

# **Arabian Drugs in Early Medieval Mediterranean Medicine**

**Zohar Amar and Efraim Lev**

EDINBURGH  
University Press

# Contents

List of Plates	vii
List of Tables	ix
Preface	x
Map: The Origin of the Main Medieval Arabian Drugs	xiv
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Arab Attitude to Science	2
Translation of Greek Science into Arabic	3
Assimilation of Theoretical and Practical Medicine into Arab Culture	5
Persian and Indian Medicine	6
Indian Medicinal Substances	9
Baghdad as an Intercultural Centre and the Triumph of the Galenic Medical Legacy	10
The Commercial Aspect	13
<b>2 Agricultural and Pharmaceutical Innovations: Milestones in Research and Case Studies</b>	<b>48</b>
Indian Pharmacology and Galeno-Arab Medicine	49
The 'Agriculture Revolution' and the Watson Thesis – <i>Cucurbitaceae</i> Family as a Model	49
'Crusader Plants'	59
Greek Literature and the Physicians of Andalusia as a Model	60
Identification	71
The Suggested Model	72

<b>3 'Arabian' Substances</b>	<b>82</b>
Drugs, Spices and Industrial Substances	83
<i>Drugs</i> (myrobalan, anacardium, dragon's blood, tamarind, bamboo, shampoo ginger, purging cassia)	83
<i>Spices</i> (clove, betel pepper, betel palm, turmeric, galingale, nutmeg, perfumed cherry; other substances – Indian aconite, zedoary, purging croton, cassia, berberry, fossil crab, sukk, tarangabin, sandarus, turpeth, neem, cubeb pepper)	100
<i>Industrial Substances</i> (lacca, teac, sappan wood, warras)	120
Perfumes and Incenses (agarwood, camphor, ambergris, sandalwood, jasmine, musk, screw pine)	129
Gemstones (corundum, diamond, bezoar-stone)	162
 <b>4 Discussion and Conclusions</b>	 <b>228</b>
Bibliography	237
Index of English Names	275
Index of Arabic Names	283
Index of Scientific Names	289