cycle modulation (Prado et al., 2004), genotoxicity (Aiub et al., 2006), antiviral action towards herpetic, adenovirus and rotavirus (Silva et al., 2006), anti-tuberculosis properties (Azevedo et al., 2008a) and anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects (Azevedo et al., 2008b). An overview in literature suggests that antioxidant potential in marine sponges was a neglected bioactivity.

Reactive species have physiological functions (Gruetter et al., 1981; Moncada et al., 1991; Rhee, 2006) and are also by-products of aerobic metabolism (Finkel, 2003; Balaban et al., 2005).

Reactive species generation has also been reported in aquatic organisms (Gordeeva and Labas, 2003). ROS levels must be tightly and actively regulated in order to avoid increase in oxidative damaged biomolecules and subsequent impairment of physiological functions. Increased oxidative damage was observed in many organic dysfunctions, as increased levels of lipid peroxidation end-products, DNA and RNA base oxidation products and oxidative protein damage in neurodegenerative diseases (Halliwell, 2001; Halliwell, 2002; Moreira et al., 2005; Sultana et al., 2006) and high lipid TBARS and protein carbonyls parameters presented in septic shock patients (Goode et al. 1995; Andresen et al. 2008). Since the involvement of oxidative stress in pathologies has been reported, the suggestion that therapeutic antioxidant interventions might be beneficial has arisen. In this regard, the development of novel antioxidants, to treat neurodegenerative diseases, for example, is a major research area (Halliwell, 2001; Moosmann and Behl, 2002; Mandel et al., 2005) and studies which seek antioxidants prototypes are always welcome.

The few approaches on antioxidant potentials in extracts or compounds of marine organisms have only used DPPH<sup>•</sup> radical assay (Dunlap et al., 2003; Takamatsu et al, 2003). Nevertheless, the *in vitro* assessment of antioxidant activity must resemble the scavenging capacity of a radical of biological relevance or originated from a biologically relevant source (Prior et al., 2005), as well as the ability to prevent or delay oxidative damage to biomolecules (Haliwell and Gutteridge, 2007). The aim of the present study was to perform a more complete and feasible antioxidant profile of 20 marine sponge extracts collected in Brazilian coastline. We looked for scavenging capacities of the reactive oxygen and nitrogen species peroxy radical (ROO<sup>•</sup>), nitric oxide radical (<sup>•</sup>NO), hydroxyl radical (<sup>•</sup>OH), superoxide radical (O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup>) and hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), and prevention of lipid oxidative damage induced by AAPH (2, 2-azobis[2-methylpropionamide] dihydrochloride), Fe<sup>2+</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

## **Materials and Methods**

### **Sponge Material**

Sponge samples were collected manually from exposed and semi-exposed habitats, at depths between 0.5 and 14 m, from the coasts of Brazilian states of Santa Catarina (SC), Paraíba (PB) or Pernambuco (PB). The taxonomic identification was based on analysis of skeletal slides and dissociated spicule by scanning electron microscope. The specimens were deposited in the collection of Museu de Ciências Naturais – Porifera (MCNPOR) of the Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Table 1 summarizes the Brazilian marine sponge extracts here studied.

### **Extracts Preparation**

To obtain aqueous extracts, sponge materials were ground together with sand during 30 minutes for three times. The samples resulted of each procedure were placed together in order to form only one extract, which was subsequently filtered and freeze-dried. The remaining material followed an organic extraction consisting of five sequentially extractions with a methanol:toluene mixture (3:1) and maceration over five days. The resulting extract solution was then filtered and concentrated in vacuum at -40°C. Right before each assay, the organic or aqueous extracts were suspended in adequate buffer – never at concentrations higher than 4mg/ml. A curve of concentration of extracts in µg/ml range was performed in each assay, and the controls, containing only extracts in the respective buffers of each approach, were always carried out to evaluate whether colour could interfere.

## Chemicals

AAPH (2,2-azobis[2-methylpropionamidine] dihydrochloride), luminol (5-amino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-phthalazinedione), 2-deoxyribose, glycine (aminoacetic acid), Folin-Ciocalteu (phenol reagent), Griess reagent, sodium nitroprusside, 2-thiobarbituric acid (4,6-dihydroxypyrimidine-2-thiol), hydrogen peroxide, tannic acid, NBT (nitrotetrazolium blue chloride), xanthine, xanthine oxidase, adrenaline, catalase and SOD (superoxide dismutase) were purchased from Sigma Chemicals Co. (St. Louis, MO, U.S.A.). Trolox (6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid) was purchased from Aldrich Chemicals Co. (Milwaukee, WI, U.S.A.). Methanol, toluene and acetic acid were purchased from Merck Chemicals KGaA (Darmstadt, Germany).

## Total Radical-Trapping Antioxidant Parameter (TRAP)

TRAP assay was used to determine the capacity of extracts to trap a flow of water-soluble peroxy radical produced at constant rate, through thermal decomposition of AAPH (Lissi et al., 1992). Briefly, it was added 10 $\mu$ l of the test samples (sponge extracts or trolox) to 4ml of the free radical source (AAPH 10mM) in glycine buffer (100mM) pH 8.6 and 10 $\mu$ l luminol (4mM) as external probe to monitor radical production. The chemiluminescence generated was detected by (Wallac 1409 DSA Liquid Scintillation Counter, Wallac Oy, Turku, Finland) as counts per minute (CPM). The TRAP of extracts were evaluated for instantaneous inhibition of chemiluminescence by TAR index, and along 20 minutes as area under curve (AUC). Total antioxidant reactivity (TAR) was calculated as the ratio of light intensity in absence of samples ( $I^0$ )/ light intensity right after sample addition (I) (Lissi et al., 1995) and expressed as percent of inhibition. Area under curve (AUC) of 10 $\mu$ g/ml extracts, trolox 2 $\mu$ M, solvent (water), and radical basal production was achieved by software (GraphPad Software Inc., San Diego, CA, USA - version 5.00) as described by Dresch et al. (2009).

## Scavenging Activity of Nitric Oxide

Nitric oxide ( $\bullet$ NO) was generated from spontaneous decomposition of sodium nitroprusside in 20mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). Once generated,  $\bullet$ NO interacts with oxygen to produce nitrite ions, which were measured by the Griess reaction (Green et al., 1982). In a 96-well microplate, 20mM sodium nitroprusside in phosphate buffer and sponge extracts, at different concentrations, were incubated at 37°C for 1h, and then 20 $\mu$ l Griess reagent were added. After 15 minutes of reaction the absorbance of chromophore was determined at 540nm in an ELISA plate reader. The effect of 100 $\mu$ g/ml extracts was measured considering nitrites generation absorbance of system

(20mM sodium nitroprusside and solvent) as 100%, and results were presented as percent of system.

### **Hydroxyl Scavenging Activity**

The  $\cdot\text{OH}$  formation from Fenton reaction was quantified using 2-deoxyribose oxidative degradation (Hermes-Lima et al., 1994). The principle of the assay is the quantification of a 2-deoxyribose degradation product, malondialdehyde, by its condensation with 2-thiobarbituric acid (TBA). Briefly, reaction was started by the addition of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (6 $\mu\text{M}$  final concentration) to solutions containing 5mM 2-deoxyribose, 100mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  in 20mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2). To measure the antioxidant activity against  $\cdot\text{OH}$ , different concentrations of extracts were added to system before  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  addition. Reactions were carried out for 15min at room temperature and were stopped by the addition of 4% phosphoric acid (v/v) followed by 1% TBA (w/v, in 50mM NaOH). Solutions were boiled for 15min at 95°C, and then cooled at room temperature. The absorbance was measured at 532nm.

### **Catalase-like Activity**

Catalase-like activity was verified by the same method described for assaying the enzyme activity (Aebi, 1984). Hydrogen peroxide diluted in 0.02M phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), to obtain a 5mM final concentration, was added to the microtiter plate wells, in which solutions with different concentrations of extracts were already placed. The plate was then immediately scanned in an ELISA plate reader at 240 nm every 15 seconds for 5min at 37°C. Catalase activity was monitored based on the rate of decomposition of hydrogen peroxide, which is proportional to the reduction of the absorbance at 240nm. The catalase-like profile of 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$  extracts was displayed and the respective AUC was calculated by software.

### **Superoxide Anion Radical ( $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ ) Assays**

**SOD-like activity** Superoxide anion scavenging activity was evaluated by measuring the rate of inhibition of superoxide-mediated adrenaline auto-oxidation to adrenochrome as described previously (Misra and Fridovich, 1972). Fifty microliters of the tested fraction were mixed with 200 $\mu\text{l}$  of 50mM glycine buffer (pH 10.2) and 5 $\mu\text{l}$  of native catalase 100 U/ml. Superoxide generation was initiated by addition of 2mM adrenaline (5 $\mu\text{l}$ ) and adrenochrome formation was monitored at 480nm for 5min at 32°C. Superoxide production was verified by monitoring the reaction curve of samples and measured as AUC.



**NBT Reducing Ability** The effect of sponge extracts on NBT reduction to a blue formazan by  $O_2^{\bullet-}$  was proceeded according to Beauchamp and Fridovich (1971), with a few modifications. Briefly, 50 $\mu$ l 0.4mM xanthine and XOD (0.1U/ml) (positive control) or 50 $\mu$ l of extracts were mixed with 200 $\mu$ l 0.24mM NBT (50mM glycine buffer, pH 10.2, 0.1mM EDTA) and incubated at 37°C for 30min. The NBT reducing activity of 100 $\mu$ g/ml extracts and negative (only NBT in buffer) and positive controls were displayed as curves and values of AUC.

### **TBARS Assay**

A modified TBARS protocol from Esterbauer and Cheeseman (1990) was used to measure the antioxidant capacity of extracts to prevent lipid peroxidation induced by 5mM AAPH, 10 $\mu$ M  $FeSO_4$ , or 5mM  $H_2O_2$ . Oxidants and sponge extracts or Trolox in different concentrations were added to liposome preparations (egg yolk 1% w/v, 20mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.4, sonicated 10s in potency 4) incubated for 1h at 37°. Then 0.3ml samples were centrifuged with 0.6ml trichloroacetic acid (20%) at 1200g for 10min. A 0.5ml of supernatant aliquot was mixed with 0.5ml TBA (0.67%) and heated at 95°C for 20min. After cooling, samples absorbance was measured using a spectrophotometer at 532nm. Results were expressed as the percent of damage inhibition of 100 $\mu$ g/ml extracts, considering the damage of each lipoperoxidative inducer as 100%.

