ICAFOP 2019
3. International Conference on Agriculture, Food, Veterinary and Pharmacy Sciences
Trabzon/TURKEY
16-18 Nisan 2019

Use of Cat's Claw As A Food Supplement

Şehriban OĞUZ[1*], Seval ANDİÇ[1]

[1] Department of Food Engineering, Van Yüzüncü Yıl University, Turkey

*Corresponding Author: sehribanoguz@yyu.edu.tr

Abstract

Cat's claw the best-known medicinal plant in Amazon, is a tropical woody vine plant. It grows wildly in tropical forests and Amazon rainforest in the South America. Its latin name is *Uncaria tomentosa*. The common name is *uña de gato, i*n Spanish. Its thorns resemble a cat's claws. *Uncaria tomentosa* and *Uncaria guianensis* are the most prevalent species. Most commercial preparations of cat's claw include *U. tomentosa*. In South America especially in Peru, Cat's claw is used in traditional and cultural applications for centuries. Some cultures have defined this plant as "the sacred plant of the rainforest". The bark and root have been used by South Americans for thousands of years as a traditional herbal remedy to treat health problems such as digestive disturbance especially gastritis, skin problems, arthritis, osteoarthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer and HIV. The bark of cat's claw is traditionally prepared by boiling water (extraction with hot water). Nowadays there are various types of preparations such as dried root and stem (cut and sifted or powdered), capsules, extracts, tables, tinctures. Several pharmacological studies have attempted to isolate active chemical components from its bark. For example; quinovic acid, glycosides, sterols, oxindole or pentacyclic alkaloids and also antioxidants

Keywords: Cat's claw, *Uncaria tomentosa*, *uña de gato.*