



## PHARMACEUTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ANCIENT THRACIANS

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A lot of archeological and ethnographical studies discover an impressive level of the development of the ancient Thracian civilization. Different findings show existence of fine and exquisite works of art, good knowledge of metallurgy and mining, pottery and good empirical chemistry knowledge. That suggests also some experience in healing art, so it could be expected existence of some pharmaceutical knowledge. The present study aims to determine pharmaceutical knowledge of the ancient Thracians that they put into empirical practice.

The methods used are analysis of archival documents, tracing of the archeological findings about the Thracians over the past 60 years and generalizing the obtained data. The main sources of information are archeological findings and the works of ancient Greek and Roman authors.

The Thracian concepts of illness are associated with the idea of upsetting the harmony between the soul and the body, which is the reason why the Thracian priest-doctors applied combination of psychological and physiological treatment. They used medicinal compounds of plant, animal and mineral origin. Also Thracians know the medicinal properties of mineral water and use them in the treatment of different illnesses.

Information about medicinal plants used of Thracians could be fined in works of some ancient authors. They gave an account of medicinal properties of some Thracians herbs as *Andropogon ischaemum*, *Aspidium filix mas*, *Artemisia absinthium*, *Tribulus terrestris* and *Trapa natans*. Also, the ancient Thracians had used as medicines apian products and some minerals.

The conclusions are that the ancient Thracians had a good knowledge of medicinal properties of some herbs, minerals and animal products and used them for the treatment of the various illnesses. Their knowledge was empirical, but rather rational, so the ancient authors had included them in different works and medicinal treatises and disseminated them all over the ancient world.