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## PLANT MATERIALS USED IN SUPPORTING THE TREATMENT OF GOUT

SUROWCE ROŚLINNE WYKORZYSTYWANE WE WSPOMAGANIU LECZENIA  
DNY MOCZANOWEJ

### Summary

Gout (arthritis), is a disease belonging to the group of rheumatoid disorders. As a result of some disorders in the uric acid metabolism, deposition of its crystals takes place in tissues and organs. It causes pain of joints and forming of tophi and tophi in kidney. The limit of uric acid in the blood is 6.5 mg%. Worldwide, especially in well-developed countries, the frequency of gout incidence is still increasing – more in men than women. The incidence among women is increasing only in the postmenopausal period. Methods of gout treatment are based on a comprehensive approach to patients and include primarily lifestyle changes (introduction of special diets and increased physical activity) and introduction of drugs that act as analgesic and anti-inflammatory, as well as are able to remove an excess of uric acid. For ages, in gout treatment also plant raw materials have been applied. They show a potency comparable to medicines, but usually exhibit weaker side effects. Medicine pays special attention, while curing gout, to such plants as: *Aegopodium podagraria* L., *Harpagophytum procumbens* (Devil's Claw), willow bark, birch leaves, mud meadowsweet flower, sour cherries, but also common goldenrod, nettle, horsetail and wild rose.

**Key words:** arthritis, diet, plants, purine, bioactive substances

### Introduction

Gout (arthritis), is a disease belonging to the group of rheumatoid disorders (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). It was described already in the antiquity; the first mentions

come from Egypt dating to the period 4000 years ago. The disease is one of few that are recorded so early and at the same time the one that has been creating curing problems ever since till today (Kolasinski, 2014). As a result of some disorders in the uric acid metabolism, the deposition of its crystals takes place in tissues and organs (Hainer et al., 2014; Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012; Majdan and Borys, 2010). It causes pain of joints and forming of tophi and tophi kidney.

The limit of uric acid in the blood is 6.5 mg%. Above the value, the process of acid crystal forming takes place and the crystals gather in tissues, joints or urine ducts (taking the form of urates) (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). As a result of the crystals cumulation in joints, the inflammatory states are activated and the joint is damaged.

The most frequently affected places are metatarsus joints, but also the joints of wrists, ankles, knees and fingers (Hainer et al., 2014). Three potential factors influencing the condition are mentioned here. Firstly, an increased level of uric acid in the blood may result from inhibition of purines production process. Moreover, if the resynthesis of purine nucleotides is decreased, a simultaneous increase of the uric acid in blood will be observed. Thirdly, a disturbed disposition/excretion of the uric acid via kidneys (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012) is mentioned. Gout is most frequently diagnosed based on the clinical criteria worked out by the American College of Rheumatology (Hainer et al., 2014).

## **Epidemiology and factors facilitating the development of gout**

The frequency of gout occurrence increases along with the age (Hainer et al., 2014). The morbidity more frequently corresponds to men (Majdan and Borys, 2010; Raciborski et al., 2015) among whom the disease is the most frequent cause of joints inflammation (Raciborski et al., 2015). The frequency of gout occurrence in men and women is 6:1 (Gińdzieńska-Sieśkiewicz et al., 2010).

Women usually fall ill at 65, after the menopause, and then the occurrence frequency in both men and women is at a comparable level (Majdan and Borys, 2010). It is connected with an increased excretion of uric acid via female hormones (Hainer et al., 2014); in the post-menopausal period the level of estrogens is lowered, bringing about an increase in the uric acid level in blood (Raciborski et al., 2015).

Worldwide the number of people suffering from gout is increasing (Majdan and Borys, 2010), which has been noticeable within the last 50 years (Kuo et al., 2015). Morbidity in the world (both old and new cases) is found at the level of 1.4–3.9% in the adult population (Raciborski et al., 2015). The Pacific region countries show the highest gout morbidity.

Taking into consideration all the world countries, the higher gout morbidity frequency is characteristic for the group of the highly developed states and the tendency is steadily growing (Kuo et al., 2015). The accessible literature data show that the incidence number of gout has grown by more than 200% in the last decade (Gińdzieńska-Sieśkiewicz et al., 2010; Majdan, 2013). The incidence in the European countries is estimated at the annual level 1–2%. The percentage of those suffering from gout in Poland, owing to a lack of precise data, is difficult to define; only Raciborski et al. (2015) prepared a questionnaire examination on whose basis it was stated that approx. 1%

