

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 manuscript is well-written and very interesting. It focuses on plants that are specific to a particular community, and it introduces a cheap and available source of soap from plants that is needed by many people around the world. These plants are very important as antiviral and antibacterial agents, especially when used topically. However, saponins, which are found in these plants, can cause blood hemolysis when injected.