



Ethnobotanical Assessment of Osmaniye

Hüseyin Keskinbaş¹ , Hüsniye Sağlıker^{1*} 

¹ Department of Biology, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Osmaniye Korkut Ata University, 80000, Türkiye

Received : 06/12/2025

Revised : 18/04/2026

Accepted : 14/06/2026

ABSTRACT: This study was conducted between 2021 and 2022 to determine how the public in Osmaniye province benefits from naturally occurring plants. Twenty-two villages across Osmaniye province were visited, and face-to-face interviews were conducted. The study identified 125 taxa belonging to 57 families used for ethnobotanical purposes throughout the province. Including common use, the calculation that 207 different uses were made: 83 taxa for medicinal purposes, 56 for food, 13 taxa for timber, 13 taxa for miscellaneous items, 11 taxa for dyes, 8 taxa for animal feed, 8 taxa for fuel, 7 taxa for ornamental purposes, 6 taxa for cosmetics, and 2 taxa for adhesives.

Keywords: Ethnobotany, Medicinal plants, Wild edible plants, Traditional plant use, Osmaniye, Türkiye.

INTRODUCTION

Located in the temperate zone, Turkey is quite rich in terms of its geomorphological, topographical, and climatic diversity. Türkiye is home to approximately 12,000 plant species. According to the "List of Plants of Turkey (Vascular Plants) Book," there are 1320 genera and 11707 taxa under 167 families. Of these, 3649 are endemic to our country (Fidan et al., 2019). As mentioned, despite having a very rich flora, ethnobotanical studies are few in number in our country, except for economically important plants (Yıldırım, 2004).

In our country, which is rich in plant life, it is inevitable that plants play a role in human life in many areas. It is certainly impossible to list all these uses. Generally, when we look at the uses of plants, it is seen that they are widely used in food, medicine, dyes, and other fields. In our country, there is a significant history of gathering plants for food. The people meet their needs by collecting them themselves from the surrounding mountains and forests. This tradition still continues in rural areas. The above-ground parts or roots of many wild plants are used as vegetables. These are eaten raw or cooked, as well as dried, pickled, or preserved (Yıldırım, 2004). The use of wild plants as flavoring and aroma enhancers is also quite common. Some plants, such as basil (*Ocimum basilicum*), mint (*Mentha piperita*), and black pepper (*Piper nigrum*), are used to add flavor and aroma to dishes. The leaves or flowers of some species are known by names such as "sage" (*Salvia officinalis*) and "mountain tea" (*Sideritis scardica*), and infusions obtained from them are consumed as hot drinks (Kendir and Güvenç, 2010; Bulut et al., 2017). In rural areas, plants that grow or are cultivated in the environment are generally used to treat illnesses. In cities, however, drugs are obtained from pharmacies or herbalists. These are mostly well-known drugs of local or foreign origin (Kendir and Güvenç, 2010). For example, in Kadirli and its surroundings, the henbane plant (*Hyoscyamus niger*), known locally as Gavurdedengil, is used in paste form to treat various wounds. In the past, plants containing dyes (such as gall and alum) were generally used to dye fabrics or textiles. The discovery of synthetic dyes and their cheap availability on the market led to the use of synthetic dyes in our country as well. Plant-based dyes are still used in some regions of Anatolia. In recent years, interest in plant-based dyes has increased again. The main reason for this is that many plant-based dyes retain their colors and brightness for a long time (Eyüboğlu and Yaraş, 1983). In Anatolia, it is known that plants are used in many areas besides their use as food, medicine and dyes, such as making ornaments and household items, cleaning, heating, incense, protection against the evil eye, and soap making (Keskin and Alpınar, 2002).

While it is known that the people of Osmaniye utilize plants extensively, studies in the field of ethnobotanical research are extremely limited. Plants used primarily for food and medicine have been passed down through generations without being recorded in written records. The high probability of this unrecorded information being lost over time has made it necessary to document this data. This study aims to identify which naturally growing plants are used by the local population in Osmaniye province and for what purposes. It also aims to serve as a resource for future research by other scholars.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this study, face-to-face interviews were conducted with village elders in three pre-selected villages from each district of Osmaniye. During the interviews, the ethnobotanical characteristics of plants growing naturally in and around the villages, as

* hasaglikler@osmaniye.edu.tr

well as those cultivated despite being naturally occurring, were recorded. In Osmaniye's central district, four settlements were examined: the city center, two villages, and Zorkun Plateau. A total of 22 settlements were visited throughout Osmaniye province. In the visited villages, village headmen were first contacted to inform them about the study, and knowledgeable individuals in the village were identified. In places where there were multiple knowledgeable individuals, group interviews were conducted. Where village headmen could not be reached, contact was made with the village imam, teacher, and grocer in order to reach knowledgeable individuals in the village. The interviewees were asked questions from a pre-prepared form, and the answers were recorded. The Latin names of the taxa identified after the interviews were determined by referencing Davis's 11-volume work entitled "Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands" (Davis, 1965-1985; Davis et al., 1988; Güner et al., 2000).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The taxa that could be identified throughout Osmaniye province were classified according to their families, and the families are presented in alphabetical order. Plants within the same family are listed alphabetically according to their Latin names. The families, Latin and Turkish names, local names, intended uses, and usage methods of the identified taxa are given below.

