

# ISE Newsletter

July 2005, Volume 5, Issue 1

*Message from the editor*

*A quarter of a century: The Journal of Ethnopharmacology is celebrating Volume 100!*

*Dear fellow member of the ISE,*

In the first 1979 volume of the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* (JEP) the founding editors Laurent Rivier and Jan G. Bruhn wrote: A specialist journal in an interdisciplinary field has become a necessity to provide a focal point for the publication of original work on all aspects of ethnopharmacology (Editorial, 1/1-1979). Twenty-five years later Editor-in-Chief Robert Verpoorte can look back on a story with ups and downs but, finally, one of success---volume 100 soon to be in your hands is evidence of a vital interdisciplinary science all over the world that is still in full development (Editorial 100/1, 2005). Why finally? During the first two decades of the journal's existence the articles published were not very interdisciplinary (N. Etkin 2000). A thorough diversified approach started only 15 years ago, and in 2001, in a revised mission statement, the JEP Board highlighted the necessity for integrated theory- and issue-driven research in ethnopharmacology (N. L. Etkin and E. Elisabetsky, 100/1, 2005).

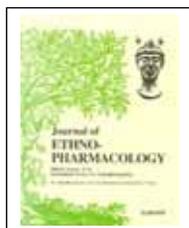
Authors of volume 1, editors, editorial board members and other experts in the field have been invited to summarize their view of the discipline in perspective papers in volume 100. The invited authors are drawing a truly colourful patchwork of "our" field of study: retrospective discussions of research published in volumes 1-2 (e.g., D. Moerman), and critical analysis (e.g., N. L. Etkin and E. Elisabetsky; G.A. Cordell and M.D. Colvard) alternate with view points from different continents (e.g., J. B. Calixto, A. Jäger, J. vanStaden et al.), or focus on specific therapeutic approaches (e.g., G. M. Cragg and D. M. Newman; C. W. Wright) and on specific groups of plants in relation to ethnopharmacology.

This anniversary volume 100 critically assesses the past and provides critical thoughts for the future of the discipline. Hopefully JEP will continue to be a unique and broad platform for vivid interchange. Enjoy reading and participate, so that we can all look forward to lively discussions in the next 100 volumes!

And this, of course, brings me to my final point: Do you have any news for an up-coming Newsletter? Please mail, write letters, send pictures or call me! I will be glad to publish ethnopharmacology news from all around the globe! Please circulate this newsletter among friends and colleagues. ISE will be happy to welcome many new members! All the best,

Barbara Frei Haller, Editor

*B. F. H.*



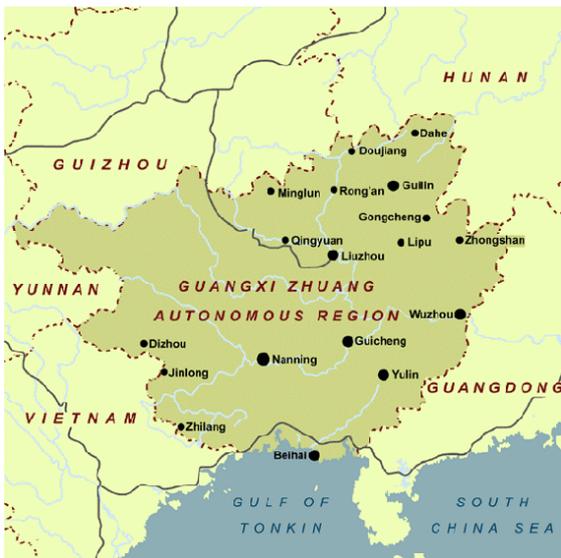
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## Upcoming Conferences

### ***9th International Congress of Ethnopharmacology, August 22 – 25, 2006, Nanning, P.R. China***

Preparations for our next year's biannual international congress in China are making tremendous progress. Last June our president *Prof. Dr. Peter Houghton* and our secretary *Dr. Cristina Inocencio* visited the congress site and returned with enthusiastic reports. The proposed congress site is just outside the large city of Nanning in southern China, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region. Nanning is a booming city between Southeast Asia and Southwest China. Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region adjoins Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao in the east and borders on Laos, Viet Nam and Cambodia in the west. It is a centre for exchange between the three economic circles of South and Southwest China and Southeast Asia, playing an important role in the fields of exchange and cooperation in these areas. Located to the south of the Tropic of Cancer, Nanning has a monsoon climate characteristic of the subtropical zone and is influenced by the regulation of a maritime climate. The city is full of sunshine with abundant rainfall (but with little frost and no snowfall).



