



Study finds seaweed from Peniche effective Cancer treatment

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The red seaweed "Sphaerococcus coronopifolius" from the Peniche coast has compounds with antitumor activity that can contribute to the development of new drugs or enhance the effect of existing cancer-fighting drugs, researchers announced.

"We were able to figure out that two of the seven molecules studied can inhibit the growth of tumour spheres, so we studied this further until finding the possible discovery of a potential drug", explained Lusa Celso, Alves, researcher at MARB - Politécnico de Leiria, who led the research. The compounds of this seaweed also "may have the potential to be used in conjunction with current therapies, enhancing the effect of existing drugs," he added.

The team of researchers, which includes biologists, biochemists, chemists and pharmacists, studied 27 macroalgae off the coast of Peniche, in the district of Leiria, until they were able to "isolate the compounds responsible for the antitumor potential and realise what kind of action they induce," Celso Alves said.

'Sphaerococcus coronopifolius' has been shown to be the seaweed with the highest antitumor potential when tested on human cell lines derived from liver cancer and colorectal cancer. During the four-year project, researchers were able to discover compounds that can inhibit the growth of tumor cells, having isolated seven molecules, two of which were new ones of marine origin were unknown to scientists.

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




Additionally, the study, by Eurico Serrano, Carlos Rodrigues, Maria Alpoim (University of Coimbra), Luís Botana (University of Santiago de Compostela), Susete Pinteus, Helena Gaspar, Joana Silva and Rui Pedrosa (Politécnico de Leiria), was published in April in the scientific journal "Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy" and will be presented on Tuesday at the Science Meeting 2020.

The study included broader research, roughly €174,000 was funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology ("Red2Discovery") and two million euros by the Compete Community Program ("POINT4PAC"). The first phase of the work was completed and from the results obtained it "opened up" new research opportunities to continue to evaluate and understand the true therapeutic potential of these compounds in this area. The team again applied for the project for new sources of funding, to continue studying, in order to "validate the result in more complex models, using various types of tumor cells and tissues to understand the effective antitumor effect".

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This is very interesting and must be pursued, and given funding. Also consider that other lifeforms contain anti cancer or trout shrinking compounds. The Fungal Pharmacy is an amazing book detailing medical uses of a host of fungi, many of which are common. I used it to research fungi that can help with lung cance4 for a friend in the USA who was afflicted, she began sourcing and eating a variety four times a week, went into remission, and after two years, has had no recurrence. Her doctors were amazed at how the tumor in her lung shrank. In a few weeks it was down by 50%. These humble lifeforms are all a  and  yet we  prefer to  (/nl)  (/se)  (/it) billions into other projects, rather than studying them, using them, and curing millions of people.

*By **Jude Irwin** from Beiras on 01-11-2020 09:41*

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