



Collection and identification of medicinal plants used by the indigenous people of Mobarakeh (Isfahan), southwestern Iran

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ABSTRACT

Background & Aim: Knowledge of the traditional application of plants is declining faster than the plants themselves; this study was conducted to record and store the local knowledge and cultural outcomes for using the medicinal plants in treating diseases in Mobarakeh region, Isfahan, Iran.

Experimental: This study has done based on applying the desert survey, information of local people, and identification, classification and introducing these plants. Then the plant species were collected and transferred to the department of botany in Isfahan Research Center for Natural Resources in order to be identified after drying and preparing their herbarium.

Results & Discussion: Finally, 200 plant species were identified; from which 75 ones, belonged to 73 genera, and 33 families with medicinal properties, were identified. From this number, 75% are herbaceous, ten percent shrubby and 15 percent are arboreous. The highest number of medicinal species belongs to the Lamiaceae family with nine species, Asteraceae family with eight species, Rosaceae family with six species, and the families Apiaceae, Papilionaceae, and Brassicaceae with five species. These plants are used in traditional medicine for treatment of gastrointestinal ailments, relaxation, cough, diarrhea, low blood sugar, and hyperlipidemia.

Recommended applications/industries: According to results of this study, the preservation and conservation of some herbs species is essential. This document can play a role in preserving the indigenous knowledge of using these plants.

1. Introduction

Since the beginning of civilization, humans have used plants as the medicine. Neanderthal humans might also believe that the plants had the healing powers. The history of medicine in our country dates back to the Aryan period and Avesta, 6500 BC, was the first book

introduced the medicinal plants. Medicinal plants are the herbs with interesting and outstanding history. In addition to the ancient history, these plants are so noteworthy in the history of religions and nations, so that they have been taken into account in all important historical, political, social and religious events or have caused important events (Ziaei, 2002).

Study of medicinal plants species is so important in terms of increasing trends and willingness to use medicinal plants due to the fewer side effects, lower cost and easier access compared with the chemical drugs (Siadaty & Siadaty, 2007). Therefore, identifying the medicinal plants in the field of natural resources in each region is one of the fundamental steps in the sustainable development of medicinal plants. In recent years, the results of ethnobotany studies have played a remarkable role in research of medicinal plants and herbal therapy around the world. Ethnobotanic studies have been used in order to discover and develop new drugs (Hayat *et al.*, 2008; Ghasemi Pirbalouti, 2009; Ghasemi Pirbalouti *et al.*, 2013).

Several surveys have been done on medicinal plants in Iran, including collection, identification and conservation of important medicinal plants seeds in Isfahan province. These surveys have been conducted in Natural Resources Research Center of Isfahan province. 150 medicinal species were collected in this study (Esmaili Sharif, 2002). During the recent years, Iranian researchers have conducted several studies in the field of identification, introduction and consumption method of medicinal and aromatic plants in different regions (Ghorbani, 2005; Ghasemi Pirbalouti, 2009; Sharififar *et al.*, 2012; Abbasi *et al.*, 2012; Mosaddegh *et al.*, 2012; Ghasemi Pirbalouti *et al.*, 2013). Given that the use of medicinal plants has different customs, traditions and ways in different regions, the methods and applications of these plants are different in various regions.

Studied region, Mobarakeh, is considered as one of the industrial and agricultural hubs of Isfahan province, Iran. Development of this city dates back to the Safavid era. Due to the history of people's knowledge in this land and the lack of reliable scientific sources in this regard, conducting the research about the traditional medicine in this region is essential. The objective of this study is to identify some of the important medicinal plants widely used by locals in the treatment of diseases.

2. Methods

2.1. Studied region

Mobarakeh city is located in 65 kilometers southwestern of Isfahan, Iran with longitude between

51° 13' to 51° 48' E, latitude between 32° 03' to 32° 28' N. The city has an area of 1018 square kilometers. Maximum temperature has been recorded 36 to 39 ° C in summers and -9 to -7 ° C in winters. Its annual rainfall is about 150 mm.

