Guadeloupean Parkinsonism has been linked epidemiologically to the consumption of Annonaceae fruits. These were proposed to be etiological agents for sporadic atypical Parkinsonism worldwide, because of their content of neurotoxins such as isoquinolinic alkaloids and Annonaceous acetogenins. The pulp of Annona cherimolia Mill. from Spain was screened for these toxic molecules using Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionisation - Time of Flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) and it was found not to be a source of exposure. However, kaurenoic acid, a diterpene considered to be cytotoxic, was detected in high amounts (66 mg/fresh fruit). Treatment of rat embryonic striatal primary cultures, up to a high concentration (50 µM), did not cause neuronal death nor astrogliosis, suggesting that this molecule is not at risk of implication in human neurodegenerative diseases.
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