### **Phenolic Content**

Phenolic content was determined by an adapted colorimetric assay of Singleton and Rossi (1965). Solutions of extracts and tannic acid were prepared immediately before use and curves (10-100 $\mu$ l) were tested by Folin-Ciocalteu reaction, which has 1N Folin reagent and saturated solution  $Na_2CO_3$ . Absorbance was read 10min later at 725nm with an ELISA microplate reader and the phenolic content was expressed as  $\mu$ g tannic acid equivalents/100 $\mu$ g extract (TAE).

### **Thiol Content**

The levels of thiol (SH) content in samples were achieved by a procedure based on Ellman's publishing (1959). Briefly, 10 $\mu$ l of 10mM 5,5'-dithionitrobis 2-nitrobenzoic acid (DTNB) were added to a 200 $\mu$ l PBS 10mM mixture containing extract concentration curves. After 60min incubation at 25°C, absorbance was determined in spectrophotometer at 412nm. A cysteine curve was carried out as pattern and the thiol content of extracts was expressed as  $\mu$ g cysteine equivalents/100 $\mu$ g extract (CE).

### **Statistical analysis**

Results were compiled in SPSS Data Editor (version 15.0, SPSS Incorporation, Chicago, USA). One way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was performed on data, and when differences were significant at  $p < 0.05$ , a Duncan Test to compare groups was applied. SPSS software has also provided bivariate correlation analysis achieved by Pearson's coefficient, at levels of significance of  $p < 0.05$  or  $p < 0.01$ .

## Results

### Total radical-trapping antioxidant potential (TRAP)

Total radical-trapping antioxidant potential (TRAP) assay consists of a peroxy radical generating system, when reacting with Luminol, results in chemiluminescence detected by a liquid scintillator. If a sample possesses peroxy scavenging capacity, the chemiluminescence decreases because there will be no or less radical to react with Luminol. TAR analysis showed that 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  of sponge extracts instantaneously decreased light emission, except *S. ruetzleri* amarela organic extract (table 2). Additionally, AUC parameter showed that the marine sponge extracts have also scavenged  $\text{ROO}^\bullet$  during the elapsed time, except *M. arcuiris*, *P. citrina* and *R. elegans* aqueous extracts and *S. ruetzleri* amarela organic extract. TRAP analysis showed that the aqueous extract of *Agelas* sp. and the organic extract of *A. corrugata* were efficient in instantaneous scavenging of  $\text{ROO}^\bullet$  and also they were more potent than 2  $\mu\text{M}$  Trolox (table 2).

### Nitric Oxide Radical ( $^\bullet\text{NO}$ ) Scavenging Capacity

The nitric oxide radical donor sodium nitroprusside (SNP) was employed to test whether the extracts could scavenge  $^\bullet\text{NO}$  and consequently decrease nitrite formation, which is generated by reacting nitric oxide and dissolved  $\text{O}_2$ . At 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  the aqueous extracts of *G. sepia*, *M. arcuiris*, *S. ruetzleri* vermelha, *T. ignis*, *S. ruetzleri* amarela, *C. nuculla*, *Agelas* sp., and the organic extracts of *H. tubifera*, *S. ruetzleri* amarela and *A. corrugata* were able to prevent nitrite formation suggesting a  $^\bullet\text{NO}$  scavenging activity (table 2).

### Hydroxyl Radical ( $^\bullet\text{OH}$ ) Scavenging Capacity

A Fenton reaction, using hydrogen peroxide and  $\text{Fe}^{+2}$  as substrates, was carried out to produce hydroxyl radical, which oxidizes 2-deoxyribose. None of the studied marine sponge extracts up to the concentration of 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  were able to significantly inhibit the oxidative damage induced by  $^\bullet\text{OH}$  to 2-deoxyribose (data not shown).

### Catalase-like Activity

The extracts were submitted to an assay for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> scavenging activity, in which the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> absorbance at 240nm was monitored along the time. It was observed that *Protosuberites* sp., *S. ruetzleri* vermelha, *D. reticulatus*, *C. nucula*, *C. alloclada* and *Hyatella* sp. aqueous extracts have decreased the absorbance, which could indicate a catalase-like activity (fig. 1).

### **Superoxide Anion Radical (O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup>) Assays**

To evaluate whether the extracts could attenuate the adrenaline auto-oxidation mediated by superoxide anion radical, a reaction containing 100µg/ml extracts was monitored. If extracts were superoxide radical scavengers or if they had SOD-like activity, they would be able to delay adrenaline auto-oxidation, and consequently prevent adrenochrome formation and decrease absorbance at 480nm. Surprisingly, none of them could reduce adrenochrome generation. In fact, *S. ruetzleri* vermelha, *R. elegans*, *Cliona* sp., *T. ignis*, *G. sepia* and *Hyatella* sp. aqueous extracts increased absorbance, indicating enhancement in adrenaline auto-oxidation (fig. 2). To confirm whether extracts could generate O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup>, they have been tested by a reaction with nitroblue tetrazolium (NBT), a yellow compound that, when reduced by superoxide radical, turns into blue chromogen monitored at 560nm. The aqueous extracts of *R. elegans*, *Cliona* sp., *T. ignis*, *G. sepia*, *Halichondria* sp., *Agelas* sp., and *Aaptos* sp., and the organic extract of *A. corrugata* have increased the absorbance at 560nm (fig. 3).

### **AAPH-induced Lipid Peroxidation**

AAPH induced lipid peroxidation was prevented by *A. corrugata* organic extract and *Agelas* sp., *Hyatella* sp., *Halichondria* sp., *C. alloclada*, *Cliona* sp. and *R. elegans* aqueous extracts.

### **Fe<sup>2+</sup>-induced Lipid Peroxidation**

Fourteen of the twenty marine sponge extracts studied were able to prevent Fe<sup>2+</sup> induced lipid peroxidation, nevertheless, around 85% (12/14) was weak preventers, protecting only at higher concentrations than 100µg/ml (table 2). *C. alloclada* aqueous extract had a more potent capacity, inhibiting 24.23% of lipid damage induced by Fe<sup>2+</sup>.

### **H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced Lipid Peroxidation**

In a co-incubation of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and 100µg/ml *Protosuberites* sp., *C. nucula* and *C. alloclada* aqueous extracts, the lipid damage inhibition observed was of 66.27, 59.41 and 52.57%, respectively (table 2). *T. ignis*, *S. ruetzleri* vermelha and *Aaptos* sp. aqueous extracts were able to protect against lipid peroxidation only at concentrations higher than 100µg/ml. Trolox was not able to prevent lipid peroxidation induced by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> up to 100µM the highest concentration tested.

### **Phenolic Content**

The phenolic content of extracts was assessed by Folin-Ciocalteu reaction and it was expressed as tannic acid equivalents (TAE) (table 3). The marine sponge extracts that have higher  $\mu\text{g}$  of tannic acid per  $100\mu\text{g}$  of extract were *Agelas* sp., *Guitarra sepia* and *Axinella corrugata*.

### **Thiols Content**

The SH content values of extracts obtained by Ellman's reaction are displayed on table 3. The thiol content ranged between 0.007 to  $0.4\mu\text{g CE}/100\mu\text{g}$  of extracts. The highest content was observed in the the aqueous extracts of *Agelas* sp., *Aaptos* sp., *C. alloclada*, and *S. ruetzleri* amarela. The lowest content was observed in the organic extract of *A. corrugata*, and *S. ruetzleri* amarela, and in the aqueous extracts of *C. nucula*, *D. reticulatus*, *G. sepia*, *Halichondria* sp., *Hyatella* sp., *Protosuberites* sp., and *R. elegans*.

### **Correlation Analysis**

The statistically significant correlations that have been established amongst the results were displayed on table 4. Phenolic content and protective effect on  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  induced lipid peroxidation correlation almost has reached significance level and, for this reason, was also included.

### **Discussion**

Phenolic compounds are classically reported as antioxidants. Several works on plant extracts have attributed antioxidant activity assessed by TRAP to their phenolic content determined by Folin-Ciocalteu reaction (Netto Benetti et al., 2007; Silva et al., 2007; Kappel et al., 2008). A correlation analysis of both TRAP indexes, TAR and AUC, and phenolic content of marine sponge extracts corroborates the literature findings, which suggests the involvement of phenolic compounds in the noticed antioxidant activity against peroxy radical. Despite being animals, phenolic compounds have already been reported in Porifera, and just a few articles have investigated these compounds antioxidant capacity (Takamatsu et al., 2003; Utkina et al., 2004). Additionally, the protection against AAPH-induced lipid peroxidation of extracts correlates to the phenolic content and to both TRAP indexes. As the mechanism of AAPH induced lipid damage relies on its property to decompose and form  $\text{ROO}^{\bullet}$ , we propose that the lipid peroxidation preventive mechanism of the extracts is their  $\text{ROO}^{\bullet}$  scavenging activities, which are dependent on their phenolic compounds. Phenolics can also have a protective effect by acting as potent metal chelators (Hanasaki et al., 1994). Although this prevention could not be statistically significant

correlated with the phenolic content of extracts, phenolic compounds contribution to the prevention of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ -induced lipid damage can not be discarded.

In the other hand, it was outlined a correlation between thiol content and lipid prevention of oxidative damage induced by  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ . Thiols are known to have critical role in life by maintenance of cellular redox potentials and protein thiol-disulfide ratios, as well as by the protection of cells from reactive oxygen species. Gamma-glutamylcysteine (GSH) is the predominant thiol in eukaryotic organisms (Newton and Fahey, 1995). Sponges pump large volume of water and therefore, face high exposition to xenobiotics (Reiswig, 1971; Verdenal et al., 1990), so they require GSH to metabolize these compounds. De Flora et al. (1995) have observed that GSH levels of sponges was higher than observed in rat liver. GSH can act as an antioxidant as well as react with adventitious occurring metals, despite GSH being auto-oxidized in the presence of heavy metals, such as copper and iron, to form disulfides and peroxides (Tsen and Tappel, 1958; Sundquist and Fahey, 1989).

