

Folk Medicine

Anacardium species are known for their anti-inflammatory and astringent effects and their activity against cancer cells (Luiz-Ferreira *et al.*, 2008). Although the seed kernel of *Anacardium occidentale* L. is edible, it is actually poisonous unless roasted until all the pericarp oil has exuded. The bark has been used in gargles, as a febrifuge and in the treatment of aphthae, while the root is purgative (Watt and Breyer-Brandwijk, 1962). In Africa, an infusion of the bark and leaves of *Anacardium occidentale* is used to relieve toothache and sore gums while the young leaves are used for the treatment of dysentery, diarrhea and piles. Stem bark is used for the treatment of pellagra (Akinpelu, 2001).

Dracontomelon dao (Blco.) Merr. & Rolfe (according to Chinese name *Dracontomelon dao* is *Spondias dulcis sensu* Stuart) is used for sore throat, dermatitis, given to parturient women, as a general medicine (Khan and Omoloso, 2002).

Lannea coromandelica Roxb. is a medicinally important tropical tree used in treatment of obstinate ulceration, asthma, bruises and sprains (Chopra *et al.*, 1956; Gandhidasan *et al.*, 1991). *Lithraea molleoides* (Vell.) Engl. is known in South America for its medicinal properties: antiarthritic, haemostatic, diuretic, tonic and useful for the treatment of respiratory diseases (López *et al.*, 2011).

Myracrodruon urundeuva is a medicinal plant topically used in several gynecological problems, as an aqueous extract prepared from the plant (Souza *et al.*, 2007).

Bark, leaves and roots of *Ozoroa insignis* are used medicinally in Zimbabwe. An infusion of the root or bark of the plant is commonly used to treat diarrhea and venereal diseases. The plant is also used to treat tapeworm and hookworm, as well as urinary schistosomiasis (Rea *et al.*, 2003).

Vimang is an aqueous extract of *Mangifera indica* L., used in Cuba for the treatment of immunopathological disorders. Increasing evidence supports the view that Vimang displays anti-inflammatory, antiallergic and antioxidant actions and can be used in the treatment of a variety of immunological and inflammatory conditions. The aqueous extract have been found to be impair aversive memory without affecting open field behaviour of habituation in rats (Preissler *et al.*, 2009).

Several species of *Searsia* e.g. *Searsia chirindensis* (Baker f.) Moffett (basionym. *Rhus chiridensis* Baker f.), *Searsia dentata* (Thumb.) F. A. Barkley, *Searsia natalensis* (Bernh. ex Krauss) F.A. Barkley and *Searsia pyroides* (A. Rich.) T. S. Yi, (basionym. *Rhus pyroides*) are used in South Africa for the indications of fits, epilepsy and convulsions (Stafford *et al.*, 2008). This was proved by Pedersen *et al.* (2010) who reported that the ethanolic extract of *Searsia dentata* showed anticonvulsive properties in several models of epilepsy. About six

Semecarpus species reported in India found extensive use in indigenous system of medicine due to their abortion properties and antileukemic activity (Jain *et al.*, 1991).