



“Development of a sustained release, high absorption and stable system based on microencapsulated green propolis standardized extract (EPP-AF[®]) – i-CAPs”





Andresa A. Berretta¹, Jéssica A. Lima¹, Isabella S. Gonçalves², Soraya I. Falcão³, Ricardo Cathelha³, Lilian Barros³, Nathália U. Ferreira¹, Nathaly A. Alcazar¹, Luana Zamarrenho, Juliana Correa¹, Hernane S. Barud³, David D. Jong⁴, Jairo K. Bastos⁵, Miguel Vilas-Boas³



¹R&D Department, Apis Flora Indl. Coml. Ltda., Ribeirão Preto, Brazil; ²UNIARA – University of Araraquara, Araraquara, Brazil; ³Bragança Polytechnic Institute, Portugal, ⁴Faculty of Medicine of Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo, Brazil; ⁵Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences de Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo, Brazil.



Brazilian Red propolis



Poplar propolis



Brazilian green propolis

Propolis Raw Material



Propolis Extract - Liquid



Propolis Extract – Semi-Solid

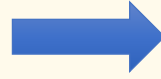


Propolis Extract – Powder

Extraction Process

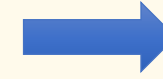


Receipt - Selection



- Maceration
- Percolation
- Dynamic Maceration
- Ultra-sound
- Microwave
- Super Critical Extraction
- Others

Extraction Solvent



Filtration



Technological Process

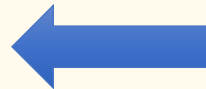
- Solvent Evaporation;
 - Freezing;
 - Wax Elimination;
 - Freeze Drying;
 - Spray Drying;
 - Other



Without Food Additives /
Excipients / Carriers



WITH
Food Additives /
Excipients /
Carriers



Technological Process

- Emulsifying;
- Compression;
- Mixture;
- Filling
- Other



WITH
Food Additives / Solvents /
Emulsifiers, etc.

PROPOLIS extract

Propolis possess several functional activities
Alcoholic Extract is the most Traditional
Strong smell, taste and color
Ethanol is undesirable by Consumers

Microencapsulation

Protect the actives from Propolis
Mask smell, taste and color
Suitable for several different presentations
Improve Stability
Increase Absorption

The background of the image is a lush, misty forest scene. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of tall trees, creating a warm, golden glow. The foreground is filled with dark, vibrant green foliage, including ferns and various leaves. Several bees are visible, some flying and others on the forest floor. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural. The text is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font. There are several white hexagonal outlines scattered across the image, some overlapping, which likely represent the hexagonal structure of propolis.

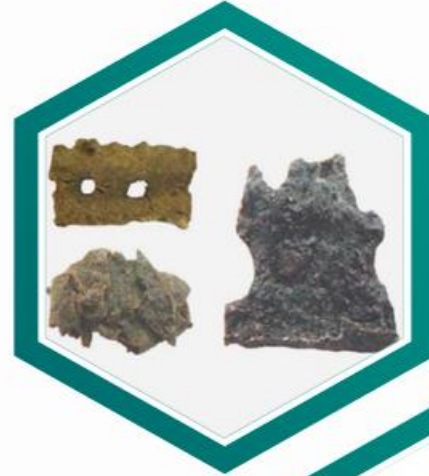
BRAZILIAN PROPOLIS EPP-AF

BRAZILIAN PROPOLIS

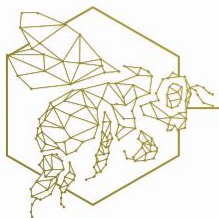
Bees & Biodiversity



Bee (*Apis mellifera africanized*)

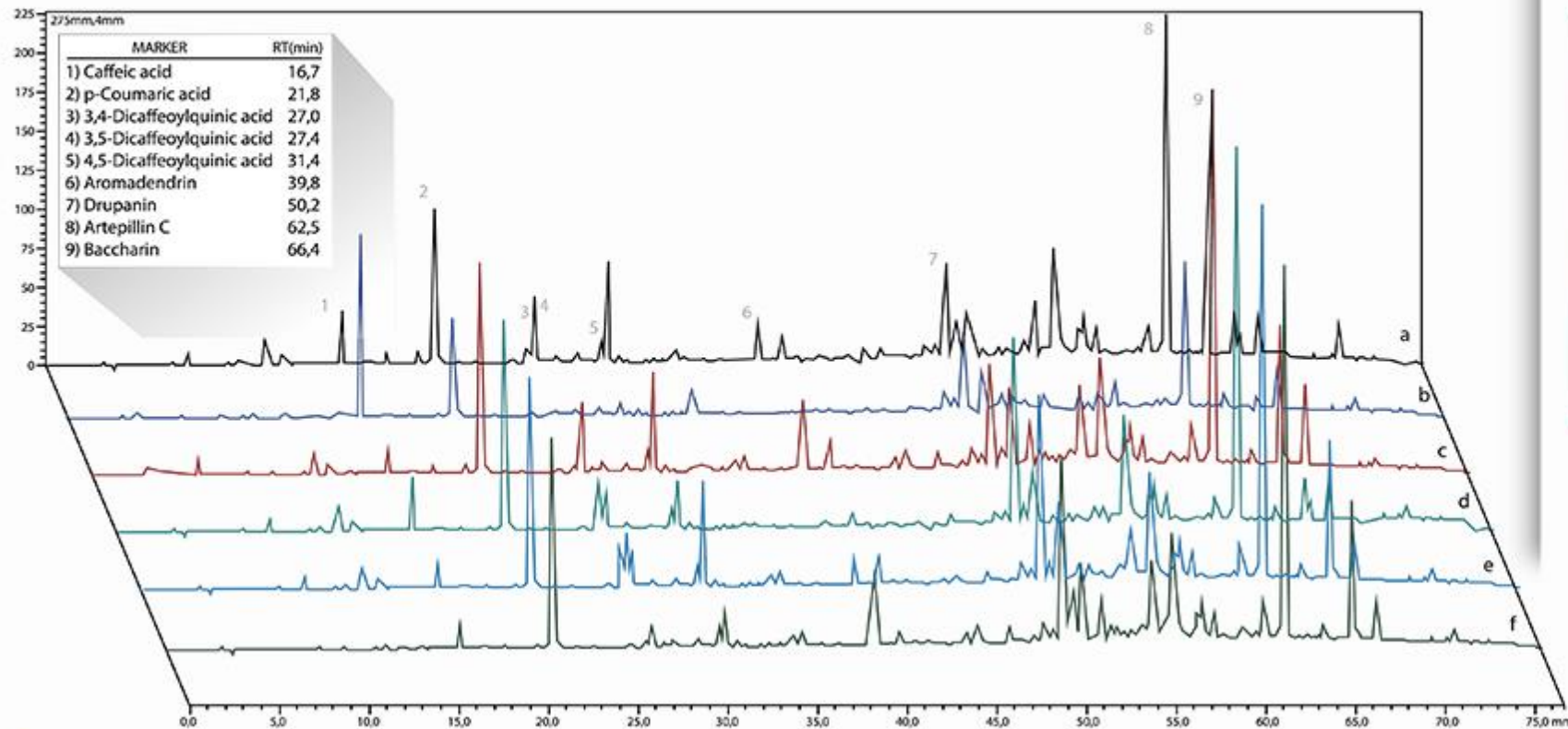


“In natura” propolis
extracted from
Salatino et al. 2011.

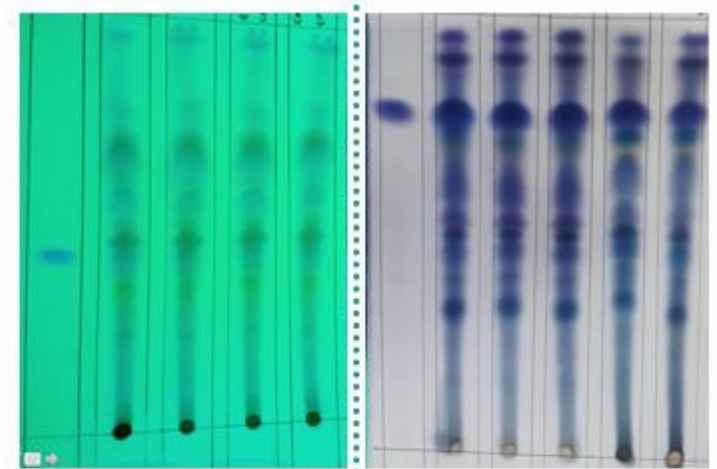


EPP-AF®

Batch to batch reproducibility



Artepillin C



Ácido p-cumárico

A misty, golden-hour forest scene with white hexagonal outlines scattered throughout. The word "METHODOLOGY" is centered in white, bold, uppercase letters.

