

# POTENTIAL BIOLOGICAL AND ANTIMICROBIAL EFFECTS OF THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF *Anibarosaeodora*: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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## ABSTRACT

**Aims:** Map the literature in search of the main biological and antimicrobial effects of the essential oil (EO) of *Anibarosaeodora*.

**Study design:** This is an integrative review based on the PRISMA method.

**Place and Duration of Study:** Center for Biological and Health Sciences of a University in the Brazilian Amazon, from January to August 2022.

**Methodology:** A search was carried out in the main databases, such as Embase, Scopus, PubChem, PubMed, LILACS, SciELO and Portal BVS, with the descriptors consulted in the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH).

**Results:** 134 articles were found and, after applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 17 were selected for full analysis. The EO of *Anibarosaeodora* revealed mainly antibacterial, antifungal, antiparasitic and antiviral properties and in two studies, anesthetic effects, without observation of serious adverse events and deaths, were observed, but the specific active compound was not identified. The antibacterial activity of linalool, the compound most present in *Anibarosaeodora* EO, was significant. *Anibarosaeodora* EO also showed inhibitory and fungicidal potential. In addition, *Anibarosaeodora* had an antidepressant effect, reducing anhedonia.

**Conclusion:** The EO of *Anibarosaeodora* showed potential biopharmacological and microbiological activities in pre-clinical models. Linalool stood out as the substance with the highest concentration in the EO; however, it is not yet known whether this compound is the main active component. Therefore, more studies should be conducted to support and describe the pharmacological potential of *Anibarosaeodora* EO, leading to evidence-based pharmacology.

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20 **Keywords:** Essential oils, *Anibarosaeodora*, Pharmacological potential, Linalool, Pau-rosa

## 1. INTRODUCTION

25 Essential oils (EOs) are compounds originating from the secondary metabolism of aromatic  
26 plants, with organoleptic properties. In this context, EOs stand out as highly volatile and fat-  
27 soluble products, composed mainly of low molecular weight substances, such as  
28 monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, phenylpropanoids and esters [1,2], enabling a great  
29 biological and pharmacological potential of these compounds.  
30 EOs from the Amazon region stand out for their antimicrobial, oxidative and low-toxicity  
31 properties, as well as their important role in protecting plant crops. Due to these activities,

32 they are widely used in various industries, notably in the pharmacological, food, cosmetics  
33 and perfumery industries [3].  
34 Among the Amazonian species, *Aniba rosaeodora* [4] stands out as a candidate for the  
35 production of essential oil due to its local commercial and ethnopharmacological value for  
36 the treatment of various ailments. This species belongs to the Lauraceae family and is also  
37 known in Brazil as pau-rosa, pau-rosa-itaúba, pau-rosamulatinho and pau-rosa-imbaúba,  
38 while it is called rosewood in the United States and England; it is an evergreen tree,  
39 characteristic of terra firme areas and widely distributed in the Amazon region, in the  
40 Brazilian states of Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Pará, Roraima and in the Amazonian portions  
41 of French Guiana, Venezuela, Peru, Suriname and Colombia [5,6].  
42 Therefore, the pharmaceutical relevance of the compounds present in the OE of *Aniba*  
43 *rosaeodora* is of vital importance to the scientific community and to society. Therefore, this  
44 study aims to map the main biological and antimicrobial effects of *Aniba rosaeodora*  
45 essential oil in the literature.

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## 48 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

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50 This is an integrative review, aimed at gathering the most recent knowledge on the subject,  
51 so it attempted to follow the recommendations and criteria described in the Preferred  
52 Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) [7]. For this purpose,  
53 searches were carried out in the Embase, Scopus, PubChem, PubMed, LILACS, SciELO  
54 and BVSP Portal databases, using the descriptors "*Aniba rosaeodora*" and "essential oils" and  
55 their equivalents, previously consulted in the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). In the  
56 PubChem database, the search was carried out only with the descriptor "*Aniba rosaeodora*."  
57 In this way, articles available in full, in English and Portuguese, published up to the date of  
58 the search, May 13, 2022, were included; no filters were used in any searches.  
59 After collecting the articles, the Covidence platform was used to help sort and select the  
60 studies, which took place in two stages: the first consisted of reading the abstract, and the  
61 second of reading the full article. Therefore, duplicate articles and articles that did not deal  
62 with the uses and properties of *Aniba rosaeodora* essential oil in the health area, as well as  
63 literature reviews, were excluded from the study.  
64 After selection, each article was categorized according to its main topic and then grouped  
65 with the other articles on the same topic to facilitate discussion.

