



Júlio César Ribeiro  
(Organizador)

# A face transdisciplinar das ciências agrárias

 Atena  
Editora  
Ano 2021

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**Revisão:** Os autores  
**Organizador:** Júlio César Ribeiro

### Dados Internacionais de Catalogação na Publicação (CIP)

F138 A face transdisciplinar das ciências agrárias 2 / Organizador Júlio César Ribeiro. – Ponta Grossa - PR: Atena, 2021.

Formato: PDF

Requisitos de sistema: Adobe Acrobat Reader

Modo de acesso: World Wide Web

Inclui bibliografia

ISBN 978-65-5983-389-4

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.894211008>

1. Ciências agrárias. I. Ribeiro, Júlio César  
(Organizador). II. Título.

CDD 630

Elaborado por Bibliotecária Janaina Ramos – CRB-8/9166

**Atena Editora**

Ponta Grossa – Paraná – Brasil

Telefone: +55 (42) 3323-5493

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## **APRESENTAÇÃO**

A obra “A Face Transdisciplinar das Ciências Agrárias” vem ao encontro da necessidade das Ciências Agrárias em suprir as demandas transdisciplinares na construção do conhecimento através de uma visão menos compartmentalizada.

Dividida em dois volumes que contam com 28 capítulos cada, abordam primeiramente assuntos referentes a época de semeadura e efeitos de diferentes sistemas de plantio na germinação de sementes, utilização de microrganismos no desenvolvimento de plantas e controle de pragas, e avaliação do uso de resíduos na agricultura, dentre outros. Em seguida são tratados assuntos referentes ao bem-estar animal, e características de produtos de origem animal. Na terceira e última parte, são expostos assuntos voltados ao acesso às políticas públicas, reforma agrária e desenvolvimento rural.

O organizador e a Atena Editora agradecem aos autores vinculados às diferentes instituições de ensino, pesquisa e extensão do Brasil e exterior, por compartilharem seus estudos tornando possível a elaboração deste e-book.

Esperamos que a presente obra possa estimular a intercomunicação das mais diversas áreas das Ciências Agrárias em prol da ciência e pesquisa, suprindo as mais variadas demandas de conhecimento.

Boa leitura!

Júlio César Ribeiro

## SUMÁRIO

<b>CAPÍTULO 1.....</b>	<b>1</b>
GERMINAÇÃO E PRODUTIVIDADE DE SEMENTES DE SOJA BRS CULTIVADA NO CERRADO DE RORAIMA EM DENSIDADES DIFERENTES DE PLANTAS	
Oscar José Smiderle	
Aline das Graças Souza	
 <a href="https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110081">https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110081</a>	
<b>CAPÍTULO 2.....</b>	<b>8</b>
AVALIAÇÃO DE DIFERENTES GENÓTIPOS S COM A TECNOLOGIA INTACTA 2 XTEND ® EM CARACTERES AGRONÔMICOS E PRODUTIVIDADE DA CULTURA DA SOJA	
Sandoval Neto Alves Batista	
Luis Henrique Froes Michelin	
Silvia Barroso Gomes Souto	
 <a href="https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110082">https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110082</a>	
<b>CAPÍTULO 3.....</b>	<b>22</b>
CORTE DO MERISTEMA APICAL VISANDO O AUMENTO DO NÚMERO DE VAGENS POR PLANTA NA CULTURA DA SOJA	
George Finco	
Lucas Gonçalves Milanez Alves	
 <a href="https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110083">https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110083</a>	
<b>CAPÍTULO 4.....</b>	<b>28</b>
CRESCIMENTO INICIAL DE CAXIZEIRO SUBMETIDO A CONCENTRAÇÕES DE FÓSFORO	
Benedito Rios de Oliveira	
Aline dos Anjos Souza	
Uasley Caldas de Oliveira	
Girlene Santos de Souza	
Anacleto Ranulfo dos Santos	
 <a href="https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110084">https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110084</a>	
<b>CAPÍTULO 5.....</b>	<b>36</b>
EFEITO DA CURVATURA DO CONDUTOR NA DISTRIBUIÇÃO DE SOJA EM BANCADA ELETRÔNICA	
Daniel Savi	
Gabriel Ganancini Zimmermann	
Samir Paulo Jasper	
Leonardo Leônidas Kmiecik	
Lauro Strapasson Neto	
 <a href="https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110085">https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110085</a>	

**CAPÍTULO 6.....42**

COMPORTAMENTO DE VARIEDADES E PATOGENICIDADE DE FUNGOS ASSOCIADOS À PODRIDÕES EM CANA-DE-AÇÚCAR

Gabriel Dominick

Carlos Eduardo Avanci

Divanêo Rodrigues da Silva Júnior

Eduardo Furlan Bueno

Fernando Pereira Filho

José Osmar Rossi de Macedo

Gabriella Souza Cintra

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110086>

**CAPÍTULO 7.....56**

LEVANTAMENTO DE SINTOMATOLOGIA DE DOENÇAS FÚNGICAS NA CULTURA DO CACAU (*Theobroma cacao* L.) EM SISTEMAS AGROFLORESTAIS NO MUNICÍPIO DE CAMETÁ-PA

