**DESCRIPTION**

*Fitoterapia* is a Journal dedicated to **medicinal plants** and to **bioactive natural products** of plant origin. It publishes original contributions in seven major areas:

1. Characterization of **active ingredients** of medicinal plants
2. Development of standardization method for bioactive **plant extracts** and natural products
3. Identification of **bioactivity** in plant extracts
4. Identification of targets and mechanism of activity of plant extracts
5. Production and **genomic characterization** of medicinal plants biomass
6. **Chemistry** and **biochemistry** of bioactive natural products of plant origin
7. Critical reviews of the **historical**, **clinical** and **legal** status of medicinal plants, and accounts on topical issues.

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INTRODUCTION

Fitoterapia is a Journal dedicated to medicinal plants and to bioactive natural products of plant origin. It publishes original contributions into these seven major areas:
1. Characterization of active ingredients of medicinal plants
2. Development of standardization method for bioactive plant extracts and natural products
3. Identification of bioactivity in plant extracts
4. Identification of targets and mechanism of activity of plant extracts
5. Production and genomic characterization of medicinal plants biomass
6. Chemistry and biochemistry of bioactive natural products of plant origin
7. Critical reviews of the historical, clinical and legal status of medicinal plants, and accounts on topical issues.

Article critically reviewing the historical, clinical and legal status of medicinal plants and accounts on topical issues are also welcomed.

Contributions reporting
1. Activity data on crude extracts that have not been characterized by analysis of their major constituents (HPLC, NMR)
2. Unexceptional and predictable bioactivity (antioxidant properties of phenolics or antibacterial activity of essential oil)
3. Uncritical ethnopharmacological investigations, where a list of plants and their use are simply recorded are not normally considered for publication.

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