Mountains, rugged topography and climate are among the factors which have changed the vegetation. Classification of vegetation is classified into the cultivated areas, gardens and steppes. The region has no forest cover and the steppe part of shrubs growth is dominant. Its plants are one year old and some of them have bulbs, and few herbaceous species can be seen around the agricultural lands. Based on the climatic condition, the major part of city has dry climate with dry summers according to Koppen classification method (Mobarakeh municipality, 1996).

2.2. Plant samples collection method

First, the regional geographical maps at scale 1:3000000 were prepared and examined for initial investigations from GIS unit of Agricultural Research Organization of Isfahan province. Type of vegetation cover and its density were identified in the region and the region was visited according to the time schedule during the vegetative season 2009-2010 and the location of plant growth and collecting each plant were identified and recorded after determining the height of place by the help of GPS. In some cases, the indigenous people's experience was gained due to the application of a local name for a specific plant. The experienced people in the traditional medicine were questioned about these plants. Local names of plants were recorded as well as the application, method and the applied part of plants. The cases with more than three reports were cited in order to ensure and consider the repetitions. Finally, the plants were transferred to the department of Botany in Isfahan Research Center for Natural Resources, Iran in order to be identified and classified scientifically. The plants were identified by the help of the book "flora and authoritative sources" (Asadi *et al.*, 1998-2008; Ghahreman, 1975-2002; Ghahreman, 1990-1994; Mobin, 1975-1979; Mozaffarian, 2004; Mirheidar, 1993-1994; Rechinger, 1962-1988), and medicinal plant books (Zargari, 1968-1999; Ghasemi Pirbalouti, 2010; Davazda Emami, 2003; Dini, 2005; Salehi Sormaghi, 2006; Samsam Shariat, 2006).

Table 1. Medicinal plants used by the people of Mobarakeh

| Row | Scientific name | Family | Persian name | Local name | Useable organ | Growth type | Local consumption cases Applications shown in italics were not reported in the scientific resources |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---|
| 1 | <i>Mentha spicata</i> L. | Lamiaceae | Nana | Nana | A.P , L Es | Herbaceous | timpanists -Anti-stress -Soothe nerves -Intestinal inflammation - Cold - Strengthen the hear - Itchy throat - Gallbladder disorders -Headache -Blood pressure -Bladder infection -diarrhea -Swelling of the joints - <i>Diabetes -Cholesterol-Obesity</i> |
| 2 | <i>Echium amoenum</i> L. | Boraginaceae | Golegavzaban | Golegavzabon | Fl , L L | Herbaceous | Against inflammation -Kidney inflammation -Soothe nerves -cold -Sexual power -Sinusitis -Foot Pain -Lumbago-hypnotic -Blood purification -Asthma -Ease of delivery -cold - Depression - <i>Palpitations -Stomach ache- Skin disease</i> |
| 3 | <i>Sisymbrium irio</i> L. | Brassicaceae | Khakshir | Khakshir, Khakiji | A.P, Se | Herbaceous | Body pain-Stomach ache -Anti-nausea -diarrhea -febrifuge -Laxative -cold -- Blood purification -Thirst |
| 4 | <i>Thymus daenensis</i> Celak. | Lamiaceae | Avishan | Oshom, Oshom, Afshen | L , A.P | Herbaceous | Stomach ache- Strengthen the stomach - Strengthening the Eyes- Carminative - Colic -Lung disease -Soothe nerves -diarrhea -Facilitate menstruation - Muscle cramps - Pectoralgia -Anti-parasite |
| 5 | <i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> L. | Asteraceae | Baboneh | Baboneh | Fl | Herbaceous | Anorexia- - Face congestion -Soothe nerves- - Hair Loss -diarrhea- Strengthen the stomach- diarrhea - Laxative -Cramping -Influenza -Hypertension - Radiation protection - <i>Kidney stone-Headache - Sinusitis-Laxative -Abscesses -Lumbago</i> |
| 6 | <i>Achillea santonici</i> | Asteraceae | Bomadaran | Gole zardi brenjas- Brenjasf | A.P | Herbaceous | Febrifuge -diarrhea -Hemorrhoids -Epiphora -Stomach ache- Menstrual pain- Anti-nausea - <i>Kidney stone -Laxative -Itchy skin -Rheumatic- Bone pain</i> |
| 7 | <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L. | Papilionaceae | Shirin baian | Rishe mejo Shirin bnan | R | Herbaceous | Stomach discomfort - Abscesses- Cough -Asthma - Soothe nerves-diuretic - Laxative -Menopause Symptoms - Blood pressure -Insomnia - <i>Sinusitis</i> |
| 8 | <i>Anethum graveolens</i> L. | Apiaceae | Shevid | Shevid | Herbaceous | F A.P , | Reduce blood fat |
| 9 | <i>Cydonia oblonga</i> Mill. | Rosaceae | Beh | Beh Beh daneh | Arboreous | F,Se | Sore throat - Abscesses-Cough -Soothe nerves -diarrhea - <i>Asthma -Blood pressure</i> |
| 10 | <i>Valeriana officinalis</i> L. | Valerianaceae | Sonboletib | Sonboletive | Herbaceous | R , Rh L | Cold- Foot Pain - Hand pain - Menstrual pain - Depression -Dizziness Vessels and muscle cramps - General weakness |
| 11 | <i>Cichorium intybus</i> L. | Asteraceae | Casni | Casni | Herbaceous | A.P,R L | Liver disease - febrifuge -Joint pain -Against cancer- Antimicrobial--Jaundice- Blood purification -Stomach ache- Hepato-splenomegaly Skin whitening - Anemia - Laxative -Abscesses-Strengthen the stomach - <i>Hiccup- Liver disease</i> |
| 12 | <i>Allium cepa</i> L. | Alliaceae | Sir | Sir | Herbaceous | Rh,A.P | Against cancer - Lung disease - Blood pressure -Rheumatic-Anti-parasite-Foot Pain - Ointment - <i>Low senses - Amnesia - Wart-Headache -Diabetes -Gangrene</i> |