Durvalino Rodrigues de Freitas Neto

Symara Soares Furtado

Geovana Portilho da Mata Calandriny

Gilda Gonçalves Souza

Meirevalda do Socorro Ferreira Redig

Elessandra Laura Nogueira Lopes

Antônia Benedita da Silva Bronze

Rafael Coelho Ribeiro

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110087>

**CAPÍTULO 8.....63**

UTILIZAÇÃO DE EXTRATOS DE ALGAS MARINHAS COMO COMPOSTO ELICITOR EM PLANTAS AROMÁTICAS E MEDICINAIS

Pedro Henrique Gorni

Ana Cláudia Pacheco

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110088>

**CAPÍTULO 9.....73**

QUALIDADE DAS MUDAS DE ARAÇÁ-BOI (*EUGENIA STIPITATA*) EM FUNÇÃO DE DIFERENTES SUBSTRATOS ORGÂNICOS

Yzabella Karolyne Ferreira da Silva

Patrícia Soares Furno Fontes

Gustavo Gonçalves de Oliveira

Alexandre Gomes Fontes

Joyce Carla de Souza

Khalila Haase Eller

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.8942110089>

**CAPÍTULO 10.....81**

ESTIMATIVA DA CAPTURA DE CO<sub>2</sub> DA JUNCAL NA ÁREA REGIONAL DE CONSERVAÇÃO

**ALBÚFERA DE MEDIO MUNDO, HUAURA, LIMA – PERU**

Claudia Liliana Gutierrez Rosas

Wilfredo Mendoza Caballero

Irene Castro Medina

Admilson Irio Ribeiro

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100810>

**CAPÍTULO 11 ..... 91**

**EXATIDÃO DE INDICADORES OPERACIONAIS DO USO DO TEMPO NO CORTE FINAL DE PINUS EM FORWARDER**

Alexandre Baumel dos Santos

Jean Alberto Sampietro

Marcelo Bonazza

Natali de Oliveira Pitz

Helen Michels Dacoregio

Oiéler Felipe Vargas

Gregory Kruker

Juliano Muniz da Silva dos Santos

Leonardo Poleza Lemos

Carla Melita da Silva

Milena Hardt

Natalia Letícia da Silva

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100811>

**CAPÍTULO 12 ..... 99**

**QUANTIFICAÇÃO DE PERDAS INERENTES A COLHEITA MECANIZADA DE CANA-DE-AÇÚCAR EM FUNÇÃO DA ROTAÇÃO DO EXTRATOR PRIMÁRIO**

Rodrigo Silva Alves

Victor Augusto da Costa Escarela

Thiago Orlando Costa Barbosa

Mariel Gomes da Silva

Paulo Ricardo Alves dos Santos

Carlos Alessandro Chioderoli

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100812>

**CAPÍTULO 13 ..... 104**

**LEVANTAMENTO DE PLANTAS DANINHAS NA CULTURA DO GIRASSOL EM DIFERENTES CLASSES TEXTURAIS DE SOLO**

Elielson Germano dos Santos

Miriam Hiroko Inoue

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100813>

**CAPÍTULO 14 ..... 106**

**AVALIAÇÃO DA EFICIÊNCIA DE ADUBAÇÃO NITROGENADA NA CULTURA DE MILHO UTILIZANDO FERTILIZANTES COM INIBIDORES: UMA REVISÃO**

Higor Dias Pires

Larisse Marques Fernandes

Luis Henrique Froes Michelin

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100814>

**CAPÍTULO 15.....122**

ANÁLISE DAS TRANSFORMAÇÕES CONCORRENCIAIS DO SETOR CITRÍCOLA BRASILEIRO A PARTIR DA ABORDAGEM DE SISTEMAS AGROINDUSTRIAS

Leandro Guedes de Aguiar

Giuliana Aparecida Santini Pigatto

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100815>

**CAPÍTULO 16.....139**

VENTILAÇÃO EM INSTALAÇÕES ANIMAIS: REVISÃO

Carlos Eduardo Alves Oliveira

Rafaella Resende Andrade

Fabiane de Fátima Maciel

João Antônio Costa do Nascimento

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Ilda de Fátima Ferreira Tinôco

Flávio Alves Damasceno

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100816>

**CAPÍTULO 17.....149**

PRINCIPAIS ALIMENTOS FORNECIDOS PARA GATOS DOMICILIADOS NA CIDADE DE LAVRAS-MG

Marcos Vinícius Ramos Afonso

Francielle Aparecida Resende

Murilo Cardoso Buson

Lethicia Regina Antelme

Roberta Freitas Lacerda

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100817>

**CAPÍTULO 18.....155**

DEGRADAÇÃO *IN VITRO* DA MATÉRIA SECA DE DIETA PARA RUMINANTES COM INCLUSÃO DE VANÁDIO NO MEIO DE INCUBAÇÃO

Gabriel Maurício Peruca de Melo

Liandra Maria Abaker Bertipaglia

Wanderley José de Melo

Weberson Donizeth de Castro Amancio

Patrícia Orfila Rubio

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100818>

**CAPÍTULO 19.....165**

DESCRIPÇÃO DA TÉCNICA DE CRIODESIDRATAÇÃO APLICADA EM ESTÔMAGOS DE OVELHA (*Ovis aries*)

Ana Cristina Pacheco de Araújo

Sueli Hoff Reckziegel

Juliana Voll  
Rodrigo Kegles Brauner  
Nicolle de Azevedo Alves

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100819>

**CAPÍTULO 20.....175**

DIAZEPAM NO TRATAMENTO DA NEUROTOXICIDADE INDUZIDA POR METRONIDAZOL EM UM CÃO

Juliana Voll  
Fernanda Voll Costa Ventura  
Rodolfo Voll  
Carlos Afonso de Castro Beck  
Ana Cristina Pacheco de Araújo  
Sueli Hoff Reckziegel  
Nicolle de Azevedo Alves  
Werner Krebs  
Bianca Martins Mastrantonio  
Fernanda da Silveira Nóbrega  
Márcio Polleto Ferreira

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100820>

**CAPÍTULO 21.....181**

SEMINOMA TESTICULAR EM CÃO

Gessica Vieira Gomes  
Lara de Souza Ribeiro  
Raiany Resende Moura  
Elaine da Silva Soares  
Aline Souza Silva  
Aline de Oliveira Felix  
Eulógio Carlos Queiroz de Carvalho

