

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

Johannes van Staden¹

¹ University of KwaZulu-Natal

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Gabri

I have made a number of suggestions directly on the paper and am sending you the most relevant pages only. This is one of the most interesting and thought-provoking papers I have recently read on the broad field of ethnobotany/ethnomedicine. The paper is very well written. I do, however, have a few comments. I feel that the author should find a new title as the current one implies that she covered sacred plants from across the world. This, however, is not the case. While there are short bits of discussion on Europe, Asia, and Africa, I fear that there is a lot more to be said about these continents. This paper deals very well with the use of plants occurring in the Americas. There is a lot of work that has been done in Africa and Asia, covering the Chinese and Indian traditions in particular. They are only dealt with cursorily. I fully understand that this covered field is enormous and embodies much more than the South American and Central American tribes. It might be useful for the author to cover herself on this score. Personally, I learnt very many historical facts around the most ancient use of hallucinogenic / medicinal plants. It would be nice to see this manuscript in print. Thank you for the opportunity to read it.

Kind regards

Prof van Staden