Medicinal Plant Images

Eucalyptus ficifolia and Xanthorrhoea johnsonii

Figure 1: Eucalypts are the most iconic Australian medicinal plants and are possibly the most useful commercially for their medicinal properties (including antimicrobial, insect repellent, pesticidal, anticoagulant and decongestant bioactivities). Eucalyptus is a diverse genus of trees in the family Myrtaceae. Of the more than 700 species that comprise this genus, most are endemic to Australia. A smaller number are also native to New Guinea, Indonesia and the Philippines. Pictured is the red flowering species Eucalyptus ficifolia (also known as Corymbia ficifolia). Photograph taken in Brisbane Australia by Dr Ian Cock.

Figure 2: The genus Xanthorrhoea (Australian grasstrees) is a small genus of slow growing and very long living plants endemic to Australia. The leaves of Xanthorrhoea johnsonii (pictured) have recently been shown to have an anaesthetic effect (Cock and Kall, 2010) similar to the effects previously described for tubocurarine, dimethyltubocurarine and alcuronium (collectively known as curare, a South American arrow poison) from Chondrodendron tomentosum. Photograph taken in Tooronga Forest, Brisbane Australia by Dr Ian Cock.

Cock IE, Kall FR, Toxicity evaluation of Xanthorrhoea johnsonii leaf methanolic extract using the Anisotria franciscana bioassay. Phcog Mag 2010; 6, 23: 166-171.

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