



Choleretic Activity of Five Species of *Baccharis* (“Carquejas”) Used as Phytotherapics in Argentinean Traditional Medicine

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SUMMARY. Several *Baccharis* species known as “carquejas” are used in Argentinean folk medicine as phytotherapics. *B. crispa*, *B. articulata*, *B. trimera*, *B. sagittalis* and *B. triangularis* have been evaluated for their choleretic activity using Wistar rats. *B. sagittalis* and *B. triangularis* showed a significant choleretic activity (bile flow of 1.631 ± 0.089 and $1.598 \pm 0.196 \mu\text{l}/\text{min}/\text{g}$ liver, respectively). *B. crispa*, *B. trimera* showed moderate activity and *B. articulata* exhibited the same choleretic property that the control. Only, *B. articulata* and *B. crispa* are informed as official drugs in the Argentinean Pharmacopoeia. In addition, phytochemical constituents and botanical characters are reported.

KEY WORDS: *Baccharis* species, botanical studies, chemical constituents, choleretic activity, infusions.

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