

Research Fellows and Research Projects

Department of Science and Technology (DST) – National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS)

RESEARCH FOCUS AREA: BIODIVERSITY



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Country of Research: Republic of South Africa

Research Topic: The ethnobotanical profile and bioactivity of some indigenous tree species protected within agricultural farming system of Mutale municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa

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Research Background/Summary

The wild for time immemorial has been the hub for food, medicine, shelter, and livelihood for mankind. Many tribes especially in Africa and around remote areas in this 21st century still hold the forest sacred within their different ethnicity (Venter 2012).

The study focuses on the plant biodiversity protected within the selected agricultural fields of Mutale local municipality by the indigenous farmers. Preliminary results has showed that indigenous people utilize the indigenous plants as food, fodder, medicine and shade.

Based on the fact that local traditional healers and the ordinary indigenous people also use the protected plants as a source of their primary health care, this study seeks to evaluate their medicinal properties against the selected bacterial and fungal species. This is important because the management of bacterial and fungal infections faces a number of problems such as a limited number of effective antimicrobial drugs, toxicity of the available drugs and resistance to commonly used drugs.

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