

Study of indigenous knowledge and traditional uses of some medicinal plants in Baluchestan region of Iran

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Abstract:

Background and Purpose: Ethnobotany is the study of use of native plants in a particular ethnic group, culture, or region. Due to the fact that the methods and uses of medicinal plants vary in different regions, the aim of present study was to introduce the culture of traditional use of medicinal plants to treat diseases in Baluchestan region.

Materials and Methods: Following identification of the plants of the region, the local name, medicinal properties, method of use and other information related to the species were collected simultaneously.

Results: In this study, 20 plant species belonging to 18 families were investigated. The most common use of medicinal species in this region were for gastrointestinal diseases (8 species, 29.6%), analgesia and treatment of contusions (6 species, 22.2%), and reduction of blood sugar and blood lipids (5 species, 18.5%), while the least belonged to eye diseases (1 species, 3.7%). Study of the type of consumption indicated that herbs were most commonly used as decoctions and poultices.

Conclusion: Due to the richness of medicinal plants in Baluchestan and the widespread use of indigenous plants for treatment of many diseases, it is possible to reach new insights in application of medicinal plants by further studies.

Keywords: Medicinal plants, Ethnobotany, Gastrointestinal diseases, Analgesics

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