

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: ALLOTEY, J. (PROF.) <ALLOTEYJ@mopipi.ub.bw>

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:05 PM

To: Prof Ruth K. Oniang'o

Subject: RE: Entomotherapy review

Yes Hon. Prof. Ruth Oniang'o.

The first BOOK is entitled " ENTOMOPHAGY (Insects as FOOD source)".

The second book is entitled "ENTOMOTHERAPY (MEDICINAL insects)

For example in Africa, the elderly people of the Luo tribe in Kenya collect and consume the black ant, *Carebara vidua* Smith to manage several body ailments due to essential nutrients found in them. These black ants are fairly similar to Chinese black ant, *Polyrhachis vicina* Roger in China which are processed and commercialized as medicinal products to manage several ailments. Entomotherapy, insects as source of medicine or medicinal insects, is another potential field to be explored and exploited for the treatments of human ailments/diseases. Since ages people have used various natural products of both plants and animal origin to help heal and cure diseases, including the use of insects as source of medicines. The ancient Mayan, Egyptian, and Brazilian societies have utilized the powerful biochemical properties of common insects since long. The idea of medical treatments based on insects has fallen out of favor among physicians and pharmaceutical researchers, but its presence still exists in some countries around the world as in Korea, China, Brazil, Australia, Germany, Mexico and various other countries including India. As modern drug discovery efforts move forward, natural products will continue to play a vital role in supplying medicines with chemical compounds that would otherwise be impossible for the human chemist to fathom.

With modern technologies to analyze and assay ever-smaller amounts of material, it is important that previously neglected taxa and natural matrices should be capitalized upon. Insects, which possess one of the richest and most unexplored reservoirs of potentially useful substances for the future of natural products drug discovery. Furthermore, in parts of the world where conventional medical is scarce there insects may represent a feasible substitute in some cases, as insects provide a cheap, plentiful supply of healing substances in an economically challenged world. Therefore, research work should be initiated on these medicinal insects.

Joseph