



Medicinal Plants used in Traditional Herbal Medicine in the Fifa Village / Southern Jordan.

Abdullah Aloschoush*

Department of Biology, Mutah University, Jordan

The Royal society For the Conservation of Nature, Jordan

***Corresponding Author:** *Abdullah Aloschoush, Department of Biology, Mutah University, Jordan*

Abstract: *This study were conducted to identify the uses of plant species in traditional medicine in the Fifa village and to collect this information and save it from loss some of this information is not scientifically documented but is personally tested by some local communities. The questionnaire was taken with key-informants like traditional healers between the aged of 25 to 60 years. From field surveys conducted among the population, 17 plants species commonly used as traditional home remedies in Jordan valley were recorded.*

Keywords: *Medicinal plants, Jordan valley, Fifa village, plant usage, Ethno-botany*

1. INTRODUCTION

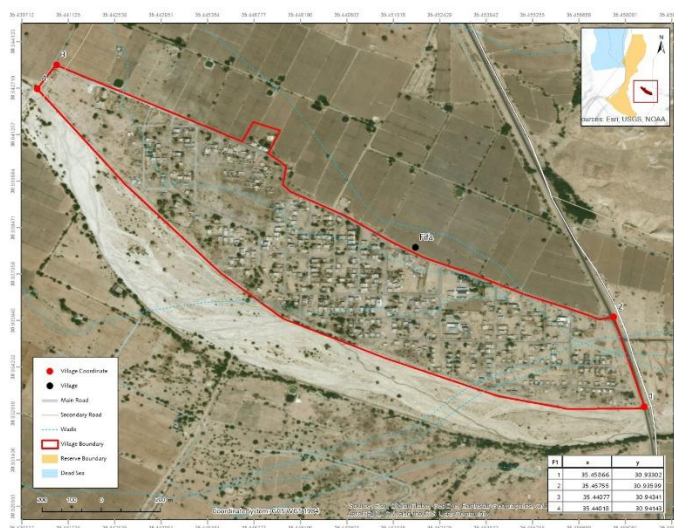
Ethno-botany is the science of documentation and conservation of original knowledge which has been using by ethnic people since ancient history (Manandhar, 1989, Rijal, 2011). Today, millions of people around the world consume plant based medicines as part of traditional medicine for a range of medical disorders. The use of traditional medicine in developing countries contributes directly to the socio-economic status and well-being of the rural communities (Tabuti et al., 2003a; Chiranjibi et al., 2006). Conservation of plants and other natural resources has been an integral part of the cultural ethos of indigenous communities. Different religions having their own traditions, beliefs, and rituals are associated with conserving the biodiversity and forests products (Karthikeyan and Tangavelou, 2011).

Jordan is a small country, but it has a great diversity of wild plants due to the varied geography and climate. It has been estimated that there are a total of 2000 plant species, belonging to 700 genera (Afifi FU, Abu-Irmaileh B, 2002). The land itself is unique in its natural diversity due to its geographical location at the meeting point of three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe). Its special climate, which is influenced by the Mediterranean as a moderating factor and the desert as a drying factor (Lev E, Amar Z2002). Flora of Jordan is rich regarding to its number of plant species. A number of 2,978 species belonging to 120 families and 719 genera are recorded in Jordan (Al-Eisawi 1982), A total number of medicinal plants are recorded, 363 species of vascular plants, belonging to 263 genera and 86 families, the taxa recorded are wild plants that occur in Jordan, except few species cultivated and well known to the people in the country (S.A. Oran, 1998) . The aim of this study is to collect as much information about medicinal plants in the Jordan Valley and save this knowledge from loss.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study site

Fifa village is located at the southwestern part of Jordan, about 33.5 km south to southeast of the Dead Sea 157km north of Aqaba city [East 731366.653, North 3427479,77].center Coordinates. It is situated in the Jordan Rift Valley between the southern part of the Dead Sea and the northern extent of Wadi Araba (Figure 1) Fifa village is located within the Sudanian (Tropical) Bio-Geographical Zone, which is characterized by high temperatures with warm winters and hot summers, combined with low annual rainfall of about 50-100 mm /year.