In general, 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  sponge extracts have been able to avoid lipid peroxidation in a range between 8 to 25%. This protection can not be considered ineffective, although it seems weak. In marine environment, iron is mainly found as insoluble oxides of Fe(III), which might cycle to the obtaintion of soluble, bioavailable Fe(II) (Byrne and Kester, 1976), hence protection levels of extracts here evidenced may be sufficient and adequate to sponges deal with this metal in natural environment.

Thiols, mainly GSH, have the ability to react with  $\bullet\text{NO}$  to form S-nitrosothiols. Trapping  $\bullet\text{NO}$  from environment would decrease nitrites formation, representing a nitric oxide radical scavenging potential. We could not establish a relation between the thiol content and  $\bullet\text{NO}$  scavenging property of extracts. Even though it seems a contradiction, there are data asserting the S-nitrosothiols labile nature and easily dissociating feature in the presence of NO (Ignarro et al., 1981), which may explain the lack of correlation here evidenced. Nitric oxide synthase activity has been detected in demosponges (Giovine et al., 2001). The same work has presented an increase in  $\bullet\text{NO}$  production followig heat stress. The rapid response NOS after heat stress stimulation suggests  $\bullet\text{NO}$  may act as a molecular messenger in Porifera. In these circumstances,  $\bullet\text{NO}$  scavenging potential could be beneficial to minimize oxidative damage or to modulate nitric oxide signalling pathways.

Furthermore, our screening failed in detecting  $\bullet\text{OH}$  scavenging capacity through 2-deoxyribose oxidative degradation method. Hydroxyl radical is a very reactive oxygen species which could interact fast with almost any adjacent biomolecule. In order to prevent an oxidative damage induced by  $\bullet\text{OH}$ , the scavenger compound must be closer to the site of formation before hydroxyl generation and at high concentrations to compete with the surrounding biomolecules for a  $\bullet\text{OH}$  reaction (Huang et al., 2005). In this regard, some authors consider more relevant to evaluate the antioxidant scavenging activity against reactive species that could generate  $\bullet\text{OH}$ , as  $\text{O}_2\bullet^-$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , than this radical itself.

The evaluation of hydrogen peroxide counteraction have revealed that marine sponge extracts have  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  scavenging capacities and these abilities have reflected a protective effect on lipids for *Protosuberites* sp., *S. ruetzleri* vermelha, *C. nucula* and *C. alloclada* aqueous extracts. It was possible to correlate both effects of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  protection, which suggests that the mechanism of lipid oxidative damage prevention observed for these extracts may probably be due to their  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  scavenging actions. Endogenously produced hydrogen peroxide is reduced by GSH in the presence of selenium-dependent GSH peroxidase (Wang and Ballatori, 1998). At once only non-enzymatic properties were evaluated, it was not possible to establish a relation between thiols content and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  scavenging activity of the studied extracts. Sponges often have associated microbial populations (Lee et al., 2001; Richelle-Maurer et al., 2003). Symbionts include archaea, bacteria, cyanobacteria, and microalgae (Bewley and Faulkner, 1998; Lee et al., 2001; Proksch et al., 2002). The success of a symbiotic relationship of sponges and cyanobacterias requires that sponges be able to deal with ROS generated by these photosynthetic bacteria. The activity of antioxidant enzymes SOD, catalase, glutathione S-transferase, and glutathione reductase of the Antarctic sponge *Haliclona dancoi* were enhanced in the summer, when it was observed higher levels of simbiotic diatoms (Regoli et al., 2004). Environmental changes, such as elevated solar irradiation and temperature, can elicit bleaching process, and therefore,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  leakage from the symbiont cell (Tchernov et al., 2004). In this regard, sponge abilities to scavenge and protect lipids from peroxidation induced by  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  are needed.

Adrenaline auto-oxidation and NBT reducing reaction are known to implicate an  $\text{O}_2\bullet^-$  involving mechanism. *S. ruetzleri* vermelha, *R. elegans*, *Cliona* sp., *T. ignis*, *G. sepia*. aqueous extracts increased acceleration in adrenaline auto-oxidation rates and also were able to react with NBT, which is concerning with an  $\text{O}_2\bullet^-$  involving mechanism. Molecular non-enzymatic generation of

superoxide radical has already been reported, as in the hydroquinone-quinone cycle. It is known that the most important reaction of quinones relies in their redox property to reversibly reduce to the corresponding hydroquinones via semiquinone free radicals (Bentley and Campbell, 1974). Sesquiterpenoids quinones and hydroquinones are metabolites commonly found in Porifera from the families Dysideidae, Thorectidae, and Spongiidae of the order Dictyoceratidae (Rodriguez et al., 1992). Innumerable pharmacologically relevant activities were described for these compounds, as antileukemic (Müller et al., 1985) and anti-HIV (Loya et al., 1990). Additionally, the quinone ring seems to be essential to cytotoxic and hemolytic activities (Prokof'eva et al., 2004). It has already been proposed an ecological purpose for quinone cycle to marine sponges. The cytotoxic metabolites aeropylsinin-1 and a related dienone, which have been presented a semiquinone radical electron spin paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectrum, are assumed to be released as soon as the sponge is damaged, repelling predators (Koulman et al., 1996).

Nonetheless, the data obtained by NBT and adrenaline approaches did not completely converge. The lack of correlation between them comes from the fact that most extracts reacted in only one of the assays. However, a correlation between NBT assay and phenolic content was observed. Phenol measurement occurs in alkaline pH, in which phenol deprotonates to anion phenolate and binds to Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (Huang et al., 2005). That is the reason why some authors refer to Folin-Ciocalteu method as a reducing capacity assay. Hydroquinones can deprotonate to a semiquinone in alkaline medium, in which NBT reducing reaction was conducted. Thus there is a possibility that the results here obtained demonstrate the reducing potential of extracts, which therefore, depends on phenolic content of the extracts, and it also supports the idea of hydroquinones and quinones presence in the extracts. Hydroquinones are probably able to donate electrons and, therefore, have antioxidant capacity (Tziveleka et al., 2002). Hydroquinones have already been isolated from *Axinella polipoides* (Cimino et al., 1974). The organic extract of *Axinella corrugata*, a sponge belonging to the same genus, has equally reduced NBT as xanthine+xanthine oxidase. These data support the suggestion of hydroquinones in the studied marine sponge extracts.

The marine sponge extracts studied possess abilities to scavenge  $\cdot\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , and  $\text{ROO}\cdot$ , and to prevent lipid peroxidation induced by  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{ROO}\cdot$  e  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ . In some extent, these reactive oxygen and nitrogen species are involved in neurologic dysfunctions. The brain has particular susceptibility to oxidative damage due to (1) the throughout presence of iron in the brain (Burdo and Connor, 2003, Zecca et al., 2004), (2) the brain metabolism generates a lot of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  by SOD

and flavoproteins, such as monoamine oxidases (MAO) A and B (Gal et al., 2005) and, probably, CAT cannot deal with all H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> generated (Halliwell, 2006), (3) the activated microglia produce ROS, interleukin-1 and -6, and tumor necrose factor  $\alpha$  (TNF-  $\alpha$ ), (4) the cytokines release can lead microglia and astrocytes to produce more ROS and inducible-NOS (iNOS), and hence excess  $\bullet$ NO (Duncan and Heales, 2005), and (5) the neuronal membrane lipids be rich in highly polyunsaturated fatty acid side-chains, which are prone to lipid peroxidation. These reasons point out that marine sponge extracts are apparently an interesting source for searching antioxidants, at least for the central nervous system. Hence, the mechanisms and compounds related to antioxidant potential in these marine sponge extracts must be better elucidated.

This article provides a feasible experimental design methodology to determine redox properties in sponge extracts, and also suggests a guide to further analysis in the Brazilian sponge extracts studied. The results of general bioassays of crude extracts integrate the response of all the metabolites present in the organisms (Karban and Mayers, 1989; Martín and Uriz, 1993; Turon et al., 1996; Becerro et al., 1998) and give a more holistic view of the chemical ecology of the species than bioassays using pure metabolites (Harper et al., 2001). These data provide stimulating results in the searching for novel antioxidants in marine sponges, at the same time, we have attempted to discuss the antioxidant capacities here reported in closer relation to, and as a reflect of, biological and ecological interactions of marine sponges.

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Table 1. Brazilian Marine Sponge Extracts Studied

Species	Collection number	Family	Order	Collected off from	Extracts tested
<i>Aaptos</i> sp.	MCN 5144	Suberitidae	Hadromerida	PE	A
<i>Agelas</i> sp.	MCN 4269	Agelasidae	Agelida	PE	A
<i>Axinella corrugata</i>	MCN 3772	Axinellidae	Halichondrida	SC	O
<i>Chondrilla nucula</i>	MCN 5141	Chondrillidae	Chondrosida	PB	A
<i>Cinachyrella alloclada</i>	MCN 5157	Tetillidae	Spirophorida	PE	A
<i>Cliona</i> sp.	MCN 5070	Clionidae	Hadromerida	SC	A
<i>Dragmacidon reticulatus</i>	MCN 3425	Axinellidae	Halichondrida	SC	A
<i>Guitarra sepia</i>	MCN 3413	Guitarridae	Poecilosclerida	SC	A
<i>Halichondria</i> sp.	MCN 5140	Halichondriidae	Halichondrida	PE	A
<i>Haliclona tubifera</i>	MCN 3771	Chalinidae	Haplosclerida	SC	A+O
<i>Hyatella</i> sp.	MCN 4654	Spongiidae	Dictyoceratida	PE	A
<i>Mycale arcuiris</i>	MCN 3984	Mycalidae	Poecilosclerida	SC	A
<i>Petromica citrina</i>	MCN 3395	Halichondriidae	Halichondrida	SC	A
<i>Protosuberites</i> sp.	MCN 4660	Suberitidae	Hadromerida	PE	A
<i>Raspailia elegans</i>	MCN 5058	Raspailiidae	Poecilosclerida	SC	A
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> amarela	MCN 3976	Dictyonellidae	Halichondrida	SC	A+O
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> vermelha	MCN 3976	Dictyonellidae	Halichondrida	SC	A
<i>Tedania ignis</i>	MCN 3397	Tedaniidae	Poecilosclerida	SC	A

MCN=Natural Science Museum; A=aqueous; O=organic; SC,PE, PB=Santa Catarina, Pernambuco and Paraíba States, respectively.

