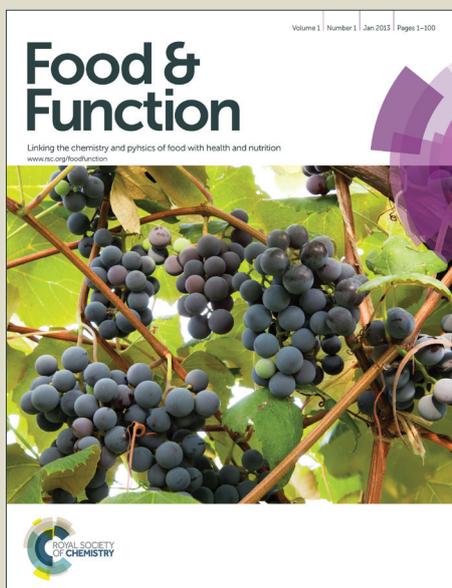


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1 **Bioactive formulations prepared from fruiting bodies and submerged**
2 **culture mycelia of the Brazilian edible mushroom *Pleurotus***
3 ***ostreatoroseus* Singer**

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18

19 **ABSTRACT**

20 *Pleurotus ostreatoroseus* is a Brazilian edible mushroom whose chemical
21 characterization and bioactivity still remain underexplored. In this study, the
22 hydrophilic and lipophilic compounds as well as the antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and
23 antimicrobial activities of formulations (ethanol extracts) prepared with its fruiting
24 bodies and mycelium, obtained from submerged cultivation, were compared. The
25 bioactive formulations contain at least five free sugars, four organic acids, four phenolic
26 compounds and two tocopherols. The fruiting body-based formulation revealed higher
27 reducing power, DPPH scavenging activity, β -carotene bleaching inhibition and lipid
28 peroxidation inhibition in brain homogenates, besides higher anti-inflammatory and
29 antimicrobial activities, than the mycelium-based preparation. The absence of
30 hepatotoxicity was confirmed in porcine liver primary cells. These functional responses
31 can be related to the levels of bioactive components including phenolic acids, organic
32 acids and tocopherols.

33

34 **Keywords:** anti-inflammatory activity, antimicrobial activity, bioactive formulations,
35 submerged cultures.

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44 Introduction

45 Besides their worldwide-appreciated flavour, mushrooms own exceptional nutritional
46 value, with low lipid content and large amounts of carbohydrates and proteins, in
47 addition to essential amino acids and fat-soluble vitamins (vitamins A, D, E and K).¹
48 Moreover, mushrooms are increasingly attractive as functional foods and as potential
49 sources for the development of new drugs.²

50 Among the bioactive compounds found in mushrooms, tocopherols,³ phenolic
51 compounds⁴ and some organic acids⁵ have been implicated in their nutraceutical
52 potential^{6,7} and bioactivity such as antioxidant^{8,9} and antimicrobial¹⁰ effects.

53 *Pleurotus* is an important genus of basidiomycetes, especially those occurring in the
54 subtropics and tropics, which occupy the third position in the production of edible
55 mushrooms.^{11,12} *Pleurotus* spp. can be easily cultivated due to their ability to colonise
56 and degrade a wide variety of substrates containing cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin,
57 using them in their own development.^{12,13} Furthermore, these species have a quick
58 mycelium growth and fruiting, and a low cost of culture.^{14,15} For these reasons, as also
59 for their well-known nutritional and functional characteristics, *Pleurotus* spp. have
60 become very interesting from a commercial point of view.¹²

61 *Pleurotus ostreatoroseus* Singer is an edible Brazilian mushroom that stands out for its
62 characteristic rosy coloration and delightful flavour of the fruiting bodies. It was firstly
63 described by Singer¹⁶ from sample material collected at *Dois Irmãos* Park (Brazilian
64 Atlantic Forest), Recife, PE, Brazil. This species is included among the white rot fungi
65 for its excellent potential in lignin degradation and is considered an autochthonous
66 mushroom in the tropics, which grows quite well in tropical temperatures.¹⁷

67 Although a few studies have covered the chemical characterization and antitumor and
68 immunomodulatory effects of polysaccharides isolated from *P. ostreatoroseus* fruiting

69 bodies,¹⁸⁻²⁰ the chemical elucidation and bioactivity of other molecules, such as
70 phenolic compounds, still remain unknown.

71 Regarding antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial effects of *Pleurotus* spp.,
72 there are some studies with *Pleurotus ostreatus* (Jacq. ex Fr.) P. Kumm, *Pleurotus*
73 *cystidiosus* O.K. Mill, *Pleurotus pulmonarius* (Fr.) Quéf., *Pleurotus djamor* (Rumph. ex
74 Fr.), *Pleurotus citrinopileatus* Singer and *Pleurotus eryngii* (DC.) Quéf.^{9,10,21-23}
75 Nevertheless, to the author's knowledge, there are no previous reports on antioxidant,
76 anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial activities of *P. ostreatoroseus*.

77 In the present work, a study was performed with fruiting body and mycelium of *P.*
78 *ostreatoroseus*, by preparing bioactive formulations (ethanolic extracts) that were
79 further characterized in terms of hydrophilic and lipophilic compounds. The
80 antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial potential of the prepared extracts were
81 evaluated and compared, along with confirmation of non-toxicity tested in a primary
82 cell culture of porcine liver cells.

83

84

85 **Experimental**

86 **Fruiting body selection and nutritional characterization**

87 Fruiting bodies (basidiocarps) of *P. ostreatoroseus* were obtained from a local producer
88 in Maringá, PR, Brazil, in Spring 2014. The fruiting bodies were selected in accordance
89 with the commercial requirements in Brazil, i.e., before the rupture of the veil (closed
90 cap), in order to preserve the sensory characteristics as well as firmness, which latter
91 reduces fragmentation during processing.

92 The fruiting bodies were nutritionally characterized regarding moisture, proteins, fat,
93 carbohydrates and ash, by using the standard procedures.²⁴ The crude protein content

94 (N×4.38) was estimated by the macro-Kjeldahl method; the crude fat was determined by
95 extracting a known weight of powdered sample with petroleum ether, using a Soxhlet
96 apparatus; the ash content was determined by incineration at 600±15°C. Total fibre was
97 determined by enzymatic-gravimetric method.²⁴ Carbohydrates value was calculated by
98 difference.

