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Editorial on the 9th International Mediterranean Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MESMAP-10)

Medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) have been used for centuries in traditional medicine systems around the world and continue to be important sources of natural remedies and fragrances. Many MAPs contain bioactive compounds with medicinal properties that can be used to treat various health conditions. MAPs have a long history of use in traditional medicine systems such as Ayurveda, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), and indigenous healing practices. Traditional healers often use specific plant species or preparations derived from MAPs to address specific ailments. Many modern pharmaceutical drugs are derived from or inspired by compounds found in medicinal plants. Pharmaceutical research continues to investigate the therapeutic potential of MAPs and their constituents for the treatment of various diseases.

MAPs are cultivated in various climates and regions around the world. Some plants are grown specifically for their medicinal properties, while others are cultivated for their aromatic compounds. Many MAP species are threatened by habitat loss, overharvesting, climate change, and other environmental factors. Conservation efforts are underway to protect endangered MAP species and their natural habitats. The cultivation, harvest, trade, and use of MAPs are subject to regulations and guidelines to ensure sustainable practices, protect biodiversity, and maintain quality standards. Regulatory agencies may establish guidelines for Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for the cultivation and processing of MAPs.

Overall, medicinal and aromatic plants play an important role in traditional medicine, modern healthcare, and various industries. Their diverse therapeutic properties and aromatic compounds continue to be studied and utilized for their potential health benefits and commercial applications. Therefore, the first Mediterranean Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MESMAP-2013) was held on April 17–20, 2013 in Gazimagosa (Famagusta), Northern Cyprus, which was organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy, Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), jointly with Association of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the Mediterranean (AMAPMED). After eight successful series of MESMAP symposiums with the participation of prominent keynote and invited speakers, worldwide scientists, and young researchers, MESMAP-9, hosted by Gazi University Pharmacy Faculty in Ankara, Türkiye, was the ninth series of the meeting.

The Faculty of Pharmacy at Gazi University is one of the seven senior Pharmacy Faculties in Türkiye with national accreditation. By bringing together scientists, academicians, and experts from the sector from many countries, MESMAP-9 emphasized the significance of MAPS in many aspects covering agricultural practices as well as conservation, management, and sustainable uses and marketing of MAPs, non-wood forest products, aromatherapy, phytotherapy, phytochemistry, essential oils and other secondary plant metabolites, constituents and bioactivities of herbal and traditional medicines, industrial processing technologies of MAPs, legislations on MAPs, nanobiotechnology for natural products, phytochemicals, natural cosmetics, Pharmacognosy, phytopharmacology, toxicology, and standardization and quality of MAP products and traditional and modern herbal products. A total of 124 papers were presented at MESMAP-9 Symposium; 8 of which were invited lectures, 74 of which were oral, and 42 of which were poster presentations; 55% of the oral presentations were presented by foreign participants. Scientists from approximately 30 different countries participated in the symposium. Participating countries included Austria, Serbia, Italy, South Africa, Bulgaria, Greece, USA, India, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia, Thailand, Israel, Algeria, Brazil, Albania, Morocco, Tunisia, Iran, Vietnam, Georgia, Nepal, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and Türkiye. After MESMAP-9, a special issue was organized in collaboration with *Phytochemistry Letters*. The participants of MESMAP-9 were encouraged to submit their full papers to the special issue.

Considering the special issue, 37 papers in total were submitted to *Phytochemistry Letters* and 7 of those papers were accepted and published after a rigorous peer review procedure.

We are grateful to all of the authors who submitted their papers to the special issue and would like to congratulate the authors whose papers were accepted. The symposium series of MESMAP will continue to serve scientists working in all aspects related to MAPs.

Acknowledgments

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