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Folk phytotherapeutical plants from Maratea area (Basilicata, Italy)

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**Abstract**

Field ethnobotanical survey was undertaken for the period of 2002–2003 in the Tyrrhenian part of the Basilicata region of southern Italy. Data of 56 species of plants belonging to 29 families where gathered through interviews; among the species, 47 are used in human therapy, 6 as insect repellents, 15 in veterinary medicine, 1 for its ichthyotoxic properties and 3 for magic therapeutic purposes. The most important findings

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| in ethnomedicine relate to *Nasturtium officinale* | | | (renal colic, liver diseases), *Foeniculum vulgare* | | subsp. *piperitum* | (mouth ulcers), *Leopoldia* |
| *comosa* | (toothache, headache), *Micromeria graeca* | | subsp. *graeca* | (coughs) and *Ceterach officinarum* | (malaria), while in the ethnoveterinary | |
| field, we have *Pteridium aquilinum* | | (wolf bites) and *Spartium junceum* | | (fractures of animal limbs). | |  |
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**1. Introduction**

Within the sphere of research aimed at producing a cen-sus of the heritage of usage and folk traditions of useful plants, which today disappear due to an increasing techno-logical lifestyle, ethnobotanical inquiries were conducted in the Tyrrhenian part of Basilicata with the aim of gathering information on medicinal uses. This geographic area was never fully investigated during previous ethnobotanical stud-ies (Caneva et al., 1997b; Pieroni et al., 2002a,b; Pieroni and Heinrich, 2002) and fewer still ethnobotanical investigations into other regions of southern Italian Peninsula (Capasso et al., 1982; Antonone et al., 1988; De Feo et al., 1991, 1992; De Feo and Senatore, 1993). The present research site is lo-cated in the Potenza district, between the regions of Campania to the north and of Calabria to the south, including roughly 30 km of coastline, and lying between the two national parks of Cilento and Mt. Pollino. Of jagged appearance, the area is rich in promontories rising straight from the sea and impos-ing mountains (Mt. Crivo, Mt. Coccovello; this last being the highest at 1505 m), with more than 70% of the territory char-

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acterized by sharp inclines. The research site covers the terri-tory of Maratea with some small scattered centers, stretching from the coast to the slopes of Mt. S. Biagio (Massa, Brefaro, S. Caterina, Fiumicello) and of the area of Trecchina,´ in the interior.

Maratea, located on high ground overlooking the Gulf of Policastro, is the ancient and suggestive Tyrrhenian en-trance to Basilicata (Fig. 1). The Greeks were probably the first to colonize the area and to found the small town in the eighth century B.C. It is well-known that the Greeks left their mark on the culture of many areas of southern Italy. Not all scholars agree on the origin of the name Maratea. The least dubious etymology (Racioppi, 1889; Cernicchiaro, 1979) is that the name of Maratea derives from “marathus” (fennel) and, therefore, it means “the land of fennel” (a plant which abounds here as a wild herb). Cernicchiaro (1979) writes that the ancient and famous Maratona had the same meaning. Racioppi (1889), in support of his thesis, under-lines the frequent “Graecism” recurring in many toponyms of Maratea, such as “Mautin `ıa” (land of locusts), “I profiti” (place of precocious agricultural produce) and “Melossina” (place of honey-bees). The dialect comes into the dominion of the Calabrian and Sicilian regions (Avolio, 1995; Melillo, 1955).

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Fig. 1. Geographical location of the field research area in the Basilicata region, Italy (latitude 40 ◦N, longitude 15◦45 E).

The territory is covered with a Mediterranean maquis

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| (shrubland) in which *Ceratonia siliqua* | | | | | , *Quercus ilex* | | , *Quer-* |
| *cus virgiliana* | | , *Myrtus* | *communis* | , *Phyllirea latifolia* | | | , *Erica* |
| *arborea* | and *Pistacia lentiscus* | | | stand out, and with a garrigue | | | |
| with *Erica multiflora* | | | , *Helianthemum apenninum* | |  | , *Chamae-* | |
| *cytisus* | *spinescens* | , | *Helichrysum* | *italicum* | , *Polygala* | *major* | , |
| *Polygala nicaeensis* | |  | subsp. *mediterranea* | | , *Satureja montana* | | , |
| *Origanum heracleoticum* | | | and *Salvia officinalis* | | | (this last is | |

abundant in a rocky belt at around 1000 m a.s.l.) (Caneva

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| et al., 1997a). On the sunny rocks | | | | *Centranthus ruber* | , |
| *Ruta chalepensis* | | , *Achnaterum calamagrostis* | | , *Elaeoselinum* |  |
| *asclepium* | , *Campanula fragilis* | | grow, and in pastures with | | |
| bushes the showy *Asphodeline liburnica* | | | | is found. Part of the | |

area was deforested in ancient times and has been periodically further afflicted by fires set to produce land for pasture. The mixed woods of the mountain belt (especially in Trecchina