ADOXACEAE

Sambucus ebulus L. (Mürver)

Local name: Yırotu, Mürver

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The leaves are heated on a griddle and wrapped around the knees for knee pain and rheumatic pain. For rheumatism, the leaves are boiled and the water is drunk. The leaves, flowers and seeds are boiled and drunk for the flu, especially as a preventative measure to prevent illness in those who get wet in the rain.

Sambucus nigra L. (Kara Mürver)

Local name: Pellempüs

Purpose of use: Medical, goods

Method of use: For aching pains, the leaves are heated and pressed against the affected area. A toy called a "patlangaç" (a type of firecracker) is made from its stem.

AMARANTHACEAE

Amaranthus retroflexus L. (Tilkikuyruğu)

Local name: Kızılback otu, Sirken

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: It is used as a vegetable and consumed after being sautéed.

Chenopodium album L. (Sirken)

Local name: Sirken

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: The leaves of the plant are boiled and made into a salad. It is good for constipation.

AMARYLLIDACEAE

Allium scorodraprasum L. (İt Soğanı)

Local name: Körmen, Dağ sarımsağı

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: The roots and leaves are eaten as a salad and in sandwiches. A dish called "lepe" is made from it. Pastries are also made from it. It is said to be beneficial against fatty liver disease.

Narcissus tazetta L. (Nergis)

Local name: Nergis

Purpose of use: Ornamental plant

Method of use: The flowers are moistened in a vase and used as decorative items inside the house.

ANACARDIACEAE

Pistacia terebinthus L. (Menengiç)

Local name: Menengiç, Sakızlık

Purpose of use: Food, coloring, medical

Method of use: Its fruits are dried and used to make coffee. Its leaves are chewed as gum. Brown and black root dyes are obtained from it. Its seeds are consumed as nuts. Its coffee is good for colds and sore throats.

Rhus coriaria L. (Sumak)

Local name: Sumak

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: The plant's seeds are dried after they turn red and used as a spice. They are also soaked in boiling water, and the resulting red liquid is said to strengthen the immune system..

APIACEAE

Ammi majus L. (Dişotu)

Local name: Dişotu, Kürdanotu

Purpose of use: Goods

Method of use: Used as a toothpick.

Angelica sylvestris L. (Melekotu)

Local name: Melekotu

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The flowers and leaves are drunk as tea. It is good for the stomach and intestines.

Apium nodiflorum (L.) Lag. (Gazyağı)

Local name: Gazyağı

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: It is used in cooking as a vegetable. It is beneficial for expelling pinworms.

Ferula communis L. (Çakşır)

Local name: Çakşır, Çağşır

Purpose of use: Medical

Method of use: The roots are dried, powdered, mixed with honey, and eaten. It is used to improve sperm quality and for its aphrodisiac effects.

Foeniculum vulgare Mill. (Rezene)

Local name: Rezene, Kömbe otu, Anason

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: It is used as a spice. Its tea is drunk to treat dizziness.

Laser trilobum (L.) Borkh. (Yabani Kimyon)

Local name: Yabani kimyon, Geyik sırası

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: It is used as a spice in cooking. Its seeds are boiled and drunk as a remedy for gas.

APOCYNACEAE

Nerium oleander L. (Zakkum)

Local name: Zakkum, Ağcak

Purpose of use: Ornamental, dyeing, medicinal.

Method of use: It is used as an ornamental plant in landscaping. Green root dye is obtained from it. Medicine is made against skin cancer. Because it is highly toxic and its effectiveness is uncertain, the method of use is not written here to prevent its indiscriminate use by the public. Its white flowers, when soaked in olive oil, are used externally for back, neck, and rheumatic pains.

ARACEAE

Arum maculatum L. (Yılan Yastığı)

Local name: Tırşık, Tırşık, Andırın doktoru

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: Çorba yapılır. Yoğurt ve nohut ile bir gece mayalanır. Çiğ olarak zehirlidir. Kabızlık için günlük 6 adet tohum çiğnemenen yutulur. Tırşık yemeği solucan düşürmeye faydalıdır.