Table 2. Reactive Oxygen and Nitrogen Scavenging Capacity and Lipid Peroxidation Inhibitory Profile of Brazilian Marine Sponge Extracts

Sample tested	TRAP		NO Scavenging Activity (%S)	Inhibition of Lipid Peroxidation Induced by		
	TAR (% I)	AUC (% I)		AAPH (%I)	Fe <sup>2+</sup> (%I)	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (%I)
<i>Aaptos</i> sp.	63.4±4.1 <sup>b</sup>	12.4±1.3 <sup>h,i</sup>	95.9±5.0	n.d.	> 100 µg/ml	> 100 µg/ml
<i>Agelas</i> sp.	94.5±0.9 <sup>a</sup>	81.2±4.7 <sup>b</sup>	81.3±0.6 <sup>d</sup>	65.2±7.3 <sup>a</sup>	9.6±2.8 <sup>c</sup>	n.d.
<i>Axinella corrugata</i>	83.3±3.9 <sup>a</sup>	96.7±0.4 <sup>a</sup>	75.8±1.9 <sup>c,d</sup>	40.6±3.8 <sup>b</sup>	8.7±1.8 <sup>c</sup>	n.d.
<i>Chondrilla nucula</i>	49.3±4.7 <sup>c,d,e</sup>	20.4±2.0 <sup>f,g,h</sup>	70.9±1.3 <sup>d</sup>	n.d.	n.d.	59.4±1.4 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Cinachyrella alloclada</i>	25.8±3.2 <sup>g,h</sup>	16.6±3.1 <sup>g,h,i</sup>	96.2±4.8	> 100 µg/ml	24.2±2.3 <sup>b</sup>	52.6±7.0 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Cliona</i> sp.	53.3±4.5 <sup>b,c,d</sup>	9.9±2.9 <sup>i,j</sup>	167.7±3.1 <sup>f</sup>	25.9±5.3 <sup>b</sup>	> 100 µg/ml	n.d.
<i>Drasmacidon reticulatus</i>	45.7±2.3 <sup>d,e,f</sup>	19.6±1.1 <sup>f,g,h</sup>	119.3±3.3 <sup>e</sup>	n.d.	> 100 µg/ml	n.d.
<i>Guitarra sepiá</i>	50.9±3.8 <sup>c,d,e</sup>	26.5±1.7 <sup>d,e,f</sup>	49.6±1.7 <sup>a</sup>	n.d.	> 100 µg/ml	n.d.
<i>Halichondria</i> sp.	62.9±8.1 <sup>b</sup>	31.3±4.3 <sup>d</sup>	101.1±7.4	22.1±4.5 <sup>b</sup>	10.0±3.1 <sup>c</sup>	n.d.
<i>Haliclona tubifera</i> A	18.6±2.0 <sup>h,i</sup>	10.0±1.1 <sup>i,j</sup>	78.7±5.2 <sup>d</sup>	n.d.	> 100 µg/ml	n.d.
<i>Haliclona tubifera</i> O	27.5±2.6 <sup>g,h</sup>	18.0±1.6 <sup>g,h,i</sup>	64.8±0.5 <sup>b,c</sup>	n.d.	> 100 µg/ml	n.d.
<i>Hyatella</i> sp.	53.0±3.7 <sup>b,c,d</sup>	34.4±1.2 <sup>d</sup>	105.3±3.9	> 100 µg/ml	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Mycale arcuiris</i>	10.2±1.9 <sup>i</sup>	0.1±1.7	55.5±3.2 <sup>a,b</sup>	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Petromica citrina</i>	45.9±3.0 <sup>d,e,f</sup>	0±1.4	124.4±10.5 <sup>e</sup>	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Protosuberites</i> sp.	61.9±3.7 <sup>b,c</sup>	21.6±0.5 <sup>e,f</sup>	4.7±5.1	n.d.	n.d.	66.3±9.6 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Raspailia elegans</i>	37.6±4.4 <sup>e,f,g</sup>	2.8±0.9	110.4±2.2	> 100 µg/ml	> 100 µg/ml	n.d.
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> amarela A	36.2±4.0 <sup>f,g</sup>	12.6±1.6 <sup>h,i</sup>	78.4±1.4 <sup>d</sup>	n.d.	> 100 µg/ml	n.d.
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> amarela O	0±1.2	2.5±1.3	73.8±8.2 <sup>c,d</sup>	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> vermelha	60.2±4.1 <sup>b,c</sup>	28.5±1.4 <sup>d,e</sup>	56.0±1.9 <sup>a,b</sup>	n.d.	> 100 µg/ml	> 100 µg/ml
<i>Tedania ignis</i>	55.7±5.6 <sup>b,c,d</sup>	16.9±2.1 <sup>g,h,i</sup>	63.2±5.8 <sup>b,c</sup>	n.d.	> 100 µg/ml	> 100 µg/ml
Trolox	94.5±1.4 <sup>a</sup>	58.5±6.3 <sup>c</sup>	n.t.	75.5±5.6 <sup>a</sup>	90.5±2.0 <sup>a</sup>	n.d.

Results as mean±standard error of three independent experiments; same letters indicate no statistical differences (ANOVA, p<0.05, Duncan test). n=3; n.d.=not detected; n.t.=not tested; %I=Inhibition percent of 10 µg/ml extracts in TAR and AUC and 100µg/ml in Lipid Peroxidation assay; %S=percent of nitrites formed in 100µg/ml extracts incubation considering the NO producing system as 100%; >100µg/ml= extracts which statistically inhibited lipid peroxidation only in concentrations higher than 100µg/ml.

Table 3. Brazilian Marine Sponge Extracts Phenols and Thiols Content

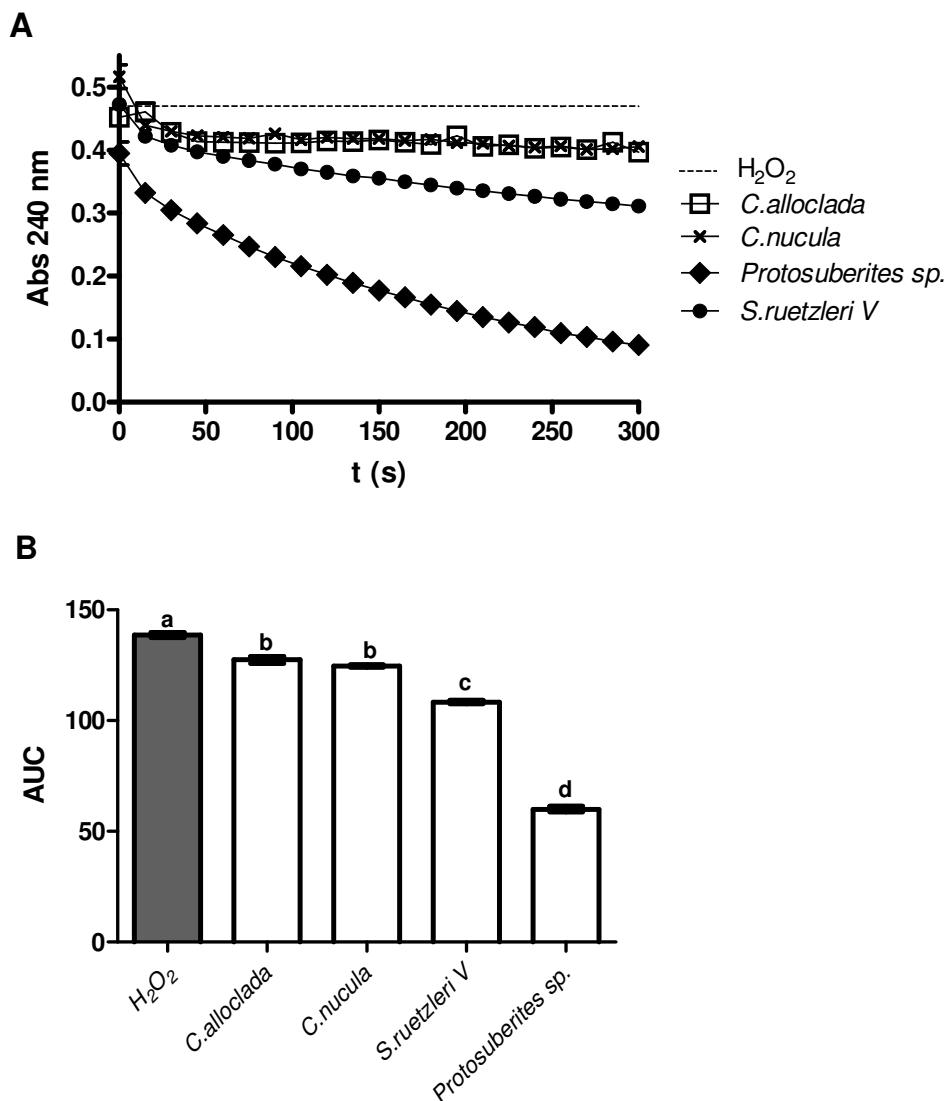
Extracts	Phenols Content ( $\mu\text{g TAE}/100\mu\text{g extract}$ )	Thiols Content ( $\mu\text{g CE}/100\mu\text{g extract}$ )
<i>Aptos</i> sp.	1.52 $\pm$ 0.13 <sup>c</sup>	0.41 $\pm$ 0.05 <sup>f,g</sup>
<i>Agelas</i> sp.	3.36 $\pm$ 0.28 <sup>a</sup>	0.47 $\pm$ 0.04 <sup>g</sup>
<i>Axinella corrugata</i>	2.57 $\pm$ 0.22 <sup>b</sup>	0.068 $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>a,b</sup>
<i>Chondrilla nucula</i>	0.93 $\pm$ 0.17 <sup>d,e,f,g</sup>	0.104 $\pm$ 0.023 <sup>a,b,c</sup>
<i>Cinachyrella alloclada</i>	1.23 $\pm$ 0.10 <sup>c,d,e</sup>	0.41 $\pm$ 0.035 <sup>f,g</sup>
<i>Cliona</i> sp.	0.73 $\pm$ 0.04 <sup>d,e,f,g</sup>	0.21 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>d,e</sup>
<i>Drarmacidon reticulatus</i>	0.41 $\pm$ 0.04 <sup>g</sup>	0.013 $\pm$ 0.002 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Guitarra sepia</i>	3.01 $\pm$ 0.27 <sup>a,b</sup>	0.055 $\pm$ 0.006 <sup>a,b</sup>
<i>Halichondria</i> sp.	1.50 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>c</sup>	0.086 $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>a,b,c</sup>
<i>Haliclona tubifera</i> A	0.75 $\pm$ 0.06 <sup>e,f,g</sup>	0.25 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>c</sup>
<i>Haliclona tubifera</i> O	1.15 $\pm$ 0.05 <sup>c,d,e,f</sup>	0.17 $\pm$ 0.005 <sup>c,d,e</sup>
<i>Hyatella</i> sp.	0.77 $\pm$ 0.04 <sup>e,f,g</sup>	0.011 $\pm$ 0.003 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Mycale arcuiris</i>	0.61 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>f,g</sup>	0.185 $\pm$ 0.05 <sup>c,d,e</sup>
<i>Petromica citrina</i>	0.041 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>g</sup>	0.13 $\pm$ 0.04 <sup>b,c,d</sup>
<i>Protosuberites</i> sp.	1.33 $\pm$ 0.14 <sup>c,d</sup>	0.047 $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>a,b</sup>
<i>Raspailia elegans</i>	0.48 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>g</sup>	0.029 $\pm$ 0.006 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> amarela A	1.28 $\pm$ 0.10 <sup>c,d,e</sup>	0.37 $\pm$ 0.05 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> amarela O	0.56 $\pm$ 0.11 <sup>g</sup>	0.103 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>a,b,c</sup>
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> vermelha	1.11 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>c,d,e,f</sup>	0.14 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>b,c,d</sup>
<i>Tedania ignis</i>	1.39 $\pm$ 0.21 <sup>c,d</sup>	0.26 $\pm$ 0.04 <sup>e</sup>

