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ALGERIAN SAHARA MEDICINAL PLANTS FROM ETHNOPHARMACOLOGY TO MOLECULAR DIVERSITY: CASE OF THE ENDEMIC MEDICINAL SPECIE *WARIONIA SAHARAE*

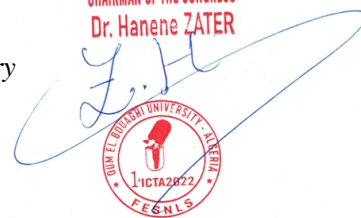
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Prof.Dr.CHERITI Abdelkrim
Phytochemistry and Organic Synthesis Laboratory

Faculty of Medicine, UTMB, Bechar, Algeria

Email : karimcheriti@yahoo.com

CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS
Dr. Hanene ZATER



Medicinal plants in traditional pharmacopeia have been employed for the treatment and management of various ailments since the beginning of human civilization and continue to provide mankind with new remedies, such as, the oldest known medicinal systems of the world: Ayurveda, Arabian medicine, Chinese and Kempo medicine.

The *Materia Medica* of Ibn Baytar (Andalusia, Spain, 1197–1248), is one of the oldest documents that describe the use of natural products for healing diseases in the mediterranean area. Thus, Algerian Sahara constitutes an important reservoir of many plants which have been used in the local traditional ethnopharmacopeae. Among this flora, species from Asteraceae family have been widely used in the Algerian Sahara ethnopharmacopea for the treatment of various diseases as a medicinal plant such as: *Warionia saharae*

We present in this conference the nature of natural compounds constituents together with their biological activities to provide a comprehensive compilation of the diversity of bioactives substances isolated from the endemic medicinal plant *Warionia saharae*. Sesquiterpene lactones, guaianolide-type sesquiterpene lactones, eudesmane type sesquiterpene, dimeric sesquiterpene lactones, dehydroleucodin, flavonoids as well as volatile compounds from essential oils, have shown to be the most common secondary metabolites, suggest that this endemic specie could be source of new bioactive compounds.

Keywords: Ethnopharmacopeae; Bioactive compounds; Endemic; Asteraceae; Sesquiterpene; flavonoids; Sahara

References

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