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100821>

**CAPÍTULO 22.....185**

pH E CARNE BOVINA – IMPORTÂNCIA E CONSEQUÊNCIAS - REVISÃO DE LITERATURA

Evandra Roberta Libmann  
Dulce Helena Camila dos Reis  
Carlos Eduardo Gamero Aguilar  
Cassio Toledo Messias  
Patrícia Gelli Feres de Marchi  
Lidianne Assis Silva  
Bruna Laurindo Rosa  
Giovanna Amorim de Carvalho  
Danielle Saldanha de Souza Araújo

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100822>

**CAPÍTULO 23.....194**

ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF SILVER MICROPARTICLES ENCAPSULATED WITH HONEYS FROM *Apis mellifera* AND *Scaptotrigona bipunctata*

Victor Hugo Clébís

Edson Aparecido Proni

Juan Josué Puño Sarmiento

Renata Katsuko Takayama Kobayashi

Gerson Nakazato

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100823>

**CAPÍTULO 24.....208**

CRITÉRIOS UTILIZADOS PARA COMPRA DO MEL DE ABELHAS NO SERTÃO CENTRAL DE PERNAMBUCO

José Almir Ferreira Gomes

Rafael Santos de Aquino

Edmilson Gomes da Silva

Rodrigo da Silva Lima

Francisco Dirceu Duarte Arraes

Almir Ferreira da Silva

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100824>

**CAPÍTULO 25.....216**

PRODUÇÃO E COMERCIALIZAÇÃO DE MEL NO TERRITÓRIO DA BACIA DO JACUÍPE, BAHIA

Benedito Rios de Oliveira

Paulo das Mercês Santos

Davi das Mercês Santos

Fabiane de Lima Silva

Carlos Alfredo Lopes de Carvalho

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100825>

**CAPÍTULO 26.....230**

REFORMA AGRÁRIA E O CRÉDITO PARA OS RECÉM-ASSENTADOS

Kleber Destefani Ferretti

Graciella Corcioli

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100826>

**CAPÍTULO 27.....235**

TURISMO RURAL COMO PRODUTOR FLORESTAL NÃO MADEIREIRO

Bruno Araújo Corrêa

Roberto Jackson Rodrigues Silva

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100827>

**CAPÍTULO 28.....245**

COLETA SELETIVA: METODOLOGIA DE CONSCIENTIZAÇÃO AMBIENTAL COM

## ALUNOS DA APAE

Viviane Carolina Nicolau Turmina  
Gabriel Manso Ricoldi  
Jessica Cristina Urbanski Laureth  
Jonatas Ângelo Castagna  
Carlos Roberto Moreira

 <https://doi.org/10.22533/at.ed.89421100828>

**SOBRE O ORGANIZADOR.....**..... 252

**ÍNDICE REMISSIVO.....**..... 253

# CAPÍTULO 23

## ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF SILVER MICROPARTICLES ENCAPSULATED WITH HONEYS FROM *Apis mellifera* AND *Scaptotrigona bipunctata*

Data de aceite: 02/08/2021

Data de submissão: 04/05/2021

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**ABSTRACT:** Several studies report honey to be a easy to use substrate for silver nanoparticle synthesis. This study analyzed the synthesis of silver nanoparticles using two honey samples through different protocols in order to compare their morphology and antibacterial properties. The honey samples used were collected from the Londrina State University meliponary and from the Unidade de Conservação Monte Sinai (Mauá da Serra-PR, Brazil), diluted to 50% (v/v) in water and sterilized by filtration in 0.22 µm filters. Afterwards, the diluted honey samples were mixed 1:1 with a water solution containing 5 mM AgNO<sub>3</sub> and aliquots were separated in different tubes. The content of each tube underwent a different synthesis process: exposure to sunlight, basification to pH 5 or basification to pH 10. After synthesis, samplings from each sample were submitted to a heat treatment of water bath at 60°C for 30 minutes. The shape and size of silver particles inside the micro compounds were observed by images obtained through Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), which revealed silver varying between 100 and 150 nm in size. Investigation regarding the antibacterial properties was performed by determination of Minimal Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) assays, time-kill curve comparison and morphological alterations of bacteria surface after treatment by SEM. The MIC assays showed concentrations varying between 15.625 and 500 µM, while the time-kill curves revealed *Escherichia coli* to be more sensitive than *Staphylococcus aureus* and that the silver microparticles produced by basification to pH 10 have a more limited antibacterial action. SEM images showed surface

damage in *E. coli* exposed to silver microparticles synthesized by sunlight or basification to pH 5. In conclusion, the studies performed show the clinical potential of these honeys with silver microparticles in the form of micro compounds and the importance of future synthesis optimization of micro compounds.

**KEYWORDS:** Antibacterial, honey, micro compounds, nanoparticles, silver.

## ATIVIDADE ANTIBACTERIANA DE MICROPARTÍCULAS DE PRATA ENCAPSULADAS COM MÉIS DE *Apis mellifera* E *Scaptotrigona bipunctata*

