

Revisión / Review

## Essential oils of *Cordia* species, compounds and applications: a systematic review

[Aceites esenciales de especies de *Cordia*, compuestos y aplicaciones: una revisión sistemática]

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### Section Review

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this systematic review was to identify the available literature on the essential oil from species of genus *Cordia*. This study followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews. The search was conducted on four databases: LILACS, PubMed, Science Direct, and Scopus until June 5th, 2020, with no time or language restrictions. Sixty out of the 1,333 initially gathered studies fit the inclusion criteria after the selection process. Nine species of *Cordia* were reported in the selected studies, out of which 79% of the evaluated studies reported essential oil from *Cordia curassavica*. The essential oil extraction methods identified were hydrodistillation and steam distillation. As for biological application, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, larvicidal and antioxidant activities were the most reported. The main compounds reported for essential oil were  $\beta$ -caryophyllene,  $\alpha$ -humulene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, bicyclogermacrene, and sabinene. The information reported in this systematic review can contribute scientifically to the recognition of the importance of the genus *Cordia*.

**Keywords:** *Cordia*; Systematic review; Essential oil; Biological activity; Phytoconstituents.

**Resumen:** El propósito de esta revisión sistemática fue identificar la literatura disponible sobre el aceite esencial de especies del género *Cordia*. Este estudio siguió los elementos de informe preferidos para revisiones sistemáticas. La búsqueda se realizó en cuatro bases de datos: LILACS, PubMed, Science Direct y Scopus hasta el 5 de junio de 2020, sin restricciones de tiempo ni de idioma. Sesenta de los 1.333 estudios reunidos inicialmente cumplieron los criterios de inclusión después del proceso de selección. Se informaron nueve especies de *Cordia* en los estudios seleccionados, de los cuales el 79% de los estudios evaluados informaron aceite esencial de *Cordia curassavica*. Los métodos de extracción de aceite esencial identificados fueron la hidrodestilación y la destilación al vapor. En cuanto a la aplicación biológica, las actividades antimicrobianas, antiinflamatorias, larvicidas y antioxidantes fueron las más reportadas. Los principales compuestos reportados para el aceite esencial fueron  $\beta$ -cariofileno,  $\alpha$ -humuleno,  $\alpha$ -pineno, biciclogermacreno y sabineno. La información reportada en esta revisión sistemática puede contribuir científicamente al reconocimiento de la importancia del género *Cordia*.

**Palabras clave:** *Cordia*; Revisión sistemática; Aceite esencial; Actividad biológica; Fitoconstituyentes.

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Cordia* L. belongs to the Boraginaceae Juss. family, and presents four synonyms (*Auxemma* Miers, *Gerascanthus* P. Browne, *Patagonula* L., and *Saccellium* Humb. & Bonpl.). They are found as shrubs, undergrowth, and trees. It is a non-endemic genus from Brazil but has confirmed occurrences in several Brazilian regions (North, Northeast, Midwest, Southeast, and South) (Flora do Brasil, 2019). The phytogeographic domains in Brazil for *Cordia* species are Amazon, Caatinga, Cerrado, Atlantic Forest, Pampa, and Pantanal. The vegetation types in which *Cordia* species can be found are Anthropic area, Caatinga (*stricto sensu*), Cerrado (*lato sensu*), Riparian Forest or Gallery, Lowland forest, Deciduous seasonal forest, Semideciduous seasonal forest, Ombrophilous forest (Rainforest), and Mixed ombrophilous forest (Flora do Brasil, 2019). Moreover, they occur from Central America down to the central region of Argentina (Matias et al., 2016). According to World Flora online Consortium (WFL, 2020), there are about 409 *Cordia* species and some of them are described as endangered.

The extract and the essential oil of some species of genus *Cordia* have been widely used as analgesic, anthelmintic, antiandrogenic activity, anti-arthritic, antibacterial, antifertility, antifungal, antihistaminic, anti-HIV, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antiserum action, anti-ulcer, antiviral, biliary obstruction, demulcent, hepatotoxic, juvenomimetic, larvicidal, leishmanicidal, nutritional food, spasmolytic, vasodilator, wound healing according to Thirupathi et al. (2008) and Matias et al. (2015). Several researches have carried out phytochemical studies resulting in the identification of different classes of secondary metabolites, as well the isolation of various constituents of different parts (root, stem, leaves, flowers and fruits) of various species of the genus *Cordia*, such as phenolic acid (e.g., rosmarinic acid), alkaloid (pyrrolizidine type), benzofurans, carotenoids (cerebroside), steroids ( $\beta$ -sitosterol), flavonoids (7-methoxy flavone, 5,7,3',4'-tetrahydroxy methoxyflavone, toxifolin-3, 5-dirhamnoside, flavanols-artemetin, hesperetin-7-rhamnoside, quercetin, quercitrin, rutin, toxifolin-3, quercetin-3-o-rutinoside), glycosides (dhurrin) fatty acids (linoleic, oleic,  $\gamma$ -linolenic,  $\alpha$ -linolenic acids), terpenes (tricyclene, alloaromadendrene, *epi*- $\alpha$ -muurolol, trans-cariophyllene,  $\alpha$ -pinene,  $\alpha$ -muurolol,  $\alpha$ -cadinol, cordialin A, cordialin B), mucilage, fixed

oils, polyphenol salts (calcium rosmarinic acid, cordigone, magnesium lithospermate, magnesium rosmarinic acid), sugars (arabinoglucan, D-glucose, L-arabinose), saponin (lupan-20, 29-ene-3-O- $\beta$ -D-maltoside) and phenolic terpene (alliodorin) (Thirupathi et al., 2008).

