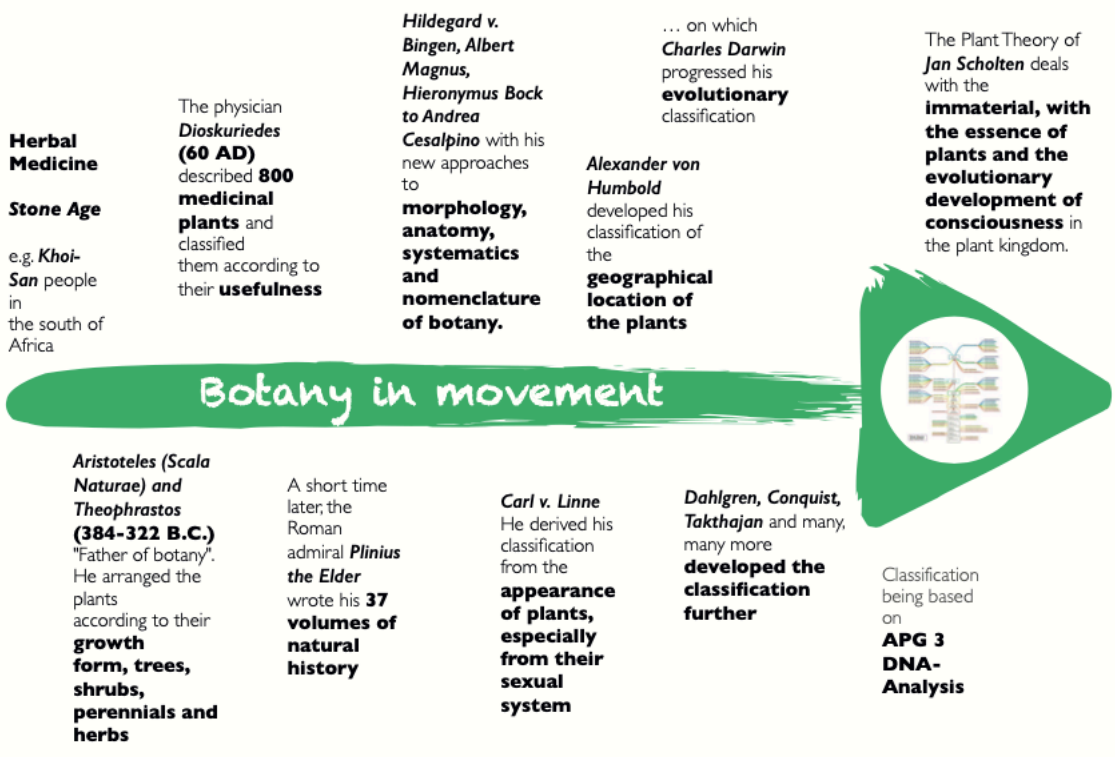
CONTENT

3. Evolution of botany

As already mentioned, homeopathy is constantly being refined and more precise. This development has been taking place in botany for thousands of years, as can be seen in the following diagram:



Botany originally developed from the knowledge of herbal medicine. The oral traditions of the medical system and their Materia Medica of the Khoi-San people in southern Africa date back to the Stone Age (100,000 years and more).
The descriptions of the mode of action of their medicinal plants are quite comparable in their complex nature with drug pictures in our homeopathic Materia Medica.
The treatment with Dicoma schinzii, the fever bush from the Asteraceae plant family, is a traditional example of a Khoi-San plant medicine:

'A baby suddenly fell. It started flailing its arms and crying incessantly. The mother recognised the symptoms immediately and took the baby to the medicine woman.
She looked at the baby and said, 'Ah, the shadow of the Black-shouldered Hawk (Elanus caeruleus) has fallen over your baby. We must act quickly before its spirit enters it and it begins to behave like a bird. It will then flap its arms and grow feathers.' Dicoma schinzii was boiled in water and fed to the baby, the rest of the plant was rubbed on its arms and all over its body. Dicoma schinzii is considered effective in the treatment of fever in Kalahari traditional medicine, it stops febrile convulsions (the flailing arms), while topical application of the plant stops 'feathering' (goose bumps caused by the fever). In the Koi-San tradition, fevers are often associated with birds, as their body temperature is much higher than that of humans. The story of the black-shouldered hawk is so memorable that people have never been able to forget it, nor the symptoms of this herbal remedy.'
(Muthi and Myths from the African Bush: Heather Dugmore & Ben-Erik van Wyk)

Shamans dancing, Drakensberg Mountains, painted on a rock wall in South Africa.

We use the medicinal plants of the Asteraceae today in the same way as we did 100 000 years ago:
Fever: !!! high above 39 or 40° Celsius, 102-104 Fahrenheit, cold with shivering, alternating with heat and sweating, feeling shattered, dullness, inability to think, only wanting to lie down, loss of appetite, etc.
The European development of botanical systematics began as similarity research in antiquity. There, particular emphasis was placed on external appearance.
Aristoteles devoted himself to the scientific study of plants and his contemporary Theophrastus (384-322 BC) is today regarded as the 'father of botany'. He categorised plants into trees, shrubs, perennials and herbs according to their growth habit.
The physician Dioscorides (60 AD) described 800 medicinal plants and categorised them according to their benefits. A short time later, the Roman admiral Pliny the Elder wrote his 37-volume Natural History.
Then, for a long time, there was nothing official in Western natural science
Walfried Strabo wrote about garden plants, vegetables, spices and medicinal plants in the 8th century, while Hildegard v. Bingen, Albert Magnus, Hieronymus Bock and Andrea Cesalpino provided new approaches to the morphology, anatomy, systematics and nomenclature of botany.
A milestone in the development of botany is the taxonomy developed by Carl v. Linne, which he derived from the appearance and sexual organs of plants, i.e. the characteristics of stamens and pistils.
Other highlights were provided on the one hand by plant geography, i.e. a geographical context by Alexander von Humboldt, and on the other hand by evolutionary botany in the temporal context of Charles Darwin.
This was followed by the great further development by many other renowned botanists such as Dahlgren, Conquist, Takthajan and many, many others. The aim of botany is to create a family tree of plants. A complete representation should show the exact position of each species.
With the help of the DNA analysis method of the APG3, botany has continued to develop from the beginning of mankind to the present day with Jan Scholten's Plant theory in homeopathy.