TAE=tannic acid equivalents; CE=cysteine equivalents. Same letters indicate no statistical differences (ANOVA,  $p < 0.05$ , Duncan test).

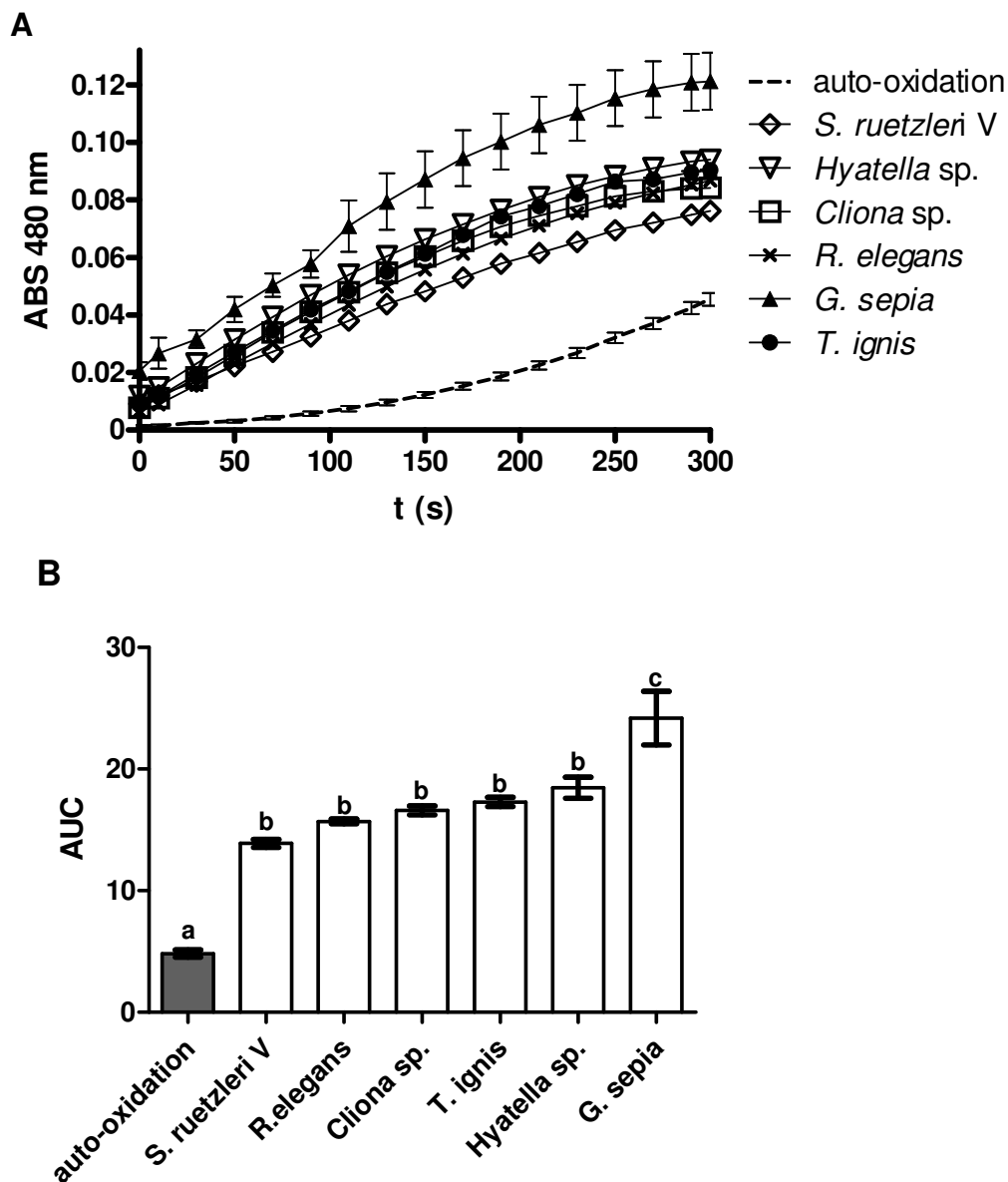
Table 4. Established Correlations Between the Studied Parameters.

Correlated Parameters	Pearson's Coefficient	P
Phenol X TAR	0.646	0.02
Phenol X AUC/TRAP	0.765	<0.000
Phenol X LPO/AAPH	0.774	<0.000
Phenol X LPO/Fe <sup>2+</sup>	0.433	0.56
Phenol X NBT	0.630	<0.000
Thiol X LPO/Fe <sup>2+</sup>	0.448	0.48
AbsH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> X LPO/H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.582	0.007

Phenol=phenolic content, TAR=total antioxidant reactivity, AUC/TRAP=area under curve of total radical antioxidant potential, LPO/AAPH=lipid peroxidation induced by AAPH, LPO/Fe<sup>2+</sup>=lipid peroxidation induced by Fe<sup>2+</sup>, NBT=Nitroblue tetrazolium reduction, Thiol=thiol content, AbsH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>=H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> absorbance, LPO/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>=lipid peroxidation induced by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

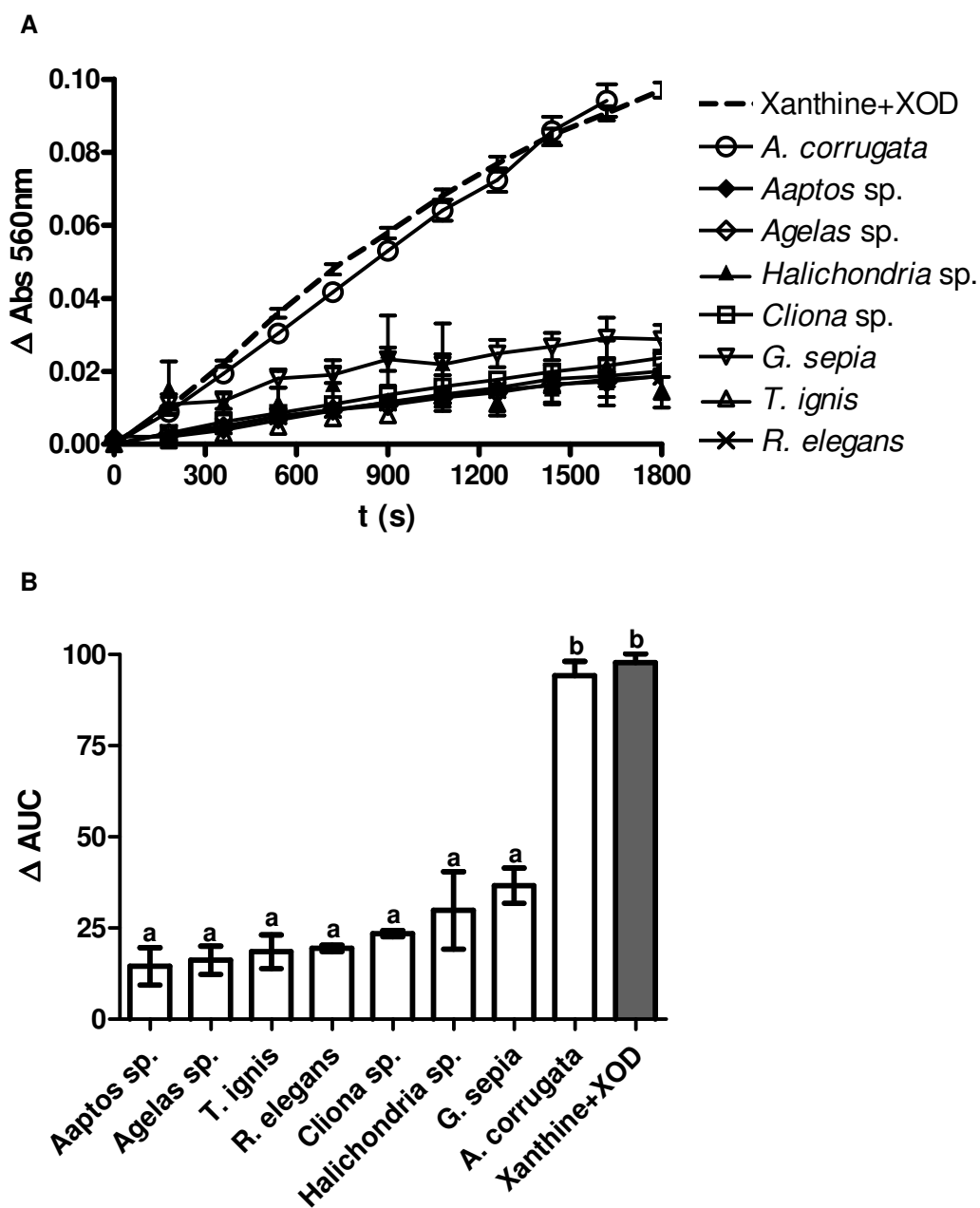


**Figure 1.** Decreasing Effect of Brazilian Marine Sponge Extracts in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Absorbance. Decrease of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> absorbance along the time elapsed (A), and quantification of each respective area under curve (AUC) (B). Data expressed as mean ± standard error of three different experiments (n=3). Same letters indicate no significant differences (ANOVA, p<0.05, Duncan Test).



