

Das deutsche Pharma-Unternehmen Schwabe ist mit seinem Medikament Umckaloabo als Biopirat in die Schlagzeilen der Presse geraten. GA ist eine von Schwabe (mit-) initiierte Forschungsgesellschaft. Der unter <https://www.ga-online.org/> (Stand 19.11.2018) entnommene History-Auszug teilt dazu mit:

„2010 wurde schließlich das Dr. Willmar Schwabe-Forschungsstipendium für Jungwissenschaftler etabliert. Damit sollen junge Wissenschaftler, bevorzugt aus Entwicklungsländern, bei Forschungsaufenthalten in renommierten Arbeitsgruppen unterstützt werden.

2015 wurde eine Neu-Organisation der Gesellschaft beschlossen. Drei Permanent Committees (Biological and Pharmacological Activities of Natural Products, Breeding and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants, Manufacturing and Quality Control of Herbal Medicinal Products) wurden eingestellt. Stattdessen wurden mehrere neue Arbeitsgruppen mit unterschiedlichen Schwerpunkten gegründet: Arbeitsgruppe (Working Group) Kongresse und Workshops (geleitet durch den Präsidenten), Arbeitsgruppe Preise (geleitet durch einen Vize-Präsidenten), Arbeitsgruppe African Research Network, Arbeitsgruppe European Affairs, Arbeitsgruppe Kommunikation, Arbeitsgruppe Young Researchers.

Kernstück der ethnomedizinischen Aktivitäten sind Young Researchers Scholarships. Auszug Webseite (Stand 19.11.2018):

Dr. Willmar Schwabe Research Scholarship for Young Scientists /

Announcement of the Dr. Willmar Schwabe Research Scholarship 2018 for Young Scientists by the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research

Awarding Institution: Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)

Endowing Sponsor: Dr. Willmar Schwabe GmbH & Co. KG, Karlsruhe (Germany)

Endowment: 10,000 EURO

Objective

The aim of the **Dr. Willmar Schwabe Research Scholarship for Young Scientists** is to support young scientists, especially from developing countries, in a research attachment to a leading research institution. Projects focusing on pharmacological or clinical research of phytopharmaceuticals and their active substances are particularly welcome. The award is exclusively used for travelling and living costs of the awardee, and not for consumables. Duration of the attachment of at least 6 months is mandatory.

Criteria for Application

- Advanced PhD students(year 2 onwards), and postdocs.
- In case of similar scientific quality of applications applicants from developing countries shall have priority.
- GA membership for at least one year prior to application, with paid fees.
- Age: preferably 30 years of age (postdocs) or younger (PhD students).
- The hosting institution states in the Letter of Acceptance that (i) it is prepared to cover the cost of consumables used for the research project; (ii) that the student will have an adequate laboratory infrastructure and; (iii) that a tutor is assigned who will supervise the applicant during his/her stay.

Documents for Application

- Letter of Motivation (applicant)
- Letter of Support (supervisor)
- CV and list of publications
- Project description including experimental design, time schedule and justification why the research shall be performed in the respective institution
- Letter of Acceptance (hosting institution)
- Confirmation of the host institution to cover the laboratory costs (consumables)
- Specification of costs for travelling and living

The Dr. Willmar Schwabe Research Scholarship for Young Scientists will be bestowed in a ceremony during the will be granted during the **66th International Congress and Annual Meeting of GA in Shanghai (China), August 26-29, 2018**. The scientific results of the project shall be presented during the next annual congress, preferably in a short lecture. The awardee has to prepare a final report on the project supported by this grant. This report is to be signed by the head of the host institution. A copy of the signed report has to be sent to the GA president and to Dr. Willmar Schwabe GmbH & Co. KG. In case of publication of the results the award has to be mentioned in the Acknowledgement.

The deadline of submissions for the 2018 announcement is **March 31, 2018**.

Interessant, der für 2019 erklärte Afrika-Fokus:

African Research Network of the GA

The African continent features areas with extremely high biodiversity and high levels of endemism, indicating that many of the continent's plant resources are uniquely African. African traditional medicine is therefore based on a broad ethnomedicinal knowledge and represents a major socio-cultural heritage, which has accumulated during the last millennia and features valuable and unique ethnomedicinal information.

