

Abstract book



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Savez farmaceutskih
udruženja Srbije



4th-7th SEPTEMBER
2024

46th

**INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS
FOR THE HISTORY
OF PHARMACY**

**PHARMACEUTICAL PROFESSION AND SOCIETY:
ROOTS, DEVELOPMENT AND LESSONS FOR
THE FUTURE**

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INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

46th

Abstract Book of the 46th ISHP CONGRESS 2024.

46th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy 'Pharmaceutical Profession and Society: Roots, Development and Lessons for the Future' held in Belgrade, Serbia from Wednesday 4 September to Saturday 7 September 2024. Organised by the International Society for the History of Pharmacy, Section for the History of Pharmacy at the Pharmaceutical Association of Serbia and Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade.



Pod pokroviteljstvom Ministarstva nauke, tehnološkog razvoja i inovacija Srbije
Supported by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovations of Serbia

Name and headquarters of the publisher: Section for the History of Pharmacy at the Pharmaceutical Association of Serbia; Bulevar vojvode Mišića 25, 11040 Belgrade, Serbia

Contact information of the publisher:

Phone number/Fax: +381 11 2648 386

Mobile phone: +381 63 8655663

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Publishing and reprinting: Pharmaceutical Association of Serbia

For publisher: Prof. Dr. Branislava Miljković

Editor: Prof. Dr. Dušanka Krajnović

Technical assistant: Jelena Milenković, PharmD

Place and year of publication: Belgrade, 2024

Circulation: 200 copies

ISBN: ISBN-978-86-918145-3-3

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CONGRESS
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INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

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The International Society for the History of Pharmacy



Section for the History of Pharmacy at the Pharmaceutical Association of
Serbia



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University of Belgrade, Faculty of Pharmacy



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(PP) Herbal preparations for treatment of insect and other animal bites in Serbia during 19th and early to mid-20th centuries

Medicinal plants have been used in Serbia for treatment of numerous health problems since the medieval times and the oldest documents concerning this topic date back from the 14th century (The Hodoch Codex) and the 16th century (The Chilandar Medicinal Codex). The aim of this paper was to investigate the plant-based treatments used in Serbian folk medicine for treatment of insect and other animal bites as class of skin disorders in the 19th and early to mid-20th centuries. At that time general living conditions were very poor and the folk healers were of great importance. In the process of data collecting, we have consulted the most relevant ethnographic literature that were in any larger segment devoted to the study of folk medicine. We have recorded use of 32 plant species from 19 families (mainly Amaryllidaceae, Asteraceae, Solanaceae, Lamiaceae, Fabaceae and Plantaginaceae). The commonly used plant parts were leaves, probably due to convenience of their collecting. They were mainly used against snakebites, but bee, wasp, hornet, dog, green lizard and scorpion bites were also recorded. Herbs were processed and taken in different ways and forms, both fresh and dried. Fresh plants or their products (juice or latex) were applied directly, rubbed over bites, or mixed with water or oil in order to obtain paste. On the other hand, plants as *Stachys officinalis*, *Sonchus oleraceus* and *Allium cepa* were applied orally. Herbal preparations were mainly used for treatment of snakebites, since they were a great threat before, especially for people that were engaged in agriculture. Only few species were used in treatment of insect bite (*Triticum aestivum*, *Tussilago farfara*, *Satureja hortensis*, *Prunus domestica*, *Ocimum basilicum* and *Allium ampeloprasum*). Future pharmacological and toxicological investigations are required to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of these species for treating bites as dermatological affections.

Keywords: medicinal plants, bites, traditional medicine