ASPARAGACEAE

Asparagus acutifolius L. (Yabani Kuşkonmaz)

Local name: Demirdelen

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is mixed with rosehip and drunk as tea; it is used for asthma.

Drimia maritima L. (Ada Soğanı)

Local name: İtdirseği, Çiriş

Purpose of use: Adhesive, medical

Method of use: When the bulb of the plant is about 1 cm in diameter, it is called "dog's elbow." It is used to treat styes that appear on the eyes. The bulb of the dog's elbow is also used as a paper adhesive. After the plant grows and the bulb reaches a diameter of 5-10 cm, it is called "çiriş" and is harvested on an industrial scale for adhesive production.

ASPHODELACEAE

Aloe vera L.

Local name: Aloe vera

Ethnobotanical Characteristics of Osmaniye

Purpose of use: Cosmetic

Method of use: The outer bark of the plant is removed with a knife, and the gel inside is applied to the skin. It is used for skin beautification purposes.

Asphodelus aestivus Brot. (Çiriş)

Local name: Çiriş

Purpose of use: Foods

Method of use: Food is prepared.

ASPLENIACEAE

Asplenium ceterach L. (Dalakotu)

Local name: Kaya altın otu

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is boiled and drunk for kidney and gallstones.

ASTERACEAE

Achilea millefolium L. (Civanperçemi)

Local name: Civanperçemi

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: For gynecological problems and urinary tract infections, the tea is drunk. For gynecological problems, it is added to bathwater, placed in a basin, and one sits in the water for about half an hour a day for several days.

Anthemis cotula L. (Papatya)

Local name: Papatya

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is drunk as a tea for flu, colds, coughs, and as a sedative. It is used as an antidote for snake and scorpion bites.

Anthemis tinctoria L. (Boyacı Papatyası)

Local name: Sarıpatatya

Purpose of use: Dye

Method of use: Yellow root dye is obtained..

Arnica montana L. (Arnika)

Local name: Arnika

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The herb, after being steeped in hot water for about 10 minutes, is applied to swollen and bruised areas.

Bellis perennis L. (Koyungözü)

Local name: Çayır papatyası

Purpose of use: Shush

Method of use: Flowers are gathered with their stems and woven together to make crowns. Flowers are gathered without their stems and strung onto a thread with a needle to make necklaces.

Gundelia tournefortii L. (Kenger)

Local name: Kenger

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The tip is broken off, the thorns are removed, and the inside is eaten. The stem is cut open, and the sap that flows out is collected to make gum from thistle.

Helichrysum arenerium L. (Altın Otu)

Local name: Altın otu, Ölmez çiçeği

Purpose of use: Medical, ornamental

Method of use: The tea made from the plant is used for kidney stones, earaches, and urinary tract infections. The flowers are woven together in bunches or crowns and hung on walls for years without deteriorating.

Silybum marianum L. (Devedikeni)

Local name: Devedikeni, Meryemana diken

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The entire plant is dried and chopped. The tea is then consumed. It is beneficial for joint inflammation.

Taraxacum officinale Weber. (Karahindiba)

Local name: Karahindiba

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is consumed as tea. It strengthens the metabolism and cleanses the body of toxins. If the flowers are eaten for one month in spring and one month in autumn, they cleanse the entire blood.

BETULACEAE

Carpinus orientalis Mill. (Gürgen)

Local name: Demircik

Purpose of use: Timber

Method of use: It is used as timber.

Corylus colurna L. (Fındık)

Local name: Fındık

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The fruits are edible.

BORAGINACEAE

Anchusa azurea Mill. (Sığır Dili)

Local name: Dindingana, Sığirdili

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: Its roots are crushed and applied to wounds. It is used as a wound healing agent.

BRASSICACEAE

Alyssum constellatum Boiss. (Goramaz)

Local name: Goramaz

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: This plant is used as a tea for its overall health benefits.

Capsella bursa-pastoris (L.) Medik. (Çobançantası)

Local name: Çobançantası

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: For hemorrhoids, it is boiled and added to hot water for sitz baths. The tea soothes the urinary tract. In cases of bleeding, the water is drunk to stop the bleeding.

Cardaria draba Desv. (Yabani Tere)

Local name: Toklubaşı

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The leaves of this plant are used to treat wounds and promote wound healing.

Nasturtium officinale R. Br. Aiton. (Su Teresi)

Local name: Ispatan, Su teresi

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: It is used as a salad to accompany meals. It is mixed with bulgur to make a dish called Borona. It is good for constipation. For diabetes, only buttermilk and whole wheat bread made from this plant are consumed for 40 days.

Raphanus raphanistrum L. (Yabani Turp)

Local name: Eşek turpu

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: It is drunk as tea. Its leaves are roasted and used in cooking.

