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Anti-Infective Pregnane Steroid from the Octocoral *Carijoa riisei* Collected in South Brazil

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SUMMARY*. In the present work, fractions of the ethanolic crude extract of *Carijoa riisei* (Octocorallia) collected at South Brazil (Santa Catarina island) were tested against different bacterial, fungal and protozoal pathogens. The *n*-hexane fraction (HF) showed a moderate activity against *S. aureus* in the disk diffusion method, and inhibited 43.4 and 35.9 % the growing of *T. cruzi* epimastigotes and *L. braziliensis* promastigotes, respectively. The steroid pregna-1,4,20-trien-3-one was isolated from HF and presented *in vitro* antiprotozoal activity against the extracellular forms of the parasites at 50 μM, showing 50.4 % growth inhibition of *L. braziliensis* and 42.4 % growth inhibition of *T. cruzi.

KEY WORDS: Antiprotozoal, *Carijoa riisei, Leishmania braziliensis,* Octocoral, Pregnane sterol, *Trypanosoma cruzi*.

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