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# A study of four medicinal plant complexes of Mexico and adjacent United States

Edelmira Linares ... Robert A. Bye Jr.

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### Abstract

A survey of medicinal herbs in markets of central and northern Mexico and southwestern United States revealed the existence of plant complexes of different species sharing common names, morphological and aromatic characteristics, and uses. Four complexes (with the “label” species listed first) discussed include: “cachani” with *Roldana sessilifolia*, *Iostephane madrensis*, *Liatrix punctata*, *Psacalium* sp., and *Potentilla* sp.; “chuchupate” with *Ligusticum porteri* and *Myroxylon balsamum*; “hierba anã” with *Tagetes lucida*, *T. filifolia*, *T. micrantha*, *Artemisia dracunculus*, *Pimpinella anisum*, and *Illicium verum*; and “matarique” with *Psacalium decompositum* *P. peltatum* *P. sinuatum* *P. sp.*, and *Acourtia thurberi*. The distribution analysis of utilization and natural occurrence of plants in each complex indicated the presence of a dominant or “label” plant whose use extended beyond its natural range and which had substitutes derived from local plants that were not

registered far beyond their respective natural ranges.



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