CACTACEAE

Opuntia humifusa Raf. (Hint İnciri)

Local name: Pabuç inciri, Dikenli incir

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The fruits are edible. To remove the small thorns on the fruits, they are buried in the soil before eating.

CANNABACEAE

Celtis australis L. (Çitlembik)

Local name: Dağdağan

Purpose of use: Food, timber, goods

Method of use: Its fruit is edible. It is called the 'Famine Plant' because it is drought-resistant. Its fruits are used in the toy called a firecracker. It is also used as timber.

CAPPARACEAE

Capparis spinosa L. (Kapari)

Local name: Kapari, Keber

Purpose of use: Food, animal feed

Method of use: The fruits are used to make pickles. The fruits are fed to goats to increase their fertility.

CUCURBITACEAE

Ecbalium elaterium L. (Eşek Hıyarı)

Local name: Cirt atan, Eşekhıyarı

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: For sinusitis, a drop of the fluid from the capsule is inhaled into the nose. Too much is irritating. For hepatitis, a drop is instilled into the nose.

CUPRESSACEAE

Juniperus drupacea Labill. (Andız)

Local name: Andız

Purpose of use: Food, medical, timber

Method of use: Molasses is made from its seeds. Its timber is preferred because of its pleasant aroma. Juniper resin is added to a glass of hot water and left to steep for a few minutes. It is drunk to soothe the upper respiratory tract. If juniper seeds are boiled and the resulting liquid is drunk, it is also beneficial for the upper respiratory tract.

Juniperus oxycedrus L. (Ardıç)

Local name: Ardıç

Purpose of use: Food, timber, medical

Method of use: Its seeds are used to make molasses, which is consumed as food. Juniper molasses is used as a medicine because it is believed to be good for bronchitis. Its timber is strong and durable for many years.

ELAEAGNACEAE

Elaeagnus angustifolia L. (İğde)

Local name: İğde

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The fruits are edible.

EQUISETACEAE

Equisetum ramosissimum Willd. (Ulama)

Local name: Ulama, Kırkkilit otu

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is boiled and drunk for kidney problems.

ERICACEAE

Arbutus andrachne L. (Sandal Ağacı)

Local name: Hartlap

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: Its fruit, called Hartlap snipe, is edible. Its fruits have a laxative effect.

Erica manipuliflora Salisb. (Püren)

Local name: Püren

Purpose of use: Goods

Method of use: A broom is made.

EUHORBIACEAE

Euphorbia helioscopia L. (Sütlegén)

Local name: Sütlegén

Purpose of use: Medicinal, dye

Method of use: For snake and scorpion bites, a few drops of the sap from the plant's stem are applied to the bite. A creamy beige dye is obtained from the root. For elderly people who cannot control their urination, a decoction of the plant's branches is given to drink.

FABACEAE

Ceratonia siliqua L. (Keçiboynuzu)

Local name: Harnup, Keçiboynuzu

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: Molasses is made from it. The fruits are consumed in various ways for their aphrodisiac effect. After removing the seeds, the remaining part is ground into flour and consumed as food. The fruit is also consumed for infertility purposes.

Medicago sativa L. (Yonca)

Local name: Alfa alfa

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: Tea made from its flowers and leaves strengthens the immune system.

Ononis spinosa L. (Kayışkiran)

Local name: Kayışkiran otu, Yağlıcak

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: For kidney problems, the entire herb is dried and brewed into tea.

Robinia pseudoacacia L. (Yalancı Akasya)

Local name: Akasya, Kral ağacı

Purpose of use: Food, ornamental, medicinal

Method of use: The flowers are eaten raw. They are used for landscaping. They can also be placed in vases for decorative purposes. The flowers and leaves are used to make tea for dizziness.

Spartium junceum L. (Katırtırnağı)

Local name: Boruk, Katırtırnağı

Purpose of use: Goods, dyes

Method of use: Brooms are made from it. Root dye is made from its flowers and leaves.

Trifolium sp. (Üçgül)

Local name: Üçgül, Yonca

Purpose of use: Animal feed

Method of use: It is used as animal feed.

FAGACEAE

Castanea sativa Mill. (Kestane)

Local name: Kestane

Purpose of use: Foods

Method of use: The fruits are edible..

Fagus orientalis Lipsky. (Doğu Kayını)

Local name: Kayın ağacı, Bahraz

Purpose of use: Goods, animal feed, timber, firewood.

Method of use: Its leaves are used as feed for goats. Its branches are used to make shade. Its wood is used to make fences. It is also used for timber and firewood.

Quercus cerris DC. (Meşe)

Local name: Meşe

Purpose of use: Timber, firewood, animal feed, medicinal, food.