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

Development &
Characterization



01

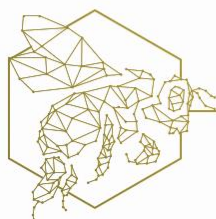
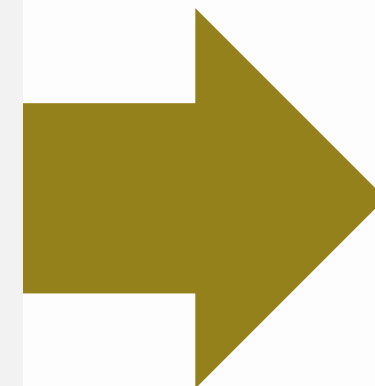
Propolis
Microcapsules
Development

02

Chemical and
Physical
Characterization

03

“In vitro”
Safety and
Efficacy
Evaluation



EPP-AF^(R) MICROCAPSULES

Development & Characterization

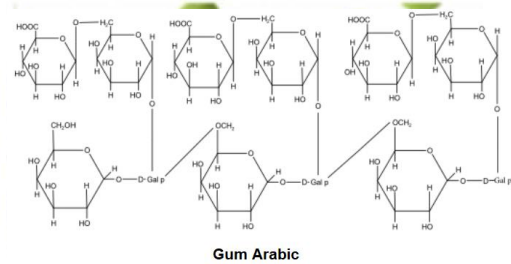
- EPP-AF^(R) raw material *blend*
- EPP-AF Alcoholic Extraction and Emulsion Preparation with Arabic Gum;
- Dryness using Spray Dryer Technology (Marquiefável et al. 2015)



Propolis

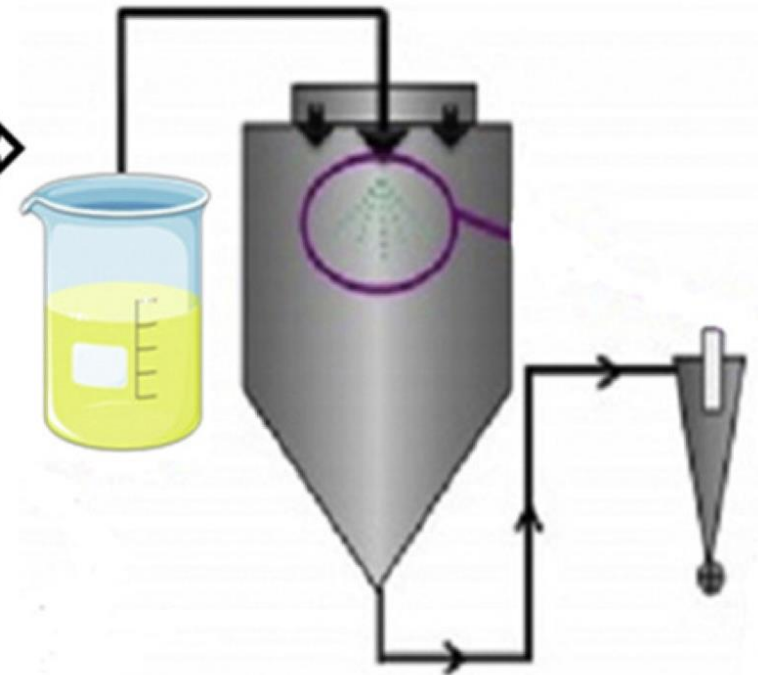


Propolis extract



Gum Arabic

Arabic Gum



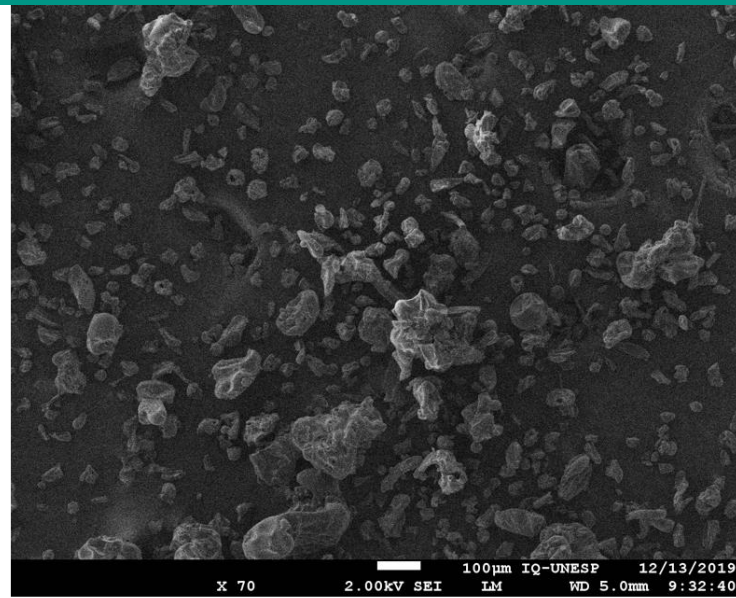
RESULTS

01. Chemical and Physical Characterization

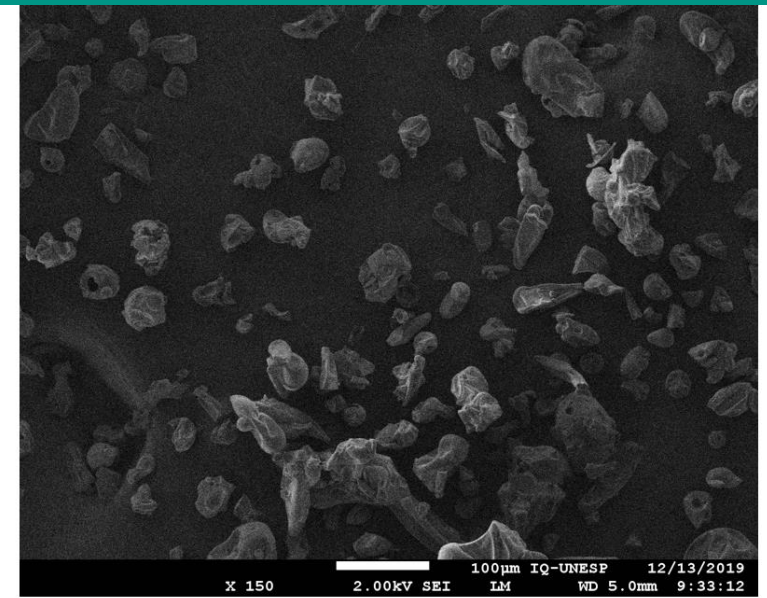
02. *In vitro* Biological Properties

MEV ENCAPSULANT

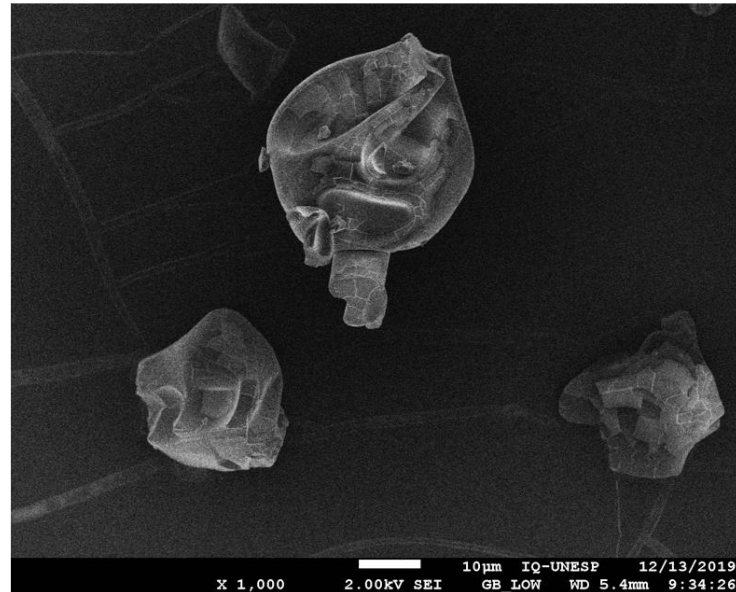
Photomicrographs for Arabic gum (A) Magnified 70x; (B) Magnified 150x. (C) Magnified 1000x e (D) Magnified 3500x.



