

PLANTS OF THE ANNONACEAE TRADITIONALLY USED AS ANTIMALARIALS: A REVIEW¹

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ABSTRACT- Species of the Annonaceae family are used all over the tropics in traditional medicine in tropical regions for the treatment of malaria and other illnesses. Phytochemical studies of this family have revealed chemical components which could offer new alternatives for the treatment and control of malaria. Searches in scientific reference sites (SciFinder Scholar, Scielo, PubMed, ScienceDirect and ISI Web of Science) and a bibliographic literature search for species of Annonaceae used traditionally to treat malaria and fever were carried out. This family contains 2,100 species in 123 genera. We encountered 113 articles reporting medicinal use of one or more species of this family including 63 species in 27 genera with uses as antimalarials and febrifuges. Even though the same species of Annonaceae are used by diverse ethnic groups, different plant parts are often chosen for applications, and diverse methods of preparation and treatment are used. The ethanol extracts of *Polyalthia debilis* and *Xylopiya aromatica* proved to be quite active against *Plasmodium falciparum in vitro* (median inhibition concentration, $IC_{50} < 1.5 \mu\text{g/mL}$). Intraperitoneal injection of *Annickia chlorantha* aqueous extracts (cited as *Enantia chlorantha*) cleared chloroquine-resistant *Plasmodium yoelii nigeriensis* from the blood of mice in a dose-dependant manner. More phytochemical profiles of Annonaceous species are required; especially information on the more commonly distributed antimalarial compounds in this family.

Index terms: Malaria, *Plasmodium falciparum*, *Plasmodium yoelii nigeriensis*.

PLANTAS DA FAMÍLIA ANNONACEAE TRADICIONALMENTE USADAS COMO ANTIMALÁRICOS: UMA REVISÃO

RESUMO- Espécies da família Annonaceae têm amplo uso na medicina tradicional em regiões tropicais para o tratamento da malária e de sintomas como febres, dentre outras doenças. Estudos fitoquímicos desta família têm revelado componentes químicos que podem oferecer novas alternativas para o tratamento e controle da malária. Buscas em sites de referencia científica (*SciFinder Scholar*, *Scielo*, *PubMed*, *ScienceDirect* e *ISI Web of Science*) e uma pesquisa bibliográfica na literatura por espécies da família Annonaceae utilizadas tradicionalmente para tratar a malária e febre foram realizadas. Esta família contém 2.100 espécies em 123 gêneros. Encontramos 113 registros que relatam o uso de 63 espécies de 27 gêneros utilizadas como antimaláricos e febrifugas. Mesmo que as mesmas espécies de Annonaceae sejam utilizadas por diversos grupos étnicos, frequentemente diferentes partes da planta são escolhidas para o uso e diversos métodos de preparação e de tratamento são utilizados. Os extratos etanólicos de *Polyalthia debilis* e *Xylopiya aromatica* são comprovadamente bastante ativos contra *Plasmodium falciparum in vitro* (concentração de inibição média, $IC_{50} < 1,5 \mu\text{g/mL}$). Injeção intraperitoneal de extratos aquosos de *Annickia chlorantha* (espécie citada *Enantia chlorantha*) eliminou *Plasmodium yoelii nigeriensis* cloroquino-resistente do sangue de camundongos de maneira dose-dependente. Mais perfis fitoquímicos de espécies de Annonaceae são necessários, especialmente informações sobre as substâncias antimaláricas mais comumente distribuídos nesta família.

Termos para indexação: Malária, *Plasmodium falciparum*, *Plasmodium yoelii nigeriensis*.

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INTRODUCTION

Malaria and the Annonaceae family: The annual death of thousands of people worldwide due to malaria has made this disease one of the major problems in world health. This has motivated the development of research into new alternatives for the control and cure of this disease. Evidence for this is the diverse number of publications on screenings based on traditional medicine in Africa, India and South America regions where malaria is endemic and on the search for natural products derived from plants. Phytochemical studies are also important in this context for revealing natural products which may later be developed into new drugs. New antimalarials are needed because *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax*, the two main parasites responsible for malaria infections in humans, are becoming resistant to the two major classes of effective drugs, namely quinoline and artemisinin antimalarials. One of the main problems in malaria control is that this disease is endemic to generally poor and underdeveloped countries in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. These regions and their problems are not in general of major interest to the economically more developed countries. In this sense, part of the population which inhabits areas where malaria is endemic does not have access to efficient health services and sometimes the only source of therapeutic treatment is based on plants. Among the families which stand out due to their broad traditional uses against malaria is Annonaceae (order Magnoliales). This family is distributed pantropically and comprises approximately 123 genera and 2,100 species (MABBERLEY, 2008) of trees, shrubs and lianas. The antiprotozoal activity of Annonaceae species in traditional treatments of malaria, Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis) and leishmaniasis is associated with secondary metabolite alkaloids, acetogenins, sterols and terpenes found in different parts of these plants (OCAMPO & OCAMPO, 2006). This review covers ethnobotanic reports on Annonaceous species used traditionally to treat malaria and related symptoms (high and intermittent fevers, chills, headaches, body pain, liver ailments) and ethnopharmacologic studies demonstrating *in vitro* activity of extracts of plants of this family against *Plasmodium falciparum* (median inhibition concentrations, $IC_{50} < 1.5 \mu\text{g/mL}$) and other malaria parasites.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Information on publications in the scientific literature was obtained using the SciFinder Scholar (2007) program and the input phrase “Antimalarials from Plants” which produced a list of publications from 1942 (first publication) to June, 2011. A list of 765 abstracts was initially obtained and further refined by restricting plants to the Annonaceae family. In similar fashion, references were found on the Scielo, PubMed, ScienceDirect and ISI Web of Science websites using the input phrase “antimalarials plants Annonaceae” in January, 2013. Also, online searches were performed at different sites and at libraries at the Federal University of Amazonas in Manaus, Brazil, National Institute for Amazon Research in Manaus and University of La Amazonia in Colombia. The data were organized in a spreadsheet. Information registered in the spreadsheet included species names, geographical distribution, regions where the plant is used, preparation methods and parts of the plant used as antimalarials, as febrifuges, for headaches, liver problems, etc.. Also, where available, data on *in vitro* median inhibitory concentrations (IC_{50}) and *in vivo* activities against *Plasmodium* spp. used in literature studies were included.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Traditional uses of Annonaceae: Different ethnic groups have used species of Annonaceae as a therapeutic source to combat malaria. While some species are not useful for the treatment of malaria *per se* they are used to treat the symptoms. In the present study, 63 species belonging to 27 genera were found in literature studies. In general, these plant species were used to treat the disease or its symptoms in countries in the Amazon region (northern South America); Africa, Central America, India and Malaysia (see Table 1). Eleven antimalarial species each for the genera *Annona* and *Xylopi*a made these the most represented of the Annonaceae family. These genera have a pantropical distribution. They also are known to produce antimalarial alkaloids (FISCHER et al., 2004; GARAVITO et al., 2006).

