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Research paper

An analysis of the food plants and drug plants of native North America

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Abstract

This paper compares the medicinal and food floras of the native peoples of North America. There is a surprising overlap of these floras by both family and taxon. Yet there are also substantial differences – food and medicine tend to involve different plant parts, plant habit, and plant character. The similarities and differences are considered in an evolutionary context and a theoretical perspective is suggested to account for these facts.



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