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Pharmaceutical names of plants in Latin and English

Names of plants is the wide field of research as regards to the origin of their names, the specificity of translation into other languages etc. This study is devoted to comparative analysis of pharmaceutical names of plants in Latin and English.

Pharmaceutical names of plants, trees and flowers are known to be different from botanical ones. For example, the Latin botanical name of senna (*Engl. Cassia, senna*) is Cassia acutifolia, the pharmaceutical name is Senna. Sometimes the botanical name coincides with the pharmaceutical one completely: Mentha piperita (*peppermint*) can be used in botanical nomenclature and pharmaceutical terminology.

It is worth focusing on the fact that in English there are used latinized forms of names in academic literature. For example, Latin pharmaceutical name *Althaea* is translated into academic English as *Althaea*. Meanwhile, in common English and sometimes in academic scientific books, next to latinized forms of plants, one can find English names of this plant: marsh mallow, sweat-weed.

The research has found out that latinized forms are often used when it comes to such names of plants as Eucalyptus (*Engl. eucalyptus*), Adonis (*Engl. adonis*), Ginseng (*Engl. ginseng*), Absinthium (*Engl. absinth*), Aloё (*Engl. aloe*). It is worth outlining that one can see English names of plants in academic literature when it comes to names of plants which derive their origin from mythology: for instance, Adonis (Latin name) and its English equivalents pheasant’s eye, spring pheasant’s eye, yellow pheasant’s eye and false hellebore. Adonis is a handsome young man from Greek mythology. Another name, pheasant’s eye, hightligths the resemblance between the flower and the red eye of a pheasant.

It is possible to use latinized form or an English form of a name as regards to Digitalis (*Engl. digitalis, foxglove*). It is worth outlining that Latin names of some plants are different from English ones. Such names require memorizing in Latin and English: Foeniculum (*Engl. fennel*), Hypericum (*St. John’s wort*), Helichrysum arenarium (*sandy everlasting*), Frangula (*buckthorn*), Leonurus (*motherwort*), Crataegus (*hawthorn*), Salvia (*sage*), Betula (*birch*), Quercus (*oak*), Urtica (*nettle*), Glycyrrhĭza (*licorice*), Convallaria (*lily of the valley*), Hippophaë (*sea-buckthorn*).

In conclusion, both Latin and English names of plants are used in academic literature. It requires consulting a dictionary or an academic reference book for correct usage of names.

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