The GA aims to foster the scientific development of African research pursuits by establishing an African Research Network among members of the GA and thus expanding and improving research capacity. Therefore, a working group was established to stimulate and facilitate the interaction of African researchers within the GA. The working group consists of five members of the GA's advisory board including Deniz Tasdemir, Michael Heinrich, Andreas Hensel, Emerson Ferreira Queiroz and Cica Vissiennon (chair).

As a working group of the GA we provide a regular platform for scientific exchange by establishing a sustainable communication channel between the members of the network and organizing regular scientific symposia during the annual conference.

Eventübersicht auf <https://www.ga-online.org/>

(Bei Aufruf des 2017er Links erscheint keine Eventinformation, sondern lediglich eine Blenderseite mit banalen Informationen zu Erkältungskrankheiten)

Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research

Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzen- und Naturstoff-Forschung e.V.



GA "Planta Medica" newsletter



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Upcoming GA Events

2018

"Cannabis - Phytochemical, Pharmacological and Clinical Evidence"

A scientific symposium organized by the Herbal Medicinal Products Platform Austria (HMPPA), and the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)

November 15, 2018

University of Vienna, Austria

Flyer/more information here [here](#)

<http://www.hmppa.at/cannabis-workshop/>

30th International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products and the 10th International Congress on Biodiversity (ISCNP30 & ICOB10)

November 25 - 29, 2018

Athens, Greece

<http://www.iscnp30-icob10.org/>

2019

67th International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)

September 1 - 5, 2019

Innsbruck, Austria

<http://www.ga2019.at/>

2020

68th Annual Meeting of GA and 10th Joint Natural Product Conference 2020 (Joint Meeting with ASP, AFERP, JSP, PSE and SIF)

July 25 - 30, 2020

Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco, USA

2021

69th International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)

September 5 - 9, 2021

Bonn, Germany

Other Events

2019

4th International Conference on Natural Products Utilization: from Plants to Pharmacy Shelf (ICNPU-2019)

May 29 - June 1, 2019

Albena resort, Bulgaria

www.icnpu.com/2019

3rd International Conference of Marine Fungal Natural Products (MafNap 2019)

June 26 - 28, 2019

Athens, Greece

flyer [here](#)

ASP annual meeting

July 13 - 17, 2019

Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Natural Products in Drug Discovery and Human Health

July 28 - 31, 2019

Lisbon, Portugal

<https://www.ff.uil.pt/pselisbonmeeting2019/>

7th Mistletoe Symposium

Mistletoe in Tumour Therapy

Basic Research and Clinical Practice

November 7 - 9, 2019

Nonnweiler, Germany

www.mistelsymposium.de - pdf (English) - pdf (German)

2018

International Conference on Natural Product Biotechnology

September 20 - 21, 2018

TU Dortmund University, Germany

more information [here](#)

<http://www.bio.bci.tu-dortmund.de/cms/de>

[/Emerging-Trends-in-Natural-Product-Biotechnology/index.html](#)

8th symposium on MAP

September 10 - 13, 2018

Bonn, Germany

more information [here](#)

www.dfa-aga.de/

66th International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA) jointly with the 11th Shanghai TCM conference

August 26 - 29, 2018

Shanghai, China

more information [here](#)

www.ga2018.cn

Phytopharm 2018

June 25 - 27, 2018

Wädenswil, Switzerland

more information [here](#)

www.phytopharm2018.ch

Phytotherapie 2018 - Mit Phytotherapie in die Zukunft

Tetranationaler Kongress

31. Mai bis 2. Juni 2018,

Vienna, Austria

more information [here](#)

www.phytokongresswien2018.at

2017

Scientific workshop "Feverfew and parthenolide - phytochemical, pharmacological and clinical evidence"

November 16, 2017

Vienna, Austria

flyer [here](#)

more information [here](#)

65th International Congress and Annual

Exemplarische Sessions. Auszug aus dem 2017er Event.

***Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides* root extract inhibits hemozoin-induced neuroinflammation in BV2 microglia**

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Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides (*Z. zanthoxyloides*) is a plant used in West Africa to treat diseases such as stomach ache, toothache and malaria. Extract and bioactives from the rootbark of *Z. zanthoxyloides* have been suggested to have anti-inflammatory activity (1 and 2). In cerebral malaria, the accumulation of malaria pigment hemozoin induces inflammation leading to excessive production of pro-inflammatory cytokines which contributes to its pathology (3). However, whether *Z. zanthoxyloides* could suppress hemozoin-induced neuroinflammation remains unclear. In this study, we investigated the effect of *Z. zanthoxyloides* in hemozoin-induced BV2 microglia. Cultured BV2 microglia cells were treated with 4, 6 and 8 µg/ml of *Z. zanthoxyloides* 30 minutes before stimulation with hemozoin (400 µg/ml) for a further 24 hours. Levels of TNFα, IL-1β, IL-6, IL-10 released were measured using ELISA while PGE₂ production was measured by enzyme immunoassay. Nitric oxide (NO) production was determined using the Griess assay. *Z. zanthoxyloides* (4, 6 and 8 µg/ml) significantly (p<0.05) reduced the production of TNF α (40±5%), IL-1β (40±2%), IL-6 (50±2%), NO (40±3%) and PGE₂ (40±2%). Western blot experiments showed that *Z. zanthoxyloides* reduced levels of iNOS (45±5%), COX-2 (50±5%), phospho-p65 (50±5%) and phospho-IκBα (40±5%) in comparison with hemozoin control. These results suggest that *Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides* might be inhibiting neuroinflammation in hemozoin induced microglia cells by targeting NF-κB signalling. These results have significant implications in cerebral malaria.

References

1. Prempeh, A.B.A. and Mensah-Attipoe, J., 2009. Inhibition of vascular response in inflammation by crude aqueous extract of the root bark of *Zanthoxylum Xanthoxyloides*. *Ghana medical journal*, 43(2).
2. Oriowo MA. (1982) Anti-inflammatory activity of piperonyl-4-acrylic isobutyl amide, an extractive from *Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides*. *Planta Medica* 44: 54-56
3. Sultan, S. and Irfan, S.M., 2015. Intraleukocytic hemozoin pigments in complicated Plasmodium falciparum cerebral malaria. *Blood research*, 50(2), pp.72-72.

Reference:

Tu-Poster Session 2-PO-150:

Session:

Poster Session 2

Presenter/s:

Folashade A Ogunrinade

Presentation type:

Poster presentation

Room:

San Francisco

Date:

Tuesday, 5th September, 2017

Time:

16:00 - 18:00

Session times:

16:00 - 18:00

Antimutagenic activity of n-tetracosanol, eicosanoic acid and arjunolic acid isolated from *Combretum microphyllum* (Combretaceae)

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The possibility of moderating the response of cells to a particular mutagen by phytomedicines opens new horizons in cancer control. On this basis, the research for antimutagens presents many possibilities for the discovery of new anticarcinogenic substances^{1,2}. The methanol extract of *C. microphyllum* was evaluated for antimutagenicity in the Ames/microsome assay using *Salmonella typhimurium* TA98, TA100 and TA102 without metabolic activation. A bioassay-guided fractionation of the crude extracts led to the isolation of three compounds: n-tetracosanol, eicosanoic acid and arjunolic acid. Arjunolic acid was the most active in all three tested strains with percentage antimutagenicity of up to $41.92 \pm 9.59\%$, $35.84 \pm 1.45\%$ and $43.78 \pm 0.18\%$ in *S. typhimurium* TA98, TA100 and TA102 respectively at the highest concentration tested, followed by eicosanoic acid and lastly n-tetracosanol. The compounds were assessed for antioxidant activity using the quantitative 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH)-free radical scavenging method. Arjunolic acid was the only compound with pronounced antioxidant activity (measured as DPPH-free scavenging activity) with EC₅₀ value of 0.51 µg/ml. Furthermore, the isolated compounds were assessed for their potential toxic effects in the MTT assay using human hepatocytes. All three compounds were not toxic with LC₅₀ values >200 µg/ml for n-tetracosanol and eicosanoic acid and 106.39 µg/ml for arjunolic acid. Based on findings from this study, compounds from *C. microphyllum* protect against 4-NQO and MMC induced mutations as evident in the Ames test. Taking into account that genotoxicity involving gene mutations plays a major role in cancer initiation³, *C. microphyllum* has potential in cancer prevention as it inhibits these genotoxic end-points. The antimutagenic activity of arjunolic acid, at least in part, may be attributed to its antioxidant activity which results in the detoxification of reactive oxygen species produced during mutagenesis.

