Medicinal Plants in the Health of the Community of Bacuriteua, Bragança (Amazon, Brazil)

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ABSTRACT
Since ancient times, the human species has used natural resources for its survival. The incessant search for plants that were capable of curing diseases made it possible for man to discover various medicinal species (Moreira; Oliveira, 2017).

Keywords: Survival, Medicinal species.

1 INTRODUCTION

Since ancient times, the human species has used natural resources for its survival. The incessant search for plants that were capable of curing diseases made it possible for man to discover various medicinal species (Moreira; Oliveira, 2017). In traditional populations, knowledge of the use of plants is passed on from parents to children over generations and corresponds to the identity of a group of people, reflecting what they are, what they think and their relationships with the nature that surrounds them (Medeiros et al., 2004; Neto et al., 2014). In this way, these communities end up becoming the main audience for the study of Ethnobotany, defined as the science that studies human societies, past and present, and their ecological, genetic, evolutionary, symbolic and cultural interactions with plants (Fonseca-kruel & Peixoto, 2004). Studies on the use and management of natural resources are more focused on areas such as the interior of the Amazon, but according to Carneiro et al. (2010) the knowledge of the plant species used by the Amazonian coastal communities is important, especially the marine extractive reserves (RESEX) created along the coast of the State of Pará that have extensive knowledge of the natural resources of the coastal region of the Amazon.

2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study was to record the uses of medicinal plants in the treatment of diseases by the Bacuriteua community.

3 METHODOLOGY

The sampling was intentional, according to Thiollent (2000), where a small number of people are intentionally chosen due to the relevance they present in relation to a given subject, and Amorozo (1996), who reported that the informants must have criteria such as knowledge about the plants that are used as medicinal resources, be residents of the municipality, be available to participate in the research and be adults. In addition, the "snowball" technique was applied, which consists of interviewing the first collaborator and from this employee obtaining information about another possible participant (Albuquerque, Lucena & Alencar, 2009). At the end of the application of this technique, 20 residents who participated in the research were selected. Being guided about the project and obtaining consent for the interviews. All the people interviewed during the research signed a Free and Informed Consent Form (ICF)

The botanical material collected was herbalized according to the usual methodology. The collected specimens were included in the Herbarium of the Institute of Coastal Ecosystems of the Federal University of Pará (HBRA, Thiers continuously updated). The identification of the botanical material was carried out by comparing it with exsiccates from the herbarium and consulting specialized bibliographies. The scientific names were checked using available databases (Flora do Brasil/2020; IPNI/2017; Tropics, 2019). The list of taxa was followed by APG IV (2016). The percentage of Main Use Agreement (CUP) was calculated. The CUP allows the assimilation of some cultural aspects regarding the use of medicinal plants in the communities, since it measures at what level the informants share their knowledge (Cassino, 2010).

The following formula was used to calculate the CUP: CUP **= number of informants who mentioned the main use x 100/number of informants who mentioned the main use.** The main use is the one most cited by the informants. This calculation was made only for the most cited plants. The percentage of agreement regarding the main uses of each species quantifies the relative importance of the plants used in the studied community in terms of the number of citations by the informants and the agreement of the cited uses. The CUP value was corrected by the Correction Factor (FC):

FC= number of informants who mentioned the species

Number of informants who mentioned the most cited species

Thus, the corrected CUP (CUPc) is given by the formula: CUPc = CUP x HR

CUPc values between 0 and 24 correspond to the species that are rarely used. Values between 25 and 49 species of intermediate use. Values between 50 and 100 widely used species.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results achieved, it is possible to affirm that there is a plurality of medicinal plant species used in the fight against diseases among the residents of Bacuriteua. The extensive variety of medicinal plants mentioned above highlights the remarkable capacity of these plants, composed of active ingredients endowed with therapeutic or pharmacological potential, to prevent or treat diseases. In this study, 21 species were recorded, most of them from the Asteraceae family. Onlysix of these (*Aloe vera* L. Burm f., *P. boldus* Molina, R. graveolens L., C. ambrosiode *L.*, M. suaveolens *L. and* P. collosum *Ruiz & Pav.*) are better known and commonly used in the Community. Other species that had high CUPC was *Piper collosum* Ruiz & Pav. (paregoric) and *Chenopodium ambrosiode*s L. (mastruz), both with CUPC equal to 60%. The species *C. ambrosiodes* L. was also more representative in its CUPC in the work of Pinto, Amorozo & Furlan (2006), obtaining a value of 45.4%.

It was observed that there were 66 therapeutic indications indicated during the research period. Of this total, influenza (24.24%) was the most cited disease, followed by belly pain (15.15%), inflammation (12.12%) and headache (12.12%). In addition, there are other indications also made by the interviewees, such as: bathing (9.09%), liver (7.57%), fever (6.06%), stroke (4.54%), burn (3.03%), hypertension (1.51%), heart (1.51%), earache (1.51%) and shortness of breath (1.51%).

Through the Agreement on Main Use (CUP), the most widespread and accepted uses for a species are pointed out and this implies greater security regarding the relative efficacy of the proposed use, as it is probably used or known by many informants (Vendruscolo & Mentz, 2006). Regarding the most indicated part of the plants, the leaf represents 80% of the citations, followed by twigs (14%) and stem (6%). Similar results were found in the studies of Freitas & Fernandes (2006) and Amorozo (2002), which indicate that leaves are the most used part of the plants in the treatment of the most common diseases mentioned.

5 FINAL THOUGHTS

This work enabled a greater knowledge about the knowledge and practices about the use of medicinal plants by residents of the community of Bacuriteua in Bragança-PA. It was possible to verify that women are the people who have the greatest knowledge about the cultivation and use of medicinal plants for the treatment of diseases in their own families. Thus, plant species have a great value in the lives of the interviewees, as they obtain a healing power affirmed by them during the

The use of medicinal plants is a viable alternative for the Bacuriteua community. Thus, it is understood that the various researches carried out in this area should contribute to confirm the real efficacy of these herbal medicines, so that they are more accessible to the population due to their low cost.

In addition, the use of medicinal plants has been encouraged in specific programs and legislation of the Ministry of Health. Thus, it is essential to encourage work that aims to improve the quality of life of the

population, disseminating scientifically proven information.

In view of the immense biodiversity of medicinal plants used for both prevention and cure, it is essential to disseminate more information about the rational use and side effects, as well as the safety of using these plants as a therapeutic resource.

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