Medicinal Plants in Tropical Countries II
Traditional Use - Experience - Facts
THE LORD HAS CREATED MEDICINES FROM THE EARTH 
AND A SENSIBLE MAN WILL NOT DESPARAGE THEM 

Sirach 38,1
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Monographs of Medicinal Plants

Abrus precatorius (Fabaceae)  Jequirity bean (Paternostererbse)
Achyranthes aspera (Amaranthaceae)  Chaff flower
Ageratum conyzoides (Asteraceae)  Goat weed (Mexikanischer Leberbalsam)
Artemisia annua (Asteraceae)  Chinese wormwood (Chines. Beifuss)
Capparis tomentosa (Capparidaceae)  Wolley caper bush (Woll. Kapernstrauch)
Cassytha filiformis (Lauraceae)  Love vine (Schlingfaden)
Chenopodium ambrosioides (Chenopodiaceae)  Mexican tea (Mex. Teekraut, Jesuitentee)
Cissampelus mucronata (Menispermaceae)  Velvet leaf
Clausena anisata (Rutaceae)  Horsewood
Kigelia africana (Bignoniaceae)  Sausage tree (Leberwurstbaum)
Lantana camara (Verbenaceae)  Lantana (Wandelröschchen)
Nauclea latifolia (Rubiaceae)  Pin cushion tree
Paullinia pinnata (Sapindaceae)  Sweet gum (Paullinie)
Phytolacca americana (Phytolaccaceae)  Pokeweed (Kermesbeere)
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Securidaca longipedunculata (Polygalaceae)  Violet tree
Solanum incanum, Solanum nigrum (Solanac.)  Night shade plants (Nachtsschattengew.)
Strychnos spinosa (Loganiaceae)  Kaffir orange (Kaffernorange)
Tabebuia impetiginosa (Bignoniaceae)  Pink trumpet tree (Trompetenbaum)
Tamarindus indica (Fabaceae)  Tamarind tree (Tamarinde)
Terminalia chebula (Combretaceae)  Tropical almond tree (Seemandelbaum)
Introduction

In many areas of developing countries traditional herbal cures are applied even at the present time. Poverty, lack of infrastructure and limited access to modern pharmaceuticals are some of the reasons why medicinal plants are in use.

In 2005 a first volume with 25 plants has been presented by THIEME-Verlag Stuttgart (Germany), selected from a list of 4776 medicinal plants predominately used in Africa. Additionally to this first volume, from this list here 21 further monographs of medicinal plants are introduced in this second volume.

Similar to the first volume every monograph includes chapters like description of the plant, the chemical constituents, the traditional uses, experimental, and clinical results if exist. All data are derived from the newest scientific literature, including up-to date data.

Warning

- This book is a scientific overview about 21 medicinal plants of Africa. The informations are collected from new scientific data.
- This book is not a handbook for medicinal self-treatment!
- Many of the listed plants are highly toxic and can cause serious intoxications.
- Everybody is advised to follow the single evaluations at the end of every chapter.
- Neither the author nor the publishers can be hold responsible for claims arising from inappropriate use or of the mistakes in identifying the plants.

- In every case do not try self-treatment, but consult always a medical professional or a qualified practitioner.

At the end of every monograph the compiled facts are summarized in an evaluation. There a recommendation or warning is given for certain applications.

In form of asterisks the following scales are presented:

* Experimental investigations or studies of the plant chemistry recorded in ethnopharmacological reports indicate the efficacy of the described application.

** In addition, there is evidence indicating that a risk of extreme toxicity is absent.

*** In addition, clinical studies already exist conforming the efficacy of the application

**** In addition, the application has already been recorded in medical books or official monographs such as pharmacopoeias.
Abbreviations

AMP adenosine monophosphate
ADP adenosine diphosphate
ATP adenosine triphosphate
CYP 450 cytochrom P 450
EC effective concentration
ED50 effective dose for 50%
ELSD evaporative light scattering detector
FID flame ionisation detector
GC gaschromatography
GMP guanosin monophosphate
GOT glutamic oxalacetic transaminase
HPLC high pressure liquid chromatography
i. m. intramuscular
i. p. intraperitoneal
i. v. intravenous
LC50 lethal concentration for 50%
LD50 lethal dose for 50%
MBC minimal bactericidal concentration
MIC minimal inhibition concentration
MS mass spectrometry
MEM minimal essential medium
mp melting point, degrees Celsius
NMR nuclear magnetic resonance (spectroscopy)
PAF platelet aggregation factor
PCV packed cell volume (blood)
p. o. per os
RIA radio immuno assay
TLC thin layer chromatography