

Ethnobotanical studies and economic evaluation of medicinal plants in Belbei's Center, Sharkia Governorate, Egypt

S. E. EL-Shennawy^{1,*}, S. M. Ismael¹, A. B. Abdelazeez³, and A. S. El-Saeid²

¹ Botany and Microbiology Department, Faculty of Science (Girls Branch), Al –Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.

² Botany and Microbiology Department, Faculty of Science, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.

³ National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS), Cairo, Egypt.

* Corresponding author E-mail: sahargomaa2031.el@azhar.edu.eg (S. EL-Shennawy)

ABSTRACT

The shortage of food and medicines in developing countries, in addition to their high cost, is considered one of the challenges in these countries. Traditional medicine, which relies mainly on medicinal plants, could be one of the solutions to overcome these challenges, so we should preserve these plants and their genetic origin. Egypt is one of the countries that contains many medically important plants. A total of 72 taxa were recorded as medicinal and economical purposes in Belbei's Centre, Al-Sharkia Governorate, Egypt. *Poaceae* and *Asteraceae*, were the most commonly families represented in this Governorate. The most commonly used plant parts are the whole plant, flowering branches, followed by the seeds, fruits, and rhizome. The most medicinal and economical uses of the recorded species include grazing, antimicrobial activity, diuretic, and antioxidant retreatments. Many of these species in the study area have multiple medicinal and economic benefits, while \ few of them have limited benefits.

KeyWords: Medicinal plants; Belbei's Centre; Al-Sharkia Governorate.

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants have diversetypesof plants used as ethnobotany and have medicinal effects. They are considered as a rich resource of ingredients which can be used in drug synthesis and evolution. Plant essential oils and several plant extracts have a highly biological activity which in turn is useful on traditional medicine which has antimicrobial properties of these plants (Martínez *et al.*, 1996). There are not enough studies concerned with the importance of medicinal and economic plants. Nearly, a half million plant species around the world have not been verified yet for their medicinal and economic importance, so medicinal plants have a promising future (Singh, 2015). Medicinal plants have several features such as; prophylactic, formal and synergistic medicine (Hassan *et al.*, 2012). Medicinal plants may be classified according to the part used, habit, habitat, therapeutic value, besides the usual botanical classification (Joy *et al.*, 1998). Recently, due to the beneficial effects of antioxidants, particularly natural antioxidants, in the treatment and prevention of diseases, there has been a considerable interest in finding natural antioxidants from plant sources. The studies on medicinal plants show that most of them possess significant antioxidant activity (Rafieian-Kopaie and Baradaran, 2013). They are considered as good sources of large variety of antioxidants (Rafieian-Kopaie and Baradaran, 2013),

anticancer (Shirzad *et al.*, 2012), anti-atherosclerosis (Khosravi-Boroujeni *et al.*, 2012), anti-diabetic (Kazemi *et al.*, 2010) and immunomodulatory (Shirzad *et al.*, 2009) throughout the world. Täckholm, 1974 and Boulos, 2000 mentioned a large number of medicinal and aromatic plants in the Egyptian flora. In addition, numerous plants acclimatized to Egypt (Shams *et al.*, 2009). The interaction between classical and modern medicine is to be confirmed for a new drug development (Aboul-Enein *et al.*, 2012). The aim of this study is to identify the economic and medicinal plants and review traditional ethnomedicinal knowledge of the local people in present in El-Sharkia Governorate- Belbei's Centre. Several phytochemical prospective studies can be conducted on plants recorded in this area, to get benefits of these plants in the treatment of many diseases.