The genus *Annona*: Well-known for its edible fruit. *Annona muricata* is the most widely used species worldwide in traditional medicine, as foodstuff and in the cosmetic industry. *A. muricata*

was by far the most commonly cited Annonaceous plant for the treatment of malaria, fevers, liver ailments and headaches. Nineteen literature sources made reference to the use of roots, bark, fruit and leaves of this species in the preparation of therapeutic remedies among the peoples of India, Madagascar, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Barbados and a few countries from Africa and South America. Of the nineteen sources of literature reporting the use of *A. muricata*, twelve indicated use against fever and five reported specific use against malaria. The only reported use of this species for the curing of liver problems was by Hidalgo (2003) who observed the use of the bark of this species among the traditional riverine populations in the Brazilian Amazon. Also, populations along the Pacific coast of Colombia place leaves on the forehead of the sick person for the treatment of the headaches caused by malaria infections (BLAIR & MADRIGAL, 2005). In Colombia, decoctions are prepared from fresh or dry leaves of *A. muricata* and drunk to treat the feverish state brought on by malaria infections (GÓMEZ-ESTRADA et al., 2011).

***Annona squamosa*:** This species is known by the local name Sita phol and is cultivated in communities in Northeastern India. The fresh leaves of this plant are used together with *Ocimum americanum* and *O. gratissimum* (Lamiaceae) for the treatment of malaria in different communities found in Africa (KAOU et al., 2008). This species has other uses related to the control of malaria (and other insect-borne diseases) such as repellency against Culicidae, Muscidae and Dictyoptera.

***Xylopia*:** The medicinal properties and usefulness for the control of agricultural pests, mites, insects and nematodes of species of this genus have been studied (PONTES et al., 2007). Nine species are specifically used to treat malaria and two are used specifically to treat fevers among the local populations of Cameroon Colombia, Brazil, Peru and French Guiana. Generally, the fruit, bark and other aerial parts are used in the preparation of the traditional remedies made from plants of this genus. In Cameroon *Xylopia aethiopica*, commonly named Ethiopian Pepper is the only species of this genus claimed to be useful for the treatment of malaria and other diseases. For treatment of malaria, a decoction is prepared from a teaspoon

of bark crushed in a liter of water and then drunk. For the treatment of fevers, the same procedure is applied to the dry fruit (TSABANG et al., 2011). Also against fever, Grenand et al. (1987) reported the use of *Xylopia frutescens* among the Wayãpi Indians of French Guiana. *Xylopia aromatica* is also reported to be useful for the treatment of malaria by local populations in the region around the Brazilian Federal Capital, Brasília (MESQUITA et al., 2007).

***Other genera*:** 43 additional species representing 23 genera of Annonaceae have been reported in the literature for the treatment of fevers, malaria and headaches, although none of these were indicated for the treatment of liver problems related to malaria. In the Colombian Amazon region, the Tikuna use a decoction of the bark of *Cymbopetalum brasiliense* for the treatment of fevers (SCHULTES & RAFFAUF, 1994) and a decoction of the external bark of *Duguetia duckei* is used by Tiriyo communities in the Brazilian state of Pará (CAVALCANTE & FRIKEL, 1973). *Guatteria discolor* bark is used in a bath among the Wayãpi Indians of French Guiana for the same purpose (GRENAND et al., 1987). Schultes and Raffaui (1994) reported the use of the bark of *Guatteria schunkevigoi* among the local populations in the Napo region of Ecuador. In the procedure described, the bark is ground and mixed with water and rubbed on the body to combat fevers. The same method is used for the preparation of *Guatteria discolor* among the Wayãpi populations in French Guiana, though in this case the Wayãpi decoct the bark (GRENAND et al., 1987). In Cameroon, a decoction of the stem bark (500 g) of *Duguetia staudtii* obtained by scraping the bark with a large knife, or leaves (100 g) soaked in water for 20 min are used in the preparation of a drink which is taken to treat headaches. Similarly, a decoction of leaves (100 g) in water (3 L, 20 min) is used for bathing the head (TSABANG et al., 2011). *Desmos teijsmanii* and *Monodora tenuifolia* are used to treat similar aches in Malaysia and Cameroon, respectively (KULIP, 2003; TSABANG et al., 2011).

