



Antiproliferative, anti-leishmanial and metabolomics prospecting of Brazilian cyanobacteria

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Highlights

We report on the integration of bioassays and metabolomics as a strategy to prioritize metabolites from Brazilian cyanobacteria in natural product prospecting.

Abstract

Cyanobacteria represent a promising group of microorganisms in the search for new bioactive natural products.¹ Estimates from the National Cancer Institute indicate more than 300,000 new cases of breast cancer in 2023, in the United States alone, justifying the pursuit of new antiproliferative agents for this condition.² Furthermore, leishmaniasis continues to be a public health issue in various countries, as it is considered one of the top ten neglected tropical diseases, affecting more than 12 million people in over 80 countries.³ Our aim was to explore metabolomics tools to prioritize potentially novel bioactive natural products from Brazilian cyanobacterial fractions that were active against cancer cell lines and *Leishmania*. The cyanobacterium strain *Calothrix* sp. was cultivated, extracted, and fractionated. Extract and fractions were analyzed by UPLC-MS/MS, and the obtained data were processed using MZMine. Their biological activities⁴ were evaluated against MCF-7 (breast cancer) cells and promastigotes of *L. amazonensis* (MHOM/BR/1972/LD). GNPS platform (Global Natural Products Social Molecular Networking) was used to create a molecular network and Features correlated with observed bioactivity were highlighted using NP analyst.⁵ The combination of bioassay data and metabolomics results assisted the dereplication of groups of metabolites that were associated with the bioactive fractions.

References

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