Essential (or volatile) oils have characteristic fragrances and these metabolites may be extracted by steam or hydrodistillation, resulting in complex mixtures of different classes of known or unknown compounds as hydrocarbons, terpene alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, phenols, and esters (Adeosun et al., 2013; Alves et al., 2015). Essential oils may include activities such as antimicrobial agent, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-proliferative (Kumar et al., 2019; Kurti et al., 2019), antifungal, antinociceptive (Lasram et al., 2019), anti-tumor (Saldanha et al., 2019) and pesticidal (Wei et al., 2019). In addition to these activities, volatile oils are also used in the manufacture of perfumes, aromatic soaps, scented lotions, and cosmetics (Adeosun et al., 2013). In 2005, the first phytotherapy anti-inflammatory drug of topical use in Brazil was developed from essential oil of *C. curassavica*. This phytotherapy is indicated for the topical treatment of tendonitis and muscular pain and the pharmacological studies have shown that the anti-inflammatory effects of the essential oil of *C. curassavica* can be attributed to two sesquiterpenes,  $\alpha$ -humulene and caryophyllene.

Given this broad approach to use and applications, the purpose of this systematic review was to identify the available literature referring to *Cordia* essential oil. These findings can guide researches towards a new perspective with *Cordia* essential oils.

## METHODS

This systematic review was conducted following the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis) Checklist (Moher et al., 2009). The protocol was not registered because it is a systematic review of *in vitro* studies. This type of systematic review is not eligible for inclusion in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO).

### *Eligibility criteria: Inclusion criteria*

Articles that focused on studies with essential oil of *Cordia* species, evaluating the method of extraction,

biological activity, and the phytochemical composition were eligible for inclusion.

### **Exclusion criteria**

The following studies were excluded: (1) Papers did not report about essential oil of *Cordia*; (2) Reviews, letters, personal opinions, book chapters, and conference abstracts.

### **Study selection**

The study selection was completed in two phases. In phase one, two authors independently reviewed the titles and abstracts of all the references. These authors selected studies that appeared to meet the inclusion criteria based on their titles and abstracts. A third author was consulted when disagreements emerged between the two initial evaluators. Any studies that did not fulfill the inclusion criteria were discarded. In phase two, two authors read all the full-text articles and excluded those which were not in agreement with the inclusion criteria. The authors independently reviewed all full-text articles. Any disagreement in either phase was resolved by discussion and mutual agreement among the reviewers.

### **Information sources and search strategy**

Detailed individual search strategies for each of the following bibliographic databases were developed: LILACS, PubMed, Science Direct, and Scopus (Appendix B).

A partial gray literature search was performed using Google Scholar. The search included all articles published up only until June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, across all databases with no time or language restrictions. Besides, the reference lists of selected articles were carefully checked for potentially relevant studies that could have been missed during the electronic database search. Duplicated references were removed using reference manager software (EndNote X6, Thomson Reuters).

### **Data collection process and data items**

Two authors collected the required information from the selected articles. A third author independently checked the data extraction for accuracy and detail. Again, any disagreement in either phase was resolved by discussion and mutual agreement among the authors. For all the included studies, the following information was recorded: author(s), year of

publication, species of *Cordia*, part of the plant, essential oil extraction methods, and biological activity. The authors independently reviewed all full-text articles.

### **Summary measures**

*Cordia* species producing, part of the plant, extract method, biological activity, and isolated compound of essential oil were the main evaluated outcomes.