Study area

The survey of the present study 2020 and 2022, was during both winter and summer seasons to represent the flora of Belbei's agroecosystems. A total of 169 stands were selected to investigate the weed flora of the study area (85 stands in winter and another 84 in summer). Stands were chosen to represent different crops growing in the study area. Stands were distributed along Belbei's Centre according to the size of the cultivated area within the Center. Each stand encompassed four quadrates (5m x 5m). GPS coordinates of each stand were recorded. Presence and

absence of data have been recorded with for each species in each stand. Selected taxa founded in each stand were listed after complete identification according to Täckholm (1974) and Boulos (1999–2009). Voucher herbarium specimens were deposited in the herbarium of the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science (Boys) and Al-Azhar University.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Floristic Survey

About 72 species obtained from 23 families with economic and medicinal importance were recorded. Asteraceae (10 species = 13.8 % of the total species). Fabaceae was represented by seven species (9.7%). Chenopodiaceae and Brassicaceae were represented by five species each. In addition, 12 families, representing 16.6%, have only one treatment. From the results, the most medicinal and economical uses of the recorded species include, grazing, antimicrobial activity, antioxidant activity, stimulant, anti-inflammatory, diuretic, antitumor activity and anticancer activity.

The used parts of plant species

With regard to the used parts which have economical and medicinal importance in the study area, it is clear that the whole plants and flowering branches were the most important parts of the plant with 13 antimicrobial and antibacterial treatments (18 % of the total species), followed by seeds with attributes of 8 (11 % of the total species), leaves were 6, whereas fruits and rhizome shared with 3 treatments (Table 1, Fig. 3).

A total of 14 taxa representing 16 % of the total number used for grazing, and 11 species representing 13 % have antimicrobial activity and diuretic properties, also 8 species symbolizing 9% have antioxidant activities, Furthermore, 5 types representing 6 % applied as anti-inflammatory and rheumatism treatments. In the same sense, 5 species performed 4.3% can be used in stomachic treatments. 4 species representing 5% used as edible food. Also 3 taxa representing 4% of the total number of recorded species used for treatment of malaria. As well, 5 diseases of Vermifuge, Anti-nociceptive, Anti-spasmodic, Analgesic and Antihemorrhagic have two different treatments.

Economic and medicine uses.

The people of the different tribes may show affinities to use more than one recipe or treatment for a definite disease; this can be

seen in figure 4. Diarrhea is the most common, and they have 14 different treatments. Antimicrobial, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory followed with six different treatments. On the contrary, two diseases, namely rheumatism and wound treatments, have only four treatments each. The economical plants used for grazing and edibles are represented by 14% and 3 different treatments.

As a matter of fact, many worldwide authors have studied medicinal plants such as; Schauenberg and Paris, 1977; Ayensu, 1979; Dagmar, 2006; Marshall, 2011; Hassan, 2012; Rafieian-Kopaie and Baradaran, 2013 and Singh, 2015. A number of authors have studied medicinal plants in different countries. Fournier (1948) studied medicinal plants in France. In China, many people use traditional medicine. Keys (1976) recorded many Chinese herbs which were used in traditional medicine. In Iran, many reports mentioned the importance of using traditional medicine to treat many diseases with guidelines of World Health Organization (Naseri, 2004). Çakmakçi *et al.* (2009) referred to the medicinal and economic importance of many plants in Ispir region, Turkey. In Uganda local communities rely heavily on traditional medicine to treat many diseases (Namukobe *et al.*, 2011). Aldhebani and Mufarah (2017) carried out the phytochemical screening of some wild plants from wadi Yalmlam of Saudi Arabia. Boulos (1983) referred to medicinal plants in North Africa with an accurate explanation of how plant species are used to treat many diseases. Lemordant *et al.* (1977) recorded many useful and toxic plants in Tunisia. Fourment and Roques (1941) recorded medicinal and aromatic plants in Algeria. Boulos (1970) recorded medicinal herbs in Libya. Ducros, 1930; Abou El-Soud, 2010; Abdel-Azim *et al.*, 2011 and Aboul-Enein *et al.*, 2012 studied medicinal plants in Egypt. Furthermore, they recorded the medicinal plants in Siwa Oasis and their surrounding regions. In this context, this work recorded the medicinal and economic plant species in Belbie's Centre Al-Sharkia Governorate, Egypt. In Egypt, there is a considerably high biodiversity as well as a variety of medicinal and economic species. Although the export of raw materials derived from these plants' aids is for the improvement of national economic conditions, many pharmaceuticals must also be produced using these raw materials. Future integrated studies on medicinal plants should be conducted in order to increase their cultivation in vivo and in vitro. A number of future integrated studies