99

100 **Production of the *P. ostreatoroseus* mycelia**

101 A commercial isolate of *P. ostreatoroseus* was obtained from a local producer. The
102 stock culture was maintained on wheat bran extract agar slants (**Figure 1**) and sub-
103 cultured every month. The slants were incubated at 28 °C for 7 days and then stored at 4
104 °C in a refrigerator for up 30 days. The inocula were prepared by adding actively
105 growing mycelia from a newly prepared slant culture (5 mycelial agar discs with 0.5 cm
106 of diameter) into 50 mL medium in a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask that were incubated for
107 5 days at 28 °C on a rotary shaker at 160 rpm. The wheat bran extract medium was
108 prepared with 100 g of wheat bran that were boiled in 1 L of distilled water, then the
109 mixture was filtered in gauze and mineral solution²⁵ at final concentration of 2% was
110 added to the filtrate. For the submerged culture, 150 mL of the same medium were
111 prepared in a 500 mL flask, and pre-culture broth was inoculated (at 1.0 mL/L). The
112 flasks were incubated at 28 °C on a rotary shaker at 160 rpm for up to 7 days. The
113 mycelia were recovered from the liquid medium by filtration, washed with distilled
114 water, immediately stored in freezer and posteriorly freeze-dried.

115

116 **Preparation of the bioactive formulations**

117 The extraction procedure followed the methodology proposed by Carvajal et al²⁶, with
118 the choice of ethanol as extractor solvent due to its low cost, abundance and lower

119 toxicity in comparison with other organic solvents. Fruiting bodies were dried and
120 milled to a fine powder (40 mesh) while previously freeze-dried mycelium was milled
121 to the same granulometry. The samples (5 g) were extracted by stirring with 100 mL of
122 ethanol 70:30 (in water) at 25 °C and at 130 rpm for 3 h and filtered through Whatman
123 n° 1 paper. The extraction procedure was repeated twice. The combined filtrates were
124 concentrated with a rotary vacuum evaporator at 40 °C in order to eliminate the solvent
125 and posteriorly freeze-dried. The freeze-dried powders were stored in freezer until use.
126 The extraction yield was about 20% for both basidioma and mycelium samples.

127

128 **Standards and Reagents**

129 Acetonitrile 99.9%, *n*-hexane 95% and ethyl acetate 99.8% were of HPLC grade from
130 Fisher Scientific (Lisbon, Portugal). Trolox (6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-
131 carboxylic acid), sugar, organic acid and phenolic compound standards were from
132 Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA). Racemic tocol (50 mg/mL) and tocopherols, were
133 purchased from Matreya (PA, USA). 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) was
134 obtained from Alfa Aesar (Ward Hill, MA, USA). Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (Merck
135 KGaA, Germany) was used as a solvent in antimicrobial assays. Dulbecco's modified
136 Eagle's medium, Hank's balanced salt solution (HBSS), fetal bovine serum (FBS), L-
137 glutamine, trypsin-EDTA, penicillin/streptomycin solution (100 U/mL and 100 mg/ mL,
138 respectively) were purchased from Gibco Invitrogen Life Technologies (California,
139 USA). Sulforhodamine B, trypan blue, trichloro acetic acid (TCA) and Tris were
140 purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. (Saint Louis, USA). RAW264.7 cells were
141 purchased from ECACC ("European Collection of Animal Cell Culture") (Salisbury,
142 UK), lipopolysaccharide (LPS) from Sigma and DMEM medium from HyClone. The
143 Griess Reagent System Kit was purchased from Promega, and dexamethasone from

144 Sigma. Ethanol and all other chemicals were of analytical grade and purchased from
145 common sources. Water was treated in a Milli-Q water purification system (TGI Pure
146 Water Systems, Greenville, SC, USA).

147

148 **Chemical characterization of the *P. ostreatosroseus* formulations**

149 *Free sugars.* The extracts (500 mg) were spiked with the Internal Standard, IS
150 (raffinose, 5 mg/mL), re-dissolved in water (5 mL) and defatted three times with 10 mL
151 of ethyl ether, successively. After ethyl ether removal, the residues were filtered through
152 a 0.22 µm disposable LC filter disk and transferred into an injection vial. Analysis was
153 performed by a high performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) and the system
154 consisted of an integrated system with a pump (Knauer, Smartline system1000, Berlin,
155 Germany), degasser system (Smartline manager 5000) and an auto-sampler (AS-2057
156 Jasco, Easton, MD, USA), coupled to a refraction index detector (RI detector Knauer
157 Smartline 2300), as previously described by the authors.²⁷ The chromatographic
158 separation was achieved with an Eurospher 100-5 NH₂ column (4.6 mm × 250 mm, 5
159 µm, Knauer) operating at 35 °C (7971R Grace oven). The mobile phase used was
160 acetonitrile/deionized water, 70:30 (v/v) at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. Sugars
161 identification was made by comparing the relative retention times of sample peaks with
162 standards. Data were analyzed using Clarity 2.4 Software (DataApex). Quantification
163 was based on the RI signal response of each standard, using the internal standard (IS,
164 raffinose) method and by using calibration curves obtained from the commercial
165 standards of each compound. The results were expressed in mg per g of extract.

166

167 *Organic acids.* The extracts (50 mg) were re-dissolved in meta-phosphoric acid (2 mL)
168 and subsequently filtered through Whatman n° 4 paper. Organic acids were determined

169 by ultra-fast liquid chromatography (UFLC, Shimadzu 20A series, Shimadzu
170 Corporation, Kyoto, Japan) coupled with a photodiode array detector (PDA) as
171 previously described by the authors.⁵ Separation was achieved on a Sphere Clone
172 (Phenomenex) reverse phase C₁₈ column (5 µm, 250 mm × 4.6 mm i.d) thermostatted at
173 35 °C. The elution was performed with 3.6 mM sulphuric acid using a flow rate of 0.8
174 mL/min. The organic acids were quantified by the comparison of the area of their peaks
175 recorded at 215 nm with calibration curves obtained from commercial standards of each
176 compound. The results were expressed in mg per g of extract.

