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ENDEMIC TREE SPECIES EXTRACTS ASSESSMENT FROM MARQUESAN PHARMACOPOEIA AND PHARMACOPOEIA

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An ethnobotanical survey was performed in Marquesas archipelago (French Polynesia) to record medicinal and cosmetic traditional uses of plants. Few endemic plants are used for medicinal and cosmetic preparations.
Taken as examples, phytochemical properties of extracts from endemic trees from Marquesan cosmetopoeia (Santalum insulare and Rauvolfia nukuhivensis) assessed from a mutidisciplinary approach will be presented and so showing their potential. These two endemic plants are endangered species and the properties of their constituents provided strong arguments to promote preservation programs of these patrimonial plants.
Santalum insulare (Santalaceae), an endemic Marquesan species is locally called "puahi". Its heartwood had been used as a perfume ingredient for centuries and contains a hihgly prized essential oil. Volatile constituent composition of this sandalwood showed the occurence of two chemotypes. Kernels of this sandalwood species contains interesting polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) content having valuable potential for cosmetic ingredient.
Rauvolfia nukuhivensis (Apocynaceae), locally called "tu'eiao", is currently used as tradtionnal medicinal plant for women intimate care. The phytochemical study of alkaloid content of R. nukuhivensis, led to the identification of thirteen indole alkaloids unusually belonging to different skeletons (ajmalan, sarpagan, macroline and □-carboline).
The cytoxicity of the isolated components as well their inhibiting effects on hERG channel activity were evaluated, so showing their inhibiting effects.