should be carried out on medicinal plants to expand its cultivation in vivo and in vitro. Medicinal plants should be maintained and expanded, if possible, and further studies should be conducted to identify their medical importance. The knowledge of traditional medicine was persisting for many centuries then transmitted orally between generation. Likewise, many people use the medicinal plants as an associate therapy to treat several illnesses which leads to high agreement values for these illnesses.

CONCLUSION

In current paper, about 72 species related to 23 families have economic and medicinal importance were recorded in Belbei's Centre, Al-Sharkia Governorate. Poaceae and Asteraceae, were the most common families represented in this Governorate. The whole plants and flowering branches were the most important used parts of the plant followed by seeds, leaves, fruits and rhizome. Diarrhea shows the most common diseases in this study followed by antimicrobial, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory. From the results, the most medicinal and economical uses of the recorded species include, grazing, antimicrobial activity, antioxidant activity, stimulant, anti-inflammatory, diuretic, antitumor activity and anticancer activity.

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Table 1: Economic and medicinal uses of 72 recorded species.

| Family | Species | Part used | Economic and medicinal uses | References |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Apiaceae | <i>Ammi majus</i> L. | Seed | Diuretic, carminative, tonic, digestive, stomachic and for angina pectoris and asthma | (Joy <i>et al.</i> , 1998) |
| | <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Mill. | Fruit | Stimulant, carminative, stomachic, galactagogue and antispasmodic | (Fourment and Roques, 1941) |
| Asteraceae | <i>Anthemis retusa</i> Delile | Flowering branches | Grazing, aromatic source | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Bidens pilosa</i> L. | Flowering branches | Cuts, wounds | (Marshall, 2011) |
| | <i>Cichorium endivia</i> L. | Leaves | Stimulates bile secretion, tonic and digestive troubles | (Bellakhdar, 1978) |
| | <i>Conyza bonariensis</i> (L.) Cronquist | Flowering branches | Diuretic | (Fourment and Roques, 1941) |
| | <i>Launaea nudicaulis</i> (L.) Hook. f. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i> (L.) Hilliard & B. L. | Leaves | Antimicrobial activity | (Aderogba <i>et al.</i> , 2014) |
| | <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> L. | Flowering branches | Vemifuge | (Fourment and Roques, 1941) |
| | <i>Silybum marianum</i> (L.) Gaertn. | Seed | Liver disorders, jaundice, gall stones, peritonitis, coughs, bronchitis, congestion of uterus and varicose veins | (Schauenberg and Paris, 1977) |
| | <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> L. | Leaves | Malaria | (Namukobe <i>et al.</i> , 2011) |
| | <i>Xanthium spinosum</i> L. | Fruit | Analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antiarthritic, cytotoxic, anti-angiogenesis and antimicrobial activity | (Amin and Barkatullah, 2016) |
| Brassicaceae | <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.) Medik. | Whole plant | Vaso-constrictor, uterine problems and astringent | (Lemordant <i>et al.</i> , 1977) |
| | <i>Coronopus didymus</i> (L.) Sm. | Whole plant | Antimicrobial and antioxidant activities | (Uddin <i>et al.</i> , 2014) |
| | <i>Eruca sativa</i> Mill. | Leaves | Stimulant, antiscorbutic and rubefacient | (Fourment and Roques, 1941) |
| | <i>Sisymbrium irio</i> L. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Moricandia sinaica</i> (Boiss.) | aerial parts | anti-inflammatory and antipyretic activities | Sahar El-mekkawy <i>et al.</i> , 2020 |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Silene aegyptiaca</i> (L.) L.f. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Spergularia marina</i> (L.) Griseb. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Stellaria pallida</i> (Dumort.) Murb. | Flowering branches | Diuretic, wounds, astringent and Psoriasis | (Schauenberg and Paris, 1977) |
| | <i>Vaccaria pyramidata</i> Medik. | Roots | Lymphangitis, wounds, ulcers and paralysis of muscles | (Keys, 1976) |
| Chenopodiaceae | <i>Atriplex lindleyi</i> Moq. | Whole plant | Antiplasmodial, antimicrobial and antioxidant activities | (El-Souda <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Beta vulgaris</i> L. | Flowering branches | Edible and grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Chenopodium album</i> L. | Whole plant | Gastrointestinal disorders | (Marshall, 2011) |
| | <i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i> L. | Fruit | Diuretic, stimulant, anthelmintic and stomachic | (Fournier, 1948) |
| | <i>Chenopodium murale</i> L. | Flowering branches | Aromatic source and edible | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| Convolvulaceae | <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L. | Roots | Antihemorrhagic | (Bellakhdar, 1978) |
| | <i>Ipomoea carnea</i> Jacq. | Whole plant | Antimicrobial, anti-oxidant, anti-cancer, anticonvulsant, immunomodulatory, antidiabetic, hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, | (Fatima <i>et al.</i> , 2014) |

