



## AFTĪMŪN

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**AFTĪMŪN**, a medicinal herb. *Aftīmūn* or dodder is a genus of parasitic plants (*Cuscuta*) of the family Cuscutaceae. Of about 120 species of dodder, widely distributed, 25 are found in Iran. The common Persian names for *aftīmūn* include the following: *kāšūt* (Korramšahr), *rešā-ye kešvar* (Hamadān, Isfahan, Tehran), *gešūz* (Hamadān), *kūkūl-e pol* ("moist silk," in the bazaar of Kāšān), *dūlāšīk* (Ormīa). The flowers and seeds of *aftīmūn* are exported from Iran to India mixed with the leaves and spines of the plants on which they grow. The seeds are light brown and have a bitter taste. An infusion of the flowers is given in some places for asthma; the stems are employed for catarrh and obesity. The drug *aftīmūn* (Gk.: *epitimon*) is probably derived from *Cuscuta europaea*, growing in the north, east, west (Ṭarārān of Tafreš) and Balūčestān. It is given as a digestive and purifier of the blood and for rheumatism. Mixed with *golpar* (*Heracleum persicum*) or Persian cowparsnip and gentian root, it is taken to stop excessive salivation. In Ābādān an infusion of the plant is given for sciatica and lumbago; it is also considered a carminative.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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