

Review of: "Sacred Plants and Their Miraculous or Healing Properties"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Ana María Rossi's manuscript, entitled "Sacred Plants and Their Miraculous or Healing Properties," makes entertaining reading, taken from a wide variety of sources, some more credible than others. In this sense, Dr. Rossi's paper is somewhat lacking in critical value. Understandably, as an MD, the author is not conversant with botanical and chemical knowledge, which leads me to suggest that she rewrite her contribution with coauthors who could be of great assistance in these aspects.

An Argentine botanist specializing in Cactaceae but presumably with more than basic knowledge of tropine alkaloid-bearing Solanaceae (e.g., the mandrake) is Roberto Kiesling: rkiesling@mendoza-conicet.gob.ar. If he should not be available, it might be a good idea to contact the Instituto Botánico Darwinion in Acassuso, San Isidro, Buenos Aires. Regarding the chemistry of "sacred" plants, particularly mandrake and peyote, I would suggest asking physicist Enzo Tagliazucchi (info@df.uba.ar), who should know better than I whom to contact in Argentina in the natural products chemistry field.

The review's English, though quite comprehensible, at least for a native English-Spanish bilingual, is poor. If the authors' prospective coauthors are used to publishing papers in English, solving this problem should pose no great difficulty. Active scientists will also be helpful to make sure that missing references or attributions, particularly in some of the figures, are included and that the overall structure is more in accordance with what is usual in academic papers, particularly avoiding unnecessary (and in one case obviously accidental) repetitions.