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**AN ETHNOBOTANICAL STUDY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN ACIPAYAM
(DENIZLI-TURKEY)**

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Abstract

A comprehensive ethnobotanical study was conducted in Acipayam, situated in the western part of Turkey. This paper includes details of plants used in folk medicine and ethnopharmacological information obtained during this study. The aim of the authors was to collect and identify plants used by local people for therapeutic purposes and to present information about traditional herbal medicine. Plant specimens collected during field-work form the subject of this investigation. Information was obtained by means of open and semi-structured interviews with local people. In addition, cultural importance index (CI) and use report (UR) values were calculated. Ninety-one taxa of plants used in folk medicine and belonging to 38 families were identified in this study. Of these, 82 species were wild, and 9 species were cultivated. The most common families were Lamiaceae (18.7%), Asteraceae (14.3%) and Rosaceae (6.6%). Consequently, 191 medicinal uses (remedies) of 91 taxa were recorded. According to the use reports (UR), the most important medicinal plants were *Cydonia oblonga* (99 UR), *Juniperus oxycedrus* subsp. *oxycedrus* (99 UR), *Pinus brutia* (98 UR), *Hypericum perforatum* (90 UR), *Viscum album* subsp. *austriacum* (82 UR) and *Salvia tomentosa* (80 UR). Infusion (38.2%) was the most common preparation method used within the research area. The ethnomedicinal capabilities of eight species (*Amelanchier parviflora* var. *dentata*, *Echinops viscosus* subsp. *bithynicus*, *Onopordum sibthorpiatum*, *Origanum hypericifolium*, *Quercus trojana*, *Salvia adenophylla*, *Sideritis montana* subsp. *remota* and *Tamarix smyrnensis*) have been recorded for the first time in Turkey.

Key words: Ethnobotany; Folk medicinal plants; Acipayam; Denizli; Turkey.

1. Introduction

Ethnobotany is briefly defined as studies involving an interaction between people and plants in a given environment. Apart from collecting information relating to human cultural heritage, this multidisciplinary science also facilitates the discovery of new drugs (Agelet and Vallès, 2003). Ethnobotanical surveys have played an important role in bringing to light lost information from the past, thus enabling the possible future discovery and use of novel, effective, therapeutic compounds.

Since 3,000 B.C., Acipayam was an important settlement area, strategically located at the intersection of the Aegean, the Mediterranean and the West Anatolian regions. It is rich both in flora and cultural diversity, having been occupied by a diverse range of different civilizations over the centuries (<http://www.Acipayam.bel.tr>). Extensive use of medicinal plants in Turkey is directly related to the current composition of the local flora, comprising some 9,500 species, 33% of which are endemic (Ozhatay et al. 2012).

Ethnobotanical studies had been carried out for many years, especially in the last decade. Various surveys have been conducted throughout Turkey in order to collect information on the use of plants as a source of folklore medicine. In Denizli province, areas such as Buldan, Cameli and Honaz have previously been investigated for traditional medicine use (Ertug et al., 2004; Honda et al., 1996; Kargioglu et al., 2010; Tuzlaci, 1977). However, to the best of the authors knowledge, this is the first report to address the use of medicinal plants in Acipayam. The area of the study distinguishes from other regions of Turkey due to its geographical and climatic variations building up a great floral and cultural diversity. The aim of this study was to present information about the use of traditional herbal medicine in Acipayam.

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