## **RESULTS**

### **Study selection**

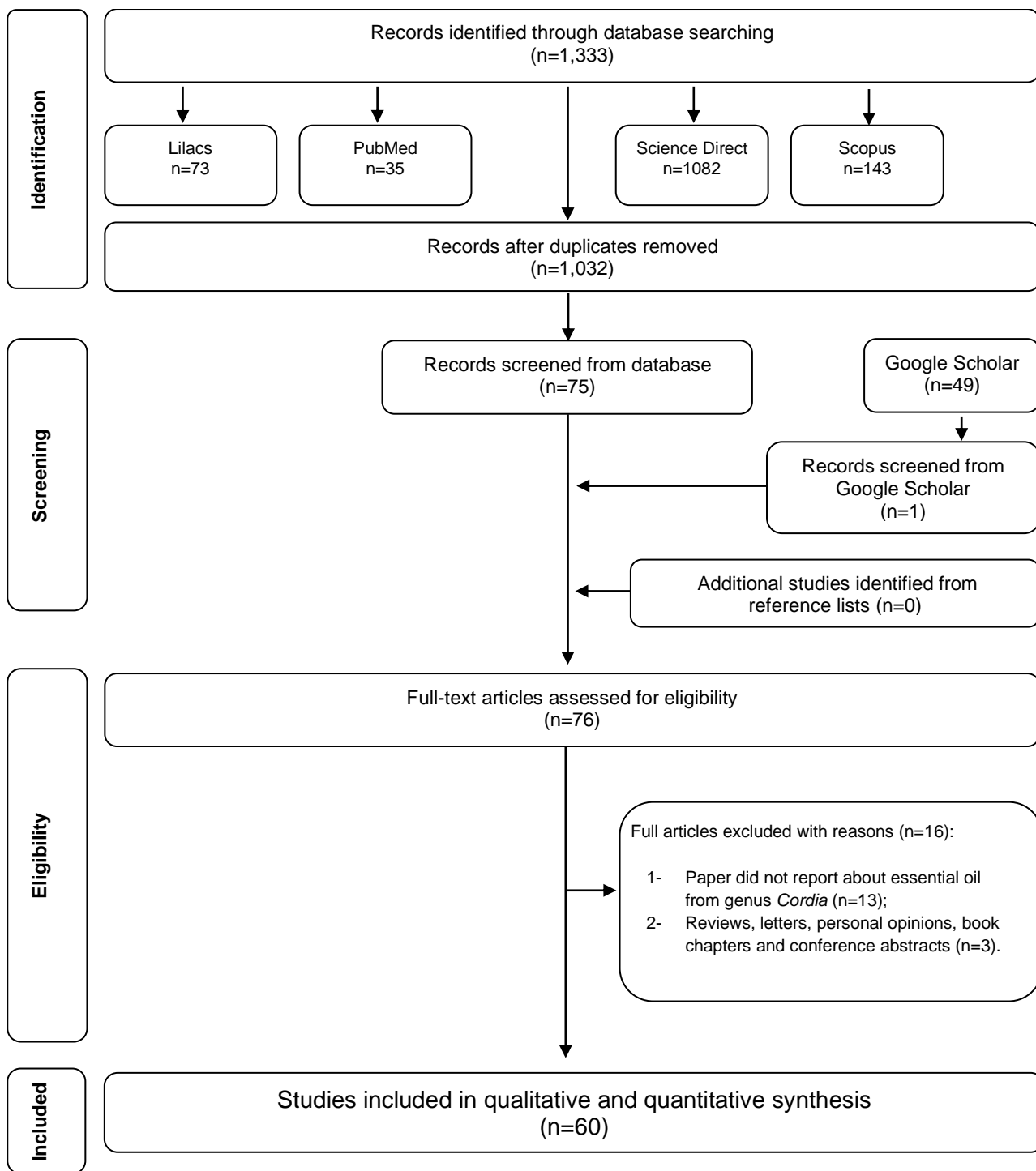
In the phase 1 of study selection, 1,333 citations were identified across the four electronic databases: LILACS, PubMed, Science Direct, and Scopus. After the duplicate articles were removed, remained 1032 citations. Comprehensive evaluation of the abstracts was completed and 957 articles were excluded, so 75 articles remained after phase 1. Forty-nine articles were identified using Google Scholar, but one were included. A full-text review was conducted on these 76 articles. This process led to the exclusion of 16 papers (Appendix C). Thus, 60 articles were selected after the identification, screening, inclusion, and exclusion of studies used for this systematic review (Figure No. 1).

### **Study characteristics**

A summary of the descriptive characteristics of the included studies is provided in Table No. 1. The studies were carried out in different countries, published between 1990 and 2020, and were in English or Portuguese. The highest frequency of publication was observed from 2007. All the selected studies were conducted addressing *Cordia* essential oil. Most studies have addressed the biological activity and/or phytoconstituents identification of *Cordia* essential oil. Sixty-three articles were selected, but five dealing with essential oil of *Cordia* did not have enough information on biological activity, phytochemicals, and plant drugs used in the extraction process: pharmacokinetics and tissue distribution of phytoconstituents of essential oil (Chaves *et al.*, 2008); methodology for quantifying *C. curassavica* in raw materials and pharmaceutical formulations (Gomes *et al.*, 2019); histopathological, immunohistochemical and biochemical of essential oil topical application (Perini *et al.*, 2015); clinical evaluation of the efficacy and safety of the use of *C. curassavica* essential oil (Refsio *et al.*, 2005); release

and permeation *in vitro* of *C. curassavica* essential oil from topical forms (Silva et al., 2019c) and

secretion of essential oil in *C. curassavica* glandular trichomes (Ventrella & Marinho, 2008).



**Figure No. 1**  
Flow Diagram of literature search and selection criteria for *Cordia* genus adapted from PRISMA

### Synthesis of results: *Cordia* species and nomenclature

The names of plant species of the genus *Cordia* were compared to the list belonging to The World Flora to verify the proper use of the respective name and synonym. Among the 60 articles evaluated in this review, twelve species were cited (Table No. 1), according to The World Flora (WFL, 2020).

The most cited species was *C. curassavica* (Jacq) Roemer & Schultes (79%), being clustered of the following names: *C. verbenacea* A. DC. (synonym) – 53%; *Varronia curassavica* Jacq. (synonym) – 16.5%; *C. curassavica* (Jacq) Roemer & Schultes (official name) – 8% and *Cordia chacoensis* (synonym) – 1.5%. The other citations were from *C. globosa* (Jacq.) H. B. K., *Cordia sebestena* (L.),

*Cordia trichotoma* (Vell.) Arráb. ex Steud. being 3% for each, and *Cordia africana* Lam., *Cordia cylindrostachya* Roem. & Schult., *Cordia gillettii*, *Cordia leucocephala* Moric, *Cordia leucomalloides*, *Cordia multispicata* Cham., *Cordia myxa* L., *Cordia nitida* Vahl. being 1.5% for each.

Compared to The World Flora database, only 4 studies (*V. curassavica* Jacq.; *C. trichotoma* (Vell.) Arráb. ex Steud.; *C. leucocephala* Moric e *C. multispicata* Cham.) used the nomenclature consistent with this database. The other citations presented divergence regarding writing. Therefore, it was decided to standardize all the species reported in those systematic review of articles following the nomenclature presented by The World Flora Online Consortium (WFL, 2020).

