African Herbal Remedies with Antioxidant Activity: A Potential Resource Base for Wound Treatment

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1. Introduction

Human cells are continuously exposed to exogenous oxidants as well as to those produced endogenously during normal physiological processes. Antioxidants form part of protective mechanisms that exist in human cells to scavenge and neutralize these oxidants. Oxidants such as the reactive oxygen species (ROS) and reactive nitrogen species (RNS) are involved in several diseases [1, 2]. Antioxidant defenses are defective in these diseases and therefore it is possible to limit oxidative damage and ameliorate disease progression with antioxidant supplementation [3].

With reference to wounds, antioxidants play pivotal roles that consequently restore normalcy to injured skin. Basal levels of ROS and other free radicals are essential in almost all phases of the wound healing process (Figure 1) [4]. During haemostasis, ROS regulates the constriction of blood vessels to limit loss of blood. Furthermore, ROS facilitates the migration of neutrophils and monocytes from surrounding blood vessels towards the injury site. The presence of ROS and other free radicals in the wound vicinity during the inflammatory phase of the healing process is also required for infection control and general maintenance of sterility. Finally, ROS promotes the proliferation of keratinocytes, endothelial cells, and fibroblasts, thereby enhancing angiogenesis and collagen deposition. However, uncontrolled release of ROS could cause oxidative stress, resulting in cellular and tissue damage, thereby causing delayed healing [1].

To keep ROS within physiological levels, antioxidants serve as electron donors, thereby preventing them from capturing electrons from other molecules which ultimately leads to their destruction [4]. Both nonenzymatic antioxidants such as glutathione, ascorbic acid, and α-tocopherol, as well as enzymatic antioxidants like catalase and peroxiredoxin, have shown potential to normalize high ROS levels and thus stimulate healing [4]. By normalizing ROS, antioxidants can enhance their physiological roles and thereby accelerate the wound healing process. Naturally occurring antioxidants are
generally favoured over their synthetic counterparts, as the latter are suspected to cause or promote negative health effects [5]. This has resulted in the restricted use of synthetic antioxidants in several countries [6].

This review provides a comprehensive list of African medicinal plants and isolated compounds with antioxidant activities, with the aim of highlighting the continent’s rich herbal resource base for possible management of wounds and allied conditions. Previous reviews have listed a number of these African medicinal plants with antioxidant properties [7–9]. The present work has therefore aimed to expand the list to include medicinal plant species with antioxidant properties that are used in different African countries including those from Madagascar and Mauritius. For the sake of inclusivity, plants that have been shown to contain compounds that hold the potential of being novel antioxidants are also considered. In addition, those with anti-inflammatory properties were also included due to an earlier observation that the anti-inflammatory activities of the same extracts could be explained, at least in part, by their antioxidant properties [10]. Additional efforts were also made to include information, where available, on their vernacular names, their regional distribution, and medicinal use and plant parts used for these preparations or for the isolation of the antioxidant ingredient(s). Table 1 lists medicinal plants that have been investigated and have confirmed antioxidant and/or anti-inflammatory activity and that contain compounds which are known to have such activities. Table 2 on the other hand lists medicinal plants that have confirmed antioxidant activity but the compounds responsible for their antioxidant property have not yet been identified.

Many edible and culinary herbs and condiments were also included in these two tables as they were used in certain instances as medicinal herbs to treat diseases. These included fruits and seeds of *Balanites aegyptiaca*, leaves of *Boschia senegalensis*, leaves of *Entada africana* and seeds of *Parkia biglobosa*, from Niger [11], also leaves, seeds, and stem-bark of *Mangifera indica* from Benin and Burkina Faso [12, 13], leaves of *Cynara scolymus* from Ethiopia [14, 15], leaves of *Aspalathus linearis* from South Africa [16–21], leaves of *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* from Madagascar and Ethiopia [22–24], essential oils from the bark and leaves of *Ravensara aromatica* from Madagascar [23, 25], buds of *Syzygium aromaticum* from Madagascar [23], seeds of *Trigonella foenumgraecum* from Ethiopia and Morocco [26–28], and oils in seeds of *Nigella sativa* from African countries of the Mediterranean region [29–31].

### 2. Tests Used to Assess Antioxidant Activities of African Medicinal Plant Extracts

A variety of test systems were employed to assess the antioxidant properties of the medicinal plant extracts and compounds listed in Tables 1 and 2. A comprehensive list of the methods used in antioxidant activity determination, as well as their merits and demerits, has already been published [343–346]. The methods used in the determination of antioxidant activity of natural products and isolated compounds result in varied outcomes when the same samples are tested in different laboratories and by other researchers [347]. Furthermore, results of different methods cannot be correlated, as contradictory results are usually obtained. Hence, although several assays are available, none of them is capable of accurately and completely determining the antioxidant activity of a test substance because of the complex nature of the redox-antioxidant system *in vivo* (Figure 2).

Based on this complexity, antioxidants are broadly classified as (i) inhibitors of free radical formation, (ii) free radical scavengers, (iii) cellular and tissue damage repairers, and (iv) signalling messengers [347].

The inhibition of free radical formation could protect against oxidative damage by suppressing the formation of active ROS/RNS. This typically involves reduction or inhibition of substrates required for free radical formation such as metal ions like iron (Fe) and copper (Cu). The sequestration of these metal ions by antioxidant compounds like ellagic acid and glutathione is known to suppress formation of
Table 1: Medicinal plants with confirmed antioxidant activity, shown to contain compounds that are known to have such activity.

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| **Aloaceae**           |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| Aloe barbadensis Mill. | Burn plant, siber, sbar/essouktouri /mar, sbar | Leaf exudate | Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia | Antioxidant activity. Used as laxative, purgative, diuretic, asthma, baldness, cuts, bounds, skin rash. | Flavonoids, two dihydrocoumarin derivatives and two flavone glycosides | [32–34] |
| Aloe claviflora Burch. | Kraal aloe      | Leaf exudate | South Africa | Radical scavenging activity and moderate activity in the lipid peroxidation assay | Chromone glycoside | [35, 36] |
| A. saponaria (Ait.) Haw. | Mpelu Mnemvu Soap aloe, African aloe | Leaf exudate | South Africa | Radical scavenging activity and moderate activity in the lipid peroxidation assay | Chromone glycoside | [35, 37] |
| A. thraskii Baker     | Dune aloe, ikhala, umhlaba | Leaf exudate | South Africa | Radical scavenging activity and moderate activity in the lipid peroxidation assay | Chromone glycoside | [35, 36] |
| **Amaranthaceae**     |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| Amaranthus caudatus L. | Tasselflower Seed, Young shoots | Ethiopia | Antioxidant properties | Tocopherols, phenolic acids |                   | [38–40] |
| **Anacardiaceae**     |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| Anacardium occidentale L. | Not signalized | Stem-bark | Nigeria | Anti-inflammatory properties. | Agathisflavone, quercetin 3-O-rutinoside, quercetin 3-O-rhamnoside | [41, 42] |
| Lannea edulis Engl.   | Wild Grape     | Root-bark | Zimbabwe | Semipolar extracts high activity both as radical scavengers and lipoxygenase inhibitors. Lipophilic extracts inhibitor of 15-lipoxygenase. Used for painful menstruation, urogenital infection, sexually transmitted diseases. | Two alkylphenols (cardonol 7 and cordonol 13) and three dihydroalkylhexenones | [43–45] |
| Lannea velutina A. Rich | Bemmbeyi Raisinier velu, Lannéa velouté | Leaves, bark, root | Mali | Antioxidant properties | Proanthocyanidins | [46, 47] |
| Mangifera indica L.   | Mango Mangoro | Leaves, seeds, stem-bark | Benin Burkina Faso | Anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and hypoglycemic effects. Used to treat urogenital infection, tonic, diarrhoea, tooth ache, gingivitis, liver disease, diabetes. | Polyphenolics, flavonoids | [12, 13, 46, 47] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| **Apiaceae**          |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Centella asiatica*   | *Gotu kola*    | Leaves     | South Africa | Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities. Used for wound healing. Protection against radiation-induced injury. Cardio protective effect. Oral treatment increased antioxidant enzymes. | Quercetin and tetrandrine | [48–55] |
| **Apocynaceae**       |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Alstonia boonei*     | *Awun, Egbu*   | Stem-bark  | Nigeria      | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used for its analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties. | Rutin, Quercetin robinobioside, Kaempferol-3-O-rutinoside, Kaempferol-3-O-robinobioside | [56–59] |
| **Catharanthus roseus (L.) G. Don** | *Madagascar periwinkle* | Whole plant | Madagascar | Antioxidant activity and ability to increase antioxidant enzymes. Used for conjunctivitis. | Phenols | [60] |
| **Areceaceae**        |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Elaeis guineensis*   | *Ori*          | Nuts       | Ghana        | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used to treat rheumatoid arthritis. | 3,4-hydroxybenzaldehyde, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, vanillic acid, syringic acid, ferulic acid, carotenoids, α-tocopherol | [12, 61] |
| **Asclepiadaceae**    |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Secamone afzelii*    | *Ahaban Kroratima* | Stem       | Central Africa | Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Used for wound healing. | Flavonoids, caffeic acid derivatives and α-tocopherol | [62–64] |
| **Asphodelaceae**     |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Bulbine capitata*    | *Scented grass bulbine* | Roots Aerial parts | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory and weak antioxidant and free radical scavenging and lipid peroxidation inhibition activities. Knipholone as a selective inhibitor of leukotriene metabolism. Used as a mild purgative and to cure gonorrhoeal infections. | Anthraquinone Knipholone | [65–73] |
| *Bulbine frutescens*  | *Snake flower, cat’s tail, burn jelly plant* | Leaf juice Roots | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory and weak antioxidant and free radical scavenging and lipid peroxidation inhibition activities. Knipholone is a selective inhibitor of leukotriene metabolism. Used to treat burns, rashes, blisters, insect bites, cracked lips, acne, cold sores, mouth ulcers and areas of cracked skin. | Phenylanthraquinones, Isofuranonaphthoquinones, Gaboroquinones A and B and 4′-O-demethylknipholone-4′-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside, and Knipholone (anthraquinone) | [65, 67, 70, 74, 75] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| *Kniphofia foliosa* Hochst. | Red-not-peker | Kenya | Anti-inflammatory and weak antioxidant and free radical scavenging and lipid peroxidation inhibition activities. Knipholone as a selective inhibitor of leukotriene metabolism. Used for abdominal cramps, wound healing | Anthraquinone: Knipholone | [65, 76–78] |

**Asteraceae**

| Plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| *Artemisia abyssinica* Sch.Bip. | Chikugn (Amharic) *Arrita bera* (Or) | Whole plant | Ethiopia | Radical scavenging and antioxidant activities. Used for stomach pain and wound healing. | Essential oils and flavonoids | [79–82] |
| *A. africana* Jacq. ex Willd. | African wormwood Wild wormwood | Roots, stems and leaves | Ethiopia South Africa | Radical scavenging and antioxidant activities. Used for stomach pain, coughs, colds, fever, loss of appetite, colic, headache, earache, intestinal worms to malaria. | Essential oils and flavonoids | [79, 82–84] |
| *A. arvensis* L. | Mugwort | Whole plant | Algeria | Radical scavenging and antioxidant activities. | Phenolic compounds and flavonoids. | [85] |
| *A. campestris* L. | Field sagewort Field wormwood | Whole plant | Algeria | Radical scavenging and antioxidant activities. Used to treat insomnia | Phenolic compounds and flavonoids. | [85–87] |
| *Bidens pilosa* L. | Black jack | Leaves Roots | South Africa | Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antihypertensive activities. Used to treat diabetes and backache. | Phenolic compounds: quercetin 3-O-rabinobioside, quercetin 3-O-rutinoside. Two novel methoxylated flavone glycosides: quercetin 3,3’-dimethyl ether 7-O-3-L-rhamnopyranosyl(1→6)-D-glucopyranoside and the known quercetin 3,3’-dimethyl ether 7-O-D-glucopyranoside | [19, 88–91] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Cynara scolymus L.    | Globe artichoke | Leaves     | Ethiopia     | Antioxidative and lipid-lowering properties and eNOS up-regulating ability. Used to treat chronic liver and gall bladder diseases, jaundice, hepatitis and atherosclerosis. | Polyphenolic flavonoid compounds | [14, 15, 92, 93] |
| Helichrysum dasyanthum | Afrikaans common name of kooigoed (bedding material) | Leaves | South Africa | Antioxidant, radical scavenging and anti-inflammatory activities. Used to treat wounds, infections, respiratory conditions. | Essential oils | [94–96] |
| H. petiolare Hilliard & B.L. Burtt. | Everlasting, Imphepho | Leaves | South Africa | Antioxidant, radical scavenging and anti-inflammatory activities. Used to treat wounds, infections, respiratory conditions, asthma, chest problems and high blood pressure | Essential oils | [94–96] |
| Tagetes minuta L.      | Khaki bush stinking roger muster John Henry, wild marigold | Leaves | Madagascar | Antimicrobial and antioxidant activity. Used as anthelmintic, antispasmodic, purgative and for the treatment of gastritis, indigestion and internal worms. | Essential oils. | [23, 97] |

**Balanophoraceae**

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Thonningia sanguinea Vahl. | Nkomango | Roots | Ghana | Antioxidative and radical scavenging activities and lipid peroxidation inhibitory activity. Used for bronchial asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis and diabetes. | Ellagitannins: Thonningianin A and B | [98–103] |

