

# Antibacterial Activity of Extract, Fractions and Four Compounds Extracted from *Piper solmsianum* C. DC. var. *solmsianum* (Piperaceae)

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*Piper solmsianum* C. DC. var. *solmsianum* (Piperaceae) is a shrub commonly found in areas with wet tropical soils. Other *Piper* species have been used in folk medicine as antitumoral and antiseptic agents. We studied the crude methanolic extract, some organic fractions and compounds isolated from this plant for possible antimicrobial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. The bioautographic assays disclosed three inhibition zones. The minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimal bactericidal concentration (MBC) were determined showing excellent activity, particularly against the Gram-positive bacteria (*Bacillus cereus*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* and *Streptococcus agalactiae*). It appears that the antimicrobial activity of *Piper solmsianum* is related mainly to the presence of conocarpan and eupomatenoid-5 (neolignans). However another, as yet unidentified, active compound could also be extracted from the plant.

**Key words:** *Piper solmsianum*, Antimicrobial Activity, Conocarpan, Eupomatenoid