Method of use: It is used as timber and fuel. Acorns are used as animal feed. Flour is made from acorns and used for food purposes. Acorns are eaten cooked like chestnuts. Flour obtained from acorns is used for diabetes.

Quercus coccifera L. (Kermes Meşesi)

Local name: Tırık, Kermes meşesi

Purpose of use: Dyes, fuel, animal feed

Method of use: Brown root dye is obtained from its bark. Acorns are used as animal feed. Its wood is used as fuel.

Quercus ilex L. (Pırnal Meşesi)

Local name: Pırnal meşesi

Purpose of use: Timber, firewood, animal feed

Method of use: It is used as timber. Its wood is used as fuel. Its acorns are used as animal feed.

Quercus infectoria Olivv. (Mazı Meşesi)

Local name: Mazı

Purpose of use: Fuel, animal feed, goods, dyes.

Ethnobotanical Characteristics of Osmaniye

Method of use: Acorns are used as animal feed. The wood is used as fuel. The seeds, called gallnuts, are drilled after drying and used to make a whistle-like wind instrument called a "Goskoğuk". Brown and gray dyes are obtained from gallnuts.

GERANIACEAE

Erodium cicutarium (L.) L'Her. (İğnelik)

Local name: Unçuluk, İğnelik

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: Fresh leaves are used as a vegetable.

HYPERICACEAE

Hypericum perforatum L. (Kantaron)

Local name: Kantaron

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The flowers are left in olive oil for 40 days in the sun. If used internally, they are kept in the dark. If used externally, they are kept in the sun. It is used as a wound healer. It helps wounds heal without leaving scars. The flowers are drunk as a tea for stomach ulcers. The tea made from the flowers is drunk as an antidepressant.

IRIDACEAE

Iris germanica L. (Alman Süseni)

Local name: Mezarlık zambağı

Purpose of use: Ornamental

Method of use: They are planted in cemeteries for decorative purposes..

JUGLANDACEAE

Juglans regia L. (Ceviz)

Local name: Ceviz, Koz, Goz

Purpose of use: Food, dyes, timber

Method of use: The fruits are edible. They are harvested before the inner shell hardens and made into jam. Green root dye is made from the outer shell of the fruit. Furniture is made from its wood.

LAMIACEAE

Lamium purpureum L. (Ballıbaba)

Local name: Ballıbaba

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is drunk as a winter tea. It has a calming effect.

Melissa officinalis L. (Limon Otu)

Local name: Melisa, Oğulotu

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The flowers and leaves are dried. The tea is drunk as a sedative. It is used for sleep disorders.

Mentha longifolia (L.) Huds. (Yabani Nane)

Local name: Yarpuz, Yabani nane

Purpose of use: Medicinal, food

Method of use: It is added to bathwater to relax the body. Its tea is drunk for bronchitis and asthma. It is also drunk as a lung decongestant. It is used in the preparation of Toyga, the region's most famous soup. While other herbs like mint and spinach can be used in Toyga soup, the true main ingredient is yarrow.

Micromeria fruticosa L. (Taş Nanesi)

Local name: Sancı çayı, Şarşar çayı, Naneli çay

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is drunk as a tea to relieve internal pain.

Origanum syriacum L. (Dağ Kekiği)

Local name: Eşek reyhanı, At kekiği

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The leaves are boiled and drunk as tea for sore throats. For toothaches, the leaves are chewed.

Salvia rosmarinus Spenn. (Biberiye)

Local name: Biberiye

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: It is used as a spice.

Salvia officinalis L. (Adaçayı)

Local name: Adaçayı

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is drunk as a calming and winter tea.

Sideritis scardica Griseb. (Dağçayı)

Local name: Dağçayı

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is drunk as a calming and winter tea.

Teucrium polium L. (Acı Yavşan)

Local name: Paryavşan

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is added to bathwater to reduce fever in children. Its tea is drunk to lower blood sugar. To improve taste, it is soaked in cold water and the resulting liquid is drunk.

Thymus kotschyanus Boiss. & Hohen. (Kekik)

Local name: Kekik

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Ethnobotanical Characteristics of Osmaniye

Method of use: The flowers and leaves are dried. A tea is made from it. It is drunk as a calming agent. It is also drunk to increase the body's overall resistance. If consumed excessively, it can lower blood pressure.

Thymbra spicata L. (Zahter)

Local name: Zahter

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: It is used as a spice.

Vitex agnus – castus L. (Hayıt)

Local name: Hayıt

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is used for postmenopausal disorders in women. It regulates hormonal balance. It is used for kidney and urinary tract disorders.

