Antidiarrheal activity of *Guazuma ulmifolia* Lam. (Sterculiaceae)

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**SUMMARY.** The high incidence of diarrhea in the population demands a search for new therapeutic options and easy access, mainly from plant-based sources. Leaves and bark of *Guazuma ulmifolia* Lam. (Sterculiaceae) are popularly employed against diarrhea. However, no information was found in the literature about this supposed property of the drug. In this study we evaluated *in vivo* antidiarrheal activity of stem bark extracts from *G. ulmifolia* in mice, and *in vitro* antimicrobial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella* sp., *Shigella flexneri*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* by using the microdilution method. The *n*-BuOH semipurified fraction (GU#3) significantly reduced intestinal motility. The extracts did not show antimicrobial activity. *G. ulmifolia* Lam. had non-specific antidiarrheal, and antimotility activity in the experimental models studied, and could be used as an alternative treatment for non-infectious diarrhea.

**KEY WORDS:** Antidiarrheal activity, Antimicrobial screening, Condensed tannins, *Guazuma ulmifolia*, Sterculiaceae.

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