**RESUMO:** Vários estudos atestam que o mel é um substrato de fácil uso no processo de síntese de nanopartículas de prata. Este estudo analisou a síntese de nanopartículas de prata usando duas amostras de mel através de diferentes protocolos como forma de comparar suas morfologias e propriedades antibacterianas. As amostras de mel usadas foram coletadas do meliponário da Universidade Estadual de Londrina (UEL) e da Unidade de Conservação Monte Sinai (Mauá da Serra-PR, Brasil); diluídas 50% (v/v) em água e esterilizadas por filtragem usando filtros de 0.22 µm. Depois, as amostras de mel diluídas foram misturadas na proporção de 1:1 com uma solução de água contendo 5 mM de AgNO<sub>3</sub> e alíquotas da mistura foram separadas em diferentes tubos. O conteúdo de cada tubo foi submetido a um processo de síntese diferente: exposição à luz solar, alcalinização até pH 5 ou alcalinização até pH 10. O formato e tamanho das partículas de prata dentro foram observadas por Microscopia Eletrônica de Varredura (MEV), que revelaram micropartículas cujos tamanhos variaram entre 100 e 150 nm. As propriedades antibacterianas foram investigadas por ensaios de Concentração Inibitória Mínima (CIM), comparação de curvas de crescimento e morte e alterações morfológicas de bactérias após tratamentos vistas em MEV. Ensaios de CIM mostraram que as concentrações variaram entre 15.625 e 500 µM, já as curvas revelaram que *Escherichia coli* foi mais sensível aos tratamentos que *Staphylococcus aureus* e que micropartículas produzidas por alcalinização até pH 10 possuem uma ação antibacteriana mais limitada. Imagens obtidas por MEV mostraram danos em bactérias *E. coli* expostas a microcompostos de prata obtidos por luz solar ou alcalinização até pH 5. Em conclusão, os estudos realizados mostram o potencial clínico de méis com micropartículas de prata na forma de micro compostos e a importância da otimização na síntese dos mesmos.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Antibacteriano, mel, microcompostos, prata.

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

The “Golden age” of antibiotics, which began with the discovery of penicillin, brought forward several health benefits, their inappropriate usage and presence in fomites such as water by improper, resulted in a selective pressure which favored multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacterial strains. They are ever-increasingly present in clinical cases which persists to this day; and infections caused by bacteria resistant to novel antibiotics them claim 700,000 lives every year according to the WHO, making the one of the antibacterial resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health (SINGH, 2006; FERREIRA et al., 2008; SILVER, 2011; TODAR, 2011; WHO, 2015; O’ NEILL, 2016; WHO, 2016). In response to this alarming

scenario, many studies have been conducted in search of new therapies.

Among the articles published, many focus on the modern usage of antibacterial substances used since Antiquity. One among these is silver, which is already employed in products intended for dental care and burns and wounds healing (as silver sulfadiazine) and presents antibacterial mechanisms such as membrane disruption and DNA disrepair; however, it is recommended its formulation in the form of nanoparticle before usage in order to improve its antibacterial effect and avoid adverse ones (KIM et al., 2007; ChERNOUSOVA; EPPEL, 2012; GIBSON et al., 2014; WANG et al., 2014; GUPTA et al., 2016; GUPTA et al., 2019). Another substance studied for its antibacterial properties is honey, known today to have hydrogen peroxide, which causes oxidative stress; as well as to other antibacterial molecules obtained from the bee (like bee-defesin-1) and its floral source (such as flavonoids) (BOGDANOV, 1996; GANZ, 2003 KWAKMAN et al., 2010; BIZERRA et al., 2012; KWAKMAN; ZAAT, 2012; NOLAN et al., 2019). The diversity in antibacterial components tends to not favor resistant bacterial strains and has allowed for products such as Manuka<sup>®</sup> and Revamil<sup>®</sup> to be licensed for usage against bacterial infections (MOLAN; BETS, 2004; KWAKMAN et al., 2011; CARNWATH et al., 2014).

The fact that silver and honey can be used as antibacterial effectively is interesting because silver nanoparticles can be obtained by basification or sunlight exposure of honey solutions with silver nitrate (BAR et al., 2009, KWAKMAN et al., 2010; PHILIP, 2010; MITTAL et al., 2013; MADHU et al., 2019). Thus, this article reports the development of micro compounds with silver nanoparticles synthesized using honey as a capping and reducing agent through different methods.

## 2 | MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2.1 Acquisition of honey samples and micro compound synthesis using honey

Honeys used in for the synthesis of silver particles were obtained during the years 2018 and 2019 from hives of two bee species: the Africanized *A. mellifera* Latreille (Hymenoptera: Apidae) honeybee and the *S. bipunctata* Lepeletier 1836 (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Meliponinae) stingless bee. They were collected from a meliponary (Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Londrina-PR, Brazil) using glass syringes and metal spatulas, put in plastic tubes. Before to the conduction of synthesis protocols, they were diluted 1:1 in deionized water, sterilized through filtration with 0.22 µm filters (Millipore<sup>®</sup>), and stored at 4°C. The three different methods of silver particles production described below were performed through adaptations from the protocols described by Tagad et al. (2013), Priz (2014) and González et al. (2016).

Three prepared samples of “HAM” (“honey from *Apis mellifera*”) solution and three of “HSB” (“honey from *Scaptotrigona bipunctata*”) solution were mixed in tubes (50% vv<sup>-1</sup>) with

a solution of AgNO<sub>3</sub> (Sigma-Aldrich® Brazil) at 5 mM. Then one tube of each honey sample was exposed to sunlight for 10 minutes (“ML” – “microparticles by light”). The remaining pair of solutions were basified by adding a 1M NaOH solution until pH was 5.0 (forming “MB”- microparticles by basification), and the last pair had their pH adjusted to 10 by similar fashion (“MAB” – microparticles by aggregative basification). All solutions were mixed and left in ambient temperature for 5 minutes before storage at 4°C for 24 hours. The number of samples obtained from these protocols was six, which totalized twelve after the production of the “heated” variants through the protocol described in “microdilution assay” section.

## 2.2 Bacterial strains

The Micro dilution assays (see below) were performed against the reference bacterial reference strains: *Escherichia coli* ATCC 8739 and ATCC 25922, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 9027 and ATCC 27853, *Salmonella enterica* serovar Enteritidis ATCC 13076, *S. enterica* serovar Typhimurium UK-1, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25923 and ATCC 29213, and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* strain 1E4248. Among those strains, *S. aureus* ATCC 29213 and *E. coli* ATCC 8739 were selected as Gram-positive and Gram-negative reference strains for the antibacterial effect comparison. All strains were stored at a temperature of -20°C in Brain Heart Infusion (BHI) broth (Oxoid® Brazil) containing 20% (v/v) glycerol (Merck® Brazil).

