

Ximenia

AAMPS Newsletter

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From The Editor

This latest edition of the AAMPS newsletter is packed with even more useful information than ever. Not only does it provide a glimpse at the work of AAMPS monograph author Dr Alfred Maroyi, a leading expert on Ximenia Caffra or Sour Plum.

We also have a fascinating interview with **Avril Harvey** our entrepreneur of the month who heads up one of the Parceval Pharmaceutical family businesses that focuses on what we at PharmaConnect Africa believe is an area of growing importance, African herbal teas and infusions.

Ximenia Caffra or Sour/ Hog Plum as it is often known is an extremely important medicinal fruit which grows all the way from Botswana to Kenya. Farmers use almost every part. Recently the seed oil is finding its way into cosmetics.

Our country of the month is the **DRC**, a Central African nation rich in medicinal plants including Prunus Africana. Lastly, do not forget to sign up for our webinar on June 9th which will focus on the vitally important topic of botanical/herbal safety.

Warm Regards,

Denzil

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Meet Our Monograph Authors - Prof . Alfred Maroyi



Alfred Maroyi, Professor at the University of Fort Hare

Q: Where are you based?

A: Department of Botany, University of Fort Hare, Alice, South Africa

Q: What Monograph are you working on?



Ximenia caffra Sond. in its ripened state.

Photo taken by Oscar Yoshinori Toyofuku

A: *Ximenia caffra* Sond.

Q: Tell us one fun fact about the species that you choose.

A: Fruits of *Ximenia caffra* are bright red when ripe, tasty, but very sour.

Q: Why do you have such Interest In this species?

A: *Ximenia caffra* is a valuable plant species in tropical Africa with economic potential as food and medicinal plant, source of oil, dye and fuelwood.

Q: What are some of the challenges that you have faced?

A: Lack of funding for research and development.

Q: What uses does it have and have you used it yourself?

A: Fleshy fruits of *Ximenia caffra* are delicious to eat and fruit pulp used as jam or jellies. Seed oil is used as lubricant for leather, cosmetic and skin ointment. Bark, fruits, leaves, roots and seeds are used as traditional medicines and ethnoveterinary medicine. *Ximenia caffra* is also used as an ornamental plant or hedge, firewood and timber.

Q: What kind of research have you done into it?

A: Documented the botanical description, medicinal uses, active ingredients and pharmacological properties of *Ximenia caffra*.

Q: What are your thoughts on the African Herbal Pharmacopoeia (AfHP)?

A: AfHP aims to disseminate information about medicinal plants focusing on their taxonomy, distribution, plant parts used, medicinal uses, active ingredients,...

...pharmacological properties, toxicological properties, international trade and conservation status of these species.

The AfHP provides a platform for exchanging sound knowledge and practices involving medicinal plants among scientists, researchers and other stakeholders.

Q: In five years' time, what advancements to do you think this species would have made commercially and in research?

A: Apart from local and regional specialty uses, apparent high demand for the bark, fruits, leaves, roots, seeds and seed oil of *Ximenia caffra* for medicinal uses warrants further research into pharmacology and sustainable management.

Market Place Africa



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Connect Conversations

The Great Cannabis Escapade March / April 2022

The highest levels of cannabis production in the world take place on the African continent. With its hospitable climate and agricultural traditions, Southern Africa can become a global hub in the growing and processing of medical cannabis and industrial hemp.

However, the right kind of policies and strategic investments need to be in place for the industry to thrive. The policies should translate into support for farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses all along the value chain, investments in infrastructure and skills development.

This symposia held in Lesotho, Zimbabwe and South Africa aimed to bring together government agencies, researchers and business to network and discuss how to unlock the potential for cannabis and hemp through research, innovation and commercialization.

