To the editor,

Leech is a parasitic animal that belongs to the phylum Annelida. Some species of Leeches are aquatic and live in freshwater rivers and lakes, marshes and paddy fields and some other species live in terrestrial and marine environments. Leeches are necrophagous, predatory or parasitic animals and a group of them Hematophagy habit. The blood sucking leech attaches to the skin and other internal organs of the body like mouth, throat, trachea and vagina by cupping and a painless bit and holes its skin or phlegm and secretes an anticoagulant enzyme into the hosts’ blood streams. Each leech secretes 5–15 mL hirudin in one meal and sucks the blood[1–3]. They, as a harmful parasite can cause some side effects like severe anemia, short–term hemorrhage, hypersensitivity and anaphylactic reactions[1,4]. Most physicians who have practiced in remote and rural areas of Iran have complete familiarity with the leech as a foreign body in nose, nasopharynx, pharynx and larynx and saline, lidocaine and vinegar that are used to remove and the high to the extent that even sluedges in bottom of the pool and feed from them. The parasitic potential of the leech is inherently aggressive and causes much infections including cow, sheep, danky, hen, dog, goat and lamb with the leech[15–17] . By the end of the year 2009 no scientific study was conducted about the effect of pharmaceutical plants on leech. It has stated in the resources of the Iran traditional medicine that the tobacco plant has anti–leech effect. In the traditional medicine decoction of the tobacco plant is used to repel leech[18]. Also the Satureja khazistanica Jamzed plant has been defined as the anti–leech plant[18]. In recent years authors have examined the effect of various extracts of many local pharmaceutical plants on the Limnatis nilotica leech. It has been determined that the tobacco plant has the anti–leech and strong disinfection effect on the leech[6,19]. The nicotine substance, one of the effective tobacco substances, has very strong effect on the leech death[20,21]. The Allium sativum L. extract has suitable cytotoxicity effect on the leech[22,23].

*Corresponding author: Dr. Mahmoud Bahmani, Razi Herbal Medicine Research Center, Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, Khorram Abad, Iran.
Tel: 0989186157084
E-mail: mahmood.bahmani@gmail.com

Article history:
Received 11 May 2014
Received in revised form 19 May, 2nd revised form 25 May, 3rd revised form 5 Jun 2014
Accepted 10 Jun 2014
Available online 15 Jun 2014
Also the olive plant extract has a good effect on the leech death and paralysis [34]. The *Zingiber officinale* is of plants that has the disinfection and anti leech effect [25-26]. The *Vitis vinifera* has been determined as a plant with the antiparasitic effect on leeches [27]. Asfintin (*Artemisia spp.*) causes the leech death [28]. Also *Artemisia kermanshensis* has the strong effect on the leech death [28]. *Matricaria chamomilla* is an anti leech plant [29]. It seems that anti-parasitic plants have the suitable effect due to having secondary active compounds. With regard to importance of Leech infestation, it seems necessary to conduct applied and pharmacologic researches related to this subject in order to produce natural and effective drugs.

**Conflict of interest statement**

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

**References**