**Balanitaceae**

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Balanites aegyptiaca (L.) Delile | Hausa: aduwa Desert date | Bark and roots | East Africa | Antioxidant properties in vitro confirmed. The bark and roots are used as laxatives, and for colic. The bark is used for sore throats, and as a remedy for sterility, mental diseases, epilepsy, yellow fever, syphils, and tooth aches. | Coumarins, flavonoids, saponins (Balanin 1 (3β,12β,14β,16β) cholest-5-ene-3,16-diy l bis (β-d-glucopyranoside)-12-sulphate, a new sterol sulfonated and Balanin 2 (3β,20S,22R,25R)-26-hydroxy-2-acetoxyfurost-5-en-3-yl-rhamnopyranosyl-(1→2)-glucopyranoside, a novel furostanol saponin) | [II, 104–106] |

**Bignoniaceae**

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Jacaranda mimosaefolia D.Don. | Sharpleaf Jacaranda | Leaves | Nigeria | Shown to have antimicrobial activity and used to treat infections | Phenylethanoid glucoside, jacaranone | [107–109] |
| Spathodea campanulata P.Beauv. | African tulip | Stem-bark | Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon (Yaounde region) | Anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, hypoglycemic, anti-complement and anti-HIV activities. Used to treat itching, arthritis, and diabetes. | Flavonoids and caffeic acid derivatives | [63, 110] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| *Tecoma stans* (L.) H.B. & K. | Yellow trumpetbush | Leaves | Nigeria | Anti-diabetic activity is shown. | 4-O-E-caffeoyl-alpha-L-rhamnopyranosyl (1 → 3) -> alpha/beta-D-glucopyranose, E/Z-acetoside, isoacetoside | [107, 111] |
| **Capparaceae** | | | | | | |
| *Cleome arabica* L. | Cleome efeina | Leaves | Egypt | Antioxidant activity, inhibited lipooxygenase activity and calcium ionophore-stimulated LTB4 synthesis in human neutrophils. Used to treat wounds and prevent inflammation | Rutin and quercetin. | [112, 113] |
| **Clusiaceae** | | | | | | |
| *Garcinia kola* Heckel | Bitter cola/aku ilu, agbu ilu. Nigeria Hausa: Góórò pl. gwàrráa or gòóràrákáí | Seeds | Nigeria | Inhibit lipid peroxidation and protective against H₂O₂-induced DNA strand breaks and oxidized bases. Used for laryngitis, coughs, liver disease, bronchitis and throat infections. Inhibits Aflatoxin B1 induced genotoxicity. | Biflavonoid: kolaviron | [114–120] |
| *Harungana madagascariensis* Poir. | Otori | Stem-bark | Eastern Nigeria | Significant antioxidant activity. Used to treat skin diseases. | Prenylated Anthronoids: harunnadagascarin A [8,9-dihydroxy-4,4-bis-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-6-methyl-2,3-(2,2-dimethylpyrano)anthrone], harunganol B | [121–123] |
| *Hypericum carinatum* Griseb. | Not signalized | Leaves | Egypt | Antioxidant and radical scavenging activities. | Benzophenones: cariphenone A (6-benzoyl-5,7-dihydroxy-2,2,8-trimethyl-2H-chromene) and cariphenone B (8-benzoyl-5,7-dihydroxy-2,2,6-trimethyl-2H-chromene). | [124, 125] |
| *H. perforatum* L. | Common St.-John's Wort | Whole plant | Egypt | Anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant activities. Free radical scavenging, metal-chelation, and reactive oxygen quenching activities. Protective against scopolamine-induced altered brain oxidative stress status and amnesia in rats. Ability to suppress the activities of 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO) and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), key enzymes in the formation of proinflammatory eicosanoids from arachidonic acid (AA). Analgesic, antiseptic, antispasmodic, digestive, diuretic and sedative. | Flavonoids: Rutin, hyperoside, isoquercitrin, avicularin, quercitrin, and quercetin. | [124, 126–131] |
### Table 1: Continued.

