## 1- INTRODUCTION

Tanacetum vulgare L. common Tansy Fam. Asteraceae, known as *Chrysanthemum vulgare*, grow wild in Europe and Asia in waste places, roadsides, hedgerows and other grassy places and it is also grown in gardens as flowering plants.

Tanacetum vulgare was introduced to Egypt for medicinal and horticultural purposes and this herb is the natural sources of many pharmaceutical products. Recently, there is a return to use pure natural products as substitutes for synthetic chemicals is many applied purposes i.e. in medicine, food industry and dying, to avoid their harmful side effects. Cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants increased nowadays to face the local and exportation requirements.

Tanacetum vulgare is a perennial herb with erect, angled, almost hairless stem. Usually reddish and branched at the top. The alternate dark green leaves are pinnately lobed and toothed .The terminal, ray less, button like flower heads, which are made up of short, tubular, bright-yellow florets, are arranged in dense flattopped corymbs. The fruit is a greenish-white ribbed achene. The seed is small and marked by five rather prominent grayish ribs and retains its vitality for about two years (Bailey 1957) .All parts of the plant, particularly when dried, smell like camphor and Tansy was once widely used as an insect repellent and to rid man and animals of internal parasites. Tansy was also popular as a flavoring and coloring, and Tansy cakes or tansies were eaten at Easter time. The names Tanacetum and Tansy are both thought to derive from the Greek word athanatos (= immortality) because the plant was

Introduction

believed to have powers of prolonging life-or because it is very persistent once it has been planted.

The flower heads and leaves are used medicinally. They should always be stored well a way from other herbs. The principal constituent is an essential oil (0.2-0.6 percent) with the poisonous Thujone, the other constituents include Chrysanthenyl acetate, Linalool, Cymene, Chrysanthenone, Sabinene, Camphor, Borneol and Bornyl acetate (Collin et al., 1993)

Tansy has variety of medicinal uses but it is now mainly used anthelmintic, An infusion or powder has been used for this purpose. The essential oil obtained by distilling the fresh flowering stems is used in homeopathy for worms and as an emmenagogue. Tansy should be used in internally only under strict medical supervision; Large doses are powerful irritants and may also cause kidney and brain damage externally Tansy is applied to swellings, bruises and varicose veins (Burkhart et al., 1999).

Also they may suggest a Tansy wash for acne and itchy skin infections and anti- inflammatory and for severe headaches. recommended it for hysteria more recently, an English study demonstrated its vitality for rheumatoid arthritis pain as well as margarine head aches reducing frequency and severity of attacks and concomitant symptoms of naves, vomiting and anxiety because of its prostaglandin —inhibiting properties and its inhibition of platelet aggregation and secretion makes it potentially useful as an anti-thrombosis agent and invites comparison with aspirin (Sarah, 1992).

Introduction