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| area) are characterized by *Acer neapolitanum* | | | | , | *Castanea* |  |
| *sativa* | , *Corylus avellana* | , *Fraxinus* | *ornus* | , *Quercus* | *cerris* | , |
| *Quercus pubescens* | | , while along the banks of rivers *Laurus* | | | |  |
| *nobilis* | , *Salix alba* , *Salix elaeagnos* | | and *Salix purpurea* | | | are |
| found. *Olea europaea* | | and *Ceratonia* | *siliqua* | are extremely | | |

abundant, ancient examples being found along the coast, along with equally old specimens of *Pistacia terebinthus*

and *Quercus ilex* (Caneva et al., 1997a). The economy of the area is today characterized by tourism, but agricultural activities continue (production of wine, olive oil and vegetables). The climate is coastal Mediterranean with mild temperatures throughout the year (normally, the average yearly temperature is 14–16 ◦C) and with a dry summer period. Rainfall is abundant (about 1200 mm per year) (Caneva et al., 1997a).

**2. Methodology**

Field data were collected during the periods of April–July, 2002 and March, 2003 in the area of Maratea and Trecchina. Ethnobotanical information on the uses of wild plants and

some folk uses of cultivated plants were gathered through structured interviews. Prior informed consent was obtained for all interviews conducted. The informants interviewed numbered 49 (26 men, 23 women) whose ages ranged from 25 to 97 and who (mainly) belonged to families, which had strong links with traditional activities of the area. Most of the interviewees (36) were over 50 in age, of whom 5 were between 50 and 59, 12 between 60 and 69, 16 between 70 and 80 and 3 over 90 years old. Among the informants, 19 were farmers, while the remainder mainly building workers, restaurateurs, shepherds and housewives. They had all been living in the area under study for many years.

Interviews were carried out using fresh plant specimens, or by going into meadows and woods with the informants to collect plants reported to have folk uses. Voucher speci-mens of the related plants were collected and deposited in the Herbarium of the University of Roma Tre. Some tape-recordings are also kept in the National Museum of Arts and Folk Traditions of Rome. In the structured interviews, the in-formants were requested to furnish for each plant: vernacular name, folk use (in human therapy, in veterinary medicine, anti-parasitic uses), the preparation and parts used, period of gathering (seasons), related recipes, possible association with other plants and an indication of whether these cited uses were still practised. They were also asked to indicate whether the use was “personal” and/or familiar (that is practised by the informant or by one or more members of the same fa-mily) and/or practised by others (e.g., friends, acquain-tances). For the veterinary uses, information was requested concerning the species of animals treated. Further data con-sisted of an indication, in the informant’s opinion, of the fre-quency or rarity in the area of a given use, even if no longer practised.

The nomenclature of the plants listed follow that of Pignatti (1982), but we have also used Tutin et al. (1964–1980) and Greuter et al. (1984) in the identification of the plants.

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**3. Results**

The list of the species and their uses are presented in Table 1. The taxa cited are 56, belonging to 29 families, among which 47 are used in human therapy, 6 as insect repel-lents, 15 in veterinary medicine, 1 for illegal fishing and 3 for magical purposes. The most frequently cited plants (>5 in-

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| formants per use) are: *Ficus carica* | | | , *Ceratonia siliqua* | , *Citrus* |
| *limon* | , *Malva sylvestris* | , *Malva neglecta* | (cold and coughs), | |
| *Rubus* | *ulmifolius* | (wounds, boils), *Ruta chalepensis* | | (anti- |
| helmintic for humans and animals), *Plantago major* | | | | (boils), |
| and *Leopoldia comosa* | | (toothache). The more frequent use | | |

of plant species are for lung diseases (15 species; 69 infor-mants in total) and [intestinal](#page10) pains (15 plants; 16 informants) as shown in Table 2. Less frequently, plant species are used for skin diseases (9 species; 30 informants), as diuretics (6 plants; 17 informants) and for toothache (5 plants; 15 infor-mants). Table 3 shows that the most frequent veterinary use is as a vulnerary (4 plants; 7 informants).

**4. Discussion and conclusions**

The comparison of the folk phytotherapeutical data col-lected and the ethnomedicinal texts (Paris and Moyse, 1967, 1971; Schauenberg and Paris, 1977; Anzalone, 1986; Gastaldo, 1987), particularly the Italian ethnobotani-cal literature (Cappelletti, 1979; Bellomaria and Della Mora, 1985; Atzei et al., 1994; Uncini Manganelli and Tomei, 1999a,b; Pieroni, 2000; Ballero et al., 2001; Leporatti and Corradi, 2001; Viegi et al., 2003; and references therein) shows that uses reported here have not been previously men-tioned or possibly described for other Italian regions.

