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Historical Ethnobotany: Interpreting the Old Records—2nd Edition

Guest Editors:

Dr. Renata Sõukand

Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Via Torino 155, Mestre, 30172 Venice, Italy

Dr. Raivo Kalle

Estonian Literary Museum, 51003 Tartu, Estonia

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Message from the Guest Editors

History is the basis for our interpretation of humanity's past. Systematized historical sources allow us to see the practical changes that occurred over centuries of ethnobotany and analyze the causes of such changes. Studying history helps us to understand the influences on the evolution of local ecological knowledge regarding plant use. In ethnobotany, numerous understudied historical sources are awaiting modern interpretations. Old uses enhanced by the new possibilities offered by technology can enrich our everyday life. Yet, understanding historical sources, especially in ethnobotany, where several disciplines are involved, is not univocal. Mistakes introduced by misidentified plants or information misinterpreted from old languages can have negative, long-term consequences. This Issue aims to provide examples of the critical analysis of various historical sources, provide insights into ongoing historical and diachronic studies on plant use, and introduce the best practice guidelines for interpreting such data. This Issue welcomes articles on all aspects of historical ethnobotany within all potential use categories.



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Special Issue



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Prof. Dr. Dilantha Fernando
Department of Plant Science,
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg,
MB R3T 2N2, Canada

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Plants Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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