Applications of Aroeira

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Introdução: Myracrodruon urundeuva Allemao consists in an arboreal vegetal from the Anacardiaceae family threatened of deforestation. These plants are endemic in South America, thus it’s a native plant of Brazilian regions of Cerrado and Caatinga. Among the Aroeira’s species, M. urundeuva has particular therapeutic appliance in primary care, also used in Farmácia Viva and prescribed at rural zones.

Objetivos: To Report about Aroeira and its medicinal effects in a literature review.

Metodologia ou descrição da experiência: Three researchers worked in a pursuit at the databases PubMed, Cochrane and BVS, from November 14th to 24th, with the following data extraction strategy: “Aroeira” OR “Myracrodruon urundeuva”, using no restriction of dates. Yet, the articles were revised individually and those who deal with Aroeira’s uses in health were selected.

Resultados: At PubMed, there were found 95 articles. At Cochrane, 5 and at BVS, 70. The selected files totaled a sum of 48 articles, which 5 of them referred to the most common uses of Aroeira, 3 showed benefic use of Aroeira, 2 showed negative effects from Aroeira. One of them revealed cicatrization process. Others cited bone malformations in rat's fetuses. Generally, 38 articles showed good results from Aroeira, including antitumor and anti-inflammatory activity, protection of the gastric mucosa, antimicrobial activity, similar to chlorhexidine, larvicidal effect against nematodes, similar to thiabendazole, and against A. aegypti, plus midbrain cell protection, as a possible treatment for Parkinson.

Conclusões ou hipóteses: There are physiological evidences related to Aroeira, like anti-inflammatory, larvicidal and anti-bacterial effects, showing that these plants can be cultivated by rural population, notable the ones who has difficult access to expensive and non-expensive pharmacologic medication. Even so, more studies such as clinical trials and systematic reviews are needed.