Ethnobotanical study of some plants used in traditional medicine in the region of Oued Righ (Algerian Sahara)


Abstract

The present study aims to census the ethnomedicinal plants occurring in the local traditional medicine of Oued Righ region in the Algerian Sahara. The information on medicinal uses of plants is based on a field survey, interviews, structured questionnaires and discussion with traditional healers and knowledgeable. This investigation made it possible to inventory 53 species belonging to 30 botanical families. Chenopodiaceae is the most dominant family that was used to treat various illnesses with a rate of 23.33%; followed by the family of Asteraceae and Fabaceae with 16.66%, Poaceae and Zygophyllaceae both with a rate of 13.33%. These medicinal plants are prepared in various forms such as decoction, infusion, compress, inhalation, ointment, herb tea; which are made from sheets, stems, flowers, boughs, fruits, roots.

The dominant diseases that can be treated with more than two plants are: Indigestion, constipation, belly and stomach pain; Injury, wounds and skin diseases; diarrhea.

Keywords: Ethnobotany, medicinal plants, Traditional healers, Illnesses, Oued Righ.

1. Introduction

The study of medicinal plant is one of the methods of examining the interaction and relationships between biological and cultural components of the environment [1]. Ethnobotanical studies today are recognized as the most viable method of identifying new medicinal plants or refocusing on those earlier reported for bioactive constituents [2]; only few studies have been conducted in the assessment; chemical constituents of medicinal plants specifically in the identification of the structure of bioactive constituents of traditional medicinal plants in the country wise [3]. According to our investigations, few studies are conducted in our region (Oued Righ). It is therefore important to find new, selective pesticides compatible with the use of natural enemies that can minimize negative effects on the environment, including both fauna and flora. An acaricidal study was conducted in the laboratory of biological control in the experimental station of INRA (Station of Sidi Mehdi), we have tested three different spontaneous plants (Zygophyllum album, Cotula cinerea, Limonium gusyanum) against dust mite of date palm (Oligonychus afrasiaticus) [4]. Saharian plants are known by their resistance to several stress factors. Under extreme climatic conditions, these plants could constitute a reservoir of new natural, safe and effective biomolecules potentially useful as antioxidants [5]. Ethnic medicine has contributed to the discovery and development of many drugs which are still in use, such as morphine, opium, the anaesthetic alkaloid [6]. The focus of this survey was to identify spontaneous plants of Oued Righ region (Algerian Sahara) that are used by the indigenous people in traditional medicines. This is the pioneer to attempt an exhaustive analysis of the therapeutic values of such medicinal plants, which are probably drawing the attention of pharmacologists and biological control's researchers for further critical and scientific validation.

2. Material and methods

2.1. Study area

The study was conducted in oasis region of Algerian sahara which is Oued Righ area (Figure 1). The valley of Oued Righ is a geographical entity situated in Southeastern Algeria between latitude 32° 54’ and longitude 34° 09’ [7].
2.2. Collection of Information
The information on ethnomedicinal uses of plants was obtained through direct field interviews with knowledgeable people of many villages in Oued Righ region (Temacine, Oum toyor, Beldet omer, Tegdidine, Meghaier) & traditional healers. There were 60 informants between the ages of 40-95. Local informants with the knowledge of medicinal plants were selected based on the experience in the preparation of medicines, the way they acquired knowledge on the medicinal plants and their ability to treat a specific disease. Local names, plant parts used and mode of administration were recorded. The data regarding names of plant parts use; their method of preparation & made of administration of various remedies were also noted down.

Identification of medicinal plant
Extensive ethnobotanical survey was carried out in the valley of Oued Righ during January 2015 to January 2016 for collection of information on ethnomedicinal plant species being used by the locals in the study area. The identification of plant materials was confirmed with the help mankind and healers; after we confirm it with different floras and published data including viz; [8, 9, 10, 11].

