Mozambique is endowed with various medicinal plants. Approximately 60% of the population in Mozambique relies on traditional medicine to treat and manage simple to complex diseases (Ministry of Coordination of Environmental Affairs, 2009).

Several ethnobotanical surveys to study the medicinal flora of Mozambique have been conducted in various parts of the country. The most prominent surveys being that of Amico (1968), Amico and Bavazzano (1977), and Jansen and Mendes (1983; 1984; 1990; 1991). There are other 22 known sources that reported on the medicinal plants of Mozambique.

This study aimed to record all medicinal plant species reported in Mozambique in literature and answer three main questions.

1. How many medicinal plant species have been recorded for Mozambique? Of those, how many are indigenous to Mozambique, and how many are introduced or cultivated exotics?
2. What percentage of medicinal plant species are shared with South Africa?
3. What are the similarities and differences between the medicinal floras of Mozambique and South Africa? Is there evidence of cultural exchange?

Mozambique's medicinal species and infraspecific taxa checklist presented here is comprehensive. The high percentage of shared medicinal species and infraspecific taxa between Mozambique and South Africa could suggest an exchange of traditional knowledge between the two countries borders. Compared to South Africa, the number of medicinal plant species recorded in Mozambique is relatively low. However, more surveys could lead to more medicinal species and infraspecific taxa discovered for Mozambique.

A comprehensive checklist of medicinal plants of Mozambique was compiled from 28 literature sources. It comprises of 722 medicinal plant species, of which 23 are infraspecific taxa. The medicinal species and infraspecific taxa are from 118 families and 442 genera. Of the recorded medicinal taxa in Mozambique, 536 (74%) were found to be occurring in the total available flora of South Africa. As shown in Figure 1, 482 (67%) taxa are used medicinally both in Mozambique and South Africa. Thus, showing a considerable overlap between the medicinal flora of Mozambique and that of South Africa.

Aims

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Materials and Methods

Conclusions

Mozambique's medicinal species and infraspecific taxa checklist presented here is comprehensive. The high percentage of shared medicinal species and infraspecific taxa between Mozambique and South Africa could suggest an exchange of traditional knowledge between the two countries borders. Compared to South Africa, the number of medicinal plant species recorded in Mozambique is relatively low. However, more surveys could lead to more medicinal species and infraspecific taxa discovered for Mozambique.

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