***Preparations and plant parts utilized in traditional remedies*:** Different plant parts and methods of preparation are utilized in traditional therapies involving Annonaceous plants. Some methods of preparation are reported more frequently than others. Also, some authors do not provide

information on the methods of preparation. Other authors provide varying degrees of information on these preparations. Most of the sources consulted presented information on preparations involving plant materials that were vague regarding the dosages and the duration of the treatment involving Annonaceae-derived botanicals. The bark is the part of Annonaceae plants which is most often reported in the literature containing descriptions of the preparation of traditional remedies, followed by the leaves and then fruit. The seeds and roots were cited only twice each as being used for remedies. Flowers were used in only one preparation, that involving *Cananga odorata*, for the treatment of malaria infections. Infusions and decoctions are the methods of preparation of the remedies used in the most common treatments. Administration by mouth is by far the most common route used for Annonaceae traditional remedies.

Lannuzel et al. (2002) suggest that alkaloids from *A. muricata* can modulate the function and the survival of dopaminergic nerve cells *in vitro*. There are indications that annonacine, found in large quantities in *A. muricata*, can diminish the levels of ATP in (mesencephalic-derived) dopaminergic cells of rat embryos (LANNUZEL et al., 2003).

Some traditional formulations of Annonaceae plants involve the addition of other plant species. Thus, the roots of *Annona muricata* are boiled together with those of *Blumea balsamifera* (Asteraceae), *Cymbopogon citratus* and *Imperata cylindrica* (Poaceae) and the aromatic vapor is used to heat the body of people who suffer from high fevers in kadazandusun communities in Malaysia (FASIHUDDIN & GHAZALLY, 2003). Topical applications in the form of baths, although less frequently used, are advised for the treatment of fevers and headaches (as indicated above). Another form of treatment involves the vapours of baths with *Annona ambotay* and *A. haematantha* (GRENAND et al., 1987). In French Guiana, the Wayâpi Indians use *Annona ambotay* leaves and bark crushed, grated and rubbed on the body. They also boiled this plant in a pot and placed the boiled mixture beneath a hammock as vapour bath for the treatment of fever (GRENAND et al., 1987).

Chemical diversity of Annonaceae and scientific evidence for antimalarial activity:

The Annonaceae exhibit important biological activity in general. Many different secondary metabolites have been reported in Annonaceae. These include acetogenins, sterols, sesquiterpene lactones, quinones and alkaloids. In the literature, one finds reports on the use of plants of this family against diseases such as cancer (OBERLIES et al., 1997). In Table 2, the results of studies on the *in vitro* activity of Annonaceous plant extracts against *Plasmodium falciparum* are summarized. Active extracts ($IC_{50} < 5 \mu\text{g/mL}$) from the following species have been described: *Annona coriacea* ($IC_{50} = 4.4 \mu\text{g/mL}$); *Hexalobus crispiflorus* ($IC_{50} = 2.0 \mu\text{g/mL}$); *Polyalthia debilis* ($IC_{50} = 1.4 \mu\text{g/mL}$); *Uvariopsis congensis* ($IC_{50} = 2.8 \mu\text{g/mL}$); *Xylopiia aromatica* ($IC_{50} < 1 \mu\text{g/mL}$) and *Xylopiia emarginata* ($IC_{50} = 3.3 \mu\text{g/mL}$) (Table 2). Fischer et al. (2004) reported the *in vitro* antimalarial activity of crude extracts and alkaloid-containing fractions from six species of Annonaceae (*Annona coriacea*, *Duguetia lanceolata*, *Duguetia furfuracea*, *Guatteria australis*, *Xylopiia brasiliensis* and *Xylopiia emarginata*) (Table 2). The most active antimalarial fractions ($IC_{50} < 5 \mu\text{g/mL}$) were those of *Annona coriacea* ($IC_{50} = 1.6 \mu\text{g/mL}$, against the K1 strain of *P. falciparum*), *Duguetia lanceolata* ($IC_{50} = 2$ and $5 \mu\text{g/mL}$, against the K1 and Palo Alto strains of *P. falciparum*, respectively), *Duguetia furfuracea* ($IC_{50} = 4.8 \mu\text{g/mL}$, against the Palo Alto strain of *P. falciparum*) and *Guatteria australis* ($IC_{50} = 0.3$ and $1.8 \mu\text{g/mL}$, against the K1 and Palo Alto strains of *P. falciparum*, respectively).

The *in vitro* antimalarial activity of essential oils (Table 2) has been attributed to sesquiterpenes which are among the major components. Boyom et al. (2003) reported that the essential oil obtained from the bark of *Duguetia confine* (cited as *Pachypodanthium confine*) was approximately 88% sesquiterpenes and 0.64% aromatic substances. Also, these authors found that the essential oil obtained from the bark of *Xylopiia aethiopica* contained ca. 45% sesquiterpenes and the essential oil extracted from the bark of *Xylopiia phloiodora* contained approximately 88% sesquiterpenes and 3% aromatic compounds. The essential oil of *Cleistopholis patens* contained 81% sesquiterpenes and the major components of the bark essential oil were: a-copaene, d-cadinene, and germacrene D; the major components of the leaf essential oil were: b-caryophyllene, germacrene D,

