

# RITAM Newsletter No 47 – January 2008

[www.gifts-ritam.org](http://www.gifts-ritam.org)

## **1. RITAM-EU project: “INSERITAM”**

RITAM has been instrumental in coordinating an application to the EU for a multinational project on traditional medicinal plants for the prophylaxis of malaria. Fourteen partners from four continents have worked hard to make this application happen. This included meetings in Oxford in autumn 2006, Toulouse in March 2007 (hosted by Dr Françoise Benoit-Vical), and Geneva (hosted by Antenna) in July 2007. The Foundation for the Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions in Bangalore, India, already has data from preliminary trials which suggest that some Ayurvedic formulations are effective prophylactics against malaria. We hope to research these in greater depth, as well as promising preparations from Mali, Burkina Faso, Congo and Brazil.

There are currently no herbal preparations with sufficient evidence of safety and efficacy which could be recommended as prophylaxis against malaria, either for inhabitants of endemic areas, or for travellers. However we believe that this research would enable at least one such a prophylactic to be developed.

Our funding application was finally submitted in September 2007. All that remains for us to do now is to pray for its success...

## **2. Report from the 11th International Symposium On Traditional Medicine, Toyama, Japan. [http://www.inm.u-toyama.ac.jp/TM\\_sympto/11th\\_J.htm](http://www.inm.u-toyama.ac.jp/TM_sympto/11th_J.htm)**

This meeting was generously hosted by the Institute of Natural Medicine at the University of Toyama. Toyama is an industrial town to the West of Honshu in Japan, which is home to over 100 pharmaceutical companies. One of these is a true pioneer of “home-based management”, in that it leaves medicine boxes (containing both traditional and modern remedies) at people’s homes, and representatives periodically visit to replenish the stocks and take payment for the medicines that have been used.

Merlin Willcox was invited to present the development of a herbal antimalarial in Mali, a project carried out in collaboration with Antenna Technologies (Switzerland) and the Department for Traditional Medicine (Mali). Bertrand Graz presented his work on the development of new methodologies for the evaluation of traditional medicines. Other presentations at the conference included clinical trials of Kampo medicine, and of omega-3 fatty acids.

### **3. Forthcoming events of interest**

A. “**The use of Medicinal Plants in the Tropics**” is a seminar organised by Action for Natural Medicine (Anamed) on 25-27 January 2008. The cost is £145, and the booking form is available from [schalland@doctors.org.uk](mailto:schalland@doctors.org.uk)

This will be a practical interactive experience including the following:

- The scientific and cultural basis for using medicinal plants
- Self reliance in health using plants for nutrition and medicine
- Treatment of common health problems e.g. malaria, diarrhoea, wounds, burns and HIV/AIDS
- Preparation of teas, tinctures, oils and ointments
- Storage of seeds, dried products and food
- Use of specific plants including *Artemisia annua*, Neem, Moringa, Garlic, Pawpaw

Venue: Barnes Close Conference Centre, Near Bromsgrove, Worcester.

### **B. Kew-Kings Square Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

*Starting at 2pm, The Maplethorpe Theatre, Centre of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, The School of Pharmacy, University of London, 29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX*

There will be an afternoon of lectures on the subject of pharmacognosy. One of the speakers will be Merlin Willcox, who will make a presentation on “Traditional medicines for malaria in Mali: a methodology for evaluating local herbal antimalarials”. The keynote lecture at 18.00 will be by Prof Lars Bohlin, University of Uppsala, entitled: “A journey from plants to medicines: an integrated view of pharmacognosy”.

### **4. Websites of interest**

[www.cnap.org.uk](http://www.cnap.org.uk)

CNAP Artemisia Research Project at the University of York, UK: breeding plants to develop higher yielding strains of *Artemisia annua*.

[www.aidemet.org](http://www.aidemet.org)

Website of Aidemet, a Malian NGO working on the promotion of traditional medicine.

### **WHO guidelines on cultivating *Artemisia annua***

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published guidelines for the cultivation and collection of *Artemisia annua L*, a Chinese traditional medicinal plant which is the source of artemisinin.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2007/np10/en/index.html>

## 5. Recent Publications of Interest

### **The following are recent publications by RITAM members:**

Benoit-Vical F, Soh PN, Saléry M, Harguem L, Poupat C, Nongonierma R (2007). Evaluation of Senegalese plants used in malaria treatment: Focus on *Chrozophora senegalensis*. J Ethnopharmacol. (in print)

F. Benoit-Vical, P. Grellier, A. Abdoulaye, I. Moussa, A. Ousmane, A. Berry, K. Ikhiri, C. Poupat (2006). *In vitro* and *in vivo* Antiplasmodial Activity of *Momordica balsamina* Alone or in a Traditional Mixture. Chemotherapy 52:288–292.

Bodeker G, Burford G (2008). Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine-Policy and Public Health Perspectives. J Altern Complement Med (in print)

Boëte, C. (ed.) (2006). Genetically modified mosquitoes and malaria control. Eurekah/ Landes Biosciences, Georgetown, Texas, USA.

