Introduction: The ethnopharmacological use of Cymbopogon spp. dates back from ancient times. Traditionally used in tropical and semi-tropical countries for the repellent properties of their essential oil, the consumption of Cymbopogon spp. infusions is growing all over the world. This is not only due to the unique aroma, widely appreciated by the consumers, but also because of the antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and sedative properties.

Methods: The chemical characterization of infusions and ethanol:water (50:50, v/v) extracts from Cymbopogon citratus and Cymbopogon schoenanthus was achieved by HPLC-DAD. The anti-inflammatory potential of the extracts was assessed by cell and cell-free assays.

Results: HPLC-DAD analysis allowed the identification of several caffeic acid derivatives and flavonoids in the infusions and in the ethanol:water extracts of both species. The different extracts displayed scavenging activity against superoxide anion and nitric oxide (NO) radicals, and capacity to significantly reduce NO production by LPS-stimulated macrophages (RAW 264.7 cell line). In addition, the extracts were able to prevent hyaluronic acid degradation via inhibition of hyaluronidase, an enzyme recognized to participate in a number of physiological and pathological processes, including inflammation. No toxicity was observed on human gastric adenocarcinoma and hepatocyte carcinoma cell lines, at a maximum concentration of 2.0 mg/lyophilised extract/mL.

Conclusion: This study provided scientific evidence on the ethnopharmacological use of Cymbopogon species on inflammatory conditions, encouraging infusion consumption and future incorporation of Cymbopogon spp. extracts into nutraceuticals.

Acknowledgements: This work received financial support from National Funds (FCT/MEC) through project UID/QUI/50006/2013, co-financed by FEDER through COMPETE, under the Partnership Agreement PT2020, and from NORTE 2020, under the PORTUGAL 2020 Partnership Agreement, through ERDF (NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000024). MB is indebted to FCT for the grant (SFRH/BD/95861/2013).

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.pbj.2017.07.099

PS153
HuR prevents c-fos mRNA degradation by proteasome-associated ribonuclease in vitro
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Aim: To estimate HuR protective activity against proteasome-associated ribonuclease for c-myc and c-fos mRNAs.

Introduction: Proteasome-associated proteins are attractive targets for multiple myeloma treatment. One of them is HuR protein known to selectively bind ARE-containing mRNAs and protect them from degradation. HuR is supposed to play a role in cancerogenesis since its expression is elevated in many cancer types and it stabilizes a lot of mRNAs encoding proteins involved in oncogenesis. Previously, it was shown that proteasome in addition to its main function – protein degradation – may act as a selective RNase. Moreover, HuR and proteasome have common targets – c-myc and c-fos protooncogene mRNAs.

Methods: HuR-GST fusion protein has been cloned, expressed and purified by affinity chromatography. Fragments of c-myc and c-fos were cloned and mRNAs have been transcribed in vitro. Proteasomes have been isolated from K562 cell line (human proerytroleukemia) and Im-9 cells (human multiple myeloma). mRNAs were treated by proteasomes in presence and absence of HuR. The estimation of mRNA cleavage was held by gel-electrophoresis.

Results: GST-HuR has specifically bound ARE-containing fragments of c-myc and c-fos mRNAs. Proteasomes extracted from Im-9 and K562 cells cleaved target mRNAs in absence of HuR. It was shown that HuR prevents degradation of c-fos mRNA by proteasomal endoribonuclease, whereas c-myc mRNA was cleaved in the