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## Study of the digestive action mechanism of an infusion prepared with “Paico” (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*)

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In Argentina, ethnomedicine has been recognized for more than five hundred years. Of these ethnomedicinal possibilities, only a fraction has been studied in terms of its bioactive effects, which does not prevent its use from being widespread and in force, mainly in rural areas, but also in cities. According to the World Health Organization, medicinal plants serve the needs of about 80% of the world's population, especially for the millions of people in rural areas of developing countries. The present work makes a review of the effects, possible components and mechanisms of action of an infusion prepared with a vegetable from this area of Gobernador Gregores, Santa Cruz, Argentina, (48.75 S - 70.24 W) at which local residents they call "paico" (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*). This infusion, used mainly as a digestive, is done using the aerial part of the vegetable, especially the green leaves and seeds. In the school laboratory of the Agricultural School No. 1, the tests were carried out to estimate the activity of the infusion: hydrodistillation of the essential oil, reaction of Biuret, action of the infusion of “paico” on the pH of a protein solution, Infusion action of "paico" on disaccharides. It is concluded in this first approach to the subject that, according to the chemical determinations developed in this study, the "infusion of paico" contains essential oils that explain its action but also substances that act favoring digestion through a proteolytic action.

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