3. Results and Discussions
List of multi-purpose plants and their uses in the region of Oued Righ
1. *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers. (Family: Poaceae; Vernacular name: Nejem)
   Parts of use: Leaves, stems, boughs (Decoction, herb tea)
   Investigation: purgative and laxative, urinary tract infections and urinary stones, skin diseases, hemorrhage, kidney diseases, anti-virus and fungi, gallbladder. This plant has medicinal virtues; it is diuretic, emollient and febrifuge [11], Purgative and blood filter plant; it is also used against urinary tract infections and urinary stones, nosebleed, menstrual, hemorrhoids, gall bladder, shortage of urea, arthritis and liver disease [12, 13].

2. *Cuscuta epithymum* L. (Family: Convolvulaceae; Vernacular name: Cashcout)
   Investigation: astringent and laxative
   All its parts are dried and used like an astringent, detersive and laxative [11].

3. *Convolvulus arvensis* L. (Family: Convolvulaceae; Vernacular name: Lawaya)
   Parts of use: leaves and roots
   Investigation: against diarrhea. It is used like a purge (with a dose of 1 g) [11]. The plant possesses cooling and purgative properties. It is used for the preparation of sharbat (Syrup) as a cooling drink [14].

4. *Juncus maritimus* Asch. & Buschen (Family: Juncaceae; Vernacular name: Diss)
   Parts of use: Leaves (cataplasm)
   Investigation: Urinary tract, gallbladder, analgesic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory, skin diseases.

5. *Melilotus indica* All. (Family: Fabaceae; Vernacular name: Fassat Alagrab)
   Parts of use: Leaves and flowers
   Investigation: Rheumatism, astringent and laxative, diarrhea, indigestion
   This plant is widely used in traditional medicine in the region for the treatment of several diseases including: anti-inflammatory, antispasmodic, astringent, emollient and sedative. It’s for an external use against swelling and ophtalmia, also useful against intestinal colic and diarrhea [11].
6. Sonchus oleraceus L. (Family: Asteraceae; Vernacular name: Tifaf)  

7. Cistanche tinctoria (Forssk.) Beck. (Family: Orobanchaceae; Vernacular name: Danon)  
Parts of use: Aerial part (maceration and decoction)  
Investigation: Diarrhea  
This plant has medicinal virtues; like the underground part of young shoots is useful against intestinal problems and diabetes [11]; Agalactia, stomach pain [12].

8. Euphorbia guyoniana Boiss. & Reut (Family: Euphorbiaceae; Vernacular name: Labina)  
Investigation: diarrhea, skin diseases, scorpion stings and snake bites.  
This plant is very toxic like many euphorbias which often contain toxic white latex. But the nomads use it against snake bites [10, 11].

9. Genista saharae Coss & Dur. (Family: Fabaceae; Vernacular name: Marekh)  
Investigation: Cold, influenza, respiratory system problems. It contains flavonoids compounds [13].

10. Nitraria retusa (Forssk) Asch. (Family: Zygophyllaceae; Vernacular name: Ghardek)  
Parts of use: Leaves (Cataplasme)  
Investigation: Analgesic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory, skin diseases.  
This plant has medicinal virtues; antiseptic, cutaneous wound, burn, diabetes, fever, constipation, laxative, diabetes, cardiac disease, scorpion stings, cough, gastric ulcer, cephalalgia, hypertension, loss of appetite, colon, prostate, articular pains, conjunctivitis, diseases of eyes and eyelids, weakness of vision, fortify the gum [11, 15].

11. Tamarix gallica L. (Family: Tamaricaceae; Vernacular name: Torfa)  
Investigation: Cough, hemorrhage, diuretic, appetite, anti-fever.  
Antiseptic, burn, leprosies, injuries and ulcers, scorpions and bugs stings, illnesses of the kidney, diarrhea, anemia, jaunasse, gum and mouth inflammation, gastric ulcer, cephalalgia, hypertension, diabetes, illness of joints, hemorrhage, diuretic, pancreas inflammation [15].

