

Aurones Interfere with *Leishmania major* Mitochondrial Fumarate Reductase

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A series of aurones was analyzed for the ability to inhibit respiratory functions of mitochondria of *Leishmania* parasites. The aim of this study was to find a rational explanation for the activity of certain aurones and auronols as novel antiprotozoal compounds of plant origin. In a cell-free assay mitochondrial fumarate reductase from *L. donovani* was inhibited in a concentration-dependent manner. The most active compounds were 4',6-dihydroxyaurone and 6-methoxyaurone which inhibited parasite enzyme activity at 25 nM by over ninety percent.