ETHNO-BOTANICAL RESEARCH AND PROPAGATION OF TROPICAL MEDICINAL PLANTS

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Introduction

Traditional medicines based on local plants have historically been an integral part of many societies, particularly those found in tropical locations. In the tropical island nation of Barbados, over 150 species of plants have been used for medicinal purposes. Unfortunately, not all species are universally beneficial. There are many documented cases in which mixtures of medicinal plants in so-called “Bush teas” have caused everything from extreme sickness to even death. A lack of information on safe dosage levels, and even the basic effects of some of these plants, makes it likely that such events will continue to occur in the future.

This study strived to combine the traditional knowledge of plants by the Barbadian people, with the known scientific literature on these species. It was the goal of this study to ultimately create an information database which could be consulted to help make the usage of native medicinal plants in Barbados safer.

Database Compilation:

With the help of many local resources, the medicinal properties and propagation techniques for 63 native Barbadian plants were compiled for Andromeda Gardens. It is hoped that in the future the scientific literature concerning many more medicinal plants can be assessed and made available to the public.

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