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Phenolic compounds among the bioactive molecules in *Ginkgo biloba* L.

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The interest for natural antioxidants has been increasing over the years. Phenolic compounds comprise a very large group of biologically active molecules, being appreciated for their beneficial effects on health (physiologically active compounds with anti-allergic, anti-atherogenic, antimicrobial, antithrombotic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, cardioprotective and vasodilatory effects) [1-3]. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the phenolic compounds of *Ginkgo biloba* L. (infusion and methanol/water extract), widely used in traditional medicine and in dietary supplements. Twenty-five compounds were detected, eighteen of which were flavonoids, one phenolic acid, five terpene lactones and one unknown compound. However, among the twenty-five compounds detected, compounds 1, 2, 4-6 and 12, associated to ginkgolides, were not quantified due their low UV absorption and possible interferences in the complex matrix of *G. biloba* extracts, as well as the unavailability of commercial ginkgolide standards. Regarding the quantified phenolic compounds, flavonoids were the main group present, being two kaempferol derivatives the major compounds found: kaempferol-3-O-dirhamnosylglucoside and kaempferol-3-O-rutinoside. The infusion presented lower quantities than the methanol/water extract, probably due to the high temperatures applied to obtain the first preparation that could have destroyed some thermal sensitive compounds, but also due to the lower extraction time.

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