

Ethnobotanical study and traditional uses of some medicinal plants in Khash city

Mahla Mirshekar^{a*}, Mahdieh Ebrahimi^a, Majid Ajorlo^a

^aDepartment of Range and Watershed Management, Faculty of Soil and Water, University of Zabol, Zabol, Iran

Abstract:

Background and purpose: Ethnobotany is a powerful tool for obtaining valuable information about the medicinal plants used in various cultures which provides the ground for discovering new drugs. The purpose of this research was to identify medicinal plants which have traditional uses in the Khash city.

Methods and Materials: The study was carried out in two villages of Irrandegan and Karavandar in the south of Khash city using field surveys, studying beliefs and popular information, documentary studies, identifying, categorizing and introducing medicinal plants. At first, the floristic list was prepared from the Khash natural resources office. According to the list, the native medicinal species of the region was determined. For each herbal medicine, we determined the scientific name, the local name, and the used parts. In addition, the common therapeutic properties were identified through questionnaires and interviews with local people.

Results In general, 22 species of medicinal plants were identified in 14 families in Khash region. The most commonly medicinal application of plants was for digestive problems, joint pain, female's illnesses, and infectious diseases, respectively. The people of the region combine and burn the plants specially *Tamarix*, *Artemisia*, and *Withania*. Ash and smoke which driven from these plants are used as a strong substance to relieve joint pain.

Conclusion There is a wide variety of medicinal plants in the Khash area. People use a number of herbs to treat diseases that are special to this region. Research on these medicinal plants could pave the way to discover new drugs.

Keywords: Ethnobotany, Kash, Medicinal Plants, Traditional Uses

Corresponding Author: Mahla.mirshekar@uoz.ac.ir