

Characteristics of the genus *Asparagus* flora of Ukraine

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Genus *Asparagus* (*Asparagaceae*) includes about 300 species [3] of plants. In the wild asparagus is found in the Belarus, the Ukraine, the Caucasus, Western Siberia (mostly in the steppe and forest-steppe zone, Altai), Central Asia (mostly in the north-east), in Africa and Asia. Grows on bushes, on the edge of forests, meadows. Cultivated as a food and ornamental plant [2].

In Ukraine grows 7 species of *Asparagus* (*A. verticillatus*, *A. tenuifolius*, *A. litoralis*, *A. officinalis*, *A. polyphyllus*, *A. levinae*, *A. pallasii*). The most common type is *Asparagus officinalis*. This perennial herb up to 150 cm tall, has a powerful horizontal rhizomes with lots of roots and several underground vertical shoots, as well as needle-shaped or flattened-Cladodes shoots.

Asparagus grown and valued as a medicinal plant in ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece. Medicinal raw materials are the roots and shoots of wild asparagus.

The rhizomes and roots of asparagus contain asparagine and saponins, coumarins, carbohydrates, traces essential oils, carotenoids, amino acids (citrulline, serine, threonine, proline, glycine, etc.), also, monosaccharides, oligosaccharides and polysaccharides, starch, vitamins (especially vitamin E); in the young shoots was founded proteins, asparagine, lysine, arginine and other amino acids, vitamins B₁, B₂, C, PP, carotene, a large number of macro-and microelements (calcium, phosphorous, potassium, copper, magnesium, iron and zinc), saponins; seeds have a fatty oil, in ripe fruit - carbohydrates, organic acids (citric and malic), traces of alkaloids, folic acid, which is responsible for the development of red blood cells and prevents liver disease. Amino acid asparagine have a positive effect on the heart – lowers blood pressure, dilates blood vessels, increases the activity of the cardiac muscle, and is a diuretic [1].

In folk medicine, the dried root of asparagus used as anti-inflammatory, diuretic, antiseptic, antibacterial, antipyretic. Root of *Asparagus* is used to treat the nervous system, gastrointestinal diseases, diabetes. Recent studies of aerial parts of asparagus have shown availability antitumor properties. Preview Analysis shows the perspective of in-depth study of the genus *Asparagus*, as a source of biologically active substances.

Literature:

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