Among the 47 plant species recorded in the territory for usages in human medicine, 25 are no longer used today. The

most important current uses of *Leopoldia comosa* (synonym

*Muscari comosum* )(Tutin et al., 1964–1980 ) are to treat

toothache and headache (see also Leporatti and Pavesi, 1989). This is a plant held highly by the tradition of shepherds and, probably, in the medicine of Magna Grae-cia’s colonists ( Fournier, 1947–1948; Casoria et al., 1999; Guarrera, 2000). The cut bulbs transude mucilages, sugars, la-tex, gums, waxes, tannins, salts (Gastaldo, 1987), substances that will have to be further investigated, but also triterpenes, homoisoflavones and muscarosides ( Adinolfi et al., 1984,

1985, 1987). The uses relating to *Nasturtium officinale* , in cases of renal colic and liver disease, were previously unknown, but today the plant is known as a detoxifier. The de-

coction of *Ceterach officinarum* is also drunk for renal colic (kidney stones) (see also Lentini et al., 1988; Lentini and

Aleo, 1991). Chewing *Foeniculum vulgare* subsp. *piperitum*

leaves, in order to cure mouth ulcers, is unique to Maratea. Among the uses found only once in Italy and, again, still

in current use, we can point to *Micromeria graeca* subsp.

*graeca* (decoction for coughs). This plant, containing

especially flavonoids ( Tomas-Barberan et al., 1991), but also

terpenes, such as caryophyllene oxide and b-chamigrene and phenols, such as epi-a-bisabolol and linalol (Tzakou and Couladis, 2001), also would merit further investigation. In cases of coughs and as a laxative, a decoction of *Malva*

*neglecta* roots was again described (in Italian traditions, ref-

erence is commonly made to the leaves of *Malva sylvestris* ,

not to its roots). *Ruta chalepensis* is held highly in the area,

as the proverb suggests: “La ruta sette mali stuta”, that is,

“rue cures seven ailments”. The use of this species rubbed on the skin in the case of insect bites is also unknown for Italy.

The application of *Castanea sativa* and *Juglans regia* leaves

or of powdered *Myrtus communis* leaves in shoes, to reduce

perspiration and prevent sore feet, are not frequent in other

Italian regions (Barone, 1963; Tammaro, 1984; Atzei et

al., 1991, 1994). Among discontinued uses, we have *Hedera*

*helix*bark powder to treat aching teeth and *Olea europaea*

gum from branches. For whooping cough and asthma, people

used a decoction of *Rosmarinus officinalis* tops (also see Bellomaria and Della Mora, 1985); the same preparation is still used today as a cure for coughs and colds. Chewing fresh leaves of *Sonchus* species, “juncia”, as a digestive, is a rare use. This plant contains sesquiterpene lactones, bitter sub-stances (Miyase and Fukushima, 1987), scopoletin, esculetin (El-Khrisy et al., 1992) and other compounds (Mousa and Al-Hazimi, 1990; Ahmed, 1992; Nassar et al., 1995). A

decoction of *Urtica dioica* root to treat gastric or gastro-duodenal ulcers is also an interesting practice (see also Atzei et al., 1994; Guarrera, 1994), while a decoction of *Sambucus*

*nigra* leaves as an antiseptic is infrequent. A kind of“macaroon” eaten to cure malaria (a use reported by only one informant who recovered from the illness) was prepared

with *Ceterach officinarum* leaves, which contain caffeic acid, camferol 3-7 diglycoside, chlorogenic acid, quercetol 3-glucoside, neohesperidin and amino acids, and pyrocate-cholic tannins (Bandini, 1961; Kritikos and Philianos, 1971; Philianos and Barbouni-Kaloumenou, 1980). Mechanical stimulation, using a small piece of the leafy stalk of *Brassica*

*oleracea* soaked in olive oil and wrapped with a hair, is con-sidered efficacious in cases of constipation (see also Pieroni et al., 2002b). Among the five species used as an anti-parasitic

or repellents, we can name here *Inula viscosa* . A broom was made with the leaves of this plant to clean the rooms and to eliminate dust, but above all, to remove fleas; the stickiness of the leaves made it easier to trap the insects, while the plant’s strong scent acted as a repellent because it contains essential oil (Karamenderes and Zeybek, 2000), eucalyptol (Lauro and Rolih, 1990), and anti-parasitic compound 12-carboxy-3,11(13)-eudesmadiene (Azoulay et al., 1986). Another

anti-parasitic plant, we can name *Calamintha nepeta* , used in a rather curious manner: some shepherds always had some leaves between their teeth to remove botflies (Diptera, Cutere-bridae) that could occasionally lay eggs on the mucous mem-branes (e.g., throat, eyes). The same use with a small branch of *Vitis vinifera* against ants seems to be a magical use. *Olea*

*europaea* oil for scabies and *Urginea maritima* bulbs as amouse repellent are also reported (see also Viegi et al., 2003).