**Table No. 1**  
Summary of descriptive characteristics of included studies (n=60)

Species	Extract method	Part of the plant	Biological activity	Phytoconstituents	Author
<i>Cordia africana</i> Lam.	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Cytotoxicity	$\beta$ -caryophyllene germacrene D $\delta$ -cadinene phytol	Ashmawy et al., 2020
<i>Cordia chacoensis</i>	Steam distillation	Aerial parts	-	6 $\alpha$ -hydroxygermacra-1(10),4-diene $\beta$ -caryophyllene	Arze et al., 2013
	Hydrodistillation	Fresh leaves	Pesticidal	$\alpha$ -santalene $\beta$ -sinensal (Z)- $\alpha$ -trans-bergamotene	Alves et al., 2015
	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Antibacterial	-	Ambrosio et al., 2017
	Hydrodistillation	Aerial parts	Antibacterial and antifungal	$\alpha$ -pinene trans-caryophyllene alloaromadendrene	Carvalho et al., 2004
<i>Cordia curassavica</i> (Jacq.) Roem. & Schult.	-	-	Anti-inflammatory	-	Carvalho & Barja, 2012
	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Antibacterial and bacterial resistance modulating	sabinene $\beta$ -caryophyllene bicyclogermacrene germacrene D spathulenol	Carvalho et al., 2017
	-	-	-	$\alpha$ -humulene	Chaves et al., 2008
	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Antifungal	-	Duarte et al., 2005
	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	$\alpha$ -humulene	Facanali et al., 2020

Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	-	Feijó <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Hydrodistillation	Aerial parts	Anti-inflammatory	$\alpha$ -humulene $\beta$ -caryophyllene	Fernandes <i>et al.</i> , 2007
-	Stems and leaves	-	$\alpha$ -humulene $\beta$ -caryophyllene	Gomes <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Food deterrent	$\beta$ -terpinene sabinene $\alpha$ -pinene	Gómez <i>et al.</i> , 1999
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	$\alpha$ -bisabolol	Guimarães <i>et al.</i> , 2015
Hydrodistillation	Aerial parts	Antibacterial and antifungal	$\delta$ -elemene $\beta$ -eudesmol spathulenol cadinina 4 (5) , 10 (14) diene	Hernandez <i>et al.</i> , 2007
Hydrodistillation	-	Antifungal	pulegone	Hoyos <i>et al.</i> , 2012
-	Leaves	Anti-inflammatory	-	Leonardi <i>et al.</i> , 2010
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	$\beta$ -elemene $\beta$ -caryophyllene amorphadiene, eudesm-7 (11)-en-4-ol, $\alpha$ -humulene $\delta$ -elemene $\delta$ -cadinene 9-epi-(E)-caryophyllene	Marques <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Antibacterial and bacterial resistance modulating	sabinene sabinene hydrate	Matias <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Hydrodistillation	Aerial parts	Antibacterial	tricyclene bicyclogermacrene germacrene D $\beta$ -caryophyllene	Meccia <i>et al.</i> , 2009
-	-	Anti-inflammatory	$\alpha$ -humulene $\beta$ -caryophyllene	Medeiros <i>et al.</i> , 2007
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Antifungal	tricyclene camphene $\beta$ -caryophyllene $\beta$ -sesquiphellandrene $\alpha$ -zingiberene 7-cyclodecen-1-one 7-methyl-3-methylene-10 (1) propyl	Nizio <i>et al.</i> , 2015

			turmerone	
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Antiprotozoal	$\alpha$ -pinene epiglobulol $\beta$ -caryophyllene sabinene	Nizio <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	$\beta$ -phellandrene cubebol	Oliveira <i>et al.</i> , 2007
	Stems	-	spathulenol trans-sesquisabinene hydrate	
Hydrodistillation	Fresh leaves	Anti-inflammatory and anti-allergic	$\beta$ -caryophyllene $\alpha$ -humulene	Passos <i>et al.</i> , 2007
-	-	-	-	Perini <i>et al.</i> , 2015
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Anti-inflammatory and antibacterial	$\alpha$ -humulene	Pimentel <i>et al.</i> , 2012
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	$\beta$ -caryophyllene $\gamma$ -muurolene elixene	Queiroz <i>et al.</i> , 2016
-	-	Anti-inflammatory	-	Refsio <i>et al.</i> , 2005
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Anti-periodontitis	$\alpha$ -humulene	Ribeiro <i>et al.</i> , 2012
Hydrodistillation	Fresh leaves	Antibacterial and antifungal	$\beta$ -caryophyllene bicyclogermacrene $\delta$ -cadinene $\alpha$ -pinene	Rodrigues <i>et al.</i> , 2012
-	Leaves and stems	Antibacterial	-	Sánchez <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Larvicidal	$\alpha$ -pinene $\beta$ -pinene $\beta$ -caryophyllene bicyclogermacrene $\beta$ -elemene $\alpha$ -humulene	Santos <i>et al.</i> , 2006
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	bisabolene selin-11-en-4- $\alpha$ -ol trans- $\alpha$ -trans-bergamotol	Santos <i>et al.</i> , 2013
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	$\alpha$ -pinene $\alpha$ -santalene (E)- $\alpha$ -santalal (E)- $\alpha$ -bergamotenal	Sciarrone <i>et al.</i> , 2017
Hydrodistillation	Aerial parts	Antifungal	$\alpha$ -pinene sabinene limonene	Silva <i>et al.</i> , 2012a

