

**Contribuição para o conhecimento da espécie**  
***Hancornia speciosa* Gomes: Uma revisão bibliográfica**

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**Abstract:**

The use of medicinal plants is widespread throughout the world and its use in Brazil is part of the reality of the population. It can be said that phytotherapy is a use of plants for therapeutic purposes, stimulating as natural defenses of the organism and employing its chemical constituents to combat various conditions. The review of data present in the literature, as an extremely important way to unite it scientifically proved on a species *Hancornia speciosa* Gomes. Considering that a popular medicine is widely used in Brazil and does not always have concrete evidence as to the correct use of the species. This work aimed to gather a set of information based on national and international literature on a species *Hancornia speciosa* Gomes on their biological activities to elaborate a literature review. The methodology used for bibliographic research and scientific character. Composed of information of national and international scientific origin in the area of Natural products, collected indirectly based on secondary sources such as: books, websites, scientific articles, theses and magazines in the databases. A set of information about what has been reported in the literature on a species *Hancornia speciosa* Gomes was then elaborated. And it organizes in tabular form.

**Keywords:** *Hancornia speciosa* Gomes.; Medicinal plants; Natural products; Phytotherapy.

**1. Introduction:**

The use of medicinal plants as a remedy in the treatment of diseases is characterized as an important achievement of human society and there are reports that this practice has been used for about 3 thousand years BC Traditional medicine is the result of the use of these plants over time, through trial and error. A large proportion of the world's population uses the use of plant-based remedies as complementary and alternative therapy, or, as in the case of emerging countries, in basic care (FÜRST and ZÜDORF, 2015).

Because of their great structural diversity, vegetables, in turn, provide complex libraries of unique bioactive components. However, this is not the only reason you are interested in natural products for the production of new drugs. It can be highlighted as an important additional characteristic of natural products, their high selectivity and specificity in relation to biological activities (CRAGG; NEWMAN, 2013).

In underdeveloped and developing countries, the use of plants as a source of medicines is prevalent, because the availability of modern health services is limited. Thus, popular medicine emerges as an alternative to health problems that affect the population, presenting itself as a well-established alternative in cultures of several countries, mainly in Latin America, Africa and Asia (MADEIRO, 2016).

Currently, the Ministry of Health offers users of the Unified Health System (SUS) preventive and therapeutic options in the program of integrative and complementary practices, and in this context is the use of medicinal plants and the use of herbal medicines. According to Pereira (2016, apud FÜRST, ZÜNDORF, 2015), ethnopharmacology confronts the lack of scientific basis and lack of clinical data. The rational basis for using a large number of herbal remedies that are on the market is still far from sufficient, or scientifically valid.

Given the above, the review of data present in the literature, enters as an extremely important way to unite what has been scientifically proven about the species *Hancornia speciosa* Gomes. Considering that popular medicine is widely used in Brazil and there is not always any concrete evidence as to the correct use of the species.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

It is a bibliographical and scientific research. Composed of information of national and international scientific origin in the area of Natural Products, collected indirectly based on secondary sources such as: books, websites, scientific articles, theses and journals in the databases: Medline / PubMed, Scielo, Science Direct, Portal Scientific Journals in Health Sciences and Google Scholar. The literature search was carried out between December and April 2017. The searches were carried out with the following keywords: *Hancornia speciosa* Gomes, *Hancornia*, Apocynaceae, Hypertension, Diabetes, Obesity, Research on Natural Products. And the translations into English: Hypertension, diabetes, obesity, research on natural products.

### **3. Results**

If there are several reports in the literature on biological activities of the species under study, in which different parts of the plant were used, such as bark, leaves and latex. The following may be reported: Antihypertensive, antiulcerogenic, anti-inflammatory, Antifungal, hepatic function stimulus, Treatment of liver diseases, treatment of obesity, vasorelaxation, antimicrobial, antidiabetic, cytotoxic, angiogenic, genotoxic, antifungal, evaluation of properties in wound healing, antiviral, antioxidant, among others.

### **4. Conclusion**

Medicinal plants are continuously used for therapeutic purposes to treat various conditions. However, it is often used for an end where there is no scientific study to prove this action. This work aimed to gather a set of information based on national and international literature on the species *Hancornia speciosa* Gomes about its biological activities to elaborate a literature review, because this species is in the list of medicinal plants used by the population for this purpose.

The importance of doing continuous studies in the field of phytochemistry has been described to prove by means of pharmacological tests on possible activities of species used in folk medicine. Thus, it reviewed the proven pharmacological activities of *Hancornia speciosa* Gomes. and it can be observed that not even for all the purposes in which the various parts of the plant are used has scientifically proven activity.

The work will serve as a research source for future works involving the species, since it brings together the studies related to the biological activities of *Hancornia speciosa* Gomes. elucidated and proven by pharmacological tests.