(source of map. <http://www.maps-of-china.com/guangxi-s-ow.shtml>, 22/7/05)

The conference centre -built last year for a meeting of ASEAN, (the S E Asian equivalent of the European Union, now based in Nanning) - consists of a modern centre with 21

accommodation units around a lake in a landscaped park.



*Conference Centre, Nanning*

The accommodation is of a very high standard and can receive over 700 delegates. The conference facilities are state-of-the art and the Conference Hall has several lecture and discussion rooms.



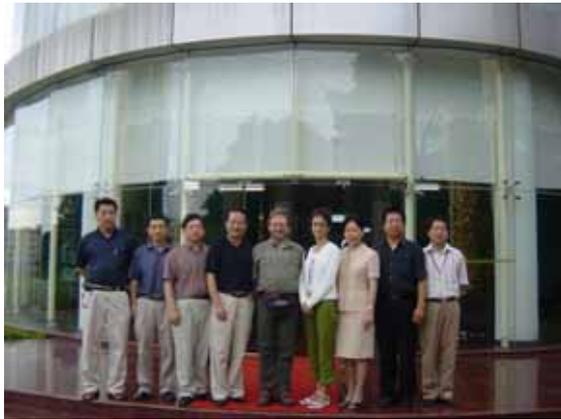
*Conference Hall, Nanning*

*Peter Houghton and Cristina Inocencio attended preparatory meetings.*



*Working hard in the preparatory meeting*

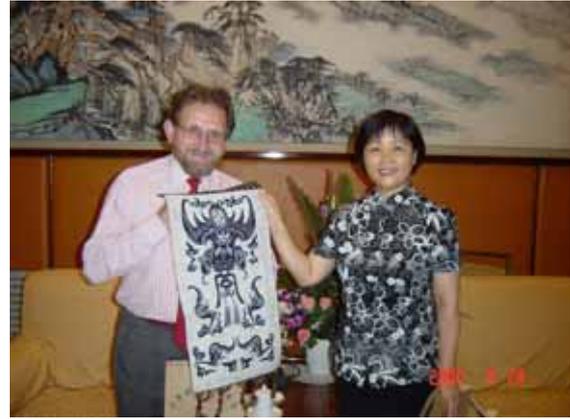
They were introduced to government officials of the region, as well as to academic and business people related to ethnopharmacology/natural products.



*Visit to Sanjin Pharmaceutical Group, one of the biggest pharmaceutical companies in Guilin, which specializes in production and research of traditional Chinese medicine preparations.*



*Reception with the Vicemayor of Guangxi Province, Ms. Liu Chenguan*



*The Vicemayor of Guangxi Province, Ms. Liu Chenguan and Prof. Peter Houghton*

A thrilling scientific program for the venue next summer is in preparation. As part of the conference scientific program, suggested visits so far are:

- Nanning Botanical Garden
- University of Traditional Medicine, Nanning
- Medicinal Plants Market for Guangxi AR
- Factory for production of medicinal products with an ethnopharmacological base



*Visit to Guangxi Traditional Chinese Medical University*

More and constantly updated information about the conference will soon be available on the society's homepage ([www.ethnopharmacology.org](http://www.ethnopharmacology.org))  
I am looking forward to seeing you all next summer in China.

*PD Dr. Barbara Frei Haller, ISE Newsletter Editor  
(all pictures taken by Cristina Inocencio or her camera)*



## ***ISE President's Letter***

*Dear ISE members*

### **International Harmony**

*One of the many things that I enjoy about both academic life and living in London is the great opportunity to meet with people from so many different backgrounds. The enjoyment that so many of us take from this, not least in helping us understand where other people are 'coming from' is in stark contrast to the terrible events of July 7<sup>th</sup> here in London, coming so soon after the elation of us Londoners in getting the 2012 Olympics. Michael Heinrich's college was very close to two of the bombs but thankfully no one in either of our groups was harmed or badly affected. Although the whole events were horrifying, we should never forget that probably twice as many children in Africa die of malaria each hour as were killed that day in London – it is so easy to be centred on our own 'little' problems. One of the long-term results of ethnopharmacology is to help combat these 'neglected' diseases with readily available materials. I am not decrying those of you who work in other branches of ethnopharmacology but pointing out that we are not 'ivory tower' people! Let's hope that our common interest in our subject leads to better harmony and the breaking down of prejudices amongst us.*

