



## **The therapeutic use of "Terramycin" *Alternanthera dentata* (Moench) Stuchlik in the community of Bacuriteua-Northeast of Pará-Amazonia-Brazil**

**Jones Souza Moraes**

**Gabrielle de Nazaré Falcão da Silva**

**Camila do Socorro Rocha de Sousa**

**Deyvison Luz Santos Karina Lopes Diniz**

**Gilvan Velozo Corrêa Elias Mauricio da Silva Rodrigues**

**Lucinaldo da Silva Blandtt**

**Iracely Rodrigues da Silva**

### **ABSTRACT**

The use of medicinal species is still one of the main means of health treatment among traditional communities (MORAES et al., 2020). In these communities, the knowledge about the use of medicinal plants, as well as their use in the form of medicine, has accompanied their daily lives for years (BORTOLUZZI et al., 2020). The use of plants for the treatment of diseases follows some parameters, such as: the correct way of collecting plant species, the way of preparation, form of use and time of treatment.

**Keywords:** Medicinal species, Plants, Treatment of diseases.

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The use of medicinal species is still one of the main means of health treatment among traditional communities (MORAES et al., 2020). In these communities, the knowledge about the use of medicinal plants, as well as their use in the form of medicine, has accompanied their daily lives for years (BORTOLUZZI et al., 2020). The use of plants for the treatment of diseases follows some parameters, such as: the correct way of collecting plant species, the way of preparation, form of use and time of treatment. Medicinal plants, according to ANVISA (National Health Surveillance Agency), are plant plants, cultivated or not, used for medicinal purposes.

As seen above, medicinal species are used as a means to treat diseases, mainly by traditional communities, and for them, preserving this popular wisdom is in a way protecting the knowledge of the community (LOPES et al., 2012). These communities have a great cultural richness ranging from the relationships with nature, religious practices and the various traditions that come from the experience built up over the years (FERREIRA; TORRES, 2015). The knowledge built can contribute to the suggestion of



studies and manufacture of drugs, and their efficacy is proven through chemical studies (MESSIAS et al., 2015).

## 2 OBJECTIVE

To record the traditional uses of "Terramycin" *Alternanthera dentata* (Moench) Stuchlik., in the community of Bacuriteua.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

The present study was developed in the community of Bacuriteua, which is located approximately 9 km from the seat of the municipality of Bragança, on the left bank of the Caeté River (SOUZA, 2013), and is one of the most populous communities in the municipality. The research had a qualitative approach, of the field research type through direct observation and interviews with key informants to obtain explanations about how the use of terramycin occurs in the community for the treatment of diseases, using the *Respondent-Driven Sampling* (RDS) methodology, with adaptations to the local reality. The data were analyzed based on the triangulation of information collected in the community, in specialized bibliographies and in international databases.

## 4 DEVELOPMENT

The key informants of the Bacuriteua community use medicinal plants for the prevention of diseases and seek to maintain the tradition that was inherited from their ancestors, but it is worth noting that due to the financial difficulties of acquiring industrialized medicines and the distance from the seat of the municipality make the use of plants become a common practice among them. In Bacuriteua, the "Terramycin" *Alternanthera dentata* (Moench) Stuchlik is used for the treatment of headache, wound healing, urinary infection and allergy, and is known by the name of "Terramycin" and is commonly found in the backyards of homes, whose description is shown in Chart 1.

Chart 1 – Traditional use of *Alternanthera dentata* "Terramyina" in Bacuriteua.

<b>TREATMENT:</b> Headache <b>PART OF THE PLANT USED:</b> Leaves.	<b>TREATMENT:</b> to heal wounds <b>PART OF THE PLANT USED:</b> Leaves.
<b>TREATMENT:</b> for allergy <b>PART OF THE PLANT USED:</b> Leaves.	<b>TREATMENT:</b> urinary tract infection <b>PART OF THE PLANT USED:</b> Leaves.

Key informants from the community of Bacuriteua report the importance of medicinal plants in the process of maintaining local health, being the first treatment option for their ailments. In this work, it was found that the leaves are the main part of the plant used by the key informants. Medicinal plants can concentrate the active ingredients in their leaves, which in a way validates their use, and also because it is



the part of the plant where it is easy to quantify, handle and preserve the species (SILVA; MARINI; MELO, 2015).

