

# Humulus lupulus L.

High-quality dry extract standardised in xanthohumol (X)+ isoxanthohumol (IX)

*Humulus lupulus* L., Hops, hemp family (Cannabaceae), is a **dioecious, climbing vine**, native to temperate Eurasia, whose **female inflorescences** (cones or strobiles) have been used to **flavor beer** since the 11th century. It is **traditionally used** as a **digestive aid** and to **promote relaxation and sleep**, but also **for menopausal symptoms**.



Hops contains:

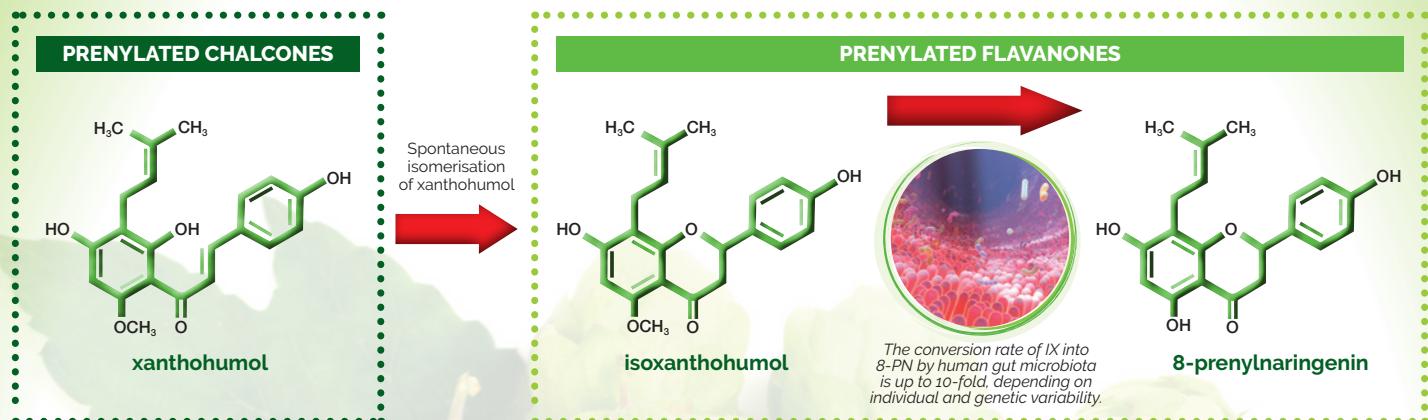
- **Flavonoids**
- **Tannins**
- **Essential oil Bitter acids**  
(humulone and lupolone)
- **Prenylated chalcones**  
**and flavanones** (phytoestrogens)

The **reduction of estrogens** during **menopause**, in addition to causing disturbances (**hot flashes, night sweats, sleep disorders, mood swings, and fatigue**), increases the **risk of serious diseases**, such as **metabolic syndrome** and **cardiovascular disease**. **Phytoestrogens** may represent a **green alternative** to **hormone replacement therapy** (HRT).

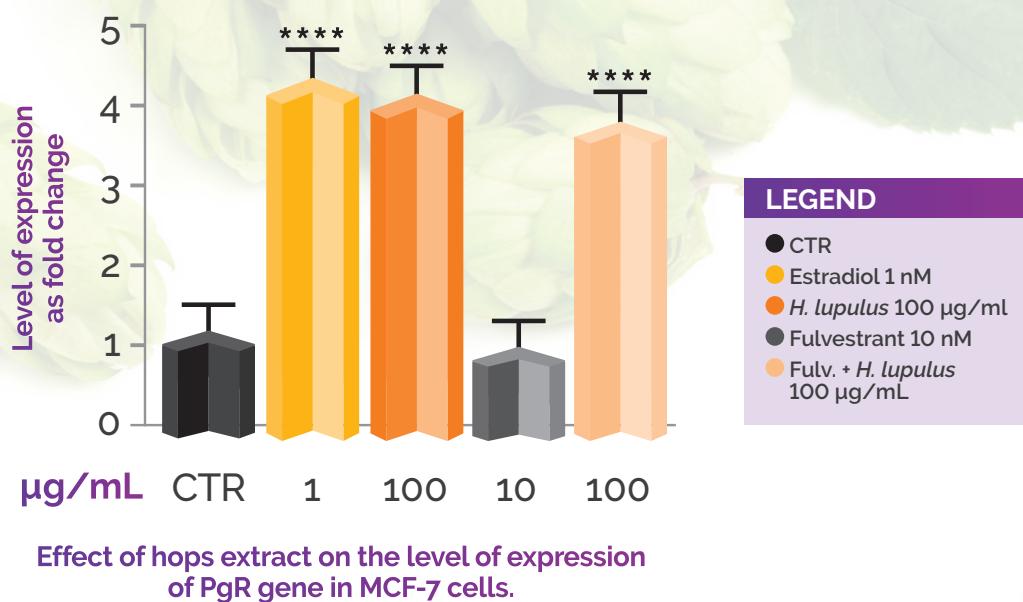


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**8-prenylnaringenine** (8-PN) is a **natural phytoestrogen**; similar to endogenous 17- $\beta$ -estradiol, it can bind to **ER receptors** and is **10 times more potent than cumestrol** and **100 times more potent than ginestein**, the main soy and red clover phytoestrogens; hops contains small quantities of 8-PN, but **it forms *in vivo***, converting its precursors **xanthohumol** and the isomer **isoxanthohumol**, through **gut microbiota**.



The **pro-estrogenic effect** of the **hops dry extract standardised in X+IX** has been tested *in vitro* on a **breast cancer cell line** (MCF-7) (data to be published).



At a concentration of 100  $\mu$ g/mL, **hops extract significantly increased mRNA expression of the PgR gene**, reaching nearly the same level as the positive control (estradiol 1 nM), also in the case of pretreatment with the antagonist **fulvestrant**.