Table 1. *Continued*

| Row | Scientific name | Family | Persian name | Local name | Useable organ | Growth type | Local consumption cases Applications shown in italics were not reported in the scientific resources |
|-----|---|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|--|
| 13 | <i>Ziziphus jujube</i> (L) H.Karst | Rhamnaceae | Ennab | Ennab | Arboreous | F | Sedative -Diuretic -Expectorant-Blood purification -Skin rash Asthma - <i>febrifuge- Strengthen the heart - Cholesterol-Jaundice-Blood purification - Anti-itch</i> |
| 14 | <i>Carum carvi</i> L. | Apiaceae | Zireh sabz | Zireh | Herbaceous | F, Se Es- F | Obesity - Facilitate digestion - Sour stomach- <i>Obesity -Blood pressure - Diarrhea</i> |
| 15 | <i>Fumaria vaillantii</i> | Fumaricaceae | shatreh | Shahtareh | Herbaceous | A.P | Eczema - Diuretic- Anti-biliousness-Blood purification- <i>Febrifuge - Strengthen gums - Bone pain-Stomach ache</i> |
| 16 | <i>Alcea biennis</i> Mill | Malvaceae | Khatmi | Gole khatmi | Herbaceous | Fl, L R | Cutaneous stimulation- Expectorant -Laxative -Gingivitis - Skin disease - Infection - Joint pain- Pectoralgia -Itching - cold -Asthma |
| 17 | <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L | Lamiaceae | Aklil, Rosmary | Aklil kohi | Herbaceous | A.P, L | Menstrual symptoms - Foot Pain - Lumbago -Migraine - Jaundice -Joint pain - Disinfection - cold- <i>Oral Diseases</i> |
| 18 | <i>Trigonella foenum graecum</i> L. | Papilionaceae | Shanbalileh | Shanbalileh | Herbaceous | Se , L | Blood sugar -Cholesterol -Abscesses-Cough -Against inflammation |
| 19 | <i>Mentha pulegium</i> | Lamiaceae | Poneh | Poneh Podoneh | Herbaceous | A.P , L | Diarrhea -Stomach ache - Throat infection - Asthma -Abscesses-Cough - Asthma- Expectorant -Appetizing |
| 20 | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> Dehnh | Myrtaceae | Ocalyptus | Barge bid | Arboreous | L | Influenza -Headache -epiphora- <i>Earache - Effective Skin Cancer</i> |
| 21 | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> Soejarto | Plantaginaceae | Barhang | Bartang Kardi | Herbaceous | Se, L | Abscesses-Cough -Chest discomfort - Spleen problems - cold -Laxative - <i>malaria - diarrhea</i> |
| 22 | <i>Salvia nemorosa</i> L | Lamiaceae | Maram goli | Maram goli | Herbaceous | L , A.P | Disinfectant-Anti-aphthus - Menstrual pain – Ant-bilious -Abscesses |
| 23 | <i>Olea europaea</i> L | Oleaceae | Zeytun | Zeytun | Shrubby | F, Es L | Hypertension - Pancreatic disorders - Swelling of the colon - Gallbladder disorders - <i>Thyroid -Cholesterol</i> |
| 24 | <i>Nigella sativa</i> L. | Ramnanulaceae | Siahdaneh | Siah doneh | Herbaceous | Se Es-Se | Wart Increase in blood- <i>Blood flowing - Hair Loss-Sore throat - Kidney stone-calmative</i> |