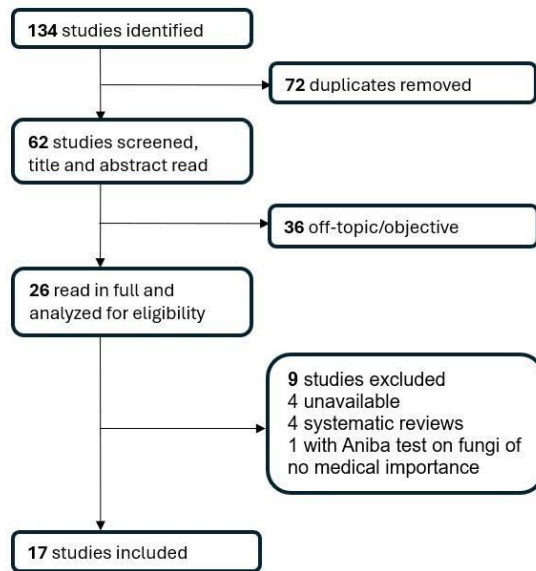
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## 68 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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70 The searches resulted in 28 studies in Embase, 53 studies in Scopus, 15 studies in  
71 PubChem and 11 in Pubmed, while in LILACS, SciELO and Portal BVS 5, 6 and 16 results  
72 were found, respectively, totaling 134 studies. Thus, of the 134 articles, 72 were considered  
73 duplicates and, after reading the titles and abstracts, 36 studies were excluded because they  
74 were considered irrelevant. For the eligibility analysis, 26 studies were read, of which 17  
75 were selected, as shown in figure 1. Table 1 summarizes the studies.

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78 Fig.1.Flowchartofstudysselection.

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81 Table1.Selectedstudiesandmainresultsregardingthebiologicaeffects of *Aniba*  
82 *rosaedora* essentialoil.

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**Referência Metodologia Principais resultados**

Alcântara et al.,2010[8]	Quantitative andqualitativestudy ofthemajorcomponents ofthe essentialoilandtheirproperties.	The essential oil of <i>Anibarosaeodor</i> showed antioxidant activityandinhibited plateletaggregation.
Baldisserotto etal.,2009[9]	Experimental studyontambaqui fishfarms.	Theessentialoilof <i>Anibarosaeodor</i> didnot causedeathinanyoftheanimals andalso showedreductionintheinductiontime forall stagesofanesthesiaasthedoseincreased.
Chao et al., 2000[10]	Experimentalstudywithcultures ofmicroorganisms.	The essential oil of <i>Anibarosaeodor</i> showedhighzonesofinhibition invitro againstvariouspathogenscompared to44 otheroils,especiallybacterial and fungal, withmoderateefficacyagainstviruses.
daSilvaetal., 2021[11]	Experimental invitrostudyfor antiparasitological, antibacterial andantiplasmodialanalysis.	The essential oil of <i>Anibarosaeodor</i> showed moderateactivity against <i>Leishmaniaamazonensis</i> inthe promastigoteform.
deAlmeidaet al.,2009[12]	Experimental studyinmaleswiss albinomice.	The sedativeeffectof <i>Anibarosaeodora</i> essential oilwasshown tobedose-dependent andwaspotentiated when administeredtogetherwith pentobarbital.
deSiqueiraet al.,2014[13]	ExperimentalstudyinWistarrats.	Administrationoftheessentialoilintothe inferior venacava of rats at doses of 1 mg/kgand10to20mg/kginduced a short-andlong-termbradycardic andhypotensive effect,respectively.