			β-phelandrene 1,8-cineol α-copaene β-elemene β-caryophyllene α-trans-bergamotene α-humulene germacrene D bicyclogermacrene spathulenol caryophyllene oxide epoxy-2-humulene epi-α-cadinol turmerone curlone methyl farnesate 2E, 6Z-farnesol 2E, 6E-farnesol methyl 2E, 6E farnesoate methyl 2E, 6E farnesoate epoxide	
Hydrodistillation	Aerial parts	Antifungal	-	Silva et al., 2012b
Hydrodistillation	Leaves and flowers	Antifungal	-	Silva et al., 2014a
Hydrodistillation	Aerial parts	Antifungal	β-caryophyllene methyl 2E, 6E farnesoate	Silva et al., 2014b
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Antibacterial and antifungal	α-pinene sabinene β-caryophyllene ar-curcumene β-sesquiphellandrene 4-cyclodecen-1-one ar-turmerone	Silva et al., 2020
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Antiprotozoal	α-pinene 7-cyclodecen-1-one,7-methyl-3-methylene-10-(1-propyl) germacrene-D-4-ol ar-curcumene β-caryophyllene ar-turmerone	Silva et al., 2019a
-	-	-	-	Silva et al., 2019b



-	Leaves	-	-	Ventrella et al., 2008
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>α-pinene</li> <li>β-pinene</li> <li>1,8-cineol</li> <li>β-elemene</li> <li>β-caryophyllene</li> <li>α-humulene</li> </ul>	
Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>β-santalene</li> <li>germagrene-D</li> <li>β-bisadolene</li> <li>δ-cadinene</li> <li>caryophyllene oxide</li> <li>(Z)-α-trans-bergamotol acetate</li> <li>(Z)-epi-β-santalol</li> </ul>	Zotti-Sperotto et al., 2020
Steam distillation	Aerial parts	Antibacterial and antifungal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>germacrene</li> <li>tricyclene</li> <li>α-pinene</li> <li>isocariophyllene</li> <li>selinene</li> <li>D-limonene</li> </ul>	Hernández et al., 2014
Steam distillation	Leaves	Antinociception and anti-inflammatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>α-humulene</li> <li>geranylgeraniol</li> <li>β-caryophyllene</li> </ul>	Basting et al., 2019
Steam distillation	Leaves	Acaricidal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>α-thujene</li> <li>α-pinene</li> <li>sabinene</li> <li>β-pinene</li> <li>β-myrcene</li> <li>limonene</li> <li>1,8-cineol</li> <li>bornyl acetate</li> <li>citronellyl acetate</li> <li>δ-elemene</li> <li>α-copaene</li> <li>β-boubornene</li> <li>β-elemene</li> <li>sesquitujene</li> <li>α-cis-bergamotene</li> <li>β-caryophyllene</li> <li>β-gurgujene</li> <li>α-trans-bergamotene</li> <li>cis-β-farnesene</li> </ul>	Castro et al., 2019

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>α-caryophyllene</li> <li>trans-β-farnesene</li> <li>alloaromadendrene</li> <li>γ-murolene</li> <li>germacrene D</li> <li>bicyclgermacrene</li> <li>germacrene A</li> <li>δ-cadinene</li> <li>trans-γ-bisabolene</li> <li>cubebol</li> <li>spathulenol</li> <li>β-caryophyllene oxide</li> <li>cis-α-santalol</li> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	
	Hydrodistillation	Fresh leaves	-		Michielin <i>et al.</i> , 2009b
<i>Cordia cylindrostachya</i> Roem. & Schult.	-	Leaves and branches	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tricyclene</li> <li>camphene</li> <li>α-pinene</li> </ul>	Fun & Svendsen, 1990
<i>Cordia gillettii</i>	Steam distillation	Leaves	Antioxidant, acetylcholinesterase and butyrylcholinesterase inhibitory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(E)-2-hexenal</li> <li>hexahydrofarnesyl</li> <li>acetone</li> <li>α-pinene</li> <li>nonanal</li> <li>α-terpinene</li> <li>1-heptadecene</li> <li>tetradecanal</li> <li>myristic acid</li> <li>pentadecanoic acid</li> <li>benzyl salicylate</li> <li>palmitic acid</li> <li>farnesol</li> <li>1-octadecene</li> <li>phytol</li> <li>1-eicosene</li> <li>tricosane</li> <li>pentacosane</li> <li>nonadecane</li> <li>heptacosane</li> <li>trans-caryophyllene</li> <li>octadecane</li> </ul>	Bonesi <i>et al.</i> , 2011

