

PROJECT SUMMARY

Ref No.: MRC-BRIG-A02	PROPOSAL TITLE: Pharmacological screening to assess neuroprotective and therapeutic potential of Mauritian medicinal plants
Local Company: Axonova Ltd	
Collaborating Institution: University of Mauritius	
PROJECT LEADER	
Name: Dr Fabien Boullé	Axonova Ltd
RESEARCH COLLABORATOR(S)	
Name	Organisation
Dr Fawzi Mahomoodally	University of Mauritius
TECHNICAL ABSTRACT	
<p>Neurodegeneration is the result of progressive death of brain cells – a hallmark of illnesses such as Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s diseases. At present, there are no satisfactory treatments available. Scientific research suggests that various classes of phytochemicals have neuroprotective actions, and many plant-derived drugs are currently under development for major brain disorders, holding the promise to treat or prevent neurodegenerative processes.</p> <p>In this project, Axonova and University of Mauritius join their expertise to evaluate the neuroprotective potential of Mauritian plants. Mauritius is endowed with a unique pharmacopeia, and, prior research at University of Mauritius has identified many plant extracts and phytochemicals that possess interesting medicinal properties. Axonova will aim at valorising the University’s work and translate academic research into commercial assets. Axonova will provide in vitro screening platforms and capabilities in neuroscience, aiming to identify and validate neuroprotective and therapeutic effects of medicinal plants.</p> <p>The drug discovery program shall lead to candidates with strong neuroprotective properties that can be licensed to global pharmaceutical companies. Such assets are of great interest for the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industries, since more than 100 million patients are suffering from neurodegenerative disorders worldwide and there is an urgent need to find better therapeutic alternatives and preventions.</p>	
Key Words to identify Research (8 maximum)	
Drug Discovery, medicinal plants, phytochemicals, neuroprotection, BDNF/TrkB signalling	