

Review of: "Traditional soap plants used in hand hygiene, can play an important role in curbing infectious diseases including COVID-19. So why is there so little research?"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The author has highlighted the value of traditional knowledge from communities around the world, in this case, in relation to saponin-containing plants and their uses in sanitation and putatively in disease prevention. The use of anecdotal evidence serves to highlight the value of the deep traditional knowledge of the natural environment that most indigenous peoples possess, and which is in danger of being lost when traditional cultures break down. The author highlights the lack of literature relating to the topical use of saponins on skin, stating that in 2020 she found none, yet quotes Niziol et al. (2018), who she says state that "such saponins can even be used on sensitive skin". Further, she refers to Kunatsa and Katerere being from "Tshawne University, Acadia, South Africa" when it should be Tshwane University, Arcadia, South Africa. Such inconsistencies suggest inadequate proofing of the paper and detract from the impact of an otherwise important contribution and an area where, clearly, more applied research is required.