Reference:

Tu-Poster Session 2-PO-213:

Session:

Poster Session 2

Presenter/s:

Tshepiso J Makhafola

Presentation type:

Poster presentation

Room:

San Francisco

Date:

Tuesday, 5th September, 2017

Time:

16:00 - 18:00

Session times:

16:00 - 18:00

Antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of *Psydrax subcordata* and *Acioa dinklagei*

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Psydrax subcordata (D. C. Bridson) (Family: Rubiaceae) and *Acioa dinklagei* (Engl.) (Family: Chrysobalanaceae) are plants widely distributed in the tropical region of West Africa. Leaves and stem bark of *P. subcordata* and the leaves of *A. dinklagei* are used to treat wound infections in West Africa. The aim of this study was to determine the antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of *P. subcordata* and *A. dinklagei* [1].

Preliminary phytochemical screening was carried out on the methanol leaf (PSLE) and stem bark (PSSE) extracts of *P. subcordata* and methanol leaf (ADLE) extract of *A. dinklagei* to identify their phytochemical constituents [2]. The antimicrobial activity of PSLE, PSSE and ADLE were evaluated using the broth dilution method [3]. Antioxidant activities of the PSLE, PSSE and ADLE were determined using 1,1-diphenyl-2-picryl hydrazyl [4].

MIC of PSLE was 12.5 mg/mL against test organisms. MIC of PSSE against test organisms was 25 mg/mL except *P. aeruginosa* (12.5 mg/mL). MICs of ADLE against *B. subtilis*, *E. coli*, *S. pyogenes* and *P. aeruginosa* were 2.5, 20, 10 and 5 mg/mL, respectively (Table 1). PSLE, PSSE and ADLE exhibited antioxidant activity with IC₅₀ of 7.0±0.0016, 99.0±0.0022 and 96.0±0.017 µg/mL. Tannins, saponins, flavonoids and glycosides were identified in PSLE, PSSE and ADLE.

PSLE, PSSE and ADLE possess antimicrobial and antioxidant activities.

Reference:

Tu-Poster Session 2-PO-219:

Session:

Poster Session 2

Presenter/s:

Christian Agyare

Presentation type:

Poster presentation

Room:

San Francisco

Date:

Tuesday, 5th September, 2017

Time: 16:00 - 18:00

Session times: 16:00 - 18:00

From ethnobotany to the laboratory: a computer aided ethnobotanic method for the identification of plants with interesting biological activities.

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The investigation of natural products used in Traditional Medicine in Africa is complicated as modern analytical and screening methods are often not available. Computer aided product identification from traditional usage records (CAPITURE) may provide an interesting alternative and has been evaluated in the context of an ethnobotanical survey on fungal diseases and their traditional treatment in Tchamba District (Togo). 53 traditional healers were interviewed and their knowledge, recorded [1]. Several indicators, the Use Value (UV), Plant Part Value (PPV), Specific Use (SU) value, Intraspecific Use Value (IUV) and Informant Consensus Factor (ICF), were applied to the data [2,3]. Those indices, in addition to a bibliographic review, were then fed into a computer-aided approach which predicted two interesting plants (out of the 43 species survey-recorded) and their specific activities: *Pterocarpus erinaceus* sap against ringworm, *Daniellia oliveri* sap against intertrigo and respectively their roots and barks against candidiasis. Subsequent laboratory studies have confirmed the predicted antimicrobial activities with MIC (128 µg/ml to 30 mg/ml) and without any notable toxicity on normal human cells (MRC-5 cells). Although such method may not be flawless, it provides first leads, and in the face of limited resources, is an attractive alternative worth considering.

Reference:

Tu-Poster Session 2-PO-205:

Session:

Poster Session 2

Presenter/s:

Nassifatou K. Tittikpina

Presentation type:

Poster presentation

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San Francisco

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