

RESEARCH

Open Access

Ethnopharmacological survey among migrants living in the Southeast Atlantic Forest of Diadema, São Paulo, Brazil

Daniel Garcia^{1*}, Marcus Vinicius Domingues¹, Eliana Rodrigues²

Abstract

Background: Understanding how people of diverse cultural backgrounds have traditionally used plants and animals as medicinal substances during displacements is one of the most important objectives of ethnopharmacological studies. An ethnopharmacological survey conducted among migrants living in the Southeast Atlantic Forest remnants (Diadema, São Paulo, Brazil) is presented herein.

Methods: Ethnographical methods were used to select and interview the migrants, and botanical and zoological techniques were employed to collect the indicated resources.

Results: We interviewed five migrants who described knowledge on 12 animals and 85 plants. Only 78 plants were present in Diadema, they belong to 37 taxonomic families; 68 were used exclusively for medicinal purposes, whereas 10 were reported to be toxic and/or presented some restriction of use. These taxa were grouped into 12 therapeutic categories (e.g., gastrointestinal disturbances, inflammatory processes or respiratory problems) based on the 41 individual complaints cited by the migrants. While the twelve animal species were used by the migrants to treat nine complaints; these were divided into six categories, the largest of which related to respiratory problems. None of the animal species and only 57 of the 78 plant species analysed in the present study were previously reported in the pharmacological literature; the popular knowledge concurred with academic findings for 30 of the plants. The seven plants [*Impatiens hawkeri* W. Bull., *Artemisia canphorata* Vill., *Equisetum arvensis* L., *Senna pendula* (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) H.S. Irwin & Barneby, *Zea mays* L., *Fevillea passiflora* Vell. and *Croton fuscescens* Spreng]] and the two animals (*Atta sexdens* and *Periplaneta americana*) that showed maintenance of use among migrants during their displacement in Brazilian territory, have not been studied by pharmacologists yet.

Conclusions: Thus, they should be highlighted and focused in further pharmacology and phytochemical studies, since the persistence of their uses can be indicative of bioactive potentials.

Background

Cultural mixing mediated by the migration of people around the world has generated increasing interest in recent years within the field of ethnopharmacology [1]. Medicinal plants have been used by human societies throughout history, also across geographical barriers [2]. The continuous use of certain plants and animals for medicinal purposes over time reflects their potential therapeutic value. Such substances become even more promising when they are persistently used by migrating

human groups despite the considerable distances travelled and the consequent exposure to different cultures and vegetal resources. Numerous studies have collected information on medicinal plants from ethnic groups who migrated from Mexico to the U.S.A. [3,4]; from Haiti to Cuba [5]; from Africa to South America [6]; from Africa to Brazil [7]; from Colombia to London [8]; from Suriname to the Netherlands [9]; from Albania to southern Italy [10,11]; from Germany to eastern Italy [12]; and from Europe and Africa to eastern Cuba [1,13]. However, few studies have focused on migration within a country, such as that described by Rodrigues et al. [14] regarding migrants from northeastern Brazil who currently occupy the southeast.

* Correspondence: danielgarciafic@hotmail.com

¹Department of Biology, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Rua Arthur Ridel, 275 CEP, 09941-510, Diadema, S.P., Brazil

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Brazil offers a favourable environment for studies focused on migration and medicinal plants/animals because it possesses a large area of 8,514,876.599 km² [15] and boasts high indices of cultural and biological diversity. Brazil is inhabited by rural and urban populations of 232 indigenous ethnic groups [16], 1,342 Quilombola groups (descendants of Afro-Brazilian people) [17], and mestizo groups derived from the miscegenation of Indian, Black, European and Asiatic people. Brazil also houses 55,000 species of higher plants [18] and almost 7% of global animal diversity was described (ca. 100,000 out of 1.5 million), though some estimates suggest that this number is significantly higher [19]. Migration between regions of this country encourages contact with the rich biological and cultural diversity and allows interpersonal interactions that contribute to the transformation of local medicinal therapies.

According to Simões and Lino [20], the original Atlantic Forest covered approximately 1.3 million km², spanning 17 Brazilian states from south to northeast; however, it currently covers only 14 states, and its area has been reduced to 65,000 km². Despite considerable fragmentation, the Atlantic Forest still contains more than 20,000 plant species (8,000 endemic) and 1,361 animal species (567 endemic). It is the richest forest in the world in wood plants per unit area; the southern Bahia, for example, holds a record of 454 different species/ha [21].

The objective of this study was to perform an ethnopharmacological survey among migrants from northeastern and southeastern Brazil who currently live in Atlantic Forest remnants in the municipality of Diadema (São Paulo state, southeastern Brazil). We attempted to understand how the medicinal use of certain plant and animal changed as a result of the migrants' contact with new therapies, diseases and natural resources found in Diadema. These findings were classified as either: maintenance, replacement, incorporation or discontinuation of plants/animals use.

These objectives are in agreement with several stated goals of ethnopharmacology, namely, to investigate how migration can influence knowledge of medicinal plants/animals, the extent to which displaced people incorporate new species into their therapeutic methods, and, in particular, why individuals sometimes persistently adhere to old customs, before or even after they are exposed to new possibilities. Therefore, we adopt the hypothesis that the use of plants/animals as medicines is influenced by migratory movements, and access to natural resources available in the municipality of Diadema.

Methodology

Fieldwork

One of the authors (D. Garcia) spent 14 months (September 2007 to November 2008) in the municipality of

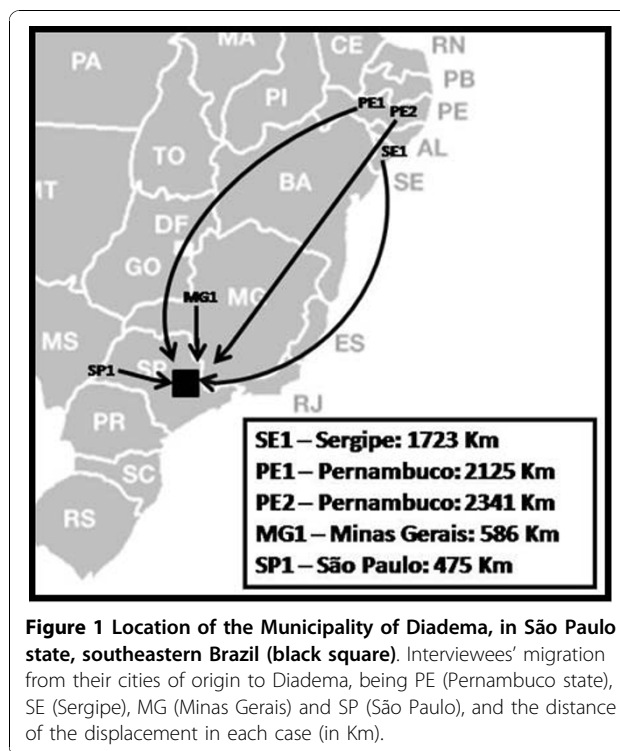


Figure 1 Location of the Municipality of Diadema, in São Paulo state, southeastern Brazil (black square). Interviewees' migration from their cities of origin to Diadema, being PE (Pernambuco state), SE (Sergipe), MG (Minas Gerais) and SP (São Paulo), and the distance of the displacement in each case (in Km).

Diadema, São Paulo, SP, Brazil (23°41'10"S, 46°37'22"W) (Figure 1), selecting, observing and interviewing migrants living in the Atlantic Forest remnants. Diadema is located 16 kilometres from the capital São Paulo, covers an area of 30.65 km², and is occupied by 394,266 inhabitants [15], most of whom are migrants from other regions of Brazil. The municipality has a literacy rate of 6.8% [22], and its Human Development Index is 0.79 [23]. The Atlantic Forest remnants found in this city are rich in plants that are either native or introduced by the influence of those migrants present both in urban and rural areas.

Migrants who had relevant knowledge regarding the use of plants and animals for medicinal purposes were selected for interviews following the purposive sampling method [24]. Thus, we sought information about the presence of migrants from herb traders, health care professionals, and some local prayer-makers. According to Bernard [24], this sampling is also known as judgment sampling, utilized during qualitative research in particular in those populations that are difficult to be localized, the researcher selects interviewees based on their trial that they meet the criteria for the study of the phenomenon of interest. After identifying potential interviewees, the researcher visited them to determine whether they did indeed possess knowledge on medicinal plants and whether they wanted to take part in this study. The ethnopharmacological study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Universidade Federal de São Paulo

(UNIFESP's Ethics Committee on Research 1969/07) and Conselho de Gestão do Patrimônio Genético (No. 02000.001 049/2008-71). The interviewees also signed consent forms granting permission to access their knowledge and collect botanical and zoological material.

Personal and ethnopharmacological data from the interviewees were obtained through informal and semi-structured interviews [24] that addressed the following topics: personal details and migration history (name, sex, age, religion, marital status, place of birth, migration, main occupation, grade of schooling) as well as ethnopharmacology (name of natural resource, use, part used, formula, route of administration, contraindications, dosages, restrictions of use). The author (D. Garcia) has visited each interviewee at least 12 times, in order to fill in the forms mentioned above, as well as to understand their processes of acquiring knowledge in depth.

Each medicinal plant was collected in the presence of the person who described it during the interviews, in accordance with the methods suggested by Lipp [25]. The plants' scientific names were determined by specialists from the Instituto de Botânica do Estado de São Paulo (IB), and vouchers were deposited at the Herbário Municipal de São Paulo (PMSP). The animals collected were placed in glass vials containing 70% ethyl alcohol, and their subsequent identification and deposit were performed by zoologists from the Museum of Zoology, Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP) and the Bioscience Institute from Universidade de São Paulo (IB-USP).

When interviewees cited plants and animals that were used only in their cities of origin, i.e., not available in Diadema, photos from the literature and other information (e.g., popular name, habits and habitat) were used to identify them to at least the genus level. These organisms are marked with asterisks throughout the text and in Table 1. *The Herpetofauna of the Northeast Atlantic Forest* [26] and *The Herpetofauna of Caatingas and Altitudes Areas of the Brazilian Northeast* [27] were used as identification guides. For plants, we also consulted *Medicinal Plants in Brazil - Native and Exotic* [28].

Database survey

For the plants and animals identified to the species level, we searched the bibliographic databases PUBMED [29] and SCIFINDER [30] to determine whether they had been targets of previous pharmacological studies. To determine the origin of each plant species, we consulted the *Dictionary of Useful Plants: exotic and native* [31].

Dynamics of use

During our field work, we made an effort to understand the dynamics of use for each resource and classified them into the following four categories: *maintenance of use* (resource used for the same purpose in the migrant's

city of origin and in Diadema), *replacement* (resources that were replaced when migrants arrived in Diadema because the original product was not available in Diadema or was less effective than the new resource), *incorporation* (resources used for the first time in Diadema to treat diseases common to larger cities, such as hypertension, diabetes and anxiety, which were not common in their homeland), and finally *discontinued use* (resources that are no longer used in Diadema, usually because they are not available).

Data analysis

The level of homogeneity between plant information provided by different migrants was calculated using the Informants' Consensus Factor, *Fic* [32]. This term is calculated as $Fic = Nur - Nt / (Nur - 1)$, where *Nur* is the number of use reports from informants for a particular plant-usage category and *Nt* is the number of taxa or species used for that plant usage category across all informants. Values range between 0 and 1, with 1 indicating the highest level of informant consent. For instance, if certain taxa are consistently used by informants, then a high degree of consensus is reached and medicinal traditions are viewed as well-defined [33].

Results and Discussion

Migrant Interviews

Despite the fact that Diadema is composed by thousands of migrants, we observed that only a few have retained traditional knowledge pertaining to medicinal plants and animals. Some considerations should be made, in order to justify our decision of conducting a qualitative approach, in depth, with the sample of interviewees obtained during the two months prior to the start of the study. During this time we observed that in many cases, this knowledge has fallen into disuse because of: a) a cultural adaptation to the new city, b) the ease of conventional medical care, c) forest degradation, which restricts use of local plants and animals, furthermore d) many migrants have shown concern to participate in the study, since in the past they suffered persecution from government agencies and physicians, who eventually restrained their medical practice.