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|----------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | | | anxiolytic, sedative and wound healing activities. | |
| | <i>Ipomoea eriocarpa</i> R. Br. | Whole plant | Antinociceptive activity | (Prasad <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| Cucurbitaceae | <i>Citrullus colocynthis</i> (L.) Schrad. | Seeds or pulp | Anthelmintic properties. A black tar-like substance extracted from the seeds is used to treat skin disease | Steven and Hobbs (1988) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Cyperus articulatus</i> L. | Rhizomes | Antimicrobial activity | (Oladosu <i>et al.</i> , 2011) |
| | <i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L. | Tubercles | Diuretic, analgesic, scorpion stings, analeptic, anthelmintic, carminative, stomachic, stimulant and sedative | (Boulos, 1966) |
| Euphorbiaceae | <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> L. | Latex | Vesicatory, laxative and purgative | (Fourment and Roques, 1941) |
| | <i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i> L. | Whole plant | Used as remedies against several diseases and complaints such as cancer, diabetes, diarrhoea, heart diseases, hemorrhages, hepatitis, jaundice, malaria, ophthalmic diseases, rheumatism and scabies | (Mughal <i>et al.</i> , 2010) |
| | <i>Euphorbia prostrata</i> Aiton | Whole plant | Diabetes, diarrhoea, heart diseases, hemorrhages, hepatitis, jaundice, malaria, ophthalmic diseases, rheumatism and scabies | (Mughal <i>et al.</i> , 2010) |
| | <i>Euphorbia peplus</i> L. | Latex | Diuretic and treatment of some pulmonary diseases | (Fournier, 1948) |
| | <i>Ricinus communis</i> L. | Roots | Rheumatism, inflammatory affections, chronic, toothache, lumbago, sciatica and jaundice | (Nauroy, 1954) |
| | | | | |
| Fabaceae | <i>Alhagi graecorum</i> Boiss. | Flowering branches | Vermifuge, laxative, used to care rheumatic pains and purgative | (Boulos, 1970) |
| | <i>Medicago intertexta</i> (L.) Mill. | Flowering branches | Antimicrobial, insecticidal, allelopathic and cytotoxic effects | (Aldo, 2006) |
| | <i>Melilotus indicus</i> (L.) All. | Seed | For diseases of genital organs of both sexes | (Nauroy, 1954) |
| | <i>Sesbania sesban</i> (L.) Merr. | Leaves | Antimicrobial activity | (Doral and Wink, 2002) |
| | <i>Trifolium resupinatum</i> L. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Vicia monantha</i> Retz. | Flowering branches | Grazing and fuel | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Vicia sativa</i> L. | Whole plant | Rheumatism | (Fournier, 1948) |
| Fumariaceae | <i>Fumaria densiflora</i> DC. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| Lamiaceae | <i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> L. | Flowering branches | Antioxidant, free radical scavenging, antiproliferative, anti-inflammatory, antinociceptive, bacteriostatic, cytotoxic, antispasmodic and tyrosine inhibitory activities | (Sajjadi and Ghannadi, 2012) |
| Loranthaceae | <i>Emex spinosa</i> (L.) Campd. | Flowering branches | Edible food and grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| Malvaceae | <i>Malva parviflora</i> L. | Seed | As a cataplasm, rectal injection or gragle according to the case | (Bellakhdar, 1978) |
| Oxalidaceae | <i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L. | Leaves | Gastrointestinal disorders | (Marshall, 2011) |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago major</i> L. | Seed | Diuretic and expectorant | (Fourment and Roques, 1941) |
| Poaceae | <i>Avena sativa</i> L. | Flowering branches | Rheumatism | (Schauenberg and Paris, 1977) |
| | <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers. | Rhizomes | For renal and urinary troubles, depurative, diuretic, refreshing agent, sudorific and emollient | (Fourment and Roques, 1941) |
| | <i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> (L.) Willd. | Whole plant | Antimicrobial, antioxidant, reproductive, cytotoxic, antidiabetic and gastrointestinal effects. | (Al-Snafi, 2017a) |
| | <i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i> (L.) Scop. | Whole plant | Anti-mutagenic potential | (Bajo <i>et al.</i> , 2017) |

