Investigation of the Effect of Guest Plant Varieties on Raja Kulaya according to VanarajaNighantuwa - A Survey

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The identification of plants in their original names is of profound significance in producing the desired effects during the process of drug manufacture. However, most of the plants have been identified through a range of indigenous names in different parts of the country. This situation has been aggravated by the emergence of new plant varieties due to geographical expansion. Consequently, the original herbal plants have been considerably misused. This study was primarily designed to investigate the effect of guest plant varieties on Raja kulaya (a Srilankan native plant family) according to Vanarajanighantuwasuch as Iraraja, Sandaraja, Wanaraja, Garundaraja and Guruluraja. The study comprised of collection of plant-based information through secondary sources including ancient Ayurveda texts and other documents as well as primary sources including original data through field studies. These data were categorized and then analyzed using pre-determined subjective criteria to identify the plant varieties currently being misused. The results revealed that a large number of indigenous plants are being currently identified through the names originally used for identification of exotic plants. The plant Irarajais substituted with a number of guest plant names such as Tradescantiazebrina while Sandaraja is substituted by names such as Fittoniaalbivenis (nLindle. ex Veitch)Brummit Inevitably, the substitution of names for exotic plants has negative impact on clinical applications. The study, therefore, recommends a well-defined criterion for the access of plant varieties.

Keywords: Guest plant, Raja Kulaya Plants, Vanaraja Nighantuwa, indigenous plants