The five selected interviewees migrated from northeast and southeast Brazil and established themselves in Diadema in the 1940 s. Three were born in the northeast: two in Pernambuco state (coded as PE1 and PE2) and one in Sergipe state (SE1). The two remaining migrants were born in the southeast: one in Minas Gerais state (MG1) and one in inland São Paulo state (SP1) (Figure 1). All interviewees were Catholic, married and retired, with the exception of PE1 and PE2 who sell medicinal plants. Their average age was approximately 68 years old (ranging from 53 to 80 years old), and their level of

Table 1 The 12 animals indicated by migrant PE2, their popular and scientific names, complaints (part used), formula and route of administration

Popular name ^{dynamic of use}	Scientific name or only genus (family/class) Voucher	Complaint (part used) - formula - route of administration
1- Snake (cobra) ^o	<i>Chironius</i> sp., <i>Liophis</i> sp. (Colubridae/Reptilia)* or <i>Bothrops</i> sp. (Viperidae/Reptilia)*	Bronchitis (skin) - powder - ingested
2- Rattlesnake (cascavel) ^o	<i>Crotalus</i> cf. <i>durissus</i> L. (Viperidae/Reptilia)*	Back pain (fat) - in natura - ingested Bronchitis (rattle) - tie it in the neck - topic Heart problems (tooth) - put it in the pocket of shirt
3- Cururu frog (sapo-cururu) ^o	<i>Rhinella</i> sp. (Bufonidae/Amphibia)*	Cancer of skin (whole animal) - in natura: tie it on the cancer for some time each day - topic
4- Alligator (jacaré) ^o	<i>Crocodylus</i> sp., <i>Cayman</i> sp. or <i>Paleosuchus</i> sp. (Alligatoridae/Reptilia)*	Apoplexy (skin) - syrup of skin powder - ingested Bronchitis (bone) - powder - ingested
5- Turtle (tartaruga) ^o	<i>Geochelone</i> sp. (Testudinidae/Reptilia)*	Bronchitis and asthma - (turtleshell) - powder - ingested
6- Capybara (capivara) ^o	<i>Hydrochoerus</i> cf. <i>hydrochaeris</i> L. (Hydrochaeridae/Mammalia)*	Bronchitis and asthma - (skin) - powder - ingested
7-Iguana (iguana) ^o	<i>Iguana</i> cf. <i>iguana</i> L. (Iguanidae/Reptilia) *	Osteoporosis and rheumatism (bone) - powder - ingested
8- Ant (formiga) [□]	<i>Atta sexdens</i> L. (Formicidae/Insecta) Garcia 001	Epilepsy (anthill) - in natura - ingested
9- Cockroach (barata) [□]	<i>Periplaneta americana</i> L. (Blattidae/Insecta) Garcia 002	Bronchitis and asthma (whole animal) - powder - ingested
10- Water cockroach (barata d'água) ^o	<i>Abedus</i> sp., <i>Belostoma</i> sp. or <i>Diplonychus</i> sp. (Belostomatidae/Insecta)*	Bronchitis and asthma (whole animal) - powder - ingested
11- Lizard (calango) ^o	<i>Placosoma</i> sp. (Gymnophthalmidae/Reptilia)*	Wounds in the body (skin) - powder - ingested
12- Armadillo-ball (tatu-bola) ^o	<i>Tolypeutes</i> sp. (Dasypodidae/Mammalia)*	Wounds in the body (skin) - powder - ingested

Marked by (°) the two animals whose use had been maintained, while 10, marked by (□) are those whose uses have fallen into disuse.

* Animals that couldn't be collected because were not available in Diadema.

education was semi-illiterate to illiterate. They learned about the medicinal uses of plants and animals from their parents and grandparents (Brazilian natives, European and African descendants) in their homelands. All interviewees arrived in the city of Diadema as adults, and some had migrated through different regions of Brazil, accumulating knowledge on natural resources from human and biological sources. In Diadema, they acquired knowledge from neighbours, books, media (radio, television, magazines), and personal experiences.

Plants: dynamics of use

The migrants described their knowledge of 85 plant specimens. As can be seen in Table 2, 78 of them were available in Diadema and were collected, resulting in 65 plant species, the remaining 13 could only be identified to the generic level. The plants belong to 37 taxonomic families, with Asteraceae (16 species), Lamiaceae (8) and Euphorbiaceae (7) as the most common. Previous studies have shown that Asteraceae species are the group most commonly reported to have potential pharmacological properties, not only in the Atlantic Forest [34-36] but also in other Brazilian biomes such as the Amazon Forest [37] the pantanal wetlands [38] and the cerrado savannahs [39]. In a review focusing on plants with possible action/

effects on the central nervous system that were indicated by 26 Brazilian indigenous peoples occupying different Brazilian biomes [14], Asteraceae was the second most commonly cited family. The same pattern has been detected in other countries, such as Mexico [40]. One factor that may explain the common use of this taxonomic family is the large number of species belonging to it - about 20,000 [41]. Asteraceae also has a wide geographical distribution, both in Brazil and throughout the world [42], which facilitates its use by various cultures.

From the 65 species identified, it was observed that 33 are native to Brazil while the other 32 are exotic, demonstrating the great floral diversity of the region, which was influenced by European and African people during the civilizing process in Brazil. Furthermore, of the 78 specimens recorded, 54% (42) are spontaneous or were already available in Diadema when interviewees arrived there, while 46% (36) were grown by the migrants, acquired in free markets, or brought from other regions of the country during migration. Below, we describe the four 'dynamics of use' categories observed during this study.

Maintenance of use

According to the interviewees, 68 of the 78 specimens cited in the present study, were used in their homelands

Table 2 The 78 plant specimens used by five Diadema's migrants (MG1, SP1, PE1, PE2, SE1)*.

Popular(s) name(s) (migrant) ^{dynamic of use}	Specimen (family) Voucher	Origin - geographical distribution - cultivated (C) or spontaneous (S)	Use (part)	Formula and route of administration	Pharmacological studies
1-Alamanda-amarela (SE1 [□] , PE1 [△])	<i>Allamanda cathartica</i> L. (Apocynaceae) Garcia 076	Native - Brazilian territory (C)	Toxic (whole plant)	Any oral dose is dangerous	Healing activity [65]
2-Alecrim (MG1) [□]	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L. (Lamiaceae) Garcia 060	Exotic - all countries with temperate climate (C)	Muscle pain* (leaves)	Decoction - massage	Antibacterial effects [66], antimicrobial effect [67], anti-inflammatory and anti-tumor effects [68], cause reduction of reproductive fertility in male rats [69], antinociceptive effect [70], mosquito repellent activity [71], antidiabetic and antioxidant properties [72]
3-Alecrim-do-campo (SE1) [□]	<i>Baccharis dracunculifolia</i> DC (Asteraceae) Garcia 021	Native - central Brazil (S)	Soothing (aerial parts)	Smoking - inhalation	Bactericidal activity [73], cytotoxic [74], antiulcerogenic [75], antimicrobial and antifungal [76] and anti-inflammatory [77]
4-Alfavaca (SP1) [□]	<i>Ocimum selloi</i> Benth. (Lamiaceae) Garcia 033	Native - northeast to south Brazil (C)	Soothing (aerial parts)	Infusion - inhalation	Mosquito repellent activity [78]
5-Algodão (MG1) [□]	<i>Gossypium</i> sp. (Malvaceae) Garcia 066	No data (C)	Anti-inflammatory (leaves)	Infusion - inhalation	Not consulted
6-Algodão-domato (MG1, PE2) [□]	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i> L. (Apocynaceae) Garcia 037	Exotic - Brazilian territory (S)	Toxic* (whole plant)	Any oral dose is dangerous	Cancer and warts treatment [79] and poisoning [80]
7-Almeirão-bocade-leão (SE1) [△]	<i>Hypochoeris</i> sp. (Asteraceae) Garcia 009	No data (S)	Liver pain (leaves)	In natura - ingestion	Not consulted
8-Amendoim-bravo, burra-leiteira (MG1, SP1, SE1, PE1, PE2) [□]	<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae) Garcia 047	Native - Americas (S)	Toxic* (whole plant)	Any oral dose is dangerous	Cytotoxic properties [81]
9-Anador (SE1) [□]	<i>Alternanthera</i> sp. (Amaranthaceae) Garcia 039	No data (C)	Soothing, headache, pain in the body (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	Not consulted
10-Arnica (PE1) [□]	<i>Porophyllum ruderale</i> (Jacq.) Cass. (Asteraceae) Garcia 075	Native - Brazilian territory (S)	Muscle pain* (aerial parts)	Decoction - massage	Anti-inflammatory [82]
11-Aroeira (MG1) [□]	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> Raddi (Anacardiaceae) Garcia 035	Native - northeast to south Brazil (S)	Diuretic (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	Antifungal activity [83] and antibacterial [84]
12-Arruda (MG1, PE1, PE2) [□]	<i>Ruta graveolens</i> L. (Rutaceae) Garcia 028	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Earache and conjunctivitis/styl* (leaves)	In natura - topic	Antifertility [85], fungicide [86], cytotoxic [87], abortive [88], anti-tumour [89], anti-inflammatory [90], antiarrhythmic [91] and antimicrobial [92]
13- Assa-peixe (MG1, SE1) [□]	<i>Vernonia</i> sp. (Asteraceae) Garcia 048	No data (S)	Bronchitis (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	Not consulted
			Expectorant (leaves)	Infusion - inhalation	
			Healing wounds (leaves)	infusion - plaster	

Table 2: The 78 plant specimens used by five Diadema's migrants (MG1, SP1, PE1, PE2, SE1)*. (Continued)

14-Avelóz (PE1, PE2) [□]	<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae) Garcia 046	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Toxic* (whole plant) Breast cancer* (latex)	Restricted use (reports of blindness) Macerate - ingestion	Anti-tumour activity [93], cause eye injury [94] and effect against arthritis diseases [95]
15-Azaléia (PE1) [△]	<i>Rhododendron simsii</i> Planch. (Ericaceae) Garcia 043	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Toxic (whole plant)	Any oral dose is dangerous	Antioxidative [96]
16-Bálsamo (MG1, SP1, PE1, SE1) [□]	<i>Sedum</i> sp. (Crassulaceae) Garcia 038	No data (C)	Earache (leaves) Laxative (aerial parts)	In natura - topic In natura - ingestion	Not consulted
17-Boldo-do-Chile, figatil (PE1 [□] , SE1 [△])	<i>Vernonia condensata</i> Baker (Asteraceae) Garcia 001	Exotic - northeast to southeast Brazil (C)	Liver pain* (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	Anti-ulcerogenic [97] and analgesic and anti-inflammatory [98]
18-Brinco-de-princesa (SE1) [△]	<i>Alpinia zerumbet</i> (Pers.) B.L. Burt & R.M. Sm. (Zingiberaceae) Garcia 018	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Sedative (flowers)	Infusion - ingestion	Antihypertensive effects [99], antinociceptive [100], anti-amoebic activity [101] and hepatoprotector [102]
19-Café (MG1) [□]	<i>Coffea arabica</i> L. (Rubiaceae) Garcia 030	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Diabetes (ripe fruits) Sinusitis (powder fruit)	Infusion Infusion	Antioxidant [103]
20-Cana-do-brejo (SP1, PE2) [□]	<i>Costus spiralis</i> (Jacq.) Roscoe (Costaceae) Garcia 019	Native - northeast and southeast Brazil (S)	Laxative and rheumatism (leaves)	Infusion or decoction - ingestion	Antiurolithiatic [104]
21-Cânfora (MG1, PE1, SE1) [□]	<i>Artemisia canphorata</i> Vill. (Asteraceae) Garcia 045	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Muscle pain (whole plant)	Decoction - massage	No data found
22-Capim-limão (MG1, SE1, PE2) [□]	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> DC. - Stapf. (Poaceae) Garcia 026	Exotic - tropical countries (C)	Bronchitis* (leaves) Sedative* (leaves)	Syrup - ingestion Infusion - ingestion	Anxiolytic [105], larvicidal activity [106], antibacterial [107], antimalarial activity [108], insect repellent [109], hypoglycemic and hypolipidemic effects [110] and antimicrobial activity [92]
23-Capuchinha (SP1, MG1) [△]	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i> L. (Tropaeolaceae) Garcia 057	Exotic - south and southeast Brazil (C)	Ulcer and laxative (aerial parts)	Infusion or in natura - ingestion	Antitumor activity [111]
24-Carqueja (MG1) [□]	<i>Baccharis trimera</i> (Less) DC (Asteraceae) Garcia 027	Native - south and southeast Brazil (C)	Diabetes* (whole plant)	Macerate - ingestion	Antihepatotoxic properties [112], anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity [113], relaxant effect [114], anti-proteolytic and anti-hemorrhagic properties [115], antioxidant compounds [116], antidiabetic activity [117] and for losing weight [118]
25-Carrapicho (SE1 [△] , MG1 [□])	<i>Acanthospermum australe</i> (Loefl.) Kuntze (Asteraceae) Garcia 052	Native - Brazilian territory (S)	Wounds in the body (roots)	Medicinal wine - ingestion	Antimalarial activity [119] and antifungal activity [120]
26-Cavalinha (MG1) [□]	<i>Equisetum arvensis</i> L. (Equisetaceae) Garcia 051	Exotic (C)	Diuretic (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	No data found
27-Cipó-cruz (SE1, PE2) [△]	<i>Serjania</i> sp. (Sapindaceae) Garcia 012	No data (S)	Reduces cholesterol and diarrhea (leaves)	Macerate - ingestion	Not consulted

Table 2: The 78 plant specimens used by five *Diadema's* migrants (MG1, SP1, PE1, PE2, SE1)*. (Continued)

