

Plant species as a medicinal resource in Igatu–Chapada Diamantina (Bahia, Brazil)

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Background

Ethnobotanical and ethnopharmacological studies are important for documenting traditional knowledge and have contributed to the discovery of many plant-derived drugs.

Objectives: This study aims to document the medicinal plant use in the community of Igatu (Bahia, Brazil), as well as determining species with bioprospecting potential.

Methods

The ethnobotanical data were collected using semi-structured interviews. Recorded plants are listed along with their popular name, traditional use, part used, method of preparation and use value (UV). The informant consensus factor (ICF) and fidelity level (FL) of the plants were also determined.

Results

A total of 80 species belonging to 73 genera and 36 families were cited. Lamiaceae (27.8 %), Fabaceae (25.0 %), and Asteraceae (19.4 %) families are of greater importance. Leaves were found to be the most frequently used plant part, while infusion was the major

form of preparation. The largest number of medicinal species was indicated for diseases of the digestive system. According to UV the most important species were *Lantana camara* L. (2.88) and *Polygala multiceps* Mart. ex A.W. Benn. (2.75). ICF values obtained reflect the agreement on the use of plants for the treatment of diseases of eye and adnexa, neoplasm-tumours, and endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases.

Conclusions

Plants with high UV, ICF and FL values are good candidates for further pharmacological and phytochemical investigations in the search for new drugs. A comparison of the results in plants with high UV with other studies showed that some of the traditional indications are supported by available data from scientific literature.

Keywords Traditional knowledge, Ethnobotany, Ethnopharmacology, Chapada Diamantina