

A fungistatic constituent from *Ageratum conyzoides*

Preliminary screening of water extracts from some common weeds showed that *Ageratum conyzoides* possessed antifungal properties. Organic solvent extracts of shoots of *Ageratum conyzoides* L. were tested for antifungal activity against *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Sclerotium rolfsii*, *Botryodiplodia theobromae*, and *Fusarium* species on potato dextrose agar medium. The crude n-hexane extract completely inhibited the growth of *R. solani* and *S. rolfsii*. The n-hexane extract was chromatographed over a column of silica gel followed by activity-guided fractionation to give an antifungal principle. Structure elucidation by ¹H, ¹³C NMR and mass spectroscopy identified the active compound as precocene II. The growth of *R. solani* and *S. rolfsii* was completely inhibited by precocene II. Sub-culture of these inhibited fungi onto precocene II free medium, restored growth of the fungus indicating that precocene II is fungistatic.