			External allergies, wounds in the body and detoxifying (leaves)	Infusion - bath	
28-Comigo-ninguém-pode (PE1) [□]	<i>Dieffenbachia</i> sp. (Araceae) Garcia 071	No data (C)	Toxic (whole plant)	Any oral dose is dangerous	Not consulted
29-Dormideira (SE1) [□]	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L. (Fabaceae s.l.) Garcia 069	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Healing wounds (aerial parts)	In natura - plaster	Antidepressant activity [121], antitoxin of the snake <i>Naja kaouthia</i> [122], anticonvulsant [123] and for reproductive problems [124]
30-Embaúba (MG1, SE1) [□]	<i>Cecropia pachystachya</i> Tréc. (Cecropiaceae) Garcia 068	Native - south to northeast Brazil (S)	Bronchitis* (powder fruit) Toxic (sap)	Syrup - ingestion Any oral dose is dangerous	Antioxidative activity [125], cardiotonic and sedative effects [126] and anti-inflammatory [127]
31-Erva-cidreira (MG1, SE1, PE2) [□]	<i>Lippia alba</i> (Mill.) N. E. Br. (Verbenaceae) Garcia 005	Native - almost all Brazilian territory (S)	Expectorant* (aerial parts) Sedative* (aerial parts)	Infusion - inhalation Infusion or decoction - ingestion	Treatment of respiratory diseases [128], antiulcerogenic activity [129], sedative and anticonvulsant effects [130], antiviral and antiherpes [131]
32-Erva-de-bicho (SE1) [□]	<i>Ludwigia</i> sp. (Onagraceae) Garcia 078	No data (S)	Hemorrhoid (whole plant)	Decoction - bath	Not consulted
33-Erva-doce, funcho (MG1, SP1, PE1, PE2) [□]	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Mill. (Apiaceae) Garcia 064	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Sedative (whole plant) Bronchitis* (whole plant) Laxative (whole plant)	Infusion - ingestion Infusion - inhalation Infusion or macerate - ingestion	Antimicrobial activity [132], anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antioxidant activities [133], acaricidal activity [134], antifungal effect [135], antithrombotic activity [136] and larvicidal activity of the mosquito <i>Aedes aegypti</i> [137]
34-Eucalipto, vick (MG1 [□] , PE1 [△] , PE2 [△] , SE1 [□])	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> Labill. (Myrtaceae) Garcia 055	Exotic (C)	Sinusitis* (leaves)	Infusion - inhalation	Antihyperglycemic actions [138], analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects [139], antimicrobial activity [140] and antibacterial effects [141]
35-Fedegoso (MG1) [□]	<i>Senna pendula</i> (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) H.S. Irwin & Barneby (Fabaceae s. l.) Garcia 034	Native - Brazilian territory (S)	Osteoporosis prevention (roots)	Medicinal wine - ingestion	No data found
36-Feijão-guandu (SP1) [□]	<i>Cajanus cajan</i> (L.) Millsp. (Fabaceae s.l.) Garcia 003	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Bronchitis (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion or inhalation	Treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis [142], antileishmanial and antifungal activity [143] and hypocholesterolemic effect [144]
37-Folha-santa, folha-da-fortuna (MG1, SP1, PE1) [□]	<i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i> (Lam.) Oken (Crassulaceae) Garcia 040	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Lumbar pain* (leaves) Sedative* (leaves)	In natura - plaster In natura - plaster	Antibacterial activity [145], anti-ulcer [146], antimicrobial [147], antinociceptive, anti-inflammatory and antidiabetic [148] and neurosedative and muscle relaxant activities [149]

Table 2: The 78 plant specimens used by five Diadema's migrants (MG1, SP1, PE1, PE2, SE1)*. (Continued)

38-Gervão (MG1) [□]	<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i> (Rich.) Vahl (Verbenaceae) Garcia 054	Native - Brazilian territory (S)	Laxative (aerial parts)	Infusion or decoction - ingestion	Anti-inflammatory and anti-ulcerogenic properties [150]and hypoglycaemic constituents [151]
39-Goiaba (SE1) [□]	<i>Psidium guajava</i> L. (Myrtaceae) Garcia 058	Native - Mexico to Brazil (S)	Heartburn (leaves) Diarrhea (fruit)	Infusion or in natura - ingestion In natura - ingestion	Antibacterial activity [152-154]and hepatoprotective activity [155]
40-Guaco (PE1) [□] , PE2 [□] , SE1 [△]	<i>Mikania glomerata</i> Spreng. (Asteraceae) Garcia 032	Native - northeast to southeast Brazil (S)	Bronchitis* (leaves)	Syrup - ingestion	Analgesic and anti-inflammatory activities [156], bronchodilator activity [157]and antiophidian properties [158]
41-Guanxuma (SE1) [△]	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i> L. (Malvaceae) Garcia 067	Exotic - Brazilian territory (S)	Sedative (aerial parts)	Infusion - ingestion or inhalation	Cytotoxicity, antibacterial activity [159] and antioxidant [160]
42-Guiné (SE1) [△]	<i>Petiveria alliacea</i> L. (Phytolaccaceae) Garcia 004	Native - north Brazil (S)	Sedative (aerial parts) Muscle pain* (leaves)	Environment purifier - inhalation Decoction - massage	Antimicrobial substance [161], antimitotic action [162], anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects [163], antibacterial and antifungal activity [164]and antioxidant [165]
43-Hortelã (MG1, PE1) [□]	<i>Mentha arvensis</i> L. (Lamiaceae) Garcia 031	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Bronchitis* (leaves) Laxative (leaves)	Syrup - ingestion Infusion - ingestion	Antifungal property [166], vasodilatory actions [167], antioxidative activity [168], antibacterial properties [107]and insect repellents and fumigants [109]
44-Hortelã-grande (PE1) [□]	<i>Plectranthus amboinicus</i> (Lour.) Spreng. (Lamiaceae) Garcia 073	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	For digestion and urine with blood (leaves) Cough (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion Syrup - ingestion	Scorpion venom antidote [169]and antimicrobial activity [92]
45-Impatiens (PE1) [△]	<i>Impatiens hawkeri</i> W. Bull. (Balsaminaceae) Garcia 044	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Toxic (whole plant)	In closed environment causes tearing, allergy and headache	No data found
46-Jarnaúba (PE1) [△]	<i>Synadenium grantii</i> Hook. F. (Euphorbiaceae) Garcia 074	Exotic - southeast to northeast Brazil (C)	Toxic (whole plant) Stomach cancer (latex)	Restricted use Macerate - ingestion	Healing action and anti-hemorrhagic [170]
47-Jurubeba (MG1, SE1, PE2) [□]	<i>Solanum variabile</i> Mart. (Solanaceae) Garcia 056	Native - southeast and south Brazil (S)	Sedative (leaves) Laxative (powder fruit)	Infusion - ingestion In natura - ingestion	Antiulcerogenic activity [171]
48-Limão (MG1) [□]	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> (Christm.) Swingle (Rutaceae) Garcia 063	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Fever (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	Mosquito repellent activity [172]
49-Losna (SP1, SE1, PE2) [□]	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i> L. (Asteraceae) Garcia 049	Exotic - Brazilian territory (S)	Laxative (aerial parts)	Infusion - ingestion	Acaricidal properties [173], antifungal and antibacterial [174]and antioxidant activities [175]
50-Malva-branca (SE1) [□]	<i>Waltheria indica</i> L. (Sterculiaceae) Garcia 077	Native - Brazilian territory (S)	Gingivitis* (leaves)	Infusion - gargling	Anti-inflammatory activities [176]

Table 2: The 78 plant specimens used by five *Diadema's* migrants (MG1, SP1, PE1, PE2, SE1)*. (Continued)

			Inflammation in the mouth and/or throat* (leaves)		
51-Malva-de-cheiro (MG1) [□]	<i>Malva sylvestris</i> L. (Malvaceae) Garcia 059	Exotic - south and southeast Brazil (S)	Wounds in the body (roots)	Medicinal wine - ingestion	Skin anti-aging property [177]
52-Mamão-papaia (PE1) [□]	<i>Carica papaya</i> L. (Caricaceae) Garcia 062	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Bronchitis* (powder fruit)	Syrup - ingestion	Abortive [178], antibacterial activity [179], diuretic [180] and healing and abortive effects [181]
53-Mandioca (SE1) [□]	<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz (Euphorbiaceae) Garcia 050	Native - Brazilian territory (C)	conjunctivitis/sty* (dew on the leaves)	In natura - topic	Analgesics and anti-inflammatory effects [182]
54-Manjeriçao (MG1) [□]	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L. (Lamiaceae) Garcia 061	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Bronchitis* (leaves)	Syrup - ingestion	Antibacterial [183], mosquito repellent activity [184], antimicrobial activity [185], antiangiogenic activity [186] and decreases cholesterol [187]
55-Maravilha (SP1, PE2) [□]	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> L. (Nyctaginaceae) Garcia 065	Native - Brazilian territory (C)	Healing wounds* (aerial parts)	Infusion - plaster	Antibacterial effect [188] and antimicrobial [189]
56-Maria-pretinha (MG1) [□]	<i>Solanum americanum</i> L. (Solanaceae) Garcia 070	Native - Americas (S)	Sore throat* (aerial parts)	Infusion - gargle	Treatment of protozoal infections (American trypanosomes) [190] and moderate antioxidant activity [191]
57-Mentrasito (PE1) [□]	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L. (Asteraceae) Garcia 010	Native - southeast to northeast Brazil (S)	Bronchitis* (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	Anti-inflammatory [192], toxic [193], antibacterial [194] and insecticidal activity [195]
			Rheumatism* (whole plant)	Infusion - bath	
58-Mentruz, erva-de-santa-maria (PE1 [#] , SE1 [□])	<i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i> L. (Chenopodiaceae) Garcia 006	Native - south and southeast Brazil (S)	Muscle pain (aerial parts)	Decoction - massage	Insecticidal properties [196], antifungal, antiaflatoxic and antioxidant activity [197] and mosquito repellent activity [71]
			Lesions in bone (aerial parts)	In natura - plaster	
			Worm* (aerial parts)	Infusion - ingestion	
			Bronchitis (aerial parts)	Syrup - ingestion	
59-Milho (SE1) [□]	<i>Zea mays</i> L. (Poaceae) Garcia 023	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Bronchitis (flowers)	Syrup - ingestion	No data found
			Blood purifier and diuretic (flowers)	Infusion - ingestion	
60-Novalgina (MG1, SE1) [□]	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> L. (Asteraceae) Garcia 015	Exotic - south and southeast Brazil (C)	Sedative (leaves)	In natura - ingestion	Antioxidant and antimicrobial activity [198]
61-Pariparoba (MG1) [□]	<i>Piper umbellatum</i> L. (Piperaceae) Garcia 072	Native - Tropical America (S)	Belly ache and liver pain (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	Antioxidant [199] and antifungal activity [200]
62-Picão (MG1) [□]	<i>Calea</i> sp. (Asteraceae) Garcia 036	No data (S)	Diuretic (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	Not consulted
63-Picão-preto (MG1, PE1) [□] , Picão-branco (SP1) [□]	<i>Bidens pilosa</i> L. (Asteraceae) Garcia 020	Native - tropical America (S)	Blood purifier (whole plant)	Infusion - ingestion	Hypotensive effects [201], anti-inflammatory activity [202], anticancer and antipyretic activity [203], antimicrobial [204] and antitumor potential [205]
			Healing wounds* (whole plant)	In natura - plaster	
			Wounds in the body* (roots)	Medicinal wine - ingestion	

Table 2: The 78 plant specimens used by five Diadema's migrants (MG1, SP1, PE1, PE2, SE1)*. (Continued)

64-Pinhão-roxo (SP1) [□]	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae) Garcia 017	Native - southeast to northeast Brazil (S)	Laxative (powder fruit)	In natura - ingestion	Antimalarial effects [206], hypotensive and vasorelaxant effects [207]
65-Poejo (MG1, PE2) [□]	<i>Mentha pulegium</i> L. (Lamiaceae) Garcia 029	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Bronchitis (leaves)	Syrup - ingestion	Larvicidal activity [208], acaricidal effects [209] and insecticidal properties [210]
66-Pucunã (SE1) [□]	<i>Fevillea passiflora</i> Vell. (Cucurbitaceae) Garcia 022	Native - North and southeast Brazil (S)	Toxic - abortive (seeds)	In natura - ingestion	No data found
67-Quebra-pedra (SP1, PE1, PE2, SE1) [□]	<i>Phyllanthus carolinensis</i> Walter (Euphorbiaceae) Garcia 024	Native - USA to Brazil (S)	Kidney stone* (aerial parts)	Infusion or decoction - ingestion	Antinociceptive action [211]
68-Quitoco (SE1) [□]	<i>Pluchea sagittalis</i> (Lam.) Cabrera (Asteraceae) Garcia 042	Native - south and southeast Brazil (S)	Diuretic (aerial parts)	Infusion - ingestion	Anti-inflammatory activity [212]
69-Rubim (MG1, SP1) [□]	<i>Leonurus sibiricus</i> L. (Lamiaceae) Garcia 002	Exotic - Brazilian territory (C)	Healing wounds* (aerial parts)	In natura - plaster	Stimulating action on the uterus [213], analgesic and anti-inflammatory activity [214] and antibacterial activity [215]
70-Sabugueiro (MG1) [□]	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i> L. (Caprifoliaceae) Garcia 025	Native - Brazilian territory (S)	Bronchitis* (flowers)	Syrup - ingestion	Infectious diseases and antioxidant activity [216]
71-Salsa-parreira (SE1) [□]	<i>Jacaranda</i> sp. (Bignoniaceae) Garcia 011	No data (S)	External allergies, wounds in the body and purifier (leaves)	Decoction - bath	Not consulted
72-Samba-caitá (SE1) [□]	<i>Hyptis</i> sp. (Lamiaceae) Garcia 041	No data (S)	Belly ache (leaves)	In natura - ingestion	Not consulted
73-Serralha (PE1) [□]	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> L. (Asteraceae) Garcia 016	Exotic - Brazilian territory (S)	Diabetes (leaves)	In natura - ingestion	Larvicidal potential [217]
74-Sete-sangria (MG1 [□] , SP1 [□] , SE1 [△])	<i>Cuphea carthagenensis</i> (Jacq.) J. F. Macbr. (Lythraceae) Garcia 007	Native - Brazilian territory (S)	Intestinal infections and heart problems* (aerial parts)	Infusion - ingestion	Antiinflammatory and antinociceptive activities [218], vasorelaxant properties [219], treat high levels of cholesterol and triglycerides [220]
75-Sofre-do-rim-quem-qué (MG1) [#]	<i>Cissus</i> sp. (Vitaceae) Garcia 053	No data (S)	Kidney stone (leaves)	Infusion - ingestion	Not consulted
76-Tanchagem (SP1, PE2) [□]	<i>Plantago</i> sp. (Plantaginaceae) Garcia 008	No data (S)	Anti-inflammatory - mouth and throat (leaves)	Decoction - gargling	Not consulted
77-Vassourinha (SE1, PE2) [□]	<i>Scoparia dulcis</i> L. (Scrophulariaceae) Garcia 014	Native - Brazilian territory (S)	Hip pain/kidneys (leaves)	Decoction - bath	Antitumor-promoting activity [221], antioxidant [222], antimicrobial and antifungal activities [223]
78-Velando (SE1) [□]	<i>Croton fuscescens</i> Spreng (Euphorbiaceae) Garcia 013	Native - Brazilian territory (S)	Inhibits the growth of skin stains/wounds in the body (resin)	In natura - topic	No data found

* their popular and scientific names, geographical origin and distribution, if cultivated or spontaneous, uses, parts utilized, formula, route of administration and pharmacological studies. Marked by (□) the 68 plants whose use had been maintained by the respective migrant, while 14, marked by (△) are those whose applications have been incorporated by migrants, finally, 3 (♯) are replacements. The matches between the uses proclaimed by the interviewees and pharmacological data have been posted by (*).

