An Edible Medicinal Plant: *Rheum ribes* Linn

Şehriban OĞUZ*, Seval ANDİÇ

Department of Food Engineering, Van Yüzüncü Yıl University, Van, Turkey

***sehribanoguz@yyu.edu.tr**

Abstract

Rheum ribes Linn is a wild species of *Rheum* that is the most known genus of Polygonaceae family. All species of this genus are perennial, stout plants and distributed across the temperate and subtropical regions of the world. *Rheum ribes* L. is called as "Rhubarb" in English and is known as "Işkın, ışgın, uçkun or uşkun" by local people in Eastern parts of Turkish. It is also named as "Rewas, Rivas and Ribas, Rawand" by kurdish, persian and arabian locals. The main part of cultivation is Iran, Turkey, Lebanon and some parts of northern Iraq. Also, it has been spread from North and Central Asia to the other continents. *Rheum ribes* L. is the only rhubarb in Turkey and it can grow in rocky soils at high altitudes between 1800 and 2800 of arid climate. The young shoots, fresh stems and petioles are the edible parts of the plant and consumed raw or cooked. This plant is known as one of the most important pharmaceutical raw materials for a long time in the Middle East due to contains anthracene derivatives. Therefore, it is utilized for many medical purposes. The plant roots are used for the treatment of diabetes, obesity, ulcers, hypertension, diarrhaea, some infectious dermatologic diseases and urinary inflammation. The roots have been used as a laxative and an anti-psoriatic drug in Iran. In addition to that, the young shoots and petioles are used to treat diarrhaea and stomachic and antiemetic. Besides, it is reported that *Rheum ribes* L. extracts have antioxidant, antimicrobial, antifungal and antihyperglycemia activities.

Keywords: *Rheum ribes* Linn *Rheum ribes*, ışkın, uşkun, uçkun.