177

178 *Phenolic acids.* The extracts were re-dissolved in ethanol:water (20:80, v/v) and filtered
179 through a 0.22 µm disposable LC filter disk for HPLC analysis. Phenolic acids
180 determination was performed using the UFLC mentioned above, as previously
181 described by Reis et al²⁸. Separation was achieved with a Waters Spherisorb S3 ODS-2
182 C₁₈, 3 µm (4.6 mm × 150 mm) column thermostatted at 35 °C. The solvents used were:
183 (A) 0.1% formic acid in water, (B) acetonitrile. The elution gradient established was
184 isocratic 15% for 5 min, 15% B to 20% B over 5 min, 20-25% B over 10 min, 25-35%
185 B over 10 min, 35-50% for 10 min, and re-equilibration of the column, using a flow rate
186 of 0.5 mL/min. Double online detection was carried out in the DAD using 280 nm as
187 preferred wavelength and in a mass spectrometer (MS) connected to a HPLC system via
188 the DAD cell outlet. The phenolic compounds were characterized according to the UV
189 and mass spectra, retention times, and comparison with authentic standards. The
190 identified phenolic acids were quantified by comparison of the area of their peaks
191 recorded at 280 nm with calibration curves obtained from commercial standards of each
192 compound. The results were expressed in µg per g of extract.

193

194 *Tocopherols*. BHT solution (10 mg/mL, 100 μ L) and IS solution (tocol 2 μ g/mL, 250
195 μ L) were added to the extracts (described above) prior to the extraction procedure. The
196 extracts were homogenized with methanol (4 mL) by vortex mixing (1 min).
197 Subsequently, hexane (4 mL) was added and again vortex mixed for 1 min. After that, a
198 saturated NaCl aqueous solution (2 mL) was added, the mixture was homogenized (1
199 min), centrifuged (5 min, 4000g) and the clear upper layer was carefully transferred to a
200 vial. The sample was re-extracted twice with hexane. The combined extracts were taken
201 to dryness under a nitrogen stream, re-dissolved in 1 mL of hexane, dehydrated with
202 anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered through a 0.22 μ m disposable LC filter disk, and
203 transferred into a dark injection vial. Analysis was performed by HPLC (equipment
204 described above), and a fluorescence detector (FP-2020; Jasco) programmed for
205 excitation at 290 nm and emission at 330 nm, as previously described by the authors.²⁷
206 The chromatographic separation was achieved with a Polyamide II (250 \times 4.6 mm)
207 normal-phase column from YMC Waters operating at 35 $^{\circ}$ C. The mobile phase used
208 was a mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate (70:30, v/v) at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. The
209 compounds were identified by chromatographic comparisons with authentic standards.
210 Quantification was based on the fluorescence signal response of each standard, using
211 the IS (tocol) method and by using calibration curves obtained from commercial
212 standards of each compound. The results were expressed in μ g per g of extract.

213

214 **Bioactivity of the *P. ostreatosroseus* formulations**

215 *Antioxidant activity*

216 Successive dilutions of the stock solution were made and used for *in vitro* assays
217 already described by Reis et al²⁸, to evaluate their antioxidant activity of the samples.

218 The sample concentrations (mg/mL) providing 50% of antioxidant activity or 0.5 of

219 absorbance (EC_{50}) were calculated from the graphs of antioxidant activity percentages
220 (DPPH, β -carotene/linoleate and TBARS assays) or absorbance at 690 nm
221 (ferricyanide/Prussian blue assay) against the sample concentrations. Trolox was used
222 as a positive control.

223 *Ferricyanide/Prussian blue assay.* The extract solutions with different concentrations
224 (0.5 mL) were mixed with sodium phosphate buffer (200 mmol/L, pH 6.6, 0.5 mL) and
225 potassium ferricyanide (1% w/v, 0.5 mL). The mixture was incubated at 50°C for 20
226 min, and trichloroacetic acid (10% w/v, 0.5 mL) was added. The mixture (0.8 mL) was
227 poured into the 48 wells plate in addition to deionized water (0.8 mL) and ferric
228 chloride (0.1% w/v, 0.16 mL), and the absorbance was measured at 690 nm in an
229 ELX800 Microplate Reader (Bio-Tek Instruments, Inc; Winooski, VT, USA).

230 *DPPH radical-scavenging activity assay.* This methodology was performed using the
231 Microplate Reader mentioned above. The reaction mixture on the 96 well plate
232 consisted of extract solutions with different concentrations (30 μ L) and a methanolic
233 solution (270 μ L) containing DPPH radicals (6×10^{-5} mol/L). The mixture was left to
234 stand for 30 min in the dark, and the absorption was measured at 515 nm. The radical
235 scavenging activity (RSA) was calculated as percentage of the DPPH discoloration
236 using the equation: $\%RSA = [(A_{DPPH} - A_S) / A_{DPPH}] \times 100$, where A_S is the absorbance of the
237 solution containing the sample, and A_{DPPH} is the absorbance of the DPPH solution.

238

239 *Inhibition of β -carotene bleaching or β -carotene/linoleate assay.* A solution of β -
240 carotene was prepared by dissolving β -carotene (2 mg) in chloroform (10 mL). Two
241 milliliters of this solution were pipetted into a round-bottom flask. The chloroform was
242 removed at 40 °C under vacuum and linoleic acid (40 mg), Tween 80 emulsifier (400
243 mg), and distilled water (100 mL) were added to the flask with vigorous shaking.

244 Aliquots (4.8 mL) of this emulsion were transferred into test tubes containing extract
245 solutions with different concentrations (0.2 mL). The tubes were shaken and incubated
246 at 50 °C in a water bath. As soon as the emulsion was added to each tube, the zero time
247 absorbance was measured at 470 nm. β -Carotene bleaching inhibition was calculated
248 using the following equation: (Absorbance after 2h of assay/ initial absorbance) \times 100.

249

250 *Thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) assay.* Porcine (*Sus scrofa*) brains
251 were obtained from official slaughtered animals, dissected, and homogenized with
252 Polytron in an ice cold Tris-HCl buffer (20 mM, pH 7.4) to produce a 1:2 w/v brain
253 tissue homogenate which was centrifuged at 3000g for 10 min. An aliquot (100 μ L) of
254 the supernatant was incubated with the different concentrations of the sample solutions
255 (200 μ L) in the presence of FeSO₄ (10 mM; 100 μ L) and ascorbic acid (0.1mM; 100
256 μ L) at 37 °C for 1 h. The reaction was stopped by the addition of trichloroacetic acid
257 (28% w/v, 500 μ L), followed by thiobarbituric acid (TBA, 2%, w/v, 380 μ L), and the
258 mixture was then heated at 80 °C for 20 min. After centrifugation at 3000g for 10 min to
259 remove the precipitated protein, the color intensity of the malondialdehyde (MDA)-
260 TBA complex in the supernatant was measured by its absorbance at 532 nm. The
261 inhibition ratio (%) was calculated using the following formula: Inhibition ratio
262 (%)=[(A-B)/A] \times 100%, where A and B were the absorbances of the control and the
263 sample solution, respectively.