## 2.3 Micro dilution assays with and without heating

Determination of the Minimal inhibitory concentrations (MICs) for each micro compound against the varied bacterial strains tested was based on the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI, 2017) guidelines through the microdilution method after serial dilution in 96-well plates. Thermal stability of the antibacterial properties of the compounds was verified by obtaining “heated” variants (“δ”) trough heating samplings from each type at 60 °C for 30 minutes in water bath before the microdilution and assays.

Each bacterial strain prior to the assay was cultivated in Muller Hinton (MH- Difco®) agar 24 hours before the experiment and then suspended in a sterile saline solution (NaCl 0.85%, Sigma-Aldrich® Brazil) at a concentration of  $1.5 \times 10^8$  CFU mL<sup>-1</sup> (0.5 on the McFarland scale). Aliquots of 10 µL were transferred to microtubes containing 990 µL MH (Difco®) broth. From those microtubes, aliquots containing 50 µL were plated in wells containing 50 µL MH (Difco®) broth with a sample serially diluted (for a final bacterial concentration of  $7.5 \times 10^5$  CFU mL<sup>-1</sup>). The micro compounds concentrations tested ranged from 15.625 to 500 µM; and wells without any treatment (bacterial viability control) and without bacteria (sterility control) and assays were performed in triplicate per honey samples per bacterial strain. The 96-well plates were incubated at 37 °C for 24 hours and; after incubation, the optical density values at 600 nm were determined using a Bio-Rad® Microplate Reader (model 3550), and the MIC<sub>50</sub> values were detected.

## **2.4 Antibacterial effect comparison in relation to micro compound type and bacteria**

The effect of the synthesized micro compounds on bacterial growth was compared by a time-response growth curve assay. In this assay, *E. coli* ATCC 8739 and *S. aureus* ATCC were previously cultivated in MH (Difco®) agar plates for 24 hours at 37 °C and then suspended in sterile saline (NaCl 0.85% - Sigma-Aldrich®), resulting in two saline solutions containing  $1.5 \times 10^8$  colony forming units (CFU) per mL (0.5 on the McFarland scale) of either *E. coli* or *S. aureus*. From each solution, three samples of 10 µL inoculated in a separate microtube containing 990 µL MH (Difco®) broth solutions and with a type of micro compound at the chosen concentration of 125 µM.

The microtubes were incubated at a temperature of 37°C for 7 hours. At four time points (0, 2, 4, and 7 hours after incubation), a portion of 100 µL from each sample was collected and serially diluted ten-fold in microtubes with MH (Difco®) broth. From these dilutions, three samples of 10 µL from each were inoculated in MH (Difco®) agar media plates. Lastly, those plates were cultivated at 37°C for 18 hours and formed colonies formed were counted.

## **2.5 Scanning electron microscopy of sample nanoparticles and bacteria affected by nanoparticle treatment**

Before preparation of the microscopy slides, 1 mL of selected nanoparticle solutions (HAM ML, HAM MAB, HSB ML and HSB MAB) had their excess honey removed by centrifugation for one hour at 24°C and 3,000 g. The resulting pellets were then resuspended in 1 mL of deionized water. For the preparation of the bacterial samples slides to be analyzed by SEM, 10 µL *E. coli* aliquots at  $1.5 \times 10^8$  CFU concentration were inoculated in microtubes with 990 µL solution of MH broth with selected nanoparticles (both heated and non-heated) solution at 125 µM. Afterwards, those samples were incubated for 4 hours at 37°C, centrifuged four times at 1,000 g, 3,000 g and twice at 7,000 g (each 5 minutes long and all at 24°C), and resuspended 100 µL of deionized water. From each sample, 10 µL were collected and deposited in different polylysine-coated (1%) glass slide inside wells and submitted to the four stages of slide preparation: fixation, post-fixation, dehydration and critical point drying.

The first step, fixation, was performed right after the sample dried in the slide by immersing the slide overnight at 4°C in a 0.1 M cacodylate buffer solution with 2% glutaraldehyde and 2% paraformaldehyde. In the next morning, for the post-fixation stage, the buffer was removed and replaced by 1% OsO<sub>4</sub> solution and left in room temperature for two hours. Afterwards, the slides were dehydrated through submersion in gradient ethanol solution (70, 80, 90, and 100°GL). Lastly, the samples were submitted critical point dehydration using CO<sub>2</sub> BALTEC CPD 030 Critical Point Dryer) and then coated in gold using the Baltec SCD Super Cotter. The ensuing slides were observed with a scanning electron

microscope (FEI Quanta 200) and images taken were analyzed with Image J.