of the population may suffer from the disease. Basing on the above, it is concluded that the number of citizens suffering from the disease may reach from 380 to 780 thousands (Raciborski et al., 2015). The development of the disease is conditioned by the age, susceptibility to metabolic diseases, including obesity (Majdan and Borys, 2010), metabolic syndrome, arterial hypertension, diabetes, coronary disease; moreover, application of some medicines, such as: loop diuretics and thiazides, cyclosporine, ethambutol, pyrazynamidum, low aspirin dosages (Raciborski et al., 2015), inadequate diet, abundant consumption of animal-origin foodstuffs, sea fruits, alcohol, and especially beer (Gibson, 2004; Zimmermann-Górska, 2006). Genetic factors, race and/or ethnic group also influence the incidence rate. Representatives of the black race, the Maori and Chinese are more susceptible than Europeans and/or the white race representatives (Singh, 2013). Genetic conditioning and improper protein-rich and red-meat abundant diet, excessive alcohol consumption, as well as overweight favour the development of primary gout which is always accompanied by co-occurring diseases, including arterial blood hypertension, as well as lipid and carbohydrates metabolism disorders. The secondary gout is caused by an increase and breakdown of nucleotides parallel to an increased cytolysis in case of some disorders, in haemolytic anaemia and tumour diseases (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). Gout has long been associated with the lifestyle. It used to be called kings' disease, the phrase connected with the consumption of certain products-rich in purines (Table 1), including meat, giblets, sea fruits, breads, pastries and alcoholic drinks (Kolasinski, 2014). The consumption of fizzy beverages, sugar- and fructose-sweetened juices, also favours the higher frequency of gout, both in women and men. It is worth noting here that applying an energy and carbohydrate-limited content diet, even if the level of purines-rich products is not reduced, favours the reduction of the risk of joints inflammation fits and the level of uric acid in blood. Moreover, the level of uric acid in blood is connected with the body mass and BMI (Body Mass Index) – the higher BMI value and lower muscle mass index, the higher probability of an increased level of uric acid in blood. There are reports informing about a favourable influence of the Mediterranean diet on the treatment of gout (Guasch-Ferré et al., 2013; Kolasinski, 2014). Moreover, it has been recently discovered that the level of uric acid in blood, as well as the degree of its excretion by the organism, is genetic polymorphism-dependent in SLC2A9.

The following are numbered among the factors causing susceptibility to gout:

- genetic conditioning (gene SLC2A9)
- hyperuricemia
- metabolic syndrome
- medicines (cyclosporine, diuretics, acetylsalicylic acid at low dosages)
- overweight and aortal hypertension
- meat and sea fruits-abundant diet
- excessive consumption of alcohol, especially beer
- organ transplants
- male sex and post-menopausal period in women (Le MyPhuong et al., 2008)
- operation or a recent tumour
- dehydration (Raciborski et al., 2015)
- old age (Gibson, 2004; Zhang et al., 2006).

Table 1. Content of purines in some foods (Souci et al., 2008) – products of high and medium content of purines

Tabela 1. Zawartość puryn w wybranych produktach spożywczych (Souci i in., 2008) – produkty o wysokiej i średniej zawartości puryn

Products – Produkty	Purine content – Zawartość puryn (mg/100 g)
Smoked sprat – Szprot wędzony	804
Yeasts – Drożdże	680
Pork heart – Serce wieprzowe	530
Pork liver – Wątroba wieprzowa	515
Sardine – Sardynka	480
Calf liver – Wątroba cielęca	460
Trout – Pstrąg	297
Tuna – Tuńczyk	257
Chicken liver – Wątroba z kurczaka	243
Anchois	239
Herring – Śledź	219
Bean – Fasola	200
Soy – Soja	200
Halibut	178
Chicken breast – Pierś z kurczaka	175
Salmon – Łosoś	170
Poppy seeds – Nasiona maku	170
Carp – Karp	160
Shrimps – Krewetki	147
Pork joint with bone – Schab z kością	145
Mackerel – Makrela	145
Sunflower seeds – Nasiona słonecznika	143
Duck breast – Pierś z kaczki	138
Rabbit meat – Mięso królicze	132
Ham – Szynka	131
Sirloin, Neck, Fore Shank – Polędwica, karkówka, łopatka wołowa	130
Lobster – Homar	118
European pike-perch – Sandacz	110
Pork sausage – Kielbasa wieprzowa	110
Pea – Groch	109
Chick-pea – Ciecierzyca	109
Grapes – Winogrona	107

## Treatment methods of gout and the importance of diet in weakening its symptoms

The basic curing notions here are: lifestyle change, applying a specialist diet and appropriate physical activity. Gradual reduction of body mass is indispensable, as well as intensification of physical activity along with abandoning both alcoholic and sweetened drinks. Pharmacological treatment aiming at lowering of the level of uric acid in blood consists in applying allopurinol, alternatively uricosuric drugs and febuxostat. Low doses of colchicine (at max. 2 mg per 1 day), NSAIDs or/and glucocorticosteroids are applied in case of gout attacks (Raciborski et al., 2015). The treatment applied is a three-direction procedure. The level of uric acid in blood needs to be lowered to the values acceptable to the organism, the acid crystals removed and the pain reduced. The treatment basically consists in lowering the hyperuricemia by inhibiting the production of the uric acid.

Apart from an appropriate diet, the basis of the treatment is lowering of the BMI, along with an application of medicines and diet supplements, most frequently of plant-origin (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012).

That is why the applied gout curing medicines are divided into 3 basic groups:

- medicines inhibiting xantine oxidase
- uricosuric medicines
- biological medicines inhibiting the activity of interleukin 1 (IL-1) (Raciborski et al., 2015).

Diet recommendations during gout treatment comprise among others the following indications: calorific diet, purines-rich products (Table 1) reduction, mainly those of animal-origin, including dairy and vitamin C-rich products. Consumption of low-calorie dairy products is connected with decreasing the concentration of uric acid in blood, as a result of its intensified excretion; the products provide lower content of purines and show an anti-inflammatory activity.

Then, providing vitamin C in the diet of gout patients may decrease the concentration of uric acid in blood, increasing urine excretion and decreasing the content of uric acid in kidneys as a result of the presence of competitive bonds. Application of raw plant materials is widely described in the traditional Chinese (TCM) and ajurvedic medicine, where herb mixtures for gout patients are recommended (Kolasinski, 2014).

