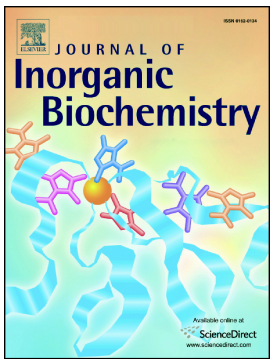

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Anti-*Leishmania* activity of new ruthenium(II) complexes: effect on parasite-host interaction

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Abstract. Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease caused by protozoa of the genus *Leishmania*. The many complications presented by the current treatment – including high toxicity, high cost and parasite resistance – make the development of new therapeutic agents indispensable. The present study aims to evaluate the anti-*Leishmania* potential of new ruthenium(II) complexes, cis-$[Ru^{II}(\eta^2\text{-}O_2CR)(dppm)_2]PF_6$, with dppm = bis(diphenylphosphino)methane and R= 4-butylbenzoate (bbato) **1**, 4-