264

265 *Anti-inflammatory activity*

266 The extracts were dissolved in water, initially concentrated at 8 mg/mL and then further
267 dilutions were prepared from 8 mg/mL to 0.125 mg/mL. The mouse macrophage-like
268 cell line RAW264.7 was cultured in DMEM medium supplemented with 10% heat-

269 inactivated foetal bovine serum and glutamine at 37 °C under 5% CO₂, in humidified
270 air. For each experiment, cells were detached with a cell scraper. Under our
271 experimental cell density (5 x 10⁵ cells/mL), the proportion of dead cells was less than
272 1%, according to Trypan blue dye exclusion tests. Cells were seeded in 96-well plates at
273 150,000 cells/well and allowed to attach to the plate overnight. Then, cells were treated
274 with the different concentrations of each of the extracts for 1 h. Dexamethasone (50
275 µM) was used as a positive control for the experiment. The following step was
276 stimulation with LPS (1 µg/mL) for 18 h. The effect of the tested samples in the absence
277 of LPS was also evaluated, in order to observe if they induced changes in NO basal
278 levels. In negative controls, no LPS was added. Both extracts and LPS were dissolved in
279 supplemented DMEM. For the determination of nitric oxide, a Griess Reagent System
280 kit (Promega) was used, which contains sulfanilamide, NED and nitrite solutions.
281 Hundred microliters of the cell culture supernatant was transferred to the plate in
282 duplicate and mixed with sulfanilamide and NED solutions, 5-10 minutes each, at room
283 temperature. The nitrite produced was determined by measuring the optical density at
284 515 nm, in the microplate reader referred above, and was compared to the standard
285 calibration curve.

286

287 *Antibacterial activity*

288 The following Gram-negative bacteria: *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 35210), *Pseudomonas*
289 *aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853), *Salmonella typhimurium* (ATCC 13311), *Enterobacter*
290 *cloacae* (ATCC 35030), and Gram-positive bacteria: *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC
291 6538), *Bacillus cereus* (clinical isolate), *Micrococcus flavus* (ATCC 10240), and
292 *Listeria monocytogenes* (NCTC 7973) were used. The microorganisms were obtained

293 from the Mycological laboratory, Department of Plant Physiology, Institute for
294 biological research “Siniša Stanković”, University of Belgrade, Serbia.

295 The minimum inhibitory (MIC) and minimum bactericidal (MBC) concentrations were
296 determined by the microdilution method.²⁹ The fresh overnight culture of bacteria was
297 adjusted spectrophotometrically to a concentration of 1×10^5 CFU/mL. The requested
298 CFU/mL corresponded to a bacterial suspension determined in a spectrophotometer at
299 625 nm (OD₆₂₅). Dilutions of inocula were cultured on solid medium to verify the
300 absence of contamination and check the validity of the inoculum. Different solvent
301 dilutions of the ethanolic extract were added to the wells containing 100 μ L of Tryptic
302 Soy Broth (TSB) and afterwards, 10 μ L of inoculum was added to all wells. The
303 microplates were incubated for 24 h at 37 °C. The MIC of the samples was detected
304 following the addition of 40 μ L of iodinitrotetrazolium chloride (INT) (0.2 mg/mL) and
305 incubation at 37 °C for 30 min. The lowest concentration that produced a significant
306 inhibition (around 50%) of the growth of the bacteria in comparison with the positive
307 control was identified as the MIC. The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs)
308 obtained from the susceptibility testing of various bacteria to tested extracts were
309 determined also by a colorimetric microbial viability assay based on reduction of a INT
310 color and compared with positive control for each bacterial strains.³⁰ MBC was
311 determined by serial sub-cultivation of 10 μ L into microplates containing 100 μ L of
312 TSB. The lowest concentration that shows no growth after this sub-culturing was read
313 as the MBC. Standard drugs, namely streptomycin and ampicillin were used as positive
314 controls. 5% DMSO was used as negative control. Samples were tested in duplicates
315 and experiments were repeated three times.

316

317 *Antifungal activity*

318 For the antifungal bioassays, the following microfungi were used: *Aspergillus fumigatus*
319 (ATCC 1022), *Aspergillus versicolor* (ATCC 11730), *Aspergillus ochraceus* (ATCC
320 12066), *Aspergillus niger* (ATCC 6275), *Trichoderma viride* (IAM 5061), *Penicillium*
321 *funiculosum* (ATCC 36839), *Penicillium ochrochloron* (ATCC 9112), and *Penicillium*
322 *verrucosum* var. *cyclopium* (food isolate). The organisms were obtained from the
323 Mycological Laboratory, Department of Plant Physiology, Institute for Biological
324 Research “Siniša Stanković”, Belgrade, Serbia. The micromycetes were maintained on
325 malt agar (MA) and the cultures were stored at 4 °C and sub-cultured once a month.³¹
326 The fungal spores were washed from the surface of agar plates with sterile 0.85% saline
327 containing 0.1% Tween 80 (v/v). The spore suspension was adjusted with sterile saline
328 to a concentration of approximately 1.0×10^5 to a final volume of 100 μL /well. The
329 inocula were stored at 4 °C for further use. Dilutions of the inoculum were cultured on
330 solid MA to verify the absence of contamination and to check the validity of the
331 inoculum.

332 Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) determination was performed by a serial
333 dilution technique using 96-well microtitre plates. The investigated extract was
334 dissolved in a 5% solution of DMSO and added to broth malt medium with fungal
335 inoculum. The microplates were incubated for 72 h at 28 °C. The lowest concentrations
336 without visible growth (at the binocular microscope) were defined as MIC. The
337 minimum fungicidal concentrations (MFCs) were determined by serial subcultivation of
338 2 μL in microtitre plates containing 100 μL of malt broth per well and further
339 incubation for 72 h at 28 °C. The lowest concentration with no visible growth was
340 defined as the MFC, indicating 99.5% killing of the original inoculum. 5% DMSO was
341 used as a negative control, while bifonazole and ketokonazole were used as positive
342 controls. Samples were tested in duplicates and experiments were repeated three times.

