



Visiting Professor Program Academic Year 2023/2024

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 14 hours

COURSE TITLE

Ethnobotany and Plant Volatile Bioactive Secondary Metabolites of Plants from South America

TEACHING PERIOD

1st term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Pharmaceutical Biology

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

Italian, English

COURSE SUMMARY

Ethnobotany is the study of the relationship between humans and plants. Ethnobotanical studies have noticeably increased in many parts of the world in recent decades. With this in mind, the course will focus on the ethnobotanical aspects of plants, particularly those that characterise the flora of South America. The course will provide an overview of the biodiversity of South America and the local knowledge of the traditional use of medicinal plants. In addition, an overview of the main classes of secondary metabolites that characterise the volatile fraction of plants and are responsible for plant bioactivity, as well as their uses, will be provided. Finally, a selection of some ethnobotanical studies is discussed to shed light on the modern analytical approaches to study and improve the knowledge of plants used in folk medicine.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to understand the main ethnobotanical aspects, especially in relation to South American flora. They will know both the botanical characteristics and the traditional uses among the indigenous people. In particular, they will be able to relate the traditional use of some selected plants in folk medicine to their chemical composition (in terms of secondary metabolites).

TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

N/A

LAB ACTIVITIES

N/A

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE

N/A

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The candidate should have a scientific CV documenting high-level and active research in the field and adequately covering the proposed topics (characterisation of volatile fractions of plants, essential oil analysis and bioactivity, etc...). International collaboration with renowned institutions and research papers published in international journals would also be relevant.

CONTACT REFERENT

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