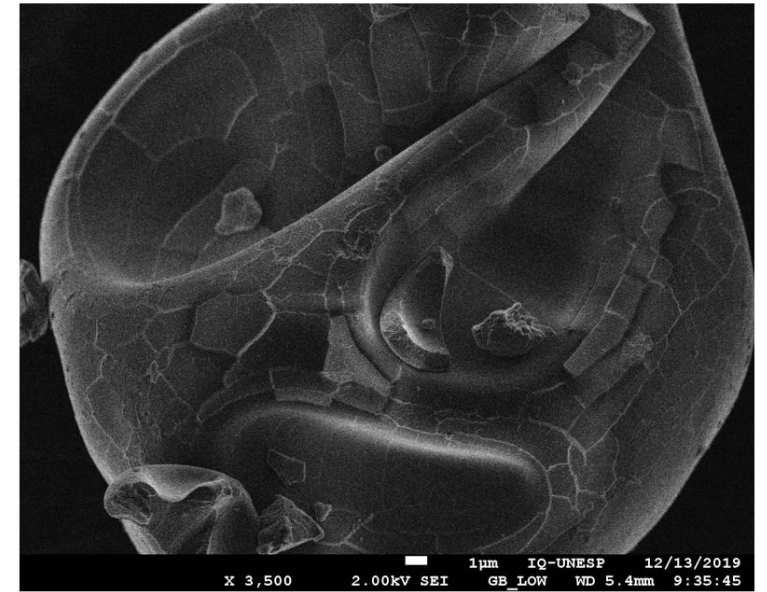
(A)



(B)



(C)

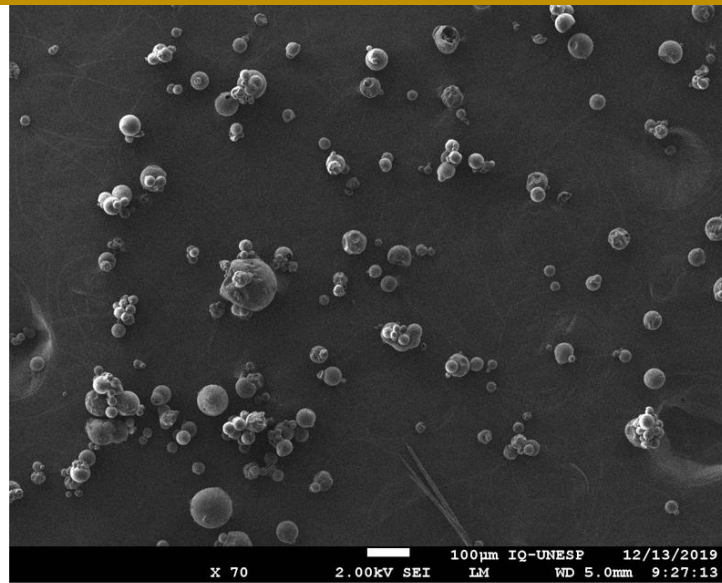


(D)

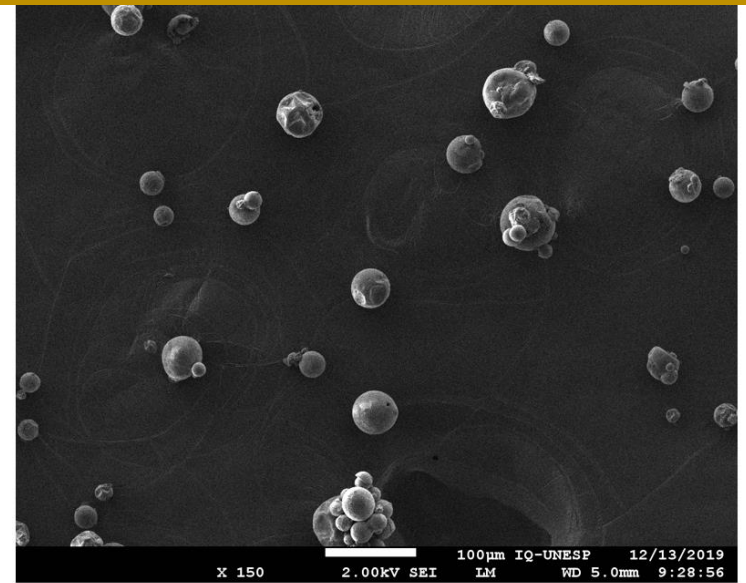
MEV

Propolis EPP-AF Microcapsules

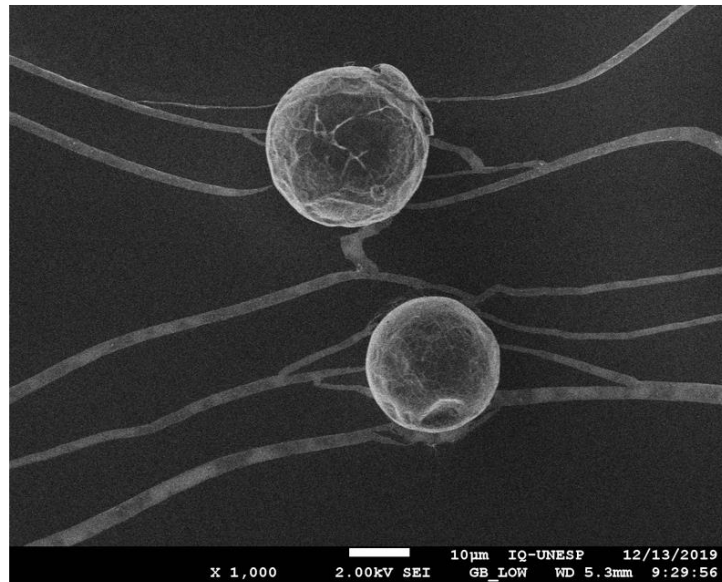
Photomicrographs for Propolis standardized extract EPP-AF^(R) loaded microcapsules (A) Magnified 70x; (B) Magnified 150x. (C) Magnified 1000x e (D) Magnified 3500x.



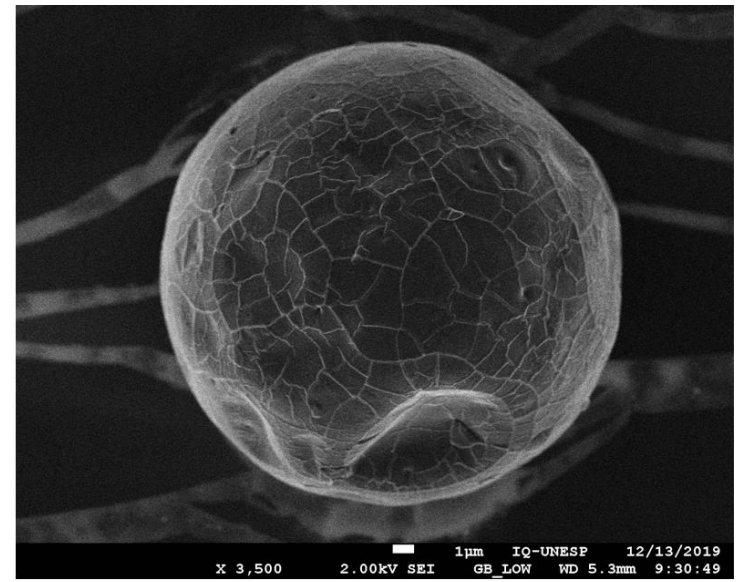
(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

FREE LYOPHILIZED EPP-AF^(R) MICROCAPSULES



ADVANTAGES

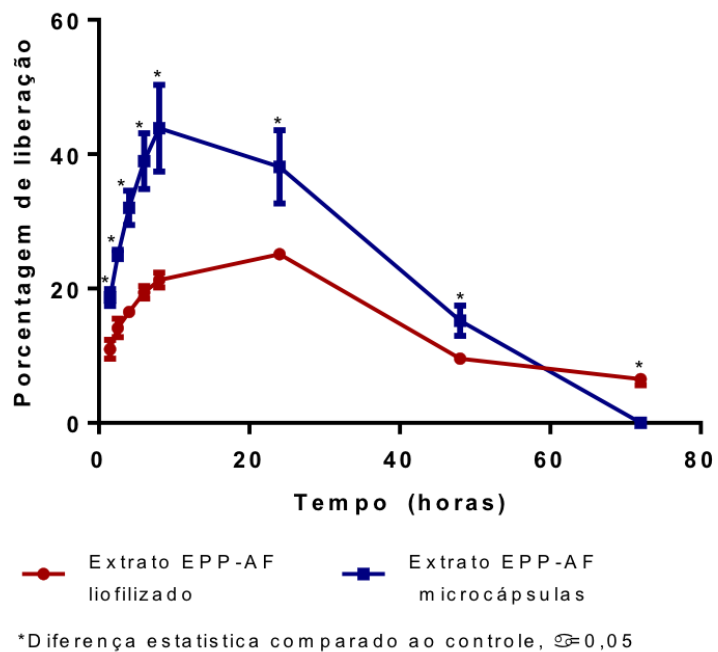
- (A) Dispersion of EPP-AF extract free (lyophilized) and
- (B) EPP-AF loaded microcapsules, in the concentration equivalent to 0.5% (w/v) of propolis dry matter in water.

