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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF PLANT POISONING CASES IN SANTA CATARINA BETWEEN 2019 AND 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Poisoning by plants is a public health issue and can cause a variety of adverse effects. This study analyzes cases recorded between 2019 and 2023 in the DATATOX system, identifying the most frequently involved species. Understanding these events is essential for prevention and public education. The data can help in developing preventive measures.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The data were recorded from 2019 to 2023 by the Poison Information and Assistance Centers (CIATox), which use the Brazilian System for Recording Poisonings of the Poison Information and Assistance Centers – DATATOX. Based on this, records of poisonings caused by plants were gathered, involving a total of 57 species. Afterward, a table was organized with the plants and the number of poisonings each year, which was subsequently analyzed.

RESULTs

Between 2019 and 2023, multiple cases of plant poisoning were recorded. The species most frequently associated with poisonings was *Dieffenbachia spp* (*comigo-ninguém-pode*). In 2019, 221 cases were recorded, with *Dieffenbachia picta* responsible for 39 occurrences (17.64%). In the same year, an undetermined plant stood out (56 cases; 25.33%) along with *Ricinus communis* (*mamona*, 8 cases; 3.61%). In 2020, the total was 243 cases, of which, in addition to *Dieffenbachia spp* (45 cases; 18.5%), a large number of unidentified cases occurred (54 cases; 22.2%). Garlic (*Allium sativum*) appeared with 16 cases (6.58%). In 2021, with 160 cases, *Dieffenbachia spp* had 43 records (26.8%). *Cactus sp.* (15 cases; 9.37%) and an undetermined plant (29 cases; 18.12%) also stood out. In 2022, 129 cases were recorded, with *Dieffenbachia spp* (44 cases; 34.1%) being the most frequent. Other common plants were *Zamioculcas sp.* (16 cases; 12.4%) and *Euphorbia tirucalli* (15 cases; 11.6%). In 2023, the total dropped to 148. *Dieffenbachia spp* led with 32 cases (21.6%), followed by an undetermined plant (25 cases; 16.8%) and garlic (21 cases; 14.1%).

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of data recorded between 2019 and 2023 highlights the significance of plant poisoning in Brazil, with a particular emphasis on *Dieffenbachia spp.*, the species most frequently associated with these events. The findings of this study reinforce the importance of maintaining and improving poisoning monitoring and recording systems, as well as developing educational measures for the population.