(highlighted with □ in Table 2). The maintenance of their uses was possible since most of them were available in Diadema, though some were brought from their homelands. SE1 brought four plants from Aquidabã - Sergipe state, for pain relief because they are not available or are more potent than the ones found in

Diadema: “bálsamo” (*Sedum* sp.), “anador” (*Alternanthera* sp.), “eucalipto/vick” (*Eucalyptus globulus* Labill.) and “novalgina” (*Achillea millefolium* L.).

Incorporation of use

Fourteen of the 78 specimens listed in Table 2 came to be used by migrants when they arrived in Diadema

(highlighted with Δ in Table 2). These incorporations occurred in several ways: through information given by neighbours; through local media, e.g., television, radio, magazines; or through personal efforts, guided by plant organoleptic properties or even by the theory of signatures. This theory, formulated by Paracelsus (XVI century), assumes that characteristics and virtues of herbs can be recognised by their external appearance or “signature” (picture, shape, colour). Finally, observing the relationship between animals and plants can be a valuable guide. PE1 noted that dogs consume “sete-sangria” (*Cuphea carthagenensis* (Jacq.) J. F. Macbr.) when they have diarrhoea; and because it seemed to alleviate their symptoms, he started to use this plant for the same purpose.

The migrants incorporated several plants after their arrival in Diadema to treat typical diseases of larger cities: “cipó-cruz” (*Serjania* sp.) to combat high cholesterol; and “guanxuma” (*Sida rhombifolia* L.) and “guiné” (*Petiveria alliacea* L.) for anxiety. Also included in this category was knowledge concerning local toxic plants, e.g., alamanda-amarela (*Allamanda cathartica* L.) and azaléia (*Rhododendron simsii* Planch.), detailing the risks associated with their consumption.

Replacement of use

Three plants used by migrants in their cities of origin were replaced because they were not available or were less effective than plants present in Diadema (highlighted with # in Table 2). Most of these replacements were made according to the criteria listed in the previous section.

The interviewee MG1 explained that in his homelands, he used “quebra-pedra”* (*Phyllanthus* cf. *carolinensis* Walter - Euphorbiaceae) for kidney stone disturbance, but when he arrived in Diadema, he found another plant, “sofre-do-rim-quem-qué” (*Cissus* sp.), that seemed to have a stronger effect.

Another interviewee, PE1, reported that the bark and seeds of “amburana-de-cheiro”* (*Amburana* cf. *cearensis* (Allemão) A.C. Sm. - Fabaceae s.l.) were widely used for anti-inflammatory therapy in Pernambuco state but had to be replaced by “mentruz” (*Chenopodium ambrosioides* L.) because the former was not found in Diadema. In addition, SE1 had to replace “pau-de-sapo”* (*Pouteria* cf. *melinoniana* Boehni - Sapotaceae), whose leaves were used for chronic wounds, with “carrapicho” (*Acanthospermum australe* (Loefl.) Kuntze).

The vernacular names of some plants are registered trademarks of allopathic medicines and active ingredients, e.g., Novalgina® (*Achillea millefolium*) and Vick® (*Eucalyptus globulus*) for sinusitis, and Anador® (*Althernanthera* sp.), which is used as a sedative and for general pain. Contact between migrants and allopathic medicine thus led to the ‘baptisms’ of these plants,

following the observation that both, the commercially available products and herbal source have similar effects, as reported by Pires [43].

Discontinued use

According to MG1, the following plants used in his homeland fell into disuse because they were not found in Diadema, although he tried to acquire them from local commercial sources: “quina”* (*Strychnos* cf. *pseudoquina* A. St. Hil - Loganiaceae), whose root is used to combat pain in the stomach and intestine; bark oil of “jatobá”* (*Hymenaea* cf. *courbaril* L. - Fabaceae s.l.), used for combat wounds; “batata-de-purga”* (*Operculina* cf. *macrocarpa* (L.) Urb - Convolvulaceae), whose tuber is ingested as a purgative and to clean the blood; bark and leaf of “jalapa”* (*Mirabilis* cf. *jalapa* L. - Nyctaginaceae), used to clean the blood; tea of “junco”* (*Cyperus* cf. *esculentus* L. - Cyperaceae), whose root is used for inflammation; bark or seed of “emburana”* (*Amburana* cf. *cearensis* - Fabaceae s.l.), used for migraine and sleeping; and bark of “angico”* (*Anadenanthera* cf. *colubrina* (Vell.) Brenan - Fabaceae s.l.), prepared as a tea for pain in the body and fever. These plants were not described in Table 2, since they could not be collected and identified as well.

Plants used for therapeutic purposes

Of the 78 plants, 10 carry some restrictions, as they can be toxic depending on the dose, route or part utilised (Table 2). The uses described in Table 2 are written just as they were reported by the interviewees. The 68 plants used exclusively for medicinal purposes were cited for 41 complaints, which were grouped into 12 functional categories according to bodily system, as detailed in Table 3. Thus, gastrointestinal disturbances include the following complaints (numbers of medicinal plants reported): endoparasitosis (1), ulcer (1), diarrhoea (1), bellyache (2), heartburn (1), intestinal infections (1), liver pain (3). This category also includes plants used to improve digestion (1), to treat tables of haemorrhoid (1), as laxatives (10) and to purify the stomach (2), comprising a total of 24 plants employed in 44 formulas.

The most relevant categories of use, measured by number of species employed, were gastrointestinal disturbances (30.8% of plants), inflammatory processes (24.4%) and respiratory problems (23.1%). As seen in Table 4, the group of illnesses representing immunological problems obtained the highest informant consensus factor value ($Fic = 0.66$), while the other categories presented Fic values lower than 0.5. These low values reflect the diversity of knowledge displayed by migrants, which can probably be attributed to different cultural influences during their migrations through Brazilian territory. Furthermore, the small number of interviewees may have resulted in low values of Fic .

Table 3 The 12 categories of use comprising the 41 complaints, their total and partial number of plants cited by the five migrants

Category of use	Complaints (number of plants cited)	Total number of plants
1- Gastrointestinal disturbances	To combat worms (1), ulcer (1), diarrhoea (1), bellyache (2), heartburn (1), intestinal infections (1), liver pain (3), to improve digestion (1), hemorrhoid (1), as laxative (10) and for stomach purify (2)	24
2- Inflammatory processes	As anti-inflammatory (3) and healing (6), to treat sty/conjunctivitis (2), inflammation in the mouth/throat (3), rheumatism (2), sinusitis (2) and gingivitis (1)	19
3- Respiratory problems	To combat cough (1), bronchitis (15) and as expectorant (2)	18
4- Anxiolytic/hypnotics	As sedative (11)	11
5-Osteomuscular problems	To ease back pain (1), muscles pain (6), hip pain (1), prevent osteoporosis (1) and to treat lesions in bone (1)	10
6- Dermatological problems	To combat external allergies (2), wounds in the body (5) and inhibits the growth of skin stains (1)	8
7- Genitourinary disturbances	As diuretic (5), to combat kidney stone (2) and treating urine with blood (1)	8
8- Endocrine system	To reduce cholesterol (1) and diabetes (3)	4
9- Cardiovascular problems	Treat heart problems (1) and as blood purifier (2)	3
10- Immunological problems	To combat breast cancer (1) and stomach cancer (1)	2
11- Analgesics	Earache (2)	2
12- Fever	To combat fever (1)	1
Total		110*

*Some plants have been cited for more than one complaint, so the total number of plants above (110) is higher than the ones indicated by the interviewees.

The parts of the plants most often used in the formulas were leaves (45.4%) and other aerial parts (22.7%). The most common formula was the infusion (37.8%), followed by in natura (17.6%) and syrup (10.1%). The most cited route of administration was ingestion (51.3%), followed by inhalation (8.4%) and topical (3.4%).

Plants with restrictions on use and/or toxic

Among the 10 specimens with restrictions on use, 6 were designated as only toxic: “alamanda-amarela”

(*Allamanda cathartica*), “algodão-do-mato” (*Asclepias curassavica* L.), “amendoim-bravo/burra-leiteira” (*Euphorbia heterophylla* L.), “azaléa” (*Rhododendron simsii*), “comigo-ninguém-pode” (*Dieffenbachia* sp.) and “impatiens” (*Impatiens hawkeri*). The interviewees explained that depending on the dose, the latex of “alamanda-amarela” and “amendoim-bravo” can cause discomfort or even blindness. According to Oliveira et al. [44], the leaves of *Dieffenbachia picta* Schott contain

Table 4 Values of Informant consensus factor (Fic) for each category of use, considering the plants cited by the five Diadema’s migrants

SN	Category of use	Plant specimen	% All Species	Use citation	% All use citation	Fic
1	Gastrointestinal disturbances	24	30.77	44	25.29	0.46
2	Inflammatory processes	19	24.36	28	16.09	0.33
3	Respiratory problems	18	23.07	31	17.82	0.43
4	Anxiolytic/hypnotics	11	14.10	19	10.92	0.44
5	Osteomuscular problems	10	12.82	13	7.47	0.25
6	Dermatological problems	8	10.26	11	6.32	0.3
7	Genitourinary disturbances	8	10.26	13	7.47	0.41
8	Endocrine system	4	5.13	5	2.87	0.25
9	Immunological problems	2	2.56	4	2.30	0.66
10	Cardiovascular problems	3	3.84	3	1.72	0
11	Analgesics	2	2.56	2	1.15	0
12	Fever	1	1.28	1	0.57	0

calcium oxalate, which damages the oral mucosa and provokes pain and oedema, while the leaves of *Allamanda cathartica* contain cardiotoxic glycosides and induce intense gastrointestinal disturbances.

Although reported as toxic, the latex of two other plants can be used at low doses to treat breast and stomach cancer: “avelóz” (*Euphorbia tirucalli* L.) and “jarnaúba” (*Synadenium grantii* Hook. F.), respectively. The sap of “embaúba” (*Cecropia pachystachya* Tréc.) was indicated as toxic, but its fruits are used to combat bronchitis. Finally, the seeds of “pucunã” (*Fevillea passiflora* Vell.) are toxic, being indicated as abortive. In a recent study, Rodrigues [45] also described plants with restrictions of use as reported by three Brazilian cultures: the Krahô Indians use two plants as abortives in a single prescription: “aprytytti” (*Acosmium dasycarpum* (Vogel) Yakovlev) and “ahkryt” (*Anacardium occidentale* L.) (Anacardiaceae); their barks are boiled, and the beverage is ingested in at dawn. It is an extremely bitter beverage, rich in tannin and therefore extremely astringent.

Pharmacological data

As can be seen in Table 2, 57 species (73.1%) were featured in previous pharmacological studies. For 30 of these species (52.6%), the uses cited by the migrants showed some similarity to the investigated effects/actions, demonstrating concordance between popular knowledge and academic science (marked with an asterisk in Table 2).

Animals used for therapeutic purposes and dynamics of use

From the five interviewees, only one (PE2) offered knowledge on the medicinal uses of 12 animals. They belong to four taxonomic classes: Reptilia (6 species), Insects (3), Mammalia (2) and Amphibia (1). However, the interviewee has used only two animals since he arrived in Diadema, the other ten animals fell into disuse because they are not available in this city. The two animals were collected, identified and deposited in the Museum of Zoology-USP: ant (*Atta sexdens* L.) and cockroach (*Periplaneta americana* L.). These species belong to the *maintenance of use* category (highlighted with □ in Table 1). The other ten species therefore belong to the *discontinued use* category (highlighted with ○ in Table 1) which could not be collected. Their identifications were made by PE2 through consulting images from books (as described in **Methodology**). For three animals (snake, alligator and giant water bug) PE2 could only hesitantly confirm their identity, probably due to the great diversity of these animals in Brazil. Therefore, they are denoted in Table 1 as probably belonging to one of three possible genera.

The animals were used in 14 different medicinal formulas, with the skin most commonly used (33.3%),

followed by whole animal (20.0%), bone (13.4%), fat (6.7%), rattle (6.7%), tooth (6.7%), anthill (6.7%) and turtles shell (6.7%). Some studies conducted in Brazil show that concomitant data corroborate and sustain these uses [46-50]. The formulas were cited for the treatment of nine complaints, which were grouped into six functional categories, as shown in Table 5. The most commonly cited formula was powder (66.7%), followed by in natura (20%). The most frequent route of administration was ingestion (78.6%).

The most common complaint involved respiratory problems (58.4%; 7 animals) followed by central nervous system (8.3%), inflammatory processes (8.3%), dermatological problems (8.3%), analgesics (8.3%), cardiovascular problems (8.3%) as shown in Table 5. The high humidity of the region (with annual rainfall between 1.000 and 1750 mm) [21] is known to lead to bronchitis, cough and asthma. This may explain why so many plants and animals were used to treat respiratory disturbances in Diadema, which has been shown in studies of the Sistema Único de Saúde [51] to be the second largest cause of death in Diadema - 14.4%.