Table 1. *Continued*

| Row | Scientific name | Family | Persian name | Local name | Useable organ | Growth type | Local consumption cases Applications shown in italics were not reported in the scientific resources |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---|
| 25 | <i>Brassica napus</i> L. | Brassicaceae | Shalgham | Shalgham | Herbaceous | R, Se L | Abscesses-Cough -Sore throat |
| 26 | <i>Rosa damascena</i> Mill | Rosaceae | Gol adpar | Gole mohamady | Shrubby | Fl, L Rose water | Sedative -Anemia - <i>Strengthen the heart</i> - <i>Lumbago</i> - <i>Laxative</i> - <i>Sinusitis</i> |
| 27 | <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L | Lamiaceae | Reihan | Reihon, Tokhm sharbati | Herbaceous | L,Se Es | Sedative -Diarrhea-Expectorant -Thirst -Heatstroke- Cold - Oral and dental disease |
| 28 | <i>Petroselinum crispum</i> Mill | Apiaceae | Jafari | Jafari | Herbaceous | R, L F, Es | Kidney disease - Bladder disease - Gout- Diuretic - <i>Blood pressure-Blood sugar</i> - <i>Varicocele</i> |
| 29 | <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> Mill | Lamiaceae | Ostokhodos | Ostaghodos | Herbaceous | A,P, Es | Soothe nerves -Headache -Cold - Spasm- Sedative- -hypnotic -Relieve menstrual - <i>Lumbago</i> - <i>Hyperemia</i> |
| 30 | <i>Viola tricolor</i> L | Violaceae | Banafsheh | Banafsheh | Herbaceous | Fl Wh.P | Cold -Ulcer - Skin Cancer - <i>Diarrhea</i> |
| 31 | <i>Gundelia tournefortii</i> L | Asteraceae | Cangar | Cangar | Herbaceous | A,P | Blood fat - Stomach tonic - Clear intestine |
| 32 | <i>Juglans regia</i> L. | Juglandaceae | Gerdo | Gerdo | Arboreous | Se ,L | Blood sugar- Blood purifier- Angina - Gout |
| 33 | <i>Amygdalus communis</i> | Asteraceae | Baba adam | Fil goshi | Herbaceous | R, L | Toothache -Rheumatic -Joint pain - Abscesses |
| 34 | <i>Cotoneaster nummularium</i> | Rosaceae | Shir khesht | Shire khesht | Herbaceous | Wh.p | Improve liver - Bladder inflammation - cold- <i>Increase milk</i> - <i>Freckle</i> |
| 35 | <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> L | Elaeagnaceae | Senjed | Senjed | Arboreous | F, L Fl | <i>Osteoporosis</i> - <i>diarrhea</i> - <i>Varicocele</i> - <i>Anti aphthus</i> - <i>diarrhea</i> - <i>Swelling of the joints</i> - <i>Jaundice</i> |
| 36 | <i>Arctium minus</i> (Hill) Bernh | Asteraceae | Baba adam | Fil goshi | Herbaceous | L, R Se | Toothache -Rheumatic -Joint pain - Abscesses |