LAURACEAE

Laurus nobilis L. (Defne)

Local name: Defne, Har

Purpose of use: Food, medical, cosmetics

Method of use: The leaves are drunk as a calming tea. They are used as a flavor enhancer in food. The leaves are placed inside dried legumes to prevent insects from entering. Soap is made from the seeds.

LYTHRACEAE

Punica granatum L. (Nar)

Local name: Nar

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: The fruits are edible. A sour sauce is made from the fruit. The peels are brewed and drunk as an anti-diarrheal drink.

MALVACEAE

Alcea rosea L. (Gülhatmi)

Local name: Gül hatmi

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The flowers are brewed as tea. It is used against upper respiratory tract diseases.

Althaea officinalis L. (Hatmi)

Local name: Hatmi

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is consumed as a tea for upper respiratory tract infections.

Malva sylvestris L. (Ebegümeçi)

Local name: Kömeç, Ebegümec)

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: A soup is made. It is sautéed with butter. It is lightly cooked with butter and applied to the inflamed area of the body.

Tilia tomentosa Moench. (Ihlamur)

Local name: Ihlamur

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is drunk as a sedative tea.

MELIACEAE

Melia azedarach L. (Tespah ağacı)

Local name: Tespih ağacı, Zamzalak

Purpose of use: Ornamental

Method of use: They are grown in parks and gardens for ornamental purposes.

MORACEAE

Ficus carica L. (İncir)

Local name: İncir

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The fruits are consumed fresh and dried. Jam and a type of fruit leather called 'Berben' are made from the fruits. A food called teleme is made by adding a few drops of fig leaf sap to milk to curdle it. Goat milk is preferred.

Morus alba L. (Dut)

Local name: Dut

Purpose of use: Food, medical, goods

Method of use: Its fruits are edible. Tea made from its leaves is drunk for diabetes. Its wood is used to make musical instruments like reeds and spoons. Because its wood doesn't rot for many years, it's used as a stake in garden fences.

Morus nigra L. (Karadut)

Local name: Karadut

Purpose of use: Food, medical, goods

Method of use: The fruits are edible. Molasses is made from mulberry fruits. Syrup made from mulberry fruits is used for mouth sores. Tea made from its leaves is drunk for diabetes. Items such as musical instruments and spoons are made from its wood. Because its wood does not rot for many years, it is used as a stake in garden fences.

MYRTACEAE

Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. (Sıtma ağacı)

Local name: Okalıptüs

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The bark of the tree is boiled and the resulting decoction is drunk. It soothes the upper respiratory tract.

Myrtus communis L. (Mersin)

Ethnobotanical Characteristics of Osmaniye

Local name: Murt, Hambelis

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: The fruits are edible. The fruits are good for diabetes. The leaves are used as a tea against diabetes. For bad breath originating from the lungs, the leaves are boiled and the decoction is drunk.

OLEACEAE

Olea europaea L. (Zeytin)

Local name: Zeytin, Halhalı

Purpose of use: Food, medical, cosmetics

Method of use: Its oil is extracted and used for food purposes. Its fruits are sweetened and consumed as a breakfast food. Its oil is used in the preparation of oils from various plants, such as St. John's wort. The oil is consumed to increase bowel activity. The remaining pulp after oil extraction is used to make soap.

PAPAVERACEAE

Papaver rhoeas L. (Gelincik)

Local name: Gelincik, Gelineli, Pampal

Purpose of use: Food, medical, dyes

Method of use: A grayish-brown dye is obtained from the root. Red flowers are placed in water, citric acid is added, and it is left in the sun for a few days. A syrup is made from the resulting red-colored water. Fresh leaves are sautéed with onions and eaten. Tea made from the flowers induces sleep in the elderly and children and soothes the nerves.

PINACEAE

Abies cilicica (Antonie & Kotschy) Carriere. (Toros Göknaarı)

Local name: Göknaar, Mezda

Purpose of use: Food, medical, timber

Method of use: Its cones are used to make molasses, and it is consumed for food and medicinal purposes. It helps to eliminate fatty liver disease. Its timber is also used.

Cedrus libani A. Rich. (Lübnan Sediri)

Local name: Sedir, Kamalak, Katran ağacı

Purpose of use: Food, timber

Method of use: Pine cones are used to make molasses. The timber is also used.

Pinus brutia Ten. (Kızılçam)

Local name: Çam

Purpose of use: Timber, firewood, cosmetics, medicinal

Method of use: Its timber is used. The wood is used as fuel. The resin, called 'Keltugur', is collected and sold for industrial purposes. Turpentine oil is extracted and used for cosmetic and pharmaceutical purposes.