Table 1

Plants used in the folk phytotherapy of the Tyrrhenian sector of Basilicata

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scientific name (family) | | | Local names | Parts used | Preparation |  | Popular uses or | Citations | Frequencya | Current use | Usersb | Gatheringc | Habitatd |
| and (voucher specimen) | | |  |  |  |  | diseases treated |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Acer neapolitanum* |  | Ten. | Acero | Fresh bark | Local application (bark | | Wounds | 1 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Mewo |
| (Aceraceae) (B1) | | |  |  | tied like a bandage) | | (veterinary use) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Allium sativum* |  | L. | Aglio | Bulb | Cloves (necklace) or | | Antihelmintic use | 3 | R | No | P,F,O | Al | Cu |
| (Liliaceae) (B2) | | |  |  | crushed |  | for children |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Bulb | Cooked in vinegar | | For toothache | 1 | R | No | P | Al |  |
| *Brassica oleracea* |  | L. | Cavolo | Base of stalk | Local use of leafy stalk | | Laxative | 1 | R | No | P,F,O | Al | Cu |
| (Cruciferae) (B3) | | |  |  | soaked in olive oil and | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | wrapped with a hair | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Calamintha nepeta* |  | (L.) | Nepeta | Stem/leaves | Held between the teeth | | Fly repellent | 2 | R | No | O | Al | Unc |
| Savi (Labiatae) (B4) | | |  | Aerial part | Crushed with *Salix* | | Generic veterinary | 1 | R | No | F, O | Al | Wa |
|  |  |  |  |  | *alba* |  | disturbances |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Aerial part | The plant was smelt | | Against asthma | 1 | R | No | F, O | Al |  |
| *Castanea sativa* |  | Miller | Castagno | Tender leaves | Applied to the sores of | | To reduce | 2 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Sp, su, fa | Mewo |
| (Fagaceae) (B5) | | |  |  | the feet |  | perspiration and |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | prevent sore feet |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Ceratonia siliqua* |  | L. | Carrubo | Dried seeds | Decoction with |  | Colds, coughs | 10 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Mema, Co |
| (Leguminosae) (B6) | | |  |  | mallow, dried figs, | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | seeds and roots of | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | fennel, lemon, dried | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | grapes and apples | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Ceterach officinarum* | | DC. | Spaccapietre | Leaves | Decoction |  | Renal colics and | 2 | R | Yes | O | Al | Wa |
| (Aspleniaceae) (B7) | | |  |  |  |  | kidney stones |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Tablet |  | Malaria | 1 | R | No | P | Al |  |
| *Cynodon dactylon* |  | (L.) | Gramigna | Rhizomes | Decoction |  | Renal stones | 4 | C | Yes | F, O | Su, au | Unc |
| Pers. (Gramineae) (B8) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Rhizomes | Roasted |  | Diuretic coffee | 2 | C | No | F, O | Al | Cu, Ro |
| *Citrus limon* | (L.) Burm. | | Limone |  | See *Ceratonia siliqua* |  | Colds, coughs | 7 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Cu |
| (Rutaceae) (B9) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Cynara cardunculus* |  | L. | Carciofo | Leaves | Decoction |  | Liver diseases | 2 | R | No | P,F,O | Al | Cu |
| subsp. *scolymus* | | (L.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hayek |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Compositae)(B10) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Euphorbia characias* | | L. | Pede de lupo | Leaves, tops | Ingestion |  | To provoke | 1 | R | No | O | Al | Ga |
| (Euphorbiaceae) (B11) | | |  |  |  |  | miscarriage |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Euphorbia dendroides* | | L. | Tasso, rugna | Latex | Some branches with | | Fishing for eels | 2 | R | No | F, O | Al | Ga, Co |
| (Euphorbiaceae) (B12) | | |  |  | latex placed in front of | | and octopus |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | the octopus’ den |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Ficus carica* | L. |  | Ficara` | Latex | Application |  | For warts | 3 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Cu |
| (Moraceae) (B13) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Dried fruits | Decoction (with |  | Colds and coughs | 10 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | *Ceratonia.siliqua* | ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| *Foeniculum vulgare* |  | Finucchio | Fruits | Decoction |  | Digestive | 1 | Vc | Yes | O | Su | Esc, |
| Miller subsp. *piperitum* | | Finucchiello | Tender leaves | Chewed and stuck on | | Mouth ulcers | 1 | C | Yes | P | Sp | Unc |
| (Ucria) Coutinho | |  |  | ulcers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Umbelliferae) (B14) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Finocchietto | Roots, seeds | Decoction (see |  | For colds and | 2 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Su | Ga |
|  |  |  |  | *Ceratonia siliqua* | ) | coughs |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Fruits | Decoction |  | Intestinal diseases | 3 | C | Yes | F | Su |  |
| *Fragaria vesca* | L. | Fragola | Leaves | Decoction, juice |  | Antidiarrhoeic | 1 | R | No | P | Sp | Cle |
| (Rosaceae) (B15) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (wo) |
| *Hedera helix* | L. | Gissu | Gum, bark | Gum/powdered bark | | Antiodontalgic | 2 | C | No | P,F,O | Al | Wo |
| (Araliaceae) (B16) | |  |  | applied locally |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Leaves | Eaten after giving birth | | Depurative | 3 | C | No | P,F,O | Al | Wa |
|  |  |  |  | (goats) |  | (veterinary use) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Leaves | Eaten after birth |  | Galactagogue | 4 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | (veterinary use) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Inula viscosa* | (L.) Aiton | Crisi | Branches with | Broom for sweeping | | Flea repellent | 2 | R | No | F, O | Al | Unc |
| (Compositae) (B17) | |  | leaves | the floor |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Juglans regia* | L. | Noce | Leaves | Topic use |  | To reduce | 1 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Cu |
| (Juglandaceae) (B18) | |  |  |  |  | perspiration and |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | prevent sore feet |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Lactuca sativa* | L. | Lattuga | Leaves | Compresses |  | Abscesses | 3 | C | No | P,F,O | Sp | Cu |
| (Compositae) (B19) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Laurus nobilis* | L. | Lauro | Leaves | Decoction |  | Intestinal pains | 2 | C | No | P,F,O | Al | Cu, Da |
| **(** Lauraceae) (B20) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Leaves | Decoction |  | Gastric diseases | 2 | C | Yes | F, O | Al |  |
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | | Lavanda | Flowery tops | Put in four containers | | To remove bed | 1 | C | No | F, O | Su | Gd |
| Miller (Labiatae) (B21) | |  |  | with water; a leg of the | | bugs |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | bed placed in each | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | container |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Leopoldia comosa* | (L.) | Cipuddini | Bulbs | Compresses (the |  | Toothache | 9 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Su | Co, Ga |
| Parl. (Liliaceae) (B22) | |  |  | grated bulb is applied | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | on a paper disc) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Bulbs | Compresses (as above) | | Headache | 5 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Sp |  |