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| | <i>Dinebra retroflexa</i> (Vahl) Panz. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Bandeira <i>et al.</i> , 2006) |
| | <i>Echinochloa colona</i> (L.) Link | Seed | Used in spleen and hemorrhage problems. Recently found that it has wound healing, antioxidant and antimicrobial property | (Sumitra and Parul, 2018) |
| | <i>Pennisetum divinum</i> (J.F.Gmel.) Henrard | Leaves | Antioxidant activity | (Aldhebiani and Mufarah, 2017) |
| | <i>Phalaris paradoxa</i> L. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Phragmites australis</i> (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud. | Rhizomes | Diuretic, stomachic, antipyretic, treatment of some pulmonary diseases and treatment of jaundice | (Keys, 1976) |
| | <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> (L.) Desf. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Hassan, 2012) |
| | <i>Polypogon viridis</i> (Gouan) Breistr. | Flowering branches | Grazing | (Bidak <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Setaria verticillata</i> (L.) P. Beauv. | Whole plant | Anti-inflammatory, anti- thrombotic, anti-oxidant, hepatoprotective and anticarcinogenic activities. | (Shivakoti and Ramesh, 2015) |
| | <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench | Whole plant | Biofuel crop production | (Malobane <i>et al.</i> , 2018) |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Persicaria salicifolia</i> (Brouss. ex Willd.) Assenov | Flowering branches | Antioxidant activity and antitumor | (El-Anwer <i>et al.</i> , 2016) |
| | <i>Polygonum maritimum</i> L. | Roots | Astringent and antidiarrhoeic | (Nauroy, 1954) |
| | <i>Polygonum plebeium</i> R. Br. | Flowering branches | Antioxidant | (Hasan <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| | <i>Rumex dentatus</i> L. | Seed | Menstruation regulator and stops bleeding during menstruation | (Safa <i>et al.</i> , 2013) |
| Portulacaceae | <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L. | Whole plant | Diuretic, abscesses, anaphrodisiac, vermifuge, refreshing agent and antidiabetic | (Nauroy, 1954) |
| Primulaceae | <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> L. | Flowering branches | Nephritis, insect bites, jaundices, diuretic, painful wounds, bile wound healing, expectorant, chest and urination disease | (Safa <i>et al.</i> , 2013) |
| Scrophulariaceae | <i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i> L. | Leaves | Antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory activities | (Shahzad <i>et al.</i> , 2011) |
| Solanaceae | <i>Solanum nigrum</i> L. | Flowering branches | Vaginal diseases | (Bellakhdar, 1978) |
| Urticaceae | <i>Urtica urens</i> L. | Leaves | Antihemorrhagic | (Fourment and Roques, 1941) |