12. Cotula cinerea Del. (Family: Asteraceae; Vernacular name: Chouhia)  
Parts of use: Leaves and boughs (Infusion, decoction, maceration, inhalation, powder)  
Investigation: Purgative and laxative, Intensive and stimulant, anti-virus and fungi, diarrhea, indigestion.  
Cotula cinerea is a local medicinal plant which can be used in colic, diarrhea, cough, cooling broncho-pulmonary, migraine, headache, disorders and digestive [10, 12, 16].

13. Retama retam Webb. (Family: Fabaceae; Vernacular name: Rtem)  
Parts of use: Aerial part (Infusion, powder, compressed herbal)  
Investigation: Analgesic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory.  
In traditional medicine, this plant is sought for its stem used in cauterization. Also it is useful against rheumatism, scorpion stings, injury [12].

14. Solanum nigrum L. (Family: Solanaceae; Vernacular name: Anb Aldib)  
Parts of use: Leaf, stem and fruits.

It is a toxic plant, in pharmacopoeia, it is deemed active and dangerous. In fact, it is for external use [13]. Effective in diuretic, chronic enlargement of liver, dysentery and piles; also useful against skin disease and anthrax. Fruits are used in tonic, heart diseases, hiccup, asthma, fever, bronchitis and diarrhea. Pastes of green fruits are effective in ringworm. Fruit juice is useful for expectorant, cooling drink in fevers, thirst gonorrhea, giddiness and inflammations [17].

15. Atriplex halimus L. (Family: Chenopodiaceae; Vernacular name: Gtef)  
Investigation: uterus cysts, diabetes  
This plant has medicinal virtues viz; stomach pain, constipation, diarrhea, gas, bloating, cyst hydatique, fibrome, hypertension, antiseptic, burns, diabetes, fever, jaunasse, anemia, cardiac disease, otitis, rheumatism, cough, obesity, tumor, tiredness, diuretic, vermiligue, involuntary urine, vomiting, wounds and ulcers, tansillitis, goiters, galbladder disease, calming, fortify the gums, infertility, prostate, fall of placenta, nephrolithiasis, hypercholesterolema [15].

16. Limoniastrum guyonianum Moss & Dur. (Family: Plumbaginaceae; Vernacular name: Zita)  
Investigation: Diabetes, scorpion stings and snake bites, headache, constipation, hypertension and kidney diseases, anemia.
Antiseptic, burn, leprosy, wounds and ulcers, strengthening, diabetes, jaunasse, anemia, cough, constipation, gas, kidney disease, pains of the head, hypertension, obesity, scorpion stings, tonsillitis and flu, fortify the gum, liver disease [15].

17. Zygophyllum album L. (Family: Zygophyllaceae; Vernacular name: Agga)  
Parts of use: Leaves, stems, fruits (Decoction, powder, ointment)  
Investigation: Diabetes, purgative and laxative, anti-virus and fungi, indigestion  
According to [12], this plant is useful to treat diabetes, indigestion, skin diseases, analgesic and like a disinfectant. This plant is used in the Tunisian folk medicine as a drug active against rheumatism, gout, and asthma [18]. It is also used as diuretic, local anaesthetic, antihistaminic, and antidiabetic agent [19].

18. Traganum nudatum Del. (Family: Chenopodiaceae; Vernacular name: Damran)  
Parts of use: Leaves, stems, fruits (Decoction, powder, ointment)  
Investigation: Rheumatism, skin diseases.  
This plant has medicinal virtues, it is used against diarrhea, and rheumatism wound dermatoses [12]. This plant is also known locally for its wood for combustion and also for its edible fruit [11].