Table 1. *Continued*

| Row | Scientific name | Family | Persian name | Local name | Useable organ | Growth type | Local consumption cases Applications shown in italics were not reported in the scientific resources |
|-----|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| 37 | <i>Malus domestica</i> Borkh. | Rosaceae | Sib | Sibe golab | Arboreous | F, Ba L, R | Obesity-febrifuge -Osteoporosis - - <i>febrifuge Obesity</i> |
| 38 | <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. | Poaceae | Jo dosar | Jo dosar | Herbaceous | Se, Br | Blood sugar - Blood fat Reduce-febrifuge-Jaundice - Headache |
| 39 | <i>Coriandrum sativum</i> L. | Apiaceae | Geshniz | Geshniz | Herbaceous | F, A.P | Febrifuge-and Blood fat Blood sugar |
| 40 | <i>Raphanus sativus</i> L. | Brassicaceae | Torob siah | Trob | Herbaceous | R, L Se | Gallbladder disorders -Kidney stone |
| 41 | <i>Plantago psyllium</i> | Plantaginaceae | Esfarzeh | Esparzeh | Herbaceous | Se | Disinfection- Expectorant-Laxative - <i>febrifuge -Kidney disease</i> |
| 42 | <i>Calendula persica</i> | Asteraceae | Gol hamish beh bahar | hamisheh bahar | Herbaceous | Fl, L | Sedative -Leg ulcers - Varicocele |
| 43 | <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L. | Zygophyllaceae | Kharkhasak | Horva | Herbaceous | R, FL | Sexual power - Kidney and Bladder stone- Diuretic |
| 44 | <i>Alcea biennis</i> Mill | Liliaceae | Sabr zard Aloea vera | Aloea vera | Shrubby | L | Abscesses - Order to maintain body - Hair Cream |
| 45 | <i>Alyssum bracteatum</i> | Brassicaceae | Ghodomeh | Ghodomeh | Herbaceous | F | Chest pain- Cold |
| 46 | <i>Apium graveolens</i> | Apiaceae | Karafs | Karafs | Herbaceous | Se, L St | Loss of appetite - Rheumatic-Lumbago |
| 47 | <i>Alhagi camelorum</i> Fisch | Papilionaceae | Khar shotor | Taranjebin Tarangebin | Herbaceous | Man Sweat | Stomach ache - Neurological disease - Kidney stone |
| 48 | <i>Cannabis sativa</i> L. | Cannabiaceae | Shahdaneh | Shahdoneh | Herbaceous | A.P,Se | Neurological disease - <i>Baldness - Earache</i> |

