



## CASE STUDIES - ESPC Target 13

The decline of plant resources and associated local and indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.

### RUBIA

#### (Circum-Mediterranean ethno botanical and ethnographic heritage)

GSPC Target 13 (ESPC target 3.1)

RUBIA (Circum-Mediterranean ethno botanical and ethnographic heritage in traditional technologies, tools and uses of wild and neglected cultivated plants for food, medicine, textiles, dyeing and handicrafts)

**Project coordinators** Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University and Research Centres (Netherlands), Institut für Linguistik – Phonetik, Universität zu Köln (Germany)

**Partner organisations** Dipartimento di Storia delle Arti I dello Spettacolo, Università degli Studi di Firenze (Italy); Facultad de Farmacia, Universidad de Granada (Spain); Department of Natural Products and Biotechnology, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (Greece); Agricultural Research Institute, Nicosia (Cyprus); Institut National des Plantes Médicinales et Aromatiques (INPMA), Taounate (Morocco); Department of Botany, University of Mansoura (Egypt); University Saad Dahleb, Blida (Algeria)

**Funding mechanisms** EU Fifth Research Framework



#### Description

The project acknowledges the profound impact that Mediterranean cultures have had in the management of the natural environment, and the aim of the project was to record ethnobotanical field data on plants and their uses within their socio-economic and anthropological context in twelve sites in the Mediterranean, including the ethnobotany of Turkish migrants in Cologne, the Russlanddeutschen of Southern Germany, and a study of a community in the Northern Albanian Alps which has been dramatically affected by migration waves. The project was carried out by eight universities and research centres in Holland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Morocco, Egypt, and Algeria.

(Continued on page 2)



## CASE STUDIES - ESPC Target I3

### Circum-Mediterranean ethno botanical and ethnographic heritage (RUBIA)

#### Description (II)



The project also aimed to disseminate the traditional knowledge records via the visual database records and within a permanent educational framework (booklets for local communities and the public, a general ethnographic atlas of useful plants of the Mediterranean and related video on paper and CD, and in a few cases through museum exhibitions.

Publications related to the project can be found at [www.andreapeironi.eu](http://www.andreapeironi.eu).

Part of the project was to evaluate a few traditional neglected crops for their current agronomic feasibility, and cultivation of these species in arid and semi-arid areas). This part was carried out in Natural Park of St. Catherine in the Sinai Peninsula by the University of Mansoura, Egypt under Prof. El-Demerdash. The group established an experimental small cultivation of locally used wild medicinal/food plants: *Verbascum sinaiticum*, *Solenostemma arghel*, *Origanum syriacum*, *Salvia multicaulis*, *Mentha longifolia* and *Cleome droserifolia*. They built also a small-scale apparatus for drying these herbs. All aspects of the project were agreed with the male heads of the Bedouin tribes living there and Prof. El-Demerdash research team.

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<b>Date of case study</b>	2003 - 2005
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<b>Websites</b>	<a href="http://www.andreapieroni.eu">www.andreapieroni.eu</a> <a href="http://www.rubiaproject.net">www.rubiaproject.net</a> <a href="http://www.mynetcologne.de/~nc-pieronan2/rubia/">http://www.mynetcologne.de/~nc-pieronan2/rubia/</a>
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Traditional uses of plants (images from [www.rubiaproject.net](http://www.rubiaproject.net) website)

