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THE TRAJECTORY OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ON MULUNGU AND ITS MEDICINAL PROPERTIES THROUGH A BIBLIOMETRIC APPROACH

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Interest in research related to the therapeutic use of medicinal plants has grown considerably in recent decades, driven by the search for safe and effective alternatives to conventional drugs. In this context, *Erythrina mulungu*, commonly known as *mulungu*, a species native to Brazil and widely used in traditional medicine, stands out for its pharmacological potential. This study presents a bibliometric analysis of publications related to the medicinal uses of *Erythrina mulungu*, aiming to assess the annual volume of publications on the topic, identify the main authors and institutions, analyze the collaboration network among researchers, and verify patents filed on the subject.

For this purpose, the Bibliometrix package in R software was used. Data were obtained through a thematic search (considering title, keywords, and abstract) carried out in the *Web of Science* and *Scopus* scientific databases (n = 271). The data collection was conducted on April 2, 2025, and included publications indexed between the years 1941 and 2025.

The temporal analysis indicated a significant increase in publications starting in 2001, peaking in 2014 (24 articles). Over 75% of the studies were published in the last 15 years, indicating a recent growth in scientific interest in the species. The Journal of Ethnopharmacology and the Brazilian Journal of Pharmacognosy leaded in the number of publications, followed by journals such as *Revista Árvore*, *Ciência Florestal*, and Bioscience Journal.

The predominance of preclinical studies and the concentration of articles in specialized journals pointed to a field in expansion. Brazil standeds out as the main scientific contributor on the subject, reflecting its rich biodiversity and investment in research on medicinal plants. The results highlighted the importance of further clinical and multidisciplinary investigations to consolidate the safe and effective therapeutic use of *Erythrina mulungu*.

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