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| **Cochlospermaeae**   |                 |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Cochlospermum*       | N’tiribara      | Roots      | Sudan, Uganda/West Africa | Antioxidant activity. Used for malaria, jaundice. | Polyphenols: gallotannins and ferulic acids | [35]      |
| *Combretaceae*        |                 |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Combretum woodii*    | Large-leaved forest bushwillow | Leaf | South Africa | Antibacterial and antiviral activities. Also tannins showed inhibitory effect on Fe²⁺-induced lipid peroxidation and radical scavenger activity. Used for pneumonia, syphilis, abdominal pain and conjunctivitis. | Polyphenols: Combretastatin B5 (2',3',4'-tri-OH,3,5,4'-trimethoxybibenzyl). Tannins. | [132–137] |
| *Combretum imberbe*   | Not signified   |            | South Africa | Combretum species are widely used for treating abdominal disorders (e.g. abdominal pains, diarrhea) backache, bilharziases, chest coughs, colds, conjunctivitis, dysmenorrhea, earache, fattening babies, fever, headache | 1α,3β-dihydroxy-12-olean-29-oic, 1-hydroxy-12-olean-30-oic acid, 3,30-dihydroxyl-12-olean-22-one, and 1,3,24-trihydroxyl-12-olean-29-oic acid, a new pentacyclic triterpenoid (1α,23-dihydroxy-12-olean-29-oic acid-3β-O-2,4-di-acetyl-l-rhamnopyranoside) | [138]      |
| *Guiera senegalensis* | N’kundjè        | Leaf       | Western Africa | Antioxidant and radical scavenging activities. Used to treat dysentery, diarrhoea, gastrointestinal pains and disorders, rheumatism, diabetes and fever, | Flavonol aglycones, flavonol glycosides and flavonoids (catechin, myricitrin, rutin and quercetin) as well as tannins (galloylquinic acids (hydrolysable tannins). | [139–143] |
| *Terminalia sericea*  | Silver cluster-leaf | Bark | South Africa | Radical scavenging and antioxidant activities. Used to treat diabetes and pneumonia and to relieve colic | Pentacyclic triterpenoids Anolignan B | [21, 136, 144] |
| **Commelinaceae**     |                 |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Commelina diffusa*   | Wandering Jew Climbing day flower | Leaves | Ghana | Anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. Used to treat fever and is diuretic | Flavonoids | [63, 145] |
| *Palisota hirsuta*    | Not signified   | Aqueous leaf extracts | Nigeria | Anti-inflammatory effects against carrageenan induced hind paw oedema | Not identified | [146, 147] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| **Crassulaceae**       |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Bryophyllum pinnatum   | Ufu ivo        | Leaves     | Nigeria, South Africa | Anti-inflammatory properties. Used for earache. | Flavonoids, polyphenols, triterpenoids | [12, 148, 149] |
| Synonym: Kalanchoe pinnata (Lam.) Pers. |            |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| **Cupressaceae**       |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Juniperus procera      | African Juniper Young twigs and buds | Ethiopia | Antioxidant and free radical scavenging activities. Used to relieve stomach pain. | Essential oils | [79, 150, 151] |
| Hochst ex. Endl.       |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| **Dioscoreaceae**      |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Dioscorea dumetorum    | Yam            | Tubers     | Nigeria      | Antioxidant activity to modify serum lipid and anti-inflammatory activity. Used to treat diabetes. | Dioscorea and Dioscoretine | [152–154] |
| (Kunth) pax            |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| **Droseraceae**        |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Drosera madagascariensis | Sundew Roots and flowers | Madagascar | Anti-inflammatory effects. Used to treat coughs and asthma | Flavonoids: hyperoside, quercetin and isoiroucaritin | [155, 156] |
| (DC.) D. ramentacea Burchell |            |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| **Euphorbiaceae**      |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Alchornea laxiflora    | Wild banana Leaf and root | Nigeria | Antioxidant and anti-microbial activity. Used to treat jaundice and liver disorders. Also used in food preservation. | Quercetin-7,4'-disulphate, quercetin, quercetin-3'-A'-disulphate, quercetin-3,4'-diacetate, rutin and quercetin | [158–161] |
| (Benth) Pax & K. Hoffm. |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| **Bridelia ferruginea** | Ora Leaves, stem and bark | West Africa Democratic republic of Congo, Nigeria | Anti-inflammatory. Used to treat diarrhea, dysentery, gastro-intestinal disorders, gynecological disorders (including sterility), and rheumatic pains. | A bioflavonoid: Gallolocatechin (4' → O → 7)-Epigallocatechin. | [12, 57, 162–166] |
| Benth.                 |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Mallo屬 oppositifolius | Jororo Leaves, roots | West Africa Nigeria | Antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial activities. Used for abortion. | Flavonoids: quercetin and quercitrin. | [167–172] |
| (Gelseler) Muell. Arg. |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Fabaceae             |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Aspalathus linearis (Brum. F.) R. Dahlgr. | Rooibos         | Leaves     | South Africa | Radical Scavenging Capacity Used to treat stomach cramps, insomnia, and to reduce stress. | Phenolic Fractions, Tannins and monomeric flavonoids aspalathin, nothofagin, quercetin, rutin, isoquercitrin, orientin, isoorientin, luteolin, vitexin, isovitexin, and chrysosirin. | [16–21, 173, 174] |
| Burkea africana Hook | Wild Syringa    | Bark       | Mali and Sub-Saharan Africa | Antioxidant and radical scavenging activity. Used to treat coughs, colds, stomach obstruction, infusions against gonorrhoea and syphilis. | Proanthocyanidins; fisetinidol-(4alpha->8)-catechin 3-gallate and bis-fisetinidol-(4alpha->6, 4alpha->8)-catechin 3-gallate, with smaller amounts of flavan-3-ols (catechin, epicatechin and fisetinidol) | [175, 176] |
| Crotalaria podocarpa DC. | Crotalaria       | Roots      | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used for the treatment of sore-eyes and boils. Expectorant. | Flavonoids | [67, 177] |
| Cyclopy intermedia E. Mey. and C. subternata Vog. | Honeybush        | Leaves and stem | South Africa | Antioxidant activity. Used as tonic for colds, catarrh and tuberculosis. | Pinitol, shikimic acid, p-coumaric acid, 4-glucosyltyrosol, epigallocatechin gallate, the isoflavone obovul, the flavanones hesperedin, narirutin and eriocitrin, a glycosylated flavan, the flavones luteolin, 3-deoxyxyletin and scdymoside, the xanthone mangiferin and the flavonol C-6-glucosylkaempferol. Phenolic content: tyrosol and a methoxy analogue, 2-[4-[(O-alpha-apiofuransyl-(1" ->6")-beta-d-glucopyranosyloxy] phenyl]methanol, 4-[O-alpha-apiofuransyl-(1" ->2")-beta-d-glucopyranosyloxy] benzaldehyde, five glycosylated flavonoids, two isoflavones, four flavanones, two isoflavones, and two flavones | [19, 21, 178–181] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated                                                                 | Reference |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| *Eriosema robustum*    |                | Twigs      | Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon | Used traditionally for the treatment of coughs in East Africa and skin diseases in Central Africa | 2',3',5',5,7-pentahydroxy-3,40-dimethoxyflavone, 2',3',5,5,7-pentahydroxy-4'-methoxyflavone | [182, 183] |
| *Erythrina latissima*  | Broad-leaved coral tree | Stem Wood, Root Wood, Seeds | South Africa, Botswana | Antimicrobial activity and weak radical scavenging properties. Purgative. | Flavonoids and isoflavonoids. Isoflavones: erylatissin A and B. Flavanone: erylatissin C and flavonoids and Isoflavone glycosides: 4'-hydroxyisoflavone-7-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside (compound 1); 4'-hydroxyisoflavone-7-O-alpha-L-rhamnosyl (1→6)-beta-D-glucopyranoside (compound 2); and a new compound 4', 8-dimethoxy isoflavone-7-O-alpha-L-rhamnosyl (1→6) glucopyranoside (8-O-methylretusin-7-O-alpha-L-rhamnosyl (1→6)-beta-D-glucopyranoside) (compound 3) Isoflavonoids: 5,7-dihydroxy-2',4',5'-trimethoxyisoflavanone. | [67, 184–186] |
| *E. lysistemon*        | Common coral tree; lucky bean tree | Bark | South Africa | Mild antioxidant activity. Used to treat sores, wounds, abscesses and arthritis. | Three prenylated flavonoid derivatives; 5,7,4'-trihydroxy-8-(3'-methylbut-2''-enyl)-6-(2''-hydroxy-3'-methylbut-3'' enyl) isoflavone (isoyesenegalensis in E), 5,7,2'-trihydroxy-4'-methoxy-5'- (3''-methylbut-2''-enyl) isoflavonone (lysisteisoflavone), 5,4'-dihydroxy-6-(3''''-methylbut-2''''-enyl)-2''''-hydroxyisopropyl dihydrofurano [4'',5''':8,7] isoflavone (isosenegalensis), together with the four known flavonoids abyssinone V-4'-methyl ether, alpinumisoflavone, wighteone and burttinone. | [187–190] |
| Family and plant name                  | Vernacular name                  | Plant part     | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation                                                                 | Compounds isolated                                                                 | Reference |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Melilotus elegans Salzm. ex Ser. (syn. M. abyssinica Baker) | Egug, Gugi, Yemen berri Elegant sweet clover | Leaves         | Ethiopia     | Anti-inflammatory properties. Used for asthma, haemorrhoid, wounds, excavated sore, piles, ulcers mouth infection, lacerated wounds, haemorrhoids, bronchial asthma (personal communication) | Flavonoids: kaempferol                                                             | [191–194] |
| Millettia griffoniana Bail. | Not signalized | Root-bark and seeds | Cameroon     | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used as an antimalarial.                                                        | Coumarin: 4-hydroxy-3-(3′,4′-methyleneoxyphenyl)-5,6,7-trimethoxycoumarin, durmillone, odorantin, 7-methoxybenosin, calopogonium isoflavone B and 7,2′-dimethoxy-4′,5′-methylenedioxyisoflavone maximaisoflavone G (5) and 7-hydroxy-6-methoxy-3′,4′-methylenedioxyisoflavone and new prenylated isoflavonoids griffonianones A, B, C, D and E. Griffonianone D ((7E)-(6′,7′-dihydroxy-3′,7′-dimethyloct-2′-enyl)oxy-4′-methoxyisoflavone), an isoflavone. | [195–202] |
| Parkia biglobosa (Jacq.) Benth | African Locust Bean Nërë Ojinyi | Bark           | Mali Sudan   | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used as an antiseptic and to treat coughs, chest pain, and wound healing          | Tocopherol, ascorbic acid (Seeds)                                                   | [12, 33, 34, 36–39, 43–53, 55, 64–66, 72, 118, 119, 121, 138, 159, 182, 195, 203–235] |
| Peltophorum africanum Sond. | Weeping wattle | Root and bark   | South Africa | Antioxidant and antibacterial activities Used to treat diarrhoea, dysentery, sore throat, wounds, back and joint pains, HIV-AIDS, venereal diseases and infertility. | Flavonol glycosides and flavonol glucoside gallates                                 | [236–238] |
| Pilostigma thonningii (Schum.) Milne- Redh | Camel’s foot tree, Monkey Bread Niana (Mali). Afe Bebe Kalgo Okpoatu Omepa | Root, bark, pods, leaves | Nigeria, Ethiopia Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia | Anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Used to treat wounds, chronic ulcers, cough, respiratory disorders and toothache, gum inflammation, arthritis, headache, backache, and antioxidant supplement. | Proanthocyanidins epicatechin, catechin trimers and oligomers, flavonoids, polyphenolics, C-methylflavonols (in the leaf extract) | [12, 58, 239–245] |
| Sutherlandia frutescens R.Br. | Cancerbush Phetola | Leaves          | South Africa | Superoxide and hydrogen peroxide scavenging activities. Used as tonic to boost the immune system.        | Canavanine, pinitol                                                                | [246–248] |
| Trigonella foenumgraecum L. | Fenugreek | Seeds            | Ethiopia, Morocco | Protective effect against Oxidative stress during ischemia-reperfusion. It is hypolipidemic, and is also used to treat boils and to improve appetite. | Free phenolics and Vit C.                                                            | [26–28, 249, 250] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| **Humiriaceae**       |                 |            |              |                                             |                  |          |
| *Sacoglottis gabonensis* Urb. | Cherry tree, ozouga | Stem-bark | West Africa | Antioxidant activity. | Bergenin | [251–254] |
| **Hypoxidaceae**      |                 |            |              |                                             |                  |          |
| *Hypoxis hemerocallidea* Fisch. & C.A. Mey. | African potato | Corms | South Africa | Antioxidant activity. Used to treat tuberculosis, cancer, bladder disorders, benign prostatic hyperplasia. | Rooperol | [188, 255–257] |
| **Lamiaceae**         |                 |            |              | Intermediate antioxidant activity and high antibacterial activity. Used in Ethiopia to treat Conjunctivitis and in Kenya to treat colds and stomachache. | Linalool basil oil Methyl chavicol, eugenol, (E)-methyl cinnamate, thymol, linalool | [23, 258] |
| *Ocimum basilicum* L. | Mükandu Basil | Leaves | Burkina Faso Ethiopia | Antioxidant activity | Xanthomicrol, cirsimaritin, rutin, kaempferol 3-O-rutinoside and vicenin-2 were identified as the major flavonoids, whereas luteolin 5-O-glucoside, luteolin 7-O-glucoside, apigenin 7-O-glucoside, vitexin, isovitexin, quercetin 3-O-glucoside and isothymusin were detected as minor constituents. | [12, 58, 258–262] |
| *Ocimum gratissimum* L. | Tea bush, Scent leaf/Nchuanwu. Ujuju okpevu Basil | Leaves | Popular republic of Congo (ex Brazaville Congo) Eastern Nigeria | Anti-inflammatory, cyclooxygenase inhibitory activity. Urinary disorders, headaches. | Essential oils, principally composed of the monoterpene hydrocarbons a-pinene, sabine, myrcene, limonene, & the azulene: isoledene. In barks, estragole (methyl chavicol) but leaves contain b-myrcene, 1,8-cineole, linalool, and carotol. | [22–24, 263] |
| **Lauraceae**         |                 |            |              |                                             |                  |          |
| *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Breyne | Cinnamon leaf | Leaves | Madagascar Ethiopia | Very high antioxidant and high antimicrobial activities. Used to treat diarrhoea, rheumatism, colds and hypertension | Cinnamaldehyde, eugenol and eugenyl acetate to be the main constituents of cinnamon oil. | [22–24, 263] |
| *Ocotea bullata* (Burch.) Baill. | Black stinkwood Unukane (Zulu) | Bark | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory, cyclooxygenase inhibitory activity. Urinary disorders, headaches. | Monoterpenoids | [188, 264] |
| **Ravensara aromatica** | Nutmeg havozo | Bark | Madagascar | Low antioxidant and antimicrobial activity. Useful for chronic respiratory conditions, and sometimes helpful in cases of asthma. | Essential oils, principally composed of the monoterpene hydrocarbons a-pinene, sabine, myrcene, limonene, & the azulene: iso- Ledene. In barks, estragole (methyl chavicol) but leaves contain b-myrcene, 1,8-cineole, linalool, and carotol. | [23, 25, 265] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated                                                                 | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Malvaceae             |                |            |              |                                             |                                                                                 |           |
| **Hibiscus sabdariffa** | L. Red tea, sorelle Rosella | Flowers | Nigeria South Africa | Antimutagenic activity and free radical scavenging effects on active oxygen species Used against insomnia, colic. | Flavonol glucoside hibiscitrin Anthocyanins. Such as cyanidin 3-O-β-D-glucopyranoside, cyanidin 3-O-(2-O-β-D-xylopyranosyl)-β-D-glucopyranoside, delphinidin 3-O-β-D-glucopyranoside and delphinidin 3-O-(2-O-β-D-xylopyranosyl)-β-D-glucopyranoside. | [19, 21, 266–269] |
| Meliaceae             |                |            |              |                                             |                                                                                 |           |
| **Trichilia roka** | Soulafinzan | Root | Tropical Africa Mali | Significantly protective against CCl₄-induced liver damage and prevented perisinusoidal fibrosis. Used to treat malaria, abdominal pain and dermatitis. | Polyphenols | [270, 271] |
| Menispermaceae        |                |            |              |                                             |                                                                                 |           |
| **Sphenocentrum jollyanum** | Pierre Akerejupon ajo | Fruit | West Africa | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used to treat inflammatory-based diseases | Furanoditerpenes; columbin, isocolumbin. Flavonoids-rich fraction. | [272–274] |
| Tinospora bakis       | Whole plant | Sudan |              | Anti-inflammatory activity. To treat headache and rheumatism | A diterpenoid furanocoumarin, columbin | [275] |
| **Moraceae**          |                |            |              |                                             |                                                                                 |           |
| Dorstenia barteri var. subtriangularis (Engler) M.E.E.Hijman & C.C.Berg | Contrayerva | Twigs/leaves | Cameroon | Antioxidant properties account for the anti-inflammatory action of these extracts Used to treat arthritis, rheumatism, gout, headache and other forms of body pains. | Prenylated flavonoids: Three diprenylated chalcones: bartericins A (-)-3-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-5′-(2-hydroxy-3-methylbut-3-enyl)-4,2′,4′-trihydroxychalcone, bartericins B (+)-3-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-4′,5′-[2″- (1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-dihydrofurano]-2′,4′-dihydroxychalcone and bartericins C 3,4-(6″,6″-dimethyl-dihydroxy)-4′,5′-[2″- (1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-dihydrofurano]-2′-hydroxychalcone and also two novel diprenylated chalcones: 3,5′-di-(2-hydroxy-3-methylbut-3-enyl)-4,2′,4′-trihydroxychalcone, 3,4-(2,2-dimethylpyrano)-3′-(2-hydroxy-3-methylbut-3-enyl)-2′,4′-dihydroxychalcone, 4,2′, 4′-trihydroxy-3′-prenylchalcone and 4,2′,4′-trihydroxy-3′-prenylchalcone; and 5,7,4′-trihydroxy-8-prenylflavone. Other known compounds such as stipulin, 4-hydroxylonchocarpin, kanzonol B, 3′-(2-Hydroxy-3-methylbut-3-enyl)-5′-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-4,2′,4′-trihydroxychalcone, and dorstenone. | [67, 276–281] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| **D. ciliata Engl.**  | Contrayerva    | Aerial parts | Cameroon/Central Africa | Antiradical and antioxidant activities. Used as food additive. | Phenolic compound (6-prenylapigenin) Flavones: (ciliatin A) $5'4'$-Dihydroxy-$5'4'$isopropenyl dihydrafuranol[2$''$,3$'$,5,6]flavone (ciliatin B) $7',4'$-Dihydroxy-$3'$-methoxy-6$'',6'$-dimethyl dihydrafuranol[2$'',3',5,6]$ | [282–284] |
| **D. convexa De Wild.** | Contrayerva    | Twigs and leaves | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Antioxidant properties account for the anti-inflammatory action of these extracts. Used to treat arthritis, rheumatism, gout, headache and other forms of body pains. | Prenylated flavonoids | [67, 276, 280] |
| **D. mannii Hook.f.** | Contrayerva    | Twigs/leaves | Central Africa | Antioxidant action against copper-induced LDL oxidation, this activity is like the non-prenylated flavonoid quercetin. Also, inhibition of platelet aggregation and influence of cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase activity. Used to treat rheumatism, stomach disorders. Anti-trichomonal activity. | Grenylated and prenylated flavonoids and flavonones: Flavonones: 6,8-diprenyl-5,7,3',4'-tetrahydroxyflavanone, 4-hydroxylochocarpin, 4-methoxylochocarpin, 6-prenylchrysoeriol, 6,8-diprenylkiodictyol, gancaconin P and Preynlated flavonoids: 6,8-diprenylkiodictyol, dorsmanin C 7,8-(2,2-Dimethylchromeno)-6-geranyl-3,5,3',4'-tetrahydroxyflavone and dorsmanin D 6,8-Diprenyl-3,5,7,4'-tetrahydroxy-3'-methoxylavone, dorsmanins I, J and 2''-epimers of dorsmanins F (6,7-(2,2-dimethylpyrano)-8-prenyl-5,3',4'-tri hydroxyflavanone, G (6,7-(2,2-dimethylidihydro-pyrano)-8-prenyl-5,3',4'-tri hydroxyflavanone). Also, dorsmanins F and G. Four new prenylated flavonones, named dorsamine F (7,8-[2''-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-dihydrofurano]-6-prenyl-5,3',4'-tri hydroxyflavanone), dorsmaine G (6,7-[2''-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)dihydrofurano]-8-prenyl-5,3',4'-tri hydroxyflavanone) and dorsamine H (6-prenyl-8-(2-hydroxy-3-methylbut-3-enyl)-5,7,3',4'-tetrahydroxyflavanone). | [67, 187, 207, 285–287] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Reference          |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| *D. poinsettifolia var. angusta* Engl. | Dingetenga | Whole plant | Cameroon     | Antiradical and antioxidant activities. Used to treat infected wounds. | Grenylated and prenylated flavonoids. The unusual 4-phenyl-substituted dihydrocumarin and the rare geranyl-and prenyl-substituted Chalcone. Three phenolic compounds: 6,8-diprenyl-3' [O],4'-(2,2-dimethylpyrano)-3,5,7-trihydroxyflavone, 3,6-diprenyl-8-(2-hydroxy-3-methylbut-3-enyl)-5,7,2',4'-tetrahydroxyflavone and an unusual B/C ring modified flavonoid derivative for which the names dorsilurins C, D and E, respectively, are proposed. Two new flavones, dorsilurins A and B, and a new benzofuran derivative have been isolated from Dorstenia psilurus, together with three known phenylpropanoid derivatives, stearyl-p-coumarate [octadecanyl 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)prop-2-enoate], stearyl ferulate [octadecanyl 3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-enoate] and psoralen. | [207, 288, 289]    |
| *D. psilurus* Welw. | Dingetenga | Roots | Cameroon/Central Africa | Antiradical and antioxidant activities. Used against snakebite and to treat rheumatism, headache and stomach disorders. | Grenylated and prenylated flavonoids. | [206, 282, 290-292] |
| Myrtaceae | | | | | | |
| *Eugenia elliptica* Sm. *Syzygium smithii* (Poir.) Nied. | Lilly Pilly | Leaves | Mauritius | Modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Quercetin-3-O-galactoside (hyperoside), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin), quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isooqueritrin), (+)-catech | [293, 294] |
| *E. fasciculata* Wall. | Not signalized | Leaves | Mauritius | Modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Quercetin-3-O-galactoside (hyperoside), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin), quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isooqueritrin), (+)-catech, procyanidin B2 dimer and (-)-epicatechin | [293] |
| *E. orbiculata* Lam. | Not signalized | Leaves | Mauritius | Modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Quercetin-3-O-galactoside (hyperoside), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin), quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isooqueritrin), (+)-catech. quercetin-3-O-rutinoside (rutin), | [293, 295] |
| Plant family | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/Area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| E. pollicina  | J. Gueho & A. J. Scott | Leaves | Mauritius | Modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Quercetin-3-O-galactoside (hyperoside), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin), quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isoquercitrin), (+)-catechin, (-)-epicatechin gallate | [293, 296] |
| Monimiastrum acutisepalum | J. Gueho & A. J. Scott | Leaves | Mauritius | Modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Quercetin-3-O-galactoside (hyperoside), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin), and quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isoquercitrin). (+)-catechin | [293–295] |
| M. globosum  | J. Gueho & A. J. Scott | Leaves | Mauritius | Modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Quercetin-3-O-galactoside (hyperoside), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin), and quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isoquercitrin). (-)-epicatechin gallate | [293] |
| Syzygium aromaticum (L.) Merr. & L.M.Perry | Clove bud | Dried flowers | Madagascar | Antioxidant and antimicrobial activities. Used to treat toothache and throat inflammation. | Eugenol Methyl Eugenol | [23, 297, 298] |
| S. coriaceum  | J. Bosser & J. Guého | Bois de pomme | Mauritius | Abilities to modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Phenols and flavonoids: Quercetin-3-O-rutinoside, kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin) and quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isoquercitrin), (+)-catechin, procyanidin B1 dimer, (-)-epicatechin gallate | [293] |
| S. glomeratum DC. | Bois de pomme | Leaves | Mauritius | Abilities to modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. Used to treat boils, abscesses, fever and wounds and as expectorant. | Phenols and flavonoids: kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin) and quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isoquercitrin), procyanidin B1 dimer, (-)-epicatechin gallate, chlorogenic acid, (-)-epicatechin | [293] |
| S. guehoii  | Not signalized | Mauritius | Abilities to modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Phenols and flavonoids: quercetin-3-O-rutinoside (rutin), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin) and quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isoquercitrin), (+)-catechin, chlorogenic acid, procyanidin B2 dimer | [293] |
| S. mauritianum | J. Gueho & A. J. Scott | Leaves | Mauritius | Abilities to modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Phenols and flavonoids: quercetin-3-O-rutinoside (rutin), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin) and quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isoquercitrin), (+)-catechin, chlorogenic acid | [293] |
| S. petrinense | J. Bosser & J. Guého | Not signalized | Mauritius | Abilities to modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes. | Phenols and flavonoids: quercetin-3-O-rutinoside (rutin), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin) and quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isoquercitrin), procyanidin B1 dimer, chlorogenic acid | [293] |
| Family and plant name          | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area                  | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation                                                                 | Compounds isolated                                                                 | Reference       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| **S. venosum** (Lam.) J.Gueho & A.J.Scott | Not signalized  | Mauritius  | Abilities to modulate the expression of the antioxidant enzyme genes.  | Phenols and flavonoids: quercetin-3-O-rutinoside (rutin), kaempferol-3-glucoside (astragalin) and quercetin-3-O-glucoside (isoquercitrin), (+)-catechin, procyanidin B2 dimer | [293, 295, 299] |                 |
| **Oleaceae**                  |                 |            |                               |                                                                                                                |                                                                                      |                 |
| **Olea europaea** subsp. africana (Mill.)P.S. | African wild olive | Leaves | Potent antioxidant activity. Used as eye lotions and tonics, lower blood pressure, improve kidney function and deal with sore throats. The early Cape settlers used the fruits to treat diarrhoea | Oleuraficrin (mixture of oleanolic acid and ursolic acids), Triterpenoids and oleoropein. | [84, 300, 301] |                 |
| **Pedaliaceae**               |                 |            |                               |                                                                                                                |                                                                                      |                 |
| **Harpagophytum procumbens** DC. ex Meissner | Devil's claw | Root | Anti-inflammatory and ability to inhibit the expression of cyclooxygenase-2 and inducible nitric oxide by suppression of NF-kappaB activation. Used for pain, muscular tension, osteoarthritis, degenerative rheumatism or painful arthritis and tendonitis as well as tonic for loss of appetite and dyspeptic complaints. | Roots contain iridoid glycosides mainly harpagoside. Other constituents are flavones and flavonols kaempferol, and luteolin. | [302–312] |                 |
| **Piperaceae**                |                 |            |                               |                                                                                                                |                                                                                      |                 |
| **Piper guineense** Schum. & Thonn. | West African black pepper Bush pepper Ikom, Amana kawale iye yeh ashoesie taquale Meshoro | Fruit, seed and leaf | Ghana, West Africa Nigeria Cameroon | Antioxidant activity.                                                                                         | Volatile oil components: monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, terpenoids, lignans and sterols. | [313–316] |                 |
| **Podocarpaceae**             |                 |            |                               |                                                                                                                |                                                                                      |                 |
| **Podocarpus species**        |                 |            | These species are used to treat fevers, asthma,oughs, cholera, chest complaints, arthritis, rheumatism, painful joints and venereal diseases | Diterpenoids, bioflavonoids and Totarol                                                                 | [317] |                 |