| *Linum usitatissimum* | L. | Lino | Seeds | Local application (on | | Pneumonia, | 3 | Vc | No | P,F,O | Su | Cu |
| (Linaceae) (B23) | |  |  | the chest) |  | bronchitis |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Lycopersicon esculentum* | | Pomodoro | Fruit | Topical application | | Insect bites | 3 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Su | Cu |
| Miller (Solanaceae) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (B24) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Malus domestica* | Borkh. | Milo | Dried fruits | See *Ceratonia siliqua* |  | Colds and coughs | 3 | C | No | P,F,O | Al | Cu |
| (Rosaceae) (B25) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Malva neglecta* | Wallr. | Malva, | Roots, leaves | Decoction |  | For coughs | 7 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Sp | Unc, |
| (Malvaceae) (B26) | | Margola,` |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Me |
| *M. sylvestris* | L. | Maura | Cooked leaves | Topical application | | Abscesses | 3 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Su |  |
| (Malvaceae) (B27) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Table 1 (*Continued* | | ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scientific name (family) | | | Local names | Parts used | Preparation |  | Popular uses or | Citations | Frequencya | Current use | Usersb | Gatheringc | Habitatd |
| and (voucher specimen) | | |  |  |  |  | diseases treated |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Roots | Decoction |  | Emollient | 3 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Sp |  |
|  |  |  |  | Aerial part | Decoction |  | Sedative | 1 | R | No | P,F,O | Sp, Su |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Apply leaves cooked | | Inflamed gums | 3 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Su |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | with honey |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Roots | Decoction with honey | | Laxative | 3 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Su |  |
|  |  |  |  | Aerial part | Decoction (see |  | Respiratory | 8 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Sp |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | *Ceratonia siliqua* | ) | diseases |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Entire plant | Decoction |  | Prostate | 2 | C | Yes | O | Sp, su |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | disturbances |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Aerial part | Decoction |  | Sore throat | 4 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Sp |  |
|  |  |  |  | Entire plant | Decoction |  | Intestinal pains | 4 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Sp, su |  |
|  |  |  |  | Entire plant | Decoction |  | Diuretic | 3 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Sp, su |  |
| *Matricaria chamomilla* | | L. | Cambumilla | Flower heads | Decoction |  | Colds and coughs | 4 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Kigd |
| (Compositae) (B28) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Camomilla | Flower heads | Decoction |  | Sedative | 3 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | Flower heads | Decoction |  | Eye inflammations | 2 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | Flower heads | Decoction |  | Intestinal pains | 3 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | Flower heads | Decoction |  | Nervous | 2 | R | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | breakdown |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Flower heads | Decoction |  | Menstrual pains | 2 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | Flower heads | Decoction |  | Headache | 1 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | Aerial part | Decoction |  | After birth (cows | 2 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | and goats) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Flower heads | Placed in cupboards | | To eliminate | 1 | C | Yes | O | Sp |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | and drawers |  | moths |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Flower heads |  |  | Repellent for bees | 1 | R | No | O | Sp |  |
| *Mercurialis annua* |  | L. | Merculeddi | Leaves | Decoction |  | Colics | 2 | C | No | F, O | Al | Unc, fi |
| (Euphorbiaceae) (B29) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Dry leaves | Decoction (with three | | Gastric | 5 | C | No | F, O | Al | Co |
|  |  |  |  |  | tips of olive) |  | disturbances |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (cows) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Micromeria graeca* |  | (L.) |  | Tops | Decoction to be drunk | | For coughs | 1 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Su | Rock, wa |
| Bentham subsp. *graeca* | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Labiatae) (B30) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Myrtus communis* |  | L. | Murtidda | Dried leaves | Apply powdered |  | To reduce | 2 | R | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Mema |
| (Myrtaceae) (B31) | | |  |  | leaves to the feet |  | perspiration and to |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | prevent sore feet |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Nasturtium officinale* | | R. | Crisciumuli, | Leaves, tops | In salad |  | Liver diseases | 6 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Sp, Su | Da |
| Br. (Cruciferae) (B32) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Crisciune | Leaves, tops | In salad |  | Diuretic | 3 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Sp, Su |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves, tops | In salad |  | Renal colics | 2 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Sp, Su |  |
| *Olea europaea* |  | L. var. | Olivo | Gum | Application of gum | | Toothache | 1 | R | No | P,F,O | Al | Cu |
| *europea* | (Oleaceae) | |  |  | (from branches) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (B33) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Decoction |  | Hypertension | 1 | R | No | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | Oil | Applied locally with | | Scabies (dogs, | 4 | C | No | F, O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | sulphur |  | cats, and rabbits) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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|  |  |  |  | Oil | Against the evil eye | | Oil and water are | 2 | C | No | O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | (magical use) | | mixed in a plate |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | and the evil eye is |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | interpreted from |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | the shapes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Parietaria diffusa* | | M. et | Mentosa | Aerial parts | Decoction (30’) | | Urinary | 1 | C | Yes | F | Sp | Wa |  |
| K. (Urticaceae) (B34) | | |  |  | (6 tops/1 l of water) | | disturbances |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *P* . *officinalis* | L. (B35) | |  | Aerial parts | Crushed between two | | Haematomas | 3 | C | No | F | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | stones and applied | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | locally |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Petroselinum crispum* |  |  | Putrusinu | Leaves | Way of use not | | To provoke | 2 | R | No | O | Al | Cu |  |