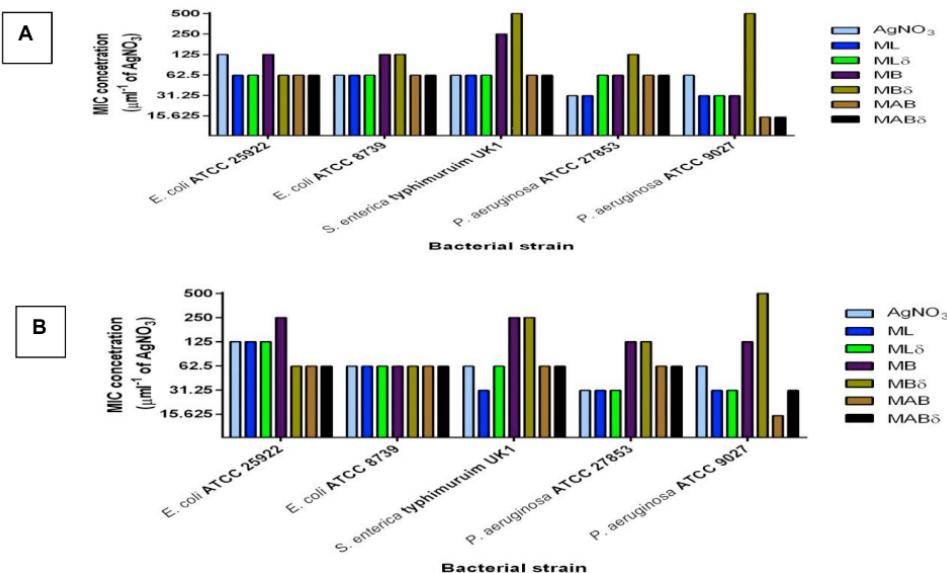
## 2.6 Statistical analysis

Data collected from the time-kill curve assay were analyzed by one-way ANOVA and differences between CFU logarithm means of the same bacteria submitted to different treatments were determined using Tukey's range test or the Chi-square test ( $\alpha = 5\%$ ). Comparison between the CFU among *S. aureus* and *E. coli* treated with the same HAM micro compound was made in similar manner, however the logarithm CFU average of either initial timestamp (time= 0) were subtracted from logarithm of CFU averages from each subsequent timestamps; followed by paired t-test analysis. All tests were performed with the statistical programs GraphPad Prism version 6.02 and BioEstat version 5.3.

## 3 | RESULTS

### 3.1 MIC assay of micro compounds

Figures 1A and 1B display Minimal Inhibitory Concentrations (MICs) of HAM and HSB micro compounds against Gram negative bacterial ATCC strains compared to treatment with  $\text{AgNO}_3$ , while Figures 1C and 1D display the MIC concentrations of the same compounds against Gram positive strains.



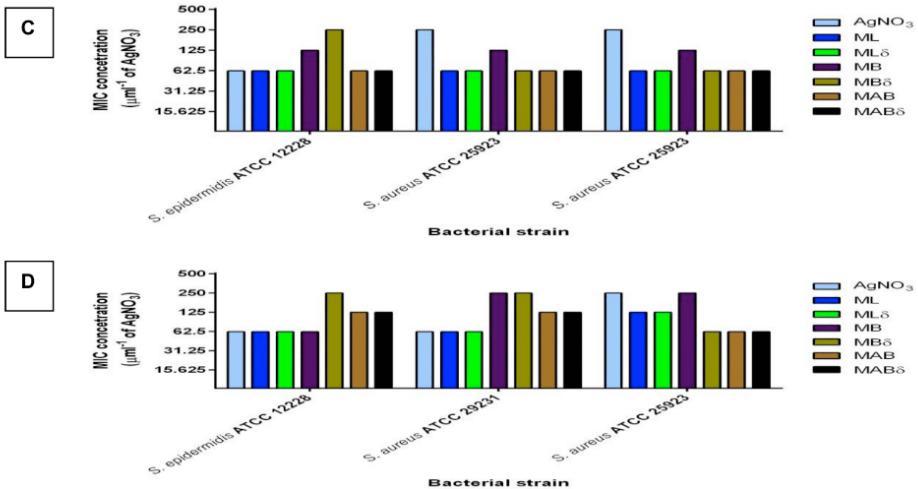


Figure. 1C and 1D Minimal Inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of  $\text{AgNO}_3$  micro compounds produced with honey collected from *Apis mellifera* honeybees (C) or *Scaptotrigona bipunctata* stingless bees (D) against American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) Gram-positive bacterial strains. Notes: MIC concentrations are separated by according to the combinations bacteria and microparticles type tested. Abbreviations:  $\text{AgNO}_3$ , Silver nitrate; ATCC, American Type Culture Collection; HAM, Honey samples collected from *Apis mellifera* honey honeycombs; HSB, Honey samples collected from *Scaptotrigona bipunctata* honeycombs; ML, micro compound obtained by light exposure; MB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 5; MAB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 10;  $\mu\text{M}$ , micromolar,  $\delta$ , heated variant of micro compound.

The MICs obtained varied between 31 to 250  $\mu\text{M}$ , and the concentration of 62.5  $\mu\text{M}$  was the modal MIC. Mean MIC of HAM micro compounds tested against the Gram-negative strains was 98.6  $\mu\text{M}$ ; while mean MIC for HSB micro compounds was 98.1  $\mu\text{M}$ . Against the Gram-positive strains, the average MIC of HAM and HSB micro compounds were 96.9  $\mu\text{M}$  and 124.8  $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively. Mean MIC for treatments with silver nitrate ( $\text{AgNO}_3$ ) against the Gram-negative strains calculated was 56.0  $\mu\text{M}$ ; and 124.7  $\mu\text{M}$  against the Gram-positive ones.

### 3.2 Antibacterial effect comparison in relation to synthesis type and bacteria

The effects of HAM micro compounds on the bacterial growth kinetics of *E. coli* ATCC 8739 and *S. aureus* ATCC 29213 up to 7 hours are shown in the Figure 2.

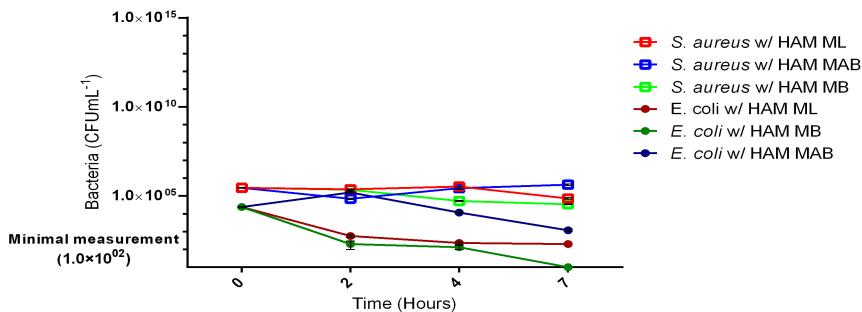


Figure 2. Time-kill curves of *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 29231 and *Escherichia coli* ATCC 8739 exposed to HAM microparticles. Notes: Time-kill curves are nominated after the bacteria exposed to antibacterial treatment, honey samples used in micro compound synthesis and method of synthesis.

