The use of medicinal plants for wound healing

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1 INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of time, products of vegetable origin have been part of the therapeutic basis used for the treatment of various diseases through scientific or empirical knowledge, a fact that until today medicinal plants play a relevant role in the health of the population. Ethnobotany is an ancient science, which compacts through the development of research and can collaborate with planners, development agency, government and community, collaborating with the areas involved in an organized way. (ISLAM, et al., 2020).

Brazil has in its territory one of the richest floras in the world, causing the population to use plants for the treatment of various diseases, because it holds valuable traditional knowledge. The belief in "innocuous naturalness" and the intense commercialization coming from the naturalist movement influence and, at the same time, help significantly in the growth, demand and consumption of these resources. An example of this is the traditional public markets that have the commercialization of medicinal plants as a common practice. Therefore, the need to study and record this knowledge transmitted as a way of preserving empirical knowledge and adjustment regarding the appropriate use of plant resources used for medicinal purposes is confirmed (MARTELLI, 2018).

The search for alternative treatments that promote wound healing has been increasing more and more, and 60% of the world population uses plants as a therapeutic resource, which is justified both by biodiversity and by popular tradition, besides the low purchasing power that directly influences the use of this practice (ISLAM, et al., 2020).

It is important to scientifically prove the efficacy of medicinal plants in the healing process, especially in the professional context, since the general population has a low socioeconomic level and often uses these therapies as alternative means to aid in the healing of injuries.

2 OBJECTIVE

Carry out a survey of plants sold for the treatment of wounds in the public market in the interior of the Northeast.

3 METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive, exploratory research with a qualitative and quantitative approach.

An ethnopharmacological survey was conducted in the municipal market of Barbalha, a city in the Cariri metropolitan region of Ceará, a source of commercialization of medicinal plants indicated for therapeutic purposes in wound healing.

Participants in this study included the municipal market traders who were part of the municipal cadastre, and who agreed to participate in the research by signing the Informed Consent Form (ICF) and the Post-Enlightened Consent Form (PECF).

The instrument used is a semi-structured interview. The research has a non-probabilistic sample by accessibility.

Nine (9) market traders from the municipal public market in the city of Barbalha-CE participated in the research. The research showed that all participants mentioned the barbatimão to be used in wound healing.

4 DEVELOPMENT

The Barbatimão (Stryphnodendron astringens) is a typical plant from the Brazilian cerrado, traditionally used by the population to cure several pathologies. Its bark is rich in condensed tannins, substances that precipitate proteins and combine with each other to form complex and resistant compounds. They confer pharmacological properties active in the process of tissue healing, among its activities, we can mention the antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory power (CHINI et a., 2017).

The elements used to produce this herbal medicine are in the bark of the barbatimão tree, the chemical metabolites such as tannins are phenolic compounds of preventive or curative action due to its oxidant action, its medicinal action is related (DAMASCENO et al., 2022).

The barbatimão is known as a tannin species that belongs to the legume family, native to the Brazilian cerrado. The barks are thick and rich in tannin, flobafenes, and glycidols and have an astringent effect. The condensed tannins stimulate wound healing, since they bind to the proteins in the injured tissues, creating a protective layer that insulates the wound site, attention permeability and exudation of the wound and promoting tissue preparation. Tanninsvasoconstrictorandanti-inflammatory properties, stimulate epidermis growth, aiding reepithelialization (CHINI et a., 2017).

One can see that plants with medicinal properties are relevant for the alternative treatment of diseases. It is important to recognize this field with interactions of practices and knowledge, and it is essential to value cultural resources, natural wealth, and relationships.

interpersonal, with the goal of developing a critical view and enabling the socialization of scientific research on the use of medicinal plants (DAMASCENO et al., 2022).

5 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The use of medicinal plants has the potential to become a tactic that can be integrated into primary health care, given the importance of alternative and costly practices for the restoration and promotion given to the neediest population.

Barbatimão stimulates the wound healing process, but there is variability in the concentration used, so that more studies are necessary to establish the best form of presentation and ideal concentration for its applicability in wound therapy to stimulate the healing process. Seeking new frontiers for the use of Brazilian flora still little explored as a therapeutic agent for wounds, it is necessary to develop new research in order to establish an ideal concentration for the use of Barbatimão, since it has proven to be effective in the healing process.

As for the presentation of Barbatimão, we see that there is variability in the concentration used, so it is necessary to conduct a study to establish the best form of presentation and the ideal concentration for its application in the treatment of wounds and stimulation of the healing process.

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