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Some important properties of herbal plants in Nepal

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Seabuckthorn oil is one of the imperative products obtained from the seabuckthorn seed and pulp and is now commercially very important. Ladakh is unique in many respects for its geo climatic conditions, like high altitude, extremely cold and dry weather. The plants are known to respond to such extremes by synthesizing phytochemicals to fight the adversities for their survival and therefore plants surviving in Ladakh may have unique chemical composition as compared to those grown elsewhere. The physico-chemical parameters of the oil are also a major factor in effectiveness. Physico chemical components of Seabuckthorn oil of different origin is lacking. No compositional data of oil of *Hippophae rhamnoides* from Ladakh region has been reported. Therefore, the present study has taken up to analyze the physico-chemical parameters because of their nutritional importance. The observations indicated that the recovery of the Seabuckthorn oil from this region is high. Results revealed that pulp (without juice extracted) comprised the highest level of oil 22 percent compared to that of pulp (juice extracted). Seed contained 10 percent of oil. The maximum oil recovery was observed in the n-hexane extraction. The total content of carotenoids and vitamin E in the seed and pulp oil were estimated. The results indicate that the oils from the seed and pulp have identical quality except in carotenoids and vitamin E (tocopherol) content. The excellent combination of the highest content of carotenoids and vitamin E makes valuable oil in the commercial market.

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