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Original Article

Potentials of Camphor, Basil, Jujube, Henna and Pomegranate for Future Research

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ABSTRACT

Flora is nature's valuable treasure. The importance of flora in preserving the ecosystem is undeniable. Furthermore, there are several plants that have been mentioned in the Quran and hadiths. Some of them are camphor, basil, jujube, henna and pomegranate. The question is what are the characteristics of each plants mentioned above for them to have been placed in the religious texts? Thus, this research focusses on the potential scientific elements present in the plants to investigate its specialties. Based on the literature reviewed, it is found that previous researchs on camphor, basil, jujube, henna and pomegranate proved that each of the plants mentioned contains its own benefits. Hopefully, this article will open doors to further research that will bring profitable results for Malaysia.

Keywords: Plants, revelation, benefits, nutrition, further research

Introduction

Plants is an invaluable blessing bestowed by Allah upon all His creations. Allah mentioned about plants in the Quran to enlighten humans about the signs of His greatness. Significantly, plants, herbs, fruits and all the existence in the world is none other than to bring benefits and advantages to humankind. Every plant created by Allah contains various nutrition, benefits and usage either in the socioeconomic, culture, medicine and many other aspects.

Hence, research based on the combination of Islamic sources (Al-Quran and hadiths) and scientific based research on plants can rekindle the glory of Islamic knowledge tradition. Nowadays, the world is a platform of science and scientific-based evidences (laboratory). Thus, faith that is aligned with naqli and aqli resources will revive the golden era of Islamic civilization.

Scope and Methodology

This research applies literature review approach to collect and analyse data regarding camphor, basil, jujube, henna and pomegranate. This particular analysis is a technique to

investigate and measure texts or information in published materials. It is not only commonly used in the field of library science and information science but it is also widely applied in other fields in the form of citation analysis and content analysis.

There are five plant species highlighted in this research which are camphor, basil, jujube, henna and pomegranate. Justifiably, the choice of plants is due to its background, usage and popularity among the people in Malaysia. These plants are still under research in the research grant entitled TR001A-2014A "Safe and Health Uses of Fruits and Herbs Mentioned in Al-Quran and Ahadith: An Analysis of Ethnomedicinal Importance in Islamic Products in Malaysia."

Research Discussion

The botanical information of camphor, basil, jujube, henna and pomegranate has been identified based on the observation made. The background of each plant species mentioned is as stated in table 1:

Table 1: Information of the plants chosen

	Jujube	Pomegranate	Henna	Camphor	Basil
General name	Jujube, Indian Jujube, Indian plum, Chinese apple	Pomegranate	Henna	Camphor, camphor tree, malay camphor, baroos camphor, Borneo camphor, Sumatra camphor, Asian camphor	Basil
Name in al-Quran and Hadiths	<i>al-Sidr</i>	<i>al-Rumman, al-Rummanah</i>	<i>al-Ḥinnā'</i>	<i>Kāfūr, Kāfūrā</i>	<i>al-Rayhan, al-Rayhanah</i>
Malay Name	Bidara, epal siam, epal Vietnam, jujub	Delima	Inai, Pacar Jawa	Kapur baru	Selasih
Scientific name	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lamarck.	<i>Punica granatum</i> L.	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.	<i>Dryobalanops aromatic;</i> <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> L.	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>
Family	Hamnaceae	Lythraceae	Lythraceae	Dipterocarpaceae; Lauraceae	Lamiaceae
Distribution	Asia	Southwest Asia	Asia, Africa	Peninsular Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatera, China, Japan	Iran, India, Asia, Africa

Sources: Sarfaraz Khan Marwat, et. al. (2009); Muhamad Zakaria Mustafa Ali Mohd (2010)

Table 2: Mentioning in the al-Quran and Hadiths

	Jujube	Pomegranate	Henna	Camphor	Basil
Al-Quran	Surah al-Saba' verse 16; al-Wāqī'ah verse 28	Surah al-An'ām verse 99; 141; Surah al-Raḥmān verse 68;	-	Surah al-Insān verse 5	Surah al-Rahman verse 12
Hadith Nabawi	al-Bukhārī, Hadith no.1253; Muslim, Hadith no.1206; 332 Abū Dawūd, Hadith no.5239;	al-Ḥākim, Hadith no.7637	al-Bukhārī, Hadith no.3462; Muslim, Hadith no.2102; 2431; 2341;	al-Bukhārī, no. Hadis: 5020; Muslim, Hadith no.939	Muslim, Hadith no. : 5883

