

(Sample abstract)

Medicinal plant use by Kui traditional healers (Northeast Thailand)

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Introduction

The Kui (Austro-Asiatic: Mon-Khmer) are the original inhabitants of the lowland parts of Northeast Thailand. Today, over 300,000 Kui people continue to reside here. Preliminary surveys have indicated that the ethnomedicine of the Kui is still active.

Objectives

To identify the natural materials used by Kui healers to treat health conditions and determine the methods used to prepare these remedies.

Methods

Thirty healers were selected, according to established criteria, for an in-depth study of medicinal plants use. Interviews, health condition logs, free-listing techniques, and plant specimen collection were used to collect data.

Results

Healers use a variety of material medica including plants, animals and minerals. There were 363 species/types recorded for treating 91 health conditions. Medicinal plants from 88 plant families can be prepared fresh or by boiling, sanding, soaking, burning, roasting, and steaming. The remedies can be consumed or smoked, applied topically, consumed, or blown on the patient, or used as a bath or compress.

Conclusion

Kui healers use mostly medicinal plants to treatment, which are from a broad range of different plant families. Plants can be prepared and administered in numerous ways. Medicinal plants still play a strong role in the local healthcare system of Kui communities.

Keywords: Kui, ethnomedicine

Selected references

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