				nonacosane	
				eicosane	
		Leaves	Larvicidal	bicyclogermacrene	Menezes <i>et al.</i> , 2006
<i>Cordia globosa</i> (Jacq.) H. B. K.	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	$\beta$ -caryophyllene	
		Stems	-	$\beta$ -caryophyllene $\alpha$ -humulene linalyl butyrate endo-1-bourbonanol	Oliveira <i>et al.</i> , 2007
<i>Cordia leucocephala</i> Moric	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	$\beta$ -caryophyllene bicyclogermacrene	Diniz <i>et al.</i> , 2008
<i>Cordia leucomalloides</i>	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	Larvicidal	$\delta$ -cadinene $\beta$ -caryophyllene bicyclogermacrene germacrene D	Santos <i>et al.</i> , 2006
<i>Cordia multispicata</i> Cham.	Hydrodistillation	Leaves on inflorescences and stems	-	$\beta$ -caryophyllene	Graças <i>et al.</i> , 2010
<i>Cordia myxa</i> L.	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	phytol linalool	Kendir <i>et al.</i> , 2020
<i>Cordia nitida</i> Vahl.	Hydrodistillation	Fruits	-	ethyl butyrate ethyl acetate	Pino <i>et al.</i> , 2002
		Stem bark	Antioxidant	9-octadecene (E) 5-octadecene (E) 9-eicosene cyclopropane 3-eicosene (E) phenol 2,4-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl) p-vinylguaiacol cyclopenta[1,3]cyclopropana[1,2]cyclohepten-3(3aH)-one, 1,2,3b,6,7,8-hexahydro-6,6-dimethyl	Adeosun <i>et al.</i> , 2013
<i>Cordia sebestena</i> L.	Hydrodistillation	Leaves	-	citronellyl iso-butyrate hemimellitene	Adeosun <i>et al.</i> , 2015
		Flower	-	1,2-dihydro-1,1,6-trimethylnaphthalene D-limonene	
		Fruits	-	nerolidol 4-pentenyl butyrate	

<i>Cordia trichotoma</i> (Vell.) Arráb. ex Steud.	Hydrodistillation	Heartwood and sapwood	-	farnesyl acetate $\alpha$ -cadinol $\alpha$ -muurolol epi- $\alpha$ -muurolol $\delta$ -cadinene guaia 3, 10 (4) -dien-11-ol	Menezes et al., 2005
	Steam Drag Distillation	Wood	-	$\alpha$ -muurolol $\alpha$ -cadinol	Wille et al., 2017

### Essential oil extraction methods

Among the methods used for extraction of essential oil from *Cordia* species, were hydrodistillation (73%) and stem distillation (18%). On the other hand, 9% of the articles did not report the method of essential oil extraction.

Extraction of essential oils performed by hydrodistillation indicated that most of these studies (69%) used the leaves, and among them, 9% referred to fresh leaves. Other plant parts were also used, such as aerial parts (17%), fruits (2%), flowers (2%), stem (2%), stem bark (2%), heartwood (2%), and sapwood (2%). Among the consulted articles, 2% did not report the parts of the plants that were used in the hydrodistillation process.

### Biological activity

Among the evaluated articles, the highest citation for biological activity for *Cordia* species was antimicrobial activity (30%), meaning antibacterial (16%) and antifungal (14%). In addition to this activity, the following activities were also observed: anti-inflammatory (10%), larvicidal (4%), antioxidant (3%), bacterial resistance modulating (3%), antiprotozoal (3%), acaricidal (1%), anti-allergic (1%), antinociception (1%), acetylcholinesterase inhibitory (1%), butyrylcholinesterase inhibitory (1%), anti-periodontitis (1%), cytotoxicity (1%), food deterrent (1%) and pesticidal (1%). From the evaluated articles, it was identified that 38% of the studies did not report biological activities for *Cordia* species.

The essential oil and extract of *Cordia* species have been widely used as antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory. Although many researchers have reported anti-inflammatory activity of the essential oil of *C. curassavica*, only 8 studies (13%) showed

the anti-inflammatory effect found in the leaves of the plant.

Among the studies on antibacterial activity (16%), all of them referred to *C. curassavica*. The extraction methods for essential oils were hydrodistillation (84.6%) and steam distillation (7.7%); 7.7% did not report the extraction method. In the hydrodistillation process, the plant parts used were leaves (73%) and aerial parts (27%). In the essential oil extraction process by steam distillation was used the aerial parts.

In the same way, studies showing antifungal activity (14%) were found only for *C. curassavica*. The extraction methods were hydrodistillation (91%) and steam distillation (9%). For the hydrodistillation process, the plant parts were aerial parts (50%), leaves (34%), flowers (8%), and one work did not report the plant part (8%). By the steam distillation method, the extraction was from aerial parts.

In general, the tested Gram-positive bacteria and fungi were sensitive to the essential oil of *C. curassavica*, but most of the Gram-negative bacteria were resistant. A screening works on the antimicrobial activity of essential oil of *C. curassavica*, showed *Bacillus cereus* was the most sensitive (100%) species, followed by *Staphylococcus aureus* (75%) and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (67%) of the time-sensitive when tested. The genus *Candida* was the most used (52%) to verify the antifungal activity of *C. curassavica* essential oil.

Most of the antibacterial activity evaluation referred to the disk diffusion method (43%) and by minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) (36%). Also, minimal bactericidal concentration (MBC) (14%) or identification by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (7%) were cited.

For the evaluation of antifungal activity, it was used, mainly, the observation of the compartment of inhibition of essential oil in the growth of the fungus in culture medium (50%), followed by disk diffusion method (25%) and MIC (25%).

### Phytoconstituents

A total of 106 compounds were found through the performed research. These constituents were grouped according to their chemical structures, and the presence of terpenes (55%), hydrocarbons (42%), and esters (3%) was noted. Among the terpenes, 72% of phytoconstituents were sesquiterpenes, and 28% were monoterpenes. Among the sesquiterpenes, the most reported were  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (25.9%),  $\alpha$ -humulene (9%), bicyclogermacrene (8%), germacrene D (7%),  $\beta$ -elemene (4.5%), spathulenol (3.5%),  $\delta$ -cadinene (3.5%),  $\gamma$ -muurolene (1.9%),  $\alpha$ -cadinol (1.9%),  $\alpha$ -copaene (1.9%),  $\alpha$ -muurolol (1.9%),  $\alpha$ -santalene

(1.9%),  $\alpha$ -trans-bergamotene (1.9%), cubebol (1.9%), epi- $\alpha$ -cadinol (1.9%), germacrene A (1.9%),  $\beta$ -sesquiphellandrene (1.9%),  $\delta$ -elemene (1.9%),  $\beta$ -eudesmol (1.9%). While among the monoterpenes the most reported were:  $\alpha$ -pinene (34%), sabinene (16%), limonene (9%),  $\beta$ -pinene (7%), 1,8-cineol (7%),  $\beta$ -phellandrene (4%), camphene (4%), caryophyllene oxide (4%).