H.I.T/AFRICANN HEMP & CANNABIS SYMPOSIUM

Unlocking the potential for cannabis and hemp in Zimbabwe through research, innovation and commercialisation

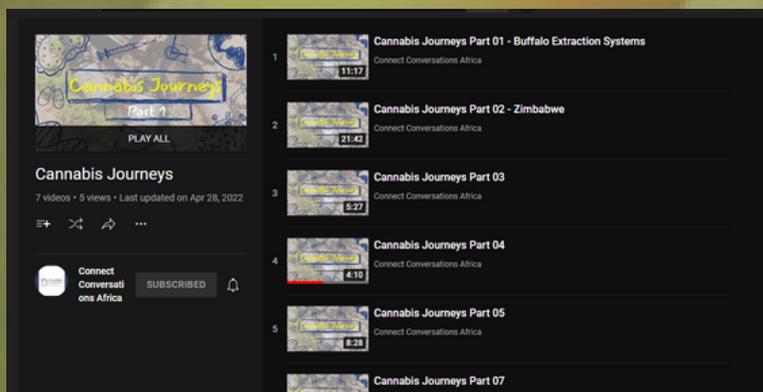
With its hospitable climate and agricultural traditions, Southern Africa can become a global hub in the growing and processing of medical cannabis and industrial hemp. However, the right kind of policies and strategic investments need to be in place for the industry to thrive.

Date: Wednesday, 6 April 2022
09:30 -13:00 CAT
Venue - HIT Campus
For physical attendance
RSVP before 3 April 2022
Whatsapp - 263716760084
E-mail - wmvengere@hit.ac.zw

FREE
ENTRY



Cannabis and Hemp Symposium flyer for event held in Zimbabwe.



Cannabis Journeys Playlist available on Connect Conversations Youtube channel.

Visit the Youtube channel to access the recordings of this intriguing conversation below

[Visit channel](#)

Meet the Entrepreneur - Avril Harvey



"We are passionate about African herbal teas and the health benefits these have, but we care more about the feelings and emotions that are evoked by African botanicals for African landscapes, people and traditions when drinking indigenous infusions."

AVRIL HARVEY

Tell us about yourself?

Hi - my name is Avril Harvey. I have had an interest in Applied Science since I was a child, especially where natural organisms can be used to manufacture useful products or clean up toxic environments. I started my career as a researcher in startup biotech companies, working on transfection of mammalian cells and then Biological Control agents. I then moved into project management, assisting to fund technology from lab to shelf (PlantBio/TIA).

This has given me a broad background on what it takes to develop and to market your own products. Currently I am developing a herbal tea range using mainly indigenous African tea ingredients which have not been fully commercialised as yet – with the aim to sell these ingredients and retail teas on local and international markets.

Tell us about your business?

African Infusions was started within the parent company, Parceval Pty Ltd, and thus benefits from the vast experience of Parceval in sourcing, cultivating, and marketing indigenous botanical ingredients and products. We are passionate about African herbal teas and the health benefits these have, but we care more about the feelings and emotions that are evoked by African botanicals for African landscapes, people and traditions when drinking indigenous infusions.



African Infusions Diges-T Herbal tea

What problem are you solving?

We are focused on commercialising indigenous African teas both locally and internationally. Rooibos, and to a lesser degree Honeybush, have gained a large share of the global African herbal tea market – we want to demonstrate that Rooibos and Honeybush are just a small proportion of the unique botanicals that are available – in fact there is a continent of new flavours to be shared from Africa.

What made you start the business?

Unique herbal teas have been grown and imbibed by African peoples for many centuries – many of these grow on a singular terroir that is hard to replicate outside of their ecological niche. This makes these teas very special – but commercialisation on a wider scale is constrained by regulatory hurdles, such as ABS and Novel Food certifications, which are costly to obtain. With the backing of a company having 30 years' experience sourcing and supplying indigenous botanicals – African Infusions has the capacity to commercialise indigenous African herbal tea ingredients.



AFRICAN | NFUSIONS

Address: c/o Parceval (Pty) Ltd, P.O. Box 158
Wellington 7655, SOUTH AFRICA

What do you need for your business to grow?

We are in the process of applying for Novel Food certification for one of our flagship indigenous herbal teas, Resurrection Bush (*Myrothamnus flabellifolia*). While we have been fortunate to receive a grant to make the application, further testing may be required. Monetary or in-kind co-funding from interested parties would be most welcome.



Rooibos and resurrection bush tea

What are your current challenges and how are you solving them?

Our biggest challenge is a consistent, reliable supply chain. We do not have regular orders as yet and, as such, the lead time on re-stocking is extremely long. There are also many barriers in importing material from Africa, where there is little understanding of natural products usage and market as well as lack of knowledge and processes to engage in legal Biotrade!

[Visit website](#)

Look into the future, what do you see?