## Raw plant materials utilised in gout treatment

Utilisation of raw plant materials is basically focused on their analgesic and anti-inflammatory and diuretic activity (Table 2). The following plants, or their parts, containing anti-inflammatory substances are used: plant salicylates, willow bark, *Flos Ulmariae*, *Harpagophytum procumbens* DC, *Rosa canina* (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012), sour cherry (*Prunus cerasus* L.) and its products (Zhang et al., 2012), *Aegopodium podagraria* L. (Trąba et al., 2012).

Colchicine – a powerful toxic alkaloid isolated from *Colchicum autumnale* – is applied in severe pain attacks. Then, diuretic activity plants, removing an excess of urates

Table 2. Plants supporting treatment of gout

Tabela 2. Rośliny wspomagające leczenie dny moczanowej

Plant's name and medicinal properties part Nazwa rośliny oraz część wykazująca działanie lecznicze	Biologically active compounds (chemical composition) and medicinal activity Związki biologicznie czynne (skład chemiczny) oraz działanie lecznicze
1	2
<i>Betula pendula</i> Roth Brzoza brodawkowata (Nartowska, 2011)  Leaves Liście	Flavonoid compounds-flavonols: quercetin glycosides (hyperoside, quercetin, rutoside, 3-arabinofuranoside, 3-rabinopyranoside, 3-quercetin rhamnoside), myricetin (3-O-galactoside of myricetin and kaempferol), flavone-glycosides of luteolin, catechin tannins, organic acids (ascorbic, chlorogenic, caffeic and p-coumaric acids), triterpenes of dammarane and lupane type (free and ester-bound with malonic and acetic acids), polysaccharides, mineral elements (K, Mn, Ni, Zn), volatile oil with sesquiterpenes of a-butulenol and acetate of a-butulenol  Effects: diuretic, removes chloride and sodium ions  Związki flawonoidalne – flawonole: glikozydy kwercetyny (hiperozyd, kwercytyna, rutozyd, 3-arabinofuranozyd, 3-arabinopiranozyd, 3-ramnozyd kwercetyny), miricytyna, 3-O-galaktolipid miricytyna i kemferol, flawony – glikozydy luteoliny, garbniki katechinowe, kwasy organiczne, kwas askorbinowy, kwas chlorogenowy, kwas kawowy, kwas p-kumarowy), triterpeny typu dammaranu i lupanu (wolne i w związkach estrowych z kwasem malownym, kwasem octowym), polisacharydy, sole mineralne (K, Mn, Ni, Zn), olejek eteryczny wraz z zawartością seskwiterpenów a-betulenolu i octanu a-betulenolu  Działanie: Moczopędne, usuwa jony chlorkowe i sodowe
<i>Rosa canina</i> L. Dzika róża (Grys, 2009)  Fructifications Owoce/ostany	Poliphenols (flavonoids, proanthocyanidines), organic acids (L-ascorbic and dehydroxyascorbic acids), GOPO (galactolipid), volatile oil, EFA (linoleic and a-linoleic, oleic, palmitine and stearic acids), mineral elements (Na, K, Ca, P, Mg, S, Fe, Cu, Zn, Mn, Al), vitamins: B <sub>1</sub> , B <sub>2</sub> , PP, A, E, K)  Effects: tonic to immunological system, anti-tumour, energizing the organism, antioxidative, anti-inflammatory, diuretic, calming, anti-migraine, anti-septic, anti-bacterial, providing elasticity to skin  Polifenole (flowonoidy, proantocyjanidyny), kwasy organiczne (kwas L-askorbinowy i kwas dehydroksyaskorbowy), GOPO (galaktolipid), olejek eteryczny, NNKT (kwas linolowy i a-linolenowy, oleinowy, palmitynowy i stearynowy), składniki mineralne (Na, K, Ca, P, Mg, S, Fe, Cu, Zn, Mn, Al), vitamins: B <sub>1</sub> , B <sub>2</sub> , PP, A, E, K)  Działanie: Wzmacnianie układu odpornościowego, działanie przeciwnowotworowe, działanie ogólnie wzmacniające na organizm, działanie antyoksydacyjne, przeciwzapalne, moczopędne, uspokajające, przeciwmgrenowe, antyseptyczne, antybakteryjne, wpływ na uelastycznanie skóry

Table 2 – cont. / Tabela 2 – cd.