$$\%ME = 93.7 \pm 0.7$$



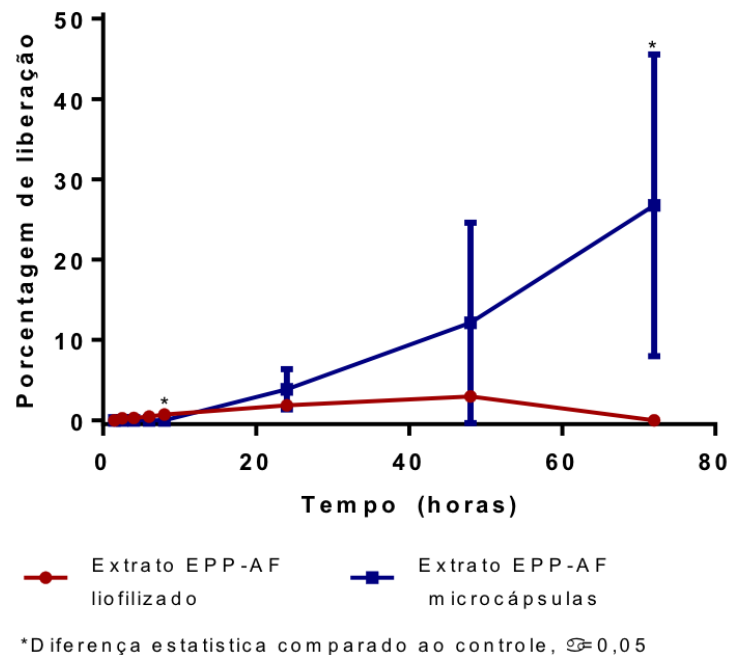
SUSTAINED RELEASED SYSTEM

Ácido p-cumárico

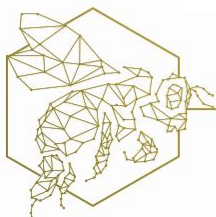


(A)

Artepin C



(B)



ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY

Macrodilution Method



Bactericidal Minimum Concentration (BMC) – results expressed as propolis dry matter (mg/mL) (n=3) - *Dispersion of the sample in hydro alcoholic solution 40%v/v*

Samples	Bactericidal Minimum Concentration ± Standard Deviation	
	<i>E .coli</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>
EPP-AF free	27.50 ± 0.00	3.44 ± 0.00
EPP-AF loaded Microcapsules	27.50 ± 0.00	3.44 ± 0.00

Bactericidal Minimum Concentration (BMC) – results expressed as propolis dry matter (mg/mL) (n=3) - *Dispersion of the sample direct in the Müller Hinton Medium*

Samples	Bactericidal Minimum Concentration ± Standard Deviation					
	<i>E .coli</i>	<i>K. pneumarie</i>	<i>P. aruginosa</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>S. epidermidis</i>	MRSA
EPP-AF free	100.00 ± 0.00	91.67 ± 0.00	91.67 ± 0.00	55.00 ± 0.00	55.00 ± 0.99	110.00 ± 0.00
EPP-AF loaded Microcapsules	55.00 ± 0.00	27.50 ± 0.00	33.67 ± 0.00	1.72 ± 0.00	6.88 ± 1.98	5.73 ± 1.98



ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITIES

FRAP and DPPH

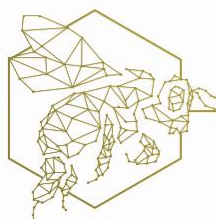
Antioxidant Activity of Propolis and Propolis microcapsules using FRAP and DPPH methods (n=3, average \pm DP).

Samples	FRAP ($\mu\text{mol Fe}^{\text{II}}$ / mg propolis dry matter) \pm SD	DPPH (IC50) (μg propolis dry matter /mL) \pm SD
EPP-AF ^(R) Propolis Free	2,873 \pm 0,045	6,500 \pm 0,062
EPP-AF ^(R) Propolis Microcapsules	2,654 \pm 0,062*	7,342 \pm 0,058*

*Statistical different (p<0,05) – comparison of EPP-AF^(R) loaded microcapsules with the correspondent EPP-AF^(R) free.

Limitation of the System and the Methodology

Samples were all solubilized in ethanol 70% and US for 30 minutes;
Time of reaction around 60-90 minutes

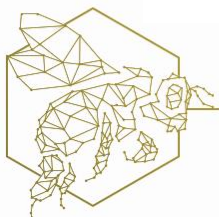


ANTITUMORAL AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EFFECTS

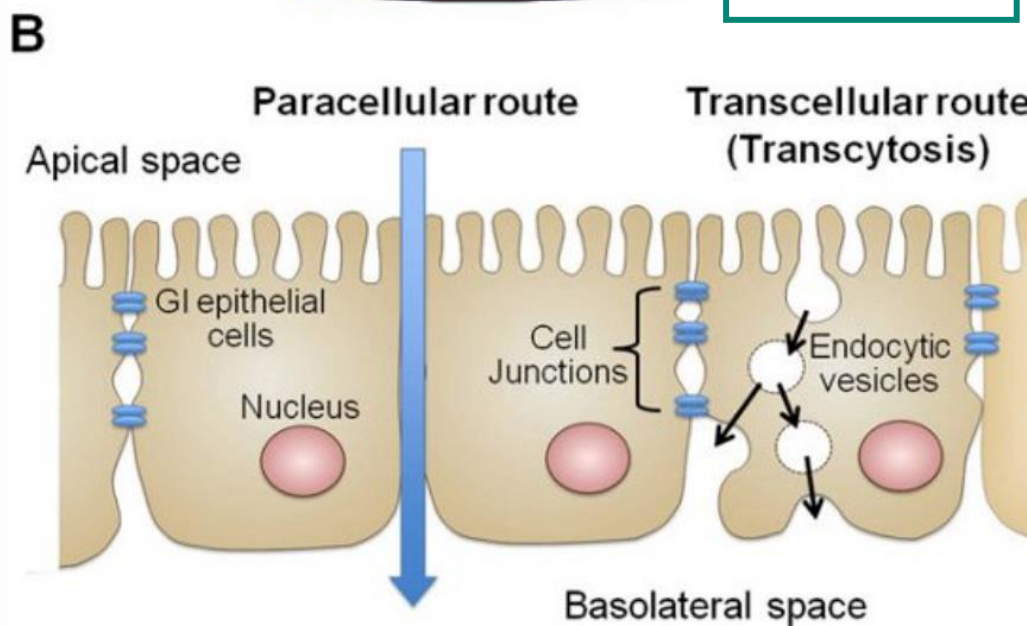
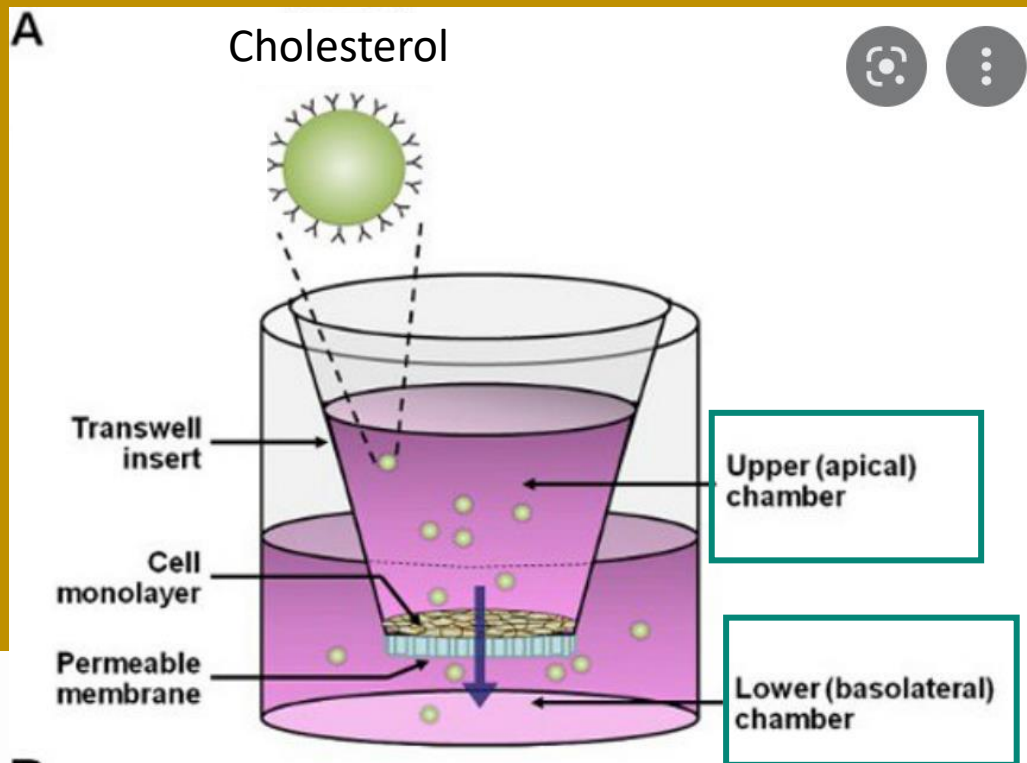
Cytotoxic and anti-inflammatory activity of EPP-AF[®] Propolis free extract and EPP-AF[®] microcapsules extract (n=3, average \pm SD).