Table 1: Continued.
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Ranunculaceae          |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| **Nigella sativa L.**  | Black cumin    | Seed       | African countries in the Mediterranean region | Antioxidant potentials through scavenging ability of different free radicals including the superoxide anion radical, inhibition of lipid peroxidation, and protection of liver against carbon tetrachloride (CCl4)-induced liver fibrosis in rabbits Used to treat diarrhoea, asthma, and as gastroprotective agent. | Oil: Thymoquinone | [29–31, 318, 319] |

| Rosaceae               |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| **Crataegus monogyna** | Hawthorn, May Blossom, May Day Flower, White Thorn. | Fresh vegetative and reproductive organs | Mauritius, Northern Africa | Antioxidant activities. Used for its neuro- and cardiodepressive actions. | Polyphenols: (proanthocyanidin, flavonoid, anthocyanin, (-)-epicatechin, procyanidin B2, chlorogenic acid). Flavonoids: quercetin and quercitrin, glycosides, proanthocyanidins, anthocyanidins, saponins, tannins, and crat®tegin Also, Vitamin C. | [320–323] |

| Leucosidea sericea     | Leaf, bark and roots | Southern Africa | Antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties | Phenolics, alkaloids and saponins |                   | [210]     |

| Pygeum africanum Hook. f. | African plum tree Red Stinkwood | Bark | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory. Used to treat against benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostatitis | 14% triterpenes (urolic acids, oleanolic acid, crataegolic acid), 0.5% n-docosanol Phytosterol (β-sitosterol, β-sitosterone, Campesterol) | [188, 324–327] |

| Rubiaceae              |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| **Crossopteryx febrifuga** | Roger Blench “rima jogoo-hi/jie” | Seeds Leaf and roots | Mali Nigeria | Radical scavenging and lipoxygenase inhibition activities. Used to treat fever and various respiratory diseases | Flavonoids | [328–330] |

| Rutaceae               |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| **Agathosma betulina** (Berg.) Pillans. | Round-leaf buchu Leaves, stems | South Africa | Hydroxyl radical ion scavenging ability. Used for stomach problems, kidney and urinary track diseases. | Essential oils and flavonoids |                   | [188, 331, 332] |

| A. crenulata (L.) Pillans | Oval-leaf buchu Leaves, stems | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostatitis, diabetes, inflammation of the colon, gums, and mucous membranes. Leaves chewed to relieve stomach complaints. | Essential oils and flavonoids |                   | [84, 188, 331, 332] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| *Fagara zanthoxyloides* Lam. | xeti, xe Wó | Roots, root-bark | Cameroon, Uganda | Antioxidant activity. Used to treat gingivitis, toothache, urinary and venereal diseases, rheumatism and lumbago, malaria and other infections. | Phenylethanoid derivative, lignans and fagaronine | [333–336] |
| **Sapindaceae** | | | | | |
| *Dodonaea viscosa* Jacq. Synonyms: *Dodonaea angustifolia* L. f.; *Ptelea viscosa* L. | Umusasa | Leaves | Rwanda | Anti-inflammatory activity by inhibiting the synthesis of prostaglandin (PG) E(2). Used to treat rheumatism, skin infections, diarrhea, stomachaches, pains of hepatic and splenic origin, uterine colic. It is also used as an antipruritic in skin rashes and for the treatment of some throat, dermatitis and hemorrhoids. | Quercetin, isorhamnetin | [337–341] |
| **Xanthorrhoeaceae** | | | | | |
| *Aloe ferox* Mill. | Bitter aloe or Cape aloe | Leaves | South Africa, Lesotho | *A. ferox* gel contains at least 130 medicinal agents with anti-inflammatory, analgesic, calming, antiseptic, antiviral, antiparasitic and anticancer effects | Chromones, anthraquinones, anthrone, anthrone-C-glycosides, and other phenolic compounds | [9] |
| **Zingiberaceae** | | | | | |
| *Siphonochilus aethiopicus* (Schweinf.) B.L. Burtt. | Wild ginger Natal ginger African Ginger | Rhizome | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory activity through cyclooxygenase inhibitory (prostaglandin-synthetase inhibition), activity. Used to treat Coughs, colds, asthma. | Sesquiterpenoid | [188, 264, 342] |
Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Free radical formation

Oxidative stress

Cellular and tissue damage

Delayed healing

Free radical scavenging

Repair

Antioxidants

Signalling messengers

Upregulation of antioxidant compounds and enzymes

Figure 2: Mechanism of antioxidant action in wounds.

hydrogen peroxide (H$_2$O$_2$) and other free radicals [348, 349]. Furthermore, increasing evidence suggests a relationship between metal overload and several chronic diseases through the induction of oxidative stress [350]. Therefore, inhibition of free radical formation using metal ions as targets could be useful therapeutically. Antioxidant assays designed for this purpose include the cupric and ferric reducing antioxidant power (CUPRAC/FRAP). These methods measure the ability of antioxidants to reduce cupric (Cu$^{2+}$) and ferric (Fe$^{3+}$) ions, respectively.

Another mechanism by which antioxidants act is through the suppression of oxidative stress by directly scavenging active free radicals. Most commonly reported antioxidant assays such as 2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) (ABTS), 2,2'-diphenyl-p-picrylhydrazyl radical (DPPH), oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC), Trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity (TEAC), total oxyradical scavenging capacity (TOSC), and total radical antioxidant parameter (TRAP) are focused on testing the ability to scavenge free radicals. Furthermore, there are diverse cellular antioxidant assays that assess the ability of antioxidant compounds and substances to protect cells against excessive free radical generation. Such assays involve the use of a fluorescent compound such as 2,7-dichlorofluoroscein to determine the ability of test samples to quench intracellularly generated free radicals and inhibit radical formation and lipid peroxidation [345].

There are also numerous reports of the ability of antioxidants to repair damaged tissues and improve healing. Topical application of kojic acid and deferiprone, two compounds with the ability to scavenge free radicals, enhanced healing of wounds in rats [351]. Also, the mitochondria-targeted antioxidant, 10-(6'-plastoquinonyl) decyltriphenylphosphonium, accelerated wound closure, stimulated epithelialization, granulation tissue formation, and vascularization, and lowered lipid peroxidation in mice [352]. Moreover, an antioxidant peptide (cathelicidin-OA1) promoted wound healing in a mouse model with full-thickness skin wounds, accelerated reepithelialization and granulation tissue formation by enhancing the recruitment of macrophages to the wound site, and induced cell proliferation and migration [353]. Some antioxidants have also been reported to contribute to healing by enhancing the activity of endogenous antioxidant compounds and enzymes. The induction of the nuclear factor E2-related factor 2-(Nrf2) mediated antioxidative pathway by a rhomboid family protein (RHBDF2) promoted healing of injured tissues, suggesting a relationship between antioxidant gene induction and healing [354]. Niconyl-peptide enhanced wound healing and protected against hydrogen peroxide-induced cell death by increasing the expression of Nrf2 expression in human keratinocytes [355].

The most common tests used to determine the antioxidant activity of samples included the assessment of the ability to scavenge free radicals such as DPPH, ABTS$^+$ [16, 19, 35, 62, 85, 94, 98, 99, 139, 158, 175, 184, 187, 266, 282, 302, 356–364], or the hydroxyl radicals [79, 188, 267, 365, 366], as well as the hydroperoxyl radicals by the Briggs-Rauscher reaction [104]. The ability of the extracts to chelate metal ions was also determined as further indication of their ability to contribute in the reduction of free radicals such as the hydroxyl radical [114]. In addition, assessment of the ability of these medicinal plant extracts to protect against lipid peroxidation was also included, which in turn was measured by the malondialdehyde-thiobarbituric acid (MDA) test [320, 367], the modified thiobarbituric acid reactive species (TBARS) assay [18, 22], or conjugated diene
Inflammation is a complex mechanism with many path-ways. Several extracts derived from medicinal plants have been shown to modulate or inhibit the activities of mediators of inflammation. For instance, kolaviron, a bioflavonoid compound isolated from the seeds of Dorstenia barteri, has been reported to possess anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities via its effects on COX-2 and inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) by inhibiting the expression of nuclear factor kappa B (NF-κB) [114, 188]. The ability of extracts to protect against damage to DNA using the Comet assay was also employed [114, 188].

The antioxidant capacity of the medicinal plant extracts was determined using either the TEAC or FRAP assays [11, 85, 302, 313, 321, 368]. The ability of extracts to modulate the gene expression of the antioxidant enzymes, such as Cu, Zn-superoxide dismutase (Cu, Zn-SOD), Mn-superoxide dismutase (Mn-SOD), catalase, and glutathione peroxidase (GPx), was also used as a measure of their antioxidant properties [293]. The photochemiluminescence (PLC) assay is a more recent antioxidant capacity assessment method and was employed for the evaluation of antioxidant capacity of baobab fruit pulp extracts [369].

