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Laboratório Prof. Dr. Hugo David  
Homenagem ao Grande Incentivador  
da Micobacteriologia Brasileira  
November de 2005

**Research of New Drugs Against  
Tuberculosis**

27-28/07/2009

Fernando Rogerio Pavan  
Clarice Queico Fujimura Leite

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*What is  
"Mycobacterium  
tuberculosis" ?*

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*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

- Ancient pathogen level 3 of danger
- Acid-fast
- Very slow growth
- Complex cell wall
- Approx. 4,000 genes
- Aerobic/anaerobic
- Intracellular/extracellular
- Resistant to many common antibiotics
- No environmental reservoir
- Drying Resistance



Scanning Electron Micrograph of  
Mycobacterium tuberculosis

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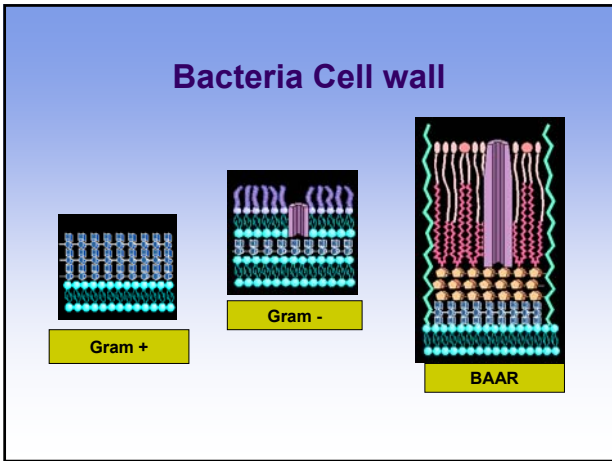
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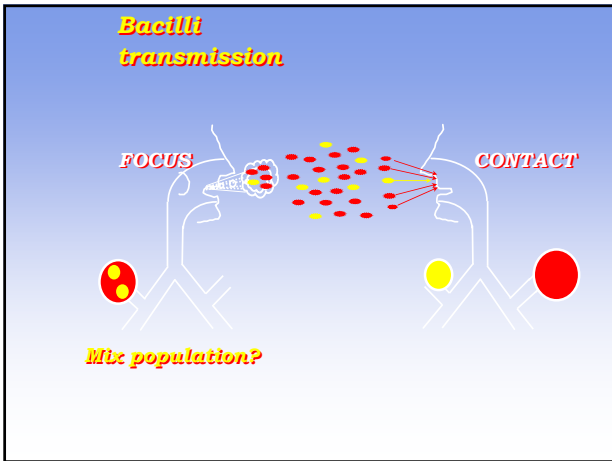
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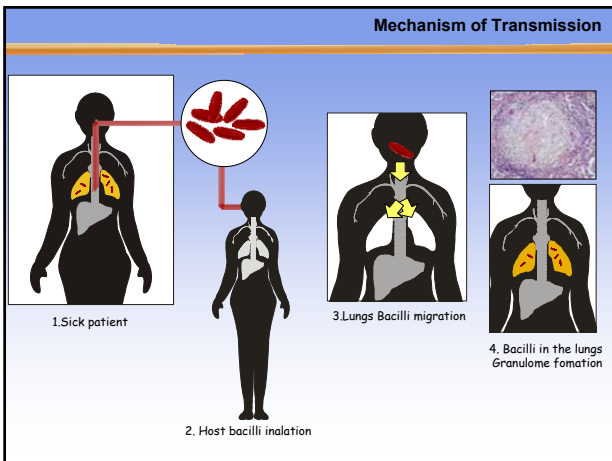
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When and how  
appeared  
"Mycobacterium  
tuberculosis" ?

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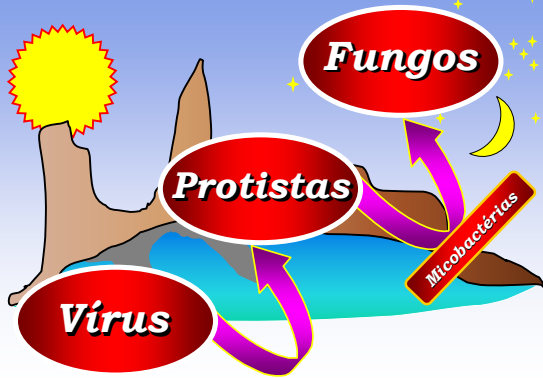
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**Mycobacterial Origins**



