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Short Communication

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Role of indigenous Arqiyat distillery in conservation of Rosa species

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Abstract

Cultivation of *Rosa damascene* in Pakistan is not a common practice. It was a common shrub of salt range and adjacent subtropical zone of Pakistan. Due to over grazing, agricultural expansion, increase in population and habitat loss a lot of its population has lost in the region [4, 5, 6]. Nevertheless, it's quite abundantly grown in the outskirts of Kallar Kahar Lake where there few distilleries exist since last 300 years. Arqiyat are produced in these distilleries, of which Arqe Gulab is the famous one (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2). Main objective of this short communication is to revealed on traditional and scientific communities that traditional medicinal knowledge and use of such distilleries play a vital role in the conservation of many species including *Rosa damascene*.

Keywords: Role of Indigenous Arqiyat Distillery in conservation of Rosa species

Introduction

Kallar Kahar Lake situated in Kallar Kahar town of Chakwal District in Punjab, Pakistan is famous wetland area in Pakistan. This lake is famous site in the salt range for migratory birds during winter season. Rain and mountain brooks are the major water source of the lake.

Roses are discussed by the oldest Greek writers. *Rosa damascena* Mill. the Damask Rose cultivated since ancient civilizations time that is Persia and India. In Unani tib it's kown as 'Gule Surkh'. Number of studies has very recently focused on the documentation of local ethnomedicinal techniques practices in South Asia [1, 2]. *Rosa damascene* has high medicinal values and used as astringent, expectorant, laxative, heart tonic and cephalic and aperient.

It can be briefly described as Stems erect, up to 1.5 m tall. Prickles usually curved, weakly compressed, subulate, usually mixed with stalked glands and setae. Leaflets glabrous or very sparsely hairy above, paler, softly hairy beneath. Flowers 3-5 or more, pink, rarely white, double, usually smelling. Pedicels rather long, covered with stalked glands. Hypanthium usually covered with stalked glands. Fruit globose or ovoid, often undeveloped. According to R. R. Stewart (1972) Rosa damascene is commonly cultivated in Pakistan, however, no reliable specimen of this rose among availale herbarium material. I t is an old taxon known already in antiquity, originated in the eastern Mediterranean region. Probably a hybrid between *Rosa gallica* L. and some species from the section Synstylae, possibly *Rosa phoenicia* Boiss. Very polymorphic, with many local forms, often difficult to distinguish from Rosa alba. It is used in some countries as a source of 'the rose oil' for the perfume production. It is one of the parent of many noble garden roses [3].

Cultivation of Rosa damascene in Pakistan is not a common practice. It was a common shrub of salt range and adjacent subtropical zone of Pakistan. Due to over grazing, agricultural expansion, increase in population and habitat loss a lot of its population has lost in the region [4, 5, 6]. Nevertheless, it's quite abundantly grown in the outskirts of Kallar Kahar Lake where there few distilleries exist since last 300 years. Arqiyat are produced in these distilleries, of which Arqe Gulab is the famous one (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2). Main objective of this short communication is to revealed on traditional and scientific communities that traditional medicinal knowledge and use of such distilleries play a vital role in the conservation of many species including Rosa damascene.

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