### **A warm welcome in China**

*Cristina and I were impressed by many things we saw and experienced in China. There is no doubt that our Chinese hosts are making every effort to ensure that the meeting is a success and I hope that many will mark the end of August next year in your diaries for coming along. They told us that they were expecting 400 local delegates and at least 200 from overseas. There is a very impressive medicinal plant garden near Nanning, an impressive College of Traditional medicine, lots of lychee fruits that grow in the area and perhaps, like me(!) you may even have the opportunity to get 'married' to a local girl whilst having lunch in one of the restaurants! Those of us from colder regions of the world should note that Nanning is in the tropics so don't bother to bring your heavy coats!*

*Prof. Dr. Peter Houghton  
ISE President*

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## **Upcoming Conferences (2)**

***APSGB meeting Thursday, Friday April 6,7<sup>th</sup> 2006, Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew***

### **Natural products active against human pathogens**

#### **SUGGESTED PROGRAMME**

#### **THURSDAY April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Provocative introductory lecture – Antimicrobials from plants – are we barking up the wrong tree?

*Liam Evans, Hypha Discovery Ltd*

Garlic and MRSA – *R. Cutler, University of East London*

Antimicrobials from marine organisms – *Grant Burgess, Heriot-Watt*

Recent developments in naturally-derived antimalarials – *Colin Wright*, Bradford  
Antimalarials that affect erythrocyte membranes – *J Jaroszewski*, Copenhagen  
New developments in plant-derived antiHIV agents – *A. Vlietinck*, Antwerpen  
POSTER SESSION (including 2 or 3 selected short oral presentations)  
Chance to walk around Kew gardens followed by evening social function

### FRIDAY April 7<sup>th</sup>

Antifungal compounds from plants – the poor relations – *F.Hadacek*, Vienna  
Tests for synergistic activity and against resistant organisms – *Simon Gibbons*, London  
Photodynamic antimicrobial natural products – *D. Phoenix*, University of Central Lancashire  
Large molecules as antiadhesion compounds – *A Hensel*, Dusseldorf  
TWO Short presentations  
The quest for naturally-occurring anti-TB compounds – *V. Siedel*, Strathclyde  
Garlic and GI pathogens – *Dave Hill*, Wolverhampton  
Imino sugars as anti-infectives – *Rob Nash*, Molecular Nature

For more information please contact: [peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk)

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## New books

### Ta chòrta: Piante commestibili tradizionali di Gallicianò

*Nebel, Sabine*, 2005, School of Pharmacy, University of London, London UK, p. 61, foreword by Michel Heinrich, general index, bibliography, 2 maps, 41 coloured photographs, 21 black and white illustrations of plants, index in “grecanico” and of scientific names, 6 recipes, ISBN 0-902936-12-3, Italian with English summary; UK£ 8 (postage additionally)

The booklet “ta chòrta” (Greek for “wild greens”) documents the use of wild edible greens by people of the ancient Greek village of Gallicianò, Southern Italy. It is richly illustrated and also provides information on the ethnobotanical field study conducted in the framework of the EU funded research project “Local Mediterranean Food Plants: Potential New Nutraceuticals and Current Role in the Mediterranean Diet.” The booklet, published by the School of Pharmacy, is one of the direct outcomes of this project and aims at conserving and valuing local knowledge about wild greens, and making information about traditional food plants and their beneficial health effects available to the local population.

Mediterranean diets, high in olive oil, garlic, fruits, vegetables and wine are often credited with beneficial health effects. A wealth of



evidence supports the protective role of antioxidants contained within these products against the diseases of ageing, such as cardiovascular disease, many types of cancers, and degenerative diseases of the central nervous system. However, little is known about local wild food plants, which are consumed on a less regular basis in rural areas throughout the Mediterranean and about their contribution to health. They constitute a fast-

disappearing heritage and have therefore been the focus of a European research project.

This research project studied the wild food plants traditionally used in Gallicianò (Calabria, Southern Italy) as dietary supplements having potential antioxidant activity. Gallicianò is located in the Graecanic area in Southern Italy, which is part of the cultural and linguistic heritage of the Magna Graecia ("Greater Greece", 8th century B. C.) and the later Byzantine Empire. Gallicianò has retained many aspects of this cultural heritage, including their own language *Grecanico*. The use of wild food plants is a practice that has developed over generations and is part of the local traditional knowledge system. In the local language edible greens are called 'ta chòrta'. The same term in Modern Greek 'τα χορτά' (ta chorta) was found in the literature to describe the wild food plants consumed in Greece (Forbes 1976, Lambraki 2000)

The traditional knowledge regarding food plants was assessed using standard ethnobotanical methods. This included participant observation of gathering wild food plants by informants, processing and preparing

the food plants in traditional ways, and last but not least, tasting different traditional dishes. Voucher specimens of all traditional food plants consumed in Gallicianò were collected and identified following the standard botanical works for the Italian flora by Pignatti (2000).

