

# Cytotoxic Activity of Flavonoids and Extracts from *Retama sphaerocarpa* Boissier

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Z. Naturforsch. **55c**, 40–43 (2000); received July 28/September 27, 1999

*Retama sphaerocarpa*, Fabaceae, Flavonoids, Human Cancer Cell Lines, Cytotoxicity

Seven flavonoids isolated from chloroform, ethyl acetate and butanol extracts, obtained from the aerial parts of *Retama sphaerocarpa*, have been assessed for cytotoxic activity against three human cancer cell lines: TK-10 (renal adenocarcinoma), MCF-7 (breast adenocarcinoma) and UACC-62 (melanoma), using the SRB assay. All of them, extracts and flavonoids, were actives in, at least, one of the three cell lines at the recommended National Cancer Institute doses. They produce a dose-dependent inhibition of cell growth at concentrations in the  $10^{-6}$ - $10^{-4}$  M and 25–250 µg/ml range for the flavonoids and extracts respectively, being the flavonol rhamnazin the most cytotoxic.