and germacrene B (BOYOM et al., 2011). The genus *Uvaria* has undergone extensive study related to its *in vitro* antimalarial activity making it arguably the most studied among Annonaceae genera for this kind of biological activity (Table 1). Nkunya et al. (1991) described a study of nine species of *Uvaria* in which the following antimalarial substances were isolated: uvaretin, diuvaretin and (8',9'-dihydroxy)-3-farnesylindole (IC_{50} = 3.5, 4.2 and 2.7 μ g/mL, respectively, against the K1 strain of *P. falciparum*). In their review on natural products from traditionally used antimalarial plants, Bero and Quetin-Leclercq (2011) reported that the antiplasmodial substance (+)-3-acetylalcoholactone was isolated from the extracts of the flowers of *Goniothalamus laoticus* Bân and exhibited *in vitro* activity against the K1 strain of *P. falciparum* (IC_{50} = 9.5 μ M). *In vivo* activity was observed for another Annonaceous species, *Annickia chlorantha* (cited as *Enantia chlorantha*), which is found in Nigeria and other parts of West Africa. The aqueous extracts of this plant were administered intraperitoneally and cleared chloroquine-resistant *P. yoelii nigeriensis* infections from the blood of albino mice in a dose-dependant manner (KIMBI E FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU, 1996).

Geographic distribution: The reports on the use of Annonaceae for combatting malaria infections and symptoms of this disease are all from pantropical areas and are obviously the fruit of local experiences in countries where malaria is endemic. Most of the reports available are concentrated in traditional populations of South America and some African countries. The use of species of Annonaceae and other families is directly related to their natural distribution. One example is species of the genus *Annona*. These species are now found throughout the tropics and are used by peoples in Africa, Central and South America, India and several Caribbean countries. Another example is species of *Xylopia* used among the populations of Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, French Guiana, Peru, and Togo. Interestingly, the genus *Guatteria* has a Neotropical distribution and is restricted in use to traditional populations in the Amazonian regions of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Guyana. In Brazil in particular, there is a broad use of plants from the Annonaceae represented by seven species in five genera. Overall, the genus *Annona* is represented

by ten species and is by far the most important antimalarial genus of this family.

TABLE 1- Data on the antimalarial and related uses of Annonaceae plant species.

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Annickia chlorantha</i> (Oliv.) Setten & Maas	Yellow Moambe	Cameroon/ Cameroon highland	M	SB, other plants	SB removed by scraping w/machete; decoc. 500 g SB, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min.	Tsabang et al. (2011); Ndenecho, (2011)
<i>Annona ambotay</i> Aubl.	-	French Guiana, Wayâpi Indians	F	Lv, Bk	Lv, Bk crushed, grated, rubbed on body or boiled & placed beneath hammock as vapour bath	Grenand et al. (1987)
<i>Annona cherimola</i> Mill.	-	Latin America	F	Bk	Powered Bk	Milliken, (1997b)
<i>Annona crassiflora</i> Mart.	Araticum	Brazil (Brasília)	M	-	-	Mesquita et al. (2007)
	Araticum-catinga	Brazil	IF	Bk, Lv	External use	Pio Corrêa, (1926-1978)
<i>Annona foetida</i> Mart.	Araticum-da-caatinga	Brazil (Bahia)	M	Bk, Lv	Bk, Lv extern. use as antirheumatic; decoction for malaria	Mors et al. (2000)
<i>Annona glabra</i> L.	Mamain	Caribbean	F	Lv	-	Longuefosse, (2003)
<i>Annona glabra</i> L.	Pond Apple	-	M	Sd, Bk, Rt, Fr	-	Rupprecht et al. (1990)

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Annona haematantha</i> Miq	-	French Guiana, Wayãpi Indians	F	Lv, Bk	Bk, Lv crushed, grated, rubbed on body; boiled, placed beneath hammock as vapour bath	Grenand et al. (1987)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	Hampun kapal	Malaysia, Kadazan-Dusun communities	F	St, Rt	Rt + Rt of <i>Blumea balsamifera</i> , <i>Cymbopogon citrates</i> + <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> boiled. Aromatic St used to warm body.	Fasihuddin & Ghazally (2003)
	Guanábana	Colombia	H	Lv	Lv on forehead	Blair & Madrigal. (2005)
	Guanábana	Colombia	F	Lv	Fresh or dry Lv, decoc., drink	Gómez-Estrada et al. (2011)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	-	Brazil (Amazon Region)	F	Fr	Juice drink	Di Stasi et al. (1994) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
	-	-	M	Lv	Lv EtOH ext. active against <i>Pf in vitro</i> ()	Gbeassor et al. (1990) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	-	French Guiana	F	Fr	Fr eaten	Heckel (1897) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
	-	Dominica, used by Caribs	F	Lv	Lv infus. drink	Hodge and Taylor (1957) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	-	Colombia (Valle del Cauca)	M	-	-	Montes Giraldo (1981) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
	-	Barbados; Grenadines; Costa Rica; Bahamas	F	Fr, Lv	Lv decoc., boiled Fr juice, drink	Morton (1981) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	-	Brazil (Alagoas)	F	Fr	Fr juice, drink daily	Milliken (1997b).