The most cited hydrocarbons were phytol (7%) and  $\beta$ -sinensal (5%). The esters reported were methyl 2E,6E-farnesoate (40%), 4-pentenyl butyrate (40%) and benzyl salicylate (20%).

Then, of this survey of phytoconstituents in the characterization of essential oil, the most reported were  $\beta$ -caryophyllene,  $\alpha$ -humulene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, bicyclogermacrene, and sabinene. The chemical structures of these phytoconstituents are illustrated in Figure No. 2. Among the 60 articles reviewed in this study, 22% not report the phytoconstituents.

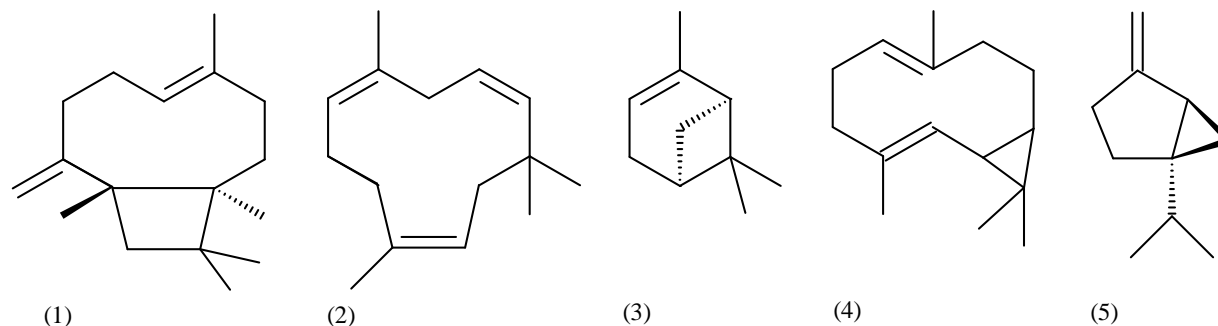


Figure No. 2

Chemical structures of most the cited phytoconstituents in essential oil of *Cordia*. (1)  $\beta$ -caryophyllene, (2)  $\alpha$ -humulene, (3)  $\alpha$ -pinene, (4) bicyclogermacrene, and (5) sabinene

### Preclinical evaluation

Among the 60 studies, nine (15%) addressed the preclinical evaluation of *Cordia* essential oil. From these evaluations, the only species studied was *C. curassavica*. As for biological activity evaluated in the preclinical stage were anti-inflammatory (64%), antinociception (9%), anti-allergic (9%), antiprotozoal (9%) and anti-periodontitis (9%).

Fernandes *et al.* (2007) evaluated the anti-

inflammatory properties of  $\alpha$ -humulene and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene isolated from *C. curassavica* essential oil. In results revealed that oral treatment with both compounds displayed marked inhibitory effects in different inflammatory experimental models in mice and rats. The same group after, evaluated the effects of these compounds on the acute inflammatory responses elicited by LPS in the rat paw and observed the effect of preventing LPS-induced inflammation

(Medeiros *et al.*, 2007).

Leonardi *et al.* (2010) evaluated both the effect isolated of *C. curassavica* essential oil (CV) and in association of glycolic acid 70 % rats back skin. The association in base gel of glycolic acid (10%) with CV 2% applied once daily, for 15 consecutive days increased fibroblast counts without increasing leukocyte numbers, meaning inflammatory reaction may be reduced.

In addition to anti-inflammatory effect of the essential oil of *C. curassavica*, Passos *et al.* (2007), observed the anti-allergic effects. Systemic treatment with this essential oil (300-600 mg/kg, *p.o.*) and some active compounds  $\alpha$ -humulene and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (50 mg/kg, *p.o.*) - showed marked anti-inflammatory effects, probably by interfering with TNF alpha production. And, also indicated possible results for the anti-allergic action of the oil.

To verify biological activity anti-periodontitis, Ribeiro *et al.* (2012) evaluated the effect of crude extract and essential oil of *C. curassavica*, systemically administered, on ligature-induced periodontitis in rats. Treatment with 100 mg/kg/day orally 3 times a day for 11 days. In results both extract and essential oil orally administered may attenuate the progression of ligature induced periodontitis. The same group after, evaluated the effect of *C. curassavica* essential oil topically administered in a rat periodontitis model. The topical preparation of *C. curassavica* oil was also effective in periodontitis, concluding the possibility of mediation, in part, by its inhibition effect on periodontal pathogens and, in part, by their modulatory role in the immune-inflammatory response (Pimentel *et al.*, 2012).

Nizio *et al.* (2017) evaluate the antiprotozoal activity of essential oils from *V. curassavica* accessions against different stages of *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis*. A significant reduction was observed *in vivo* assay from about 30% in the disease caused by the protozoan, independent of the oil concentration (0.5, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 mg/L).