G. Bourdy, M.L. Willcox, H. Ginsburg, Ph. Rasoanaivo, B. Graz, E. Deharo (2008). Ethnopharmacology and malaria: New hypothetical leads or old efficient antimalarials? International Journal for Parasitology 38: 33–41.

Bertrand Graz, Elaine Elisabethsky, Jacques Falquet (2007). Beyond the myth of expensive clinical study: Assessment of traditional medicines. Journal of Ethnopharmacology 113: 382–386.

Alicia Moreno, Jean Louis Pérignon, Serban Morosan, Dominique Mazier, Agustin Benito (2007). Plasmodium falciparum-infected mice: more than a tour de force. TRENDS in Parasitology Vol.23 No.6: 254-259.

Muthaura CN, Rukunga GM, Chhabra SC et al (2007). Antimalarial activity of some plants traditionally used in treatment of malaria in Kwale district of Kenya. Journal of Ethnopharmacology 112: 545–551.

Rodríguez-Pérez M, Martínez, J.M.; Rivero, L.R. et al (2006). Evaluación de la actividad antimalárica de algunas plantas utilizadas en la medicina tradicional cubana. Rev. Ciênc. Farm. Básica Apl., 27 (3): 197-205.

Roumy V, Garcia-Pizango G, Gutierrez-Choquevilca AL, Ruiz L, Jullian V et al (2007). Amazonian plants from Peru used by Quechua and Mestizo to treat malaria with evaluation of their activity. Journal of Ethnopharmacology 112: 482–489.

Soh PN, Benoit-Vical F (2007). Are West African plants a source of future antimalarial drugs? J Ethnopharmacol. 2007 Nov 1;114(2):130-40.

Watkins B (2007). Book review of RITAM book: Traditional Medicinal Plants and Malaria. Trans Roy Soc Trop Med Hyg 101(7): 740.

Merlin L. Willcox, Bertrand Graz, Jacques Falquet, Oumar Sidibe, Mathieu Forster, Drissa Diallo (2007). *Argemone mexicana* decoction for the treatment of uncomplicated falciparum malaria. Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 101, 1190—1198.

### **These are other publications of interest:**

Frederich M, Tits M, Angenot L (2008). Potential antimalarial activity of indole alkaloids. *Trans Roy Soc Trop Med Hyg* 102: 11-19.

Kaisera J, Yassin M, Prakash S et al (2007). Anti-malarial drug targets: Screening for inhibitors of 2C-methyl-Derythritol 4-phosphate synthase (IspC protein) in Mediterranean plants. *Phytochemistry* 14 242–249.

Kamat VR (2006). “I thought it was only ordinary fever!” cultural knowledge and the micropolitics of therapy seeking for childhood febrile illness in Tanzania. *Social Science & Medicine* 62: 2945–2959.

Koobkokkrud T, Chochai A, Kerdmanee C, De-Eknamkul W (2007). TLC-Densitometric Analysis of Artemisinin for the Rapid Screening of High-producing Plantlets of *Artemisia annua* L. *Phytochem. Anal.* 18: 229–234

Ndyomugenyi R, Magnussen P, Clarke S (2007). Malaria treatment-seeking behaviour and drug prescription practices in an area of low transmission in Uganda: implications for prevention and control. *Trans Roy Soc Trop Med Hyg* 101: 209-215.

Pillay P, Vleggaar R, Maharaj VJ, Smith PJ, Lategan CA (2007). Isolation and identification of antiplasmodial sesquiterpene lactones from *Oncosiphon piluliferum*. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 112 (2007) 71–76

Paul Ssegawa, John Massan Kasenene (2007). Medicinal plant diversity and uses in the Sango bay area, Southern Uganda. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 113: 521–540

I. J. Udeinya, N. Brown, E. N. Shu, F. I. Udeinya And I. Quakeyie (2006). Fractions of an antimalarial neem-leaf extract have activities superior to chloroquine, and are gametocytocidal. *Annals of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology*, Vol. 100, No. 1, 17–22

### **6. New Members:**

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Mrs Oladoja Abosede AWO FISAYO, lecturer in Pharmacy, University of Uyo, Nigeria.

Dr. Linz-Buoy George, Reader, Department Of Zoology & Biomedical Technology, University School Of Sciences, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, India.

Dr. Hrishikesh G Kulkarni, Product Manager in Bajaj Consumer Care - Health Care Division. (Dealing with Ayurveda products R&D) Maharashtra, India.

Kwame Adomako KWABIA, MPhil student in parasitology, Ghana

Dr. Papiya G. Mazumdar, Senior Research Officer, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India

Prof Judith Mendiola Martínez, Professor of Parasitology, Laboratory of Malaria, Institute “Pedro Kouri”, Havana, Cuba.

Prof Jacob O. Midiwo, Department of Chemistry, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Dr Mary Nnankya, Director of Namba Biotech, UK.

Dr Dirk Rezelman, Medical Director, Equator Foundation, The Netherlands.

Dr Anibal Rueda, Chinchina CALDAS, Colombia

Rachael Stevens, student of herbal medicine, University of East London, UK.

Dr Larry A. Walker, Director, National Center for Natural Products Research, The University of Mississippi, USA

*With very best wishes,*

*Merlin Willcox (Secretary)*

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