



Phytotherapy

Plants to treat animals in Britain and Ireland

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

William Milliken



Newcastle Disease and Helminthosis in Poultry in South Western Uganda



YOU
AN OVER
ETHNOV

DR. N.PUNN
Chief Veterinary Officer
Animeta Ag



10 grams of Turmeric powder and 2 grams of dry Kariyath leaf powder

Onion
Garlic
Chilly
Tumeric
Pepper
Betel leaves
Ginger
Jaggery





The Courier & Advertiser (Fife Edition)
Experts want to hear old animal remedy secrets

Kew wants to record old cures
By West Somerset Free Press
Sunday 16th June 2019 1:35 pm

 **Kew project seeks Wales country lore remedies**



[Home](#) > [Blog](#) > What do you know about plant-based veterinary uses? Can you help?

What do you know about plant-based veterinary uses? Can you help?

Can plants still be used as veterinary treatment of animals or is this old tittle-tattle? That is the question we want to help answer. It's not just about recording old practices before it is lost (although that IS important), but also attempting to help make farming a little more sustainable and, potentially, reduce the excessive use of antibiotics.

As an ethnobotanist and farmer, I am interested in these uses. Earlier this year whilst in Costa Rica, I was stung by a stingray. Incredibly painful! A woman offered me a bath made from the leaves of a vine that grows on the coast, and it reduced the pain. I subsequently discovered that the same plant was also used by Aborigines in Australia, for the same use.

In the British Isles, local farmers and vets used to use plants to treat their livestock. Information was passed from one generation to the next, and often was not written down. How much of the knowledge now remains in the population?

Traditionally, for example, elder was traditionally used as a medicine to treat foot-rot in cattle (Norfolk), comfrey to treat coughs in cattle (Cumbria), and foxglove to treat mange or fleas in dogs (Gloucestershire). The use of wild or cultivated plants as animal medicines (ethnoveterinary use) is common across the world. For many years, scientists have collected information from farmers in India, Ethiopia and Uganda, for example, and have studied the effect on treating animals with these plants.

The Ethnoveterinary Medicine Project, established by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, aims to record the remaining knowledge, from across the British Isles, before it disappears. Some data has already been collected from the past. However, we also want to interview rural people for existing knowledge.

Duncan Matheson, from Kyle of Lochalsh, explained that the rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), which used to be rare, is now extremely common. "The root is very valuable if you boil it down, particularly for healing wounds on horses. Horses are extremely delicate: cuts and saddle burrs are very difficult to correct. But this stuff is particularly good for it."

Similarly, wild plants used as feeds were thought to influence the health, behaviour or flavour of the meat or milk. Tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*) was used in the past as a fodder plant in South Uist, and it was said that a cow that ate well on this plant would 'take the bull' more easily, and earlier in the season. On the Isle of Colonsay, sea plantain (*Plantago maritima*) was thought to improve the cream and butter yield of cows and was also gathered as food for domestic rabbits. Kate Anne MacLellen, from North Uist, explained that in the past they would boil cow tang (*Polyelia canaliculata*), a seaweed, in large pots with potatoes, ears of corn and sometimes oatmeal. "If you had a cow that calved, it would leave the milk rich and more abundant as well. They also used to give it to the young beasts, and they would get this lovely sheen off their coats."

Published date:
25th September 2019

Related farming theme :

- [Animal health & welfare](#)
- [People & skills](#)

Key Farming Practices:

- [Livestock homeopathy](#)

Organisation(s):

ON THE CROFT

Ethnoveterinary medicine



Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is used to treat diarrhoea in rabbits in Norfolk.

William Miliken from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew asks for our help.

CROFTERS, farmers and vets used to use plants to treat their livestock.

Traditionally, for example, bog-bean was used as a medicine to unblock calves' stomachs (Hebrides); nettles boiled with oatmeal to treat constipated cattle (Colonsay); and ash branches as a laxative in goats (East Lothian). Information was passed from one generation to the next and often was not written down. How much knowledge now remains in the population? The use of wild or cultivated plants as animal medicines (ethnoveterinary use) is common across the world. For many years, scientists have collected information from farmers in India, Ethiopia and Uganda, for example, and have studied the effect on treating animals with these plants.

The Ethnoveterinary Medicine Project, established by Kew, aims to record the remaining knowledge from across the British Isles before it disappears. Some data has already been collected, mostly previously published information from the past, but we also interviewed rural people for existing knowledge.

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Bog bean (*Miryanthes flabris*) is used in the Hebrides (Scotland) to unblock calves' stomachs.

South Uist. It was said that a cow that ate well on this plant would take the bull more easily and earlier in the season.

On Colonsay, sea plantain (*Plantago maritima*) was thought to improve the cream and butter yield of cows and was also gathered as food for domestic rabbits.

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We will be collecting data through websites, letters to local newspapers, agricultural and veterinary communications and subsequent interviews of knowledgeable people. We need to record this information, which forms part of the traditional rural culture, before it is lost.

This knowledge could also be used practically in animal management (livestock, pets) to improve their health and the economy. Over-use of antibiotics in veterinary use, for example, can generate antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

Finding new plant-based treatments could also help support Soil Association organic standards, which restrict the use of antibiotics and chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal



Cornflower (*Ulex europaeus*) was excellent food for horses and sheep and is said to increase the milk yield of cattle.

products for preventive treatments.

Some companies in Britain are already supplying plant-based treatments for animals, including nettle (*Urtica dioica*), plantain (*Plantago major*), eyebright (*Euphrasia officinalis*), elderflower (*Sambucus nigra*) and thyme (*Thymus* spp.).

If you have any information about ethnoveterinary medicines, feed supplements or other information relating to plants/fungi and animal health from the British Isles, please contribute by sending an email to ethnovet@kew.org. Or alternatively, write to William Miliken, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, RH17 6TN.



... and cattle that wasn't a man an early
 ... he would collect
 ... A day or so later
 ... I don't know what
 ... he used or the
 ... evidence of worms being passed
 ... in the horse's dung. I don't know what
 ... part of the broom he used or the

Richard -
 Post Office
 Dublin 1

If undelivered return to
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 Dublin 1

WILLIAM WILKIE
 ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS
 WAKEHURST PLACE
 ARDINGLY
 RH12 6TN

Postage Paid
 L
 Ceat 42

Remedy for
 hoarse

... the throat
 ... the country is
 ... bleed
 ... may 21

Forums > Livestock > Livestock & Forage >

Ethnoveterinary Medicine - can you help?

 William Milliken ·  Jun 10, 2019



Coximus
Member



Location:
The invisible Sheep
mines of the north

Jun 10, 2019

  #2

You'll get some info on the net but really you need to get out to the farms run by the last of the older generation who still remember these as day to day even if from their childhood.... They don't use the Internet often and they're getting on... My neighbour a case in person. Will be 90 next year and always talks about oak bark for bloat and worms among other things, but he has never used a computer.... Or left Yorkshire.... Nad hasn't been to the. City 10 med away for 40 years because he doesn't like people or traffic.... Get yourself to the livestock markets up north.

 Report


 Like +Quote  Reply



Bootneck
Member

Location: East Sussex



Jun 10, 2019

  #3

A strong solution of walnut leaves and or husks in water to keep flies away from cattle and horses

And hang a holly bush (can't remember male or female) in the winter cowshed to keep ringworm at bay. Don't know if it works !

 Report

 Like +Quote  Reply

 Av Gorritt



primmiemoo
Member

Location: Devon

Jun 10, 2019

  #4

Oak bark as a wormer makes sense. We know that the tannins inhibit/kill gastrointestinal worms. Lesser birdsfoot trefoil is flash grazed here for the same effect most years by weaned lambs as a break to conventional wormers. Only the one "dose" across a day so as not to have nibbly sheeps rip through the sward, but it seems to work.

Hogweed (absolutely **not** giant hogweed!, and know the differences between it and hemlocks and water dropworts!) leaves are a tonic and appetite stimulant for sick sheep, cattle, and horses. It's deep rooted and juicy, so probably loaded with mins and vits.

Tansy is useful against cat and dog fleas, afaik.

Artemisia vulgaris, mugwort. Gangrene in horses (Donegal¹⁹).

Berberis vulgaris, barberry. Jaundice in cattle (Ireland, unlocalised²⁰).

Bryonia dioica, white bryony (figure on page 113). Tonic for pigs (Fens of East Anglia²¹); to add gloss to horses' coats (Oxfordshire,²² Norfolk,²³ Lincolnshire²⁴).

Capsella bursa-pastoris (Linnaeus) Medikus, shepherd's-purse. Cosmopolitan weed. Diarrhoea in calves (Isle of Man²⁵).

Chelidonium majus, greater celandine (figure on page 79). Warts in cattle (Ireland, unlocalised²⁶).

Cirsium spp., thistles. To staunch bleeding in cattle or horses after lancing (Limerick²⁷).

Cirsium vulgare, spear thistle. 'Sick cattle' (Wexford²⁸).

Conium maculatum, hemlock (Plate 18). Fluke (Louth²⁹); sheep scab (Kildare, in a mixture³⁰); cuts (Tipperary³¹), sore breasts (Kilkenny, combined with *Malva*³²; Carlow³³), swollen feet (Mayo³⁴), farcy (Londonderry³⁵)—all in horses; swellings in 'animals' ('Ulster'³⁶). Some of these may be *Anthriscus sylvestris* or even *Heracleum sphondylium*.

Conopodium majus, pignut. To lower urine flow in horses (Isle of Man³⁷).

Corylus avellana, hazel. Adder bites (Glamorgan, in a mixture³⁸).

Crataegus monogyna, hawthorn (Plate 13). Diarrhoea in bullocks (Longford³⁹).

Cytisus scoparius, broom. Dropsy in sheep (Suffolk⁴⁰); worms or bots (five Irish counties); gravel (Sligo⁴¹) and broken wind (Co. Dublin⁴²) in horses; fits in dogs (Louth⁴³).

Daphne laureola, spurge-laurel. Purge for horses (Isle of Man⁴⁴); to add gloss to horses' coats (Hampshire⁴⁵).

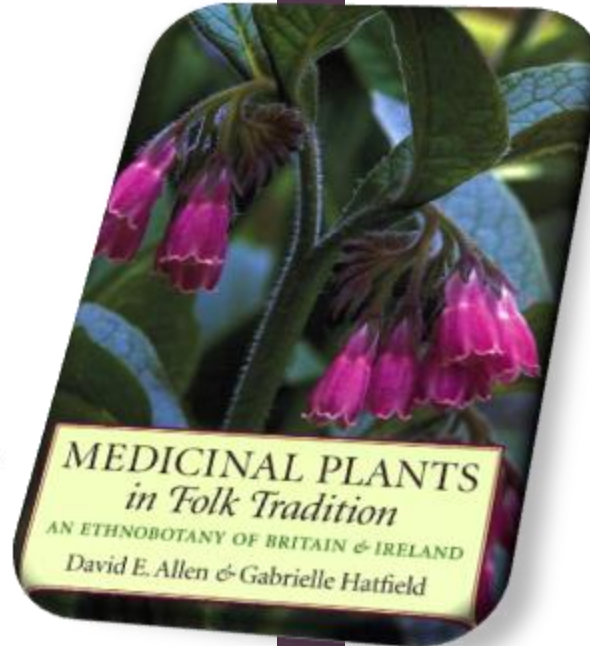
Daucus carota, wild carrot. 'Diseases in horses' (Carlow⁴⁶).

Digitalis purpurea, foxglove (figure on page 255). Sheep scab (Berwickshire, in a mixture⁴⁷; Isle of Man⁴⁸); eczema in 'livestock' (Somerset⁴⁹); mange or fleas in dogs (Gloucestershire⁵⁰); strangles (Cumbria⁵¹); red-water fever (Merionethshire, in a mixture⁵²).

Dryopteris filix-mas, male-fern (figure on page 63). Red-water fever (Cavan,⁵³ Laois,⁵⁴ Tipperary⁵⁵); fluke (four Irish counties). 'Fern' for white scour (Cavan⁵⁶) and kidney disease in horses (Limerick⁵⁷) may be this or *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Euonymus europaeus, spindle. Fleas and lice in dogs (unlocalised⁵⁸).

Eupatorium cannabinum, hemp-agrimony. Cough in cattle 'and other beasts' (England, unlocalised⁵⁹).



Euphorbia spp., spurges. Black-leg (Cavan⁶⁰).

Euphorbia hyberna, Irish spurge. Purge for horses and cattle (Galway⁶¹).

Euphrasia officinalis, eyebright (figure on page 261). Red-water fever (Donegal⁶²).

Filago vulgaris, common cudweed. Red-water fever (unlocalised⁶³).

Filipendula ulmaria, meadowsweet. Diarrhoea in calves (Armagh⁶⁴).

Fragaria vesca, wild strawberry (Plate 11). Red-water fever (Cavan⁶⁵); constipation in rabbits and guinea pigs (Cambridgeshire⁶⁶).

Fraxinus excelsior, ash. Adder bites (Dorset,⁶⁷ Galloway⁶⁸).

Fumaria spp., fumitory. Worms in foals (Orkney⁶⁹).

Galium aparine, cleavers (figure on page 269). Ringworm in dogs (Norfolk⁷⁰); to increase sperm in a stallion (Norfolk⁷¹).

Galium verum, lady's bedstraw. Fits in dogs (Westmeath⁷²).

Gentianaella campestris, field gentian. Rickets-like disease in cattle enforcing crouching, known as the *chrùbain*, nowadays attributed to phosphorus deficiency (Highlands⁷³); to bring on oestrus in cows (Shetland⁷⁴).

Geranium robertianum, herb-Robert (figure on page 175). Red-water fever (throughout Ireland); worms in horses and cattle (Limerick⁷⁵); 'dry-murrian', i.e. constipation (Waterford⁷⁶); diarrhoea in calves (Limerick⁷⁷); tuberculosis in dogs (Ireland, unlocalised—root tied to leg⁷⁸).

Glechoma hederacea, ground-ivy (figure on page 220). Kidney trouble in cattle (Kilkenny⁷⁹); white specks on eyes of horses (Kent⁸⁰); 'pink eye' in sheep (East Riding of Yorkshire⁸¹).

Hedera helix, ivy. Eye trouble in cows and sheep (four Irish counties); warts in cattle (Kildare⁸²); fluke (Longford⁸³); expelling afterbirth (Hampshire,⁸⁴ Norfolk,⁸⁵ Limerick⁸⁶); digestive troubles in goats (Norfolk⁸⁷); loss of appetite in ruminants (Somerset,⁸⁸ Norfolk⁸⁹); 'start', i.e. mastitis, in cattle (Cavan⁹⁰); pain in sheep (Offaly⁹¹); 'sick' animals (Aran Islands,⁹² Wicklow⁹³).

