Abstract
A preclinical study was carried out to determine the protective properties of Petiveria alliacea Linn on 5-Fluoruracilo (5-FU)-immunosuppressed animals, a cytostatic drug often used in cancer treatment. Were use five groups of female Balb/c mice (5 mice/group). Two groups were treated with 400 and 1200 mg/kg of P. alliacea leaves and stems powder respectively, and a third group was treated with carboxymethyl cellulose as vehicle. Two additional control groups were set up: a 5-FU treated group, as immunosuppression control, and a NaCl solution (0.9 %) treated group. Animals were treated daily for five days and then a unique dose of 150 mg/kg of 5-FU was administered and the treatment continued for another four days. At termination blood and tissue samples were collected for leukocyte total count, analysis of bone marrow cellularity, thymus weight and total IgG antibody forming cells. Our results show that the group treated with the highest dose of P. alliacea, was less affected by 5-FU-induced immunosupresion compared with the other treated groups. The results derived from this study suggest that P. alliacea, a medicinal plant product, could be used in patients under antineoplastic regimens to avoid the deleterious adverse effects of the immunosuppressive drugs.

Keywords
Immunosupresion, P. alliacea L, anamú, immunostimulation, 5-fluoruracilo