

TRANSFORMING TOXICOLOGY LANDSCAPE FOR SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

[ID-P#090] Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) in Latin America and the Caribbean: A scoping review of native medicinal plants as alternative therapies

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Background/Objectives: Latin America and the Caribbean region are currently faced with the challenges of drug and substance use leading to violence and crime, especially among the younger populations. The complex nature of substance use disorder (SUD), the cost and adverse effects of conventional therapies, the deeply rooted cultural practices of medicinal plants usage, and the abundance of rainforest flora and fauna in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are incentives for exploring bioactive compounds in treating SUDs. This scoping review presented native medicinal plants traditionally used for treating SUDs in LAC.

Method: Articles indexed with Google Scholar, EBSCOhost, Scopus, Web of Science, PubMed, and PubMed Central databases were searched for medicinal plants used in drug addiction. Medicinal plants native to LAC or naturalized and cultivated in the region were included in the study.

Results: Eleven medicinal plants comprising A. calamus, B. caapi, H. perforatum, M. glomerate, M. recutita, P. caerulea, P. methysticum, R. rosea, S. lateriflora, T. diffusa, Z. officinale were identified as relevant alternatives in treating SUDs in LAC. Most plants produce pharmacological activity through GABA modulation in the central nervous system.

Conclusions/Contributions: The abundance of rich rainforest medicinal plants in LAC makes them cost- effective alternatives in treating SUDs, especially since they are easily accessible and have traditionally proven effective with fewer adverse effects. With many of the plant's bioactive compounds being clinically studied and some being sold as supplements, there is a need to explore medicinal plants as valuable alternatives in managing SUDs in LAC.