	363 al-Tirmidhī, Hadith no.605; al-Ḥākim, Hadith no.3778		Abū Dāwud, Hadith no.4166; 2102; 4928; 3858; al-Tirmidhī, Hadith no.1753; 2054; Ibn Mājah, Hadith no.3623		
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Source: Researchers' Analysis

In review regarding the mentioning of the plants in the *nas* as in table 2, the themes for each plant are explained through the elaboration below:

1) Jujube

Allah SWT revealed the verses to explain about the substitute of jujube tree for the disobedient people after their crops were destroyed by flood. Next, jujube is also a plant in heaven created for the occupants of heaven, for them to rest underneath it. Based on the hadith, there are four main themes that can be classified regarding jujube, that are:

- The prohibition of cutting down jujube trees.
- Rasulullah S.A.W interpretation of Surah al-Waqiah verse 28 (jujube tree is thornless in the heaven).
- Jujube's benefit in removing blood stain on clothes.
- The benefit of jujube as bath mixture either for purification, obligatory bath or to wash the deceased.

2) Pomegranate

Next, the term referring to pomegranate in the al-Quran is *al-Rummān*. There are three verses in al-Quran mentioning the term *al-Rummān*. Both verses in surah al-An'am stated about the resemblance of pomegranate in this world to the leaves of olive. The verse in surah al-Rahman portrays pomegranate as the fruit in heaven. There are several hadiths discussing on pomegranate. However, there is only one Hasan hadith that can be used as argument which is about a servant who always worship Allah and his food is pomegranate.

3) Henna

Henna is not mentioned in the al-Quran. However, it is plentifully mentioned in the Prophet Muhammad PBUH hadiths (Ariffin et. al., 2020). Hence, the themes regarding henna are as follows:

- Henna's benefit in treating wounds
- To distinguish between Muslims and non-Muslims during the period of Prophet Muhammad PBUH.
- Henna's benefit as adornment for women's feet and hands.
- The use of henna as cosmetic substance for hair and beard dyeing.

4) Camphor

Camphor is only mentioned once in the Quran in detailing about 'kafura' drink that will be enjoyed by the dwellers of heaven. Whilst in hadith, it talks about the instruction of Prophet Muhammad PBUH to use water mixed with camphor to wash Zaynab's body. Ummu 'Attiyah also informed about the use of camphor to bath the deceased.

5) Basil

The Arabic term for basil is *al-Rayḥān*. This term is only stated once in al-Quran which is in the 12th verse of sural al-Rahman. In the verse, Allah stated that He has eased the lives of His creations by providing food such as fruits. Same goes to the seed of flowering and plants with stems and scented plants which become the food source for both animals and mankind. As referred to hadith, rayhan is used to show the prohibition of rejecting fragrant gifts (*rayhan*) and as the comparison for sinners who read the Quran as *rayhan* tree, fragrant but bitter in taste.

Research Results

Based on the scientific researches reviewed, the benefits and potential of each of the plants that are jujube, henna, pomegranate, camphor and basil are concluded through the elaboration and figure below:

1) *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamarck.

Jujube leaves is used as bath mixture, purification, or to wash the deceased, has high potential to be developed as antibacterial (Asimuddin et. al., 2020). Antibacterial activities research is suitable to be done on jujube so that it can be commercialised as products such as soap, hand sanitizer and others.

2) *Punica granatum* L.

Pomegranate is one of the popular fruits and highly accepted in the world which then lead to the production of various products such as pomegranate juice and cordial. There are many researches on its antioxidant content and it is proven that pomegranate is rich in polyphenol content that shows antioxidant effect. Research on brain oxidative damage (Subash S et.al, 2014) is able to foresee the potential of pomegranate for Alzheimer treatment.

3) *Lawsonia inermis* L.