Helleborus foetidus, stinking hellebore. Foot-and-mouth disease (Leicestershire⁹⁴); mastitis in calves (Norfolk⁹⁵); draining 'bad humours' from ruminants by 'settering' or 'felling', involving insertion of this in open wound made in ear, dewlap or above forelegs (England, unlocalised⁹⁶; Cumbria⁹⁷).

Helleborus viridis, green hellebore. Swollen udder in cows (Cumberland⁹⁸); to add gloss to a horse's coat (Suffolk⁹⁹).

Heracleum sphondylium, hogweed. Winter rheumatism in cows (Ireland, unlocalised¹⁰⁰).

« [Previous Item](#)

[Next Item](#) »

Plant Picture

Plants as vermicides

The use of plants to kill intestinal worms has been noted elsewhere on this website: Christmas trees used to deworm goats, groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*) and ransons (*Allium ursinum*) used to deworm horses and ponies, and hellebores (*Helleborus* spp.) and pumpkins (*Cucurbita* spp.) used to deworm humans. This article provides notes on other plants used for this purpose.

Bistort (*Persicaria bistorta*). Warcop, Cumbria: 'the moon must be full when the bistort is picked'. [Place, London, 1983:124; Sh...

Bog myrtle (*Myrica maritima*). Given to children as a remedy. [Place, London, 1912: 167]

Box (*Buxus sempervirens*). [Place, London, 1912: 167] was a ploughman. His employer told him to put box leaves in a tray in the oven to dry. The horse's feed last night was contaminated; the boss said the horse would die. Reluctantly my father went to the stables to see if the worms died or not, but the horse had already died. [Place, London, 1912: 167] in Dorset, Dorset, January 1912.



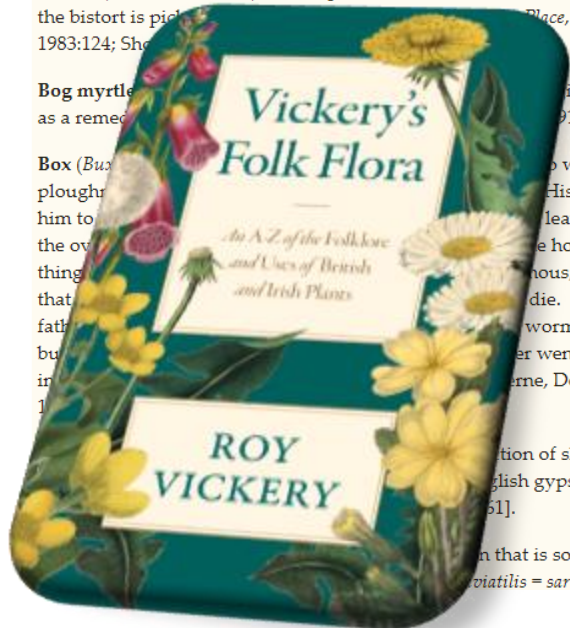
Scientific Name

Region

British Isles

Alternative Names

Related Articles

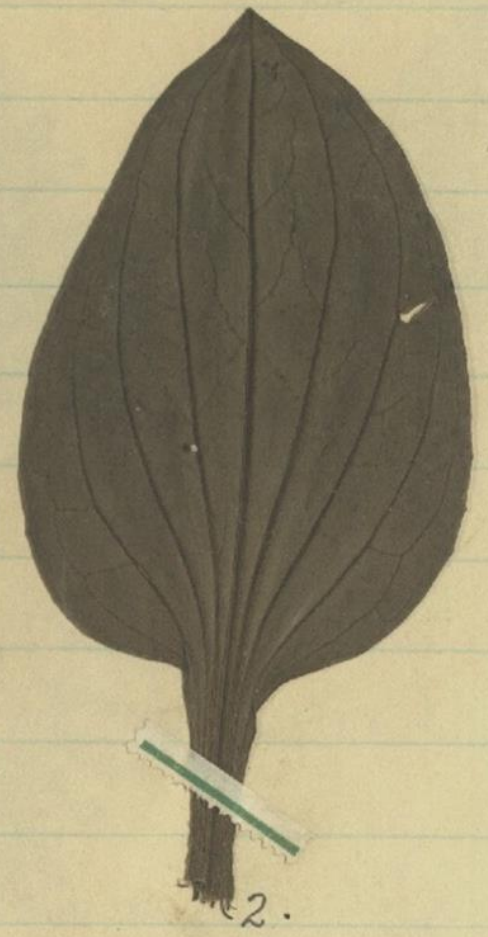


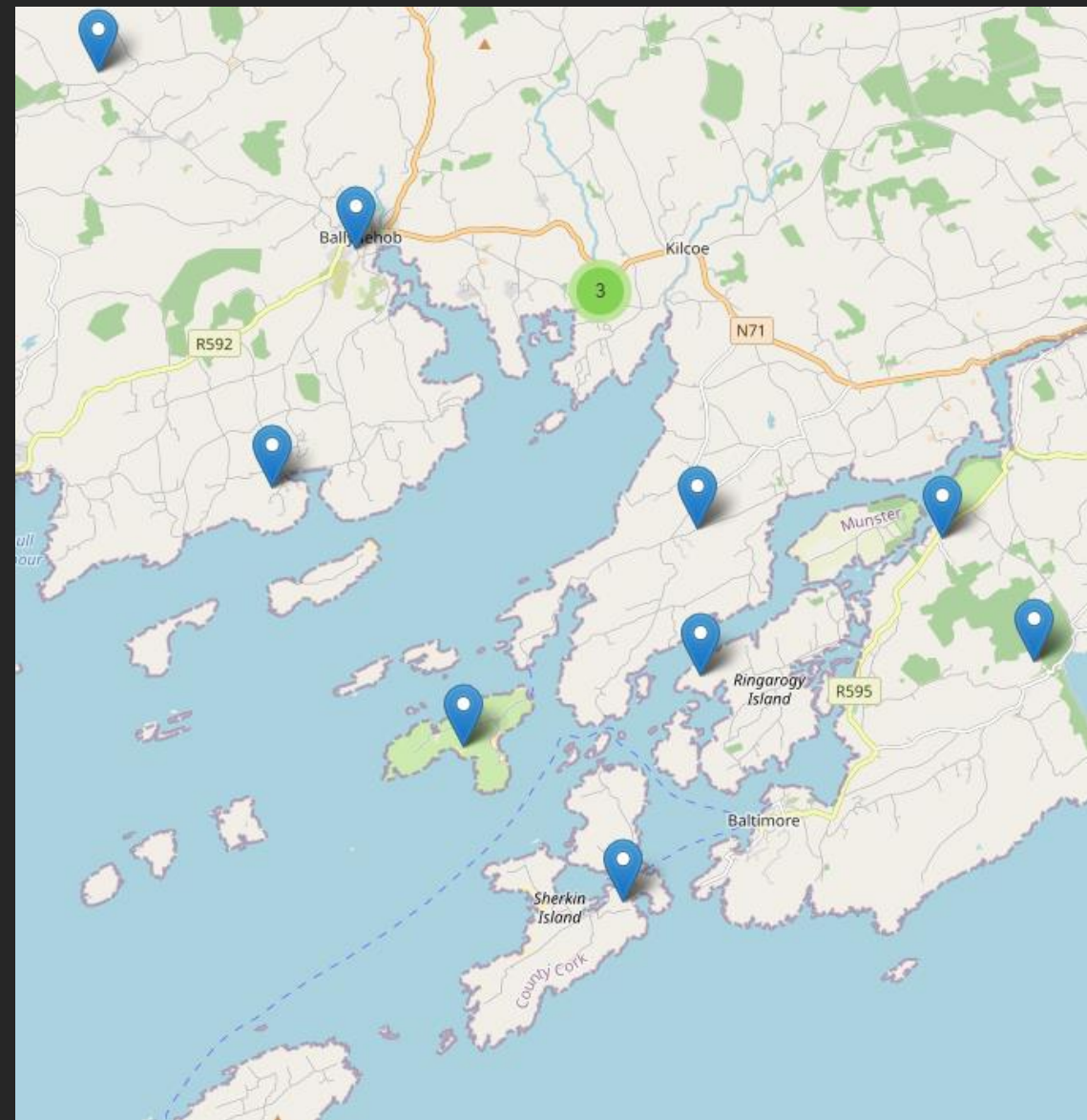
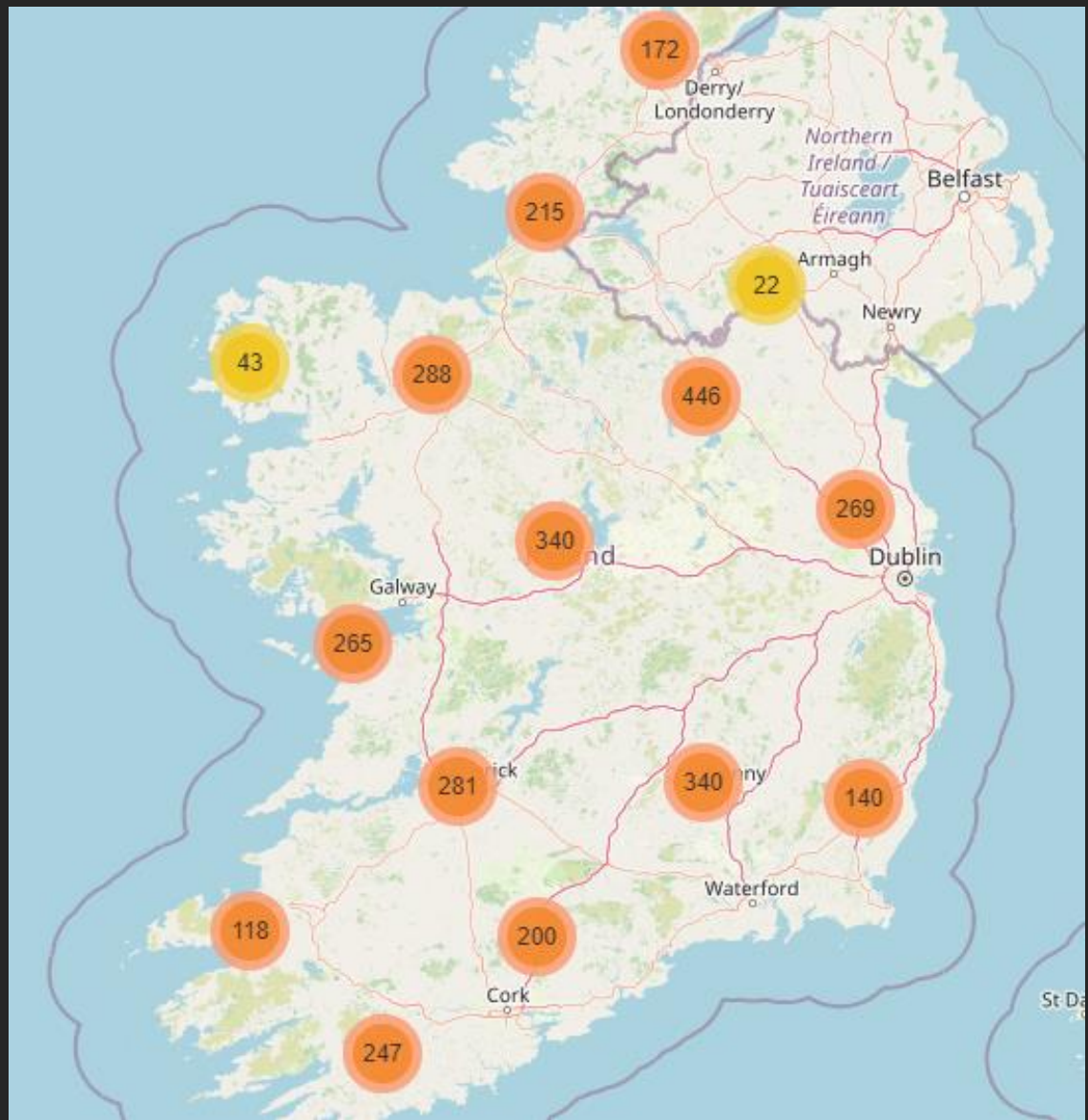
Schools' Folklore Scheme
IRELAND
1937-9



115

Leaves used in local cures.





Áir-simneacha (ar leanaíona)
simneacha ar

- (4) "Póirce Reasúir" is ead ^{simneacha ar} póirce 1 nuaice "faidil Forclán" (Ball's Cliff), mar atá sé ara reasúir.
- (5) "Faidil Forclán" is ead simneacha ar faidil 1 zuan dún na Séad, mar bí sé ar feua ara uzraa bar.
- (6) "Seana bó-iar" is ead simneacha ar páire 1 nuaice mo zuz
- (7) Carruaz na Shazzi is ead simneacha ar carruaz a bíom clúdaíte le Shazzi 1 zcomnuide. Uzraa "Couné," "Rim Dub," "Faidil Beiu," agus "Carruaz Móna do arasna eile nóir iméall an oibian.

Zrim Seéal.

Lá amán euaid: beir feua ó tms aréin zo deí Oibian na dnuizreuz az zparrao sim. Nuair a bí sé zparraia ara, euaid: siad xl dún zybáid ara bí madra - ruad marb ar an bpori, agus cur ara zsead ms an mbáid é. Nuair a iánzadar 1 dún m tms aréin, euaid ar an madra - ruad amae ar an dnuiz. Ní áisea a buail an madra - ruad an talais, trá dnuiz, sé leis sa nós na zpoite. Cap na fik zo rabi sé marb, ac sé nó zhe dób. Sin é an ead madra - ruad a iánaz zo tms aréin, agus rá madraí - ruad am tos pós.

Cize 1 bpolac.

Deurwar zo bpuill préca óir 1 bpolac m áir ézuz 1 Shub Mór. Curread am é sa eazla zo nzuidzad ropairí é. Deurwar leis zo bpuill zo beir feua zan



SHERKIN ISLAND

MEDICINES FOR PEOPLE

"Sorrel" when boiled yields a liquid which is used for purifying the blood. "Dandelion" is used as a blood producer. "Red berries" which grow on the bushes are used for "Liver and chest trouble".

The cabbage leaves when heated over the fire is used for diseases on the skin.

A class of sea-weed called ~~is~~ the "Blistered seaweed" is supposed to be a good cure for Rheumatism.

Bog Berries ^{are} ~~is~~ a good cure for "Diarrhoea". "Barraheen Moss" which grows on the rocks on the brink of the sea, when

School:

Uragh (C.)