All micro compound treatments were at 125  $\mu$ M. Abbreviations: CFU, colony forming units; HAM, Honey samples collected from *Apis mellifera* honey honeycombs; HSB, Honey samples collected from *Scaptotrigona bipunctata* honeycombs; MAB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 10; MB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 5; ML, microparticles obtained by light exposure.

Effects are analyzed based on CFU counts in determined timestamps and results are displayed in number of colony forming units per milliliter ( $\text{CFU mL}^{-1}$ ). The Gram-negative strain (*E. coli* ATCC 8739) demonstrated a higher sensitivity than the Gram-positive one (*S. aureus* ATCC 29213), as the corrected CFU average of *E. coli* was significantly lower than the corrected *S. aureus* CFU, except for the HAM MAB micro compound after two hours of incubation. In relation to the comparison between treatments, as shown in Tables 1A and B, usage of ML micro compounds resulted in the significantly lowest CFU counts; while MAB microparticles presented a more limited antibacterial effect.

(A)

Synthesis	Time (in hours)		
	2	4	7
ML	B	B	B
MB	C	B	C
MAB	A	A	A

(B)

Synthesis	Time (in hours)		
	2	4	7
ML	A	A	B
MB	A	B	C

MAB	B	A	A
Notes: ANOVA analysis results of CFU exposed to micro compound treatments are displayed in the form of ranks. It was attributed to the highest CFU average in a given timestamp the rank "A", and to each significantly lower mean was attributed the next letter as its rank. All micro compound treatments were at 125 $\mu$ M. Abbreviations: MAB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 10; MB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 5; ML, micro compound obtained by light exposure.			

Tables 1A and 1B. ANOVA rankings of CFU obtained from *Escherichia coli* ATCC 8738 (A) and *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 29231 (B) submitted to different HAM microparticles.

### 3.3 SEM images of centrifuged particles inside micro compounds and measurements

From the SEM images taken at a magnification of 20.000x, silver microparticles formation inside the micro compounds obtained through different methods can be seen in the panel depicted in Figure 3. Average size (established as the equivalent circular diameter) among the silver particles inside all types of micro compounds varied between 100 and 150 nm. Thus the particles inside the micro compounds can be considered a mixture nanoparticles and fine particles according to international organizations (EU, 2011; FDA 2014). The other panel (Figure 4) show bacteria presenting blebs after being growth in media containing ML or MB micro compounds, regardless of which honey samples was used in the synthesis process.

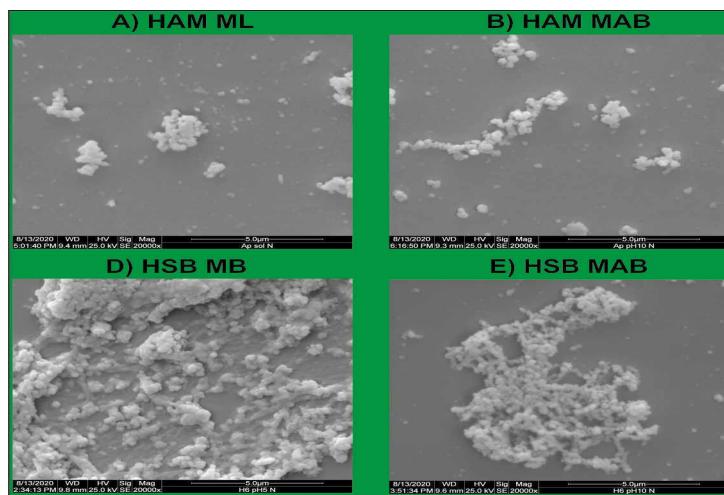


Figure 3. Selected Scanning Electron Microscopy of micro compounds containing silver particles at 20,000x magnification. Abbreviations: HAM, Honey samples collected from *Apis mellifera* honey honeycombs; HSB, Honey samples collected from *Scaptotrigona bipunctata* honeycombs; MAB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 10; MB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 5; ML, micro compound obtained by light exposure.

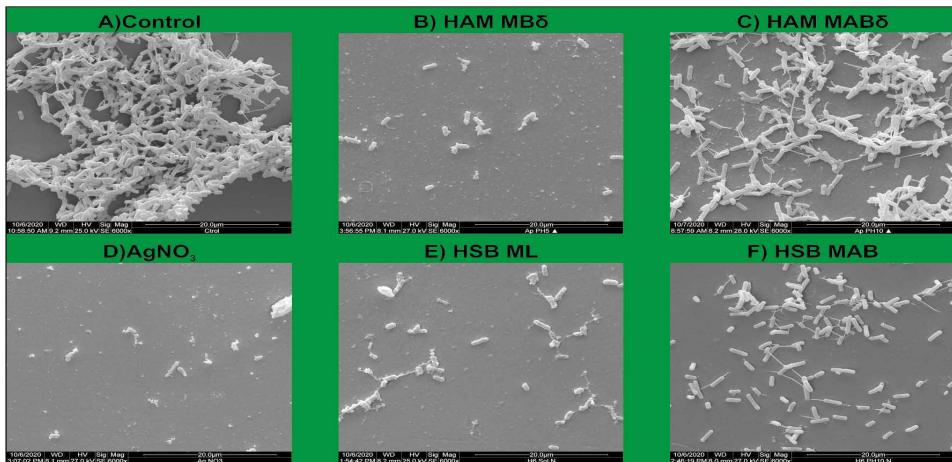


Figure 4. Selected Scanning Electron Microscopy of *Escherichia coli* ATCC 8739 cultivated with micro compounds at 20000x magnification. Notes: Images are nominated after which micro compound

*Escherichia coli* ATCC 8739 was exposed to. All micro compound treatments were at 125  $\mu\text{M}$ . The bacteria in the “Control” image were not exposed to any treatment, while bacteria in the “AgNO<sub>3</sub>” were exposed to silver nitrate at 125  $\mu\text{M}$ . Abbreviations: AgNO<sub>3</sub>, Silver nitrate; Control, bacteria not subjected HAM, Honey samples collected from *Apis mellifera* honey honeycombs; HSB, Honey samples collected from *Scaptotrigona bipunctata* honeycombs; MAB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 10; MB, micro compound obtained by adjusting pH to 5; ML, micro compound obtained by light exposure; δ, heated variant of micro compound was used.

