



La revista *Photon* acaba de publicar l'article coordinat per l'investigador israelià **Amots Dafni**, amb participació de C. Blanché, on es recullen 290 noms populars de *Ecballium elaterium* en 38 idiomes i s'analitzen les afinitats i tendències d'agrupació en la denominació per llenguatges, principalment referits a l'aspecte poc usual i al mecanisme de dispersió de les granes.

Font (Viquipèdia, llicència CCC)

Dafni, A., G. Benítez, C. Blanché, L. Ramón-Laca, Th. Petanidou, B. Aytaç, M. Horvat , F. Lucchese & A.Geva-Kleinberger (2013). An Outline for an Etymological - Ethnobotanical Biography of *Ecballium elaterium* (L.) Rich. (Squirting cucumber). *Photon. The Journal of Ethnobiology and Traditional Medicine* 119: 515-537

Abstract

*This paper presents an attempt to reconstruct the etymological, ethnobotanical and folkloristic roots of 290 vernacular names of *Ecballium elaterium* in 38 languages. We used the plant's morphological data, ecological characteristics, medicinal properties and uses, as well as historical evidence and folkloric data, to explain meaning, origin, spread and history of the plant's names. The salient groups of plant's vernacular names are related to the plant's "spitting" seed dispersal mechanism (26.5%) and fruit's resemblance to cultivated cucurbits (26.2 %). Another group of names employs deprecatory adjectives and relates to the donkey (13.6%) and another unrespected animals (7.6%) as well as to witch demons, and madness (5.2%). An additional set of names denotes: the unpleasant plant's bitter juice and (7.3%); plant's medicinal use (4.1%) and its prevalence in ruderal habitats (3.5%). Most of the plant's names relate to its appearance, seed dispersal and taste. Several names reflect ethnobotanical aspects related to its widespread medicinal use, or to its toxicity and bitterness. This general tendency indicates that *E. elaterium*'s unusual appearance and seed dispersal mechanism are more responsible for its dialectal names than is the plant's ethnobotany.*

Més informació

- [Enllaç a l'article - Revista Photon](#)