

# Ethno-veterinary study of plants in the pastoral region of Naâma (Algeria)

Hafidha Boucherit<sup>1</sup>, Abdelkrim Benaradj<sup>1\*</sup>, Lamia Benameur<sup>1</sup> and Hadjer Alioua<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Laboratory of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas, Salhi Ahmed University Center of Naama, Algeria).

\*Correspondence: Abdelkrim Benaradj, E-mail: [kbenaradj@yahoo.fr](mailto:kbenaradj@yahoo.fr)

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## 1 ABSTRACT

The present work focuses on the study and examination of remedies based on ethnoveterinary medicinal plants used by the local population in the treatment of animal diseases in the pastoral region of Naama (southwestern of Algeria). The objective of this study is to find, evaluate and document ethnoveterinary practices used to treat sheep through medicinal plants. An ethno-veterinary survey was carried out among 80 informants using a semi-structured questionnaire in the field in order to establish a list of plants for therapeutic use practiced in the study area after interviews with veterinarians and breeders in the Naama region. A total of 21 medicinal plants were documented belonging to 14 botanical families for the treatment of different livestock diseases by breeders in the study area. The analysis of the results obtained allowed us to identify cultivated and spontaneous medicinal species, which are used as remedies against various animal diseases. These plants are dominated by poaceae, amaranthaceae and asteraceae. The most used plants are *Hammada scoparia* (Remth), *Artemisia herba alba* (Chih) and *Peganum harmala* (Harmel) which have a consensus factor ( $\geq 0.1$ ) particularly used in the treatment of diseases of the digestive system, stomach, intestinal worms and poisoning. The leaves are the most used parts (27.77%) for the treatment of digestive and respiratory diseases, either in decoction or infusion in order to get the most active ingredient. Indeed, few breeders are interested in traditional medicine because more than 80% approach the veterinarian for the treatment of various pathologies. The consultations made by veterinarians exceed 67% where the main diseases detected are (enterotoxemia, sheep pox, mastitis, scabies, arthritis...). This study presents a basic reference to acquire information on therapeutic and traditional applications in veterinary livestock medicine, and ensured a link between ancestral practices and conventional medicine. Indeed, the documentation of surveys on ethnoveterinary medicinal plants is of vital importance to find medicines needed to cure various veterinary diseases in the region.