



# JOURNAL OF ETHNOPHARMACOLOGY

An Interdisciplinary Journal Devoted to Indigenous Drugs

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### DESCRIPTION

The *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* is dedicated to the exchange of information and understandings about people's use of plants, fungi, animals, microorganisms and minerals and their **biological** and **pharmacological effects** based on the principles established through international conventions. Early people confronted with illness and disease, discovered a wealth of useful **therapeutic agents** in the plant and animal kingdoms. The empirical knowledge of these **medicinal substances** and their toxic potential was passed on by oral tradition and sometimes recorded in herbals and other texts on *materia medica*. Many valuable drugs of today (e.g., atropine, ephedrine, tubocurarine, digoxin, reserpine) came into use through the study of **indigenous remedies**. Chemists continue to use **plant-derived drugs** (e.g., morphine, taxol, physostigmine, quinidine, emetine) as prototypes in their attempts to develop more effective and less toxic medicinals.

In recent years the preservation of local knowledge, the promotion of indigenous medical systems in primary health care, and the conservation of biodiversity have become even more of a concern to all scientists working at the interface of social and natural sciences but especially to ethnopharmacologists. Recognizing the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources, ethnopharmacologists are particularly concerned with local people's rights to further use and develop their autochthonous resources.

Accordingly, today's ethnopharmacological research embraces the multidisciplinary effort in the:

- documentation of **indigenous medical knowledge**,
- scientific study of **indigenous medicines** in order to contribute in the long-run to improved health care in the regions of study, as well as
- search for pharmacologically unique principles from existing indigenous remedies.

The *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* publishes original articles concerned with the observation and experimental investigation of the biological activities of plant and animal substances used in the traditional medicine of past and present cultures. The journal will particularly welcome interdisciplinary papers with an **ethnopharmacological**, an **ethnobotanical** or an **ethnochemical** approach to the study of indigenous drugs. Reports of **anthropological** and **ethnobotanical** field studies fall within the journal's scope. Studies involving **pharmacological** and **toxicological** mechanisms of action are especially welcome. Clinical studies on efficacy will be considered if contributing to the understanding of specific ethnopharmacological problems. The journal welcomes review articles in the above mentioned fields especially those highlighting the multi-disciplinary nature of ethnopharmacology. Commentaries are by invitation only.

## AUDIENCE

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Ethnopharmacologists, Medicinal Chemists, Pharmacologists, Toxicologists, Anthropologists, Pharmacognosists, Ethnobotanists, Economic Botanists, Ethnobiologists

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### INTRODUCTION

The *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* is dedicated to the exchange of information and understandings about people's use of plants, fungi, animals, microorganisms and minerals and their biological and pharmacological effects based on the principles established through international conventions. Early people, confronted with illness and disease, discovered a wealth of useful therapeutic agents in the plant and animal kingdoms. The empirical knowledge of these medicinal substances and their toxic potential was passed on by oral tradition and sometimes recorded in herbals and other texts on *materia medica*. Many valuable drugs of today (e.g., atropine, ephedrine, tubocurarine, digoxin, reserpine) came into use through the study of indigenous remedies. Chemists continue to use plant-derived drugs (e.g., morphine, taxol, physostigmine, quinidine, emetine) as prototypes in their attempts to develop more effective and less toxic medicinals.

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Matteucci, E., Giampietro, O. (2008) Proposal open for discussion: defining agreed diagnostic procedures in experimental diabetes research. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 115: 163-172.

Froede, T.S.A. and Y.S. Medeiros, Y.S. (2008) Animal models to test drugs with potential antidiabetic activity. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 115: 173-183. Gertsch J. (2009) How scientific is the science in ethnopharmacology? Historical perspectives and epistemological problems. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 122: 177-183.

Chan K., et al. (2012) Good practice in reviewing and publishing studies on herbal medicine, with special emphasis on traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese Materia Medica. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 140: 469-475.

Heinrich, M., Edwards. S., Moerman. D.E.. and Leonti. M. (2009), Ethnopharmacological field studies: a critical assessment of their conceptual basis and methods. *J. Ethnopharmacol*, 124: 1-17.

## **PREPARATION**

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