Anti-inflammatory properties of these extracts were assessed by their ability to inhibit 5-lipoxygenases [94, 370, 371] or cyclooxygenase (COX-1 and COX-2) activities [65, 275, 317, 372, 373]. Using the former [374] and the latter [264, 331] methodologies, respectively, a great number of South African medicinal plant extracts were screened for their anti-inflammatory properties. The effect of medicinal extracts on the biosynthesis of different prostaglandins was assessed as a measure of their anti-inflammatory effect [239, 337, 375]. Extracts of Podocarpus species were shown to inhibit the activities of the COX enzymes [317]. Once again, using this test, the anti-inflammatory properties of the aqueous and ethanolic extracts of 39 plants used in traditional Zulu medicine were screened [376]. The Hen's Egg Test-Chorioallantoic Membrane (HET-CAM) assay which utilizes the CAM's capillary system in bred hen eggs was also used to assess the anti-inflammatory activity through antiangiogenic effects of the ethanol and aqueous extracts of Drosera rotundifolia and D. madagascariensis [155].

The antioxidant and anti-inflammatory abilities of the herbal extracts were further assessed by evaluating their ability to control the production of ROS produced by oxidative burst in neutrophils stimulated with L-formyl-L-methionyl-L-leucyl-L-phenylalanine (FMLP) [21, 246]. The inhibition of neutrophils elastase was used as a measure of anti-inflammatory property and it was proposed that the presence of flavonoids such as hyperoside, quercetin, and isoorquercitin in D. rotundifolia [377] and five flavonoid compounds in two Polypodium species (P. decumum and P. triseriale) [378] were thought to contribute to this anti-inflammatory activity. These and other in vitro tests were used to assess the antioxidant properties of three Ghanaian species: Spathodea campanulata, Commelina diffusa, and Secamone afzelii [63].

Inflammation is a complex mechanism with many pathways. Several extracts derived from medicinal plants have been shown to modulate or inhibit the activities of mediators of inflammation. For instance, kavirion, a bioflavonoid compound isolated from the seeds of Garcinia kola, has been reported to possess anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities via its effects on COX-2 and inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) by inhibiting the expression of nuclear factor kappa B (NF-κB) [115]. Quercetin is a flavonoid molecule ubiquitous in nature and functions as an antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Dose- and time-dependent effects of quercetin have been investigated on proinflammatory cytokine expression and iNOS, focusing on its effects on NF-κB signal transduction pathways in lipopolysaccharide-stimulated RAW 264.7 cells by using real time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and immunoblotting. Curcumin, a yellow pigment of turmeric, has been shown to exhibit anti-inflammatory activity. Curcumin has been found effective in the treatment or control of chronic inflammatory conditions such as rheumatism, atherosclerosis, type II diabetes, and cancer [203]. Calixto et al. reported that the anti-inflammatory activity of active spice-derived components results from the disruption of the production of various inflammatory proteins (e.g., cytokines such as tumour necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α), iNOS, and COX-2) [379].

Animal studies were also conducted to assess the antioxidant properties of several medicinal extracts. The antioxidant potential of Hypericum perforatum, containing many polyphenolic compounds, was evaluated on splanch-nic artery occlusion (SAO) shock-mediated injury [477] and also against elevated brain oxidative status induced by amnestic dose of scopolamine in rats [126]. Some medicinal plant extracts were tested for their ability to protect against carbon tetrachloride-, 2-acetylamino-4-fluorene- (2-AAF)-, and galactosamine-induced liver as well as aflatoxin Bi (AFBI)-induced genotoxicity. Using this test, it was found that an extract of Garcinia kola seeds [116, 478, 479] and a decoction of Trichilia roka root [270], extracts of Entada africana [442], and Thromninga sanguinea [98, 480] possessed protective abilities. The antioxidant properties of plant extracts against potassium bromate (KBrO3)-induced kidney damage showed the ability of G. kola seed extract to protect the kidneys [481].

Animal studies were also used to assess the anti-inflammatory ability of a great number of medicinal plant extracts using the carrageenan-induced rat paw oedema model. Plants investigated include seed extracts of Picralima nitida [399], crude methanol extract of the root of Moringa oleifera [469], powdered leaves and root of Mallotus oppositifolium [167], methanolic extract of Picralima nitida fruit [400], hot water extract of Alstonia boonei root-bark, Rauvolfia vomitoria root-bark, and Elaeis guineensis nuts [56], secondary root aqueous extract of Harpagophyllum procumbens [303], crude extracts of Sphenocentrum jollyanum [272], aqueous and methanolic extracts of Hypoxis hemicallidea corn [482], aqueous and methanolic extracts of Sclerocarya birrea stem-bark [483], aqueous extract of Mangifera indica stem-bark [13], aqueous extracts of Leonotis leonurus leaves [484], leaf extracts of Bryophyllum pinnatum [148], methanol extracts of the stem-bark of Alstonia boonei [485], aerial parts of Amaranthus caudatus [486], methanolic extracts of Kigelia pinnata flower [415], and leaf and twig extracts of Dorstenia pinnata flower [276]. In all of these studies, the anti-inflammatory effect against carrageenan-induced rat paw oedema was attributed to flavonoids and other polyphenolic compounds. Animal tests also employed to assess the anti-inflammatory effects of the medicinal plant extracts included inflammatory cell response such as neutrophil chemotaxis...
Table 2: Medicinal plants with confirmed antioxidant activity or medicinal plants that contain compounds that are not known to have antioxidant activity.

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| **Acanthaceae**       |                 |            |              |                                             |                     |           |
| *Barleria* **species**|                 |            |              |                                             |                     |           |
| *B. albostellata,*  *B. greenii,*  *B. prionitis* | Leaves, twigs and roots | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities | Not identified | [212, 213] |
| *Hypoestes rosea* Decne. | Not signalized | Leaf extract | Nigeria | Anti-inflammatory activity due in part to its ability to inhibit NF-kappaB activation through direct inhibition of I kappaB kinase (IKK). | Diterpene: Hypoestoxide (a bicyclo[9,3,1]pentadecane) | [380, 381] |
| **Aizoaceae**         |                 |            |              |                                             |                     |           |
| *Glinus lotoides* L.  | "Mettere" Hairy carpet-weed | Seeds | Cameroon, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Egypt. | Used to treat cardiovascular and gastrointestinal system. | Three flavonoids: apigenin-7-O-glucoside, isovitexin, and luteolin-7-O-glucoside Three isoflavonoids: 5,7,2',4'-tetrahydroxy-6-(3,3-dimethylallyl)isoflavone, 5,7,4'-trihydroxy-6,3'-di-(3,3-dimethylallyl)isoflavone, and 5,7,2',4'-tetrahydroxy-6,3'-di-(3,3-dimethylallyl)isoflavone. | [290, 382–386] |
| *G. oppositifolius* (L.) Aug. DC. | Balasa | Whole plant | Mali | Antioxidant and radical scavenging abilities. | kaempferol 3-O-galactopyranoside | [387, 388] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Aloaceae              |                |            |              |                                               |                    |           |
| Aloe claviflora       | Kraal aloe     | South Africa | Free radical scavenging and moderate inhibition in lipid peroxidation. Used as a purgative. | Not identified     | 35       |
| A. maculata Forssk. (= A. saponaria) | “Yellow Form” Tiger Aloe, Soap Aloe | South Africa | Free radical scavenging and moderate inhibition in lipid peroxidation. Used as a purgative. | Not identified     | 35       |
| A. thraskii Baker     | Dune aloe      | South Africa | Free radical scavenging and moderate inhibition in lipid peroxidation. Used as a purgative. | Not identified     | 35       |
| Anacardiaceae         |                |            |              |                                               |                    |           |
| Sclerocarya birrea    | Marula         | Stem-bark  | Used to treat diabetes, tonsillitis, snake bite and also diarrhoea. | Not identified     | 389      |
| Annonaceae            |                |            |              |                                               |                    |           |
| Enantia chlorantha    | Erenbavbogo, Mföl | Root, stem-bark | Used to treat ulcers and leprous spots wounds. Bark sap is taken as decoction against diarrhoea. | Not identified     | 390–393  |
| Uvaria afzelii Sc. Elliot | Pareho-houon, Bahie oulin | Leaves, roots and stem-bark | Used as for its antiparasitic activity | Anthocyanins and other flavonoids | 394–396  |
| U. chamae P.Beauv.    | Okandii Anweda tsoGa | Stem, bark, leaves, root | Used for its antiplasmodial activity. | Polyphenols | 12, 397, 398 |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| **Apocynaceae**        |                |            |              |                                               |                   |           |
| *Picralima nitida*     | Ghana: Kpetepeteto, Kanwin, Kanwini, Cameroon: motoko-toko | Seeds, Stem-bark | Ghana | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used for its analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties. | Not identified | [168, 399–402] |
| *Rauvolfia vomitoria*  | Asofeyeje, a dapopo Mwanje | Root-bark | Ghana | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used for its analgesic, antipyretic and anti-inflammatory activities. Also to treat scabies, high blood pressure, fever and snakebites. | Not identified | [56] |
| **Araliaceae**         |                |            |              |                                               |                   |           |
| *Cussonia barteri*     | Cabbage tree | Leaves, Roots | Nigeria, Mali | Antioxidant and radical scavenging abilities. Inhibitory activity on 5-lipoxygenase and cyclooxygenase-1. | Not identified | [357, 403] |
| **Arecaceae**          |                |            |              |                                               |                   |           |
| *Hyphaene thebaica*    | Not signalized | Shell | Niger | Antioxidant activity | Not identified | [11] |
| **Asclepiadaceae**     |                |            |              |                                               |                   |           |
| *Calotropis procera*   | African milk weed, Sodom apple/Giant milkweed/ Swallow-wort/Auricula tree. | Latex, Sudan | Ethiopia | Anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities. Used to control dermal fungal infections and for pain relief. Latex used against scorpion stings and roots for jaundice. | Not identified | [404] |
| *Gongronema latifolium* | Not signalized | Leaves | Nigeria | Antioxidant activity | Not identified | [405–407] |
| *Leptadenia hastata*   | Not signalized | Leaves | Niger | Antioxidant activity | Not identified | [11] |
| *Pachycarpus rigidus*  | Not signalized | Bark | South Africa | Antioxidant activity. Used to treat pain in the joints | Not identified | [188] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| **Asparagaceae**      |                |            |              |                                             |                     |           |
| *Asparagus virgatus*  | Broom asparagus | Bark       | South Africa | Antioxidant activity. Used to treat syphilis, anthelmintic | Not identified      | [35]      |
| *Asteraceae*          |                |            |              |                                             |                     |           |
| *Ageratum conyzoides* | Inkuruba       | Whole plant| Central Africa, Rwanda Ethiopia | Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Used to treat mastitis and urogenital infections and to dress wounds. Also as a gastroprotective. | Not identified      | [12, 408, 409] |
| *Artemisia herba-alba* | Desert wormwood, shih | Aerial parts | Algeria, Tunisia, Israel, Morocco | Herbal tea from *A. herba-alba* has been used as analgesic, antibacterial, antispasmodic, and hemostatic agents in folk medicines. Camphor (17–33%), α-thujone (7–28%), and chrysanthenone (4–19%) |                     | [9]       |
| *Artemisia judaica*   | Wormwood       | Leaves     | Egypt        | Used for gastrointestinal disorders | Flavonoids with antioxidant activities. | [410]      |
| *Callilepis laureola* | Ox-eye daisy, Impila | Tuber     | South Africa | Antioxidant and radical scavenging activities. Used to induce fertility, impotence, tapeworm infestations but induces hepatic and renal tubular necrosis. | Not identified      | [188, 411, 412] |
| *Psidia punctulata*   | Mwendathigo    | Leaf exudate | Kenya, East Africa | Used to treat colds, fevers and abdominals pains. | Flavones: 5,7-dihydroxy-2',3',4',5'-tetramethoxyflavone, 5,4'-dihydroxy-7,2',3',5'-tetramethoxyflavone, 5,7,4'-trihydroxy-2',3',5'-trimethoxyflavone, 5-hydroxy-7,2',3',4',5'-pentamethoxyflavone and 5,7,3'-trihydroxy-2',4',5'-trimethoxyflavone. | [359, 413] |
| *Vernonia kotschyanana* | Buaye          | Leaves, roots | Mali         | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used to treat gastritis, gastro duodenal ulcers, as an aid to ameliorate digestion and as a wound healing remedy. Immunomodulating activities. | Not identified      | [187, 414] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| **Bignoniaceae**      |                |            |              |                                            |                     |           |
| *Kigelia pinnata* DC. | Suasage tree, Cucumber tree | Root, fruit | Egypt | Used as dressing for ulcers and used to treat rheumatism | Anti-inflammatory activity | Naphthoquinones: kigelinone, isopinnatal, dehydro-alpha-lapachone, and lapachol and the phenylpropanoids: p-coumaric acid, ferulic acid (root), kigelinone and caffeic acid (fruits). [415, 416] |
| *Tabebuia rosea* (Bertol.) DC. | Pink tecoma, Pink trumpet tree | Leaves, stem bark | Nigeria | Used to treat arthritis. | Tannins, flavonoids, alkaloids, quinones and traces of saponins [107] |
| *Crescentia cujete* L. | Calabash, Gourd tree | Leaves, stem bark | Nigeria | Used as purgative and to treat coughs. | Tannins, flavonoids, alkaloids, quinones and traces of saponins [107] |
| **Bombacaceae**       |                |            |              |                                            |                     |           |
| *Bombax costatum* Pellegrin & Vuillet | Not signalized | Fruit | Niger | Antioxidant activity | Not identified | [11] |
| **Boraginaceae**      |                |            |              |                                            |                     |           |
| *Heliotropium indicum* L. | Nonsikou | Leaves | Mali | Moderate antioxidant activity. Used for wound healing and for ocular infection. | Not identified | [417–419] |
| **Buddlejaceae**      |                |            |              |                                            |                     |           |
| *Buddleja madagascariensis* Lam. | Butterfly-bush | Leaves | Egypt | Used to treat coughs, asthma, and bronchitis. | Flavonoids triglycosides: hesperetin and diosmetin 7-O(2",6"
- di-O-alpha-L-rhamnopyranosyl)-beta-D-glucopyranosides [420] |
| **Caesalpiniaeae**    |                |            |              |                                            |                     |           |
| *Cassia fistula* L. | Golden shower tree | Fruit | Mauritius | Laxative. | Phenolics and flavonoids | [368] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| *Canellaceae*          |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Warburgia salutaris    | Pepper-bark tree Isibaha | Bark | South Africa | Antioxidant and radical scavenging activities. Used to treat coughs, stomach ulcers, malaria, rheumatism, liver and venereal diseases | Flavonol glycoside Kaempferol, kaempferol 3-rhamnoside, kaempferol 3-Rhamnosyl(1→6)[glucosyl(1→2)glucoside]-7-rhamnoside, kaempferide 3-O-beta-xylosyl (1→2)-beta-glucoside, kaempferol 3-O-alpha-rhamnoside-7,4'-di-O-beta-galactoside, kaempferol 3,7,4'-tri-O-beta-glucoside, kaempferol 3-rutinoside, myricetin, quercetin 3-rhamnoside, kaempferol 3-arabinoside, quercetin 3-glucoside, quercetin, kaempferol 3-rhamnoside-4'-galactoside, myricetin 3-galactoside and kaempferol 3-glucoside. | [188] |
| W. ugandensis Sprague  | Fever tree Stem-bark Leaves | Kenya Ethiopia | Used to treat stomach ache, chest pains, malaria, toothache and coughs. |                | [421–424] |