343

344 *Toxicity for liver cells*

345 A cell culture was prepared from a freshly harvested porcine liver obtained from a local
346 slaughter house. It was designated as PLP2. Briefly, the liver tissues were rinsed in
347 Hank's balanced salt solution containing 100 U/mL penicillin and 100 µg/mL
348 streptomycin and divided into 1×1 mm³ explants. Some of these explants were placed in
349 25 cm³ tissue flasks in DMEM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 2 mM
350 nonessential amino acids and 100 U/mL penicillin, 100 mg/mL streptomycin and
351 incubated at 37 °C with a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂. The medium was
352 changed every 2 days. Cultivation of the cells was continued with direct monitoring
353 every 2-3 days using a phase contrast microscope. Before confluence, cells were sub-
354 cultured and plated in 96-well plates at a density of 1.0×10⁴ cells/well, and cultivated in
355 DMEM medium with 10% FBS, 100 U/mL penicillin and 100 µg/mL streptomycin.³²
356 Cells were treated for 48 h with the different diluted sample solutions and the same
357 procedure described in the previous section for SRB assay was followed. The results
358 were expressed in GI₅₀ values (sample concentration that inhibited 50% of the net cell
359 growth). Ellipticine was used as positive control.

360

361 **Statistical analysis**

362 Three samples were used and all the assays were carried out in triplicate. The results are
363 expressed as mean values and standard deviation (SD). Results were compared by
364 means of a Student's t-test to determine the significant difference among samples, with
365 $p \leq 0.05$. The analysis was carried out using the SPSS v. 22.0 program (IBM Corp.,
366 Armonk, NY, USA).

367

368 Results and discussion

369 Chemical characterization of the *P. ostreatoroseus* formulations

370 The *P. ostreatoroseus* fruiting body was nutritionally characterized and the results are
371 presented in **Table 1**. The sample showed regular contents of moisture and ash, besides
372 an exceptional content in total fibre. The basidioma also presented high content of
373 protein and low fat levels. Patil et al³³ reported a similar value of protein content (21
374 g/100 g) for *Pleurotus ostreatus*. Fernandes et al¹² found very distinct nutritional values
375 referring to protein and carbohydrate contents for *P. ostreatus*, but similar results
376 referring to moisture and ash contents.

377 The herein characterized fruiting bodies and the mycelia produced by submerged
378 culture were submitted to an ethanolic extraction in order to prepare bioactive
379 formulations, which were characterized in terms of hydrophilic and lipophilic
380 compounds (**Table 2**). Regarding free sugars composition, it was possible to quantify
381 five distinct compounds, namely fructose, mannitol, sucrose, trehalose, and melezitose
382 (**Figure 2**). The mycelium-based formulation revealed higher contents of all identified
383 sugars than the basidioma-based preparation, with a total content of free sugars more
384 than 2-fold higher. This notable difference between the total sugar contents presented by
385 the studied formulations could be explained, among other reasons, by the utilization of a
386 sugar-rich wheat bran extract medium to produce the mycelium biomass. Once it is
387 impossible to eliminate all the sugar provided by the culture medium through the
388 filtration and washing processes previously described, the mycelium sample might have
389 assimilated some free sugars from the medium. Reis et al²⁷ reported lower contents of
390 fructose (0.1 ± 0.00 mg/g extract and 0.3 ± 0.00 mg/g extract) and mannitol (5.4 ± 0.04
391 mg/g extract and 6.0 ± 0.00 mg/g extract) for ethanolic extracts of *Pleurotus ostreatus*
392 and *Pleurotus eryngii*, respectively. These authors also found a lower content of sucrose

393 (0.3 ± 0.00 mg/g extract) in the ethanolic extract of *P. eryngii*. Beluhan and Ranagajec³⁴
394 reported a much higher content of mannitol (98.20 ± 0.55 mg/g extract) and a similar
395 content of trehalose (17.9 ± 0.12 mg/g extract) for an ethanolic extract prepared from
396 basidiomas of *P. ostreatus*.

397 It was possible to quantify four different organic acids (**Table 2**), namely oxalic, malic,
398 citric and fumaric acids. The mycelium-based formulation revealed the highest
399 concentration in oxalic acid, while the fruiting body-based formulation presented the
400 highest contents of malic and citric acids. Fumaric acid was only found in the fruiting
401 body extract, which also presented the highest content in total organic acids. The profile
402 of organic acids described by Fernandes et al¹² for *P. ostreatus* was slightly different,
403 since the authors detected quinic instead of malic acid.

404 The prepared formulations revealed the presence of *p*-hydroxybenzoic, *cis p*-coumaric
405 and *trans p*-coumaric acids, as also cinnamic acid (**Table 2**). *p*-Hydroxybenzoic, *cis p*-
406 coumaric and *trans p*-coumaric acids were only found in the fruiting body-based
407 formulation. Cinnamic acid was found in both formulations, presenting the fruiting
408 body extract the highest content of this compound. The fruiting body-based formulation
409 was clearly richer in phenolic acids comparing with the mycelium-based one. Reis et
410 al²⁸ also reported the presence of *p*-hydroxybenzoic in basidioma and mycelium of *P.*
411 *ostreatus* (1.56 ± 0.06 and 0.05 ± 0.001 µg/g dw, respectively), besides cinnamic acid
412 (0.23 ± 0.02 and 9.65 ± 0.86 µg/g dw, respectively).

413 α-Tocopherol and β-tocopherol were found in both formulations, with no statistical
414 differences between them regarding the contents of each one of the compounds. These
415 two vitamers of tocopherols were present in the profile of *Pleurotus* species reported by
416 Reis et al²⁷ and Lin et al²¹.