de Valois et al., 2001[14]	Aromatherapy treatment for cancer patients.	Cancer patients treated with aromatherapy derived from <i>Aniba rosaeodora</i> experienced an improvement in symptoms such as pain.
dos Santos et al., 2018[15]	Experimental study in Wistar rats.	Rats administered the essential oil showed no significant difference from the control group to verify CNS depression, anxiolytic effect and short-term memory alteration. However, there was a significant antidepressant effect through interactions with serotonergic pathways.
Kizaket al., 2018[16]	Experimental study using <i>Carassius auratus</i> (goldfish).	The essential oil of <i>Aniba rosaeodora</i> showed considerable anesthetic activity, and there was no mortality among the specimens and no adverse effects observed.
Kohn et al., 2012[17]	Experimental study with microorganism cultures.	The essential oil exhibited an inhibitory percentage (IP) against aavian metapneumovirus of 98%, exerting its effect by inhibiting viral replication, thus significantly reducing the cytopathic effect on the cells analyzed in vitro.
Owen et al., 2018[18]	Experimental study with microorganism cultures.	The zone of inhibition (ZI) of <i>A. rosaeodora</i> essential oil was similar to that of the other oils analyzed (oregano and cumin), but its minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was higher than that of both, indicating low antibacterial potential. However, the concentrated linalool extract (the main component of the oil) showed good results, both in terms of ZI and CIM.
Pawar et al., 2006[19]	Experimental in vitro study carried out to test the antimicrobial activity of 75 essential oils against <i>Aspergillus niger</i> .	Among the essential oils tested, <i>A. rosaeodora</i> exhibited one of the smallest inhibition zones of <i>A. niger hyphae</i> (8mm), as well as a low spore inhibition zone (10 mm or 50x104) characterized by its slow antifungal potential.
Rosato et al., 2010[20]	In an experimental study, the authors combined gentamicin and other essential oils, including <i>A. rosaeodora</i> , in vitro to test their antimicrobial activity against various Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria.	The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of <i>A. roseaodora</i> ranged from 0.05 to 0.1 mg/mL for the various bacteria tested, while the fractional inhibitory concentration (FIC) was between 0.05 and 0.1 mg/mL. <i>Aniba</i> essential oil obtained the best synergistic association with gentamicin, with the MIC of gentamicin reducing from 4 to 0.24 µg/mL for <i>Acinobacter baumannii</i> .
Sampaio et al., 2012[21]	This experimental study investigates whether one of the mechanisms of <i>A. roseaodora</i> essential oil is inhibition of adenylate cyclase activity, constituting anxiolytic and anticonvulsant effects, using chicken retina as a model for the	At concentrations of 6 and 17.5 mM, the essential oil did not inhibit the accumulation of cAMP in the control; however, the accumulation of cAMP stimulated by forskolin was inhibited by <i>Aniba</i> essential oil at concentrations of 6 and 17.5 mM. The (-)-linalool enantiomer was shown to have the greatest biological effect. The authors

central nervous system (CNS).

suggest that inhibition of adenylyl cyclase is one of the causes of the relaxing and anticonvulsant effects of the essential oil on the CNS.

