BACKGROUND

Traditional medicine is very common in Guatemala, the majority of the rural population and a considerable number of the urban population, depends on it. In Guatemala exists many ethnic groups, who still use plants to cure diseases in the first place because they believe that it is more effective than modern medicine. Large number of society, is against traditional medicine because they feel it is difficult to distinguish between beneficial and superstitious aspects, and only adopts traditional medicine when biomedicine has failed. Lots of Guatemalan people depend on traditional medicine because it is cheaper in comparison with drugs in the pharmacy. The specific knowledge of their healing benefits is restricted to healers, the elder people, or residents who have lived in these areas for a long time (Pöll & Álvarez, 2015).

Aims: inventarization of medicinal plants used in traditional medicine in Salamá district, Baja Verapaz department of Guatemala.

METHODS

Whole research was done in district in Salamá district, Baja Verapaz department of Guatemala. It laids on the east side of Baja Verapaz. It's high above the sea leves is 940, covers 776 sq km of surface and 40,000 people live here (Figure 1).

In the study, knowledge about the use of medicinal plants in traditional medicine. Thanks to this study, knowledge about the use of medicinal plants in traditional medicine in department Baja Verapaz, Salamá district, Guatemala, is recorded.

RESULTS

A total of 44 species belong to 41 genera and 26 botanical families were registered. The most dominant families were Lamiaceae (with 8 species; RU=12), Asteraceae (5; RU=11) and Rutaceae (3; RU=4) (Graph 2). There was also found 21 categories of various diseases treated with medicinal plants, the largest representation was gastrointestinal disorders (76 %) and breathing system problems (47 %).

According to the quantitative data evaluated, Matricaria chamomilla was the species of greatest use and importance (UR= 5; RFC= 0.5; MUV= 0.12; FC=26). The most used parts of the plants for the treatment of different diseases were leaves (55 %) (Graph 3), and the used preparation mode was decoction (73 %).

CONCLUSIONS

People in middle age living in rural zone carry important knowledge about usage of medicinal plants in traditional medicine. Thanks to this study, knowledge about the use of medicinal plants in traditional medicine in department Baja Verapaz, Salamá district, Guatemala, is recorded.

REFERENCES


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