Location:

Uragh, Co. Cavan

Teacher:

E. Mc Caffrey

Browse

TITLES (56)

1. The Parish of Kinawley

Transcribed

2. Holy Wells

Transcribed

3. Swanlinbar

Transcribed

4. Ben Aughlin

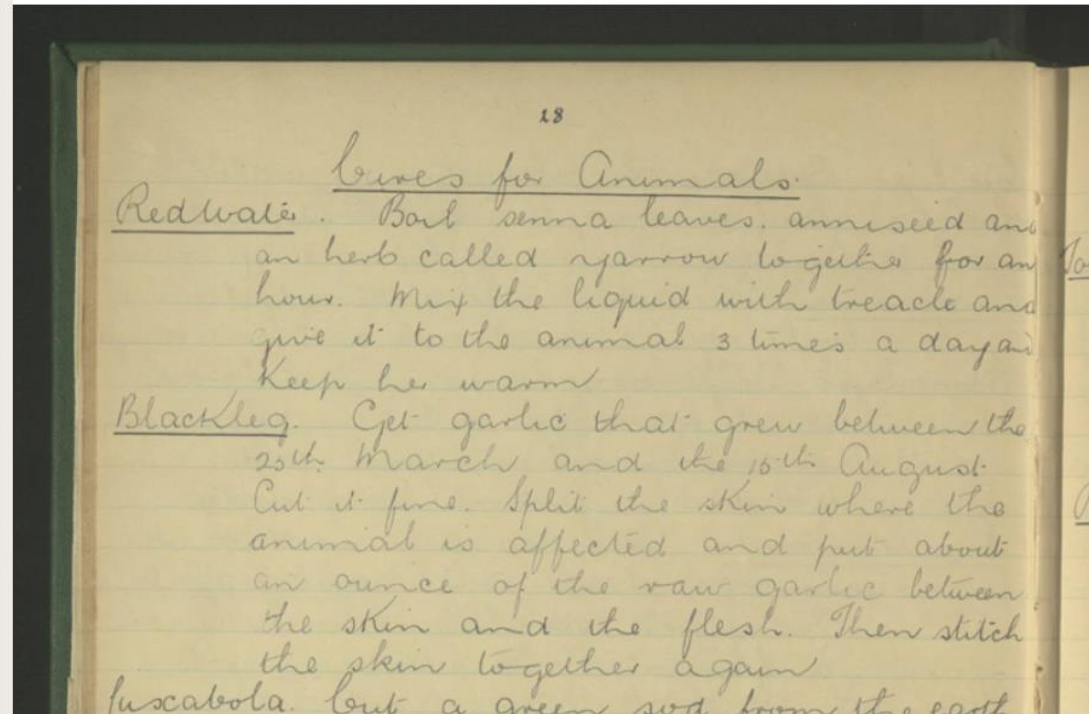
Transcribed

5. "About 50 years ago me and a comrade went at 2 o'clock in the night to the Play bank..."

Transcribed

MODE: Q Magnify X Zoom

◀ 028 / 129 ▶



ON THIS PAGE

 **Cures for Animals**

Share Share Tweet

Reader. Boil senna leaves, aniseed and a herb called yarrow together for an hour. Mix the liquid with treacle and give it to the animal 3 times a day and keep her warm.

Blackleg. Get garlic that grew between the 20th March and the 15th August.

Cut it fine. Split the skin where the animal is affected and put about an ounce of the raw garlic between the skin and the flesh. Then stitch the skin together again.

Luscabola. Cut a green sod from the earth with a black handled knife and say a certain prayer three times afterwards. Put the sod on a whitethorn bush and according as the sod moulders the disease is cured.

Staggers in a horse. Cut a joint off its tail.

Worms in horses. Give a bucket of spa water fasting for nine mornings.

Rose on Cow's Udder. Bathe the udder three times daily for 3 days with water from the bog. Give her nothing to eat but hay and chilled water

(continues on next page)

TERRA LINDISFARNENSIS.

THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF THE
EASTERN BORDERS,

BY
GEORGE JOHNSTON, M.D. EDIN.,
LL.D. OF MARISCHAL COLLEGE, ABERDEEN: FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH, ETC.

VOL. I.
The Botany.



LONDON:
JOHN VAN VOORST, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCLIII

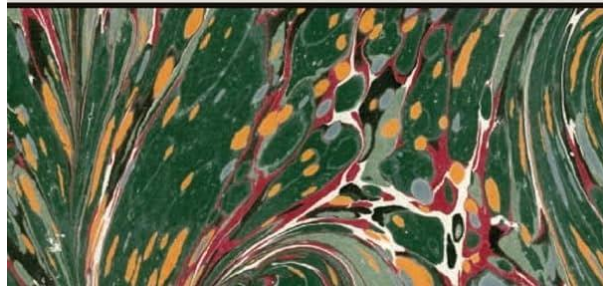
CONSERVATOIRE
BOTANIQUE

VILLE DE PARIS



Colonsay, One Of The Hebrides,
Its Plants: Their Local Names
And Uses--Legends, Ruins, And
Place-Names--Gaelic Names Of
Birds, Fishes, Etc.--Climate,
Geological Formation, Etc

Murdoch McNeill



An Economical History
Of The Hebrides And
Highlands Of Scotland
V2 (1808)

John Walker

DATA COLLECTION

National Folklore Collection



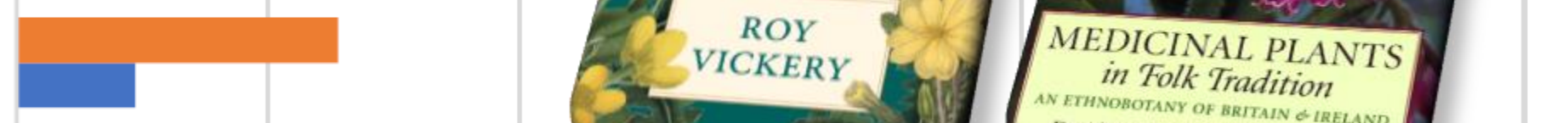
Other publications



Allen & Hatfield



Vickery



Personal communication



UR Species cited



Ethnoveterinary data in Britain and Ireland: can native herbal medicine promote animal health?

William Milliken

- 198 medicinal plants recorded.
- The main treatments were on cattle, horses, sheep, dogs, hens & pigs.



- Garlic [cultivated/wild]
- Ivy
- Comfrey
- Elder
- Herb Robert
- Dock
- Gorse
- Broom
- Male Fern
- Oak
- Bramble
- Nettle
- Common Mallow
- Groundsel
- Foxglove
- Bog Myrtle

CITIZEN SCIENCE



Animal age



Plant part



Preparation



Administration



Dose



Timing

Plant Identification

Marshmallow is a good cure for swelling in horses and pigs or for a blast on a cow's udder.

Monaghan

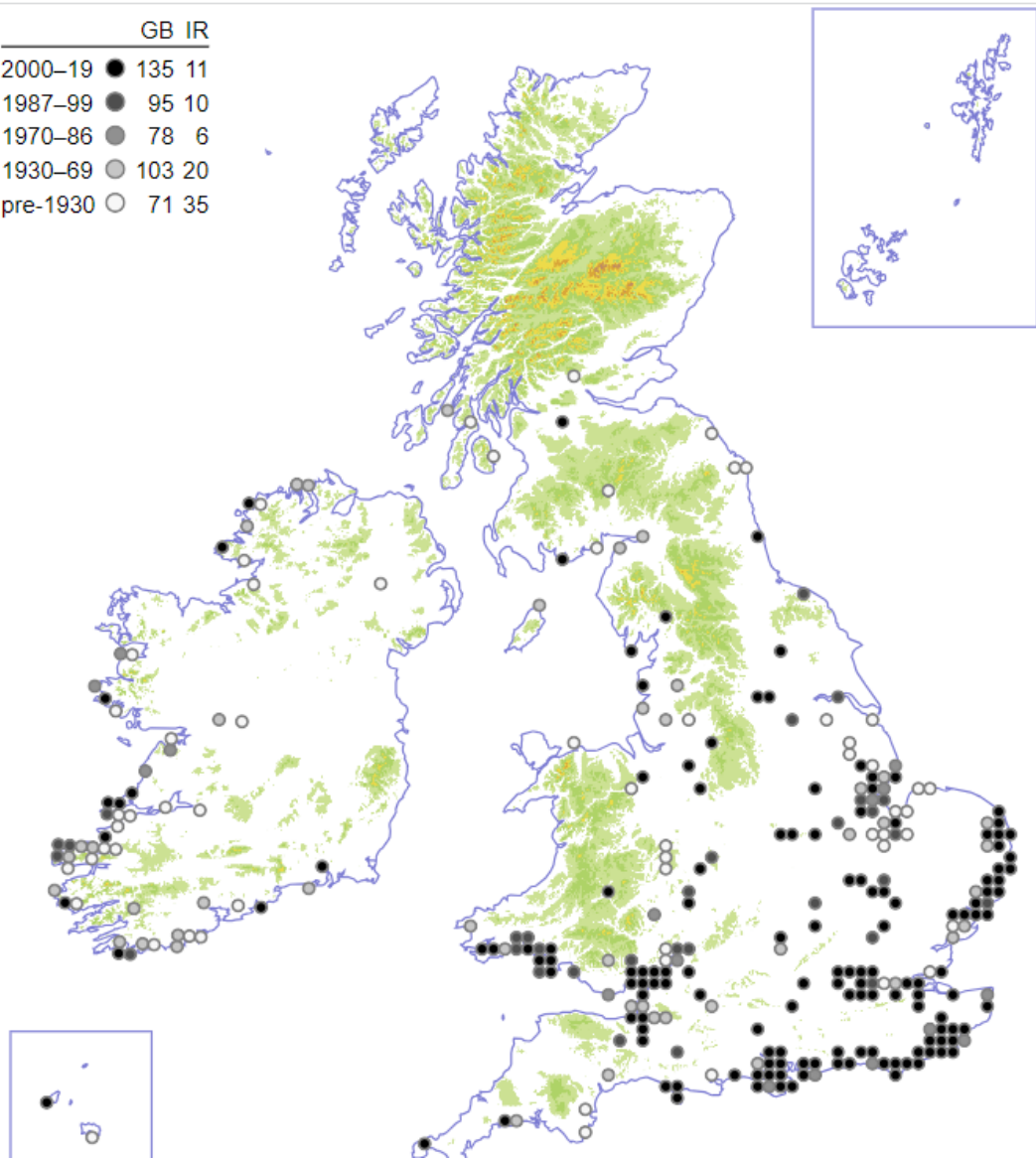


Malva sylvestris (Common Mallow)



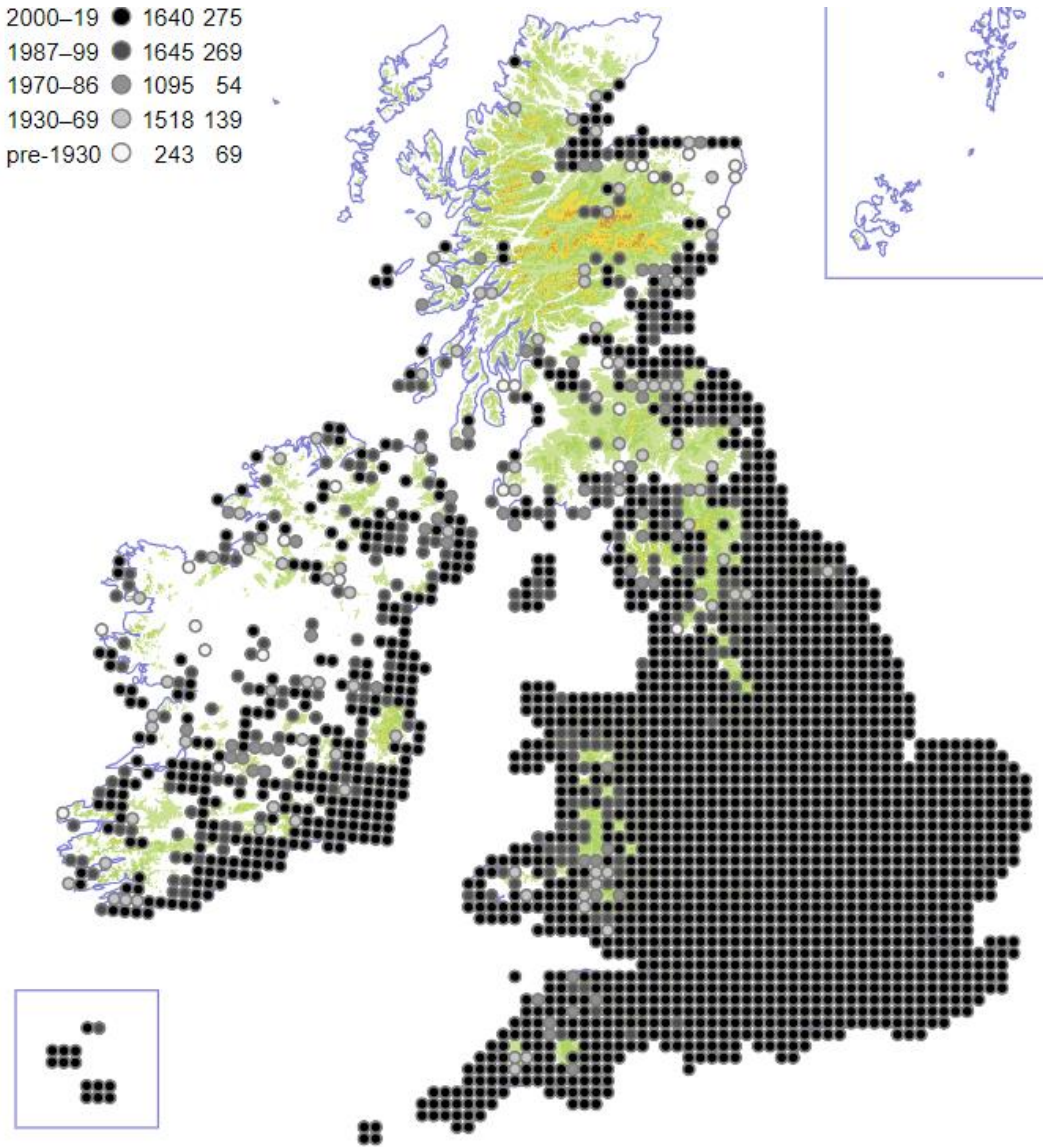
Althaea officinalis (Marsh Mallow)

	GB	IR
2000–19	135	11
1987–99	95	10
1970–86	78	6
1930–69	103	20
pre-1930	71	35



Althaea officinalis (Marsh Mallow)

2000–19	1640	275
1987–99	1645	269
1970–86	1095	54
1930–69	1518	139
pre-1930	243	69



Malva sylvestris (Common Mallow)

Oenanthe crocata (Hemlock Water Dropwort)



Conium maculatum (Hemlock)



There is a weed called Hemlock and it is poison. The people long ago used to pound it up and use it for sheep dip. They used to have a special hollow store for pounding it in. Some other ingredients used to be mixed through it and then they used to rub it into the sheep. It is not known now what was the other ingredient.

Kildare

Allium sativum (Garlic)



“I can remember my father collecting wild garlic, liquidising it and drenching cows which were very poorly with mastitis; as far as I know garlic and onion is a natural antibiotic.”

Lancashire

“Garlic will cure animal’s coughs. It is cut up in small pieces and put in the animal’s food.”

