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The role of endemic plants in Mauritian folkloric medicine - Therapeutic efficacy or placebo effect?

Nawraj Rummun^{1,2}, Vidushi S. Neergheen-Bhujun^{1,2*}, Kersley B. Pynee³, Cláudia Baider³, Theeshan Bahorun^{1*}

¹**ANDI Centre of Excellence for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research, University of Mauritius, Réduit, Mauritius**

²**Department of Health Sciences, Faculty of Science University of Mauritius, Réduit, Mauritius**

³**The Mauritius Herbarium, Agricultural Services, Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Réduit, Mauritius**

v.neergheen@uom.ac.mu

tbahorun@uom.ac.mu

* Corresponding Authors

Abstract

Ethnopharmacological relevance:

The Mauritian endemic flora has been recorded to be used as medicinal for nearly 300 years. Despite acceptance of these endemic plants among the local population, proper documentation of their therapeutic uses is scarce. This review aims at summarizing documented traditional uses of Mauritian endemic plants with existing scientific data of their alleged bioactivities, showing there is a need for more stringent evidence-based validations for clinical efficacy.

Material and Methods:

We made a comprehensive bibliographic search of Mauritian endemic plants on ethnobotanical textbooks, regional and local herbal pharmacopeia and dissertations and theses, concurrently with screening of peer-reviewed journals. Available data on the usage of Mauritian endemic plants in the folklore medicine and scientific investigation were correlated.

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