
The contribution of wild orchid family as the medicinal plant for the potential of social economic development, genetic resource protection and their sustainable usage in Laos.

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Résumé

Orchid family (Orchidaceae) is well known as the largest and most diverse group among plant kingdom. In the past orchids were mainly cultivated for ornamental purposes rather than their medicinal value. Since the studies of their chemical components and new biological activities were discovered in the last 20 years, a wide range of chemical compounds have been described including alkaloids, bibenzyl derivatives, flavonoids, phenanthrenes and terpenoids. Several studies have been undertaken to justify the medicinal use of various orchids' medicine. Due to the positive result of many studies, these orchid species are becoming popular by traditional Chinese medicine users nowadays. Over harvesting of wild orchids by the local community in Laos for increasing their income is an important issue in the country. Therefore, the study of large scale production of wild orchids' plants for the commercial purposes, and plant species conservation is highly needed.

Mots-Clés: Wild orchid, traditional Chinese medicine, chemical compound.

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