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	Guanábana/Soursop		F	Lv	-	Duke & Vasquez, (1994)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	Graviola-do-norte	Brazil	F	Fr	Juice	Pio Corrêa (1926-1978)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	Yevounyigli	Togo	M	Lv	Maceration, drink	Koudouvo et al. (2011)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.		Cameroon	M	Lv	Decoc. handful Lv, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.		Nigeria	F	-		Odugbemi (2008)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.		India (Bombay)	F	Ripe Fr	refreshing drink made from pulp for fever	Nadkarni & Nadkarni (1955)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	Graviola	Brazil (Amazonas)	L	Bk	-	Hidalgo (2003)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	Dian beleda'	Indonesia (Kenyah, Borneo)	F	Lv	Rubifacient + petrol	Leaman et al. (1995)
<i>Annona muricata</i> L.	-	E Madagascar	M	Lv	Tea, infusion	Novy (1997)
<i>Annona purpurea</i> Moç. & Sessé ex Dunal	Matimbá / Guanábana Colombiana engorda	Colombia (Caribbean region)	F	Lv	Lv devotion baths for fever	Gómez-Estrada et al. (2009)
<i>Annona purpurea</i> Moç. & Sessé ex Dunal	-	Mexico	F	Fr	juice drink	Morton (1981) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
<i>Annona purpurea</i> Moç. & Sessé ex Dunal	Sincuyo, Sincuyo (El Salvador, Chicuya, Sincoya (Nicaragua)	Mexico	F	Fr	juice for fever, chills	Fernández (2009)

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Annona reticulata</i> L.	-	-	F	Fr	-	Raiburn (2007)
<i>Annona reticulata</i> L.	Araticum, Ata, Condessa, Fruta-de-condessa, Miloló, Pinha	Brazil	F	Sd	Seeds for febrifuge	Mors et al. (2000)
<i>Annona reticulata</i> L.	-	Brazil	IF	Lv	Lv decoc. drink	Morton (1981) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
<i>Annona reticulata</i> L.	Coração-de-boi	Brazil	F	Sd	-	Pio Corrêa (1926-1978)
<i>Annona reticulata</i> L.		Guatemala	F w/ chills, M	Lv	-	Cáceres et al. (1998)
<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers.	-	Africa	M	-	-	Konadu (2007)
<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers.	Wild soursop (English); Kedahan (Yambetta)	Cameroon	M	Rt, SB	Decoc. 500 g Rt, SB, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers.	-	Cameroon		Young leafy St	Decoc. 100 g young Lv w/100 g young <i>Piptostigma thonningii</i> Lv, 100 g <i>Senna alata</i> Lv, 100 g <i>Chrysanthellum americana</i> , 100 g <i>Lippia multiflora</i> , 300 g <i>Terminalia glaucescens</i> , 300 g <i>Nauclea latifolia</i> Rt, St, 100 g of <i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> , 5 L H ₂ O. Boil decoc. down to 3 L. <i>Nauclea latifolia</i> Rt should be harvested at sunrise or sunset	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers.	-	Nigeria		Lv	-	Ajaiyoba et al. (2006)
<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers.	Muroro	Mozambique	F	Bk, Lv, Rt	Decoc., drink	Bruschi et al. (2011)

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Pomme-Cannelle	Caribbean	L	Lv	Infus.	Longuefosse (2003)
<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	-	Bahamas	F	Lv	Lv decoc., drink	Morton (1981) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b).
<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Anona	-	F	-	-	Duke and Vasquez (1994)
<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Mkonokono	Africa	M	Lv	Fresh Lv decoc.	Kaou et al. (2008)
<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Sugar apple (English); Kedahan (Yambetta)	Cameroon	M	Lv	Decoc. 150 g Lv, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Anonidium mannii</i> (Oliv.) Engl. & Diels	Ebome; Npole Wapo'o (Pygmies Bakola), Ebome Afan (Ewondo and Bulu)	Cameroon	F	SB	Decoc. 500 g SB by scraping w/ machete, 3 L H ₂ O, evapor. to 2/3, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Cananga latifolia</i> Finet & Gagnep.	Chkè Sraèng	Cambodia, Kampong Speu	F	Bk, St	-	Hout et al. (2006)
<i>Cananga odorata</i> (Lam.) Hook. f. & Thomson	-	-	M	F1 Oil	-	Joy et al. (1998)
<i>Cardiopetalum calophyllum</i> Schtdl.	Imbirinha	Brazil (Brasília)	M	-	-	Mesquita et al. (2007)

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Cleistopholis glauca</i> Pierre ex Engl. & Diels	Wombo (Pygmies Bakola), Avom (Ewondo and Bulu)	Cameroon	F	SB	Decoc. 500 g SB obtained by scraping w/machete, 2 L H ₂ O, 24 h; 100 g Lv, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Cleistopholis patens</i> (Benth.) Engl. & Diels	- Salt-and-oil tree (English); Wombo (Pygmies Bakola), Avom (Ewondo and Bulu)	Nigeria	F	-	-	Odugbemi (2008)
<i>Cleistopholis patens</i> (Benth.) Engl. & Diels	Wombo (Pygmies Bakola), Avom (Ewondo and Bulu)	Cameroon	F	SB	Decoc. 500 g SB obtained by scraping w/machete, 2 L H ₂ O, 24 h; 100 g Lv, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Cleistopholis patens</i> (Benth.) Engl. & Diels	Engo ni ntsini	S Ghana	M	St	Decoc., drink	Asase et al. (2009)
<i>Cleistopholis staudtii</i> Engl. & Diels	Sobu; Wombo (Pygmies Bakola), Avom (Ewondo and Bulu)	Cameroon	F	SB	Decoc. 500 g SB obtained by scraping w/machete, 2 L H ₂ O 24 h; 100 g Lv, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Cymbopetalum brasiliense</i> (Vell.) Benth. ex Baill.	-	Colombia (Amazonas), Tikuna Indians	F	Bk	Decoc. drink for weakness after fever	Schultes and Raffauf (1994)
<i>Dennettia tripetala</i> Bak.f.	-	Nigeria	M	-	-	Odugbemi (2008)
<i>Desmos teysmannii</i> (Boerl.) Merr.	Molisun Rumungkut (Ti)	Malaysia	H	-	Decoc. of Lv	Kulip (2003)
<i>Duguetia duckei</i> R.E. Fr.	-	Brazil (Pará), Tiriyo Indians	F	Bk	Decoc. Bk, extern. bath	Cavalcante and Friel (1973) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b) Mesquita et al. (2007)
<i>Duguetia furfuracea</i> (A. St.-Hil.) Saff.	Pinha-de-guará	Brazil (Brasília)	M	-	-	Muhammad et al. (2001)
<i>Duguetia lanceolata</i> A. St.-Hil.	pindaíva, pindabuna	-	M	-	-	-