417

418 **Bioactivity of the *P. ostreatoroseus* formulations**

419 The fruiting body-based formulation revealed higher reducing power, DPPH scavenging
420 activity, β -carotene bleaching inhibition and lipid peroxidation inhibition in brain
421 homogenates, than the mycelium-based preparation (**Table 3**). Reis et al²⁸ reported
422 lower reducing power (EC_{50} values = 3.31 ± 0.03 mg/mL and 3.72 ± 0.09 mg/mL,
423 respectively), DPPH scavenging activity (6.54 ± 0.16 mg/mL and 8.67 ± 0.12 mg/mL,
424 respectively), β -carotene bleaching inhibition (EC_{50} values = 2.74 ± 0.16 mg/mL and
425 4.68 ± 0.60 mg/mL, respectively) and TBARS formation inhibition (EC_{50} values $2.58 \pm$
426 0.86 mg/mL and 3.95 ± 0.58 mg/mL, respectively) for methanolic extracts prepared
427 from basidiomas of *P. ostratus* e *P. eryngii*. Regarding the DPPH scavenging activity,
428 Tsai et al³⁵ reported lower activity in ethanolic extracts of *P. ostreatus* from Taiwan
429 (5.58 ± 0.24 mg/mL). Also, the herein studied *P. ostreatoroseus* mycelium ethanolic
430 extract has higher DPPH scavenging activity than the *P. ostreatus* and *P. eryngii* mycelia
431 methanolic extracts (EC_{50} values 58.13 ± 3.02 mg/mL and 25.40 ± 0.33 mg/mL,
432 respectively²⁸). The studied ethanolic preparation revealed lower lipid peroxidation
433 inhibition measured by the T-BARS assay than the mycelium methanolic extract of *P.*
434 *ostreatus* (EC_{50} value = 1.08 ± 0.86 mg/mL), but a much higher inhibition than the
435 mycelium extract of *P. eryngii* (EC_{50} value = 21.03 ± 0.45 mg/mL), as reported by Reis
436 et al²⁸.

437 *P. ostreatoroseus* formulations revealed a dose-dependent potential anti-inflammatory
438 activity (**Figure 3**), with a relevant decrease of NO production even in the presence of
439 low concentrated extracts (up to 400 μ g/mL). The fruiting body-based formulation
440 revealed higher activity (lower EC_{50} value) than the mycelium-based preparation (**Table**
441 **3**). Moro et al³⁶ investigated the anti-inflammatory activity of a methanolic extract of *P.*
442 *ostreatus* in LPS-activated macrophages and reported no anti-inflammatory activity.

443 Nonetheless, Lin et al²¹ reported anti-inflammatory effects of ethanolic extracts from *P.*
444 *eryngii* fruiting bodies and correlated these effects with their contents in antioxidant
445 components. Thus, the higher anti-inflammatory activity revealed by the fruiting body-
446 based formulation, when compared to the correspondent mycelium-based preparation,
447 may be justified by its higher contents in hydrophilic and lipophilic antioxidant
448 compounds, including phenolic acids, as also due to its higher antioxidant capacity. In
449 fact, oxidative stress caused by the production of nitric oxide (NO) during inflammation
450 processes has been related to the occurrence of several diseases such as cancer, diabetes,
451 renal disease and arthritis.^{37,38} The elimination of NO by NO scavengers or the
452 inhibition of its production by iNOS inactivator alleviates these illness conditions. Thus,
453 the scavenging of NO or suppression of NO production by iNOS are clearly promising
454 indices in screening new functional foods.^{39,40}

455 The studied bioactive formulations exhibited antibacterial activity against all bacteria
456 tested (**Table 4**). The *P. ostreatoroseus* basidioma ethanolic extract presented higher
457 antibacterial activity than the correspondent mycelium extract against *Staphylococcus*
458 *aureus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella*
459 *typhimurium* and *Enterobacter cloacae*. The basidioma-based formulation also
460 presented an antibacterial activity similar to the commercial antibiotic streptomycin
461 (MIC 0.25 mg/mL) against *Staphylococcus aureus*. Both studied formulations possessed
462 the same activity against *Listeria monocytogenes*, and only in the case of *Micrococcus*
463 *flavus* the mycelium-based preparation presented higher antibacterial activity than the
464 fruiting body-based formulation. Alves et al¹⁰ reported high antibacterial activity of an
465 ether extract of *Pleurotus pulmonarius* against *Staphylococcus aureus*. Tambeker et al⁴¹
466 reported the antimicrobial ability of ethanolic, methanolic and xylene extracts of *P.*
467 *pulmonarius* against *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Sulphated

468 polysaccharides from *P. eryngii* showed inhibition against *Escherichia coli*,
469 *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Listeria monocytogenes*.⁴²

470 Regarding the antifungal activity (**Table 4**), the *P. ostreatoroseus* basidioma ethanolic
471 extract presented higher activity than the correspondent mycelium-based preparation
472 against *Aspergillus versicolor*, *A. ochracus*, *A. niger*, *Trichoderma viride*, *Penicillium*
473 *funiculosum* and *P. verrucosum*. The studied basidioma ethanolic extract also presented
474 similar antifungal activity similar to that of the commercial antibiotic bifonazole (0.15
475 mg/mL) against *Aspergillus ochracus* and *Trichoderma viride*. Both bioactive
476 formulations possessed the same activity against *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Only in the case
477 of *Penicillium ochrochloron* the mycelium-based formulation presented higher
478 antifungal activity than the fruiting body-based preparation. Hearts et al⁴³ found no
479 antifungal activity in the aqueous extract of *Pleurotus ostreatus* against *Aspergillus*
480 *fumigatus*, *A. niger* and *Penicillium* sp. Moreover, Wang et al⁴⁴ reported the activity of
481 an antifungal peptide isolated from *Pleurotus eryngii* fruiting bodies and Ngai et al⁴⁵
482 reported antifungal effects of a ribonuclease isolated from basidiomas of *P.*
483 *pulmonarius*. In both cases, the inhibition of mycelium growth was against *Fusarium*
484 *oxysporum* and *Mycosphaerella arachidicola*.

485 As the *P. ostreatoroseus* bioactive formulations displayed antioxidant, anti-
486 inflammatory and antimicrobial activity, it was important to guarantee an absence of
487 cytotoxicity against liver cells, which are considered the best *in vitro* model for studies
488 of human cytotoxicity. The studied samples revealed no toxicity in liver primary culture
489 PLP2, once the GI₅₀ values obtained were higher than the highest concentration tested
490 (> 400 µg/mL). The positive control ellipticine gave a GI₅₀ = 2.29 µg/mL (**Table 3**).

491 Overall, and to the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of anti-inflammatory
492 properties of *P. ostreatoroseus* fruiting body and mycelium extracts, and from the

493 results obtained, it can be inferred a clear anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial potential
494 of the tested samples. Therefore, these formulations can be used to prepare dietary
495 supplements with nutraceutical purposes.

496

497 **Competing interests**

498 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

499

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510

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Table 1. Nutritionally characterization of *P. ostreatoroseus* fruiting bodies expressed on a dry weight basis (mean \pm SD).