Simić et al., 2004[22]	This experimental study investigates the <i>in vitro</i> antifungal activity of four essential oils from <i>Lauraceae</i> species, including <i>Aniba rosea odorata</i> . Several fungi were tested, including <i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Fusarium tricinctum</i> and <i>Mucormucedo</i> .	<i>Aniba</i> essential oil had the second highest antifungal activity of the four EOs tested, and at a concentration of 0.5-10 µL/mL using the macrodilution method, the growth of all the mycomycetes was inhibited. At a concentration of 15-20 µL/mL, <i>Aniba</i> oil was active against the fungi <i>Trichoderma viride</i> , <i>Aspergillus terreus</i> and <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> .
Søeuret al., 2011[23]	Experimental study evaluating the effects of <i>Aniba</i> essential oil on human squamous cell carcinoma A431 cells, immortal transformed human keratinocyte (HaCaT) cells, keratinocytes transformed with HPV16E6/E7 and primary human keratinocytes (NHEK).	The essential oil of <i>Aniba</i> established concentrations obtained killing activities on A431 human squamous cell carcinoma cells and HaCaT cells, which did not happen with HEK001 transformed keratinocytes and NHEK primary human keratinocytes. <i>Aniba</i> 's mechanisms were the production of reactive oxygen species, mitochondrial membrane depolarization and caspase-dependent apoptotic cell death.
Teles et al., 2020[24]	Experimental study using female Balb/c mice	The essential oil of <i>Aniba rosea odorata</i> showed activity against all the bacterial strains tested, as well as antioxidant and antitrypanosomal activity.

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### 86 3.1 Anesthetic and sedative effects

87 In our systematic review, two studies analyzed the possible anesthetic effects of *A.*

88 *rosaeodora* essential oil on fish [9, 16]. In both studies, the purpose of using anesthesia with

89 *A. rosaeodora* was to transport the animals, to reduce agitation and to keep the animals

90 comfortable during the process; the study by Baldisserotto et al. (2018) [9] was carried out

91 on tambaquis, while the study by Kizak et al. (2018) [16] was carried out on aquarium goldfish.

92 Thus, anesthesia was induced in both studies, and the induction time was considered dose-

93 dependent according to the concentration of the essential oil; the recovery time from

94 anesthesia was only considered dose-dependent in the study by Baldisserotto et al. (2018) [16]. In

95 general, the studies highlight the biological effects of *A. rosaeodora* as an anesthetic,

96 without adverse effects during recovery and without the occurrence of deaths in the studies,

97 which has important implications for the use of this substance in these animals, but does not

98 answer questions about the possible mechanisms involved in the induction of anesthesia,

99 nor which compound present in the essential oil would be primarily responsible for the effects.

100 The current literature hypothesizes that the linalool compound and the monoterpene components

101 are responsible for the anaesthetic effect of *A. rosaeodora* essential oil, considering

102 that EOs rich in linalool, derived from other plant compounds, have also shown

103 anaesthetic effects on other fish species [25, 26].

104 In addition, the study by Almeida et al. (2009) [12], carried out on albino mice, evaluated the

105 sedative effects of *A. rosaeodora* when compared with pentobarbital. In this way, the

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108 responses were considered dose-dependent, and it is important to note that when *A.*  
109 *rosaeflora* oil was administered together with pentobarbital, sedation was potentiated,  
110 suggesting that perhaps *A. rosaeflora* oil has a pharmacological target similar to pentobarbital,  
111 impossible ion channel that acts in the generation of neuronal electrical  
112 potentials [12], or even in an antagonistic way to pentobarbital, which activates GABA  
113 receptors to produce its pharmacological effects [27].  
114 In the study by Valois et al. (2001) [14], patients undergoing cancer treatment underwent  
115 hospital aromatherapy sessions for 3 years with various EOs, including *A. rosaeflora*. After  
116 this period, a questionnaire recorded the differences reported in various symptoms. Pain,  
117 tension and emotional stress improved significantly, especially in hospitalized patients.  
118 In another study by Sampaio et al. (2011) [21], the oil was applied to preserved chicken  
119 retinas, and the intracellular concentration of cAMP with and without the addition of forskolin was measured.  
120 There were no significant changes without the addition, but the concentration of cAMP was  
121 significantly reduced with the addition, indicating that the oil acts  
122 on forskolin receptors, leading to sedative and anti-convulsant effects.