Westmeath

Allium ursinum (Wild Garlic)



Rumex spp.

- Dalkin
- Dawkens
- Delkin
- Dock
- Docken
- Dockings
- Dockins
- Dockroot

Symphytum officinale L.

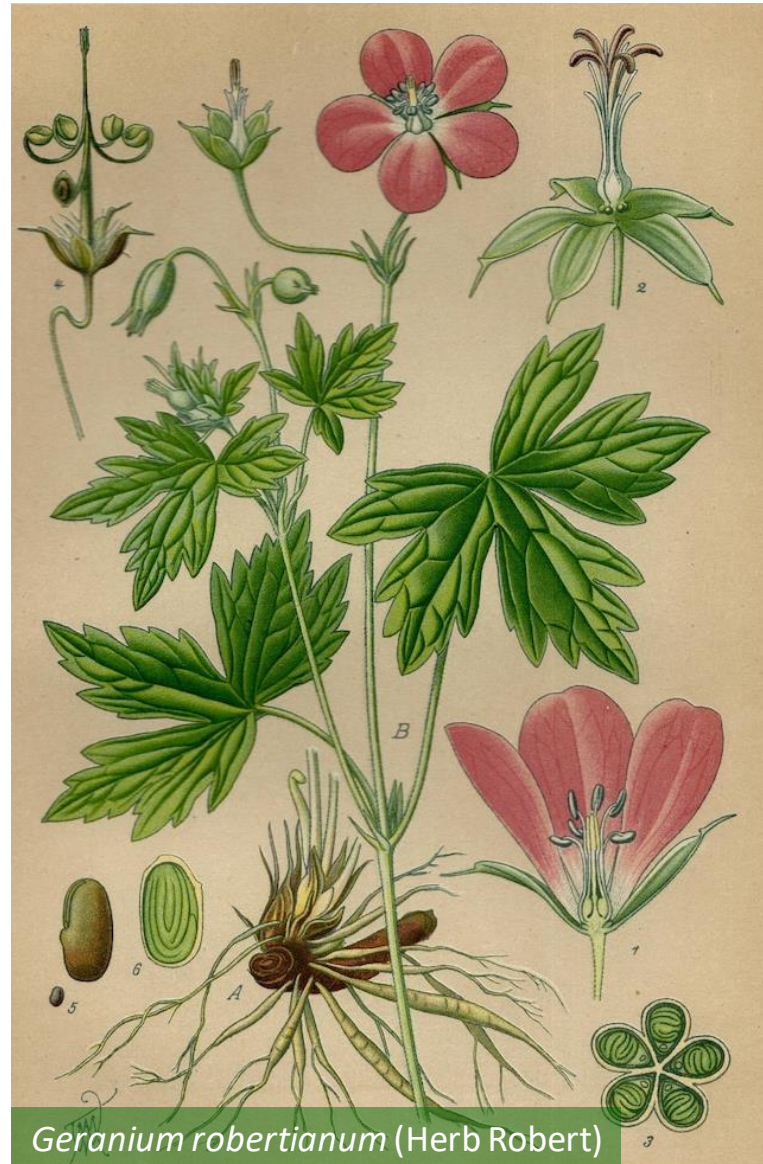
- Comfrey
- Comfry
- Comfurry
- Comfy
- Compery
- Confrey
- Coomferry
- Coomfurry
- Cumfrey
- Cumfry
- Cumpherry

Geranium robertianum L.

- Blood wort
- Bloodwort
- Blood-wort
- Crane's Beak
- Cranes bill
- Crane's-bill
- Craod Dearg
- Créachtach
- Crob Dearg
- CROBH-DEARG
- Crocdearg
- Crowsfoot

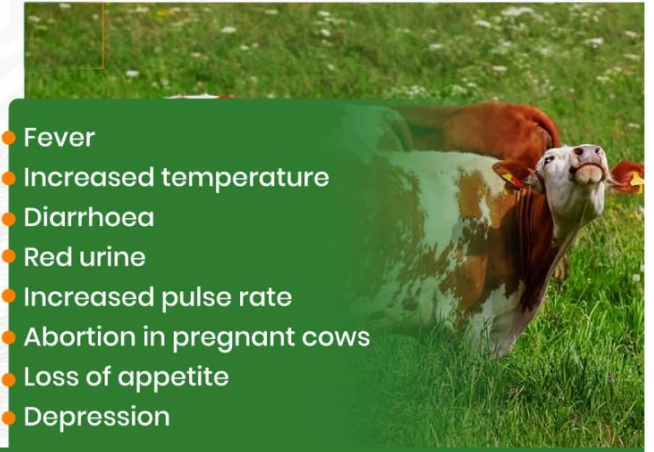
“Blood-wort is used for curing cattle that have the murrain. This herb grows in turnip field. You would get this herb and put it in cattle’s food and give it to the cattle.”

Wexford



Geranium robertianum (Herb Robert)

Clinical signs of Babesiosis (Red water) in cattle



- Fever
- Increased temperature
- Diarrhoea
- Red urine
- Increased pulse rate
- Abortion in pregnant cows
- Loss of appetite
- Depression

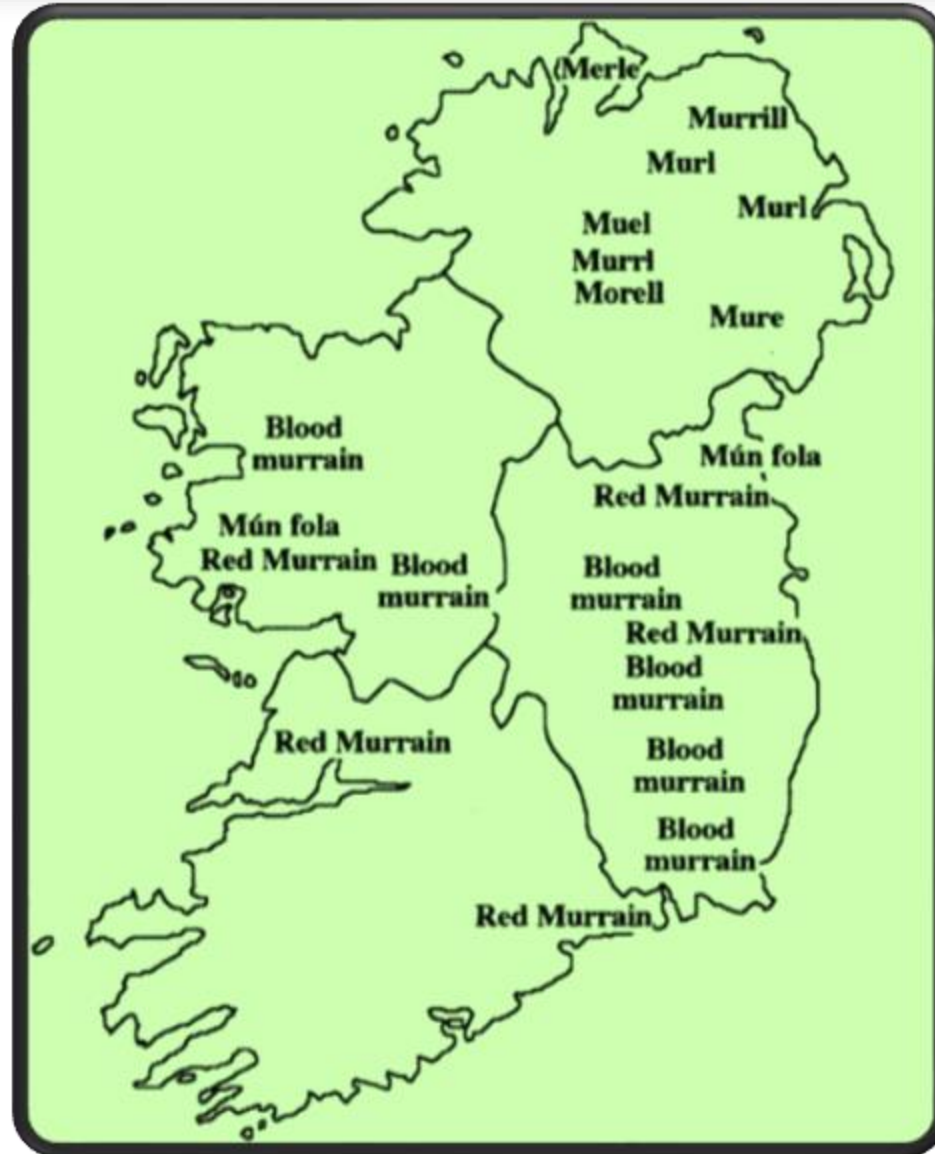
www.bivatec.com
support@bivatec.com

+256783826131

+256757124922



The Folklore of Cattle Diseases: A Veterinary Perspective
Author(s): Michael L. Doherty
Source: *Béaloides*, Vol. 69 (2001), pp. 41-75





My best herbal remedy is one I have used on my pet rabbits for over 50 years. Some shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) is very effective if given to a rabbit with diarrhoea or a tummy upset. [Suffolk]

Garlic boiled in new milk and given to a dog to drink cured him of the fits or hysteria. [Kerry]



“We always collect ivy for any poorly sheep, animals that are off their food will usually take it and improve”

Caernarvonshire

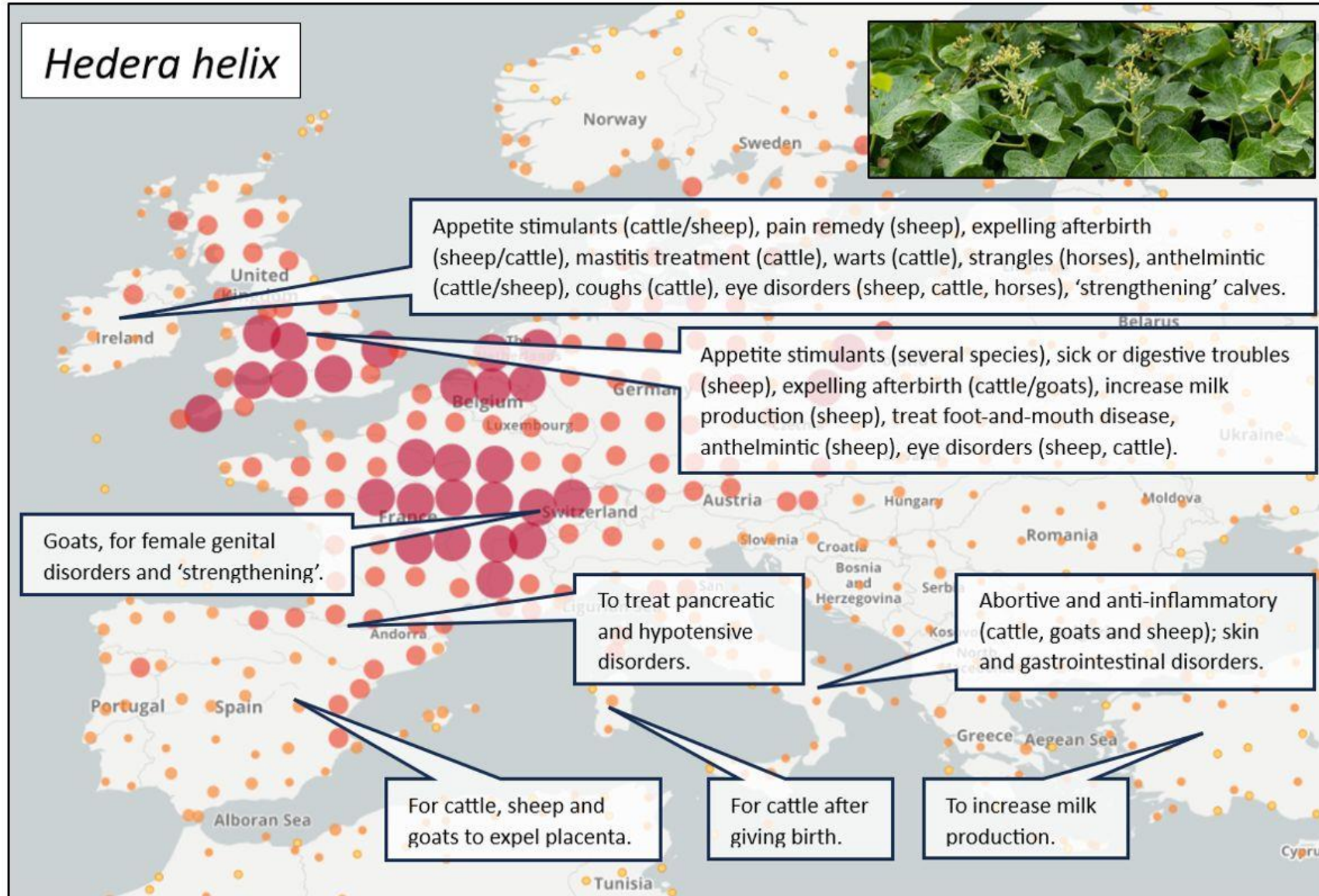
“Yes, ivy is strange stuff. Sheep are passionate about it, and it will often get a sick sheep eating and cudding again”

West Sussex



Hedera helix (Ivy)

Hedera helix



“Bog beans are very good for cows after calving. This herb grows in a marshy place. When the cow calves, it is given to her as grass.”