	Cytotoxic activity (GI ₅₀ , μ g/mL)				Anti-inflammatory activity
	AGS	Caco2	MCF-7	PLP2	(IC ₅₀ , μ g/mL)
					RAW264.7
EPP-AF[®] Free	184 \pm 2 ^a	241 \pm 20 ^a	296 \pm 23 ^a	146 \pm 11 ^a	86 \pm 3 ^a
EPP-AF[®] Microcapsules	154 \pm 1 ^b	117 \pm 1 ^b	271 \pm 25 ^a	156 \pm 4 ^a	59 \pm 0.1 ^b
Ellipticine	1.23 \pm 0.03 ^c	1.21 \pm 0.02 ^c	1.02 \pm 0.02 ^b	1.4 \pm 0.1 ^b	-
Dexametasone	-	-	-	-	6.3 \pm 0.4 ^c

GI₅₀ – Concentration that inhibited 50% of the net cell growth; IC₅₀ – Sample concentration providing 50% of inhibition of NO production. **Different letters in each row represent statistically significant differences with a significance of 5%.**



HYPOCHOLESTEROLEMIC ACTIVITY



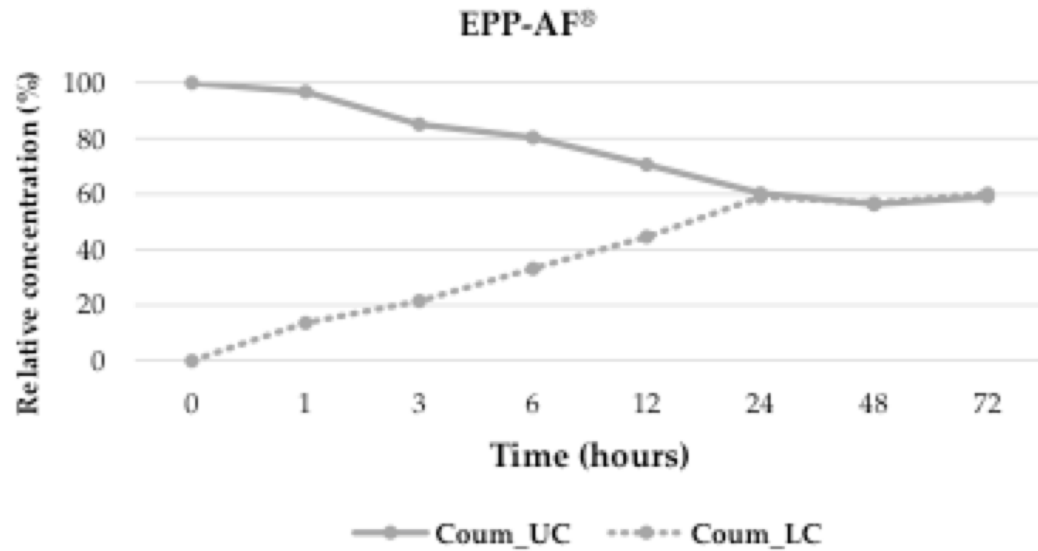
HYPOCHOLESTEROLEMIC ACTIVITY

Hypocholesterolemic activity of EPP-AF[®] Free extract and EPP-AF[®] Microcapsules through Caco2 cell monolayers transport assay.

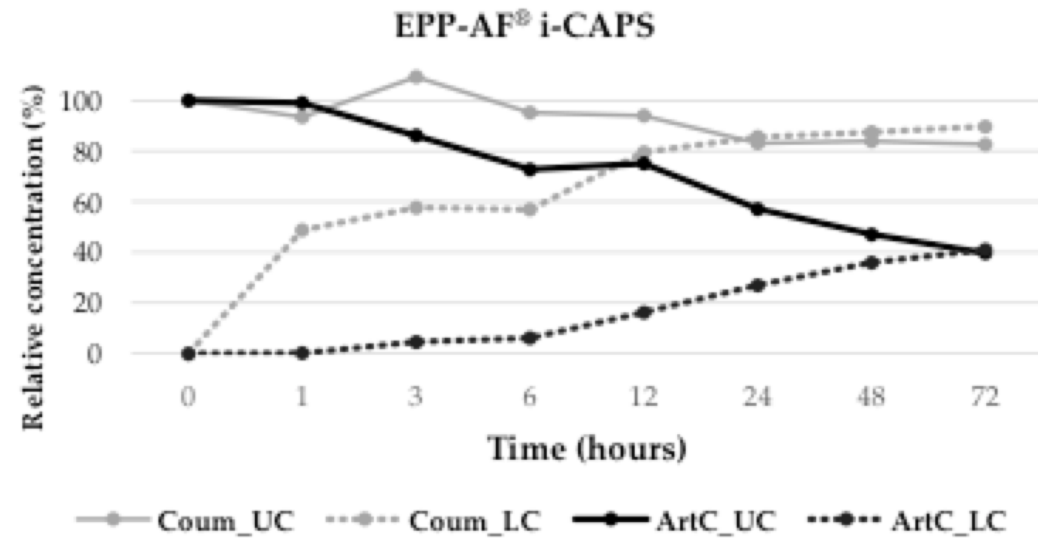
		Cholesterol (μM)	Cholesterol (%)
Control	UC	26.86±0.80 ^a	53.7±1,60 ^a
	LC	21.82±1.03 ^c	43.6±2.05 ^c
EPP-AF[®] Free	UC	35.96±0.37 ^b	71.9±0.75 ^b
	LC	13.29±0.28 ^B	26.6±0.57 ^B
EPP-AF[®] Microcapsules	UC	39.06±0.40 ^c	78.1±0.79 ^C
	LC	10.10±0.29 ^A	20.2±0.58 ^A

UC – upper compartment; LC – lower compartment. **Different lowercase letters in each row represent statistically significant differences between the upper compartments, while different capital letters in each row represent statistically significant differences between the lower compartments, both of which with a significance of 5%.**

PERMEABILITY STUDIES



(A)



(B)

Figure 8 - Permeability Results of EPP-AF® and EPP-AF® i-CAPS through Caco-2 monolayer transport model (n=3, mean ± SD) for the two selected biomarkers *p*-coumaric acid (Coum) and artepillin C (ArtC). UC - UC – upper compartment; LC – lower compartment.

