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Int J Antimicrob Agents. 2011 Jan;37(1):70-4. doi: 10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2010.09.011. Epub 2010 Nov 13.

**Inhibition of efflux pumps in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus faecalis* resistant strains by triterpenoids from *Momordica balsamina*.**

Ramalhete C<sup>1</sup>, Steenoler G, Martins A, Martins M, Viveiros M, Mulhovo S, Ferreira MJ, Amaral L.

Author information

**Abstract**  
Six cucurbitane-type triterpenoids (1-6) isolated from the aerial parts of *Momordica balsamina* were evaluated for their ability to inhibit the activity of bacterial efflux pumps of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) COL(OXA), *Enterococcus faecalis* ATCC 29212, *Salmonella enterica* subsp. I serovar Typhimurium 5408 and *S. Typhimurium* 5408CIP strains. The latter strain overproduces the AcrB transporter of the AcrAB-TolC efflux pump six-fold compared with its parent. Compounds 4-6 were also tested for similar activity against *Escherichia coli* AG100 wild-type strain and *E. coli* AG100TET8 that overproduces the AcrAB-TolC efflux pump. Evaluation of efflux activity was performed using a semi-automated method that measures accumulation of the universal efflux pump substrate ethidium bromide (EtBr). Some of the compounds significantly inhibited efflux of EtBr by MRSA COL(OXA) and *E. faecalis* ATCC 29212. A correlation between activity and the topological polar surface area of the compounds was found for MRSA COL(OXA).

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