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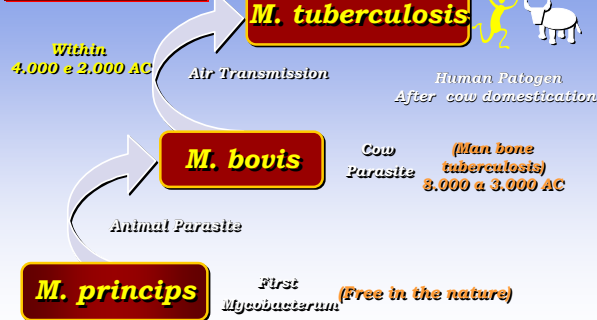
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**Origens of M. tuberculosis**



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**Tuberculosis: infectious disease**  
**Agente: "Mycobacterium tuberculosis"**

**Ordem:**  
*Actinomycetales*  
**Family:**  
*Micobacteriaceae*  
**Gendre:**  
*Micobacterium*

Aerobic bacillus, non mobile,  
no spores,  
with persistent forms

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**"Mycobacterium tuberculosis Complex"**

*M. tuberculosis*  
*M. bovis*  
*M. africanum*  
*M. ulcerans*  
*M. microti*

The genome (DNA) of *M. tuberculosis* has totally determined also its chemical characteristic and virulence.  
The *M. microti* is not pathogenic and the *M. ulcerans* cause skin lesion.  
The *M. bovis* is a zoonose  
The *M. africanum* is less pathogenic than *M. tuberculosis*

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**Current  
situation of  
"tuberculosis" ?**

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## Current Global Status

**Infected:** 1.86 billion (32%)  
**New cases/yr:** 8.7 million

**Deaths/yr:** 1.7 million (5,000/day)  
26% of avoidable deaths in developing world  
Brazil : reports the second-highest TB mortality and morbidity among all countries in the Americas

**Drug resistance:** ubiquitous (WHO/TB)  
primary: 1.4% MDR, 10.4% SDR  
acquired: 13% MDR, 36% SDR

**"No new drugs  
excepting  
rifabutin and  
rifapentine after  
rifampicin"**

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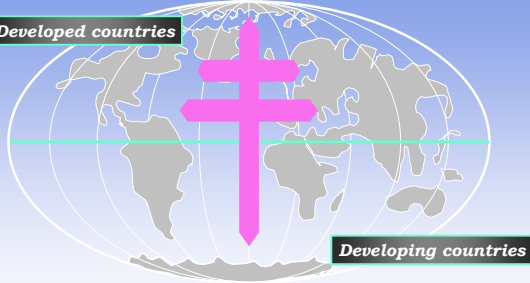
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### TB distribution in the world



**Developed countries**

**Developing countries**

Over 95% of TB cases in the world are in developing countries

For this reason , we who live in the developing countries, feel great responsibility for the search for new anti TB drugs

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### BCG Vaccine



**"Mycobacterium bovis"**

**"BCG strains"**

*Good Fairy?*

The "BCG strain" is a viable bacterium, originated of the bovine bacillus that was cultivated in glycerin potato middle with ox bile, during 13 years and 230 cultivations biweekly. The bacillus suffered a mutation becoming Non virulent, maintaining the immunogenic properties

*Rosemberg J. Vacinação BCG*

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### Current treatment for TB

American Thoracic Society, CDC, WHO

- **2 months, daily (intensive phase)**
    - Isoniazid (INH), 5 mg/kg po (300 mg)
    - Rifampin, 10 mg/kg po (600 mg)
    - Pyrazinamide, 15-30 mg/kg po (1-2 g)
- And (if primary resistance >4% in community)
- Ethambutol, 15-25 mg/kg po (2-5g)
- or
- Streptomycin, 15 mg/kg im (1g)
- **4 months daily (continuation phase)**
    - Isoniazid (INH), 5 mg/kg po (300 mg)
    - Rifampin, 10 mg/kg po (600 mg)

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*How to understand  
the phenomenon of  
"M. tuberculosis"  
resistance?*

