

Free Radical Scavengers from the Mexican Herbal Tea “Poleo” (*Hedeoma drummondii*)

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The aerial parts of the Lamiaceae *Hedeoma drummondii* (Benth.) are used in Mexico to prepare a herbal tea and by North American Amerindians as a spice. The methanolic extract of the aerial parts exhibited a strong antioxidant effect measured by the scavenging of the free diphenyl picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical. Assay-guided fractionation of the crude methanolic extract allowed the identification of three major active constituents, chlorogenic, caffeic and rosmarinic acid, as well as sideritoflavone derivatives and simple phenolics. The TEAC, FRAP, total phenolic and flavonoid content were determined. The high content of caffeic acid and rosmarinic acid relates to the antioxidant activity of *H. drummondii*.

Key words: *Hedeoma drummondii*, Lamiaceae, Free Radical Scavengers