Map1. Fifa village

3. METHODS

The survey was done between September 2019 and October 2019. Using open interviews, questionnaires, were adopted for documentation of botanical knowledge in Jordan valley the local communities have vast knowledge about their live fencing practices and the species used. The interviews were carried out from local people to document local name and botanical uses. About 100 informants have been interviewed on random basis.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this survey, 17 plant species belonging to 14 families have been established to treat different diseases in the Jordan valley (Table 1). The plant parts mostly reported in this regard were leaves (10 plant species, 59%) Latex (1plant species, 6%) Bulbs (4plant species, 23%), tubers (1 plant species, 6%) and flowers (1plant species, 6%). (fig.2)

Table. 1. Plants species recorded in the Jordan valley

No	Common Name	Arabic name	Family	Plant part uses	Medicinal use(diseases)
1	Calotropis procera	العشيرة	Asclepiadaceae	Latex	Toothache
2	Ziziphus spina-christi	السدر	Rhamnaceae	Leaves and Fruit	Diabetes
3	Thymus bovei	الزعتر	Labiatae (Lamiaceae)	Leaves	Leaching
4	Artemisia sieberi	الشيح	Compositae (Asteraceae)	Leaves	Colic
5	Salvia fruticosa	الميرمية	Labiatae (Lamiaceae)	Leaves	Colic
6	Matricaria aurea	البابونج	Compositae (Asteraceae)	Fruit	Leaching and coughing
7	Pergularia tomentosa	العلاقة	Asclepiadaceae	Leaves	Treatment of skin infections and ulcers
8	Allium sativum	الثوم	Amaryllidaceae	Bulb	Get rid of bacterial infection
9	Zingiber officinale	الزنجبيل	Zingiberaceae	Tubers	Leaching and coughing

10	Allium cepa	البصل	Amaryllidaceae	Bulb	
11	Teucrium capitatum	الجعدة	Labiatae (Lamiaceae)	Leaves	Colic
12	Achillea santolina	القيصوم	Compositae (Asteraceae)	Leaves	
13	Moringa oleifera	المورينجا	Moringaceae	Leaves	Colitis
14	Aloe vera	الالوفيرا	Asphodelaceae	Leaves	Skin tightening and hair lengthening
15	Asphodelus fistulosus	الغيصلان	Liliaceae	Bulb	Alopecia of the head
16	Indigofera blue tinctoria	النيلة	Fabaceae	Leaves	Skin tightening and skin whitening
17	Foeniculum vulgare	الشومر	Umbelliferae (Apiaceae)	Bulb	Anemia and indigestion

This study came to the conclusion of the plant species used in folk medicine in the Jordan Valley region, in order to preserve this knowledge from loss and contamination for future generations. During the study, 20 plant species with medical use were registered through 100 questionnaires that were filled from the population in the region. This shows a slight decline in the use of this type of medicine especially in the young category. As access to treatment became easy in rural areas, the use of folk medicine in the region declined.

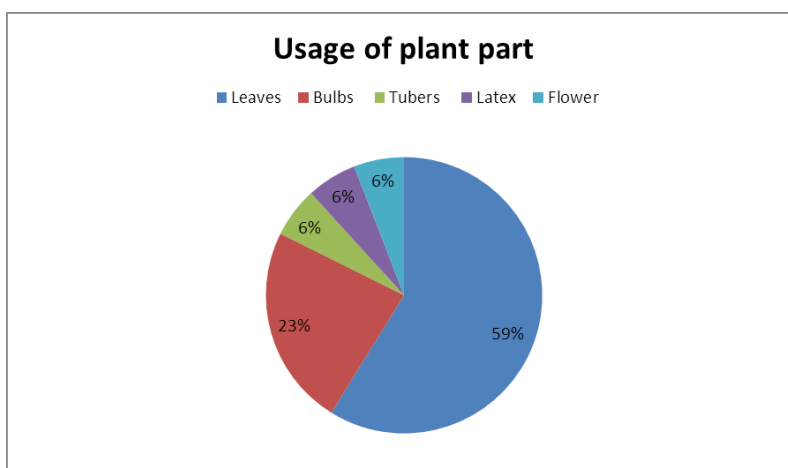


Figure2. Usage of Plant part

5. CONCLUSION

The present study indicates that there are about 17 plant species used for medicinal purposes were recorded in the Fifa village where the percentage of traditional medical use decreased especially among the youth category This study came to save this knowledge of being lost which has become used almost by a few people especially the elderly.

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