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# ETHNOBOTANICAL SURVEY OF THE APIACEAE FAMILY SPECIES USED IN THE REGION OF SOUK-AHRAS (NORTHEASTERN ALGERIA)

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## Abstract

The Apiaceae family is one of the largest plant groups and contains a huge number of medicinal plants. The wildlife and cultural heritage of the Souk-Ahras region located in northeastern Algeria are both abundant. As a result, we assumed that the people of Souk-Ahras would know how to use indigenous medicinal plants in the traditional way. The present study is a contribution to the knowledge of the medicinal plants of the Apiaceae family, For this, a series of ethnobotanical surveys were carried out between January and April 2019 using 260 questionnaire sheets, where the prospecting of different localities in the Souk-Ahras region in search of Apiaceae resulted in the inventory of 25 species/subspecies belonging to 21 genera in these regions, and identify 13 medicinal species that can treat 24 pathological groups, the most common are digestive problems where the Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare Mill.) is the highest plant mainly used to treat digestive symptoms (16%). A decoction is the most used method (69 %) and the mostly administrated method is oral (84%). The seeds constitute the most used part in the studied region with (49%) then comes the underground part (13%). Cultivated plants of the Apiaceae taxa are widely used with (68%). Women are more used Apiaceae taxa with (57%) against male sex (43%). The age group under 50 years (67%) is the first user. Finally, the study uncovered a remarkable amount of ethnopharmacological knowledge and information that is ingrained in the Souk-Ahras people's cultural and traditional heritage and calls for further study.

## **Author Keywords**

Apiaceae, Ethnobotanical Survey, Medicinal Plants, Souk-Ahras, Algeria

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