This booklet includes short monographs of the most important wild plant species (vernacular-, scientific-, Ancient and Modern Greek name of the plant, plant family, description of the plant, habitat, part(s) used, food use etc.) and some traditional recipes.

Forbes, M.C. (1976) The pursuit of wild edibles, present and past, Expedition 19:12-18.

Lambraki, M. (2000) TA XOPTA. Athens: Ellinika Grammata.

Pignatti, S. (2000) Flora d'Italia. Bologna, Italy: Edizione Edagricole.

Send orders to: [phyto@ulsop.ac.uk](mailto:phyto@ulsop.ac.uk), Michael Heinrich

Sabine Nebel

(Edited by Barbara Frei Haller)

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## New books (2)

**Traditional Medicinal Plants and Malaria,** Merlin Willcox, Gerard Bodeker, Philippe Rasoanaivo (Eds.), 2004. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA, p. 431. Foreword by David A. Warrell. Epilogue by Merlin Willcox. Numerous figures and tables, bibliographies, index, glossary of technical terms and abbreviations, Traditional Herbal Medicines for Modern Times, vol. 4, US\$ 99.95/UK£ 60.99, ISBN 0-415-30112-2 (hardcover).

A review has been published in the Journal of Ethnopharmacology, Volume 96, Issues 1-2, 4 January 2005, Pages 342-343

**A 15% discount is available to members of the ISE!!!**

To obtain the promotional flier send an e-mail to: [merlinwillcox@doctors.net.uk](mailto:merlinwillcox@doctors.net.uk)

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## New Websites

***Ethnobiology of Europe Website:***  
***<http://anthrosciences.net/EthnobiologyOfEurope>***

This website aims to bring together working groups, researchers, students or anyone with an interest in the traditional use and management of the natural resources in Europe.

Have a look at it and send an email if you would like to post such things as new books, conferences, courses, sources of funding, job opportunities, etc.

Rajindra K. Puri, Ph.D.  
Lecturer in Environmental Anthropology  
Anthropology Department  
University of Kent at Canterbury  
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NS

United Kingdom  
T: (+44)-1227- 823148  
F: (+44)-1227- 827289  
E: R.K.Puri@kent.ac.uk  
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/staff/rajP.html>

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## New Websites (2)

### *Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide*

<http://www.phcog.net>

#### **BRINGING GLOBAL MEDICINAL PLANT RESEARCHERS TOGETHER: PHCOG.NET**

Natural products are the most consistent and successful source of drugs. In India, Ayurveda remains one of the most ancient and living traditions, which is practiced for the treatment of various diseases and disorders. India has numerous plant species and medicinal properties have been assigned to several thousands. Many major institutes and research centres are currently involved in exploring this opportunity to investigate newer drugs from ancient principles of Ayurveda. Researchers believe that combining the strengths of Ayurveda with modern scientific techniques such as NMR, MS and chromatographic techniques will provide new functional leads with high therapeutic value in a short span of time. But natural product research often encounters many obstacles, which adversely affect drug development goals.

As a first step towards fulfilling this unmet need, Prof. Shivananda B.G. and Mr. Mueen Ahmed K.K., Faculty, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, Al-Ameen College of Pharmacy (ACCP), Bangalore, have started a centre called Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide (Phcog.Net), a non-profit information centre dedicated to Natural Products Research in order to develop promising drugs. At ACCP, we believe that natural product research information can potentially benefit many researchers involved in this area. Also we believe that research on natural products is often staggered due to a lack of availability of essential information on medicinal plants. In order to combat these problems, ACCP's Phcog.Net makes

innovative use of the best tools for information dissemination and provides solutions to the obstacles encountered in pharmacognosy research.

#### Phcog.Net Objectives

- To provide specific natural products information upon request from faculty, researchers, and students involved in phytopharmacological research.
- To develop a web portal providing basic screening information for plant extracts, which will further link to useful resources.
- To facilitate the dissemination of information regarding techniques & methods involved in natural product research.
- To advance the quality of research in phytopharmacology.
- To work collaboratively with R & D Centres and industries
- To establish a discussion group to address difficulties & problems in natural product research.
- To provide documentation and information services such as library search/database search facilities including web-based information retrieval.
- To develop close cooperation among national libraries/other information centres for exchange of information and resource sharing.

What can Phcog.Net do for you?