PERMEABILITY STUDIES

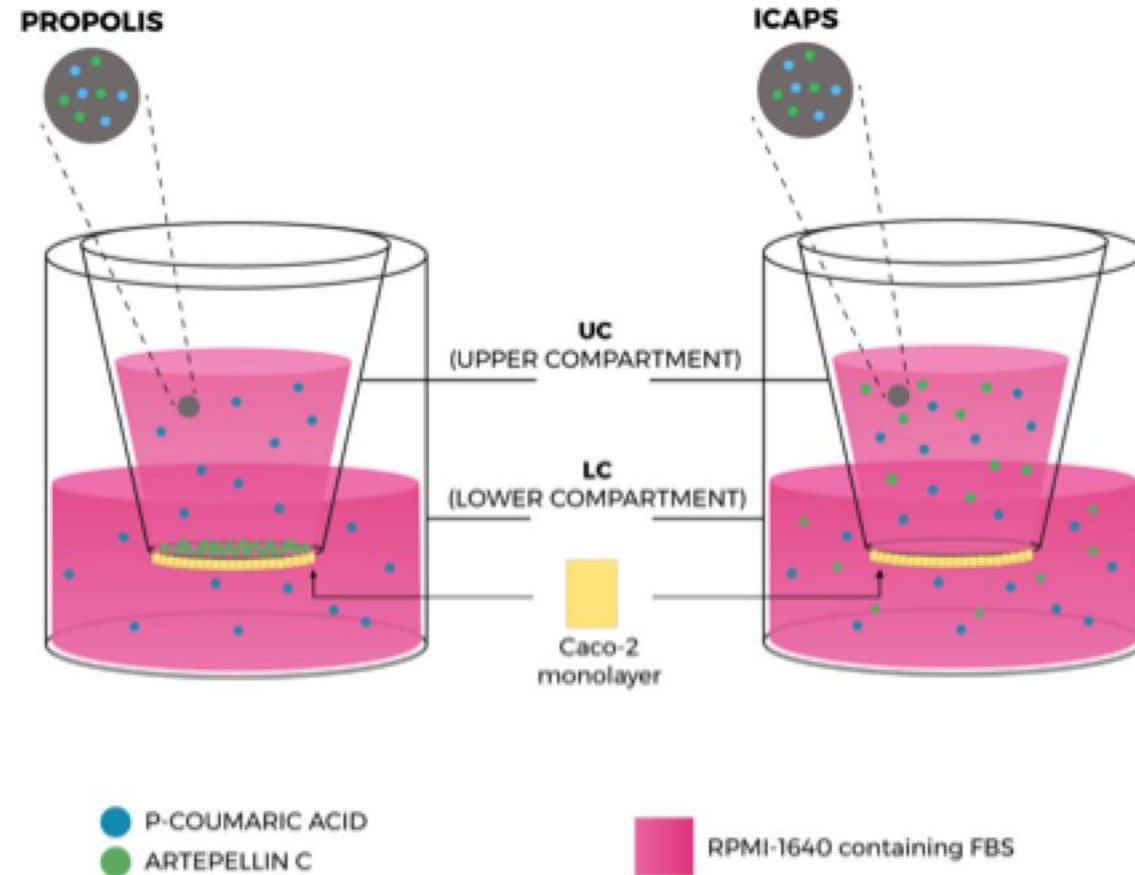


Figure 7 – Illustration of the Permeability Caco-2 monolayer transport model and results with EPP-AF® and EPP-AF® i-CAPS, including for the two selected biomarkers *p*-coumaric acid and artepillin C.



CONCLUSION

EPP-AF^(R) Microcapsules successfully obtained;
Spheric Shape and %ME of 93.7 ± 0.7 ;
FIR and TGA behavior of the Arabic Gum;
Both EPP-AF[®] Free and Microencapsulated offered antimicrobial and antioxidant activities;
Antitumor Effects were Antihypercholesterolemic Effects were better reached by EPP-AF Microcapsule
36 months of Shelf-life
Higher Absorption







LEHNING
LABORATOIRES
DEPUIS 1935

**PRÓPO
MAX**
GOUTTES
IMMUNITÉ

PRÉPARE LES DÉFENSES

PROPOLIS
VERTE BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

PROPOLIS
VERTE BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

4B

30ML e

LEHNING
LABORATOIRES
DEPUIS 1935

**PRÓPO
MAX**
GOUTTES
IMMUNITÉ

DÉFENSES AFFAIBLIES

PROPOLIS
VERTE BRUNE
BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

PROPOLIS
VERTE BRUNE
BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

SANS
ALCOOL

4B

30ML e

LEHNING
LABORATOIRES
DEPUIS 1935

**PRÓPO
MAX**
SPRAY
GORGE

DOUX/GRENADE

PROPOLIS
VERTE BRUNE
BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

PROPOLIS
VERTE BRUNE
BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

4B

30ML e

LEHNING
LABORATOIRES
DEPUIS 1935

**PRÓPO
MAX**
SPRAY
GORGE

FORT/HUILES ESSENTIELLES

PROPOLIS
VERTE BRUNE
BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

PROPOLIS
VERTE BRUNE
BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

4B

30ML e

LEHNING
LABORATOIRES
DEPUIS 1935

**PRÓPO
MAX**
SPRAY
GORGE

SANS ALCOOL

PROPOLIS
VERTE BRUNE
BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

PROPOLIS
VERTE BRUNE
BIO
BIOFLAVONOÏDES
ARTEPILLINE C

4B

30ML e

APIS FLORA KIDS



iCaps Super Power

Apis Flora R&D Team



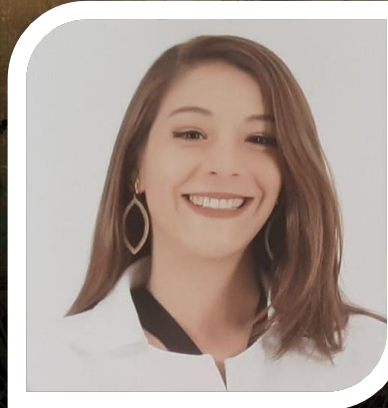
ANDRESSA BERRETTA



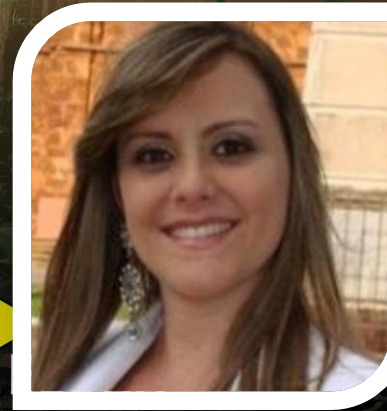
JÉSSICA LIMA



NATHALY ALCAZAR



JULIANA CORREA



MONIA LEMOS



LEANDRA FERREIRA



NATHALIA BAPTISTA

APIS FLORA

Science

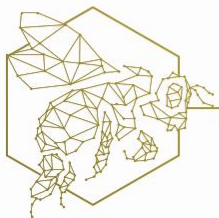


unesp 

USP

 **ipb**
INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO
DE BRAGANÇA


UNIARA



APIS  FLORA[®]



ANDRESA A. BERRETTA

Email: andresa.berretta@apisflora.com.br



***“Propolis International Standard Proposed by ISO
– an important regulatory framework for
authenticity and quality requirements of the
international propolis market”***

Andresa A. Berretta¹ & Miguel Vilas-Boas²

*¹Apis Flora Indl. Coml. Ltda., Ribeirão Preto, Brazil; ABEMEL
(Brazilian Association Honey Exporters), Brazil;*

²Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, Bragança, Portugal.



Mainly types of Propolis

Brown – *Populus spp.*

Green – *Baccharis dracunculifolia*

Red – *Dalbergia* and *Clusia spp.*



Brazilian Red propolis



Poplar propolis



Brazilian green propolis



Opportunities

The current global supply of propolis is estimated to be 700-800 ton/year, with an market value of US\$ 700 million/year, forecasted to reach US\$ 829 million by 2027.

Challenges

Lack of Standardized Methodologies and Technical Specification
Lack of Regulation in most of the countries



De Oliveira et al. 2021

Bee Propolis Specification – ISO-NP 24.381

This project was constructed by experts from 17 countries around the globe.



The document specified quality requirements, analytical methods, packaging, marking, labelling, as well as storage and transportation conditions for propolis produced by *Apis mellifera* bees.