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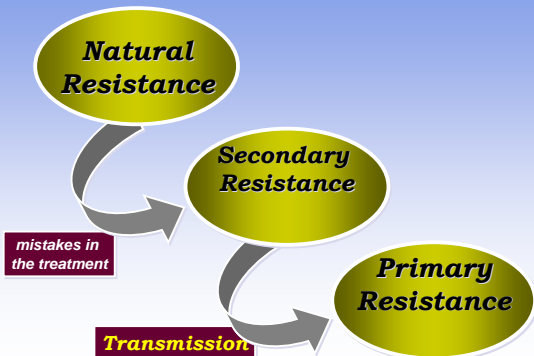
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Human interference:  
introduction of the drugs



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**Resistência natural em cepas selvagens do "M. tuberculosis"**

DRUGS	CONCENTRATION IN THE MEDIUM (ug/ml)	RESISTANT MUTANTS FREQUENCY
RMP	40	1 in $10^8$
INH	0.2	1 in $10^4$
SM	4	1 in $10^4$
EMB	2	1 in $10^5$
ETH	20	1 in $10^3$
PZA	25	1 in $10^3$

Fonte: Canetti G et al. Bull WHO, 1969

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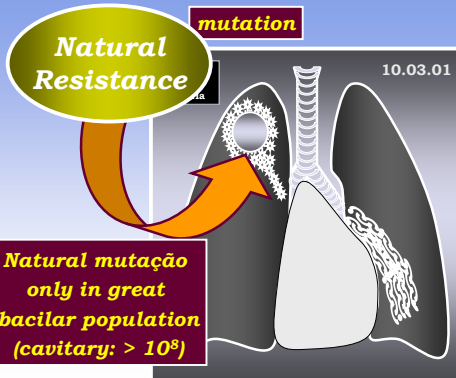
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**Where happens the natural resistance?**




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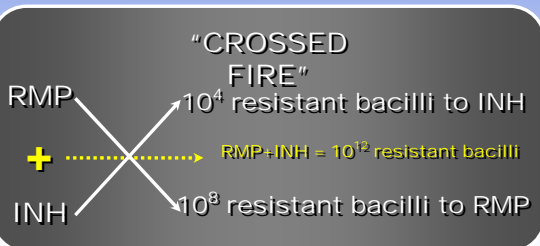
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**Drugs association to avoid "M. tuberculosis" resistance**



Fontes: Controle da Tuberculose, 3a.Ed., CNTC/NUTES/MS, R.J.1992  
Dalcolmo MP, Tese de Doutorado, 1999.

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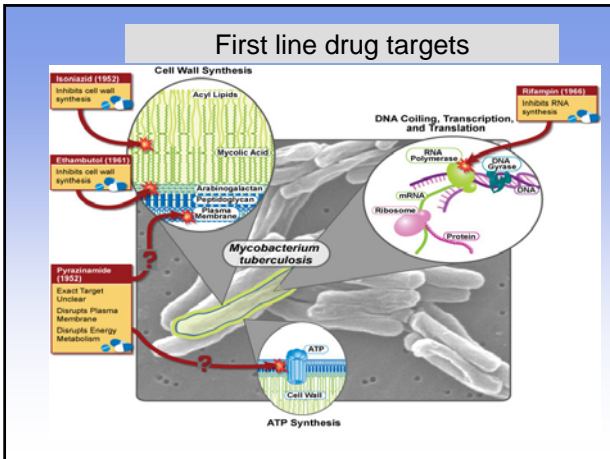
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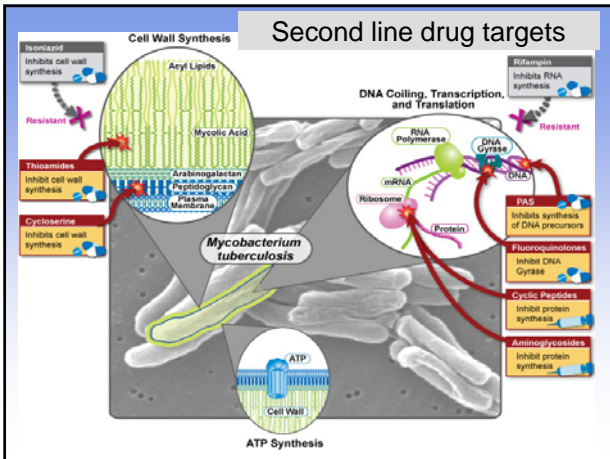
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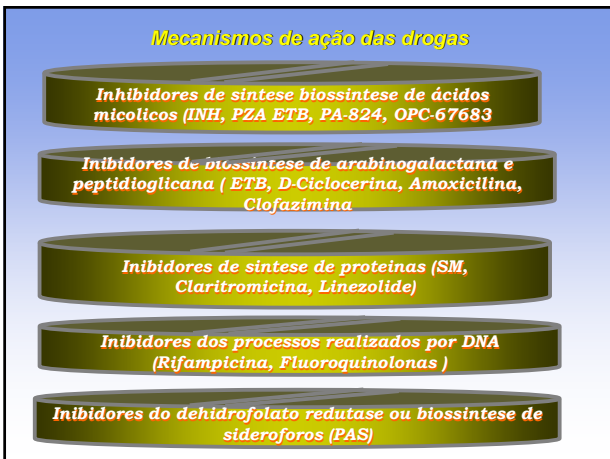
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**Mycobacterial Mecanismos of Resistance**