An official website was launched for the Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide in

July 2004 (<http://www.phcog.net>). Over 750 core medicinal plant researchers have already registered and a searchable database of researchers will be available shortly.

The Phcog.Net is an online community formed for the purpose of collaborative discovery. The breadth of our members' experience is truly amazing! From pharmacognosist to botanist, our members hail from prestigious universities and research centres in every conceivable environment. Although our members are acknowledged and give due credit each and every time they participate in a study, we have come to realize that viewpoints and catalogue items are not what motivate a busy professional to participate in Phcog.Net. The common thread that binds all of our members is a deep-seated belief that their opinions matter and that by interacting together they can make a difference. Phcog.Net is designed to facilitate communication among our members by

providing news, links and other valuable information. Over the next several months, we will implement programs designed to encourage members to contribute their experiences, opinions and insights in new ways that will promote interaction and discussion with colleagues around the world.

For more details visit [www.phcog.net](http://www.phcog.net)

*With regards,*

*PHCOG MAG  
Editor-in-chief  
Prof. B. G. SHIVANANDA (India)*

*Phcog.net -Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide,  
Dept. of Pharmacognosy,  
Al-Ameen College of Pharmacy,  
Bangalore 560 027, INDIA  
E.mail : [info@phcog.net](mailto:info@phcog.net) ,*

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## New e-journals

### ***Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine: [www.ethnobiomed.com](http://www.ethnobiomed.com)***

Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine is an open access, peer-reviewed, online journal soon to be launched by BioMed Central. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine will encompass all aspects of research examining the inextricable relationships between human cultures and nature, Traditional Environmental/Ecological Knowledge (TEK), folk and traditional medical knowledge, as well as the relevance of these for primary health care policies in developing countries.

Specifically, the journal will cover the following topics: ethnobotany, ethnozoology, ethnoecology, ethnopharmacy, ethnomedicine, ethnoveterinary, traditional medicines, traditional healthcare in households and domestic arenas, migrant healthcare/urban ethnobiology, pluralistic healthcare in developing countries, evidence-based community health, visual ethnobiology and ethnomedicine, gender studies and

ethnobiology, as well as other related areas in nutritional, medical and visual anthropology. There are numerous benefits to submitting your work to Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine:

- An efficient online submission process
- High quality peer review
- Immediate publication upon acceptance
- Open access to your article, as defined below
- Ability to track the number of people viewing your article
- Dissemination of your work, without restriction, for educational and scientific purposes
- No page limits or restrictions on large data sets
- No colour charges or limits on numbers of figures
- Press releases are sent out about work of high quality and/or of broad interest

*Editor-in-Chief: Andrea Pieroni,  
Lecturer in Pharmacognosy,*

## New e-journals (2)



### ***Ethnobotany Research and Applications*** ***www.ethnobotanyjournal.org***

Ethnobotany Research and Applications is a Journal dedicated to Plants, People and Applied Research. It is a new multi-disciplinary peer reviewed open access E-journal which is freely accessible on the World Wide Web. It is a journal devoted to the rapid dissemination of current ethnobotanical research. Currently, there are more than 2000 e-subscribers and so far 5 issues have been released. The next issue is expected to be released in September. Electronic manuscript submission and rapid peer-review is offered with time from acceptance to publication being 3 months.

The editorial Board includes:

Editor: *Will McClatchey*, Ethnobotany, Systematics

Managing Editor: *Michael B. Thomas*, Ethnobotany, Bioinformatics, and Database Development  
 Editorial Assistant: *My Lien T. Nguyen*, Ethnobotany, Cultural Diaspora

Editorial Board (2005-2006)  
*Kim Bridges*: Ecology, Biometry  
*Nina Etkin*: Medical Anthropology, Ethnopharmacology  
*Mark Merlin*: Biogeography, Entheogens  
*Piet Lincoln*: Linguistics, Linguistic Cartography  
*Tamara Ticktin*: Ethnoecology, Ecology  
*Lyndon Wester*: Geography, Biogeography

To learn more about the journal visit [www.ethnobotanyjournal.org](http://www.ethnobotanyjournal.org)

## New journals (3)

### ***EXPLORE: The Journal of Science and Healing*** ***http://authors.elsevier.com/JournalDetail.html?PubID=703862&Precis=DESC***

EXPLORE is an interdisciplinary scientific journal and will consider the following topics as well as others that fulfil the editorial mission:

- Acupuncture/Acupressure
- Anthroposophy
- Aromatherapy
- Ayurveda
- Basic Science
- Bioelectromagnetic therapy
- Biofeedback
- Botanical or herbal medicine
- Chiropractic
- Consciousness
- Craniosacral therapies
- Creative therapies (including art, dance, drama, and music)

- Diet/Nutrition/Nutritional supplements
- Eco-environmental issues
- Environmental medicine
- Five Element Chinese Medicine
- Qigong
- Healing Environments
- Health promotion
- Holistic Medicine
- Holistic Nursing
- Homeopathy
- Hypnotherapy
- Imagery
- Indigenous medical practices
- Integrative Medicine
- Massage
- Meditation
- Medical Acupuncture

Mind-body therapies (including behavioral and educational aspects)  
Naturopathy  
Nonlocal therapies  
Osteopathic medicine  
Qigong  
Psychoneuroimmunology  
Psychotherapy  
Reflexology  
Reiki  
Relaxation/stress reduction  
Spiritual/transpersonal healing/prayer  
Tai Chi  
Therapeutic Touch and Healing Touch  
Tibetan medicine  
Traditional Chinese Medicine  
Yoga

EXPLORE is an Elsevier journal and uses an online, electronic submission system. The readers are physicians, nurses, scientists, and other healthcare providers as well as the interested general public. In submitting a manuscript to EXPLORE, please consider this audience.

Thank you for your interest in EXPLORE: The Journal of Science and Healing.

Trish Flaster, Executive Director  
Botanical Liaisons, LLC  
1180 Crestmoor Drive  
Boulder, CO 80303  
303-494-1555, 303-494-2555 FAX  
[www.BotanicalLiaisons.com](http://www.BotanicalLiaisons.com)



## ***Student Thesis Abstracts***

### **Studies on the Effects of *Clematis vitalba* L. in the Treatment of Rheumatism**

***Esra Kupeli (PhD.)***

E-mail address: [esrak@gazi.edu.tr](mailto:esrak@gazi.edu.tr)

Institution: Gazi University, Institute of Health Sciences

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Erdem Yesilada (Gazi University, Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacognosy, Etiler, Ankara, Turkey)

Funding Institution: Gazi University Research Foundation, Grant No: 02/2002-09 (2002-2004).

*Clematis vitalba* L. (Ranunculaceae) herbs are used for various therapeutic purposes including inflammatory conditions and pains of different origin in Turkish folk medicine as well as in traditional medicines worldwide. The aim of the present study is to evaluate the anti-inflammatory, antinociceptive and antipyretic activity of the plant by using various in vivo models and to isolate and determine the active constituent(s) through bioassay-guided fractionation techniques.

To investigate the anti-inflammatory effect of *C. vitalba* herbs, aqueous and ethanol extracts were prepared and tested against a carrageenan-induced hind paw edema model in mice. The active ethanol extract was then subjected to further fractionation by using various chromatographical techniques on silicagel- and Sephadex LH-20 column and reverse phase-high pressure liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC). Through bioassay-guided fractionation process a new flavon C-glycoside, -4'-O-coumaroyl-isovitexin ([4'-K-IV]), was isolated as the anti-inflammatory principle from the ethyl acetate extract.

Further anti-inflammatory activity assessment of the extracts, fractions and [4'-K-IV] were done following in vivo models in mice or rats; carrageenan-, serotonin- and PGE<sub>2</sub>-induced hind paw edema models in mice, acetic acid-induced capillary permeability test (in mice), castor oil-induced diarrhoea model (in mice), air pouch (subacute) and adjuvant-induced arthritis (chronic) (in rats) models. The antipyretic activity was assessed by using Freund's Complete adjuvant-induced pyrexia model in rats and analgesic activity was assayed by p-benzoquinone-induced writhing test in mice. The results revealed that [4'-K-IV] possesses a potent anti-inflammatory, antipyretic and analgesic activity without inducing any apparent acute toxicity as well as gastric damage.





## **The antidiabetic and antioxidant activities of *Vitis vinifera* leaves**

*Nilüfer Sendogdu* (PhD Candidate)

Email address: [nsendogdu@gazi.edu.tr](mailto:nsendogdu@gazi.edu.tr)

Institution: Dept. of Pharmacognosy-Faculty of Pharmacy, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey

Supervisors: Prof. Fatma Ergun, Prof. Erdem Yesilada, Dept. of Pharmacognosy-Faculty of Pharmacy, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey

