



INVESTIGATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS DIVERSITY IN NORTH-WEST FOREST OF IRAN, CASE STUDY ARASBARAN FOREST, MARDANAGHOM WATERSHED

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This study was carried out in North West of Iran, in Arasbaran forest to investigation diversity of Medicinal plants and management programs to education of rural people to harvesting this plants and finally reducing them pressure to the forest ecosystem. According to the inventory from study area this forest has a rich diversity of flora. Results indicated that in the region 22 genus include 53 species of medicinal plants existed. Management of cultivation and developing these native medicinal plants in the area can be useful for region developing. One of the importance medicinal plants species was *Berberis vulgaris*. This species is a member of therapeutic plants in herbal medicine. Its root contains components, such as berberine, berbamine, culumbamine and berberubine, with a relatively wide spectrum of antimicrobial activity. Roots, Stem bark, fruits and leaves of this plant have been used in medicinal care and are consumed by rural people. Researches have proved that the pharmacological activities of Alkaloid in this plant and other alkaloid compounds have fungicide and parasiticide effects. This species distributed in northern slopes in sleepy valleys near to the Aras river (according to the map). Due to the importance of Arasbaran forest in having a rich flora, especially presence of rare species and medicinal plants diversity, this forest should be protected and perform conservation operations.