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Inhibition of gastrointestinal release of acetylcholine by quercetin as a possible mode of action of *Psidium guajava* leaf extracts in the treatment of acute diarrhoeal disease

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Abstract

The electrically stimulated guinea-pig ileum and spontaneously contracting guinea-pig ileum preparations were employed in studies on the effects of an alcoholic extract and two flavonoid compounds, quercetin and quercetin-3-arabinoside, extracted from the leaves of *Psidium guajava*. The extract showed a morphine-like inhibition of acetylcholine release in the coaxially stimulated ileum, together with an initial increase in muscular tone, followed by a gradual decrease. The morphine-like inhibition was found to be due to quercetin, starting at concentrations of 1.6  $\hat{1}$ /<sub>4</sub>g/ml. The glycoside did not

Processing math: 100% concentrations of up to 1.28 mg/ml. The extract inhibited

spontaneous contractions in the unstimulated ileum with a concentration-response relationship.



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