



BOSTĀNAFRŪZ

BOSTĀNAFRŪZ, amaranth, a medicinal and ornamental plant of the family Amaranthaceae called *gol-e ḥalwā*, *gol-e Yūsof*, *zolf-e 'arūsān*, or most commonly, *tāj(-e) korūs* (rooster's crest). In Iran nine species are represented.

Amaranthuscaudatus (love-lies-bleeding amaranth) is cultivated mainly for the showy blood-red color of its flowers. It is also called *bārūnak* (Manzarīya, Tehran), *sork-mağz* (red pith; Bardasīr in Kermān), *zolf-e 'arūs* (bride's hair; Mašhad-e Gālišūrān in Kāšān), *bostānafrūz* (by some gardeners in Tehran and in many herbal drugstores). At Torbat-e Ḥaydariya in Khorasan an infusion of the flowers is used for treatment of scarlet fever and typhoid.

The seeds of *A. retroflexus* (redroot amaranth; Tehran, Karaj, Qamšar near Kāšān, Gorgān, Korramābād, Azarbaijan, and many other areas; also called *bostāngolī* some villages around Arāk and Tabrīz, *čavūštara* at Kalkāl in Azarbaijan, *tūklī-otī* "fox herb" at Ardabīl) in the form of groats are used as birdseed; the young leaves, when boiled, are suitable for human consumption.

The remaining species are *A. cholorostachys* (Gorgān, Gīlān); *A. blitoides* (Azarbaijan); *A. deflexus* (Tehran, Khorasan); *A. lividus* (Gīlān, Tehran, Azarbaijan); *A. albus* (Gorgān, Azarbaijan); *A. grecizans* (Tehran area, Gīlān, Azarbaijan, all of eastern and southeastern Iran); *A. albus* (Gorgān, Azarbaijan).

According to 'Aqīlī (p. 113) a mixture of pounded seeds of *bostānafrūz* and milk left overnight in moonlight, when taken in the morning on three or more



consecutive days, cures gonorrhoea (*ḥorqat al-bawl*) and hematuria (*bawl al-dam*).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

P. Allen, "Amaranthaceae," in K. H. Rechinger, *Flora Iranica. Flora des iranischen Hochlandes und der umrahmenden Gebirge, Persien, Afghanistan, Teile von West-Pakistan, Nord-Iraq, Azerbeidjan, Turkmenistan*, Graz, 1972, 91, p. 1; 12, pp. 1-19.

Sayyed Moḥammad-Ḥosayn 'Aqīlī Ḳorāsānī Šīrāzī, *Maḳzan al-adwīa*, Tehran, n.d. A. Parsa, *Flore de l'Iran* IV, Tehran, 1950, pp. 1102-06; VIII, Tehran, 1960, p. 13.

Idem, "Medicinal Plants and Drugs of Plant Origin in Iran," *Qualitas Plantarum et Materiae Vegetabiles* 7, 1960, p. 116.

I. T. Vasil'chenko, "Amaranthaceae," in V. L. Komarov, *Flora of the USSR*, tr. N. Landau, VI, Jerusalem, 1936, pp. 358-67.

M. Zohary, *Flora Palaestina* I, Jerusalem, 1966, pl. 265.