De Oliveira et al. 2021

Bee Propolis Specification – ISO-NP 24.381

SAMPLES

- Sample 1 – Poplar type (China)
- Sample 2 – Poplar type (Portugal)
- Sample 3 – Red type (Brazil)
- Sample 4 – Poplar type (Romania)
- Sample 5 – Green type (Brazil)
- Sample 6 – Poplar type (Italy)
- Sample 7 – Poplar type (Turkey)



Laboratories Involved:

14 applied
13 participated*

Members of Inter Laboratory Proficiency**

- Belgium – CARI ASBL
- Brazil – APIS FLORA
- Brazil – CNPLab
- China – Jiangsu Collaborative Innovation Centre of Chinese Medical Industrialization
- China – Joint Laboratory of Propolis Professional Committee of the China Bee Products Association
- China - Technology Center of Qinhuangdao Customs
- France - CTCPA
- German – Intertek
- Italy – Laboratory of Biochemistry and Glycobiology of Department of Life Sciences, UNIMORE
- Portugal – Institute Polytechnic of Bragança
- Romania – Laboratory for Quality Control of Bee Products and Bee Diseases
- Spain – Laboratorios Apinevada SL
- Turkey – Altiparmak Gıda Sanayi Ve Ticaret A.S.
- Turkey – Beeo Propolis Research and Development Center

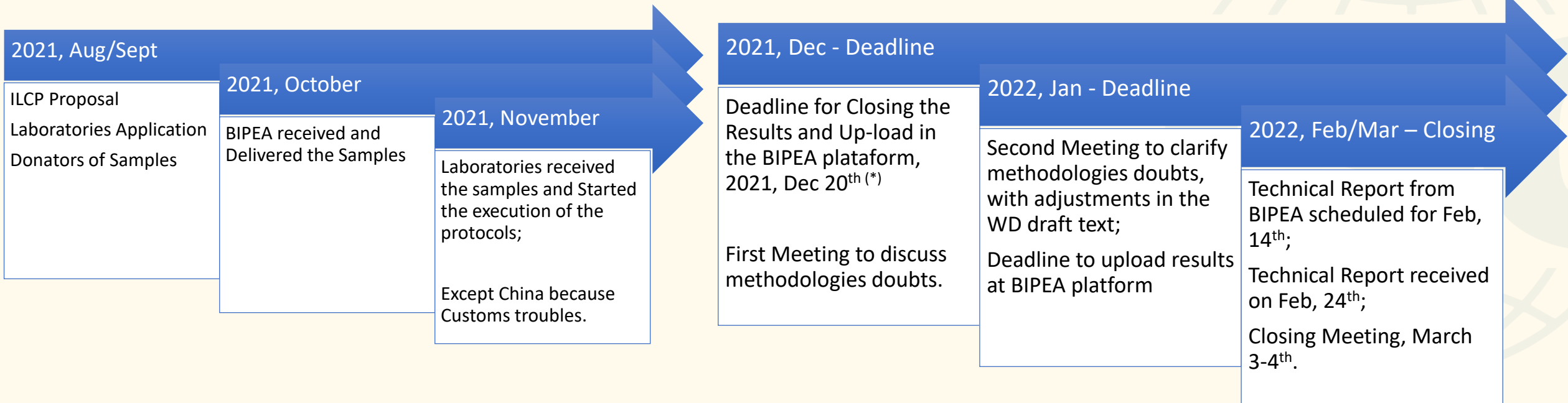
*All were approved for be part. The laboratory declined for internal problems;
**Laboratories identified by alphabetic order. The identification of the laboratories were not done neither, in the technical report or in the presentation in order to avoid any kind discomfort.

Methodologies Evaluated – Annex A - K

Recommended – 11 Parameters (Annex A – K)

- Ethanol Extractable (dry matter);
- Loss on Drying;
- Ash Content;
- Wax Content;
- Total Phenolic Content;
- Total Flavonoid Content (total flavone/flavonol Content);
- Total Flavonoid Content (Polyamide method);
- Chemical Characterization and Quantification of
 - Polyphenols in Poplar Propolis (LC/MS);
 - Polyphenols in Green Propolis (HPLC/DAD);
 - Polyphenols in Red Propolis (HPLC/DAD and HPLC/MS);
- Antioxidant Capacity (DPPH).

Time Line of Inter Laboratory Project



(*) With the consensus of the members, the deadline line to present the results to BIPEA was postponed in 30 days, since the 3 Chinese labs not received the samples on time. Considering the method of Annex G, the lack of these 3 laboratories could potentially affect substantially the results.

