


Named unexpected use of tobacco

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Infections are considered a major public health problem.

Scientists at the La Trobe University in Australia showed that the protein contained in plants ornamental tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), has properties that make it useful in the fight against infectious diseases, including those that are caused by Golden staph, HIV, zika virus and encephalitis viruses.

Detailed images revealing the atomic structure of objects and obtained at the Australian synchrotron showed that the peptide NaD1 destroys the outer layer of cells of the fungus *Candida albicans*, which causes dangerous diseases in people with immune deficiencies, and cause the death of microorganism. This mechanism differs from the principle of action of antibiotics, to which the fungus developing resistance.

According to the researchers, infections are one of the major health problems, since they account for approximately one in every eight deaths in the world. It is projected that over the next 30 years, the mortality rate for this reason will grow due to the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

In 2014, the same group of scientists have determined that NaD1 is also able to kill cancer cells. In addition, it is known that in the flowers of ornamental tobacco synthesize other molecules possessing anti-fungal properties.