

ETHNOBOTANY

Identification of plant bioactive compounds based on traditional medicinal knowledge



Research activities include:

- a) Selection of herbal and aromatic plants starting from ethnobotanical investigations, conducted in Italy and other countries, and aimed at identifying spontaneous plants of food, medicinal, veterinary and cosmetic interest.
- b) Study of these species by micromorphological and phytochemical characterizations, localization of the anatomical sites of secondary metabolite production, and evaluation of the biological activity of extracts and bioactive compounds, through in vitro cell-free and cell-based tests.
- c) Study of essential oils and extracts obtained from waste material from the agri-food chain to evaluate their possible reuse in the nutraceutical and cosmetic fields, or in agriculture, on the basis of their phytotoxic and insecticidal activity, in a circular economy perspective.

Key words: plant bioactive compounds, ethnobotany, secondary metabolites

DISTAV personnel:

TEACHERS: Laura Cornara, Mauro Mariotti, Stefano Vanin

COLLABORATORS: Miriam Bazzicalupo (PhD student), Gabriele Ambu (PhD student), Cristina Danna (PhD student); Laura Negretti (technician)

Funders:

Ente Parco Nazionale Gran Paradiso; Genova University (FRA)