Coumarin Content and Physicochemical Profile of *Mikania laevigata* Extracts

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The 'guaco' lianous herb *Mikania laevigata*, which is widespread in Southern Brazil, is traditionally used to treat bronchitis, asthma and cough.

This work investigates the influence of the extraction method, solvent:drug ratio, ethanol proportion, harvest season (summer or winter) and solvent heating on the physicochemical profile of the extracts (dry weight, density, pH) and the coumarin (1,2-benzopyrone) content determined by LC. Among the results obtained, it is observed that higher ethanol content increases the amount of coumarin in the extract. Leaves harvested in summer also produce an extract with a high coumarin yield. The most efficient method of extraction is percolation, independent of the solvent used.

Key words: Mikania laevigata, Coumarin, Extract Analysis