



Pharmacobotanical study of *Baccharis cognata* DC. (Asteraceae: Astereae)

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SUMMARY. *Baccharis* L. (Asteraceae) includes approximately 400 species and it has been investigated as an economically important group of plants used for the pharmaceutical, flavor and perfumery industries. *Baccharis cognata* DC. is a shrub popularly known as vassoura and vassoura-de-são-joão which occurs in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. The present study has aimed to investigate the pharmacobotanical characters of the leaves and stems from this species for quality control purposes. The plant material was processed according to standard methods of light and scanning electron microscopy. The pharmacobotanical aspects of the aerial vegetative organs of *B. cognata* should be evaluated as a whole to characterize the specie, although the following structures may be emphasized as distinguishing features among the genus: thick and striate cuticle, anomocytic and cyclocytic stomata, pluricellular capitate and non-glandular trichomes, isobilateral mesophyll and secretory ducts in the phloem direction.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, *Baccharis*, *Baccharis cognata*, Morpho-anatomy, Quality control.

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