| *Capparaceae*          |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Boscia senegalensis    | Senegal Boscia Fruit hull Roots and leaf Mali Niger | Antioxidant activity. Used to treat diarrhoea, cholera, tachycardia, pectoral pain. | Not identified | [12] |
| Gynandropsis gynandra  | Not signalized Leaves Niger | Antioxidant activity | Not identified | [11] |

| *Celastraceae*         |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Salacia leptocala Tul. | Lemon rope Root | South Africa | Antioxidant activity. Used as an aphrodisiac. | Nine new isoflavones, 5,3'-dihydroxy-6,7,2'-trimethoxyisoflavone, 5,8,3'-trihydroxy-7,2'-dimethoxyisoflavone, 8,3'-dihydroxy-5,7,2'-trimethoxyisoflavone, 5,6,3'-trihydroxy-7,2'-dimethoxyisoflavone, 6,7,3'-trihydroxy-5,2'-dimethoxyisoflavone, 5,8,3'-trihydroxy-2'-methoxy-6,7-methyleneoxyisoflavone, or 5,6,3'-trihydroxy-2'-methoxy-7,8-methyleneoxyisoflavone, 3'-hydroxy-5,6,7,2'-tetramethoxyisoflavone, 7,3'-dihydroxy-5,6,2'-trimethoxyisoflavone and 6,3'-dihydroxy-5,7,2'-trimethoxyisoflavone. | [425] |

| *Chenopodiaceae*       |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| Salsola somalensis N.E.Br. | Dingetegna Roots | Ethiopia | Used as taenicide. |                | [188] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| **Clusiaceae**        |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| Psorospermum guineense Hochr. | Karidjakouma | Leaves | Mali | Antioxidant activity. Used as diuretic and febrifuge. | Not identified |           |
| **Combretaceae**      |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| Pteleopsis suberosa Engl. & Diehs. | Girga | Stem-bark | Mali | Antioxidant properties. Used to treat gastric and duodenal ulcers. | Not identified | [329, 426] |
| **Dioscoreaceae**     |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| Dioscorea dumetorum Th.Dur.et Schinz | Cluster yam | Tubers | Nigeria | Antioxidant and hypolipidemic activities. Used to treat diabetes. | Not identified | [152, 153, 427] |
| **Ebenaceae**         |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| Diospyros abyssinica (Hiern) F. White | Giant diospyros | Leaves, roots | Mali | Radical scavengers and lipoxygenase inhibitors. | Not identified | [357] |
| **Euphorbiaceae**     |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| Acalypha hispida Burm.f. | Chenille plant | Leaves | Nigeria | Used as anti-bacterial agent. | Gallic acid and Quercetin 3-O-rutinoside and kaempferol 3-O-rutinoside The main anthocyanin is the known cyanidind 3-O-(2-O-galloylgalactose, but a minor pigment (5%) is the new cyanidin Cy 3-O-(2-O-galloyl)-6-O-rhamnosylgalactoside | [228, 429] |
| A. wilkesiana Müll. Arg. | Copper leaf | Leaves | Nigeria | Used to treat ailments of microbial origin | Gallic acid and Quercetin 3-O-rutinoside and kaempferol 3-O-rutinoside | [430] |
| Croton gratissimus Burch. | Lavender fever-berry | Bark | South Africa | Used as purgative for abdominal disorders, fever. The charred and powdered bark is used to treat bleeding gums | Flavonoids. | [188] |
| Euphorbia hirta L. | Kasandasanda | Whole plant | Ethiopia | Used to treat diarrhoea and asthma. | Flavonoid: quercitrin Flavonol: Euphorbianin (3-(6‴-Acetylglucosyl) (1→3)galactoside) | [12, 431–433] |
| **Fabaceae**          |                |            |              |                                             |                   |           |
| Acacia caffra (Thunb.) Wild. | Hook-thorn | Bark | South Africa | Used to treat diarrhoea and as emetics. | Proanthocyanidins: oritin-(4alpha→5)-epioritin-4beta-ol, ent-epioritin-(4alpha→5)-epioritin-4beta-ol and epioritin-(4beta→5)-epioritin-4alpha-ol and ent-oritin-(4beta→5)-epioritin-4alpha-ol. | [434–436] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| A. galpinii Burtt Davy. | Monkey-thorn | Bark | South Africa | Used to treat diarrhoea. | Proanthocyanidins: oritin-(4alpha—>5)-epioritin-4beta-ol, ent-epioritin-(4alpha—>5)-epioritin-4beta-ol and epioritin-(4beta—>5)-epioritin-4alpha-ol. | [434, 435] |
| Afzelia bella Harms | Pretty Afzelia | Stem-bark | Ivory Coast | Used to treat skin diseases and cough. | An acylated dihydroflavonol glycoside identified as 2R,3R-trans-aromadendrin-7-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside-6"-(4"-hydroxy-2"-methylene flavonoids:butanoate), along with five known flavonoids and the lignan glycoside (+)-isolariciresinol 9-O-xyloside. | [437] |
| Bolusanthus speciosus Harms | Tree Wisteria | Root, Stem-bark | South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia. | Used to treat abdominal pains, emesis and tuberculosis. | Three new flavonoids from the root: 5,7,4'-trihydroxy-6-[1-hydroxy-2-methylbuten-2-yl]isoflavone (isogancaonin C), 7,2'-dihydroxy-4'-methoxyisoflav-3-ene (bolusanthin III), 6,6'-dihydroxy-4'-methoxy-2-arylbenzofuran (bolusanthin IV) in addition to eight known derrone, medicarpin, genistein, wighteone, lupiwighteone, gancaonin C, 7'-hydroxy-6'-methoxyisoflavone and 7,3'-dihydroxy-4'-methoxyisoflavone flavonoids 2R,3R-Aromadendrin 7-[6-4-hydroxy-2-methylenebutanoyl]glaucoside). Two new isoflavonoids from the combined ethyl acetate/methanolic extracts of the stem bark of Bolusanthus speciosus have been established as 4,2',5'-trihydroxy-4'-methoxyisoflavone (1) and 5,7,3',4'-tetrahydroxy-5'-[(2-epoxy-3-methylbutyl)isoflavanone (2). Five other known isoflavonoids, 5,7,3'-trihydroxy-4'-methoxy-5'-γ, γ-dimethylallylisoflavone, 5,7,2'-trihydroxy-4'-methoxy-6,5'-di(γ, γ-dimethyl)isoflavone, 5,7,2',4'-tetrahydroxy-8,5'-di(γ, γ-dimethylallyl)isoflavone, 5,7,2',4'-tetrahydroxy-8,5'-di(γ, γ-dimethylallyl)-isoflavone, and derrone. | [67, 358, 438] |
### Table 2: Continued.