19. Zizyphus lotus L. (Family: Rhamnaceae; Vernacular name: Nbak/Sedra)  
Parts of use: Leaves, fruits and roots (Decoction and maceration)  
Investigation: Analgesic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory, cough.  
According to [11] it is a common plant in traditional medicine. Its root decoction is used to treat diseases of the gastrointestinal tract and liver. The fruit is mainly used in the treatment of the respiratory system. It has other properties, such as: its tonic value, emollient and sedative. It is also used as a defensive hedge. Also [12] find that it was used like an anti-inflammatory, pectoral, emollient, and sedative, diuretic.
20. *Halocnemum strobilaceum* (pall) M. Bied. (Family: Chenopodiaceae; Vernacular name: Grina)
   **Parts of use:** Aerial part  
   **Investigation:** Fever, Intensive and stimulant, headache,

21. *Panicum turgidum* Forssk. (Family: Poaceae; Vernacular name: Bourekba)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves and bough
   **Investigation:** Skin diseases
Local inhabitants may chew the plant for treating toothache and use the extract of the plant in treating wounds. Similarly, Maire (1933), Boulos (1983), Turner (1983) reported that *P. turgidum* is used by local inhabitants in treating wounds and removing eye spots [20].

22. *Plantago ciliata* Desf. (Family: Plantaginaceae; Vernacular name: Lalma)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves and bough
   **Investigation:** Analgesic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory. It is used for cicatrizing injuries and useful like an inflammatory treatment [11].

23. *Astragalus gyzensis* Bunge. (Family: Fabaceae; Vernacular name: Foul Alibil)
   **Investigation:** Scorpion stings and snake bites. Depend to [11], this plant is used against snake bites

24. *Anabasis articulata* (Forssk.) Moq (Family: Chenopodiaceae; Vernacular name: Baguel)
   **Investigation:** Diarrhea, skin diseases, scorpion stings and snake diseases, infections of reproductive system, headache.

25. *Helianthemum lippii* (L.) Pers. (Family: Cistaceae; Vernacular name: Al-rakik/Al-oud)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves (Powder or compressed)
   **Investigation:** It is useful to treat skin lesions.

26. *Oudneya africana* R. Br. (Family: Brassicaceae; Vernacular name: Al-rakik/Al-oud)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves and stems (Compress, external powder)
   **Investigation:** It is useful to treat skin diseases and lesions. Several researches find that this plant is useful against skin illness [11, 12].

27. *Plantago coronopus* L. (Family: Plantaginaceae; Vernacular name: Fanous rghemi)
   **Investigation:** It treats wound and ear wimps [11, 12].

28. *Randonia africana* Coss. (Family: Rasedaceae; Vernacular name: Boukhellal)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves and boughs (Infusion)
   **Investigation:** It is useful to treat scorpion stings and snake bites.

29. *Aristida pungens* (Desf.) DeWinter (Family: Poaceae; Vernacular name: Drin)
   **Parts of use:** Aerial part (Maceration, herb tea)
   **Investigation:** It is useful to treat indigestion, skin lesions, scorpion stings and snake bites, hemorrhoids.
Allowing to [12], they find that it can be used against constipation, stomach pain, indigestion.

30. *Colocynthis vulgaris* (L.) Schrad. (Family: Cucurbitaceae; Vernacular name: Handal/Hedja)
   **Parts of use:** Fruits, pulp (Decoction, infusion, cataplasm, ointment, compress)
   **Investigation:** Diabetic, Analgesic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory, belly and stomach pain, skin lesions, scorpion stings and snake bites, hemorrhoids. It is a useful plant in the traditional medicine of our region. It’s a purge. An external use, it can be used like an antirhumatismal with a local application, also as a furuncle. It treats dumb-legs against dermatosis [11]. Also, [12] said that it is used against diabetes and belly wimps, dermatosis, scorpion stings, rhumatismes, genital infection

31. *Ricinus communis* L. (Family: Euphorbiaceae; Vernacular name: Kharouaa)
   The seeds of this plant are very toxic. Its fatty oil (about 50%) is used as brilliantine to treat and relax the hair, also to treat hairy leather [11].

32. *Cornulaca monacantha* Del. (Family: Chenopodiaceae; Vernacular name: Al-had)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves and boughs (Ointment, infusion, maceration)
   **Investigation:** Liver diseases
It is a useful plant in the traditional medicine against liver diseases [12].