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### 124 3.2 Antioxidant effect

125 In this review, three studies included sought to elucidate the antioxidant effects of *A.*  
126 *rosaeflora* essential oil [8, 23, 24]. In the research carried out by Alcântara et al. (2010) [8],  
127 it was shown that the oil's antioxidant activity was assessed by its ability to sequester the  
128 stable radical 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH). In the study by Soeure et al. (2011) [23] to  
129 investigate the involvement of oxidative stress in apoptosis, the oil was tested on apoptotic  
130 cells derived from culture medium, together with  $\alpha$ -tocopherol, and showed  
131 efficacy in increasing the number of viable cells and reducing the proportion of apoptotic  
132 cells. Finally, the analysis carried out by Teles et al. (2020) [24] found that the EO of *A.*  
133 *rosaeflora* and linalool *in vitro* showed dose-dependent antioxidant activity, demonstrated by  
134 the percentage of inhibition of 2,2-azino-bis-(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) (ABTS).  
135 Therefore, according to the studies selected and analyzed, the compound studied has varied  
136 antioxidant activity against different species of free radicals, however, there is a lack of *in*  
137 *vivo* tests to better elucidate these cases, as well as clarity on the mechanisms of action.

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### 139 3.3 Antidepressant effect

140 Regarding the importance of evaluating the antidepressant activity of EO, a study carried out  
141 by Teles et al. (2020) [24], analyzed the behavior of rodent submitted to an inducing  
142 protocol of depressive behavior, in the depressive neurobehavioral tests the oil showed a  
143 positive action, since it managed to reduce anhedonia, characterized by the lack of pleasure  
144 in gratifying stimuli, and helped to normalize the behavior of these species of animals.

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146 Similarly, another included study evaluated the possible antidepressant effects of various  
147 EOs rich in linalool (>85% concentration) and the conclusions and outcomes found are  
148 similar to those of Teles et al. (2020) [24], with reduction in anhedonia, anxious and  
149 depressive behavior [15]. In addition, it was observed that linalool compounds did not cause  
150 negative effects on the short-term memory of murines.

151 These findings are important considering that the main antidepressants available for the  
152 treatment of depressive disorders are selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, whose efficacy  
153 is established in current literature, as well as their adverse effects, such as decreased libido,  
154 vomiting, nausea and headache, among others, headache, among others, symptom that  
155 can lead to discontinuation of treatment [28]. It is necessary to investigate whether EOs have  
156 biologically active compounds with antidepressant effects, a low profile of adverse effects  
157 and great tolerability, in order to make them viable treatments for various depressive disorders.

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### 160 **3.4 Antibacterial effect**

161 Four studies were included whose objectives included analyzing the antibacterial properties  
162 of *A. rosaeodora*, mainly through the application of EO in *in vitro* cultures. In none of these  
163 studies, Chao et al. (2000) [10] checked the zone of inhibition of a range of oils against various Gram-  
164 positive and Gram-negative pathogens, and *A. rosaeodora* oil was among the  
165 seven with the best results, especially against *Alcaligenes faecalis*, whose zone of inhibition  
166 was 19 mm.

167 Rosato et al. (2010) [20] showed a similar result against various bacteria, especially  
168 *Acinetobacter baumannii*, when combining the antibiotic gentamicin with the oil, generating a  
169 synergistic effect through the interaction of the monoterpenes with the 30S subunit of the  
170 bacterial ribosomes. In a study using chromatography, Owen et al. (2018) [18] described the  
171 biochemical composition of the oil and found that it is mainly composed of the monoterpene  
172 linalool, which also turns out to be the main compound with an antimicrobial effect.

173 In addition, Teles et al. (2020) [24] again identified linalool as the main component of the oil,  
174 and classified its Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) as moderate based on the Holetz  
175 et al. (2002) [29] scale, in addition to showing antimicrobial activity against bacterial cultures  
176 such as *Aeromonas caviae* and *Enterococcus faecalis*, with inhibition halos ranging from 7 to  
177 25 mm, demonstrating sensitivity to the oil.

178 It can be seen that, in general, *A. rosaeodora* has significant antibacterial potential through  
179 linalool. However, this potential is dose-dependent and variable in relation to different  
180 bacteria, making further studies necessary to understand the exact mechanism of action and  
181 its clinical applicability.

