

## Editorial

### Medical Ethnobiology

A special issue about *Medical Ethnobiology* is justified by many reasons: first, the contribution of ethnobiologists for a better understanding and description of the traditional medical systems [see 1] which constitute, for sure, for some peoples, a unique or at least complementary practice; second, the opportunity created for the dialogue with other important disciplines, such as medical anthropology, social medicine and medical Ethnobiology and others [1, 2]. And, also, we have a great variety of theoretical and methodological approaches that can be “addressed” as Medical Ethnobiology. This diversity is shown in the articles, which are part of this special issue.

Under my perspective this group of papers shows an at least riveting scenario of the traditional medical systems. For example, the communities that “share” their traditional practices with our biomedicine (see, for example [3]), obviously need to make choices for the treatment of their illnesses. They need to opt for a resource regardless of another, revealing sometimes a chain of choices that are evidenced in the different therapeutic trajectories [4]. The works that were joint in this special issue analyze some of these contexts from different points of view, be it about plant and animal use or about the complexity of a particular group’s way of life.

I am convinced that opportunities for debates were created with the publication of these articles, and with the hope that it can stimulate the dialogue among different researchers.

**Prof. Dr. Ulysses Paulino de Albuquerque**  
(Guest Editor)

Departamento de Biologia, Área de Botânica  
Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco  
Rua Dom Manoel de Medeiros s/n  
Recife, Brazil  
Tel: 55-81-3320 6350  
Fax: 55-81-3320-6361  
E-mail: upa@db.ufrpe.br

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