

# Medicinal Plants of Chile: Evaluation of their Anti-*Trypanosoma cruzi* Activity

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The extracts of several plants of Central Chile exhibited anti-*Trypanosoma cruzi* trypanomastigotes activity. Most active extracts were those obtained from *Podanthus ovatifolius*, *Berberis microphylla*, *Kageneckia oblonga*, and *Drimys winteri*. The active extract of *Drimys winteri* (IC<sub>50</sub> 51.2 µg/mL) was purified and three drimane sesquiterpenes were obtained: polygodial, drimenol, and isodrimenin. Isodrimenin and drimenol were found to be active against the trypomastigote form of *T. cruzi* with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 27.9 and 25.1 µM, respectively.

**Key words:** Anti-*Trypanosoma cruzi*, Drimenol, Isodrimenin