Many animals have been used for medical purposes since antiquity [52-55]. Despite the existence of several ethnopharmacological studies suggesting the bioactive potential of Brazilian fauna [37,56-61], only marine animals have been investigated by chemical and pharmacological methods [62-64]. No pharmacological data was found in the literature for the five animals identified in the present study: rattlesnake (*Crotalus cf. durissus* L.), capybara (*Hydrochoerus cf. hydrochaeris* L.), iguana (*Iguana cf. iguana* L.), ant (*Atta sexdens*) and cockroach (*Periplaneta americana*). The lack of information available on medicinal animal products leads us to conclude that this is a largely unexplored topic in Brazil and that future pharmacological studies should confirm the potential therapeutic value of these species.

Table 5 The 6 categories of use comprising the 9 complaints, their respective number of animals mentioned by the migrant PE2

Category of use	Complaints (number of animals)
1-Respiratory problems	bronchitis (7), asthma (4)
2-Central nervous system	epilepsy (1)
3-Inflammatory processes	rheumatism (1)
4-Dermatological problems	wounds in the body (1), skin cancer (1)
5-Analgesics	back pain (1)
6-Cardiovascular problems	treat heart problems (1), hemorrhage (1)
Total	18*

* some animals have been cited for more than one complaint, so their total number above (18) is higher than the number of animals indicated: 12.

Conclusion

The migrant interviewees demonstrated knowledge about the medicinal and toxic properties of plants and animals available in the Atlantic Forest remnants of the municipality of Diadema. Migration contributed to the expansion of knowledge regarding the use of natural resources, especially through the processes of resource replacement and/or incorporation. Moreover, the maintenance of original uses of certain resources demonstrates their value in the migrants' therapeutic practices.

The seven plants [*Impatiens hawkeri* W. Bull., *Artemisia canphorata* Vill., *Equisetum arvensis* L., *Senna pendula* (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) H.S. Irwin & Barneby, *Zea mays* L., *Fevillea passiflora* Vell. and *Croton fuscescens* Spreng)] and the two animals (*Atta sexdens* and *Periplaneta americana*) that showed maintenance of use among migrants during their displacement in Brazilian territory, have not been studied by pharmacologists yet. These species should be highlighted in further investigations because the maintenance of use during human migrations can be indicative of bioactive potential.

This work also demonstrates the impossibility of sharing benefits related to property rights with cultures under certain circumstances, as the dynamic use of natural resources presents particularly varied influences. The interviewed migrants had passed through several Brazilian cities and were exposed to distinct vegetation and cultures. In this migration, they have passed on and incorporated knowledge in an intensive exchange where formulas and uses are mixed and re-invented as a result of contact between cultures.

Acknowledgements

We thank the interviewees for their hospitality, help, and mainly for providing us with information for the purpose of this study. We are grateful to Julino Assunção Rodrigues Soares Neto, Valéria Basti, Maria Conceição D. A. Fernandes. We also appreciate the help of FAPESP (Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo), FIC (Faculdade Integral Cantareira) and AFIP (Associação Fundo de Incentivo à Psicofarmacologia), Herbário Municipal de São Paulo (PMSp), which provided financial support which made this research possible. Finally, we thank Dr. Lúcia Rossi and Prof. Dr. Hussam El Dine Zaher, for conducting the botanical and animal identification, respectively.

Author details

¹Department of Biology, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Rua Arthur Ridel, 275 CEP, 09941-510, Diadema, S.P., Brazil. ²Department of Psychobiology, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Rua Botucatu, 862 - 1º andar - Edifício Biomédicas CEP 04023-062, São Paulo, S.P., Brazil.

Authors' contributions

Author DG performed the fieldwork. Author MVD identified the animal specimens. Author ER supervised the research works. All authors drafted, wrote, read and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Received: 24 June 2010 Accepted: 29 October 2010
Published: 29 October 2010

References

1. Pieroni A, Vandebroek I: *Traveling cultures and plants: the ethnobiology and ethnopharmacy of human migrations* Berghahn Books: New York; 2007.
2. Pieroni A, Quave CL: **Traditional pharmacopoeias and medicines among Albanians and Italians in southern Italy: a comparison.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2005, **101**:258-270.
3. Waldstein A: **Mexican migrant ethnopharmacology: pharmacopoeia, classification of medicines and explanations of efficacy.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2006, **108**:299-310.
4. Waldstein A: **"Diaspora and Health? Traditional Medicine and Culture in a Mexican Migrant Community".** *Int Migr* 2008, **46**:95-117.
5. Volpato G, Godínez D, Beyra A, Barreto : **A Uses of medicinal plants by Haitian immigrants and their descendants in the Province of Camagüey, Cuba.** *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed* 2009, **5**:16.
6. Voeks RA: **Traditions in transition: African diaspora ethnobotany in lowland South America.** In *Mobility and Migration in Indigenous Amazonia: Contemporary Ethnoecological Perspectives.* Edited by: Alexiades M. London: Berghahn; 2009:275-294.
7. Carney J, Voeks RA: **Landscape legacies of the African Diaspora in Brazil.** *Prog Hum Geogr* 2003, **27**:6.
8. Ceuterick M, Vandebroek I, Torry B, Pieroni A: **Cross-cultural adaptation in urban ethnobotany: the Colombian folk pharmacopoeia in London.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2008, **120**:342-359.
9. van Andel, P Westers: **Why Surinamese migrants in the Netherlands continue to use medicinal herbs from their home country.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2010, **127**:694-701.
10. Pieroni A, Nebel C, Quave CL, Münz H, Heinrich M: **Ethnopharmacology of liakra, traditional weedy vegetables of the Arbëreshë of the Vulture area in southern Italy.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2002, **81**:165-185.
11. Pieroni A, Quave CL, Nebel S, Heinrich M: **Ethnopharmacy of ethnic Albanians (Arbëreshë) in northern Basilicata (southern Italy).** *Fitoterapia* 2002, **73**:217-241.
12. Pieroni A, Quave CL, Villanelli ML, Mangino P, Sabbatini G, Santini L: **Ethnopharmacognostic survey on the natural ingredients used in folk cosmetics, cosmeceuticals and remedies for healing skin diseases in the inland Marches, Central-Eastern Italy.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2004, **91**:331-344.
13. Cano JH, Volpato G: **Herbal mixtures in the traditional medicine of Eastern Cuba.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2004, **90**:293-316.
14. Rodrigues E, Mendes FR, Negri G: **Plants indicated by Brazilian Indians to Central Nervous System disturbances: a bibliographical approach.** *Curr Med Chem* 2005, **6**:211-244.
15. IBGE. [<http://www.ibge.gov.br/home/>].
16. Instituto Socioambiental. [<http://www.socioambiental.org/>].
17. Fundação Cultural Palmares. [<http://palmares.gov.br/>].
18. Giulietti AM, Harley RM, Queiroz LP, Wanderley MGL, Van den Berg C: **Biodiversidade e conservação das plantas no Brasil.** *Megadiversidade* 2005, **1**:52-61.
19. Marques AC, Lamas CJ: **Taxonomia zoológica no Brasil: estado da arte, expectativas e sugestões de ações futuras.** *Papéis Avulsos de Zoologia* 2005, **46**:139-174.
20. Simões LL, Lino CF: **Sustentável Mata Atlântica: a exploração de seus recursos florestais** SENAC: São Paulo; 2004.
21. IBAMA. [http://ibama.gov.br/ecossistemas/mata_atlantica.htm].
22. Prefeitura de Diadema. [<http://www.diadema.sp.gov.br/apache2-default/>].
23. Atlas de Desenvolvimento Humano/PNUD. [<http://www.pnud.org.br/atlas/>].
24. Bernard RH: *Research methods in cultural anthropology* Sage publications: London; 1988.
25. Lipp FJ: **Methods for ethnopharmacological field work.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 1989, **25**:139-150.
26. Freitas MA, Silva TFS: *A herpetofauna da Mata Atlântica nordestina* USEB: Pelotas; 2005.
27. Freitas MA, Silva TFS: *A herpetofauna das caatingas e áreas de altitudes do nordeste Brasileiro* USEB: Pelotas; 2007.
28. Lorenzi H, Matos FJ, de A: *Plantas medicinais do Brasil: nativas e exóticas cultivadas* Instituto Plantarum: São Paulo; 2008.
29. PUBMED. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>].
30. SCIFINDER. [<http://www.cas.org/products/sfacad/index.html>].
31. Pio Corrêa M: *Dicionário das plantas úteis do Brasil e das exóticas cultivadas* Imprensa Nacional: Rio de Janeiro; 1926.