According to Singam, (2020), henna leaves is used as natural colouring. However, the use of henna leaves in treating minor wounds is also common in Malay ethnobotany tradition (Othman et. al., 2021). In order to identify the potential of henna leaves as wound treatment, researches such as antibacterial, antimicrobial assays, antifungal assay are highly appropriate to be further researched into, especially on henna plants that grow in Malaysia. This might be due to the climate factor and types of soil in Malaysia which affect the active compounds in henna. Current research found 27 phenolic active compounds such as *apiin*, *lawsone*, *apigenin* from extract henna formulated based on ethanol (80%) and water (20%) which play important role in antioxidant activity (Othman et. al., 2020).

4) *Dryobalanops aromatic*; *Cinnamomum camphora* L.

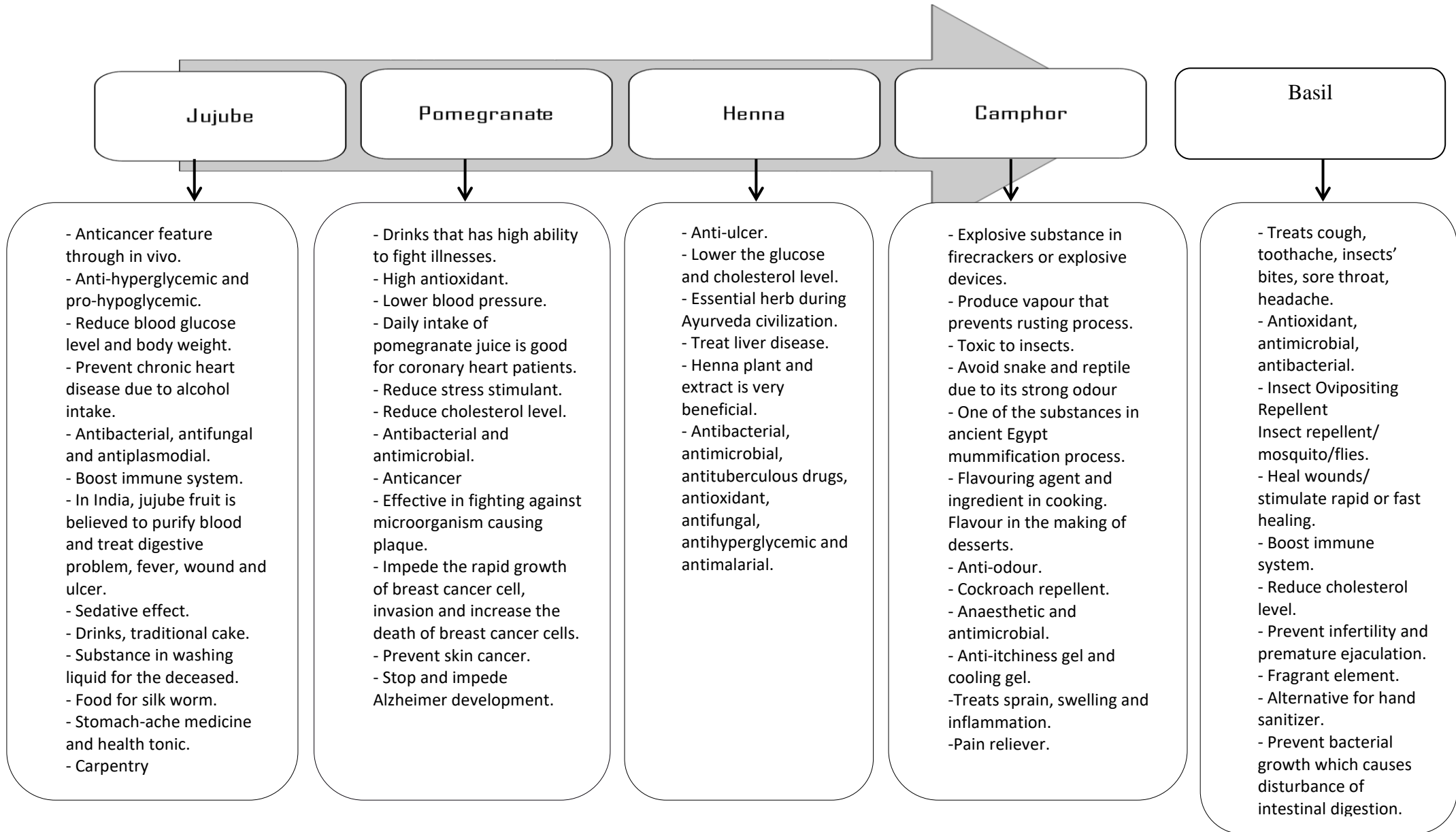
The use of camphor as bath mixture or as the final rinse in washing the dead body is because of its fresh smell and has a great potential for development of products such as soap, detergent and also hand sanitizer. The suitable researches that can be done on camphor are like antiviral, antibacterial activities and cytotoxic (Yakubu, 2020).

