

Current Ethnobotany of the Eastern Band of the Cherokees: An Assessment of Change

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Recently, with the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, there has been a drive to preserve tribal heritage. Building on that impetus, this research seeks to provide a modern glimpse and historically comparative study of medicinal plant use. The approach involves making a record of present-day medicinal plant use among herb doctors of the Tribe. The Shannon-Weiner index will be used to assess cultural change by comparing current data with two historical records created fifty years apart. Additionally, through consensus, a plant or plants will be chosen for efficacy testing using modern extraction and analytic methods followed by bench-top bioassays. (Poster)