<i>P. ostreatoroseus</i>	
Fruiting bodies	
Fat (g/100 g)	3.0 \pm 0.1
Proteins (g/100 g)	26.0 \pm 0.2
Ash (g/100 g)	7.6 \pm 0.1
Carbohydrates (g/100 g)	18.4 \pm 0.1
Total fibre (g/100 g)	45.0 \pm 0.2

Table 2. Chemical characterization of *P. ostreatoroseus* fruiting body- and mycelium-based formulations (mean \pm SD).

Free sugars	Fruiting body	Mycelium	<i>t</i> -Students test <i>p</i> -value
Fructose	0.46 \pm 0.05	10 \pm 1	<0.001
Mannitol	12.0 \pm 0.1	15 \pm 1	0.006
Sucrose	0.84 \pm 0.09	10 \pm 1	<0.001
Trehalose	10.3 \pm 0.5	15.6 \pm 0.3	<0.001
Melezitose	2.44 \pm 0.03	7.5 \pm 0.4	<0.001
Total (mg/g extract)	26.0 \pm 0.3	58 \pm 3	<0.001
Organic acids			
Oxalic acid	12 \pm 1	39 \pm 6	<0.001
Malic acid	95 \pm 1	52 \pm 1	<0.001
Citric acid	101 \pm 26	0.063 \pm 0.002	<0.001
Fumaric acid	4.14 \pm 0.01	nd	-
Total (mg/g extract)	212 \pm 25	91 \pm 8	<0.001
Phenolic compounds			
<i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoic acid	0.129 \pm 0.001	nd	-
<i>cis p</i> -Coumaric acid	0.03 \pm 0.01	nd	-
<i>trans p</i> -Coumaric acid	0.032 \pm 0.003	nd	-
Cinnamic acid	0.050 \pm 0.002	0.0065 \pm 0.0005	<0.001
Total (μ g/g extract)	0.24 \pm 0.01	0.0065 \pm 0.0005	<0.001
Tocopherols			
α -Tocopherol	0.08 \pm 0.00	0.09 \pm 0.01	0.083
β -Tocopherol	0.45 \pm 0.02	0.41 \pm 0.01	0.026
Total (μ g/g extract)	0.53 \pm 0.02	0.50 \pm 0.01	0.044

nd- not detected.

Table 3. Bioactivity of *P. ostreatoroseus* fruiting body- and mycelium-based formulations (mean \pm SD).

	Fruiting body	Mycelium	<i>t</i> -Students test <i>p</i> -value
Antioxidant activity (EC ₅₀ values, mg/mL)			
Reducing power	1.79 \pm 0.01	nd	-
DPPH scavenging activity	4.78 \pm 0.02	15.62 \pm 0.13	<0.001
β -carotene bleaching inhibition	0.40 \pm 0.01	7.62 \pm 0.25	<0.001
TBARS inhibition	0.29 \pm 0.00	2.34 \pm 0.08	<0.001
Anti-inflammatory activity (EC ₅₀ values, μ g/mL)			
NO production	229.75 \pm 4.25	261.23 \pm 8.44	0.011
Hepatotoxicity (GI ₅₀ values, μ g/mL)			
PLP2 growth inhibition	>400	>400	-

Results of antioxidant activity are expressed in EC₅₀ values: sample concentration providing 50% of antioxidant activity or 0.5 of absorbance in the reducing power. Trolox EC₅₀ values: 41 μ g/mL (reducing power), 42 μ g/mL (DPPH scavenging activity), 18 μ g/mL (β -carotene bleaching inhibition) and 23 μ g/mL (TBARS inhibition). Results of anti-inflammatory activity are expressed in EC₅₀ values: sample concentration providing 50% of inhibition in production of NO. Dexamethasone EC₅₀ value 16 μ g/mL. Results of hepatotoxicity are expressed in GI₅₀ values: sample concentration providing 50% of inhibition of the net cell growth. Ellipticine GI₅₀ value 2.3 μ g/mL.

Table 4. Antibacterial and antifungal activities of *P. ostreatoroseus* fruiting body- and mycelium-based formulations.

Bacteria	Fruiting body MIC/MBC	Mycelium MIC/MBC	Streptomycin MIC/MBC	Ampicillin MIC/MBC
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	0.30/0.60	0.40/0.75	0.25/0.50	0.10/0.15
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	0.15/0.30	0.40/0.75	0.05/0.10	0.10/0.15
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	0.60/1.20	0.60/1.20	0.15/0.30	0.15/0.30
<i>Micrococcus flavus</i>	0.60/1.20	0.45/0.60	0.13/0.25	0.10/0.15
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	0.30/1.20	0.60/1.20	0.05/0.10	0.10/0.20
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	0.60/1.20	0.45/0.60	0.05/0.10	0.30/0.50
<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>	0.15/0.30	0.45/0.60	0.05/0.10	0.15/0.20
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	0.30/0.60	0.60/1.20	0.05/0.10	0.15/0.20
Fungi	Fruiting body MIC/MFC	Mycelium MIC/MFC	Bifonazole MIC/MFC	Ketoconazole MIC/MFC
<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	0.60/2.40	0.60/3.60	0.15/0.20	0.20/0.50
<i>Aspergillus versicolor</i>	0.30/2.40	0.60/3.60	0.10/0.20	0.20/0.50
<i>Aspergillus ochracus</i>	0.15/0.30	0.60/1.20	0.15/0.20	1.50/2.00
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	0.30/1.20	1.20/2.40	0.15/0.20	0.20/0.50
<i>Trichoderma viride</i>	0.15/0.30	0.30/0.60	0.15/0.20	1.0/1.0
<i>Penicillium funiculosum</i>	0.30/ 0.60	0.60/1.20	0.20/0.25	0.20/0.50
<i>Penicillium ochrochlron</i>	0.60/3.60	0.30/0.60	0.20/0.25	2.50/3.50
<i>P. verrucosum</i>	0.60/3.60	1.20/2.40	0.10/0.20	0.20/0.30

MIC- minimum inhibitory concentration; MBC- minimum bactericidal concentration; MFC- minimum fungicidal concentration.