Leitrim



Malcolm Macaulay



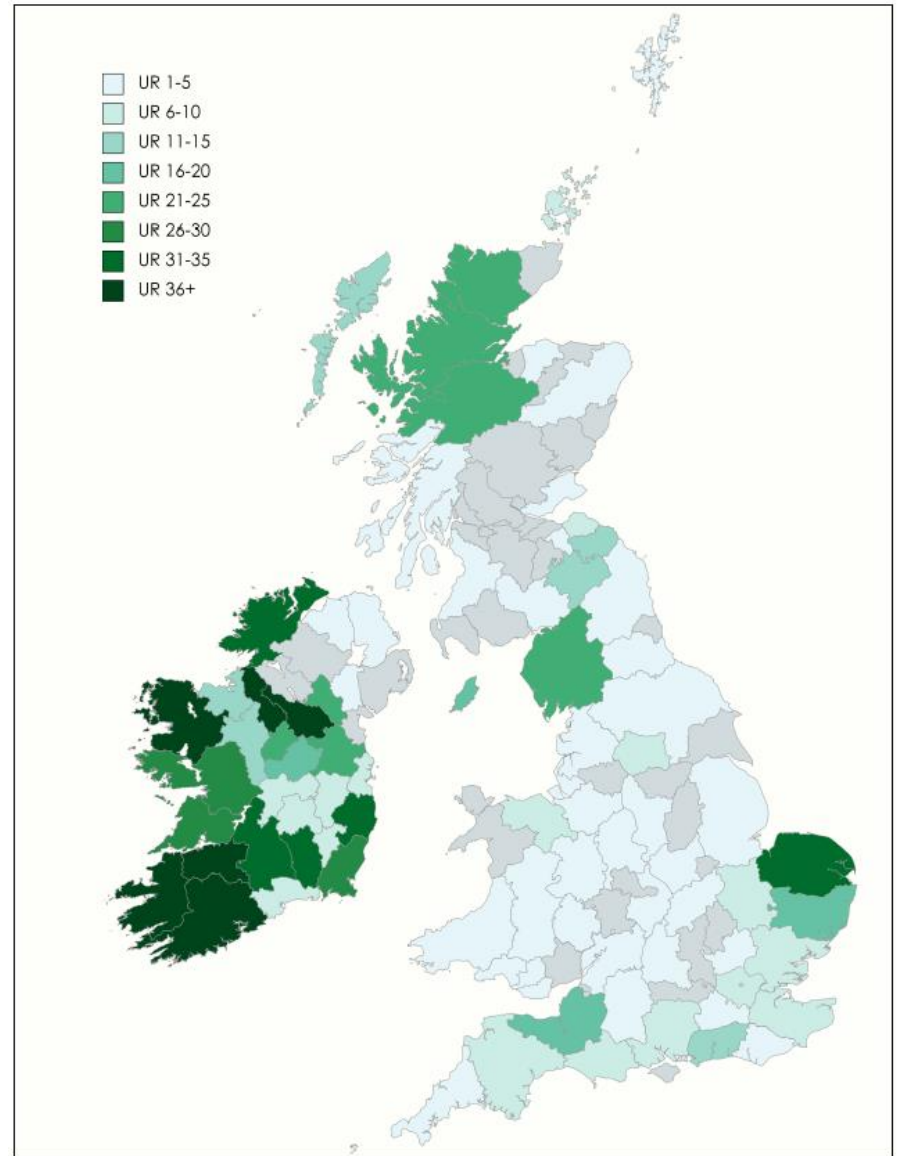
Menyanthes trifoliata (Bogbean)

“I was told by an old Scillonian that yarrow was picked and hung in the kitchen to dry... During the winter it could be used - the dried leaves boiled up and the resultant liquid used as a cow drench for cattle with stomach problems.”

Isle of Scilly



Achillea millefolium (Yarrow)



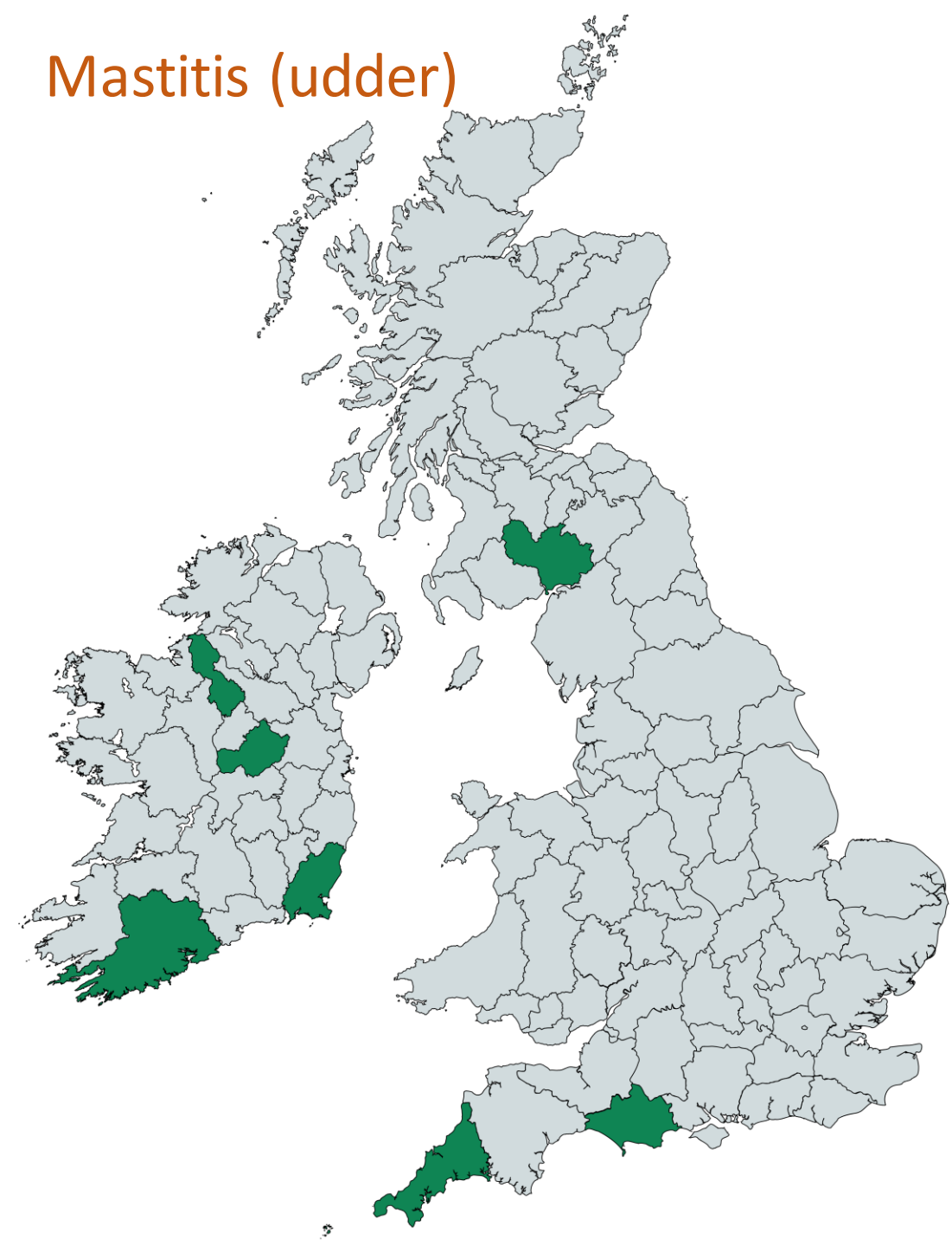
“Cure for a cow with
sore spins [udders].
Boil elder leaves and
dab the juice on her
spins.”

Westmeath

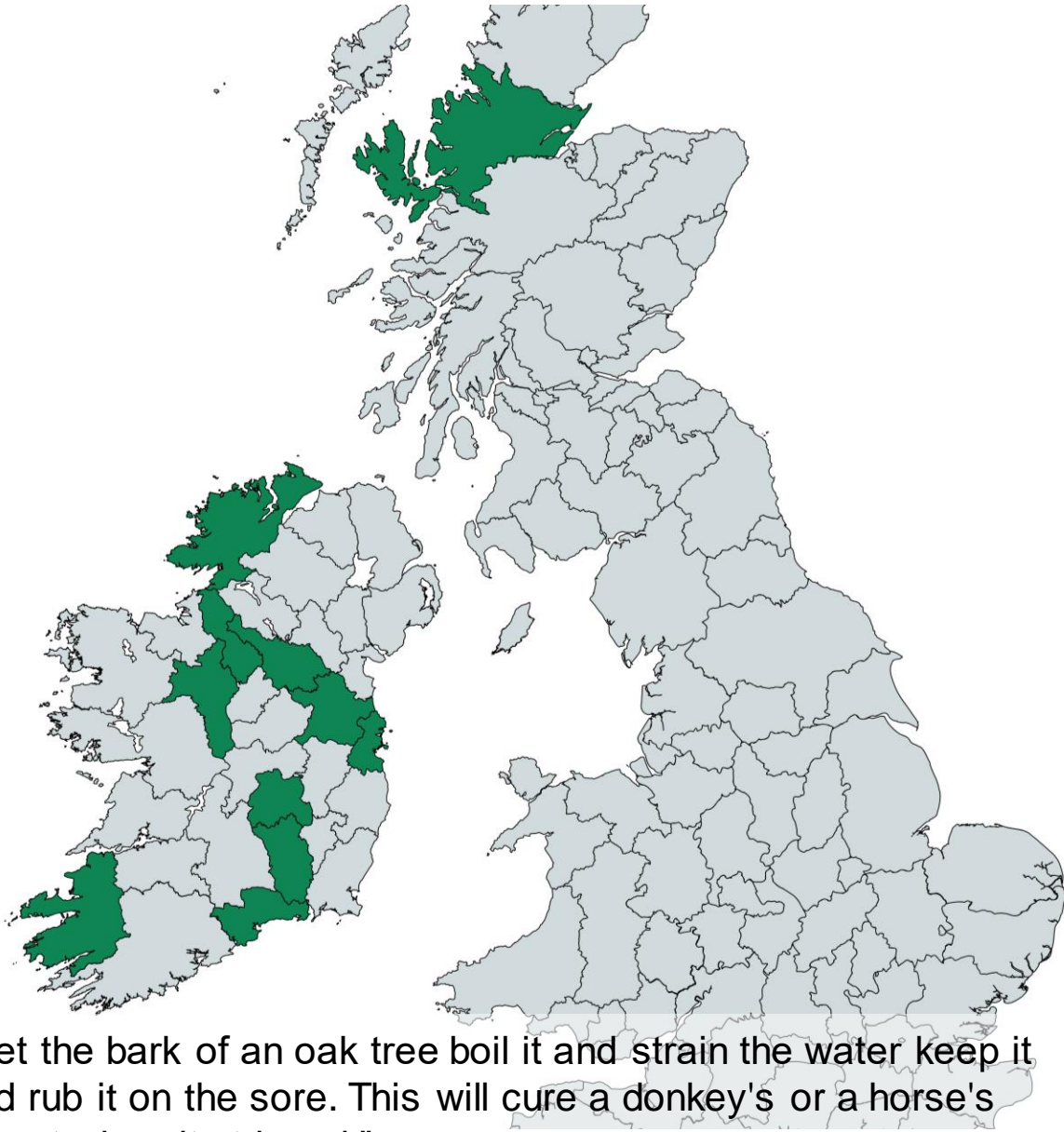


Sambucus nigra (Elder)

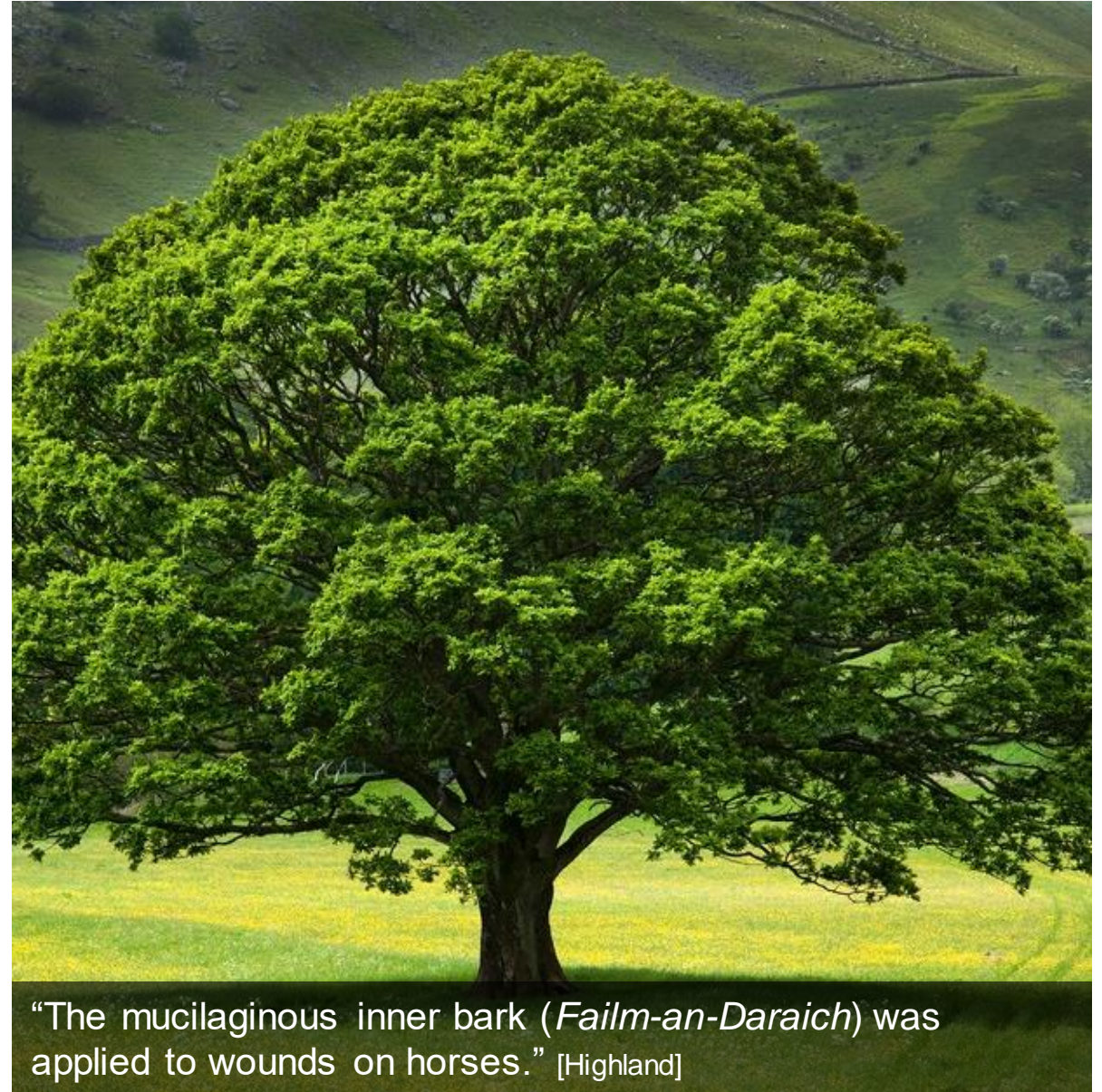
Mastitis (udder)



Sambucus nigra (Elder)