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Crotalaria lanceolata E. Mey. | Lanceleaf rattlebox | Root | South Africa | Antioxidant activity. Used to treat coughs. | Not identified | [188] |
| Derris trifoliata Lour. | Common derris | Root-bark, Stem-bark, Seeds. | Kenya | Used for prevention of cancer. Entire plant is used as stimulant, antispasmodic. Bark is used as an alternative in rheumatism. | An isoflavonoid derivative, named 7α-O-methyldeguelol, a modified rotenoid with an open ring-C, representing a new sub-class of isoflavonoids (the sub-class is here named as rotenoloid). In addition, the known rotenoids, rotenone, deguelin and alpha-toxicarol. In addition, two unusual rotenoid derivatives, a rotenoloid (named 7α-O-methyl-12α-hydroxydeguelol) and a spirohomoaroarotenoid (named spiro-13-homo-13-oxaelliptone). In addition a rare natural chromanone (6,7-dimethoxy-4-chromanone) and the known rotenoids rotenone, tephrosin and dehydrodeguelin were identified. Also one new rotenoid, 6α,12α-hydroxyelliptone. | [438–441] |
| Entada africana Guill. & Perr. | Samanere | Leaves | Mali, Niger | Antioxidant properties. Protective against carbon tetrachloride-induced liver damage. Used to treat fever and various respiratory diseases. | Not identified | [329, 357, 442, 443] |
| Erythrina abyssinica Lam. | Red hot poker tree | Stem bark Root bark | Kenya | Used to treat malaria. | New isoflav-3-ene [7,4′,5′-dimethoxyisoflav-3-ene] in addition to the known compounds erycristagallin, licoagrochaone A, octacosyl ferulate and triacontyl 4-hydroxycinnamate were identified. A new chalcone, 2′,3′,4,4′-tetrahydroxy-5-prenylchalcone (trivial name 5-prenylbutein) and a new flavanone, 4′,7-dihydroxy-3′-methoxy-5′-prenylflavanone (trivial name, 5-deoxyabbyssinin II) along with known flavonoids | [444, 445] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| **E. burttii** Baker f. | Not signalized | Stem-bark  
Root-bark | Kenya | Used as antifungal and antibacterial agent. | Two new flavones: 5,7-dihydroxy-4'-methoxy-3’,5’-di-(3-methylbut-2-enyl)flavanone (trivial name, abyssinone V-4’-methyl ether) and 5,7-dihydroxy-4’-methoxy-3’-(3-hydroxy-3-methylbut-1-enyl)-5’-(3-methylbut-2-enyl)flavanone (trivial name, burttinone). A new isoflavone, 5,2’4’-trihydroxy-7-methoxy-6-(3-methylbut-2-enyl)isoflavone (trivial name, 7-O-methylfluate) and a new flavone, 5,7-dihydroxy-4’-methoxy-3’-(3-methylbut-2-enyl)flavanone (trivial name, abyssinone V-4’-methyl ether) and 5,7-dihydroxy-4’-methoxy-3’-(3-methylbut-2-enyl)flavanone (trivial name, abyssinone V-4’-methyl ether) | [446–449] |
| **E. eriotricha** Harms. | Not signalized  
Root-bark | Cameroon | Anti-microbial activity | A novel isoflavone, named eriotrichin B, one new prenylated flavane, named sigmoidin L, one flavone (sigmoidin A), four isoflavones (scandenone, 6,8-diprenylgenistein), flenumblusin B and 8-prenylquercetin | [450, 451] |
| **E. saclaxii** Hua | Kinyarwanda | Bark | Kenya | Used to treat fever, malaria and leprosy. | Two new isoflavones, (R)-5,7-dihydroxy-2’,4’,5’-trimethoxyisoflavone (trivial name, (R)-2,3-dihydroxy-7,4-dimethylrobutigenin) and (R)-5,7-dihydroxy-2’,4’,5’-trimethoxy-2”,2’-dimethylpyrano(5’,6’,7’:6,7)isoflavone (trivial name, (R)-saclenone) | [452, 453] |
| **Millettia ferruginea** (Hochst.) Baker | Birbtra  
Sotallo  
Sari | Bark | Ethiopia | Used for skin disorders. | O-Geranylated and O-prenylated flavonoids, C-prenylated isoflavones, Geranylated and prenylated flavonoids | [199] |
| **M. dura** Dunn. | Runyankore  
Uumuyogoro | Stem-bark | Rwanda  
Uganda | Used for blood parasitism | Flavonoids: A new isoflavone (7,3’-dimethoxy-4’,5’-methylenedioxyisoflavone) and three known isoflavones [isoerythrin in A 4’-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) ether, isojamaicin and nordurlettone]. | [454, 455] |
| **Ostryoderris stuhlmannii** (Taub.) Dunn ex Harms | Mnyinga | Leaves | Mali | Antioxidant activity, Used to treat painful menstruation, peritonitis, gastritis, colitis and gingivitis. | Not identified | [357] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Piliostigma reticulatum (DC.) Hochst | Kalga | Leaves Bark | Nigeria | High antioxidant activity. Used to treat wounds, bronchitis, malaria, sterility (leaves) and diarrhoea and dysentery (bark). | Not identified | [240] |
| Sesbania pachycarpa DC. | Not signalized | Leaves | Niger | Antioxidant activity | Not identified | [11] |
| Tephrosia polyphylla (Chiov.) J.B. Gillett | Hoary pea | Aerial part | Kenya | Flavonoids | Flavonoids: Rutin 1 – quercetine 3-O-a-L-rhamnopyranosyl (1-6) glucopyranose – and morin 2 – 3,5,7,2',4'-pentahydroxyflavone. | [457] |
| T. deflexa Baker | Hoary pea | Aerial part | Senegal | | Flavonoids: Rutin 1 – quercetine 3-O-a-L-rhamnopyranosyl (1-6) glucopyranose – and morin 2 – 3,5,7,2',4'-pentahydroxyflavone. | [457] |
| A. Nongonierna & T. Sarr | Hoary pea | Aerial part | Senegal | | Flavonoids: Rutin 1 – quercetine 3-O-a-L-rhamnopyranosyl (1-6) glucopyranose – and morin 2 – 3,5,7,2',4'-pentahydroxyflavone. | [457] |
| Taverniera abyssinica A. Rich. | Dingetegna | Root | Ethiopia | Used to treat fever, discomfort and pain, stomach ache. | Four isoflavonoids | [290, 458, 459] |
| Flacourtiaceae | Flacourtiia flavescens Willd. | Not signalized | Leaves | Antioxidant activity. | Not identified | [357] |
| Geraniaceae | Pelargonium reniforme Spreng. | Xhosa (Umckaloabo) | Root | Southern Africa | Used to treat liver disorders, laxative, purgative, cancer, and pulmonary disorders | Polyphenols: catechol (3’4’-dihydroxy) element in the B-ring, which possesses higher antioxidant activity than ascorbic acid. | [362, 460, 461] |
| Gunneraceae | Gunnera perpensa L. | River pumpkin Ugobho | Root Leaves and stem. | South Africa | Decreased lucigenin enhanced chemiluminescence. Used to treat wounds and psoriasis. | Not identified | [21, 462] |
| Irvingiaceae | Irvingia gabonensis (Aubry- Lecomte ex O’Rorke) Baill. | Bush mango Ono Seeds | Nigeria Cameroon | Antioxidant activity. Used as laxative and for stomach and kidney pain. Shown to lower total cholesterol. | Not identified | [12, 313, 463] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Lamiaceae             |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Leonotis leonurus* (L.) R.Br. | Wild dagga | Leaves | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory properties. Used to treat headaches, dysentery, coughs and colds. | Not identified | [13] |
| *Salvia stenophylla* Burch. ex Benth. | Sage | Leaves | South Africa | Solvent extracts: antioxidant activity but poor anti-inflammatory properties. Essential oils: anti-inflammatory activity but poor anti-oxidant activity. Used against fever and digestive disorders. | Not identified | [360] |
| *S. repens* Burch. ex Benth. | Not signalized | Leaves | South Africa | Solvent extracts: antioxidant activity but poor anti-inflammatory properties. Essential oils: anti-inflammatory activity but poor anti-oxidant activity. Used for fevers and digestive disorders. | Not identified | [360] |
| *S. runcinata* L.f. | Not signalized | Leaves | South Africa | Solvent extracts: antioxidant activity but poor anti-inflammatory properties. Essential oils: anti-inflammatory activity but poor anti-oxidant activity. Used against fever and digestive disorders. | Not identified | [360] |
| Loranthaceae          |                |            |              |                                             |                    |           |
| *Tapinanthus globiferus* Tiegh. | Not signalized | Leaves | Niger | Antioxidant activity | Not identified | [11] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name                  | Plant part                  | Country/area                                      | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation                                                                 | Compounds isolated                              | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Malvaceae             |                                  |                             |                                                   |                                                                                                             |                                               |           |
| Adansonia digitata (L.)| English: baobab, Afrikaans: kremetart, Hausa: kuka, Sotho: sebot, Tswana: mowana, Tsonga: shimuwu, Venda: muvhuyu, Arabic: tabladi | Leaves, root, bark and fruits | All over Africa, but limited trees in Central Africa | Antioxidant, analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties of extracts                                             | L-ascorbic acid                                | [36, 464] |
| Mimosaceae            |                                  |                             |                                                   |                                                                                                             |                                               |           |
| Albizia lebbeck (L.)  | East Indian walnut, frywood, koko, lebbek, lebbek tree, rain tree, room tree, silver raintree, siris rain tree, siris tree, soros-tree, woman's tongue. | Leaves and bark             | Egypt                                             | Used to treat asthma and skin disorders (bark) and eye diseases and dysentery (leaves)                        | Two new tri-O-glycoside flavonols: kaempferol and quercetin | [465]     |
|                       |                                  |                             |                                                   |                                                                                                             | 3-O-alpha-rhamnopyranosyl(1→6)-beta-glucopyranosyl(1→6)-beta-galactopyranosides                              |           |
| Moraceae              |                                  |                             |                                                   |                                                                                                             |                                               |           |
| Dorstenia angusticornis Engl. | Not signalized            | Twigs                       | Cameroon                                          | Used for snakebite and to treat infection, rheumatism, headache, cough and stomach pain.                     | Two novel diprenylated chalcones: 3,5',-di-(2-hydroxy-3-methylbut-3-enyl)-4,2',4'-trihydroxychalcone, 3, 4-(2,2-dimethylpyrano)-3',-(2-hydroxy-3-methylbut-3-enyl)-2',4'-dihydroxychalcone alcone and the known stipulin. 3-(2-Hydroxy-3-methylbut-3-enyl)-5',-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-4,2',4'-trihydroxy chalcone and the known compounds: gancarionin Q, paratocarpins C, F, and lupeol. | [67, 278] |
Table 2: Continued.

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| *D. dinklagei* Engl.   | Not signalized  | Twigs      | Cameroon     | Used for snakebite and to treat infection, rheumatism, headache, cough and stomach pain. | Three prenylated flavonoids, dinklagins A, B and C identified, respectively, as (dinklagin B): (+)-5,4',5''-2,2'-Trihydroxy-6'6''-dimethylidihydropyranol[2',3',5,7,6]flavone, (dinklagin C): (+)-6-(2Z-Hydroxy-3-methyl-3-butenyl)-5,7,4' -trihydroxyflavone (-)-6-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-7-hydroxy-6'', 6''-dimethylchromano-(4',3,2'',3''')-flavanone, (+)-5,4',5''-2,2'-Trihydroxy-6''-6''-dimethylchromano-(7,6,2'',3'')-flavone and (+)-6-(2Z-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-butenyl)-5,7,4' -trihydroxyflavone. 6-prenylapigenin, 4-hydroxylonchocarpin, stipulin and 5,4'. 6-dihydroxy-6'',6''-dimethylchromano-(7,6,2'',3'')-flavone. | [67, 226] |
| *D. elliptica* Bur.   | Not signalized  | Twigs      | Botswana     | Used to treat eye infection. | Monoprenylated flavan | [466] |
| *D. Kameruniana* Engl. | Not signalized  | Leaves     | Botswana     | Used for snakebite and to treat infection, rheumatism, headache, cough and stomach pain. | Two novel flavonoids: 6,7-(2,2-dimethylchromano)-5,4'-dihydroxyfavone and 3,4'-A',5'-bis-(2,2-dimethylchromano)-2'-hydroxychalcone together with the known 6-(3-methylbut-2-enyl)apigenin and two chalcones (*E*)-1-[2,4-dihydroxy-3-[3-methylbut-2-enyl]phenyl]-3-[4-hydroxyphenyl]-prop-2-en-1-one and (*E*)-[2,4-dihydroxy-5-[3-methylbut-2-enyl]phenyl]-3-[4-hydroxy-3-[3-methylbut-2-enyl]phenyl]-prop-2-en-1-one. | [467] |
### Table 2: Continued.

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated                                                                 | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| *D. prorepens* Engl.  | Not signalized | Twigs      | Botswana     | Used for snakebite and to treat infection, rheumatism, headache, cough and stomach pain. | Digeranylated chalcone, 5,3'-[(3',7'-dimethyl-2,6-octadienyl)-3,4, 2',4'-tetrahydroxychalcone. 4-Hydroxylonchocarpin Chalcone: 3,4,2',4'-Tetrahydroxy-5,3'-digeranylchalcone | [67, 468] |
| *D. poinsettiifolia* Engl. | Not signalized | Twigs      | Botswana     | Used for snakebite and to treat infection, rheumatism, headache, cough and stomach pain. | Grenylated and prenylated flavonoids. In addition, the flavone 5,7,4-trihydroxy-8-prenyflavone (licoflavone C), the chalcones 4,2',4'-trihydroxy-3'-prenylchalcone (isobavachalcone) and isobavachromene, the triterpene butyrospermol, and the carotenoid lutein. | [67, 206, 289] |
| *D. zenkeri* Engl.    | Not signalized | Twigs      | Botswana     | Used for snakebite and to treat infection, rheumatism, headache, cough and stomach pain. | 3',4'-[(3'-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyldihydropyrano)-4,2'-dihydroxychalcone and a bichalcone. 4-Hydroxylonchocarpin. p-hydroxybenzaldehyde, dorsmanin A, 4,2',4'-trihydroxychalcone and 4,2',4'-trihydroxy-3'-prenylchalcone Chalcones: 4,2',5''-Trihydroxy-6''',6''''-dimethyldihydropyranol[2''',3''',4',3']chalcone | [67, 468] |
| **Moringaceae**        |                |            |              |                                             |                                                                                     |           |
| *Moringa oleifera* Lam. | Horse-radish tree Drumstick Moringo Zakalanda | Root       | West Africa Zimbabwe | Anti-inflammatory activity. Used as aphrodisiac and to treat asthma, gout and rheumatism. | Not identified | [469] |
| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| **Myrtaceae**         |                |            |              |                                           |                   |           |
| Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehn. | Not signalized | Leaves | Egypt | Antioxidant activity | Not identified | [470] |
| **Polygonaceae**      |                |            |              |                                           |                   |           |
| Polygonum senegalense Meisn. | Fotsimbarin’akoholahy | Leaves | Madagascar | | Flavonoids: quercetin, kaempferol and luteolin and their glycosides such as dihydrochalcone glucoside and quercetin glycosides. | [413, 471] |
| Rumex abyssinicus Jacq. | Mekmeko | Leaves | N. Africa - Ethiopia | Anti-inflammatory properties. Used to treat itching, skin eczema and leprosy. | Flavonoids. | [337, 472] |
| R. nervosus Vahl., Alcgango Dengogo | Leaves | Ethiopia | | Anti-inflammatory properties. Used to treat acne, wounds, eczema, typhus and as an ophthalmic antiseptic. | Not identified | [337] |
| **Rubiaceae**         |                |            |              |                                           |                   |           |
| Nauclea latifolia Smith | Pin Cushion Tree Igíyáa | Leaves and root | Nigeria | Used as anthelmintic and to treat malaria, fever, stomachache and liver diseases. | Proanthocyanidins. | [12, 58, 473–475] |
| **Solanaceae**        |                |            |              |                                           |                   |           |
| Datura stramonium L.   | Thorn-apple rwiziringa | Seeds | South Africa | Antioxidant activity. Used to treat asthma, headaches and wounds. | Not identified | [188] |
| **Tiliaceae**         |                |            |              |                                           |                   |           |
| Grewia occidentalis L. | Cross-berry Four-corner | Bark | South Africa | Antioxidant activity. Used to treat bladder ailments, wounds, impotence and sterility, and to help in childbirth. | Not identified | [188] |
Table 2: Continued.

| Family and plant name | Vernacular name | Plant part | Country/area | Medicinal use and/or experimental validation | Compounds isolated | Reference |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| **Vahlia capensis** (L.f) Thunb. | Vahlia of the Cape | Zimbabwe | Used to treat bacterial infections. | Kaempferol, quercetin, afzelin, astragalin, quercitrin, isoquercitrin, rutin, gallic acid, chiro-inositol, dulcitol, and a novel biflavonoid, VC-15B (vahlia biflavone) | [475] |
| **Vitaceae** | | | | |
| **Cyphostemma natalitium** (Szyszl.) J.v. d. Merwe | Tick-berry bush | Root | South Africa | Anti-inflammatory and anti-microbial agents with significant inhibition of COX-1 | Not identified | [374] |
| **Rhoicissus digitata** Gilg. & Brandt | Wilde patatat | Roots, stems and leaves | South Africa | At high concentrations possessed some prooxidative properties. Anti-inflammatory and anti-microbial agents with significant inhibition of COX-1. Used to facilitate delivery. | Not identified | [364, 374] |
| **R. rhomboidea** (E. Meyer ex Harvey) Planchon | Glossy forest grape | Roots, stems and leaves | South Africa Mozambique | Radical scavenging activity, inhibitory effect on xanthine oxidase activity, prevention of lipid peroxidation and damage to DNA and ability to chelate iron. Anti-inflammatory through inhibition of COX-1. | Not identified | [364, 374] |
| **R. tomentosa** (L.am.) Wild & R.B.Drum. | Wild grape Forest Grape, Monkey rope, | Roots, stems and leaves | South Africa | Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities. Anti-inflammatory through inhibition of COX-1. Used to facilitate delivery. | Not identified | [364, 374] |
| **R. tridentata** (L.f) Wild & Drum. | Bitter grape Bushman's grape Isinwazi | Roots, stems and leaves | South Africa Venda | Radical scavenging activity, inhibitory effect on xanthine oxidase activity, prevention of lipid peroxidation and damage to DNA and ability to chelate iron. Anti-inflammatory through inhibition of COX-1. Used to treat colds, infertility and stomach ailments. | Not identified | [364, 374, 476] |
and degranulation [112, 487], antiatherosclerosis effects [486], and pain assessment in experimental animals [117].

