

Endothelium protector effect of *Monascus purpureus*, red yeast rice, standardized extract Efecto protector endotelial vascular de un extracto estandarizado de *Monascus purpureus*

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It was examined the efficacy of *Monascus purpureus* standardized extract (Mp) on the endothelial dysfunction (ED) of rat aortic rings caused by oxidative stress as a consequence of their exposition to a high glucose concentration. Endothelial functionality was determined by eliciting aortic muscle contractions with phenylephrine 10^{-6} M and inducing an endothelium dependent relaxation with increasing acetylcholine concentration (1×10^{-8} to 1×10^{-4} M). The results show that Mp prevents 70%, and reverts 48% the ED induced by glucose and allows to propose, by the first time, that *Monascus purpureus* extract could partially protect the vascular endothelium from dysfunction caused by oxidative stress.