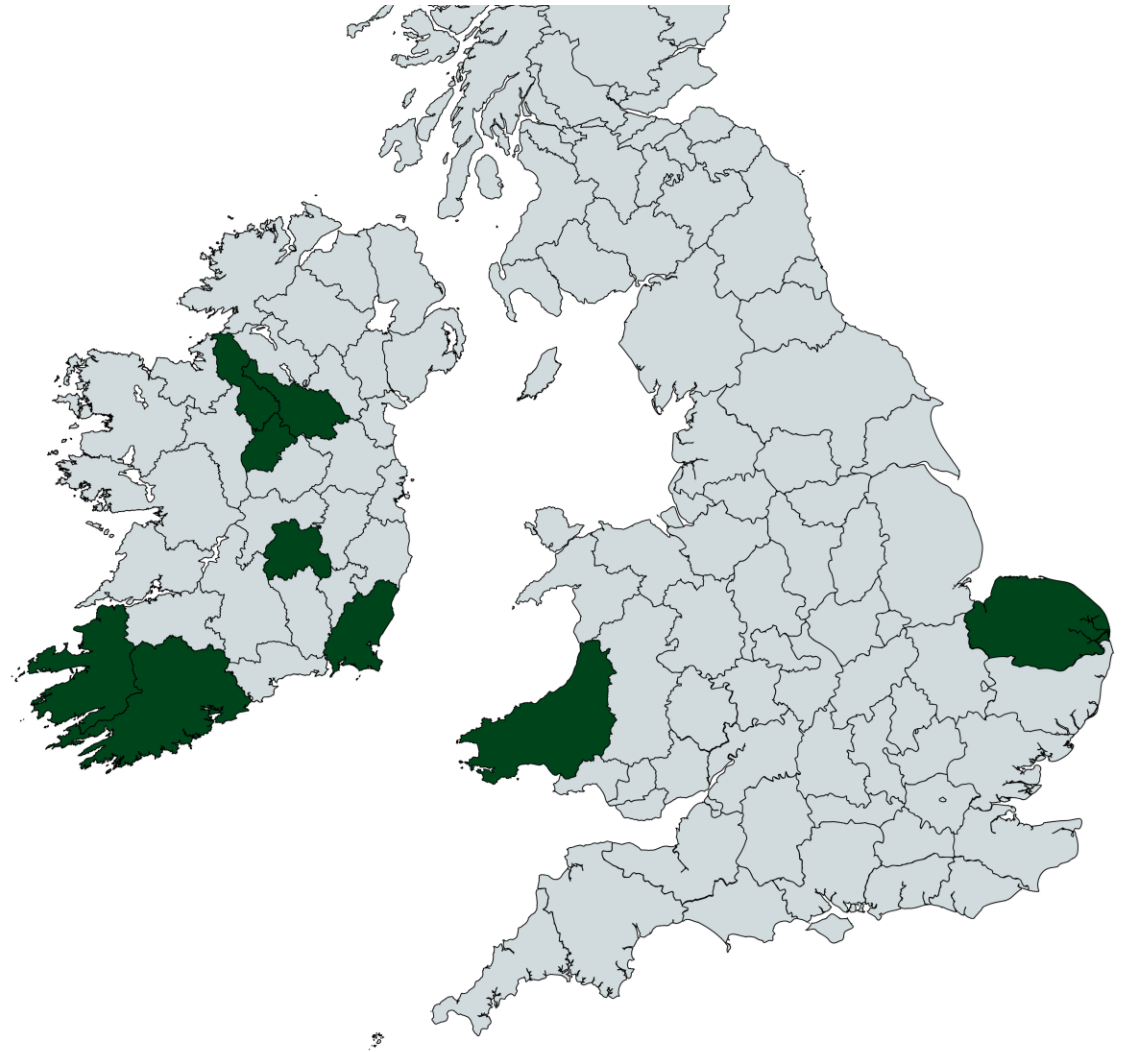
“Get the bark of an oak tree boil it and strain the water keep it and rub it on the sore. This will cure a donkey's or a horse's breast when it stripped.” [Roscommon]



“The mucilaginous inner bark (*Failm-an-Daraich*) was applied to wounds on horses.” [Highland]



Scour/diarrhoea



“Briar bud is good for scour in lambs.” [Wexford]

“Root of the briar, cures scour in calves.” [Kerry]



News

ATCvet Index

**Updates included in the
ATCvet Index**

ATCvet methodology

ATCvet

New ATCvet codes and
alterations

ATCvet Index and
Guidelines

Application form

Order form - 2023
publications

Postal address:
WHO Collaborating Centre
for Drug Statistics
Methodology
Norwegian Institute of
Public Health
Postboks 222 Skøyen
0213 Oslo
Norway

Visiting/delivery address:
Myrens verksted 6H
0473 Oslo
Norway

Tel: +47 21 07 81 60
E-mail: whocc@fhi.no

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ATCvet Index 2023

Includes the complete ATCvet Index 2023 searchable and free of charge.

ATCvet code or name
containing query Search

Queries on ATCvet code or substance name/ATCvet level name may be entered by ticking the relevant boxes.

ATCvet code

- All ATCvet levels are searchable.
- A search will result in showing the exact substance/level and the levels above (up to 1st ATCvet level).

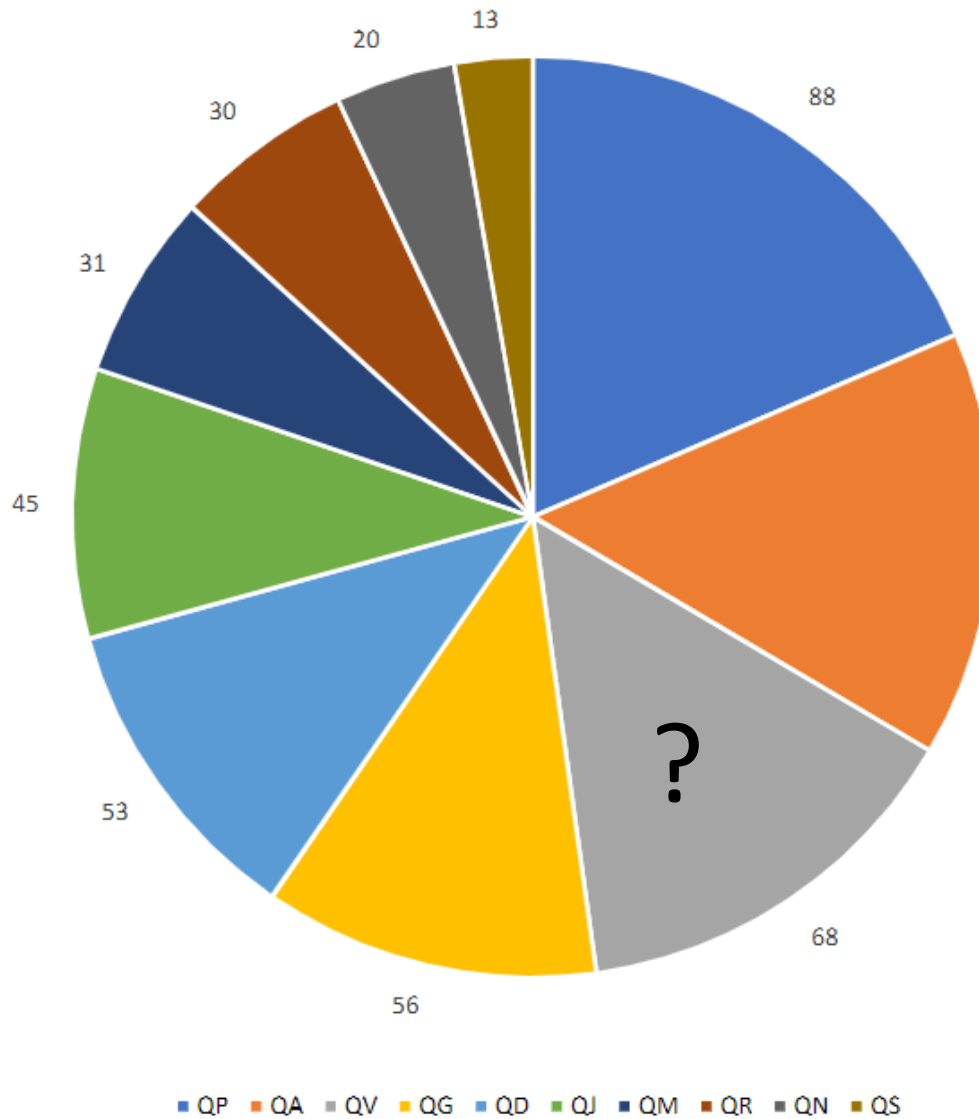
QA [ALIMENTARY TRACT AND METABOLISM](#)
QB [BLOOD AND BLOOD FORMING ORGANS](#)
QC [CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM](#)
QD [DERMATOLOGICALS](#)
QG [GENITO URINARY SYSTEM AND SEX HORMONES](#)
QH [SYSTEMIC HORMONAL PREPARATIONS, EXCL. SEX HORMONES AND INSULINS](#)
QI [IMMUNOLOGICALS](#)
QJ [ANTIINFECTIVES FOR SYSTEMIC USE](#)
QL [ANTINEOPLASTIC AND IMMUNOMODULATING AGENTS](#)
QM [MUSCULO-SKELETAL SYSTEM](#)
QN [NERVOUS SYSTEM](#)
QP [ANTIPARASITIC PRODUCTS, INSECTICIDES AND REPELLENTS](#)
QR [RESPIRATORY SYSTEM](#)
QS [SENSORY ORGANS](#)
QV [VARIOUS](#)

Name

- "Name" is defined as the name of the substance (normally the INN name) or the name of the ATCvet level. Note that trademarks are not searchable.
- A minimum of three letters must be entered in the name box. Select a query that contain part of or a query that start with the letter entered.
- For ATCvet combination levels, please note that all active ingredients would normally not be

Number of medicinal species per ATCvet (Level 1)

QP = Antiparasitic products insecticides and repellents; QA = Alimentary tract and metabolism; QV = Various (medicinal); QG = Genito urinary system and sex hormones; QD = Dermatological; QJ = Anti-infectives for systemic use; QM = Musculo-skeletal system; QR = Respiratory system; QN = Nervous system; QS = Sensory organs.



Which parasites infect cattle?

SKIN:

- Lice
- Mites
- Flies
- Ticks

GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT:

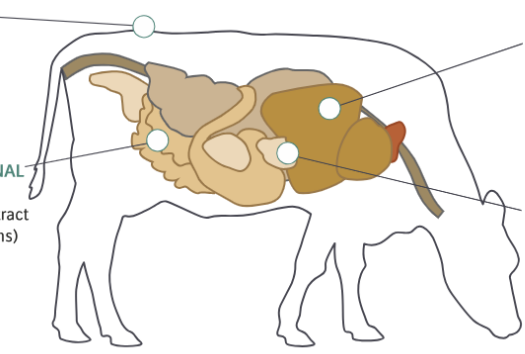
- Gastrointestinal tract nematodes (worms)
- *Cryptosporidium*
- Coccidia
- Rumen flukes

LUNG AND TRACHEA:

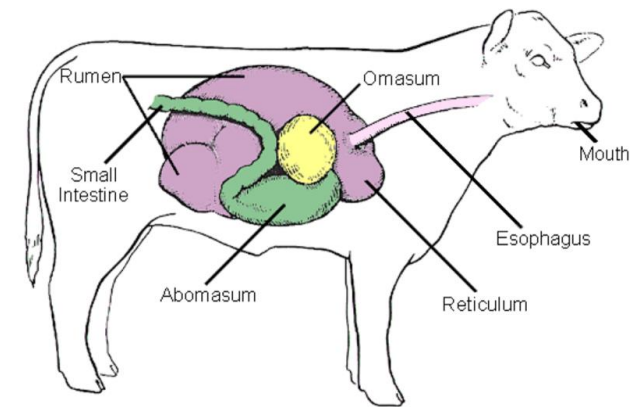
- *Dictyocaulus viviparus* (lungworms)
- Pulmonary strongyles

LIVER:

- Liver fluke

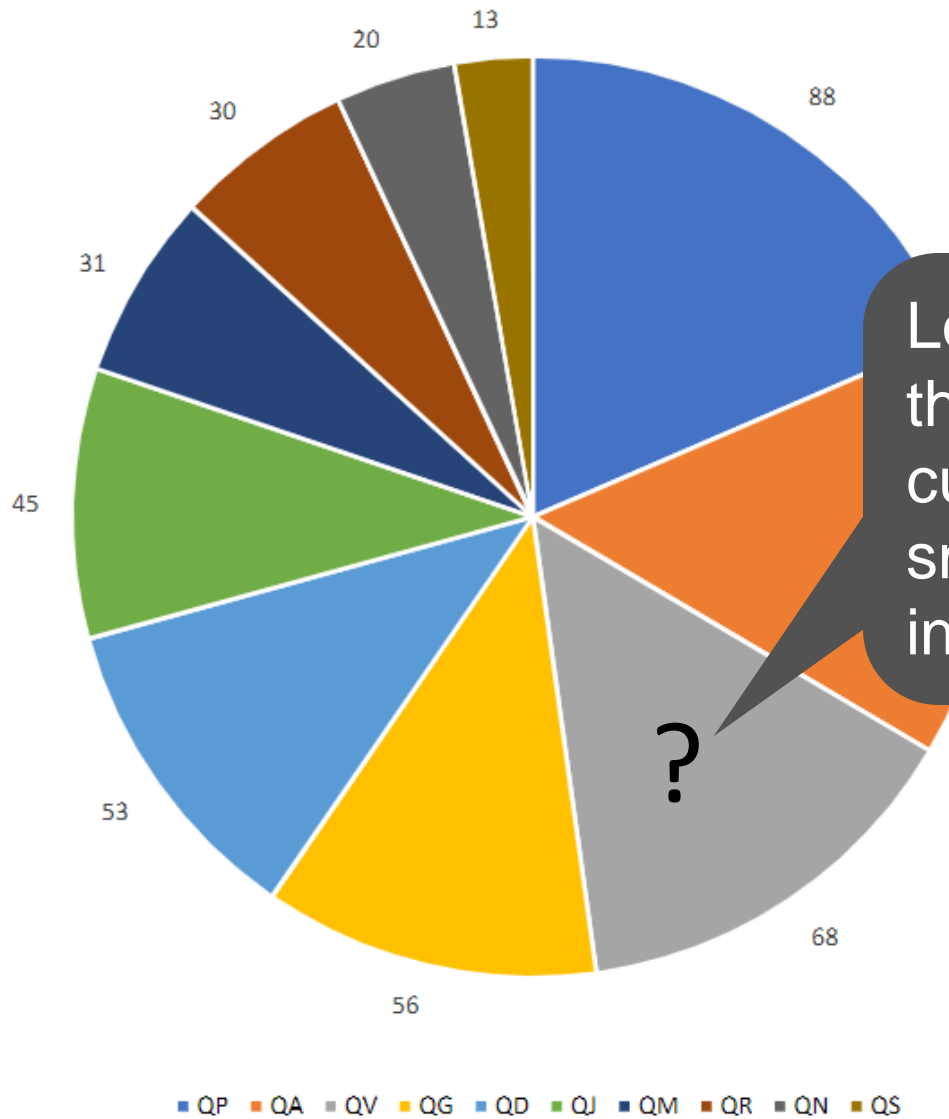


71



Number of medicinal species per ATCvet (Level 1)

QP = Antiparasitic products insecticides and repellents; QA = Alimentary tract and metabolism; QV = Various (medicinal); QG = Genito urinary system and sex hormones; QD = Dermatological; QJ = Anti-infectives for systemic use; QM = Musculo-skeletal system; QR = Respiratory system; QN = Nervous system; QS = Sensory organs.