Table 1. *Continued*

| Row | Scientific name | Family | Persian name | Local name | Useable organ | Growth type | Local consumption cases Applications shown in italics were not reported in the scientific resources |
|-----|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| 49 | <i>Rumex crispus</i> L. | Polygonaceae | Torshak | Torshak | Herbaceous | R, L F | Diarrhea - <i>Blood fat Reduce -Blood pressure - Kidney stone</i> |
| 50 | <i>Melissa officinalis</i> L. | Lamiaceae | Badranjboych | Varang bo | Herbaceous | A.P Es | Stomach ache - Soothe nerves-Sedative-Diaphoretic |
| 51 | <i>Punica granatum</i> L. | Punicaceae | Anar | Anar | Herbaceous | R, Se | Anti-parasite -Diarrhea -Stomach ache |
| 52 | <i>Solanum nigrum</i> L. | Solanaceae | Tajrizi siah | Tajrizi | Herbaceous | F, L | Toothache - Anti-parasite |
| 53 | <i>Prunus cerasus</i> L. | Rosaceae | Albalo | Albalo | Arboreous | Peduncle | Kidney stone -Headache |
| 54 | <i>Cucurbita pepo</i> Mill. | Cucurbitaceae | Kado halvai | Kado | Herbaceous | S e,F | Diabetes-Anti-parasite |
| 55 | <i>Peganum harmala</i> L. | Zygophyllaceae | Espand | Esfand | Herbaceous | Se | <i>Allergy elimination-Anti-parasite -Toothache-hypnotic</i> |
| 56 | <i>Ficus carica</i> L. | Moraceae | Anjir | Anjir | Arboreous | F, La L | Laxative-Pectoralgia |
| 57 | <i>Malva neglecta</i> Wallr | Malvaceae | Panirak | Nin kalaghi Mamapir | Herbaceous | L, R Fl ,Wh.p | Jaundice -Ulcer-Irritation of the urethra -Hoarseness – Abscesses- Cough |
| 58 | <i>Ricinus communis</i> L. | Euphorbiaceae | Karchak | karchak | Shrubby | Se- oil | Laxative -Wart - <i>Earache</i> |
| 59 | <i>Myrtus communis</i> L. | Myrtaceae | Mord | Mort | Shrubby | LEs | Anti aphthus- Soothe nerves -Abscesses – Foot crack |
| 60 | <i>Astragalus verus</i> Olivie | Papilionaceae | Gavan Katira | Katira | Semi-shrubby | Gum | Laxative - <i>Toothache</i> |
| 61 | <i>Linum usitatissimum</i> | Linaceae | Katan | Barzak | Herbaceous | Se, Es-Se | Blood circulation - Hair growth - <i>Liver problems</i> |
| 62 | <i>Tragopogon graminifolius</i> | Asteraceae | Shang | Alaleh shang | Herbaceous | L. Extract Fl R | Gastric lavage- <i>Anti-parasite</i> |

Table 1. *Continued*

| Row | Scientific name | Family | Persian name | Local name | Useable organ | Growth type | Local consumption cases Applications shown in italics were not reported in the scientific resources |
|-----|---|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| 63 | <i>Papaver macrostomum</i> Boiss | Papaveraceae | Shaghayegh | Shaghayegh Tariak kohi | Herbaceous | Fl F | Respiratory problems - Calmative |
| 64 | <i>Centaurea depressa</i> M. Bieberstein | Asteraceae | Gol gandom | Gole gandom Alaf talkheh | Herbaceous | Fl A.P | Diuretic-cold -Inflammation of the eyelid - Febrifuge -Blood purification - Rheumatic-Jaundice |
| 65 | <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> (L.) Pall. | Papilionaceae | Yonjeh zard Aklyolmolk | Yonjeh zard | Herbaceous | A.P | Pectoralgia-Diuretic -Facilitative digestion -Neuralgia - Rheumatic-Liver colic |
| 66 | <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.) Medik. | Brassicaceae | Kiseh keshish | Khakiji talkh | Herbaceous | A.P, La | Haemostatic -Astringent -Sortable for epilp |
| 67 | <i>Laurus nobilis</i> L. | Lauraceae | Barg boo | Barg bo | Shrubby | L, F Es | Tympanites-Expectorant-diuretic -Anti-convulsion -Weakness of stomach -Hemorrhoids -Rheumatic |
| 68 | <i>Fraxinus rotundifolia</i> Mill. | Oleaceae | Zaban gonjashk | Zabon gongish | Arboreous | Ba, L Se, R | Astringent -febrifuge -Expectorant-Laxative -Rheumatic -Gout |
| 69 | <i>Polygonum aridum</i> Boiss | <i>Polygonaceae</i> | Haft band | Haft band | Herbaceous | A.P La | Astringent-diuretic - Diarrhea -Kidney stone -Bladder ailment |
| 70 | <i>Vitis vinifera</i> L. | Vitaceae | Mou | Angor-Mou | Shrubby | F La | Astringent -diarrhea-diuretic-Jaundice |
| 71 | <i>Zea mays</i> L | Poaceae | Zorat | Balali | Herbaceous | Stigma Se | Cold -Kidney stone |
| 72 | <i>Satureja hortensis</i> L | Lamiaceae | Marzeh | Marzeh | Herbaceous | L , A.P | Facilitative digestion- Diarrhea |
| 73 | <i>Salix alba</i> L. | Salicaceae | Bid | Sefid bid | Arboreous | Ba, F L | Splenitis -Tympanites |
| 74 | <i>Allium cepa</i> L. | Alliaceae | Piaz | Piaz | Herbaceous | A.P Onion | Antimicrobial -Toothache |
| 75 | <i>Oryza sativa</i> L. | Poaceae | Berenj | Shaltok | Herbaceous | Br | Hair growth |

