

Granada University is searching for a cure against malaria in olive skins

LOCATION: Granada

DURATION VTR: 1'35''

SUMMARY: A compound extracted from olive skins has achieved to radically reduce the mortality of Malaria infected mice. Maslinic acid, which used as a dietary compliment can increase the survival rates of these rodents against malaria from 20% up to 80%. The investigation, which is being undertaken by the "Bionat" team at the University of Granada along with the collaboration of the Complutense University from Madrid, could result in a low cost way to deal with this African problem due to the fact it's an easy to obtain material. More than half a million people with malaria die each year, 80% of them in Africa. The maslinic acid doesn't only promise great achievements against this disease but it could also have applications in the treatment of aids or cancer.

VTR TEXT:

These mice could be hiding what could be one of the most important discoveries in the fight against malaria. It's maslinic acid, a compound found in olive skins, which used as a dietary compliment has achieved outstanding results against this disease.

ANDRÉS GARCÍA
Director of 'Bionat'

"It's capable of increasing the survival rates of infected mice from 20% up to 80%, and on top of this, the surviving mice even if they become re-infected they won't actually suffer the disease."

The "Bionat" team from the University of Granada, along with the Complutense University from Madrid, are undertaking this revolutionary investigation, obtaining this compound which is able to block the parasite which carries malaria, responsible of 216 million infections in just the year 2010.

ANDRÉS GARCÍA
Director de 'Bionat'

"It acts as a static parasite and inhibits the growth and evolution of the very parasite, in other words of the malaria"

And thanks to its low cost it could be very helpful in the African continent where, according to the last World Health Organization report, take place more than 80% of the deaths caused by malaria.

ANDRÉS GARCÍA
Director of 'Bionat'

"Used as a preventive or even curative dietary compliment, although it depends on the phase of the malaria disease ones infected, it would be an amazing product specially for the population of Africa because not only does it inhibit the actual malaria parasite but also many others endemic to the area"

But the possibilities of this acid extracted from olives could go even further, it's also being investigated for the treatment of AIDS and cancer. There is still a lot pending to be discovered under the skin of this Andalusian treasure.