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Duguetia spixiana</i> Mart.	-	Bolivia, Madidi	F	-	-	Araujo-Murakami et al. (2006)
<i>Duguetia staudtii</i> (Engl. & Diels) Chatrou	Ntoma (Pygmies)				Macer. 500 g SB, 3 L H ₂ O, under sunlight, 6 h, drink; Drink 250 mL every 12 h; Decoc. 500 g	
<i>Pachypodanthium mannii</i> (you mean <i>Anonidium mannii</i> , I presume)	Bakola), Ntom (Ewondo and Bulu)	Cameroon	H	SB	SB obtained by scraping w/machete, or 100 g Lv, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min, head bath; drink 250 mL decoc. 2×/day, 15 days.	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Annickia chlorantha</i> (Oliv.) Setten & Maas		Nigeria		Bk		Ajaiyoba et al. (2006)
<i>Fissistigma rigidum</i> Merr.	-	Asia	F	-	Drink of woody climber	Safford and Maltby (1998)
<i>Greenwayodendron</i> sp.	-	Ghana	M	Lv	Boil Lv, drink 1 cup decoc. (adults), ½ cup for children, 3×/day until recovered	Asase et al. (2010)
<i>Guatteria discolor</i> R.E. Fr.	Envira-fofa	French Guiana, Wayäpi Indians Colombia (Amazonas), Witoto Indians	F	Bk	Bk decoc., extern bath	Grenand et al. (1987)
<i>Guatteria megalophylla</i> Diels	-		M	Lv	Lv decoc. drink	Schultes and Raffauf (1994)
<i>Guatteria schunkevigoi</i> D.R. Simpson	-	Ecuador (Napo)	F	Bk	Crushed Bk in H ₂ O rubbed on body	Schultes and Raffauf (1994)
<i>Guatteria</i> sp.1	-	Ecuador, Quichua Indians	M, F	Bk	Bk ext. drink	Miliken (1997b)
<i>Guatteria</i> sp.2	-	Brazil (Roraima, Yanomami or Watoriki)	M	Bk	Bk ext. drink, causes dizziness; boiled Bk shavings applied as compress to swollen spleen	Miliken (1997a)

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Hexalobus crispiflorus</i> A. Rich.	- Owe; Lefondja (Pygmies Bakola), Avom (Ewondo and Bulu)	Nigeria	F		-	Odugbemi (2008)
<i>Isolona campanulata</i> Engl. & Diels	-	Nigeria	F			Odugbemi (2008)
<i>Isolona hexaloba</i> (Pierre) Engl.	Nding; Lesondje (Pygmies akola), Nding or Nom Ntom (Ewondo)	Cameroon	F	SB	Decoc. 500 g SB obtained by scraping w/ machete, or 100 g Lv, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Isolona hexaloba</i> (Pierre) Engl.	Bodzungu	Democratic Republic of Congo	M	SB	Decoc., drink	Muganza et al. (2012)
<i>Monanthotaxis</i> sp.	-	-	M			Asase et al. (2005)
<i>Monodora brevipes</i> Benth.	yellow-flowered; Pio (Pygmies Bakola), Nom Akwi grandes feuilles (Ewondo) Calabash	Cameroon	F	SB Fr, Sd	Decoc. 1 tspn SB and/or 1 tspn SB powder, 250 mL H ₂ O, Drink Infus. 1 tspn ground, dry Sd powder, 250 mL H ₂ O	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Monodora myristica</i> (Gaertn.) Dunal	nufmeg; Bongo (Yambetta), Akwi (Ewondo)	Cameroon	F	SB, Fr powder	Decoc. 1 kg SB, 4 L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink; Infus. 1 kg Sd powder, 4 L H ₂ O, as purge every 2 days	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Monodora myristica</i> (Gaertn.) Dunal	-	SE Gabon, Epila	F, H	-	Infus. – H: Lv used	Lekana-Douki et al. (2011)

