

ABSTRACT

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Title: *Stevia rebaudiana* – food and pharmaceutical industry applications

The first part of this thesis deals with the description of the plant and its substances, the most important are steviolglycosides, especially stevioside and rebaudioside A. In the following chapter, the toxicity and safety are evaluated, which is directly related to the use of stevia and steviolglycosides in food and pharmaceutical practice. In the next part, the utilization in the food industry and connected legislation is described. The harmfulness of the refined sugar is outlined as well. Application in the pharmacy is not so widespread, therefore this chapter deals primarily with the effects of steviolglycosides.

Stevia rebaudiana Bertoni and steviolglycosides have great potential to replace sugar and other sweeteners. Due to their beneficial effects, they are very popular among researchers, so we can look forward to their widespread application in food and pharmaceutical industry in the near future.

Key words: steviolglycosides, stevioside, rebaudioside A, sugar, pharmaceutical industry, food industry