33. *Matricaria Pubescens* (Desf) (Family: Asteraceae; Vernacular name: Guartoufa)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves (Powder)
   **Investigation:** Scorpion stings and snake bites, cold and problems of respiratory system, hemorrhage, diuretic, fever, astringent and stimulant, belly and stomach pains, constipation, in the region of Oued Righ, this plant is used against scorpion stings and snake bites [11].

34. *Cynomorium coccineum* L. (Family: Cynomoriaceae; Vernacular name: Tarthouth)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves
   **Investigation:** Diarrhea
According to [11], this medicinal plant is useful against diarrhea.

35. *Erodium glaucophyllum* L. Her. (Family: Geraniaceae; Vernacular name: Tommir)
   **Parts of use:** All its parts are useful
   **Investigation:** Diarrhea, cold, influenza and problems of respiratory system
It is a medicinal plant in the region of Oued Righ, it is useful against diarrhea, astringent, allergy, oxytocin [11].

36. *Urginea noctiflora* Batt. & Trab. (Family: Liliaceae; Vernacular name: Bsis Alfar)
   **Parts of use:** Bulb (Powder, compress)
It treats wound and ear wimps [11,12].

37. *Neurada procumbens* L. (Family: Rosaceae; Vernacular name: Anfal/Saadah)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves
   **Investigation:** Analgesic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory, astringent and stimulant.

38. *Daucus carota* L. (Family: Ombellifera; Vernacular name: Zrodia)
   **Parts of use:** Leaves, seeds
   **Investigation:** Urinary tract, cyst.
This plant is useful for diuretic, improve the vision, enhance liver’s action, and stimulate the urinary production, junk’s elimination through kidney, struggle cystitis, Menstrual [11].
39. *Asphodelus refractus* Boiss. (Family: Liliaceae; Vernacular name: Tazia)
Investigation: Indigestion, constipation, wound of stomach, skin diseases, equilibrate the body.

40. *Ammadoucus leucotrichus* Coss. & Dur. (Family: Apiaceae; Vernacular name: Om Drigua)
Parts of use: Fruits (Powder, infusion, decoction)
Investigation: Diuretic, appetite, diarrhea, diabetes, indigestion
In the southeastern Algeria, this plant can be used to treat wound of stomach, diarrhea, digestive problems and vomit, also useful against allergy and palpitation [10, 12].

41. *Nerium oleander* L. (Family: Apocynaceae; Vernacular name: Defa)
Parts of use: Leaves, flowers, fruits, boughs (Administration with a rectal way)
Investigation: Heart diseases, anti-virus and fungi, fracture. This plant is widely used in traditional medicine in the region for the treatment of several diseases including: diuretic, heart diseases, uterus disease and hemorrhage [10, 12].

42. *Haloxylon articulatum* Boiss. (Family: Chenopodiaceae; Vernacular name: Remth)
Parts of use: Leaves, boughs, flowers (Decoction, maceration, cataplasm, ointment)
Investigation: Diarrhea, skin diseases, headache, indigestion. This plant is used in traditional medicine for the treatment of several diseases like: Digestion, scorpion stings, skin disease, dorsum disease [10, 12].

43. *Fagonia glutinosa* Delile. (Family: Zygophyllaceae; Vernacular name: Komida)
Parts of use: Leaves
Investigation: it is useful against skin disease, mouth problems for babies, body weakness, and fracture, muscle spasm

44. *Pergularia tomentosa* L. (Family: Asclepiadaceae; Vernacular name: Har)
Part of use: Leaves, flowers (inhalation, external powder)
Investigation: it is useful against skin disease, cold, influenza and problems of respiratory system
*P. tomentosa* is a medicinal plant that can treat skin disease, angina and scorpion stings [10, 12, 13].

45. *Cleome arabica* L. (Family: Capparidaceae; Vernacular name: Nettin)
Parts of use: Leaves (Infusion, maceration)
Investigation: Rheumatism, urinary tract.
It is a rich plant with flavones compounds specially flavonoids; it is diuretic, also useful against rhumatism, arthritis, diarrhea [10, 12, 13].