Pinus nigra J. F. Arnold. (Karaçam)

Local name: Çam

Purpose of use: Food, medical, timber, fuel, cosmetics, goods, adhesives

Method of use: The green pine cones are used to make molasses. They are used for food purposes and against lung diseases. A syrup that soothes the upper respiratory tract is made from the green leaves. Medicine against lung diseases is made from the pollen. It is used as timber. The resin, called pine resin, is collected. The resin is used for epilation. The resin is used as an adhesive. Turpentine oil is extracted and used for cosmetic and medicinal purposes. Toy ships are made from the bark. The cones and wood are used as firewood. The thin branches, called shrubs, are used as fuel for cooking. The kindling is used as a fire starter. The innermost white membrane layer of the bark of a freshly cut tree trunk is used as a food called "Kamalak". Kamalak is dried and consumed as tea. A wood-cutting table, called a "donkey", is made from it. It is used to make wooden carts, especially in the Zorkun plateau, which are frequently used by children. "Rubber Fork" (Slingshot) is made from its forked branches.

Pinus pinea L. (Fıstık Çamı)

Local name: Fıstık çamı

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The nuts in the pine cones are eaten in different ways.

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago majör L. (Sinirotu)

Local name: Kırksinir otu, sinirli ot

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: For wound healing, the entire plant is steeped in hot water for 10 minutes and then applied to the wound.

PLATANACEAE

Platanus orientalis L. (Çınar)

Local name: Çınar

Purpose of use: Fuel, dyes

Method of use: It is used as fuel. Red root dye is obtained from its bark.

POACEAE

Elymus repens L. (Ayrık Otu)

Local name: Ayrık otu

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is drunk as a tea and is good for intestinal cramps and urinary tract problems.

Phragmites australis (Cav.) Steud. (Kamış)

Local name: Kamış

Purpose of use: Goods

Method of use: Baskets are made. Kites are made.

POLYGONACEAE

Rumex patientia L. (Evelik Otu)

Local name: Ebelik

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: Its leaves are used like lettuce alongside savory dishes. The leaves are boiled, pomegranate molasses is added, and they are eaten as pickles alongside meals. Cacık (a yogurt-based dip) is made with them. It is good for expelling pinworms.

Ethnobotanical Characteristics of Osmaniye

PORTULACACEAE

Portulaca oleracea L. (Semizotu)

Local name: Semizotu, Soğukluk

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: Cacık is made.

RHAMNACEAE

Paliurus spina-christi Mill. (Karaçalı)

Local name: Karaçalı

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: Its spines are inserted into the skin to treat warts.

Rhamnus alaternus L. (Geyikdiken)

Local name: Domuz kesmesi

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The leaves of the plant are boiled, mixed with molasses in equal parts, and fed to cows. It treats jaundice in cows.

ROSACEAE

Crataegus orientalis (Mill.) M. Bieb. (Alıç)

Local name: Alıç

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: Its fruit is edible. Tea made from its flowers and leaves is used for cardiovascular diseases.

Fragaria vesca L. (Dağ Çileği)

Local name: Yabani çilek

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: Its fruit is edible. Its roots are used to make tea for cancer treatment.

Malus sylvestris (L.) Mill. (Yabani Elma)

Local name: Elma

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The fruits are edible.

Prunus sp. (Erik)

Local name: Erik

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The fruits are edible.

Pyrus elaeagnifolia Pall. (Ahlat)

Local name: Taş armudu, Ahlat

Ethnobotanical Characteristics of Osmaniye

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The fruits are edible.

Rosa canina L. (Kuşburnu)

Local name: Kuşburnu, İt gülü

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: It is drunk as tea. It is used to soothe the upper respiratory tract. Marmalade is made from its fruits.

Rubus idaeus L. (Ahudutu)

Local name: Ahu dutu

Purpose of use: Food

Method of use: The fruits are edible. Jam is made from the fruits.

Rubus sanctus Schreb. (Böğürtlen)

Local name: Böğürtlen

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: The fruits are edible. The fruits are crushed to make syrup. The fresh shoot tips are eaten. Tea made from the roots is good for ovarian inflammation. The leaves are drunk as tea against dizziness. Tea made from the leaves is drunk for diarrhea in children.

RUSCACEAE

Polygonatum multiflorum (L.) All. (Mührüsüleyman)

Local name: Mührüsüleyman

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: Except for the roots, the rest of the plant is crushed and used as an ointment for injured tissues and bruises.

Ruscus aculeatus L. (Tavşanmemesi)

Local name: Tavşan topuğu

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The roots are boiled and the resulting decoction is drunk to treat kidney problems.

RUTACEAE

Citrus aurantium L. (Turunç)

Local name: Turunç

Purpose of use: Food, Goods

Method of use: The fruits are used in salads for their sour taste. Jam is made from the peels of the fruits. Knife handles are made from the wood.