| (Miller) A.W. Hill | | |  |  | precised |  | miscarriage |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Umbelliferae) (B36) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Phyllirea latifolia* | | L. | Agrommeto` | Branches | Branches hung over | | To catch flies | 1 | R | No | P, O | Al | Mema |  |
| (Oleaceae) (B37) | | |  |  | the entrance to | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | cowsheds |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Pistacia lentiscus* |  | L. | Lentisco | Leaves | Mouthwashes with the | | Toothache | 1 | C | No | P,F,O | Al | Mema |  |
| (Anacardiaceae) (B38) | | |  |  | decoction |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Gum from the | Local application | | To deaden teeth | 1 | C | No | P,F,O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | branches |  |  | and make them |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | fall (in 24 h) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Plantago major* |  | L. | Centonerve | Leaves | Applied locally | | Wounds | 3 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Unc |  |
| (Plantaginaceae) (B39) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Compresses or apply | | Boils | 6 | Vc | No | P,F,O | Al | Me |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | crushed leaves | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Local application | | Abscesses | 2 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Local application | | Wounds, including | 2 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | those with pus |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (veterinary use) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Pteridium aquilinum* |  | (L.) | Filici | Cinder of | Applied locally with | | To treat animal | 2 | Vc | No | F, O | Al | Cle (wo) |  |
| Kuhn |  |  |  | aerial parts | olive oil (“morga”) | | bitten by wolf |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Hypolepidaceae) | | |  |  |  |  | (veterinary use) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (B40) |  |  | ` |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Quercus ilex* | L. |  | White cinder | Decoction with *M.* | | After birth | 2 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Tewo |  |
|  | Ilece, elce |  |
| (Fagaceae) (B41) | | |  | of the wood | *chamomilla* | flower | (veterinary use) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | heads (1 l three times a | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | day for goats; 4 l twice | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | a day for cows) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Rosmarinus officinalis* | | L. | Rosamarina | Leaves | Decoction |  | Whooping cough | 1 | R | No | O | Al | Rock |  |
| (Labiatae) (B42) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Decoction |  | Colds, coughs | 2 | C | Yes | F, O | Al | Cu |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Decoction, juice | | Asthma | 1 | R | No | O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Decoction |  | Intestinal pains | 1 | C | Yes | F, O | Al |  |  |
| *Rubus ulmifolius* |  | Schott | Spina, ceusa` | Leaves, tops | Application of | | Wounds, | 8 | Vc | No | P,F,O | Al | Scr, cle (wo) |  |
| (Rosaceae) (B43) | | | spina |  | decoction or leaves | | including those |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | (also as disinfectant) | | with pus, boils |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Table 1 (*Continued* | | ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scientific name (family) | | | Local names | Parts used | Preparation | Popular uses or | Citations | Frequencya | Current use | Usersb | Gatheringc | Habitatd |  |
| and (voucher specimen) | | |  |  |  | diseases treated |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Washes/application | Wounds of | 2 | R | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | with olive oil | animals, |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | decoction and sulphur | particularly to the |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | (or verdigris) | feet (“zopp `ıa”) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Wet leaves | External application | Pains of all types | 4 | C | No | P, O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Peeled | Branches tied to the | Magical use | 1 | C | No | P,F,O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | branches | body of an animal after |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | it gave birth; when the |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | branches dried, the |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | placenta should have |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | dried |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Ruta chalepensis* | | L. | Ruta | Leaves | Application | Insect bites | 1 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Rock |  |
| (Rutaceae) (B44) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Aerial part | Placed near the cradle | Antihelmintic (for | 3 | Vc | No | P,F,O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | babies) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Crushed aerial | Ingestion of poultice | Antihelmintic | 12 | Vc | No | P,F,O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | part | with garlic or a | (veterinary use for |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | decoction to be drunk | cows, calfs, goats, |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | and lambs) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Aerial parts | Decoction | Gastric | 1 | C | No | F, O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | disturbances for |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | cows |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Aerial part | Decoction (sometimes | Antihelmintic | 7 | C | No | P,F,O | Al |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | with garlic) reduced by |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | boiling to 1/4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Salix alba* | L. (Salicaceae) | | Salice | Branches | Crushed branches with | Generic | 1 | R | No | F, O | Al |  |  |
| (B45) |  |  |  |  | *C. nepeta* aerial parts | disturbances of |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | are fed to chickens | chickens |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Salvia officinalis* | | L. | Salvia | Leaves | Decoction | Depression | 1 | R | Yes | F, O | Al | Cu |  |
| (Labiatae) (B46) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Leaves | Decoction | Trembling | 1 | R | Yes | F, O | Al | Moga |  |
| *Sambucus nigra* |  | L. | Sambuco | Flowery tops | Decoction | Wounds | 1 | C | No | F | Sp | He, Daw |  |
| (Caprifoliaceae) (B47) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Solanum tuberosum* | | L. | Patata | Tuber | Application of slices | Eye | 1 | R | No | F, O | Al | Cu |  |
| (Solanaceae) (B48) | | |  |  | (changed frequently) | inflammations, |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | insect bites, and |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | herpes zoster |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Tuber | Application of slices | Burns | 3 | C | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |  |
| *Sonchus arvensis* | | L. | Juncia, junci | Leaves | Two fresh leaves to be | Digestive | 4 | Vc | No | P, F | Sp, Su | Unc, Cu |  |
| (B49), *S. asper* | | (L.) |  |  | chewed after meals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hill (B50) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *S. oleraceus* | L. (B51), *S.* | |  | Leaves | Salads | For throat | 1 | R | No | P | Al | Wa (*S. tener-rimus* | ) |
| *tenerrimus* | L. (B52) | |  |  |  | complaints |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