Carvalho & Barja (2012) evaluated the penetration kinetics of *C. curassavica* essential oil in human skin, employing *in vivo* measurements after massage application or phonophoresis application. The measurements have shown drug penetration for both application forms, and the delivery was more evident after phonophoresis application.

Although antimicrobial activity has been the

largest citation for biological activity of *Cordia* essential oils, no pre-clinical studies have been identified. All the works of analysis of this activity (100%) were related to *in vitro* tests.

### **Clinical evaluation**

Among the 60 studies, one of them (1.7%) addressed the clinical evaluation of essential oil, from *C. curassavica*. The essential oil (0.5 %) under analysis was incorporated into a pharmaceutical dosage form (cream), and the efficacy and tolerability of the topical use in patients with myofascial pain and chronic tendonitis were evaluated in comparison with diclofenac diethylammonium 1%. In results, the cream containing *C. curassavica* 0.5% essential oil was effective in the treatment of myofascial pain and chronic tendonitis in the local application of the lesion (every 8 hours). Compared to diclofenac diethylammonium 1% emulgel, the cream of *C. curassavica* 0.5% showed similar efficacy for cases of myofascial pain and superior in cases of chronic tendonitis. Regarding tolerability, both the essential oil cream of *C. curassavica* and diethylammonium diclofenac were considered, by the users, excellent in most cases (Refsio *et al.*, 2005).

### **DISCUSSION**

Even considering the difficulties in verifying the official name and synonymies, *C. curassavica* was the most cited name in the analyzed studies regarding essential oil. Citing botanical nomenclature not accepted or inconsistent with reference databases may lead to a study approach of one species erroneously. An incorrect citation may represent a difficulty for data processing in a review due to the difficulty in reporting the corresponding species.

*C. curassavica* is a plant native to Brazil with occurrence and distribution throughout large regions from the Americas, mainly from the South and Central (Rosa *et al.*, 2008), and widely used through different forms, such as decoction, infusion, and alcoholic extracts (Medeiros *et al.*, 2007). For this species, there are vast reports of traditional use, such as to treat rheumatism, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, muscle, and spinal pain, neuralgia, prostatitis, bruising, and as antiulcerogenic, antimicrobial, and tonic remedies (Panizza, 1997; Passos *et al.*, 2007).

Compared to a literature review done by Thirupathi *et al.* (2008), the survey of biological activities described in this work resembles those

already cited for the genus *Cordia*, such as anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, anti-allergic, antinociception, and larvicidal activities (Thirupathi et al., 2008). The antioxidant, acaricidal, bacterial resistance modulating, acetylcholinesterase inhibitory, butyryl cholinesterase inhibitory, anti-periodontitis, antiprotozoal, food deterrent and pesticidal activities were discussed for the first time in a systematic review work.

Among all the activities studied, the most prominent was the antimicrobial. It should be emphasized that, despite the existence of the studies on *Cordia* biological activity, further clinical trials of extracts, essential oils, or isolated compounds are needed, as well as toxicological tests *in vitro* and *in vivo* to ensure their safety, considering in reviewing the literature, only one study addressed clinical evaluation as the essential oil of a species of *Cordia* was found.

The works cited in this review that evaluated the antimicrobial activity (antibacterial and antifungal), all were related to laboratory analyses *in vitro* studies. Even being the activity with the highest citation regarding the biological action of *Cordia* essential oils, it was not possible to verify the efficacy and safety of the use with this approach. Therefore, a deficient gap in pre-clinical and clinical evaluations is perceived, suggesting further studies in these phases. This was different for the biological anti-inflammatory activity, which although not the most cited, the studies of this activity included both *in vitro* analysis and the results corroborated in pre-clinical and clinical evaluations (Refsio et al., 2005; Fernandes et al., 2007; Medeiros et al., 2007; Passos et al., 2007; Leonardi et al., 2010; Basting et al., 2019).

Of the 60 articles that approached the chemical compounds of the essential oil, the most commonly described compounds were  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (26%),  $\alpha$ -humulene (13%).  $\alpha$ -Humulene and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene are extracted by hydrodistillation process and they can be found in abundance in the essential oil extracted from the

leaves of species of the genus *Cordia*. These compounds are the active ingredients found in the leaves of the *C. curassavica* and they are described as the main elements of the anti-inflammatory activity.

Some methodological limitations of this review should be considered. It should be noted that there is no quality standard assessment tool specific to the evaluated studies. Some nomenclature citations were not in accordance with the reference database, representing a problem to the data treatment. Therefore, we based the information in the database The World Flora correlating the accepted nomenclature and its synonyms.

## CONCLUSIONS

This review gathers information about the genus *Cordia*, presents aspects of essential oil extraction, biological activity, and chemical composition. From the analysis of the study results, *C. curassavica* was identified as the most studied species. For essential oil extraction, leaves were of the most used plant part. Different biological activities have been reported, such as: antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, larvicidal, antioxidant, bacterial resistance modulating, antiprotozoal, acaricidal, anti-allergic, antinociception, acetylcholinesterase inhibitory, butyrylcholinesterase inhibitory, anti-periodontitis, cytotoxicity, food deterrent e pesticidal. Of all the biological activities studied, antimicrobial was more related. Several types of compounds have been identified from essential oil *Cordia*, mainly secondary metabolites of the class of terpenoids and hydrocarbons. The major compounds reported in essential oils were  $\beta$ -caryophyllene,  $\alpha$ -humulene,  $\alpha$ -pinene, bicyclogermacrene, and sabinene. The information reported in this review can contribute scientifically to guide research towards a new perspective with *Cordia* essential oils.

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