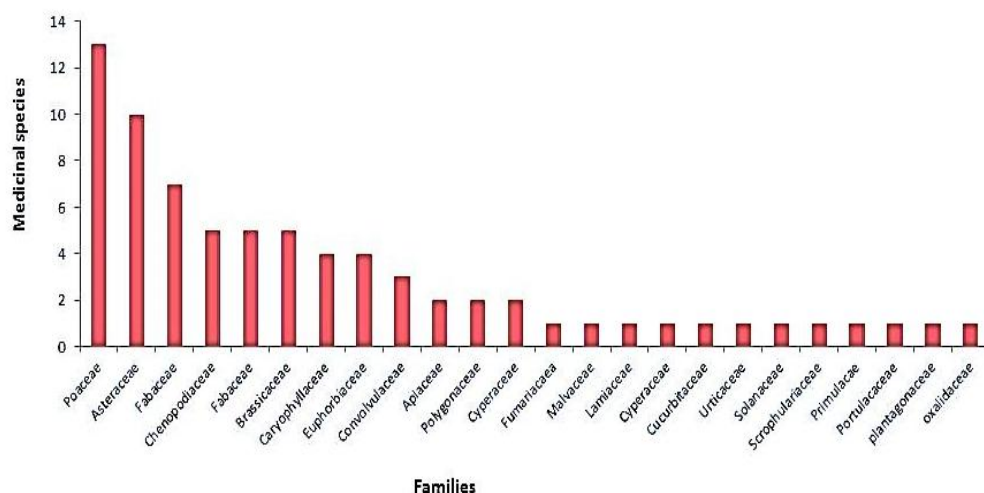


Figure 2: Graphical representation of 23 families recorded in Belbei's Centre Al-Sharkia Governorate, Egypt.

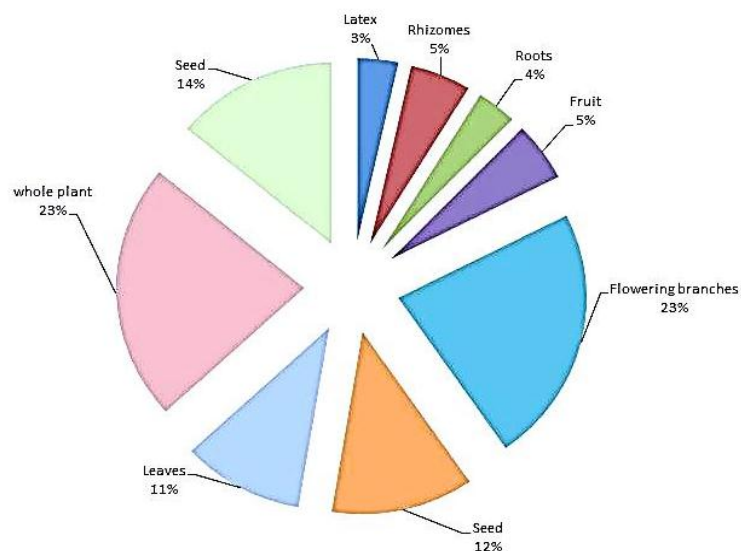


Figure 3: Used parts of plant species recorded in Belbei's Centre Al-Sharkia Governorate, Egypt.

