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Data Article

Comprehensive dataset of the medicinal plants used by a Tashelhit speaking community in the High Atlas, Morocco

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ABSTRACT

This dataset describes medicinal plants used in a poorly studied area of Morocco: the High Atlas mountains, inhabited by Ishehlin people, the southern Moroccan Amazigh (Berber) ethnic group, “An ethnomedicinal survey of a Tashelhit-speaking community in the High Atlas, Morocco” (Teixidor-Toneu et al., 2016) [1]. It includes a comprehensive list of the plants used in the commune, as well as details on the plant voucher specimens collected and a glossary of Tashelhit terminology relevant to the study. To collect the data, semi-structured and structured interviews were carried out, as well as focus group discussions. Free prior informed consent was obtained for all interactions. A hundred and six adults were interviewed and 2084 use reports were collected; a hundred fifty-one vernacular names corresponding to 159 botanical species were found.

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Specifications Table

Subject area	Ethnobotany, ethnomedicine
More specific subject area	Medicinal plant use
Type of data	Tables
How data was acquired	Ethnobotanical surveys
Data format	Analysed
Experimental factors	Voucher specimens collected
Experimental features	Vernacular names, botanical names, voucher specimen details, plant source, plant parts used, mode of administration, additives, folk ailments and etic categories of use are reported, as well as values for standard ethnobotanical indexes.
Data source location	Rural commune of Imegdale, N'Fiss valley, High Atlas, Marrakech province, Morocco (approximate geographical coordinates 31.12 N, 8.14 W)
Data accessibility	Data is within this article

Value of the data

- These data can inform pharmacological search for new medicines from traditional knowledge repositories [2].
- These data identify culturally valuable species that can potentially be incorporated into rural development programs in the Maghreb [3].
- Plants listed are often over-harvested, this list can inform biodiversity conservation by highlighting species vulnerable due to human pressure on wild populations [3,4].
- These data can also be used in comparative studies about medicinal plant use (e.g., cross-cultural comparisons).

1. Data

The dataset presents a comprehensive inventory of the medicinal plants used by a Tashelhit-speaking community in the N'Fiss valley, including linguistic, ecological and ethnomedicinal data (High Atlas, Marrakech; [Supplementary Table S1](#)). Details for the herbarium specimens collected during the study and a comprehensive glossary of the Tashelhit vocabulary used are also provided ([Supplementary Table S2](#) and [Table 1](#)).

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

Fieldwork was conducted in the rural community of Imegdale, High Atlas, Morocco, between March and June 2015, as detailed in [1]. Ethical guidelines of the American Anthropological Association (2012), the Code of Ethics of the International Society of Ethnobiology (2006) and University of Reading ethical protocols were followed. Approval from the Ethics Committee of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Reading, was obtained (Research Ethics Project Submission SBS 14-15 05). In [Supplementary Table S1](#), quantitative data and relevant ethnobotanical indices are also presented for each plant, including the number of Use Reports (UR), the highest Fidelity Level [5] and Use Value [6,7].

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