Essential Oil Composition and Extracts of *Cordiera sessilis* (Vell.) Kuntze with Antioxidant and Antimicrobial Activity

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**SUMMARY.** The essential oil obtained by hydrodistillation from the leaves of *Cordiera sessilis* (Vell.) Kuntze was analysed by GC and GC-MS for the first time. Among the 26 compounds identified (representing 99.2 % of the total oil), the main components were: palmitic acid (20.75 %), 1-hexene (12.31 %), hexacosane (9.56 %), linolenic acid (6.27 %), and E-2-hexen-al (5.9 %). Linalool, α-terpineol, (E)-geraniol and (E)-phytol were the only terpenes found (6.07 % of total oil). The antioxidant activity of the leaf extract and partitions was evaluated using the DPPH-free radical method. The highest antioxidant capacity (EC₅₀ value of 15.8 μg/mL) was reached in the methanol partition. Furthermore, the leaf extract and partitions showed antimicrobial activity against the aerobic oral bacteria *Streptococcus sanguinis* (ATCC 10556), *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 49456), and *Streptococcus mutans* (ATCC 25175), and against the anaerobic oral bacteria *Actinomyces naeslundii* (ATCC 19039), *Prevotella nigrescens* (ATCC 33563), *Bacteroides fragilis* (ATCC 25285), and *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (ATCC 49417) using the broth microdilution method.

**KEY WORDS:** Antioxidant and antimicrobial activity, *Cordiera sessilis* (Vell.) Kuntze, Essential oil, Human pathogens, Rubiaceae.

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