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Oral poster session 1: We can work it out

Tuesday 18 August

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Sesquiterpene lactone-containing extracts from two chicory cultivars show different anthelmintic activity *in vitro* against *Ostertagia ostertagi*

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Mechanisms behind reported *in vivo* anthelmintic effects of chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) in ruminants are poorly understood but it is likely that plant compounds, like sesquiterpene lactones (SL), play a role. **Objectives:** The aim was to test the inhibitory activity of SL-containing extracts from two chicory cultivars on free-living and parasitic stages of *Ostertagia ostertagi*. **Methods:** Leaves from chicory cv. Spadona and cv. Puna II were freeze-dried and SL extracted with methanol/water. Resulting extracts were incubated with cellulase enzyme and SL were purified from other plant compounds by normal solid-phase extraction. Purified extracts were dissolved in DMSO. *O. ostertagi* eggs from a mono-infected calf were hatched and first-stage larvae (L1) were used in a larval feeding inhibition assay (LFIA), while L3 cultured from faeces were used in a larval exsheathment inhibition assay (LEIA). *O. ostertagi* adult worms recovered post-mortem were used for motility inhibition assays (AMIA) and worm motility was evaluated after 6, 24 and 48 h of incubation (37°C). In all *in vitro* assays, decreasing concentrations of chicory extracts in PBS (1% DMSO) were tested in triplicates with 1% DMSO in PBS as negative controls. Chemical profiles of the extracts were analysed by liquid chromatography (LC). **Results:** In the LFIA, Spadona-extract inhibited larval feeding at significantly lower concentrations than Puna II-extract ($EC_{50}=31.5$ [CI=25.9-38.3] μ g Spadona-extract/mL vs. $EC_{50}=121.1$ [CI=95.2-153.8] μ g Puna II-extract/mL; $p<0.0001$). In the LEIA, extracts from neither of the two cultivars interfered with the exsheathment of L3 at any of the tested concentrations. In the AMIA, Spadona-extract showed a significantly higher potency and exerted faster worm paralysis than Puna II-extract at all time points when tested at equal concentrations ($p<0.0001$). Preliminary LC analyses revealed different SL profiles of the extracts and further chemical characterization is undergoing. **Discussion:** This is the first study confirming direct effects of SL against *O. ostertagi*. However, the observed anthelmintic effects of SL-containing extracts from chicory seem to be stage-specific as L1 and adult *O. ostertagi* but not L3 were affected. Different anthelmintic potency of SL from different chicory cultivars may help the identification of the most active(s) molecule(s) and the selection of cultivars with higher antiparasitic potential.