SALICACEAE

Populus alba L. (Kavak)

Local name: Kavak

Purpose of use: Timber

Method of use: Its timber is used. Its logs are used in mushroom cultivation.

Salix sp. (Söğüt)

Local name: Söğüt

Purpose of use: Good

Method of use: Baskets are made from its thin branches.

SANTALACEAE

Viscum album L. (Ökse Otu)

Local name: Ökse otu, Göveldek, Gevele

Purpose of use: Medicinal, animal feed

Method of use: For high blood pressure, the boiled water is drunk. It is used as feed in cattle to increase milk production.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Verbascum thapsus L. (Sığırkuyruğu)

Local name: Sığırkuyruğu

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: It is drunk as tea to boost overall body immunity during a cold.

SOLANACEAE

Hyoscyamus niger L. (Kara Banotu)

Local name: Gavurdedengil, Banotu

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: A paste is made from its leaves and used to treat wounds.

STYRACACEAE

Styrax officinalis L. (Ayı Fındığı)

Local name: Ayı fındığı, Tesbih ağacı

Purpose of use: Medicinal, cosmetic

Method of use: The seeds of the fruit are consumed daily, 10 for 40 days, to support prostate treatment. The substance in the fruit is used to make soap.

THYMELAEACEAE

Daphne sericea D. Don. (Develik)

Local name: Develik, Öküzlük

Purpose of use: Dye

Method of use: A gray root dye is obtained from its bark.

URTICACEAE

Urtica dioica L. (Isırgan)

Local name: Isırgan

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: The fresh leaves are used to make pastries. The roots and the entire plant are boiled together to make tea for prostate problems. The seeds are eaten for cancer. Tea made from the roots has antibiotic effects. The leaves are added to bathwater for hair washing. The seeds and leaves are used to stop bleeding in open wounds. Tea made from the roots is used for rheumatism.

VITACEAE

Vitis vinifera L. (Üzüm)

Local name: Perpül üzümü

Purpose of use: Food, medical

Method of use: The fruits are edible. The dried form is used in rice dishes. The dried form is consumed as a blood builder. The seeds are good for the immune system. If the seeds are crushed and added to yogurt and eaten, they are used for skin beauty.

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

Tribulus terrestris L. (Demir Diken)

Local name: Çoban çökerten

Purpose of use: Medicinal

Method of use: The entire plant is dried, chopped, and brewed into tea. It is used to dilate blood vessels and alleviate postmenopausal discomfort in women. It also has blood-thinning effects.

CONCLUSION

This study found that the people of Osmaniye primarily use plants for the treatment of various ailments and as food. The purposes of plant use were not based on existing health criteria, but rather on information derived entirely from the personal experiences of the individuals involved. The uses of the plants and their effects on individuals were evaluated and included in this study entirely within the framework of ethnobotanical research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was supported by the Scientific Research Projects Unit of Osmaniye Korkut Ata University (OKÜBAP-2022-PT2-015).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

REFERENCES

- Bulut, G., Korkmaz, A., Tuzlacı, E. (2017). The ethnobotanical notes from Nizip (Gaziantep, Turkey). *Istanbul J Pharm*, 47(2), 57-62.
- Davis, P. H. (1965-1985). *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands*, Vols. 1-9. Edinburgh University Press.
- Davis, P. H., Tan, K., Mill, R. R. (1988). *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands*, Vol. 10. Edinburgh University Press.
- Eyüboğlu, M., Okaygün, I., Yaraş, F. (1983). *Doğal Boyalarla Yün Boyama Uygulamalı ve Geleneksel Yöntemler*. Uygulama Eğitim Vakfı, Özkur Basımevi.

- Fidan, E. Ş., Akan, H. (2019). Tek Tek Dağları Milli Parkı (Şanlıurfa-Türkiye) eteklerindeki bazı köylerde etnobotanik bir çalışma. Bağbahçe Bilim Derg., 6(2), 64-94.
- Güner, A., Özhatay, N., Ekim, T., Başer, K. H. C. (2000). Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands, Vol. 11. Edinburgh University Press.
- Kendir, G., Güvenç, A. (2010). Etnobotanik ve Türkiye’de yapılmış etnobotanik çalışmalara genel bir bakış. Hacettepe Univ J Fac Pharm, 30(1), 49-80.
- Keskin, M. E., Alpınar, K. (2002). Kışlak (Yayladağı-Hatay) hakkında etnobotanik bir araştırma. Ot Sist. Bot. Derg., 9(2), 91-100.
- Yıldırım, S. (2004). Etnobotanik ve Türk etnobotaniği. Kebikeç, 17, 175-193.