32. Trotter RT, Logan MH: **Informant consensus: a new approach for identifying potentially effective medicinal plants.** In *Plants in indigenous medicine and diet: biobehavioral approaches*. Edited by: Etkin NL. New York: Redgrave Publishing; 1986:91-112.
33. Heinrich M: **Ethnobotany and its role in drug development.** *Phytother Res* 2000, **14**:479-488.
34. Di Stasi LC, Oliveira GP, Carvalhães MA, Queiroz-Junior M, Tien OS, Kakinami SH, Reis MS: **Medicinal plants popularly used in the Brazilian Tropical Atlantic Forest.** *Fitoterapia* 2002, **73**:69-91.
35. Almeida C, Albuquerque UP: **Uso e conservação de plantas e animais medicinais no estado de Pernambuco (nordeste do Brasil): um estudo de caso.** *Interciencia* 2002, **27**:276-285.
36. Begossi A, Leitão-Filho HF, Richerson PJ: **Plant uses a Brazilian coastal fishing community (Búzios Island).** *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed* 1993, **13**:233-256.
37. Rodrigues E: **Ethnopharmacology in the Jaú National Park (JNP), state of Amazonas, Brazil.** *Phytother Res* 2006, **5**:378-391.
38. Rodrigues E, Carlini EA: **Plants used by a Quilombola group in Brazil with potential central nervous system effects.** *Phytother Res* 2004, **18**:748-753.
39. Rodrigues E, Carlini EA: **Ritual use of plants with possible action on the central nervous system by the Kraho indians, Brazil.** *Phytother Res* 2005, **19**:129-135.
40. Díaz JL: **Ethnopharmacology of sacred psychoactive plants used by the Indians of Mexico.** *Pharmacol Toxicol* 1977, **17**:647-675.
41. Woodland DW: *Contemporary plant systematics* Andrews University Press: London; 1997.
42. Schultes RE, Raffauf RF: In *The Healing Forest. Medicinal and Toxic Plants of the Northwest Amazonia. Volume 2.* Dioscorides Press: Oregon; 1990.
43. Pires JM, Mendes FR, Negri G, Duarte-Almeida JM, Carlini EA: **Antinociceptive peripheral effect of *Achillea millefolium* L. and *Artemisia vulgaris* L.: Both plants known popularly by Brand Names of analgesic drugs.** *Phytother Res* 2009, **23**:212-219.
44. Oliveira RB, Godoy SAP, Costa FB: *Plantas Tóxicas: Conhecimento e prevenção de acidentes* Holos: São Paulo; 2003.
45. Rodrigues E: **Plants of restricted use indicated by three cultures in Brazil (caboclo-river dweller, Indian and Quilombola).** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2007, **111**:295-302.
46. Costa-Neto EM: **Animal-based medicines: biological prospection and the sustainable use of zootherapeutic resources.** *Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences* 2005, **77**:33-43.
47. Santos-Fita D, Costa-Neto EM: **As interações entre os seres humanos e os animais: a contribuição da etnozootologia.** *Biotemas* 2007, **20**(4):99-110.
48. Ferreira FS, Brito SV, Ribeiro SC, Saraiva AAF, Almeida WO, Alves RRN: **Animal-based folk remedies sold in public markets in Crato and Juazeiro do Norte, Ceará, Brazil.** *BMC Complement Altern Med* 2009, **9**:17.
49. Alves RRN: **Fauna used in popular medicine in Northeast Brazil.** *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed* 2009, **5**:1.
50. Torres DF, de Oliveira ES, Alves RRN, Vasconcellos A: **Etnobotânica e etnozootologia em unidades de conservação: uso da biodiversidade na APA de Genipabu, Rio Grande do Norte, Brasil.** *Interciencia* 2009, **34**:623-629.
51. **Sistema Único de Saúde.** [http://tabnet.datasus.gov.br/tabdata/cadernos/cadernosmap.htm].
52. Gudger EW: **Stitching wounds with the mandibles of ants and beetles.** *J Am Med Assoc* 1925, **84**:1861-1864.
53. Weiss HB: **Entomological medicaments of the past.** *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 1947, **55**:155-168.
54. Conconi JR, Pino JM: **The utilization of insects in the empirical medicine of ancient Mexicans.** *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed* 1988, **8**:195-202.
55. Antonio TMF, (Eds): **Insects as remedies for illnesses in Zaire.** *The Food Insects Newsletter* 1994, **7**:4-5.
56. Costa-Neto EM: **The use of insects in folk medicine in the state of Bahia, northeastern Brazil, with notes on insects reported elsewhere in Brazilian folk medicine.** *Hum Ecol* 2002, **30**:245-263.
57. Alves RRN, Rosa IL: **Why study the use of animal products in traditional medicines?** *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed* 2005, **30**:1-5.
58. Alves RRN, Delima YCC: **Snakes used in ethnomedicine in northeast Brazil environment, development and sustainability.** *CAB Abstr Lite* 2006, **9**:455-464.
59. Costa-Neto EM: **Os moluscos na zooterapia: medicina tradicional e importância clínico-farmacológica.** *Biotemas* 2006, **19**:71-78.
60. Hanazaki N, Alves RRN, Begossi A: **Hunting and use of terrestrial fauna used by Caiçaras from the Atlantic Forest coast (Brazil).** *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed* 2009, **5**:36.
61. Alves RRN, Dias TLP: **Usos de invertebrados na medicina popular no Brasil e suas implicações para conservação.** *Tropical Conservation Science* 2010, **2**:159-174.
62. Berlink RGS, Hajdu E, Rocha RM, Oliveira JHLL, Hernandez ILC, Selegim MHR, Granato AC, Almeida EVR, Nunnez CV, Muricy G, Peixinho S, Pessoa C, Moraes MO, Cavalcanti BC, Nascimento GGF, Thiemann OH, Silva M: **Challenges and Rewards of Research in Marine Natural Products Chemistry in Brazil.** *J Nat Prod* 2004, **67**:510-522.
63. Gray CA, Lira SP, Silva M, Pimenta EF, Thiemann OH, Oliva AG, Hajdu E, Andersen RJ, Berlink RGS: **Sulfated Meroterpenoids from the Brazilian Sponge *Callyspongia* sp. are Inhibitors of the Antileishmaniasis Target Adenosine Phosphoribosyl Transferase.** *J Org Chem* 2006, **71**:8685-8690.
64. Kossuga MH, Lira SP, Mchugh S, Torres YR, Lima BA, Veloso K, Ferreira Antonio G, Rocha RM, Berlink RGS: **Antibacterial Modified Diketopiperazines from two Ascidiacs of the Genus *Didemnum*.** *J Braz Chem Soc* 2009, **20**:704-711.
65. Nayak S, Nalabothu P, Sandiford S, Bhogadi V, Adogwa A: **Evaluation of wound healing activity of *Allamanda cathartica* L. and *Laurus nobilis* L. extracts on rats.** *BMC Complement Altern Med* 2006, **12**:138-142.
66. Fu Y, Zu Y, Chen L, Efferth T, Liang H, Liu Z, Liu W: **Investigation of antibacterial activity of rosemary essential oil against *Propionibacterium acnes* with atomic force microscopy.** *Planta Med* 2007, **73**:1275-1280.
67. Weckesser S, Engel K, Simon-Haarhaus B, Wittmer A, Pelz K, Schempp CM: **Screening of plant extracts for antimicrobial activity against bacteria and yeasts with dermatological relevance.** *Phytomedicine* 2007, **14**:508-516.
68. Peng CH, Su JD, Chyau CC, Sung TY, Ho SS, Peng CC, Peng RY: **Supercritical fluid extracts of rosemary leaves exhibit potent anti-inflammation and anti-tumor effects.** *Biosci Biotechnol Biochem* 2007, **71**:2223-2232.
69. Nusier MK, Bataineh HN, Daradkah HM: **Adverse effects of rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* L.) on reproductive function in adult male rats.** *Exp Biol Med* 2007, **232**:809-813.
70. González-Trujano ME, Peña EI, Martínez AL, Moreno J, Guevara-Fefer P, Déciga-Campos M, López-Muñoz FJ: **Evaluation of the antinociceptive effect of *Rosmarinus officinalis* L. using three different experimental models in rodents.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2002, **22**:476-482.
71. Gillij YG, Gleiser RM, Zygadlo JA: **Mosquito repellent activity of essential oils of aromatic plants growing in Argentina.** *Bioresour Technol* 2008, **99**:2507-2415.
72. Bakirel T, Bakirel U, Keles OU, Ulgen SG, Yardibi H: **In vivo assessment of antidiabetic and antioxidant activities of rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) in alloxan-diabetic rabbits.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2008, **28**:64-73.
73. Orsi RO, Sforzin JM, Funari SR, Bankova V: **Effects of Brazilian and Bulgarian propolis on bactericidal activity of macrophages against *Salmonella typhimurium*.** *Int Immunopharmacol* 2005, **5**:359-368.
74. Fukuda M, Ohkoshi E, Makino M, Fujimoto Y: **Studies on the constituents of the leaves of *Baccharis dracunculifolia* (Asteraceae) and their cytotoxic activity.** *Chem Pharm Bull* 2006, **54**:1465-1468.
75. Klopell FC, Lemos M, Sousa JP, Comunello E, Maistro EL, Bastos JK, de Andrade SF: **Nerolidol, an antiulcer constituent from the essential oil of *Baccharis dracunculifolia* DC (Asteraceae).** *Z Naturforsch C J Biosci* 2007, **62**:537-542.
76. Da Silva Filho AA, de Sousa JP, Soares S, Furtado NA, Andrade e Silva ML, Cunha WR, Gregório LE, Nanayakkara NP, Bastos JK: **Antimicrobial activity of the extract and isolated compounds from *Baccharis dracunculifolia* D. C. (Asteraceae).** *Z Naturforsch C J Biosci* 2008, **63**:40-46.
77. Paulino N, Abreu SR, Uto Y, Koyama D, Nagasawa H, Hori H, Dirsch VM, Vollmar AM, Scremin A, Bretz WA: **Anti-inflammatory effects of a bioavailable compound, Artepillin C, in Brazilian propolis.** *Eur J Pharmacol* 2008, **10**:296-301.
78. Padilha de Paula J, Gomes-Carneiro MR, Paumgarten FJ: **Chemical composition, toxicity and mosquito repellency of *Ocimum selloi* oil.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2003, **88**:253-260.
79. Kupchan SM, Knox JR, Kelsey JE, Saenzrenauld JA: **Calotropin, a cytotoxic principle isolated from *Asclepias curassavica* L.** *Science* 1964, **25**:1685-1686.
80. Radford DJ, Gillies AD, Hinds JA, Duffy P: **Naturally occurring cardiac glycosides.** *Med J Aust* 1986, **12**:540-544.

81. De Almeida Barbosa LC, de Alvarenga ES, Demuner AJ, Virtuoso LS, Silva AA: **Synthesis of new phyto-growth-inhibitory substituted aryl-p-benzoquinones.** *Chem Biodivers* 2006, **3**:553-567.
82. Souza MC, Siani AC, Ramos MF, Menezes-de-Lima OJ, Henriques MG: **Evaluation of anti-inflammatory activity of essential oils from two Asteraceae species.** *Pharmazie* 2004, **58**:582-586.
83. Schmourlo G, Mendonça-Filho RR, Alviano CS, Costa SS: **Screening of antifungal agents using ethanol precipitation and bioautography of medicinal and food plants.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2005, **15**:563-568.
84. De Lima MR, de Souza Luna J, dos Santos AF, de Andrade MC, Sant'Ana AE, Genet JP, Marquez B, Neuville L, Moreau N: **Anti-bacterial activity of some Brazilian medicinal plants.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2006, **21**:137-147.
85. Gandhi M, Lal R, Sankaranarayanan A, Sharma PL: **Post-coital antifertility action of *Ruta graveolens* in female rats and hamsters.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 1991, **34**:49-59.
86. Oliva A, Meepagala KM, Wedge DE, Harries D, Hale AL, Aliotta G, Duke SO: **Natural fungicides from *Ruta graveolens* L. leaves, including a new quinolone alkaloid.** *J Agri Food Chem* 2003, **12**:890-896.
87. Ivanova A, Mikhova B, Najdenski H, Tsvetkova I, Kostova I: **Antimicrobial and cytotoxic activity of *Ruta graveolens*.** *Fitoterapia* 2005, **3**:344-347.
88. De Freitas TG, Augusto PM, Montanari T: **Effect of *Ruta graveolens* L. on pregnant mice.** *Contraception* 2005, **71**:74-77.
89. Preethi KC, Kuttan G, Kuttan R: **Anti-tumour activity of *Ruta graveolens* extract.** *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev* 2006, **7**:439-443.
90. Raghav SK, Gupta B, Agrawal C, Goswami K, Das HR: **Anti-inflammatory effect of *Ruta graveolens* L. in murine macrophage cells.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2006, **8**:234-239.
91. Khori V, Nayebpour M, Semnani S, Gholipour MJ, Marjani A: **Prolongation of AV nodal refractoriness by *Ruta graveolens* in isolated rat hearts. Potential role as an anti-arrhythmic agent.** *Saudi Med J* 2008, **29**:357-363.
92. Nogueira JC, Diniz Mde F, Lima EO: **In vitro antimicrobial activity of plants in Acute Otitis Externa.** *Braz J Otorhinolaryngol* 2008, **74**:118-124.
93. Valadares MC, Carrucha SG, Accorsi W, Queiroz ML: ***Euphorbia tirucalli* L. modulates myelopoiesis and enhances the resistance of tumour-bearing mice.** *Int Immunopharmacol* 2006, **6**:294-299.
94. Shlamovitz GZ, Gupta M, Diaz JA: **A case of acute keratoconjunctivitis from exposure to latex of *Euphorbia tirucalli* (Pencil Cactus).** *J Emerg Med* 2007, **36**:239-241.
95. Bani S, Kaul A, Khan B, Gupta VK, Satti NK, Suri KA, Qazi GN: **Anti-arthritis activity of a biopolymeric fraction from *Euphorbia tirucalli*.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2007, **1**:92-98.
96. Takahashi H, Hirata S, Minami H, Fukuyama Y: **Triterpene and flavanone glycoside from *Rhododendron simsii*.** *Phytochemistry* 2001, **56**:875-879.
97. Frutuoso VS, Gurjão MR, Cordeiro RS, Martins MA: **Analgesic and anti-ulcerogenic effects of a polar extract from leaves of *Vernonia condensata*.** *Planta Med* 1994, **60**:21-25.
98. Valverde AL, Cardoso GL, Pereira NA, Silva AJ, Kuster RM: **Analgesic and antiinflammatory activities of vernonioside B2 from *Vernonia condensata*.** *Phytother Res* 2001, **15**:263-264.
99. De Moura RS, Emiliano AF, de Carvalho LC, Souza MA, Guedes DC, Tano T, Resende AC: **Antihypertensive and endothelium-dependent vasodilator effects of *Alpinia zerumbet*, a medicinal plant.** *J Cardiovasc Pharmacol* 2005, **46**:288-294.
100. De Araújo PF, Coelho-de-Souza AN, Morais SM, Ferreira SC, Leal-Cardoso JH: **Antinociceptive effects of the essential oil of *Alpinia zerumbet* on mice.** *Phytomedicine* 2005, **12**:482-486.
101. Sawangjaroen N, Phongpaichit S, Subhadhirasakul S, Visutthi M, Srisuwan N, Thammapalerd N: **The anti-amoebic activity of some medicinal plants used by AIDS patients in southern Thailand.** *Parasitol Res* 2006, **98**:588-592.
102. Lin LY, Peng CC, Yeh WT, Wang HE, Yu TH, Peng RY: ***Alpinia zerumbet* potentially elevates high-density lipoprotein cholesterol level in hamsters.** *J Agric Food Chem* 2008, **25**:4435-4443.
103. Berson DS: **Natural antioxidants.** *J Drugs Dermatol* 2008, **7**:7-12.
104. Araújo VT, Diogo DC, da Silva MAP, Riggio LMT, Lapa AJ, Souccar C: **Evaluation of the antiulcerogenic activity of the extract of *Costus spiralis* Roscoe in rats.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 1999, **66**:193-198.
105. Palmieri MMB: **Efeitos sobre o Sistema Nervoso Central de extratos de plantas popularmente citadas como anticonvulsivantes.** *Msd thesis Universidade Estadual Paulista, Ribeirão Preto*; 2000.
106. Cavalcanti ES, Morais SM, Lima MA, Santana EW: **Larvicidal activity of essential oils from Brazilian plants against *Aedes aegypti* L.** *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz* 2004, **99**:541-544.
107. Wannissorn B, Jarikasem S, Siriwangchai T, Thubthimthed S: **Antibacterial properties of essential oils from Thai medicinal plants.** *Fitoterapia* 2005, **76**:233-236.
108. Tchoumboungang F, Zollo PH, Dagne E, Mekonnen Y: **In vivo antimalarial activity of essential oils from *Cymbopogon citratus* and *Ocimum gratissimum* on mice infected with *Plasmodium berghei*.** *Planta Med* 2005, **7**:20-23.
109. Moore SJ, Hill N, Ruiz C, Cameron MM: **Field evaluation of traditionally used plant-based insect repellents and fumigants against the malaria vector *Anopheles darlingi* in Riberalta, Bolivian Amazon.** *J Med Entomol* 2007, **44**:624-630.
110. Adeneye AA, Agbaje EO: **Hypoglycemic and hypolipidemic effects of fresh leaf aqueous extract of *Cymbopogon citratus* Stapf. in rats.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2007, **25**:440-444.
111. Pintão AM, Pais MS, Coley H, Kelland LR, Judson IR: **In vitro and in vivo antitumor activity of benzyl isothiocyanate: a natural product from *Tropaeolum majus*.** *Planta Med* 1995, **61**:233-236.
112. Soicke H, Leng-Peschlow E: **Characterisation of flavonoids from *Baccharis trimera* and their antihepatotoxic properties.** *Planta Med* 1987, **53**:37-39.
113. Gené RM, Cartaña C, Adzet T, Marín E, Parella T, Cañigual S: **Anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity of *Baccharis trimera*: identification of its active constituents.** *Planta Med* 1996, **62**:232-235.
114. Torres LM, Gamberini MT, Roque NF, Lima-Landman MT, Souccar C, Lapa AJ: **Diterpene from *Baccharis trimera* with a relaxant effect on rat vascular smooth muscle.** *Phytochemistry* 2000, **55**:617-619.
115. Januário AH, Santos SL, Marcussi S, Mazzi MV, Pietro RC, Sato DN, Ellena J, Sampaio SV, França SC, Soares AM: **Neo-clerodane diterpenoid, a new metalloprotease snake venom inhibitor from *Baccharis trimera* (Asteraceae): anti-proteolytic and anti-hemorrhagic properties.** *Chem Biol Interact* 2004, **7**:243-251.
116. Simões-Pires CA, Queiroz EF, Henriques AT, Hostettmann K: **Isolation and on-line identification of antioxidant compounds from three *Baccharis* species by HPLC-UV-MS/MS with post-column derivatisation.** *Phytochem Anal* 2005, **16**:307-314.
117. Oliveira AC, Endringer DC, Amorim LA, das Graças L, Brandão M, Coelho MM: **Effect of the extracts and fractions of *Baccharis trimera* and *Syzygium cumini* on glycaemia of diabetic and non-diabetic mice.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2005, **1**:165-169.
118. Dickel ML, Rates SM, Ritter MR: **Plants popularly used for losing weight purposes in Porto Alegre, South Brazil.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2007, **3**:60-71.
119. Carvalho LH, Krettl AU: **Antimalarial chemotherapy with natural products and chemically defined molecules.** *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz* 1991, **2**:181-184.
120. Portillo A, Vila R, Freixa B, Adzet T, Cañigual S: **Antifungal activity of Paraguayan plants used in traditional medicine.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2001, **76**:93-98.
121. Molina M, Contreras CM, Tellez-Alcantara P: ***Mimosa pudica* may possess antidepressant actions in the rat.** *Phytomedicine* 1999, **6**:319-323.
122. Mahanta M, Mukherjee AK: **Neutralisation of lethality, myotoxicity and toxic enzymes of *Naja kaouthia* venom by *Mimosa pudica* root extracts.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2001, **75**:55-60.
123. Ngo Bum E, Dawack DL, Schmutz M, Rakotonirina A, Rakotonirina SV, Portet C, Jeker A, Olpe HR, Herrling P: **Anticonvulsant activity of *Mimosa pudica* decoction.** *Fitoterapia* 2004, **75**:309-314.
124. Lans C: **Ethnomedicines used in Trinidad and Tobago for reproductive problems.** *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed* 2007, **15**:3-13.
125. Velázquez E, Tournier HA, Mordujovich de Buschiazzo P, Saavedra G, Schinella GR: **Antioxidant activity of Paraguayan plant extracts.** *Fitoterapia* 2003, **74**:91-97.
126. Consolini AE, Ragone MI, Migliori GN, Conforti P, Volonté MG: **Cardiotonic and sedative effects of *Cecropia pachystachya* Mart. (ambay) on isolated rat hearts and conscious mice.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2006, **15**:90-96.
127. Schinella G, Aquila S, Dade M, Giner R, Recio Mdel C, Spegazzini E, de Buschiazzo P, Tournier H, Ríos JL: **Anti-inflammatory and apoptotic activities of pumolic acid isolated from *Cecropia pachystachya*.** *Planta Med* 2008, **74**:215-220.