(Compositae)

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| *Spartium junceum* | L. | Spartu | Ring of bark | Plaster (the bark tied | Fractures of limbs | 3 | C | Yes | P, O | Al | Sh |
| Leguminosae (B53) | |  |  | tightly with the stems | (sheeps, goats, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | and removed after 21 | cats, dogs, but not |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | days) | cows) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Stems | Make as many knots as | To eliminate warts | 6 | R | No | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | the number of warts | (magical use) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | and then throw away |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Urginea maritima* | (L.) | Cipudda | Bulb | The cut bulbs were | To repel mice | 1 | R | No | P, F | Al | Dr, Ga |
| Baker (Liliaceae) (B54) | | canina |  | rubbed onto the skin of |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | livestock (on mouse |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | bites) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Bulb | To apply cut bulbs | Haematomas | 1 | R | No | P,F,O | Al |  |
| *Urtica dioica* | Mert. et | Ard`ıca | Roots | Decoction | Intestinal pains | 1 | C | No | P,F,O | Al | Unc |
| Koch (Urticaceae) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (B55) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Tops | Decoction (‘left under | Reddening of the | 1 | R | No | P | Al | Ru |
|  |  |  |  | the stars’) | skin |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Entire plant | Decoction | For hair loss; to | 2 | R | No | O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | reinforce hair |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Roots | Decoction (drunk | Gastric or | 1 | R | No | O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | before eating) | gastroduodenal |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | ulcers |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Vitis vinifera* | L. | Vite | Cooked wine | Wine (reduced by | For coughs | 1 | Vc | Yes | P,F,O | Al | Cu |
| (Vitaceae) (B56) | |  |  | boiling to ½) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Vinegar and | The muzzle is | “Vuccaina” | 2 | C | No | F, O | Al |  |
|  |  |  | salt | immersed in a tin and | (aphtha) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | the mouth held in the | (veterinary use for |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | liquid | cows and goats) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Wine | Applied locally with | “Vuccaina” | 1 | C | Yes | F, O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | sulphur | (aphtha) (veter. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | use) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Dried grapes | See *Ceratonia siliqua* | Colds and coughs | 3 | R | Yes | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  | Branch | Put in the teeth against | Magical uses | 2 | R | No | P,F,O | Al |  |
|  |  |  |  | ant bites |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Frequency: C, common; Vc, very common; R, rare.
2. Users: P, personal; F, familiar; O, mentioned by others.
3. Period of gathering: Sp, spring; Su, summer; Fa, fall; Wi, winter; Al, always.
4. Habitat: Cle, Clearings; Co, Coasts; Cu, cultivated areas; Da, damp areas; Daw, damp woods; Dr, dry slopes; Esc, escarpments; Fi, fields; Ga, garrigue s; Gd, gardens; Kigd, kitchen gardens; He, hedges; Me, meadows; Mema, Mediterranean maquis; Mewo, mesophilous woods; Moga, mountain garrigues; Ro, roadsides; Rock, rocky slopes; Ru, ruins; Scr, scrubland; Sh, shrubby areas; Te, termophilous woods; Unc, uncultivated areas; Uncdr, uncultivated dry areas; Wa, walls; Wo, woods.