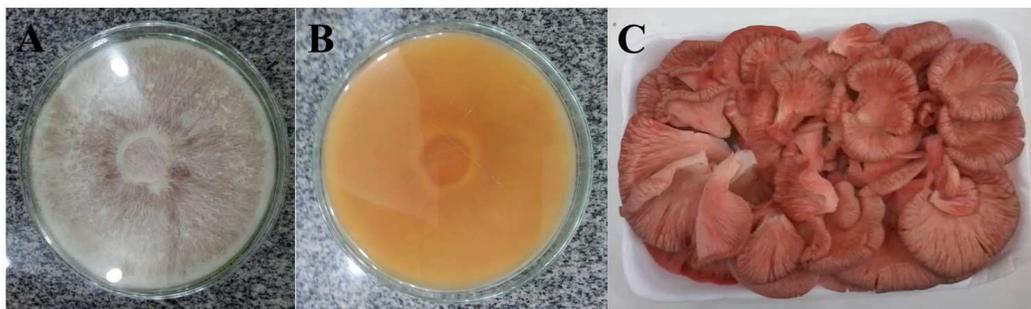


Figure 1. Morphological characteristics of *P. ostreatoroseus*. **a.** Mycelium cultivated on wheat bran extract agar slants. **b.** Bottom of the mycelium plate of figure a in which it can be observed the characteristic rosy coloration. **c.** Fruiting bodies of commercial package.

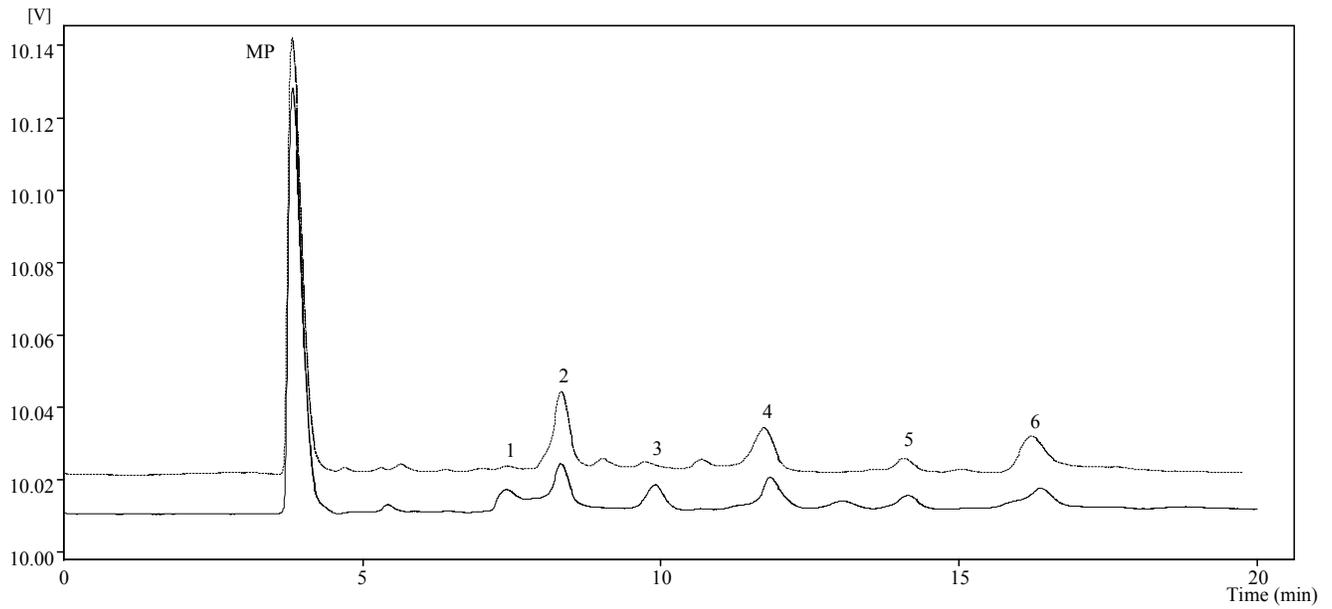


Figure 2. Individual profile of *P. ostreatoroseus* fruiting body (----) and mycelium (—) in sugars: 1- fructose, 2- mannitol, 3- sucrose, 4- trehalose, 5- melezitose, 6- raffinose (IS) and MP- mobile phase.

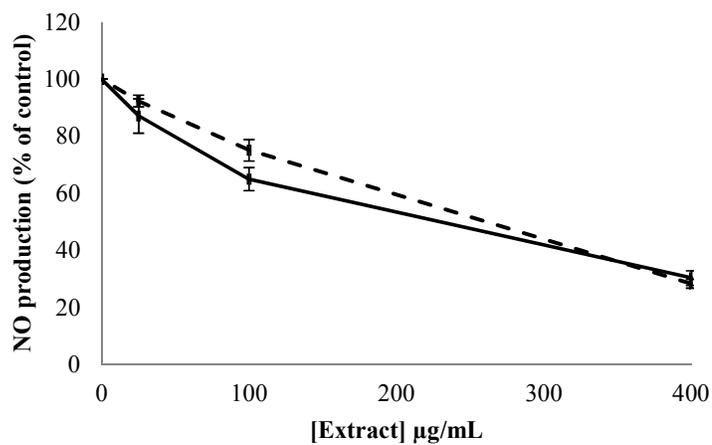
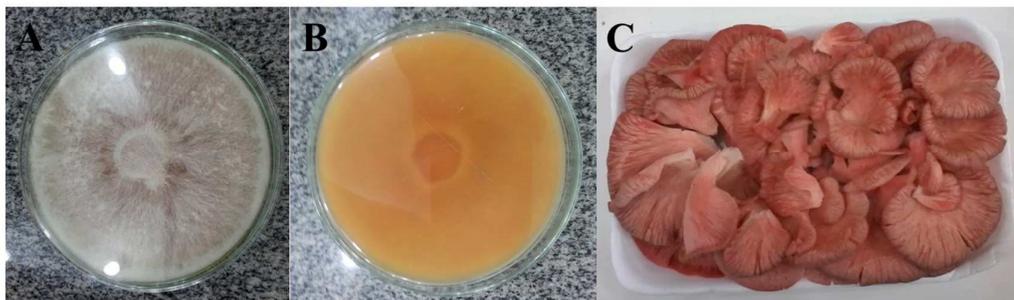


Figure 3. Nitric oxide production as function of concentration of *P. ostreatoroseus* fruiting body (—) and mycelium (---) based formulations. As the production of oxide nitric is proportional to the inflammatory process, a decrease in the nitric oxide concentration corresponds to potential anti-inflammatory activity.

Graphical Abstract

Bioactive formulations prepared from fruiting bodies and submerged culture mycelia of the Brazilian edible mushroom *Pleurotus ostreatoroseus* Singer

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Fruiting body and mycelium of *Pleurotus ostreatoroseus* were used to prepare bioactive formulations.