Variation of cell wall permeability

Suppression of Enzymes that modify the drugs (INH e PZA)

Mutation of the targets of the drug

Super production of targets

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**Genes associated with resistency**

- Gene *rpoB* – RMP
- Genes *katG*, *inhA*, *oxyR-ahpC*, *kasA* – INH
- Genes *rrs* e *rpsL* – SM
- Gene *pncA* – PZA
- Genes *embA*, *embB* e *embC* – ETB
- Genes *gyrA* e *gyrB* – fluoroquinolonas

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**Why new drugs against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*?**



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## Impact of New Chemotherapy

1. **Reducing Treatment Duration**
  - Improved compliance
2. **Successful treatment of MDR-TB**
  - Reduce transmission of MDR-TB
    - Decrease cost of treatment
3. **Cure latent TB infection**
  - Reduce/eliminate disease reservoir

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## Approaches to New TB Drugs

- **Ligand-based whole cell screening**
  - optimize non-TB antimicrobial classes
  - optimize TB drugs
  - novel synthetic
  - novel natural products
    - Ethnomedical
- **Target-based discovery**
  - target identification
  - screening (in silico, NMR, functional)
- **Random high throughput screening (HTS) of synthetic and natural products vs. *M. tuberculosis* (whole cell screening)**



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## Ideal properties of new anti-TB drugs

- Rapid bactericidal activity on extra and intracellular bacilli (inside macrophages)
- Long tissue half-life anti TB activity
- Good oral bioavailability and tolerability
- Low toxicity : hepato, cardio, bone marrow, néfro, neuro, and genotoxicity
- No drug-drug interactions or antagonism with retro virus drugs



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### Reasons for delayed investigation

1. The search is expensive
2. The bacterium is hard for handle
3. The companies engaged in the development of new TB drugs perceived lack of commercial return
  - Over 95% of TB cases in the world are in developing counties
4. For this reason , we who live in the developing countries, feel responsible for the search for new anti TB drugs

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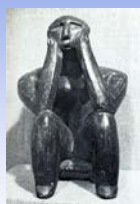
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### Why synthetic metallo-organic complexes?



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### Why synthetic metallo-organic complexes?

- For the first time in decades, there is now a pipeline of new synthetic compounds that are being tested on TB
- Within this growing pipeline of potential new TB drugs, seven are at various stages of clinical development

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### Tuberculosis (TB) clinical drug development programs

Compound	Development Stage	Sponsor/Coordinator
Gatifloxacin	Phase 3	European Commission; IRD; WHO/TDR; Lupin
Moxifloxacin	Phase 2/3	Bayer; TB Alliance; CDC; University College London; Johns Hopkins University
TMC 207 (Diarylquinoline)	Phase 2	Johnson & Johnson (Tibotec)
OPC 67683 (Nitroimidazole)	Phase 1 EBA	Otsuka Pharmaceutical
PA 824 (Nitroimidazole)	Phase 1	TB Alliance
LL 3858 (Pyrrole)	Phase 1	Lupin
SQ 109 (Diamine)	Phase 1	Sequella

(Melvin K. Spigelman JID, 2007)

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### Why synthetic metallo-organic complexes?

1. Within this group, there are no complexes between metals and organic compounds
2. Medicinal Inorganic Chemistry is an area in continuous expansion
3. Many studies have shown an increase in the pharmacological activity of pure organic compounds when complexed with metals
4. We decided to make complexes of vanadium with thiosemicarbazone, semicarbazone and hydrazone derivatives as ligands
5. For each compound made, we determined its anti-TB activity and cytotoxicity

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### Methods to evaluate biological activities?

