

Folk Medicine

The plant has been found uses as plaster for scrofula pastry, galls for tanning and analgesic, sedative in gastralgia cardiadynia, peptic ulcer, boils carbuncles and also as antitussive and expectorant (Mosharaffa *et al.*, 1999). *Pistacia atlantica*, widely distributed in South Algeria, is a medicinal and foodstuff plant. Decoctions of leaves and fruits are used against stomach ache and caught. Ripe fruits are components of tonic sweets (Mecherara-Idjeri *et al.*, 2008c). *Pistacia atlantica* has long been used in folk medicine by the people of North Africa. The antioxidant test proved that the phenolic extracts have a strong antioxidant activity. This antioxidant activity varies from one part of the plant to another, the highest activity being obtained for the leaves. These results justify the use of various parts of the tree in traditional medicine (Yousfi *et al.*, 2009).

The oleoresin of *Pistacia atlantica* Desf. subsp. *atlantica*, growing in different arid and semi-arid regions of Algeria, is a popular naturally-occurring chewing gum and has been used traditionally in the treatment of peptic ulcer (Benhassaini *et al.*, 2008).