128. Cáceres A, Alvarez AV, Ovando AE, Samayoa BE: **Plants used in Guatemala for the treatment of respiratory diseases. 1. Screening of 68 plants against gram-positive bacteria.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 1991, **31**:193-208.
129. Pascual ME, Slowing K, Carretero ME, Villar A: **Antilicerogetic activity of *Lippia alba* (Mill.) N. E. Brown (Verbenaceae).** *Farmaco* 2001, **56**:501-504.
130. Zétola M, De Lima TC, Sonaglio D, González-Ortega G, Limberger RP, Petrovick R, Bassani VL: **CNS activities of liquid and spray-dried extracts from *Lippia alba*-Verbenaceae (Brazilian false melissa).** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2002, **82**:207-215.
131. Andrighetti-Fröhner CR, Sincero TC, da Silva AC, Savi LA, Gaido CM, Bettega JM, Mancini M, de Almeida MT, Barbosa RA, Farias MR, Barardi CR, Simões CM: **Antiviral evaluation of plants from Brazilian Atlantic Tropical Forest.** *Fitoterapia* 2005, **76**:374-378.
132. Aridoğan BC, Baydar H, Kaya S, Demirci M, Ozbaşar D, Mumcu E: **Antimicrobial activity and chemical composition of some essential oils.** *Arch Pharm Res* 2002, **25**:860-864.
133. Choi EM, Hwang JK: **Antiinflammatory, analgesic and antioxidant activities of the fruit of *Foeniculum vulgare*.** *Fitoterapia* 2004, **75**:557-565.
134. Lee HS: **Acaricidal activity of constituents identified in *Foeniculum vulgare* fruit oil against *Dermatophagoides* spp. (Acari: Pyroglyphidae).** *J Agric Food Chem* 2004, **19**:2887-2889.
135. Ozcan MM, Chalchat JC, Arslan D, Ates A, Unver A: **Comparative essential oil composition and antifungal effect of bitter fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* ssp. piperitum) fruit oils obtained during different vegetation.** *J Med Food* 2006, **9**:552-561.
136. Tognolini M, Ballabeni V, Bertoni S, Bruni R, Impicciatore M, Barocelli E: **Protective effect of *Foeniculum vulgare* essential oil and anethole in an experimental model of thrombosis.** *Pharmacol Res* 2007, **56**:254-260.
137. Pitasawat B, Champakaew D, Choochote W, Jitpakdi A, Chaitong U, Kanjanapothi D, Rattanachanpichai E, Tippawangkosol P, Riyong D, Tuetun B, Chaiyasit D: **Aromatic plant-derived essential oil: an alternative larvicide for mosquito control.** *Fitoterapia* 2007, **78**:205-210.
138. Gray AM, Flatt PR: **Antihyperglycemic actions of *Eucalyptus globulus* (Eucalyptus) are associated with pancreatic and extra-pancreatic effects in mice.** *J Nutr* 1998, **128**:2319-2323.
139. Silva J, Abebeb W, Sousa SM, Duarte VG, Machado MIL, Matos FJA: **Analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects of essential oils of *Eucalyptus*.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2003, **89**:277-283.
140. Takahashi T, Kokubo R, Sakaino M: **Antimicrobial activities of eucalyptus leaf extracts and flavonoids from *Eucalyptus maculata*.** *Lett Appl Microbiol* 2004, **39**:60-64.
141. Salari MH, Amine G, Shirazi MH, Hafezi R, Mohammadpour M: **Antibacterial effects of *Eucalyptus globulus* leaf extract on pathogenic bacteria isolated from specimens of patients with respiratory tract disorders.** *Clin Microbiol Infect* 2006, **12**:194-196.
142. Zheng YY, Yang J, Chen DH, Sun L: **Effects of the stilbene extracts from *Cajanus cajan* L. on ovarioectomy-induced bone loss in rats.** *Yao Xue Xue Bao* 2007, **42**:562-565.
143. Braga FG, Bouzada ML, Fabri RL, de O, Matos M, Moreira FO, Scio E, Coimbra ES: **Antileishmanial and antifungal activity of plants used in traditional medicine in Brazil.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2007, **4**:396-402.
144. Luo QF, Sun L, Si JY, Chen DH, Du GH: **Hypocholesterolemic effect of stilbene extract from *Cajanus cajan* L. on serum and hepatic lipid in diet-induced hyperlipidemic mice.** *Yao Xue Xue Bao* 2008, **43**:145-149.
145. Obaseiki-Ebor EE: **Preliminary report on the in vitro antibacterial activity of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* leaf juice.** *Afr J Med Med Sci* 1985, **14**:199-202.
146. Pal S, Nag Chaudhuri AK: **Studies on the anti-ulcer activity of a *Bryophyllum pinnatum* leaf extract in experimental animals.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 1991, **33**:97-102.
147. Akinpelu DA: **Antimicrobial activity of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* leaves.** *Fitoterapia* 2000, **71**:193-194.
148. Ojewole JA: **Antinoceptive, anti-inflammatory and antidiabetic effects of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (Crassulaceae) leaf aqueous extract.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2005, **13**:13-19.
149. Yemitan OK, Salahdeen HM: **Neurosedative and muscle relaxant activities of aqueous extract of *Bryophyllum pinnatum*.** *Fitoterapia* 2005, **76**:187-193.
150. Penido C, Costa KA, Futuro DO, Paiva SR, Kaplan MA, Figueiredo MR, Henriques MG: **Anti-inflammatory and anti-ulcerogenic properties of *Stachytarpheta cayennensis* (L.C. Rich) Vahl.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2006, **8**:225-233.
151. Adebajo AC, Olawode EO, Omobuwajo OR, Adesanya SA, Begrow F, Elkhawad A, Akanmu MA, Edrada R, Proksch P, Klaes M, Verspohl EJ: **Hypoglycaemic constituents of *Stachytarpheta cayennensis* leaf.** *Planta Med* 2007, **73**:241-3250.
152. Anas K, Jayasree PR, Vijayakumar T, Manish Kumar PR: **In vitro antibacterial activity of *Psidium guajava* Linn. leaf extract on clinical isolates of multidrug resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.** *Indian J Exp Biol* 2008, **46**:41-46.
153. Cheruiyot KR, Olila D, Kateregga J: **In-vitro antibacterial activity of selected medicinal plants from Longisa region of Bomet district, Kenya.** *Afr Health Sci* 2009, **1**:42-46.
154. Rahim N, Gomes DJ, Watanabe H, Rahman SR, Chomvarin C, Endtz HP, Alam M: **Antibacterial activity of *Psidium guajava* leaf and bark against multidrug-resistant *Vibrio cholerae*: implication for cholera control.** *Jpn J Infect Dis* 2010, **63**:271-274.
155. Roy CK, Das AK: **Comparative evaluation of different extracts of leaves of *Psidium guajava* Linn. for hepatoprotective activity.** *Pak J Pharm Sci* 2010, **23**:15-20.
156. Ruppelt BM, Pereira EF, Gonçalves LC, Pereira NA: **Pharmacological screening of plants recommended by folk medicine as anti-snake venom-I. Analgesic and anti-inflammatory activities.** *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz* 1991, **2**:203-205.
157. Soares de Moura R, Costa SS, Jansen JM, Silva CA, Lopes CS, Bernardo-Filho M, Nascimento da Silva V, Criddle DN, Portela BN, Rubenich LM, Araujo RG, Carvalho LC: **Bronchodilator activity of *Mikania glomerata* Sprengel on human bronchi and guinea-pig trachea.** *J Pharm Pharmacol* 2002, **54**:249-256.
158. Maiorano VA, Marcussi S, Daher MA, Oliveira CZ, Couto LB, Gomes OA, França SC, Soares AM, Pereira OS: **Antiophidian properties of the aqueous extract of *Mikania glomerata*.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2005, **1**:364-370.
159. Islam ME, Haque ME, Mosaddik MA: **Cytotoxicity and antibacterial activity of *Sida rhombifolia* (Malvaceae) grown in Bangladesh.** *Phytother Res* 2003, **17**:973-975.
160. Dhalwal K, Deshpazde YS, Purohit AP: **Evaluation of in vitro antioxidant activity of *Sida rhombifolia* (L.) ssp. retusa (L.).** *J Med Food* 2007, **10**:683-688.
161. Von Szczepanski C, Zgorzelak P, Hoyer GA: **Isolation, structural analysis and synthesis of an antimicrobial substance from *Petiveria alliacea* L.** *Arzneimittelforschung* 1972, **22**:1975-1976.
162. Malpezzi EL, Davino SC, Costa LV, Freitas JC, Giesbrecht AM, Roque NF: **Antimitotic action of extracts of *Petiveria alliacea* on sea urchin egg development.** *Braz J Med Biol Res* 1994, **27**:749-754.
163. Lopes-Martins RA, Pegoraro DH, Woisky R, Penna SC, Sertié JA: **The anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects of a crude extract of *Petiveria alliacea* L. (Phytolaccaceae).** *Phytomedicine* 2002, **9**:245-248.
164. Kim S, Kubec R, Musah RA: **Antibacterial and antifungal activity of sulfur-containing compounds from *Petiveria alliacea* L.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2006, **8**:188-192.
165. Okada Y, Tanaka K, Sato E, Okajima H: **Antioxidant activity of the new thiosulfinate derivative, S-benzyl phenylmethanethiosulfinate, from *Petiveria alliacea* L.** *Org Biomol Chem* 2008, **21**:1097-1102.
166. Tiwari TN, Varma J, Dubey NK, Chansouria JP, Ali Z: **Pharmacological evaluation of some bioactive plant products on albino rats.** *Hindustan Antibiot Bull* 1998, **40**:38-41.
167. Runnie I, Salleh MN, Mohamed S, Head RJ, Abeywardena MY: **Vasorelaxation induced by common edible tropical plant extracts in isolated rat aorta and mesenteric vascular bed.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2004, **92**:311-316.
168. Ka MH, Choi EH, Chun HS, Lee KG: **Antioxidative activity of volatile extracts isolated from *Angelica tenuissima* roots, peppermint leaves, pine needles, and sweet flag leaves.** *J Agric Food Chem* 2005, **18**:4124-4129.
169. Uawonggul N, Chaveerach A, Thammasirak S, Arkaravichien T, Chuachan C, Daduang S: **Screening of plants acting against *Heterometrus laoticus* scorpion venom activity on fibroblast cell lysis.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2006, **16**:201-207.
170. Rajesh R, Shivaprasad HV, Gowda CD, Nataraju A, Dhananjaya BL, Vishwanath BS: **Comparative study on plant latex proteases and their involvement in hemostasis: a special emphasis on clot inducing and dissolving properties.** *Planta Med* 2007, **73**:1061-1067.