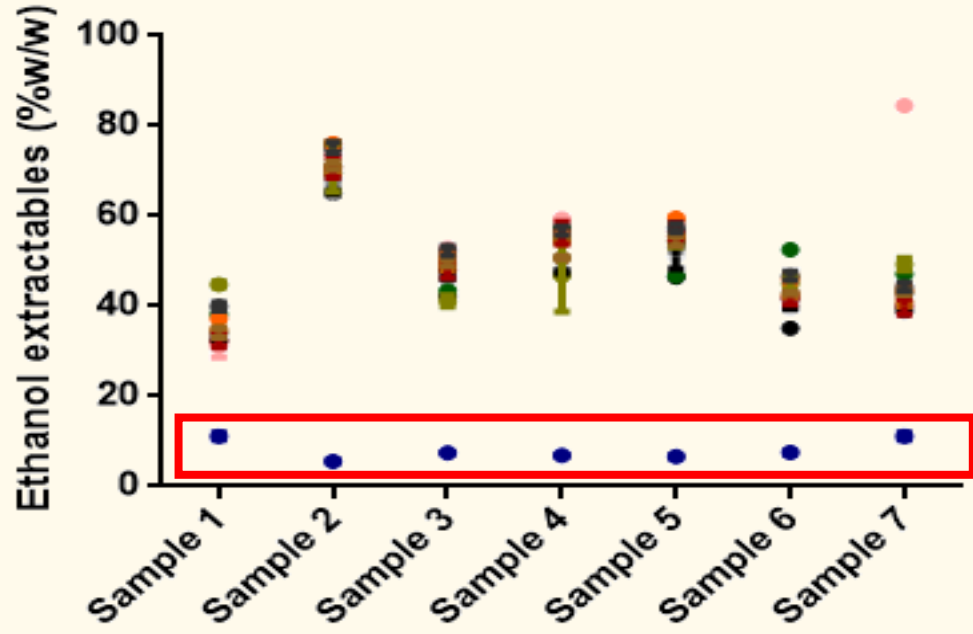
Results

Bee Propolis Specification – ISO-NP 24.381

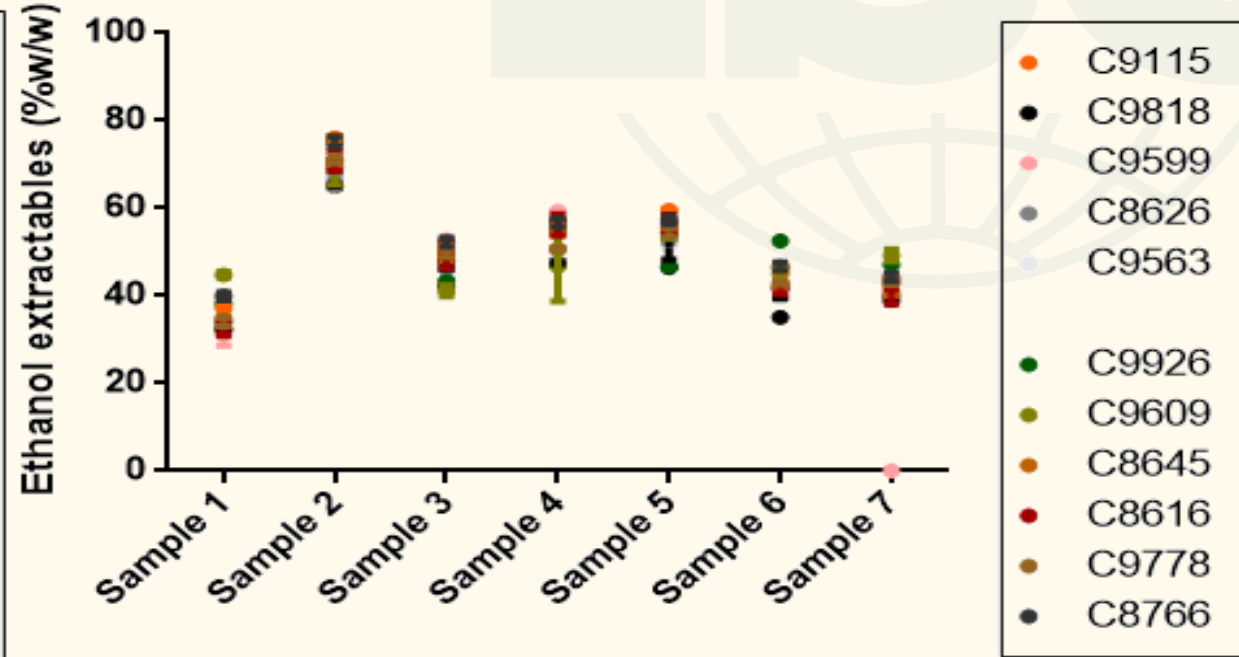
Inter Laboratory Proficiency Results



Annex A – Ethanol Extractable

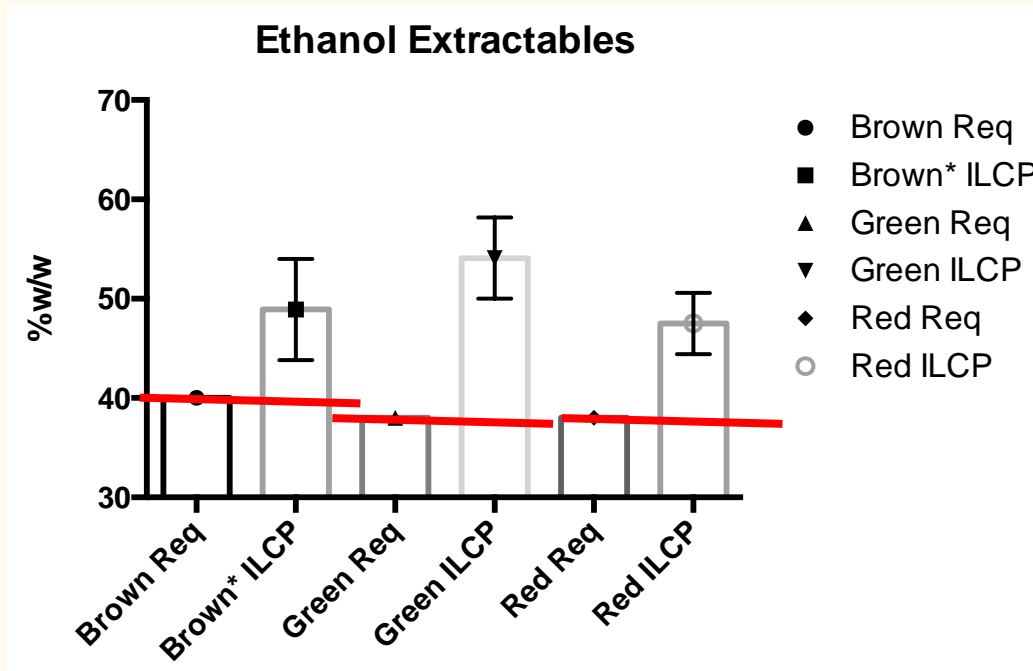


Full Results

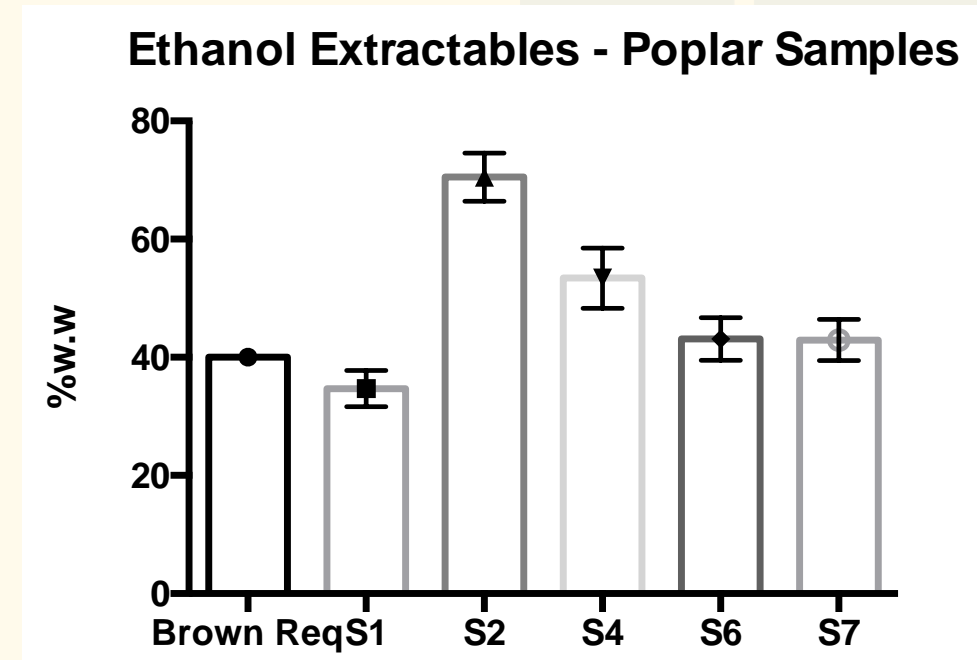


Excluding Outliers

Annex A – Ethanol Extractable – Average/SD



Presentation of the Results
[averages (robust SD)] x Limits
previously established



Presentation of the Results
(Poplar) [averages (robust SD)] x
Limits previously established

Table 4.2 Requirements x Results

Parameters and Limits specified in the WD
Average and Standard Deviation of the Results (S)



Summary – Inter laboratorial Results x Table Requirements

Method	Brow Propolis	Proficiency Samples		Green Propolis	Proficiency Samples		Red Propolis	Proficiency Samples	
	Req	Mean	S (Xpt)	Req	Mean	S (Xpt)	Req	Mean	S (Xpt)
Ethanol extractables (as dry matter) min	40	48,9	5,1	38	54,1	4,1	38	47,5	3,1
Loss of drying (%w/w) - max	8	2,8	0,7	8	9,5	0,9	8	4,2	0,2
Ash Content (%w/w) - max	5	0,9	0,1	5,4	3,2	0,3	5,4	1,1	0,1
Wax Content (%w/w) - max	50	46,0	4,2	27,2	22,9	3,8	38	59,0	3,0
Total phenolic compounds (Folin) – min (%w/w) as gallic acid	10	13,2	4,5	7,6	10,9	2,4	6,5	7,9	2,4
Total phenolic compounds (Folin) – min (%w/w) as galangin	20	24,1	5,3	15,2	19,5	1,9	13	14,5	3,6
Total Flavonoids (or flavone/flavonol) - %w/w (min) as quercetin	3	5,0	1,0	1,1	3,3	0,6	0,5	4,4	0,6
Total flavonoids (Polyamide Method) - % w/w (min) as rutin	8	13,4	1,8	2,2	6,5	0,7	1,1	5,5	1,5
Total antioxidant capacity (DPPH) – EC50 – maximum value (ug/mL)	25	12,3	2,3	40	14,0	2,5	50	20,7	2,2

New Proposal for the Table of Requirements

Table 1 — Physical and chemical requirements for bee propolis and test methods for each characteristic

Characteristic	Min. or max.	Requirements (on a dry basis)			Test method
		Brown propolis (4.1.1)	Green propolis (4.1.2)	Red propolis (4.1.3)	
Ethanol extractables of propolis (as dry matter), in % mass fraction	min.	30,0	30,0	30,0	Annex A
Loss of drying, in % mass fraction	max.	10,0	10,0	10,0	Annex B
Ash content, in % mass fraction	max.	5,0	5,0	5,0	Annex C
Petroleum ether extractables of propolis (as dry matter), in % mass fraction	max.	65,0	30,0	60,0	Annex D
Total phenolic compounds (Folin), in % mass fraction, as gallic acid ^a	min.	10,0	7,0	7,0	Annex E
Total phenolic compounds (Folin), in % mass fraction, as galangin ^a	min.	17,0	12,0	12,0	Annex E
Total flavonoids (AlCl ₃), in % mass fraction, as quercetin	min.	3,0	1,0	0,5	Annex F
Total flavonoids (polyamide method), in % mass fraction, as rutin	min.	6,0	2,0	1,0	Annex G
Total polyphenolics by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) (poplar, green and red propolis)	—	Presence of: apigenin, caffeic acid, CAPE, p-coumaric acid, chrysin, ferulic acid, galangin, pinobanksin and pinocembrin	Presence of: caffeic acid, p-coumaric acid, 3,5-dicaffeoylquinic acid, 4,5-dicaffeoylquinic acid, cinnamic acid, drupanin, artepellin C and baccharin	Presence of: calycosin, isoliquiritigenin, formononetin and biochanin	Annex H Annex I Annex J
Total antioxidant capacity (DPPH) – EC50, in µg/ml	max.	25,0	40,0	50,0	Annex K

^a Total phenolic can be expressed as gallic acid or galangin equivalents. To convert from gallic acid to galangin, multiply the value obtained using the conversion factor of 1,7. To convert from galangin to gallic acid, multiply the value by 0,59.



**Project Leader
Prof. Zetian Lv**



**General Secretary
TC34/SC19
Bee Products
Mrs. Xuan Li**

**Convenor
Dra. Andresa Berretta**



Thank You !

- presidente@abemel.com.br
- mvboas@ipb.pt
- atian580@163.com