I see our flagship teas such as Resurrection Bush and Lemon Bush (*Lippia javanica*) becoming household names in South Africa, along with Rooibos and Honeybush. I see international clients looking for novel flavours and products seeking out African Infusions to supply bulk tea ingredients. Our ingredients will be incorporated into brands in new and exciting products with a unique flavour profile, terroir and story to stir the emotions and impressions about our remote landscapes and resilient people's.

What advice do you have for other entrepreneurs in Africa?

You cannot always wait for the stars to align before starting a business – sometimes you just need to start and let the pieces fall into place. There are many opportunities to get start-up funding, but you need to show that you have more than an idea - some traction in the market and user testing at least, if not early sales. If you can demonstrate some experience as an entrepreneur and financial records (i.e. an existing business) you are much more likely to get financial support.



Images sourced from the African infusions website:
www.african-infusions.com/shop

Visit the African Infusions shop to view their range
of indigenous teas

[Visit website](#)

Country Focus - Democratic Republic of Congo

- **Population:** over 90 Million
- **Healthcare System:** Traditional health practitioners-37,631 registered (2019), Pharmacists-3,150 registered (2020), Medical doctors-20,725 registered (2020)
- **Ethnic Groups** -Major cultural clusters today include the Mongo (in the centre of the country), the Kongo (west), the Luba (south-central), the Lunda (south), the Bemba (southeast), and the Kasai (southwest). Bantu peoples in the north and northeast include the Ngala, the Buja, the Bira, the Kuumu, and the Lega (Rega).
- **Languages:** There are four national languages being Swahili, Tshiluba (Kiluba), Lingala, and Kongo, although French is the official language of instruction and business.
- **Popular species:**
 - Cassia abbreviata (sjambok pod or long-tail cassia), a source of tannins
 - Diospyros Crassiflora (Gabon Ebony)
 - Strophanthus Eminii (Emin's Strophanthus)
 - Oeceoclades lubbersiana (Lubbers' Oeceoclades Orchid)
 - Jensenia spinosa (African Jensenia Liverwort)
 - Guarea thompsonii (Black Guarea)
 - Schrebera trichoclada (Wooden Pear)
 - Commelina orchidophylla (Haut-Katanga Dayflower)



Long Tail Cassia leaves are smoked to treat haematuria and headaches



Flower of Emin's Strophanthus used as an anthelmintic and emetic



Black Guarea - applied as an enema to treat kidney pain, bleeding after childbirth and rheumatism

1. Pfaf.org. 2022. *Leplaea thompsonii* Black Guarea PFAF Plant Database. [online] Available at: <<https://pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Leplaea+thompsonii#:~:text=Medicinal%20Uses&text=The%20bark%20is%20used%20in%20traditional%20medicine%5B299%20%5D.,a%20strong%20pu rgative%5B299%20%5D.>> [Accessed 22 May 2022].
2. Commons.wikimedia.org. 2022. File:Flag of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.svg - Wikimedia Commons. [online] Available at: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_the_Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo.svg> [Accessed 23 May 2022].
3. Chepkemai, J., 2022. Native Plants Of The Democratic Republic Of The Congo (Congo-Kinshasa). [online] WorldAtlas. Available at: <<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/native-plants-of-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-congo-kinshasa.html>> [Accessed 23 May 2022].
4. Mr Emmanuel Rubegeta- personal interview and information supplied

Upcoming Events

- Botanicals/ Herbal Safety - 09 June 2022
- All events will be hybrid and you can join using the link below
- To RSVP, send an email to nano@pharmaconnect.co.za

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On Botanicals / Herbals Safety

The use of botanicals / herbs for healthcare needs as medicines or dietary / food supplements is increasing globally. Ensuring the safety of botanically derived products is an important public health priority. The challenge is that these products are naturally complex, with varying phytochemical compositions due to factors such as differences in growing conditions, extraction processes, and / or changes to the finished product.

This seminar will provide an overview of approaches to ensuring the safety of botanicals following scientifically valid methods and from a regulatory perspective.

Main Topics

- On the safety of botanicals
- Safety of botanically derived natural health product in Canada- regulatory perspective
- Evaluating the safety of botanical ingredients at P&G
- Botanical Safety Consortium efforts to develop methodologies to screen for toxicity to ensure consumer safety

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