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Is Brazil ready to develop drugs based on natural products?

To transform biodiversity richness' in drugstore products, several professionals are needed, from the discovery of bioactives to regulatory issues. Pharmacognosists and natural product chemists generally work on drug discovery, finding bioactive substances in microbes, plants and animals, from the deep sea to high altitudes. However, they often do not visualize the pitfalls of the stability of the compounds, of the supply chains and of the up-scaling processes for purification and isolation.

The advancement for clinical trials depends on the provision of individual and standardized batches of isolated substances in gram quantities, generally very difficult to obtain when only a few milligrams of bioactive substance have been isolated. The natural product-based drug development researcher may be the same drug discovery researcher, but with a broader view of the needs of the developmental phase. Aware of the problems, they will be able to project the processes of drug discovery, from the source to the purification methodology. With increased predictability, processes can be designed to anticipate risk and build a safer path through clinical development.