

Kemerot (*Ipomoea nil*): A Multipurpose Medicinal Plant of Dhofar

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ABSTRACT

Kemerot (*Ipomoea nil*), locally known by this name in Dhofar, is a seasonal climbing plant that flourishes across the region's mountains during the monsoon season. Originally native to tropical America, the plant has naturalized well in Dhofar's humid environment and is easily recognized by its striking blue flowers. This plant holds notable ecological, medicinal, and cultural significance. Ecologically, it helps reduce soil erosion during the rainy season and provides forage for livestock. Medically, the seeds are the most valued part and are widely used in traditional remedies. They are applied to treat head lice, skin fungal infections, constipation, fever, joint pain, and swelling. The seed decoction is also used to ease respiratory discomfort and headaches. In veterinary practices, seed preparations are used to treat mastitis and eye infections in livestock. Additionally, the seeds are known for their cleansing properties and are traditionally used in personal hygiene and ritual purification. The diverse applications of Kemerot underline its importance as a multifunctional plant in Dhofar, combining ecological value with a rich tradition of medicinal and cultural use. Its inclusion in discussions on local medicinal plants is essential for sustainable development and cultural preservation.

