



An appraisal of documented medicinal plants used for the treatment of cancer in Africa over a twenty-year period (1998-2018)

Idris O. Raimi

Department of Biology, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, P.O. Box 139, Medunsa 0204, South Africa.

Abstract:

Human is bedevilled with different diseases both communicable and non-communicable but of interest is cancer because of the daily increasing mortality. Cancer has been threatening the global population for many decades with increasing advancement on different treatment regimen especially using the conventional method which involves chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgery among others, however, traditional medicine has been underrated/neglected until recently that research bodies and scientists focus is gradually embracing studies on the abundant flora and fauna available for human use on the planet earth. Several researchers have reported the use of plants especially herbs and shrubs for treatment of diseases in folkmedicine and attributed minimal harm for such lofty endeavours which has culminated in couple of scientific findings although largely in early stages of scrutiny. This present study intent was to document mostly if not all scientific papers and provide a one stop search for all the archived plants used for the treatment of cancer in Africa between the periods of twenty years (1998-2018). Well above 200 articles with relevant information on medicinal plants for cancer treatment was eventually shortlisted and assessed thoroughly from notable search engines such as Science direct, Google scholar, PubMed etc after adopting some exclusion and inclusion criteria. A total of 207 plant species from 70 different plant families were recorded in this review. Plants such as *Artemisia afra* Jacq., *Artemisia armeniaca* Lam., *Bidens pilosa* L., *Solanecio mannii* (Hook.f.) C. Jeffrey, and *Solanecio nandensis* (S. Moore) C. Jeffrey were reported for the treatment of different cancer types such as skin, breast, and colorectal cancer in southern Africa.

Biography

Idris Olawale Raimi is a Doctorate student in his final year stage at 1st South Africa Medical University (Sefa-



ko Makgatho Health Sciences University, South Africa). He previously held Honors and Master's Degree in Botany and Environmental Studies from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. He grew up in Nigeria and currently resides in South Africa with multiple entry study permit. He has a wife and a 5yrs old daughter who works as a senior Administrative staff in Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. He has gained more than a decade of cumulative experience in the University environment as a supervisor and teacher to different categories of students at Bachelor and Master's level. He has more than ten peer reviewed article in reputable journal outfit globally with research interest in different ecological and Botanical field. His current research is on Cancer and medicinal plants in Africa with unflinching interest in presenting potentials of different Africas floras and fauna through cutting edge research in managing communicable and non-communicable diseases in the global sphere. He has presented academic papers in different International conferences.

Publication of speakers:

1. Anitha P, Geegi PG, Yogeswari J, Anthoni SA. 2014; In-vitro anticancer activity of ethanolic extract of *Euphorbia hirta* (L.). Science, Technology and Arts Research Journal, 3, 8-13.
2. American Cancer Society., 2016., American Cancer Society. Breast Cancer Facts & Figures 2015-2016. Atlanta: American Cancer Society, Inc. 2015.

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