The use of the leaves in medicinal preparations is seen as positive, as it does not cause the death of the plant used, which in a way contributes to the preservation of the local flora. However, it is necessary to alert and guide the community about the need to encourage the planting of new ones, especially those that suffer greater anthropic action (TULER, 2011).

In the community, the key informants collect the medicinal plants in the backyards of their homes and they have their own network of knowledge about the management and cultivation of the species. All key informants reported the importance of medicinal plants in health care. Oliveira & Lucena (2015) conducted a study in the community of Quixadá do Ceará and identified that residents also cultivated the plants in the backyards of their homes, as found in Bacuriteua.

Thus, it is considered that the use of medicinal plants is the first alternative to treat diseases in the community of Bacuriteua, but also as a form of tradition and due to the difficulty of moving outside the community to seek medical help, and because they believe that the use of medicinal plants can help in the treatment of diseases.

## **5 FINAL THOUGHTS**

The use of various plants, including their applications, evidences the belief of the Bacuriteua community in plant resources as an alternative method for the treatment of several of the most common ailments and diseases. The community, through the key informants, demonstrated a broad knowledge about plants with medicinal therapeutic purposes, more precisely in relation to the use of "Terramycin" *Alternanthera dentata* (Moench) Stuchlik.

Over the years, the community of Bacuriteua has determined its own guidelines for the use and management of plant species, seeking in natural resources and traditional knowledge to improve the health of its residents. In Bacuriteua, medicinal knowledge is passed on from generation to generation through orality, hence the great importance of continuing this perpetuated knowledge. The loss of this knowledge also means the loss of new drugs and cultural values of traditional populations.



## REFERENCES

BORTOLUZZI, Mariana Matos; SCHMITT, Vania; MAZUR, Caryna Eurich. Efeito fitoterápico de plantas medicinais sobre a ansiedade: uma breve revisão. *Research, Society and Development*, v. 9, n. 2, p. 47, 2020.

FERREIRA, Haroldo da Silva; TORRES, Zaira Maria Camerino. Comunidade quilombola na Região Nordeste do Brasil: saúde de mulheres e crianças antes e após sua certificação. *Revista Brasileira de Saúde Materno Infantil*, v. 15, p. 219-229, 2015.

LOPES, Izabela Souza et al. Levantamento de plantas medicinais utilizadas na cidade de Itapetim, Pernambuco, Brasil. *Revista de Biologia e Farmácia*, v. 7, n. 1, p. 115-121, 2012.

MESSIAS, Maria Cristina Teixeira Braga et al. Uso popular de plantas medicinais e perfil socioeconômico dos usuários: um estudo em área urbana em Ouro Preto, MG, Brasil. *Rev. bras. plantas med.* vol.17 no.1 Botucatu Jan./Mar. 2015.

MORAES, Jones Souza et al. O uso medicinal de “Terramicina” *Alternanthera dentata* (Moench) Stuchlik., em uma comunidade do nordeste paraense-Amazônia-Brasil. *Research, Society and Development*, v. 9, n. 7, p. e698974838-e698974838, 2020.

OLIVEIRA, DM S; LUCENA, E. M. P. O uso de plantas medicinais por moradores de Quixadá-Ceará. *Revista Brasileira de Plantas Mediciniais*, v. 17, p. 407-412, 2015.

SILVA, Márcia Daniele Pereira da; MARINI, Fillipe Silveira; MELO, Rachel de Souza. Levantamento de plantas medicinais cultivadas no município de Solânea, agreste paraibano: reconhecimento e valorização do saber tradicional. *Revista Brasileira de Plantas Mediciniais*, v. 17, p. 881-890, 2015.

SOUZA, Camilla da Silva. Relações de Gênero em Bacuriteua (PA): imaginário do homoerotismo masculino entre coletores de caranguejo. Dissertação (Mestrado em Linguagens e Saberes na Amazônia) – Universidade Federal do Pará, 2013.

TULER, Amélia Carlos. Levantamento etnobotânico na comunidade rural de São José da Figueira, Durandé, MG, Brasil. Alegre: UFES. Trabalho de Conclusão de Curso apresentado ao Centro de Ciências Agrárias, Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, 2011.