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Historical Ethnobotany: Interpreting the Old Records 2.0

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

30 December 2024

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.



mdpi.com/si/179891

Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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