**Figure 2.** Enhancing Effect of Brazilian Marine Sponge Extracts in Adrenaline Auto-Oxidation. Enhance in adrenochrome formation along time (A), and quantification of each respective area under curve (AUC) (B). Data expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard error of three different experiments (n=3). Same letters indicate no statistically significant differences (ANOVA,  $p < 0.05$ , Duncan Test).





**Figure 3.** Nitroblue Tetrazolium (NBT) Reducing Ability of Brazilian Marine Sponge Extracts. NBT reducing profile of marine sponge extracts and xanthine+xanthine oxidase (XOD) expressed as variation of absorbance at 560nm (A). Quantification of each area under curve (AUC) disposed in (A) (B). Data expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard error of three different experiments ( $n=3$ ). Same letters indicate no statistically significant differences (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ , Duncan Test).

#### 4. DISCUSSÃO

Polifenóis são compostos onipresentes no Reino Vegetal. Muitos compostos fenólicos são conhecidos por suas propriedades antioxidantes. O resveratrol, encontrado em uvas e em muitas outras plantas, possui capacidade de prevenir a lipoperoxidação da lipoproteína de baixa densidade (LDL, *low-density lipoprotein*) (TADOLINI *et al.*, 2000), bem como de proteger o coração de ratos do processo de isquemia-reperfusão (HUNG *et al.*, 2000). Outro flavonóide amplamente distribuído em vegetais, a quercitina, também é capaz de inibir a peroxidação lipídica (GRYGLEWSKI *et al.*, 1987; LAUGHTON *et al.*, 1991). Muitos trabalhos com extratos de plantas atribuem a atividade antioxidante obtida pelo ensaio TRAP ao conteúdo de fenólicos determinado pelo método de Folin-Ciocalteu (NETTO BENETTI *et al.*, 2007; SILVA *et al.*, 2007; KAPPEL *et al.*, 2008). Neste trabalho encontramos uma correlação entre ambos índices de TRAP, TAR e AUC, e o conteúdo fenólico dos extratos de esponjas marinhas. Este resultado sugere o envolvimento dos compostos fenólicos dos extratos em suas atividades de *scavenger* de radical peroxil.

Apesar de serem animais, compostos fenólicos também foram encontrados em esponjas marinhas. Um grupo interessante de triprenilfenóis isolados de esponjas marinhas inclui panicein A (1), B1 (2), B2 (3), B3 (4) e C (5) (CIMINO *et al.*, 1973; CASAPULLO *et al.*, 1993; JASPARS *et al.*, 1995) (figura 3). Porém poucos trabalhos investigaram a capacidade antioxidante de compostos fenólicos em esponjas (TAKAMATSU *et al.*, 2003; UTKINA *et al.*, 2004).

A proteção contra lipoperoxidação induzida por AAPH também foi correlacionada ao TRAP e ao conteúdo de fenóis. O mecanismo de dano induzido por AAPH consiste na sua propriedade de se decompor e formar  $ROO^{\bullet}$  (NIKI, 1990). Possivelmente, a correlação

observada indique que o mecanismo protetor dos extratos é a capacidade de captura de radical peróxil, o qual é dependente do conteúdo de fenóis dos extratos.

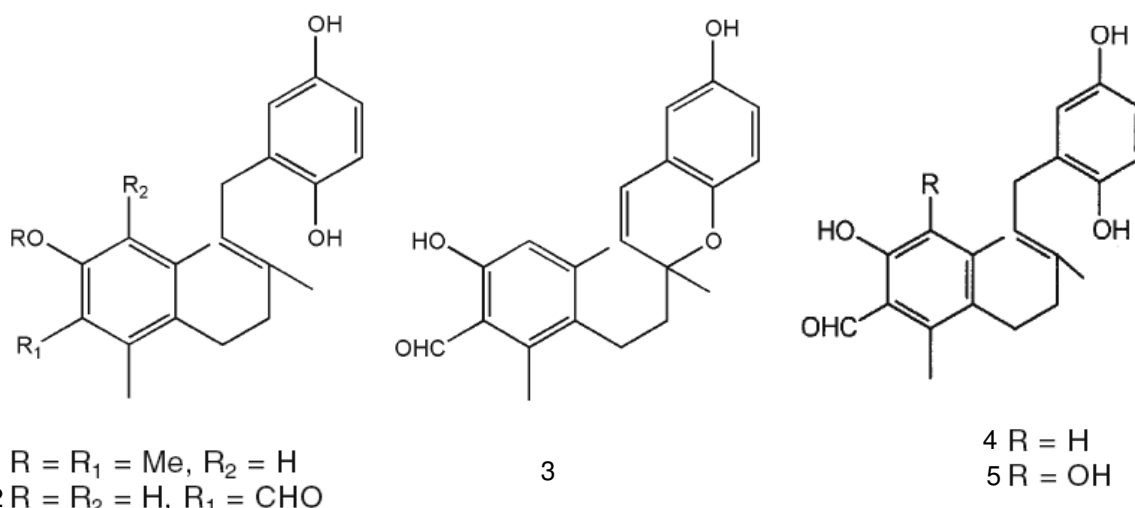


Figura 3. Compostos fenólicos isolados de esponjas marinhas. Retirado e modificado de Bakhuni & Rawat, 2005.

Compostos fenólicos também podem atuar como potentes quelantes de metal (HANASAKI *et al.*, 1994). Entretanto, não foi evidenciada correlação entre o conteúdo de fenóis e a proteção lipídica contra dano oxidativo induzido por Fe<sup>2+</sup>. A falta de correlação indica que o conteúdo de fenóis não está relacionado à proteção lipídica contra Fe<sup>2+</sup>, mas não exclui a participação dos compostos fenólicos nesta capacidade antioxidante. Estudos de relação estrutura e atividade (SAR, *structure-activity relationship*) mostram que, dependendo de sua estrutura, moléculas pertencentes à mesma função química diferindo em apenas um átomo ou um grupo funcional ligante podem possuir diferentes graus de determinada bioatividade. Portanto, esta proteção contra ferro pode estar relacionada à qualidade dos compostos fenólicos presentes nos extratos. Um estudo qualitativo dos compostos fenólicos poderia ajudar a esclarecer qual a contribuição destas moléculas para a atividade antioxidante contra Fe<sup>2+</sup>.

Por outro lado, foi evidenciada uma correlação entre o conteúdo de tióis e o efeito protetor contra peroxidação lipídica induzida por  $Fe^{2+}$ . Tióis desempenham papéis vitais na manutenção dos potenciais redox celulares e das razões protéicas tiol-dissulfeto, assim como na proteção das células contra espécies reativas de oxigênio. Glutathione (GSH) é o tiol predominante em organismos eucarióticos (NEWTON & FAHEY, 1995). GSH pode agir como antioxidante bem como reagir com metais, apesar de ser auto-oxidada na presença de metais pesados, formando dissulfetos e peróxidos (TSEN & TAPPEL, 1958; SUNDQUIST & FAHEY, 1989). Esponjas filtram grandes volumes de água e, por isso, estão extremamente expostas a xenobióticos presentes no ambiente (REISWIG, 1971) e, portanto, GSH é essencial para que desempenhem esta função metabólica. De Flora e colaboradores (1995) demonstraram que os níveis de GSH em esponjas das espécies *Geodia cydonium* e *Tethya aurantium* são duas vezes maiores que os níveis encontrados em fígado de ratos.

No geral, concentrações maiores que  $100\mu\text{g/ml}$  dos extratos de esponja foram capazes de evitar a peroxidação lipídica induzida por  $Fe^{2+}$  e quatro extratos na concentração de  $100\mu\text{g/ml}$  inibiram entre 8 a 25% do dano lipídico. Embora a proteção possa parecer fraca, não pode ser considerada ineficiente. No ambiente marinho, o ferro é um elemento crítico para a produção primária (DE BAAR *et al.*, 1995; CHISHOLM, 2000; WATSON *et al.*, 2000). O suprimento de ferro até pequenas profundidades nos oceanos tem origem na poeira do solo que entra em contato com a superfície dos mares (TURNER *et al.*, 2001; JICKELLS *et al.*, 2005) e é limitado pelo pH mar, que favorece a insolubilidade deste metal. Na água do mar, ferro é encontrado principalmente como óxidos de Fe(III), mas sua insolubilidade resulta na deposição como colóides de ferro no fundo do mar (BYRNE & KESTER, 1976). Para que o ferro esteja biodisponível, esta matéria deve ser convertida a compostos solúveis, através de dissolução térmica (WELLS *et al.*, 1983; RICH & MOREL, 1990), redução de Fe(III) por

redutores orgânicos (FINDEN *et al.*, 1984) ou dissolução foto-redutora de óxidos de Fe(III) com ou sem ligantes orgânicos (FINDEN *et al.*, 1984; WELLS *et al.*, 1987, 1991; RICH & MOREL, 1990). Por todos estes motivos, os níveis de proteção não-enzimática evidenciados neste trabalho podem ser suficientes e adequados para esponjas marinhas lidarem com o ferro existente em seu ambiente natural.