Funding Institution: Gazi University Research Fund

*Vitis vinifera* (Vitaceae) is a perennial, woody herb that grows in the temperate zone, and is used as food and in wine production. For centuries, different parts of the plant have been used for various biological activities in folk medicine. The leaves of the plant are rich in flavonoids, tannins and procyanidins. Organic acids and vitamins are also present in higher concentrations. In this study, the anti-diabetic and antioxidant activity of the aqueous and ethanolic extracts of the leaves of *Vitis vinifera* L. cv. Kalecik Karasi were investigated on experimental animals in order to evaluate folkloric information. The aqueous extract found to be most effective was fractionated by following bioassay-guided fractionation procedures. The ethylacetate extract was found to possess a potent hypoglycemic activity in glucose-loaded and streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats. Also the antioxidant activity of the extract was pronounced. Two of five fractions fractionated from the ethylacetate extract by polyamide column chromatography were found effective. In conclusion, in this study the leaves of *Vitis vinifera* L. cv. Kalecik Karasi were found to possess a potent anti-diabetic and antioxidant activity. Further studies should be performed to isolate the active compounds and elucidate their structures.



## **Ethnobotanical study among the Bai people in the Shaxi Valley, SW China: Traditional use of medicinal plants and elaboration of suggestions for local cultivation projects**

*Robert Ineichen* (MSc candidate)

Email address: [robin@access.unizh.ch](mailto:robin@access.unizh.ch)

Institution: Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich, Switzerland and Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, P.r. China

Supervisors: Dr. Caroline Weckerle and Prof. Rolf Rutishauser, Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich; Prof. Yang Yongping, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Collaborators: Franz Huber (Biologist) Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chen Yulin (Translator), Jacques Feiner (project leader SRP) IRL, ETH Zurich

Funding institutions: Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT)

The Shaxi Valley is located in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas (Yunnan, SW China), an area, which is characterized by high biocultural diversity. Most of the valley's population belongs to the Bai people, a Tibeto-Burman ethnic group who still maintain their own language and culture. With an average annual income of around 120 dollars, the majority of the people live close to the poverty line. The "Shaxi Valley Rehabilitation Project" (SRP) of ETH Zurich seeks to revitalize the area through a microcredit scheme, which will assist the local population in small business start-ups. In this context the question arises, whether the cultivation of medicinal plants could provide an additional income source for the farmers in the Shaxi Valley. The present ethnobotanical study thus aims to provide:



1. Documentation of the traditional medicinal plant use and knowledge among the Bai people in the Shaxi Valley.
2. Identification of medicinal plants suitable for cultivation.
3. Elaboration of suggestions for local cultivation projects according to the collected results.

Examples from different developing regions of the world show, that such cultivation projects not only provide cash income, but might also support the conservation of endangered wild collected medicinal plants.



### **The "traditional" Moroccan pharmacopoeia: interests and stakes**

**Yvan Matter** (MSc Candidate)

E-mail address: yvan.matter@unine.ch

Institution: Institut d'Ethnologie, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Supervisors: Thierry Wendling

Collaborators:

Funding institutions:

The ethnobotanical approach generally regards plants as mediators between man and his universe. The plant is invested with meaning and reflects the society. A study in Morocco shows that the whole subject of the pharmacopoeia is invested with meaning and reflects the current society.

Indeed, the subject of the "traditional" pharmacopoeia is topical. The subject fascinates; it is a matter of saving or developing an ancestral heritage. The pharmacopoeia is considered to be an heiress of classical Arab medicine.

The modernistic discourse, resulting from the times following the protectorate (1956), marginalizes the traditional therapy, regarding it as a third-world residue, and enters in conflict with this patrimonial discourse. Often the same person will treat all the members of the popular medicine as charlatans, and, at the same time, make initiatives to save this inheritance.

If patrimonialisation is often a rebuilding resulting from parts of the past, the question here is about saving an inheritance still used nowadays by the popular classes. Thus it is not a work of mourning. This construction of a discourse about heritage is in contradiction with the discourse centred mainly on sorcery and witchcraft practices as well as the sale of aphrodisiacs.

Beside economic stakes (i.e., tourism, trade, research), the craze of the younger generations for this subject also demonstrates certain identity issues.