1	2
<i>Viola tricolor</i> Fiołek trójbarwny (Jambor, 2012)  Herb Ziele	Flavonoids (rutoside, O-glycosides of quercetine), C-glycosides (vitexin, saponarettine, orientine, zoorettine), salicylic acids derivatives (salicylic acid methyl ester, and glycoside of salicylic acid methyl ester – violutoside) Effects: diuretic  Flavonoidy (rutozyd, O-glikozydy kwercetyny, C – glikozydy (witeksyna, saponaretyna, orientyna, zoorientyna) pochodne kwasu salicylowego (ester metylowy kwasu salicylowego glikozyd estru metylowego kwasu salicylowego wiolutozyd) Działanie: moczopędne
<i>Harpagophytum procumbens</i> DC Hakoróż rozesłana (Wolski et al., 2010)  Root (tubers) Bulwy spichrzowe (korzeń)	Irydoids (harpagoside – ester with trans-cinnamonic acid, products of harpagoside disintegration – 8-p-cumarilo-harpagid, harpagid, procumbid, procumbic 6'-O-p-cumaric ester, procumboside), flavonoids (luteolin and kaempferol derivatives), phenolic compounds (acetoside, isoacetoside, bioside, volatile oil, harpahochinon), phenoloacids (cinnamic acid and its derivatives: caffic and chlorogenic acid-depside), sterols ( $\beta$ -sitosterol, stigmasterol, their glycosides), triterpenes (oleanolic, 3- $\beta$ -acetooleanolic and ursolic), carbohydrates, aminoacids (arginin, serine, alanine, aspartic acid), Effects: anti-inflammatory, diuretic, choleric, anesthetic, antirheumatic, antipyretic, analgesics, blood cholesterol control  Irydoidy (harpagozyd – ester z kwasem trans-cynamonowym, produkty rozpadu harpagozydu – 8-p-kumarilo-harpagid, harpagid, prokumbid, ester 6'-O-p-kumarylowy prokumbidu, prokumbozyd), flawonoidy (pochodne luteolinu i kamferolu), związki fenolowe (acetozyd, izoacetozyd, biozyd, olejek eteryczny, harpahochinon), fenolokwasy (kwas cynamonowy, pochodne kwasu cynamonowego: kwas kawowy oraz kwas chlorogenowy-depsyd), sterole ( $\beta$ -sitosterol, stigmasterol, ich glikozydy), triterpeny (kwas oleanolowy, kwas 3- $\beta$ -acetylolooleanolowy i ursolowy), węglowodany, aminokwasy (arginina, seryna, alanina, kwas asparaginowy), Działanie: przeciwwzapalne, moczopędne, żółciopędne, znieczulające, przeciwareumatyczne, przeciwgorączkowe, przeciwbólowe, znieczulające, regulujące poziom cholesterol we krwi
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i> Nawłoć pospolita (Jambor, 2012)  Plant Cała roślina	Flavonoids (quercetin, isoquercetin, kaempferol and their glycosides), saponins (acidic and neutral reaction: tridesmosides and acetylene bidesmosides), phenoloacids and their ester and glycosides compounds (phenolic diglycoside – leicarposide), volatile oil Effects: diuretic, anti-inflammatory, analgesic  Flawonoidy (kwercetyna, izokwercetyna, kemferol i ich glikozydy), saponiny (kwaśne i obojętne: tridesmosydy i acetylowane bidesmosydy), fenolokwasy i ich związki estrowe i glikozydowe (diglikozyd fenolowy – lejokarpozyd), olejek eteryczny Działanie: moczopędne, przeciwwzapalne, przeciwbólowe

Table 2 – cont. / Tabela 2 – cd.

1	2
<i>Agropyron repens</i> Perz właściwy (Jambor, 2012)  Rhizome Kłącze	Polisaccharides, basically fructans (tritycine), monosaccharides (fruktose), sugar alcohols (mannitol, inositol), oligosaccharides, mucuses, volatile oil (carvone, capilene), silicon compounds  Effects: prevention of kidney stones disease, gives elasticity to blood vessels walls and connective tissue  Polisacharydy, głównie fruktany (trytycyna) monosacharydy (fruktoza) alkohole cukrowe mannitol, inozytol oligosacharydy śluzy olejek eteryczny (karwon, kapilen), związki krzemu  Działanie: zapobiega wytwarzaniu kamieni nerkowych, uelastyczna ścianę naczyń krwionośnych i tkankę łączną
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> L. Podagrzyznik pospolity (Kunstman et al., 2012)  Plant Cała roślina	Phenolic compounds from coumarin group, flavonoids and phenolic acids, organic acids (caffein and chlorogenic acids), glycosades, quercetin derivatives: hiperoside (3-O-galactoside) and kaempferol: tripholine (3-O-galactoside), polyacetylene (polyyne): falcarinol (panaxynol, cis-heptadeca-1,9-diene-4,6-dyno-3-ol), falcarindiol (cis-heptadeca-1,8-diene-4,6-dyno-3,10-diol), falcarinon (cis-heptadeca-1,9-dieno-4,6-dyno-3-on), falkarinolon (cis-heptadeca-1,9-dieno-4,6-dyno-9-ol-3-on), volatile oil, containing (basically) mono- and sesquiterpenes  Effects: anti-tumour, anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial  Związki fenolowe z grupy kumaryn, flawonoidów i kwasów fenolowych, kwasy organiczne (kwas kawowy i kwas chlorogenowy) glikozydy flawonolowe, pochodne kwercetyny: hiperozyd (3-O-galaktozyd) i kemferolu: trifolina (3-O-galaktozyd), poliacetyleny (poliiny): farkalinol (panaksynol), cis-heptadeka-1,8-poliacetyleny (poliiny): falkarinol (panaksynol, cis-heptadeka-1,9-dieno-4,6-diino-3-ol), falkarindiol (cis-heptadeka-1,8-dieno-4,6-diino-3,10-diol), falkaronon (cis-heptadeka-1,9-dieno-4,6-diino-3-on), falkarinolon (cis-heptadeka-1,9-dieno-4,6-diino-9-ol-3-on), olejek eteryczny, który zawiera głównie mono- i seskwiterpeny  Działanie: przeciwnowotworowe, przecizwzapalne, przeciwdrobnoustrojowe
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L. Pokrzywa zwyczajna (Pieszak and Mikołajczak, 2010)  Leaves and roots Liście i korzenie	Flavonoids (kempferol, astragalin, rutin, isorhamnetin), anthocyanins, quercetin, acids: caffein, butyric, formic, coumaric, palmitic, succinic, pantotenoic, neochlorogenic, oxalic, acetic, phosphoric, caffein/ilo/malic, glycolic, linoleic, linolenic, organic compounds (chlorophyll, leucotrienes, ceramides, sphingosine, terpenes, isolectins, 2-metylheptanone (volatile compounds), monoterpendioles, glycosades of monoterpendioles, histamine, serotonin, acetylcholine, lecitin, lectine, scopolectin, coproporphirine, agglutinin, acetophenon, alkaloids),

Table 2 – cont. / Tabela 2 – cd.