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Monodora myristica</i> (Gaertn.) Dunal	M'Kp'ô (Atti'e), Abidjan district	Ivory Coast	M	Rt, Sd, SB	-	Okpekon et al. (2004)
<i>Monodora tenuifolia</i> Benth.; <i>Monodora</i> with thin leaves	Ebome osso (Ewondo)	Cameroon	H	SB	Decoc. 500 g SB powder, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> (Sonn.) Thwaites	-	India	F (chronic)	Bk	Bk powder, 2 × L twice a day	Kumari and Gopal (2009)
<i>Greenwayodendron</i> <i>suaveolens</i> (Engl. & Diels) Verdc.	-	-	F	Bk	-	Joy et al. (1998)
<i>Greenwayodendron</i> <i>suaveolens</i> (Engl. & Diels) Verdc.	Otungui; Ntounga (Pygmies Bakola)	Cameroon	M	SB	Decoc. 500 g SB collected by scraping w/ machete, 3 L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Greenwayodendron</i> <i>suaveolens</i> (Engl. & Diels) Verdc.	Bodzinda	Democratic Republic of Congo	M	RB	Decoc., drink	Muganza et al. (2012)
<i>Polyceratocarpus</i> sp.	Nosonaback (Yambetta)	Cameroon	M	RB	Decoc. 500 g SB collected by scraping w/ machete, 3 L H ₂ O, evap. to ½, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Pseudoxandra cuspidata</i> Maas	-	French Guiana	M	IB	200 g IB in 500 mL cold H ₂ O, 100 °C, 15 min., cool	Bertani et al. (2005)
<i>Ammonia sylvatica</i> A. St.- Hil.	Araticum-da-mata	Brazil, cerrado region	F	Lv	Lv as bechic	Mors et al. (2000)
<i>Unonopsis floribunda</i> Diels	Icoja, tortuga caspi	Peru	M	-	-	Clavo et al. (2003) <i>apud</i> . IIAP (2010)
<i>Unonopsis guatterioides</i> (A. DC.) R.E. Fr.	Envira-surucucu	French Guiana, Wayãpi Indians	M	Bk	Decoc., external bath	Grenand et al. (1987)

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Unonopsis spectabilis</i> Diels	-	Peru	M	Bk		Duke and Vasquez (1994)
<i>Uvaria afzelii</i> G.F. Scott-Elliott	-	Ivory Coast (Costa de Marfil)	M	Rt	-	Mélan et al. (2006)
<i>Uvaria afzelii</i> G.F. Scott-Elliott	Okpap (Adjoukrou), Abidjan district	Ivory Coast	M	Lv, Rt, SB	-	Okpekon et al. (2004)
<i>Uvaria angolensis</i> Welw. ex Oliv.	-	Nigeria	F			Odugbemi (2008)
<i>Uvaria chamae</i> P. Beauv.	Agbanan	Togo	M	Lv	Decoc., drink	Koudouvo et al. (2011)
<i>Uvaria scheffleri</i> Diels	Mguma (Swa)	Kenya, Coast-Kwale	M	RB, Lv	Decoc., hot H ₂ O ext.	Muthaura et al. (2007)
<i>Uvaria</i> sp. 1	Nosonaback (Yambetta) (Yambetta)	Cameroon	M	SB	SB collected by scraping w/machete, decoc. 500 g SB, 3 L H ₂ O, evap. to ½, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Xylopia aethiopica</i> (Dunal) A. Rich.	Ethiopian pepper; Akwi (Ewondo)	Cameroon	F	Fr, SB	Decoc. 1 tspn crushed, dried SB, 1 L H ₂ O, drink 1 tspn crushed dried Fr, 1 L H ₂ O, drink	Tsabang et al. (2011)
<i>Xylopia aromatica</i> (Lam.) Mart.	Esso	Togo	M	Fr	Macer., drink	Koudouvo et al. (2011)
<i>Xylopia aromatica</i> (Lam.) Mart.		Colombia		AP		Garavito et al. (2006)
<i>Xylopia aromatica</i> (Lam.) Mart.	Pimenta-de macaco	Brazil (Brasília)	M	-	-	Mesquita et al. (2007)
<i>Xylopia emarginata</i> Mart.	Pindaiba-do-brejo	Brazil (Brasília)	M	-	-	Mesquita et al. (2007)

Species	Local Name	Region	Use	Part used	Preparation	Source
<i>Xylopia frutescens</i> Aubl.	-	French Guiana, Wayãpi Indians	F	Bk	-	Grenand et al. (1987)
<i>Xylopia aromatica</i> (Lam.) Mart. (syn. <i>Xylopia grandiflora</i> A. St.-Hil.)	-	Peru	F	-	-	Rutter (1990) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
<i>Xylopia hypolampyra</i> Mildbr.	Sedhiou pepper; Nkanla (Pygmies Bakola), Nom Akwi (Ewondo)	Cameroon	F	Fr, SB	Decoc. 1 tspn crushed, dried SB, 0,5 L H ₂ O, drink Tsabang et al. (2011)	
<i>Xylopia cayemensis</i> Maas (syn. <i>Xylopia longifolia</i> A. DC.)	-	French Guiana, Wayãpi Indians	F	Bk	-	Grenand et al. (1987)
<i>Xylopia parviflora</i> Spruce	Ashako; Odjobi (Ewondo)	Cameroon	F	Fr, SB	Decoc. 1 kg SB in 3L H ₂ O, 20 min, drink Infus. 1 tspn crushed dried Fr, 250 mL H ₂ O, drink Tsabang et al. (2011)	
<i>Xylopia</i> spp.	-	Colombia (Boyacá)	M	-	-	Montes Giraldo (1981) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b).
<i>Xylopia staudtii</i> Engl. & Diels	Odjwe; Nkanla (Pygmies Bakola), Nom Akwi (Ewondo)	Cameroon	F	Fr	Macer. 1 tspn crushed dried Fr, 500 mL H ₂ O, drink Tsabang et al. (2011)	
<i>Xylopia aromatica</i> (Lam.) Mart. (syn. <i>Xylopia xylopioides</i>)	-	Peru	F	-	-	Rutter (1990) <i>apud</i> Milliken (1997b)
	Fruta-de-burro	Brazil	F	Bk	-	Pio Corrêa (1926-1978)

Abbreviations: Bk – bark, decoc. – decoction, ext. – extract, extern. – external, F – fever, Fr – fruit, H – headache, IB – inner bark, IF – intermittent fever, infus. – infusion, L – liver, Lv – leaves, M – malaria, macer. – maceration, RB – rootbark, Rt – roots, SB – stembark, Sd – seed, St – stem, tspn – teaspoon.

