

About the Cover



Figure 1. From a flower to the valuable seed of *Theobroma cacao*. The figure shows the different stages to obtain, in the end, the cacao seeds and tea. A) Cacao flower, B) Cacao fruit, C) Opened cacao fruit, D) Roasted cacao seeds, E) Cacao seeds shell. Photos taken by José Fernández Romero.

Research for alternative naturally occurring antimicrobial agents will always continue, especially when emerging diseases like COVID-19 require an urgency to identify and develop safe and effective ways to prevent or treat these infections. In this issue, researchers from the Borough of Manhattan Community College, Rutgers University, and the Population Council collaborated to explore the potential antimicrobial activities and antioxidant properties of commercial samples from four traditional medicinal plants used in Central America: *Theobroma cacao*, *Bourreria huanita*, *Eriobotrya japonica*, and *Elettaria cardamomum*.