1	2
	<p>sterole (<math>\beta</math>-sitosterol, stigmasterol, kaempferol), carotenoids: xanthophyll, violaxanthin, vitamins: A, C, E, K, B<sub>2</sub>, pantotenoic acid, folacin, cholin, mineral components (Ca, Fe, Mg, Si), monosaccharides and oligosaccharides (glucose, fructose, galactose, myo-inositol, raffinose, maltose), polysaccharides (arabinogalactans, glucan, glucogalacturonic), tannines, lignans</p> <p>Effects: Intensifies water diuresis, supports the immunological system, acts anti-inflammatoryly, analgesic, lowers the level of cholesterol, blood pressure, urea and sodium chloride, reduces hair loss</p> <p>Flavonoidy (kemferol, astragalina, rutyna, izoramnetyna), antocyjany, kwercetyna kwasy: kwas kawowy, masłowy, mrówkowy, kumarowy, bursztynowy, palmitynowy, pantotenowy, neochlorogenowy, szczawiowy, octowy, fosforowy, kawoiolajabłkowy, glikolowy, linolowy, linolenowy związki organiczne (chlorofil, leukotrieny, ceramidy, sfingozyna, terpeny, izolektyny, 2-metylheptanon (związki lotne), onoterpendiole, glikozydy monoterpendoli, histamina, serotonina, acetylcholina, lecytyna, lektyny, skopolektyna, koproporfiryna, aglutynina, acetofenon, alkaloidy), sterole (<math>\beta</math>-sitosterol, stigmasterol, kampesterol), karotenoidy: ksantofil, violaksantyna witaminy: A, C, E, K, B<sub>2</sub>, kwas pantotenowy, folacyna, cholina, składniki mineralne (wapń, żelazo, magnez, krzem), monosacharydy i oligosacharydy (glukoza, fruktoza, galaktoza, mio-inozytol, rafinoza, maltoza), polisacharydy (arabinogalaktany, glukan, glukogalakturoniany), garbniki (taniny), lignany</p> <p>Działanie: wzmacnia diurezę wodą, wspomaganie układu odpornościowego, działanie przeciwzapalne, przeciwwbólowe, obniża poziom cholesterol we krwi, obniża poziom ciśnienia krwi, mocznika i chlorku sodu, ogranicza wypadanie włosów</p>
<i>Equisetum arvense</i> L. Skrzyp polny (Cisowski, 2010)  Whole plant Cała roślina	<p>Flavonoids (flavonols derivatives, kaempferol and quercetin glycosides: isoquercitrin (isoquercitroside) quercetin – 3-glucoside and its malonic acid ester binding, equiscetrin – kaempferol-7-diglucoside, quercetin-3-sophoroside, flavon derivatives: protogenkwanin-4-glucoside, genkwanin – apigenin-7-methyl ester, phenolic acids (caffeic and protocatechuic acid methyl ester, chlorogenic and dikawoiolowy acids), mineral compounds (silicon, aluminum, magnesium, potassium), phytosterol (<math>\beta</math>-sitosterol, campesterol, isofucosterol, trace cholesterol), polyenoic acid, ascorbic acid, saccharum (glucose, fructose, saccharose, lactose, sugar alcohols: mannitol, inositol), lectines (glycoproteids), beta-D-glucan</p> <p>Effects: diuretic, weakly anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory, remineralizing, anti-oxidative</p> <p>Flavonoidy (pochodne flavonolowe, glikozydy kemferolu i kwercetyny: izokwercetyna (izokwercytryzyna) – 3-glukozyd kwercetyny i jej połączenia estrowe z kwasem malonowym,</p>

Table 2 – cont. / Tabela 2 – cd.

