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Processing of *Apeiba tibourbou* Aubl. Extract Via Spray Drying

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***SUMMARY*. The effects of drying air inlet temperature (IT) and concentration of Aerosil® 200 (C_A) on several properties of spray-dried *Apeiba tibourbou* extracts were investigated following a 3^2 full factorial design. Powder recovery varied from 9.83 to 46.95 % and dried products showed moisture contents below 7 %. Although the spray-dried products lost some of their polyphenols, they still present excellent antioxidant activity, opening perspectives for its use to medicinal purpose. C_A exerted a key role on the properties of spray-dried extracts, while IT did not present a significative influence. Aerosil® 200 proved to be an interesting alternative as an excipient for the drying of the herbal extract, even at intermediate concentrations such as 15 %. The best combination of conditions to use for obtaining dry *A. tibourbou* extracts with adequate physicochemical and functional properties involves an IT of 100 ºC and a C_A of 15 %.**

KEY WORDS: Antioxidant activity, Apeiba tibourbou, Pharmaceutical excipients, Powder technology, Rosmarinic acid, Spray drying.

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