

## Saponins from *Ilex pseudobuxus*

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**SUMMARY.** *Ilex pseudobuxus* Reissek is one of the species referred as an adulterant of Mate (*Ilex paraguariensis* St. Hil.). Two main saponins have been isolated from its leaves and their structures were established as pomolic acid 28-O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1-2)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside and rotungenic acid 28-O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1-2)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside.

**RESUMEN.** "Saponinas de *Ilex pseudobuxus*". *Ilex pseudobuxus* Reissek es una de las especies que ha sido mencionada como adulterante de la yerba mate (*Ilex paraguariensis* St. Hil.). El análisis de la fracción glucosídica de las hojas mostró la presencia predominante de dos saponinas, el 28-O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosil-(1-2)- $\beta$ -D-glucopiranosido del ácido pomólico y el 28-O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosil-(1-2)- $\beta$ -D-glucopiranosido del ácido rotungénico.

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### INTRODUCTION

Genus *Ilex*, with some 600 species, is numerically the most important of the family *Aquifoliaceae*. From an economical and sociocultural point of view, the main species is *Ilex paraguariensis* St. Hil., widely used in South Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay as a beverage (Mate) and also as a traditional medicinal plant<sup>1</sup>. The historical and also the current utilization of other plants in the mate preparation are well known, being the congeneric adulteration the more documented one<sup>2,3</sup>.

Following our work on the saponins from *Ilex paraguariensis*<sup>4</sup>, other *Ilex* species used to adulterate mate have been studied for their saponin content. In the present study we report the isolation and structural elucidation of two saponins from the leaves of *Ilex pseudobuxus* Reiss., one of the species referred as an adulterant of mate and also as a medicinal plant with febrifuge activity<sup>2,3</sup>.

**KEY WORDS:** *Aquifoliaceae*, *Ilex pseudobuxus*, saponins.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** *Aquifoliaceae*, *Ilex pseudobuxus*, saponinas.

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