

A comparative study of the plants used for medicinal purposes by the Creek and Seminole tribes

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A Comparative Study of the Plants Used for Medicinal Purposes by the Creek and Seminole Tribes

[Kimberly Hutton](#), *University of South Florida*

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Major Professor

Richard P.Wunderlin, Ph.D.

Committee Member

Frederick Essig, Ph.D

Committee Member

Brent Weisman, Ph.D

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Abstract

Previous studies in Native American ethnobotany on the shared use of medicinal and cultural plants between communities fail to clearly reveal if these shared uses are part of changing culture or remain a stabilizing connection between old and new tribes. During the late 1700's to early 1800's, various factions of the Creek tribes of Georgia migrated into Florida, forming a new tribe called the Seminoles. This event provides the unique opportunity to study the changing cultural and medicinal uses of plants by a new tribe in a new geographic location, revealing if cultural purposes were passed from one group to another. A list of plants used for medicinal purposes by the Creek and Seminole tribes was produced from previous studies. Utilizing these lists, comparisons were drawn to determine if cultural practices were carried on between tribes as they changed locations and lifestyles. This study examines the use of 465 plants in 125 plant families. Of these, 39 plants were found to be used by both tribes for different treatment purposes. In contrast, only 15 plants were used by both tribes for similar treatments. The small number of shared use of plants indicates the newly formed Seminole tribe developed new cultural and medicinal practices. These findings indicate that the plants used for medicinal purposes by the Native American tribes of the southeast were a part of a changing culture, not a stabilizing connection between old and new tribes as previously thought.

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Appendix 3: Medicinal Plants Used for the Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus in the Traditional Medicine in Malaysia. No. Family/taxa. Başer KHC, Honda G, Miki W (1986) Herb drugs and herbalists in Turkey, Institute for the study of languages and cultures of Asia and Africa. *Studia Culturae Islamicae* 27, TokyoGoogle Scholar.

Baytop T (1984) Türkiye'de Bitkiler ile Tedavi. A list of plants used for medicinal purposes by the Creek and Seminole tribes was produced from previous studies. Utilizing these lists, comparisons were drawn to determine if cultural practices were carried on between tribes as they changed locations and lifestyles. This study examines the use of 465 plants in 125 plant families. During the late 1700's to early 1800's, various factions of the Creek tribes of Georgia migrated into Florida, forming a new tribe called the Seminoles. This event provides the unique opportunity to study the changing cultural and medicinal uses of plants by a new tribe in a new geographic location, revealing if cultural purposes were passed from one group to another. The study also highlights many medicinal plants used to treat chronic metabolic conditions in patients with diabetes. Conclusions. The folk knowledge of medicinal plants species of Koh-e-Safaid Range was unexplored. The vast use of medicinal plants reported shows the significance of traditional herbal preparations among tribal people of the area for their health care. Knowledge about the medicinal use of plants is rapidly disappearing in the area as a new generation is unwilling to take interest in medicinal plant use, and the knowledgeable persons keep their knowledge a secret. Thus, the indigenous use of plants needs conservational strategies and further investigation for better utilization of natural resources. Background.