Tióis, principalmente GSH, têm a habilidade de reagir com  $\bullet\text{NO}$  e formar S-nitrosotióis. A formação de S-nitrosotióis poderia retirar  $\bullet\text{NO}$  do meio e, portanto, os tióis poderiam atuar como *scavenger* de  $\bullet\text{NO}$ . Contudo, não foi estabelecida correlação entre conteúdo tiólico e a propriedade de captura de radical  $\bullet\text{NO}$ . Existem dados publicados acerca da natureza lábil e do caráter de pronta dissociação dos S-nitrosotióis quando expostos ao radical óxido nítrico (IGNARRO *et al.*, 1981). Tal fato pode explicar a falta de correlação evidenciada neste estudo. A atividade de óxido nítrico sintase (NOS) foi detectada em esponjas do grupo Demospongiae (GIOVINE *et al.*, 2001). Giovine e colaboradores (2001) observaram um aumento na produção de  $\bullet\text{NO}$  subsequente ao estresse térmico. A rápida resposta da NOS ao estímulo térmico sugeriu a atuação de  $\bullet\text{NO}$  como uma molécula sinalizadora. Muitos invertebrados marinhos possuem sinalização por óxido nítrico, como moluscos e celenterados (JACKLET, 1997; COLASANTI & VENTURINI, 1998). O óxido nítrico é tanto essencial quanto tóxico para a célula. Em baixas concentrações, difunde-se através do citosol e membranas lipídicas e para dentro das células como um gás, onde se liga a compostos de elétrons simples e atua fisiologicamente como neurotransmissor e hormônio vasodilatador. Entretanto, em altas concentrações, combina-se com  $\text{O}_2$  ou com o radical superóxido formando espécies reativas como o peroxinitrito ( $\text{ONOO}^-$ ) (SMITH *et al.*, 2005). Essas espécies reativas estão envolvidas em doenças

neurodegenerativas, como Parkinson, e em doenças inflamatórias crônicas, como artrite reumatóide. Nestas circunstâncias, a atividade de *scavenger* de  $\bullet\text{NO}$  evidenciada pode ser benéfica tanto para evitar danos oxidativos quanto para ajudar a modular sinais exacerbados das vias de sinalização.

Nenhum extrato apresentou atividade de *scavenger* de  $\bullet\text{OH}$  através do método de degradação oxidativa da 2-desoxirribose. O radical hidroxil é uma espécie reativa de oxigênio capaz de interagir rapidamente com qualquer biomolécula adjacente. A fim de prevenir um dano oxidativo induzido por  $\bullet\text{OH}$ , o composto *scavenger* deve estar próximo do sítio de formação antes do hidroxil ser formado e em altas concentrações para competir com as moléculas por uma reação com o  $\bullet\text{OH}$  (HUANG *et al.*, 2005). Então, torna-se relevante avaliar a capacidade antioxidante de *scavenger* de espécies reativas de oxigênio que podem gerar  $\bullet\text{OH}$ , como  $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$  e  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .

Neste sentido, as atividades peroxidásica dos extratos de esponjas foram testadas. Os extratos aquosos de *Protosuberites* sp., *S. ruetzleri* vermelha, *C. nucula* e *C. alloclada* revelaram-se *scavengers* de peróxido de hidrogênio. Estes mesmos extratos foram capazes de proteger os lipídios do dano oxidativo contra peróxido de hidrogênio. Este dado sugere que o mecanismo de prevenção ao dano lipídico induzido por  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  possa ser a atividade de *scavenger* destes extratos, uma vez que foi evidenciada uma correlação entre ambas atividades antioxidantes contra  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . É importante salientar que trolox até  $100\mu\text{M}$ , a máxima concentração testada, não foi capaz de proteger os lipídios da peroxidação induzida por  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . A glutatona protege as células do dano oxidativo através da atividade de *scavenger* não-enzimática e pela neutralização de peróxido de hidrogênio e hidroperóxidos lipídicos pela ação de peroxidases dependentes de GSH (WANG & BALLATORI, 1998;

POMPELLA *et al.*, 2003). Entretanto, não foi possível estabelecer uma correlação entre conteúdo de tióis e nenhuma das capacidades antioxidantes contra peróxido de hidrogênio.

A associação com populações microbianas é freqüente em Porifera (LEE *et al.*, 2001; RICHELLE-MAURER *et al.*, 2003). Os organismos simbiotes compreendem grupos de archaea, bactérias, cianobactérias e microalgas (BEWLEY & FAULKNER, 1998; LEE *et al.*, 2001; PROKSCH *et al.*, 2002). O sucesso da relação de simbiose entre os organismos depende das capacidades de adaptação do hospedeiro e do simbiote. Esponjas em simbiose com cianobactérias e microalgas fotossintetizantes respondem adaptativamente ao aporte de O<sub>2</sub> e de espécies reativas geradas a partir da fotossíntese. O aumento de diatomáceas no período do verão na esponja da Antártica *Haliclona dancoi* ocasionou o aumento de atividade das enzimas de defesa antioxidante SOD e catalase, e das enzimas que recicla glutatona, glutatona redutase (REGOLI *et al.*, 2004). Mudanças ambientais, como irradiação solar e temperaturas elevadas, também podem alterar a eficiência fotossintética do simbiote e gerar mais espécies reativas de oxigênio. Nestas condições, um processo chamado *bleaching* (clareamento) pode ocorrer e permitir o vazamento de H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> da célula do simbiote para o hospedeiro (TCHERNOV *et al.*, 2004). A fotorredução de ferro também pode gerar peróxido de hidrogênio no ambiente marinho (MILLER & KESTER, 1994). Neste contexto, as habilidades de capturar o H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> a fim de proteger às biomoléculas da esponja são fundamentais.

Recentemente, o peróxido de hidrogênio vem sendo tratado como um mensageiro celular envolvido em respostas de replicação celular, regulação do metabolismo, indução de genes específicos e apoptose nas mais diversas formas de vida (LAMBETH, 2004; CAI, 2005; LIU & FINKEL, 2006; RHEE, 2006). Entretanto, a formação de H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> e aldeídos tóxicos a partir da degradação de dopamina na região nigro-estriatal do cérebro através da

monoamina oxidase (MAO) B pode estar relacionada à patogênese da doença de Parkinson (NAGATSU & SAWADA, 2006). Adicionalmente, o  $H_2O_2$  pode ser formado endogenamente por óxido-redutases como a glicose oxidase (MASSEY *et al.*, 1969), e principalmente pela dismutação de superóxido produzido a partir de: NADPH oxidases (LAMBETH, 2002), vazamento da cadeia de transporte de elétrons mitocondrial (LOSCHEN *et al.*, 1974), ciclo redox de quinonas (MCCORD & FRIDOVICH, 1970) e flavoproteínas xenobióticas (MASSEY *et al.*, 1969). Portanto, mais estudos são necessários para entender as promissoras atividades protetoras dos extratos de esponja contra dano oxidativo induzido por peróxido de hidrogênio.

Com relação à capacidade de *scavenger* o radical ânion superóxido, as reações de auto-oxidação da adrenalina e de redução do NBT foram utilizadas. Os extratos aquosos de *S. ruetzleri* vermelha, *R. elegans*, *Cliona* sp., *T. ignis*, *G. sepia* aceleraram as taxas de auto-oxidação de adrenalina e também foram capazes de reagir com o NBT. Estes dados indicam que há possibilidade do mecanismo de ação destes extratos ser através da geração de  $O_2^{\bullet-}$ . A geração não-enzimática do radical ânion superóxido já foi relatada. Um exemplo é o ciclo hidroquinona-quinona. A mais importante reação das quinonas consiste nas suas propriedades redox de redução reversível a hidroquinonas correspondentes via radicais semiquinonas (BENTLEY & CAMPBELL, 1974). A fauna marinha é capaz de sintetizar quinonas (BAKHUNI & RAWAT, 2005). Muitas benzoquinonas foram isoladas de organismos marinhos e predominantemente possuem estruturas relacionadas a naftazarina (1) e juglona (2) (figura 4). Além destas, 2,5-dihidroxi-3-etilbenzoquinona (3) e antraquinonas, especialmente análogos de rodocomatulina (4) forma isolados (figura 4). Sesquiterpenóides



quinonas e hidroquinonas são metabólitos comumente encontradas em esponjas da família Dysideidae, Thorectidae e Spongiidae da ordem Dictyoceratidae (RODRIGUEZ *et al.*, 1992).

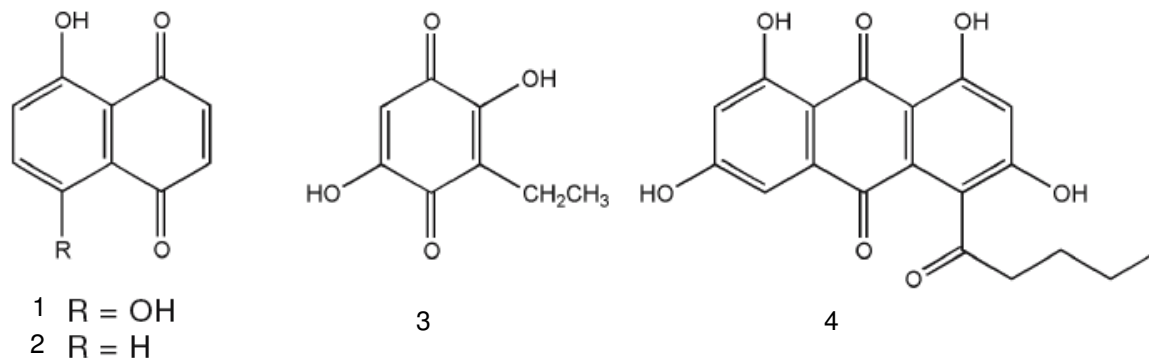


Figura 4. Quinonas isoladas de esponjas marinhas. Retirado e modificado de Bakhuni e Rawat, 2005.

Quinonas possuem inúmeras atividades farmacologicamente relevantes. São exemplos, os agentes antileucêmicos avarol e avarone (MÜLLER *et al.*, 1985) e o composto anti-HIV ilimaquinona (LOYA *et al.*, 1990). Além disso, o anel quinona parece ser essencial às atividades citotóxicas e hemolíticas (PROKOF'EVA *et al.*, 2004). Um propósito ecológico para o ciclo das quinonas em esponjas marinhas já foi proposto. Os metabólitos citotóxicos aeroplysinina-1 e uma dienona relacionada apresentaram espectros de ressonância paramagnética de radical. E acredita-se que sua formação ocorra assim que a esponja é danificada, repelindo predadores (KOULMAN *et al.*, 1996).