TABLE 2- *In vitro* antimalarial activity against *Plasmodium falciparum* strains by extracts of Annonaceae spp. used in the treatment of malaria.

Species	Part	Extract	IC ₅₀ (µg/mL)	Pf strain	Source
<i>Annona coriacea</i> Mart.	L	EtOH	22.3	K1	Fischer et al. (2004)
			4.4	PA	
<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	L	EtOAc	33	3D7	Bagavan et al. (2011)
			100.0		
			20.0		
			82.0		
<i>Cleistopholis patens</i> (Benth.) Engl. & Diels	B	EO (HD)	9.2	W2	Boyom et al. (2011)
	L		15.2		
<i>Duguetia furfuracea</i> (A. St.-Hil.) Saff.	L	EtOH	65.9	K1	
			12.4	PA	
<i>Duguetia lanceolata</i> A. St.-Hil.	L	EtOH	10.1	K1	Fischer et al. (2004)
			7.2	PA	
<i>Goniothalamus marcanii</i> Craib	-	EtOH	6.3	K1	Ichino et al. (2006)
<i>Guatteria australis</i> A. St.-Hil.	L	EtOH	32.7	K1	Fischer et al. (2004)
			7.4	PA	
<i>Hexalobus crispiflorus</i> A. Rich.	B	EO (HD)	2.0	W2	Boyom et al. (2003)
<i>Monodora myristica</i> (Gaertn.) Dunal	-	MeOH	1 < IC ₅₀ < 10	FCB & W2	Lekana-Douki et al. (2011)
		DCM	10 < IC ₅₀ < 40	FCB & W2	
<i>Monodora myristica</i> (Gaertn.) Dunal	B	EtOAc	21.6		Krief et al. (2006)
			25.6		
			72.2		
			37.4		
<i>Duguetia confinis</i> (Engl. & Diels) Chatrou	B	EO (HD)	16.6	W2	Boyom et al. (2003)
<i>Polyalthia debilis</i> Finet & Gagnep. <i>Polyalthia viridis</i> Craib	-	-	1.35	K1	Deharo and Ginsburg (2011)
		EtOH	10.0	K1	Ichino et al. (2006)

Species	Part	Extract	IC ₅₀ (µg/mL)	Pf strain	Source
<i>Uvaria acuminata</i> Oliv.	-	-	< 10	D6 & W2	Gathirwa et al. (2011)
<i>Uvaria dependens</i> Engl. & Diels	L, S, RB	Pet. Eth., DCM, MeOH	5 < IC ₁₀ < 500	K1	
<i>Uvaria faulknerae</i> Verdc.	L, S, RB	Pet. Eth., DCM, MeOH	5 < IC ₁₀ < 500	K1	
<i>Uvaria kirkii</i> Oliv. ex Hook. f.	L, S, RB	Pet. Eth., DCM, MeOH	5 < IC ₁₀ < 500	K1	
<i>Uvaria leptoclados</i> Oliv.	L, S, RB	Pet. Eth., DCM, MeOH	5 < IC ₁₀ < 500	K1	Nkunya et al. (1991)
<i>Uvaria lucida</i> Bojer ex Benth.	S	Pet. Eth., DCM, MeOH	5 < IC ₅₀ < 9	K1	
<i>Uvaria scheffleri</i> Diels	RB	Pet. Eth., DCM, MeOH	5 < IC ₅₀ < 9	K1	
<i>Uvaria tanzaniae</i> Verdc.	L, S, RB	Pet. Eth., DCM, MeOH	5 < IC ₅₀ < 500	K1	
<i>Uvariastrum pierreanum</i> Engl. & Diels	B	EO (HD)	6.1	W2	Boyom et al. (2011)
<i>Uvariopsis congensis</i> Robyns & Ghesq.	L	EtOAc	14.0		
	B	EtOAc	4.1		Krief et al. (2006)
		MeOH	2.8		
	L	EtOAc	14.7		
		MeOH	15.1		
<i>Xylopiya aethiopica</i> (Dunal) A. Rich.	B	EO (HD)	17.8	W2	Boyom et al. (2003)
<i>Xylopiya aromatica</i> (Lam.) Mart.	AP	EtOH	< 1		Garavito et al. (2006)
	L	EtOH	52.6	K1	
<i>Xylopiya brasiliensis</i> Spreng.		EtOH	332.6	PA	
	L	EtOH	43.1	K1	Fischer et al. (2004)
		EtOH	3.3	PA	
<i>Xylopiya phloioidora</i> Mildbr.	B	EO (HD)	17.9	W2	Boyom et al. (2003)

Abbreviations: AP – aerial part, B – bark, DCM – dichloromethane, EO – essential oil, EtOAc – ethyl acetate, EtOH – ethyl alcohol, HD – hydrodistillation, IC₅₀ – median inhibitory concentration, L – leaves, MeOH – methyl alcohol, Pet. Eth. – petroleum ether, Pf – *Plasmodium falciparum*, RB – root bark, S – stems.

CONCLUSION

The Annonaceae family is rich in potential as a source of chemical entities for the development of novel antimalarial drugs. Several species belonging to this family have been well studied and have provided active antimalarial substances. On the other hand, a large number of species traditionally used to treat malaria from this family have not been studied so far, thus no chemical or pharmacological data are available. Intensification of research in the area of natural products chemistry together with screening for antimalarial activity could provide the lead compounds necessary for new drug development, a result which is awaited by the populations of endemic areas all over the world.

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