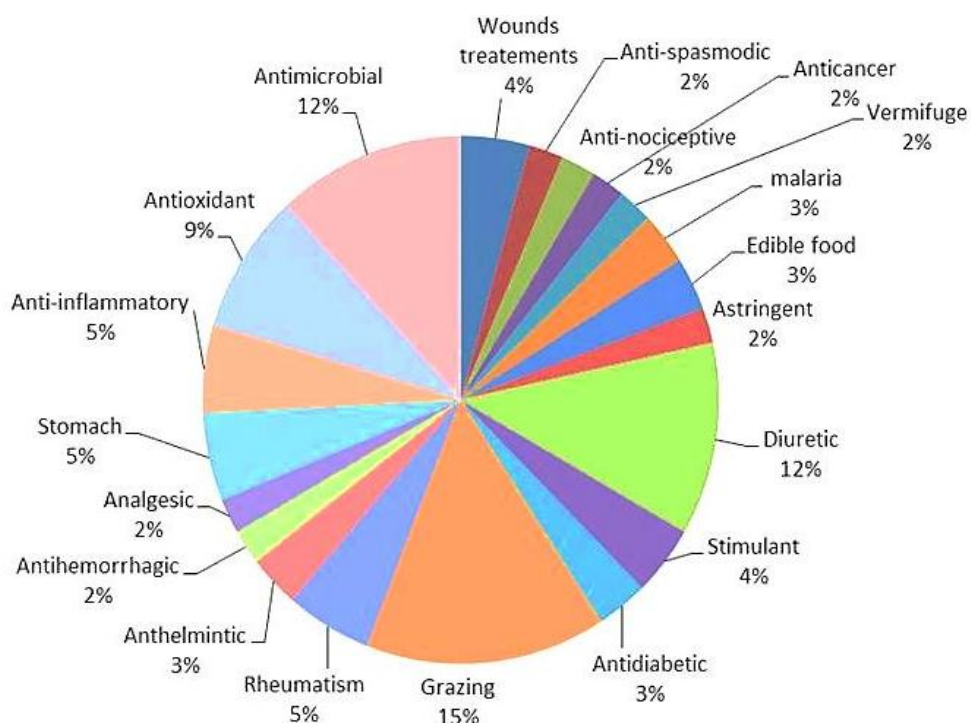


Figure 4: Shows the number of treatments for each of the 21 common diseases used in Belbei's Centre, Al-Sharkia Governorate, Egypt.

دراسة ميدانية للنباتات الاقتصادية والطبية بمركز بلبس بمحافظة الشرقية - مصر

سحر إبراهيم الشناوى^{1*}, صفاء محمد اسماعيل مرعى¹, عبد العزيز بلال عبد العزيز³, البراء صلاح الدين محمود السعيد².

¹ قسم النبات والميكروبيولوجى, كلية العلوم (بنات), جامعة الأزهر, القاهرة, مصر.

² قسم النبات والميكروبيولوجى, كلية العلوم (بنين), جامعة الأزهر, القاهرة, مصر.

³ قسم الاراضى والاستشعار من البعد, شعبه التطبيقات الزراعية والتربة وعلوم البحار بالهيئة القومية للاستشعار

* البريد الإلكتروني للباحث الرئيسي: sahangomaa2031.el@azhar.edu.eg

الملخص العربى

مشكلة النقص الكبير في الغذاء والدواء من أكبر القضايا التي تواجه العديد من البلدان لذا أحدى الخيارات الرئيسية لحل هذه المشكلة هو الطب التقليدي القائم على النباتات الطبية والعشبية. فقد أجريت هذه الدراسة في مركز بلبس بمحافظة الشرقية التابعة لجمهورية مصر العربية تم تسجيل 72 نوع نباتي هذه الأنواع لها فوائد طبية واقتصادية محدودة. الفصيلة النجيلية والفصيلة المركبة هما اللتان احتوتا علي أكبر الانواع النباتية ذات الاهمية الطبية والاقتصادية. تستخدم هذه النباتات في علاج العديد من الأمراض مثل مدرات البول وعلاج أمراض المسالك البولية وعلاج الم المعدة و البطن وعلاج الجروح وعلاج الأمراض الجلدية والنشاط الميكروبي والبكتيري و مضادات الأكسدة و لها أيضا أهمية اقتصادية كبيرة مثل الرعي وحطب الوقود ومستحضرات التجميل.

الكلمات الاسترشادية: النباتات الطبية, مركز بلبس, محافظة الشرقية.