The effect of the medicinal plants on the induction or inhibition of drug metabolizing enzymes was also studied in animals. The effect of the aqueous extract of *Thornningia sanguinea* on 7-ethoxyresorufin O-de ethylase (EROD, CYP1A1), 7-pentoxyresorufin O-dealkylyase (PROD, CYP2B1/2), 7-methoxysorufin O-demethylase (MROD, CYP1A2), aniline hydroxylase (aniline, CYP2E1), p-nitrophenol hydroxylase (PNPH, CYP2E1), and erythromycin N-demethylase (ERDM, CYP3A1) in rat liver was found to selectively modulate CYP isoenzymes [100] and suppress CYP3A2 and CYP1A2 gene expression [101].

3. Compounds Isolated from African Medicinal Plant Extracts with Confirmed Antioxidant Activities

Several medicinal plant extracts were studied at research centres in African countries for their antioxidant properties. The major findings of these investigations have indicated that, in addition to known antioxidant compounds such as ascorbic acid in the seeds of *Parkia biglobosa* [204] and fruits pulp of *Adansonia digitata* [369], alpha-tocopherol in methanol extracts of the stems of *Secamone afzelii* [62] or from the seeds [38] and methanol extracts of leaves of *Amaranthus caudatus* [39], and apigenin and luteolin in aerial parts of *Bulbine capitata* [66], several other antioxidant compounds were identified. Although known antioxidant compounds such as ascorbic acid have been confirmed to promote wound healing, not all the newly identified compounds have been tested for such activity [488–491].

The identified compounds included mainly flavonoids such as flavones and flavonols, flavone and flavonol glycosides, chalcones and dihydrochalcones, and flavonones, although some anthocyanins, proanthocyanidins, and anthrones were also isolated with antioxidant properties.

A wide range of plant extracts investigated have been shown to contain flavonoids. *Dorstenia* species are rich in flavonoids some of which are unique to this genus [67, 205], namely, prenylated flavonoids as found in *Dorstenia kameruniana* and twigs of *D. manii* [206, 207]. Earlier studies have shown that prenylated flavonoids had antioxidant properties, which protected human LDL from oxidation [208]. Those isolated from African medicinal plant extracts were also tested and their antioxidant properties confirmed. The antioxidant activities of three prenylated flavonoids from *D. manii* (6,8-diprenyleriodictyol, dorsmanin C, 7,8-(2,2-dimethylchromeno)-6-geranyl-3,5,5′,4′-tetrahydroxyflavonol and dorsmanin F, (+-)7,8-[2′′-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-dihydrofurano]-6-prenyl-5,3′,4′-tri hydroxyflavanone] against LDL oxidation and also their free radical scavenging activity have been indicated [187]. Similarly, a diprenylated chalcone, Bartericin A, present in *D. barteri* leaf and twig extracts was shown to have potent antioxidant properties. It was found that this and other prenylated and geranylated chalcones were as active as the prenylated flavones and may account for the anti-inflammatory action of these extracts [276]. Free radical scavenging activity was also confirmed for prenylated anthrones isolated from the stem-bark of *Harungana madagascariensis* [121] and for proanthocyanidins isolated from the bark of *Burkea africana* [175].

The anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities of koavolin, a biflavonoid isolated from a *Garcinia kola* seed extract to scavenge free radicals, which protect against lipid peroxidation and H₂O₂-induced DNA strand breaks and oxidized bases, were also reported [114, 116–119, 209]. In addition, the ability of free radical scavenging activity and ability to inhibit lipid peroxidation of *Thonningianin A* and *Thonningianin B*, ellagittannins, isolated from *Thonningia sanguinea* have been shown [99, 366]. The anti-inflammatory ability of Griffonianone D ((7E)-(6′′,7′′-dihydroxy-3′′,2′′-dimethyloct-2′′-enyl)oxy-4′-methoxyisoflavone), an isoflavone present in *Millettia griffoniana*, has been established [195].

Prenylated anthrones, harunmadagascarnes A (8,9-dihydroxy-4,4-bis-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-6-methyl-2,3-(2,2-dimethylpyran)-anthrone and B (8,9-dihydroxy-4,4,5-tris-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-6-methyl-2,3-(2,2-dimethylpyran)-anthrone), harunganol B, and harungin anthrone from the stem-bark of *Harungana madagascariensis* have exhibited significant antioxidant activity [121].

Saponins and isofuranonaphthoquinones isolated from different medicinal plant extracts showed antioxidant properties and include the saponin, Balanin 1 (3β,12β,14β,16β)-cholest-5-ene-3,16-diy bis (β-d-glucopyranoside)-12-sulphate, sterol sulfonated, Balanin 2 (3β,20S,22R,25R)-26-hydroxy-22-acetoxyfurost-5-en-3-yl-rhamnopyranosyl-(1→2)-glucopyranoside, and a furostanol saponin isolated from *Balanites aegyptiaca* [104].

Isofuranonaphthoquinones isolated from the roots of *Bulbine capitata*, 5,8-dihydroxy-1-tigloylmethylnaphtho[2,3-c]furan-4,9-dione, 1-acetoxyethyl-8-hydroxynaphtho [2,3-c]furan-4,9-dione, and 1-acetoxyethyl-5,8-dihydroxynaphtho[2,3-c]furan-4,9-dione possess antioxidant activities [68]. Though none of these antioxidant compounds has been directly assessed for wound healing potential, the enhanced wound closure observed with treatment of prenylated flavonoids such as genistein [492] and the demonstrated effect of chalcones on the inflammation process [493] attest to the potential of isolated antioxidants in wound management.

4. Crude Extracts of African Medicinal Plants with Confirmed Antioxidant Activities

The antioxidant properties of a larger proportion of African medicinal plants listed in Tables 1 and 2 were tested using either aqueous or organic plant extracts. After confirming antioxidant properties, a correlation was proposed between this property and the general groups of antioxidant compounds that are present in these extracts. No further attempts were made to isolate the specific compounds that may have contributed towards this property. Flavonoids in *Aloe barbadensis* [32], chrome glycosides in *A. claviflora* [35], essential oils in *Artemisia abysinica*, and *Juniperus procera* [79] as well as *Helichrysum dasyanthum*, *H. felinum*, *H.*
excisum, and H. petiolare [94], proanthocyanidins in Burkea africana bark [175], polyphenols in extracts of Crataegus monogyna [321], saponins, and alkaloids in extracts of Leucaosidea sericea [210, 211] are all considered as major compounds that have contributed to the antioxidant properties of these plants. Reports on a number of Barleria species, which includes B. albostellata, B. greenii, and B. priottii, have indicated their anti-inflammatory [212] and antioxidant capacities [213]. Unlike the isolated compounds, most of the plants listed for possessing antioxidant activity, including extracts of Agerantum conyzoides, Euphorbia hirta, Kigelia africana, and Nauclea latifolia, have been shown to possess wound healing ability [494–496].

Furthermore, studies have focused on screening a vast number of plants, used in a specific region, so as to determine their antioxidant properties, Mali [357], South Africa [19, 188, 267, 364], Cameroon [182, 313], Algeria [85], Ghana [98], Burkina Faso [266], Madagascar [23], and Mauritius [293], and anti-inflammatory properties, South Africa [168, 264, 374, 376] and West Africa [400].

5. Discussion and Conclusion

The use of traditional herbal remedies as alternative medicine plays a significant role in Africa since it features extensively in primary health care. The search for natural antioxidants, especially from plant sources, as a potential intervention for treatment of free radical mediated diseases is an important research field, especially for those in developing countries. Many polyphenols, including phenolic acids, flavonoids (anthocyanins and anthoxanthins), tannins, and lignans, are known to act as antioxidants and protect against various pathological conditions such as coronary artery disease and wounds, in addition to their anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and anticancer activities [214–216].

Flavonoids are a large group of compounds containing several hydroxyl groups on their ring structures and include isoflavonoids and isoflavonoid glycosides, flavones, and flavone glycosides, flavonols and flavonol glycosides, anthocyanins, chalcones and dihydrochalcones, aurones, flavonones and dihydroflavonols, and flavans and biflavonols. To date, approximately 9000 different flavonoids have been identified from plant sources [217]. Great interest has been dedicated to the antioxidant properties of flavonoids that may function as potent free radical scavengers, reducing agents, and protectors against peroxidation of lipids [208, 218]. Reviews have been published documenting numerous studies on antioxidant efficacy of flavonoids and phenolic compounds as well as on the relationship between their antioxidant activities, as hydrogen donating free radical scavengers, in relation to their chemical structures. The importance of the unsaturation in the C ring of quercetin compared to catechin in the increased antioxidant activity of the former has been presented [216, 219–223]. Also, the importance of the position and number of hydroxyl groups on the phenolic rings in increasing or decreasing the antioxidant properties of these compounds has been emphasized [216, 219–223].

Although many flavonoids have been isolated from different African medicinal plant extracts, the structure-activity relationship of these compounds has not yet been investigated. Recent studies have also shown that some flavonoids are modulators of proinflammatory gene expression, thus leading to the attenuation of the inflammatory response [224]. Examples of these include the lipophilic flavones and flavonols 5,7-dihydroxy-2′,3′,4′,5′-tetramethoxyflavone, 5,4′-dihydroxy-7′,2′,3′,5′-tetramethoxyflavone, and 5,7,4′-trihydroxy-2′,3′,5′-trimethoxyflavone isolated from Psidia punctulata [225] and Dinklagn B and C isolated from Dorstenia dinklaguei [226]. Isolated flavone and flavonol glycosides include kaempferide 3-O-beta-xylosyl (1→2)-beta-gluco-side, kaempferol 3-O-alpha-rhamnoside-7,4′-di-O-beta-galactoside, kaempferol 3,7,4′-tri-O-beta-gluco-side and quercetin 3-O-[alpha-rhamnosyl (1→6)] [beta-gluco-syl (1→2) ]-beta-gluco-side-7-O-alpha-rhamnoside from Warburgia uagandensis, and quercetin-7,4′-disulphate from Alchornea laxiflora [159]. Flavanones and dihydroflavonols include dorrsonian I and J and epidosmorsin F and G isolated from Dorstenia munni [227] and Dinklagns A, isolated from the twigs of Dorstenia dinklaguei [226] and two flavones isolated from the twigs of Eriosema robustum [182] and 1α,3β-dihydroxy-12-olean-29-oic (1), 1-hydroxy-12-olean-30-oic acid (2), 3,30-dihydroxy-12-olean-22-one (3), and 1,3,24-trihydroxy-12-olean-29-oic acid (4), a new pentacyclic triterpenoid (1α, 23-dihydroxy-12-olean-29-oic acid-3β-O-2,4-di-acetyl-1-rhamnopyranoside) (5) from Combretum imberbe [138]. Anthocyanins isolated include the cyanidins 3-O-(2″′-galloyl-beta-galactopyranoside) and 3-O-(2″′-galloyl-6″′-O-a-rhamnopyranosyl-beta-galactopyranoside) from Acalypha hispida [228] and cyanin 3-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside and cyanidin 3-O-(2.0-beta-D-xylopyranosylbeta-D-glucopyranoside from Hibiscus sabdariffa [266]. When revising the literature, it became apparent that even though most of these medicinal plants and compounds have confirmed antioxidant activity, not many of them have been screened for wound healing potential. As there is an association between antioxidative therapy and wound healing, research in this direction is as imminent as it is important. Furthermore, structure-activity studies on the isolated compounds from African medicinal extracts will be of great interest.

Antioxidants may exert their protective effects via different mechanisms at different stages of the oxidation process. There are those that are able to inhibit the production of free radicals via their ability to chelate transition metal ions and those that are able to quench and stabilise free radicals [229, 230]. Additionally, they are further subdivided into categories according to their functions [230]. Such classification of the newly isolated antioxidant compounds from African medicinal plant extracts is warranted to better understand their antioxidant properties.

It should be noted that the antioxidant activity of the extracts and compounds listed in this review was mostly determined using either single assays or in vitro analysis. It is therefore possible that some of these extracts and compounds may not show antioxidant activity when alternative testing methods are used. Furthermore, although in vivo studies are encouraged, most studies cited used in vitro assays. As
antioxidant activity \textit{in vitro} does not necessarily translate to activity \textit{in vivo}, due to pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic processes that occurs \textit{in vivo}, it is possible that samples may not be active when tested in animals. Activity of such samples should therefore be confirmed using animal models.

Additionally, attempts should be made to identify the compounds responsible for the proven antioxidant properties where not yet done, and in cases where they have been isolated, their wound healing properties should be investigated. If the activity of the compounds and plants identified in this review is confirmed \textit{in vivo}, they could serve as viable sources for the treatment of wounds in future.

\section*{Conflicts of Interest}

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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