Trypanocidal activity of *Erythrina speciosa* Andr. (Leguminosae)

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SUMMARY. Investigation of the bioactive crude extracts from the leaves of *Erythrina speciosa* Andr. (Leguminosae-Papilionoideae) from Brazil led to the isolation of nororientaline as a new alkaloid in this plant. The activity of crude extract and alkaloids, isolated from leaves of *E. speciosa* were evaluated against *Trypanosoma cruzi* epimastigotes and trypomastigotes *in vitro*. Our results show that crude alcoholic extract of *E. speciosa* (Et-Es) and alkaloids containing nororientaline at 250 μg/mL, 500 μg/mL and 1000 μg/mL inhibited 50, 60 and 80 % of epimastigote growth, respectively (p < 0.001). Et-Es showed activity against trypomastigote forms in 80 % and 60 % at 1000 μg/mL and 500 μg/mL, respectively. When tested against macrophages, the same extract did not affect the cell viability as measured by luminescent assay, suggesting that it should be considered as a leading structure for further research.

KEY WORDS: *Erythrina speciosa*, Nororientaline, Trypanocidal activity.

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