R, root ; L, leaf ; Fl, flower; Fr, fruit; Se, seed; A.P, apical parts; Wh.P, whole plant; La, latex; Ba, bark; Es, Essence; Br, Bran

Different plants were classified based on the local application and the effectiveness separation into the effective plants for treatment of the gastrointestinal diseases, dermatology, allergy-infection, blood circulation, pain, urinary, neurological, respiratory, muscular, hormonal and metabolic, and mouth-dental problems and other diseases.

3. Results & Discussion

In present study, 200 plant species were identified; from which 75 ones, belonged to 73 genera and 33 families with medicinal properties. In total, 75% are herbaceous, 10% shrubby, and 15% are arboreous. The highest number of medicinal herbs species belongs to the family Lamiaceae with nine species, Asteraceae with eight species, and Rosaceae family with six species, and the families Apiaceae, Papilionaceae, and Brassicaceae with five species are classified in the next ranks.

The results obtained from the survey of indigenous knowledgeable people in the region indicated that the medicine consumption of species, including mint, sisymbrium, thyme, chamomile, yarrow, licorice, dill, quince, valerian, chicory and garlic were higher than other herbs.

Table 1 represents the information such as scientific name, family name, Persian name, local name, growth type (habit), useable organ, and local consumption cases. Applications shown in italics were not reported in the scientific resources. Survey of medicinal plant covering revealed the families of Lamiaceae and Asteraceae have a better spread in the region compared to other plant families. So, it is predicted in steppe regions of implementation area that the multi-year bush plants have good spread. According to the conducted studies on the medicinal plants in other provinces of Iran, these families were also in the first or second rank in terms of medicinal plants (Akbarinia *et al.*, 2006; Mirdavodi & Babakhanlo, 2007). Due to the diversity and spread of this family in the flora of Iran, this is not unexpected (Asadi *et al.*, 1998-2008).

The results indicated that the highest application of medicinal plants in the region is related to the treatment of gastrointestinal problems with frequency of 17 percent and the reason can be considered and investigated. The frequency application of medicinal

plants for treating the skin and hair was 14%, as anti-inflammatory and infection was about 11%, affecting the circulatory system was 9%, as an analgesic was 8%, for urinary and kidneys system was 8%, for treating the endocrine and metabolism problems was 7%, for treating the neurological problems was 6%, for the respiratory problems was 5%, for treating the mouth and dental problems was 3%, and for treating the muscle problems was 2%. Moreover, these plants are used for other diseases with frequency of 10%.

4. Conclusion

Most of the plants mentioned in Table 1 have been used as medicinal herbs in folkloric medicine in present and past; however, some of the applications of these plant, like applying the mint for treatment of diabetes and hyperlipidemia, borage for treatment of palpitations, chamomile and yarrow for treatment of kidney stones, licorice for treating the sinusitis, quince for treating the hypotension, and garlic for treating the amnesia have not been observed in the available scientific resources. This can be as a guide for further research in order to achieve new medicinal applications or prevent from wrong local applications of these plants. Several species of the families are cultivated in the region, while others are disappearing due to the uncontrolled exploitation and semi-arid climate of region. Thus, the preservation and conservation of these species is essential. This first report can play a role in preserving the indigenous knowledge of using these plants.

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