Os resultados obtidos pelas técnicas do NBT e da adrenalina não convergiram completamente, o que se refletiu na ausência de correlação entre o resultado destas técnicas. Esta discrepância pode ser atribuída aos diferentes períodos de monitoramento das técnicas. A faixa de linearidade da auto-oxidação da adrenalina ocorre até 5 minutos do início da reação, não sendo possível e correto analisar tempos maiores que este. Enquanto

que nos cinco primeiros minutos de reação com NBT, o controle positivo de geração de superóxido, xantina+xantina oxidase, foi incapaz de reduzir o NBT de forma estatisticamente significativa, o que nos fez optar por avaliar um tempo maior de reação. Entretanto, foi estabelecida uma correlação entre a capacidade de reduzir o NBT e o conteúdo de fenóis dos extratos. A quantificação de compostos fenólicos ocorre em pH alcalino, no qual o fenol é deprotonado ao ânion fenolato e liga-se ao núcleo fosfomolibdato do reagente de Folin-Ciocalteu (HUANG *et al.*, 2005). Como há liberação de  $H^+$  para o meio, a reação de Folin-Ciocalteu pode servir como indicadora da capacidade redutora das amostras. A redução do NBT também foi conduzida em meio alcalino, no qual compostos fenólicos podem dissociar a ânion fenolato e próton. Então, é possível que, no geral, os resultados da reação com NBT demonstrem o potencial redutor dos extratos e, por isso, sejam correlacionados ao conteúdo de fenólicos obtido pelo método de Folin-Ciocalteu. Hidroquinonas são provavelmente capazes de reduzir fortes espécies reativas e oxidantes pela doação de elétrons (TZIVELEKA *et al.*, 2002). Hidroquinonas livres já foram isoladas de *Axinella polipoides* (CIMINO *et al.*, 1974). Neste estudo, o extrato de uma esponja pertencente a este mesmo gênero, o extrato de *Axinella corrugata*, apresentou capacidade de reduzir o NBT igual ao controle positivo xantina+xantina oxidase. Este conjunto de dados reforça a sugestão da presença de hidroquinonas nos extratos de esponjas marinhas.

## 5. Conclusão

Este trabalho mostrou que extratos de esponjas marinhas possuem capacidades de *scavenger* de  $\bullet\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  e  $\text{ROO}\bullet$  e de proteger da peroxidação lipídica induzida por  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{ROO}\bullet$  e  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (tabela 1). Entretanto, nenhum dos extratos foi capaz de prevenir o dano oxidativo a 2-desoxirribose induzido por  $\bullet\text{OH}$  até  $100\mu\text{g/ml}$ . Além disso, o conteúdo de fenóis dos extratos parece estar relacionado à capacidade antioxidante contra a  $\text{ROO}\bullet$ , evidenciada nas técnicas de TRAP e TBARS, enquanto o conteúdo de tióis parece estar envolvido com a proteção lipídica contra  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ . A capacidade de *scavenger* de  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  se refletiu na proteção dos lipídios contra a peroxidação induzida por peróxido de hidrogênio, sugerindo ser esta habilidade o mecanismo de prevenção de lipoperoxidação ocasionada por tal agente oxidante. Dada a importância e o envolvimento destas espécies reativas em várias disfunções, os mecanismos bem como as moléculas responsáveis pelas ações antioxidantes observadas nestes extratos de esponjas marinhas merecem ser melhor entendidas.

Este trabalho apresentou uma metodologia plausível para determinar potenciais redox-ativos de importância fisiopatológica em extratos de esponjas marinhas. Além disso, levantou sugestões para futuras análises das propriedades redox observadas nos extratos de esponjas, bem como forneceu dados estimulantes para o prosseguimento da pesquisa por moléculas antioxidantes em esponjas marinhas.

Conforme já descrito para outras bioatividades, é possível que as características redox encontradas nestes extratos de esponjas marinhas possam ser reflexo da biologia e ecologia destes animais.

Tabela 1. Sumário das Propriedades Redox-Ativas dos Extratos de Esponjas Marinhas Estudados

	TRAP		Capacidade Scavenger de $\cdot$ NO	Capacidade Scavenger de $\cdot$ OH	Capacidade Scavenger de $O_2^{\cdot-}$		Capacidade Scavenger de $H_2O_2$	Inibição da Lipoperoxidação induzida por		
	TAR	AUC			AAO	NBT		AAPH	$Fe^{2+}$	$H_2O_2$
<i>Aaptos</i> sp.	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	-	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Agelas</i> sp.	+	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	-	n.d.	+	+	n.d.
<i>Axinella corrugata</i>	+	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	-	n.d.	+	+	n.d.
<i>Chondrilla nucula</i>	+	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	+	n.d.	n.d.	+
<i>Cinachyrella alloclada</i>	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	+	n.d.	+	+
<i>Cliona</i> sp.	+	+	-	n.d.	-	-	n.d.	+	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Dragmacidon reticulatus</i>	+	+	-	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Guitarra sepia</i>	+	+	+	n.d.	-	-	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Halichondria</i> sp.	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	-	n.d.	+	+	n.d.
<i>Haliclona tubifera</i> A	+	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Haliclona tubifera</i> O	+	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Hyatella</i> sp.	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	-	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Mycale arcuiris</i>	+	n.d.	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Petromica citrina</i>	+	n.d.	-	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Protosuberites</i> sp.	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	+	n.d.	n.d.	+
<i>Raspailia elegans</i>	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	-	-	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> amarela A	+	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> amarela O	n.d.	n.d.	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Scopalina ruetzeri</i> vermelha	+	+	+	n.d.	-	n.d.	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
<i>Tedania ignis</i>	+	+	+	n.d.	-	-	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Trolox	+	+	n.t.	n.t.	n.t.	n.t.	n.t.	+	+	n.d.

Resultados expressos como média±erro padrão de um experimento representativo de três experimentos independentes (ANOVA,  $p < 0.05$ , teste Duncan); n.d.=não detectada; n.t.=não testada; +=efeito antioxidante ou -=pró-oxidante de 10µg/ml de extratos no TRAP e 100µg/ml de extrato nos demais ensaios.

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## **ANEXO 1:** Regras para submissão de manuscrito para o periódico Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part C: Toxicology and Pharmacology

### **Guide for Authors**

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### **Guide for Authors**

The journal publishes original articles emphasizing comparative and environmental aspects of the physiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, pharmacology, toxicology and endocrinology of animals. Adaptation and evolution as organizing principles are encouraged. Studies on other organisms will be considered if approached in a comparative context.

**Part A. Molecular and Integrative Physiology** deals with molecular, cellular, integrative, and ecological physiology. Topics include bioenergetics, circulation, development, excretion, ion regulation, endocrinology, neurobiology, nutrition, respiration, and thermal biology. Studies on regulatory mechanisms at any level or organization such as signal transduction and cellular interactions and control of behaviour are encouraged.

**Part B. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** covers biochemical and molecular biological aspects of metabolism, enzymology, regulation, nutrition, signal transduction, promoters, gene structure and regulation, metabolite and cell constituents, macromolecular structures, adaptational mechanisms and evolutionary principles.

**Part C. Toxicology and Pharmacology** is concerned with chemical and drug action at different levels of organization, biotransformation of xenobiotics, mechanisms of toxicity, including reactive oxygen species and carcinogenesis, endocrine disruptors, natural products chemistry, and signal transduction. A molecular approach to these fields is encouraged.

**Part D. Genomics and Proteomics** covers the broader comprehensive approaches to comparative biochemistry and physiology that can be generally termed as "-omics", e.g., genomics, functional genomics (transcriptomics), proteomics, metabolomics, and underlying bioinformatics. Papers dealing with fundamental aspects and hypotheses in comparative physiology and biochemistry are encouraged rather than studies whose main focus is purely technical or methodological.

Naturally, a certain degree of overlap exists between the different sections, and the final decision as to where a particular manuscript will be published after passing the rigorous review process lies with the editorial office.

### **Submission and review of manuscripts**

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Manuscripts are to be submitted to the CBP Editorial Office electronically at 

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### **Preparation of manuscripts**

Please note: Investigators are encouraged to report measured experimental/exposure levels of toxicants whenever possible, rather than simply stating nominal values.

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*Format:* All sections of the manuscript must be 1.5-spaced with 2.5 cm (1 inch) margins. Pages should be numbered consecutively. Avoid footnotes. Underline only words or letters that will be printed in italics. Mark the position of each figure and table in the margin. The full Latin name of all species used in the study must be supplied.

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*Abstract:* The second page of the manuscript must contain only the abstract and the key words. The abstract should be a single paragraph not exceeding 200 words. Non-standard abbreviations and reference citations should be avoided.

*Key words:* Up to eight key words, which may or may not appear in the title, should be listed in alphabetical order after the abstract. Only these key words, together with the title, will be used to compile the subject index.

*References:*

1. All publications cited in the text should be presented in alphabetical order in a list following the text of the manuscript.
2. In the text refer to the author's name and year of publication.
3. If reference is made in the text to a publication written by more than two authors the name of the first author should be used followed by "et al.". In this list names of first authors and all co-authors should be mentioned.
4. References cited together in the text should be arranged chronologically.
5. The List of references should be arranged alphabetically on authors' names, and chronologically per author. Names of all authors must be included. *Do not use et al.* Publications by the same author(s) in the same year should be listed as 2000a, 2000b, etc. Follow the relevant examples below.

Axelsson, M., Farrell, A.P., 1993. Coronary blood flow in vivo in the coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). *Am. J. Physiol.* 264, R963 - 971.

Hiramatsu, N., Cheek, A.O., Sullivan, C.V., Matsubara, T., Hara, A., 2005. Vitellogenesis and endocrine disruption. In: Mommsen, T.P., Moon, T.W. (Eds.), *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Fishes*, vol. 6. Environmental Toxicology, Elsevier, Amsterdam, pp. 431-471.

Lindsley, J.E., Rutter, J., 2004. Nutrient sensing and metabolic decisions. *Comp. Biochem. Physiol. B* 139, 543-559.

Moyle, P.B., Cech, J.J., 2004. *Fishes. An introduction to ichthyology*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

*Tables:* Tables should be prepared as follows:

(a) Refer to current tables in the journal, for required spatial layout. If possible, a Times Roman font should be used.

(b) Each table, including heading and legend should be typed on a separate sheet. If possible, a Times Roman font should be used.

(c) Insert heavy rules at the head and foot of each table, and fine rules below column headings.

*Italics:* Genus and species names, and other words normally italicized, should be typed in italics or underlined.

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*Example 3:* "B-cell tumor from a chronic lymphatic leukemia (GenBank accession no. BE675048), and a T-cell lymphoma (GenBank accession no. AA361117)".

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1. Designate the corresponding author and provide telephone and fax numbers, and an e-mail address.
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3. Check the style in which references are cited; unpublished work will not be listed in this section unless it is "in press".
4. If referencing manuscripts "in press", these must be uploaded as supplementary material during the manuscript submission process.
5. Provide names and addresses (including phone and fax numbers & e-mail addresses) of at least five researchers of recognized competence who may be considered as referees.

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