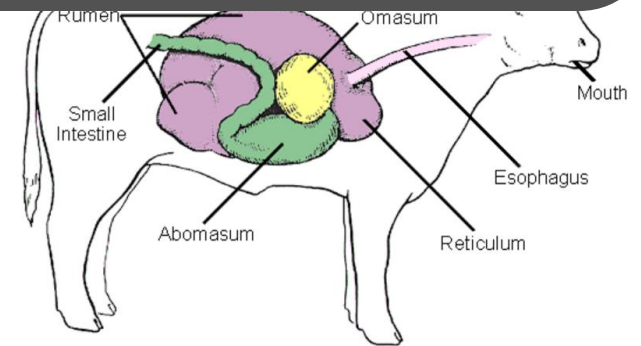
Which parasites infect cattle?

SKIN:
• Lice
• Mites
• Flies

LUNG AND TRACHEA:
• Dictyocaulus (lungworms)
• Monyary
• Cystes

Fluke

Long ago the people boiled the *Rileóg* (Bog-myrtle) for to cure man and beast, it is a small green plant that grows in the bog.



“Furze tops chopped up
and given to horses
cures the worms in
them.”

Meath



Ulex europaeus (Gorse)

“Horse with bad hoof cured by putting comfrey on. I am not sure of the method, but I think the leaves were wet and warmed and put into hoof and replaced at least once.”

Sligo



Symphytum officinale (Comfrey)

“Fairy finger roots
boiled and strained and
the water of it given to
pigs will both prevent
and cure convulsions.”

Leitrim

“The leaves of lady
fingers are boiled in
urine to cure animals of
vermin”.

Wexford



Digitalis purpurea (Foxglove)

“Docken plant (docken) - If the seed of a dock plant is boiled and then strained through a cloth, the liquid when given to animals is sure to cure a cough.”

Monaghan



Rumex spp. (Dock)

“Boiled Broom
strained is also good
for scour in cattle.
Stewed tea is also
used for this purpose.”

Wexford



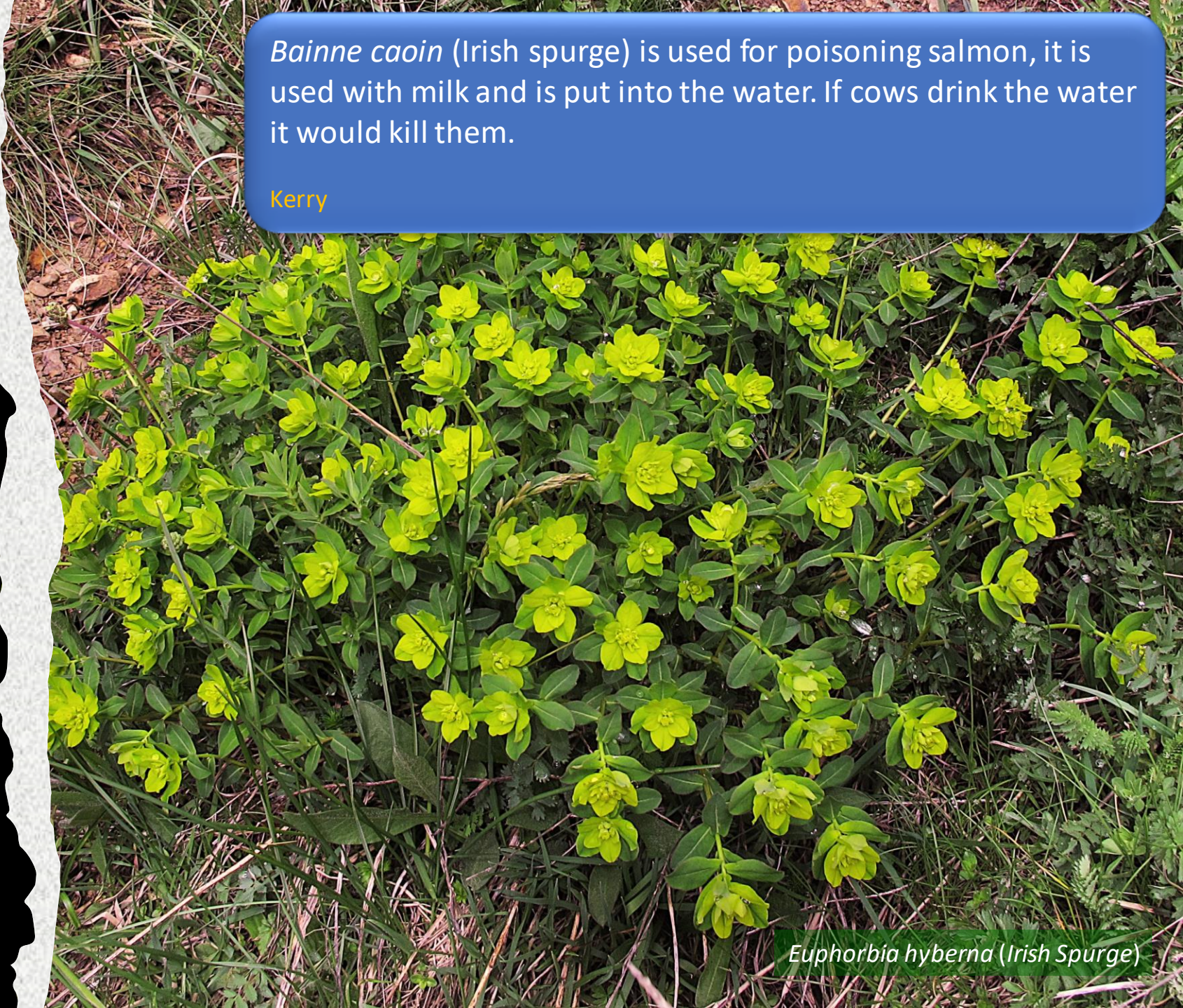
Cytisus scoparius (Broom)

“The disease is given
the cattle is called
"fluke." The cure for
the "fluke" is got from
the male fern.”

Cork



Dryopteris filix-mas (Male Fern)



Bainne caoin (Irish spurge) is used for poisoning salmon, it is used with milk and is put into the water. If cows drink the water it would kill them.

Kerry

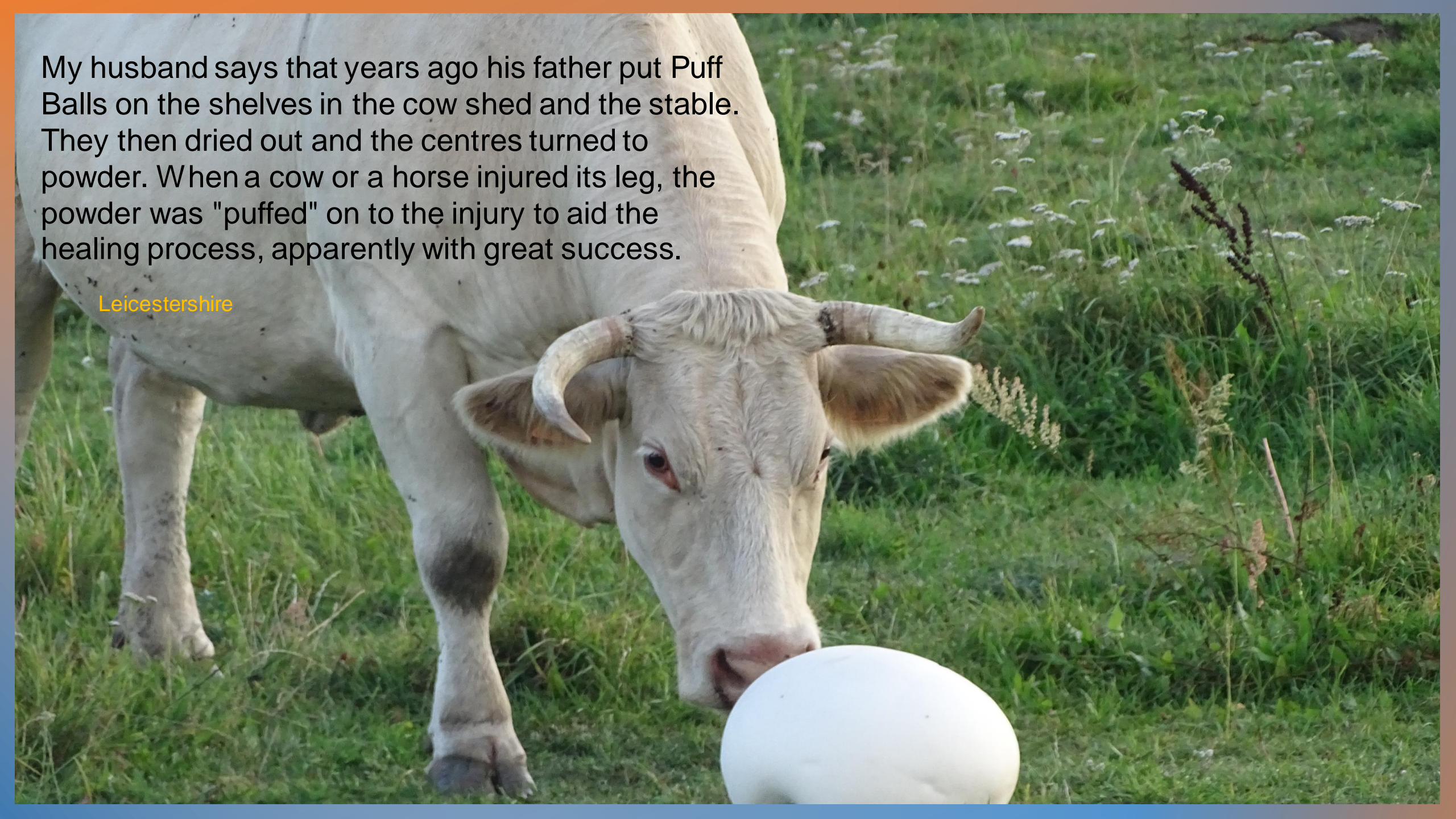
“Yellow root is a poisonous herb, but when it is washed it is used on sheep when they have mange.”

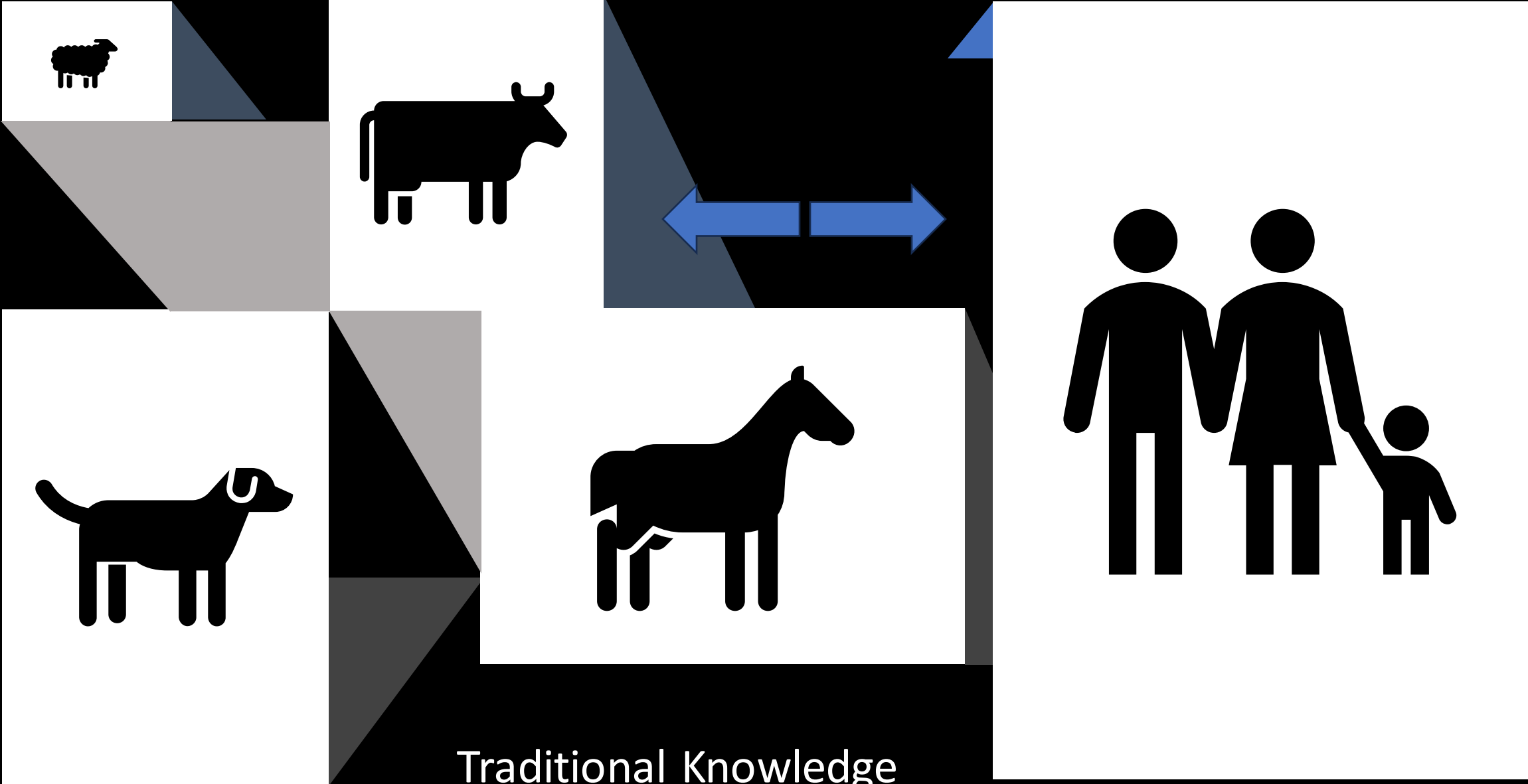
Kerry

Euphorbia hyberna (Irish Spurge)

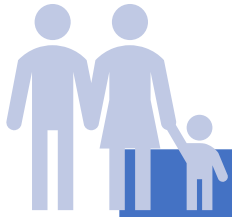
My husband says that years ago his father put Puff Balls on the shelves in the cow shed and the stable. They then dried out and the centres turned to powder. When a cow or a horse injured its leg, the powder was "puffed" on to the injury to aid the healing process, apparently with great success.

Leicestershire



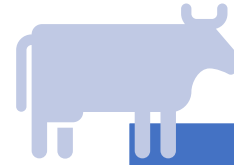


Traditional Knowledge



People

- Bramble: (diarrhoea)
- Ragwort: (wounds)
- Scarlet pimpernel: (fungi)
- Greater celandine: (warts)
- Comfrey: (broken bones)
- Tansy: (worms)
- Ivy: (eye problems)



Animals

- Bramble: (scour in cattle)
- Ragwort: (cattle wounds)
- Scarlet pimpernel: (ringworm)
- Greater celandine: (warts)
- Comfrey: (broken bones)
- Tansy: (gapes in poultry)
- Ivy: (eye problems)



“The tormental root (called by old people the tormenting root) is sometimes called septfoil [*Potentilla erecta*]. It is a small miserable looking plant which grows on the old ditch or barren soil and is a most powerful remedy for diarrhoea in the human being and very seldom fails to cure. It was largely used in olden times for the cattle scour as well.” [Cavan]



Kimberley Ubendran

MSc Ethnobotany

University of Kent

1. Interviews (in person): 6
2. Online (Facebook)



- 90 plant species used were for veterinary practices.
- Top species: Dandelion, Nettle, Calendula, Cleavers, Raspberry, Yarrow, Garlic, Chamomile, Plantain & Seaweed.
- Top treatments: anthelmintics, antidiarrheals, anti-inflammatory and antirheumatic, anti-infective, general nutrients.
- All the informants (interviews) were women.
- They all had smallholdings.