### **Evaluation of the Efficacy of Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) Extract in the Healing Process of Burns**

**Hussain Rezai** (BsC Candidate)

E-mail:hussainrezai@yahoo.com

Institution: Islamic Azad University of Shirvan,Iran

Collaboration: Hassan Rakhshandeh, Department of Pharmacology, Ghaem Hospital , Mashhad, Iran

Fundings: Islamic Azad University - Iran

The application of turmeric has great importance in traditional medicine in Eastern Asia and Iran. In this study we used turmeric extract on rabbit skin burns. We selected 14 male rabbits, shaved their dorsal region, then burned areas with chloridric acid. for 50 seconds. We produced 6 wounds on each rabbit. We considered 4 wounds as test, one as control and one as negative control. Each day we treated test wounds with turmeric extract and control wounds with vaseline, but we did not use any drug on negative control wounds. For histological studies, we sampled from wounds on day 4, 7, 14 after burning. The specimens were examined for elements of wound healing, including percent of wound epitheliazed thickness, amount of daily scab formation, and percent of wound recovery, to determine a potential treatment response. Microscopic and clinical studies demonstrated that the healing process was 7 days faster in test wounds that received turmeric extract than control wounds that received vaseline.



### ***Impressum***

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*Barbara Frei Haller*, PD PhD (Editor)  
bfreihaller@bluewin.ch  
Bröl 25, CH-7530 Ardez/ Switzerland

*Michael Heinrich*, Prof. (Co-Editor)  
[michael.heinrich@ulsop.ac.uk](mailto:michael.heinrich@ulsop.ac.uk)

*Janna Weiss*, Ph.D., L.Ac. (Proof-reader)  
jweiss@research.haifa.ac.il

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As part of the Newsletter's general policy we want to share the personal views of the authors with our readers. Unless otherwise stated the opinions expressed in this newsletter are the ones of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the ISE, its board or the editors of the newsletter.



## *More Upcoming Conferences*

- August 21-26, 2005 - Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey -- 4th International Congress of Ethnobotany (ICEB 2005) --- Ethnobotany: At the Junction of the Continents and the Disciplines. <http://www.iceb2005.com/>
- August 23-26, 2005 - Galway Radisson SAS Hotel, Galway, Ireland -- COHAB 2005: The First International Conference on Health and Biodiversity --- [www.cohab2005.com](http://www.cohab2005.com)
- August 21-25, 2005 – Florence, Italy –53rd Annual Congress of Society for Medicinal Plant Research (GA) --- <http://www.farmacia.unifi.it/gacongress2005.html>
- August 23-25, 2005 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia -- International Conference on Women Health & Asian Traditional Medicine. gemma@whatmedicine.org; <http://www.whatmedicine.org/>
- September 11-15, 2005 - Marseille, France -- Medicine and Health in the Tropics. [www.iftm-pharo2005.org](http://www.iftm-pharo2005.org)
- September 22-23, 2005 - The De Vere Cavendish Hotel, London, UK -- Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance; Overview of the Common medical conditions associated with drug toxicity. Management Forum Course - The British Toxicology Society --- [info@management-forum.co.uk](mailto:info@management-forum.co.uk)
- September 18-23, 2005 - Assling, East Tyrol, Austria -- 4th Annual International Field Course on Tools and Methods for Ethnobiological Research --- University of Agricultural Sciences, Austria ---- <http://www.ethnoecology.at>
- October 6-8 –2005 – Berlin Germany - Phytopharmaka and Phytotherapie 2005 -- Joint meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research (GA), Society for Phytotherapy, and German Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology --- <http://www.phytotherapy.org/kongress2005.htm>
- November 30 - December 4, 2005 - Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C, USA- - 104th Annual Meeting of the AAA (American Anthropological Association) --- <http://www.aaanet.org/mtgs/mtgs>
- April 6-7, 2006 - Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, UK -- Natural products active against human pathogens --- APSGB meeting ---- more information available at: [peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk)
- June 5-8, 2006 - Khon Kaen University, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand -- Society for Economic Botany Annual Meeting 2006, 10th International Congress of Ethnobiology --- Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden and the Royal Institute of Thailand ---- <http://guallart.dac.uga.edu/ISE/congresses.html>
- October 29-November 1st, 2006 - Tel-Aviv, Israel -- The Fourth International Conference on Mechanisms of Action of Nutraceuticals (ICMAN 4) --- <http://www.evetopf.org/icman4/>
- April 26-28 April, 2006 - London, UK -- Pharmacovigilance of herbal medicines: current state and future directions --- Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain ---- [www.rpsgb.org/science](http://www.rpsgb.org/science) or Judy Callanan, at [science@rpsgb.org](mailto:science@rpsgb.org)



[www.ethnopharmacology.org](http://www.ethnopharmacology.org)

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Please return to: Dr Andrea Pieroni, Department of Pharmacy, School of Life Sciences, University of Bradford, Richmond Bd., Richmond Rd., Bradford BD7 1DP, UK, E-mail: [a.pieroni@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:a.pieroni@bradford.ac.uk)

