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Phytotherapeutic potentials of selected Lebanese medicinal plants

Various plants species are used in traditional folk medicine for their anti-diabetic, anti-oxidant effects and for certain gastric disorders. Examples of plants are salvia species, which have a reputation for memory enhancement. An infusion of the Salvia leaves is widely used as a mouthwash or gargle, for the treatment of inflammation of the mouth and throat. The leaves are used also as carminative and antispasmodic. Another example is Centaurea species that has been used in folk medicine for many purposes as diuretic, mild astringent, bitter tonic, digestive, emmenagogue and in cosmetics. Previous reports pointed out that, the activities of most of the examined plants are due to their contents of volatile oils and phenolic compounds obtained from different extracts. Accordingly, the current work comprises phytochemical study of some selected Lebanese medicinal plants to investigate their constituents and to explore the biological activities of the extracts of the chosen plants. The chemical structures of the isolated compounds, from two plants belonging to different species, were determined by application of different spectroscopic techniques. Furthermore, the volatile oil constituents of other Lebanese plants were investigated. The biological activities of plants' extracts revealed promising results. This work represents a collection of the research activities performed at the department aiming to add more natural drug candidates, with potential biological activities, which could serve the pharmaceutical industry.

Biography

Maha Ahmed Aboul Ela has completed her PhD from Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Alexandria, Egypt in collaboration with Institute for Organic Chemistry, Technical University of Berlin, Germany. Her specialty is Phytochemistry and Phytotherapy. She has obtained a Post-doctoral fellowship from School of Pharmacy, University of London, UK. Currently she is the Head of Pharmaceutical Sciences Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, Beirut Arab University, Lebanon. She has more than 60 publications in national and international journals and conferences.

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