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## Ethnobotanical Study of Medicinal Plants Used by Mocho Community in the State of Chiapa, Mexico

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### Abstract

Ethnomedicine is still used as primary health care resource by several indigenous communities and people who live in rural areas over the world. In Mexico, most of the indigenous population live in rural areas (61.1 % in communities with less than 2,500 inhabitants). The State of Chiapas is inhabited by 11 ethnic groups with valuable ancestral knowledge in the management, and use of medicinal plants that are transmitted orally from generation to generation. The aim of this study was the documentation of traditional knowledge about medical plants and its usage in traditional medicine by the locals of the Mocho community, located in the state of Chiapas. Ethnobotanical and socio-demographical data were collected using a questionnaire from 43 local informants from Motozintla municipality, the state of Chiapas. In addition, quantitative approaches were used to determine medicinal use value (MUV), use report (UR), frequency of citation (ICF), the relative frequency of citation (RFC), and informant consensus factor (ICF). A total of 83 medicinal plant species belonging to 44 botanical families were documented. Asteraceae was the most dominant family by number of species (6 species) followed by Lamiaceae and Rutaceae (5 species each). The most often used parts are leaves (46%) and the decoction is the most common method of preparation. Diseases of the digestive and gastrointestinal system were dominated with 102 use-reports (27.6%) and diseases of the reproductive system had the highest ICF index (0.76) among other aliment categories. According to RFC and MUV index the most important species were *Verbena litoralis* Kunth., *Matricaria chamomilla* L., *Bursera simaruba* (L.) Sarg., *Dysphania ambrosiodes* (L.) Mosyakin & Clemants, and *Ruta graveolens* L. The collected information represents a base of knowledge for future research in the ethnobotanical field in the state, and it will contribute to the understanding of proper usage of medicinal plants. When knowledge is transformed in goods, culture, income and health it can be promoted through the demand of tourists that visit the place searching better options to treat their ailments.

**Keywords:** Lamiaceae, traditional medicine, *Verbena litoralis*, Asteraceae, ethnobotany