

Natural laundry detergents from the perspective of Traditional Persian Medicine

M.Taghavi Shirazi*, A. Shojaii, J. Aliasl, F. Aliasl

Abstract:

Background and Purpose: Despite the great benefits of chemical detergents, in recent years they are new sources of environmental pollution due to widespread use around the world. These compounds are dissolved and distributed in water and also increase the cleaning ability of it, but they do not decompose easily in nature and pollute it. Before the production of soap and chemical detergents, plants, ashes, and various natural materials were used as a substitute for soaps and detergents and they had very little effect on the environment. Nowadays, fortunately, the tendency to use natural resources and medicinal plants in various industries including cosmetics industry has grown dramatically.

Methods and Materials: This study introduces natural detergents mainly plant-based ones which were used for washing of clothes, based on important Traditional Persian Medicine references, such as the *Canon* of ibn Sina.

Results: Traditional Persian Medicine sages have introduced various natural materials as laundry detergents. Some of these Qoli or alkaline generating which are the primary basis of soap making process, are Oshnān (*Seidlitzia Rosmarinus*) and Tāq (*Haloxylon Bge.*), Chūbak (*Acanthophyllum C. A. Meyer*), Kondosh (*Gypsophila strathium l.*) and Satroniyon (*Saponaria officinalis l.*) that their roots have a washing property.

Conclusion: The identification of these plants, especially species that grows in Iran, can create a context for research and eco-friendly detergents production.

Keywords: detergent, clothes, Traditional Persian Medicine.

Corresponding Author: Mtaghavish@yahoo.com