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Abstract

[CCAHUANA-VASQUEZ, Renzo Alberto](#); [SANTOS, Silvana Solange Ferreira dos](#); [KOGA-ITO, Cristiane Yumi](#) and [JORGE, Antonio Olavo Cardoso](#). Antimicrobial activity of *Uncaria tomentosa* against oral human pathogens. *Braz. oral res.* [online]. 2007, vol.21, n.1, pp. 46-50. ISSN . doi: 10.1590/S1806-83242007000100008.

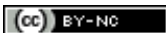
Uncaria tomentosa is considered a medicinal plant used over centuries by the peruvian population as an alternative treatment for several diseases. Many microorganisms usually inhabit the human oral cavity and under certain conditions can become etiologic agents of diseases. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the antimicrobial activity of different concentrations of *Uncaria tomentosa* on different strains of microorganisms isolated from the human oral cavity. Micropulverized *Uncaria tomentosa* was tested *in vitro* to determine the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) on selected microbial strains. The tested strains were oral clinical isolates of *Streptococcus mutans*, *Staphylococcus* spp., *Candida albicans*, Enterobacteriaceae and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The tested concentrations of *Uncaria tomentosa* ranged from 0.25-5% in Muller-Hinton agar. Three percent *Uncaria tomentosa* inhibited 8% of Enterobacteriaceae isolates, 52% of *S. mutans* and 96% of *Staphylococcus* spp. The tested concentrations did not present inhibitory effect on *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans*. It could be concluded that micropulverized *Uncaria tomentosa* presented antimicrobial activity on Enterobacteriaceae, *S. mutans* and *Staphylococcus* spp. isolates.

Keywords : Cat's claw; Contact inhibition; Bacteria; *Candida albicans*.

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