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## **Plant heritage in Fez (Morocco): millenary richness to multi-aspects, botanic, scientific, architectural, cultural**

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The historical city of Fez (Morocco) has been classified as "World Heritage" by UNESCO since 1981 in recognition of its twelve centuries of multidimensional civilizational influence: science, spirituality, architecture, crafts, art of living, gardening, etc. Its geography and bioclimatic conditions have provided to the city and its region a great botanical diversity, particularly in endemic plants such as the genus *Fezia* (*Brassicaceae*) and medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs). The wild MAPs have been meaningfully used in culinary art and in traditional medicine that have flourished in the city through the centuries. In addition, architecture typical of the homes of Fez, with inner gardens, has permitted the development of the MAPs culture in indoor gardens and in terraces and of the flourishing of the art of gardening. The use of the MAP, beyond empiricism, was supervised by the scientific knowledge accumulated in the scientific environment of Fez provided by Al-Quaraouiyine, prestigious and oldest university in the world. A strong testimony of this scientific support is given to us by the important work of the illustrious doctor and botanist born in Fez in the 16th century, Al Wazir Al Ghassani. The study of one of his manuscripts, preserved in the library Al-Quaraouiyine, entitled "The garden of flowers for the description of herbs and simples" revealed us throughout its 166 pages, in addition to its medical scope, its innovative character in the Botany field. The work presents for each plant a detailed description of the terms of use as a medicinal, preceded by that of its botanical and ecological characteristics. Due to the methodology, the diversity and accuracy of terminology and the completeness of the inventory, this manuscript provides an undeni-

able step forward in the historical development process of description and classification of plants and represents the first thematic regional Flora of Morocco.

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