5) *Ocimum basilicum*

The application of basil in Malaysia is closely related to basil seeds that is used as drinks' ingredient. Some of the benefits of drinking beverages containing basil seeds are, it can treat skin infections, lower the body temperature, overcome digestive problems and others (Singletary, K. W, 2018). The suitable potential research is dietary test to find out the appropriate dosage needed for diabetes patients and others.

Furthermore, the benefits and further potential for each plant are concluded in figure 1 below:

Figure 1: The Benefits and Further Potential For Each Plant



In conclusion, there are many special sides of jujube, camphor, henna, pomegranate and basil that can be found from previous researches. The benefits of these plants toward humankind is evident. In other words, these are the natural resources that have research and commercial values that should be fully exploit. Every parts and inches of the plants contain benefits and nutrition for humans' use. More importantly, there is a huge potential for future research which should be conducted towards each plants mentioned.

Suggestions for Further Research Potentials

Starting from this point onwards, deeper research should be initiated by academicians and industries to produce certain results or products that can benefit people from all walks of life. As suggestion, there are ample rooms for more detailed researches in the future. This includes:

- Specific researches toward natural resources such as camphor, basil, jujube, henna and pomegranate should be increased. Religious-based research (discussion of nas revelations and Muslim scholars) need to highlight the nutritional aspect and benefit of these plants according to scholars. Thus far, only the book of Ibn Qayyim completes with various tips and treatment methods based on plants from Islamic perspective.
- Joined research regarding the plants mentioned in al-Quran and hadith from scientific view need to be intensified. Based on the research done, only Sarfaraz Khan Marwat, et al. (2009) is filled with the debates about these plants through the combination of religious argument and scientific evidence.
- In Malaysian context, the benefits and usage in the revelations which linger around Malay community cannot be left forgotten. This issue is in need of an effort to document the guidelines and benefits of plants in Malaysia based on the local wisdom.
- All those plants have its importance and significance for analysis purpose to produce extracts that are beneficial, high in value and may become Malaysia's precious products.
- The research regarding camphor, basil, jujube, henna and pomegranate is still lacking in South East Asia. This aspect is founded by researchers from Indonesia. Research on plants available in South East Asia, especially Malaysia should be intensified to produce something for domestic use.
- Extraction, Isolation and Characterization of Bioactive Compounds from selected plant's extract which grows in Malaysia.
- Screening Bioactivity- such as; Antimicrobial Assays, Antifungal Assay, Anticancer Assay (In Vitro & In Vivo activities), Antiviral Assays, Anti-Inflammatory Assays, Diuretic Activity, Acute Toxicity, antioxidants activities and many more.
- Jujube - (*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamarck.) – significant use of jujube leaves as bath mixture.

- Pomegranate – (*Punica granatum* L.) – significant as food product.
- Henna - (*Lawsonia inermis* L.) – significant for wound treatment.
- Camphor - (*Dryobalanops aromatic*; *Cinnamomum camphora* L.) – significant as bath mixture.
- Basil - – (*Ocimum basilicum*)- significant to be used in fragrant substance.

Conclusion

The gifted nature exists in this world has its own values and benefits to be explored. The glory of Almighty Allah can be reached by studying the creation of plants that in the end contains benefits and values to humans. Thus, all the blessings given by Allah need to be used properly. Humans as the consumers must wisely strive and implement the goodness and benefits from nature to avoid solely being dependent to foreign countries.

As one of the early efforts to initiate the research, researchers need to be informed about the plants' specialties that have been mentioned in the al-Quran and hadiths. There are abundance of nutrition and benefits contained in the plants making it worthy of being mentioned in religious nas collection. Furthermore, the information about all those plants species has been clearly portrayed by previous researchers. Informational source medium especially through facts from al-Quran and al-Hadith accompanied by its advantages from scientific aspect will hopefully be seen as a continuous effort for the sake of Malaysia.

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