## 4 | DISCUSSION

The obtained MIC concentrations of all non-centrifuged micro compounds (Figures 1A Through 1D) varied between 15 and 250  $\mu\text{M}$  even among the heated variants (which, given the methodology deployed, means 1.62-27  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  of silver is present in the compounds at MIC); while the size of nanoparticles inside them varied between 100 and 150 nm (Figure 3). This concentration range is similar to findings regarding MIC concentrations of nanoparticles which are described having similar sizes and are shown to be effective antibacterial in literature, and thus these results allude to a promising result for the micro compounds synthesized (HAJIPOUR et al., 2012; KHAN, 2012; TAGAD et al., 2013; PRIZ, 2014; GONZÁLEZ et al., 2016; ESCÁRCEGA-GONZÁLEZ et al., 2018). However, the time-kill curve assay reveals more nuances and differences to the antibacterial effect (Figure 2).

In accordance to the MIC findings, all treatments presented for seven hours an antibacterial effect at least bacteriostatic. Additionally, the Gram-negative bacteria (*E. coli*) was more sensitive to the micro compound treatments than the Gram-positive one (*S. aureus*), which were which corroborates to current literature (BAEK; AN, 2011; ASHKARRAN et al., 2012; HAJIPOUR et al., 2012; LAGBAS et al., 2015). Additionally, this finding advocates for micro compounds usage against bacterial infections in isolation as well as in combination because other studies have established Gram-negative bacteria to be more resistant to other antibacterial substances (including novel antibacterials) (ASHKARRAN et al., 2012;

LAGBAS; PELISCO; RIEGO, 2015; NISHIO et al., 2015; JIMENEZ et al., 2016; GUPTA et al., 2019; CLÉBIS et al., 2019).

The time-kill curve assay (Figure 2) also demonstrates MB micro compounds to be more effective than comparison to ML; and MAB micro compounds to be the least effective. This is corroborated in the SEM images of bacteria after micro compound treatments, which show a greater amount of cellular damage in cases which *E. coli* was subjected to treatments with ML or MB (Figure 4). While the antibacterial properties described in this work differs greatly from those described for honey, high degrees of basicity also compromise stability of antibacterial molecules such as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and thus the data found indicate that honey might partially contribute to the antibacterial effect could be related to the of the antibacterial effect of the MAB micro compound (NISHIO et al., 2015 CLÉBIS et al., 2019; BRUDZYNSKI 2020.). Therefore, micro compounds obtained through different protocols were shown by the experiments performed to present differences in their effect against bacteria.

In conclusion, the data here describes the synthesis of micro compounds containing silver through usage of two honey samples and their clinical potential against bacterial and present antibacterial effect. The types of micro compounds obtained also demonstrated significant differences in their effect against bacteria, which warrant further studies as well as reveal new possibilities for clinical treatments.

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## ÍNDICE REMISSIVO

### A

Abelhas 194, 208, 209, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 226, 228, 229, 248

Adubação 3, 11, 24, 30, 76, 106, 107, 108, 112, 113, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121

Algumas marinhas 63, 64, 65, 66, 67

### C

Cacau 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62

Cana-de-açúcar 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 99, 100, 101, 103, 214

Carne bovina 185, 186, 187, 192, 193

Coleta seletiva 245, 248, 249

Colheita mecanizada 16, 18, 99, 100, 103

Composto 63, 75, 176

Conscientização ambiental 240, 245

Crescimento 2, 5, 17, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 52, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 82, 104, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 118, 130, 132, 158, 159, 163, 171, 195, 216, 223, 230, 237, 242

### D

Densidade 1, 2, 4, 6, 27, 38, 41, 59, 60, 112, 210, 220

Doenças 2, 3, 11, 26, 42, 45, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 65, 180, 218

### F

Fertilizantes 5, 64, 106, 107, 108, 109, 112, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 133

Fósforo 3, 11, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35

### G

Genótipos 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 34, 108

Germinação 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 37, 44, 74, 76

### I

Incubação 47, 155, 160, 161, 162

Indicadores 38, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 98, 99, 119, 187, 192

Inibidores 106, 107, 108, 109, 115, 116, 119

### M

Mel 195, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 218, 219, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 229

Meristema 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 110

Milho 19, 40, 54, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121

## O

Ovelha 165, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171

## P

Pinus 91, 92, 93

Plantas daninhas 10, 11, 104, 227

Produtividade 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 27, 34, 36, 41, 60, 63, 66, 93, 106, 107, 108, 111, 112, 113, 114, 118, 120, 123, 124, 129, 132, 140, 157, 216, 218, 223

## R

Reforma agrária 230, 231, 232, 234

## S

Sementes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 24, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 54, 60, 64, 73, 74, 75, 76, 79, 80, 222, 235, 236, 237, 238

Sistemas agroflorestais 56, 57, 58, 61

Sistemas agroindustriais 122, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 134, 136, 137, 138

Soja 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 110

Substratos 73, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80

## T

Tecnologia 8, 10, 19, 54, 64, 66, 107, 108, 116, 118, 192, 193, 227, 252

Turismo rural 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244

## V

Vagem 2, 17

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