

Medicinal Plant in the Andes and the Amazon

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Summary

How many medicinal plants are growing in the Amazon? The number of vascular plants is about 280,000 species in the world and 16% of these plants, about 44,800, are distributed in the Amazon zone. Medicinal plants are included about 10% of several countries data.

For example, Japanese plants number is about 5,500 species and medicinal plants number is about 500 species. In USA, total plants number is 232 families, 2,352 genus and about 15,000 species. And medicinal plants are 118 families, 531 genus, and 1,288 species. Prof. R. E. Schultes (1990) reported the medicinal plants in northwest Amazon (Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia) and the number of medicinal plant in his book was 145 families and 1,516 species. I had a chance to study the medicinal plants in the Amazon and the Andes (1985-2001) and report is as follows.