Effect of Pure Metabolites of *Hypericum connatum* Lam. in Prevention of Escape Deficit in Rats

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The genus *Hypericum* includes about 80 species of which *Hypericum perforatum* L. has been widely used in the treatment of some forms of depression. Several clinical trials have been conducted giving a confirmation of its therapeutic efficacy. In last years, our research group carried out studies about the antidepressant activity of *Hypericum connatum* Lam.

The aim of this research was to study the protective effects on the behavioral consequences in rats subjected to unavoidable stress, of a methanol extract of *H. connatum*, its chromatographic fractions and their pure isolated compounds: quercetin, isoquercetin and rutin. The study was performed by using the Escape Deficit test (ED), a variant of the classic Learned Helplessness Syndrome. The compounds were tested, at different doses (2.5 – 40.0 mg/kg, *per os*), on rats, both individually and in combination between them.

Isoquercetin (2.5 mg/kg) showed the greater stress protection and an enhancement of this effect was registered after the administration of the mixture quercetin + isoquercetin (2.5 mg/kg).

A possible anxiolytic activity was also evaluated.