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**Ethnobotany, therapeutic value, phytochemistry and conservation status of
Bowiea volubilis: a widely used bulbous plant in southern Africa**

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Abstract

Ethnopharmacological relevance: *Bowiea volubilis* Harv. ex Hook.f. (Family: Asparagaceae) is a bulbous medicinal plant widely used against numerous ailments including headache, muscular pains, infertility, cystitis and venereal diseases in southern Africa.

Aim of the review: To provide a critical and updated review of *Bowiea volubilis* with regards to its abundance, medicinal importance, conservation status and potential means to sustain its availability for future generations.

Methods: A comprehensive literature search using online databases such as Web of Science, Google Scholar, Scopus and Springerlink as well as ethnobotanical literature was done in order to obtain, collate, synthesize and critically analyze available information on *Bowiea volubilis*.

Results: On the basis of its wide distribution in many Provinces in South Africa, *Bowiea volubilis* has a long history of applications among different ethnic groups. These applications

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