Parts of use: Leaves, boughs (Maceration, inhalation, herb tea)
Investigation: Cold, influenza, respiratory problems, hypertension
Several diseases are treated by this plant such as: cold, influenza, respiratory problems, hypertension, body weekness, whooping cough [10, 12, 13].

47. *Calligonum comosum* L’herit. (Family: Polygonaceae; Vernacular name: Larta)
Parts of use: Leaves, roots, boughs (infusion, decoction)
Investigation: Scorpion stings and snake bites
According to [10, 12], this plant can be used against scorpion stings, vermifuge.

48. *Peganum harmala* L. (Family: Zygophyllaceae; Vernacular name: Harmal)
Parts of use: Seeds, roots (Decoction, herb tea, ointment)
Investigation: Urinary tract, fever, tapeworms, Strength and tonic.
This plant is used to treat the following diseases: fever, rheumatism [12]. Also can be used to strength body and tonic, expelling tapeworms, involuntary urine; also useful against asthma, fever [13].

49. *Salsola tetragona* Del. (Family: Chenopodiaceae; Vernacular name: Belbel)
Investigation: Diabetes, hypertension, Kidney diseases, constipation.

50. *Bassia muricata* L. Asch. (Family: Chenopodiaceae; Vernacular name: Ghabitha)
Investigation: Analgesic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory
It is a rich plant with triterpenoids and saponins [13].

51. *Rhanterium suaveolens* Desf. (Family: Asteraceae; Vernacular name: Arfaj)
Investigation: Muscle spasm
The useful of this plant is recommended to treat dorsum pain [13].

52. *Launaea nudicaulis* (L.) Hook. (Family: Asteraceae; Vernacular name: Raghim Sahraoui)
Parts of use: Leaves
Investigation: Skin diseases, dermatoses

53. *Glycyrrhiza glabra* L. (Family: Fabaceae; Vernacular name: Arg Alsous)
Parts of use: Leaves, stems, boughs (Infusion, decoction)
Investigation: Anti-virus and fungi, chest Diseases, hypertension, rheumatism, pain of spleen and liver, stomach pain, eyes treatment, also useful like a deodorant, teeth cleaner.

