



MEDICAL THERAPIES AND PHARMACOLOGY

ETHNOBOTANICAL SURVEY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS USED IN THE TRADITIONAL TREATMENT OF VITILIGO IN MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

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Introduction: The use of herbal medicine in the treatment of vitiligo is common in Africa, particularly in Morocco. The objective of this study was to identify the medicinal plants used in the traditional treatment of vitiligo in Marrakesh.

Patients and Methods: An ethnobotanical survey was conducted among herbalists practicing in the most popular areas of Marrakesh over a period of 3 months (March 2017-May 2017). The approach of the herbalists interviewed was based on dialogue in the local language, accompanied by the purchase of medicinal plants used for the traditional treatment of vitiligo. Digital camera, pouches, tape and markers were used in this study. Each interview lasted about 30 minutes

Results: Our study involved 50 herbalists. The data identified 25 species of plants belonging to 17 botanical families, the most represented were asteraceae, apiaceae, scrofulariaceae, zingiberaceae and malvaceae. The best-selling plant species are *Anacycluspyrethrum* (21.9%), *Ammi majus* L (18.5%), *Srophulariacanina* L (15.4%), *Curcuma longa* (9.2%) and *Hibiscusrosa-sinensis* L (8.9%). The most used plant parts are seeds, leaves and fruits. The recipes are prepared mainly in the form of dough, they are either mixed with honey and administered orally or mixed with vinegar for local application. Daily sun exposure was also recommended. In the current study, no adverse effects associated with the use of these recipes were reported. More than 63% of herbalists acquire plant information from others experiences. The duration of the treatment was very variable up to 1 year. The majority of herbalists (79.2%) were satisfied with the results of prescriptions.

Conclusion: It appears that phytotherapy is a practice widely used by the Moroccan population for the treatment of many diseases including vitiligo. Their conventional use must be rationalized because of their richness in active components.

Keywords: vitiligo-Ethnobotany-Phytotherapy