1	2
	ekwizetryna – 7-diglukozyd kemferolu, 3-soforozyd kwercetyny, pochodne flawonu: 4-glukozyd protogenkwaniny, genkwanina – 7-metylowy eter apigeniny), fenolokwasy (ester metylowy kwasu kawowego i kwasu protokatechowego, kwas chlorogenowy, kwas dikawiołowinowy), związki mineralne (krzem, glin, magnez, potas), fitosterole ( $\beta$ -sitosterol, kampestrol, izofukosterol, w śladowych ilościach cholesterol), kwasy polienowe, kwas askorbowy, cukrowce (glukoza, fruktoza, sacharoza, laktosa, alkohole cukrowe: mannitol, inozytol), lektyny (glikoproteidy), beta-D-glucan Działanie: moczopędne, przeciwbakteryjne i przecizwzapalne, remineralizujące, przeciwtleniające
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> Wiązówka błotna (Smolarz and Sokołowska-Woźniak, 2001)	Flavonoids (rutoside, hyperoside, quercetin-3-glucuronide, spiraeoside, quercetin-4'-glycoside and kaempferol, monotropitioside, heteroside), traces of coumarins, phenolic glycosides (isosalicin, monotropitioside (gaultherin)) tannins, volatile oils (vanillin, methyl salicilan, salicylaldehyde, heliotropin), organic acids (salicylic acid, salicylaldehyde, citric, and ascorbic acid and ascorbinic acid)
Whole plant Cała roślina	Effects: diaphoretic, antipyretic, antibacterial, antiviral, anti-inflammatory and analgesic, antirheumatic, diuretic-cholagogue, astringent, antilcerous, anti-tumour, immunostimulating, dilates blood vessels, and decreases blood viscosity  Flawonoidy (rutozyd, hiperozyd, 3-glukuronidu kwercetyny, spiraeozydu, 4'-glukozyd kwercetyny i kemferolu, monotropitozyd, heterozyd), ślady kumaryn, glikozydy fenolowe (izosalicyyna, monotropitozyd (gaulteryna)) garbniki, olejki eteryczne (wanilina, salicylan metylu, aldehyd salicylowy, heliotropina), kwasy organiczne (kwas salicylowy, aldehyd salicylowy, kwas cytrynowy, kwas askorbowy), Działanie: napotne, przeciwgorączkowe, przeciwbakteryjne, przeciwwirusowe, przeciwzapalne, przeciwboleowe, przeciwreumatyczne, moczopędne, żółciopędne, ściągające, przeciwwrzodowe, przeciwnowotworowe, immunostymulacyjne, rozszerza naczynia krwionośne i zmniejsza lepkość krwi
<i>Salix alba</i> L. Wierza biała (Michalska and Pham, 2002)	Salicylic glycosides (salicine, salicortin, populin, alireposide, salidroside, 3-O-cynamoilosalicine) Effects: analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic  Glikozydy salicylowe (salicyna, salikortyna, populina, salirepozyd, salidrozyd, 3-O-cynamoilosalicyna)
Bark Kora	Działanie: przeciwboleowe, przeciwzapalne, przeciwgorączkowe
<i>Ononis spinosa</i> Wilżyna ciernista (Jambor, 2012)	Flawonoidy (isoflavons: ononin, (formononetin-7-glucoside), formononetin, genistin), volatile oil (trans-anetol, carvon, menthol) Effects: diuretic

Table 2 – cont. / Tabela 2 – cd.

1	2
Root Korzeń	Flavonoidy (izoflawony: ononina, (7-glukozyd formononetyny), formononetyna, genistyna), olejek eteryczny (trans-anetol, karwon, mentol) Działanie: moczopędne
<i>Prunus cerasus</i> L. Wiśnia pospolita (McCune et al., 2011; Kolasiński, 2014)	Flavonoids: antocyanins, quercetin, hydroxycynamonian, mineral elements: potassium, vitamins: C, carotenoids, melatonin, fiber Effect: anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidative, reduces uric acid level
Fruits Owoce	Flavonoidy: antocyjany, kwercetyna, hydroksycynamonian, składniki mineralne: potas, witaminy: witamina C, karotenoidy, melatonina, błonnik Działanie: przecizwzapalne, antyoksydacyjne, obniża poziom kwasu moczowego

comprise e.g.: *Harpagophytum procumbens* DC, *Flos Ulmariae*, *Stigma Maydis*, *Folium Urticae*, *Rosa canina*, *Pericarpium Phaseoli*, *Radix Ononis*, *Rhizoma Agropyri*, *Herba Polygoni avicularis* (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012), *Folium Betulae* (*Solidago virgaurea*) (Błęcha and Wawer, 2011), *Aegopodium podagraria* L., *Equisetum arvense*.

### *Aegopodium podagraria* L.

It is a plant occurring in Europe, Asia Minor, Siberia and the Caucasus, as well as in south America (Trąba et al., 2012). It has been present in the folk medicine since the antiquity, utilised for curing numerous rheumatic diseases – sciatica and gout. Both the herb and the roots are used as curing means, but in the old days the plant was used as a vegetable (Kunstman et al., 2012).

Young leaves and shoots were an element of numerous dishes, including salads or soups, as a source of precious nutritional values (Trąba et al., 2012). Nowadays, dried leaves are applied to prepare infusions for gout treatment, as well as haemorrhoids, inflammation of the bladder and kidneys. It is also used adjuvantly for renal calculi (Kunstman et al., 2012; Sarwa, 2001). Such infusions act slightly anti-inflammatorily, uretically and analgesically. Moreover, they favourably influence the metabolism, controlling the rate (Stefanovic et al., 2009). The anti-inflammatory activity is conditioned by the presence of polyacetylenes. The conducted in vitro test showed a 30-fold stronger activity of the compounds compared to indomethacin (a curing anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritis means) (Priori et al., 2007).

Falcarinol – is a compound present in *Aegopodium podagraria* L., yet it presents neurotoxic activity. However, no toxicity of the compound has been reported so far. Side effects can be observed only after very strong doses. Excessive doses can also provoke an allergic reaction (Christensen and Brandt, 2006).

### ***Harpagophytum radix***

The plant originates from south Africa and it has been long applied by the tribal medicine to cure many diseases, including gastro-intestinal problems, bone-articular pains and spine problems (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). It appeared in Europe in the mid XXth century (Lis, 2010), after detailed pharmacological and phytochemical examinations (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012).