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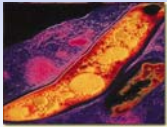
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## Determination of *in vitro* antimycobacterial activity

- Target Bacterium
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Rv (Lab. nivel 3)
- *Mycobacterium smegmatis*



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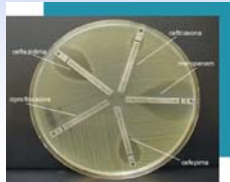
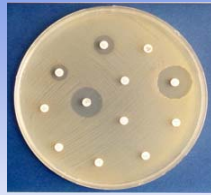
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## Biological assays

- Classic disk diffusion assay should be avoided because the mycobacteria grow slowly.
- Dilution methods in agar are accomplished, for study of extracts and fractions, but the technique is difficult and slow (18 days to have result of MIC)



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## Sistema BACTEC

- Radiometric BACTEC 460 Assay : Método caro, um único tubo de 4 ml, contendo meio radioativo, US\$2.50



- MGIT: Non radiometric



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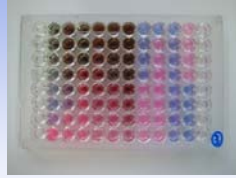
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## Antimycobacterial activity in vitro Assay – REMA

- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Rv
- 96-well format, 200 ul.
- Small sample requirement
- Incubation: 6 day , 37°C
- Mycobacterial growth is determined by reduction of the blue dye (Resazurin), to the pink and fluorescent resofurin
- A change from blue to pink indicates bacterial cells growth
- The MIC is defined as the lowest concentration of drugs that inhibits 90% of cell growth
- High-throughput anti-TB assay using microplate spectrophotometer or fluorimeter




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### Primary screen vs. H<sub>37</sub>Rv 7.8 ug/ml

90% inhibition

Cytotoxicity (IC<sub>50</sub>) vs. VERO cells  
78.5 ug/ml

MIC vs. H<sub>37</sub>Rv  
7.8-0.1 ug/ml

IC<sub>50</sub>/MIC >10

MØ culture  
vs. Erdman  
16x MIC

MIC vs. SDR  
& Erdman & *M. avium*  
32-0.5x H<sub>37</sub>Rv MIC

MBC  
vs. H<sub>37</sub>Rv & Erdman  
32-0.5x H<sub>37</sub>Rv MIC

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## Screening of new anti-TB candidates

National Institute of Health (USA)

Intracellular activity

IC<sub>50</sub>/MIC ≥ 10

50% cell bioavailability

≤ 7.8 µg/mL




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**METAL IONS**

**Synthesis and anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* activity of Vanadium complexes with N,N,O-donor ligands**  
 Pedro I. da S. Maia, Victor M. Deffon, Fernando R. Pavan, Clarice O.F. Leite, Claudia C. Gatto, Sebastião S. Lemos, Alzir A. Batista. *John Libbey Eurotext, Paris*, v. 10, 197-203, 2008.

Compounds	Structures	REMA (MIC) ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	IC <sub>50</sub>
Hidrazones, Semicarbazones and Vanadium Complexes			
Hapbh		1.9	1.9
[VO <sub>2</sub> (apbh)]		0.97	1.9
Hapah		15.6	1.9
[VO <sub>2</sub> (apah)]		7.8	1.9

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**Vanadium complexes with thiosemicarbazones: Synthesis, characterization crystal structures and anti-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* activity**  
 Pedro I. da S. Maia, Fernando R. Pavan, Clarice O.F. Leite, Sebastião S. Lemos, Gerímário F. de Sousa, Alzir A. Batista, Otaciro R. Nascimento, Javier Elena, Eduardo E. Castellano, Elke Niquet, Victor M. Deffon. v. 28, 398-406, 2009.

Compounds	Structures		REMA(MIC) $\mu\text{g/mL}$	IC <sub>50</sub>
	Ligands	Complexes		
Thiosemicarbazones and Vanadium Complexes				
Haptscc			31.3	156
[VO <sub>2</sub> (aptscc)]			31.3	19.5
Happtsc			15.6	3.9
VO(acac)(apptsc)			1.6	3.9
Hapmtsc			7.8	1.9
[VO <sub>2</sub> (apmtsc)]			3.9	1.9

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**Collaborators**

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Master Students  
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Ph.D. Maria H. Torre  
 Ph.D. Dinorah Gambino



Departamento de Química UFSCar

Ph.D. Izir A. Batista and Students

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