



Important Aromatic Plants and Essential Oils of Turkey

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Keywords: Essential oils, Aromatic Plants, Turkey biodiversity.

Flora of Turkey is rich and diverse with over 12,000 flowering plant taxa belonging to >9,000 species. Over 33% of the flora consists of endemic species and 1/3 of the flora comprises aromatic plants. Flora of Turkey is well documented in 11 volumes of the Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands (1965-2001). Flora of Turkey contains at least 3,000 species of aromatic plants belonging to families such as Lamiaceae, Apiaceae, Asteraceae, Rutaceae (*Citrus*, *Dictamnus*, *Ruta*), Cupressaceae (*Cupressus*, *Juniperus*, *Thuja*), Lauraceae (*Laurus*), Anacardiaceae (*Cotinus*, *Pistacia*, *Rhus*, *Schinus*), Myrtaceae (*Eucalyptus*, *Myrtus*), Rosaceae (*Orthurus*, *Geum*, *Rosa*), Pinaceae (*Pinus*, *Abies*, *Cedrus*, *Picea*), Verbenaceae (*Aloysia*, *Vitex*), Caprifoliaceae (*Viburnum*), Tiliaceae (*Tilia*), Hamamelidaceae (*Liquidambar*), Clusiaceae (*Hypericum*), Morinaceae (*Morina*), Solanaceae (*Mandragora*), Geraniaceae (*Geranium*, *Pelargonium*), Liliaceae (*Allium*), Araceae (*Acorus*), etc. Essential oil and aromatic water (hydrosol) production have been carried out since the Ottoman period in Turkey for at least 4 centuries. Annually, Turkey exports over \$150 million worth of medicinal and aromatic plants. In 2014, total exports of oregano, laurel and sage amounted to \$103 million. In 2014, Turkey exported \$32 million worth of essential oils, hydrosols and related products including rose oil (plus concrete) (\$14 million), oregano oil (\$ 3 million). Main aromatic plants of Turkey which are and could be used for essential oil production include the cultivated *Rosa damascena* (Oil rose, Isparta gülü), oregano (Kekik) (from *Origanum*, *Thymus*, *Coridothymus*, *Satureja* and *Thymbra*), Sage (Adaçayı) (*Salvia fruticosa*, *S. officinalis* (cultivated)), mint (Nane) (*Mentha spicata*, and *M. piperita* from cultivated plants), laurel (Defne) (*Laurus nobilis*), Anis (Anason) (from cultivated *Pimpinella anisum*), cedrus (Sedir) (*Cedrus libani*), birch (Huş, 5 *Betula* species: *B. medwediewii*, *B. pendula*, *B. litwinowii*, *B. browicziana*, *B. recurvata*), *Juniperus foetidissima* (Kokar ardiç), cumin (cultivated *Cuminum cyminum*, kimyon), coriander (cultivated *Coriandrum sativum*, kişniş), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*, biberiye), black cumin (cultivated *Nigella sativa*, çörekotu) and linden (*Tilia* species, ihlamur).