A test on rats proved that a water extract of *Harpagophytum radix* shows anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and additionally anti-diabetic activity, lowering the level of sugar in blood (Mahomed and Ojewole, 2004). The active component in the plant is, first of all, harpagoside (Lis, 2010), as well as beta-sitosterol (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). The therapeutic activity of the plant root runs at a few levels, first of all showing anti-inflammatory, analgesic (Andersen et al., 2004; Błęcha and Wawer, 2011; ESCOP, 2009; Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012; Lis, 2010) and anti-proliferative properties (Błęcha and Wawer, 2011; Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012).

It could satisfactorily replace an application of non-steroid anti-inflammatory medicines (Lis, 2010), e.g. phenyllobuthazone, in many cases. The root's activity is compared to the one of such medicines as: phenyllobuthazone or cortisone (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). Moreover, owing to the presence of plant phenols and flavonoids, the plant shows antioxidative (Lis, 2010) and regulatory activity, improving both metabolism (Denner, 2007) and digestion (Matławska, 2006).

It strengthens the process of bil and digestion juices excretion (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012; Lis, 2010), lowers the level of blood cholesterol and shows anti-arthritis activity (Lis, 2010). Owing to the presence of flavonoids its diuretic activity is performed effectively influencing an increase in the uric acid excretion. The active substances, present in the root of the plant, in rheumatoid disorders bring about weakening of the disorder's symptoms, improvement in the joints condition, increase in their mobility, reduction of the articular cartilage, and simultaneously they speed up the process of the joints regeneration. Moreover, they influence the regulation of the levels of both uric acid and bilirubin in blood (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). *Harpagophytum radix* interacts with anti-arrhythmic medicines and those applied in hypertension, making their activity stronger. Application of the harpagophytum procubens shows an activity of a relatively low toxicity (Al-Harbi et al., 2013). The daily dose of the root while supporting rheumatoid disorders treatment is 4.5 g of the raw material (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012).

### ***Salicis cortex***

Willows are trees growing in Europe, Asia and North Africa (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). The medicinal material is dried white or purple willow bark (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012; Trąba et al., 2012), collected before the appearance of first spring leaves (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012; Trąba et al., 2012). It was already in the antiquity (Struczyński, 2004) that the willow bark was applied in treating rheumatoid disorders. It was used both against rheumatism, and fever or pains (Trąba et al., 2012). The active compounds in willow bark are salicin glycosides (e.g. salicin, salicortin, salireposide, populina), flavonoids, phenolic acids (e.g. salicylic and p-coumaric acids) and tannins. The willow bark owes its healing capacity, first of all, to salicins (Lamer-Zarawska et

al., 2012). Yet, the compounds were isolated from plants as late as the beginning of the XIXth c. The bark shows both analgesic, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic activity (Błęcha and Wawer, 2011). The presence of tannins and flavonoids also intensifies the anti-inflammatory activity of the bark (Struczyński, 2004). It was demonstrated in animals' tests that isolated willow bark extract had an anti-inflammatory effect comparable to the one of the acetylsalicylic acid (Kahkonen et al., 1999). Moreover, flavonoids act diuretically and anti-oxidatively, and may parallelly also strengthen the activity of salicylates (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012).

Nowadays, the willow bark is utilised in numerous diseases, including rheumatoid disorders, insomnia, neuralgia, colds, as well as gastroenteritis, or diarrhoea (Trąba et al., 2012). Mills et al. (1996) carried out 2-months long experiments with a double blind test on 82 patients with chronic inflammation of joints. The patients were randomly divided into 2 groups – the first one was given the willow bark preparation, while the other placebo. A mild decrease of patients' pain symptoms with a simultaneous absence of side-effects of the willow bark aided therapy was demonstrated (Mills et al., 1996). The willow bark substances should not be applied alongside with non-steroid anti-inflammatory medicines, e.g. aspirin, since they may get intensified (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). Willow bark decoctions made from 6–12 g of the material show both anti-pyretic and anti-inflammatory effect (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012).

### ***Betulae folium***

Birch leaves are a phytotherapeutic raw material obtained from Verrucosae and white-bark birch. The leaves are collected in early spring, and next dried in a natural way. The medicinal substances they contain are: flavonoids, catechin tannins, saponins, triterpens, polyphenols, as well as essential oils (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). Moreover, young leaves contain resin and organic acids. Birch leaves demonstrate the diaphoretic (Trąba et al., 2012), diuretic (Błęcha and Wawer, 2011; ESCOP, 2003), and anti-tumid activity, increasing Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup> (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012) and uric acid excretion along with urine (Matławska, 2006). Moreover, applying the leaves will regulate the metabolism and detoxicate the organism (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). The diuretic activity of the leaves is achieved at 6–9 g/24 h of the material, with a single dose of 2–3 g (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012).