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### 183 **3.5 Antifungal effect**

184 Three studies evaluated the antifungal capacity of the essential oil. Among these, the study  
185 by Chao et al. (2000) [10] analyzed the zone of inhibition (ZI) against three fungi, comparing  
186 it to 43 other oils. The results were positive, especially against *Candida albicans* (ZI > 33  
187 mm), but not significant against *Rhizopus oligosporus* (ZI = 2 mm).

188 In the study by Simić et al. (2004) [22], the inhibitory and fungicidal potential of the oil was  
189 evaluated using macro and microdilution in cultures of various fungi. Macrodilutions showed growth  
190 inhibition of all the variants included, but microdilution required higher concentrations  
191 (15 to 20 µL/mL) to eliminate the most resistant fungi.

192 In another study by Pawar et al. (2006) [19], the efficacy of *A. rosaeodora*  
193 against *Aspergillus niger* was not significant, with comparatively low ZI of hyphae (8  
194 mm) and spores (10 mm). The two most effective oils were clove and lemongrass,  
195 whose composition is mainly eugenol and benzyl alcohol, rather than linalool.

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### 197 **3.6 Anti-parasitic effect**

198 The anti-parasitic effect was demonstrated in two studies against pathogenic protozoa. The  
199 first, by Teles et al. (2020) [24], demonstrated an effect against various forms of *Trypanosoma*  
200 *cruzi* through linalool and through the activation of nitric oxide-producing macrophages.  
201 The protozoan *Leishmania infantum* also suffered an anti-parasitic effect  
202 through mitochondrial dysfunctions induced by the oil.

203 In turn, the study by da Silva et al. (2021) [11] showed only moderate activity against *T. cruzi*,  
204 despite the oil having a high selectivity index against *Trypomastigotes*.

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### 206 **3.7 Antiviral effect**

207 The possible antiviral effect of *A. rosaeodora* EO was investigated in a screening study  
208 conducted by Kohne et al. (2012) [17]; in the study, the oil had antiviral actions, possibly  
209 during the replication stage, at concentrations of 2.5 µg/mL, against avian metapneumovirus  
210 (mPVA). Apart from these conclusions, it is uncertain what the real antiviral potential of this  
211 plant compound is.

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### 3.8 Cardiovascular effect

The study by Siqueira et al. (2014) [13] was the only one included that reported some type of cardiovascular impairment generated by the compounds in *A. rosaeodora* oil. The researcher tested the effects of hypotension and bradycardia in rats, suggesting that the possible effects of the substance occur through vagal reflexes and cholinergic efference. The possible hypotensive effects are very likely to occur due to linalool, the most abundant compound in *A. rosaeodora* oil, occurring in concentrations between 86% [8] and 91.55% [16], but it cannot be ruled out that they occur due to the biological activity of other compounds present, such as sesquiterpenes, geraniol, alpha-terpineol, among others [13]. It is therefore important to continue researching this essential oil in order to try to establish, in other pre-clinical studies, which active ingredient is responsible for the hypotensive effect and what its possible implications are for use in humans.

### 4. CONCLUSION

The EO of *Aniba rosaeodora* has shown diverse and important biological, antiparasitic, antifungal, antiviral and antibacterial activities, with promising responses in preclinical models *in vitro* or *in vivo*. However, there is still a lack of knowledge about which compounds are directly involved in the effects of the essential oil and the mechanisms involved, including receptors, interactions with target molecules and other molecules. It is suggested that linalool, present in the highest concentration in the essential oil, is its main active compound, but there is still a lack of evidence to confirm this hypothesis, as it is possible that compounds present in lower concentrations also have potent biological effects. In addition, it is essential to know the targets of the compounds, including to elucidate possible adverse effects. Thus, this integrative review observed that the EO of *Aniba rosaeodora* has potential biopharmacological activities, but there are still few studies in this area, which calls for more research focused on isolating the active principles present in the oil's composition and pre-clinical research that investigates the physiological and pharmacomicrobiological effects of this substance in greater depth.

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