

SUNBERRY FOOD SUPPLEMENT:

Anti-inflammatory agent against lung disorders



THE PROBLEM

Inflammatory disorders such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, diabetes, and cancer are among the leading causes of mortality in the country. Although these inflammatory disorders affect the majority of the aging Filipino population, they may be successfully managed through proper medication and healthy lifestyle. Taking anti-inflammatory herbal food supplements regularly may also be beneficial. With the increasing number of herbal food supplements in the market, however, it is important to choose herbal supplements with bioactivities that are scientifically-proven.

THE SOLUTION

Bignay or *Antidesma bunius* (L.) Spreng is a bright-red-cherry-bearing tree that is endemic in the Cagayan Valley. The fruits are commonly used by locals to make wine, vinegar, and tea. It also has long been used in traditional medicine for its high antioxidant properties.

In June 2020, the Cagayan State University (CSU) started its study on the bignay fruit through a funding assistance provided by the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 2 (DOST RO2).

Laboratory experiments on animal models for respiratory diseases were conducted to confirm bignay's bioactivity against lung inflammation. Results of Prof. Muñoz and her research team's studies have shown that bignay is a powerful anti-inflammatory agent against lung disorders (i.e. airway inflammation, asthma, allergy, and cough/colds). Bignay has also shown bioactive potential against chemically-induced rheumatoid arthritis, gout, and joint pains in LPS-induced acute lung injury in mice in vivo.



TECHNOLOGY GENERATOR

Cagayan State University
Project Leader: Prof. María Nilda Muñoz

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Bignay food supplement is already at technology readiness level (TRL) 9. Local utility model applications for the product have been filed and an FDA approval for the product has also been secured. The supplements are locally sold and may be bought directly from CSU. The technology owner is also open to licensing negotiations with interested distributors and manufacturers.

Interested technology adopters may send a letter of intent addressed to:



Prof. Maria Nilda Muñoz
Cagayan State University
Caritan Sur, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley 3500
Phone: (078) 844-0098/0099 Loc. 122