MEDICINE OR FOLKLORE?



Lonicera periclymenum (Honeysuckle)

“The farsi usually effects horses, ponies and asses. The old people had a cure for it. They used to get a wild plant called Woodbine and then they to cut a hole in the forehead of the animal and cross the woodbine in the cut and then used to stitch it with woollen thread and say some words while stitching it.” [Tipperary]

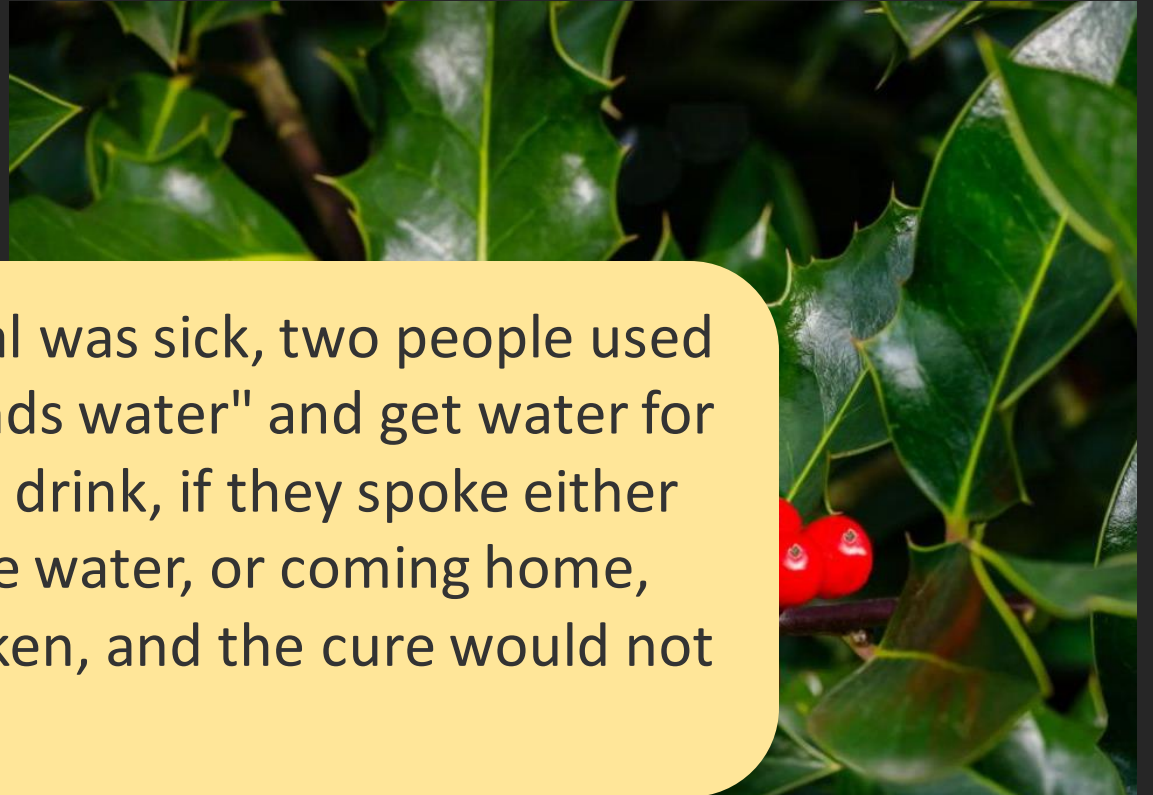


Ilex aquifolius (Holly)

“I read your letter in yesterday's Sunday Independent. A branch of male holly (the one with no berries) left hanging up will prevent and cure ringworm in a cattle shed over the winter. This is used locally here in Co Cavan.” [Cavan]



“When any animal was sick, two people used go to "three bounds water" and get water for the sick animal to drink, if they spoke either on the way for the water, or coming home, the spell was broken, and the cure would not be effective.” [Cork]



The farsi usually effects horses, ponies and asses. The old people had a cure for it. They used to get a wild plant called Woodbine and then they to cut a hole in the forehead of the animal and cross the woodbine in the cut and then used to stitch it with woollen thread and say some words while stitching it. [Tipperary]

I read your letter in yesterday's Sunday Independent. A branch of male holly (the one with no berries) left hanging up will prevent and cure ringworm in a cattle shed over the winter. This is used locally here in Co Cavan.

Species	Use	UR	Animal	EU	Pharmacology
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> L.	Antiprotozoal	5	Cattle	NO	(Guz <i>et al.</i> 2019)
<i>Allium</i> spp.	Antiepileptics	5	Dogs	NO	(Advani <i>et al.</i> 2011)
	Anthelmintic	18	Cattle, Horses, Poultry	YES	(Krstin <i>et al.</i> 2018)
	Antibacterial	23	Cattle, Horses	YES	(Bhatwalkar <i>et al.</i> 2021, Magryś <i>et al.</i> 2021, Stupar <i>et al.</i> 2022)
	Respiratory	5	Cattle, Horses	YES	(Saastamoinen <i>et al.</i> 2019)
<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	Swollen muscle/ joint	7	Cattle, Horses	NO	(Madaan & Kumar 2012, Vostinaru <i>et al.</i> 2018)
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> (L.) Link	Anthelmintic	13	Sheep, Horses, Dogs	NO	
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> L.	Antiepileptics	5	Dogs, Pigs	NO	
	Ectoparasiticides	5	Sheep, Dogs	YES	(Ahmad <i>et al.</i> 2013)
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> (L.) Schott	Anthelmintic	23	Sheep, Cattle, Horses	YES	(Egorova <i>et al.</i> 2021)
<i>Geranium robertianum</i> L.	Antiprotozoal	22	Cattle	NO	(Graça <i>et al.</i> 2016)
<i>Hedera helix</i> L.	Appetite stimulants	15	Sheep, Cattle, Horses, Goats, Pigs	NO	
	Eye disorders	12	Sheep, Cattle, Horses	NO	
	Expel afterbirth	9	Sheep, Cattle	YES	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> L.	Antibacterial	7	Horses	NO	
<i>Malva sylvestris</i> L.	Mastitis	6	Cattle	YES	
	Joint/muscular pain	5	Horses	YES	(Prudente <i>et al.</i> 2013)
<i>Myrica gale</i> L.	Anthelmintic	5	Cattle	YES	(Jaenson <i>et al.</i> 2005)

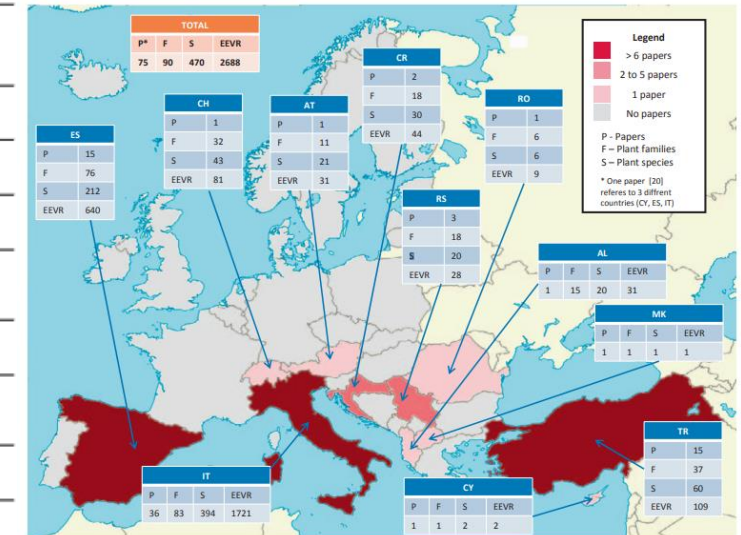




Fig. 2. European map of ethnoveterinary research. AL = Albania; AT = Austria; CH = Switzerland; CR = Croatia; CY = Cyprus; RO = Romania; IT = Italy; MK = Macedonia; RS = Serbia; TR = Turkey.


Treatment of Organic Livestock with Medicinal Plants: A Systematic Review of European Ethnoveterinary Research




Maria Mayer^{a,d} Christian R. Vogl^b Michele Amorena^a Matthias Hamburger^c Michael Walkenhorst^d



Phytochemical composition and biological activities of *Geranium robertianum* L.: A review

Vânia C. Graça^{a, b}, Isabel C.F.R. Ferreira^b, Paulo F. Santos^c  

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indcrop.2016.04.058> 

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Highlights

- Comprehensive review on the phytochemistry and bioactivities of *G. robertianum*.
- Phytochemicals are dominated by phenolic compounds, particularly flavonoids.
- Geraniin is the main ellagitannin present in the plant.
- Presents antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anti-hyperglycaemic and cytotoxic properties.

Research Articles

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Extracts of the Ivy Plant, *Hedera helix*, and their Anthelmintic Activity on Liver Flukes

J. Julien¹, M. Gasquet¹, C. Maillard², G. Balansard², P. Timon-David¹

¹Laboratoire de Parasitologie, Faculté de Pharmacie, 27 Bd. Jean Moulin, 13385 Marseille Cedex 5, France

²Laboratoire de Pharmacognosie, Faculté de Pharmacie, 27 Bd. Jean Moulin, 13385 Marseille Cedex 5, France

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Abstract

PDF (341 kb)

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Abstract

Three extracts from English or common ivy, *Hedera helix*, were prepared and tested for their anthelmintic activity both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Saponic complex 60% (CS 60), purified saponic complex 90% (CSP 90) and alpha hederin were evaluated *in vitro* using the trematodes *Fasciola hepatica* and *Dicrocoelium* spp. These same extracts were assayed for their effects on *Dicrocoelium* in naturally infected sheep. After an exposure of 24 hours *in vitro* both *Fasciola* and *Dicrocoelium* were killed by α -hederin at concentrations of 0.005 and 0.001 mg/ml respectively. When sheep naturally infected with *Dicrocoelium* were treated p. o. with CS 60 and CSP 90 the worms were eliminated after three doses, one of 500 and two of 800 mg/kg. Alpha hederin was deemed slightly less efficacious at these concentrations. When compared with two reference compounds the authors conclude that these extracts show considerable promise. They also appear to be well tolerated by the sheep.





Cumbria/Citizen Science - email

I have met more than one farmer in Cumbria who leaves the branches of fallen or felled trees for his sheep. Generally, the thought is that the sheep love the leaves, it's a change in their diet and that the leaves are full of extra minerals and elements not available from the grass sward.

West Sussex/Citizen Science - email

We have old pasture flowering meadows which we feel contribute to a great deal to our animal's health and wellbeing without any particular scientific proof.

Derbyshire/Citizen Science - email

Because I do adaptive multi-paddock rotational grazing, my pasture/plants tend to get quite mature - and when given access into a new paddock, different sheep look for different plants - some definitely want variety with almost every bite, while other individual sheep search through a pasture or a pile of hay to find specific plants (e.g., plantains, chicory, birdsfoot trefoil - or docks). Brush from willow, ash and hazel is also a definite favourite (sycamore is much less popular - all the ash trees were barked while the sycamore trunks were left well alone) - and at this time of year, bramble leaves are also sought out (with risk of getting trapped).

Vickery, pers comm.

Never plough a strip round a field three paces wide, so you keep all the medical herbs for the cows [Craven Arms, Shropshire, October 1996].

Somerset/Citizen Science - email

I forgot to write about self-medication. Certainly, that is what we are trying to do here. Our cattle self-medicate all the time. Our job here is to get back the diversity the fields have lost.

West Sussex/Citizen Science - email

Sheep do not find new ways to die. In general, their owners find new ways to kill them. It is by shutting them up in fields, and so denying them access to the herbage to satisfy their ever-changing needs, that sheep-keepers weaken their constitutions and render them vulnerable to whatever stresses and strains come along. People these days fail to realise how strongly migratory sheep are, or need to be, even when they persistently escape from their fields.

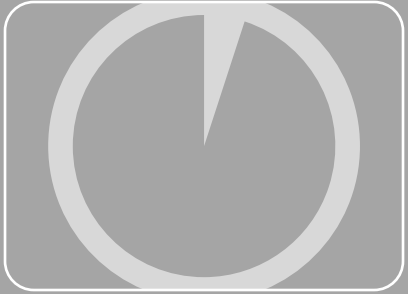
BROWSING



“I am a veterinary Surgeon in UK working in mixed practice. I use 2 herbal treatments only. They are based on long experience and often taught me by clients. Firstly, **willow** leaves and bark for inflammation in cattle. I recommend the feeding of branches of willow which has salicylic acid in it.” [Northamptonshire]

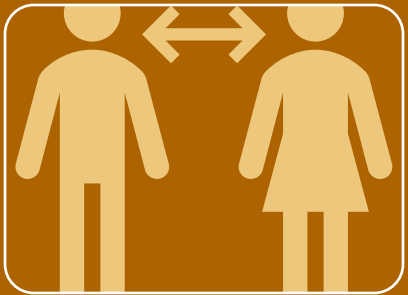
Tree Species	Moisture	Ash	Fat	Sugar	Protein	Fibre
Wych Elm	12.6	9.9	2.9	49.2	13.2	12.3
Rowan	11.9	5.9	6.5	50.4	9.9	15.4
Goat Willow	11.5	6.1	3.8	50.3	11.6	16.7
Aspen	10.8	8.5	6.0	43.5	13.3	20.9
Ash	11.6	6.3	3.0	50.4	12.0	16.7
Grey Alder	11.9	3.9	5.9	43.6	17.6	17.4
Birch	11.7	3.9	7.0	49.2	12.0	16.2
Meadow Hay	14.96	5.42	2.2	44.43	8.51	24.56
Red Clover	15.65	5.17	1.88	36.76	10.98	28.56

Adapted from Birks *et al.* (1989) ‘*The Cultural Landscape: Past, Present and Future*, Cambridge University Press.



Data collected from the past

- 'More or less' complete



Some data collected from the present

- More data to be collected before the knowledge has been lost



Development of novel veterinary medicines

- Research to develop **biodegradable** medicines
- Reduce the impacts of pharmaceuticals in the environment

DO YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF PLANTS/FUNGI TO TREAT ANIMALS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND?

ARE YOU HAPPY TO CONTRIBUTE?



ONLINE SURVEY