

The State of Herb Medicine in Oriental Morocco: Cases of Debdou, Taourirt and Guerssif Districts

Authors : Himer Khalid, Alami Ilyass, Kharchoufa Loubna, Elachouri Mostafa

Abstract : It has been estimated by the World Health Organization that 80% of the world's population relies on traditional medicine to meet their daily health requirements. In Morocco reliance on such medicine is partly owing to the high cost of conventional medicine and the inaccessibility of modern health care facilities. There was high agreement in the use of plants as medicine in Oriental Morocco. Our objective is to evaluate the informant's knowledge on medicinal plants by the local population and to document the uses of medicinal plants by this community, for the treatment of different illnesses. Using an ethnopharmacological approach, we collected information concerning the traditional medicinal knowledge and the medicinal plants used, by interviewing successfully 458 informants living in oriental Morocco (from Debdou, Taourirt, Guerssif a,d Laayoune districts). The data were analyzed by statistical methods (Component Analysis "CA", Factorial Analysis "FA") and other methods such as through Informant's Consensus Factor (ICF) and Use Value (UV). Our results indicate that, more than 60% of the population in these regions relies on medicinal plants for the treatment of different ailments with predominance of women consumers. 135 plant species belonging to 61 families were documented. These plants were used by the population for the treatment of a group of illness (about 14 principal ailments). We conclude that, in oriental Morocco, till now, the population has some traditional knowledge commonly used as medical tradition. These wealthy heritage needs conservation and evaluation.

Keywords : Morocco, medicinal plants, traditional knowledge, wealthy heritage

Conference Title : ICETM 2016 : International Conference on Ethnomedicine and Traditional Medicine

Conference Location : Amsterdam, Netherlands

Conference Dates : May 12-13, 2016