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Ethnopharmacological survey on medicinal plants used in snake bite treatments in western and sabaragamuwa provinces in Sri Lanka

R M Dharmadasa
Industrial Technology Institute, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has great snake diversity and over 40,000, cases reported annually from different agro ecological regions of the country. Since more than 95% of victims are relied on traditional snakebite treatments, there is an urgent necessity of development of traditional snakebite treatment system in Sri Lanka. However, the traditional knowledge on snakebite treatments has been passed generation to generation within their families. Therefore, development of snakebite treatment system in Sri Lanka is hindered by unavailability of required information on types of medicinal plant materials used and other pertinent issues on snakebite treatments. Thus, in the present study, we investigated types of medicinal plant materials required, parts of the plants used for the treatment for different snake bites, treatment types, frequency index, heavily used and rare materials, family wise distribution, challenges faced by traditional practitioners and future prospects. Information was gathered from a total of 74 traditional practitioners from Sabaragamuwa and Western provinces. Data were gathered by face-to-face interviews with traditional practitioners. Collected data were tabulated and analyzed. A total of 341 different plant species belonging to 99 families were documented. The highest number of plants was reported from family Fabaceae (32 species). Different parts of the plant such as leaves (53.67%), barks (26.10%), entire plant (14.08%), roots (10.26%), bulbs (8.80%), seeds (7.62%), fruits (6.45%), buds (5.87%), flowers (3.23%) stems (2.93%) and latex (2.05%) were used for the preparation of nine different types of formulae. These formulae include oral administration, external bandaging, oiling for external application, steaming, creaming for wounds, nasal treatments, head treatments, treatment for eyes and washing of wounds. Documented plants together with traditional knowledge could be effectively utilized for isolation and characterization of anti-venom for different snake species.

dharmadasarm@gmail.com

CAD/CAM technology in orthodontics

Rafi Romano
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

For many years, CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing) technology has been used in dentistry-in tooth restoration and reconstruction, implants and by dental technicians. In Orthodontics, CAD/CAM technology is less commonly used despite the advancement of the technology. In recent years, CAD/CAM is used to manufacture transparent aligners and custom made brackets. These are not yet flexible treatments meeting the expectations of orthodontists, in particular, and referring doctors, in general, and the treatment plan is performed principally by the manufacturer. During the lecture, new technology in orthodontics will be presented in which CAD/CAM is utilized during each stage of the treatment from 3D diagnosis to a variety of treatment plans through simple and accessible procedures to finish treatment optimally.

rafi@drromano.com