

Medicinal Plant Images

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Figure 1. *Plumbago auriculata* is a Southern African shrub which grows up to 2 metres in height. This plant was used by in a variety of ethnobotanical systems in Southern Africa and is common known as syselbos (Afrikaans), umabophe (Xhosa) and utshilitshili (Zulu). The dried and powdered leaves and roots were inhaled to treat headaches.^[1] The plant was also used for the removal of warts and for treating fractures.^[1] Phytochemical studies have identified the naphthoquinone as a major component which may be responsible (at least in part) for the pharmacological effects of this plant.^[1] This photograph was taken at Witwatersrand University medical campus, South Africa by Dr Ian Cock in December 2012.



Figure 2. *Callistemon rigidus*: The genus *Callistemon* (family Myrtaceae) is a small genus of 34 trees and shrubs, all of which are endemic to Australia although some species have become naturalised to other regions of the world. *Callistemon* leaves had multiple medicinal uses by indigenous Australians, including being use to cure respiratory tract infections, coughing and bronchitis, as well as uses as a general antiseptic.^[2] Recent studies have confirmed the efficacy of extracts of plants of this genus, especially against microbial diseases.^[3,4] This photograph was taken in Brisbane, Australia by Dr Ian Cock in July 2012.

1. van Wyk B, van Outshoorn B, Gericke N. Medicinal Plants of South Africa. Briza Publications 2009, Pretoria, South Africa.
2. Cock IE, Medicinal and aromatic plants – Australia. In Ethnopharmacology, Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS), Developed under the auspices of UNESCO, EOLSS Publishers, Oxford, UK [<http://www.eolss.net>].
3. Cock IE, Antibacterial activity of selected Australian native plant extracts. The Internet Journal of Microbiology 2008; 4, 2.
4. Cock IE, Antimicrobial activity of *Callistemon citrinus* and *Callistemon salignus* methanolic extracts. Pharmacognosy Communications 2012; 2(3):50–7.