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| Table 2 |  |  |  |  |
| List of folk plant uses relating to human therapy in the Tyrrhenian sector of Basilicata | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Therapeutic use |  | Citations for use | Percentage of each use | No. of species for use |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Constipation |  | 4 | l*.*72 | 2 |
| Digestion |  | 6 | 2*.*59 | 3 |
| Diuresis (including renal colics and kidney stones) | | 17 | 7*.*33 | 6 |
| Eye inflammations |  | 3 | l *.*29 | 2 |
| Female disorders |  | 2 | 0*.*86 | 1 |
| Haematoma (including contusions) |  | 4 | l*.*72 | 2 |
| Headache |  | 6 | 2*.*59 | 2 |
| Helminthiasis |  | 13 | 5*.*60 | 2 |
| Hypertension |  | 1 | 0*.*43 | 1 |
| Insect bites |  | 6 | 2*.*59 | 4 |
| Intestinal pains |  | 16 | 6*.*90 | 15 |
| Liver diseases |  | 8 | 3*.*45 | 2 |
| Lung diseases (including colds, coughs, bronchitis and tracheitis) | | 69 | 29*.*74 | 15 |
| Malaria |  | l | 0*.*43 | 1 |
| Prostate disturbances |  | 2 | 0*.*86 | 1 |
| Sedative (nervous ailments)a |  | 9 | 3*.*88 | 4 |
| Skin diseases |  | 30 | 12*.*93 | 9 |
| Stomach pains |  | 2 | 0*.*86 | 1 |
| Stomatitis |  | 3 | l*.*29 | 2 |
| Toothache |  | 15 | 6*.*47 | 5 |
| Vulnerary (including burns) |  | 15 | 6[*.*](#page11)47 | 4 |

1. Including depression, nervous breakdown and trembling.

In the territory of Maratea, 15 plant species were men-tioned to be used in local veterinary medicine. The prac-

tice of applying the fresh bark of *Acer neapolitanum* to

cuts as a bandage is unique to the area and has not been

described elsewhere. The cinders of *Pteridium aquilinum*

leaves, mixed with dregs of olive oil, are applied to the skin

of animals bitten by wolves and, even today, to wounds sus-

tained by livestock. There are numerous preparations admin-

istered after labour, primarily *Hedera helix* (which contains

anti-inflammatory saponins) ( Suleyman et al., 2003), *Matri-*

*caria chamomilla* (which contains anti-inflammatory essen-

tial oil) (Schauenberg and Paris, 1977), *Quercus ilex* cinder. Very original practice is the use of plaster, which is applied to fractures of animal limbs, using a ring made of *Spartium*

*junceum* bark, with which the injured limb was enveloped and

immobilized. The use of *Mercurialis annua* as a purge is to

be questioned because of the toxic amines and atractyloside

Table 3

List of folk plant uses relating to veterinary therapy in the Tyrrhenian sector of Basilicata

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Veterinary use | Citations | Percentage | No. of species |
|  | for use | of each use | for use |
|  |  |  |  |
| Antihelmintic | 12 | 23*.*52 | 1 |
| Birth | 4 | 7*.*85 | 2 |
| Depurative | 3 | 5*.*88 | 1 |
| Digestion | 6 | 11*.*76 | 2 |
| Epizootic aphtha | 3 | 5*.*88 | 1 |
| Fractures | 3 | 5*.*88 | 1 |
| Galactagogue | 5 | 9*.*81 | 2 |
| Generic disturbances | 4 | 7*.*85 | 2 |
| Scabies | 4 | 7*.*85 | 1 |
| Vulnerary | 7 | 13*.*72 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |

(Aliotta, 1987; Leporatti et al., 1996). Until the 1960’s, *Eu-*

*phorbia dendroides* was utilized because of its icthyotoxic la-tex (see also Chiovenda-Bensi, 1960; Uphof, 1968; Bernardo, 1995; Alvarez Arias, 2000). Magical powers are attributed,

by analogy, to *Spartium junceum* to eliminate warts, and to

*Rubus ulmifolius,* to dry the placenta of an animal after birth.

The present research shows that less than half of the remembered uses in human medicine are still practised, above all by the elderly, while only a few uses in vet-erinary science (birth, wounds) survive. The preservation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| of numerous plant names of Greek origin | (e.g., *Hed-* |
| *era helix* , “gissu”, from the Greek word “kiss | os”)` ( Rocci, |
| 1993) or Latin derivation (e.g. *Calamintha nepeta* | , “nepeta”) |

(Badellino, 1962) is notable, and it could also indicate a good persistence of traditional culture in the area through the centuries. We hope that this survey contribute in re-ducing the progressive loss of the traditional “memory” in Basilicata region, and that the knowledge of the resources of this popular pharmacopoeia, will become the starting point for in-depth phytochemical and phytopharmacological studies.

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