

## **Purple dyeing plants of the family of Boraginaceae in the Mediterranean**

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In the same way as Murasaki in the Japanese civilisation, alkanet or dyer's bugloss, (*Alkanna tinctoria* (L.) Tausch.), belonging to the same family of Boraginaceae as Murasaki, has been used for dyeing and for its medicinal properties in ancient civilisations of the Mediterranean. The purple-dyeing roots of alkanet and of several other species of herbs of the Boraginaceae family have continued to be used until the 19<sup>th</sup> century CE in some European countries.

This paper will present and describe the purple-dyeing Mediterranean species of Boraginaceae, their habitat and chemical composition. It will present the oldest known written sources describing the use of alkanet for dyeing and as a medicinal plant. It will propose a translation into English of historical dye recipes and the results of their reconstitution.