Medicinal plants used to treat human
Nature has gifted Algerian Sahara with a lot of herbal medicines, which indigenous people acquire, preserve and pass to their next generation. In the table below (Tab. 1), 53 medicinal plant species belonging to 30 families were considered. Chenopodiaceae with seven species (*A. articula, C. monacantha, A. halimus, H. strobilaceum, T. nudatum, B. muricata* and *S. tetragona*) is the most dominant family that was used to treat various illnesses with a rate of 23.33 %; followed by the family of Asteraceae and Fabaceae with 16,66 %, Poaceae and Zygophyllaceae both with a rate of 13,33 %. Most of the medicinal plant species investigated in this study is also medicinally useful in other parts of word and Algerian regions elsewhere [12, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22].
The results also indicated that most of medicinal plants were used to treat more than one health problem such as: *Haloxylon articulatum* Boiss, *Zygophyllum album* L., *Retama retam* Webb, were reported to treat Colic, diarrhea, cough, cooling bronchopulmonary, migraine, headache, disorders and digestive [10, 12, 16] and Diabetes, indigestion, skin diseases, analgesic, disinfectant [23] diuretic, local anaesthetic, antihistaminic [23].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Plants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td><em>Nerium oleander</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hemorrhage</td>
<td><em>Cynodon dactylon</em>, <em>Tamarix gallica</em>, <em>Erodium glaucophyllum</em>, <em>Matricaria pubescens</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti - virus and fungi</td>
<td><em>Cynodon dactylon</em>, <em>Cotula cinerea</em>, <em>Zygophyllum album</em>, <em>Erodium glaucophyllum</em>, <em>Nerium oleander</em>, <em>Glycyrrhiza glabra</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liver and kidney</td>
<td><em>Cynodon dactylon</em>, <em>Glycyrrhiza glabra</em>, <em>Cotula monacantha</em>, <em>Daucus carota</em>, <em>Limonium gyanianum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatism</td>
<td><em>Cynodon dactylon</em>, <em>Mellilotus indica</em>, <em>Traganum nudatum</em>, <em>Crepe arboica</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diuretic</td>
<td><em>Tamarix gallica</em>, <em>Anabasis articulate</em>, <em>Colocynthis vulgaris</em>, <em>Randonia Africana</em>, <em>Matricaria pubescens</em>, <em>Daucus carota</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary and Reproductive system infections</td>
<td><em>Cynodon dactylon</em>, <em>Daucus carota</em>, <em>Peganum harmala</em>, <em>Juncus maritimus</em>, <em>Crepe Arboica</em>, <em>Abasis articulate</em>, <em>Haloxylon articulatum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td><em>Fagonia glutinosa</em>, <em>Nerium oleander</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallbladder</td>
<td><em>Cynodon dactylon</em>, <em>Juncus maritimus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Appetite</td>
<td><em>Tamarix gallica</em>, <em>Anabasis articulata</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever and jaundice</td>
<td><em>Cynodon dactylon</em>, <em>Tamarix gallica</em>, <em>Haloxylon strobilaceum</em>, <em>Matricaria pubescens</em>, <em>Peganum harmala</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Astringent and laxative</td>
<td><em>Cynodon dactylon</em>, <em>Cuscuta epithymum</em>, <em>Mellilotus indica</em>, <em>Cistanche tinctoria</em>, <em>Abasis articulata</em> <em>Cynomnorium coccineum</em>, <em>Erodium glaucophyllum</em>, <em>Haloxylon articulatum</em>, <em>Traganum nudatum</em>, <em>Anabasis articulata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td><em>Daucus carota</em>, <em>Atriplex halimus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cysts</td>
<td><em>Urginea noctiflora</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Muscle spasm</td>
<td><em>Haloxylon articulatum</em>, <em>Rhanteriuum suaveolens</em>, <em>Fagonia glutinosa</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigestion, constipation, belly and stomach pain</td>
<td><em>Mellilotus indica</em>, <em>Cistanche tinctoria</em>, <em>Cotula cinerea</em>, <em>Zygophyllum album</em>, <em>Aristida pungens</em>, <em>Asphodelus refractus</em>, <em>Haloxylon articulatum</em>, <em>Anabasis articulata</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td><em>Fagonia glutinosa</em>, <em>Salsola tectona</em>, <em>Limonium gyanianum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intensive and stimulant</td>
<td><em>Peganum harmala</em>, <em>Hyoscyamus maticus</em>, <em>Fagonia glutinosa</em>, <em>Anabasis articulata</em>, <em>Asphodelus refractus</em>, <em>Neurada procumbens</em>, <em>Cotula cinerea</em>, <em>Aristida pungens</em>, <em>Haloxylon strobilaceum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapeworms</td>
<td><em>Peganum harmala</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td><em>Limonium gyanianum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury, wounds and skin diseases</td>
<td><em>Cynodon dactylon</em>, <em>Euphorbia gymniana</em>, <em>Nitraria retusa</em>, <em>Platago ciliata</em>, <em>Urginea noctiflora</em>, <em>Colyctnis vulgaris</em>, <em>Anabasis articulata</em>, <em>Oudneya Africana</em>, <em>Traganum nudatum</em>, <em>Launaea nudicaulis</em>, <em>Fagonia glutinosa</em>, <em>Pergularia tomentosa</em>, <em>Tamarix gallica</em>, <em>Alata</em>, <em>Peganum harmala</em>, <em>Glycyrrhiza glabra</em>, <em>Pergularia tomentosa</em>, <em>Tamarix gallica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough, cold, influenza and respiratory system</td>
<td><em>Genista saharae</em>, <em>Zychys lotus</em>, <em>Erodium glaucophyllum</em>, <em>Marticaria pubescens</em>, <em>Anabasis articulata</em>, <em>Ephedra alata</em>, <em>Peganum harmala</em>, <em>Glycyrrhiza glabra</em>, <em>Pergularia tomentosa</em>, <em>Tamarix gallica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes and obesity</td>
<td><em>Zychys lotus</em>, <em>Erodium glaucophyllum</em>, <em>Marticaria pubescens</em>, <em>Anabasis articulata</em>, <em>Ephedra alata</em>, <em>Peganum harmala</em>, <em>Glycyrrhiza glabra</em>, <em>Pergularia tomentosa</em>, <em>Tamarix gallica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analgesic, antisepetic and anti-inflammatory</td>
<td><em>Juncus maritimus</em>, <em>Nitraria retusa</em>, <em>Cotula cinerea</em>, <em>Plantago ciliata</em>, <em>Zychys lotus</em>, <em>Erodium glaucophyllum</em>, <em>Retama retam</em>, <em>Colyctnis vulgaris</em>, <em>Bassia muricata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scorpion stings and snake bites</td>
<td><em>Euphorbia gymniana</em>, <em>Anabasis articulata</em>, <em>Colyctnis vulgaris</em>, <em>Randonia Africana</em>, <em>Marticaria pubescens</em>, <em>Haloxylon articulatum</em>, <em>Calligonum comosum</em>, <em>Limonium gyanianum</em>, <em>Astragalus yezensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td><em>Ephedra alata</em>, <em>Salsola tetragona</em>, <em>Limonium gyanianum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td><em>Anabasis articulata</em>, <em>Tamarix gallica</em>, <em>Haloxylon strobilaceum</em>, <em>Haloxylon articulatum</em>, <em>Limonium gyanianum</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The representing plants are mostly used to cure fever, diuretic, cardiac disease, scorpion sting, gastrointestinal disorders, piles, skin diseases, cough, abortion, gastric ulcer, cephalalgia, hypertension, loss of appetite, colon, prostate, articular pains, conjunctivitis, diseases of eyes and eyelids, weakness of vision, fortify the gum asthma, jaundice, wounds and urinary problems. To improve the knowledge of medicinal plants and prevent the knowledge-loss, future work documenting...
medicinal plant identification, formulation and treatment preparation are taken internally or applied externally. Most of the plants used in medicines are single or either mixed with other ingredients.