### ***Flos Ulmariae***

Mud meadowsweet flower contains numerous active substances including phenolic glycosides, essential oils, tannins and flavonoids (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). The presence of salicyl acid, as well as phenolic compounds (salicylaldehyde and salicin), makes the flower act analgesically and anti-inflammatorily (Matławska, 2006; Struczyński, 2004). Moreover, diaphoretic, anti-pyretic, cholagogue and diuretic activities are observed, along with constrictive and anti-bacterial ones. It is also used in temperature-accompanied diseases, muscle pains and rheumatoid disorders, especially in patients suffering from kidney problems and ulcer diseases of both duodenum and stomach (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012). Flower infusions and decoctions are applied in joint inflammatory conditions (Struczyński, 2004). The compounds contained in meadow-sweet enter into reactions with synthetic salicyl medicines (Lamer-Zarawska et al.,

2012). Liapina and Koval'chuk (1993) carried out a comparative test of meadowsweet flower and seed extract activity and stated that both the flowers and seeds show a high level of anti-thrombotic and fibrinolytic activity, when administered orally. Both the water and ethanol extract of meadowsweet shows an anti-oxidative activity. The extract also proved its hepatoprotective properties (Shilova et al., 2006) in the carried out mice test, in which the animals were stomach-administered 100 mg per 1 kg of the extract for 5 days. The indicated therapeutic dose for adults is 2–6 g of meadowsweet flower. It is adviseable to drink the infusion a few times daily; the maximum dose 2.5–3.5 g of flowers or 4–5 g of the herb (Lamer-Zarawska et al., 2012).

### Sour cherries

While treating gout, sour cherries and the fruits extracts are among the raw plant materials that should be, first of all, paid attention to as the source of anti-inflammatory (Jacob et al., 2003; Kolasinski, 2014; Raciborski et al., 2015; Wang et al., 1999; Zhang et al., 2012) and anti-oxidatively acting anthocyanins (Blando et al., 2004; Kolasinski, 2014).

Moreover, the fruits may have an impact on decreasing the level of uric acid in blood (Jacob et al., 2003; Raciborski et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2012), owing to the content of hydroxycinnamate and the earlier mentioned anthocyanins (Raciborski et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2012).

A group of 663 people suffering from gout were subjected to tests with a sour cherries-enriched diet. It turned out after 2 days that the risk of gout attacks was lowered by 35% in the tested group of patients compared to those not given the diet. Similar effects were observed in the case of sour cherries extracts application. What is more, the application of the fruits acts favourably and helps in gout curing independently of the gender, level of obesity, quantity of consumed purines, level of alcohol consumption, as well as taking diuretic and anti-arthritis medicines. Owing to the application of a combined pharmacological treatment and participation of allopurinol with an addition of cherries or their extracts in the patients' diet, the risk of gout attacks decreased by 75% (Le My-Phuong et al., 2008).

### Conclusions

Gout is a disease more and more common in the developing countries populations. Epidemiological investigations show that the number of gout cases is increasing both of women and men. The tendency is connected with the life expectancy becoming longer and longer. Older people suffer from various civilisation diseases, being one of the risks of gout occurrence. Apart from the above fact, an improper diet and lack of physical activity are among the factors increasing the risk of the growing incidence of the disease.

A proper diet in gout treatment is of a crucial importance, as well as introducing adequate lifestyle changes such as increasing the level of physical activity. In order to increase the therapeutic effect of the diet, it is worth to introduce plant-origin natural products showing the efficacy in supporting gout curing. Therapeutic activity compo-

nents are present in plant raw materials such as: cherries, *Aegopodium podagraria* L., *Harpagophytum procumbens* (Devil's Claw), willow bark, birch leaves, and mud meadowsweet flower.

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## SUROWCE ROŚLINNE WYKORZYSTYWANE WE WSPOMAGANIU LECZENIA DNY MOCZANOWEJ

### Streszczenie

Dna moczanowa (artretyzm, skaza moczanowa) jest zaliczana do chorób reumatycznych. W wyniku zaburzeń metabolizmu kwasu moczowego jego kryształki odkładają się w tkankach i narządach. Powoduje to dolegliwości bólowe stawów i wytwarzanie tzw. guzków dnawnych i nerki dnowej. Wartość graniczna kwasu moczowego we krwi to 6,5 mg%. Na całym świecie, szczególnie w krajach wysoko rozwiniętych, odnotowuje się coraz więcej zachorowań na dnę moczanową. Częstość zachorowań jest większa u mężczyzn niż u kobiet, wśród których wzrasta dopiero w okresie pomenopauzalnym. Metody leczenia bazują na kompleksowym podejściu do pacjenta – przede wszystkim na zmianie stylu życia (wprowadzenie specjalistycznej diety i zwiększenie aktywności fizycznej) oraz na wprowadzaniu leków przeciwbólowych i przeciwwypałowych, które usuwają także nadmiar kwasu moczowego. Istotne znaczenie w leczeniu dny moczanowej mają także surowce roślinne o sile działania porównywalnej do siły działania leków, ale powodujące mniejsze efekty uboczne. We wspomaganiu leczenia dny moczanowej należy zwrócić uwagę na takie rośliny jak: podagrycznik pospolity, korzeń hakorośli, kora wierzby, liście brzozy, kwiat wiązówkii błotnej, wiśnie, ale także nawłoć pospolita, pokrzywa, skrzyp czy dzika róża.

**Slowa kluczowe:** artretyzm, dieta, rośliny, puryny, substancje bioaktywne

Jurczak, R., Reguła, J. (2016). Plant materials used in supporting the treatment of gout. *Nauka Przr. Technol.*, 10, 4, #58. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17306/J.NPT.2016.4.58>

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*Accepted for publication – Zaakceptowano do opublikowania:*

*19.12.2016*

*For citation – Do cytowania:*

*Jurczak, R., Reguła, J. (2016). Plant materials used in supporting the treatment of gout. *Nauka Przr. Technol.*, 10, 4, #58. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17306/J.NPT.2016.4.58>*