171. Antonio JM, Gracioso JS, Toma W, Lopez LC, Oliveira F, Brito AR: **Antitumorogenic activity of ethanol extract of *Solanum variable* (false "Jurubeba").** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2004, **93**:83-88.
172. Das NG, Baruah I, Talukdar PK, Das SC: **Evaluation of botanicals as repellents against mosquitoes.** *J Vector Borne Dis* 2003, **40**:49-53.
173. Chiasson H, Bélanger A, Bostanian N, Vincent C, Poliquin A: **Acaricidal properties of *Artemisia absinthium* and *Tanacetum vulgare* (Asteraceae) essential oils obtained by three methods of extraction.** *J Econ Entomol* 2001, **94**:167-171.
174. Kordali S, Kotan R, Mavi A, Cakir A, Ala A, Yildirim A: **Determination of the chemical composition and antioxidant activity of the essential oil of *Artemisia dracunculoides* and of the antifungal and antibacterial activities of Turkish *Artemisia absinthium*, *A. dracunculoides*, *A. santonicum*, and *A. spicigera* essential oils.** *J Agric Food Chem* 2005, **30**:9452-9458.
175. Lopes-Lutz D, Alviano DS, Alviano CS, Kolodziejczyk PP: **Screening of chemical composition, antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of *Artemisia* essential oils.** *Phytochemistry* 2008, **69**:1732-1738.
176. Rao YK, Fang SH, Tzeng YM: **Inhibitory effects of the flavonoids isolated from *Waltheria indica* on the production of NO, TNF-alpha and IL-12 in activated macrophages.** *Bio Pharm Bull* 2005, **28**:912-915.
177. Talbourdet S, Sadick NS, Lazou K, Bonnet-Duquennoy M, Kurfurst R, Neveu M, Heusèle C, André P, Schnebert S, Draelos ZD, Perrier E: **Modulation of gene expression as a new skin anti-aging strategy.** *J Drugs Dermatol* 2007, **6**:25-33.
178. Gopalakrishnan M, Rajasekharasetty MR: **Effect of papaya (*Carica papaya* Linn) on pregnancy and estrous cycle in albino rats of Wistar strain.** *Indian J Physiol Pharmacol* 1978, **22**:66-70.
179. Emeruwa AC: **Antibacterial substance from *Carica papaya* fruit extract.** *J Nat Prod* 1982, **45**:123-127.
180. Sripanidkulchai B, Wongpanich V, Laupattarakasem P, Suwansakri J, Jirakulsomchok : **Diuretic effects of selected Thai indigenous medicinal plants in rats.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2001, **75**:185-190.
181. Anuar NS, Zahari SS, Taib IA, Rahman MT: **Effect of green and ripe *Carica papaya* epicarp extracts on wound healing and during pregnancy.** *Food Chem Toxicol* 2008, **46**:2384-2389.
182. Adeyemi OO, Yemitan OK, Afolabi L: **Inhibition of chemically induced inflammation and pain by orally and topically administered leaf extract of *Manihot esculenta* Crantz in rodents.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2008, **2**:6-11.
183. Nguéfacq J, Budde BB, Jakobsen M: **Five essential oils from aromatic plants of Cameroon: their antibacterial activity and ability to permeabilize the cytoplasmic membrane of *Listeria innocua* examined by flow cytometry.** *Lett Appl Microbiol* 2004, **39**:395-400.
184. Ntonifor NN, Ngufor CA, Kimbi HK, Oben BO: **Traditional use of indigenous mosquito-repellents to protect humans against mosquitoes and other insect bites in a rural community of Cameroon.** *East Afr Med J* 2006, **83**:553-558.
185. Viyoch J, Pisutthanon N, Faikreua A, Nupangta K, Wangtorpol K, Ngokkuen J: **Evaluation of in vitro antimicrobial activity of Thai basil oils and their micro-emulsion formulas against *Propionibacterium acnes*.** *Int J Cosmet Sci* 2006, **28**:125-133.
186. De Almeida I, Alviano DS, Vieira DP, Alves PB, Blank AF, Lopes AH, Alviano CS, Rosa MS: **Antigiardial activity of *Ocimum basilicum* essential oil.** *Parasitol Res* 2007, **101**:443-452.
187. Bravo E, Amrani S, Aziz M: ***Ocimum basilicum* ethanolic extract decreases cholesterol synthesis and lipid accumulation in human macrophages.** *Fitoterapia* 2008, **79**:515-523.
188. Kusamba C, Byamana K, Mbuyi WM: **Antibacterial activity of *Mirabilis jalapa* seed powder.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 1991, **35**:197-199.
189. Shao F, Hu Z, Xiong YM, Huang QZ, Wang CG, Zhu RH, Wang DC: **A new antifungal peptide from the seeds of *Phytolacca americana*: characterization, amino acid sequence and cDNA cloning.** *Biochim Biophys Acta* 1999, **19**:262-268.
190. Cáceres A, López B, González S, Berger I, Tada I, Maki J: **Plants used in Guatemala for the treatment of protozoal infections. I. Screening of activity to bacteria, fungi and (protozoário) *American trypanosomes* of 13 native plants.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 1998, **62**:195-202.
191. Iwalewa EO, Adewunmi CO, Omisore NO, Adebaniji OA, Azike CK, Adigun AO, Adesina OA, Olowoye OG: **Pro- and antioxidant effects and cytoprotective potentials of nine edible vegetables in southwest Nigeria.** *J Med Food* 2005, **8**:539-544.
192. Moura AC, Silva EL, Fraga MC, Wanderley AG, Afiatpour P, Maia MB: **Antiinflammatory and chronic toxicity study of the leaves of *Ageratum conyzoides* L. in rats.** *Phytomedicine* 2005, **12**:138-142.
193. Singh HP, Batish DR, Kaur S, Kohli RK, Arora K: **Phytotoxicity of the volatile monoterpene citronellal against some weeds.** *Z Naturforsch* 2006, **61**:334-340.
194. Chah KF, Eze CA, Emuelosi CE, Esimone CO: **Antibacterial and wound healing properties of methanolic extracts of some Nigerian medicinal plants.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2006, **8**:164-167.
195. Moreira MD, Picanço MC, Barbosa LC, Guedes RN, Barros EC, Campos MR: **Compounds from *Ageratum conyzoides*: isolation, structural elucidation and insecticidal activity.** *Pest Manag Sci* 2007, **63**:615-621.
196. Chiasson H, Bostanian NJ, Vincent C: **Insecticidal properties of a *Chenopodium*-based botanical.** *J Econ Entomol* 2004, **97**:1373-1377.
197. Kumar R, Mishra AK, Dubey NK, Tripathi YB: **Evaluation of *Chenopodium ambrosioides* oil as a potential source of antifungal, antihaematotoxic and antioxidant activity.** *Int J Food Microbiol* 2007, **10**:159-164.
198. Candan F, Unlu M, Tepe B, Daferera D, Polissiou M, Sökmen A, Akpulat HA: **Antioxidant and antimicrobial activity of the essential oil and methanol extracts of *Achillea millefolium* subsp. millefolium Afan. (Asteraceae).** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2003, **87**:215-220.
199. Agbor GA, Vinson JA, Oben JE, Ngogang JY: **In vitro antioxidant activity of three *Piper* species.** *J Herb Pharmacother* 2007, **7**:49-64.
200. Tabopda TK, Ngoupayo J, Liu J, Mitaine-Offer AC, Tanoli SA, Khan SN, Ali MS, Ngadjui BT, Tsamo E, Lacaille-Dubois MA, Luu B: **Bioactive aristolactams from *Piper umbellatum*.** *Phytochemistry* 2008, **69**:1726-1731.
201. Dimo T, Nguélefack TB, Kamtchouing P, Dongo E, Rakotonirina A, Rakotonirina SV: **Hypotensive effects of a methanol extract of *Bidens pilosa* Linn on hypertensive rats.** *C R Acad Sci Gen* 1999, **322**:323-329.
202. Chang CL, Kuo HK, Chang SL, Chiang YM, Lee TH, Wu WM, Shyur LF, Yang WC: **The distinct effects of a butanol fraction of *Bidens pilosa* plant extract on the development of Th1-mediated diabetes and Th2-mediated airway inflammation in mice.** *J Biomed Sci* 2005, **12**:79-89.
203. Sundararajan P, Dey A, Smith A, Doss AG, Rajappan M, Natarajan S: **Studies of anticancer and antipyretic activity of *Bidens pilosa* whole plant.** *Afr Health Sci* 2006, **6**:27-30.
204. Rojas JJ, Ochoa VJ, Ocampo AS, Muñoz JF: **Screening for antimicrobial activity of ten medicinal plants used in Colombian folkloric medicine: a possible alternative in the treatment of non-nosocomial infections.** *BMC Complement Altern Med* 2006, **6**:2.
205. Kwiecinski MR, Felipe KB, Schoenfelder T, de Lemos Wiese LP, Rossi MH, Gonçalves E, Felício JD, Filho DW, Pedrosa RC: **Study of the antitumor potential of *Bidens pilosa* (Asteraceae) used in Brazilian folk medicine.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2008, **17**:69-75.
206. Gbeassor M, Kossou Y, Amegbo K, de Souza C, Koumaglo K, Denke A: **Antimalarial effects of eight African medicinal plants.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 1989, **25**:115-118.
207. Abreu IC, Marinho AS, Paes AM, Freire SM, Olea RS, Borges MO, Borges AC: **Hypotensive and vasorelaxant effects of ethanolic extract from *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. in rats.** *Fitoterapia* 2003, **74**:650-657.
208. Cetin H, Cinbilgel I, Yanikoglu A, Gokceoglu M: **Larvicidal activity of some Labiatae (Lamiaceae) plant extracts from Turkey.** *Phytother Res* 2006, **20**:1088-1090.
209. Rim IS, Jee CH: **Acaricidal effects of herb essential oils against *Dermatophagoides farinae* and *D. pteronyssinus* (Acari: Pyroglyphidae) and qualitative analysis of a herb *Mentha pulegium* (pennyroyal).** *Korean J Parasitol* 2006, **44**:133-138.
210. Pavela R: **Insecticidal properties of several essential oils on the house fly (*Musca domestica* L.).** *Phytother Res* 2008, **22**:274-278.
211. Cechinel Filho V, Santos AR, De Campos RO, Miguel OG, Yunes RA, Ferrari F, Messana I, Calixto JB: **Chemical and pharmacological studies of *Phyllanthus carolinensis* in mice.** *J Pharm Pharmacol* 1996, **48**:1231-1236.
212. Pérez-García F, Marín E, Cañigueral S, Adzet T: **Anti-inflammatory action of *Pluchea sagittalis*: involvement of an antioxidant mechanism.** *Life Sci* 1996, **59**:2033-2040.
213. Shi M, Chang L, He G: **Stimulating action of *Carthamus tinctorius* L., *Angelica sinensis* (Oliv.) Diels and *Leonurus sibiricus* L. on the uterus.** *Zhongguo Zhong Yao Za Zhi* 1995, **20**:173-175.
214. Islam MA, Ahmed F, Das AK, Bachar SC: **Analgesic and anti-inflammatory activity of *Leonurus sibiricus*.** *Fitoterapia* 2005, **76**:359-362.

215. Ahmed F, Islam MA, Rahman MM: **Antibacterial activity of Leonurus sibiricus aerial parts.** *Fitoterapia* 2006, **77**:316-317.
216. HOLETZ FB, PESSINI GL, SANCHES NR, CORTEZ DA, NAKAMURA CV, FILHO BP: **Screening of some plants used in the Brazilian folk medicine for the treatment of infectious diseases.** *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz* 2002, **97**:1027-1031.
217. Sharma P, Mohan L, Srivastava CN: **Phytoextract-induced developmental deformities in malaria vector.** *Bioresour Technol* 2006, **97**:1599-1604.
218. Schapoval EE, Vargas MR, Chaves CG, Bridi R, Zuanazzi JA, Henriques AT: **Antiinflammatory and antinociceptive activities of extracts and isolated compounds from *Stachytarpheta cayennensis*.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 1998, **60**:53-59.
219. Schuldt EZ, Ckless K, Simas ME, Farias MR, Ribeiro-Do-Valle RM: **Butanolic fraction from *Cuphea carthagenensis* Jacq McBride relaxes rat thoracic aorta through endothelium-dependent and endothelium-independent mechanisms.** *J Cardiovasc Pharmacol* 2000, **35**:234-239.
220. Biavatti MW, Farias C, Curtius F, Brasil LM, Hort S, Schuster L, Leite SN, Prado SR: **Preliminary studies on *Campomanesia xanthocarpa* (Berg.) and *Cuphea carthagenensis* (Jacq.) J.F. Macbr. aqueous extract: weight control and biochemical parameters.** *J Ethnopharmacol* 2004, **93**:385-389.
221. Nishino H, Hayashi T, Arisawa M, Satomi Y, Iwashima A: **Antitumor-promoting activity of scopadulcic acid B, isolated from the medicinal plant *Scoparia dulcis* L.** *Oncology* 1993, **50**:100-103.
222. Ratnasooriya WD, Jayakody JR, Premakumara GA, Ediriweera ER: **Antioxidant activity of water extract of *Scoparia dulcis*.** *Fitoterapia* 2005, **76**:220-222.
223. Latha M, Ramkumar KM, Pari L, Damodaran PN, Rajeshkannan V, Suresh T: **Phytochemical and antimicrobial study of an antidiabetic plant: *Scoparia dulcis* L.** *J Med Food* 2006, **9**:391-394.

doi:10.1186/1746-4269-6-29

Cite this article as: Garcia et al.: Ethnopharmacological survey among migrants living in the Southeast Atlantic Forest of Diadema, São Paulo, Brazil. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 2010 **6**:29.

**Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central
and take full advantage of:**

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