The plant parts used for medical preparation were leaves, flowers, rhizomes, roots, seeds and boughs. The medicinal plant parts are processed in various forms (decoction, infusion, inhalation, ointment, herb tea) and administered through various routes (oral, dermal, nasal and other body parts). However, plant part(s) and homogenizing it in water are the commonly used form of herbal preparation for both human.

The oral administration which regrouped the major form of usage, which was in form of drink, was most exercised.
4. Conclusion
The present study focused on the need of proper documentation of medicinal plants that are used by the inhabitants of Oued Righ region for common diseases prevailing at this area.

The results of this study revealed a rich diversity of medicinal plants used to treat various disease conditions and ethnobotanical knowledge, amongst the residents at the various communities in the valley of Oued Righ which may through proper scientific investigations may yield novel compounds to treat both old and emerging diseases. According to our investigation, an inventory of 53 species belonging to 30 families is collected. Chenopodiaceae with seven species (A. articula, C. monacantha, A. halimus, H. strobilaceum, T. nudatum, B. mucrata and S. tetragona) is the most dominant family that was used to treat various illnesses with a rate of 23.33 %, followed by the family of Asteraceae and Fabaceae with 16.66 %. Poaceae and Zygophyllaceae both with a rate of 13.33 %.

The study should be extended to other parts of the country to discover any unknown potential use of any medicinal plants that have not been mentioned before, but is being used for the centuries to treat many difficult diseases.

5. Acknowledgments
We would like to thank M. Bouthaina Lakhdari for her helpful with a special thanks to the memory of my uncle the responsible of the entire palmary sector in the region of Beldet Omar Mr. Ahmed Lakhdari. We are also thankful to all the people of Oued Righ region who shared their ethnopharmacological knowledge with us. Additional thanks for our team of entomology laboratory in the Station of Sidi Mehdi (INRAA).

6. References